

## ☺ *Recommendations by Pousada Favelinha* ☺

### **Sights in Rio de Janeiro:**

**Corcovado, Cristo:** From the upper entrance of our favela, take bus 206 to Silvestre, then walk all the way up, or get into the red train halfway at Palmeiras for 25 reais. Walking up all the way takes about 1.5 to 2 hours., shortcuts through the forest exist, but take the usual caution and walk in groups through the forest. Walking on the street up is safe unless you flash unusually big camera equipment or the like..

From the lower entrance of the favela, walk down the street “Pereira da Silva” till you hit “Rua das Laranjeiras”. Takes bus 422 or any other bus written “Cosme Velho” on it (heading right) and get out at the Corcovado train station (just tell the bus driver “Corcovado”). The trains leave every half hour, the roundtrip ticket is 36 Reais. It’s a pleasant ride! We suggest arriving sometime before sunset and staying there for sunset, when the statue lights up. The last train down is at around 7 p.m.

**Sugar Loaf, Pao de Acucar:** Take the Metro to Botafogo, then continue on bus 512, walk for about 20 minutes, or take taxi for approx. 6 Reais. You may also walk down from Largo do Machado towards the Flamengo beach and catch any bus written “Urca” towards the Sugar Loaf Mountain. Two cable cars take you up to the top until 9:50 pm. Take your time, and when you are up there, try to locate our Pousada. You can locate it well by spotting the big white religious college (Asuncao CENAM) sitting on top of the hill, and our pousada in the favela just below.

**Jardim Botânico** (bus 570, 571, 569 from Largo do Machado) A very large botanic garden, close to the lagoon. Very nice not only for plant lovers.

**The center of town:** (take the Santa Teresa tram down to the end station, or take the Metro to “Carioca”). During weekdays, go there until it gets dark to wonder in the many pedestrians zones with a lot of Brazilian shoppers and look at the beautiful, though often run down colonial buildings. If you are into architecture, go on a Sunday during the day, when the center is deserted and you can best enjoy the sights. It’s probably best to go in a group though, because the center, while safe when busy, may become one of the more dangerous places in Rio after nightfall or on Sundays. In the center, also don’t miss “Parque de Santana”, a nice big park with lots of free roaming animals like peacocks, ducks and agoutis (these look like giant squirrels)

**Praca Quinze (15) de Setembro:** Also in the center, this is the real historic center with the oldest buildings, some nice restaurants, and the boat harbour for trips to Niteroi, Ilha Fiscal, Ilha de Paqueta and other destinations

**Stairs of Selaron, Lapa** (Rua Joaquim Silva). The famous tiled stairs became even more famous after being displayed in Snoop Doggs music clip “Beautiful”. As you pass the white arches in Lapa, walk into the small street to the right, which is also the main nightlife street on weekends. The street bends left after only 20m. The next “street” up to the right is the stairs, where the Chilean artist Selaron can often be seen removing old tiles and fixing new ones.

**Maracana**, (Metro station Maracana). The info office on Largo do Guimaraes in Santa Teresa always knows when games are on. The stadium can also be visited for R\$ 5,- on days without games, but its just not the same...

**Igreja da Gloria / Gloria Yacht Harbor.** Walking down the Rua do Catete from Largo do Machado, You will eventually come to an open square and the district of Gloria. Walking up the steep steps to your right will lead you to the beautiful church of Nossa Senhora Da Gloria, with a nice view over the yacht harbour Gloria, which you could visit afterwards

**Beaches:** of course Rio is famous for the beaches Copacabana, Ipanema etc. More detailed information below

**Floresta de Tijuca:** (best done by tour or taxi, or take the metro to “Saens Pena”, then a taxi). It is called the biggest inner city park in the world, although it is hardly really in the heart of the city. The park boast various hiking trails, waterfalls, and three restaurants at “Alto da Boa Vista”

**Lagoa Rodrigo Freitas** (Bus 570 from Largo do Machado) Stroll around the nice huge lake (or rather lagoon), rent a bicycle or even book a helicopter flight on the west side of the lake. Also, from the lake it’s a quick and easy stroll over to the adjacent Ipanema beach.

