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WE SHARE BSB

Clear blue skies, striking contrasts of greenery set against white monumental architecture—Brasília has captivated imaginations since the beginning.

Recognized for its immense cultural value, the city was built in just four whirlwind years and has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1987. Being a modernist masterpiece, the capital continues to attract architects from around the world, eager to experience firsthand the visionary work of urban planner Lúcio Costa and architect Oscar Niemeyer.

As a cityscape, Brasília is as atypical as they come. With no clearly defined or easily walkable commercial center, the city can feel disorienting or even overwhelming to newcomers. It's not always obvious where things are happening or where new ideas are taking root—but rest assured, they are. Often in the most unexpected corners.

Brasília is buzzing with life—and whatever happens here, happens with gusto and charm. This should be a starting point for your own exploration of this magnificent and peculiar city.

Enjoy discovering the city as much as we have—and add your own favorite places along the way.

Now, let's make this city yours!
The We Share BSB Editorial Team

Note: *We Share BSB's* editors are not responsible for any services provided by any of the listed establishments including in the medical section.

WE SHARE BSB

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Contents

04 INSTALLATION

Everything you need to know about Brasília and its neighborhoods. Plus, we have numbers for everything from handymen to office help.
Sections: Neighborhoods, Safety, Essentials, Staff, Home Office, Navigation, National Holidays

18 HEALTH, BEAUTY & PETS

All the emergency numbers you will need in addition to a great selection of handpicked healthcare professionals as well as information about our four-legged friends.
Sections: Emergencies, Healthcare, Beauty, Pets/Veterinarian

26 LEISURE & EDUCATION

The choices are overwhelming, but we've assembled some great venues and interesting courses for all ages as well as a list of the most popular international schools.
Sections: Education, Sports, Action-Packed, Meeting Like-Minded, Music, Hobbies

38 PROVISIONS & EVENTS

Some of the best food shops in Brasília. Planning a celebration? We've got your back!
Sections: Groceries, Treats, Parties & Birthdays

48 TIMEOUT

Life is not only chores. Here are some suggestions on how to have a good time.
Sections: Coffee Shops, Dining, Night Out, Retail Therapy

64 CULTURE

Culture is an important part of getting to know your new city.
Sections: Architecture, City Art, Agenda/Tickets, Exhibitions, Theater, Dance, Film, Music, Literature, Festivals

82 DAYTRIPS

In and around Brasília, we have many suggestions to begin your exploration.
Sections: Architecture Delight, Artsy, Adventures, Farm Country, Family Friendly, Chapada dos Veadeiros

INSTALLATION
Contents

p.05

Neighborhoods
Where to live and why

- The Wings
  - Asa Sul
  - Asa Norte
  - Sudoeste
  - Noroeste
- The Lakes
  - Lago Sul
  - Lago Norte
  - Jardim Botânico
- Rural Area
  - Park Way

p.08

Safety
A welcoming and safe environment for everyone

p.08

Essentials
Get your dwelling ready

- Hotels & Temporary Accommodation
- Realtors
- Moving Things in BSB
- Hardware Centers & Homefix
- Handyman
- Furniture
- Home Appliances
- Kitchen, Bed & Bath
- Humidifiers/ Dehumidifiers/ Air Conditioning
- Aircon Installation
- Plants
- Florists
- Water
- Pest Control
- Shoe & Suitcase Repair
- Rug/Sofa Cleaner
- Tailor
- Cars
- Seamstress
- Furniture Repair
- Curtain Maker
- Art Framer
- Child Safety
- Jewelry Repair
- Dry Cleaner & Laundromat

p.12

Staff
How to hire

- Fulltime Staff
- Day Workers

p.13

Home Office
Everything for a smooth operation...

- Communication/ Internet/ Phone/ TV
- eSim
- Notary Office
- Dispatcher
- Lawyer
- Graphic Print
- Graphic Design/ Website Development
- Postal Service
- Importing Goods
- Banks
- Paying Bills
- Pix
- Transferring Money
- Translators
- Computer Fixers
- Office Supplies
- Home Organizer
- Travel Agent

p.16

Navigation
How to get around

- Driver’s Licence
- Driving Schools
- Car Insurance
- Taxi Services & Requested Rides
- Female Taxi/ Kids

p.17

National Holidays
Brazil’s calendar year

Installation

NEIGHBORHOODS

Lúcio Costa's urban masterplan for Brasília – the Plano Piloto - defines the design and organization of the capital and outlines the upscale neighborhoods where most foreigners choose to live when moving to Brasília. It is where you find the best infrastructure and easier access to schools, cultural centers, and government institutions.

THE WINGS

ASA SUL

Asa Sul is predominantly an apartment-living area and one of the oldest in Brasília. Many of its residential blocks were originally built to house civil servants. While most of the apartment buildings are older, the blocks are on pilotis as specified by Costa to ensure free circulation. The apartments are spacious, well lit, and surrounded by lush greenery. Asa Sul remains a great choice for people who value location and walkability above all. The neighborhoods boast easy access to commercial establishments, including many of the city's best schools.

Brasília United

Brasília is exactly how Kubitschek dreamt it: A uniter of the huge Brazilian territory. The city embodies the lyrics of Chico Buarque's ***Paratodos*** *that celebrates Brazilian identity and cultural diversity. This is the city where everyone meets, where Brazilians from the North marry those from the South and where foreigners add extra spice. It is a privilege to live in a city still so young that you can make an imprint on it.*

ASA NORTE

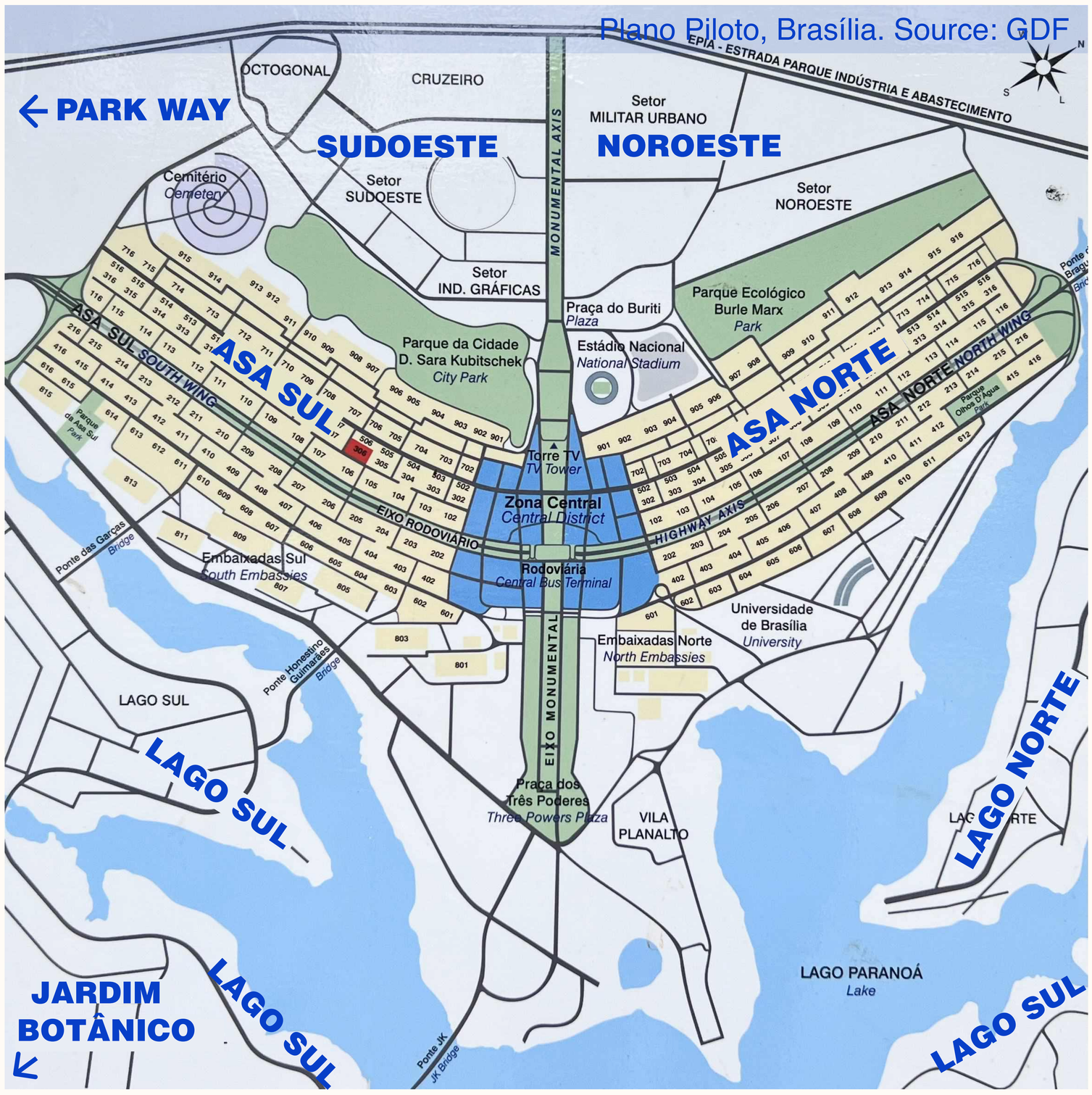
The construction of Asa Norte happened after Asa Sul, so it is referred to as the "young wing.” Asa Norte has a distinctly vibrant energy. It’s home to the federal UnB (Universidade de Brasília), the most prestigious university in the district. The presence of students and academics gives the area a youthful, intellectual flair, and many of Brasília’s trendiest new restaurants, cafés, and cultural spots have opened here.

SUDOESTE

In 1987-89 Lúcio Costa made adjustments to Brasília with his updated “Brasília Revisitada” where he defended the creation of new neighborhoods to house the increasing population of the capital. And so, in 1989 Sudoeste became the modern, compact, walkable, safe and most upscale area in Brasília. It is directly behind the Parque da Cidade and it harbors nice apartment buildings, well-maintained parks, and a growing number of shopping and dining options.

NOROESTE

Noroeste was part of the revision drawings from Costa, but the construction of the neighborhood only began in 2009. Still under development, Noroeste is Brasília’s newest neighborhood and here you find state of the art apartments. You don’t have the shade and the greenery of the older neighborhoods yet, but Noroeste is quickly growing into a new hot-spot, with cafes and restaurants sprouting.



Brasília’s Atlantis

Did you know that before the dam was constructed and the artificial Paranoá Lake was formed, small villages existed at the end of Lago Norte? Today divers continue to find submerged houses and items in this sunken city near the dam.

It Happens Here!

On Sundays, Eixão is closed and turns into a pedestrian lane. While people are running and biking in Asa Sul, in Asa Norte they are turning it into a party! Along Eixão Norte you will find bands, food trucks and activities for children. People flock here to be part of the vibe.

Free Fruits Map

*Did you know that you can download a **map** of all the fruit trees you can find inside Parque da Cidade? You can go hunting year round and bring home fruit for free. The map is initiated by UnB Professor, **Ana Paula Jacques**, and even indicates the time of year fruits are ripe. Good hunting!*

THE LAKES

LAGO SUL

If you're looking for large houses, international schools, and beautiful lake views, Lago Sul is the place. This is an area much like the North American suburbs. It is ideal for expat families and diplomats seeking tranquility and space only a short drive from established commercial areas.
Watch out around QI 17- QI 19 where you can experience noise pollution due to the airport's air traffic flight path.
One of Lago Sul's best-kept secrets is the SMDB area (Setor de Mansões Dom Bosco). This exclusive enclave is tucked uphill, behind the QI blocks, many houses boast panoramic views of the city skyline.

LAGO NORTE

Lago Norte, offering a quiet, residential environment with a more relaxed vibe than Lago Sul. The main drawback is the distance from the international schools, which are mostly concentrated in Asa Sul and Lago Sul. That said, Brasília's traffic is lighter than in most major capitals, so commutes are generally manageable and the Eixão highway connects you easily to other parts of the city.

JARDIM BOTÂNICO

Located behind Lago Sul, the Jardim Botânico neighborhood consists of gated communities where clusters of bungalows are grouped on smaller plots of land. Rent here is more affordable, making it attractive for many young families seeking a calm village-style living.

Watch out: Bottleneck traffic during peak hours and areas with noise pollution from overflying aircrafts.

Ponta de Picolé

The plots at the end of every QL in Lago Sul border the common green area and ultimately the lake, making them seem larger and with unobstructed lake access. These plots are popularly referred to as "Ponta de Picolé" - the tip of the popsicle.

Cerrado Trees as Natural Heritage

12 tree species have been designated as Ecological Heritage of the Federal District: the Copaíba, White Sucupira, Pequi, Cagaiteira, Buriti, Gomeira, Ipês, Aroeira, Jacarandá, Pau-doce, Peroba, and the Embiriçu. These trees, which are native to the Cerrado, have great value for the urban identity of Brasília.

RURAL AREA

PARK WAY

Park Way, originally considered "campo" (countryside), attracts people who like the "rural way of life". Properties border the vast Parque Nacional, with its many springs and trails. It was the neighborhood Oscar Niemeyer chose to construct his own house in Brasília (never really used and now UnB property). It is also where you find UnB's agro school, the Country Club and the Japanese community (and its very fresh vegetables) by Vargem Bonita. It is a neighborhood close to the airport but with no noise pollution.

Preservation Efforts

The Botanical Gardens of Brasília is the first Botanical Garden in the world designed specifically for in situ conservation. In this case it is the Cerrado Biome that is being protected. If you walk one of the many trails, you might also spot toucans, parrots, capivaras (capybaras) or armadillos aka tatu(s).

ESSENTIALS

Brasília is a very friendly city and many things are found by word of mouth. People are inclined to help you find the services you need, and often “porteiros” (doormen), realtors or neighbors will be able to help you locate the best service in your area.

It’s the small everyday things that can be the trickiest when you move to a new city, so we have gathered some addresses below that should help you get settled. But ask around, and add to this list.

HOTELS & TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

Most will begin their search at **Airbnb** or at **booking.com**. We will recommend a few addresses that are popular with the foreign crowd:

- **Hotel Melia Brasil 21** (SHS). Luxury hotel for short or long stays. This is the hotel chosen by many heads of state when visiting Brasília. Great location and even better service.

- **Hotel B** (SHN). Designed by Isay Weinfeld, this hotel is a luxury hotel, with emphasis on Brazilian culture and art.

- **Brasília Palace Hotel** (SHTN) Designed by Oscar Niemeyer for the VIP that attended the inauguration of the capital in 1960 it is a quintessentially brasiliense hotel.

- **Brasil 21 Suites** (Asa Sul/ SHS). An ideal option for families and groups! At this Melia affiliated hotel you find larger accommodations and studios to fit a family and you have access to their state of the art gym.

- **Brasil 21 Convention** (Asa Sul/ SHS). If you travel alone or in tandem, this is a little gem: Convention is a cost effective hotel with the advantage of being a Melia affiliated hotel with access to a fabulous gym and a small pool if you need to cool down.

- **Hotel Athos Bulcão** (Asa Norte/ SHN). This hotel accepts pets (cats and dogs) and is located just across from Brasília Shopping. Breakfast is abundant and rooms are simple yet comfortable.

- **Ilhas do Lago** and **Lake Side** (SHTN), are two apart-hotels with resort-style amenities. They are located in the Club Sector down the road from Palacio Alvorada. **Alves** +55 (61) 98523-0300, **Juan** from **Legacy** +55 (61) 986 09 1717 and Luiz +55 (61) 99968-4308 are agents that can help you with both permanent flat and temporary flats in the resorts.

SAFETY

Before moving to Brasília, many newcomers naturally have questions about safety. Let’s set the record straight: Brasília—particularly in and around the Plano Piloto - is considered one of the safest cities in Brazil. **Crime rates** for the first half of 2025 indicate that it is safer than Washington DC, and on par with Nantes and Paris in France.

In short: safety shouldn’t be a major concern when choosing among the neighborhoods covered here. Just take the usual precautions, and you’ll likely find Brasília to be a calm and secure place to live.

Hotel as President’s Residence

*When Palacio de Alvorada was under reconstruction, it was in an apartment at **Hotel Meliá Brasil 21** that President Lula chose to reside. This is also where US President Obama stayed when he was in town. Hotel Meliá Brasil 21 was also chosen by the Italian Embassy when their residence underwent reconstruction.*

© Thum Fel

REALTORS

Start with search engines like, **DFImóveis**, **Wimóveis**, **Vivareal**, **Netimóveis** or **Curadoria de Imóveis** with a small curated listing.

Below we have linked to the WhatsApp contact for two realtors that has helped many foreigners find their home in Brasília.

- **Liliana** +55 (61) 992 92-5858
- **Borges** +55 (61) 986 53-0325

MOVING THINGS IN BSB

Movers and transporters when you need to move things inside Brasília.

- **Alex** from **Três Irmãos** can be counted on for in-city moves.

- **Yago** experienced local moving.

HARDWARE CENTERS & HOMEFIX

There are many hardware centers in Brasília. Most are concentrated in SIA (Sector de Industria e Abastecimento), but you will find that most of them have smaller satellites all over town.

- **Leroy Merlin** (Various)
- **Só Reparos** (Various)
- **Castelo Forte** (Various)
- **Multicoisas** (Various)

Inside Plano Piloto you will find most things available in smaller mom-and-pop style shops. In Asa Sul, quadra 109 is often called the Electricity Quadra, as the streets are abundant with shops specializing in lamps and everything electric. Many times, you will find hardware stores along W3 in the south and north wings.

HANDYMAN

Good handymen can be hard to get anywhere. Ask your doorman, your realtor or neighbor, they will have good references for people working in your area.

- **Dr. Marido**. Contract a “Husband for hire” via WhatsApp. Everything from major reforms to minor repairs. It is an operation that has 15 verified handymen at hand. Fairly priced and punctual service.

FURNITURE

Most people visit **Casa Park** on the South exit of town when it’s time to go furniture shopping. However, we have a few suggestions that will make your experience more interesting.

- **Antiquário Pé Palito** (Asa Norte/303) Antiques, Brazilian furniture and art.

- **Arquivo Contemporâneo** (Lago Sul/QI 03) Here you find the iconic Brazilian modern furniture from all of the famous architects.

NB: Watch out for copies of the architectural furniture - they look nice but should be cheaper than the originals.

- **Acervo Mobília** (Asa Norte/711). The hidden gem. In a basement where you find a well consolidated architect-owned design shop with the best local architects and a small selection of well-curated local artists.

- **Galpão** (SIA/Trecho2). A huge shop full of contemporary Brazilian furniture with a section dedicated to local highlights.

Brazilian Modernist Design

Shortage of materials in the mid 20th Century (plastic and steel) led Brazilian designers to use homegrown raw materials such as tropical woods, leather and cane. This gave their furniture the signature sensuous curves and turned a disadvantage into advantage. Figures like Sérgio Rodrigues and Percival Lafer are famous Brazilian furniture makers.

All in One Shop

***Tok & Stok** is a Brazilian IKEA type shop. Here you find everything from homewear, to beds, furniture and beyond. For furniture that needs assembly you can order their at-home assembly service. Their larger shops are in Casa Park and Iguatemi Shopping but their online shop is also reliable.*

HOME APPLIANCES

Tip: Inside the shopping Conjunto Nacional you have lots of home appliance shops. Walk around and compare prices.

- **Casas Bahia** (Various)
- **Magazine Luiza** (Various)
- **Ponto Frio** (Various)

KITCHEN, BED & BATH

- **Schipper** (SIA). If you need professional level equipment or just nice restaurant-worthy utensils, we encourage you to visit Schipper.

- **Copalimpa** (Asa Sul/512). Most of the things you will ever need for getting your kitchen up and running and at competitive prices.

- **Nardim Junior** (Asa Sul/ 409). Fine porcelain and design items from around the world.

- **Blumenau** (Asa Sul/302). Everything for the kitchen, bed and bathroom available from mostly imported brands.

- **Mmartan** (Various). Good quality bed and bath related products.

- **Dular** (Various). A multishop for the home, mostly but not exclusively Brazilian brands.

HUMIDIFIERS/DEHUMIDIFIERS/ AIR CONDITIONING

In Brasília it is either very humid or extremely dry. Many people take precautions in their wardrobes by placing dehumidifiers during the rainy season and humidifiers in the dry season. Most supermarkets and pharmacies have items that can dry or humidify a small space, but if you need something more permanent and effective, the home centers and home appliance stores have bigger machines.

AIRCON INSTALLATION

- **Gutierre** is a reliable guy who can both sell you air conditioners and install them. +55 (61) 991 83-5849

PLANTS

On practically all the exit roads or “saídas” of Brasília you will find plant wholesale shops or “Viveiros” as they are called locally. Here are two options:

- **Polo Verde** (Saída Norte). Much more than beautiful plants. It is a soulful place full of art. Visit **Plantas & Planos**, **Espaço Aroeira** or **Pau Brasileira**. Pau Brasileira is owned by the renowned local poet Nicolas Behr.

- **Transplantas Garden** (Guará). The biggest Garden Center in Brasília.

The Flower of the Nation

The Ipê-Amarelo has long been celebrated in art, poetry and folklore. So much so that in 1961 President Jânio Quadros issued a decree declaring the Ipê-Amarelo the national flower. Though it was never formally approved by congress, the popularity of the yellow flower is unwavering. The Ipê-amarelo is associated with strength, beauty and resilience - it usually blooms in July and August.

Native Cerrado Flowers

*Brazilian biodiversity is one of the largest in the world, if you would like to learn more about Cerrado flowers you could plant in your garden The Institute for Conservation and Biodiversity has published a list of **Cerrado Flowers.***

FLORISTS

- **FLO** (Asa Sul/315). Beautiful contemporary flower arrangements.

- **BLOOM** (Lago Sul/QI 11). Beautiful traditional flower arrangements with a twist.

- **Rodrigo Resende**/ **Magia das Flores** (Asa Sul/306). When the big international shops, like Tiffany's or Louis Vuitton, need a bouquet for their entrance, they call Rodrigo.

- **Central Flores** is a good alternative to the traditional flower shops; it is a drive away inside **CEASA**. But here you are rewarded with wholesale florists that are cheaper and have more variety.

- **Flower Market** (Asa Sul/ 716). If you want to stay within Plano, there is a small flower market where small shops circle around an Athos Bulcão panel. It’s the oldest flower market in town. Although the bouquets are pricey and traditional-looking, the atmosphere is nice and people friendly.

- **Flores do Paranoa** (Asa Norte/ 104) For orchids that last forever.

Drier Than the Desert

The Sahara Desert has an average humidity of 25%. During the dry season in Brasília (June-September) the lowest air humidity has been measured at 7%.

WATER

In Brasília adding a filter to your water tap is enough to make it drinkable. (Refills are easy to change yourself). Most locals install a wall mounted water filter that is changed once a year by a technician provided (but not paid for) by the shop.

- **Mundo dos Filtros** (Various). One of the most popular shops that specializes in home filters.

PEST CONTROL

In Brasília it is recommended to do pest control twice per year – and some even do it every trimester. The most common combo is a gel against cockroaches & ants.

- **Xeque Mate**
- **Logus**

SHOE & SUITCASE REPAIR

- **Sapataria Couro** (Asa Sul/216). A small kiosk on the “no man’s land” between the residential and commercial area; they fix your shoes and also do a tremendous job on suitcases and zippers!! +55 (61) 99 549-2491

- **Couro Chique** (Asa Sul/208). For repair of suitcases and shoes!

- **Art Couro** (Lago Sul/ Gilberto). A small kiosk outside of the shopping that often works with a waiting list. They restore high-end branded leather goods. +55 (61) 3364-2642

RUG/SOFA CLEANER

- **Maria Nonato Lavagem**. Maria has been recommended by the Embassy of Iran, we trust they know to recognize a good rug cleaner. +55 (61) 99 246-8059

- **Lourival dos Tapetes**. An oldie and a goodie; they have been repairing and cleaning Persian and national rugs since we can remember.

- **União Impermeabilização**. We have counted on them to make our white sofas clean again and again! +55 (61) 99 939-0216

TAILOR

- **Alfaiataria Linhares** (Asa Sul). Does a great job with men’s suits and shirts.

CARS

Buying and selling cars also happens in WhatsApp groups, so ask your foreign friends to be included in these groups when it is time to sell or purchase, or visit the major dealers around town.

SEAMSTRESS

- **Tok de Costura** (Lago Sul/Gilberto Salomão). Inside Gilberto Salomão, almost hidden, you find Tok de Costura. They do an impeccable job adjusting your clothes. Prices can be spicy, but they are fast and the quality is great.

- **La Costureira BSB** (Lago Sul/ QI13). Repairs and creations, all in one.

- **Vera Costura** (Lago Sul/ QI 07). One of the picturesque little sheds that houses ladies who know how to repair your clothes. +55 (61) 98 604-6405

- Lago Sul has little wooden houses close to the shopping by Gilberto Salomão and by Delica at QI 13. Here you find surprisingly good seamstresses.

Fusquinha

It was Juscelino Kubitchek who in 1959 brought the production of the iconic Fusquinha (VW Beetle) to Brazil where he was photographed in a convertible Fusca when the plant was inaugurated. The Fusquinha as it is popularly known, is a cult vehicle in Brazil. So much so that the 20th of January is the National Day of the Fusquinha.

FURNITURE REPAIR

• **Old Times**. Jose Augusto makes furniture or refurbishes your furniture, sofas and armchair upholstering included. +55 (61) 99 507-0920

• **Wagner Flores Atelier** (Guará II). For more than 45 years Wagner has been restoring Brazilian design furniture; they also have an **acervo** where he sells restored items.

CURTAIN MAKER

• **Millenium** (Asa Sul/408). Reliable and fast, made to measure curtains.

• **Peta Cortinas** (Águas Claras). The owner Fred Garcia is very attentive and gives after-sales support.

• **Leroy Merlin** (Various). Ready-made curtains and persianas.

• **PaperHouse** (Saída Sul). For the more high-end custom-made window treatment, Paperhouse is the go-to.

ART FRAMING

• **Acrilico Arte** (Asa Norte/703). If you need anything framed in acrylic boxes, this is the place.

• **Loja das Molduras** (Asa Norte/302). Since 1975 this frame shop has worked for galleries and artists alike

CHILD SAFETY

Proofing swimming pools, windows and balconies with tennis nets are standard protocol in Brasília if you live with children. Increasingly popular are also the movable mosquito nets as dengue fever has been widespread in DF in recent years. You can also proof the drains (even inside the shower) and add a small mesh filter to the sinks - available at the local supermarket.

• **Protégé** or

• **Só Telas** are two companies that operate in this area.

• **Daniel.** A nice and efficient chap with his own company that installs protective nets of all kinds and sizes. +55 (61) 98 426-3769

JEWELRY REPAIR

• **Joalheria Tata Rosa** (Asa Sul/315). Need a repair, Tata Rosa is skilled in repair and creation. +55 (61) 3245-1019

DRY CLEANER & LAUNDROMAT

Find a place close to your home or offices. Here are a few we had recommended.

• **5aSec** (Various)

• **Cleaners Club** (Various)

• **Lavandaria Annalimpa** (Various)

• **LaveYou** (Various). Self-service laundromat. No need to bring soap.

Bird or T-shirt?

The Canarinho is two things, it is a small yellow bird and it is also the yellow t-shirt of the national team. But it is not the national bird. The national bird is the Sabiá, the bird that sings when the rainy season starts.

STAFF

More often than not drivers, maids and nannies are hired by word of mouth. Staff is legally divided into “diaristas” (dayworkers) and fulltimers. Employees that work more than two days a week are legally considered full-time employees.

FULL TIME STAFF

It should be no surprise that you are required to follow local labor laws, which means you need to register your employees with the Previdência Social (social security), sign their Carteira de Trabalho (work catalogue), and register them. On the site **Gov.br** you find all the legal information you need before you hire your staff.

DAY WORKERS

“Diaristas” can be hired a maximum of two days per week without an official work contract and no registration is needed. However, if you like your day maid, you should give her an extra half salary in July and December (Décimo Terceiro Salário). Contracted maids get that and it is greatly appreciated.

HOME OFFICE

The home office needs to be up and running before almost anything. We have listed the essentials addresses below to help you get that going.

COMMUNICATION/INTERNET/ PHONE/TV

Most of the communication in Brazil is done via the app WhatsApp. Consequently, it is important to have a phone and a fast and stable internet connection. The companies providing internet are largely the same as providing phone services and cable tv, so you can get good deals if you purchase a plan for all with the same company.

- **Claro**
- **Vivo**
- **Tim**
- **Sky**

E-SIM

When you have visitors and they do not want to enable roaming, it can be an advantage to use **eSim cards**. They work with the newer models of both Android and iOS phones and work with prepaid data. Lots of providers exist, and **Nomada** keeps tabs on the best for Brazil.

NOTARY OFFICE

Notary offices are part of the official communication structure in Brazil. When children travel unaccompanied by their parents (for school trips or abroad) you need the notary office as well as when you buy or sell a car. The Public Justice office has a list with all the Notary Offices (cartórios) in DF. We have linked to the list **here**.

- **Venâncio Shopping** (Asa Sul). Inside Venâncio you have several notary offices and you will likely find one that suits your needs.

- **Cartório JK** (Asa Sul/505S). If you need an apostille, JK has a pretty fast service on the ground floor.

DISPATCHER

If you dislike waiting in line at the notary office, you can hire a dispatcher who can handle it for a fee. Dispatchers are typically used when purchasing or selling a car, but they can handle all kinds of dispatches.

- **Fred Despachante** specialized in vehicle dispatches; he has worked with diplomats and knows the ins and outs of selling and buying cars for foreigners.

- **DF Despachante.** Dispatcher with experience in handling diplomatic cars and transfer of ownership.

LAWYER

You can need a lawyer for many different reasons; we have listed a few options, but again do ask around:

- **Cristiana Mello** & **Marcelo Proença** (Asa Sul). Great public and civil lawyers in Brasília. contato@dsm.adv.br

- **Morete, Lima & Oliveira** (Sudoeste). Transit law specialists. An office headed by three young female lawyers that works nonstop to help solve your problems.

- **Pinheiro Neto** (São Paulo). Corporate Lawyers. One of the top law firms in Brazil, based in São Paulo. When only the best is good enough and you don't mind the price tag.

Radio Soap

Brazil invented the Rádio Novela (radio soap opera). It started in Brazil in the 1940s — combining music, drama, and storytelling — and inspired similar shows across Latin America and beyond.

Calling Abroad

*In Brazil when you call abroad you need to dial: 00 + operator's ID (fx 21) + country code + city code + number. If you don't have it in your "plan" you will not be able to make calls abroad from your cell. That is why Apps such as **eFon** are popular. Here you install the app, purchase credit and talk. Like Skype in the old days.*

GRAPHIC PRINT

- **Galleria Editorial** (Asa Norte/714)
- **IG Plotter** (CLSW/101).

GRAPHIC DESIGN / WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

- **Kristina Fleury** (**Fleury Web Studio**). Website developer and graphic designer. When your project needs an online presence, she crafts digital solutions that bring your ideas to life — elegantly and functionally.
Tel: +55 (61) 998-00-2258.

POSTAL SERVICE

The Brazilian postal system is not getting the credit it deserves. It works smoothly and quickly, except when you import goods that may get stuck for a while at the port and customs authorities at the entry points to the country. When you send items, we recommend you use the "rastreamento" option (recommended) or that you use the Sedex service that guarantees national delivery in the fastest possible way. Sedex has degrees of "fast" with the average being 1-5 days. **Sedex** also offers same day delivery for a higher price.

- **Correios** (Various)
- **DHL** (Lago Sul/Gilberto Salomão)

Tip: the **correios at the airport** (separate building) attends from 13h-21h

IMPORTING GOODS

In 2025, the Brazilian government introduced significant changes to how international purchases from online sites are taxed. All international purchases are now subject to a fixed 20% ICMS. If your purchase is valued over $50 USD the ICMS goes as high as 60% depending on the purchase value. Normally the tax is charged at the time of purchase, which should ease the customs process. The Brazilian constitution (article 150) prohibits taxing books; they are therefore an exemption to the ICMS.

BANKS

When you shop locally, it is a good idea to have a Brazilian bank account and also a local debit/credit card. Many online shops only accept Brazilian debit/credit cards (and Pix); this sometimes includes on-line purchases of domestic and international flights. When you get a local credit card, most offer access to the VIP lounge areas in Brazilian airports.

- **Banco Rendimento**
- **Nubank**

Biometric Banking

Brazil was among the first nations to develop and implement biometric identification for financial transactions, including fingerprint-based ATMs and banking systems.

Listen & Learn

Listen to one of these high-quality podcasts listed below and you will not only improve your Portuguese vocabulary, but you will also be thoroughly entertained:

- ***Projeto Querino**. A history podcast with an Afrocentric perspective. A must listen for people that want to understand Brazil better.*
- ***O Assunto**. Investigative journalism by Natuza Nery, always digging into contemporary issues.*
- ***Ser Sonoro.** For music enthusiasts, this is a podcast dedicated to the exploration of music and its impact on us.*
- ***Radio Novelo**. Journalist Branca Vianna digs into stories based on real events from around the world and explores and unfolds the stories in an instigating and evolving narrative.*
- ***Café da Manhã**. Prized and popular podcast on politics, culture and other contemporary issues.*
- ***Tempo Quente.** Giovana Girardi long term environmental journalist is the showrunner on this Radio Novela show that discusses the climate emergency with various specialists.*

Banknote Pictures

Where foreign countries often use portraits of famous people on their bank notes, Brazil has taken a different approach. You will see a wide variety of the country's fauna depicted. On the R$50 bill you have the Brazilian national symbol, the Jaguar (onça pintada).

PAYING BILLS

All utility bills can be paid online if you have a local bank account. You just need to ask for an electronic bill. Besides saving a lot of time (not lining up in banks to pay bills).

PIX

Once you have a bank account, you can activate "Pix" which is a user-friendly electronic way of payment. You can operate Pix from your phone. When you activate your "Pix" your account can be identified by your CPF or your telephone number. We recommend you use your cell number to avoid distributing your ID number to strangers. A Pix account makes you able to pay and receive payment instantaneously.

TRANSFERRING MONEY

When you have a local bank account, you rely on money transfers from your home country. If your home bank's transfer fees are too expensive, we recommend you have a look at **Wise**; they are safe, easy to use and normally less expensive. Nowadays, you can even get a debit/credit card from Wise-one that will save you lots of conversion fees.

TRANSLATORS

Your embassy might suggest a translator, If that is not the case we have a suggestion.

- **Traduza**. Need an official/certified translation and Hague Apostille? Traduza translates English, Spanish, German, French and Italian. You can contact them via WhatsApp or by email.

COMPUTER FIXERS

All major brands have authorized service providers in Brasília. You will be amazed at what can be fixed while you are in Brasília.

- **Ela Concerta** (Asa Sul/ 702). Founded by Fabi Araújo, this female-led office repairs Mac or PCs, phones or iPads. Fabi is fair in her prices and works quickly.

- **Icaiu** (Asa Norte/Brasília Shopping). Specialized in Mac products.

- **Gabriel Seabra**. Gabriel fixes both cell phones and computers. +55 (61) 98188-7777

- **Márcio Baiocchi Fracari** (Asa Sul/104). Marcio repairs and sells Apple products. +55 (61) 98 177 2204

OFFICE SUPPLIES

- **Kalunga** (Various). You can find everything from school and art supplies to electronics at this "superstore".

- **Casa das Artes** (Asa Norte). Specialized in arts and crafts and a very good go-to place for the crafty people in town. They also have a great selection of school material and offer arts classes next door.

