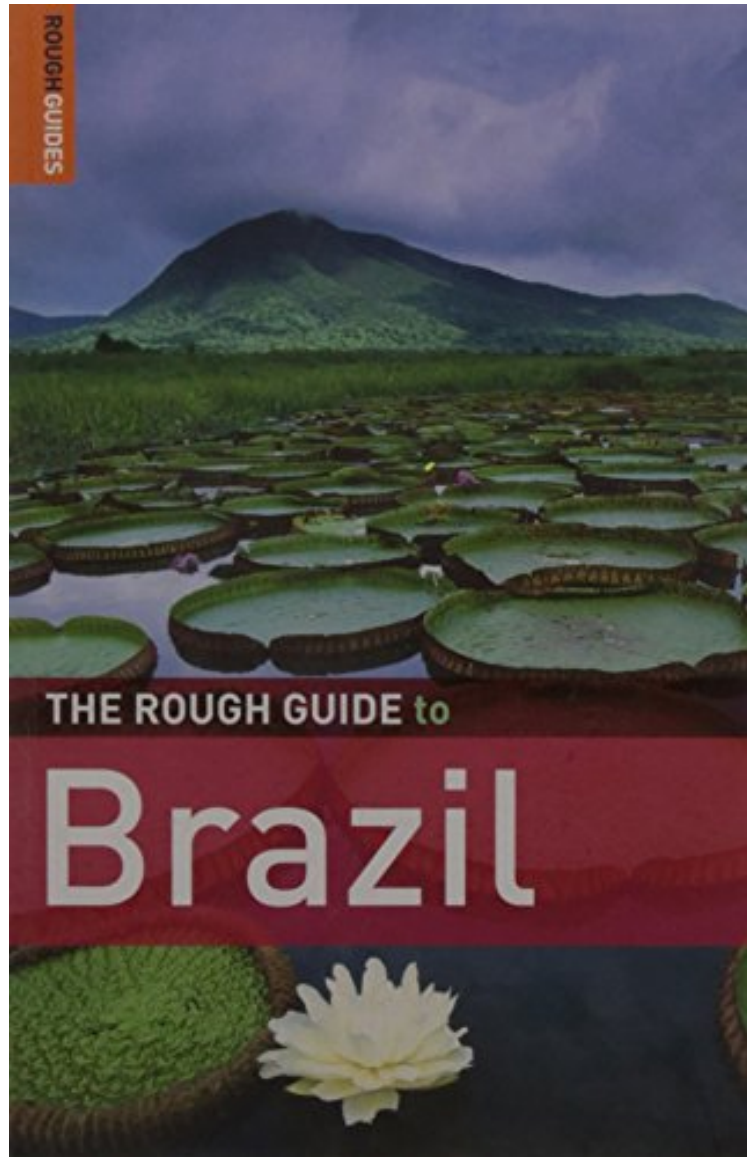


The Rough Guide to Brazil

Oliver Marshall, Dilwyn Jenkins, David Cleary
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Oliver Marshall, Dilwyn Jenkins, David Cleary : The Rough Guide to Brazil before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rough Guide to Brazil:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. another HIT from Rough Guide! By SEYNYC we travel world wide and always carry a Rough Guide with us! Thank you again for an absolutely perfect book! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great guide even for those of us who have lived in Brazil for years! By Jim Squires Rough Guides are really good. With the exception of some telephone number prefixes which changed from 3 to 4 digits in

Bahia the information is very accurate. Google can solve that very quickly!41 of 43 people found the following review helpful. Take Any Other Guide Book By D-ave. atlanticaJust returned from my second six week trip to Brazil. I own practically every guide book on the country and foolishly brought along this one. The information in the latest edition seems not to have been updated for a couple of years and I wasted a good amount of taxi fares or time walking to recommended places that were no longer in business. Even in the major cities, English isn't often spoken by the people outside of the tourism infrastructure. This can be frustrating without some preparation. Fortunately, I speak Portuguese and found many of the best restaurants etc. from the local people or through the particular city tourism authority. Another thing that I didn't like about the "Rough Guide" is that it doesn't include locations of internet cafes like other guidebooks do. For the price of the book, I give this particular Brazil edition one star. Take my advice and take any other guide book with you or you'll truly have a "Rough" time with this "Rough Guide".

"The Rough Guide to Brazil" is the essential guide to one of South America's most tantalising destinations. Detailed accounts of the best attractions Brazil has to offer, along with the clearest maps and plans, showcase this amazingly diverse country to aid both your trip planning and on-the-ground experience. With expert advice and background, the full-colour section details the famous Rio carnival, the world's biggest rainforest - the Amazon and the most fantastic wildlife and beaches, whilst the guide itself is full of informative text on the practical and cultural nuances of visiting Brazil, from wildlife safaris in the Pantanal to the concrete architecture of Brasilia. Read about Brazil's football successes and find out more about the Capoeira music and culture that is expanding rapidly in popularity across Europe. At every point, the "Rough Guide" steers you in the right direction to find the best hotels in Brazil, recommended Brazil restaurants, cafes and shops across every price range, giving you clear, balanced reviews and honest, first-hand opinions. Make the most of your holiday with "The Rough Guide to Brazil".

