



Embratur

8. Brazil and Carnival

Carnival: come and be transported to the amazing party that is carnival in Brazil.

Carnival is celebrated in many parts of the world, but Brazil is usually thought of as the country with the most exuberant and exciting carnival celebrations. The celebration originated in the Catholic countries of Europe as a party before the coming of Lent – the forty days Christ spent in the wilderness. It was traditional for the celebrations to end on Ash Wednesday when people then respected the period of abstinence for forty days.

The term ‘carnival’ is thought to have originated from the Latin ‘carne levare’, meaning ‘to remove meat’, as eating meat would have been prohibited during Lent. Nowadays carnival is not seen as a religious celebration but more of a street party with lots of music and dancing. The annual carnival celebrations take place between the Saturday and the Tuesday that precede Ash Wednesday.



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CARNIVAL DOLLS, OLINDA



Erika Tambk

BOY AT SAMBODROME, RIO DE JANEIRO

Celebrations for carnival vary throughout the world and in Brazil too there are regional differences. The most famous Brazilian carnivals are held in Rio de Janeiro and Salvador. In fact, the Guinness Book of Records maintains that the Salvador carnival is the biggest street party in the world!

8.1 Street Carnival

Carnival is celebrated in a variety of styles throughout Brazil. Olinda, a small colonial town close to Recife, closes all its streets to traffic and musicians playing their local music, the 'frevo', turn the whole town into a party. Carnival in Bahia created the "trio elétricos" – lorries with musicians playing loud music that move along the city streets followed by revellers who sing and dance. Other cities have now developed their own trios elétricos.

Many towns and cities have street carnivals when live bands march along the streets playing sambas or marchas followed by hundreds of revellers. These are known as "blocos" and are probably part of the initial traditions of carnival, going back over a century.

The most important events of carnival in Rio, and probably of all Brazilian carnivals, are the samba parades. All samba parades have a theme and a storyline, performed by a samba school. This school is just a name for a group, not a proper school!!! The preparations for the samba school competitions begin many months before the event as elaborate costumes are designed and produced over a period of months while decorated floats are constructed to participate in the carnival parade.

Samba schools are established in many communities work hard year-round towards being one of the 14 schools that get to perform in the Sambodrome. The Sambadrome is a stadium specifically designed by Oscar Niemeyer (the architect who designed the buildings in the capital city, Brasília) to showcase samba school performances. It is a huge honour to be selected to compete in the



Erika Tambke

MAN IN A COSTUME



Neison Lafrata

STREET BLOCKS



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CONFETTI AT STREET CARNIVAL



CARNIVAL CROWDS IN BAHIA

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GETTING THE COSTUMES AND CARS READY FOR THE PARADE



DRUMMERS IN BAHIA

Antonio Silvat

Sambadrome. The celebrations are broadcast live on television to all Brazil and even some other countries.



THE SAMBADROME IN RIO

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CARNIVAL PARADE

The following holidays, which are all part of the seven days before Ash Wednesday, often involve special customs in different parts of the world:

Shrove Tuesday,

Lundi Gras,

Rosemontag,

Mardi Gras,

Fastnacht,

What can you find out about them?

Music has developed over the centuries in Brazil with influences appearing from African, European and Amerindian sources. Samba is possibly the most famous form of music from Brazil and this is evident during carnival.

However, bossa nova became very popular around the world with such famous artists and composers as Antonio Carlos Jobim and João Gilberto. The song “The Girl from Ipanema” is the biggest Brazilian international hit song. Music and dancing are a feature of life in Brazil and bands can be found performing in various styles in towns and cities throughout the country.



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ACROBATICS AT THE PARADE



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ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL COSTUME



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PLAYING FOR THE CROWDS



Erika Tambke

MOVING TO THE RHYTHM

PHOTO GALLERY



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crowds gather for carnival in Bahia



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welcome to the celebration!



Nelson Lafraia

a party for all ages



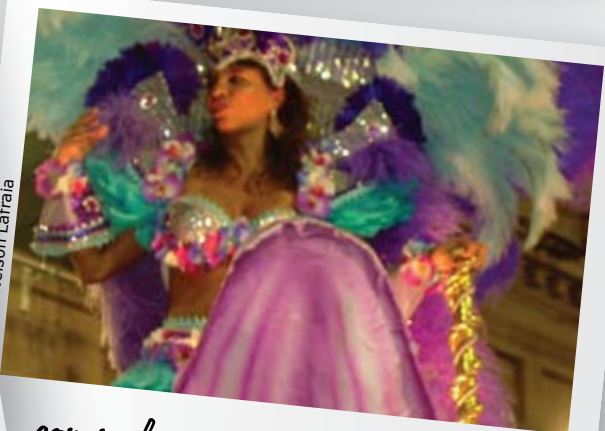
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carnival parade



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olinda giant doll, Olinda



Nelson Lafraia

carnival queen



Erika Tambke

a wizard for one night



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colourful parade



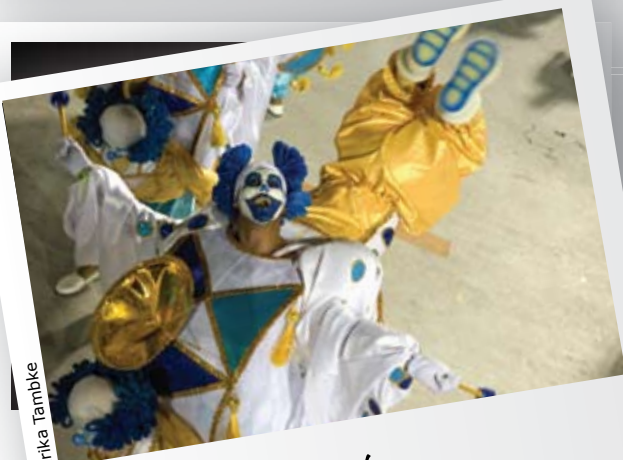
Nelson Lafraia

partying in a Rio tram car



Erika Tambke

celebrating with friends



Erika Tambke

clowns join the samba



Erika Tambke

elaborate costumes