

Local Information

Last updated April 2007

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Useful Phone Numbers

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance (provided by Policlínica Serviços Médicos)	2772-3315
Emergency (Pronto Socorro)	192
Fire Department (Corpo Bombeiros)	193
Police (Policia)	
Civil (Civil)	3399-8321
Military (Militar)	2772-4584
Patrol (Radio Patrulha)	190
Power Outage (Luz – Defeitos)	196

MEDICAL EVACUATION

Under construction

MEDICAL CLINICS

Under construction

VACCINATIONS

Provacina

Rua Velho Campos, 279 – Sala 308 – Centro

Phone: 2762-0902 / 2772-9000

Hours: Mon – Fri 8:00 – 12:00, 13:00 – 18:00

Sat 8:00 – 12:00

PHYSICIANS

Under construction

EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION COMPANIES

Under construction

CONSULATES

It is advisable to register at your country's consulate when you arrive, and to advise them of any later change of address. Below is a list of the consulate generals in Rio.

Under construction

GENERAL LISTINGS

Under construction

(*) English speaking

Schools

Under construction

Extracurricular Activities for Children & Adults

Under construction

Language Instruction

Under construction

Shopping

The majority of shops are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Some of the smaller shops may close between the hours of 12:00 and 2:00 for lunch. Beware as shops change hours on the spur of the moment. No one really seems to know the criteria for these time changes.

Often times advertised prices actually say "3 x R\$___". In Brazil, it is quite common to pay for items on an installment plan. There is usually a "vista" price which is the price if you pay it all at once.

Try bargaining in markets, but be aware that you get the best bargains only if you speak in Portuguese. In stores where prices are marked, you can ask for a discount if you buy in quantity (e.g., four tapes instead of one).

Many vendors give discounts for cash purchases - "a vista" or may not give sale prices for credit card purchases.

When paying by credit or debit card, the sales clerk will usually ask "debito o credito". If you are paying with credit card, they may also ask how many installments you want to pay

("parcelado"). If you are paying with an international credit card, installments are not allowed, so you can just say "uma vez".

When shopping in Macaé, the rule of thumb is "if you see it, buy it" - some items are hard to find and may not be restocked.

SUPERMARKETS

Under construction

FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Under construction

COLD CUTS & SPECIALTY ITEMS

Under construction

MEATS

Under construction

CHICKEN

Under construction

FISH & SEAFOOD

Under construction

BAKERY ITEMS

Under construction

BEER

Under construction

ICE

Under construction

HOUSEHOLD BASICS

Under construction

BOOKS

Under construction

EX-PAT LIBRARY

Under construction

MOVIES

Under construction

Travel & Transportation

Under construction

LOCAL TRAVEL

Under construction

DISTANT TRAVEL

Under construction

PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION

Under construction

TRAVEL AGENCIES

Under construction

REALTORS / ESTATE AGENTS

Under construction

CHURCHES

Under construction

Restaurants

The majority of restaurants in Macaé are located along Cavaleiros Beach. Most of these restaurants have a very similar menu serving beef, chicken, fish and seafood. Some of the more popular restaurants are:

Under construction

Entertainment / Leisure / Sightseeing

Under construction

MACAÉ AND THE LOCAL AREA

Under construction

BUZIOS

Under construction

CABO FRIO

Under construction

ARARUAMA

Under construction

GLICERIO & SANA

Under construction

NITEROI

Under construction

NOTE: Due to the length of the drive, the following are recommended for weekend trips:

NOVA FRIBURGO

Under construction

PETRÓPOLIS

Under construction

TERESÓPOLIS

Under construction

RIO DE JANEIRO

Under construction

Local Customs

If you park on a public street (especially in Cavaleiros), sometimes there are people who guard your car while it's parked. They sometimes offer to wash your car while you wait (often using salt water or dirty water and rough sponges). You should give them one or two reais when you leave.

Add 10-15% to restaurant bills if tip is not included. (In Macaé, 10% is generally included on the bill.)

Do not give more than a token gratuity, if tip is already included in the bill (gorgeta incluida).

First names are used in the phone book or any time alphabetizing.

Prepare first names to be used in introductions.

In business, address men as Senhor plus his family name and a woman as Senhora plus her family name.

Do not refer to Brazilians as Hispanics. (Or Portuguese as Brazilian.) They are not. Although they certainly identify with the rest of Latin America, they are proud of their unique place as Portuguese-speakers, and of their culture. They are generally more informal, fun loving, and less reserved. It sounds like a stereotype, but sometimes it seems as if Brazilians are always ready to have a party.

Expect people to stand very close to you when they talk to you. Try not to back away, because such action may be interpreted as aloofness. Keep constant eye contact during a conversation. Brazilians also touch frequently while conversing--a sign of friendship.

Do not be surprised (or offended) at constant interruptions during casual conversation. Brazilians regard them as a sign of enthusiasm.

Even though they all talk at once, they always seem to know what everyone else in the conversation said.

Delicate subjects are the political situations in Brazil and Argentina, and AIDS.

In lines at banks or stores, be prepared for people to stand much closer to you than people do in the U.S. or northern Europe.

Pregnant women, women with babies and the elderly are allowed to go to the front of the line in banks.

Do not be surprised when people bump into you in crowded places and do not apologize.

Do not chew gum on the street, Brazilians regard it as impolite. They don't, however, disapprove of littering--throwing paper cups, napkins, or cigarette butts on the ground.

Note that Brazilians do not usually send greeting cards or flowers. They regard such gestures as too impersonal, a way of avoiding personal contact.

Some gestures to recognize:

- To add emphasis to a statement, Brazilians snap the fingers while whipping the hand.
- The ends of the fingers brushed under the chin means "I don't know"
- Taking the earlobe between the thumb and the forefinger expresses appreciation.
- Patting people on the shoulder, either men or women, is a sign of friendship.
- Shaking the hands with the index finger hitting the thumb and middle finger means "a lot, a great deal."
- Clenching one fist with the thumb between the index and middle fingers says "Good Luck" (Boa sorte) You'll see Brazilians wearing amulets showing this gesture.
- The American "O.K." gesture (thumb and finger forming a circle) is an obscene gesture in Brazil. (Also, this same gesture being hit with the other hand means "shove it up your ass.")

When on the streets, expect to encounter begging, along with people trying to sell you pencils, emery boards, chewing gum, or other small items. If you simply refuse, they will usually leave you alone.

Ask people before you take their photograph. Most people will be friendly and quite receptive.

Do not photograph during religious ceremonies, people will take offense.

To find public bathrooms--a scarce commodity--go to a hotel or a restaurant. Many times you cannot flush used toilet paper, since there is not enough water pressure (or the right size piping). You'll find a basket for the used paper beside the commode.

Never wear an outfit of green and yellow--the colors of the Brazilian flag. People will laugh at you.

Do not drink tap water or fruit juices to which un-boiled tap water has been added.

Do not use ice cubes made from tap water.

Do not eat any raw vegetables or unpeeled fruit without cleaning thoroughly.

Do not eat raw shellfish.

When searching for a place to stay overnight, realize that "Motels" in Brazil, are primarily rented by the hour and are not suitable for families and small children.

And one last word of wisdom – Brazilians are always late, so do not get in a panic. They will eventually show!