**Hanggliding:** One site not to be missed is “Pedra da gavea”. You can arrange a hanggliding jump from that mountain with us, please see “tour offers”. It’s absolutely fantastic

**Samba Schools:** between around August and February you may assist the practices of a Samba school, The trainings are mostly on Saturday nights, you will have to take a taxi or guide to get to them, the closest one being Salgueiro. Some addresses of Samba schools; Beija Flor (Pracinha Wallace Paes Leme 1025, Nilopolis), Mangueira (Rua Visconde de Niteroi 1072, Mangueira), Mocidade (Rua Coronel Tamarindo, Padre Miguel), Portela (Rua Clara Nunes 81, Madureira), Salgueiro (Rua Silva Teles 104, Andaraí). Most samba schools are in the zona norte, not the safest place of town.

**Rio Water Planet.** If you have done it all and want to have some extra fun in the water, look at the largest aquatic park in South America, located in the posh district of Barra da Tijuca, near Barra Shopping Center.

**Morrinho:** Last but not least, one sight in our own favela: You can even see it from our rooftop. In the forest to the left of our pousada, a little downhill, local youths have built miniature favelas out of brick stones, complete with streets, cars, police officers and drug dealers. The project has become so famous that they have been invited to Barcelona and the Biennale in Venice. By the lower entrance of the favela, on the left hand side when going down, is the office of Morrinho, with some informational material, and even T-Shirts for sale.

## **Restaurants:**

### **In Santa Teresa:**

- Espirito Santa (R. Almirante Alexandrino, 264) in a red house about 100m down from Largo do Guimaraes past all the other restaurants, this is a favourite. It has a nice garden with a lookout and excellent food from different parts of Brazil, especially the Amazon.

-Bar do Mineiro (Rua Paschoal Carlos Magno, 99), near Largo do Guimaraes, a simple, clean, yet very popular bar-style restaurant with excellent food, always full.

-Mike's Haus (R. Almirante Alexandrino, 1.458 A), actually the closest real restaurant to our pousada, it offers good German cuisine and "Weizenbier".

-Sobrenatural (R. Almirante Alexandrino, 432) near Largo do Guimaraes, very good seafood

### **Largo do Machado:**

-Catete Grill (Rua do Catete, 239), an excellent "a-kilo" buffet restaurant with a super large selection of fine pasta, seafood, sushi, and of course freshly grilled meats. Not the cheapest but definitely worth it. Calculate about R\$ 20 for an average meal.

-Adega Portugalia (on the left side of Largo do Machado, looking from the church/bus stop). A great place to drink a beer and have some Portuguese fish balls (bolinho de bacalhau), chicken pieces (frango a passarinho) and the like before you head back home to the pousada. Tables outside overlooking the busy square.

-Bar na Galeria Condor (the big juice bar inside the Shopping gallery on the right side of the square, looking from the church). They mix up some of the best juices and have great snacks such as coxinha etc.)

-Gaucha Churrascaria (Rua das Laranjeiras 114, between Rua Pereira da Silva and Largo do Machado). A grill restaurant with live events /music /dance every night. Not for very young people, but good food and nice, if rather conservative, shows.

### **Elsewhere:**

-Mala e Cuia (Rua Barata Ribeiro, 638, Copacabana). Maybe the best choice to sample real good food from the state of Minas Gerais. Cooked in earthen pots and served as a buffet. Great atmosphere.

-Rodizio Estrela do Sul (Av. General Severiano, 97, Botafogo, next to Metro Botafogo). One of the few remaining Rodizio style grill houses in Rio, at an affordable price. Waiters will cut you fresh meat on your plate until you can't eat anymore – at only 23 to 26 Reais per person.

-Churrascaria Marius (Av. Atlântica 290-B, Leme) Much more expensive but also more „chique“, this excellent Rodizio along all the regular stuff, offers extravagant special meats such as crocodile & frog.

