








## Brazil - Moderate



**Brazil Country Map**

-  POLITICAL
-  ARMED CONFLICT
-  TERRORISM
-  CRIME
-  CIVIL UNREST
-  MARITIME AND PIRACY
-  HEALTH
-  ENVIRONMENTAL
-  TRANSPORTATION

Last Published: 25 November 2025

## COUNTRY OVERVIEW

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Brazil, a member of international organisations such as the UN and WTO, operates under a federal presidential republic system. On 11 September 2025, Bolsonaro was found guilty of plotting a military coup aimed at keeping him in

power after he lost the 2022 election. Investigations revealed discussions of a state of emergency to overturn the election and even plots to assassinate political figures, though Bolsonaro denies direct involvement.

Civil unrest is widespread with regular rallies and protests against the current government, as well as against corruption. Strikes by public sector workers occur regularly and can cause widespread disruption.

Crime is a serious issue in Brazil and is on the rise, particularly in large cities but more specifically in the favelas (shanty towns), where a non-existent rule of law has led to criminal organisations gaining a hold on these areas. Travellers may find themselves the victims of petty and property crimes or caught up in violent crimes perpetrated by criminal groups who often fight for control over portions of the drug trade. Terrorism is less of a threat than criminal violence.

While terrorism is generally low, large international events can draw attention and increase security concerns.

## **CULTURAL INFORMATION**

### **Cultural Tips**

- Portuguese is the official language. English, German, Spanish and French are popular second languages in urban areas. Brazil's indigenous population -- mostly living in the north and northeast of the country on reservations or in one of four national parks -- speak more than 200 other languages.
- Conversational space is closer in Brazil than in some other countries.
- The "thumbs up" sign is used to show approval; the U.S. "OK" sign, with the thumb and index finger forming a circle, is an offensive gesture.
- The tipping of taxi drivers is optional, although many people round up the fare. Taxi drivers in some cities charge for help with the baggage. At hotels and airports, tipping bellboys and porters up to one U.S. dollar per bag is customary. A 10% gratuity is included in restaurant bills.
- Same-sex marriage is legal in Brazil and most Brazilians are accepting of LGBTQ travellers. LGBTQ travellers may encounter some discrimination in rural areas.

## KEY FACTS

<b>CAPITAL</b>	Brasilia
<b>CAPITAL CITY PHONE CODE</b>	61
<b>COUNTRY PHONE CODE</b>	55
<b>CURRENCY</b>	Brazilian Real
<b>ELECTRICITY</b>	110/220 volts, 50 cycles AC
<b>GMT</b>	-2 to -5
<b>LANGUAGES</b>	Portuguese
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>	President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva
<b>OFFICE WORK WEEK</b>	Monday-Friday
<b>OFFICIAL COUNTRY NAME</b>	Federative Republic of Brazil
<b>PLUG STYLES</b>	types C and N
<b>RELIGION</b>	Roman Catholic 52.8%, Protestant 26.7% (Evangelical 25.5%, other Protestant 1.2%), African-American cultist/Umbanda 1.8%, other 3%, agnostic/atheist 0.6%, none 13.6%
<b>TIME ZONE OFFSET</b>	Eastern part of the country UTC-3; Central part of the country UTC-4; Western part of the country UTC-5

## KEY FACTS

<b>TYPE OF GOVERNMENT</b>	Federal Republic
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## RISK SUMMARY

### **Political - Moderate**

Brazil is governed as a federal presidential republic consisting of an executive branch, including the president, elected by popular vote in four-year terms. A legislative branch including the Chamber of Deputies and Federal Senate, and a judicial branch including the Supreme Court.

The latest political elections took place in October 2022, where Luiz Inácio (Lula) from the Workers Party defeated opposition candidate and former president Jair Bolsonaro from the Liberal Party. After the election, following Bolsonaro's claims of electoral fraud, his supporters staged nationwide protests, blocked roads, and later stormed key government buildings in Brasília, resulting in 1,500 people arrested. Bolsonaro currently remains the leader of the opposition.

On 11 September 2025, Bolsonaro was found guilty of plotting a military coup aimed at keeping him in power after he lost the 2022 election. Investigations revealed discussions of a state of emergency to overturn the election and even plots to assassinate political figures, though Bolsonaro denies direct involvement.

On 22 November, whilst under house arrest, Jair Bolsonaro was arrested after being deemed a "concrete flight risk" after being accused of tampering with his electronic ankle tag and using a planned rally outside his house as a cover to break free.

### **Armed Conflict - Low**

Brazil is not currently involved in any military conflicts with other nations. However, armed confrontations frequently occur within the country, particularly

between security forces and criminal groups in the favelas. Organised criminals, often heavily armed, pose a significant challenge to law enforcement efforts.

In response to a sharp rise in criminal violence, the Brazilian Army has been deployed to Rio de Janeiro State to support local security forces. Despite these efforts, the military has struggled to fully contain the violence, which remains a pressing issue in the region.

### **Terrorism - Low**

Brazil has a low terrorism risk level. The country has not experienced significant terrorist attacks in recent years and does not face a major threat from domestic or international terrorist groups. However, Brazil's role as a host for large international events, can attract attention and increase security concerns temporarily.

### **Crime - High**

The prevalence of violent crimes such as muggings, armed robbery, home invasions, and sexual assault, is significant, particularly in major cities. However, violence and crime, often involving firearms or other weapons, can occur anywhere and at any time in Brazil. Petty crimes such as pickpocketing and bag-snatching is also common, including by thieves on motorcycles. A common extortion tactic is an express kidnapping, where individuals are attacked as they exit banks or at ATMs. Thieves operate in outdoor markets, in hotels, and on or around public transport. Crime levels in shanty towns or 'favelas' and many satellite cities are high and are very dangerous for foreigners.

Violent organised crime is especially common in the aforementioned favelas and is connected to the drug trade. Whilst Brazil lacks the large cartels of other South American countries, small drug gang battles for control of territories for dealing drugs within the favelas do occur. Such clashes often take place with the use of heavy weapons. There are often areas of cities that are abandoned by police, leaving the gangs in charge of the local population. The number of violent crimes in Brazil is on the rise and is a symptom of the country's poor economic state.

