Rio de Janeiro is synonymous with world famous beaches, iconic images of Christ the Redeemer statue and Sugarloaf mountain, breathtaking mountain views, Samba dancers, Maracana Stadium (one of the largest soccer stadiums in the world), jewelry stores with an incredible selection of gemstones, etc. Unfortunately, Rio has a high crime rate. It is advisable to read and heed government travel advisories. Search the web for “crime rate and travel advisories Rio de Janeiro” when planning your visit.

The map at the left shows location of the following sites. Cruise ships dock along Pier Mauá S/A.

It's a 17 km (10.6 mile), 23 minute ride from the Galeão International Airport to the Pier Mauá cruise ship dock. Travel distance/time vary with route, time of day, traffic, etc.

Santos Dumont is the domestic airport.

Most tourist hotels are to the South along the beaches for Copacabana, Ipanema, and Leblon. It's a 16 km (10 mile), 21 minute ride from the cruise ship dock to Leblon. Travel distance/time vary with route, time of day, traffic, etc.

Maracana Stadium, due West of Centro, is the largest soccer stadium in the world.

For spectacular views of the area, visit:

- **Christ the Redeemer** 125 foot tall statue on Corcovado mountain, the highest peak in Rio. It's at the East end of Tijuca Forest national park, an 8000 acre, mountainous rainforest.

- **Sugarloaf mountain** is in the sea at the Southeastern tip of land near Copacabana beach. The top of the mountain is accessible from the mainland via cable car.

**CAVEAT**

Information contained herein is believed to be accurate. PLEASE verify the information you use for your travel plans. Opinions expressed are my own. This port guide is protected by copyright law - see the last page of this guide for legal notices.

Tom Sheridan
Cruise ships dock at Pier Mauá S/A along Av. Rodrigues Alves. Use this address to locate the pier in Google Maps Avenida Rodrigues Alves, 10 Saúde, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, 20081-250, Brazil.

Cruise ships docked along Av. Rodrigues Alves

Caution – you cannot walk to tourist sites from the ship's dock and it is unsafe to walk into the city from the docks at night. Check with your cruise ship re where you can/can't safely walk. Use transportation provided by the cruise line to leave the dock area.
The warehouses along the docks have been converted to use for large fairs, exhibitions, shows, summits, meetings etc. A new project was started in 2011 to construct a commercial tower building for offices, stores, bars, and restaurants.

The “official” tourist website provides information on the cruise ship docks, see http://www.piermaua.com.br/pt-br/terminal-de-cruzeiros.html

Use this street address in Google Maps to locate the airport:
Av. 20 de Janeiro - Rio de Janeiro, 21941-570, Brazil

It's a 17 km (10.6 mile), 23 minute ride between the international airport and cruise ship dock.
Create a Map Showing Your Hotel
Hotel booking websites show map location, but the map functions can be limited. I prefer to enter the exact name of the hotel, followed by a “comma” and “Rio de Janeiro, Brazil” as the search string in Google Maps. This gives me complete control of map detail shown around the hotel.

Google Map (below) for “Sheraton Barra Hotel & Suites, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil” Note the shopping areas.

Google Map (below) using “Get Directions” function from Hotel to Cruise Ship dock. Note the travel distance & time.
Information from Hotel websites
Hotels provide useful information and photos on their websites. This information is for the Sheraton Rio Hotel & Resort from this website http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/search/results/detail.html?localeCode=en&numberOfRooms=1&searchType=city&brand=SI&skinCode=SI&searchAction=findRooms&favoritePropertyID=0&country=BR&city=rio+de+janeiro&numberOfAdults=1

Sheraton Rio Hotel & Resort
Avenida Niemeyer 121 - Leblon Rio de Janeiro, 22450-220 Brazil
Phone: (55)(21) 2274 1122

The resort is located in an oasis of lush tropical vegetation, with direct access to the beach, and almost halfway between the trendy Barra da Tijuca and the world-renowned Ipanema beach. Only a few minutes from the hotel as well as other cultural and tourism attractions, Ipanema is home to Rio’s top restaurants, bars, and shops and is only a few minutes from the hotel as well as other cultural and tourism attractions.

For your convenience, we offer a complimentary shuttle service to Leblon, Ipanema, and Copacabana beaches, with a final stop at the Rio Sul Shopping Mall.
Christ the Redeemer on Corcovado mountain = a MUST SEE Tourist Site

To locate this site, do a Google Map search for “Christ the Redeemer, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil”.