HOME ORGANIZER

- **Raquel Duarte**. When you receive your move and you are slightly overwhelmed by the boxes, you call Raquel and her team. They will declutter–Marie Kondo style–and leave the house (or the rooms you choose) organized to perfection. Never has installation been more enjoyable.

TRAVEL AGENT

- **Berlin Turismo**. Gabriela Berlim from Berlin Turismo, can tailor everything to your needs from air fares to domestic or international trips.

- **Accetur.** Silvia from Accetur is service minded and fast. Tel: +55 12 98138-9892

Candangos

You might have heard that the people who constructed Brasília are called Candangos. This affectionate nickname has its origin in Africa, where a candango was a slave trader and synonymous with "bad people". In Brasília, it morphed into describing humble people and later became an homage for the workers who constructed Brasília.

Speed, Passion & Identity

Motorsport is big in Brazil. Brasília has three motorsport rings, and is also home to International Formula One star Nelson Piquet. Lots of recurring motor events for everyone like; ***Acelera Brasília*** *and* ***Midnight Racing Car Team***

NAVIGATION

Navigating Brasília is relatively easy once you become familiar with the city's layout. Still, many people choose to install **Waze** on their phones, as it not only alerts you to speed cameras, but also detects police radars in general.

Remember that in Brazil there is zero tolerance for alcohol in the blood. When you drive, you don't drink. Period. The police love to make a roadblock and test everybody. Consider yourself warned.

DRIVER'S LICENSE

You can drive with your foreign driver's license (accompanied by an official translation or International Driving Permit – IDP) for up to 180 days from your date of entry into Brazil. After that, you must convert your foreign license to a Brazilian CNH (Carteira Nacional de Habilitação).

If your home country has a reciprocity agreement with Brazil (i.e. the U.S., EU countries, UK, Canada), the conversion is relatively straightforward. You will need to present your original license, an official translation (sworn translator), and ID documents at a **Detran Office**, and take a medical and psychotechnical exam (that will be indicated during the Detran meeting). There will be a symbolic fee to pay and after the tests are done, you will be able to retrieve your CNH at a Detran office of your choice or receive it electronically.

On the other hand, if your license is from a country where there's no agreement, you may be required to take both the Brazilian written and practical driving tests.

DRIVING SCHOOLS

- **Piloto Autoescola** (Asa Norte)
- **Globo Autoescola** (Asa Sul)

CAR INSURANCE

- **Tokio Marine**
- **Porto Seguro**
- **Bradesco**

TAXI SERVICES & REQUESTED RIDES

- **Uber** – for an app-based drive

- **Cooper Taxi DF** – 24/7 a taxi operator like in the good old days. Drivers are uniformed in polo shirts. Call or write a WhatsApp: +55 (61) 3435 6000

- **Kmon Vip**. For the high officials or for you when you would like a suit clad driver to take you to your destination.

- **Shekinahlocadora.** Used by major business executives when in Brasília.

FEMALE TAXI/KIDS

- **Belascar**. Car service similar to Uber but with only vetted female drivers. Specially made with an eye for kids, the elderly and pets.

Renewable Energy

Brazil is a global pioneer in biofuel, particularly from ethanol and sugarcane. The country developed flex-fuel engines that most cars in Brazil use. Biofuel has played a significant role in the country's energy independence and reduced reliance on fossil fuels. Brazil's ethanol program, one of the most successful worldwide, has led to significant reductions in gasoline consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

There are 8 national holidays and a few “optional” days. Optional holidays are not mandatory. Marked in bold are the national holidays. Optional holidays can be individual for each state - commemoration of the capital’s birthday etc.

January 1	**New Year’s Day**
Varies	**Carnival**
Varies	**Good Friday (Easter)**
April 21	**Tiradentes/**Brasília's Birthday
May 1	**Workers’ Day**
Varies	Corpus Christi
September 7	**Independence Day**
October 12	**Our Lady of Aparecida**
October 28	**Public Servant Day**
November 2	**Day of the Dead**
November 15	**Proclamation of the Republic**
November 20	**Zumbi Day & Black Awareness**
December 25	**Christmas**

Top Speed - Snug Design

*Did you know that Brazil produces a sports car – **the Puma** – one of the most beautiful and sleek sports cars on the market? It began as an ambitious garage project by the Italian immigrant brothers Malzoni and went on to win five consecutive InterLagos races. Brasília has a car club for **Puma** owners and lovers.*

HEALTH, BEAUTY & PETS
Contents

p.19

Emergencies
Useful numbers

- Hospitals
- Pediatric Emergencies

p.20

Healthcare
Recommendations from the community

- Recommended Doctors
- Alternative Medicine
- Generalist/ House Calls
- Breast Health
- Endocrinology
- Laboratories
- Cardiologist
- Cosmetic Surgery
- ENT
- Geriatrics
- Neurologist
- Neuro Surgeon
- Obstetrics/ Gynecology
- Doula
- Paediatrics
- Psychologist
- Vascular Surgeon
- Dermatology
- Orthopedic
- Orthopedic Physiotherapy
- Rheumatology
- Ophthalmology
- Thoracic Surgeon
- Vaccines
- Oncologist
- Dental Care
- Dental X-rays
- Dental Care Kids

p.23

Beauty
Spa up your life!

- Aesthetic Treatments
- Nails
- Glam Squad
- Hair Salons
- Waxing and Body Hair
- At Home Massage
- Spa-Time!

p.25

Pets / Veterinarian
Pet supplies for your trusted companion

- Vets
- Dogs
- Cats
- Travel with Pets

Health, Beauty & Pets

Here you find essential emergency contacts plus a great selection of handpicked healthcare professionals, beauty services, and pet care in Brazil's capital.

You should know that in Brazil, doctors are great, often they will give you their cell phone number and will be available to you in case of need. You should find a family doctor you like and consult with the doctor on what hospital to use in case of emergencies.

NB: We Share BSB's editors are not responsible for any services provided by any of the listed entities.

Emergency Numbers

Police	**190**
Ambulance (SAMU)	**192**
Fire Department	**193**

EMERGENCIES

HOSPITALS

Brasília has transformed its healthcare landscape over the past decade, attracting world-class doctors and establishing top-rated hospitals. If you have an emergency three hospitals are standout institutions:

HEALTHCARE

Most physicians maintain private practices alongside hospital work, with contact information available on hospital websites. Finding a doctor is easier when you start with hospital speciality listings. We have our list, but recommend you make your own.

RECOMMENDED DOCTORS

The curated list below reflects some of the top doctors we know.

- **Hospital Sírio-Libanês** (Asa Sul/613). Originally established in São Paulo, now serving Brasília with exceptional care.

- **DF Star Hospital** (Asa Sul/ 914). Notable for bilingual services with Portuguese and English-speaking reception staff, offering convenience for international patients.

- **HRAN** (Asa Norte/ SMHN 101). This is a public hospital par excellence and it has the best emergency in town. This is where you go in the rare case you have been bitten/stung by a venomous animal, like a scorpio, snake or spider.

Important! Neither Sirio-Libanês nor DF Star admit young children, not even for emergencies! Minimum ages is 12 years (**Sírio-Libanês**) and 15 years (**DF Star**)

PAEDIATRIC EMERGENCIES

When you arrive, find a pediatrician and ask which hospital to use in case of an emergency. We list some options below, but verify with your personal healthcare professional.

- **Hospital Brasília** (Lago Sul/QI 15)

- **Santa Lucia** (Asa Sul/716). Best neonatal Intensive care unit in the city.

- **Daher** (Lago Sul/QI 07)

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

- **Marcelo Sartório**. Healer & Chinese medicine specialist. +55 (61) 99 254-4373

GENERALIST/HOUSE CALLS

- **Dr. Alde** (Asa Sul/Vitrium). Generalist and pediatrician speaking Spanish and English. For house calls, send a WhatsApp to his secretary: +55 (61) 99 908 8991

BREAST HEALTH

- **Dr. Pamela Bioni** (Asa Sul/ Vitrium). Breast cancer specialist. Call her assistant to book.

- **Dr. Pollyanna Dornelas** (Asa Sul//914). Breast cancer specialist with Rede D'Or and DF Star +55 (61) 99 817-2238

ENDOCRINOLOGY

- **Dr. Fernanda Salles Reis** (Asa Sul/Sírio & Laccia at Vitrium). Endocrinologist at Sírio and has her consultancy, Laccia at Vitrium.

- **Dr. Cláudio Martinelli França** (Asa Sul/SHS/Brasil 21). Expensive, but has loyal followers. +55 (61) 999 83-6564

LABORATORIES

- **Sirio/Vitrium** (Asa Sul/613). Premium testing facility for a price. Anything from blood samples to complex testing. They have the machinery and the manpower.

- **SABIN** (Various). Accessible, well - trained staff. Downside - can be crowded.

Rede Sarah

Brasilía is home to the renowned Rede Sarah, a national network of public hospitals specializing in orthopedic and neurological care. Rede Sarah is recognized not only for its cutting-edge treatments but also for its pioneering hospital architecture, which emphasizes sustainability, human-centered design, and aesthetic harmony.

CARDIOLOGIST

• **Dr. Fabricio da Silva** (Lago Sul/QI 15). For your cardiological check-up, you should book a time with **Amplexus**, where Dr. Fabricio da Silva is our choice.

• **Dr. Carlos Rassi**. (Asa Sul/Sírio). Cardiologist and generalist.

COSMETIC SURGERY

• **Dr. Jose Roberto Borgatto** & **Dr. Mariana Borgatto** (daughter). Conservative approach to cosmetic procedures. +55 (61) 3327-7634

ENT

• **Dr. Nakanishi** (Asa Sul/611). At the Nakanishi Clinic you find an umbrella of people all specialised in different aspects of otolaryngology. We recommend Dr. Nakanishi himself.

• **Dr. João Mangussi** (Lago Sul/QI 01). Specialised in otolaryngology - anything nose related. Dr. Mangussi speaks English, you can contact him directly to book (private number) +55 11 98278-5776

GERIATRICS

• **Dr. Luis Fernando Rangel** (Asa Sul/607). Dr. Luis is a specialist in geriatrics. Spanish and English speaking. +55 (61) 99 847-2731

NEUROLOGIST

• **Dr. Marcia Silvia Santos** (Asa Sul/610). Dr. Marcia is coordinator of neurology at DF Star. Attends all neurologic diseases and is specialized in neurovascular neurology. Attends in English and Spanish. +55 (61) 99 511-1003

NEURO SURGEON

• **Dr. Bernardo Barbosa** (Asa Sul/716). A Neuro surgeon at all of Rede D'Or's hospitals in Brasília, attends in private practice too. English speaker. +55 61 98625-5210

OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY

If you are planning on having a baby, ask your OB/GYN which hospital they work with as that determines where you will be giving birth. Many OB/GYNS are experienced with foreigners and are expertly equipped to guide you along your pregnancy. Brazil is a wonderful place to give birth.

• **Dr. Raquel Reis** (Asa Sul/915). Centro Clinico Advance is Dr. Raquel's clinic for all things OBGYN related. Dr. Raquel is a promoter of natural birth. Speaks English. +55 (61) 9986-5352

• **Dr. Cibele** (Asa Sul/910 Park Mix) OB/GYN Supports natural births. +55 (61) 991 81-6365

DOULA

• **Livre Maternagem**. A team of doulas. +55 (61) 99 116-1204

• **Dawn Marie Chaloux**. US native Dawn helps you relax during childbirth and can work as a translator between you and health staff during labour. +55 (61) 9916-8715

PAEDIATRICS

• **Dr. Nelson Diniz de Oliveira** (Asa Sul/510). Multi-lingual, experienced in pediatric, neonatal and pediatric intensive care. +55 (61) 3245-3531

• **Dr. Marcio Dias** (Lago Sul). Understands English. +55 (61) 9872-2200

PSYCHOLOGIST

• **Dr. Mariana Belaciano** (Lago Sul). Psychologist specializing in children and third-culture kids. Also works with adults. +55 (61) 97 401 1995

VASCULAR SURGEON

• **Dr. Silvia Iglesias Lopes** (Asa Sul/Vitrium). Specialist from Sírio in Sao Paulo, Dr. Silvia is a specialist in everything vascular.

DERMATOLOGY

• **Dr. Paola Griebler** (Asa Sul/SEPS 710-910). Dermatologist with a penchant for skin diseases but who also works wonders with aesthetic dermatology. Works out of **Aepit**. English speaker.

• **Dr. Ana Maria Pinheiro** (Asa Sul/915). Spanish and English speaking. Dermatology in general but specialized in cutaneous dermatology and oncology.

• **Dr. Diva Maria Previtera** (Asa Norte/Liberty Mall). Diva is a specialist in children's dermatology.

Baby Names

In Brazil the top baby names for girls this year are: Helena, Cecília, Maitê, Alice & Laura. The most popular boy's names are: Miguel, Gael, Ravi, Theo & Heitor.

ORTHOPEDIC

• **Centro de Ortopedia e Traumatologia de Brasília** (Asa Sul/914). Dr. Matheus Ramos Tozi is our man for everything knee related, he also works out of Sirio.

• **Arthros Ortopedia** (Asa Sul/610) Great orthopedic team, we count on Dr. Alexandre Paniago who is a shoulder specialist.

• **Instituto Montenegro** (Asa Norte/). Dr. Marcus Montenegro aka "doctor to the athletes" is a top knee specialist, a general orthopedic doctor and athlete himself.

ORTHOPEDIC PHYSIOTHERAPY

• **MEO**/ Medicina Esportiva e Ortopedia (Lago Sul/QI 11). Sports injury specialists. They treat lots of professional and semi-professional athletes. Ask for Dr. Vinicius Bispo who will tailor a special program based on your needs.

• **Instituto Fisio Essence** (Lago Sul /QI 09). Osteopathy, pelvic strengthening for all ages. Owners Luana and Roberta come recommended. +55 (61) 98 262-0005

• **Kinê Fisioterapia Esportiva** (SGAS). Rehabilitation and sports physiotherapy.

RHEUMATOLOGY

• **Dra. Luciana Feitosa Muniz** (Asa Sul/Sírio). Rheumatologist. Lupus specialist. Winner of the "Luiz Verztman" prize for best scientific work in her field.

OPHTHALMOLOGY

• **Dr. Alipio de Souza Neto** (Asa Sul/915). Ophthalmologist.

THORACIC SURGEON

• **Dr. Humberto Oliveira** (Asa Sul/ Sírio). Internationally renowned Harvard guest lecturer. Appointment through his practice at Vitrium. +55 (61) 99 111-5598

VACCINES

• **Vaccine Infantil** (Asa Sul/ Via Brasil Clinic) +55 (61) 3244-6774

• **Posto da Saúde** (Various locations) Public vaccination with proof of residence. Find the Posto da Saúde that is closest to your home and bring a document that proves you live nearby. You and your children are eligible for all recommended vaccines. Some vaccines are optional - like yellow fever and therefore are not available in the public system. They are available in private clinics for purchase.

Medicine for All

*Through the "**Farmácia Popular**" program, Brazil provides access to medicine for the population for free or at a highly subsidized value. All you need is a CPF and a valid prescription. This way low income families are guaranteed their medication.*

AIDS Reference Program

Brazil became a world reference for its control of the HIV AIDS pandemic in the late 1980s, with universal and free access to antiretroviral therapy and comprehensive prevention strategies. Brazil had to fight a lawsuit against the protectionist pharmaceutical companies in what became a landmark case, leading to the World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute with the United States in 2001. The US withdrew its case after public pressure and protests.

ONCOLOGIST

• **Dr. Marcela Crosara** & **Dr. Daniel Marques** (**DF Star**). This is an Oncologist dream team. Dr. Marcela specializes in gastrointestinal tumors and Dr. Daniel's field is breast, lung and brain tumors. English speakers. Booking details in hyperlink.

DENTAL CARE

• **Castro Valle Odontologia** (Asa Norte /LIberty Mall). Dr. Carine.

• **FACE** (Lago Sul/QI 09). Dr. Nivânia.

• **Odontotal** (Asa Sul/607). Dr. Adriano.

At the Pharmacy

It is sometimes worthwhile shopping around in different pharmacies for the same type of medication as prices can vary for the exact same product. Also, it is completely safe and much, much cheaper to get the generic version of the medicine.

DENTAL X-RAYS

• **Fenelon** (Various). Dental x-rays and imaging.

DENTAL CARE KIDS

• **Crescer** (Asa Sul/Julio Adnet). Dentist and Orthodentist, Dr. Rodrigo Amorim and Dr. Hugo (Orthodontist), both wonderful with children.

BEAUTY

It is no secret that Brazilian ladies are well groomed. They will always find time to look “put together;” their hair and their nails always “produzidas.” They are not big on make-up but they take their personal appearance seriously.

This “my body my temple” attitude is something we can learn from. If you feel like a little pampering, we have some suggestions for where to go for a “glow-up.”

AESTHETIC TREATMENTS

- **Heaven - Clube da Estetica** (Sudoeste/105). This is a place for those who are serious about regenerative medicine and beauty treatments. They have state of the art machinery such as Fotona, Ultraformer MPT, Morpheus and Lavieen.

- **Alessandra Ramalho** (Asa Sul/616). Alessandra works with paramedical and aesthetic pigmentation (e.g., after mammectomy) and permanent make-up. Most people come to do eyebrows, or permanent eyeliner. Her assistant does a great job at lash-lifting.

- **Anna Pegova** (Asa Sul/307). For a super-duper skin cleansing, because you deserve it!

NAILS

Any neighborhood nail salon will do, but here are some examples.

- **Nord Nails** (Lago Sul). What started as a small shop in Brasília, has now become a national brand. Not cheap but it is a treat for special occasions.

- **Bessie Beauty Club** (Asa Sul/305). The place is a full blown beauty parlor but you can easily get in and just do your nails. Everything is just the right measure.

- **Que Beleza** (Asa Norte/202). For the young at heart. At Que Beleza the soundtrack is fresh, and you can get everything from fancy drawings and newest trends to your classic French mani-pedi. “Voilà”!

GLAM SQUAD

- **Aghata Maia**. Sephora ambassador Aghata has her finger on the pulse and is one of the few that can do an elegant no-make-up make-up - just a noticeable glow-up.

- **Helen Beauty Artist**. Make-up artist for photo shoots with a penchant for natural looking make-up.

HAIR SALONS

- **Bioma** (Asa Norte/205 - Organic products, trendy atmosphere. Hands down the coolest place to have your hair done.

- **Meire Reis** (Various). Brasília institution for hair and beauty. Spa treatments at some units. Great for make-up too.

- **Lounge Hair Makeup** (Asa Sul/104). Curly hair, no problem! Ask for Anderson, he will be able to address even the most complicated of manes! For time efficiency, you find a good manicure to boot! +55 61 3244-8956

- **Fred Fick** (Asa Norte/104). Fred is an institution among the foreign crowd. He is an English speaker with magic hands. +55 61 98 112 2955

- **Blow** (Lago Sul/ Gilberto). A great place to get a quick wash and blowout for only R$45.

- **Salão Beleza Afro** (Asa Sul/ Conic). Best braiding services in town.

Smells of Brazil?

*Brazil has got a new favorite fragrance brand, **Amyi**. The name is Tupi and signifies together or interlaced. Since its founding in 2019 it has fast become the first Brazilian perfume brand to be indicated to the prestigious international The Art and Olfaction Prize. It was the sensual Amyi VIII that was indicated for the prize.*

WAXING AND BODY HAIR

- **Modelle** (Various). Many years in the market, you can count on the Modelle staff to make you squeaky clean and soft. They also thread eyebrows and take care of other hairy affairs.
- **JD** (Lago Sul). JD is an eyebrow specialist that does threading. The clinic is at Gilberto Salomão.

AT HOME MASSAGE

- **Andrea**, aka The Body Whisperer is a skilled sports & lymphatic drainage massagist (Call: + 55 (61) 98 401-7370).

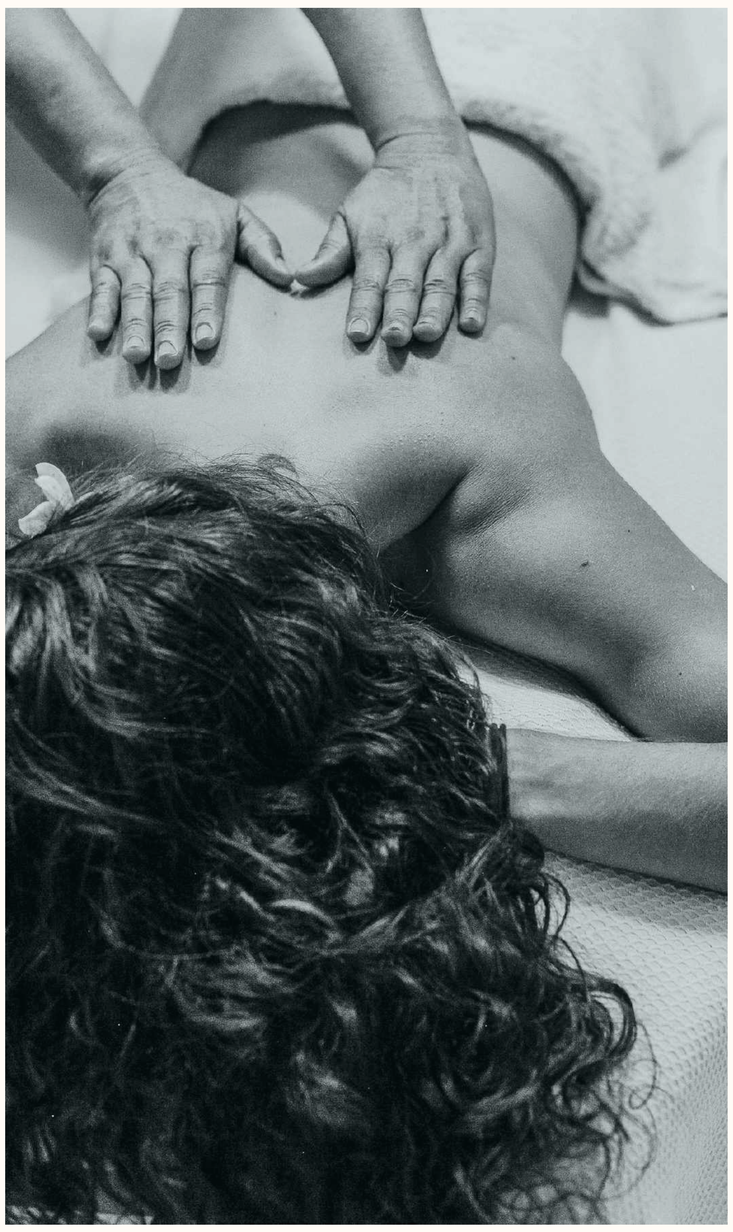
SPA-TIME!

It is time for you to treat yourself! We have a few suggestions on how to best relax and have a good time, either alone or with your squad.

- **Eliá Spa** (Asa Sul/Pier 21). A local favorite, the Eliá Spa chain has been a favorite for years. Winner of Spa & Beauty Award's best spa in Brazil award. Here you find a huge variety of massages and beauty treatments. The spa also offers kid's spa treatments.

- **Sensce Spa Boutique** (Asa Sul/616). Dr Pricilla Proença, who is behind Sensce Spa, doesn't play around. She studied Medicine at Harvard and quietly arrived in Brasília making waves, winning the World's Best Luxury Spa award more than once. Go all-in and get a package or try the lymphatic drainage massage.

- **Cristal** (Núcleo Bandeirante). Want to try something different? This spa is located in a lush green garden, it is a spa that attracts lots of brides that go with their entourage for a last treat before the big day.



Brazilian Beauty Brands

***Care**. A product that is high-tech, natural, organic, vegan and toxic free, this Brazilian skin care and make-up brand is one you should keep an eye on. Founded by two friends Patty and Lu after a spat with chemo therapy, they turned their back on their corporate careers to create a sustainable skincare brand.*

***Principia.** A Brazilian initiative that brings highly effective skincare to the masses.*

***Granado**. Soap, cream and exfoliators that work wonders on your skin. Super gift and a beautiful package.*

***Lola**. Hair products marketed for teens with curly hair, the kind of product the moms end up hijacking.*

***Oceane**. Makeup in minimalist packaging and wonderful colors. Oceane is elegant and surprisingly accessible.*

***Dermage**. Prize winning, dermatologically approved and recommended brand that does not test on animals.*

***Adcos**. A family run company of pharmacists, doctors and engineers, that started out working on burn victims and branched out to beauty products.*

***Natura**. This is one of the biggest businesses in Brazil. Natura is committed to preservation and eco products all developed from Brazilian flora, making the most of the biome.*

PETS / VETERINARIAN

Pets are part of the family and as such it is important to take care of them. Below we have some useful addresses for the pet owners.

VETS

- **Vet at Home**. If you need someone to come to your house to have a look at the your pet we wouldn't hesitate in calling Vet em Casa

- **Lex & LU** (Sudoeste). A team of experienced vets will take care of your pet. The ambiance is nice and if anything, ask for Dr. Barbara.

- **Pet Hospital Arca de Noe** (Lago Sul/QI 25). Thankfully we never needed hospital service for our pets, but it is good to know where to find the right help.

- **Pollypet Vet** (Guará). Pollyanna is a vet that also is qualified to do surgery. She works with wild animals as well as domestic ones. When you travel she can provide full care for your pet in her own house. +55 (61) 99 229-4388

- **Cat Vet** (Asa Norte/105). Casa do Gato is a place that takes care exclusively of cats.

DOGS

Here are a few essential addresses for the doglovers among us:

- **BomDog** (Aguas Claras). Dog Trainer and hotel. They have given classes at UnB on canine behavior and is a likable place.

- **Pet Candy Shop** (Lago Norte). Pet Candy is a very nice destination for dog grooming. They are also knowledgeable about travelling with your pet.

- **Cani Bravo**. Do you have a gourmet dog? This place prepares 100% natural and personalized food for your doggie.

CATS

- **Cat Concierge Hotel** (Lago Sul/QL 05)

- **Banho dos Gatos** (Asa Sul/215). Cat lovers adore Banho do Gatos that is made exclusively for cats. They can even perform reiki massages on your feline friends.

- **Ana Cat Sitter**. If you have no one to come look after your cats while travelling, Ana can take charge; play, change water and food. Your cat will be in its own environment stress free while you roam the world. +55 (61) 98 655-8135

TRAVEL WITH PETS

It is now easier to travel with your pet than ever before. All documentation you need is listed by **Brasília Airport** but if you are pressed for time or like assistance with the documentation there are a few companies that work (remotely) to help organize the trip for your pet.

- **Pet Friendly Turismo**. An agency placed in São Paulo that can guide you through the process of readying your pet for a trip overseas. It works via Whatsapp.

Pet Jewelry

*Brazilian bijou maker **Vivaria** has created a series of charms dedicated to our pets. The series is called "my pet, my life", and there are items both you and your dog can wear. You can purchase their leather collar and add the charms Pandora style.*

Caramel Dogs

Vira-lata-caramelo (caramel trashcan tipper) from scorned street dog to a hipster pet that is headlining a new Netflix doc. The Caramelo underdog is biting back and is fast becoming a pop-culture symbol with a lot of swag. If you are thinking about getting a Brazilian dog, this is it.

LEISURE & EDUCATION
Contents

p.27

Education
Hand picked international schools and summer camps

- Kindergartens
- Bilingual Schools (Ages 2+)
- School Bus
- Summer Camp

p.28

Sports
Ready steady go!

- Sports & Recreational Clubs (All in One)
- Martial Arts
- Capoeira
- Personal Trainers
- Dance
- House Call Instructors
- Climbing
- Golf
- Skateboarding
- Parkour
- Volleyball
- Tennis
- Gyms
- Football
- Bicycling
- Triathlon
- Running
- Horse Riding
- Motor Sports
- Sports on the Lake
- Diving
- Swimming
- Nutritionist
- Recovery
- Free of Charge
- Yoga/Meditation

p.34

Action-Packed
Need an adrenaline kick?

- Pure Joy!

p.35

Meeting Like-Minded
Portuguese classes and social communities

- Learning Portuguese
- Expat Clubs

p.36

Music
Get into the groove

- Music Schools
- Play in a Band
- Home Music Teachers

p.37

Hobbies
Lets make it happen!

- Art Classes
- Programming
- Clothes Making/Crafts
- Chess Club
- Cooking
- Math
- Choir

Leisure & Education

EDUCATION

We have assembled some great venues and interesting courses for all ages, plus information on most of the international schools and expat communities.

KINDERGARTENS

- **Fundação Cabo Frio** (Asa Norte). Former Brazilian Foreign Ministry facility, now a prestigious Portuguese-only nursery and pre-kindergarten with extensive outdoor areas and daily music and arts programs. Popular among international families despite the language challenge.

- **Affinity Arts** (Lago Sul). Bilingual English program accepting children from age 1, with a focus on arts and music education.

Paulo Freire's Progressive Thoughts

***Paulo Freire** (1921-1997). Brazil's most celebrated philosopher and one of the world's most influential educational thinkers. His **Pedagogy of the Oppressed** revolutionized the world of education and led him to become the backbone of some of the most progressive educational systems worldwide.*

BILINGUAL SCHOOLS (AGES 2+)

- **The American School of Brasília/ EAB** (Asa Sul). Premier choice for diplomatic families, known for its extensive after-school programs and International Baccalaureate (IB) offerings.

- **Lycée Français François Mitterrand** (Lago Sul). French and Brazilian national curricula with academic excellence. On top, it is one of the less expensive bilingual schools.

- **Eleva** (Asa Sul). Advanced national studies and IB programs for older students, renowned for academic Olympiad achievements.

- **British School** (Lago Sul). Popular bilingual institution with strong international reputation.

- **School of Nations** (Lago Sul). Well-established school with long-standing community presence.

- **Swiss International School** (Asa Sul). Offering both Brazilian and IB programs.

SCHOOL BUS

The schools above can recommend trusted third-party van companies used by their community.

Education First Fight

Cristovam Buarque ex-governor of Brasília, is famous for being a public-education advocate. He championed the idea that access to education should be a guaranteed social right, that basic and higher education must be widely accessible, and that Brazil needs systemic investments in schooling to reduce inequality.

SUMMER CAMP

Summer holidays are long in the Southern Hemisphere. Many schools and cultural institutions offer holiday camps and activities to keep the Brasiliense children busy. If your children are enrolled in a club, they may benefit from intensive summer classes offered by the club. However, for those who are looking for something else, here are a few places that organize great activities for school-age children:

EAB - Class of 2025

- **Rancho Victory** (Alexânia). One of the only camps that also includes sleepovers.

- **Casa das Artes** (Asa Norte). Art-focused programs.

- **Sports Club** (Clube das Naçoes). Bilingual French/Portuguese sports focus. Run by teachers from the French School and located at the Brazilian diplomats' club.

- **Colônia de férias AABB** (Clube do AABB). Popular sports camp.

- **School of Rock** (Asa Sul). Want a different camp? Try School of Rock's band camp. Age/level requirements.

- **Teatro Mapati** (Asa Norte). If your child is into theater, there is no better place than a summer camp at the renowned Teatro Mapati.

SPORTS

Brasília excels in sports infrastructure with numerous clubs concentrated along Paranoá Lake's shorelines in the Asa Sul and Asa Norte Club Sectors. Obtaining membership to top clubs can be expensive, but sometimes you can rent a "limited time" membership. Or you can sign up for "pay to play" with no membership needed.

SPORTS & RECREATIONAL CLUBS (ALL IN ONE)

There is a smorgasbord of clubs scattered along the shoreline of the Paranoa Lake in both Asa Sul and Norte. Below are the most iconic of them all:

- **IATE Clube Brasília** (Asa Norte). The club's history is intertwined with the foundation of the Plano Piloto. It is one of the oldest and most trophy-winning clubs in Brasília, known to have the best facilities and trainers available in practically all modalities. In 1960, President Juscelino Kubitschek famously described the club as 'the living room of the new metropolis.' This club continues to be the crown jewel of them all.

- **Clube das Nações** (Setor de Clubes Sul) is the diplomats' club, where the Itamaraty diplomats bring their kids at the weekend. This is also where the French school has its football club on Saturdays. Membership is inexpensive.

- **ASBAC** (Setor de Clubes Sul). The National Bank's club started as a social club but has turned into a reference for sporty families.

- **AABB** (Setor de Clubes Sul). The sports club founded by Banco do Brasil. One of the best-run family sports clubs in town.

- **Brasília Country Club** (Gama). The club of the pioneers, founded before the inauguration of the city by a group of NOVACAP friends (the people that came to construct the city). This is primarily a social club, but there are lots of sports facilities including a manège for dressage and horse-jumping.

MARTIAL ARTS

• **Shin Buddhist Temple** (Asa Sul /315/16). This Nipo-brasileira temple also houses a school of martial arts. A great place for those in the know.

• **Selvagem Jitsu** (Asa Norte/712). With focus on Jiu Jitsu, Selvagem is a top school for martial arts.

• **Cerrado MMA** (Asa Norte/604). Muay Thai and boxing are the specialties here. A local favorite spot.

• **Krav Maga Mestre Kobi** (Asa Sul/ EQS 108/109). Israeli martial arts training under the guidance of Mestre Kobi.

CAPOEIRA

Intertwined with the history of Brazil and the heritage of Black culture and perseverance, Brasília is the perfect place to take up capoeira.

• **Grupo Beribazu** (Various). Training with Mestre **Luiz Renato** at UnB.

PERSONAL TRAINERS

• **Otavio Vanni** (Various). Knowledgeable and a former medicine student, his ability to customize your workout is matchless. Otavio's approach is holistic and he also practices breathing techniques. He only works at Fabrik, Bodytech and Smash. +55 (67) 99 264 5563.

• **Samuel Kaminski** (Various). One of the trainers at **Fabrik**, Samuel is always involved in sports and healthy lifestyle initiatives around town.

• **Alex Griebler** (**Fabrik**). Founder of Boutique Gym Fabrik, Alex is a performance and longevity consultant, that helps you achieve peak performance and extended healthspan by creating personalized plans that address lifestyle factors like exercise, nutrition, sleep, and stress management. Alex speaks English.

DANCE

• **Bailarinas Por que Não?** (Asa Sul/503). For adult dancers who want to reconnect with their inner ballerina. There are samba no pé lessons, in case you want to unleash your inner "Rainha da Bateria".

• **Ballet Garden** (Asa Sul/514). A serene place for Ballerinas of all ages.

• **Backstage Dance Center** (Asa Norte/710). The street dance mecca for teens.

• **Have Dreams** (Asa Norte/712) One of the best Hip Hop schools in South America.

• **Ritmos** (Lago Sul/QI 23). Small dance studio mainly for children serious about their classes.

• **Lá na Dança** (Asa Norte/203). When in Brazil it is a good opportunity to learn the increasingly popular forró. Or how about samba? La na Dança has it all and it's great fun too.

HOUSE CALL INSTRUCTORS

• Dance: **Melquiade Hernandez**. Want to learn Zumba, Samba or really any dance move, or need a trainer for a fun afternoon with your besties. +55 (61) 9830-1899

• Dance: **Vitor Avelar.** Young and talented Vitor is involved in the professional dance scene in Brasília. Vitor has been part of the TV show Dancing with the Stars - Brazil edition. He makes sure you have fun while learning.

