Brazil

- Guide for researchers and PhD students planning a stay in Brazil while being employed at AU

**Note:** A good place to start is to check whether your host university/organization has an international centre or contact person, where you can receive help and guidance. The information below covers the most central issues to deal with when doing a research stay abroad.

**Disclaimer:** The International Academic Staff Services does not assume responsibility for any incorrect or outdated information in this guide. Please refer to the listed references for the most recent information.

**Visa**

**Do I need a visa?**

It is a general rule that you need a visa to be allowed entrance to Brazil. However, Danish and Lithuanian citizens travelling to Brazil as tourists do not need a visa, if the stay in Brazil is under 90 days.

All nationalities will need a visa to Brazil if:
- you plan to stay longer than 90 days;
- you plan to: work, study, do volunteer work, work as a missionary, as a researcher, as a journalist, as a sportsperson, as an artist or take part in exchange programs of any kind in Brazil.

For security reasons, the Embassy of Brazil does not answer VISA enquiries by phone - please write to consular.copenhague@itamaraty.gov.br.

**NB:** As from July 6th, 2014, the Embassy of Brazil in Copenhagen, Consular Section, will not accept processing of visas in person. Visas of any type will only be processed via post or email. The processing might be followed via internet with the given protocol number for each case.

**Visa types and application**

You can easily find information about the visa types and the application process on [the website of Embassy of Brazil in Copenhagen](https://www.brasil.dk/copenhagen).

There are a number of visas that visiting PhD students and researchers from KU might be eligible for. The most important ones are:
Temporary Visa Type I (VITEM I)

This type of visa is applicable to foreigners travelling as researchers, visiting professors, students on certain categories of exchange, voluntary workers, and members of cultural and/or scientific missions and for the training of sports.

Required documentation for application:
- Fill out the on-line visa application form.
- Print the “Visa Form Delivery Receipt”, paste a picture and sign it.
- Passport (Valid for at least 6 months and with at least 4 unused pages)
- Certificate of Criminal Record in English or an equivalent document (for applicants over the age of 18)
- Birth certificate
- Original letter from the institution in Brazil explaining the purpose of the trip
- Proof of means of support during the stay of the applicant in Brazil (bank statements or pay slips are accepted as proof) or letter from the institution in Brazil, taking responsibility for the applicant during his/her entrance, stay and leave.
- For returning by mail, a recommended, self-addressed pre-paid envelope must be enclosed.

Temporary Visa Type II – Business Visa (VITEM II)

Provided that no income is derived directly from a Brazilian source, this type of visa is applicable to foreigners travelling to Brazil:

a. to conduct business or attend business-related affairs;

b. to attend conferences, seminars and similar events;

c. as journalists assigned by communications media on a short term mission to Brazil;

d. as cameramen and film makers and members of their crew, with prior granting of specific authorization.

According to the Immigration Division of the Ministry of External Relations, Danish citizens holding an ordinary passport are entitled to business visa exemption with a maximum stay in Brazil of 90 days every 180 days.

You can click here to check if you need a Business Visa (VITEM II) to Brazil or not.

Required documentation for those who needs a business visa:
- Fill out the on-line visa application form.
- Print the “Visa Form Delivery Receipt”, paste a picture and sign it.
- Passport (Valid for at least 6 months and with at least 4 unused pages)
- Certificate of Criminal Record in English;
- Letters from the applicant’s employer, addressed to the Embassy, stating the nature of business that he/she will conduct in Brazil, duration of stay, and assuming financial responsibility for his/her maintenance while in Brazil.
- In the cases of visa by mail or by agent, proof that the applicant resides in the area of jurisdiction of the Embassy in Copenhagen (Denmark and Lithuania): a telephone, electricity or water bill or driver’s license is sufficient.
• Onward air ticket or letter from applicant’s travel agency/airline on letterhead paper, addressed to the Embassy of Brazil and duly signed, stating cities and dates of entry and departure in Brazil, or itinerary identified with the travel agency/airline stamp.
• Valid international yellow fever vaccination certificate, if applicable. See the sections below.
• For returning by mail, a recommended, self-addressed pre-paid envelope must be enclosed.
• Authorization from “ANCINE – Agência Nacional do Cinema”, mandatory to any filming in Brazil.
• Self-addressed pre-paid envelope must be enclosed for return of the passport.

