



**Discover Corps**

*Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose*



## BRAZIL: RIO CARNIVAL



### MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- **Cruise high in a cable car to Sugar Loaf Mountain**
- **Join the party at an authentic neighborhood Blocos, or block party**
- **Jump into an electrifying Carnival percussion workshop**
- **Explore the Tijuca Forest via an open-air jeep**
- **Hop a train to tour Cristo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer) statue**

*Experience the world-renowned Carnival Parade at the Sambadrome*

# TRIP AT A GLANCE

7 Days / 6 Nights

## PHYSICAL DEMAND

Moderate

## GROUP SIZE

Average 6, Maximum 16

## LODGING

Standard



FESTIVAL

## RIO DE JANEIRO

**DAY 1** - Explore the tropical Tijuca Forest via an open-air jeep

**DAY 2** - Hop aboard a cogwheel train to reach the Christ the Redeemer statue and later enjoy a private Brazilian cooking class

**DAY 3** - Cruise high in a cable car to Sugar Loaf Mountain, dine with breathtaking views and experience the world-renowned Carnival Parade at the Sambadrome

**DAY 4** - Experience a personalized Carnival costume fitting at one of Rio's renowned Samba Schools

**DAY 5** - Immerse yourself in local culture at an authentic neighborhood Blocos, or block parties

**DAY 6** - Peek behind the scenes of Carnival with a tour of the Grande Rio Samba School warehouse, learn to salsa, and engage in an electrifying percussion workshop

**DAY 7** - Return home or continue on the post-trip extension to Iguazu Falls

## IGUAZU EXTENSION

**DAY 7** - Take a short flight to Foz Du Iguacu and visit the famed Iguazu Falls

**DAY 8** - Experience the jungle wildlife in an open-sided jeep followed by a thrilling boat ride down the river and into the falls' magnificent spray

**DAY 9** - Explore Iguacu National Park via train, and trek to the suspended platform at the edge of Devil's Throat - the largest of the waterfalls!

**DAY 10** - Return home

## BRAZIL: RIO CARNIVAL

### OUR PURPOSE

Often called Cidade Maravilhosa (The Marvelous City) Rio de Janeiro is unmatched in its breathtaking landscapes and location, nestled between lush, green mountains and crystal-clear seas. Rio is one of the most culturally and economically prominent cities in Brazil and features some of the country's most famous tourist attractions such as Pão de Açúcar (Sugarloaf Mountain), Christ the Redeemer (Christ the Redeemer statue), and the iconic beaches of Copacabana and Ipanema. The city is full of energy and rhythm, and the locals of Rio are known for their carefree spirit and charm.

Carnival de Rio de Janeiro is a hallmark of the city and is considered to be the largest Carnival in the world. Dating back to the 18th century, today's Carnival festivities see an estimated two million people per day on the streets. Visitors and residents alike can marvel at the throngs of dancers, musicians, and floats in both the formal Samba school parade as well as more informal Blocos (block parties).

Traveling to Carnival with Discover Corps is an experience unlike any other. Our expert guide will ensure you experience the festivities like a local, with behind-the-scenes access to a leading local samba school, percussion workshops, and local neighborhood celebrations. Enjoy the best that Rio has to offer with this unique, unforgettable Discover Corps experience!





# DISCOVER THE RIO CARNIVAL

Rio de Janeiro's world-famous Carnival is an extraordinary, boisterous five-day celebration of singing, dancing, and community. This party begins on Friday and continues through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, a significant Catholic tradition which signals the start of Lent. Millions of people attend this extravagant event every year, taking to the streets for impromptu Blocos (block parties) and packing the Sambodromo, home of the famous and fiercely competitive Samba Parade. Visitors can expect to see larger than life floats, throngs of dancers and musicians numbering into the thousands, decadent food and drink, richly textured costumes, and elegantly dressed guests and celebrities attending one of Carnival's luxurious balls at spots like the Copacabana Palace Hotel.

## FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



### COSTUMES

It's hard to think about Carnival without imagining the rich textures, sequins, feathers, and other costume adornments sported by dancers and spectators alike. As a Discover Corps guest, you will be fitted for your own costume and join a local samba school for these festivities.



### SAMBA DANCING

The pulsating rhythms of the samba are a true component of Brazil's cultural heritage. Samba is the most prevalent type of dance in Brazil and is seen as a unifier of all classes, races, and regions.