The Christ the Redeemer statue is the icon for Rio de Janeiro. It is a symbol of peace and the 5th largest statue of Jesus in the world. In 2007, it was named as one of the “New Seven Wonders of the World”

It's a must see tourist site offering stunning views of the area. For information on this site and options to get there, see http://www.worldgreatestsites.com/christ_the_redeemer.htm

Stunning Views From Christ the Redeemer Statue
Sugarloaf Mountain

Sugarloaf mountain is in the sea at the Southeastern tip of land near Copacabana beach. The top of the mountain is accessible from the mainland via cable car. There are two peaks. Urca Peak is 700 feet. The second peak is the highest at 1300 feet.

To locate the cable car for Sugarloaf on Google Maps, search for “Pão de Açucar, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil”.

I visited Christ the Redeemer statue, but opted not to visit Sugarloaf mountain as I found the views of it from the beaches adequate.

The map below shows the relationship of Sugarloaf Mountain and Christ the Redeemer statue to Copacabana, Ipanema, and Leblon.

Shopping

My wife's priority is jewelry. Brazil is one of the world's largest suppliers of semi-precious gemstones such as aquamarine, tourmaline, amethyst, topaz, etc. I met the owner of H. Stern and received great service in selecting jewelry for my wife.

Other Rio products include beachwear, leather goods (particularly shoes), natural fiber summer clothing, etc. Hotels often provide shuttle service to shopping areas. Ipanema is the most fashionable shopping district.

This Frommer's website lists stores by product category
Travel Security & Safety

Security Risks In Rio de Janeiro = more than pickpockets
ALL major cities pose the risk of pickpockets, but Rio de Janeiro has additional risks of mugging, car jacking, and kidnapping for ransom at ATM's. The crime rate is high due to extremely poor neighborhoods, called “favelas”, run by criminal gangs and drug dealers. The police are trying to “take control” of favelas before the world cup and Olympics. The new police effort is welcome but it may be difficult to bring law and order to the 513 favela neighborhoods in Rio de Janeiro.

The best advice I've received on safe travel in Rio de Janeiro:
• Be aware of the security risks. Research and read travel advisories. Some are cited below.
• Take “common sense” precautions so that you do not stand out as a tourist target. “Dress down”, don't wear flashy jewelry, expensive looking watches, or carry an expensive camera.
• Travel with a group and be extremely careful of travel at night.
• Do NOT go to favela neighborhoods.
• Get specific, reliable, local advice on travel – where and when to visit areas, which forms of transportation to use, areas to avoid, etc.

Local travel advice from people and companies familiar with the area is very important
• I had an enjoyable 2-day visit to Rio with one night in Ipanema. I was accompanied by people who live in the area and benefited from their local knowledge regarding safe travel.
• A friend of mine has visited Rio de Janeiro several times on cruise ships without incident. He recommends having the Cruise Line make your travel arrangements and transit to/from the airport because the cruise company knows the local conditions. If staying at a hotel before or after the cruise, he recommends contacting the hotel and requesting local advice on safe transit between the hotel, the airport, and cruise ship dock. Once you get to the hotel, get local advice on safe travel during your stay.

Trip Advisor Travel Advisory
http://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g303506-s206/Rio-De-Janeiro-Brazil-Health-And-Safety.html

Security Tips for Visitors:
• Try to travel in a group, preferably with local friends. At night, avoid walking on the streets alone.
• Be careful about public transportation at night. Take a taxi and not a bus at night. Late at night, consider taking a radio or call taxi especially when traveling to less secure or unfamiliar locations. Many people prefer calling a taxi company than picking one randomly on the street. The line 1 of the underground (especially, City Centre- Copacabana) is perceived as being safer that buses, but at night the entrances to the subway stations are a focal point for the homeless.
• Be aware of your surroundings and others walking on the street, especially at night. If you see a group of young kids that look suspicious walking towards you, cross the street. Avoid dark/enclosed areas.
• Do not wear flashy jewelry or expensive looking items. A basic watch or wedding band is okay (prospective criminals can't distinguish between a fake Rolex or costume jewelry and the real thing).
• Do not carry a lot of cash. Carry only enough for your expected purchases and a credit card (none if you don't expect to use it). Leave the passport and other credit cards in the safe at the hotel.
• Make a copy of the Biographic page of your passport and carry this with you. It makes it easy to get into night clubs & restaurants or to provide ID if stopped by the police.
• Do not keep all of your money in one pocket. Distribute it in different pockets.
• Take extra care when taking money from an automatic teller machine. Beware of suspicious characters lurking nearby. It is best to use the machines located inside buildings and shopping centers.
• Keep digital cameras in your pocket or in non-nondescript paper or plastic bags.
• Don't leave belongings unattended.
• Stay away from the slum areas (favelas). There are some respected favela tours for tourists, but remember that these operators must pay a percentage of their profits to the criminal gangs controlling the favela to ensure the safety of the tour party.
• The city centre should be visited during work hours (but be aware of pickpocketing there) and it is generally considered an empty and dangerous place at night - although some parts of it have been renovated, particularly the Lapa district where many world-class samba clubs are located. Always take a taxi if visiting Lapa and make a reservation at the club you intend to visit in advance.