Temporary Visa Type V (VITEM V)

This type of visa is applicable travelling to Brazil to perform work, technical assistance (Normartive Resolution 100) under a contract or professional internships (Normative Resolution 94).

a) General work
b) Technical Assistance (RN 100)
c) Professional internships (RN 94)

An authorization from the Brazilian Ministry of Labour (Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego - MTE) is mandatory.

Please note that it is the Brazilian counterpart duty to carry out all formalities at the Ministry of Labour and Employment in Brazil. VITEM V can only be applied for at the Consular Section after the authorization has been granted by that Ministry.

The contacts of the Ministry of Labour (Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego) are:

Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego(www.mte.gov.br)
Coordenação-Geral de Imigração
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco F, Ed.Anexo, 2º and.
Brasília (DF) 70059-900 - BRAZIL
Telephone (+55 61) 3325-5722/ Fax (+55 61) 3325-5725

Temporary Visa Type IV (VITEM IV)

This type of visa is applicable to foreigners travelling to Brazil to attend graduation or post-graduation courses - including theological and technical studies, and for internships according to Normative Resolution 88 by the Brazilian National Immigration Council.

Required documentation for application:

• Fill out the on-line visa application form.
• Print the “Visa Form Delivery Receipt”, paste a picture and sign it.
• Passport (Valid for at least 6 months and with at least 4 unused pages)
• Certificate of Criminal Record in English or an equivalent document (for applicants above the age of 18)
• Birth certificate
• Original letter from a Brazilian university confirming acceptance/study placement and duration of the program.
• Proof of means of support during the stay of the applicant in Brazil (bank statements or pay slips are accepted as proof) or letter from the institution in Brazil, taking responsibility for the applicant during his/her entrance, stay and leave.
• For returning by mail, a recommended, self-addressed pre-paid envelope must be enclosed.

Important for all types of Visas:
• Applicants must have lived in Denmark for at least one year prior to the visa application.
• First entry into Brazil must be made within 90 days from the date the visa is issued (stated on the visa itself). Registration with the Federal Police (DPMAF) within 30 days of arrival in Brazil. For this purpose, make sure to take the second copy of the application form which will be returned to you duly stamped by the Consular Section.
• In some circumstances, an International Certificate of Vaccination is compulsory. Click here for more information concerning vaccinations when travelling to Brazil.
• Before you apply for the visa, it is recommended to confirm the visa rules as they are subject to change at short notice.

How much time and money should I expect to spend on obtaining a visa?

According to the Brazilian Embassy in Copenhagen, the average processing time for visas is 15 working days. In times of heavy workload (especially in July and December) or public holiday, the waiting times can be longer. Therefore, do not leave your application to the last minute and do not commit yourself to travel plans until you know when your visa will be issued. The costs and extra charges for all visa types and nationalities, as well as the available forms of payment and processing times will be informed to the applicant by email AFTER all the documents are received. Applications will only be accepted if all required documentation is presented and fees paid. To ensure proper communication, please make sure to include your contact information in your documentation.

The Brazilian Embassy in Copenhagen also indicates the consular fees and means of payment on its official website. You can check here for your reference.

What about visa for spouse and children?

If you apply for the above mentioned visas, your spouse, children and other dependent relatives need to apply for their individual visas of the same type.

Insurance

Aarhus University has travel insurance covering travels on official business. To be covered by this insurance, you have to apply for a personal insurance card. Information about this procedure can be found here: www.ias.au.dk/goingabroad/insurances/

You will most likely be requested to document the specific insurance conditions for Aarhus University’s insurance covering travel on official business. The insurance conditions can be found on this website:

If the host university/organization asks for further proof of the insurance terms, please contact Europæiske. The phone number for Europæiske can be found on your insurance card.

**Tax**

This section will describe the current tax rules for researchers employed at the University for Copenhagen but working in Brazil. However, please be advised that binding tax answers can only be given by SKAT. Hence, it is recommended that you contact your local tax office before departure.

If you live abroad, you may be subject to either full or limited tax liability, or you may not be liable to pay tax at all in Denmark. The decisive factor in determining your tax liability, if any, is whether you still have the right of disposal of your year-round accommodation in Denmark.