### PARADE FLOATS

You've never seen floats quite as lavish and extravagant as Brazil's Carnival parade floats! Each of these enormous spectacles is associated with a theme and is an important part of the samba parade storytelling.



### BLOCOS (block parties)

Although the samba parade is considered to be the main event, Carnival wouldn't be complete without its street parties, called blocos (block parties). Blocos are a fantastic way to experience Carnival like a native.



## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS



### TIJUCA FOREST

Start your trip with a tour of the world's largest urban forest, via an open-air jeep. This stunning park cuts across Rio de Janeiro with hundreds of waterfalls, caves, lakes, and remnants of once thriving farms. Keep an eye out for one of the countless animals that call the Tijuca Forest home, including birds, reptiles, monkeys, capibaras, wild cats, bush dogs, sloths, and anteaters. Have your camera ready for spectacular views, including the Chinese Belvedere and the Taunay waterfall.



### CHRIST THE REDEEMER STATUE

No visit to Rio de Janeiro is complete without visiting one of Brazil's most recognizable wonders: Cristo Redentor, or Christ the Redeemer statue. Your journey begins in the quaint residential neighborhood of Cosme Velho, where you'll hop aboard a small cogwheel train to ascend the lush, beautiful Corcovado Mountain. Once atop the summit, you'll enjoy stunning panoramic views of Rio de Janeiro beneath the 30m tall modern Wonder of the World.



### PÃO DE AÇÚCAR (SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN)

Visit the world famous Pão de Açúcar (Sugar Loaf Mountain), an iconic natural landmark of Rio de Janeiro. Named for its resemblance to a loaf of refined sugar, you'll reach its summit via a glass-walled cable car. Your first stop is the top of Urca Hill, with its breathtaking views of Guanabara Bay and its islands. From Urca Hill, you'll catch a second cable car to the top of Sugar Loaf where you'll be treated to a 360-degree view of the city.



### THE SAMBADROME

The spectacular Samba Parade is THE main attraction of Carnival in Rio and is broadcast throughout Brazil and to dozens of countries around the world! Over 90,000 spectators can gather in the Sambadrome's grandstands to witness the fierce competition between twelve samba schools, each with thousands of dancers, drum sections, and floats. Performances take place over four evenings, each beginning around 7 p.m. and continuing until 6 a.m. the following day.

## WHY TRAVEL WITH DISCOVER CORPS?

- Go behind the scenes of Grande Rio Samba School and learn the secrets of the Carnival magic.
- Be guests of a leading local Samba school, join in on the parade in front of thousands of spectators, enjoy neighborhood celebrations and engage percussion workshops
- Get exclusive "fresa boxes", or access to the front four rows, during the Carnival parade
- Be escorted by an expert Discover Corps guide who will take you behind-the-scenes & show you the best Rio has to offer



# ITINERARY

## DAY 1: Arrive and take a jeep tour of the Tijuca Forest

Arrive in Rio de Janeiro and embark with your guide on an open-air jeep tour of the Tijuca Forest. Check-in to the four-star Portobay Rio de Janeiro before setting off for dinner at the unparalleled Assador Rio. This top-rated Brazilian rodizio style barbeque is known for its prime ribs –grilled for 10 hours– and its unobstructed views of Guanabara Bay, Sugar Loaf Mountain, and the Burle Max gardens. (D)

## DAY 2: Train ride and tour of Christ's Statue, private Brazilian cooking class

After breakfast, we'll hop aboard a cogwheel train in Cosme Velho, climbing the summit of Corcovado to reach the Christ the Redeemer Statue. Bask in the spectacular panoramic view of Rio de Janeiro beneath the nearly 30 meter tall statue.

