

THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO CARNIVAL



History of Carnival

The Rio Carnival celebration dates back to 1640s. During that time, elaborate feasts were organized to give honor to the Greek wine gods. In 1840, the very first Rio masquerade took place, and polka and waltz took center stage. According to Greek mythology, the trend of honoring the grape-harvest, wine-making or wine started as early as 1500-1100 BC. Africans subsequently influenced the Carnival with the introduction of samba music in 1917, which is now considered a traditional Brazilian form of sounds. The festival 'Entrudo' was introduced by the Portuguese and this inspired the birth of the Carnival in Brazil.



STUFF TO DO

1) Sambodromo Parade

From sunrise to sunset, and around the clock, the Samba schools parade down the streets of Rio de Janeiro, but only the top 14 Samba Schools are "privileged" enough to parade in the Sambodromo. Unless you plan to take part in one of the parades in the outside streets (which you are more than welcome to) buying a ticket to watch the spectacular procession of the top samba bands is a must.

2) Street Processions

What happens to the other samba schools who are not in the top 14 schools? During the Carnival, these schools flood the streets of Rio. Through each neighborhood, the streets fill up with hundreds of followers. Anyone is welcome to join.

3) Carnival Balls

The carnival ball in the Copacabana Palace Hotel is the largest, most luxurious, and most famous in Rio. During the nights of the carnival, some of the streets have finally been released (temporarily) from under the marching feet of the dancers and musicians. The Masquerade Balls are high-class parties held into the early mornings of the next day.



STUFF TO STAY AWAY FROM

1) Men

Women are told to not wear skirts or to be alone because men have been known to get sexually aggressive.

2) Don't split up

Make sure your group is always together or there is a time and place to meet because people get lost in the big crowds

3) Close Quarters

A lot of fights break out because of the closeness. If you are caught near a fight walk away, don't run and let the police handle it.



REVIEWS

Robert



" I would maybe go because I loved all of the costumes, but I didn't like that they were celebrating greek

Corinthia:



" I would maybe go because I loved the Disney floats, but I think that a lot of the float would give me seizures."

Mom



" I went all the time as a little girl, I loved all of the colors and what the parade stands for. "

Grandma



" I try and go as much as I can, everyone there is so nice and I look forward to it every year."