Police are actively combating organised crime. On 28 October 2025, a police raid in the favelas of Alemão and Penha in Rio de Janeiro killed at least 132 people,

including four officers. The raid, affecting around 280,000 residents, involved long periods of heavy gunfire. Authorities declared the operation was to combat organised crime ahead of elections in October 2026

## **Civil Unrest - High**

Demonstrations and political and labour strikes are common in urban areas and may cause temporary disruption to public and private transportation. Brazilian authorities may use tear gas and other riot control measures to disperse protesters. Demonstrations regularly take place throughout Brazil to protest against corruption and an increase in the costs of basic services.

On 8 January 2023, following the defeat of former President Jair Bolsonaro in the 2022 general election, a mob of his supporters attacked the federal government buildings in Brasilia. The mob invaded and vandalised the Supreme Federal Court, the National Congress building and the Presidential Palace. The attack took place a week after President Lula's inauguration. 39 people have been charged with armed criminal association, violent attempt to subvert the democratic state of law, staging a coup and damage to public property.

Demonstrations often arise in support of social justice following publicised cases of police brutality and racial violence. In November 2020, protesters raided Carrefour supermarkets in several cities after supermarket security guards in Porto Alegre beat a black man to death. In Sao Paulo, protesters smashed the front window of a store before lighting a fire inside the premises, while in Brasilia, dozens of demonstrators entered a store chanting "Black Lives Matter!" and "Don't shop at Carrefour. You could die!"

## **Maritime and Piracy - Moderate**

The maritime and piracy risk in Brazil is assessed as moderate, primarily due to criminal activity and weather-related hazards. While not as frequent as in global piracy hotspots, incidents of piracy and armed robbery have been reported, particularly in ports and anchorages near major cities such as Santos and Rio de Janeiro. Criminals often target vessels for valuables or cargo. Piracy-related incidents have also occurred on the Amazon River, prompting authorities in the north-

ern state of Pará to establish an anti-piracy task force following an increase in attacks on riverboats. Additionally, there have been reports of both armed and unarmed attacks on merchant ships, either off the coast or while docked in Brazilian ports.

Brazil's ports are also exploited for smuggling activities, including drugs, weapons, and other illicit goods. These activities are particularly concentrated along the northern coast, where proximity to Caribbean drug and shipping networks and the area's remoteness make policing efforts challenging. Ships docked in these ports may inadvertently become entangled in criminal operations if appropriate security measures are not in place.

Weather-related hazards further compound the risks, particularly during the rainy season. Severe storms, including cyclonic events that are most frequent between November and May, often impact the southern coastlines, causing significant damage to ports and vessels. High winds, strong currents, and rough seas along Brazil's coastline can disrupt navigation, compromise safety, and complicate search and rescue operations. Mariners are advised to maintain vigilance, adhere to security protocols, and monitor weather advisories.

## **Health - Moderate**

Brazil is home to several diseases that are a danger to any traveller. Malaria is a high risk in Brazil throughout the year, with water-borne, food-borne, and other infectious diseases (including typhoid, hepatitis, leptospirosis, measles, rabies) also being prevalent as more serious outbreaks occur from time to time.

Insect-borne diseases, such as Oropouche, Dengue, Zika, filariasis, and leishmaniasis, are present throughout the country. Travellers are most at risk during the wet season, in poorer areas or near stagnant bodies of water, including the Pantanal or Amazon. Travellers are advised to take precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, including wearing loose-fitting/full-length clothing and trousers, using insect repellent, using screens on windows and doors, and sleeping under a mosquito net.

The standard of private medical facilities in large cities, such as Brasilia, São Paulo, Campinas, Rio de Janeiro, and Curitiba, is generally good. Free access to medical facilities is available, however, the availability of English-speaking staff is

limited. Other larger cities also have small private hospitals providing adequate services. Outside of major cities, however, facilities are of lower standards.

## **Environmental - Moderate**

The rainy season extends from January to July in the north, from November until March in the south and southeast, and from April until July in the northeast of the country. Flash floods and landslides can occur during these periods. During the rainy seasons, conditions on mountain roads and on highways leading to beaches can be dangerous due to flooding or landslides. In April 2024 heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding in southern Brazil resulted in at least 107 fatalities. The flooding in Rio Grande do Sul state in particular resulted in the displacement of over 200,000 people.

There is also a risk of drought and wildfires in the summer months. 2024 has been one of the worst years on record for wildfires with particular impact in the Amazon, Cerrado savannah, Pantanal wetland and the state of Sao Paulo. So far in 2024, two people have died as a result of the fires, in Urupes. 48 cities declared a red alert due to poor air quality. The smog has impacted cities such as Brazil's capital, Brasilia, as well as Sao Paulo, Manaus, Porto Velho, Rio Branco and Sao Jose do Rio Preto. Authorities have announced that some of the wildfires may have been started with criminal intent.

## **Transportation - Moderate**

Sao Paulo's Guarulhos International Airport (GRU), Rio de Janeiro's Galeao International Airport (GIG) and Brasilia's Presidente Juscelino Kubitschek de Oliveira International Airport (BSB) are the three main international airports in the country. Security at the airport is adequate; however, waiting times can be long due to poor infrastructure and a laid-back attitude. Travellers should allow ample time when arriving and departing the country. Boarding gates have also been known to change last minute.

Travellers should be aware that crime does occur inside Brazilian airports. Remain vigilant and keep a close eye on all valuables; especially laptops, smartphones and wallets. There have also been reports of drugs being planted on un-

suspected passengers by traffickers hoping to avoid detection. So baggage should not be left unattended.

Brazil is a large country and travel between the major cities should be conducted by air as this is the fastest and safest way to travel between regions. Brazil has two major national carriers, Gol and LATAM (a merger between the Chilean LAN and Brazilian TAM airlines), and a handful of smaller regional airlines. If a number of flights are to be taken, a Brazil Airpass is advisable. It allows a number of internal flights for a set fee starting at around 500 USD.

Bus services in Brazil are generally of a high standard and departure times are strictly followed. All major cities are linked by frequent buses. Every big city, and most small ones, have at least one main long-distance bus station, known as a Rodoviaria. Brazil has numerous bus companies and the larger cities have several dozen rival agencies. ClickBus is an app for consulting departure times and fares. However, travellers should avoid using public buses where possible due to the heightened crime risk in the country.

The rail infrastructure of Brazil is limited and has been steadily decommissioned over recent years and there are real safety concerns. It is not a viable method of transport for most of the country.

Traffic flows in the main cities, especially Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, can be extremely heavy. It is advisable to allow additional time whilst completing journeys and where possible conduct journeys outside of peak times.

Brazil has a high rate of road accidents; overall standards of driving are considered poor. While main highways are generally in good condition; more rural roads are considered below Western standards. Travellers should be aware that Brazil has a zero-tolerance policy on drunk driving and penalties can range from fines to three years imprisonment.