• Fitness: **Rafa**. A trainer who has worked in some of the top gyms.+55 (61) 98 441-2711

The Dance of Freedom

Capoeira is an Afro-Brazilian martial art and game that includes elements of dance, acrobatics, music, and spirituality. It was developed as an early form of resistance and cultural expression among enslaved Africans. It became prohibited as the slaveowners feared rebellion. The sound of the berimbau instrument is quintessential capoeira.

• **Fitness**: Victor. Both a fitness and boxing instructor who can come to your house. +55 (61) 98 402-8737

• Yoga: **Ingeburg Schutz**. One of the most experienced teachers in BSB.

Brazil a Jiu-Jitsu Powerhouse

Jiu-Jitsu came to Brazil with the Japanese immigrants. The Gracie family built on the Japanese heritage while reinventing the sport to BJJ. Royce Gracie proved that using the Brazilian technique, skills can beat size. The world was shocked when he won over much larger opponents. Since then Brazil has produced world champions, shaping MMA, and inspiring fighters everywhere.

- Yoga: **Maria Leticia**, Hatha Yoga instructor who runs popular outdoor classes in Asa Norte.

- Aqua Gym: **Alexandre** teaches out of Clube Naval, but can easily come to your house. Call him to set up a class: +55 (61) 99 654-4502

- Swim: **Marcel**, who trains at one of the top swim institutions (Minas), also offers lessons in your private pool. Marcel speaks English. +55 (61) 8284-2450

- Swim: **Ronanzinho**: Ronan is an **Apice** instructor (tri-athlete) and if he is not available he will know who is. Great training, and good vibes guaranteed.+55 (61) 99264-7966

- Swim: **Tiago Sato**. A living legend in the open-water swim community, one of the few who have crossed the English channel. He can prepare you for open-water swimming in the lake. +55 (61) 98 173-8221

CLIMBING

Sport climbing in the region takes place 50 km from the city center, on the limestone rock of Fercal. But before you adventure out into nature, you should sign up for training.

- **UBT** (Asa Norte). You can book a time and come try out the climb or you can sign up as a regular.

- **Eleva** (SIA). A 500m2 rock climbing gym with something for all levels. The largest place in the area; they also offer holiday camps for kids.

GOLF

- **Brasília Golf Club** (Setor de Clubes Sul). Part of the original planning for the city, the Golf Club is incredibly popular amongst locals and foreigners alike. Some come to win trophies others just to make friends. The club has a driving range and a putting green that are open to the public. Also, you may pay and play at the golf club if you are not a member.

SKATEBOARDING

- **Parque Deck Sul** (Asa Sul). More than 600m2 with boxes, handrails, and other obstacles. Great view of Paranoá Lake.

- **O Sukata** (Octagonal). One of the most traditional places to skate. Recently (2023) reconstructed as a skate park that features curves and bowls.

- **The Banks** aka “Bancario” (Asa Sul). Considered the most iconic street skate place in Brasília . It’s covered, the ground is made of polished stone or marble—smooth pavement, as well as stairs, ledges, benches, and gaps (drops similar to high curbs) that were part of the original design of the Banks. In short, it is a skater’s delight.

PARKOUR

- **Drop & Leap** (Asa Sul). It's not just something that you watch in music videos; it is real and you can practice parkour in Brasília —if you are courageous, that is. Contact **Poli.**

VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball is one of the sports with a strong tradition and following in Brazil. After football, it is a team sport with huge popularity. Most recreational clubs have volleyball and beach volleyball courts, but we have a few suggestions if you want to participate in the volleyball community.

- **Pro Volley Brasília** (Various)
- **Brasília Volley** (Various)

TENNIS

Brasília is full of tennis courts and great teachers. There are two schools of reference in the city: **Dumont** and **Raw**.

- Dumont at **IATE** continues to have the best national ranking (placed 5th).

- **Clube do Exército** (Setor de Clubes Sul). Here you find three tennis schools, each one with a unique perspective (Wellington, Raw and Mr. Tennis). **Raw** trains the kids with tennis ambitions and participates in tournaments nationwide. **Mr. Tênis**, trains everyone from kids to adults and beginners. Wellington, a WTA & ATP level trainer often chooses his students (he takes on all levels). +55 (61) 98 242-1905

- **AABB** (Setor de Clubes Sul). The Guga School of Tennis, named after Brazilian tennis legend Guga, is a great place particularly for the younger players.

Tennis Moment

*Brazil is having a moment on the international tennis scene. One of the new and promising talents of the sport is the young **João Fonseca** that has the world's pundits “Fonsequizados” (all worked up). In 2023 before turning professional, João Fonseca played the **Challenger 100 in Brasília.***

GYMS

• **Fabrik** (Lago Sul). Probably the coolest gym in town. The industrial design sets the tone for a studio that focuses equally on body and mind. Not a place to attract gym-bros but a place for you and me. You practice barefoot!

• **02** (Lago Sul). Gym deluxe! O2 is the most expensive gym in Brasília and it is marketed to a restricted crowd. It believes in personalized experiences and limited access. It is a place where people come to work out and be seen in the latest fitness fashion.

• **Studio Velocity** & **Kore** (Lago Sul). Both studios use scenic lighting systems and music to enhance the experience. No need to be a member; it can be a pay-as-you-play situation. Fun guaranteed.

• **Bodytech** (Various). Part gym, part sports club, this Rio de Janeiro transplant has families enrolling in hordes. Bodytech is also used as an “afterschool” destination for many kids who love sports.

• **Companhia Atlethica** (Asa Sul/ Pier 21). Hailing from São Paulo, this indoor club was the first of the big city clubs to open in Brasília and is also an “afterschool” destination for many families as it offers a huge variety of sports.

Boutique Gym

***Fabrik** founder **Alex Griebler** Has set up the first boutique gym, where the focus is not only building muscles but also building health. Because of its cutting edge philosophy Fabrik has attracted the best personal trainers in town. The gym attends all ages and welcomes you to the family!*

FOOTBALL

• **Little Kickers Brasília** (Asa Sul). Football for the youngest!

• **PSG Academy** (Setor de Clubes Sul). From 4 years old and up, this is for the boys and girls who are crazy about football - or for tiger moms who have ambitions on their kids’ behalf. They even have their own Youtube channel where they post videos from matches.

• **Flamengo** (Various). Despite the name, the Flamengo football school is for everyone - boys and girls at all levels.

• **Sports Club BSB** (Setor de Clubes Sul). Francesco, teacher from the French School, runs this Saturday football club at the diplomatic club. It's unisex and all levels are welcome.

Football Mania

*Brazil is the only country in the world to be “penta champion” and people are positively football obsessed. UK writer Alex Bello’s book **Futebol** is a good starting point for you if you want to understand the deeply rooted meaning of football in Brazil.*

BICYCLING

Bicycling is becoming “a thing” in Brasília . Not sure it is very recommended given the lack of bicycle lanes, but if you absolutely must, we have a few recommendations:

- **Apice** (Various). The reference tri-club in Brasília.
- **Clube Squadra**. Usually meets once a week in Parque da Cidade and on the weekends they organize group trips around DF.
- **Rebas**. If you prefer mountain-biking, this is a good place to start.

TRIATHLON

Triathlon is one of the fastest growing sports in Brasília, and there are competitions throughout the year. Most recently Brasília returned to the Ironman circuit with a huge competition in and around DF.

- **APICE** (Various). Renowned local tri-club. You will always meet them around town.

RUNNING

- **The Corre** (Varies). The most stylish group of young runners and athletes in town, a place for people with a sporty mindset and a healthy lifestyle. Corre always partners with heavyweight brands for their events.
- **APICE** (Asa Sul/ Parque da Cidade). Join the tri-athletes on their runs around the iconic Parque da Cidade. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

The Brasília Marathon

*There are two yearly traditional Marathons in Brasília. The most prestigious is the **Monumental Marathon**, which is part of the international Mega Finisher Run Series, it takes place in November. The other **Brasília Marathon** celebrates the anniversary of the city and takes place in April. When the races are announced you have to purchase entry fast, as they often sell-out fast.*

HORSE RIDING

Brasília has several horse-riding clubs so depending on where you live you might be more inclined to use one rather than the other.

- **Centro Hípico** (Asa Sul/ Sudoeste). Inside Parque da Cidade.
- **Escola da Hípica** (Saida Sul). The most traditional club in Brasília, located by the South end of Plano Piloto in the direction towards Guará. They also have a section for kids with special needs.
- **Centro Hípico** (Lago Sul). On the Piquet family’s fazenda, a homey place to learn to horse ride has bloomed.
- **Country Club** (Park Way). Dressage or show jumping, at the country club they are serious about good horsemanship.

MOTOR SPORTS

Brasília is the hometown of Formula One star Nelson Piquet, so for obvious reasons motor sports are popular in his hometown. There are three racetracks in Brasília, but the biggest and nicest of them all is under reconstruction to be open only at the end of 2026.

- **Kart Paranoá** (Paranoá). An arena for both kart and motorbikes.
- **ProKart** (Guará). The school belongs to Kartodromo Ayrton Senna in Guará. This is the circuit where the local championships are held, and the school has several champions in its fold. Ayrton drove on this arena back in 1977.
- **Autódromo BRB** (Eixo Monumental). After several years of struggles, the best circuit in Brasília will reopen in 2026. Keep an eye out for the main events at this iconic circuit.

SPORTS ON THE LAKE

• **Cerrado Sup** (Asa Norte). Operates out of Almirante Club.

• **Katanka** (Setor de Clubes Sul/ Clube das Nações). Katanka was a first mover in Brasília when it came to watersports. You can rent everything from SUPs to optimists.

• **Clube do Vento** (Asa Sul). Watersports galore. Clube do Vento has practically any kind of watersport, kitesurfing included.

• **Capiva'a** (Asa Sul). Hawaiian canoeing. Renata of Capiva'a is known for her full-moon excursions on the lake.

• **Eu Remo Sorrindo** (Asa Sul). Fernanda Rachid offers canoeing for all ages and even special needs. Also offers holiday camps, moonlight outings, and eco-tours along the river that feeds the southern part of the lake.

• **Jacanoá** (Various). Run by Tiago Sato (mentioned above). Organizes weekly swimming sessions in the Paranoá Lake.

• **Paranoar Wake/Surf** (Setor de Clubes Norte/Lake Deck Bar). Wakeboarding or surfing on the lake, this is the hub.

DIVING

The diving community is alive and well in Brasília. You can get your PADI license and participate in a myriad of their diving activities within or outside of Distrito Federal. How about diving down to the sunken city in the Paranoá Lake?

• **Ecodivers Brasília** (Asa Norte)

SWIMMING

The Brasília Clubs are supplying the capital with medals on a national level during the Masters events. The best places to swim are **Iate** and **Minas**, but if you do not wish to enroll in a large club, here are less expensive neighborhood alternatives.

• **Raia 10/Manta** (Various). At these semi-Olympic indoor pools, the Gustavo Borges Method (famous Brazilian Olympian) is used as a way to make the little tykes love the water and learn to swim fast.

• **Nad'Arte** (Various). No fuss, semi-Olympic indoor pools.

• **Clube do Exército/Lula** (Asa Sul). 50m Olympic outdoor pool. You don't need to be a member to sign up, but it is on the pricier side, which then gives you the luxury of practically always having a lane to yourself.

• **Clube Naval** (Asa Sul). One of the best outdoor 50m pools with training at a competitive price. It can get crowded. No need to be a member to sign up. The swim is run by APICE, the tri-club.

RECOVERY

• **Lofty Wellness Center** (Lago Sul, QI 09). With focus on wellness and recovery, Lofty provides a unique service for athletes and wellness lovers alike. Ice baths, breathing classes, hot-yoga and ballet—everything in a peaceful and pleasing environment.

• **Mesotherapy** (Setor de Clubes Sul/Clube do Exército). The body whisperer is the nickname of Andrea who runs a one-woman show. The studio might be rustic, but there is nothing shabby about Andrea's hands. +55 (61) 98 401-7370

• **Fabrik** (Lago Sul/ QI 09). At this amazing gym you find saunas and ice baths that will help reset your body after high-performance competitions or just because you deserve it.

• **Cyro** (Lago Sul/ QI 11). State of the art recovery facility.

NUTRITIONIST

It is a well-known fact that high-performance and nutrition are linked. Even if you are not looking to compete, you might want to live your best life and a nutritionist can help you with that.

• **Isabel Aiza** (Asa Norte/Brasília Shopping). An athlete herself, Dr. Isabel runs and swims and understands performance nutrition as well as common, everyday nutrition.

• **Mariana Melendez** (Asa Sul/614). Mariana Melendez's **Fauve** clinic is based at the Vitrium building at the end of Asa Sul, where the focus is on weight loss and obesity. Dr. Melendez is a voice often invited to discuss nutrition and weight loss on podcasts and in the media.

FREE OF CHARGE

• **Parque da Cidade** is full of options if you find you need no further training, but would like to practice alone or with a group of friends. The park is equipped with 14 multi-sports courts. The newest addition to the complex is a 300m2 outdoor gym operated by **Mude.** It is free of charge; however, a timeslot must be booked through their app.

Furthermore, the bike and walking paths that circle the park make for a great 10K run or bike course. Be aware: it can become crowded during the weekends, so come early! There are plans to reactivate the wave pool in 2026, another sure reason to come early!

YOGA/MEDITATION

• **Indian Embassy** (Asa Sul). Every Tuesday and Thursday you can enjoy free classes if you enroll via email at: culture.brasília@mea.gov.in

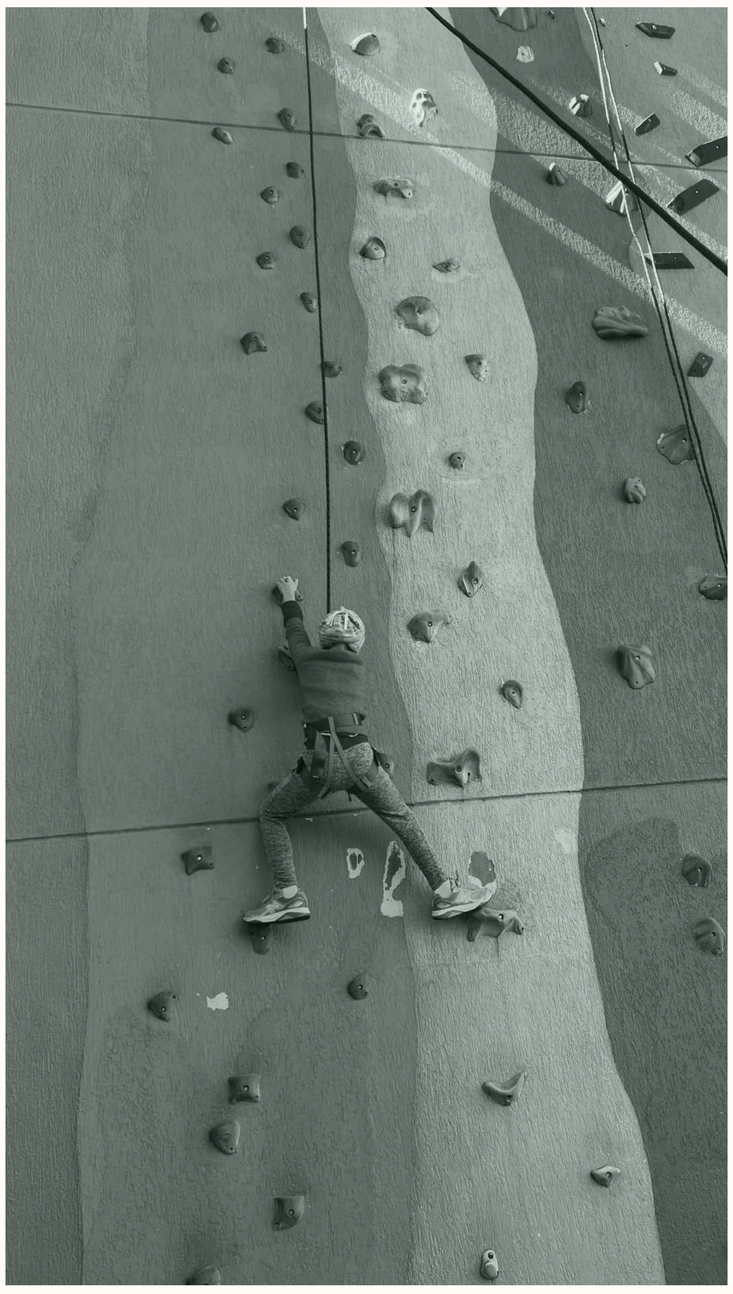
• **Casa Adhara** (Lago Sul). This is a yoga temple; they have everything from Hatha to aero yoga. We recommend Ingeburg's classes.

• **Lofty Wellness Center** (Lago Sul). Hot-yoga in a spa setting? What not to like! You do not need to be a member to sign up for classes.

• **Instituto Shambala** (Asa Norte). Center for yoga, with classes in Hatha Vinyasa and Ashtanga. You also find meditation and massage.

ACTION-PACKED

If you are looking for an adrenaline kick or a fun program with your friends, there are a few places that people keep on returning to:



PURE JOY!

• **Escape Room** (Various). You thought you were smart? Well, crack this game then, and escape before it's too late. Enigmas for kids and adults alike.

• **IFly** (Asa Sul/by Pier 21). Flying weightless like an astronaut is part of the fun at this "flight school". We don't recommend you go right after a big meal.

• **Go-Kart** (Asa Sul/ Parque da Cidade). Gasoline in the blood? If so, this is the right place for you.

• **Play Bowling** (Asa Sul/Pier 21).This traditional bowling parlor is a typical meeting point for the young crowd on weekends.

• **Commandos Paintball** (Taguatinga). If you like a good dose of adrenaline, you can try this dystopian setting for your next paintball outing with your friends.

• **Climbing Wall** (Asa Norte/604). UBT teaches all ages to climb and also gives circus classes. Fun place for the whole family.

• **Space Jump** (Guará). The largest trampoline park in the area. A smaller trampoline park is to be found at Pier 21.

• **Fly Simulation** (Guará). Made to train real-life pilots. You can rent your own practice session.

• **Nicolandia** (Asa Sul/ Parque da Cidade). The fun fair in Parque da Cidade. There is no entrance fee to the park so accompanying adults can join the fun for free. We recommend you purchase an all-access bracelet. You can save quite a dime if you purchase it online in advance, but it is easy to buy on site too. Let the fun begin. Check out opening hours before going.

MEETING LIKE-MINDED

It can be hard to be away from home. Below we have listed a few examples of where you can go find people “like you”.

LEARNING PORTUGUESE

When you are new to the city and new in Brazil, there is nothing better than to try to learn the local language. Besides language and cultural information you will also be getting crucial life skills, increasing your chances of making local friends. If you choose a group class, the added bonus is that you get to know fellow foreigners in the same situation as you.

- **Mario Nunes**. Private Portuguese lessons in the comfort of your home. +55 (61) 99 982-5886

- **Portuguese with Luciana** (Online). You can even begin your lessons before you arrive. Luciana has a great system for booking your classes, which takes into account the timezone you are living in.

- **UnB** (Asa Norte/UnB). Most people we know have loved going to the university campus for their classes, and they have learned fast too. However, UnB is not always very good at responding to requests for information, so patience and resilience is required.

- **ICEPE** (Instituto Cultural de Ensino de Português para Estrangeiros). Classes are held at Alliance Française where their secretary Mirelly also speaks English. +55 (61) 99 452-9292

EXPAT CLUBS

These “clubs” are full of people who in various degrees are new in town.

- **Accueil**. A group of French-speaking expatriates organizing weekly entertainment, gatherings and excursions.

- **Internations.** A mainly English-language speaking group that meets for drinks and to exchange ideas.

- **Living Brasília Forum.** An online group on Facebook where you can ask questions or sell and buy things.

- **Brasília Hash House Harriers.** A self-proclaimed drinking group with a running problem.

- **Brasília Network.** A WhatsApp group of expats that organize weekly entertainment for its community. Ask around to get connected.

- **As Kandangas** - A WhatsApp group that organizes one cultural event per month, mainly centered around visits and lectures on architecture and art. Ask around to join in.

Human Rights

Brazil has some of the most advanced LGBTQ+ laws in the world. Homosexuality has been legal since 1830. This is one of the earliest examples of decriminalization in the world. In Brazil same-sex marriages are also legal as is adoption and family rights.

Dom Bosco’s Prophecy

Legend has it that Italian Catholic Priest Dom Bosco, had a dream where he saw a new grand civilization marked by prosperity, justice and happiness arise. The geographical description matches that of Brasília. That is why Dom Bosco is the patron saint of the city.

MUSIC

Brasília is famous for its musical tradition and some venues are just as famous as those in São Paulo or Rio. This strong musical tradition has an impact on musical education in Brasília, where renowned schools are welcoming all ages.

Brazilian Instruments

Music is essential to Brazilian culture, and along the years, uniquely Brazilian instruments have arisen. Instruments that are often used in samba, maracatu, and capoeira. Have you ever heard about Cuíca, Atabaque, Cavaquinho, Berimbau or the Reco-reco? All are distinctively Brazilian.

MUSIC SCHOOLS

• **Escola da Música de Brasília** (Asa Sul/602). A music school of national renown that educates all levels, from beginners to professionals. Some teachers are even international names; hence, it is a good place for the serious student with lots of opportunity for growth.

• **Escola de Música de Clube de Choro** (Eixo Monumental). Mostly a school for adults with classes of all levels. In the musical heart of the Federal District, inside a building designed by Niemeyer, classes are given to further and maintain the famous Brazilian music style, the Choro.

PLAY IN A BAND

• **School of Rock** (Asa Sul). Specialized in rock music with a focus on playing with others. All ages are welcome.

HOME MUSIC TEACHERS

It can be challenging to fit music classes into a full schedule, therefore we have gathered some of the most recommended private teachers who offer classes in the comfort of your own home.

GUITAR

• **João Victor** +55 (61) 99 295-7976

• **Karine Bertullutti** +55 (61) 9630-1550

PIANO TUNER

• **Daniel Pantoja** is a piano tuner and musician in his own right. He hails from a musical dynasty and his dad and uncle once played with Chet Baker. He is one of the best tuners in the country.

PIANO

• **Piano Studio Nova Geração**

• **Adriane Carinci**. Teaches piano and violin. Has lived in NY and speaks fluent English. +55 (61) 99 977 3111

• **Edgar** - Fluent English speaker. +55 (61) 98 272 4542

Music shop

*Did you know that the largest music shop in Latin America is found at W3 in Brasília? **MUSIMED** is a unique shop where you can find anything music-related. Lots of sheet music and a host of knowledgeable staff ready to help you find what you are looking for.*

HOBBIES

Some of us are more into an artistic way of expression, and in DF you will find many courses that can help satisfy your need.

ART CLASSES

• **Jaqueline Marafon** (Asa Norte/ Espaço Aroeira). Classes in oil, acrylic, and watercolor painting. Jaqueline brings artists from Brazil and from renowned art academies in Italy and Russia to conduct her workshops. Great ambience mainly for adults.

• **Par de Ideias** (Asa Norte/303). For adults, a varied program of art ateliers.

• **Casa das Artes** (Asa Norte/102). Art courses for children with holiday camps during main holidays.

PROGRAMMING

It is becoming increasingly popular, particularly among kids, to make their own games. This is a way to turn their gaming hobbies into life skills.

• **CTRL Play** (Asa Norte)

• **Codigo Kids** (Guará). The biggest coding school in Brazil.

• **Super Geeks** (Asa Sul)

CLOTHES MAKING/CRAFTS

Always wanted to be your own designer? Or do you just need a few upcycling tricks to renew the wardrobe? We have a few addresses that might be helpful.

• **Vestida de Sonhos** (Asa Norte). Learn everything from the basics to the advanced. This school will take you to the next level. For all ages.

• **Na Casa da Vivi** (Asa Sul). Learn to knit or crochet. From beginners to advanced. All ages welcome.

CHESS CLUB

We will let you in on a little secret. If you are into chess you should click **here** and join the FBX chat to stay tuned to all chess related events. Inside Parque da Cidade there is a space behind the Carrea Kart ring called Espaço Cerrado where there are often chess tournaments on the weekend.

• **Mearas** (Various). Chess for all ages.

• **FBX** (Various). Chess for all ages by Federação Brasiliense de Xadrez.

COOKING

It is never too late to learn to cook, or to improve! Feeding a family or learning the tricks of the trade can be very valuable lessons indeed.

• **Instituto Gourmet** (Asa Sul). Everything from baking to sushi, the Gourmet Institute teaches it. Courses for all ages.

• **Escola Diego Koppe** (Asa Norte). From beginners to advanced, you are welcome at any level. Courses fill up fast!

MATH

• **Kumon** (Various). Kumon is an institution in Brazilian kids' lives. It is where they "play" math. Courses are made like games and kids win small prizes when they improve their skills.

CHOIR

Love to sing? We have two suggestions for you to have fun performing.

• **Vox Mundi.** International amateur choir that performs in public and mostly in English.

• **Tutti Choir.** Semi - professional choir with a competitive selection process, performing at a high-level in venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York.

BSB Gamer's Habitat

*Brasília is quite a hub for the gaming industry, in part due to **Behold Studios** that develop prized games such as Chroma Squad and Galaxy of Pen & Paper. Don't forget to check out the yearly **Game Festival or Game Hub.***

PROVISIONS & EVENTS
Contents

p.39

Groceries
From supermarkets to specialty shops

- Supermarkets
- Open Food Fairs
- Local Specialty
- Foreign Products
- Warehouses
- Butcher
- Organic Food
- Fishmonger
- Gourmet Frozen
- Fine Brasília Liquor
- Wine
- Cheese

p.42

Treats
Because you deserve a treat today

- Best Bread
- Ice Cream
- Chocolate

p.44

Parties & Birthdays
Live for today, plan for tomorrow, party tonight…

- Party Planners
- Renting Utensils
- Catering Companies
- Professional Home Bars
- Hiring Waiters
- Private Dining Chef
- DJ
- Flower Decorations
- Magic
- Entertainment
- Birthday Cakes/Sweets
- Packaging
- Animator for Small Kids
- Inflatables
- Kids Party Venues
- Photographer/Video

Provisions & Events

GROCERIES

In Brasília there is something for every taste and every purse. For daily groceries you can find a supermarket nearby. It has become popular to go to the open fairs on weekends to get fresh produce as well as the huge “atacados” for buying in bulk at competitive prices.

SUPERMARKETS

In Brasília you will find there are 4 dominating supermarkets; they all have online purchase options.

- **Big Box** (Various). The best price point, but you will have to deal with spending time in line due to the slow tills.

- **Carrefour** (Various). Mid-range prices.

- **Pão de Açucar** (Various). Nowadays, only the price point is high-end. But it is reliable and a fixture.

Pastel de Feira

There is a long tradition in Brazil for buying vegetables and greens at the local street food fair, and tradition prescribes that when you do, you stop and enjoy a “pastel de feira”—a fried, fluffy dough filled most typically with meat or cheese. It is enjoyed with a fresh pressed “caldo de cana” (sugar cane juice).

• **OBA** (Various). Most exclusive and has the best quality fruit and greens, not to mention this is where you should get your fresh milk products.

OPEN FOOD FAIRS

Most of the food fairs are only open on Saturdays. **Click here** to find a food fair near you, below we only list the classics.

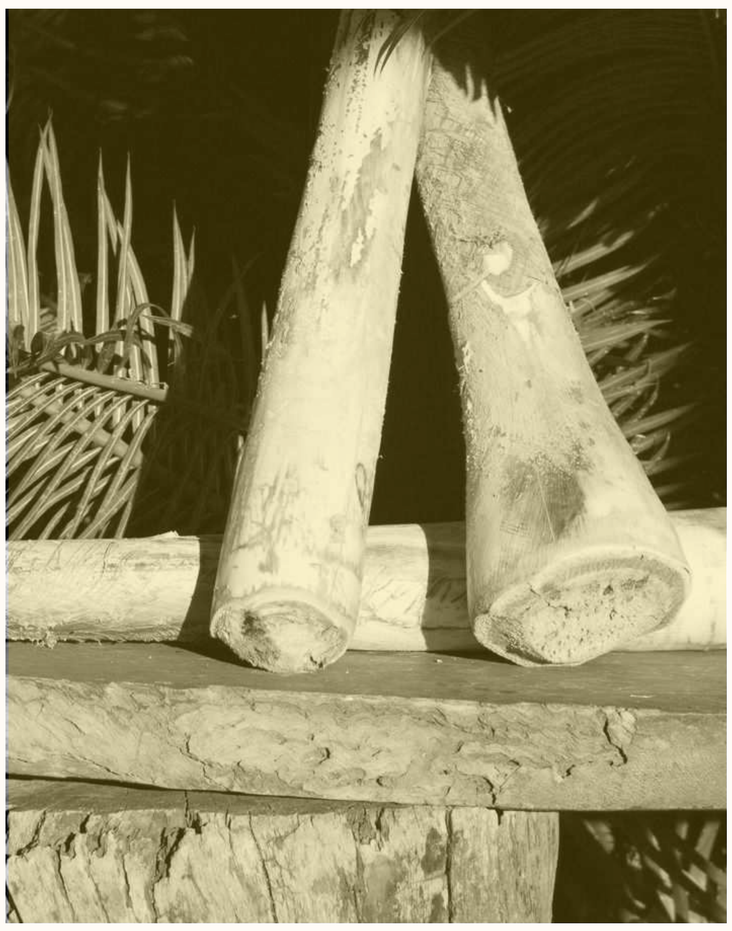
• **Feira 13** (Lago Sul/QI 13). Great organic market where you can find lots of good things including great Brazilian cheeses – ask for Sandra.

• **CEASA** (SIG). Ceasa is the place where most restaurants go to make their purchases. While purchases are mainly in large quantities, the shops allow you to buy there too. It is, however, a little far for daily groceries. For a party, it can be worth the detour.

• **Feira do Guará** (Guará). Open from Wednesday to Sunday, this is a traditional market not exclusively dealing in foodstuffs. It is one of the most traditional markets around and you should not forget to try a pastel while you are there.

• **Feira Ponta Norte** (Asa Norte/ 216). On Saturday mornings this is the place to be. Here you find delicious organic produce and an even better vibe.

• **Feira do Produtor** (Jardim Botânico). Located between all the plant shops. At this Saturday morning market, not everything is organic but it is cheaper than the supermarkets. Be sure to get there early.



Japan Town

Did you know that Brazil is home to the largest Japanese community outside of Japan? The Japanese arrived in the beginning of the 20th century to work in the coffee plantations outside São Paulo. In Brasília there is also a large Japanese community, and the commercial quadra 415/16 is popularly called the Japanese Quadra— here you will find many shops of Asian origin.

LOCAL SPECIALTY

• **CEASA** (SIA). This is where all the trucks come in loaded with produce from all over the country, so your best bet. If it exists, you will find it at CEASA.

• **Central do Cerrado** (Sobradinho). Here you find everything that is locally produced in artisanal form. It is a treasure trove for Cerrado aficionados.

• **Pomar Brasília**. Delivery of organic produce.

• **Merceria Collaborativa** (Asa Norte/412). This is a delicatessen shop that carries lots of interesting food items from a select group of small producers. It is a “luxe for the table” kind of shop.

• **Banca Caipira** (Lago Sul/QI 05). This top secret place is where you can find the **1979 (Vertente)** coffee at a really competitive price—the same coffee is sold for double the price after being repackaged by high-end international coffee brands.

FOREIGN PRODUCTS

There are two Japanese supermarkets that stand out when you want restaurant quality products. The things you don’t find you can always request. Especially at La Palma, they are really good at finding and making the things you need appear.

• **Mikami** (Asa Sul/415). Great for Korean and Asian foodstuff in general.

• **La Palma** (Various). What they don’t have you can request, and chances are they can get it for you.

WAREHOUSES

Buying in bulk is a Brasília favorite. There are several different warehouses to choose from, but we have chosen two that are very widespread and popular.

• **Super Adega** (Various). Great place for wine, alcohol and everything else. They also deliver.

• **Sam’s Club** (Various). This is a paid membership warehouse, but members insist it is worth every penny.

Pupunha

You should taste fresh pupunha - the heart of palm. It is a nutty flavored delicacy with indigenous origins. They used the palm for wood and building purposes and also consumed the heart. Today it is grown sustainably and is a quintessential Brazilian salad ingredient.

BUTCHER

- **Sobradinho Carnes** (Asa Sul/506). Great price point!

- **Fribraz** (Cidade Ocidental). Order meat from this female owned butcher (**Daniela Anelli**), who guarantees animal welfare. Delicious meat with good conscience, directly from the source.

Supreme Olive Oil

*Brazilian olive oils are on the rise and **Mantikir Blend Summit Premium** has just been selected the 3rd best olive oil in the world. Hailing from **Vinicola Essenza** deep in the Serra da Mantiqueira where owner Herbert Sales also produces Brazil's best rosé wine.*

ORGANIC FOOD

- **Malunga** (Various). One of the oldest brands of organic produce in Brasília. The only place you can find certified organic fresh milk, yogurt, and cream.

- **Pomar Brasília** (Online). You can order your organic veggies directly from this farm and have it delivered once a week.

- **Fazenda Organica** (Online). The direct way from farm to table order Sunday, receive Tuesday. Ask about free delivery.

- **Armazen do Campo** (Asa Norte/115). Uniting many of the small family farms in a community, this group has organized around the common purpose of growing green. At times they have a market on Saturdays at 216N

FISHMONGER

- **Mary Mar** (Asa Norte/407)

- **A Peixaria** (Asa Sul/408)

- **UEDA** (Feira do Guará)

GOURMET FROZEN

- **Swift** (Various). If you cannot help yourself and need to buy frozen food items, we recommend you try the local brand Swift. It is similar to Piccard, known by most Francophiles. For some reason they understand freezing better than other companies and the prices are unbeatable.

- **Kalamares** (Asa Norte/406). This unique shop carries deluxe items you cannot get elsewhere such as duck and foie gras, and it is tucked away down in a basement. Fear not, it is part of the charm. Psssst: let's tell you another well-kept secret: You can order fresh oysters from them if you ask nicely.

Are you Nuts?

Did you know that the Cerrado biome is home to the Baruzeiro, which produces nuts called Baru nuts? The Baru is not only a delicious and recognized superfood, it is also claimed to be an aphrodisiac.

FINE BRASÍLIA LIQUOR

Hard liquor is also being produced in Brasília. We have a few for you to try next time you are having an "apero".

- **Cachaça Authoral** (Online/Park Way). It is easier to get Authoral in Paris than in Brasília; however, we know how you can easily get your hands on one of the finest cachaças on the market. Produced out of his home in Park Way, lawyer Eduardo Moreth has quietly begun producing small quantities of this liquid gold.
+55 (61) 99 267-0247

- **Gin Apurã** (Online). The Apurã Gin (Apurã signifies mountain in Tupi-Guarani), has already begun making waves, winning prizes in Brazil for this premium artisanal gin. It is the fruit of a small group of friends whose ambitions and homage to their Italo-Brazilian roots inspired them to produce this amazing gin.

Less Fertilizer!

*Brazilian **Embrapa** researcher, **Dr. Mariagela Hungria** won the World Food Prize 2025 for her pioneering work on biological nitrogen fixation, revolutionizing food production in Brazil and causing farmers to use far less fertilizer. The international prize is also a recognition of Brazilian research that is leading the way to a more sustainable food production.*

WINE

While in Brasília, you should try to get to know the local wine market. Year after year, Brazilian sparkling wines are taking over the rankings worldwide, and now the red and white production is also seeing a huge leap in quality.

- **SW - Simples Wine.** Alison Proazzi carries many delicious Brazilian wines including natural and sparkling wines from small, hard-to-get producers.

