

The sun shines virtually 12 months of the year, the people are warm and friendly, the cities are vibrant and exciting and the countryside is stunning. Best of all, property prices are a fraction of those in the UK and the cost of living can be as little as 20 per cent of similar costs in the UK. There are few restrictions on property purchase by overseas investors and, with tourism increasing dramatically over the past few years, and Brazil's popularity as a long-haul destination looking set to grow, it makes sense to look further afield for a good investment return.

Brazil covers an area of some 3.3 million square miles, almost half of South America. The country crosses four time zones, each with its own unique climate, so there are plenty of choices for overseas investors. Choose a luxurious city apartment with all the benefits of exciting city living, such as great food, modern infrastructure, a host of the arts, old colonial buildings and the biggest carnivals. Enjoy the buzz of the popular beach resorts, or seek out a relaxing rural hideaway on the many deserted beaches in your own little piece of paradise. If you are the adventurous type, you might venture into the interior, with its crystal-clear lakes, beautiful mountain ranges, stunning waterfalls and wild national parks.

Although most of Brazil lies in the tropics, more than 60 per cent of the population live in areas which are cooled either by altitude, sea winds or polar fronts. While the coastal cities of Rio de Janeiro and Recife can get extremely hot, plateau cities such as São Paulo, Brasília and Belo Horizonte have mild climates, and the southern cities of Porto Alegre and Curitiba have a climate similar to that of southern Europe. The hottest part of Brazil is the northeast, which includes the capital of the State of Bahia: Salvador. Salvador was Brazil's first capital, and with an average temperature of 27 degrees Celsius and pleasant breezes along the coastline, it is an extremely popular destination. Inland, on higher ground, temperatures are lower. South of Rio the seasons are more defined and the range of temperatures significantly wider.

Brazil's most intense rain falls around the mouth of the Amazon but most of Brazil has moderate rainfall of between 1,000 and 1,500 millimetres (39 to 59 inches) a year, most of it coming between December and April. The driest part of the country is the northeast, where rainfall is irregular and the evaporation rate very high, making it difficult to grow crops. Most of Brazil lies in the southern hemisphere, where the seasons are the reverse of those in Europe. It is a country mercifully free of devastating geological and weather events, such as earthquakes, major volcanic activity, tornados or hurricanes.

The Brazilians themselves are as diverse as the beautiful landscape, and friendly too. Modern Brazilians

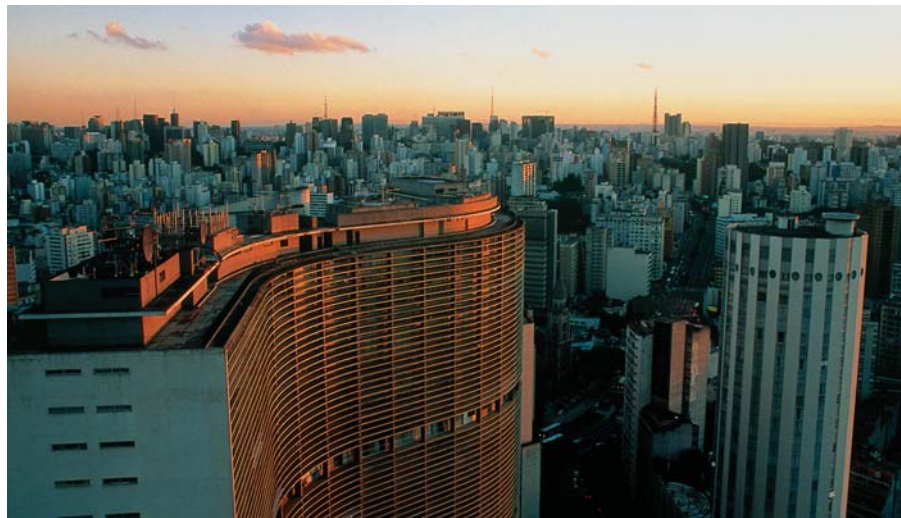
**From the tropical Amazon rainforests to the more temperate climates of the south, and with hundreds of miles of pristine sandy beaches, Brazil is, quite literally, an investor's dream, offering ample opportunity to turn fantasies of living in paradise into reality.**

# Brazil

## An Investor's Dream



## Brazil



**WHILST THERE ARE MANY DESTINATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM, THE WHOLE OF BRAZIL OFFERS INVESTORS EXTRAORDINARILY GOOD VALUE FOR MONEY**



**For further information on Brazil and how to invest in Brazil please contact the Brazilian Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain, 32 Green Street, London W1K 7AT, Tel: 020 7399 9281, fax 020 7499 0186**

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reflect an enormous cultural mix, from European to African origins, as well as the local indigenous population. From early days, mixed marriages between these groups have enabled the creation of a society without racial or religious discrimination, free of tensions and conflicts. It is a perfect environment for bringing up a family.

Brazil is now the strongest economic power in South America, having overcome the problems of chronic inflation in the 1980s and the financial crises of the 1990s, which led to drastic devaluation of the currency, by restructuring the banking sector and increasing financial regulation. According to the Brazilian Embassy, Brazil's economy is among the ten biggest in the world and is the second largest economy in the Americas after the United States. It is the second largest economy in the developing world after China. The Embassy states:

"With a population close to 180 million people and a per capita income per annum of around USD 4,000, Brazil has the largest domestic market in Mercosul [the South American free-trade area] and indeed in all of Latin America, one of the factors making Brazil the region's best location for current and prospective investments."

Brazil is also politically stable, with no natural enemies and no terrorist activities. Maybe it is the common bond of sport, particularly that of football, which unites Brazilians and keeps political and social unrest at bay.

Foreign residents in Brazil are granted the same rights under the Constitution as Brazilian nationals, such as the rights to life, equal treatment, security and property. There are no restrictions on purchase or lease of urban property by non-nationals, whether by individuals or

companies. However, there are some restrictions on the purchase of rural real estate property by foreign individual and companies, and by locally established companies that have the majority of their capital stock owned by non-nationals.

According to local advocates Alberto Murray Neto and Alexandro Tuzzolo Paulino of Paulo Roberto Murray Advogados, this means that whilst overseas investors can complete a purchase contract for a rural property while still resident in their home country, they must become Brazilian residents and start using the property within three years of the date of the contract or it becomes void.

Further points to note, they say, include the fact that there is a limit to the size of rural property that non-nationals can buy. They also advise that overseas investors should avoid purchasing islands, as islands are considered *terrenos de marinha* (Navy land).

There are plenty of options for travel to Brazil, with daily direct flights from London or connections through other European capitals. Charter flights operate from some other UK airports to several different destinations in Brazil.

Whilst there are many destinations to choose from, the whole of Brazil offers investors extraordinarily good value for money, both for those wishing to make short-term investments, and also for those with more long-term goals of settling down in the knowledge that their money has been invested wisely. Salvador in particular is popular with European investors.

With both land and real estate values far below those of any European country, and the Brazilian economy now booming, investors can be confident that any investment in Brazil will provide a firm, secure and prosperous future.