Places to worth a visit in Brazil:

**Rio de Janeiro**:

If you are in Rio de Janeiro, and want to see the official parade, you can buy the tickets in this website: <https://www.rio-carnival.net/EN> (you have to ask if you have to pick up the tickets in the office)

I have been there once, and I bought the ticket with this company: <https://luftur.com.br> (but Im not sure they have the informations in English).

For this company, I have bought the tickets online, but I had to pick the tickets at their office during the opening times 2 or 1 days before the parade.

You can choose one day of the main parades, or if you prefer only the champions parade. It is super cool! :D

If you decide to go to the parade, be aware if you are going to stay until the parade is finished, it can be a bit dangerous to go back to the hotel, since it will be difficult to get a taxi (thousand of people will be trying to get one), and the earlier subway it is around 7:00/8:00 o clock. You can check the metro webpage: <https://www.metrorio.com.br> (there is a version in English) and you can find the maps and the name of the app.

Maybe it is a good idea to order the transfer. Remember to always pay for your safety. ☺

During the carnival week, there is carnival bands (we call that “blocos de rua, or bloco”) all over the streets in the city. About 50.000 to 300.000 people go to the “blocos”, so you have to take care with you phone, money, purse, because of the pick pocketers!

Its very common people dress funny costumes to go to the “blocos”.

Normally they play brazilian music, but I have been in one called “Sargento Pimenta” and they play Beatles songs in carnival rythm.

Other “blocos” that is worth to see: Monobloco, Cordao da Bola Preta…

I have found this guide for carnival and blocos, and I think you should read:

<http://toursgonewild.com/Rio-Street-Party-Survival-Guide.pdf>

**Place to stay:** I would reccommend a tourist to stay around Ipanema beach.

But It can be very expensive.

Try to avoid places close to the “favelas , morro” (ghetto) and don’t go there, not even to visit. (I know architecture people love to see that. You can see the constructions from the city, but don’t go there. It can be dangerous). :/

If you look for a cheap but okay hotel and area, you can stay in the central area, but take care to walk around there at night. A good option is airbnb!

I stayed once in “Rio’s Presidente Hotel” close to the metro station “Carioca” and it is a good one with good breakfest and restaurant. They have also a “Ibis hotel - centrum” that seems good place to stay too.

These hotels are close to Lapa, a very nice area with lots of bars to party at night. The best is “Rio Scenarium” very good bar, but you may have to pay a fee to enter in the bar.

You can check this website with some of the best bars in Lapa area.

<https://theculturetrip.com/south-america/brazil/articles/nightlife-guide-the-top-10-bars-in-bohemian-lapa/>

About Lapa area, please avoid the Arcos da Lapa (Carioca Aqueduct) if you are alone, especially at night. There is lots of pick pocketers around there.

Another option is to be around Copacabana beach. There is supermarket and restaurants around that area, but some of the restaurants can be expensive. :/

**What to see in Rio de Janeiro city:**

Corcovado (Christ statue): <https://www.tripadvisor.com.br/Attraction_Review-g303506-d554128-Reviews-Corcovado_Christ_the_Redeemer-Rio_de_Janeiro_State_of_Rio_de_Janeiro.html>

Morro do Pão de Açucar;

Arpoador beach,

Ipanema beach,

Copacabana beach,

Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas,

Museu do amanhã (museum of Tomorrow) - <https://museudoamanha.org.br/en>

Open air street market in Copacabana beach (name: Feirinha de Copacabana)

If you wish to buy souvenirs from Rio (it’s open from 18:00 to 23:00).

PS: Don’t trust everyone, and take care taking Uber. And NEVER go to the favelas without a brazilian guide at least...

**Around Rio de Janeiro:**

If you are in Rio de Janeiro, you can try to contact some travel agency that brings you to **Ilha Grande**. Ilha Grande is a paradisiac island (about 2h from Rio city plus you have to take a boat). It can be expensive, but there are hostels/hotels in the island and people there are nice. In the morning you can take a trip in a boat that brings you to the small islands around Ilha Grande.

**Sao Paulo:**

If you want to go to Sao Paulo, I would reccomment you stay around Vila Madalena area. I think is a safe area and very cultural and good place to be and to meet nice people. Places around “Avenida Faria Lima” and “Avenida Paulista” (Business area – lots os tall buildings)(Faria Lima avenue, Paulista avenue, Vila Mariana) can also be good options to stay, specially if you are close to a metro station. You can go to the central area during the day, but please avoid the center at night. Sao Paulo is a very good city to see, it is plenty of good food.

If you are in Sao Paulo, I can ask my cousin Kattley to show a bit of the city to you. She would be happy to meet you! ☺

Metro in Sao Paulo: <http://www.metro.sp.gov.br/en/your-trip/index.aspx>

Things to see in Sao Paulo:

MASP (Modern Art of Sao Paulo): <https://masp.org.br/en>

Art Museum Pinacoteca de Sao Paulo: <https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g303631-d311969-Reviews-Pinacoteca_do_Estado_de_Sao_Paulo-Sao_Paulo_State_of_Sao_Paulo.html>

Ibirapuera Park: <https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g303631-d311966-Reviews-Ibirapuera_Park-Sao_Paulo_State_of_Sao_Paulo.html>

Liberdade area: Japan/Liberdade metro station (Japanese community /area inside Sao Paulo) – Better to go on Sundays.

Tomie Othake Institute: <https://www.institutotomieohtake.org.br>

(A Japanese artist who has a art institute in Sao Paulo)

Vila Madalena/Beco do Batman: It is an area with street art in the walls.

**FOOD:**

Food Park: Vila Butanta (address: Rua Agostinho Cantu, 47 – Butantã)

Liberdade street market and restaurants (Better on Sundays) : Liberdade Metro station

If you are very hungry and are a “meat lover” try to go to eat in a “Churrascaria” (Brazilian Barbecue restaurant – complete buffet + different cuts of meat). (ex. Bovinus, Vento Aragano, Fogo de Chão)…

**In the Botecos (bar that serve finger food):**

Try to taste: Pastel (Pastel de Queijo (cheese pastel) Pastel de carne (meat-cow pastel) Pastel de Palmito (Palm heart pastel).

Try to taste: Coxinha de frango com catupiry. (chicken with catupiry cheese)

**In a bakery:**

Typical brazilian fast breakfeast : In the morning, if you go to a bakery, order “pão (: paoum) na chapa” (toasted french bread with butter) and “pingado” (café com leite) or “Suco de laranja” (pressed fresh orange juice).

**Other beautiful cities to visit in Brazil:**

- Salvador (Bahia state) rich in the african-brazilian culture, nice people, nice beachs, maybe too warm. :D

- Foz do Iguacu, where you can visit “Iguaçu (:Iguassu) falls”. (rich in nature) and in that city there is a bird park: <http://www.parquedasaves.com.br/en/>

- Bonito (Mato Grosso do Sul): amazing nature

-Chapada dos Guimarães (if you want to see nature)

- Ouro Preto (Minas Gerais state), which also have one of the best street carnival.

Minas Gerais cities (Ouro Preto, Diamantina, Muzambinho)