- If you keep the right of disposal of your accommodation in Denmark, you will, as a general rule, be subject to full tax liability and thus liable to pay Danish tax on your entire income.
- If you live abroad and stay in Denmark for a period of less than six consecutive months, you will, as a general rule, not be liable to pay tax in Denmark. However, you may receive income on which you must still pay tax.
- Denmark has entered into double taxation agreements with a number of countries to prevent that the same income is taxed twice.

If you sell your property or terminate the tenancy agreement of your rented home, your full tax liability in Denmark will cease. If you rent out your home, you must enter into a non-terminable three-year tenancy agreement with your tenant in order for your full tax liability to cease.

If you still own property or have income from Denmark when moving abroad, and if SKAT has assessed that you are no longer subject to full tax liability, you will become subject to limited tax liability in Denmark.

Limited tax liability means that you only need to pay tax on certain income from Denmark. This may, for example, be:

- Rental income from Danish property
- Salary/wages from an employer in Denmark
- Pension, state pension, fee for board membership and other A-income (income taxed at source)
- Dividends
- Income from Danish property
- Property value tax based on the public property assessment of a holiday home or second home in Denmark

When you leave Denmark to move abroad, you must notify SKAT by completing and submitting form no. 04.029 (Information about residence and other relevant information when leaving Denmark to stay abroad).
As a researcher, if you are a Danish citizen, employed by a Danish institution and you are expatriated to a foreign institution (salary paid from Denmark), you will be subject to full tax liability to Denmark according to Act on Taxation at the Source (Kildeskatteloven) section 1, (4) whether or not you still have the right of disposal of your year-round accommodation in Denmark.

According to section 33 A (1) of the Tax Assessment Act (Ligningsloven), a person who is fully tax liable to Denmark can apply for a tax exemption if he or she is working abroad. The stay abroad must last no less than 6 months.

According to section 33 A (2) (2) of the Act, section 33 A (1) does not apply if the salary is determined according to a collective agreement unless the collective agreement clearly states that the salary has been determined in view of an exemption according to section 33 A (1).

The salary for public employees in Denmark is normally determined by the collective agreements. As a researcher, you are still covered by the collective agreement when you are expatriated in connection with your employment at Aarhus University. Hence, section 33A (1) cannot be used and you are not eligible for tax exemption. You may however be eligible for deductions for double housekeeping or for food and accommodations (see section 4.2).

The Danish Confederation of Professional Associations (Akademikerne) and the Agency for the Modernisation of Public Administration are currently negotiating the possibility of individual salary negotiations between the employer and the employee which would make it possible for public employees to apply for tax exemption even though they are covered by a collective agreement. However, the status of these negotiations is unknown at this time (Oct. 2015).

If you are a non-Danish citizen and you leave Denmark to work abroad for a period of time, SKAT will assess if you are still tax liable to Denmark. Please contact SKAT directly and ask for an assessment of your situation.

**Address**

**Do I have to deregister my address in Denmark?**

If you are moving abroad for more than 6 months, you have to deregister your address from the Danish CPR register. This can be done online by contacting the municipality where you live. If you are abroad for less than 6 months and retain your accommodation in Denmark, it is usually possible to keep your address registered in Denmark.

You are entitled, though not required, to have your new address registered in the Danish CPR register if you move from one address to another while living abroad.

**Non-EU/EEA citizens:** Please note that if you cancel your address in Denmark, your residence and work permit will most likely be terminated. It is, however, possible under certain circumstances to get a dispensation for the termination of your residence and work permit. You should contact the Danish Immigration authorities or International Academic Staff Services for further information and assistance. Read more about the termination of your residence and work permit.
Do I have to register my address in Brazil?

All foreigners staying in Brazil for more than 90 days must register with the Federal Police in Brazil. You can do this at any Federal Police Department Station (DPMAF) within 30 days from the date you entered the country. The official steps are here at the Brazil Federal Police website.

Driving Permit

The minimum age for driving in Brazil is 18. Generally speaking, foreigners who have a full driving license issued abroad or an international driving permit are allowed to drive the same vehicle class in Brazil for 6 months from the date of arrival in Brazil. It is recommended to carry an official translation (in Portuguese) of the original foreign driving licence at all times when driving in Brazil. If you plan to stay more than 6 months, you have to apply for a local driving license at the local traffic authority.