- **Rota de Vinho** (Asa Sul/410). This is a place where you can get the best national and international wines and where their sommelier will help you with harmonization upon request.

- **Mistral** (Asa Sul /206). The largest wine importer in Brazil. At Mistral you can find most of what your heart desires. All the expensive bottles you can imagine!

- **Super Adega** (Various). If you are looking for a good offer, many people opt to go to Super Adega where they have national and international wine and liquor.

Picanha

The picanha cut of meat is the Brazilian churrasco meat par excellence, if you are ever invited to a grill party "churrasco," you can be sure that the prime meat will be the picanha.

Elza Lima's famous Picanha:

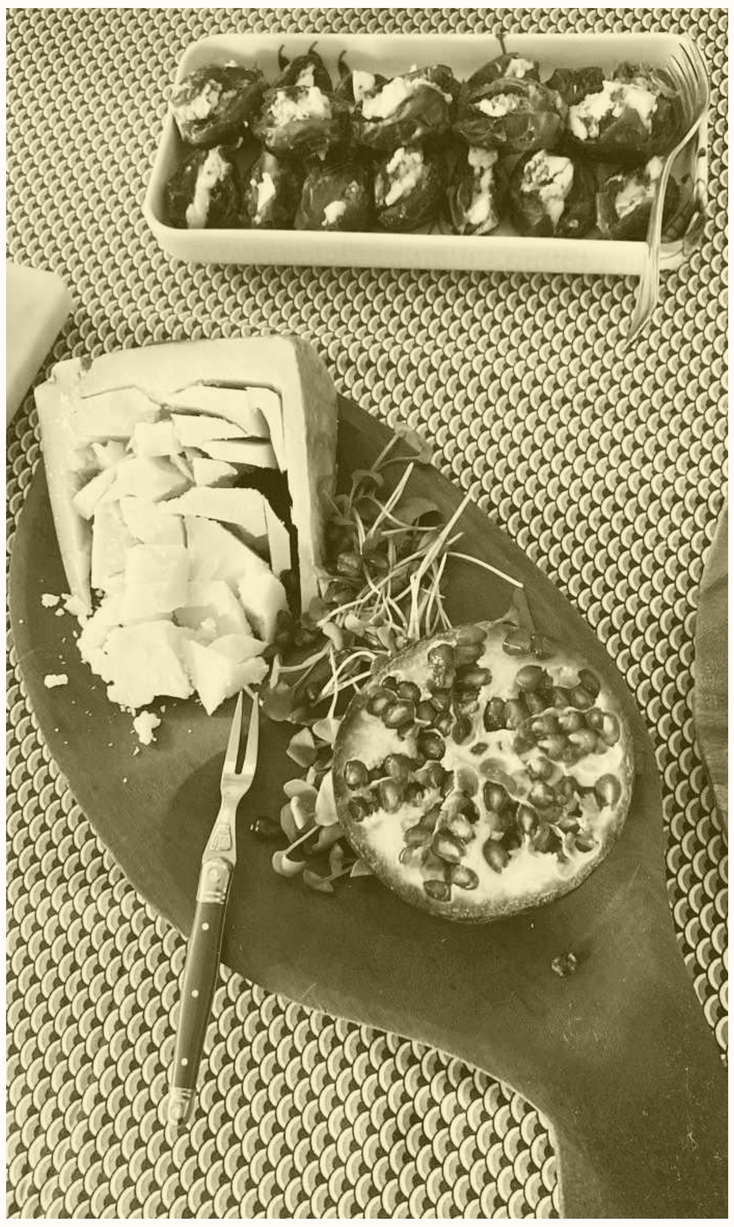
1. *Preheat the oven to 250 °C (482 °F).*
2. *Place the whole picanha in a roasting pan with the fat side up (grease the pan).*
3. *Cover the fat layer with a generous amount of coarse salt.*
4. *Roast in the preheated oven. To check for doneness, pinch the meat with a fork — when it no longer releases blood, it's ready to serve (removing the salt).*

CHEESE

- **Empório Capital** (Casa Park). Probably our favorite place to get Brazilian artisanal cheese.

- **Feira 13** (Lago Sul/QI 13). Great organic market where you find great Brazilian cheeses – ask for Sandra.

- **Teta** (Asa Sul/103). A cheese and wine bar, where you can also buy cheeses.



Musical Somellier

*Somellier and professional flute player **David Castelo** can come to your house and pair the live music to your wine.*

TREATS

Brasília is booming with treats. We have made some serious categories for you to satisfy your tastebuds.

BEST BREAD

Over the last 10 years there has been an increase in artisanal bakeries, we have narrowed down the list to only contain the top of the crop.

- **Varanda** (Asa Norte/215). Hidden on the back side of 215N, Varanda has a huge following of bread fans. It is our favorite bakery too. You should try their multi grain bread! Besides bread they also sell delicacies. You can go to the shop or order delivery.

- **La Paniére** (Asa Sul/211). The best baguette in town. If French bread is your thing this is the best place. We recommend you try their pain au chocolat as well!

- **Castália** (Various). A close runner up to the best bakery in town. With more and more shops opening around town, their quality remains top notch.

- **Pasta Madre** (Jardim Botânico/ Dom Bosco & Solar de Brasília). Selling German style bread and a good cheese selection.

Soninha's Treats

If you like to taste some of the best Brazilian snacks, Soninha from Clube das Nações sells pão de queijo, quibe, pastel and lots of other traditional things. +55 (61) 98 355 0231

ICE CREAM

You will of course find loads of great Italian ice cream shops in Brasília; we want to be slightly more original and list a few local ice cream makers that produce delicious quality ice cream with local flavors to try – be careful, it's addictive.

- **Sorbe Sorvetes** (Asa Norte/405). Amazing and sometimes experimental ice creams. In the dry season, you must try the ipê flower ice cream.

- **Mare Di Sapore** (Asa Norte/116). Brazilian ice-cream flavour meets Italian technique.

- **Saborella** (Asa Norte/112). International flavors – many people come for their Dubai ice cream – a mix of chocolate and pistachio. Best pistachio in town.

- **Delicias do Cerrado** (Various). This shop was made famous by its popsicles, but they have expanded the range to include the ice cream cones and cups in all the delicious Cerrado flavors. Try the black vanilla or graviola.

Superfood from the Amazon

Açai is a small blueberry-like berry from palm trees in the Amazon Rainforest. It is made into a paste and eaten in the Amazon region as a savory dish to accompany fish. Surf culture in Rio changed that. They experimented with frozen Açai and added banana and granola, and this is how Açai is consumed outside of the Amazon. Its high content of antioxidants, fiber and healthy fat has made it a global superfood phenomenon.

Yoko'z Ice Cream

Delicious Japanese-inspired ice cream made in Brasília? ***Yoko'z*** *small pots are a delight. Order via Whatsapp or purchase at Mikami or Daiso.*

Tropical Coup Dänemark

The traditional coup calls for vanilla ice cream with melted chocolate sauce, but try the local version: Tapioca ice cream with melted goiaba sauce.

Brigadeiros

In Brazil it was never "a thing" to consume hard chocolate bars; instead they consume chocolate truffles aka Brigadeiros. A tiny, fluffy, sinful mouthful of condensed milk, butter and cacao powder, covered in sprinkles. In Brazil, if there is a celebration, you can be sure to find brigadeiros.

CHOCOLATE

In the land of the cacao plantation it has taken a while for the local chocolatiers to engage in the sport of making great chocolate. In Brasília there are now several that vie for the position as the best chocolate in town. What's your choice?

- **Dengo Chocolate** (Various). 100% Brazilian and sustainable chocolate, Dengo takes huge pride in its ethics and collaboration with the cacao growers and ensures fair trade of the beans. Their Quebra Quebra chocolate is what we recommend for gifts. It can be bought in huge and long pieces that makes an impressive (and delicious) gift.

- **Stans** (Asa Sul/407). The first chocolatier in Brasília was founded by Swiss Xavier Odermatt, who arrived in 1973. Over time he opened Stans, an homage to his native hometown. Brazilian flavors and Swiss technique sets Stans Chocolates apart.

- **Bruksel Chocolate** (Various). André Kainan from Taguatinga makes delicious chocolate with beans from Espirito Santo and fruits from the Cerrado. Can be found in gourmet coffeeshops around town.

- **LaBarr** (Asa Norte/710N). With its beautiful packaging, the LaBarr chocolate has gained a loyal following. This local BSB chocolate has already won several prizes for its tasty bars.

- **Clemens Chocolate de Origem** (Lago Norte). A bean-to-bar family owned artisan chocolate factory. You can purchase their organic chocolate at the factory on weekdays, but the organic grocery store Malunga also sells them.

PARTIES & BIRTHDAYS

Who doesn't love a party? It can be a lot of work, and in a new city it is no small feat to find everything you need, so we have consulted with some party-loving people, and share all their secrets below.

PARTY PLANNERS

• **Ecofestar.** From birthdays to big corporate events, Ecofestar helps you plan and execute your ideas. They have everything for rent including decorations, furniture and tableware.

• **Parti Pris.** For smaller events, Winnie & Julia design everything from stationary to party decorations. Once architects they turned a hobby into a business with Parti Pris.

• **Reserve Petit.** Small kids' party. Adriana and Natacha have good taste and go the extra mile to make your kids' birthday party unforgettable.

• **Reserve.** Adults' Party. Adriana also decorates for grown-ups and always with her trademark good taste.

RENTING UTENSILS

If you know how to plan your own event and just need some nice tableware, we have a few recommendations.

• **A Solução Festas** (ASF). Lilian has a very reliable shop that for more than 30 years rents out everything for the table. This is a place where you can rent high-end tableware such as crystal glasses.

• **Kalonchoe Festas** (Asa Sul/Lago Sul). Fairly priced, this is a recommendation from top restaurateurs in town.

CATERING COMPANIES

There are lots of buffet services in town and a few have caught our attention.

• **Renata la Porta.** Uncrowned queen of the buffet circuit in Brasília.

• **Cema Mangê.** Up and coming, contemporary buffet concept that besides corporate events also does smaller events such as kids' birthdays, brunch and snacks.

• **Buffet Federal.** Tried and tested, owner Emerson makes a great buffet for corporate and more intimate events.

• **Doutor Picanha.** Paulo Picanha brings the churrasco gaúcho to your house!

• **Paella by Jaime Cuadros.** Are you planning a party and need a delicious Paella? Talk to Jaime, this is what he does best.

PROFESSIONAL HOME BARS

• **Irmãos Drinks**. With more than 20 years on the bar service circuit, the brothers Adrielly and Francisco have only had great reviews.

• **Open Bar Premium**. Corporate events and weddings specialists.

HIRING WAITERS

There are times where you will need a waiter for a gathering at your residence and we have a few names of waiters that have served top restaurants and diplomatic events.

• **Alexandre**. A waiter at Restaurante **Aquavit** who also works at embassies for more exclusive private dinner parties. +55 (61) 98 196 6804

• **Ivanho**. +55 (61) 98 624-1266

• **Elson**. You can ask Elson to bring his wife as a "copeira" (glass washer). They work as a team and are very reliable. +55 (61) 3389 7895/ +55 (61) 9601-0182.

• **Mario**. Experienced and agile. +55 (61) 8557-0293

Food Slang

There are several great foodbased insults:

***Tapioca furada** (tapioca with holes) - Unreliable/inconsistent*
***Encher a linguiça** (stuffing the saussage) - Full of hot air*
***Panetone sem fruta** (Panteone without fruit) - Disappointing*
***Panela de pressão** (pressure cooker) - Explosive*
***Feijão sem caldo** (beans without sauce) - Dull/dry*
***Cafe com leite** (coffee with milk) - Inconsequential*
***Biscoito murcho** (soggy cookie) - Defeated/deflated*
***Mão de alface** (lettuce hand) - Clumsy/ineffective*
***Sem sal** (without salt) - No personality*
***Pão Duro** (dry bread) - Stingy*

• **Giovani**. Often works in pairs with Washington. +55 (61) 8413-2045

• **Washington**. Often works in pairs with Giovani. +55 (61) 98 461-0908

PRIVATE DINING CHEF

• **Simon Lau Cederholm**. Simon is Danish; he can create whatever you desire. He is the best chef in town.

• **Leonidas Neto**. Sous-chef to Simon Lau, Leo also branches out and works private parties. He is so incredibly good with deserts, it is a crime.

DJ

• **Umiranda**. One of the most talented Afro-Funk DJs in all of Brazil. He has a past as a dancer and choreographer.

• **Karla Testa**. A Women in Music Ambassador, Karla plays at all the major DJ events around town.

• **Guilherme Macedo**. No hipster here, just a man who brings the hits with lights, illuminated floor and sound.

• **Lucca Borges**. Used at many of the cool sporting events to animate the athletes, Lucca knows a thing or two about getting the crowd pumped up!

FLOWER DECORATIONS

• **Atelier Flourita.** Creative and personalized flower decorations by Carolina Cyrino.

• **Higor Lima.** Flower designer for private parties and corporate events.

• **Rodrigo Resende**/ Magia das Flores (Asa Sul). When big international shops, like Tiffany's or Louis Vuitton, need a bouquet, they all call Rodrigo.

Dinner Parties!

If you are invited to an informal dinner at someone's home, don't expect it to be a "sit down" occasion. Dining tables are used as self-service stations and buffet style eating is preferred, giving dinners a more laid-back vibe. In Brazil, even a simple get-together with a few friends quickly becomes a festinha (small party).

MAGIC

• **Mágico Ravel**. If you need a magician for your birthday, Ravel is available to perform for any age group and situation.

• **Clown Magician**. Yep, a clown magician with a huuuuge following. Particularly good for younger kids.

• **Claudio Grassi**. If only the best is good enough for your party, Claudio Grassi, the number one illusionist in the country, travels around the country to entertain at parties.

ENTERTAINMENT

• **Escola de Samba: Academicos da Asa Norte**. Tetra champions in the Brasília Carnival. Send a booking inquiry to Pablo. +55 (61) 98 131-6203

• **Dance Instructor Melquiade Hernandez**. If you want a dance instructor for your party, Mel can teach Zumba, Samba, Line Dance or practically anything you can think of. Lots of fun guaranteed: +55 (61) 98 301-8990

• **Cassio da Silva**. Samba instructor who can come animate your houseparty or visiting family! +55 (61) 99 242-8502

Brazilian Nova Food Classification

*At the core of The Brazilian Dietary **Guidelines** established in 2014 is the recommendation to avoid processed food while sticking out behavioral guidelines and emphasise sustainability. Brazil uses the NOVA system, which groups foods by degree of processing, not nutrients. This public policy promotes adequate and healthy eating. It also boosted scientific research, having national and global influence.*

© Arte da Nat

BIRTHDAY CAKES/SWEETS

• **Arte da Nat** (Cakes/ Sweets). Need a cake for a birthday? Nat makes theme cakes.

• **TB Cake & Sweet**. Cakes and Brazilian birthday sweets by Tatiana Barros are famous around town. You can even order her brigadeiros on iFood.

• **Andrea Zakarewicz.** You will be hard pressed to find cookies more beautifully decorated anywhere in the world. The perfect sweet party favor.

• **Dolce Vita Doces**. Gabriela Motta specializes in deluxe brigadeiros.

• **Fernanda Amaral**. High-end brigadeiros.

• **Cake Health** (Sudoeste/ CLSW 102). Who said cakes could not be "healthy" and still look and taste breathtakingly well? Stunningly artistic and fresh-looking cakes! With or without sugar.

• **Momma** (Various). If you're looking for healthier treats without sacrificing flavor, Momma is a good choice. With zero added sugar, zero lactose, and zero gluten, they have a wide range of cakes and sweets.

PACKAGING

• **A Festiva** (Asa Sul/106). At A Festiva you can get your bouquet of gas balloons and lots of party decorations. A must-visit destination for party planners.

• **Rei das Embalagens** (Asa Sul/ 510). You can find lots of wrappings and paper decorations at Rei.

Dona Benta's Cookbook

Many countries have a reference cookbook, in France it is La Rousse Gastronomique, in Italy you could argue it is "The Silver Spoon" in Brazil you have Dona Benta. In the Dona Benta cookbook you can find all sweet and savory recipes for the classic Brazilian cuisine.

ANIMATOR FOR SMALL KIDS

• **Amiginhos do Som**. The best team for young children. A talented group of musical adults to stimulate your guests and children. National awards for best show.

INFLATABLES

• **Farfinha Festas.** Many people rent inflatable foam football fields and other party toys here.

• **Felix Festas**. This is where you find a great selection of inflatable garden party items. They have a tried and tested foam machine that is a hit with the kids.

• **Akeleta.** Inflatables and snack booths for rent.

Giant Cerrado Vanilla

*The Cerrado is home to some of the world's largest vanilla beans, the Vanilla Pompona —they can be as big as bananas. Few can successfully cultivate them in the Cerrado, but at **Vale do Torto** they can.*

Informal VS Formal Time

In Brazil, the first thing you learn when you are invited to people's home for an informal dinner is that you should never arrive on time. Privately, Brazilians are nonchalant, and if you are punctual you risk arriving while the host is still in the shower. However, formal invitations are punctual affairs. If in doubt - ask.

KIDS PARTY VENUES

• **Smart Party DF** (Jardim Botânico). “Night Club” for teens. It is a big hit and Smart Party knows how to organize it. They plan everything from the decorations to the DJ to the invitations; you just need to show up to your big day.

• **All In Karaoke** (Asa Norte/305). Singalong and dance to the tunes of your own choosing and the voice of your friends. Fun guaranteed.

• **Kids Games** (Asa Sul/215). Have you ever tried to participate in a multiplayer game? Well, we understand the kids are hooked. Take your kids' hobby to the next level with a gamer party!

• **Fashion Teen** (Asa Sul/410). A place that makes creative workshops.

• **Clube das Nacões** (Setor de Clubes Sul). The Brazilian diplomatic club rents out its space for a very fair price for parties.

• **Pine Tree Farm** (Lago Sul). A great place for a fun adventure.

• **Fazendinha Azul** (Park Way). Get in touch with nature and animals at Fazenda Azul.

• **Casinha Volpi** (Park Way). Great outdoor space with “Water Park” and varied activities.

• **Zunia X** (Asa Sul/Pier 21). This is practically a party in a play-land with trampolines.

• **Escape Room** (Various). At Escape 60 you solve enigmas at times related to well-known series or current events.

• **Bowling** (Asa Sul/Pier 21). At Pier 21 you find a traditional bowling alley; it is all set up to host your party.

PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEO

If you want a keepsake from your party, you can hire a professional photographer and videographer.

• **Reisy Ruzzi.** A tried and tested photographer who does everything from major events such as National Days to family photos.

• **Luiza Celidonio**. An experienced sports photographer, Luisa never misses a beat. She also works events.

• **Alexandre Ayala**. If you need video or drone images, you can count on Alexandre, who does National Days and family videos upon request.

• **Olga Galybina.** With a keen eye for architectural light and shadow, she captures both people and their surroundings in the same shoot — and is an excellent choice for professional product photography. +55 61 996985454

Lembrancinha Mania

There isnt a party in Brazil without a “lembrancinha” for the invitees. Birthdays, weddings and baby showers all hand out party favors in the end. The favors depend on how deep your pockets are, but in general it is just sweets, cake, or some sort of trinket.

Kids Playlist

*Children in Brazil grow up with music, lots of it, and sometimes some of the biggest stars on the national music scene get involved. One example of this is **Os Saltimbancos** from Chico Buarque. Another example is **Toquinho no Mundo da Criança**.*

TIME OUT Contents

p.49

Where To Go
Your go-to sources for taste and style

p.50

Coffee Shops
Best beans in town

- Asa Sul
  - Gourmet Coffee
  - Brunch & Fitness Café
  - Crowd Pleaser
- Asa Norte
  - Gourmet Coffee
  - Crowd Pleaser
  - Hipster Café
  - Book Café
- Sudoeste
  - Gourmet Coffee
  - Brunch & Fitness Café
- Lago Sul
  - Brunch & Fitness Café
  - Crowd Pleaser
- Park Way
- Eixo Monumental
  - Crowd Pleaser
- Shout Out To

p.52

Dining
Local cuisine and the capital's favorite dishes

- Food Writers
- Asa Sul
  - Churrascaria
  - Kilo Restaurant
  - Vegetarian / Clean Eating
  - Worth A Drive / Chef Restaurant
  - Feijoada
  - Business Meal – Upscale
  - Street Food
  - Best Pizza
  - Japanese / Sushi
- Asa Norte
  - Hip Meal
  - Kilo Restaurant
  - Vegetarian / Clean Eating
  - Street Food
  - Best Pizza
  - When Mom Is In Town
- Sudoeste
  - Business Meal – Upscale
  - Street Food
- Noroeste
  - Japanese / Sushi
- Lago Sul
  - Worth A Drive / Chef Restaurant
  - Business Meal – Upscale
  - Vegetarian / Clean Eating
  - Japanese / Sushi
  - Best Pizza
  - When Mom Is In Town
- Lago Norte
  - Worth A Drive / Chef Restaurant
  - Lunch Only / Weekend Only
- Club Sector
  - Churrascaria
  - When Mom Is In Town
  - Business Meal – Upscale
  - Feijoada
- Eixo Monumental & Vila Planalto
  - Business Meal – Upscale
  - When Mom Is In Town
  - Feijoada
  - Churrascaria
  - Kilo Restaurant
- Shout Out To
- Delivery

p.57

Night Out
Music & Bars

- Asa Sul
  - Balada - Dancing Bar
  - Barzinho de Boa - Chill Live Music Bar
  - Rolê - Bar
  - Enoteca - Wine Bar
- Asa Norte
  - Barzinho de Boa - Chill Live Music Bar
  - Rolê - Bar
  - Enoteca - Wine Bar
- Lago Sul
  - Enoteca - Wine Bar
- Eixo Monumental/Club Sector/SIG
  - Barzinho de Boa - Chill Live Music Bar
  - Rolê - Bar
  - Balada - Dancing Bar
- Dry Season Pop-Up

p.59

Retail Therapy
Curated finds: from malls to hidden gems

- At The Mall
  - The Malls
  - Brazilian Fashion
  - Beach
  - Fine Jewelry
  - Shoes
  - Lingerie
  - Sportsgear
  - Baby/Kids Clothes
- Boutique (Outside The Mall)
  - Brazilian Fashion
  - Fine Jewelry
  - Shoes
  - Leather Goods
  - Sportswear
  - Lingerie
  - Open Market Gift Store
  - Bijuterie & Eyewear
  - Fashion Pop-Up!
  - Gift from Artist Ateliers
  - Vintage
  - Craft Gifts
  - Brasília Design Furniture

Time Out

Brazilian Coffee

For more than 150 years Brazil has been the number one coffee producer in the world, responsible for supplying the market with ⅓ of the world's coffee beans. While Brazil is famous for volume, in recent decades it has also become a leader in specialty coffee, producing award-winning microlots.

WHERE TO GO

It is easy to have a good time in Brasília. We will try to equip you with a good starting point when it comes to coffee shops, restaurants, bars and also introduce you to some of the many brazilian retail brands if you are in the market for local Brazilian fashion.

If you want to get a heads up on what is new and good in Brasília, we suggest **Pouso Brasília**, **Estilozzo**, **Curadoria da Bia** & **Mapas de Afeto**.

COFFEE SHOPS

When it comes to coffee shops, Brasília is booming. Coffee roasters and baristas are in high demand and the cafés around town are full of great coffee, signature dishes and treats. We have organized a small interesting selection after placement in the Plano Piloto.

ASA SUL

GOURMET COFFEE

• **Muy Café** (Asa Sul/307). You don't go here for the décor; you come for the coffee! Muy is much more than just a shop to buy beans—it is a true coffee lab, dedicated to high-quality beans, precise brewing methods, and a deep appreciation for the craft. Try the sustainably grown Eduardo bean.

BRUNCH & FITNESS CAFÉ

• **Cafe e um Chêro** (Asa Sul/107). This is the place for those who want to taste Brazilian breakfast fare: Tapioca (fitness folks love it!), açaí, cakes, pão na chapa and pão de queijo.

• **Cafe Angelita** (Asa Sul/409). Serves Brazilian style breakfast all day with a cozy backyard. It gets crowded during the weekend.

• **Lilie** (Asa Sul/211). A nice place with a French vibe, illy coffee and croissants. Their avocado toast never fails.

• **Casa Brisa** (Asa Sul/213). A cozy place with a menu that is fitness inspired. There's a playroom with toys and books for smaller kids. On Saturday mornings there's a yoga class for only R$15.

Brisa is on trend with the health crowd and hosted the first **coffee party** in town!

CROWD PLEASER

• **Casa Almeria** (Asa Sul/104). Great spot with a lush, green garden and a contemporary to classic menu.

• **Castália** (Asa Sul /304). One of the cosy spots in town and as a bonus you can take-away the best bread in town.

• **Ernesto** (Asa Sul/115). One of the top cafés in town with a cosy garden area. Try the "aipim" cake (made of manioc and coconut) for a delicious and unique Brazilian flavor. They recently opened a new branch at **Caixa Cultural**. You also find a branch in Asa Norte.

It's a Coffee Party

*The craze surrounding coffee parties has arrived in Brasília—parties with no alcohol but lots of good vibes, excellent DJs and workout routines. The first edition was at **Casa Brisa** in Asa Sul. Check for more coffee parties organized by **Just a Coffee!***

ASA NORTE

GOURMET COFFEE

• **Los Baristas** (Asa Norte/404). An open-air café with one of the best coffees in town. They don't have much else, but the coffee is refined. You can sign up for the coffee club to receive freshly milled ground coffee or you might purchase their good-looking gift packs.

• **Aha Cafés** (Asa Norte/111). The design is sleek and the coffee is top-notch. At Aha they toast and grind their own coffee, which you can also purchase to take home. They also have a great iced coffee tonic! Feel free to bring your laptop.

• **Acervo Café** (Asa Norte/115). If we should mention only one place, this would be it! Acervo has the best coffee in town and it is also the most well designed café. Down to the custom tableware (in collaboration with renowned ceramist **Heloisa Galvão**), this place is in a league of its own. They also sell gift box coffee designed by Paulista design duo **Fabiola** & **Christian Pentagna**. Bring your laptop and work away!

CROWD PLEASER

• **Castanho** (Asa Norte/108). On the backside of a typical neighborhood in Asa Norte you find this little gem of a coffee shop that hires young hip baristas. Their weekend brunch packs a crowd so come early!

• **Daniel Briand** (Asa Norte/104). An old classic that continues to draw a crowd. Here you come for the ambiance, probably the coziest garden-cafe in town.

HIPSTER CAFÉ

• **Quanto Café** (Asa Norte/103). Known for its specialty coffee, fresh pastries, and light bites, this place is also a popular spot for remote work and relaxed meetups.

• **Loma** (Asa Norte/303). Charming open-air café environment with a good vibe and featuring vegan and gluten-free options as well. They have a great selection of fresh juices and their mango ceviche is a must try.

• **Casinha Cafe** (Asa Norte/206). On the backside of the design shop **FruFru**, "Casinha" is a local favorite where the audiovisual world meet up with their laptops to work and enjoy vegan dishes.

• **Adélia Padaria** (Asa Norte/ 714/15). Charming outdoor café with blue chairs and tables makes for a cool hideout in Asa Norte. The coffee is great, their ginger soda is even better, and their baked goods are heavenly. While you are here you can check out **Bem QT Quis** and **Ton Petit Jardin** that are two cute shops nearby.

BOOK CAFÉ

• **Porão** (Asa Norte/405). This is a favorite spot. You will find good service and an excellent carrot cake along with bargain bins full of books, some of which are in French. Inside this secondhand bookshop you will also find artisanal gift items by local artists like **Paula Calderón**.

• **Paradeiro** (Asa Norte/309). Cute book café with a book club attached.

• **Glória** (Asa Norte/313). One of the hip spots in town that has hired one of the best young baristas. There is a small but well curated bookshop in the local language that only carries female authors. On weekends they organize free yoga classes and often contract a DJ.

SUDOESTE

GOURMET COFFEE

• **Studio Grão Coffee Roasters** (CLSW/301). Here you come for the coffee. Great attention is being paid to the in house roasting and the baristas know what they are doing. Beautiful packaged coffees to bring back home or give to friends.

BRUNCH & FITNESS CAFÉ

• **Calmaria Cafe** (CRSW/ 3 Lote 1). Coffee and brunch all day long! If this is your thing you have to try Calmaria. Known for their great breakfast pancakes.

LAGO SUL

BRUNCH & FITNESS CAFÉ

• **Momma Brunch** (Lago Sul/QI 15). A new heath-conscious spot has arrived and it is always packed. No sugar, no gluten, no problem! Momma has several satellites around town with a fresh design and healthy sweets. Also, try their homemade ice cream cones.

CROWD PLEASER

• **L'Amour du Pain** (Lago Sul/QI 11). L'Amour du Pain faces Morro da Asa Delta. It is really crowded on a Saturday morning, when the city's sports crowd comes here after their practice. It's also a favorite spot for a meetup in Lago Sul. They have delicious baked goods —try their 3 chocolates cake or pear tart!

PARK WAY

• **Tuka** (Park Way/QD 14). At Quiosque do Tuka you can get anything from Açai to a well served PF and they also sell jars of gourmet peppers. Rustique charm.

EIXO MONUMENTAL

CROWD PLEASER

• **Casa de Chá** (Eixo Monumental). In the very heart of Brasília this is the perfect place to take visiting family and friends. Niemeyer's half sunken tea house is a design temple, from the handwritten Niemeyer logo to the furniture designed by Brasília-based designers, this is where SENAC's culinary students serve a menu of Cerrado inspired dishes along with locally grown coffee. (Open Wednesday-Sunday)

SHOUT OUT TO

• **The Coffee** (Various). Japanese-inspired but fully Brazilian (from Curitiba) concept coffee shop that teens seem to die for. The aesthetics are clean and the coffee is great. We also approve of their Matcha Latte!

Coffee Events

Brasília hosts two yearly coffee-related events: ***Coffee Brasília Wellness*** *which mixes coffee and wellness, and the more specialised gourmet-oriented* ***Brazil Coffee Week.***

DINING

Brasília is the city of comfort food and tradition. It is where "o almoço" (lunch) is the main meal of the day and as such, Brasília is not a city that is too interested in fine dining. While here you should embrace the rich culinary traditions Brazil has to offer and try some of the local favorites.

We have organized the categories in their geographical position, to facilitate your exploration. We provide you with hyperlinks, all you have to do is check for opening days and hours, and add your own favorites. Bon Appetit!

Churrascaria

Churrascarias are world famous "prix-fixe" restaurants where you can eat your heart out. There will be "rodizio" of (endless) meats circulating and you will learn to operate the little color-coded disk; green side up for "Yes, more" and red side up for "no, thank you."

FOOD WRITERS

To keep up with local favorites and what is new in town, we recommend you become familiar with a few local papers such as: **GPS Brasília**, **Metropole** and **Correio Braziliense/ Revista Encontro**. Every Friday, Correio Braziliense publishes Divirta-se Mais, where they list entertainment information along with gastronomic news and highlights in the city.

On instagram you will find an endless number of food influencers. We have a small selection of the most influential ones in DF: **Dani Carvalho**, **Raquel Bandeira**, **Raion Almeida** & **Daniel Gizo**.

There is a yearly gastronomic prize, **Prêmio Encontro Gastrô/BRB de Gastronomia**, that is a collaboration between Correio Braziliense/**Revista Encontro**, BRB and **Del Maipo** (wine importer).

ASA SUL

CHURRASCARIA

- **Faisão Dourado** (Asa Sul/314). Not technically a churrascaria, but Faisão Dourado is perfect for a quick, satisfying meat based meal. Fast service, flavorful food, and unbeatable prices.

KILO RESTAURANT

- **Manara** (Asa Sul/512). Brasília has many Arab restaurants but this simple kilo restaurant is a crowd pleaser!

VEGETARIAN / CLEAN EATING

- **The Plant** (Asa Sul/103). Lovely décor and good vibe at this go-to spot for nutritious à la carte lunch.

- **Girasol** (Asa Sul/409). Girasol is an absolute favorite with vegans. Very fresh food with lots of gluten-free options. It's a kilo restaurant with a small shop attached where you can find all kinds of healthy organic ingredients.

First Restaurant in Brasília

*In 1960, just days before Brasília's inauguration, **Roma,** an Italian restaurant opened its doors at W3 Sul, and has been in business ever since. It's famous for its "filé à parmegiana".*

Kilo Restaurants

It is a Brazilian tradition during lunch break to go to self-service buffet restaurants where you pay for the weight of your food. Restaurants operating in this segment are called Kilo restaurants.

WORTH A DRIVE / CHEF RESTAURANT

- **New Koto** (Asa Sul/212) . We have it from the Japanese community: there is no going wrong at New Koto. The interior might be modest, but for years New Koto has been one of the most consistent restaurants in town. The head chef is Cristiano Komiya who took over after his father.

Feijoada

On Saturdays, tradition begs feijoada. This is the national dish of Brazil and it is food meant to be shared with a crowd. Brazilians love receiving people and they happily welcome your friends too. Have you ever heard the expression "add more water to the beans"? This is an expression used when unexpected guests appear on your doorstep and they join your party. It is a mark of Brazilian generosity that, put simply: there is room for everyone, and there will always be enough food.

FEIJOADA

- **Paulicéia** (Asa Sul/113). Always busy on weekends, this is a very relaxed and traditional neighborhood spot. Ice-cold beers and plastic chairs in the garden—that kind of place.

BUSINESS MEAL - UPSCALE

- **Le Vin** (Asa Sul /402). The concept is French bistro, and Le Vin dominates the French classics. No-fuss food, always just right. Cozy and unpretentious.

- **Lake's** (Asa Sul/402). If you like rubbing shoulders with politicians and lobbyists who arrive in hordes, especially on Wednesdays this place is for you. Don't forget your wallet! Secret: Their weekend feijoada is one of the best in town.

- **Marie Cuisine** (Asa Sul/103). When the famous Piantella restaurant closed, the staff decided to carry on the torch. Marie Cuisine is considered one of the best in town.

- **Bloco C** (Asa Sul/ 211). Beautiful, stylish restaurant. Considered contemporary chic. There's a private room that can be booked for business meals.

STREET FOOD

- **Chico Gordo** (Asa Sul/206). The Queridinho is what sells best at Chico Gordo, with caramelized onions and buns made by **La Boulangerie.**

- **Vitamina Central** (Asa Sul/506). Don't let the humble storefront confuse you, this place has been in operation since 1976; it is a Brasília classic. You find all the "vitaminas" (juices) as well as childhood favorites such as potato bread with meat filling as well as their famous carrot cake.

- **Shawarma Sadek** (Asa Sul/308). This might not officially be the best shawarma place in town, but the view from their stall is unbeatable, next to Niemeyer's Chapel in 308 Sul.

- **Santo Acarajé** (Asa Sul /109). Bahia produces the chicest fast-food imaginable called Aracajé. There is no way you can live here without trying it. It is a small fried bean dough filled with spicy seafood. Santo Acarajé is at the market at 109 Sul every Saturday morning.

- **Takumi** (Asa Sul/415). Here, at what in Brazil is called a "pé sujo" (translates to dirty foot, but means unassuming) you get the best ramen in town. (Check for opening hours before going)

BEST PIZZA

- **Fratello Uno** (Asa Sul /103). A classic in town.Order à la carte with a glass of wine. Try the cornicciones!!! The chef's salad is a good option for dieters.

