



Embratur

7. Living in Brasilia

Explore the wonderful city of Brasilia with its modern designs.

7.1 Where is Brasilia?

Brasília is in the centre of the country in the Central West region, on a plateau known as Planalto Central. The city was planned for only 500,000 inhabitants but Brasília has seen its population grow much more than expected. Several satellite towns have been created over the years to house the extra inhabitants. Brasília's total population (including the satellite cities) is now over 2 million, making it the fourth largest city in the country.

7.2 How was Brasilia established?

The idea of constructing a new city to be the capital of Brazil was first proposed in 1823. The first two Brazilian capitals, Salvador and Rio de Janeiro, were built by the coast. Having the capital by the sea made it very vulnerable as Brazil had been invaded in the past (by the French, the Dutch and even by the Portuguese, after Independence). Since the second half of 18th century the rulers of the country had wanted to move the capital to a more central area, less exposed to the possibility of maritime raids. It was felt that this would also help develop the heartland of the country.



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THE KUBITSCHEK MEMORIAL



WWW.BRAZIL.ORG.UK/BRAZILINBRIEF/LAND.HTML

In 1894 a site was identified for the future capital and the foundation stone was laid in 1922. It was not until 1956 that the next stage in the development of the new city took place, when the country's president stated that the new capital city of Brasília would be constructed on the site. President Juscelino Kubitschek invited the best Brazilian architects to present projects for the new capital, with the result that in 1960 the new capital city was inaugurated on a site that five years earlier had resembled a desert with no people, little water and few animals or plants. It was thought that for security reasons a smaller city would be easier to control in the event of uprisings.

Nobody could have predicted the fast growth of the city. Brasília is now a large and dynamic city. It was not the first ever planned city. Washington, Canberra and Islamabad preceded it.



BRASÍLIA'S LAKE

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A PURPOSE BUILT CITY

Laura Barbi

7.3 What does Brasilia look like?

President Kubitschek, who became President in 1956, chose the building project of Oscar Niemeyer, who was to become one of the most famous architects in the world. Niemeyer used a



CATHEDRAL

Laura Barbi

striking mixture of straight and curved lines, creating unusually-shaped buildings. Lucio Costa, a renowned Brazilian city designer, planned a lay-out that combined the beautiful architecture with effective planning. The result is a city which is unique in its design.

Brasília was the only city in the world in the twentieth century to be awarded the status of UNESCO World Heritage Site.

7.4 What's the weather like in Brasilia?

Use the link below to describe the weather in Brasília.



NATIONAL CONGRESS

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APARTMENTS BLOCKS

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BRAZILIAN FLAG

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SEE THESE LINKS!

Photographs of Brasilia being built can be seen at:

http://www.geocities.com/TheTropics/3416/minis_ic.htm

Photographs of Brasilia today can be found at:

http://www.geocities.com/TheTropics/3416/minis_i.htm

Look at the climate graphs at:

http://www.geocities.com/TheTropics/3416/bsb_aug2.htm

Photo Gallery



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memorial to original workers



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cathedral at night



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inside the cathedral



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Central Bank building



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Ministry of External Relations



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Three Power square