Taxis are present in major cities and towns. Most cabs have meters which should be used if available, or else a printed list of destinations and pre-set prices. When there is no obvious price, drivers are likely looking to take advantage of foreigners and prices should be haggled. Taxis are often used in street crime and therefore should be avoided. If taxis are used they should be booked from a hotel.

It is recommended that all travel particularly rural travel is conducted with a security driver and also a Close Protection Officer depending on the destination to help

mitigate the risk of scams and crime. Travel to rural areas can be affected by weather and mudslides are common in the rainy season (April-October).

<b>EMERGENCY DETAILS</b>	
<b>IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY CONTACT SOLACE GLOBAL 24/7 OPERATIONS CENTRE AT +44 (0)1202 795 801. LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES CAN BE REACHED THROUGH: POLICE: 190, FIRE: 193, AMBULANCE: 192. LOCAL CONSULAR SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE THROUGH: BRITISH EMBASSY BRASILIA: +55 61 3329 2300, US EMBASSY BRASILIA: +55 61 3312 7000</b>	
<b>POLICE NUMBER</b>	197
<b>AMBULANCE NUMBER</b>	193
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## **TRAVEL**

### **TRAVEL ADVICE**

Dual nationals are generally required to travel on their Brazilian passports.

Regarding LGBTQ+ considerations, homosexuality is legal, and same-sex marriage has been recognized since 2013. Major cities like São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro have vibrant LGBTQ+ communities and host large pride events, but attitudes can be more conservative in rural areas. Although Brazil is generally LGBTQ+ friendly, instances of discrimination and violence do occur, so exercise caution, especially in less progressive regions.

Brazil has strict drug laws, and penalties for drug-related offences are severe. Public behaviour expectations include avoiding loud or disruptive actions, as public drunkenness and disorderly conduct are frowned upon.

## SIGNIFICANT DATES

**FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

- **Carnival end (until 2pm):** Brazil - Local holiday

**MARCH 20, 2026**

- **March Equinox:** Brazil - Seasonal

**APRIL 03, 2026**

- **Good Friday:** Brazil - National

**APRIL 05, 2026**

- **Easter Sunday:** Brazil - Observance

**APRIL 21, 2026**

- **Tiradentes Day:** Brazil - National

**MAY 01, 2026**

- **Labor Day / May Day:** Brazil - National

**MAY 10, 2026**

## SIGNIFICANT DATES

- **Mother's Day:** Brazil - Observance

**JUNE 04, 2026**

- **Corpus Christi:** Brazil - Local holiday

**JUNE 12, 2026**

- **Brazilian Valentine's Day:** Brazil - Observance

**JUNE 21, 2026**

- **June Solstice:** Brazil - Seasonal

**AUGUST 09, 2026**

- **Father's Day:** Brazil - Observance

**SEPTEMBER 07, 2026**

- **Independence Day:** Brazil - National

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2026**

- **September Equinox:** Brazil - Seasonal

**OCTOBER 12, 2026**

- **Our Lady of Aparecida / Children's Day:** Brazil - National

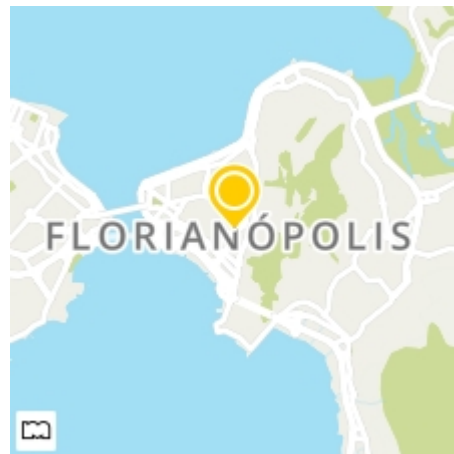
## SIGNIFICANT DATES

**OCTOBER 15, 2026**

- **Teacher's Day:** Brazil - Observance

## RECENT ALERTS

**STORM WARNING ISSUED IN FLORIANÓPOLIS DUE TO THE ARRIVAL OF A COLD FRONT UNTIL 08 FEBRUARY**



**Category:** Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



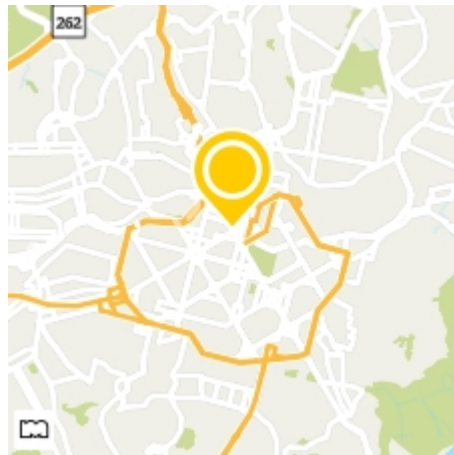
07-Feb-2026 20:29

The Brazilian State Secretariat for Civil Protection and Defense has reported that the arrival of a cold front through the State of Santa Catarina is expected to bring adverse weather effects until 08 February. The Civil Defense of Santa Catarina has stated that the most significant areas affected by the cold front is expected in the Itajaí Valley, northern Santa Catarina, and areas of Greater Florianópolis. Thunderstorms with lightning, gusts of wind, hail and flooding is

## RECENT ALERTS

expected. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates when necessary.

### HEAVY RAIN WARNING ISSUED FOR BELO HORIZONTE



**Category:** Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate

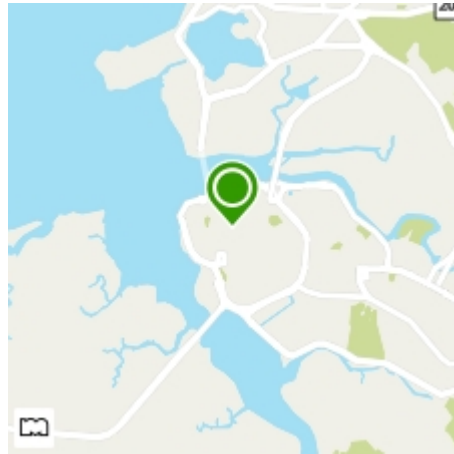


30-Jan-2026 12:09

The Civil Defence of Belo Horizonte have issued a heavy rain warning for Belo Horizonte. Heavy rain is forecast through 0800 local time on 31 January, with the potential for lightning and wind gusts of up to 50 kilometres per hour. Further information remains limited. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates accordingly.

