



文藻外語大學

WENZAO URSULINE UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES

# **“Unlonely” Planet: A Travel Guide for International Volunteers**

*The unforgettable Brazil, a volunteer  
trip which will mark your life*

Course: English 9

Year: Year 3

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## **I. Introduction to Brazil**

### **A. Basic Information**

Federative Republic of Brazil, which is known as soccer, is the largest country in South America. The word "Brazil" comes from the Brazilian mahogany, a tree which grows on the coast of Brazil. In Portuguese, Brazilian mahogany is called "Pau Brasil" which means red like a charcoal fire. Moreover, Brazil is formed by a combination of a root "brasa" (Latin for "charcoal fire") and suffix "il" (from iculum or ilium). Brazil's capital is Brasilia. Many people think that the capital of Brazil is Rio. In fact, Rio de Janeiro had been the capital of Brazil for nearly 200 years. However, in 1960, the capital was moved to Brasilia, a city built to be the capital.

Brazil's land area accounts for nearly half of South America, with an area of about 8.5 million square kilometers, ranking fifth in the world. Brazil has a tropical climate. It is hot and rainy all year round. The north is the Amazon plain, the largest plain in the world, and the south is Brazil plateau, the largest plateau in the world.

The population of Brazil is about 0.21 billion. There are many ethnicities and ethnic groups in diverse population of Brazil (Wikipedia,2020). The biggest two groups are White Brazilians (47%), and Pardo Brazilians (43%). Pardo Brazilians mean mixed ethnic and skin colors people (Wikipedia,2020).

Since Brazil was once a Portuguese colony, the official language of Brazil is Portuguese. Brazil is a democratic federative republic with a presidential system. The federal government is given not only the highest executive but also legislative and judicial powers by The Constitution. Moreover, Brazil is a free market economy which relies on exports. The main export commodities are coffee, soybean, iron ore, and sucrose. According to the news (Labor force, total – Brazil ,2019), with sufficient labor force, Brazil's agriculture, mining, manufacturing and service industries are relatively developed.

Brazil's GDP, gross domestic product, ranks first in Latin America, and its influence on the world market is growing. Brazil plays an important role not only in Latin America's politics and economy but also in the world's political and “economic relations” (How Brazil's economy affects the rest of Latin America, 2019). Brazil is a member of the United Nations and has a good relationship with every member of the UN.

### ***B. History and Important Events***

There are four stages in Brazil history. They are Early Brazil, The Kingdom and Empire of Brazil, Republic, and Redemocratization to present. Take Early Brazil as an example. The Early Brazil is also called Colonial Brazil. Many people believe that Brazil was founded by a Portugal businessman whose name is Pedro Álvares Cabral. At the beginning, Portuguese was doing the felling pau-Brasil (Latin for red wood like an ember) or brazilwood and panning for precious metals there. However, until 1529, Portugal lost the interest in Brazil so that the Portuguese Crown could occupy the place. Meanwhile, France also tried to establish strongholds. Later, Portuguese was merged by Spain and then Dutch occupied Brazil until 1654. During colonial, there was a slavery system and the slavery rebellion took place very frequently. In 1888, slavery system was finally abolished.

Speaking of slavery, there was a famous mutiny in Early Brazil. According to Wikipedia (2020), there was a man called Zumbi dos Palmares who was the leader of the famous slave rebellion. He established a state called Quilombo dos Palmares. It was indeed a place for slaves who escaped from Brazil to live. Because of his brave and heroic deeds for the slaves at that time, he became a symbol of slave rebellion in Afro-Brazilian culture.

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## **II. Lifestyle and Culture**

### ***A. Festivals, Tradition, Arts, & Entertainment***

Brazilians are rather enthusiastic. People greet each other by physically kissing other's cheek and hugging. Even when they are having phone calls or sending text messages, they always say Beijos (kiss) or Abraços (hug) to end a conversation. It is very common especially in a conversation between a girl and friend or a daughter and mother. Kissing and hugging is the way Brazilian says either hello or goodbye.

Brazilians always take a shower for more than one time a day because they sweat a lot. Owing to the hot weather in Brazil, it is very easy for people there to sweat. Brazilians also love dressing themselves, so they always take a shower and dress themselves properly before they go out. However, Brazilians don't use hair dryers. Again, the weather is so hot, it helps people's hair dry naturally. It is very common to see people on the street with hair that is not completely dry.

Another interesting fact about Brazil is their religion. In Brazil, approximately 54 to 64 percent of the entire population is of Catholic religion and it means that within the country, there are approximately 112 to 126 million Catholics, making it the country with the highest amount of Catholics in the entire world. Since people in Brazil are religious and they show a lot of respect towards religion, they built a lot of buildings and structures (for more details, see pp.7-8).

When we talk about Brazil, we cannot forget about the Carnival taking place in Rio every year. Carnival do Rio de Janeiro is one of the three biggest carnivals in the world, and it is also the biggest holiday in Brazil. The carnival is so huge that in Rio de Janeiro alone, over four million people went to see this festival in 2011.(Wikipedia, 2020.) The carnival lasts around six days. It begins on the Friday before Ash Wednesday and finishes on Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the 7<sup>th</sup> Wednesday before Easter, also the first day

of the Lent. Carnival is a huge party and parade and one major feature is samba dancing. There is even a building called the Samba Dome where schools compete with each other during the festival. However, audiences have to buy tickets to watch the samba competition. The prize of the ticket is around 1600 to 9000 NT dollars, and it is better to order the tickets earlier otherwise it will be more expensive.

Another famous feature about Brazil is sports, especially football. Football is the most popular sport in Brazil. The Brazil national football team has won the FIFA World Cup a record 5 times. Brazil also hosted the World Cups in 1950 and 2014, and it is the only country in South America to have hosted two World Cups. There are a lot of famous male and female football players from the Brazil national football team, including Pelé, Zico, Garrincha, Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos, Romário, Ronaldinho, Kaká, Neymar and Marta.

### ***B. Sights and Attractions***

People in Brazil are religious, so if you want to experience their culture about religion, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo are the best two choices. In terms of Rio do Janeiro, there is Christ the Redeemer. It is an Art Deco statue of Jesus Christ, designed by French sculptor Paul Landowski and built by Brazilian engineer Heitor da Silva Costa. It was constructed between 1922 and 1931. The statue is 30 meters high and is located at the peak of the 700-meter Corcovado mountain in the Tijuca Forest National Park overlooking the city of Rio de Janeiro. The statue has become a cultural icon of both Rio de Janeiro and Brazil, and is listed as one of the New7Wonders of the World.(Wikipedia, 2020)

As for Sao Paulo, a place worth a visit is Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida, which is a prominent Roman Rite Catholic basilica. In the beginning, it was just about a story that three fishermen found the statue of the Virgin Mary, and they housed the statue in one of the fishermen's home. This became a popular site for visitors to pray to

the statue, leading the fisherman to build a small chapel to house the statue. After several times of rebuilding, it became the Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida nowadays. The basilica was consecrated in 1980. It can room for 45000 people and it is the second largest church in the world, smaller only than St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. Even if you don't have any belief in religion, these two famous places are worth a trip.

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### **III. Challenges under Globalization**

#### ***A. Analysis of Crisis: GDP, Education, and Fernando de Noronha Island***

Although Brazil's GDP ranks first in Latin America, economic inequality is the most serious crisis that people have to face. It seems that holding festivals may bring many popularities and business opportunities. However, according to BBC NEWS (2019), Brazilian GDP is getting worse and more Brazilians are suffering from poverty since 2018.

Another problem is low education rate and high crime rate. There are only three fifths of Brazilian children accept education. Children live in favela tend to drop out of school because their parents do not have enough money to support their tuition fee. Because children from low income families do not get better education, they often cannot have a higher income or even commit a crime in the future. This is why there is a serious economic inequality in Brazil.

Lastly, tourism has a great impact on both environment and the residents. Take Fernando de Noronha Island for example. It is a beautiful island which is famous for its rich marine lives, such as sea turtles or spinner dolphins. Therefore, there are many tourists there. However, numerous visitors bring more trash which polluted the local beaches. For the residents, they cannot enjoy themselves because of the polluted environment on the island. As a result, the government has limited the number of tourists so that the residents and the environment will not get too much impact by visitors and trash.

#### ***B. Proposal of a Solution: An Outreach Program***

As mentioned above, Brazil is the city which are facing crisis of crime, economic inequality and education. However, Brazil is worth visiting. We come up with a short-term program or volunteer trip, around 2-3 weeks, and engage our volunteers in solving the problems during the trip.

In the beginning, our volunteers will go to Rio and teach children there English. Because of complicated childhood and family problems, our volunteers will teach young Brazilians and accompany with them. Moreover, the volunteers will live in favela to experience local lifestyle. For lacking good education environment, children do not get good education so that they do not have high-salary work. The volunteers can teach listening and reading of English to raise children's interest in learning.

In addition, the volunteers will help with donation and beach cleaning. They will go to Catedral Metropolitana de Brasília (Wikipedia, 2020), which is important to Brazilians, to communicate with local communities, do paper work and help with fund-raising. After that, volunteers will go to the island called Fernando de Noronha (Wikipedia, 2020), 354 km offshore from the Brazilian coast. They will help sea turtles and clean up the beaches. Moreover, they can go diving to see marine animals.

By taking part in the volunteer trip, our volunteer will not only broaden their horizon and realize the essence of service, but also inspire the sense of responsibility for the international community's humanistic care. In order to be closer to the local needs, our volunteers will also work hard and seize the moment to create more connections with the local communities.

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#### **IV. Outreach Program: A New Tour for Volunteer.**

##### ***A. Itinerary with Detailed Description of Day-to-Day Activities***

As mentioned in the previous section, Brazil is facing several problems, such as education, inhabitant with poor revenue and even crimes due to disparities. In addition, Brazil is notable for his diverse fauna and flora which are known all over the world. A typical example is the Amazon rainforest. Also, the religion is important, since 64.6% of Brazilians are catholic.

##### **Day 1 – Day 5**

Our volunteers will arrive at Rio de Janeiro airport, and then they will be driven by a free shuttle bus to the hotel, located near Copacabana Beach.

Activities that we recommend in Rio de Janeiro are:

- Historically known as 'Little Africa, Pedro do Sal is the greatest spot to immerse yourself in the thriving musical heritage of Rio, the birthplace of samba, built by the slave group that once lived here.
- Copacabana Beach, the world-famous beach has 2.5 mile stretch of perfect sand and is the place for you to have fun in the sun.
- See for yourself one of the magnificent seven wonders of the world. It is located in Rio de Janeiro, more specifically at Parque Nacional da Tijuca, which is approximately 710 meter above the sea level. You can enjoy one of the most beautiful views of the city. You will have to climb 220 steps leading to the famous statue of Christ. Our volunteers can go to the monument by train, van or car. To get into the monument, our volunteer will take a ride by train, for approximately 20 minutes, which crosses Mata Atlantica until reaches Corcovado's top.

Beside these fun activities, we have prepared our volunteers five days to volunteer to help the local children as volunteers. Many young Brazilians suffer from complicated childhood

and familial problems, such as crimes. Therefore, our volunteers' mission will be to make them forget about some problems they might have. This mission will be perfect for creative volunteer who love children and are ready to create activities and project. To completely immerse our volunteers into this reality, they will live in a favela where the children live.

### **Day 5 – Day 8**

Our volunteers will take the plane from Rio to Brasilia for two hours before they can discover the capital city of Brazil, Brasilia. It's the third largest city of Brazil and it's located in the central west.

Activities that we recommend in Brasilia are:

- Brasilia's cathedral is special due to its modern architecture.
- Our volunteers can walk around this "ideal city".

In the capital of Brazil, our volunteers will work for five days at a church, in contact with the local community whose name is Catholicism is important to Brazilians. Their mission is to help with organizing fundraisers and basic help with the church organization.

### **Day 9 – Day 15**

Five hours later by plane our volunteers will finally arrive at their destination, the paradisiac island of Fernando de Noronha. As one of the most secret spots, Fernando de Noronha is a stunning natural place of 21 islands off the coast of northeastern Brazil. There aren't many people there as the population is about 3500 people. Our volunteers will find the perfect opportunity to be with the nature.

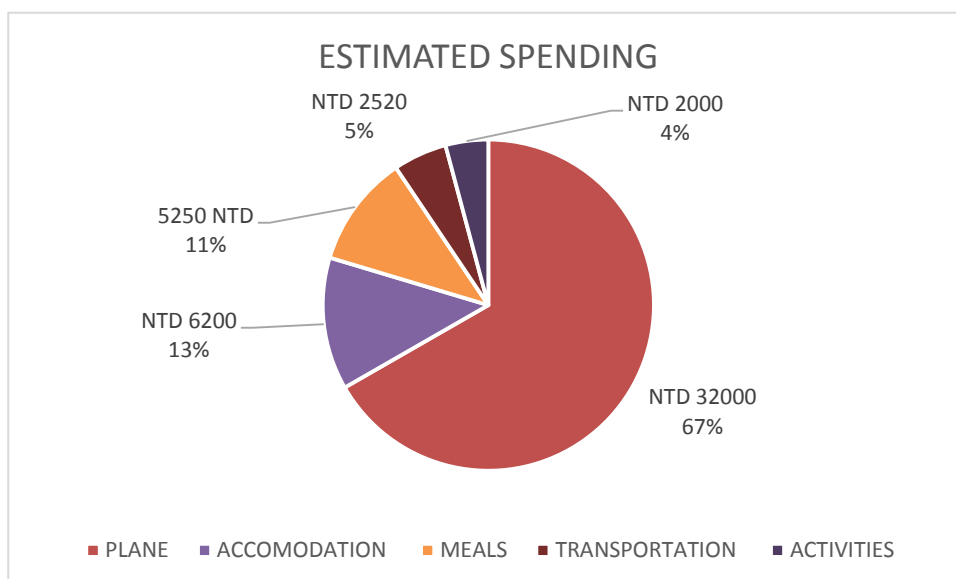
Activities that we recommend at the island of Fernando de Noronha are:

- Submarine activities like scuba diving and snorkeling. You will be able to see sea turtles or dolphins up close.
- Visit and explore Marine National Park from Fernando De Noronha.
- Relax and enjoy the calm and relaxing atmosphere.

This will allow our volunteers to learn more about turtles and the biodiversity of Brazil. We will also collaborate with a local hotel which is looking for volunteers to help them with marine animals and clean the beaches. Our volunteers will discover the beauty of the region and its marine animals such as sea turtles, dolphins and sea lions. Their missions are to count the green turtles in the breakwaters of "Molhes da Barra" and assist specialists to save the one in need.

Then our volunteers will flight back to Rio and then take the plane back to Taiwan.

### ***B. Budget with Estimated Cost***



ESTIMATION ABOUT THE SPENDING OF THE VOLUNTEER FOR 15 DAYS	
PLANE	NTD 32,000
ACCOMODATION	NTD 6,200
MEALS	NTD 5,250
TRANSPORTATION	NTD 2,520
ACTIVITIES	NTD 2,000
TOTAL	NTD 47,970 or R\$ 85,314

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## **V. Survival Information**

### ***A. Transportation***

To travel among cities in Brazil, you can take an airplane, bus, car, boat, or metro.

### ***B. Services:***

#### **Currency and banking (<https://transferwise.com/us/blog/money-and-banks-in-brazil>):**

Real is the currency in Brazil. Some major retail banks are Banco, Bradesco, Caixa, Banco Safra, Banco Itaú and Banrisul. Also operating in Brazil are many international banks, including Santander Brazil, Citibank Brazil, BNP Parisbas Brazil and Mizuho Brazil.

#### **Police and Security (<https://fas.org/irp/world/brazil/fabrverg.pdf>):**

In Brazil, you can find different kinds of police. For example, Civilian Police, Military Police, Federal Police Department (DPF), Federal Highway Police Department (DPRF), Federal Railway Police Department (DPFF), and National Public Safety Force (FNSP).

#### **Hospital and clinics:**

Brazil is famous for its high-standard medical facilities and equipment. São Paulo in particular has world-class hospitals and clinics. If the hotel you are staying is not near a hospital, you may use medical posts or clinics, known as UBS (Unidade basica de saude). In case of on-going health issues, you will be directed by medical professionals to an AMA, available either in the same hospital or in a clinic nearby.

**Embassies and NGO** ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_diplomatic\\_missions\\_in\\_Brazil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_diplomatic_missions_in_Brazil)):

Brasília, the capital of Brazil, hosts 133 embassies currently. Besides, the number of NGOs in Brazil has exceeded 300,000.

***C. Facilities in Local Areas***

The local basic facilities are slowly increasing because of the economy. Brazil's economy grows very slowly, and they need more companies to help them raise their economy systems, so that they can build more facilities.

***D. Food and Drinks***

There is plenty of good food in Brazil owing to the local culture, with many different kinds of people living there. Below are some good restaurants in Brazil:

D.O.M

Mani

Olympe

A Figueira Rubaiyat

La Madre Ristorante

Fogo de Chão

Aprazível

***E. Accommodation (with a list of hotels, youth hostels, etc.)***

**Hotels:**

- Fasano Rio de Janeiro
- Belmond Hotel das Cataratas
- Ponta dos Ganchos



- Uxua Casa Hotel

### **Youth hostels:**

- Caiman Ecological Refuge
- Praia do Forte Hostel > Praia do Forte
- Hostel Chapada > Chapada Diamantina-Lençóis
- Manaíra Hostel > Joao Pessoa
- Laranjeiras Hostel > Salvador

### ***F. References***

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## VI. Appendices

### A. Minutes of Group Meetings

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting Minutes

Meeting of	Group 2—1 <sup>st</sup> meeting	
Date	4/20	
Time	9:50	
Place	Q206	
Participants	Typed Name	Signature
1.	Yuki Su	
2.	Evelyn Chen	
3.	Ryan Huang	
4.	Simon	
5.	Ryan Shih	
6.	Shady	
Discussion		
<p>We discussed which country would be our topic, and we came up with 3 countries. They were Brazil, Palau, and Chile. Finally we chose Brazil as our topic (or target country).</p> <p>We were looking for anything we can do to help the people in Brazil.</p>		
Written by: Ryan Shih		