Garota de Ipanema (Rua Vinícius de Moraes, 49 (Ipanema)). Probably a must if you like the old bossa nova song of the same name. This is the place where this song was composed. Still a nice, if a bit touristy place. Please note that as in most other Brazilian restaurants, "1 portion" always serves 2 people! Alone, ask for half a portion (meia porção)

-Confeitaria Colombo: (Rua Goncalves Dias, 32) A Must-See in the Center of town, near Metro carioca. This old Vienna-style Coffeehouse is truly unique, although it feels a bit misplaced in that part of town.

## Nightlife:

**LAPA:** One of the best areas for going out in Rio. Right below the arches of Lapa, just down the hill from our pousada by tram or bus (or even within walking distance, at least downhill). Go there on any Friday or Saturday night or before holidays and you will find dozens of bars, restaurants, and night clubs, all catering to a rather alternative audience of all styles. You will find Samba as well as Hip Hop clubs, fine restaurants as well as hamburger stalls, live bands playing on the street or in clubs. Nearby are also “Circo do Voador” and “Fundicao Progresso”, two huge areas for live concerts. It really gets going after midnight and will not stop until daybreak. During the week, there is not too much going on in Lapa, but you can always find some live music at “Carioca da Gema” (Avenida Mem de Sa, 79)

**Baixo Gavea:** For a more sophisticated audience, this rather upper class area also boasts a lot of restaurants and night clubs on weekends. It is further away and more expensive, but if you would like to go out well dressed and see other goodlooking people, this place has its advantages too. To get there before the metro stops running (11 pm), take the metro to Botafogo, then the metro bus (buy an “integration” ticket before you enter the metro) to Baixo Gavea. On your way back you will need a taxi.

**Feira de Sao Crristovao** (take the metro to “Sao Cristovao” or just take a taxi straight from Lapa. The taxi shouldn’t cost more than 10 Reais, entry is 1 Real!). This 34.000 m<sup>2</sup> area with more than 700 stalls opens up during the week for lunch, and does not close at all from Friday noon until Sunday around midnight. It’s a frenzy on weekdays, where Brazilians from the northeast dance forró (two live bands are always playing on big stages), eat food from all parts of Brazil and shop for food, clothes, music and much more.

**Santa Teresa:** This is not really a nightlife district, but it can get late sometimes in the bars around “Largo do Guimaraes”. On the “Laranjeiras” side of Santa Teresa, “Casa Rosa” or “Casa Rosada”, Rua Alice 550 has live music daily and a good Feijoada on Sundays.

**Boquerao:** Inside our favela you will often hear “Baile Funk”, a music derived from American HipHop. If you understand Portuguese, you will either be amused or disgusted by the very very explicit lyrics of this type of music. Baile Funk music is usually played in favela parties where we would definitely not advise you to go. If you would like to go to a “safe” edition of a baile funk, this club is where to go on weekends. You will not see a lot of tourists, but a lot of teenage favela residents, who are checked for weapons before you get in. The party itself is often very crowded, but you may also go up to the second dancefloor with slow music where you have a look over the waters of Gloria bay (location: next to the city airport Santos Dumont on Gloria bay, any taxi driver should know. Take the usual care before entering and after exiting the club, and do take a taxi there)

## Beaches:

**Copacabana** (take the metro or bus 570). You may walk from Copacabana along the beach, with a little shortcut around the old fortress of Copacabana (which makes a nice visit as well) to

**Ipanema.** Any young Brazilian will tell you that the area around “posto 9” (the showers and watchtowers are numbered from Copacabana all the way down) is most “hip”. There are other adjacent areas where you will find mostly gay people, some mostly for families, so find your spot.

**Arpoador** is a nice beach hidden between the rocks at the end of Ipanema. A perfect place to watch the sunset.

**Barra da Tijuca** (take the metro to Siqueira Campos, then the metro bus) The beach itself is long, but narrow, with rough surf. The area behind the beach is the poshest area of Rio, with one luxury villa by the other. Don't confuse “Barra da Tijuca” with “Tijuca” when taking a bus. “Tijuca” is a district in the Zona Norte where you definitely don't want to go.

