




T+L DECODER

Our Definitive Guide to

Rio de J



A soccer match at Maracanã Stadium, three miles from downtown Rio.



STAY

SHOP

SEE+DO

EAT

LOCAL TAKE

aneiro

All eyes are on the *Cidade Maravilhosa*—host of this year's World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympic Games—where a citywide rejuvenation effort has infused Rio's neighborhoods with newfound energy. Colin Barraclough discovers a city reborn. Photographed by David Nicolas



Lay of the Land

Botafogo

Come here for Rio's designer boutiques, art galleries, and views of Sugarloaf Mountain.

Centro

Colonial-era structures and glass-and-steel office buildings fill the city's commercial heart.

Copacabana

With its world-famous beach and raucous nightclubs, Copacabana is Rio's touristy epicenter.

Ipanema

This trendy district draws crowds but is calmer than Copacabana. Outdoor cafés line the leafy avenues.

Jardim Botânico

The elegant Jardim Botânico edges the botanical gardens and hums with buzzy restaurants.

Santa Teresa

Artists flock to this hilly area for its bohemian bars and Guanabara Bay views.

Safety & Getting Around

Be wary of pickpockets, especially near major tourist sites. We recommend traveling by taxis, which can be hailed on the street.



Stay

Rio's stylish new hotels—and classics we love.

CASA MOSQUITO

Opened in 2011 on a hill above Ipanema, this 1940's retreat is a mise-en-scène of tropical languor: palm-inspired print pillows; polished parquet; orchids everywhere. Sliding doors in the lobby open up to a sun-dappled patio that looks out over Copacabana's rooftops; upstairs, the four rooms are decorated with paintings by local artists and have wide, private terraces. casa.mosquito.com. \$\$

COPACABANA PALACE

Rio's Neoclassical grande dame has lost none of her stateliness since the 1920's glory days. Fresh off a \$20

million makeover, the 145 contemporary rooms are done up in French fabrics and vibrant Brazilian artwork. Food is a highlight: the property's six-seat chef's table at Cipriani Restaurant is one of the hottest spots in town, while the Sunday brunch at Périgula is perennially packed. copacabana.palace.com.br. \$\$\$\$

HOTEL FASANO RIO DE JANEIRO

The second branch of restaurateur Rogério Fasano's understatedly chic brand appeals to both fashionable São Paulo *senhoras* and European hipsters. Philippe Starck-designed rooms have billowing silk curtains

and 1960's Sergio Rodrigues chairs; at the ground-floor Fasano al Mare restaurant, chef Paolo Lavezzini prepares scallop risotto and an outstanding rock lobster with broccoli soufflé. What we love most: the rooftop pool, with its knockout views of Ipanema's crescent-shaped beach. fasano.com.br. \$\$\$\$

HOTEL SANTA TERESA

If you're looking for an intimate hideaway in sprawling Rio, this is it. There's a lush garden with swooping, colorful birds; a mosaic-tiled eco-spa; and a quiet hilltop location in charming Santa Teresa. Rooms incorporate indigenous handicrafts

from Minas Gerais and floors of glossy ipe hardwood. Ask about staff-led tours of the on-site art collection, which includes sculptures by such notable artists as Rock Lane. santa-teresa-hotel.com. \$\$\$\$

MAMA RUISA

Set in a colonial-style town house, the seven-bedroom Mama Ruisa is a study in quiet refinement: cedar shutters; French doors; illustrations by Jean Cocteau. The colonnaded veranda is the perfect place for a breakfast of fresh Brazilian fruit and gourmet cheeses, with the Guanabara Bay as your backdrop. mamaruisa.com. \$\$

From left: The Loft Suite at Rio's Hotel Santa Teresa; the open terrace off the lobby of Casa Mosquito.



Shop Standout boutiques with Carioca flair.