- **Vinny's** (Asa Sul / 205). Vinny's is on the 50-best list of best pizzas in South America. We certainly agree that Vinny's knows how to make pizza.

- **Baco Pizzaria** (Asa Sul/408). Without much ado, Baco continues to keep a low profile while sitting solidly on the pizza throne in town. The place isn't terribly cozy, but the pizza is the best-ranked pizza in Brasília and one of the best in South America according to **TopPizza Italy**.

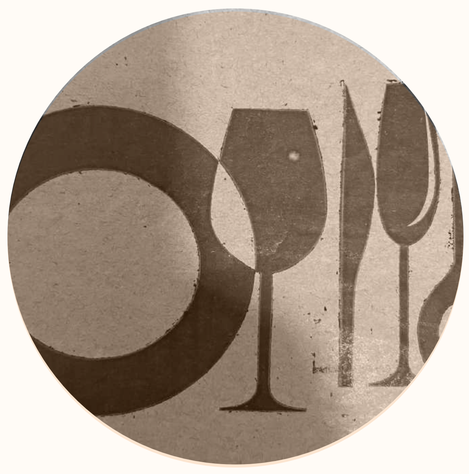
JAPANESE / SUSHI

- **Nazo** (Asa Su/403). Nazo is one of the places the young crowd flocks to. If you have teens in the house, chances are this will be one of their favorite places in town. The "sushi train" is charming and the garden area is lovely. They offer menus at fair prices.

- **Nippon** (Asa Sul/ 403). One of the most traditional places in town. And one of the first places to offer the traditional sushi boat. It might not be fashion forward, but Nippon occupies a special place in the city's culinary landscape.

- **Sunsaki** (Asa Sul/405). Sunsaki offers a mix of sushi, sashimi, and hot dishes in a relaxed, modern setting. Whether you're ordering à la carte or going for the rodízio (continuous flow), Sunsaki delivers consistent quality and flavor.

- **Kawa** (Asa Sul/213). One of the "hidden," beautifully designed Japanese restaurants that has a great garden area to sit in. A local favorite with great quality à la carte sushi. They also have good hot dishes served in beautiful ceramics.



Prato Feito Phenomenon

Prato Feito, or "PF", is a ready-made meal—complete, fast and nutritious—but it's more than just a lunch or dinner plate; it's a cultural phenomenon. Brazilians, of all social backgrounds, love a PF. A typical PF consists of beef, rice, beans, salad, and farofa.

WE SHARE BSB

ASA NORTE

HIP MEAL

• **Superquadra** (Asa Norte/ 404). Neither fast food nor traditional restaurant, this is such a unique place with simple high quality food cooked over the grill in front of you. We recommend you try the Oswaldo Aranha beef! (Closed Monday).

• **Jamburita** (Asa Norte/ 714). Contemporary Northeast Brazilian food. Lovely ambiance with a young and artsy crowd. Options for vegetarians and the gluten-intolerant too. (Thursday to Saturday lunch and dinner)

• **Gaijin** (Asa Norte/ 716). Contemporary Japanese food. The vibe is alternative, the food is delicious and so are the drinks. Monday closed. Only open at night.

• **Bitaca da Norte** (Asa Norte/ 716). Laid back and very Asa Norte, this place has its roots deep in the Minas Gerais traditions but throws in some new unexpected twists. Everything is high quality. It's a place to enjoy an ice-cold beer with your meal. (Monday Closed).

The Food Checklist

While in Brazil there are some delicious must-try food items:

- *Feijoada*
- *Moqueca*
- *Acarajé*
- *Churraso*
- *Tapioca*
- *Açaí*
- *Queijo Coalho*
- *Pão de Queijo*
- *Farofa*
- *Duck in Tucupi*
- *Tacacá*
- *Casca de Siri*
- *Pirarucu*

KILO RESTAURANT

• **Asparagus** (Asa Norte/309). Contemporary buffet with excellent side dishes. Popular with professionals and families alike.

• **Asa Gaucha** (Asa Norte/709). Fair prices and tasty food. The highlight is meat that comes straight from the grill without churrascaria prices.

VEGETARIAN / CLEAN EATING

• **Nattu** (Asa Norte/405). Pescetarian kilo restaurant that draws a faithful crowd. Simple, cozy and nutritious. Open for almost 30 years, it's an institution on Brasília's health food scene.

• **Apetit Natural** (Asa Norte/407). A relaxed, health-focused kilo restaurant offering a variety of fresh, wholesome dishes, including vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options.

• **Amor à Natureza** (Asa Norte/310). One of the old and good restaurants in town with a lovely garden in the back.

STREET FOOD

Nothing like a quick bite of guilty pleasure, we have a few addresses that you have to check out.

• **Hermanito** (Asa Norte/405). If the lines could speak...Mexican fast food when it is best.

• **Ricco's Burger** (Asa Norte/206). One of the best prepared burgers with the meat always just right. A favorite among the town's chefs.

• **Paprika Burger** (Asa Norte/204). Distinguishes itself with all the fresh add-ons.

• **Gomes e Bebes** (Asa Norte/307). Excellent vegetarian burger amongst others.

• **Açaí Casca** (Asa Norte /311). This amazon fruit and health food favorite is conquering the world for a good reason. It is absolutely tasty! From the traditional (pure with guarana syrup) to the more complex, with cocoa, passion fruit, beetroot and cupuaçu. Experiment, find your own favorite.

Delicious Produce

These are some tasty finds to try in Brazil:

Veggies: *Mandioca, Quiabo, Jiló, Chuchu, Couve, Pequi (technically a fruit), Jambu*

Fruits: *Acerola, Caju, Graviola, Jabuticaba, Jaca, Mamão, Manga, Pitanga*

BEST PIZZA

• **Castália** (Asa Norte/711). Baked over wood, this is the only pizzeria seriously disputing the crown with Baco. The Castália people know their way around dough! What do you think?

• **Apulia Pizza & Mozzarella Bar** (Asa Norte/413). A slice of Southern Italy in the heart of Brasília, Apulia specializes in pizzas with fresh, high-quality ingredients, especially their signature mozzarella. Great for a casual dinner or a laid-back evening with friends.

WHEN MOM IS IN TOWN

• **Du Pará** (Asa Norte/714). This humble eatery is Pará culture in food form and a reference for lovers of Northeastern food. Try their fried pirarucu or tacacá and finish with a tucumã or uxi ice cream.

SUDOESTE

BUSINESS MEAL - UPSCALE

• **Faro** (SIG/QD 08). Brazilian contemporary, upscale but decidedly rustic ambiance Faro has designed an experience. They use contemporary pottery. Great executive lunch menu on Fridays at a very fair price.

• **La Fleur Bistro** (CSLW/302). A romantic bistro that the locals defend ferociously. It has a French vibe with Brazilian accents in the kitchen.

STREETFOOD

• **Auara Açaí** (CLSW/300). Açai from Paraense is king at this gourmet Açaí place. Ask to taste to find your personal favorite (Asa Norte also has an Auara at 114N).

NOROESTE

JAPANESE / SUSHI

• **Noru** (CLNW/10). Abalada (popular) Japanese Sushi restaurant. Noru arrived with a “big bang” and has been elected the best in Brasília.

LAGO NORTE

WORTH A DRIVE / CHEF RESTAURANT

• **Aquavit** (Lago Norte/SMLN 12). Hands down, the best place to eat in town, situated in Chef Simon Lau’s home in Lago Norte on the shorefront in the distance overlooking Palácio da Alvorada. Simon is the chef behind the Cerrado movement, exploring and collecting new experiences when he goes out foraging in the Cerrado. Open Fri & Sat. +55 (61) 991 67 0000

LUNCH ONLY / WEEKEND ONLY

• **Quituart** Polo Gastronômico Lago Norte (Lago Norte). This is a place where you can find many of the up and coming as well as the established chefs during the weekend, including Babi Frazão’s **Afeto**. (Babi won the Master Chef Competition)

City of Immigrants

Culinarily Brazil has been marked firmly by Japanese immigration and sushi lovers will not want for anything in Brasília — of course old recipes have been digested and reinterpreted for the local way of life.

LAGO SUL

WORTH A DRIVE / CHEF RESTAURANT

• **Taypa** (Lago Sul/QI 17). Chef Marco Espinoza is bringing the Peruvian classics to Brasília. His Taypa restaurant is also one of the most refined and pleasant dining experiences in town.

BUSINESS MEAL - UPSCALE

• **Restaurante Lago** (Lago Sul/QI 05). An elegant setting in the quiet part of Lago Sul—a perfect place for business lunch or dinner. The beautifully decorated restaurant is always full of “beau monde”. The food is Brazilian with a modern twist, and prices are steep.

VEGETARIAN / CLEAN EATING

• **Cura** (Lago Sul/JD Botânico). Nestled inside the Jardim Botânico, Cura is a serene organic kitchen dedicated to wholesome, nutrient-rich dishes made from fresh, locally sourced ingredients—perfect spot for a peaceful escape with clean eating. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

JAPANESE / SUSHI

• **NK Sushi** (Lago Sul/QI 07). A stylish spot in Lago Sul offering sushi and contemporary Japanese dishes. Good choice for both casual lunches and special dinners.

• **Kinjo** (Lago Sul/QI 17). A modern sushi place offering both rodízio style and an à la carte menu, it blends Japanese tradition with some Nikkei influences.

BEST PIZZA

• **Don Romano Cantina** (Lago Sul/QI 11). Pizza Sicily-style, well-fermented but without letting the border become too puffy. A classic meeting point in Lago Sul for a Friday night pizza with friends. Sit on the veranda, relax and enjoy!

WHEN MOM IS IN TOWN

• **Calandria Café** (Lago Sul/Jardim Botânico). Tucked away inside the beautiful Jardim Botânico, this is not only a cafe/restaurant it is an invitation to take it slow. Go for a walk, observe, enjoy.

CLUB SECTOR

CHURRASCARIA

• **Fogo de Chão** (Setor de Clubes Sul). A famous churrasco brand and great place for business lunches. Very pricey but traditional, with excellent service and extensive buffet. You can come as you are, but most are in business attire.

• **Açougue do Berg** (Setor de Clubes Sul/ASBAC). One of the more modern places with great meats in the club sector. Popular for business lunches, with a kids' play area that makes it ideal for families. Fairly priced.

WHEN MOM IS IN TOWN

• **Ki-Mukeka** (Setor de Clubes Norte). With a view of Paranoá Lake and the best moqueca (Northeastern fish stew) in town, this is a place that serves the traditional fare in smoking hot claypots. Have a caipirinha and enjoy the view!

• **Clube das Nações** (Setor de Clubes Sul). Lulinha's restaurant is inside the diplomat's club. It's a good place to get away during lunch hours while feeling in a private setting. The food is decent and the ambience is good. During the week, it is a favorite with the legal crowd.

BUSINESS MEAL - UPSCALE

• **Almería** (Setor de Clubes Sul). Almeria has just moved to share the Beira do Lago building with churrascaria Fogo do Chão. Along with the design upgrade, the price tag is also steeper. The menu is "à la carte". Lunch continues to be tasty; the view is nice and the aircon is switched-on. You can reserve a private dining area.

• **Dom Francisco** (Setor de Clubes Sul/ASBAC). Tender meat and prices for heavyweights. There's unanimous agreement that Dom Francisco is a great place for a steak and a glass of wine. This is a top-brass establishment—you won't find many young professionals.

FEIJOADA

• **Rubaiyat** (Setor de Clubes Sul). This is where the well-groomed Brasilienses parade in their finest on Saturdays to see and be seen. Also great for business lunch during the week.

Let the Juices Flow

Checklist with signature juices to try while in Brazil:

- *Água de coco*
- *Laranja com acerola*
- *Melancia com gengibre*
- *Manga*
- *Caju*
- *Cupuaçu*
- *Açaí com guaraná*
- *Abacaxi com hortelã*
- *Graviola*
- *Vitamina de abacate*

Most Popular Beverage in Brazil

Guaraná is the most popular soft drink in Brazil. It is made from the guaraná fruit, found in the Amazon. It is a fruity drink with high caffeine content that provides a natural energy boost.

Hotel Restaurants

*Did you know that the hotel complex **Melia** has two restaurants and a classic British pub, the **Churchill bar** lounge? Try restaurant **Norton** for a contemporary flair or Restaurante **Lucca** for delicious Italian.*

EIXO MONUMENTAL & VILA PLANALTO

BUSINESS MEAL - UPSCALE

• **Restaurante Térreo** (Setor Hoteleiro Norte). Térreo is designed to soothe, the food to please and the service is impeccable.

WHEN MOM IS IN TOWN

• **Senac na Câmara dos Deputados** (Eixo Monumental). Inside the Congress building annex you find SENAC's Restaurante Escola— a buffet style restaurant where all staff are culinary trainees. You may rub shoulders with politicians while you enjoy the unbeatable view. Open for lunch only. Remember your ID and the dress code. On your way out, stop by the tiny Niemeyer chapel on the same floor. +55 (61) 2116-9887

• **Tia Zélia** (Vila Planalto). Unsophisticated, uncomplicated and lively. Tia Zelia is an institution in Brasília. Every Saturday the traditional feijoada is served with live samba. It doesn't get more typical than this. Tia Zelia is also a great lunch spot during the week.

Freshwater Monster?

Did you know that Brazil is home to the world's largest freshwater fish, the pirarucu? It is prized for its white, boneless, firm meat, often compared to cod or grouper. It can grow to four meters long and is easy to spot as it needs to come up for air every 15 minutes, making this poor, delicious monster an easy target.

FEIJOADA

- **Clube do Choro** (Eixo Monumental). You come here not only for the food but primarily for the samba. It's a first rate cultural experience—the musicians are some of the best in town and the vibe is contagious.

CHURRASCARIA

- **Sal e Brasa** (Setor Hoteleiro Norte). Typical Brazilian churrascaria with many different meat cuts at reasonable prices. It's a place for people "in the know," and that number is growing—expect crowds during lunch hours.

KILO RESTAURANT

- **Fogão de Pedra** (Vila Planalto). Traditional food from Minas Gerais — it doesn't get more typical than this.

SHOUT OUT TO

- **Mané Mercado** (Eixo). In a nice and open environment behind the Mané Garrincha Stadium, Mané has selected some of the best restaurants to have satellites conveniently under one roof. (Lunch & Dinner from 11am)

- **Pastel de Feira** (Guará Market). Go to the open market in Guará and have a Pastel de Feira with sugarcane juice.

DELIVERY

If you are more the kind who enjoys having the world brought to your doorstep rather than exploring the world, there is a way to make that happen.

- **iFood**. Ifood is both an app and a site, you can order from restaurants, supermarkets and pharmacies. All you need is to click and pay!

NIGHT OUT

Brasília is a city with lots of neighborhood bars "o bar da esquina." Each superquadra has at least one of these friendly and inexpensive drinking holes. Practical and within walking distance, no driving needed. However, if you want to venture out at night we have some suggestions for you. As always, we divide the places after their location in the Plano Piloto.

But first some vocabulary ⟶

Brazilian Nightlife Expressions

- ***Noitada*** *- Means staying out late, casual and fun night out*
- ***Rolê*** *- Slang for going out "checking out things". It can be day or nighttime.*
- ***Balada*** *- A night of dancing and partying often implying in a club*
- ***Festa*** *- Festa is mostly referring to big parties, at home or in a club, often something where you need an invitation or a ticket to enter.*
- ***Barzinho de Boa*** *- a chill or laidback little bar, often with live music*
- ***Enoteca*** *- Wine Bar*

ASA SUL

BALADA - DANCING BAR

- **Externa** (Asa Sul/Centro Comercial Amazonas). With Pipa drinks at the helm of the bar, this club is all about dancing to a new theme weekly. Check their programming and get ready to rumble.

- **Infinu** (Asa Sul/504). The producers behind Infinu have been around for a while always proposing interesting concepts to the city. It is well worth checking out their eclectic programing that is a pell-mell of gastronomy, fashion and parties.

BARZINHO DE BOA - CHILL LIVE MUSIC BAR

- **Eye Patch Panda** (Asa Sul/514). One of the few Asa Sul establishments that also draws a crowd. You have to walk up the narrow stairs to the cozy

Informal Street Party

On Fridays you can go to Asa Norte 206 and you will find a group of impromptu samba players in the underpass between 205 to 206. On Wednesdays they perform Forró.

establishment that has a great weekend live music program.

ROLÊ - BAR

• **Lobby** (Asa Sul/CSC). A listening bar that fills up very quickly. Do not miss this cool place.

• **313** (Asa Sul/303). Cocktail bar with a big city vibe in a quiet corner of Asa Sul, a place for the creative crowd. The snacks are yummy.

ENOTECA - WINE BAR

• **Teta Cheesebar** (Asa Sul/103). One of our favorite places to have wine & cheese. You can also purchase the cheese to go! Saturday at lunchtime they have some of the top musicians playing.

• **Rota do Vinho** (Asa Sul/410). A great wine bar that attracts the 40+ crowd.

ASA NORTE

BARZINHO DE BOA - CHILL LIVE MUSIC BAR

A few good places to go listen to some good local music.

• **Jobim** (Asa Norte/705). Traditional spot for live music. Due to its location with ample space outdoors, the dry season presentations can turn into bona fide parties!

• **Pinella** (Asa Norte/408). Charming corner bar in Asa Norte that always has a good programing in a mix of DJs and live music. Follow them on Instagram to get the program. Best snacks in town to accompany your ice cold beer!

• **Mundo Vivo** (Asa Norte/413). This is a feel good neighborhood bar with quality music programming. Follow them to check what's on.

ROLÊ - BAR

• **Boteco Caju Limao** (Asa Norte/202). Caju Limao has become increasingly popular and a reservation is needed during weekends if you want to avoid being turned away.

• **Traçado Bar** (Asa Norte/404). One of those cozy Asa Norte places where you can hang out in the bar and where there are more people outside than inside.

• **Casa Mimo Bar** (Asa Norte/205). Laid back, this is where the young UnB hipsters hang out. Lots of happy hours and great DJs. It's a place where you can hang out in their colorful camp chairs outside.

• **Altas Gastrobar** (Asa Norte/206). Big city vibe, little town coziness and amazing drinks. They make their own first rate ice cubes to perfection. Their snacks are few but good. Probably our favorite bar in Brasília. Always first-rate DJs on the deck too. Slightly older crowd.

• **Bar do Lustre** (Asa Norte/412). Laid back corner bar with great drinks.

• **Iracema Bar** (Asa Norte/ 213). For sure some of the best bartenders in town. Classic place with a great crowd and a good snack menu!

ENOTECA - WINE BAR

• **IVV Swine Bar** (Asa Norte/314). In a category by itself, Swine Bar is the only wine bar in Brasília to be on Wine Spectator's list of the world's best wine bars! Great all-around experience, for the older well-dressed crowd.

• **Untu** (Asa Norte/116). Acervo after dark, this design heaven is an aesthete's delight. Impeccable in décor and wine. Easily a favorite spot in town. This is a place for the cool cats in town. Only open Thursday-Saturday.

LAGO SUL

ENOTECA - WINE BAR

• **Grand Cru** (Lago Sul/QI 11). A great place for wine and tapas! Adult crowd from Lago Sul.

Pop Idol from Brasília

*Internationally renowned musician and heart-throb **Tiago Iorc** hails from the Cerrado. Born in Brasília and raised in England, he made a name for himself with his emotive and introspective lyrics.*

No Alcohol, No Problem

*Two friends started a no-Alcohol, stylish drink alternative called **Lucia**, made from typical Brazilian ingredients such as jambu, cupuaçu, and ginger to create a strong and memorable alternative to alcoholic drinks for the more health-conscious and designated drivers.*

EIXO MONUMENTAL / CLUB SECTOR / SIG

BARZINHO DE BOA - CHILL LIVE MUSIC BAR

• **Buraco do Tatu** (Eixo). On Sundays Buraco do Tatu is the place to be if you want a samba experience. It is happy, dancing, singing along to samba! As the locals say, it's “alto astral”.

ROLÉ - BAR

• **Bar 16 do Hotel B** (Sector Hoteleiro Norte). Elegant rooftop bar for the adult crowd with a taste for design and deep pockets.

BALADA - DANCING BAR

• **AmBar** (Sector Bancario Sul). There is a clubby vibe on weekends with lots of top DJs to get the good vibe going. During the dry season, the dance floor moves outside. There is a small entrance fee, but drinks and food are reasonably priced. For the young professional crowd.

• **Bar do Mezanino** (Eixo Monumental). Inside the iconic tv tower, you will enjoy your drink with the best view of the Esplanada. This is a place where young people come and they are generally dressed up.

The Perfect Caipirinha

- *This is how it is done:*
- *1 lime*
- *2 small spoons of sugar*
- *60ml Cachaça*
- *Ice*
- *Socador/muddler*

Cut the lime in half and then into moon slices. Place them in a whisky glass with the sugar. Mash them with the muddler to extract the juice and mix it with the sugar. Fill up the glass with ice cubes and add cachaça and a straw.

DRY SEASON POP-UP

• **Buraco do Jazz** (Eixo Monumental). Organized in the very heart of Brasília in these iconic settings Buraco do Jazz brings inspired music and has fast become one of the favorite destinations for the music enthusiast. Only during the dry season.

• **Na Praia** (Setor de Clubes Sul). During dry season, this place becomes a melting pot, for sports, music and family activities. Each year a new country is the theme. Musically, they bring the heavy weights like Anitta or Caetano, so keep an eye out for this place.

• **Oscarito** (SIG). The new “rolê” in town, that unites sports, culture, food and music. Lots of live music, mostly sertanejo.

Mysterious Balada

The best parties are always the elusive ones. Each dry season is the season of a new ***Hidden****. It is the most converted “balada”. It works by you receiving a location on the eve of the party. Only people on their mailing list will know where the party is. Sign up, to be in the know!*

RETAIL THERAPY

Brazil is having a moment on the international fashion scene, where brands are being picked up by major pop stars and fashion influencers. In Brasília you can get a little taste of the fashion during **Distrito Federal Fashion Week** and **Brasília International Fashion Week** but also the more local **Brasília Interfashion** is worth a visit. We have handpicked some of the major brands and common household names that are present on the local market in Brasília.

If you are interested in Brazilian luxury in the traditional sense, we suggest you connect to the IG of **Vogue Brasil, Elite** and **Robb Report**. These are curated sites that will bring you up to date on the latest trends in Brazil’s luxury industry. We also indicate a few “cool” sites, such as **That Brand Club** and **NV Magazine** - both sites have an eye for curating local brands that are up and coming.

AT THE MALL

The traditional way of shopping in Brasília is in the huge shopping mall. Here you will be able to find everything you need. We have made a list of the shopping malls and noted what we think their strong suits are along with a list of the trailblazing national brands you find at some of these malls. Check the webpages for exact locations and opening hours.

THE MALLS

Gilberto Salomão (Kids/Gifts), **Casa Park** (Furniture), **Park Shopping** (Fashion), **Conjunto Nacional** (Household/Fashion), **Brasília Shopping** (Fashion/Beauty), **Pátio Brasil** (Mixed Events), **Liberty Mall** (Artsy/Cinema) and **Iguatemi** (Luxury).

BRAZILIAN FASHION

- **Cris Barros** (Iguatemi). The São Paulo and Milan educated Cris Barros, has her own brand of clothes with a strong ethical and environmental component. The clothes are contemporary, exclusive and feminine. Very expensive.

- **PatBo** (Iguatemi/Park Shopping). Who would have thought that Uberlândia in the middle of Minas Gerais would provide the home market with one of the strongest fashion brands? Stylist Patricia Bonaldi founded PatBo in 2012 and has not looked back since.

- **Farm Rio** (Various). Quintessential Brazilian. Light, exuberant, tropical prints and flattery cuts, has made Farm gain a huge celebrity following.

- **Osklen** (Various). Contemporary and sustainable, Osklen is a fashion darling and carries both men's and women's wear.

- **Hering** (Various). The shop all Brazilians for generations have gone to for their cotton basics. (We love that they are recycling 100% of their cotton scraps)

- **Richards** (Various). Great selection of timeless men's and women's wear in breezy linen.

BEACH

- **Lenny Niemeyer** (Iguatemi). Expensive beachwear with a touch of sophistication.

- **Vix** (Iguatemi). Beachwear with a contemporary Brazilian touch, in luxury materials.

- **Havaianas** (Various). No introduction needed, but try a flagship shop to add trinkets to the iconic flipflops.

- **Melissa** (Various). Pleasing the young crowd with colourful, modern and bubble gum smelling plastic shoes. The Campana brothers model is the most iconic, but Melissa has also collaborated with UK designer Vivienne Westwood and many other famous designers.

FINE JEWELRY

- **H. Stern** (Various). Already a huge deal on the international market, H Stern is synonymous with high quality gemstones. Need an engagement ring? This is where you should (eye) shop.

- **Carla Amorim** (Gilberto). Brasiliense, Carla Amorim has been selling her creations to a very discerning clientele in Lago Sul since 1992.

Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny

*Keep an eye out for **Gilberto Salomão**; One of the most active places for pop-ups and "feiras". In the past they have had beach brands such as **Adriana Degreas** and **Haight**.*

Book on Gemstones

*If you like gemstones we suggest you read Jules Roger Sauer's **Brazil Paradise of Gemstones. Sauer** founded the creative and stunning house **Sauer** after fleeing Europe in World War II. We also recommend exploring their collaboration with artist Francisco Brennand.*

SHOES

- **Alexandre Birman** (Iguatemi). In a league of his own, Alexandre Birman has fans all over the world. Shoes of top-notch quality and a price tag to match.

- **Schutz** (Various). The first Brazilian shoe to make waves in the US with flagship shops in both New York and LA. An unapologetic fashion brand with focus on heels.

- **Arezzo** (Various). Classic and price conscious, Arezzo is a favorite shoeshop also among Parisians who have taken to Arezzo like bees to honey.

- **UsaFlex** (Various). Orthopedic shoes with a "stylish" look. We know people who bring suitcase after suitcase of UsaFlex shoes back home to family and friends

LINGERIE

• **Plié** (Various). Timeless appeal, comfort fit and ”invisibly there” look, Plié has conquered a loyal following with its contemporary design.

• **Hope** (Various). Great for basics.

• **Jogê** (Various). Lace, satin and nightwear, Jogê has a good selection for all ages.

• **Loungerie** (Various). From basic to erotic, Loungerie is a favorite with the younger crowd.

• **Liz Lingerie** (Various). This is the lingerie your mom would like. Great fit, no fuss.

SPORTSGEAR

• **Track & Field** (Various). First Brazilian luxury sports goods retailer, hailing from São Paulo and created by a group of friends dating back to the 1980s.

• **Live** (Various). Great local sports brand. Major focus on fitness and lifestyle.

Pix or Parcelado

In Brazil people who have a local credit card can parcel their purchases in up to 12 parcels. That is why many times you can get a discount when you pay cash or pix, the only way for the retailers to get your money immediately, in full.

BABY/KIDS CLOTHES

• **BB Básico** (Gilberto Salomão). All the basics you need for your baby. Clean design, vibrant colors. 100% cotton.

• **Hering Kids** (Various). This is where Brazilians get their basic cotton staples. Hering is sustainable and delivers the best local quality cotton.

• **Paola da Vinci** (Park Shopping). Softer than soft bodies and everything imaginable for the baby. Nothing minimalist - this is classic baby prince and baby princess.

On Running’s Brazilian Connection

High-end, tech forward, Swiss athletic wear, is co-owned by the Brazilian Lemann family. When the founder of On approached Lemann, (neighbors in Zurich), he bought a share and later approached his friend Roger Federer, who also joined. Together they are now expanding On’s market share.

BOUTIQUE (OUTSIDE THE MALL)

Outside the big malls we have found some small boutiques that deserve your attention. Most of these make a living on high quality craftsmanship and casual affairs.

BRAZILIAN FASHION

• **Magrella** (Lago Sul /QI 03). This is a multi-brand shop that carries most of the top national brands. It is expensive, exclusive and an interesting place to go check out the leading Brazilian brands.

• **Miwa** (Sudoeste). The new fashion generation is all about sustainability. Carol Nemoto studied fashion in Europe and is considered one of the top young talents in Italy (Milan). Contemporary, innovative clothes with a timeless touch, you can book a viewing at her atelier or purchase online.

• **Leticia Gonzaga** (Lago Sul/QI 13). For more than 20 years, Leticia Gonzaga has been a national brand that stands for timeless pieces in natural fibers such as silk, cotton and jersey.

• **Dane-se** (Asa Sul/210). A local shop that weaves stories into the fabric. It is the story of Brasília using the iconography of its artists to add identity to your t-shirts.

• **Verdurão** (Asa Sul/506 or Asa Norte/113). Always proud of its Cerrado heritage, **Verdurão** has moved into the mainstream with casual clothes embracing a lifestyle built on green living and sustainability.

FINE JEWELRY

• **Stella Guerra** (Lago Sul/ QI 11). In this multi brand shop you find brands like **Antonio Bernardo**.

The first Miss Brasília

Even before Brasília was officially inaugurated in 1960 it had its first beauty queen. In 1959, the green-eyed Rio beauty Martha Garcia with perfect measurements 92 58 92 was crowned Miss Brasília.

SHOES

• **Trilha** (Asa Norte/109). Do you need a pair of inexpensive, fashion-forward, sustainably produced shoes made of recycled materials? We are obsessed with their shoes featuring a stylized JK bridge.

• **Fezzutti** (Asa Sul/111). Fezzuti is a brand of shoes for the mature consumer. Classic and comfortable - a dangerous combination for your credit card.

LEATHER GOODS

• **Bibel** (Online). Two models of the perfect bohemian leather bags, made sustainably in Brasília.

• **Braveman Leathergoods** (Asa Sul/508). An online store and leather goods manufacturer at W3 Sul. Owners Felipe & Will, have a following throughout Brazil and abroad.

• **Bowa** (Asa Sul/202). Leather goods in beautiful design and impeccable craftsmanship. From handcrafted leather bowls to oxford shoes.

SPORTSWEAR

• **Squad** (Asa Sul/ 305). Leisurewear for the fitness segment. Good quality, fair price.

LINGERIE

• **Lingerie Verve** (Lago Sul/SHIS QI13). Their tulle patterned bra sets are beautifully crafted, comfortable, durable and uniquely Brazilian.

BIJOUTERIE & EYEWEAR

• **Zerezes** (Asa Sul/302). Brazilian eyewear when it is best. They have classic models and are venturing out into high-end sportswear. Their sportswear is an investment but you get unmatched quality. This Rio-based brand is “descolada” (super cool).

Oh La la, Lapima!

*Have you heard about Brazilian spectacle-maker **Lapima**, a brand of independent and authentic luxury eyewear that is spreading like wildfire among Hollywood stars like Julia Roberts and Emma Stone?*

Celeb Shoes

*Have you heard of **Larroudé**? A new Brazilian shoe brand with incredible success amongst foreign megastars such as Rihanna, Taylor Swift and supermodel Kaia Gerber. It is sold in shops in the US but in Brazil it is only available online – for now.*

• **Thais Fread** (Asa Norte/707). Lean and contemporary jewelry pieces at competitive prices. It’s the perfect gift. Thais attends online or at her atelier. +55 (61) 99 208-9043

Power Fashion

*Together with the birth of the new capital we also have a budding fashion industry. On the throne you would find **Dener Pamplona** who would dress all the leading politicians and the first ladies, including the inauguration dress used by the elegant and discreet Sarah Kubitschek.*

• **Ornata** (Lago Sul/QI 11). Ornata carries silverware inspired by the city’s modernist architecture. We like their homage to the superquadras, crafted with care by a passionate couple.

• **Joana Prudente** (Online). With references to the Cerrado biome Joana Prudente weaves metal threads like they were fairy hairs. It is light, contemporary and atemporal.

• **Fernanda Veras** (Jardim Botânico). Biologist and jeweler of stylized organic forms, Veras’ work is beautiful, eyecatching and interesting.

• **Rever** (Asa Sul/309). Handcrafted eyewear made from premium Italian acetate. A shop with a family history that includes learning from Nina Ricci in Paris.

FASHION POP-UP!

There are also a few fashion pop-ups:

• **Issue 61** brings some of the most exciting national brands to Brasília for pop-up events.

• **Ethne** represented by style consultant **Lucineia** will organize pop-ups and private shopping opportunities.

• **Telaio** does great cotton basics but also branches out to custom made blazers. Pop-ups are announced on founder **Paula Vilas Boas** and Telaio’s Instagram.

OPEN MARKET GIFT STORE

• **Feira da Torre de TV** (Eixo Monumental). A huge outdoor market with a varied selection of arts, crafts and souvenirs. If you have a good eye, you can find good deals here at times. You might even get your hands on the indigenous hammocks made of buriti fibers.

GIFT FROM ARTIST ATELIERS

• **Fundação Athos Bulcão** (Asa Sul/510). Get your hands on some really nice memorabilia with a direct link to one of the city’s most iconic artists. Prices are accessible.

• **Paula Calderón** (Asa Sul/905). Paula sells the most beautiful cards and notebooks with Iconic motifs of the

capital, and she also creates beautiful scarfs, and paintings. Her hand-painted porcelain with Cerrado motifs are quite spectacular as are her scarfs. Book a time to visit her atelier. +55 (61) 99 460-9559

- **Célia Estrela** (Asa Sul/104). Célia is somewhat an institution in Brasília's dinner circuit. She sells hand-painted porcelain and oil painted canvases. Call her to book a time to visit her atelier. +55 (61) 98 177-2882

- **ME Ceramica** (Asa Norte/714). Selling ceramics out of Trinka, ME Ceramica is handcrafted pieces of contemporary utilities.

- **Amanhã Ceramica** (Asa Sul/W3). Small scale handmade by Isabela Suguimatsu, we love her abstract caju series. Selling mostly online but will be open for appointments.

- **Israel Horta** (Jardim Botânico). Textile researcher Israel Horta makes stunning sculptural, decorative objects and knit fabric lamps.+55 (61) 98 274-9013

VINTAGE

- **PrettyNew** (Lago Sul/QI 05). An expensive hunting ground for serious "gold diggers." With the presence of international high fashion brands.

- **Bem QT Quis** (Asa Norte/ 714). You cannot miss this delightful shop selling curated vintage items. No brands in particular, just select items that will make you shine at the next party.

- **Desapegeui Bonito** (Asa Norte/206). A charming well designed space, where the items are carefully selected. No specific brands.

CRAFT GIFTS

- **Linum** (Lago Sul/QI 05). This little shop has high quality stationary and hand embroidered linen napkins with Brazilian motifs and lots of other useful items. High-end gift shop. Linum also handles visual identity for big parties.

- **Mão Brasileira** (Setor de Clubes Sul/CCBB). This is hands down the best shop for artisan art in Brasília. Curated to the fingertips, it is a place where you can find very unique pieces from the best artisans. Bring your wallet!

- **O Paiol** (Asa Norte/404). A shop that has specialized in finding high quality artifacts in the national crafts community. Great place for souvenirs.

- **BSB Memo** (Asa Sul/308). We go for the iconic **Danilo Barbosa** street signs, (which since 2019 have been part of MOMA New York's permanent collection). You can purchase ready-made signs and miniatures or have your own custom made.

- **Casa Caetano** (Jardim Botânico/ Quinta do Sol). A superb mix of up and coming and established BSB designed goods.

- **Loja Kabu** (Liberty Mall). Fabulous indigenous crafts, especially their stunning handmade bracelets.