### BUS STRIKE REPORTED IN GREATER SÃO LUÍS

## RECENT ALERTS



**Category:** Travel Information - **Risk:** Low



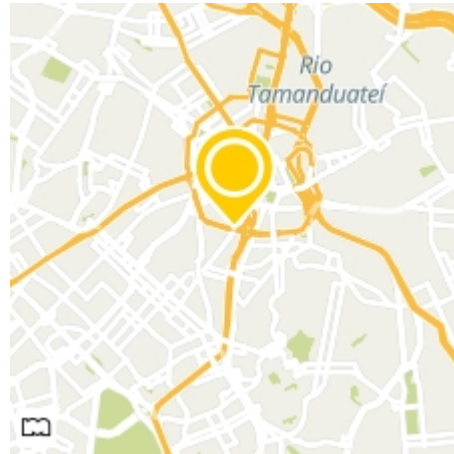
30-Jan-2026 09:34

According to local media sources, bus strikes have been reported in Greater São Luís after bus drivers reject a proposed 2% wage increase. It has been reported that the strike began in the early hours of 30 January. At present there is no estimated time for the duration of the strike or resumption of normal service.

The bus drivers union has announced that strike action will only end when progress has been made in negotiations. We will continue to monitor the situation and update accordingly.

**HEAVY RAINFALL WARNINGS ACTIVE ACROSS MUCH OF  
CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN BRAZIL**

## RECENT ALERTS



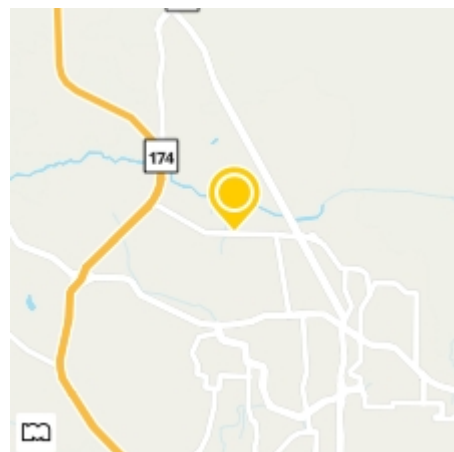
**Category:** Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



27-Jan-2026 09:30

Brazil's National Institute of Meteorology (INMET) has issued heavy rainfall warnings covering large parts of central and southern Brazil, including Cuiabá, Manaus, Belém, São Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro. The warnings follow forecasts of daily rainfall exceeding 50 mm, accompanied by moderate winds of up to 60 km/h. The alerts are currently in effect through 28 January, with further extensions possible. Additional details remain limited at this time.

## HIGH RISK OF FLOODING AND LANDSLIDES REPORTED IN MANAUS FOLLOWING EVENING OF HEAVY RAINFALL



## RECENT ALERTS

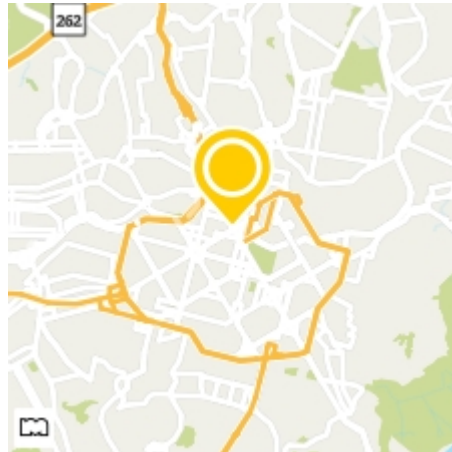
**Category:** Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



22-Jan-2026 04:17

The National Centre for Monitoring and Alerting of Natural Disasters (CEMADEN) has reported that there is a high risk of flooding and landslides reported in Manaus and surrounding areas due to an evening of heavy rainfall. Some areas reported 110 millimetres of rainfall within 24 hours including the Santa Etelvina neighbourhood. At least 12 landslides have been reported throughout.

## HEAVY RAINFALL AND LANDSLIDE ALERT ISSUED IN BELO HORIZONTE UNTIL AT LEAST 26 JANUARY



**Category:** Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



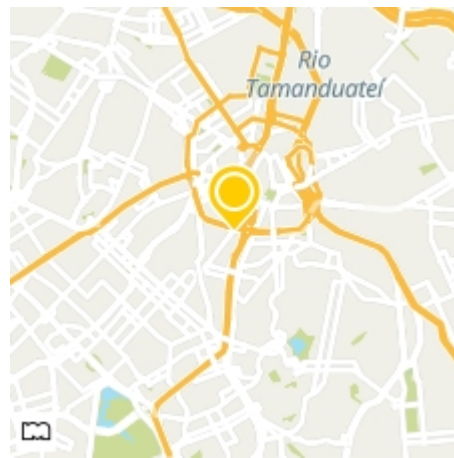
20-Jan-2026 15:32

The Belo Horizonte Municipal Civil Defense has reported that a heavy rainfall and landslide alert has been issued across most parts of Belo Horizonte until at least 26 January. At least 50 to 90 millimetres of rainfall is expected in Belo

## RECENT ALERTS

Horizonte City on 21 January. Lightning and wind gusts of around 50 kilometres per hour are expected. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates when necessary.

### FLOOD WARNING ISSUED FOR SÃO PAULO DUE TO HEAVY RAINS ON 14 JANUARY



**Category:** Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



14-Jan-2026 19:43

The Brazilian National Institute of Meteorology (INMET) has issued an orange alert for heavy rainfall and storms on 14 January. Following heavy rainfall, on the night of 13 January, the Center for Climate Emergency Management (CGE) has issued a flood warning for due to instances of 50 to 100 millimetres of rainfall per day and winds of up to 60 to 100 kilometres an hour. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates when necessary.

### ORANGE WEATHER ALERT FOR STORMS ISSUED FOR THE STATE OF SANTA CATARINA

## RECENT ALERTS



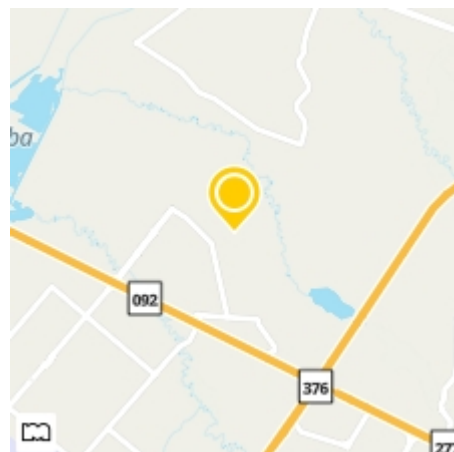
**Category:** Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



13-Jan-2026 19:37

The Civil Defense of Santa Catarina has issued an orange weather alert for heavy rainfall impacting the east of the State, including Criciúma and surrounding areas. Storms with lightning, gusts of wind, hail and flooding is expected until at least around 1900 local time. It is unclear the exact impact as of yet however we will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates when necessary.

## HEAVY RAINFALL WARNINGS ISSUED IN SOUTHEAST BRAZIL UNTIL AT LEAST 12 JANUARY



## RECENT ALERTS

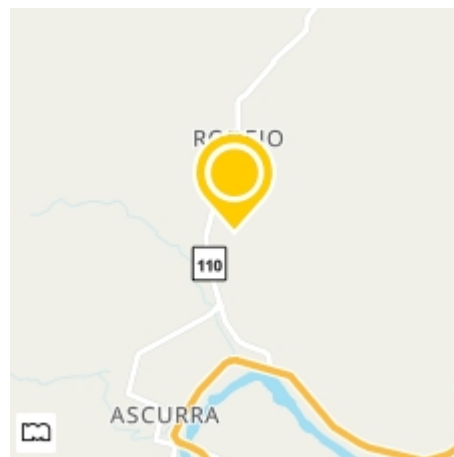
**Category:** Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



11-Jan-2026 14:49

The Brazilian National Civil Defence has issued a heavy rainfall warning for states in southeast Brazil, including Paraná, Santa Catarina and Mato Grosso do Sul. A tornado was reported on 10 January in Curitiba, Paraná which affected around 250 homes and more than 200 residents. Characteristics of the weather alert include intense storms, strong gusts of wind, thunderstorms and hail. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates when necessary.

### RED WEATHER WARNING ISSUED FOR SANTA CATARINA DUE TO POTENTIAL FLOODING AND STORM CONDITIONS



**Category:** Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



08-Jan-2026 20:38

Civil defence authorities in Santa Catarina have issued a red weather alert effective from 08 January at 17:14 local time due to the threat of storm conditions

## RECENT ALERTS

including the threat of flooding in the area. Thunderstorms, rain and hail are also reportedly likely. It is currently unclear when the alert will be lifted.

# FCDO SUMMARY

Last updated: 12/10/2025 12:39:42

## Warnings and insurance

Your travel insurance could be invalidated if you travel against advice from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).

## Areas where **FCDO** advises against all but essential travel

### Amazonas State

**FCDO** advises against all but essential travel to the following river areas towards the west of Amazonas State:

- along the Amazonas (Amazon) River and its tributaries west of the town of Codajás and east of the town of Belém do Solimões in Amazonas State
- along any part of the Itaquáí River in Amazonas State
- along any part of the Japurá River or its tributaries in Amazonas State
- along the Rio Negro (Black River) and its tributaries north or west of the town of Barcelos in Amazonas State

Find out more about [why \*\*FCDO\*\* advises against travel](#).

## Before you travel

No travel can be guaranteed safe. Read all the advice in this guide. You may also find it helpful to:

- see [general advice for women travellers](#)
- read our [guide on disability and travel abroad](#)
- see [general advice for LGBT+ travellers](#)
- read about [safety for solo and independent travel](#)
- see [advice on volunteering and adventure travel abroad](#)

## Travel insurance

If you choose to travel, research your destinations and [get appropriate travel insurance](#). Insurance should cover your itinerary, planned activities and expenses

in an emergency.

## About FCDO travel advice

FCDO provides advice about risks of travel to help you make informed decisions. Find out [more about FCDO travel advice](#).

### Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

Follow FCDO:

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)
- [Travel Aware on Instagram](#)

### Entry requirements

This information is for people travelling on a full [‘British citizen’ passport](#) from the UK. It is based on the UK government’s understanding of Brazil’s current rules for the most common types of travel.

The authorities in Brazil set and enforce entry rules. If you’re not sure how these requirements apply to you, contact the [Brazilian Embassy in the UK](#).

### Passport validity requirements

To enter Brazil, your passport must have an ‘expiry date’ at least 6 months after the date you arrive.

Check with your travel provider that your passport and other travel documents meet requirements. [Renew your passport](#) if you need to.

You will be denied entry if you do not have a valid travel document or try to use a passport that has been reported lost or stolen.

### Dual nationals

When returning to the UK, British citizens must carry a valid [British passport](#) or [certificate of entitlement](#). See [Dual citizenship](#).

## **British-Brazilian dual nationals**

Brazilian immigration authorities often require dual British-Brazilian nationals visiting Brazil to travel on Brazilian (rather than British) passports.

## **Visa requirements**

You can visit Brazil without a visa for up to 90 days for tourism.

If you want to extend your tourist visa, contact the [Federal Police](#) (in Portuguese) before your visa expires.

For more information about visas, contact the [Brazilian Consulate in London](#).

If you overstay your visa, you'll face a daily fine. You have the option to pay this fine either when you leave Brazil or during your next visit.

Make sure you get your passport stamped.

Make sure the border control officer puts a stamp in your passport. If it is not stamped, you may be fined when you leave.

Read about [passport stamping if you live in Brazil](#) (in Portuguese).

## **Travelling with children**

### **Children with dual British-Brazilian citizenship**

British-Brazilian dual nationals under the age of 18 who are travelling without both parents or legal guardians need authorisation from both parents or legal guardians to travel in Brazil or leave the country. Read more about the [formal travel authorisation process for Brazilian minors](#) and the [frequently asked questions](#).

### **Children who are not dual British-Brazilian nationals**

Families of non-Brazilian under-18s travelling through Brazil without one or both parents should follow the instructions for dual British-Brazilian under-18s. Make sure the under-18 or their travelling companion also carries the original or

notarised copy of the under-18's birth certificate. Contact the [Brazilian Consulate in London](#) for more information.

## Vaccine requirements

For details about medical entry requirements and recommended vaccinations, see [TravelHealthPro's Brazil guide](#).

## Customs rules

There are strict rules about [goods you can take into or out of Brazil](#). You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or duty.

## Taking money into Brazil

If you are bringing cash or travellers cheques into Brazil with a value of 10,000 US dollars or more, you will need to [declare it online](#).

## Safety and security

This guide also has safety advice for [regions of Brazil](#).

## Terrorism

There is a high threat of terrorist attack globally affecting UK interests and British nationals, including from groups and individuals who view the UK and British nationals as targets. Stay aware of your surroundings at all times.

