



## Brazil information

### Travel documents

U.S. citizens traveling to Brazil must have a passport that is valid for six months after their expected return date, as well as a visa. This should be obtained prior to tour. We recommend using [visacentral.com/efvisas](https://www.visacentral.com/efvisas) where EF travelers will receive a discount. All travelers arriving in Brazil will be given an entry card. This card must be kept since it is also needed when leaving the country. Please check [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) to confirm passport validity requirements prior to your tour. Citizens from all other countries should contact their appropriate embassies to find out what specific documentation is required for them to travel.

All travelers who are minors must have a notarized parental authorization form. Full details can be found at [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov). Due to internal flights, a complete group passport list must be sent to EF no later than 110 days prior to departure. Please contact your Tour Consultant for further information.

### Vaccinations and health precautions

For the most current information on necessary vaccinations, we recommend you visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or consult your physician.

### Tour Director and drivers

You will have the same Tour Director during your entire tour. Bus drivers may change from day to day, so their tips should be considered on a daily basis.

## Tipping

It's customary to tip your Tour Directors and bus drivers as a token of appreciation at the end of the tour. We recommend:

- \$6–8 per person per day for your Tour Director
- \$3 per person per day for your bus driver

We recommend using U.S. dollars or local currency for tipping. We suggest you deposit the tip money into your bank account and withdraw it at the end of the tour. Then, present it to your Tour Director in the tip envelope provided by EF.

## Currency

The Brazilian currency is called the Real. We recommend withdrawing money from a bank or ATM machine instead of using credit cards. Visit [xe.com](http://xe.com) for current exchange rates and more information.

Although most shops accept credit cards, the phone lines are much slower, which makes using credit cards time consuming. It may also cause delays in your group's schedule. Please note that traveler's checks are not accepted in Brazil. Using ATM machines, which are available throughout the tour, may be more convenient for travelers. Most banks in Brazil have security guards to protect patrons from theft, but you should always have someone with you when you're withdrawing cash. You should notify your own bank of your travel plans to avoid service interruptions, and inquire about charges when withdrawing money abroad.

## Transportation

All bus trips are day excursions and are generally very short. Buses are modern and air-conditioned. There is an internal flight from Rio de Janeiro to Iguazu Falls that is no longer than three hours.

## Accommodations

All hotels on tour are modern with air conditioning. Students under the age of 20 will share rooms with two or three other travelers of the same gender in rooms that contain single or shared double beds (or a combination of the two). Students may share rooms with other students in the tour group who are not from their own school. Adults typically share rooms with one other adult of the same gender, and they may share with adults in the tour group who are not from their school. Please note that groups may not all have rooms next to each other (some may even be on different floors).

## Phones and internet

It's easy to buy an international phone card in Brazil to make phone calls home, and your Tour Director can help you find places to buy them. If you plan to use your personal cell phone on tour, contact your wireless provider to see what fees you may incur for calling, texting, or using data abroad. Wi-Fi is not available at all hotels in Brazil, and when it is available, there is often a fee.

## Local food

Brazilian food is very flavorful and offers a variety of seafood, especially especially in Rio. It's inadvisable to eat food sold by street vendors. Water is generally safe in Rio, but you may decide to take an extra precaution by drinking and using bottled water. A bottle of water typically costs \$1–2.

## Safety

Always inform your Tour Director if you need to break away from the group at any point. Store valuables in hotel safe deposit boxes and refrain from carrying large sums of money or wearing valuable jewelry. And, please be sure to read EF's *Travel & Safety Guide* before going on tour.

## Public bathrooms

While public bathroom facilities are generally available in Brazil, it will often cost a small amount to use these facilities. This amount includes toilet paper, which you'll have to get from an attendant before you enter

## Weather

Since Brazil is in the Southern Hemisphere, its seasons are opposite of ours in the Northern Hemisphere. Rio de Janeiro is tropically warm but can be chilly in their winter months (May through September). Iguazu Falls can be very cold or very warm in the winter months, so prepare for this climate variation and bring layers. Mornings can be cold, followed by much warmer temperatures (between 75 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit) by mid-day. Please check [weather.com](http://weather.com) for your destinations and travel periods.

## Packing

We recommend bringing the following items: a light jacket or windbreaker, comfortable walking shoes, swimsuit, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, cotton clothing, and travel-size toilet paper. Please remember that seasons are opposite in Brazil, with cooler weather from May to September, and wearing additional layers is advised. As with most tours, we suggest packing as light as possible to ensure all bags will fit in the storage compartments on your tour bus and on the airplane for the internal flight.

## Luggage

Fees for checking bags on the international flights between the United States and Brazil are included in the price of your tour. Fees for checking a bag on any flights during tour within Brazil or to Argentina are also included. Additionally, fees for checking a bag on any flights taking place while on tour within Brazil or to Argentina are included.