Maintains the high standards established by the Rough Guide series. -- British Bulletin of Publications on Latin America, October 1995
About the Author David Cleary is an anthropologist by trade and first went to Brazil in 1984 and has since lived there off and on for six years. Dilwyn Jenkin has been travelling to South America since the age of eighteen. After working as a teacher and journalist, he has led expeditions to and made films with indigenous groups in the . He is also the author of The Rough Guide to Peru. Oliver Marshall has been visiting Brazil for work, study and, above all, pleasure since 1982. He is currently working at the University of Oxford's Centre for Brazilian Studies. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.
WHERE TO GO The most heavily populated and economically advanced part of the country is the Southeast, where the three largest cities So Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte form a triangle around which the economy pivots. All are worth visiting in their own right, though Rio, one of the worlds most stupendously sited cities, stands head and shoulders above the lot. The South, encompassing the states of Paran, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul, stretches down to the borders with Uruguay and northern Argentina, and westwards to Paraguay, and includes much of the enormous Paran river system. The spectacular Iguau Falls (at the northernmost point where Brazil and Argentina meet) are one of the great natural wonders of South America. The vast hinterland of the South and Southeast is often called the Centre-West and includes an enormous central plateau of savanna and rock escarpments, the Planalto Central. In the middle stands Braslia, the countrys space-age capital, built from nothing in the late 1950s and still developing today. The capital is the gateway to a vast interior, the Mato Grosso, only fully charted and settled over the last three decades; it includes the mighty Pantanal swampland, the richest wildlife reserve on the continent. North and west, the Mato Grosso shades into the , a mosaic of jungle, rivers, savanna and marshland that also contains two major cities Belm, at the mouth of the itself, and Manaus, some 1600km upstream. The tributaries of the , rivers like the Tapajs, the Xingu, the Negro, the Araguaia or the Tocantins, are virtually unknown outside Brazil, but each is a huge river system in its own right. The other major sub-region of Brazil is the Northeast, the part of the country that curves out into the Atlantic Ocean. This was the first part of Brazil to be settled by the Portuguese and colonial remains are thicker on the ground here than anywhere else in the country notably in the cities of Salvador and So Lus and the lovely town of Olinda. Its a region of dramatic contrasts: a lush, tropical coastline with the best beaches in Brazil, slipping inland into the sertao, a semi-arid interior plagued by drought and appallingly unequal land distribution. All the major cities of the Northeast are on the coast; the two most famous are Salvador and Recife, both magical blends of Africa, Portugal and the Americas, but Fortaleza is also impressive, bristling with skyscrapers and justly proud of its progressive culture. WHEN TO GO Brazil splits into four distinct climatic regions. The coldest part in fact the only part of Brazil which ever gets really cold is the South and Southeast, the region roughly from central Minas Gerais to Rio Grande do Sul, which includes Belo Horizonte, So Paulo and Porto Alegre. Here, theres a distinct winter between June and September, with occasional cold, wind and rain. However, although Brazilians complain, its all fairly mild. Temperatures rarely hit freezing overnight, and when they do its featured on the TV news. The coldest part is the interior of Rio Grande do Sul, in the extreme south of the country, but even here there are many warm, bright days in winter and the summer (Dec-March) is hot. Only in Santa Catarinas central highlands does it occasionally snow. The coastal climate is exceptionally good. Brazil has been called a "crab civilization" because most of its population lives on or near the coast with good reason. Seven thousand

kilometres of coastline, from Paran to near the equator, bask under a warm tropical climate. There is a "winter", when there are cloudy days and sometimes the temperature dips below 25C (77F), and a rainy season, when it can really pour. In Rio and points south the summer rains last from October through to January, but they come much earlier in the Northeast, lasting about three months from April in Fortaleza and Salvador, and from May in Recife. Even in winter or the rainy season, the weather will be excellent much of the time. The Northeast is too hot to have a winter. Nowhere is the average monthly temperature below 25C (77F) and the interior, semi-arid at the best of times, often soars beyond that regularly to as much as 40C (104F). Rain is sparse and irregular, although violent. Amazonia is stereotyped as being steamy jungle with constant rainfall, but much of the region has a distinct dry season apparently getting longer every year in the most deforested areas of east and west Amazonia. And in the large expanses of savanna in the northern and central basin, rainfall is far from constant. Belm is closest to the image of a steamy tropical city: it rains there an awful lot from January to May, and merely quite a lot for the rest of the year. Manaus and central Amazonia, in contrast, have a marked dry season from July to October.