- 1 Ausländer** Local designer Ricardo Bräutigam creates street clothes with serious attitude—semitransparent black-silk vests; T-shirts emblazoned with rebellious slogans—that are a hit among Rio’s young and stylish set. auslander.com.br.
- 2 Maz** With pop-up stores across the city and flash promotions around the world, designer and entrepreneur Juliana Hemerly Silva’s line has developed a cult following with its zany, colorful sneakers, made of foldable nylon and completely customizable. mazbrasil.com.
- 3 Toca do Vinicius** Bossa nova aficionados will love this tiny Ipanema store—a temple to Brazil’s jazz-samba culture—packed with CD’s, vinyl, sheet music, and multilingual books that draw musicians of every skill level. The shop also hosts in-house concerts once a month, featuring leading bossa nova acts. tocadovinius.com.br.
- 4 Gilson Martins** High-end-souvenir seekers won’t want to miss Gilson Martins’s namesake flagship in Ipanema. The Rio-born designer uses the city’s landmarks (Christ the Redeemer; the Lapa arches) as inspiration for the stylized patterns on his inimitable satchels, wallets, and handbags. His items are so iconic, they’ve been shown at the Louvre and Milan Design Week. gilsonmartins.com.br.



From top: Inside Ausländer; the Gilson Martins storefront in Ipanema.



No Title, 1955,
by Hélio Oiticica, at the
Museu de Arte do Rio.

See+Do Five essential stops for soaking up Brazilian culture.

- CASA DAROS**
Zurich-based art collector Ruth Schmidheiny just unveiled her 1,200-piece Latin American art collection in Botafogo following a six-year renovation of the 1866 building. Inside are works from more than 100 talents, including native sculptor Iole de Freitas and Argentine kinetic artist Julio Le Parc. casadaros.net.
- MARACANÁ STADIUM**
Few activities in Rio can rival the thrill of watching a match at Brazil’s national soccer stadium—a symbol of the country’s *futebol*-centric culture—which reopened in June after a \$500 million refurbishment. Originally

built for the 1950 World Cup, the Maracanã will host the tournament’s championship game for the second time this year. Guided tours are available on non-game days. suderj.rj.gov.br.

MUSEU DE ARTE DO RIO
Rio’s newest art museum is the anchor of the Port district revitalization project. Eight exhibition halls in the 20th-century palace feature rotating shows—watercolors of Sugarloaf Mountain; a colorful brick model of Rio’s favelas—that celebrate the city’s scenery and diversity, while art workshops are held in the glass-walled annex. museudeartedorio.org.br.

SÃO BENTO MONASTERY
Behind the 17th-century monastery’s austere façade, you’ll find such treasures as colonial-era panels, massive silver chandeliers, and an intricately carved, gold-plated altar. Don’t miss Sunday morning Mass, when resident monks sing Gregorian chant. osb.org.br.

TELEFÉRICO DO COMPLEXO DO ALEMÃO
Take a cable car ride at dusk to see Rio’s curiously picturesque shantytowns, with their flickering lanterns and gas lamps. gondola.project.com.



From far left: The communal dining table at Roberta Sudbrack; marinated heart of palm with shrimp and free-range eggs at Roberta Sudbrack; lunch hour at Bar do Mineiro.



Eat

Here's where to eat in Rio now, from authentic Brazilian restaurants to temples of experimental fusion cuisine.

BAR DO MINEIRO

Santa Teresa residents fill this rustic lunchtime favorite to feast on home-style comfort food such as pork-and-black-bean *feijoada* and chicken-and-okra stew—hearty recipes from the nearby mining state of Minas Gerais. If the dining room is packed, order a caipirinha, set yourself up at a sidewalk table, and take in the area's artsy scene. *bardo mineiro.net*. \$\$

OLYMPE

Following in the culinary footsteps of his father (who led the nouvelle cuisine movement in 1970's France), Burgundy-born chef Claude Troisgros

decamped for Rio, where he built a four-restaurant empire famous for combining French cooking traditions with local ingredients. At his first outpost, Troisgros whips up innovative dishes that pack a flavorful punch: duck *magret* with passion fruit; stuffed quail with onion-and-raisin manioc *farofa*. *claudetroisgros.com.br*. \$\$\$

OUI OUI

After Roberta Ciasca's restaurant Miam Miam put up-and-coming Botafogo on the foodie map, the Cordon Bleu-trained chef pointed her talents toward Oui Oui, a tapas place that mixes the

old-world (Art Deco chairs; ornate ironwork) with the kitsch (disco balls; fiberglass tables). The small, shareable portions are equally creative—tilapia with quinoa and olives; prawns with heart of pupunha (peach palm)—and pair well with any of the international wines. *restaurantouioui.com.br*. \$\$\$

