



Trekking the Planet

Discovering the Cultural and Natural Significance of the World



Where are we now?

- Darren and Sandy are in Brasilia, Brazil, located at 15° S and 47° W.
- We have traveled approximately 61,786 miles (99,475 kilometers) from our starting point in California.





Rio de Janeiro (source: Wikimedia.org)

Did you know?

Brazil is among the world's leaders in several areas, including:

- The second largest number of airports in the world
- The third largest network of roads
- The fifth most populated country
- The fifth largest country in size
- The seventh largest economy
- The tenth largest railroad network

source: Celebratebrazil.com



Carnival is the most famous holiday in Brazil, taking place 46 days before Easter each year (source: Riotimesonline.com)

People and Culture

- European explorers visited Brazil in the 15th century. The first Portuguese settlement was established in 1532. Colonization spread and African slaves were brought in to assist with exporting sugar.
- Rio de Janeiro was the capital of the entire Portuguese Empire from 1808 to 1821, as the royal family fled after Napoleon invaded Portugal. Brazil declared its independence in 1822 and it was recognized by Portugal in 1825.
- The current population is estimated at about 192 million. Most people live in the southeast of the country, where the two largest cities (São Paulo - 11 million and Rio de Janeiro - 6 million) are located.
- Brazil's official language is Portuguese, making this language one of the world's top ten spoken. About 180 indigenous languages are spoken in remote areas of the country. Because of the many remote areas of the country, Brazil is believed to have the highest number of uncontacted people in the world.
- Soccer is the most popular sport. Brazil has won soccer's World Cup five times, more than any other country. It will host the World Cup in 2014, as well as the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Nature and Environment

- Brazil covers almost half of the South American continent. It is one of the longest countries in the world, with a length of about 2,800 miles (4,500 kilometers) from north to south.
- The Atlantic Ocean borders Brazil to the east with about 4,500 miles (7,400 kilometers) of coastline. Brazil borders every country in South America except Ecuador and Chile.
- There is a diversity of terrain in Brazil, including rainforest, rolling hills, pine forests, plateaus, coastal plains, dry grasslands and wetlands.
- Brazil has the greatest variety of animals in the world. New animal species are still being discovered and scientists believe that the total type of plants and animals could be as high as four million.
- Brazil is one of the world's leading hydroelectric power producers. As of 2009 it was the third-highest producer in the world, after China and Canada.



*Sand dune beach on the Atlantic Ocean coast in northeastern Brazil (Bahia)
(source: Happytellus.com)*

The Pantanal

Located south of the Amazon basin and east of the Andes mountain range, the Pantanal is one of the world's largest wetlands. Most (80%) of this area is located in Brazil, with small portions in Bolivia and Paraguay. During the rainy season, the water level of the Pantanal basin can rise as much as 16.4 feet (5 meters), submerging much of the land. A variety of animals, such as jaguars, macaws and river otters can be found here, in addition to hundreds of bird species.

Jaguar in the Pantanal (sources: Wikipedia.org, Pantanal.org, [Flickr.com/Paul Williams](http://Flickr.com/PaulWilliams))

Our Plans

- After trekking in the Amazon region we have stopped in Brasilia on our way to Uruguay and Argentina.
- We will spend some time in Argentina visiting the cities of Cordoba and Mendoza before starting our next trek. We will continue south towards the bottom of South America and then on to Chile.
- Send us your questions as we continue our journey through South America. You can contact us by Facebook, Twitter or via our website. We look forward to hearing from you!

More Information

- <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/brazil/>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydroelectricity>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil>
- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/br.html>
- <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107357.html>

Brasilia

The capital city of Brazil is Brasilia. Located in the interior of the country, it was built in 1956 as a planned city with unique architecture. It formally became the capital in 1960. At the end of the 20th century it was the largest city in the world not present 100 years before. It was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.



*Brazilian Congress building in Brasilia
(sources: Riotimesonline.com,
WHC.unesco.org, Wikipedia.org)*

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