Important: Please be aware that the advantage of applying for a Brazilian driving license without taking the complete test is restricted to foreigners coming from countries within the EU, the United States of America, South Africa and Australia. Those who have no license or a license from a country other than the previous mentioned, will have to go through the full process, including a four-part test, to obtain a Brazilian driving licence.

Please click here to find information on how to obtain Brazilian Driver's License. The matter on driving permit for foreigners in Brazil is regulated by Resolution No. 360/2010 - CONTRAN, which can be accessed on the website of Brazilian State Transport Department (DENATRAN).

Accommodation

You host university or organization may have an international centre or similar, where you can receive help and guidance when it comes to finding accommodation. When arriving in Brazil, book a hotel for the first couple of days. Use these days to look around the city with a real estate agent, who can show you different options and price ranges. You can visit www.hotelinsite.com.br and make sure the hotel suits you properly. You should be careful and not be seduced by extremely cheap hotel prices.

Rent an Apartment

Rental properties are widely available in Brazil. Prices vary throughout the country, with higher rents in large cities such as São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

Brazilian long term rental properties are usually unfurnished and without any white goods, lights or even shower heads fitted. Electricity and other services are also disconnected. Furnished apartments and houses for rent long term in Brazil are very rare (but can be found). Vacation and short term let apartments and houses in Brazil are always fully furnished and equipped.

In Brazil "for rent" signs may be displayed on the property itself, either hanging from an apartment window or attached to the front gate of a house, most commonly bearing the word Alugo. If the property is available for short let, normally during the summer tourist season in coastal towns and cities, the sign will read Alugo Temporada.
Property rental websites

In Brazil there are a number of real estate agents with national coverage, and properties can be searched for by value, location or by type on property websites (usually in Portuguese).

Zap imóveis
Brasil Classificados

These are particularly useful for sprawling big cities and accessing rural locations, as they can cut down the search time considerably.

Daily newspapers are also particularly useful, for example the Folha de São Paulo in the state of São Paulo and the A Tarde newspaper in the state of Bahia have regularly updated websites that can be approached for rental properties. Search for imóveis (Real Estate) in the classificados (classified) section.

Leases and Rental Contract

The lease agreement or tenancy contract (Contrato de Locação de Imóvel) stipulates terms and conditions of rental and rental rates and is prepared by the estate agency or owner. The contract term is usually 30 months, but this can be cancelled during the period or extended at the end.

The contract is signed by the landlord and the lessee. Each signature of the lessee on the contract is notarized at the Cartorio (Local Registry Office), where the lessee has their signature accepted and registered as legal and correct. This is carried out by the estate agent or owner, who usually also covers the small cost of doing this.

Rental agreement contracts are prepared in Brazilian-Portuguese, and it is recommended that those who are not able to understand the clauses should consult an English-speaking property lawyer or seek translation of the document through an independent translation company before signing. It is also advisable to go through the accommodation and the furnishing thoroughly together with the landlord. If you find flaws and deficiencies, a brief report on this should be included in the contract and signed by you as well as the landlord in case of later disputes.

IPTU (property tax) payments

Generally speaking, IPTU payments can be paid by either the owner or the tenant. Most advertised rental properties in Brazil will have the IPTU monthly payment mentioned alongside the actual monthly rental payments. You need to have the IPTU payment agreed upon with the owner or the estate agent before sign the contract. There will be several options. If the owner pays this tax, the rent charged to the tenant will be increased to cover it. Another option is for the owner and the tenant to split the payment equally, the tenant will pay their percentage on a monthly basis to the owner.

Living Costs

In general, living costs in Brazil are much lower than in Denmark according to the information updated in Oct, 2015 at Expatistan (a cost of living calculator that allows you to compare the cost of living between cities around the world. The comparisons allow you to get a better understanding of the cost of living of any city before you
move there), the price index in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) is 171, São Paulo (Brazil) being 161, Brasília (Brazil) being 144 and Copenhagen (Denmark) being 223.