Later that afternoon, discover the mysteries of Brazilian cuisine during a private cooking class. Learn how the Indigenous, black, and Portuguese people influenced the country's cuisine and learn to cook a typical Brazilian dish. (B,L,D)

## DAY 3: Take a cable car to Sugar Loaf Mountain, dine at Classico restaurant, and enjoy the world-renowned Carnival Parade at the Sambadrome

We'll start our day with a cable car ride to Pão de Açúcar (Sugar Loaf Mountain), one of Rio de Janeiro's most iconic landmarks. Along the way, we'll stop atop Urca Hill for a truly unique lunch experience at Classico restaurant. Later that evening we head for the spectacular, highly competitive Samba Parade at the Sambadrome, considered to be the main attraction of Carnival. (B,L,D)

## DAY 4: Experience a personalized Carnival costume fitting and participate in the Carnival in Rio parade

Craft your own leisurely morning so you're ready for an all-night Carnival party! Enjoy dinner you're your group at Fogo de Chão before becoming the honored guest of one of Rio's renowned Samba Schools. You'll be fitted with your own Carnival costume to participate in the unforgettable Carnival in Rio parade at the Sambadrome. This is a one-of-a-kind exclusive Discover Corps experience that allows you to rub shoulders with a leading local samba school and actually join the Carnival parade! (B,D)





### **DAY 5:** Join a neighborhood block party and enjoy an upscale dinner at Giuseppe Grill

Jump right in to the fun at one of Rio's many Blocos (block parties). These spontaneous local gatherings are the perfect way to experience the joy and electricity of Carnival in a more casual setting. You'll also get a unique behind-the-scenes view into how locals celebrate Carnival! Later that evening, we'll dine together at the upscale Giuseppe Grill in the exclusive neighborhood of Leblon. Specializing in charcoal-grilled barbecue and seafood, Giuseppe's offers what many consider to be the best steak in Rio de Janeiro. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 6:** Go behind the scenes of the Carnival tour and join a Samba and percussion workshop

Continue your immersion in Carnival culture with intimate, behind-the-scenes experiences exploring the artistry and imagination involved in the creation of Carnival. We'll get up close with gigantic floats, learn the history of Samba and Carnival, and try on a past Carnival costume before stepping into a basic samba lesson and percussion workshop. We'll dine together at Confeitaria Colombo before going our separate ways for an afternoon of leisure and one last sunset during our relaxing Farewell Dinner. (B,L,D)



### **DAY 7:** Return home

After enjoying one last breakfast at your hotel, we'll say our goodbyes and transfer you back to the airport for your flight home or continue on to the post-trip extension to Iguazu Falls. (B)



## **PREMIER LODGING**

Located in the heart of Copacabana, the Portobay Rio de Janeiro hotel boasts stylish accommodations, a beautiful waterfront setting, and easy access to the world-famous Copacabana Beach. Enjoy gorgeous views from your own private balcony and amenities including a rooftop pool with panoramic views, sauna, fitness center, and a spa. You also have access to the hotel's exclusive guest-only beach with lounge chairs, umbrellas, and towels. Portobay also offers multiple onsite dining options including the full-service Restaurant La Finestra, poolside Bossa Lounge, and Bar Negroni (*Note: Hotel subject to change based on final availability*).



## OPTIONAL EXTENSION:

### DAY 7: Experience Iguazu Falls from just across the border in Argentina

Depart on a short flight from Rio de Janeiro for Foz do Iguacu, or Iguazu Falls, where you'll meet your Discover Corps guide for lunch. Take a short drive across the border to the Argentinian side of the famed Iguazu Falls, one of the largest waterfalls in the world. Indulge in an authentic, hands-on dinner experience, complete with a selection of Argentine wines.

### DAY 8: Explore the falls with your expert guide by land, boat, and jeep

Get up close and personal with the Brazilian side of Iguazu Falls. Your guide will take you along the walkways where you can capture spectacular panoramic views. We'll continue our day in an open-sided jeep riding through the jungle in search of local wildlife. We cap off the adventure with a thrilling boat ride down the river and into the falls' magnificent spray