Brasília Design Scene

Brasília is not a city with a noticeable consumption of luxury goods. However, there are lots of young designers taking Brazilian heritage very seriously. ***Mapa Design*** *is an account that helps you discover all the design talents in town.*

Gume Puzzle

During the pandemic the demand for great puzzles was huge, and that is when ***Gume*** *was created. You can find puzzles with motifs from all over Brazil including one of Brasília. Great gift and memorabilia for yourself with drawings from young graphic designers around Brazil.*

BRASÍLIA FURNITURE DESIGN

- **Pedro Ávila**. On Forbes standout "under 30" professionals of the year. Cadeira Codorna, an example of his best.

- **Danilo Vale**. Already an established name on the furniture scene, Danilo has participated in exhibitions in Paris, New York and São Paulo.

- **Athos**. Custom-made wood and plywood furniture.

- **Mutum**. A blend of steel, glass, and contemporary sleekness.

- **Azo Collab**. A collective of four young architects that has already made waves. Check out their Brasiliense recliner revisited in aluminium tabs from drink tins.

- **Rafaela Gravia**. Her armchair, Monolitos, obtained the silver medal in the New York Product Design Award.

- **Estúdio Mosaico**. A studio famous for integrating tiles into eye-popping benches and cubes for your house.

- **Tramando**. Beach chair with a recognizable dose of Brazilian flair.

Furniture

If you love furniture and want to keep an eye out for local designers, we suggest you follow ***Brasília Design Week*** *– a yearly event that showcases the best local design.*

CULTURE
Contents

p.65

Architecture
Modernist landmarks

- Niemeyer Architecture in Brasília
- Other Architects
- Embassy Architecture

p.70

City Art
Art that shaped the capital

- Artists Who Made Brasília
- Athos Bulcão And the Brasília DNA
- Roberto Burle Marx – The Landscape Poet
- Architecture Photography
- Other Artists From Brasília
- Young Crop of Local Artists

p.72

Agenda/Tickets
Where to find what is on in Brasília

p.72

Exhibitions
The cultural institutions

- Art Museums
- Cultural Complexes
- Galleries
- International Cultural Centers
- Museums

p.73

Theater
The best shows in town!

- Great Local Theater
- Theater Festivals in BSB

p.74

Dance
Smooth moves

- Local dance festivals

p.74

Film
Essencial Brasiliense Cinema

- Brasília Filmworld
- Brasília in the Spotlight
- Where to Watch in BSB

p.76

Music
From choro to classical music

- Choro
- Rock
- Music Concerts
- Escola de Música de Brasília
- National Symphony Orchestra
- Music Events

p.78

Literature
To read or not to read?
Brasiliense literature at its best

- Brasília and the Books
- Best Bookshops
- Literary Awards and Events

p.80

Festivals
Celebrations of culture and joy

- Carnival
- Festa Juninha
- Boi Meu Bumba – Boi de Seu Teodoro

Culture

ARCHITECTURE

You have probably heard of 1922 as a catalyst year for the modernist movement in Brazil. It refers to the Week of Modern Art in São Paulo, an event celebrating art, architecture, literature and music. Anita Malfatti, Tarsila do Amaral, Menotti del Picchia, Mário and Oswald de Andrade (the group of five) were integral to this movement and remain a reference for Brazilian art to this day.

Oswald de Andrade's *Anthropophagic Manifesto* (1928) entertained the idea that Brazil should "devour" foreign culture and transform it—a departure from the dependence on Europe and traditional academic rules.

In its own way, this is exactly what Brasília is—a *Gesamtkunstwerk* (total work of art). Brasília embodies this shift, from its city planning to its architecture, landscape design, and down to the art and the tile panels used. Brasília is a dream and it is something completely new. Niemeyer's curves forever put Brazilian modernism on the world map, so much so that UNESCO named Brasília a World Heritage City in 1987.

The Fabulous Four

President Juscelino Kubitschek, city planner Lúcio Costa, architect Oscar Niemeyer and Novocap's Israel Pinheiro (administrator of the construction and Brasília's first mayor), all have a Niemeyer building named after them in Brasília to honor their contribution to the construction of the new capital.

What makes Brasília unique is its urban and architectural features. It is a city that came to life under the direction of Kubitschek, the visionary politician, Lúcio Costa, the planner, and Niemeyer, the designer. The result: the Brazilian interpretation of Le Corbusier's modernist dream. In fact, the name Plano Piloto comes from Le Corbusier, who used the word to define city projects he imagined on paper.

NIEMEYER ARCHITECTURE IN BRASILIA

The urban plan and groundwork came from Costa. Even a new vocabulary developed around the new capital's structure. All of the palaces in the new capital were designed by Oscar Niemeyer, giving the new capital a consistent look. He had the expertise and vision to design hundreds of buildings without ever seeming repetitive. When you look at his palaces, notice how many new types of pillars he invented. His creativity seems endless.

In and around Brasília's Eixo Monumental, we find a staggering five decades of Niemeyer architecture.

The Palaces (You can book a guided visit)

- **Palácio da Alvorada** (1957)
- **Congresso Nacional** (1958)
- **Palácio do Planalto** (1958)
- **Supreme Federal Tribunal/STF** (1958)
- **Palácio do Itamararty** (1960)
- **Palácio da Justiça** (1962)
- **Palácio do Jaburu** (1973)

Important National Buildings

- **SESI LAB** - Former Touring Club (1963)
- **The National Theater** (1958)
- **The Cathedral** (1958)
- **The National Museum** (1999)
- **The National Library** (1986)

Plano Piloto 4 Scales

- ***Monumental Scale**: The central east-west axis, known as the Eixo Monumental, contains the nation's administrative and government buildings including the Praça dos Três Poderes with structures designed by Oscar Niemeyer.*

- ***Residential Scale**: Along the north-south axis, called the Eixo Rodovirário, are residential areas made up of large, self sufficient "superblocks" (superquadras). These blocks were designed with ample green space, schools and commercial areas.*

- ***Social Scale**: At the intersection of the two main axes, Costa placed the city's commercial and entertainment centers, including the bus station, hotels and banks.*

- ***Bucolic Scale**: This refers to the extensive network of open green space and public parks that permeate the other three scales providing the city with a park-like organic feel.*

Sunken Belltowers

The bells of the Cathedral were given twice by Spain, since the first ship sank.

Sculptural Pigeon Loft

The statue resembling a huge clothes pin on Praça dos Três Poderes is a functioning pigeon loft designed by Oscar Niemeyer in 1961. He was commissioned by First Lady Eloá Quadros, who thought all squares should have pigeons.

Lúcio Costa's TV tower on the Eixo Monumental marks the end of the federal government buildings and leads towards the local government's Buriti Palace and the Military Complex. Here is a list of Niemeyer's buildings at the end of the Eixo Monumental:

- **Military Complex** (1968)
- **Sala Funarte Cássia Eller** (1978)
- **Teatro Plínio Marcos** (1991)
- **Galeria Fayga Ostrower** (1973)
- **Kubitschek Memorial**(1981)
- **Memorial for the Indigenous People** (1987)
- **Military Cathedral** (1994)
- **Clube do Choro** (2011)

The Silent Man Behind the Curves

Niemeyer made the drawings and sent them off to Brasília, where Joaquim Cardozo was left with the sophisticated engineering challenge of making Niemeyer's slender columns strong enough to support the palace's slab. He had to make changes to international norms and add far more iron to the columns of the Alvorada Palace.

Bus Stop Galore

*Niemeyer did not only focus on designing the palaces; he also designed smaller-scale constructions including the iconic **bus stop** in front of Parque da Cidade.*

Disclaimer! These are not the only buildings by Niemeyer in town. You should also visit the Ermida Dom Bosco (1957), **Igrejinha Nossa Senhora de Fátima** (1958), Brasília Palace Hotel (1961), Concha Acústica (1969), Honestino Guimarães Bridge (1976), and the flower shaped **Torre Digital** (2012). Not to mention **CCBB** (1960)—constructions that are all noteworthy. In addition, more than six judiciary courts had their headquarters built, all to Niemeyer designs around the year 2000. And there is more.

Frontrunner for Brasília

Kubitschek and Niemeyer worked together constructing Pampulha in Belo Horizonte in the 1940s (Kubitschek was mayor). It was this collaboration that became the foundation for how they approached the work in Brasília integrating modern architecture and art.

New City - New Vocabulary

- ***Superquadra**: Costa's most important achievement. Residential areas of 280mx280m surrounded by a green belt of trees. All the residential blocks (named in letters A-K) are constructed on stilts called pilotis. This detail turns the whole superquadra into public space. The buildings can be 4 to 6 floors tall.*

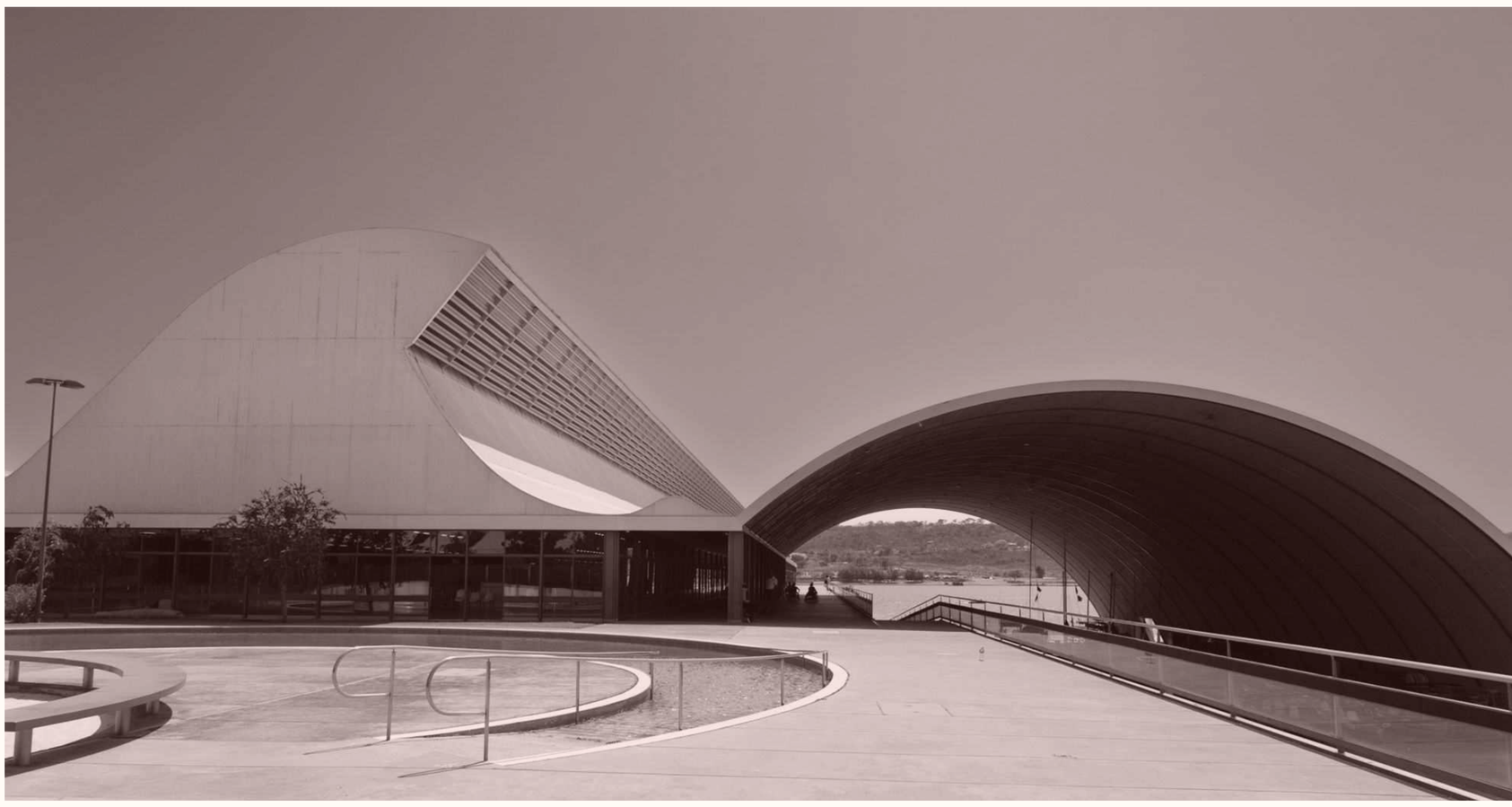
- ***Pilotis**: These structural supports were created by modernist architects to lift the structure of the building off the ground. As a consequence, the pilotis turn the whole ground floor into public space, that influences daily life as children play here on rainy days and are protected against the sun on other days. Hurried people make short cuts undercrossing buildings.*

- ***Eixão/Eixo/Eixinhos**: Eixão is the nickname for Eixo Rodoviário, the city 's main north–south highway, that forms the backbone of traffic in the Plano Piloto. Eixo is the nickname for Eixo Monumental that runs east to west and intersects with Eixão by the Central Station. Eixinhos are the 4 smaller roads that run parallel with the Eixão North-South. On the east side of Eixão they are called L, L2, L3 and L4 (L being the abbreviation for leste - the portuguese "east"). The west ones: W, W2, W3, W4 run parallel with the Exião on the west side.*

- ***Tesourinha**: (Scissors in Portuguese) The small cloverleaf interchange ramps that connect the city's main "eixos" big or small, without the need for traffic lights.*

Lelé Supreme

***João Figueiredo Lima** (Lelé) was Niemeyer's right-hand man and a brilliant architect in his own right. He is most famous for his cutting edge sustainable pre-fab hospital complexes that continue to set the standard for hospital architecture. In Brasília the Rede Sarah, the original Clinica Daher, and the Taguatinga Hospital are made by Lelé.*



OTHER ARCHITECTS

Brasília is all about Niemeyer, but other noteworthy architects have also been at work in the city. Here we have a selection of the buildings you are likely to notice on your way around town.

• **Torre TV** (1957). Lúcio Costa's TV tower, built on the highest point of Eixo Monumental. It is a metal structure with a viewing deck in the middle where a concrete base in the form of an inverted triangle is placed - a reference to the Praça dos Três Poderes that you can look towards when you visit the 1st floor - also called "mezzanino" with the panoramic view of the esplanada.

• **Rodoviária** (1960). Lúcio Costa's construction of the Central Station in Brasília was a project that was in equal measure urbanist and architecture. Conceived in the very heart of the city, right where the eixos' meet, it echoes the democratic foundation of the city by putting people first and facilitating free and efficient circulation.

• **Dom Bosco Church** (1964). Carlos Alberto Naves. From the exterior, it appears as a box with lean gothic arches, symmetric and pleasing. Upon entering, you will be surprised at the magic Naves created. The stained glass panels are 12 shades of blue to create a starry night effect within the building. Some of the glass panes swivel to allow fresh air inside. Notice the 12 doors, made of iron and bronze, which display bas-reliefs telling the story of Dom Bosco's dream.

• **Caixa HQ** (1972). Another Bank building taking direct inspiration from coins. The cylindrical tower with 26 floors and vertical concrete blades reminiscent of coin grooves is by João Alfredo Ortigão Friedmann, Nery Fontes, and Paulo Cardoso Mourão. On the ground floor, there are 24 stained glass windows by Lorenz Heilmar and son—each representing a different Brazilian state.

• **Centro de Convenções Ulysses Guimarães** (1973). Sérgio Bernardes' convention center was originally formed like a lying down hourglass. It has since been renovated with mirrored glass. Bernardes is the same architect behind the gigantic flagpoles on the Praça dos Três Poderes and the Planetarium.

• **Morro Verde/Vermelho** (1974). Two of the most elegant and recognizable office buildings in Brasília, designed by João Figueiredo Lima (Lelé). Their red and green brise-soleils are vertical on one side and horizontal on the other to best protect against the sun. (The colors were chosen after studies by Athos Bulcão.) The buildings remain some of the best work in town, solid and modern even after 50 years. As talent recognizes talent, they are now being sought out by the city's young architects.

• **DNIT** (1979). Rodrigo Lefévre's sculptural masterpiece continues to be a reference for Brazilian modernist brutalism and a monument to the architect. Observe how the building is raised on pilotis and uses concrete brise-soleils organized according to the sun's path.

Lúcio Costa

*Even before Brasília, Costa was an important architect in Brazil. He founded the historical preservation institute (IPHAN) and erected the first modernist building in Brazil—the Gustavo Capanema Palace in Rio, a project that Niemeyer and Burle Marx also worked on, and one that was overseen by Costa's friend Le Corbusier. If you want to learn more about Lúcio Costa, we recommend the documentary **O Risco**.*

Brazilian Design of Foreign Embassies

*Not all embassies were designed by homegrown architects. The Indian Embassy decided to call on local architect **Pedro Henrique Paranhos**, while the Dutch Embassy was designed by **Henrique Mindlin** in 1964 (but completed after his death in 1973.)*

• **Banco Central** (1981). Work from Hélio Ferreira Pinto. From above, you can see how the architectural design is inspired by an old coin engraved with a cross (cruzeiro). The building combines a wide base with a cross-shaped tower supported by four blocks, a solution that conveys solidity, stability and power.

• **JK Bridge** (2002). A cable-stay bridge with huge concrete arches that cross the road diagonally. The three steel arches are designed to resemble the triple bounce of a stone skipping across water, and were built by Alexandre Chan.

• **Banco Interamericano de Desenvolvimento**. A masterpiece of brutalist architecture by José Galbinsky.

A good place to discover many brilliant architects in Brasília is UnB. We have organized a **daytrip** for you to explore. We particularly recommend seeking out the Galbinsky and Zimbres buildings.

EMBASSY ARCHITECTURE

One thing that sets Brasília apart is that 133 countries and 28 international organizations have their representation offices and residences here. When they relocated from Rio to Brasília, some of them saw the move as an opportunity to showcase their homeland's finest modernist architecture as a response to the creation of a new capital.

As a consequence, many invited their most prominent architects to the drawing board adding their flair and sense of modernity to the cityscape. We have listed some of the best examples of the foreign modernist embassy architecture below:

• **Embassy of Chile** (1977). Juan Echenique Guzmán and José Cruz Covarrubias are the authors of this embassy, organized in two independent blocks around generous winter gardens. An interesting feature is the roof, covered with copper sheets —one of the country's greatest natural resources.

• **Danish Embassy** (1974). Jørgen Bo and Vilhelm Wohlert designed a "prairie house" that followed the horizontal lines of the Cerrado with a large gable roof with hipped ends on both sides. It is a modernism adapted to the Danish scale— small and intimate, with nothing ostentatious.

• **French Embassy** (1974). It is a myth that Le Corbusier (1887-1965) was behind the construction of the French embassy While, he was originally commissioned for the project and prepared preliminary designs, he died before it began. Later, bureaucratic obstacles made his project impossible. Instead, it was his collaborator, Guillermo Jullian de la Fuente, who made new drawings and built the embassy in 1972-1974.The interiors were designed by **Marcel Boyer** (1974).

• **German Embassy** (1971). Architect Hans Scharoun (1893-1972), associated with the organic movement, is behind this German beauty. Core principles: the use of natural materials with contrasting textures and colors, and a sensitive adaptation to the site's topography and climate. Landscaping by Roberto Burle Marx.

• **Italian Embassy** (1977). Studio Nervi (Pier Luigi Nervi 1891-1979). Palatian modernism, conceived as a monolithic concrete volume lifted on slender pilotis, the embassy design uses its structure as the essence of its aesthetic identity.

• **Japanese Embassy** (1972 & 1976). The vernacular pavillion building (1974) was designed by Yoshimi Ohashi, and in 1976 the chancellery and the residence buildings were added by the renowned Pritzker-winning architect Fumihiko Maki.

• **Mexican Embassy** (1976). Teodoro González de León, Abraham Zabludovsky, and Francisco Serrano. The embassy's façade features pillars hidden behind grassy embankments that support the horizontal beams, referencing pre-Columbian architectural forms. Within, the buildings are organized around a central courtyard reminiscent of traditional Mexican pueblos.

• **Peruvian Embassy** (1974). Jacques Crousse and Jorge Paez's remarkable brutalist structure with impressive volumes in reinforced concrete.

• **Portuguese Embassy** (1978). The building by Raul Chorão Ramalho (1914-2002) is a prime example of 1970s Brutalist architecture. Composed of a single, regular volume raised on pillars and shielded by vertical exposed-concrete blocks on its

Student Opportunities

*Colombian architect Cesar Barney was one of Roberto Burle Marx's students who also came to work in Brasília and then later was contracted to construct the **Colombian Embassy** (1981)*

upper-floor façades, it harmoniously integrates on all sides with expansive gardens.

- **Spanish Embassy** (1976). Built by Rafael Leóz (1921-1978), the architecture highlights an alternative modernism. The design is structured around hexagonal cells of different heights and dimensions, interlocked like a stylized beehive. The arrangement of these volumes around semi-open courtyards creates spatial sequences that preserve the formal unity of the ensemble despite its functional diversity.

- **Embassy of Uruguay** (1980). Mario Reyes Paysse's elegant brutalist construction.

Surreal Talent - Maria Martins

A prominent modernist sculptor and Latin America's most important surrealist sculptor, ***Maria Martins*** *is also represented in Brasília. Married to a Brazilian diplomat, her career took off in New York, where she befriended Marcel Duchamp and was an integral part of the New York arts scene in the 1940s.*

CITY ART

As an open city museum, Brasília is filled with public art and interesting exhibitions.

ARTISTS WHO MADE BRASÍLIA

Lúcio Costa and Oscar Niemeyer planned the city as a total work of art. They invited artists to participate in the construction, and therefore, since its very infancy, art and artists have played a fundamental role in shaping the city.

Most important are the works of artist **Athos Bulcão** and the landscape architect and artist **Roberto Burle Marx**. They were directly involved with the birth of the new capital; their legacy is forever connected to the construction of Brasília.

The trio **Bruno Giorgi, Alfredo Ceschiatti**, and **Marianne Peretti** added a significant edge to Brasília during its creation. In **Daytrips**, you can follow our treasure hunt to locate their works of art.

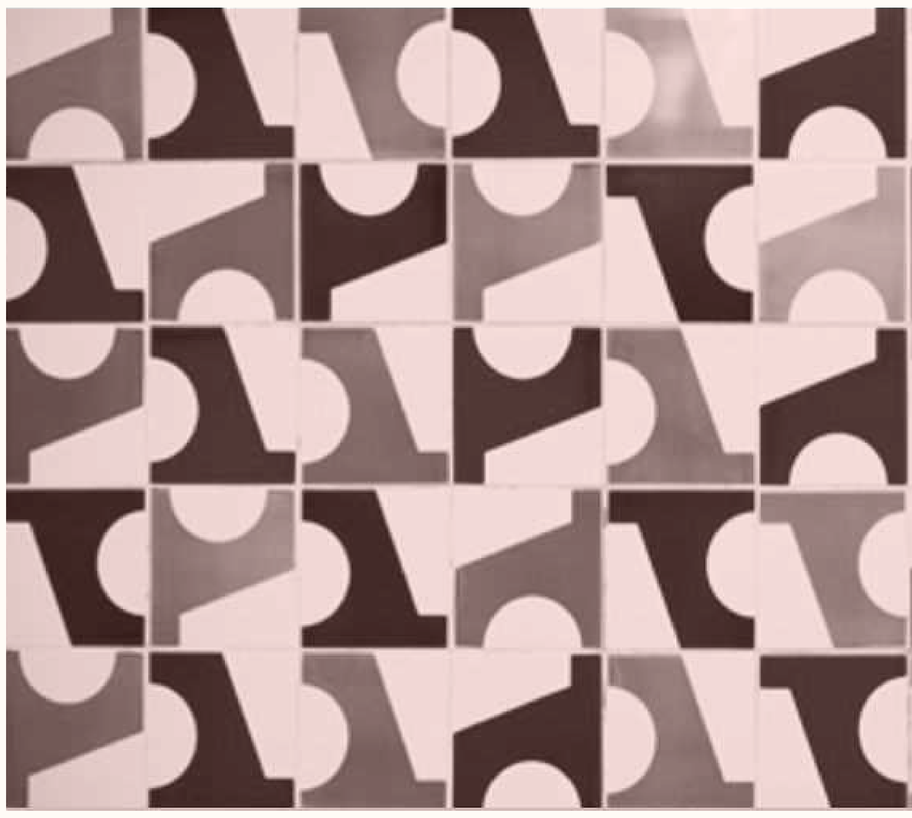
Other artists of national importance are also present in Brasília, like **Alfredo Volpi** (Itamaraty), **Maria Martins** (Itamaraty and Alvorada) **Di Cavalcanti** (Câmara dos Deputados and Palacio Planalto), and **Lasar Segall** (Itamaraty). You might wonder why Portinari was not part of the team. In fact, Niemeyer invited Portinari (already sick) to decorate three walls in the Alvorada Palace, but the artist only managed to draw the artwork before he died in 1962.

ATHOS BULCÃO AND THE BRASÍLIA DNA

It was when Athos Bulcão worked with Portinari on the Pampulha project in Belo Horizonte in the 1940s that he befriended Niemeyer. Bulcão was quickly hired by the architect to join his team in Brasília. Athos Bulcão was the only one who moved to and remained in Brasília.

If any artist is emblematic of Brasília, it is certainly Athos Bulcão. He has more than 260 works sprinkled all over town, uniting the visual urban expression.

For each mural he made, he studied



the environment to get the tiles just right for the specific space. One of the characteristics of his tile murals is the "don't look down" rule that he imposed on the workers erecting his panels. While this rule gives the murals a spontaneous feel, the intentional use of consistent geometric units elevates these unplanned sequences, forging a cohesive whole that brings order to the chaos.

Go discover his playful, simple, geometric patterns in the countless reliefs, panels, and partitions all over town. To help you get around, **IPHAN** has made this interactive map.

Make sure you visit **Fundação Athos Bulcão** (Asa Sul/510). Here you will find information about the artist and his work and also be able to purchase original artwork and gorgeous souvenirs.

ROBERTO BURLE MARX - THE LANDSCAPE POET

Burle Marx and Lúcio Costa were neighbors in Rio; Burle Marx worked with Costa on his first landscaping project already in 1932. In Brasília, he was one of the most impactful artists at work. His exuberant tropical landscapes humanize modern architecture and bring a textural edge to the collaborations, with his signature use of water, verticality, sculpture, and intricate pathways.

Finishing Touch

Niemeyer's design for the Palácio da Justiça called for an art object to be attached to its facade (similar to the art at the neighboring Palácio Itamaraty). Finally, in 2025, the granite sculpture "Em Processo" by Burle Marx was transferred from the Sítio Roberto Burle Marx in Rio de Janeiro and installed.

In fact, Burle Marx is credited with revolutionizing the way we see and interact with nature through his innovative use of tropical plants and his passion for conservation.

His landscapes mark a clear break from European-style gardens; instead, he created modern designs celebrating Brazil's native plants and culture. He redefined landscapes by blending art, architecture, and horticulture into a cohesive harmonious vision. His landscapes are iconic because he approached design as an art form.

Burle Marx was a renaissance man. He was both a pianist and a painter. His passion for landscapes began during a trip to Berlin in 1928, when he visited the Botanical Gardens. He fell in love with the Brazilian flora, returning there to draw on a daily basis.

In Brasília, it was Ambassador Wladimir Murtinho (married to Burle Marx's student Tuni) who invited Burle Marx to create the Itamaraty Palace gardens. While not part of the original plan, the garden is one of the most beautiful in the city. Oscar Niemeyer was particularly fond of the water garden in front of the palace.

You will find nine official Burle Marx gardens in Brasília (determined by **IPHAN**): Superquadra Sul 308, Palácio Itamaraty, Palácio da Justiça, Tribunal de Contas da União, Palácio Jaburu, Teatro Nacional Cláudio Santoro, Praça dos Cristais, Setor Militar Urbano (SMU), Parque da Cidade, and the gardens by Banco do Brasil. More recently, GDF inaugurated Jardim Burle Marx by the TV Tower.

Nina Coimbra

ARCHITECTURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Ambassador André Corrêa do Lago, Brazil's foremost architecture specialist, has, in recent publications, explored the connection between artistic photography and architecture.

The French-Brazilian photographer Marcel Gautherota, 20th-century Debret-like artist, was invited by Niemeyer to document the construction of the new Capital. His precise and artful lens triggered much of the fascination with the new capital around the world as his images began to appear in leading print magazines. His documentation marked the starting point for many foreign photographers' pilgrimages to Brasília. They all wished to document the birth of the first modern capital and capture Niemeyer's unique brand of modern architecture. For some, it became an academic obsession, returning several times to follow up on the opportunity to register their take on this new photogenic capital.

Examples of top photographers with a special interest in Brasília:

Swiss photographer **René Burri**, Slovenian **Damjan Prelovšek**, German **Peter Scheier**, American **Andrew Prokos**, American **Robert Polidori**, Hungarian **Thomaz Farkas**, French **Vincent Fournier**, as well as Brazilian photographers like **Mario Fontenelle**, **Cristiano Mascaro**, **Nelson Kon**, **Bento Viana**, **Leonardo Finotti** and **Joana França**.

OTHER ARTISTS FROM BRASÍLIA

There is no getting around the local artists in Brasília. Since Athos Bulcão came with the construction of the city, Brasília has been attracting talent and is already home to artists that stand out on the national arts scene. Here are some renowned local artists:

Galeno, **Ge Orthof**, **Milton Marques**, **Luciana Paiva**, **Elder Rocha**, **Isabel Couto**, **Ralph Gehre**, and **Paul Setúbal**.

YOUNG CROP OF LOCAL ARTISTS

Below is a potpourri of a new generation of artists who are worth checking out:

Pedro Lacerda, **Altimar Rocha**, **Nina Coimbra**, **Daniel Jacare**, **Helena Trinidade**, **Camila Monturil**, **Paula Calderon**, **Victoria Seredinik**, **Carmen San Thiago**, and **Sara Carvalho**.

If you like to follow what is new on the contemporary arts scene in Brazil, we recommend you check out **Prêmio Pipa**, a prestigious yearly prize for excellence in contemporary art. It is also worth checking out the **Art Boulevard Prize** for sculpture in public places.

AGENDA/TICKETS

It can be a challenge to find out what is going on in Brasília. There is no Time Out magazine, so you have to become browser-savvy. There are online sites that with some overlap will cover most of your needs and we have listed the main ticket offices below. We also encourage you to subscribe and get on the mailing list of all your favorite cultural institutions.

- **Sympla** (online). A national platform for big events. The platform covers all the major events in the city. If it is big, it is there. You can purchase tickets online.

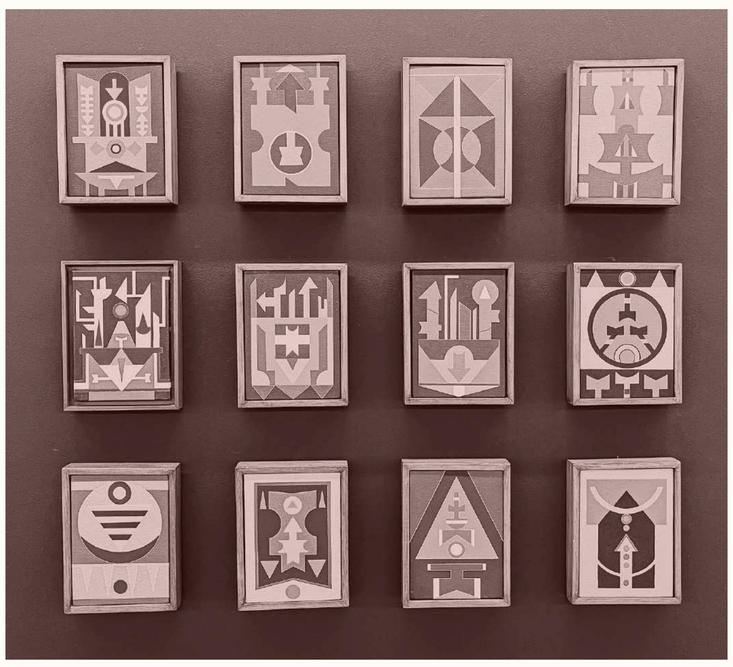
- **Bilheteria Digital** (online). A national platform for cultural events. You choose your state and the events will appear.

- **Ingresso.com** (online). For all cinema in town. They also sell theater tickets.

- **Agenda BSB** (online). A local platform that covers most events that go on in Brasília. Not only the performing arts but also festivals, sports and gastronomy.

- **Brasília de Boa** (online). The site is similar to Agenda BSB and sometimes, they overlap. Covers cultural events in Plano Piloto.

- **Roteiro Baby** (online). For announcement of all kids-related activities.



EXHIBITIONS

Here you find most of the museums, galleries and cultural centers that might be of interest to you.

ART MUSEUMS

When Brasília was constructed, city planners placed many of the public museums on the central axis, and unlike many places elsewhere in the world, all of these museums are free of charge. We have listed most below. Remember to check the hyperlinks for information on opening hours as many museums are closed on Monday.

- **Museu Nacional** (Eixo)
- **Museu de Arte de Brasília** (Setor de Clubes Sul)

CULTURAL COMPLEXES

- **CCBB** (Setor de Clubes Sul)
- **CAIXA** (Asa Sul)
- **SESC** (Various)
- **Espaço Cultural Renato Russo** (Asa Sul/508)

GALLERIES

Non-Commercial Galleries

- **TCU** (Setor de Clubes Sul)
- **STJ** (Asa Sul)
- **Galleria do Banco Central** (Asa Sul). It's a small gallery on the 8th floor of Banco Central where they have all the major artists in abundance. Currently they are closed for renovations and we suspect they will be back to impress very shortly. Stay tuned, you won't be disappointed.

Commercial Galleries

When it's time for you to translate your love of art into a collection, this is where the commercial galleries enter. We have a selection for you with the top galleries in town.

- **Referência Galeria** (Asa Norte/202)
- **Expoarte Galeria** (Asa Sul/Centro Empresarial Brasília)

- **Cerrado Galeria** (Lagos Sul/QI05)
- **Galeria Karla Osorio** (Lago Sul/ SMDB)
- **Galeria Index** (Asa Sul/Ed. Morro Vermelho)

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL CENTERS

A handful of countries have cultural institutions present and active in Brasília. It's worthwhile to check out their websites for programming and also subscribe to their newsletters.

- **Alliance Française Brasília**
- **Casa Thomas Jefferson** (Casa Thomas designed by Architect José Galbinsky - 1986)
- **Goethe-Zentrum Brasília**
- **Instituto Camões**
- **Instituto Cervantes**
- **Instituto Han de Cultura Chinesa**

Tip: You can follow **Revista Embassy** and **Eventos em Embaixadas** for a global overview of embassy programming around town.

MUSEUMS

All of the public museums are free of charge. Check hyperlinks for opening hours and days. As a general rule, museums are closed on Mondays.

- **SESI Lab** (Eixo)
- **Planetário de Brasília** (Eixo)
- **Museu de Valores** (Asa Sul/SBS)
- **Catetinho** (Candangolandia)
- **Memorial JK** (Eixo)
- **Memorial of the Indigenous peoples** (Eixo)
- **Museu Nacional dos Correios** (Asa Sul)

THEATER

The theatrical movement in Brasília began in the 1960s through the work of Sílvia Orthof and later, in the 1970s, with Laís Aderne, who trained more than one generation of artists from various fields. During this period there was a very active amateur theater network. Still in the 1970s, João Antônio Esteves was one of its first coordinators. He was also an important actor, director and safeguarder of theater in the city and at UnB.