At the website of [http://numbeo.com](http://numbeo.com), average living costs for some of the major cities in Brazil can be found. It is also possible to compare average prices in Denmark and Brazil for certain types of goods.

**Travelling to Brazil with animals**

Travelling with pets is never easy, especially going from a country to another. Each country has specific requirements to authorize the entry of dogs and cats in their territory. It is important to comply with these procedures, as failure to comply with all requirements will risk your pet in being refused entry or returned to the country of origin in quarantine, all at the expense of the person responsible for the pet. It is also recommended that you plan for your pet ahead of your trip so as to have enough time to meet all the requirements, which can sometimes take a few months.

**Required documentation:**

- **International Health Certificate for animals.** The international health certificate is issued by a licensed veterinarian ten days before departure, and must show no disease present. The certificate must also confirm that no incidence of contagious disease has been detected in the place of origin up to forty days before departure.
- **Transponder (Microchip).** The animal must have transponder (microchip) that is regulated by the ISO 11784 standards. If the animal has another kind of transponder, the owner must carry the reader for it.
- **Rabies Vaccinations:** The rabies vaccination is required for dogs and cats over three months old and should be given at least thirty days before departure in case of animals vaccinated for the first time. This must be valid for at least one year.
- **Proof of owner’s full name and address including state and country**
- **Documents showing the animals name, breed, gender, date of birth, size, color and any other specific markings.**

**NB:** The International Animal Health Certificate will also need to be legalized at the Embassy of Brazil in Copenhagen.

Detailed information about this subject can be found at [the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food supply](http://www.agricultura.gov.br).

**Restrictions on bringing food and other goods**

Any food or goods with ingredients derived from animal or plant origin can only enter Brazil after an analysis of the sanitary and phytosanitary risks by the Ministry of Agriculture, and must comply with the requirements of identity and corresponding quality. In addition, the presentation of the certificate issued by the country of origin is required.
In order to prevent pests and diseases from entering Brazil, the Agricultural Surveillance International Service (known as *Vigiagro*) requires that the traveler must submit **Accompanied Baggage Declaration (DBA)** in the ports, airports and border customs. It is based on the DBA that agricultural federal taxes inspect baggage. Any product lack of health certification or being considered as improper for human consumption will be seized and destroyed.

The guidelines are set out in the Manual of Operational Procedures of the system, considered as a compass for the federal agricultural tax and other users of Vigiagro. The items seized may be destroyed, according to the Normative Instruction No. 36 of 2006.

**Products Subjected to Approval**

See below the agricultural products that cannot enter the country without authorization from Vigiagro and/or health certification.

- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Insects, snails, bacteria and fungi
- Flowers, plants or parts of them
- Bulbs, seeds, seedlings and cuttings
- Pets (dogs and cats)
- Domestic and wild birds
- Exotic species, ornamental fish and birds and bees
- Meat of any animal specialties, fresh or industrialized (sausages, ham, salted, canned)
- Milk and milk products
- Agricultural Products (honey, beeswax, propolis, etc.)
- Eggs and derivatives
- Semen, embryos, biological products, veterinarians (serum, vaccines)
- Animal
- Land
- Woods untreated
- Pesticides
- Biological material for scientific research, among others.

For further information regarding bringing product to Brazil, you can check [here](#).

**Culture**

Brazil is the world’s fifth largest country in terms of area, covering nearly 8.5 million km². The national territory extends 4,395 kilometers from north to south and 4,319 kilometers from east to west. São Paulo is the country’s largest city. The city is considered a metropolis and has approx. 11.3 million inhabitants. The second-largest city is Rio de Janeiro, followed by Salvador da Bahia, Brasília, and Fortaleza. Brasilia, the capital, has approx. 2.6 million inhabitants.

The culture of Brazil presents a very diverse nature reflecting an ethnic and cultural mixing, which occurred in the colonial period involving mostly Native Americans, Portuguese, and Africans. In the late 19th and early 20th
centuries Italian, German, Spanish, Arab and Japanese immigrants settled in Brazil and played an important role in its culture, creating a multicultural and multiethnic society.

