

# Pretravel Information Pack

## Brazil

August 2017



### Security

Overall Risk rating



Brazil is considered a **MEDIUM** risk travel destination. Countries classified as Medium Risk are not fully secure. These countries are in constant tension and vulnerable to sporadic unrest. Unexpected developments may threaten personal safety.

- **Political Stability:** The 2016 controversial impeachment of former president Dilma Rousseff put heavy strains on democratic institutions in the country since transforming into a civilian government in 1985. With the economy pulling out of a severe economic recession, the new government of President Michel Temer faces threats to its stability from continuing corruption investigations, weak public approval ratings and protests against austerity measures;
- **Unrest:** Deep social cleavages and economic inequality contribute to persistent low-level unrest. The threat of violent unrest is most pronounced within the Movimento Sem Terra ('no-land movement'), indigenous Amazon groups, residents of Brazil's 600 favelas ('shanty towns') and, most recently, with activist groups opposed to the new government of President Michel Temer;
- **Crime:** Crime rates in Brazil are high and on the rise, particularly in urban centres, outdoor market areas and the beaches of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Brasília, Recife and Salvador. Corrupt elements of the historically violent state police force in Rio de Janeiro collude with drug gangs to operate the infamous "militias" that control vast areas and illegal activities ranging from extortion to murder to unlicensed public transport;
- **Natural Risks:** Severe flooding is common during the rainy season (December to March), often generating disruptive and potentially fatal landslides;
- **Personal Safety:** Crime rates are high across Brazil's main urban centres, and the threat is compounded at night. Most major roads are well-marked and well-maintained, though routes in northern states and border areas are commonly in need of repair;



### Medical

Overall Risk Rating





## Travel Information and advise

- Dialling code: +55
- Internet code: .br
- Currency: real
- Electrical plugs: two-pronged, flat-bladed and two-pronged, round-pinned
- Electricity: 110/220V, 60Hz
- Driving: on the right
- Major languages: Portuguese
- Major religions: Christianity
- Important dates: January (Founding of Sao Paulo), 21 April (Tiradentes Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 7 September (Independence Day), 12 October (Our Lady Aparecida), 15 November (Republic Day), 25 December (Christmas Day)
- Non-fixed dates: Easter, Carnival



## Business & Culture

- Religious and political precautions
- Beware of unmarked taxies or pirate taxies
- Stay at reputable hotels
- Check local media for relevant news and updates
- Show respect for cultural matters
- Learn rules and laws
- Know the appropriate attire for both business and social occasions
- Seek information on the culture of the country you are visiting and learn proper business etiquette and practices.
- Christianity remains the dominant religion and some elements of society remain relatively conservative as a result.
- Shaking hands is the customary greeting.
- First names are commonly used to refer to one another, although titles are considered more polite, particularly in business settings.
- The Western hand signal for 'okay' (with the thumb and forefinger pressed together) is an obscene gesture in Brazil.



## Recent alerts and notifications

- 12. Jan. 2017 - 22:00 - IST [link](#)  
**2** Moderate Risk  
Water rationing scheme in Federal District
- 12. Jan. 2017 - 22:00 - IST [link](#)  
**2** Moderate Risk  
Yellow fever outbreak
- 12. Jan. 2017 - 22:00 - IST [link](#)  
**3** Medium Risk  
Western Amazon region
- 12. Jan. 2017 - 22:00 - IST [link](#)  
**3** Medium Risk  
Tri-border area of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay