

# Volunteering Trip to Rio de Janeiro November 17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 2012



## Questions and Answers

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## **Basics:**

### **Program Dates:**

November 17th – November 24th (Thanksgiving holidays).

### **Cost:**

R\$ 1260 (Brazilian Reals)\* per participant includes 7 days/7 nights of accommodations, transportation to and from the volunteering center, donation to the partner favela community organization (50% of the cost!), daily breakfasts, lunches on the volunteering days (Monday to Thursday), city guidebooks, 24/7 emergency contact and farewell BBQ.

Airfare, visa, dinners, non volunteering activities and transportation are not included.

\*Price is quoted in Brazilian Reals and valid up to May 31st, 2012. It is approximately € 550 (Euro) or \$700 (US Dollars). For current exchange rates [click here](#).

### **Application procedures:**

Request additional info/application from [alex@ticunbrasil.com](mailto:alex@ticunbrasil.com). After we review your completed form, you'll be contacted for in-person interview with local Ticun Brasil coordinators.

### **Application Deadline:**

Commitment Form and 50% of the Cost (non refundable deposit) per participant are due by May 31st, 2012.

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## **Qualifications:**

### **Q: Who is your ideal candidate?**

A: The trip is for open minded, energetic, positive and dedicated individuals who enjoy outdoors and Brazilian music.

### **Q: Do I need to know Portuguese?**

A: The volunteers for 1 week program are not expected to know Portuguese, although it helps to learn at least a bit. We could recommend teachers and online materials to prepare.

### **Q: What is the size of the group?**

A: 20-30 people.

### **Q: What is the age of the volunteers?**

A: Our team is in their 20s and 30s.

### **Q: Do I have to be Jewish?**

A: No, but you have to be open to brainstorm Jewish topics (i.e. Jewish culture, assimilation and Zionism vs. Diaspora) with fellow local and international Jewish volunteers and activists. This interaction is one of the unique features of the trip.

[This article](#) from the leading local Jewish scholar Bernardo Sorj provides excellent introduction to distinctive circumstances of Brazilian Jewry, "*Judaic historiography and sociology in the 20<sup>th</sup> century have been especially sensitive to anti-Semitic phenomena in the numerous societies where Jews live. However, they have shown very little concern in understanding why, in certain societies (i.e. Brazil), anti-Semitism is slight or nearly non-existent.*"

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## **Volunteering:**

### **Q: Why volunteer on a holiday?**

A: The program adds meaning and purpose to your holiday: you are visiting exotic and beautiful land and being useful to the community.

Bringing international volunteers to work in favelas can make a real difference. The volunteers get to pass on their valuable skills and experiences and to develop new ones. And the residents of the communities, young and old, get to learn more about the rest of the world. This exchange of cultures is enriching on both sides.

Unlike an 'ordinary' tourist, you will be interacting with many regular Brazilians outside the tourist industry. It is rewarding and fun!

### **Q: Please tell me more about the volunteering projects?**

A: Favela improving volunteering tasks will be selected to create a tangible effect in the course of just one week. Expect a **mix of gardening, renovations, painting, and library work to cover everyone's abilities.** Each volunteer will be spending most of the daytime Monday to Thursday on one of the projects. Our main partner is Iko Poran, the oldest and most respected volunturism NGO in Rio (according to the March 2012 article in *O Globo*, the main newspaper in Brazil).

[Read and watch more on the community garden project.](#)

[Read and watch more on the favela building project.](#)

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## Q: What my volunteering day will be like?

A: A typical working day would be:

**Breakfast** 7-8

Leave the accommodations at 8 to get to project at 9. You will get to see more of non touristy Rio on the way!

**Work** at the project 9-12

**Lunch** 12-1.30

**Work** at the project 1.30-4.30

Back to accommodation, shower and **going out** for dinner, informal meetings with local Jewish activists, live music and dancing.

## Q: Can I extend my trip?

A: Yes, let us know at the time of the booking. There are many ways to extend your holiday in Brazil. See this great travel site for few suggestions:  
<http://www.rioforpartiers.com/english/around-brazil.htm>

## Housing and Food:

### Q: What do I do about food while I am there?

A: Hearty traditional breakfast will be provided and is included in the cost. Please notify if you keep kosher and it will be arranged. Lunches will be provided on volunteering days (Monday to Thursday). Upon arrival volunteers receive guides and maps that include supermarkets and tips of good restaurants.

### Q: What are accommodations like?

A: Our volunteers are lodged in an attractive guest house (Casa Aurelia Bed and Breakfast or similar type accommodations) at Santa Teresa – hilly bohemian area with superb views over Rio, vibrant cultural life and winding cobbled streets.

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The volunteers stay in shared rooms. Limited number of private rooms are available at extra cost of R\$600 (Brazilian Reals)/per person.

The house has TV, free 24/7 Internet access and wifi, fully equipped kitchens, laundry service and cleaning service as well as many other facilities. Bed sheets and bath towel are provided. The house is located in the best area of Santa Teresa, within walking distance to live music venues, bars and restaurants, as well as the supermarket, drugstore, bakery, health clinic, and easy public transport links.

Santa Teresa is a residential sanctuary in the heartbeat of the Mata Atlantica (Tijuca national park), the world's largest urban subtropical rainforest, it provides easy access to the Christ statue of Corcovado as well as to the city center (10 min), Samba schools (open rehearsals for Carnival start in November!) and the city's amazing beaches (40 minutes).

## **VISA requirements:**

### **Q: Do I need a visa to go to Brazil?**

A: In Brazil there's a law called "diplomatic reciprocity". Visas are only required for countries that require visas to Brazilians including United States

Holders of US passport – apply for your tourist visa at least a month in advance!

**Russians, Ukrainians, Israelis and most of European nationals do not need a visa** to enter Brazil, only a passport valid for at least six months.

See details here:

[http://novayork.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/visa\\_requirements\\_by\\_country.xml](http://novayork.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/visa_requirements_by_country.xml)

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## **Leisure activities:**

### **Q: What will be the evening/leisure day's activities?**

A: There will be 3 full days for the beaches and Rio's nature. Also, on our 4 volunteering days (in the evenings) we'll visit different cultural (mostly musical) and tourist attractions. [Time Out Rio just opened its Rio's edition. Check it out!](#)

There is always something to do or see in Rio de Janeiro, or just relax in the hammocks in our guest house.

## **Arriving to Rio:**

### **Q: What about airfare to Rio de Janeiro?**

A: The airfare is not included in the cost of the trip. Some of the participants may prefer to stay longer and/or arrive earlier, so there are no group flight arrangements. There is only one international airport in Rio de Janeiro: Aeroporto Internacional Tom Jobim – Galeao – GIG.

The following air tickets strategies are recommended (in addition to standard Expedia like sites):

Get free tickets with credit card bonuses (for US citizens with good credit ratings, requires some advanced planning). See cards list on <http://frugaltravelguy.com/>

Consult Brazilian travel agency BACC <http://www.bacctravel.com>

Try to get your tickets few months in advance for better rates!

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### **Miscellaneous:**

#### **Q: Should I take any vaccines to go to Rio de Janeiro?**

A: You don't need to take any vaccines to go to Rio de Janeiro. If you want to travel to the Amazon area after/before your program, you might need to take vaccine for Yellow fever.

#### **Q: What is the weather like in Rio:**

A: November is usually warm and pleasant - lower 80°F/30°C during the day, mid 70°F/20°C during the night with some rainy hours.