As a consequence of three centuries of colonization by the Portuguese empire, many aspects of Brazilian culture are derived from Portuguese culture. The numerous Portuguese inheritances include the language, the predominant religion, and the colonial architectural styles. These aspects are, however, strongly influenced by African and Native American traditions, as well as those from other Western European countries. Some aspects of Brazilian culture are contributions of Italian, German and other European immigrants. Amerindian people and Africans played a large role in the formation of Brazilian language, cuisine, music, dance and religion.

This diverse cultural background has helped boast the many celebrations and festivals that have become known around the world, such as the Brazilian Carnival and the Bumba Meu Boi. The colourful culture creates an environment that makes Brazil a popular destination for many tourists each year.

Brazilians are known for their kindness. During working hours, they are formal in their appearance, but in the spare time, they are a very open and relaxed people. When work is over, the vibe is more relaxed and it is not unusual to be invited and introduced to the very special and very active outdoor lifestyle that dominates most of the everyday life.

It is an advantage if one learns a little bit about the dominant sport being football (futebol) and also dance arts such as Capoeira and Samba, which are of huge interest to the Brazilians, in order to partake in the daily topics of discussion.

**Network for Danes in Brazil**

Expatriating to another country is never easy. The Danish embassy in Brazil coordinates several activities and networks for Danes. Thus, it might be a good idea to contact the embassy, especially if you are planning a long-term stay. There is a list of Danish networks in Brazil, both social and cultural as well as business. Click [here](#) for more information.

**Crime and Safety in Brazil**

Despite the country’s natural beauty and friendly people, Brazil continues to experience challenges with social inequality and poverty, and the unfortunate consequence of this has been continuously high crime rates. Safety and security in Brazil is therefore a concern for many expats contemplating a move there and a reality that they cannot ignore. It is recommended to exercise a high degree of caution in Brazil because of the high levels of serious and violent crime, particularly in the big cities.

Danish citizens residing in the country for a short or longer time may register their residence. Although the registration is voluntary, it may prove beneficial in any emergency situations. See the [Registration of Danes](#) on the website of Danish embassy in Brazil.

**Demonstration**

In May 2014, there was an increase in protests and industrial strikes, in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Recife, Salvador and Brasilia. Some demonstrations were violent, and caused serious disruptions to private and public transportation and resulted in a spike in criminality.
Demonstrations could occur at any time and may become violent with little or no warning. Even demonstrations or events intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. It is recommended to take common-sense precautions, avoid large gatherings or other events where crowds have congregated to demonstrate, and comply with the instructions of local authority. You can monitor local media or the Danish Embassy in Brazil for information about expected demonstrations.

Crime

The incidence of violent crime, including muggings, armed robbery, home invasions, kidnapping (especially express kidnappings), and sexual assault, is significant, particularly in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Recife, Salvador and other large cities.

Mobile street gangs and organised criminal groups are responsible for most of the crime, and generally operate from the favelas. The dense environments of these shanty towns have helped gang members hide from the police quite easily, and it’s only in recent years that law enforcement units have begun entering the favelas in a bid to re-establish control.

Many crimes are opportunistic in nature, such as pickpocketing, which is common in popular tourist areas and on crowded public transport. Hotspots for these crimes include beaches, hotels, bars and nightclubs. A phenomenon known as arrastões, or collective robbery, which consists of several people being robbed at the same time, also takes place in crowded areas of cities such as restaurants and during Carnival.

Travellers should avoid leaving food and drinks unattended in bars and places of entertainment as there have been incidents of drink spiking.

When driving, it’s best to keep your valuables out of sight as incidents of smash-and-grabs and carjacking are also common.

For safety reasons, many expats in Brazil’s larger cities live in apartments or houses in secure closed compounds, which have 24/7 security.

It is unlikely Brazilian police will be able to recover stolen property, however, we strongly recommend you obtain a “boletim de ocorrencia” (police report) at a “delegacia” (police station) if any of your possessions are lost or stolen. In most cases, you will require a police report to lodge a travel insurance claim related to lost or stolen possessions.

Kidnapping in Brazil

Incidents of kidnapping are common in Brazil. In particular, express kidnappings occur regularly in Brazil. This type of crime involves the victim being kidnapped at gun point for a short period and taken to an ATM to withdraw cash or to shops to use their credit cards. Express kidnappings are common outside of banks and ATMs, and expats should avoid using ATMs in isolated areas, especially at night.

