



SAMBALISCIOUS RIO TOUR

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 2 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.



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 professionally to participate in this tour, however it will greatly enhance your Carnival experience if you improve your dance skills before the trip. Once you have confirmed your participation in the tour, you will have access to Mishel's online "Samba with me" series, and Mishel is also available for private classes in Brisbane or via SKYPE.

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.

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?

Partners are welcome to participate in certain sections of the tour, but please note that this is a very female-centric tour. Male



Samba and Capoeira lessons can be organized for your partner at the same time as the ladies' classes.

What will our Carnival costumes look like and can we keep them?

You will be performing on a float and will be wearing a costume designed by the Samba school's Carnival designer. This usually consists of a bikini/dress/headpiece/backpiece, however this cannot be guaranteed as it will depend on the schools' theme. The Samba school has the right to change costumes and float placements at any time in the lead up to Carnival, and therefore Sambaliscious cannot guarantee that everyone in the tour group will be on the same float or wearing the same costume. We also cannot provide a photo/design of the costume before it is delivered in the days leading up to Carnival due to the reasons above. Please also note that the quality of these costumes is not the same as Samba performance costumes – they are made purely to last the Carnival parade and not for longevity. You are welcome to keep your costume and bring it back home with you.

What is expected from 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 be able to sing the Portuguese lyrics of the Samba school's theme song, show proficiency in dancing Samba and be in peak physical fitness form.