

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES: RIO DE JANEIRO

Remarkable Rio

Coffee Estates, Captivating Favelas, Capoeira

Biking the Valley of Coffee Barons:

Pedal through the Paraíba Valley, 75 miles outside of Rio. The region once produced two-thirds of the world's coffee beans, and its economic importance conferred nobility to its farm owners, who built sumptuous mansions that functioned as villages with up to 3,000 slaves. Your small group of family and friends gain exclusive access to some of these estates — many of which have preserved the original furniture, paintings, and decor. Evenings bring fine Brazilian cuisine and performances of Afro-Brazilian dances and music.

Inside Rio's Favelas: Go behind the stories of Rio society on a private walking tour of its most vibrant favelas.

Nearly 20 percent of the city's population lives in these urban areas, and your guide provides understanding into the many contrasts and paradoxes as you explore the narrow alleyways of Vila Canoas, home to around 2,500 people, and Rocinha, Brazil's largest favela, with about 85,000 residents; both are located within the affluent neighborhood of São Conrado. In Rocinha, you go deeper inside with visits to the community school, handicrafts center, and vast commercial area.

Brazil's Colorful Culinary Map:

Discover the mosaic of the European, African, and Indigenous influences that make up Brazilian gastronomy during your private cooking session. A professional chef meets you at your Rio hotel for a visit to the vibrant street market, where you shop for ingredients of typical Brazilian dishes. Then you continue to the chef's home to prepare a range of dishes together in the spacious, comfortable kitchen.

Clockwise from top: surfer in Rio de Janeiro; Brazilians playing soccer on Ipanema Beach; bird's-eye view of Rio; Sugarloaf Mountain;



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