Although food offered by beach vendors like shrimp, oysters and natural sandwiches, might look wonderful, it's best to be circumspect about what you order. Most foods sold by vendors on the beach are prepared the night before in somewhat unsanitary conditions and then spend most of the day in the hot sun in the hands of those selling it. If you want to drink beer or soda on the beach, it's best to use a cup or a straw instead of drinking directly from the can. If you will be drinking from the can, clean it with some (mineral) water and then dry the can before drinking.

To avoid many of the safety and sanitary issues while at the beach rent deck chairs and an umbrella from one of the kiosks located on major beaches. Most hotels also have a kiosk and some even pay for a military police presence in the vicinity of their location. Drinks and snacks ordered from the boys working at the kiosk are usually of high quality and you can pay for your entire day''s consumption as you leave at the end of the day.

US Travel Advisory

CRIME: Crime throughout Brazil has reached very high levels. Brazilian police and media report the crime rate continues to rise, especially in the major urban centers – though it is also spreading in rural areas. Brazil’s murder rate is more than four times higher than that of the U.S. Rates of other crimes are similarly high. The majority of crimes are not solved.

Street crime remains a problem for visitors and local residents alike, especially in the evenings and late at night. Foreign tourists are often targets of crime and Americans are not exempt. This targeting occurs in all tourist areas but is especially problematic in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador and Recife.

Travelers are advised to keep a copy of their passport on them when in public and, where possible, to keep their passport in a hotel safe or other secure place. Besides a copy of their passport, U.S. citizen travelers are advised to carry proof of whatever health insurance they may have.

U.S. citizens should use caution with regard to nighttime travel through more rural areas and satellite cities due to reported incidents of roadside robberies that randomly target passing vehicles. Robberies and “quicknappings” outside of banks and ATM machines are common. In a “quicknapping,” criminals abduct victims for a short time in order to receive a quick payoff from the family, business or the victim’s ATM card. Some victims have been beaten and/or raped.

Carjacking is on the increase in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Recife and other cities. The incidence of crime against tourists is greater in areas surrounding beaches, hotels, discotheques, bars, nightclubs, and other similar establishments that cater to visitors. This type of crime is especially prevalent prior to and during Carnaval (Brazilian Mardi Gras), but takes place throughout the year. While the risk is greater at dusk and during the evening hours, street crime can occur both day and night, and even safer areas of cities are not immune.

Incidents of theft on city buses are frequent. Several Brazilian cities have established specialized tourist police units to patrol areas frequented by tourists. In Rio de Janeiro, crime continues to plague the major tourist areas (see separate section on Rio de Janeiro).

Rio_de_Janeiro-11-30-2011
At airports, hotel lobbies, bus stations and other public places, pick pocketing, theft of hand carried luggage, and laptop computers are common. Travelers should "dress down" when outside and avoid carrying valuables or wearing jewelry or expensive watches.

"Good Samaritan" scams are common. If a tourist looks lost or seems to be having trouble communicating, a seemingly innocent bystander offering help may victimize them. Care should be taken at and around banks and internationally connected automatic teller machines that take U.S. credit or debit cards.

Very poor neighborhoods known as "favelas" are found throughout Brazil. Conditions in favelas vary widely, but are often sites of uncontrolled criminal activity and are often not patrolled by police. U.S. citizens should avoid these unsafe areas.

Travelers using personal ATMs or credit cards sometimes receive billing statements with non-authorized charges after returning from a visit to Brazil. The Embassy and Consulates have received numerous reports from both official U.S. Government employees and U.S. tourists who have had their cards cloned or duplicated without their knowledge. Those using such payment methods should carefully monitor their banking online for the duration of their visit.

While the ability of Brazilian police to help recover stolen property is limited, we strongly advise you to obtain a "boletim de ocorrencia" (police report) at a "delegacia" (police station) whenever any possessions are lost or stolen. This will facilitate your exit from Brazil and assist with insurance claims. Be aware, however, that the police in tourist areas are on the lookout for false reports of theft for purposes of insurance fraud. In 2009, there were several prominent cases of insurance fraud involving foreigners in Rio.