It was the mid-1970s when Hugo Rodas (1943-2025) arrived in Brasília. He became a fundamental part of the theater movement, breaking through the city's bubble and gaining national prominence by staging visually powerful and politically engaging pieces. He somehow managed to keep productions afloat and train the young generation at UnB, despite the politically difficult times.

Humberto Pedrancini is also part of this history, with a stronger focus on the satellite cities, he mentored the young generation in Brasília through the Dulcina Moraes theater school and as a veteran director. However, the story of the **Dulcina Theater School** includes Murilo Eckart, who was crucial in forming theater groups and training actors as a teacher there. The same goes for Dimer Monteiro (1950-2016) who was an experimenter, a uniting force and a dynamo in the city. He was also a curator for Cena Cena Contemporânea, the most important theater festival in Brasília.

We also need to mention a Brasília favorite, the **circus theater Udi Grudi** that was established in the 1980s. Udi Grudi achieved national and international acclaim, creating a unique language uniting circus and musical presentations. Their famous clowns use musical instruments made from recycled materials and a special brand of humor to charm and entertain all ages.

Not only dramatists but also actors from Brasília have gained national fame and recognition, starting with **Françoise Forton**, **Marcelo Saback**, **Patricia Pillar** and diplomat's son, Mateus Solano. Currently, an even younger generation of actors like **André Torquato** & **Wallace Mendes** are gaining national accolades, revealing how fertile and relevant the schools and stages around Brasília continue to be.

GREAT LOCAL THEATER

We link to the ticket offices in **Agenda** and we have listed some interesting theater groups below, where you don't need advanced Portuguese skills to follow.

- **Achadouros**/**Criadouros** (kids theater). Early childhood theater prize winning performance by Caísa Tibúrcio and Nara Faria. You don't need any language skills to be impressed by this duo and their performance.

- **Sobrevento**. Puppet show, often referencing cultural phenomena in Brazil's history. Many spectacles are made for children. Has traveled the world with their shows.

- **Companhia Novos Candangos**. One of the theater groups that tours Brazil and has won several prizes locally and elsewhere.

- **Luminato**. With roots deep in shadow play, visual arts and dance. Luminato is on the international circuit presenting their beautiful and poetic shows.

- **Coletivo Instrumento de Ver**. A mixture of circus, corporal and political theater, Coletivo always brings something new and interesting to the table. Often no language required.

- **Nos no Bambu**. Acrobatic dance, circus theater using bamboo instruments.

THEATER FESTIVALS IN BSB

- **Cena Contemporanea** (International)
- **Festival Nacional de Teatro de Bolso** (local)

Theater Prizes

If you want to keep an eye on the prize-winning shows on a national level, follow some of the major Brazilian theater prizes: ***Aplauso***, ***Prêmio Shell de Teatro***, ***Prêmio Bibi Ferreira*** *&* ***CENYM****. For the best local theater in Brasília, there is the* ***Prêmio SESC + Cultura****.*

DANCE

Giséle Santoro (1939-2025) and Norma Lillia were essential for the foundation of quality dance in Brasília. Both were educated at the famous school at the Teatro Municipal in Rio. Giséle is considered the mother of dance bringing shows and inspiration to the city, while Norma Lillia followed up and created the first classical dance company.

Over the years the focus moved from classical to contemporary dance and today the most high profile dance schools and performers are in this segment. Particularly **Rafael Nino**'s **Have Dreams Company** that is referenced on a national level when we talk hip-hop. Other influential names include choreographers **Wesley Messias**, **Rodrigo Mena Barreto** and **Davi Rodrigues**, who continue to shape Brasília's vibrant contemporary dance landscape as educators, choreographers and cultural leaders.

In 2025, **Corpo de Ballet do DF** was founded with the ambition of becoming a reference ballet group. So, keep an eye out for their presentations; it seems like a promising project.

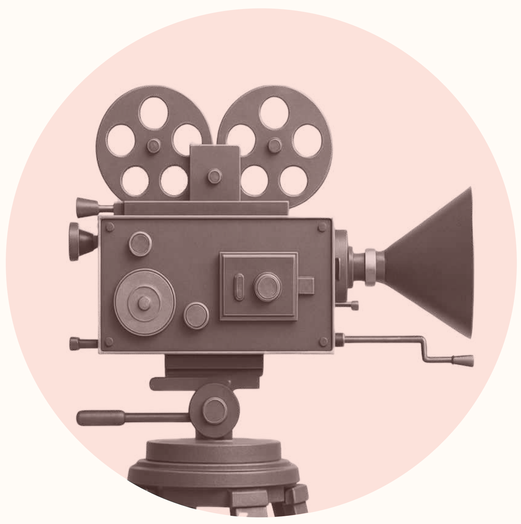
LOCAL DANCE FESTIVALS

Below is a list of the dance festivals we are sure you will like. For tickets to the mains shows, don't forget to browse the websites we listed under **Agenda**—hyperlinked here for your convenience.

- **Movimento Internacional de Dança**/ MID (International)
- **Festival Internacional de Dança de Brasília**/ FID (International)
- **Mostra Paralelo** (International)
- **Dança em Trânsito** (International)
- **Corpus Convida** (local)

BSB on Forefront of Dance Inclusion

*The **Roule Brasil Project** (launched in 2022) stands out for promoting inclusion through dance. The project, which integrates dancers with disabilities, is directed by **Stefanie Chopard** and **Wesley Messias**, with choreography by **Jana Marques**, a renowned name in Brasília's contemporary dance scene.*



Centro de Dança do DF

*For local performances check out **Centro de dança do DF** that provides free dance lessons and houses interesting dance performances. It is the place in town that fosters new talent and supports dance in general.*

FILM

BRASÍLIA FILMWORLD

What sets Brasília apart in the movie industry is its proximity to the political powers, its architectural identity and cultural divergence. Historically, Brasília has been strongest in the documentary film genre, but there have been quite a number of successful movies featuring Brasília: Glauber Rocha's experimental political drama, ***A Idade da Terra*** (1980); Nelson Pereira dos Santos' political thriller, ***Brasília 18%*** (2006); Adirley Queirós' documentaries ***A Cidade é uma Só?*** (2011) and ***Branco Sai, Preto Fica*** (2014); and his sci-fi political drama ***Era uma Vez Brasília*** (2017).

Important names from the Brasília Cinema are the aforementioned documentarist **Adirley Queirós**, whose many films from the outskirts of Plano Piloto have earned him acclaim (films available via art film streamer **Mubi**); documentarist and founding member of UnB's visual arts program Vladimir Carvalho; cinematographer **André Carvalheira**; mainstream feature director **René Sampaio**; and the producer **Mariza Leão**. There are also new names, who have moved up throughout the short film genre and into the feature segment, people like **Rafaela Camelo**, whose debut film ***A Natureza das Coisas Invisiveis*** premiered at the Berlinale (2025). Lastly, Brasília-born **Marianne Brennand**, is currently making waves with her latest movie **Manas** (endorsed by the top brass in Hollywood). She has more than 39 trophies to her name, including from film meccas such as Cannes and Venice.

Most filmmakers from Brasília have been closely related to the political genre, but a new dawn might be here, since Brasiliense René Sampaio's romantic ***Eduardo & Mônica*** (2022) became a national hit and paved the way for filmmakers in Brasília to explore themes unrelated to the political landscape.

If you are into trying the cult aspect of Candanga cinema, we suggest you look at Afonso Brazza (1955-2003), aka "Rambo do Cerrado." Brazza became a beloved cult figure early on. He was obsessed with movies but never quit his day job as a fireman. He was known for his low-cost trash action movies in which he himself played the lead role, while his wife, Claudete Joubert, played a damsel in distress. The films have names connected to Brasília, such as *No Eixo da Morte*, and *Inferno no Gama*.

BRASÍLIA IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Brasília was a dream— but did it come true? That is what many documentaries over the years have tried to investigate. In the early years, most documentaries focused on the expectations of the new capital. Later the focus changed to observations regarding the reality of Brasília. One of the foremost cinema Novo directors, Joaquim Pedro de Andrade's ***Brasília: Contradictions of a New City*** (1967) is an example of a short documentary with beautiful imagery and a balanced narrative (in Portuguese). If you are interested in documentaries about the city **Brasil de Fato** has a list.

In recent years, Petra Costa's essayistic documentaries featuring Brasília have revived the political documentary genre in Brazil, with award winning films such as ***Apocalypse in the Tropics*** and ***On the Edge of Democracy***. Although Costa is not from Brasília, she is using the city and its architecture to move along her plotlines.

WHERE TO WATCH IN BSB

Brasília is a place where cultural cinema has roots. Since the city's infancy, with the construction of **Cine Brasília**, there has been a conscious choice to provide citizens with high-quality art film and experimental cinema. Cine Brasília is also a hub for many of the ongoing film festivals.

Cine Cultura Liberty Mall is the leading commercial cinema for art and independent films. It is here that you will be able to watch the films that ran at the Cannes, Venice, Berlin, Toronto and Sundance Film Festivals. It is also where they host the French Festival **Varilux** and the Italian **8½ Festa do Cinema Italiano**.

Remember to check for free French cinema at the **Sala Le Corbusier** at the French Embassy on Wednesdays. Brasília also has numerous commercial cinema complexes often located inside the larger malls. For tickets, go to **Ingresso.com** where you find tickets to all films and cinemas in and around town. Brasília also has a **Cine Drive-In** close to the Eixo; tickets for this iconic drive-in are available at **Velox**.

FESTIVALS

- **Festival de Brasília do Cinema Brasileira.**
- **Brasília International Film Festival** (BIFF)
- **Mostra SESC de Cinema**
- **Cinema Urbano**
- **Festival Curta Brasília**

Brasilense Wins Emmy!

***Victor Rodrigues**, son of a Brazilian diplomat and photographer **Josiane Dias**, is the first Brasiliense to win an Emmy (2025) for his work on the short documentary **Her Fight, His Life**. The documentary (a US production) is now shortlisted for the Oscars.*

That Man From Rio

*The French have always had a love affair with Brazil, and it's evident in the French action comedy, **The Man from Rio** (1964), where the cast and crew, including Jean Paul Belmondo, at the height of his fame, film in and around the new capital, Brasília.*

Rock Poet

Renato Russo, the leader of the BRock band Legião Urbana, was of huge importance not only on the national rock scene but beyond. Russo was aligned with the youth and their struggles, so much so that the Cultural Center by Niemeyer at 508 Sul was named in his honor: ***Espaço Cultural Renato Russo.***

MUSIC

On the national scene Brasília stands out in two genres. In Choro and Rock. Since before the inauguration of the city there was music. Nurtured by President Kubitschek, also nicknamed “the Bossa Nova President”, he brought musician friends with him during the construction.

When the city was inaugurated the president made sure day jobs at public organs were given to many of his musician friends as a way of stimulating them to transplant to the new capital.

CHORO

In Brasília, choro found fertile ground from the initial years of the capital. Musicians from different regions of the country contributed to the creation of a rich and diverse musical scene, preserving tradition while developing its own accent.

An important moment for the local choro was when “father of modern choro” Jacob do Bandolim came to stay in Brasília in the late 1960s, a move that attracted many top choro musicians to Brasília. This said, it was a struggle for Clube de Choro before they, in 2011, could move into the beautiful Niemeyer building where they reside today.

In the first years, musicians were bureaucrats by day and musicians by night. They gathered in the living room of the flute player Odette, until her living room became too small. Much of the recent success is due to the grit of leader Reco do Bandolim (his name an homage to the old master) whose tireless work maintains Clube de Choro as one of the main centers for the promotion and preservation of this genre, bringing together generations of instrumentalists, composers and enthusiasts.

ROCK

Brasília emerged as one of the main birthplaces of Brazilian rock in the 1980s and 1990s, giving rise to iconic bands such as Legião Urbana, Plebe Rude, Capital Inicial and Paralamas do Sucesso.

These bands were also called “Turma da Colina” after the neighborhood at UnB where professors live. The band members were mostly teachers' kids, but many were also the children of diplomats who would bring foreign tunes with them from abroad.

So, the capital’s geographical isolation and political ferment of the period fostered the rise of a generation of young people who turned dissatisfaction and desire for change into music. Brasília's rock scene stood out for its authenticity, rebellious lyrics and collective spirit reflecting a social landscape of a city still in the making

In 2016, BRock became a national heritage. Since 2021, you can explore a **rock tourist itinerary** around town, including at Eixo Monumental.

The Birthplace of “Água de Beber”

Carioca Bossa Nova stars Tom Jobim and Vinicius de Moraes, composed their hit ***Água de Beber*** *while visiting the President at the Catetinho in Brasília.*

Just before the Fame

In the 1980s, Superquadra 208 Sul was transformed into an open-air stage for live performances of the band Aborto Elétrico , that shortly after would change its name to Legião Urbana - and become one of the most famous rock bands in Brazil.

MUSIC CONCERTS

We have listed the three main venues for music lovers.

- **Clube do Choro** (Eixo). Once you find your way here, you will keep - coming. This is the cradle of the local music culture, famous with musicians in and outside of Brasília. Buy ticketst at **Bilheteria Digital**.

- **Teatro Nacional Claudio Santoro** (Eixo). Recently reopened, the National Theater is mainly, but not exclusively, a place for classical music. Book tickets at **Sympla.**

- **Escola de Musica de Brasília** (Asa Sul/602). More than just a music school, Escola de Música de Brasília brings quality programming to the city with musicians from in and outside of Brasília. Book tickets at **Sympla**.

ESCOLA DE MÚSICA DE BRASÍLIA

Escola de Música de Brasília was founded in 1962. It is a key institution in the development and consolidation of the musical life of the capital. The institution has become one of the main centers for music education, performance, and promotion in Brazil. It offers two free weekly concerts.

NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Since 1979, Brasília has had a National Symphony Orchestra. Its home is in the spectacular (and newly re-inaugurated) Niemeyer national theater building on the Eixo. Each Thursday at 20h you can watch them play for free (but you have to book a ticket via **Sympla**).

The Man Behind the Theater Name

The National Theater is named after Claudio Santoro, a Manaus-born composer, director and violinist- who shot rapidly to fame and international recognition after studying in Paris. Santoro founded the music department at UnB and directed the national orchestra until the end of his life.

The Hit of the Century

*Legião Urbana's huge hit "**Eduardo & Mônica**" references an actual young couple whom front singer Renato Russo wished to tease. This couple happened to be a local artist and her diplomat husband. The song and the interest in them has never subdued, and a few years ago, a **romantic movie** was made in reference to "Eduardo & Mônica".*

MUSIC EVENTS

For big blogbuster shows and music events.

- **Arena BRB** (Eixo/Mane Garrincha).

- **Ulysses Centro de Convenções** (Eixo)

- **Na Praia Festival** (Asa Sul) Dry season only .

When it comes to music concerts, we recommend you visit **Sympla,** where bigger musical events and parties are announced and where - tickets may be purchased online.

Samba Duel

Already before its foundation there was a samba duel about Brasília. A pro-Brasília song: "Vou pra Goiás", by Nelson Gonçalves,had its counterpoint from Billy Blanco: "Não Vou pra Brasília." Since then, more than 70 songs have been written about Brasília.

LITERATURE

BRASÍLIA AND THE BOOKS

Brasília boasts a vibrant literary scene. Here are some essential local authors to discover:

- **João Almino** (1945). The literary diplomat is probably one of the best-known Brasília-based novelists. He is the author of the Brasília Quintet, five books anchored in Brasília (*Samba Enredo, Where to Spend the End of the World, The Five Seasons of Love, The Book of Emotions and Free City*). Almino has won several prizes for his literature and is a member of Academia Brasileira de Letras. Some of his books have been translated into several languages.

- **Milton Hatoum** (1952-). One of the biggest stars on the national literary scene, he moved to Brasília to study when he was 15 and stayed a few years before continuing to São Paulo. His "*A Noite da Espera*" takes place in Brasília. Milton Hatoum is part of Academia Brasileira de Letras.

- **Nicolas Behr** (1958). One of the most important literary figures in Brasília, he has published more than 26 books, many of which have Brasília as the main protagonist. He has always been considered a marginal figure until he became a cult sensation. There are now research papers and books to his name, and a prize-winning short film by Danyella Proença, called **Braxilia**.

- **Tatiana Nascimento** (1981). Born and raised in Brasília, and a UnB graduate. Tatiana is one of the best, most outspoken, black, female, queer authors around.

- **Tiago Cantalice** (1984). Author of the children's book *A Curiosa Cidade*. Tiago writes with curiosity and clarity about the idiosyncrasies of Brasília. Nothing is better than a children's book to explain typical expressions that only exist here, such as "andar de camelo" or "Buraco do Tatu" and besides, the book is visually engaging and quintessentially Brasiliense.

- **Ana Miranda** (1951-). Raised in Brasília, Miranda writes poetry that is connected to Brazil's history. Her "*Boca do Inferno*" won the Jabuti prize.

- **Roger Mello** (1965-). Mello is a world-renowned author and illustrator. He has won international fame and awards for his children's books. Most of his books have been translated into English.

- **Cristovam Buarque** (1944-) Politician and author, Buarque (ex-Governor and Senator) is one of the most important politicians in DF who made significant contributions to the educational system and is also a well-established crime author.

- **Astrid Cabral** (1936-) Environmentalist, UnB professor, and one of the most poignant poets of her generation, she writes mostly of her native Amazon region.

"Brasília! Brasília!
onde estás
que não respondes?
em que bloco
em que superquadra
tu te escondes?"

- Nicolas Behr

Books on a String

Literatura de cordel, literally "string literature," are popular and often moral stories that were originally sung by cordelistas or street poets at local fairs. The Brazilian tradition for woodcut engravings is closely related to the cordel tradition where they accompanied the texts.

BEST BOOKSHOPS

Brasília has quite a number of bookshops and many of them are active on the cultural scene with book signings, literary soirées and openings. Follow the bookshops for information about their events. Many have a small number of foreign language books.

• **Livraria da Travessa** (Saída Sul/ Casa Park). This is the best and most complete bookshop in town with a selection of books in English and French.

• **Porão** (Asa Norte/405). Cozy neighborhood bookshop/coffee shop with a selection of books in French and beautifully crafted notebooks and cards from Paula Calderón.

• **Sebinho** (Asa Norte). Sebinho Livraria is a beloved bookstore in Asa Norte, known for its collection of new and used books across a wide range of genres. With a cozy and welcoming atmosphere, it's the perfect spot for book lovers to browse. You can find books in foreign languages.

• **Platô Livraria** (Asa Sul/405). More than just a bookstore, Platô Livraria is a vibrant cultural hub in Asa Sul, where literature lovers can explore a carefully curated selection of titles in Portuguese.

• **Livraria Circulares** (Asa Norte/113). This is another neighborhood bookshop that is big on book launches and literary and artistic events. Great selection of mostly Portuguese language books.

• **Da Vila** (Iguatemi). Da Vila has a selection of authors specifically in Brasília. We like how they support and promote local authors.

• **Livraria do Chico** (Asa Norte/ UNB). More than a bookshop, Chico is an institution in Brasília. All academics have been there and they swear this modest bookshop is one of the best in the country.

LITERARY AWARDS AND EVENTS

If you want to read great new literature, follow the **Jabuti Award**. This is one of Brazil's most prestigious literary awards, presented annually to recognize outstanding works in various categories. Also, the yearly and much-anticipated literary event **FLIP** in Paraty is a good place to start if you are curious about the literary world in Brazil.

In Brasília there is the yearly **Feira do Livro**, and also the literary awards **Prêmio Literário Biblioteca Nacional** and the newer and more local **Prêmio Candango de Literatura**.

Poetic Draft

*One of Brazil's biggest poets, **Carlos Drummond de Andrade,** was asked to correct Costa's draft proposal text for the new capital. Drummond said of his friend's scribble: "On the sheet between my fingers was nothing less than the city of Brasília still inexistent but complete as a seed that carries the DNA of life, of a man, of a tree, of a civilization — it was a draft that pulsed with life."*

Bravos Candangos

Conceição Freitas' book Bravos Candangos, is a small cultural celebration and reflection of all the different people who came to Brasília, attracted to the prospect of a job related to the construction.

FESTIVALS

Brazil has many vibrant and not-to-be-missed celebrations, all linked to the Christian calendar. Below, we'll introduce you to some of the country's major events. You can find tickets for these events in the **Agenda**.

CARNIVAL

The Christian carnival is a festive season leading up to Lent—a 40-day period of fasting and reflection before Easter. The festivities are held from Friday to Tuesday, ending on Carnival Tuesday (Terça-feira de Carnaval/ Mardi Gras).

Carnival in Brazil brings the nation to a stop. There are many types of carnivals in Brazil, the most famous being the **carnival in Rio de Janeiro**. The chief characteristics of the Rio carnival are the sambadrome parades, the competition, the excess and glamour. Musically, it is samba enredo (theme-based, narrative driven)— with new compositions each year.

There are other traditional places in Brazil with impressive, albeit different, types of carnivals. Notably, the **carnival** in Olinda. Many consider it the most "authentic" as it is a picturesque street carnival with frevo and maracatu music and huge papier-mâché dolls carried through the historic city with cobbled stones. We can say it is more folksy than the sexy one in Rio. For a completely different experience, visit the **Carnival in Salvador** where the music is Axé. It is a huge open party, where colossal trucks (trios elétricos) with sound systems and bands playing atop them, parade through the city accompanied by dancing fans known as pipoca (popcorn).

In Brasília, the carnival is quite unique. Like the city, it's a melting pot of influences from all over the country. Musically, the carnival in Brasília is a mix of axé, frevo, marches and samba. It is community- and family-oriented, and the costumes used are more humorous and creative than elaborate. There are five main "blocos"; **Galinho de Brasília**, **Bloco das Divinas Tetas**, **Bloco Pacotão**, **Bloco do Amor** and **Bloco Calango Alternativo**. Key carnival spots aka "folias" are Eixo Monumental and Esplanada dos Ministérios (Gran Folia). If you would like to keep afloat with what happens in Brasília during Carnival, we suggest you follow **Brasília Carnavaliá** and **Distrito Carnaval**.

Ano Novo Traditions

New Year's Day is the day of the year when Brazilians streamline their parties and everyone wears white— except for underwear—you choose a color according to what you wish to attract in the new year. Red for love, yellow for wealth, green for health. What color underwear will you choose this New Year's Day?

FESTA JUNINA

After carnival, the Festa Junina is the most popular festival in Brazil. It is a “winter festival” that occurs over the “cold” months of June and July. The origin of the festivities can be traced to the European midsummer festivities celebrating St. João, the saint of harvest, joy and rural traditions.

Festa Junina is a vibrant, family-oriented festival that blends rural, Indigenous and African customs, becoming a unique Brazilian celebration. Colorful paper flags decorate the streets along with paper balloons and bonfires. People dress up in “caipira” (country) clothing, and dance the “quadrilha” to lively, rhythmic music. Moreover, this is also the party with the strongest gastronomic traditions. Canjica, popcorn, pamonha, curau, cocada and paçoca are sweets offered to kids, while adults sip on “quentão” or “vinho quente”.

In Brasília, you will discover many Festa Juninas— the biggest and best of them is the one open to the public, organized by **Iate Clube**. That said, smaller neighborhood parties are great for younger kids where a mix of food and game booths cater to all ages.

BOI MEU BUMBA - BOI DE SEU TEODORO

The Boi-Bumba festivities are some of Brazil’s most authentic, colorful and unique cultural celebrations. Originating in the North and Northeast, they arrived in Brasília with the Candangos. Behind this festival is the story of how a landowner’s most beautiful ox is killed at the hands of an enslaved black man (Pai Francisco), whose pregnant wife (Catirina) craved eating the animal’s tongue. The ox is later resurrected —that is why we have a party! This fantastical story mixes Indigenous legends, the Christian religion and Afro-Brazilian narratives of resilience, survival and forgiveness.

The blend of traditions includes music, dance, theater, and costumes. The representation of the bull is always richly decorated with sequins, embroidery, and colorful fabrics.

In Brasília, Boi Meu Bumba was one of the first traditions to be implemented. It is called **Boi de Seu Teodoro** and is based out of Sobradinho. As it is a cultural heritage show, it is also brought to public schools around DF. The festivities occur around June – July in Sobradinho at **Centro de Tradições Populares.**

DAY TRIPS
Contents

p.83

Architecture Delight
Where modernism meets imagination

- Tour 1: The Niemeyer Show / Itamaraty
- Tour 2: The Lúcio Costa & Niemeyer Show / Superquadra 308
- Tour 3: Walking Tour UNB / Niemeyer & The Other Masters
- Tour 4: Parkway Architecture / New And Old

p.88

Artsy
Artworks around Town

- Tour 5: The Treasure Hunt / Alfredo Ceschiatti / Bruno Giorgi / Marianne Peretti
- Tour 6: Graffiti Tour

p.90

Adventures
Outdoor thrills and escapes

- Cruising On The Lake?
- Roaring Beasts
- Galloping Journeys
- Trekking
- Ice Cold Baths

p.91

Farm Country
Rural experiences, fresh produce and local flavors.

- Strawberries Fields Forever
- Coffee Farm
- Wine Country
- Say Cheese

p.92

Family Friendly
Fun for all ages.

- Day Trips
- Overnights

p.93

Chapada Dos Veadeiros
Waterfalls, trails and breathtaking nature.

- Alto Paraiso
- São Jorge
- Cavalcante
- Don’t Miss

Day Trips

Find suggestions for itineraries around architecture, art and fun, uniquely Brasiliense.

ARCHITECTURE DELIGHT

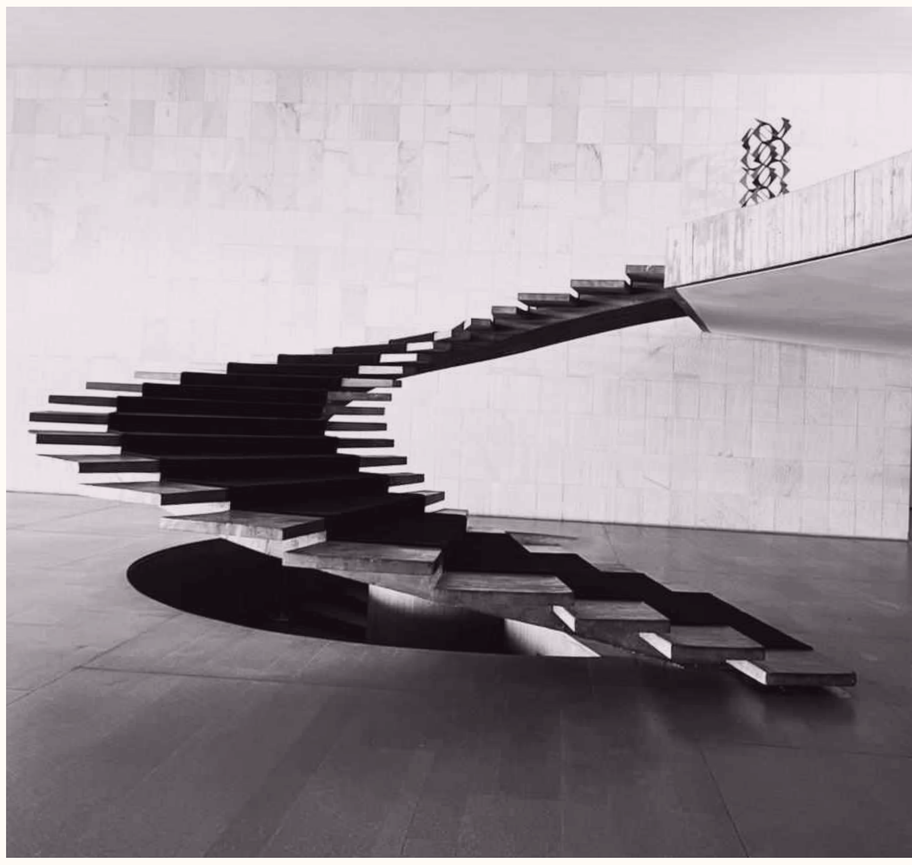
At a glance, a Niemeyer building is instantly recognizable. Modern in expression yet palatial in presence, his structures thrive on contrast: each is distinct, yet all share a coherent architectural language. They are remarkable in form but rendered with such clarity and simplicity that even a child could sketch them. Quite an achievement and perhaps exactly why they are so iconic.

Niemeyer carries his artistry indoors, where his originality reveals itself in the sculpting of staircases, ramps, and bridges. Though his buildings pose immense challenges for engineers, they seem to breathe lightness and effortless sophistication.

Start Here

If you're new to the city, visit the Praça dos Três Poderes before setting off on our day trips. There, you'll find the ***Lúcio Costa Space****, designed by Niemeyer, which houses a large maquette of Brasília—an ideal introduction to the city's bold urban plan. You can also see Costa's concise proposal that won the competition to design the capital.*

TOUR 1: THE NIEMEYER SHOW / ITAMARATY



Drive towards Eixo Monumental where Palácio Itamaraty, Ministry of Foreign affairs is located.

This is one of the most beautiful of Niemeyer's Palaces. Besides housing the foreign ministry it is also used by the president to receive foreign heads of states or dignitaries. The first impression you get of the building is that of the monumental proportion. A huge glass structure framed, not in marble like the other palaces but, in concrete. The structural arches enclose the building with sophistication.

Notice the touch of genius; how the glass box is set on the top of a water garden designed by Burle Marx. Only the building's concrete structure interrupts the embrace of the water mirror with the columns rising effortlessly above the water. The architect is consciously dividing the space and the glory of the palace with the landscape architect. This intention of giving space to other artists is also an element you will see on the inside of the palace.

Inside, the visitor will experience various moods from the oppressive low ceiling to the relief of grand ones, the immensity of the space rhythmed by Athos Bulcão bas reliefs and granite flooring surrounding the famous curved staircase that takes you to the mezzanino or down to the auditorium.

The Amazon garden on the ground floor links to the mezzanine with verticality and texture. Notice how the garden floats towards the outside of the building, something unique in architecture. And look at how Mary Vieira's interactive and playful sculpture "Ponto de Encontro" gives emphasis to the relative dynamics of time and space.

Going up the stairs, to the mezzanino you find Arthos Bulcão's wood-screen that showcases how Niemeyer understood Brasília's climate and the need for air circulation. Another remarkable feature of the Niemeyer building is entryways. Here in particular the functional ingenious car ramp that takes the foreign dignitaries directly to the Minister's office.

The third floor drawing rooms are followed by an ample veranda from where you can admire the view of the city and the other palaces. Notice how the doors are elegantly open towards the garden where you will find a collection of sculptures of Maria Martins, Bruno Giorgi, Lasar Segall and others, handpicked for the space.

The third floor is also where you find historical artifacts such as the remarkable colonial furniture, the glorious state presents; the carpet of Queen Victoria to Dom Pedro II. Befittingly, on the walls you have paintings created by Brazilian artists of migrant descent such as Ohthake and Mabe.

In the auditorium, notice the rounded translation cabinets made out of cockpit windows. Materials were difficult to find in the 60's, however creative thinking was never lacking. Three white, striking, monumental works of art have been integrated into the architecture in the lobby of the "plenário": Sérgio Camargo sculpture wall, Emanuel Araújo and Ruben Valentim's reliefs.

Much of the credit for selecting the artworks goes to Ambassador Wladimir Murtinho who was assigned the task of working the necessities of the building with the architect.

Pit Stop

When you finish your visit, have a coffee break inside Itamaraty's newly inaugurated **Terra Nova** or head down to **Casa de Chá** (Wed-Sun), located in the middle of Praça dos Três Poderes. The coffeehouse, designed by Niemeyer, is full of contemporary furniture from Brasília.

Dom Bosco's Dream or Niemeyer's City?

In 1883, the Italian Saint Dom Bosco had a visionary dream about a new and prosperous civilization located where Brasília stands today. For this reason, there are numerous references and tributes to Dom Bosco. Inside the Itamaraty palace you see Volpi's famous rendition of the myth, and if you look closer Dom Bosco has a slight (and intended) tongue in cheek resemblance to Niemeyer.

The Itamaraty Name

Back when Brazil became a Republic and Rio de Janeiro was still the capital, the new government bought a palace from the Count of Itamaraty. That's when Itamaraty became the metonym for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that occupied the building. When the capital moved, the name followed.

TOUR 2: THE LÚCIO COSTA & NIEMEYER SHOW/SUPERQUADRA 308

This time we want you on your feet exploring one of the Superquardras in Asa Sul. This is where you see the full dream team at work. Costa, Niemeyer, Bulcão and Burle Marx.

Superquardra 308 is the emblematic model projected by Lúcio Costa. His vision for the residential areas was that of simplicity, practicality and the idea of close knit community. He planned for schools, health stations and essential commercial establishments nearby, so that each superquadra would have autonomy.

In Costa's universe fluidity and free movement of people in all of the spaces was key. He famously said "the residents belong to the Superquadra, but the Superquadra doesn't belong to them". With this in mind, think of how he succeeded with that idea, by raising the residential blocks on pilotis creating a democratic and public space beneath them, while at the same time adding lightness to the building volume.

Humanizing the living areas was a priority, consequently, constructing buildings in a scale that would sustain this profile was of the essence. To obtain this, Costa established that no residential building should be higher than the 6th floor. This limit was established from the observation that a child should be able to hear their parents calling if they were playing in the playground below.

Costa also believed in bringing people close to nature. In Superquadra 308 Sul Burlemarx was responsible for arborising the area and he also created the pond in front of Bloco F. The pond is not only a decorative element, but helps humidify the space, which is important for a city that during the dry season is otherwise dangerously dry.

To reinforce the idea of autonomous, close-knit, community units, Niemeyer was tasked with constructing the iconic Igreijinha da Fatima, the public school Escola Parque, the nearby social club, Clube Vizinhança and Cine Brasília. Costa also thought of adding a daycare unit to the quadra, one that is beautifully revisited in Athos Bulcão tiles.

Europeans sometimes have a hard time understanding the Superquadra project. When they observe the buildings they translate the aesthetics to "low income" which is contrary to the fact. This perception is due to the fact that modern architecture in Europe was made for the masses. By contrast, in Brazil, what has been created is upscale apartments for the middle class. Here are some differences:

• Pilotis. Generally the European blocks are not on Pilotis. They play a central role in assigning lightness to the building volume, making the space more social and open by always enabling one to see the horizon and keeping the space relatable.

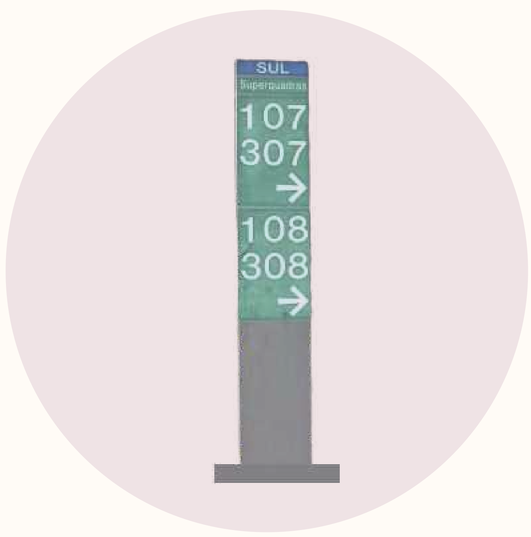
• Exclusivity. In general, each entrance has access to two elevators, one social and another larger for service. The lifts service few apartments and are therefore practically always available.

• Greenery. Bucolic elements are always an integral part of the Superquardra. Notice how there is no fence around any buildings, but that the superquadra has been surrounded by a green belt. It not only is pleasant to look at, it also helps minimizing noise pollution, helps absorb rain and provides shade.

