



Fernanda Dias

## 9. Brazil - Its Sports

Are the Brazilian people keen on sport? Of course they are – come and find out more.

### 9.1 Football

Football, Brazil's most popular sport, is a national passion. Brazilians are highly enthusiastic fans and the sport is played virtually everywhere by young and old, male and female, amateur and professional. International matches in the major cities draw huge crowds, notably to the Maracanã stadium in Rio de Janeiro. The stadium once held a world record crowd of 199,854 fans for an international match with Uruguay. In 2007 FIFA president Sepp Blatter, announced that Brazil would host the 2014 World Cup. It has been agreed that the tournament will take place in the following twelve cities: Belo Horizonte, Brasília, Cuiabá, Curitiba, Fortaleza, Manaus, Natal, Porto Alegre, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador and São Paulo.

Brazil has produced many famous footballers but the most famous without doubt is Pelé. His real name is Edison Arantes do Nascimento and he helped Brazil win three of its five World Cup titles. His playing career spanned twenty-one years from 1956 to 1977. In 1999 he was voted Athlete of the Century by the International Olympic Committee.



Marion Weber

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS AT MINEIRÃO STADIUM IN BELO HORIZONTE

Ricardo Izecson dos Santos Leite is one the most talented footballers in the world at the moment. Sir Alex Ferguson — the Manchester United manager — has said that that he is one of the two best players in the world. However, he is not known by that nickname when he plays, but instead by the nickname given to him as a little boy – Kaká.

**Can you make a list of famous Brazilian footballers who are playing today in England and elsewhere in Europe?**



J.M. Alkmin

**PELÉ - A GREAT FOOTBALLER**



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**A BIG MATCH AT THE MARACANÃ**



Embratur

**MARACANÃ STADIUM**

## 9.2 Motor Racing

Formula One motor racing has become an extremely popular sport in Brazil. The country's racing drivers have been very successful over the years with three drivers achieving the status of Formula One world champions.

They were Emerson Fittipaldi in 1972 and 1974, Nelson Piquet in 1981, 1983 and 1987 and Ayrton Senna in 1988, 1990 and 1991. A Formula One Grand Prix is held in Brazil every year and it generates tremendous excitement amongst the supporters.



Embratur

**FORMULA ONE**

There are currently three Brazilian drivers participating in Formula One racing. They are Rubens Barrichello, Felipe Massa and Nelson Piquet Junior.

## 9.3 Volleyball

Volleyball is another very popular sport in Brazil, due partly to the success enjoyed by the national team in the Olympic Games over the years. The men's team won the gold medal in 1992 and 2004, while in 2008 they were beaten by USA in the final and so won the silver medal. The women's team won the bronze medal in 1996 and 2000. However, their greatest success came in 2008 when they beat the USA to take the gold medal.



Marion Weber

INDOOR VOLLEYBALL

### And next

Rio de Janeiro has been chosen to host the 2016 Olympic Games — the first time ever that the games will take place in South America.

In 2014 Brazil will also be hosting the biggest competition in football: the World Cup.

Take a look at the official website for Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

<http://www.rio2016.org.br/en/default.aspx>

You will be able to learn about the venues where the events will take place and listen to the music including the theme tune “Cidade Maravilhosa” (Marvelous City).

