



# Travel Details

## ***VISAS***

Because the United States requires visas when Brazilians visit the United States, Brazil asks a reciprocal visa of US citizens traveling to Brazil. Generally, this is merely a formality, and the consulate is quite quick to provide the visas. Be aware that the visa must be used within 90 days of when you get it, so do not apply before February.

Visit [http://www.brasilemb.org/consulado/consular\\_jurisdictions.shtml](http://www.brasilemb.org/consulado/consular_jurisdictions.shtml) to see which consulate gives visas for people from your state, and to get links to the paperwork you'll need to fill out.

## ***FLIGHTS TO BRAZIL***

You will probably fly from the United States to São Paulo, with a connection to Florianópolis, a 45-minute flight. Your travel agent may be able to reserve a direct flight to Florianópolis, but if he or she can't, it is easy enough to fly to São Paulo and then connect to a national flight. Generally, Gol airlines is the least expensive option between São Paulo and Florianópolis.

I have found that Continental Airlines generally has the best rates to São Paulo ([www.continental.com](http://www.continental.com)), but if you want to make several flights within Brazil (to visit the Amazon, Salvador da Bahia, Iguaçu, etc), you may want to check out some of the deals offered by TAM ([www.tam.com.br](http://www.tam.com.br)).

## ***GETTING AROUND IN FLORIANÓPOLIS***

You can rent a car at the airport in Florianópolis at more or less the same rates that you would pay in the United States, and while you are on a tourist visa, you can use your US driver's license (this is the law, though if you get stopped by a police officer, you may find it difficult to convince him of this fact). Brazilian traffic is safer than it was a dozen years ago, but still more aggressive than drivers in Boston or New York. Local buses get you downtown relatively easily and taxis cost about what they do in the US.

## ***GETTING TO BRAÇO DO NORTE***

We will rent a bus to take all of the guests on the beautiful two and a half hour drive from Florianópolis to Braço do Norte on Saturday, returning to Florianópolis on Sunday in time for the 4PM flights that connect to international flights in São Paulo. If you would like to drive to Braço do Norte, please be aware that there is a lot of construction on the road, but the whole trip is quite beautiful.

Braço do Norte is a very small town, and you won't need a car while there. If you want to visit the mountains nearby, though, you will need a car.

## ***Accommodations***

### ***HOTELS IN FLORIANÓPOLIS***

There are two very nice hotels close to Rita's house in the beach neighborhood of Campeche, on the Southeastern coast of the island of Santa Catarina. We will be reserving a block of rooms at the **Pousada Tamarindo**, close to the beach, and if you let us know by February 1, we will ask one of these rooms for you. The cost is about \$40 per night. The Hotel São Sebastião, also close to the Campeche Beach, is also a very nice option, if you prefer something a little more expensive and luxurious.

Pousada Tamarindo: [www.tamarindo.com.br](http://www.tamarindo.com.br)

São Sebastião: <http://www.hospedevip.com.br/florianopolis/hoteis/hotel-sao-sebastiao-.html>

### ***HOTEL IN BRAÇO DO NORTE***

There is only one hotel in Braço do Norte, and we will make reservations there if you RSVP by February 1. The cost is about \$30 per night.

If you will have your own car, there is another option: in nearby Termas de Gravatal, there is a nice hot spring resort, with thermal water pumped directly into tubs in every room. It is more expensive and about 20 minutes from Braço do Norte, but it does provide an option for those that want one. <http://www.grupogravatal.com.br>

## ***FOOD***

In the United States, "Brazilian Cuisine" means meat, but in Brazil, food is much more diverse. Close to the hotels on the Praia de Campeche, you can find a very good pizzeria, several places for seafood, and a number of bars where you can get a very cold beer and a snack. In Lagoa, about 10 minutes away by car, there are several excellent restaurants, ranging from sushi to Arabic to Mexican. At the wedding reception, we will serve buffalo steaks and many traditional dishes from the south of Brazil but there will also be vegetarian options.

# Things to do

If you come early, there is no lack of things to do. Within walking distance of the hotels in Campeche, you can find one of the longest un-developed beaches in the south of Brazil, climb a small mountain through pristine rain and cloud forest, rent a surfboard (they say that Campeche Beach is one of the best in the Southern Hemisphere), learn to kitesurf... April is mid-fall in Florianópolis, and one of the driest times of the year. You should expect daytime temperatures in the 70s and 80s and pleasant, if not warm, seas.

Close by, one can also find great mountain climbing (5000 ft peaks rising out of the sea), hikes to isolated beaches, whale watching, and an interesting city. As guests arrive and think about what they would like to do, Rita and I will help to organize trips around the island.

If you want to take advantage of the trip to see more of Brazil, either in traveling around the South or going into the Amazon, the Northeast, or anywhere else, let me know, and I'll see if I can give any ideas.

## Schedule

Week of April 20		Guests gather in Florianópolis, spend time on the beach, exploring the island, eating good food...
April 24	7PM	Rehearsal Dinner at Sushi Yama, Canto da Lagoa, Florianópolis
April 26	12 Noon	Bus leaves Florianópolis for Braço do Norte
	3 PM	Bus arrives Braço do Norte; check in to Hotel Costa Nobre, Rua Senador Nereu Ramos, nº1145, Braço do Norte, [(48) 3658-3121]
	5 PM	Wedding ceremony, Igreja, Central Plaza, Braço do Norte
	6 PM	Reception begins. Associação Campestre Braço do Norte, Bairro Nossa Senhora de Fátima
	7:30 PM	Dinner served
	8:30 PM	Dancing
April 27	9 AM	Breakfast, Restaurante Castelinho. Rua Felipe Schmidt, 2959 - Braço do Norte (48) 3658-2351
	11:30 AM	Bus leaves for Florianópolis
	2:30 PM	Bus arrives at Florianópolis airport

## Gifts

Your presence is the greatest present that we could ask for. If you really feel that you must give something, feel free to make a donation to your favorite civil liberties or human rights charity, or to Shine a Light, in our name.

## RSVP

Please write me at [kgshaw@shinealight.org](mailto:kgshaw@shinealight.org) before February 1.