

Rio de Janeiro: eat, drink, dance, play!

Rio is famous for sun, samba, soccer, and sea. But do you know about feijoada, churrasco, and caipirinha? Or how about dancing the night away in a *gafieira*, to some great choro or forró music?

Rio's nightlife

You'll be spoilt for choice in Rio, as there are hundreds of places to drink, dine, and dance until daybreak. CMO Eventos offer tours to **Platform One** for concerts and dinner (see the 'city tours' link at <http://www.cmoeventos.com.br/congressos.html>). Local organiser **Maria Eulalia Vares** has some other ideas for a great night out, some of which will require a little forward planning, as you might want to arrange a van and travel in a group:

Rio Scenarium

This beautiful antique store-turned-bar is in a renovated warehouse on the edge of the Lapa district. A perfect setting for samba and choro; the snacks are above average and the tables centered around the stage and dance floor give everybody a great view. See <http://www.rioscenarium.com.br/> (in Portuguese)

Gafieira Estudantina

This traditional *gafieira* or dance hall attracts large crowds of enthusiastic dancers. The music is great, specially on Thursdays. Best to go in a group. See <http://www.rio.rj.gov.br/riotur/en/atracao/?CodAtr=3899>

Círculo Militar da Praia Vermelha

Eulalia also recommends the Círculo Militar da Praia Vermelha, which is by Sugar Loaf mountain. She says, "Of course, going to Sugar Loaf is a must, and the best time is definitely the sunset. Círculo Militar is a small military club, but open to everyone. In general the food is fine, prices are reasonable, they have live music (usually good) starting at 6 p.m. and the view is really wonderful. It's not too touristy, and it is very safe (Urca is the safest neighborhood in Rio)." See <http://www.samba-choro.com.br/casas/rio/323> (in Portuguese), or a review (in English) at http://www.wcities.com/en/record/118,70464/101/record.html?event_name=&display=1

A few minutes' walk up the hill from IMPA through Tijuca forest is the "Vista Chinesa" viewpoint. And what a view there is! Photo courtesy of Vladas Sidorovicus, IMPA



Food and drink

The nearest Brazil gets to a national dish is *feijoada*, a complicated stew with 19 ingredients, traditionally served on Saturdays. Visitors might also like to try out the *churrascarias* (barbecue



Churrasco b-b-q meat

restaurants), often *rodízio*, or all you can eat. Seafood and fish is usually excellent, and of course try the tropical fruits and vegetables. The *Zona Sul* in Rio has many fine restaurants, offering cuisine from around the world.

Although Brazil is the world's largest coffee producer, the national drink is *cachaça*, a sugar cane alcohol. You will find this combined with lime, sugar and ice in the famously potent *caipirinhas* and mixed with fruit juices in *batidas*. To make Brazil's national drink, *caipirinha*, place lime pieces, pulp side up, in the bottom of an old fashioned glass or heavy tumbler. Add sugar to taste and crush the lime and sugar together with a pestle or the end of a wooden spoon (be sure to crush the pieces pulp side up or too much bitter lime oil will be released from the zest). Add the *cachaça*, stir to mix and add the ice cubes. Drink with care—it's stronger than it tastes!

Many international travelers feel that Brazilian beer (*chopp*) is among the best in the world.

Brazilian wines are becoming more popular, too. *Guaraná*, made from fruit found in the Amazon, is the most popular soft drink.



Feijoada takes a whole day to prepare