### DAY 9: Continue your exploration via train and unique walking paths

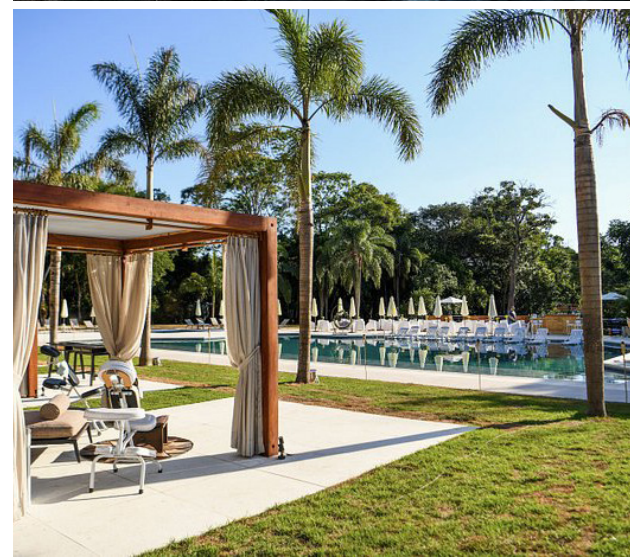
After breakfast, we'll head to the Argentinian side of the falls via the Tancredo Neves Bridge. Explore Iguacu National Park via train, making stops at the upper and lower circuits. Your guide will take you along the walkways at the top of the waterfalls, providing an unmatched view of the Cataratas and its abundant nature, filled with orchids, colorful birds, and other wildlife. The highlight of our day will be the trek to the suspended platform at the edge of Devil's Throat - the largest of the waterfalls!

### DAY 10: Departure

Meet you guide in the lobby for any check-out assistance and embark on a private transfer to the airport, where we will wish you safe travels home!

## LODGING: SANMA HOTEL (FOZ DO IGUACU)

Discover Corps invites you to relax in this lush oasis just steps from Iguazu Falls. Enjoy the Sanma Hotel's spacious pool, luxurious spa, gardens, and walking trails throughout the property. Indulge in Mediterranean-inspired cuisine at the onsite restaurant or try local wines at the Wine Bar. If outdoor activity is more your thing, enjoy one of the hotel's several sports facilities including: volleyball, soccer, and tennis courts (*Note: Hotel subject to change based on final availability*).



# BRAZIL: RIO CARNIVAL

7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS

DATE	ADULT
February 9-15, 2024	<b>\$5,695</b>

<b>OPTIONAL EXTENSION</b>	<b>\$1295</b>
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**Important!** There is a priority registration deadline of 7/15/2023 for the 2024 departure. Prices will increase after that. Registration closes on 8/31/2023.

There is an additional mandatory single room supplement fee of \$1195 per person for the main trip and \$395 for the extension. Please note that there is a mandatory \$375 one-way domestic flight supplement for the extension.

**Please note:** Due to the high demand during this period, the trip fee will be non-refundable starting September 1, 2023. Please consider travel insurance.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 6 nights lodging at the 4-star Portobay Rio de Janeiro
- 14 meals throughout the trip; includes soft drinks and some alcohol
- A schedule of exclusive Carnival activities as well as seeing all of Rio's iconic sites
- Tickets & exclusive "fresa box" access to the Carnival parade
- A bi-lingual expert local guide there to guide and support you throughout the trip
- Reliable in-country transportation with experienced drivers
- \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Trip literature
- Turnkey customer support from preparing for your trip to arrival back home

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
- 2 lunches and 1 dinner
- Most alcoholic beverages
- Tips for the Guide & Driver
- Laundry services, room-service, or phone calls

## RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 16 travelers and do fill. Reserving a trip with Discover Corps is easy. Simply visit our website and fill out the online registration form and pay a \$365 deposit and \$30 non-refundable booking fee per person. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Travel Specialist, call/text us at (619) 758-3030 or e-mail us at [info@discovercorps.com](mailto:info@discovercorps.com)

## RETURNING ALUMNI?

We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a \$250 discount off our trip if you are a returning Discover Corps traveler.

## MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

Discover Corps offers monthly payment plan options for all of our trips. Contact us anytime, before or after booking, to sign up for a monthly payment plan or with any questions:  
Call/Text: 619-758-3030 Email: [info@discovercorps.com](mailto:info@discovercorps.com)

## THE FINE PRINT

All travelers must be 17 years or older.

Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60 day notice from Discover Corps.

(B, L, D): Breakfast, Lunch Dinner





# Our Mission

The mission of Discover Corps is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities through immersive and sustainable travel experiences.

## OUR DESTINATIONS

ALASKA	ITALY
AUSTRALIA	JAPAN
BELIZE	KENYA
BHUTAN	MEXICO
BRAZIL	MOROCCO
COSTA RICA	PERU
CUBA	SOUTH AFRICA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	TANZANIA
EGYPT	THAILAND
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS	UGANDA



FAMILY FRIENDLY • SMALL GROUPS • POSITIVE LOCAL IMPACT • DISTINCTIVE LODGING • HANDPICKED GUIDES



**Discover Corps**  
*Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose*

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