ROBERTA SUDBRACK

Self-taught chef Roberta Sudbrack cooked at Brazil's presidential palace for seven years before striking out on her own, opening her namesake restaurant in charming Jardim Botânico. The

ever-changing menu focuses on seasonal ingredients sourced from local purveyors; options may include slow-cooked lamb with chervil and potatoes or *panqueca de doce de leite*. *robertasudbrack.com.br*. \$\$\$\$

SATYRICON

You'll be hard-pressed to find better (or fresher) seafood than at Ipanema's Italian-influenced Satyricon. Choose from the tank's stock of live lobster and crayfish, or opt for delicacies such as the just-caught sea bream, baked in a rock-salt crust and served by waiters displaying the ideal degree of gravitas. *satyricon.com.br*. \$\$\$

Live Lapa Sounds

Once-derelict Lapa reverberates far into the night with samba's percussive beat. Three places to immerse yourself.

1 Rio Scenarium

Amid a scenic clutter of esoteric objects and art, the former antiques gallery turned landmark rocks out every night to five-act musical extravaganzas. *rioscenarium.com.br*.

2 Carioca da Gema

The pioneering hot spot regularly scoops awards for note-perfect samba and jazz shows performed in a two-story town house. *barcariocadagema.com.br*.

3 Circo Voador

Bands from all over the world come to play at this cultural center; the energy on the dance floor is uniquely Brazilian. *circovoador.com.br*.



From left: Pork “carrots” with pepper jelly at Armazém São Thiago; Parque Lage; décor on display at the Novo Desenho shop in MAM Rio.



For a Brazil itinerary inspired by Travel + Leisure, go to travandleisure.com/coxandkings.



Local Take

Three natives share their favorite city locales.



NATACHA FINK
Chef, Espirito Santa

“The village of Santa Teresa, with its winding streets and crumbling mansions, has a bohemian spirit unlike the rest of Rio. I love to visit the atelier of Brazilian painter **Carlos Vergara** (carlosvergara.art.br; by appointment), who now exhibits all over the world. You can always catch an authentic music performance at **Parque das Ruínas** (169 Rua Murquinho Nobre; 55-21/2215-0621), an open-air cultural center with amazing views of Sugarloaf. For drinks, don’t miss **Armazém São Thiago** (armazemsaothiago.com.br), a neighborhood favorite known by locals as Bar do Gomes.”



RODRIGO CARDOSO
Architect, House in Rio

“On weekends, I like to wander the tree-lined streets in Jardim Botânico and Gávea. If you enjoy photography, stop at the **Instituto Moreira Salles** (ims.uol.com.br) to see works by both Brazilian and international artists. **Hipódromo** (55-21/2270-9720; \$\$) is a beloved lunch spot packed with young Cariocas; order the tasty *picanha* beef steak. Afterward, take a stroll through nearby Parque Lage. **Oro Restaurante** (ororestaurante.com; \$\$\$) is great for dinner—try the multicourse tasting menu, made with fresh ingredients and avant-garde cooking techniques.”



SERGIO RODRIGUES
Furniture designer

“The district of Botafogo, where my studio is located, has become a gastronomic hub. My go-to place for modern Brazilian cuisine is **Irajá Gastrô** (irajagastro.com.br; \$\$\$), run by chef Pedro de Artagão; get the *pirarucu* fish with sautéed banana. For experimental art exhibits, check out **MAM Rio** (mamrio.org.br), in Flamengo; the museum’s Novo Desenho shop sells beautiful jewelry and housewares. After browsing the contemporary furniture at Ipanema’s **Arquivo Contemporâneo** (arquivocontemporaneo.com.br), head to Arpoador beach and watch the sunset.”

Trips Out of Town

Sítio Roberto Burle Marx

Thousands of rare plant species fill the gardens at the farmhouse estate and studio of Brazilian landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx, who laid out Copacabana’s two-tone beachside promenade.

Petrópolis

Former emperor Pedro II’s mountainside retreat draws summer weekenders with its 19th-century Crystal Palace and verdant hiking trails inside Serra dos Órgãos National Park.

Niterói

Explore the UFO-shaped, Oscar Niemeyer-designed Museu de Arte Contemporânea (macniteroi.com.br), Santa Cruz da Barra fort, and unspoiled beaches of this city, a 15-minute ferry ride from downtown Rio.