UK Counter Terrorism Policing has information and advice on [staying safe abroad](#) and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack. Find out [how to reduce your risk from terrorism while abroad](#).

## Terrorism in Brazil

Terrorists are likely to try to carry out attacks in Brazil.

Attacks could be indiscriminate including in places visited by foreigners. You should remain aware of your surroundings, keep up to date with local media reports and follow the advice of local authorities. Targets could include:

- crowded places
- public gatherings

On 13 November 2024, two explosions occurred at the Praça dos Três Poderes in central Brasilia. You should exercise caution around major sites in large Brazilian cities.

## **Protests and civil unrest**

Protests, demonstrations and strikes take place regularly in cities across Brazil. Even peaceful events can sometimes turn confrontational and escalate into violence. Police have used rubber bullets and tear gas extensively to disperse protesters.

You should:

- avoid political rallies or protests
- follow local news reports
- comply with the instructions of local authorities

If you encounter a protest or feel uncomfortable in a large gathering, leave the area immediately.

## **Favelas**

Favelas ('slum' or 'shanty town') are urban neighbourhoods of high-density informal housing. They exist in all major Brazilian cities and can border areas used by tourists and visitors.

The security situation in many favelas is unpredictable and can be dangerous. Tourists have been shot after accidentally entering favelas.

You should:

- avoid all favelas, including favela tours marketed to tourists and any accommodation, restaurants or bars advertised as being within a favela
- if you're using GPS navigation, make sure the suggested route does not take you into a favela

If you're unsure about a location, check with your hotel or the local authorities.

## **Crime**

If you're the victim of crime, contact the local police number 190 or the nearest British embassy or consulate.

Read our guidance [if you're the victim of a crime abroad](#).

## **Theft and robbery**

Robberies are common in many cities, particularly on buses. Thieves target mobile phones, particularly between 4pm and 9pm. Attackers may be armed and under the influence of drugs. Do not resist attackers. If threatened, hand over your valuables without resistance.

Thefts are particularly common on public beaches and include 'arrastões' where large groups of thieves run through an area of the beach grabbing possessions. Keep your belongings close and avoid taking valuables to the beach. Do not go on to city beaches after dark.

Pickpocketing is common.

Criminals target large-scale celebrations in Brazil, such as the Carnival in major cities. Be aware of your personal security and surroundings. Be cautious about proposals from strangers that take you away from public areas.

To reduce your risk:

- avoid wearing expensive jewellery and watches
- avoid carrying large sums of money
- avoid using a mobile phone in the street
- leave your passport and valuables in a safe place

## **Criminal Kidnapping**

Short-term opportunistic kidnapping (called 'express kidnapping') can happen. Victims have been kidnapped for a short period of time and driven to an ATM to withdraw money before being abandoned. Express kidnappers may use violence.

## **Scams**

Bank and credit card scams are common, including card cloning from ATMs and in shops. Keep sight of your card and do not use an ATM if you notice anything suspicious.

If you withdraw cash at an ATM and the cash has pink marks on it, speak to the bank (or police) straight away to get it changed. It may have been marked as damaged or counterfeit.

Dating apps have been used by criminals to target foreign nationals in Brazil, leading to spiking of drinks, robbery and theft from bank accounts. Exercise caution when engaging with such apps, buy and keep hold of your own drinks, share your plans with friends or family, and be vigilant of your belongings including your mobile phone.

## **Sexual assault and drink spiking**

Rape and other sexual offences against tourists are not common, but there have been attacks against both women and men. Some have involved date rape drugs. Buy your own drinks and keep them in sight.

If you begin to feel strange, sick or drunk after only a couple of drinks, tell a trusted friend or security staff. They should take you to a safe place, such as your hotel room or a hospital. You can phone the local police, a hospital or the nearest British embassy or consulate for advice.

Read our advice on what to do if you have been [raped, sexually assaulted or drugged abroad](#).

## **Methanol poisoning**

There have been deaths and cases of serious illness caused by alcoholic drinks containing methanol in Brazil. Take care when buying spirit-based drinks, including gin, vodka and whisky.

Even small amounts of methanol can kill. It is not possible to identify methanol in alcoholic drinks by taste or smell. See [Travel Aware Drink Spiking and Methanol Poisoning](#) for information about how to reduce the risks.

Seek urgent medical attention if you or someone you are travelling with show the [signs of methanol poisoning](#) after drinking.

## **Child sexual abuse**

There are cases of sexual abuse of children in Brazil. All sexual activity with children (people under the age of 18) is illegal, regardless of the age of consent

locally. If you commit sex offences against children abroad, you can be prosecuted in the UK.

## **Parental child abduction**

Parental child abduction is not common but can happen in Brazil. Dial 190 to report a missing child or go to the nearest police station. Read the [guidance on international parental child abduction](#) if your child may be at risk of this.

## **Carjacking**

Theft from cars is common. Keep valuables out of sight.

Carjacking can happen, particularly on major roads and in tunnels. To reduce your risk:

- approach your car with your keys in your hand so you can get into your car quickly
- keep doors locked and windows closed
- take particular care at traffic lights
- be cautious of people approaching to ask for information, especially at night
- if driving at night outside the city, avoid stopping at the roadside – if you must stop, try to stop in a well-lit area

## **Organised crime and militias**

Organised crime groups and militias operate in Brazil, including in many cities. Armed incidents, including police operations, can occur with little warning. Be aware of your surroundings. Avoid favelas and suburbs where possible.

## **Laws and cultural differences**

### **Personal ID**

Always carry a copy of your passport and another form of photo ID if you have one.

### **Illegal drugs and trafficking scams**

Drug trafficking is widespread in Brazil. Bringing drugs in to or out of Brazil in any quantity is illegal and the penalties are severe.

You should expect a long jail sentence and heavy fines for possessing, using or smuggling illegal drugs, including when transiting through the airport.

British nationals have been targeted through email scams where fraudsters offer a financial reward for travelling to Brazil, where they are then asked to carry items in to or out of Brazil, including to the UK. These items are often illegal drugs. Anyone caught will face detention for drug trafficking, regardless of the circumstances.

Airports in Brazil have excellent technology and security for detecting illegal items, including cannabis. This is also used to scan the baggage of transiting passengers.

## **Electronic smoking devices**

All electronic cigarettes and vaping devices are illegal in Brazil, including refills, parts and accessories.

Customs officials have the authority to confiscate any vape products found in travellers' luggage (both checked in and carry on) during inspections.