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Minutes

Meeting of	Group 2—2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting	
Date	4/30	
Time	10:30	
Place	Library	
Participants	Typed Name	Signature
1.	Yuki Su	
2.	Evelyn Chen	
3.	Ryan Huang	
4.	Simon	
5.	Ryan Shih	
6.	Shady	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>We were thinking what can best represent Brazil. We thought soccer is one of Brazilian's favorite sports, so we decided to put some soccer information in our project.</p> <p>Next, we want to introduce the people who live there, and what personalities they have.</p> <p>We found Brazilians are enthusiastic and passionate. They greet each other by kissing cheek and hugging.</p>		
Written by: Ryan Shih		

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Minutes

Meeting of	Group 2—3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting	
Date	5/11	
Time	16:20	
Place	Library	
Participants	Typed Name	Signature
1.	Yuki Su	
2.	Evelyn Chen	
3.	Ryan Huang	
4.	Simon	
5.	Ryan Shih	
6.	Shady	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>We analyzed the (culture) crisis that Brazil is facing right now, and we found the nation is experiencing economy crisis. Also, they have serious problem about education rate. Children do not go to school but instead taking part in illegal activities. These are the major reasons why Brazil encounters a decrease in GDP.</p>		
Written by: Ryan Shih		

## 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes

Meeting of	Group 2—4 <sup>th</sup> meeting	
Date	5/19	
Time	16:31	
Place	Line group	
Participants	Typed Name	Signature
1.	Yuki Su	
2.	Evelyn Chen	
3.	Ryan Huang	
4.	Simon	
5.	Ryan Shih	
6.	Shady	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>1. What areas of work can be offered to volunteers? Our volunteers will experience how it feels like to live in a slum, help children learn and heal their emotional trauma. Also they will help sea turtles there, which are suffering a lot from ocean trash.</p> <p>2. Why are these areas important to local people? low level of education→ can't find a decent job→ labor→ low income→ economic inequality</p> <p>3. What will our volunteers receive in return? Fun work education</p> <p>4. Which place(s)/city(-ies) need help most urgently? Slum's Education.</p>		
Written by: Ryan Shih		

## 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes

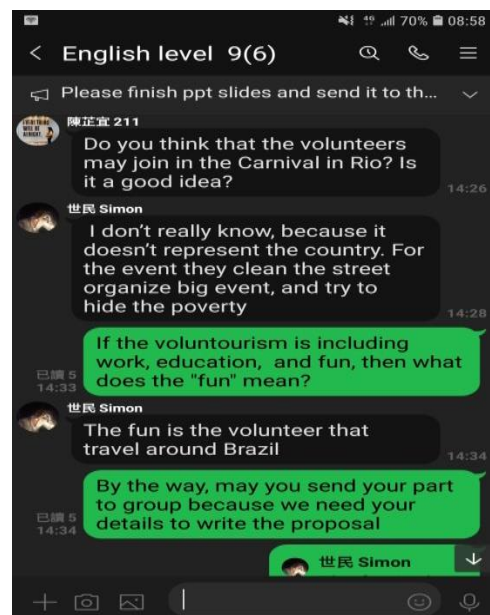
Meeting of	Group 2—5 <sup>th</sup> meeting	
Date	5/22	
Time	14:10	
Place	Line group	
Participants	Typed Name	Signature
1.	Yuki Su	
2.	Evelyn Chen	
3.	Ryan Huang	
4.	Simon	
5.	Ryan Shih	
6.	Shady	

### Discussion

We discussed that the voluntourism will be long-term or short-term.

(We choose short-term, around 2-3weeks)

We discussed if our volunteers should join the Samba Carnival in Rio, and whether it is a good idea or not. In the end, we decided volunteers will not join the Carnival in Rio because Brazil government holds the party and tries to hide the poverty.



Written by: Ryan Shih

## 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes

Meeting of	Group 2—6 <sup>th</sup> meeting	
Date	5/23	
Time	16:10	
Place	Line group	
Participants	Typed Name	Signature
1.	Yuki Su	
2.	Evelyn Chen	
3.	Ryan Huang	
4.	Simon	
5.	Ryan Shih	
6.	Shady	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>5/28 hand in ppt slides to Evelyn.</p> <p>5/30 practice time.</p> <p>6/1(mon) presentation.</p> <p>Our ppt slides will be separated to each group member, and each group member needs to do their own part. We will then compile all of the slides.</p>		
Written by: Ryan Shih		

## B. Timeline of Group Work

