

Living in Brazil: some tips

The largest economy in South America is a Federal Republic with 26 states and one Federal District, being the nation's capital, Brasilia. It's territory serves as a home for over 190 million people that experience a special moment in the current global economical stage. Some predictions even points out Brazil as the world's fifth largest economy in the future.

Classified as investment grade, the economy in Brazil is diverse: Comprised of agribusiness, industry and a multitude of services. Its infrastructure in the transports is also large and has considerably progressed in recent years. Its railroads, highways, ports and airports are in the process of upgrading.

The country also stands out in the clean energy sector and telecommunications, in addition to the higher education sector public and private, which has also been improved.

Geography

Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world, with an area of 8.5 million square kilometers, equivalent to about half the South American territory. With 23,102 kilometers of borders, is a neighbor of all South American countries, except Chile and Ecuador. The country has more than eight thousand kilometers of coast line along the Atlantic Ocean, which facilitates access to various parts of the country and the largest river system in the world, with a 55,457 m² area.

In Brazil, are located the most voluminous river and extensive in the world, the Amazon, with 6937.08 km, and the world's largest rainforest, the Amazon rainforest, with about five million square kilometers.

Climate

The extensive territory, diversity of landforms, altitude and dynamic currents and air masses make Brazil a country with such great diversity of climates, which retain a nice variation of temperatures. Most of Brazil lies in the tropical zone, where the prevailing warm and humid with temperatures around 20°C.

Characteristics of Brazilian Population

The Brazilian population in 2009, according to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), was approximately 191.5 million of people. About 50% of Brazilians are descendants of foreigners comprising first, second or third generations.

Nowadays, there are more than 6 million immigrants living in the country, with the predominance of Asians and Europeans, mainly Italians, Germans, Spaniards, Syrians, Lebanese, Japanese, Chinese and Korean.

Language

Portuguese is the official language of Brazil – the only Portuguese-speaking country in South America. In the past 40 years, the literacy rate increased 50% to 90%, according to IBGE (2008).

Education

According to the Ministry of Education, Brazil has 2,250 institutes of higher education, offering around 25,000 courses undergraduate classroom, and 197,500 public and private schools basic education.

Currency

The Real (R \$) is the currency in Brazil.

Visas for short-term business and tourism

A temporary visa is required by Brazilian government in order to permit tourism and business trips to visitors of certain countries. It's important to note that this type of visa does not give immediate permission to work in the country.

The short-term business visa must be obtained from the Brazilian consulate in the country of origin of the applicant. Generally, applications for business visas should be endorsed by a letter from Brazilian or foreign company requesting business travel.

The document should contain the following information:

- Purpose of trip and the activities that take place abroad in Brazil;
- Names, addresses and phone numbers of business contacts in Brazil;
- Scheduled date of arrival and departure;
- Guarantee of financial and moral responsibility to the foreigner during his visit to Brazil;

Typically, a tourist visa can be obtained with the submission of airfare roundtrip and documents showing financial ability to cover living expenses in Brazil. Generally, the deadline for obtaining a tourist visa is 24 hours. The document is valid for a period of 90 days from the first arrival in Brazil, and allows for multiple entries during that period. Extension for a period longer than 90 days must be sought from the Brazilian immigration authorities before the visa expires.

Temporary work visa

For foreigners who plan to work temporarily in Brazil, various types of visas can be applied in accordance with the condition. See the list of professions eligible for temporary work visas:

- Professionals employed by Brazilian companies;
- Technical professionals working without a contract, artists and athletes;
- Foreign journalists;
- Crew of chartered vessels under contract or lease agreement;
- Scientists and Researchers;
- Professional social welfare;

Permanent visa for foreign investors

In February 2009, the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MTE) changed the rules for obtaining a permanent visa to a foreign investor - individual. According to Law No. 6815, the MLE may authorize the granting of permanent visas to foreigners wishing to settle in Brazil with the purpose of investing its own funds from external sources in productive activities. The authorization to grant permanent visas to foreigners is conditional on proof of investment in foreign currency in amounts less than \$ 150 thousand.

Even if the investment amount is less than the value of \$ 150,000, the National Immigration Council may authorize the granting of permanent visas to entrepreneurs wishing to establish himself in Brazil to invest in productive

activity. In this case, the social interest will be verified according to specific criteria on investment.

Following the granting of permission for a permanent visa, the General Coordination of Immigration shall, annually, compliance with the Investment Plan informed, especially when it comes to generating jobs and income. If a noncompliance of the Investment Plan, the authorization shall be canceled.

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Documents required

Some documents are needed for daily activities of a foreigner in Brazil.

National Registry of Foreigners

The RNE must be requested from the Federal Police within 30 days after arrival in Brazil or the receipt of your visa for temporary or permanent residence. This is the main document of the foreigner in Brazil and is the basis for obtaining other documents. The alien must always carry the original or a certified copy.

(CPF)

The CPF is the Brazilian tax card. Retrieved from the IRS, it is necessary to open bank accounts, rent property and sign contracts, among other daily activities. You need the RNE for the document.

(CTPS)

All employees are required to carry on the Employment and Social Security, which can be obtained at the police station nearest Labour. No company can legally hire a worker without such a document. Driver license to request a temporary license, valid for the same period of the visa, the alien need an international license and stamped by the DMV's license valid in the country of origin. It is suggested that during this period is obtained a driver's license in Brazil. Until the alien to obtain it, should direct ownership of the international driver's license stamped, the foreign license (with official translation) and the passport.

Business hours, holidays and vacations

The typical workload in the industry is 44 hours per week (eight hours from Monday to Friday and four hours on Saturday). Workers have the right annually to seven paid holidays and five municipal and religious holidays, and three days after marriage, mourning for two days and 15 days for treatment of diseases. Every 12 months of service receive 30 days paid holiday.