## **LGBT+ travellers**

There is no legislation against same-sex sexual activity in Brazil. Same-sex marriage is legal and LGBT+ couples have equal rights in law.

São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and other cities hold Pride events, which attract large numbers. These events are usually very peaceful.

Brazil is generally tolerant. However, Brazilian society is quite conservative, particularly outside the larger towns and cities. There are reports of discrimination, violence and harassment against the LGBT+ community. Urban areas are usually more accepting.

Read more [advice for LGBT+ travellers](#).

## **Outdoor activities and adventure tourism**

### **Swimming safety**

Strong currents can be a danger off some beaches. Get local advice before going in the water. Pay attention to warning flags and the location of lifeguards if present

on the beach.

Shark attacks are a danger, particularly on the beaches around Recife in north-east Brazil. Pay attention to warning signs and consult lifeguards if unsure. Sharks have been known to attack in waist-deep water and deaths have occurred.

See [water safety on holiday](#) from the Royal Life Saving Society.

## Transport risks

### Road travel

If you are planning to drive in Brazil, see [information on driving abroad](#).

You can use a UK photocard driving licence to drive in Brazil. If you still have a paper driving licence, you may need to [update it to a photocard licence](#) or get the [1968 version of the international driving permit \(IDP\)](#) as well. You cannot buy an IDP outside the UK, so get one before you travel.

After 180 days, you need to apply for a Brazilian driving licence.

### Driving standards

Brazil has a high road accident rate. Driving standards are poor. Take care on the roads and avoid riding bicycles. In many rural areas, roads are in poor condition away from the main highways. Bus and coach crashes are frequent.

Immediately report all accidents to the police: call 190 or go to a police station.

Contact the police if vehicles are obstructing traffic and you need help.

### Drink-driving

Drink-driving is a serious offence in Brazil and checkpoints are often set up. If you're caught driving under the influence of alcohol, you will be prosecuted. Penalties range from fines and a suspension from driving for 12 months, to up to 3 years in prison.

### Air travel

If you have been a victim of a passport theft and you need to fly to Brasilia, São Paulo or Rio de Janeiro for consular services, you can travel on domestic flights with a valid photo ID or a police report.

Check whether your tour operator has concerns about airlines in Brazil.

## **Sea travel**

There have been armed and unarmed attacks on merchant vessels, including British flag vessels off the Brazilian coast and in some Brazilian ports.

## **Rail travel**

There have been instances of theft and robbery on the rail network, including urban metro rail networks. Avoid wearing expensive jewellery and watches or using a mobile phone during train travel.

## **Extreme weather and natural disasters**

Find out what you can do to [prepare for and respond to extreme weather and natural hazards](#).

### **Heavy rainfall**

The rainy season runs from November until March in the south and south-east of Brazil (including Rio de Janeiro) and from April until July in the north-east of Brazil. However heavy rainfall and flooding can also occur outside of the designated rainy seasons, in any region of the country.

Heavy rainfall often disrupts infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. Flash floods and landslides are common in regions where mountains are close to the coast, such as Rio de Janeiro. This includes in tourist areas. People have drowned when swept away in fast flowing water. Cars and buses have been caught in landslides, resulting in deaths.

Monitor local media and follow local authority warnings which are displayed on digital street signs and sent to hotels and hostels. Follow any instructions given by the local authorities. Avoid travelling on the road during heavy rain. If you are outside when the rain starts, avoid walking in flooded areas, and do not cross fast flowing water, however shallow you think it is.

## Forest fires

Forest fires are common from May to September, especially during July and August due to the dry season. They are highly dangerous and unpredictable. Check the latest alerts and [weather forecast](#) (in Portuguese) and follow the advice of local authorities if you're considering travelling to affected areas.

## Regional risks

This section has safety advice for regions of Brazil. It only covers regions where [ECDO](#) has specific advice. You should also read [ECDO's overall travel advice](#) and [safety and security advice](#).

You should monitor local media and follow the guidance of local authorities when travelling in remote areas.

## Amazonas State

### River travel

[ECDO](#) advises against all but essential travel:

- along the Amazonas (Amazon) River and its tributaries west of the town of Codajás and east of the town of Belém do Solimões in Amazonas State
- along any part of the Itaquáí River in Amazonas State
- along any part of the Japurá River or its tributaries in Amazonas State
- along the Rio Negro (Black River) and its tributaries north or west of the town of Barcelos in Amazonas State

There are risks to travellers in river areas towards the west of Amazonas State, where Brazil shares borders with Colombia, Peru and Venezuela, due to criminal activity. Armed groups, including pirates and drug traffickers, travel by the river routes in the Amazonas state where there is low presence of police and local authorities.

## Rio de Janeiro

The most common incidents affecting British nationals in Rio de Janeiro are thefts and pickpocketing around:

- Copacabana beach
- Ipanema beach
- Lapa
- Santa Teresa

Tourists have reported armed robberies on the Corcovado walking trail to the Christ the Redeemer statue. See our advice on [Theft and robbery](#).

## **São Paulo**

The most common incidents affecting British nationals in São Paulo are thefts or pickpocketing around:

- Avenida Paulista
- the historical downtown area
- the red light districts located on Rua Augusta (north of Avenida Paulista)
- Catedral da Sé
- Praça da República
- the Estacao de Luz metro area (where Cracolândia is located)

See our advice on [Theft and robbery](#).

## **Brasilia**

### **Theft**

In Brasilia, the central bus station area has a lot of incidents of theft. Theft from pedestrians also happens across the city, especially in the central and southern commercial centres. Take particular care at these locations. See our advice on [Theft and robbery](#).

## **North-east Brazil**

### **Theft**

The most common incidents affecting British nationals in north-east Brazil are theft from hotel and motel rooms and muggings. Reduce the risk of being mugged

by avoiding quiet or deserted areas and by using taxis after sunset instead of walking. See our advice on [Theft and robbery](#).

## Health

Before you travel check that:

- your destination can provide the healthcare you may need
- you have [appropriate travel insurance](#) for local treatment or unexpected medical evacuation

This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant.

## Emergency medical number

Call 192 and ask for an ambulance.

Contact your insurance company quickly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment.

## Vaccine recommendations and health risks

At least 8 weeks before your trip:

- check the latest [vaccination recommendations for Brazil](#)
- see where to get vaccines and whether you have to pay on the [NHS travel vaccinations page](#)

See [what health risks you'll face in Brazil](#), including:

- yellow fever
- dengue
- chikungunya
- oropouche
- high UV levels

Altitude sickness is a risk in parts of Brazil. Read more about [altitude sickness on TravelHealthPro](#).