• Brise soleils. Locally this feature is known as "cobogos". They create shade that protects the apartments from direct sunlight, ensuring a pleasant temperature while also providing natural ventilation. It is also an elegant way that you let the wind pass but do not look into the drying laundry on the clothesline.

Open Architecture

All over Brazil most apartment blocks are fenced off and inaccessible for pedestrians. Brasília is different; the design requires free circulation and you will notice the total lack of fencing.



Signs of the Time

***Danilo Barbosa** is the man behind all the signposts you see throughout the city. Notice how different colors mean different things: green for directional signs (which way to go), blue for identifying where you are (superquadras, blocks), brown for points of interest. In 2012 his signpost totem was selected to be part of the permanent collection at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), in New York.*

Most of these architectural elements - basic as they might seem - are what makes a break with European modernism and creates a tropical “haute” modernism that caters to an entirely different set of consumers.
When visiting, stop by the old newsstand the “Banca 308” where the gift shop carries Brasília themed souvenirs.

Pit Stop

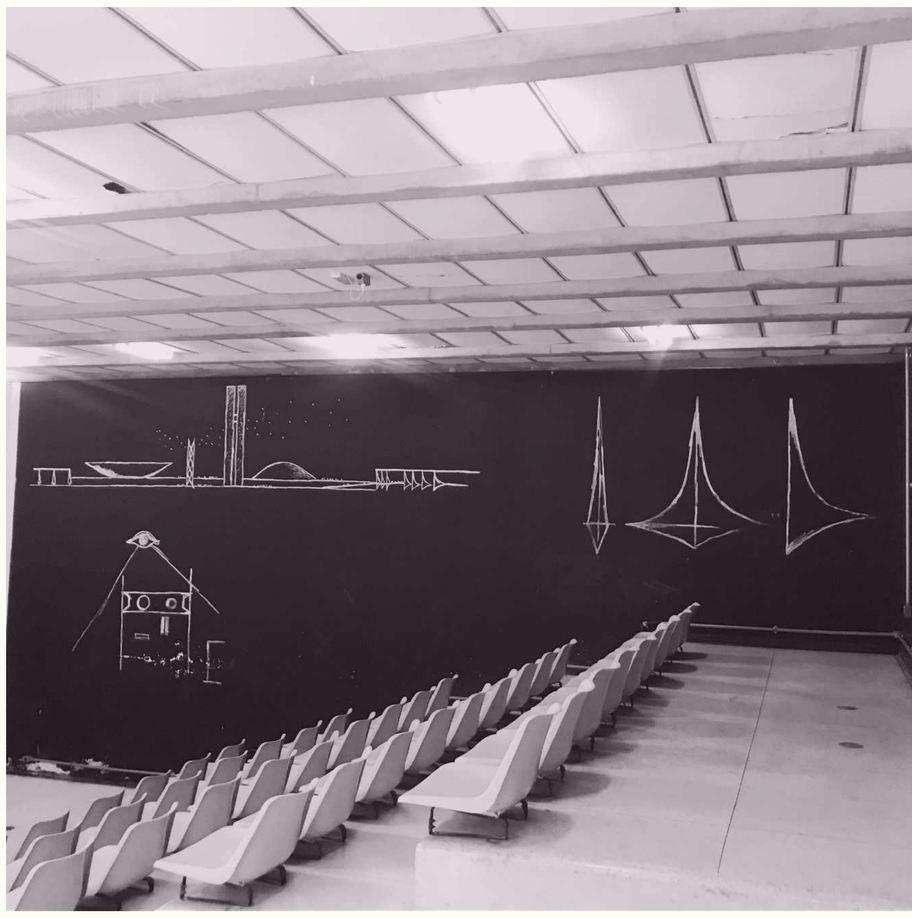
In the adjacent commercial quadra (308), not far from the Superquadra, you can have a coffee at **Café e um Chêro**, a typical place with local flair. If you are hungry we suggest the simple but tasty Gaúcho food at **Galeteria** or North Eastern food at **Xique Xique** where we suggest you try the famous carne de sol.

News Stands no More

At the entry of all the superquadras there was a designated space for a newsstand - a banca. Now after the internet revolution, most of them are slowly adopting new functions, such as restaurants or convenient stores.

TOUR 3: WALKING TOUR UNB/NIEMEYER & THE OTHER MASTERS

A tour of the UNB will bring you in touch with various architectural styles by some of Brazil's top Architects. The link above has a complete list of buildings and artwork at UNB, including a **map** you can use to navigate the campus. We have made a shorter itinerary for you to follow, that we were kindly provided by UNB Architect Professor **Dr. Claudia Estrela**.



- **José Galbinski**. Gabinsky was the architect that brought Brutalism to Brasília. For those of you not familiar with Brutalism observe how brutalism favored the structural truth of buildings, never hiding their structural elements, achieved by using exposed reinforced concrete or highlighting the metal profiles of beams and pillars. E.g. on the restaurant building observe how the helical staircase has been placed in evidence on the outside of the building, highlighting this element. (Galbinski is behind the Library & the University Restaurant)

- **Alcides da Rocha Miranda**. A friend of Costa, he came from Rio with a brand of modernism with hints of brutalism. He is also heritage and context sensitive, which can be seen in his FE building at UNB, that reflects on the Brasília palatial architecture with its gardens and pillars.

- **Paulo de Mello Zimbres**. Zimbres is the architect behind the Rectoral building. His brand of brutalist modernism was rather poetic with its integrated gardens and social horizontal planes.

- **Oscar Niemeyer**. Niemeyer has several buildings at UNB. His CEPLAN (planning office) will give you a feeling for how life was during the construction. Don’t forget to enter the building and find his architectural murals on the walls - a testament to history and to how effervescently the planning and exchange of thoughts was back in the day. Niemeyer also had plans for student housing and for that you have to find his Student House Prototype. Last but not least, he constructed the prominent main building, the ICC or the Minhocão, as this 720m long construction is popularly called.

- **João Filgueiras Lima** (Lelé). As examples of his architecture you find the Beijodromo and the “Colina” as the teaching staff's apartment blocks are popularly called.

TOUR 4: PARKWAY ARCHITECTURE/ NEW AND OLD

Brasília is not lacking in new contemporary architecture. If you take your car and drive out to Park Way you can visit the iconic Mansion of the Arches, designed by Lelé, the colonial style house that Niemeyer constructed for himself and while there visit the recently constructed Church Sagrada Familia that since its inauguration in 2022 has won more than 10 prizes both national and international for its innovative design.

- **Casa Nivaldo Borges** (1978). Lelé's landmark Mansion of the Arches. Architecturally, you will notice how by creating row after row of vaults and arches Lelé was using the ceramic bricks constructive and plastic potential to the fullest. The house possesses a church-like serenity, bathed in his trademark lights and natural ventilation and a strong integration of the outside (vegetation and water mirror) with the inside. A duality at work at the building, the contrast between glass and light against the robustness of the bricks. The house possesses a large cinema and has been used and continues to be used for screenings.

- **Casa Niemeyer** (1963). The house Niemeyer constructed for himself is now owned by UNB, and used by its art students for exhibitions. It is most fun to visit when an exhibition is on, but you are allowed inside anyways. There are no tour guides, so come prepared or bring your own. Also, we recommend you check their Instagram as visitation hours often change.

After creating Brasília's monumental palaces, Niemeyer deliberately chose a "farmhouse" aesthetic, showing another side of his vision: modernism blended with Brazilian tradition. It is informative of his character too, that he didn't build a house to impress, but a house to relax. It was modest, livable, and blended into Brasília's Cerrado surroundings. Despite the traditional look, it's built with reinforced concrete and has a clean, open plan. When there, notice also the red tiled roof, one of the few buildings that he designed with a visible roof.

Notice how his house doesn't possess his typical signature of the exuberant curves but you will recognize his restraint.

If you go to the pool area outside you will find his friend Ceschiatti's sculpture Guanabara.

- **Sagrada Familia** (2022). The architects behind are; André Velloso, Eder Alencar and UNB Professor of architecture, Luciana Saboia.

At the outset of the project the troika were inspired by Costa and Niemeyer and wanted to create a house of worship that respected the history of the city and its plan. The aim was to integrate spirituality with the urban landscape of Brasília using geometric forms and contemporary materials.

The complex is composed of three main volumes. Observe the characteristic circular main Nave, the church building. The façade is made of white concrete panels giving it a minimalist and timeless appearance. Inside, strategically placed skylight let the natural light flood the room creating a welcoming atmosphere. The interior's wooden elements contrast to the concrete and help add warmth. Windows circling the space ensures the visitor has eye contact with the horizon.

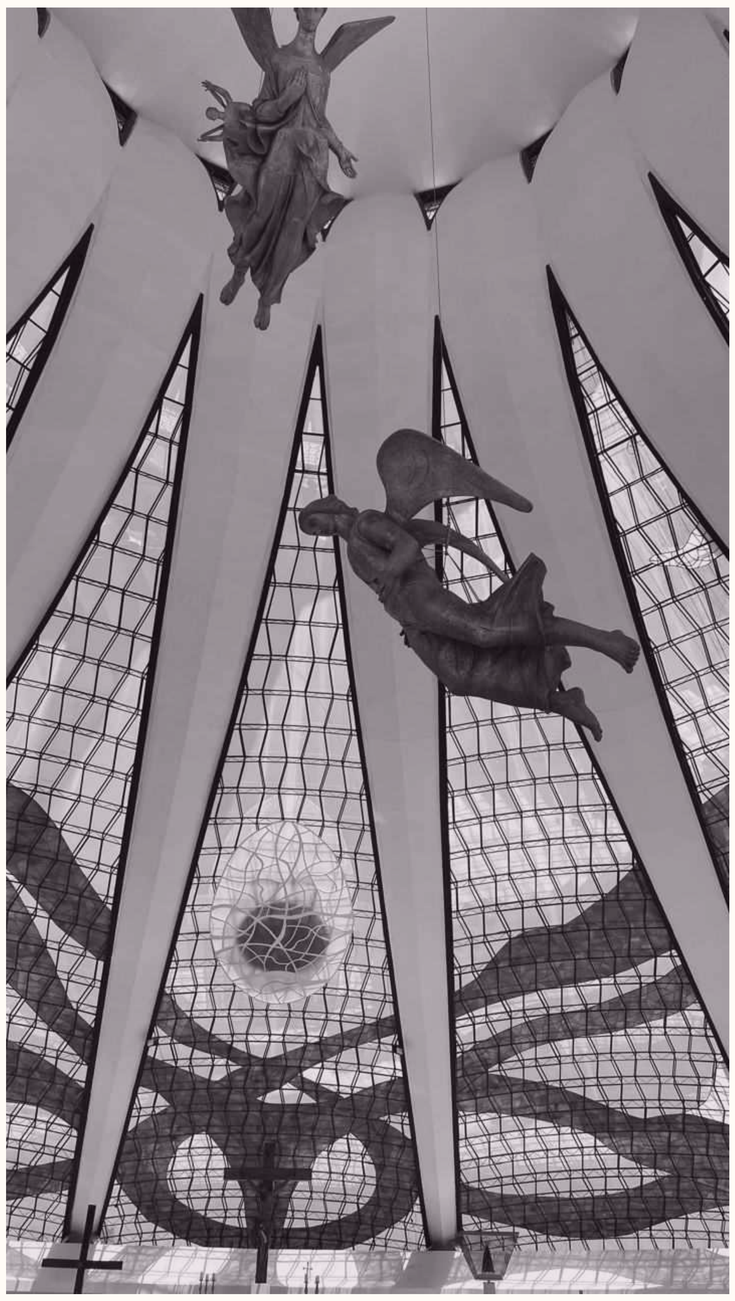
Pit stop

While at Park Way you should go have a hearty lunch at **Quiosque Gourmet** at Vargem Bonita, the oldest colony in Brasília. On your way back, call on lawyer turned business man and cachasa enthusiast, Eduardo Moreth of **Authoral Cachaça**. He makes one of the best Cachaças in the world out of his house in Park Way. Get a few bottles of this golden liquid for yourself and to give as a gift.

ARTSY

As a continuation of the architectural tours we have made a few that focus on art. There are three artists who besides Athos Bulcão and Roberto Burle Marx have made a major contribution to the city, **Bruno Giorgi**, **Alfredo Ceschiatti** and **Marianne Peretti**.

If you feel rebellious or want contact with the counter-culture movement we have a graffiti tour for you too.



TOUR 5: THE TREASURE HUNT / ALFREDO CESCHIATTI / BRUNO GIORGI / MARIANNE PERETTI

Alfredo Ceschiatti (1918-1989) and Bruno Giorgi (1905-1993) were two major representatives of modern sculpture in Brazil, and they were both an integral part of the creation of Brasília.

Bruno Giorgi (1905-1993) spent most of his youth in Italy. Somewhat an anarchist, he was involved with the fight against fascism and also took part in the Spanish Civil War before he studied and worked in Paris only to return to Brazil in 1939, where he became an integral part of the modernist movement.

Ceschiatti's way to sculpture went through that of dance. He danced classical ballet and contemporary dance in Rio, before he redirected his creative energy towards sculpting. You will notice that he has a certain fondness for the motif of the female body in all its curvy glory. His way of working is often quite classic, however, you will notice a slight influence of the Minas Gerais Baroque, another technique he masters with great skill.

Franco-Brasileira Peretti, the only by Ceschiatti's four monumental woman on the team, was educated in Paris and found her way to the team after cold-calling Niemeyer. She had already had successful exhibitions in Paris that received praise from among others, Salvador Dali. Niemeyer was impressed with her work and invited her to join the team.

If you like to hunt for treasures, we encourage you to take your car and drive towards the Cathedral on Eixo Monumental.

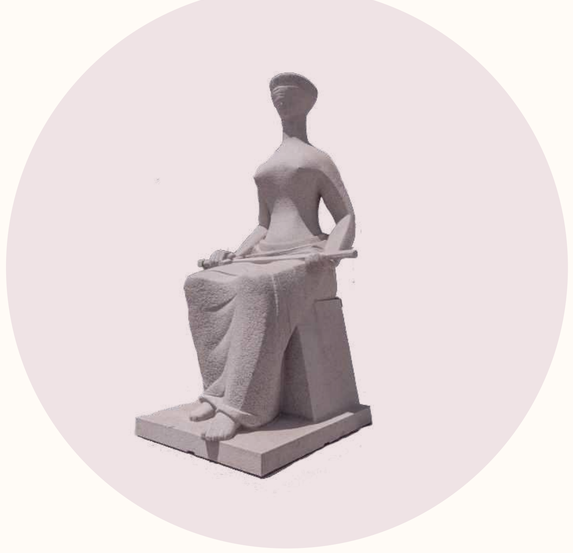
- **"The Prophets" (1968)**. When you arrive at the Cathedral you are greeted bronze prophets. When you descend into the Cathedral the one of the first things you will notice is his sculpture **"The Angels and the Evangelists" (1970)** suspended from the ceiling. Notice how his angles representing Archangels Gabriel, Miguel and Rafael, have visible female shapes? What do you think?

- While you are here have a look at Peretti's stained glass mosaic, celebrated as one of the most important works of art of its kind. Notice how it is not just a decorative object, but an integrated part of the Cathedral architecture. A work of blues, greens, white with accents of red and gold, celebrated for evoking the elements of creation and spirituality.

Now take your car and drive towards Itamaraty.

- **"O Meteoro" (1967)**. Bruno Giorgi's Meteor sculpture is one of the most admired marble sculptures in the city. Cut in white Carrera marble it elegantly fluctuates above Burle Marx's dark water mirror in front of the palace. The circular sculpture is made of five intertwined elements and is a symbol of interaction between continents and harmonious relationship between people.

- **"O Construtor"**. When the Meteoro sculpture was chosen it was one of three proposed designs. One of the other options "O Construtor" you can see if you walk to the backside of



More of the Masters

The three masters have many other notable sculptures around town. If you are at Alvorada you have to admire Ceschiattis Iaras sculpture. Also, Bruno Giorgi has a large (6m) bronze sculpture, Dinamismo Olympico, by Ginasio Nielson Nelson.

the Itamaraty Palace, to the “Bolo de Noiva” building. There on the grass in front of Anexo II you will find this sculpture hiding in plain sight. (The third model, slightly smaller, is inside the palace)

Take your car and go to Praça dos Três Poderes.

• **Os Candangos** (1959). One of Bruno Giorgi’s most emblematic sculptures in the city is a tall bronze statue that was originally titled The Warriors that you find on Praça dos Tres Poderes. Two people united in an embrace symbolizing unity, strength and the willingness to fight for equality and for the patria. It is now considered a homage to the workers constructing the city.

• **Justice (1960)**. Close by you find **Ceschiatti**’s Justice, carved in granite in front of the Supreme Federal Court. One of the city’s most iconic sculptures. Justice is blindfolded, and lays her sword horizontally across her lap so that it doubles up as a pair of scales that are permanently in balance.

Now, drive towards the National Theater, also on the Eixo.

• **“A Contorcionista” (1952).** Outside the Villa-Lobos foyer inside the National Theater you find Ceschiatti’s celebrated bronze masterpiece “A Contorcionista” in close proximity to Burle Marx’s garden.

Pit Stop

Nearby Eixo Monumontal, you find Vila Planalto, a charming village style part of town where workers used to live, and that still carries the cosy smalltown vibe and country-style of entertaining. We recommend you go have lunch at **Tia Zelia** or go have a coffee and a typical sweet in the garden at **Doce Lu**. If you are pressed for time, go to Nimeyer’s building that houses **SESI Lab**. Here you find a decent coffeeshop with a great view and a nice little gift shop with local design items.

Vila Planalto

Around 1957, Vila Planalto came into being as a campground for the construction workers. It was originally the plan to desoccupy the area after the inauguration of Brasília, but the inhabitants mobilized and in 1988 Vila Planalto became historic and cultural patrimony of the DF. It is also here you will find the first church in Brasília - a wooden construction on the edge of the village that is still intact, and that acted as Cathedral until Niemeyer’s building on Eixo Monumental was ready.

TOUR 6: GRAFFITI TOUR

If you want to get off the beaten track and enter the counter-culture world, you should head towards W3 Sul. If you walk from 504 to 511 you will see some of the best murals in town culminating in the area around Centro Cultural Renato Russo at 508. What began as vandalism and a rebel act culminated in a government supported graffiti marathon in 2021, where 27 artists were invited to participate in the embellishment of designated areas, acknowledging the legitimacy of graffiti as an artform. You will also notice that some artists are proud brasilienses and create homages to the city’s architecture and the people whose work and ideas were important in forming the city. In this way they write themselves into the tradition of homaging the particular architecture, as it also happens in cities like Barcelona (Gaudi), Chicago (skyscrapers), Berlin (Bauhaus) and Paris (Haussman).

• **Camilla Siren**. At Espaço Cultural Renato Russo (508S) you will find the works of Camila Siren that celebrate nature and the feminine forces.

• **Musgo**, Marcos Vinicius Moraes, one of the old-guard artists, who chronicles what he sees and uses a well established iconography with national symbols, such as the parrot or the caramelo (street dog). You will find his Caramelo on the Renato Russo building.

• **Mão**, one of the most expressive artists who references the city’s architectural monuments and personalities. His trademark is a bear with a golden halo. Once you see it you cannot unsee it anymore.

Bisarafaela, **RamonPhanton**, **Fefe**, **Beraverso**, **Totalementeconsciente** are names of some of the other recognizable artists working in and around Brasília.

Pit stop

Not very far from Centro Cultural Renato Russo, in 108 Sul, you find **The Coffee**, minimalist, Japanese inspired coffee bliss, 100% Brazilian - beans included.

ADVENTURES

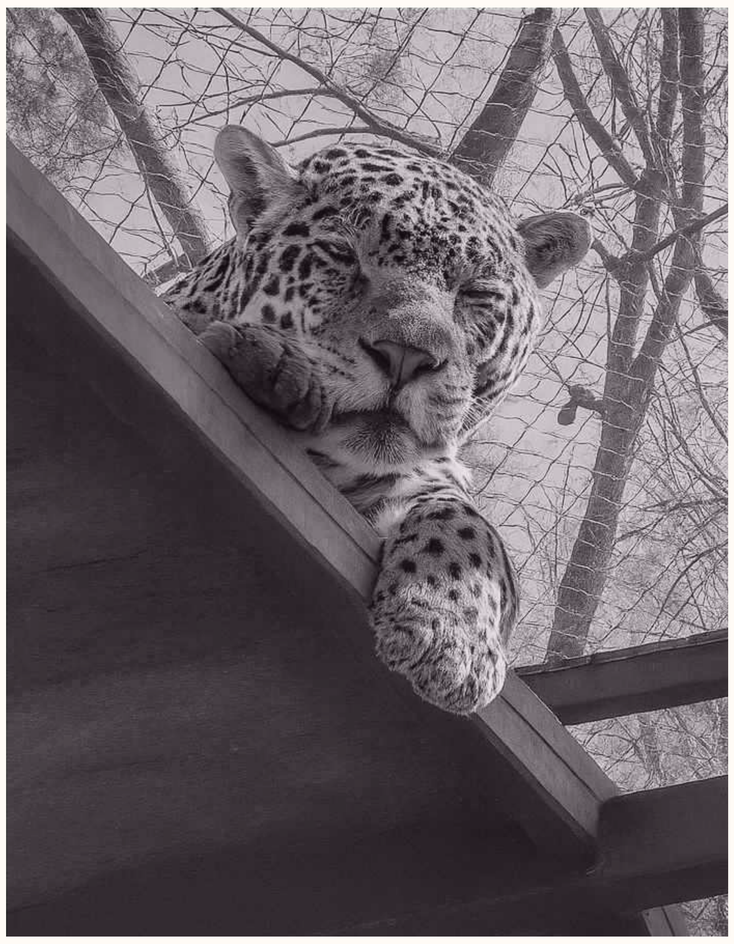
There are a few agencies that can help you organize adrenaline filled activities around town. On your own responsibility of course!

- **Cerrado Vertical**. An agency specialized in radical sports training and eco/ adventure tourism. If you have always dreamt about rappelling down through a waterfall, this agency is a good match.

- **Adrena Hunters**. If you need an adrenaline kick, write a message to Taian from Adrena Hunters, and you will receive their monthly programming. Everything from rappel, to moonlight canoes or trail runs.

- **Camelo Biketour** (Eixo). Biking tour in Brasília! It is tourism obviously, but with a twist. It is both exhilarating and immensely satisfying to ride a bike around town! Not without dangers though so take care!

- **Habitat Aventura**. An agency specialized in radical sports and eco adventure.



GALLOPING JOURNEYS

- The simple yet cosy **Fazenda Roncador** is located in the National Reserve and has access to beautiful waterfalls. You can organize a day trip or nightovers. Food is abundant and horses are calm. Don't forget to bring your bathing costume!

TREKKING

Obsessed with trekking? Want good news? Brasília has lots of options for you in fact there are more than 400km of treks in and around Brasília. **Caminhos do Planalto Central** has mapped all of the treks. Below we have some suggestions of where to start your discovery.

- **Jardim Botânico**. For a fair entrance fee you will be able to use the safely marked paths inside Jardim Botânico. There are treks for all levels. The good part is that inside you also find a nice **café**, where you can reward yourself afterwards.

- **Água Mineral** (Asa Norte/Parque Nacional Agua Mineral). For a small entry free you can enjoy the (chilly!) natural pools and the treks marked by the park rangers for all levels. Treks vary from 1.3-10km.

- **Trilheiras de Brasília**. If you enjoy hiking and want to do it with a group of women this is for you! A group of women's only hikers. Mixed hiking groups can be found online.

CRUISING ON THE LAKE?

- **Stalma Boats**. Motor boats leave from Pontão in Lago Sul, ask Sonia to give you her best boat. Sometimes the quality is great and sometimes not so much, but you can rent boats for various durations and purposes. Some even come with sound systems so you can have a mini party along with your dip in the lake. Cel: +55 (61) 99932 0209.

ROARING BEASTS

- **Nex**. Ever dreamt of being surrounded by roaring beasts? At Nex they rescue panthers, pumas and other ferocious animals before they help send them back into nature. They organize day-visits where you can learn about their project and watch all the animals being fed.

ICE COLD BATHS

• **Chapada Imperial** (Parque Nacional) Located inside the national reserve, Chapada Imperial is a classic daytrip. It is a working fazenda that also functions as a rescue for parrots confiscated by IBAMA. You will be guided towards your selection of waterfalls inside the premises of Chapada Imperial, and after your tour you finish with a traditional galinada lunch included in the price.

• **Salto Corumbá** has become a family destination, paid access is through the fazendinha and once you are inside you can spend the day. There are small restaurants and a picnic place for your convenience.

Coffee Seduction

It is quite a seedy story, how coffee first came to Brazil. Brazilian military officer, Francisco Palheta, went to French Guiana to resolve border issues and bring home coffee plants - a secret mission at a time where the French were not allowed to trade in coffee plants or seeds and Brazilians were not allowed to do trade with the French. Legend has it that Palheta ended up in the bed of Madame D'Orvilliers - the wife of the Governor of French Guiana, who then gifted him coffee seedlings as a token of their love. Fact is; he brought back plants and seeds to Para and started the Brazilian coffee production.

FARM COUNTRY

When we say Farm Country we talk strawberries, coffee, cheese and we talk wine. These are some areas where producers have long been open to visits from people who want to learn more and buy their products. If you don't like to organize the visit yourself, **Vida Rural** or **Rotas do Cerrado** are agencies specialized in rural excursions. Nevertheless, we have made a small selection of farm visits around Distrito Federal.

STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER

If you like to visit a strawberry field we have good news, there are two places we know of that are open to visitors and where you can go pick your own fruit.

• **Sítio Belubia**. An organic strawberry producer in Park Way/ Brazlandia that is open to the public. Check their IG for when the season is open. (Normally from June throughout September)

• **Fukushi**. At the Fukushi Chacara you can pick both strawberries and blueberries, which they will announce on their IG when the season is open.

COFFEE FARM

Coffee was introduced to Brazil in 1727, smuggled back home by a military officer returning from a mission in French Guiana. The initial coffee production began in Para wherefrom it soon spread south to Rio and then Minas Gerais, and São Paulo where the soil and climate was more ideal.

There are many coffee farms around Brasília that are also participating in this quest for the perfect bean. If you like to know more about the production we have found two farms that are open to visits.

• **Minelis**. If you would like to know more about coffee production, this is a great place to visit. You will learn about everything from plant to grain to cup.

Cerrado Gourmet Coffee

*You should try the sustainably produced gourmet coffee **1979 (Vertente)** available at **Banca Caipira** in Lago Sul (QI 05). The 1979 producers are from Brasília and produce a brilliant Cerrado coffee. For farm to cup purchase use hyperlink to their **Instagram**.*

• **Café Mae**. An organic coffee plantation that you can visit and they will spill the beans on how to grow coffee and how to ensure a quality organic bean in your cup.

WINE COUNTRY

Wine is a growing sector for Brazilian exports. In recent years, international awards have poured in — mostly for sparkling wines, but now increasingly for other categories as well. If you want to keep an eye on what is happening in the Brazilian wine industry have a look at **ABE, the Brazilian Enologist Association.**

Wine production in Brasília is recent, however the climatic conditions are favorable for growing winter wine. (Wine to be harvested in July and August.)

For those of you who do not have time to go to the award winning vineyards of Serra Gaucha, we have some local vineyards for you to discover, perhaps you will even fall in love with a locally produced winter wine?

• **Villa Triacca Hotel & Vinícola**. This boutique hotel com vineyard, is one of the most popular destinations in DF's wine country. They operate with a one year waiting list for many of their events, so hurry up and book already!

• **Vinícola Brasília**. Uniting 10 wine producing families in a project that has already been making waves winning a prize for their “Monumental” red. All their wines have beautifully crafted logos that situate them solidly in DF. Such a great gift to bring back home!

• **Ercoara**. Ecora makes events where they invite up and coming chefs to harmonize a menu, highly recommended.

• If you would rather not overnight or if you just like someone else to drive you, book a trip with **Entour Brasília** and make the magic happen.

SAY CHEESE

There is a growing number of artisanal cheese producers in and around Brasília. Most producers are European immigrants, who take their techniques with them overseas. Most start as small homebased operations and some grow in popularity real fast.

• **Cabrissima Queijaria Artisanal** (Sobradinho). Located at Lago Oeste, this farm is owned by the passionate couple Aurelino Almeida and Giovana Navarro. They host guided visits where you walk through the farm, interact with animals, learn about cheese-making and finish with a delicious brunch featuring their homemade cheese.

• **Queijaria Alpina** (Pirenópolis/ Corumbá). Stephan Gaehwiler and his family arrived more than three decades ago in Brazil. With him he brought Swiss technique and cows to start producing cheese at his Fazenda Pica Pau. After many years of adjustment Alpinas cheeses are winning gold medals at international competitions. You can contact them to request a visit.

Best Bubbles

Did you know that Brazil produces some of the world’s best sparkling wine? And as the only country in South America it has two DOs. Vale dos Vinhedos and Pinto Bandeira.
Sommeliers agree that the Serra Gaucha with its rich soil and mild climate is ideal for sparking wine production. Notable examples of sparkling wines include labels from Chandon, Miolo, Salton, Casa Valduga, Cave Geisse, and Valmarino. Miolo and Valduga considered top tires.

Möet & Chandon Brasileira

Did you know that the Brazilian sparkling “Chandon” is part of the LVMH group? Chandon Brazil was established by Moët & Chandon in 1973. It introduced modern techniques and lots of investments in the country, consistently delivering great quality sparkling wine.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

DAY TRIPS

Without much introduction we have listed some of the more popular destinations from our archive.

• **Vista Linda**. 40 min away by the National Park you find Vista Linda, a cosy fazenda that makes one of the best moquecas in Brasília served in the traditional black clay pots. They are pet and kids friendly, so book a table and head out.

• **Rancho Canabrava**. A classic for families. You can have a delicious country lunch and the kids can roam around.

• **Trem da Serra**. Fazenda restaurant classic! If on a weekend and you need to pull a rabbit out of your tophat, that would be Trem da Serra. The young kids love to have lunch here and they will be able to look around and pet the animals - under your supervision naturally! Their leitão is legendary!

OVERNIGHTS

• **Hospedagens da Nany** (Central Oeste). How about renting a house for the weekend, either alone or with a group of friends? Nany is a child-friendly place, but also has bikes for rent with itineraries passing by artisanal beer tastings.

• **Hotel Fazenda Cabugi**. 1 ½ hours West of Brasília in direction towards Goais you find Cabugi, a fazenda hotel that has won the first prize in Central Oeste. It is a place for the

Land of Legends

A natural paradise and historic site, Bisnau preserves traces of some of the earliest human presence in the Brazilian altiplano. The petroglyph engravings are potentially 11.000 years old dating back to the late Paleoindian or early Archaic period.

whole family, with lots of activities and infrastructure.

• **Bisnau**. Are you into beautiful waterfalls and ice cold turquoise ponds? Then add petroglyphs to the mix and you have got Bisnau. Located 2h North East of Brasília. This is a place for people who like to camp. The spot has showers & bathrooms, it is very rustic and therefore quite authentic. No place to purchase food, so bring your own. Polish off your survival skills, this is a unique opportunity to go camping!! (PS: You can easily turn it into a daytrip if you like to sleep in the comfort of your own bed)

CHAPADA DOS VEADEIROS

In recent years, Chapada dos Veadeiros has become quite the destination for the eco-conscious “trilheiros” and there has been a surge in pousadas and rental homes.

The best time to visit Chapada dos Veadeiros is during the dry season. The water is clearer, it is slightly cold at night, but you will avoid any problems with mudslides.

When choosing to stay it is a good idea to already know what you wish to visit so you can choose between the three villages: Alto Paraíso, São Jorge and Cavalcante. Your choice between the three will depend on whether you want proximity to your excursions in exchange for comfort or vice versa. The comfort crowd stays at Alto Paraíso, whereas the “naturebas” stay in São Jorge or Cavalcante.

ALTO PARAISO

The largest city and where you find most of the comfortable accommodations. There is streetlight, bars and restaurants and some places even have wifi ensuring you will have a comfortable stay. However, it is almost 40km from the park entrance.

• **Chalet Vila Isis**. Two recently constructed, modern chalets on the compound so if you plan to go with a couple of friends it could work like magic. The bed linen is white, and communication is easy. You cook your own meals here!

• **Vila Baru**. Known to be a luxury destination in Chapada, Vila Baru, rents out houses for families and bungalows for couples. They have concierge service and massage, they also think about your fitness and food. Psst: Ask for one of the housings with a private pool.

• **Pousada Inácia**. Celebrities' first choice when they go to Chapada dos Veadeiros. Full of art objects and antiques, the daily rate here is “apimentada” as the locals say, but it is also a place that knows how to pamper.

• **Casa da Lua**. One of the larger properties with lots of amenities and with one of the best breakfasts in the area. (Pet friendly).

Green Energy

In Brazil 89% of the energy comes from renewable energy sources, much ahead of the international curve. In comparison, in Denmark it is 82%, UK 51% and the US around 20%. Brazil has the highest number of all the G20 countries and three times the world average.

SÃO JORGE

With a more alternative vibe São Jorge has no asphalt or streetlight. You come to get in touch with nature and that is also reflected in the more rustic accommodation options. There is not as much infrastructure as in Alto Paraiso, but São Jorge does have restaurant **Na Mata**, Mara Alcamins rustique palace for the gourmet crowd (Inspired by Argentine chef Mallmann). São Jorge is also the gateway to the treks in the national park. From here there are several marked treks whereof the most famous is the Trilha dos Cânions 12km and the 24km Sete Quedas where there is an option to camp inside the park.

- **Casa Sucupira** Located at the end of São Jorge, gives you the possibility of walking to establishments in town, if you are too tired to cook yourself.
- **Toca do Guará** located inside the "mata" is a natural preservation site that has been up and running for years. If you are into green living you will love this place.

CAVALCANTE

Cavalcante is a Kalunga community that is close to some of the most beautiful waterfalls and the showstopping turquoise water pond by the Santa Barbara waterfall. It is also historically interesting as it is a community founded by quilombolas - descendants of runaway slaves.

- **Majule Ecolodge**. A new ecolodge complete with a contemporary boutique design. Lodges have private pools and wifi! It has never been easier to go off the beaten track!
- **Vale das Araras**. A great and timetried pousada that is used to hosting kids from Brasília's international schools.

DON'T MISS

- Not far from Alto Paraiso at the **Fazenda São Bento** you find two of the best waterfalls, Almécegas I and Almécegas II.
- The **Cristais waterfall** and the **Loquinhas waterfall** is close by Alto Paraíso and ideal for families that need more infrastructure around them
- **Vale da Lua**: 40 min drive from Alto Paraíso or 20 min from São Jorge, here you find the black moon-like landscape sculpted from the Rio São Miguel water.
- The **Segredo** waterfall is a 35 min drive from São Jorge
- **Mirante da Janela**, a beautiful viewpost.
- **Santa Barbara Waterfall**, with the crystal clear turquoise pond close to Cavalcante.

We always recommend you bring a guide if you plan on trekking. The paths are often signaled, but for safety it is always good to bring a local pair of eyes.

Esoteric Mecca

*People say that a special cosmic energy is running through Chapada dos Veadeiros, due to the combination of the energy emissions from the quartz crystals deposits and the chapada's geographical placement. This energy and the beautiful surroundings have long attracted people who seek reclusion to do spiritual and meditation retreats. One of these popular places is **Terra Booma**, in Alto Paraiso.*

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