UK Travel Advisory

Levels of violence and crime are high. Shanty-towns ("favelas") exist in all major Brazilian cities; they are characterised by poverty and extremely high levels of violent crime. The state government has implemented a Pacifying Police Force (Unidade dePolicia Pacificadora (UPP) in several “favelas” throughout Rio de Janeiro. This police force is part of a law enforcement programme which aims to reclaim the “favelas”. This has brought more safety to these areas, however, all “favelas” can be unpredictably dangerous areas, even if visited with well organised tours. Outbreaks of violence, particularly aimed at police and officials, can occur at anytime and may be widespread and unpredictable.

Public transport is likely to be disrupted during periods of unrest. You should remain alert and aware of local conditions at all times. You should be particularly vigilant before and during the festive and Carnival periods, as there is often a seasonal upsurge in robberies around this time.

Violence and crime can occur anywhere and often involve firearms or other weapons. You should be extra vigilant, particularly in major cities. You are advised to dress down, avoid wearing jewelery and expensive watches, and only carry small sums of money. Conceal mobile phones and cameras. You should be ready to hand over your valuables if threatened; do not attempt to resist attackers as they will often use their weapons, particularly if under the influence of drugs. Safeguard valuables at all times, including your passport.

Thefts from cars are common, and cases of car jacking occur, sometimes with the occupants being taken and forced to withdraw money from their accounts at cash machines. When in a car you should keep the doors locked and the windows closed, and take particular care at traffic lights. In three or more lanes of traffic, consider using the middle lane(s), where safety may be higher.

Avoid venturing out after dark in quiet streets except under reliable local advice. The threat of personal attack is lower outside the cities. However, incidents can occur anywhere, even in holiday destinations that appear relatively secure. The incident of rape and other sexual offences is statistically low, but there have been reports of attacks against both men and women, and some have involved 'date rape' drugs - you should purchase your own drinks and keep them within sight at all times to avoid them being drugged.
There has been an increase in robberies of ATM machines in Sao Paulo. Thieves attack machines based in banks and in other shops that offer such facilities, to remove all the cash contained within it. The Brazilian Banks Federation installed in a number of ATMs an anti theft device that colours the notes of an ATM that has been damaged or tampered with using pink ink. Any pink coloured note will not be accepted in the market and automatically loses it value.

If you withdraw cash at an ATM and it has any sort of pink marks you should speak with the bank manager straight away to get it changed, if outside bank hours or not in a bank branch you should get a bank statement from the ATM showing the withdrawal and take it with the marked note to a police station and get a police report, with this you can go to a bank to get the note changed.

Credit card fraud is common. Try to keep sight of your card at all times. Additionally, with the possibility of theft, consider keeping a spare credit card for emergencies in your hotel safe, if there is one, in a sealed envelope (for extra security- to indicate fraudulent access to the safe).

**Police occupy Rio favela in World Cup operation  (BBC  UK News  June 19, 2011)**

Brazilian security forces have occupied one of Rio de Janeiro's biggest slums as part of a major crackdown ahead of the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics.

Some 800 police and special forces moved into the Mangueira shantytown, without needing to fire a shot, having announced the raid in advance.

The slum - or favela - is close to Rio's famous Maracana stadium, where the World Cup final will be played.

The pre-dawn operation involved armoured vehicles and helicopters.

According to the newspaper, O Globo, leaflets were thrown out of the helicopters, some with photos of wanted criminals.

Others were printed with the police special forces' telephone number so that residents could pass on information about drugs traffickers or weapons.

BBC Brazil correspondent Paulo Cabral says most of Mangueira's residents co-operated with the operation, as they want to rid the area of drug dealers.

He says that Rio's authorities are making an effort to gain the trust of those living in the slums, who - after decades of abuse - have got used to seeing the police as their enemy.

Mangueira - home to one of Rio's most famous samba schools - is the 18th favela that the authorities have occupied recently.

For information on favelas, see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Favela](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Favela)
User Feedback Is Welcome

Goal
My guides are designed to help you plan a great cruise vacation by providing information such as where the ship docks, location of tourist sites, public transit, walking tour maps, things to see and do, travel issues unique to the port, etc. Knowledge of ports is important when planning shore excursions because you have to make many decisions and commitments long before your ship docks. I believe the information in this guide is accurate, however you are responsible to verify accuracy of the information that you use to plan your vacation.

Information on cruise ports frequently changes such as bus routes, admission fees to sites, rental car locations, etc. Cruise Critic is the best source for up-to-date, detailed information on travel details for shore excursions, reviews of cruise ships, etc. There are many knowledgeable people on Cruise Critic who are willing to share their expertise and travel experience. I highly recommend www.CruiseCritic.com; it's free to join.

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Fortunately, a friend of mine on that ship complained to the purser and the ship stopped violating my copyright.

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Tom Sheridan