



2016 RIO
CARNIVAL

JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 7, 2016

EXPERIENCE THE
VIBRANCE, ENERGY
AND PASSION OF RIO!

SAMBALISCIOUS.COM.AU

SAMBALISCIOUS RIO TOUR

FRIDAY 29 JANUARY - SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY, 2016

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the value of this tour compared to others?

Due to Mishel's fluency in Brazilian Portuguese (having lived in Rio for 3 years), exclusive contacts with the Carnival industry (after 10 years travelling to Brazil to source these) and in-depth local knowledge, you will not only experience Rio like a native "Carioca" but also stay in the safest and most exclusive neighbourhood of Rio, Leblon, and take dance classes with the industry's very best instructors (hand-picked by Mishel). Rather than battling local transport daily, private vans will be organized to take you to and from most events with a professional transport company and your Carnival VIP tickets to both watch and dance in the parade can only be purchased and negotiated by Mishel's Brazilian contacts (not available to tourists). Please be aware that accommodation prices triple for the Carnival period but Mishel has negotiated the lowest possible rates, again due to her strong relationship with the hostel management.

Is Rio safe for tourists?

Nowadays Rio is much safer than in the past, however Mishel still prefers to take the utmost caution with accommodation choices, transport suppliers and selected clubs/Samba schools to ensure the safety of the group is not compromised.

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Do I need and how do I apply for a Brazilian visa?

Once you pay your initial tour deposit, you will be sent instructions on how to apply for your visa online. NZ residents don't need Brazilian visas.

Do I need to be able to speak Portuguese?

You do not need to be able to speak Portuguese **FLUENTLY**, however it is **STRONGLY** recommended that you undertake some form of Brazilian Portuguese language learning prior to the trip, especially as you will need to learn a song in Portuguese for Carnival and it is a great way to connect with the locals and have a much more enriching and independent travel experience. Once you have confirmed your participation in the tour, you will have access to a Brazilian Portuguese audio series.

Do I need to be able to dance Samba?

You do not need to be able to dance Samba to participate in this tour, however it will greatly enhance your Carnival experience if you learn to dance before the trip. If you are interested in performing on the float, you will need a minimum 6 months Samba experience to audition. Once you have confirmed your participation in the tour, you will have access to Mishel's online "Samba with me" series.

How much spending money will I need?

Budget for AU\$50-100 per day. Breakfast is included at the hostel, and there are many options for eating out including kilo restaurants, juice bars, all-you-can-eat restaurants and supermarkets (with fresh meals/produce available). There are also many vegetarian options. Please note that Brazil does not offer as many "gluten-free" products as Australia, so you may need to bring supplies with you if you are gluten intolerant.

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What vaccinations do I need?

It is mandatory to have your Yellow Fever vaccination, preferably up to 6 weeks before the tour.

Do I need travel insurance?

Travel insurance is mandatory.

What if I want to arrive earlier/stay later on the tour?

You are more than welcome to arrive earlier or stay later, however Mishel will only be available during the specified tour dates, and you will need to contact the hostel directly to extend your accommodation.

Can I travel together with someone to Rio?

As we will have people from all over Australia (and some from overseas) joining us on the tour, everyone will be responsible for organizing their own flights. Once you have confirmed your participation on the tour, you will be added to a Facebook group where you can connect with other members of the tour and try to organize to fly together if you are interested.

Can I bring my partner with me?

Men are welcome on the tour, but will need to also sign up for the entire tour package. Male Samba lessons will be organized for them at the same time as the ladies' classes.

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What will our Carnival costumes look like?

If you choose Package 1, you will be parading on the ground behind the float and will be wearing costumes that match with the theme of the school. These costumes are usually quite covered up with additional props such as swords/masks/helmets etc depending on the schools' theme.

If you choose Package 2, you will be performing on a float and will be wearing a costume designed by the Carnival designer, usually a bikini/headpiece/backpiece but this cannot be guaranteed as it will depend on the schools' theme.

What do ground performers have to do?

Ground performers form part of an "ALA" or 'wing' of the Samba school. They need to sing the Portuguese lyrics of the Samba school's theme song, but don't necessarily need to showcase professional dance skills.

What do float performers?

Float performers are one of the main attractions of the Carnival parade as they are elevated and attract a lot of media attention, so they need to not only sing the Portuguese lyrics of the Samba school's theme song, but also show proficiency in dancing Samba.