

# Rio de Janeiro: tours and trips

So you're coming to the 2006 IMS Annual Meeting and XEBP in Rio de Janeiro, and it's going to be a varied and stimulating meeting (see page 14). But surely you're not going to come to one of the most vibrant cities in the world without soaking up a little of the scenery? This issue, we offer a quick rundown of Rio's unmissable sights.

## Rio's must-see highlights

Rio de Janeiro is a big city with a lot to see, and it can be difficult to narrow down the options. But there are a few sights that nobody should leave without seeing, at the very least so you might appreciate just why cariocas call their home *cidade maravilhosa*.

There are organized tours to several of these venues: see below.

## Corcovado & Cristo Redentor

One of the first things you will notice once you get out onto the Rio de Janeiro streets is the mighty Christ the Redeemer statue that towers on top of the even mightier Corcovado Mountain. It is not hard to see why this is one of the most famous and most visited statues in the world. It's easy to get up there, either by the funicular train or by taxi. The train journey, starting in Cosme Velho, takes about 20 minutes and passes through beautiful rainforest. Once at the entrance to the Statue of Christ you can take an elevator, an escalator or the 200 or so steps that lead straight to the statue. <http://www.corcovado.com.br/principal.asp?lingua=English>



## Pão de Açúcar (Sugar Loaf Mountain)

Next on your list has to be Sugar Loaf Mountain, a gorgeous viewpoint. It's easy to access this 396m (1300 feet) tall granite rock. There is a cable car which operates in two stages, stopping off at the Morro da Urca,

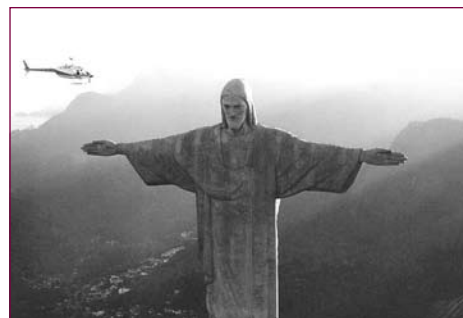


where you can buy snacks and souvenirs while you wait for the second cable car to take you to the top of this fine panoramic viewpoint. Sugar Loaf Mountain is one of the most popular sights in Rio de Janeiro, and once you've been, it's easy to see why.

<http://www.bondinho.com.br/>

## Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Niterói

The Museum of Contemporary Art is a fantastic, futuristic building across the bay in Niterói. Both ferry and hydrofoil cross over to Niterói, where you can enjoy the view of Guanabara Bay and visit the Museum, inaugurated in 1996 and perhaps one of the greatest buildings created by the



## Factoid

*Rio's most famous statue, Cristo Redentor, looks down from Corcovado Mountain. The statue is one of the tallest in the world, at 30m (98ft); it weighs 1145 tons. The distance between the fingertips is 28m (91ft). Soapstone was chosen for its resistance to erosion, though it is so soft that even a fingernail may scratch it. The statue was conceived in 1921, but not completed until 1931.*

veteran Brazilian architect, Oscar Niemeyer. Worth the trip for the building alone! <http://www.macniteroi.com/>

## Parque Nacional da Tijuca

You can hike, explore grottos and even shower under a waterfall in Tijuca National Park. This swathe of tropical rainforest is the largest forested urban national park in the world. Some companies offer guided walks and tours: see, for example, <http://www.riohiking.com.br/tours/tijuca.htm>

### Jardim Botânico (Botanical Gardens)

Rio's Botanical Gardens were first planted as a Royal Garden in 1808. Spread over 368 acres, it contains more than 7,000 species of tropical plants and trees, and around 140 species of birds can be counted. There's plenty to take in, from the orchid hot house



to a dried plant museum. The gardens are open daily and are highly recommended. Jardim Botânico is only 15 minutes' walk from IMPA, the ideal

place to take a break between sessions.

<http://www.jbrj.gov.br/>

### Capoeira

An Afro-Brazilian part dance, part martial art. Developed by African slaves in Brazil who were forbidden from fighting, this elegant game of human chess is played in a *roda* accompanied by music and singing. Catch it if you can!

<http://www.capoeira.com>



### Maracanã Stadium

Football (soccer) is Brazil's national obsession, so it's not surprising that Rio should have one of the biggest stadiums in the world: stadium tours are available.

<http://www.temposdofutebol.hpg.ig.com.br>

### Organized tours and excursions

CMO Eventos have arranged some great tours: see the CMO meetings webpage at <http://www.cmoeventos.com.br/congressos.html>. Scroll down to the IMS/XEBP meeting section, and click on the "Passeios Turísticos/City Tours" link to see the current list of organized tours. These include the following:

**Corcovado:** by car (4 hours: R\$ 90)

**City Tour (half day):** taking in Sugar Loaf mountain, cathedral, Maracanã, downtown and Sambódromo, including a ride on a *bondinho* tram (4 hours: R\$ 90)

**Colonial and modern Rio:** Niterói, MAC (Museum of Contemporary Art), Fortaleza de Santa Cruz (6 hours: R\$ 115)

**City Tour (full day):** Sugar Loaf, lunch at *churrascaria* (barbecue) restaurant and

Corcovado (9 hours: R\$ 195)

**Tropical Islands Jaguanun:** trip by *saveiro* (long, narrow boat) with lunch (10 hours: R\$ 150)

**Trip to Cabo Frio** (12 hours: R\$ 190)

**Trip to Búzios** (12 hours: R\$ 190)

There will be representatives from the tour companies at IMPA during the meeting, so you'll be able to negotiate a van or a car to take you to any of the other tourist destinations in Rio.

### Key deadlines for the meeting

Online abstract submission has now closed. A preliminary program will be available online from June 1. The last date to reserve your hotel is May 30. Advance registration closes July 20: on-site registration only after this date, from July 29 to August 4. See the meeting website: <http://www.imstat.org/meetings/ims2006/>

## Correction: tourist visa OK for meeting

In the March *Bulletin* we mistakenly advised that those travelling to Brazil for the meeting would need a *business visa*. **A business visa is NOT required for those attending conferences: you can use a tourist visa** (if you need one at all: check the advice from your nearest Brazilian embassy or consulate).

Most Brazilian consulates list the requirements on their websites. The New York consulate (which has redesigned its website since March: this is a new URL) has a list at [http://en.brazilny.org/index.php?consulado/t\\_c/visa\\_requirements\\_by\\_country/](http://en.brazilny.org/index.php?consulado/t_c/visa_requirements_by_country/)

Apologies for any confusion this may have caused!