## Medication

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries.

If you're taking medication, bring a prescription or letter from your doctor confirming your need to carry the medication. Bring enough to last your whole trip, as some medicines may not be available locally. Counterfeit drugs can be an issue, so it's better to travel with your own supplies.

Read [best practice when travelling with medicines on TravelHealthPro](#).

## Healthcare in Brazil

Foreign nationals are entitled to emergency medical treatment in Brazilian public hospitals. Public hospitals in Brazil, especially in major cities, tend to be overcrowded and there's often a long wait for a bed and a lack of medication. Private hospitals will not accept you unless you can show evidence of enough money or insurance to cover your treatment.

[FCDO](#) has a list of [medical providers in Brazil](#) where some staff will speak English.

There is also [guidance on healthcare if you're living in Brazil](#).

## Travel and mental health

Read [FCDO guidance on travel and mental health](#). There is also [mental health guidance on TravelHealthPro](#).

### Getting help

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office ([FCDO](#)) cannot provide tailored advice for individual trips. Read this travel advice and carry out your own research before deciding whether to travel.

## Emergency services in Brazil

Ambulance: 192

Fire: 193

Police: 190 or 911

## Contact your travel provider and insurer

Contact your travel provider and your insurer if you are involved in a serious incident or emergency abroad. They will tell you if they can help and what you need to do.

### Refunds and changes to travel

For refunds or changes to travel, contact your travel provider. You may also be able to make a claim through insurance. However, insurers usually require you to talk to your travel provider first.

Find out more about [changing or cancelling travel plans](#), including:

- where to get advice if you are in a dispute with a provider
- how to access previous versions of travel advice to support a claim

## Support from FCDO

FCDO has guidance on staying safe and what to do if you need help or support abroad, including:

- finding English-speaking [lawyers](#) and [funeral directors](#) in Brazil
- dealing with a [death in Brazil](#)
- being [arrested or imprisoned in Brazil](#)
- getting help if you're a [victim of rape or sexual assault in Brazil](#)
- getting help if you're a [victim of crime](#)
- what to do if you're [in hospital](#)
- if you're [affected by a crisis](#), such as a terrorist attack

## Contacting FCDO

### Help abroad

See [how to get help from the UK government abroad](#) including in an emergency.

### Help in the UK

You can call FCDO in London if you need urgent help because something has happened to a friend or relative abroad.

Telephone: 020 7008 5000 (24 hours)

[Find out about call charges](#)

## Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

Follow ECDO:

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)

## Risk information for British companies

The Overseas Business Risk service offers [information and advice for British companies operating in Brazil](#) on how to manage political, economic, and business security-related risks.

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## PACK SMART

Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Carry a duplicate wallet with small denomination notes and old cards that you could relinquish if threatened by robbers. Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Always check the destination restrictions regarding medications when planning your trip.

### **STAY SAFE: Hotels**



Request a hotel room between the third & seventh floor. Ground floor rooms should always be avoided as they are easily accessible from the outside. Higher levels mean in the event of a fire there are many stairs to navigate and in some countries firefighters may not have ladders capable of reaching higher than the seventh floor.



Check your room phone works in case you need to call reception for help.



Know where your fire exits are. Count the number of doors to the fire exit from your room so you can feel your way in the event of a fire and a smoke-filled corridor.



To prevent unauthorised entry into your hotel room, make sure the windows and doors lock. Bolt the deadbolt and use the door wedges you've brought with you from home to wedge the main door closed.

### **TRAVEL SAFE: Out & About**



When you are out and about, be aware of your surroundings - don't display obvious wealth, such as expensive jewellery, watches and mobile phones.



Use ATMs inside banks and shopping centres, where there is greater security and CCTV. Safety in numbers. If you are travelling with

colleagues, stay together for meals and trips out. If you are alone, avoid quiet areas and trust your instincts.

### **Road traffic accidents are still the greatest threat to travel safety.**



- Use licensed taxis.
- Always wear a seat belt.
- Keep doors locked & windows up.
- Avoid night-time driving.
- If the driver is using a phone or driving dangerously, insist they slow down/stop using their phone.

Check in regularly. Use the 'Check In' button on the Solace Secure app so your location can be monitored and you can view all intelligence alerts within your vicinity.

### **SAFE TRAVEL:** Health Tips

**See a medical travel specialist at least 4 weeks before travel.**

**Ask about recommended vaccines for specific destinations.**

**First aid kit with regular & special medication for trip - carry in hand luggage.**

**Evacuation & travel insurance to cover health emergencies while abroad.**



Take an extra month of prescribed medication for pre-existing conditions.

Risk of malaria - take precautions to prevent mosquito bites and take malaria pills as advised.



Avoid drinking alcohol and becoming dehydrated.

Verify & consume safe water and food. Have a supply of medicine for

self-treatment of diarrhoea.



Excessive sun exposure should be minimised by the use of sunscreen - sun can be more intense over water, snow and at altitude.

Leave animals alone. Animal bites or scratches can transmit rabies.

### **THINK SAFE:** Know Your Destination

Understand the culture of your destination. Dress and behave so as not to cause offence or draw attention.



Know if the tap water is suitable to drink if not; only accept water from a sealed bottle.

Avoid ice in your drinks & salad washed in tap water.

Research where you are travelling to. Make a note of the local emergency services number. Know the current security and medical threats and advice. See the FCO website for general information ([gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)).

### **DOCUMENT SAFE:** Know Your Destination

Take photos/scans of your essential documents and email them to yourself. You can then access them remotely if your belongings are stolen:

- Passport
- Driver's Licence
- Travel Insurance Document
- Visa

- Medical Certificates

For 24/7 travel risk advice and emergency assistance contact Solace Global Risk operations: + 44 (0)1202 795 801

The Solace Secure desktop and app provide up-to-the-minute alerts, providing latest information on your travel location even when you are there.

#### CONTACT SOLACE GLOBAL RESPONSE TEAM

This report has been prepared for you by Solace Global Risk Ltd.

If you need urgent help, advice or assistance at any time please contact the 24/7 Response and Assistance Team.

If you have a question about this travel advice or any other location please email [SGR@solaceglobal.com](mailto:SGR@solaceglobal.com) for further safety and security information.

For support using your Solace Secure platform or app please contact [support@solaceglobal.com](mailto:support@solaceglobal.com).

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