**Praia Pepino** (Metrobus) near Pedra da Gavea. Watch the Hang Gliders touch down on this very uncrowded beach.

**Prainha** (taxi from last Busstation Metrobus in Barra, or take the “Surfbus” at Largo do Machado). Many say the nicest beach near Rio, definitely for surfers (strong waves), secluded beach amidst natural forest. The schedule for the surfbus (at time of writing) was leaving Largo do Machado at 7:00, 10:00, 13:00, and 16:00, returning at 8:30, 11:30, 14:30, and 17:30. The cost is R\$ 3,- each way, and the bus also stops at all the other major beaches)

**Praia Vermelha** under the Sugar Loaf, rest there before or after going up there

**Flamengo beach:** Not really for bathing, but very close to our Pousada and adjoining to a nice large park, frequently used for all kinds of sports activities by the locals

**Ilha de Paqueta:** (a day trip on a boat from “Praça 15”. To get there, take the metro to “Carioca”, then walk down “Rua da Assembleia” until you reach the ferry station by the water. Or take bus 422 from Largo do Machado to bring you there directly.) The island is about a 1.5 hour boat trip away in the bay of Guanabara. Life is very relaxed there, and no car traffic is allowed.

## Museums:

**Museu do Bonde** (Santa Teresa, Rua Carlos Brant, 14, daily from 9 – 16:30). Very close to Largo do Guimaraes in Santa Teresa is this interesting museum with facts and artefacts about the yellow tram through the last decades.

**Museu da Republica** (Catete, Rua do Catete 153, Tu – Th. 12 – 17, Sat, Sun 14-18), very near Largo do Machado on Rua do Catete, this museum located in a beautiful palace with gardens from 1867, hosts a lot of historic items and photos, along changing exhibitions.

**Chacara do Ceu** (Santa Teresa, Rua Murtinho Nobre 93, daily 12 – 17 except Tue), in the lower parts of Santa Teresa, but still near the tram line, a nice museum for Brazilian art.

**Museu do Indio** (Botafogo, Rua das Palmeiras 55, Tu-Fr 9-17.30, Sat, Sun, 13-17), near Metro station Botafogo, a nice museum displaying native Indian lifestyle and art.

## Shopping:

**Rio Sul Shopping Center** (bus 570, 178, 434 from Largo do Machado) One of the biggest and fanciest in Rio.

**Praia Shopping Botofogo**, on the beach avenue in Botafogo, close to Metro Botafogo. Newer and a bit smaller, but with many of the same stores as the Rio Sul, more easily accessible.

**Barra Shopping** (Metrobus from Metro Siqueira Campos) For luxury shopping only. This may be the biggest mall you have ever seen. The main floor is reserved for luxury cars only!

**Rua da Alfandega**, Pedestrian Zone, Centro, for cheap jewelry, clothes, CDs etc.

**Rua da Assembleia**, Centro, especially good for buying all kinds of musical instruments.

**For all everyday needs**, you will find it in and around Largo do Machado, at the big supermarket Sendas or all the other smaller and bigger stores on the square or up and down the streets Rua das Laranjeiras and Rua do Catete. Every weekday after 6 pm, when the regular shops close, Rua do Catete turns into a little **street fair**, which should not be missed. Food stalls open up, vendors sell CDs and DVDs (illegal copies, but very cheap), hammocks, and clothes.

## Roundtrip through the Center:

Go down to Largo do Machado, take the Metro to “Carioca”, walk around in the center, take bus 206 on Rua da Assembleia near Praca Tiradentes, and take it all the way up to our entrance in Santa Teresa. Alternatively, if returning during the day, walk a few meters from Metro Carioca to the station of the yellow tram to Santa Teresa and take the tram across the Lapa arches up to our entrance.

## Information office

The English speaking information office in Santa Teresa at „Largo do Guimaraes” is very helpful and can give you almost any information or arrange tours in Rio de Janeiro. It is open until 8pm weekdays.

## Rodoviario

If you travel onward from Rio by bus, take bus 178 from Largo do Machado to the “Rodoviario Novo Rio”. Of course, our driver can also take you there straight for about 25 Reais.

**Have a pleasant stay in Rio!**

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