Another popular kidnapping technique involves “virtual kidnapping”, where criminals make a random phone call to a family, claiming that they have abducted their family member and demand a ransom.
Road and transport safety in Brazil

Brazil has an extensive road network, the largest in Latin America. Road conditions in Brazil are generally good, but road markings and lighting are variable across the country.

Brazilian drivers are notorious for road rage. Expats driving in Brazil should do so with caution and drive defensively. Due to the safety concerns and driving conditions, expats in Brazil may want to reconsider their need to drive, and rather catch a bus or taxi, or use the subway system, if possible.

Be aware, it’s not uncommon for motorists to drive through red traffic lights at night.

Using Brazil’s public transport system is generally safe; although expats should be aware of the risk of pickpocketing at crowded transport hubs and on buses and trains.

Safety tips in Brazil

Here are a few basic safety tips to help expats stay safe in Brazil:

- Keep a low profile; if possible don’t speak English too loudly and rather speak Portuguese when out in public to avoid drawing attention to yourself.
- Don’t wear expensive jewellery and equipment in public; keep it out of view as this only makes you an attractive target for a mugger or pickpocket.
- Avoid ATMs in isolated areas, especially at night. It’s best to choose an ATM in a hotel or convenience store.
- Avoid walking alone at night. If travelling at night, rather use a taxi over other forms of public transport.
- Be careful when leaving and arriving home. Before leaving, check to make sure there is no one outside who could pose a threat, and when arriving home make sure you’re not followed into your property.
- If you’re mugged, don’t resist your attacker; your life is more valuable than your possessions.
- When stuck in traffic or stopped at traffic lights, be vigilant as carjacking and holdups are common at intersections.

You can also find some relevant information about safety and security in Brazil on the [website of US embassy in Brazil](https://www.usembassy.gov).

Public Holidays in 2015

Official Brazilian public holidays can be national (nacionais), state (estaduais) and municipal (municipais). A national holiday that falls on a Sunday is taken the following Monday.

National and Regional Holidays in 2015

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Region</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>27 July (Mon)</td>
<td>optional holiday</td>
<td>Regional</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 August (Tue)</td>
<td>Regional holiday</td>
<td>Regional</td>
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<td>3 September (Thu)</td>
<td>Ilhabela Day (Ilhabela only)</td>
<td>Regional</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>7 September (Mon)</td>
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<td>4 October (Sun)</td>
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<td>31 December (Thu)</td>
<td>New Year's Eve (half day)</td>
<td>National</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Emergency Numbers in Brazil**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Emergency Services</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Emergency (ambulância)</td>
<td>Tel: 192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Service (Corpo de Bombeiros)</td>
<td>Tel: 193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Police (Polícia Federal)</td>
<td>Tel: 194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>São Paulo Civil Police (Polícia Civil do Estado de São Paulo)</td>
<td>Tel: 197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio de Janeiro Civil Police (Polícia Civil do Estado de Rio de Janiero)</td>
<td>Tel: 197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Rescue (Salvamento Marítimo)</td>
<td>Tel: (21) 2104 6119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Links**

General information on planning a stay abroad for studying, work or research purposes:
http://ias.au.dk/goingabroad

The website of the Brazilian Embassy in Copenhagen:

A collection of Brazilian Government and Ministries sites:
http://copenhague.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/government_sites.xml

Info about the visa types:

Info about how to apply for a visa:

Info about the processing time of visas:
http://copenhague.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/processing_time.xml

Info about the consular fees:
http://copenhague.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/consular_fees.xml

Info about the vaccinations when travelling to Brazil:
http://copenhague.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/vaccination.xml

Info about how to register with the Federal Police in Brazil:
http://www.dpf.gov.br/servicos/estrangeiro/emitir-cedula-de-identidade-de-estrangeiro

Info from the website of Ministry of Transport about driving permit for foreigner in Brazil:
http://www.denatran.gov.br/resolucoes.htm

Info from the website of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply about bringing a pet to Brazil:
http://www.agricultura.gov.br/animal/animais-de-companhia/transporte-internacional

Info from the website of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply about bringing food or other good items to Brazil:

Brazil’s official tourism website:
http://www.brazil.com

Info about Living cost: