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Chapter 1 : Costa Rica Tips & Resources | Fodor's Travel

Surely you must have some useful nugget of travel wisdom you've been dying to share. If so, leave your sage advice in the comments for all to see. If so, leave your sage advice in the comments for all to see.

The temperature We have two seasons: Geography Fiji is a very hospitable land of blue-green lagoons, lush rainforests, pine forests, mountains and 1, kilometres miles of white sand beaches spread over islands scattered across , square kilometres , square miles of ocean. In fact, the International Date Line has been adjusted so that the entire archipelago falls into the same time zone, 12 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. From November to February, Fiji moves one hour ahead with its own daylight savings. English is the official language with Fijian and Hindustani also widely spoken. Religion Fiji is a multi-cultural nation with many religious beliefs. The people are primarily of the Wesleyan persuasion. Various protestant denominations, Roman Catholicism, Hinduism and Islam are also represented. Local Customs It is important to dress modestly when away from hotels and resorts and particularly when visiting a Fijian village. Avoid wearing a hat in a village as it is considered an insult to the village chief. Be prepared to shake hands and answer personal questions as to where you are from, whether married; and, if so, how many children. Health Fiji is free from malaria, yellow fever and major tropical diseases. Inoculations are only required if travelling from an infected area. There is an effective medical system in place with government and privately run hospitals, clinics, surgical centres, dental service and pharmacies. Many hotels and resorts have direct dialling facilities IDD , and card phones are available in many shops and stores. Look for the Telecom call card signage on display. You can also arrange roaming status before travelling here as well as on arrival. Access to the internet and email is available in most parts of Fiji. In addition to sites at all major hotels, internet cafes are abundant in major cities and towns. Normal banking hours are 9: There is a 24 hour currency exchange service at the arrivals concourse at Nadi Airport. ATMs are located around the country and at larger resorts and hotels. Electricity The electric current is volts AC 50Hz. Fiji has three-pin power outlets, which are identical to Australia and New Zealand. Leading hotels and resorts offer universal outlets for v or 11v shavers, hair dryers and other electrical appliances. Quarantine To avoid the introduction of foreign plant and animal pests and diseases, we prohibit the importation of vegetable matter, seeds, or any animal product without a permit from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests. What are the conditions of the Scheme? To be eligible for a VAT refund under the Scheme, you must satisfy all the following: Carry the goods with you as check-in baggage or hand luggage. Purchase the goods from an approved licensed retailer. You must ask the retailer for a refund form and a tax invoice s for goods purchased. Goods that are owned by passengers and not intended as gifts or for sale - personal effects, household effects for returning residents or intending residents, articles taken out of Fiji on departure on which duty and tax have been paid. Every passenger 17 years and over can bring into Fiji the following goods duty and VAT free, provided they are accompanied and not for sale: Cigarettes, not exceeding sticks or Cigars, not exceeding grams net weight or Tobacco not exceeding grams net weight or Any combination of 1 to 3 above, provided the total net weight does not exceed grams Spirituous liquors not exceeding 2.

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Chapter 2 : Travel Tips & Information | Visit California

The tips and information here help you know the ins and outs of travel in the Golden State, with tips on best times to travel, transportation, accommodation and camping, even good-sense guides for bicycle fans.

Hopping over to several places will exhaust yourself and make your journey boring. To utilize travel time wisely, you should choose countries which are close together and easily accessible. By that way, you can actually enjoy the journey. Know your visa requirements Visa requirements differ for each country in Southeast Asia. Your passport might be powerful in this country but it is nothing when you travel in another. For example, as an American, you are granted free entry to 30 days in Thailand, however; in Vietnam, you must obtain a visa beforehand or apply for Vietnam visa on arrival before you leave. Having the correct form handy helps you save time at the border. Pack light and smart To truly travel light, try to pack light and do laundry at every place you go. In almost Southeast Asian countries, you can get your clothes washed, ironed and dried for a couple of dollars. Besides, shopping in these countries is cheap. You can buy for extra clothes inexpensively at any time you want. Try cheap transport Trains, low-cost airlines, ferries are cheap travel methods. Buses are actually the cheapest but most buses in Southeast Asian countries are in bad conditions. They are dirty, dusty, crowded, smelly and be sure to aware of pickpockets. Motorbikes are a great way to get around but it is not recommended unless you are familiar with riding it. Bring cash Credit payment is not popular in Southeast Asia. Cash is always preferred. Ensure you change plenty of cash as you will need it to pay for accommodation, food, shopping, transport etc. Apart from supermarket where every item has price tag, you can bargain at anywhere for anything, especially when you deal with street vendors. This is a fun game which both seller and buyer negotiate for their target price. With a smile on your face, you can certainly achieve more. Halve the price of whatever they say, it gives you plenty of room for the price to creep up. If you do not agree on the price, politely say thank you and walk away. When the vendor agrees on your given price, you have to buy. Changing your mind is regarded as impolite. Buy travel insurance You can make sure the trip will be smooth and successful as planned. The risks of cancelled flights, vehicle accidents or lost luggage are possibly to happen can also be covered by insurance policies. All are cooked and you will be fine.

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Chapter 3 : Russia: Travel Tips - TripAdvisor

These Brazilian travel tips are the largest and most complete anywhere on the Internet. They are intended to assist you in planning your trip to Brazil, make your journey more enjoyable and help you to make more informed decisions.

My 55 best travel tips Posted on Posted in: Whither the clean laundry you were going to do? Soon, I will have been blogging for three years. Here are the best of of them – my my top travel tips and lessons learned from the last few years. Always pack a hat. In the winter, a knit hat will keep you warm and take up little room. In the summer, a brimmed hat will keep the sun off your face. You will not believe how often it will come in handy. Pack a reusable water bottle that clips on to your bag. That backpack might seem more agile, but have you ever seen someone trek across an airport with one of those on their back? Nimble does not come to mind. You will go through that battery in a second, esp. Either bring it from home, or take them out during the trip, or send them something afterwards. Do it not only because you will likely be invited back, but because your mom will be so proud. Odds are, you will think of someone for whom it would be perfect. Which is a really great worst-case scenario. I really should have bought one of those ridiculous hats. Because you can never have enough. You will only care about being comfortable. If you need fast food, at least hit up a regional chain. Or consider picking a restaurant based on its name alone. Plus, they probably get bored looking at naked bodies all day and are DYING for a little human interaction. While you can leave it every day on the pillow, most staff is instructed not to move money or personal items, so they might not pick it up. If this is the case, just leave it in a prominent spot when you check out. If you wait, you will forget. Do you have those shoes in a size 37? Accept this reality, and pray it is not your passport or your spouse. Or at the very least, have their contact info on hand. Or, better yet, scan your passport and email a copy to yourself. This will prevent you from looking like a total goober by the end of your trip. That is not okay. Which is why those little packs of tissues they sell at drugstores are a godsend. Just MORE difficult than on a plane. Ask for a drink that is half ginger ale and half club soda. It will help alleviate nausea without putting you into diabetic shock. This poor gal was more pack mule than human. Most housekeeping departments carry toothbrushes, combs, sewing kits, shower caps, and disposable razors that they will give you free of charge. If you get a teeny tiny tube of toothpaste, you can pretend you are a giant. Luxury hotels will charge you for it. This is almost always the case. It will be another year before I have anything even remotely useful to share. But what about you?

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Chapter 4 : Basic Italian Phrases | Language for Travelers | Fodor's Travel Guides

Tourists / Visitors Travelling In Russia. Here are some tips from a first time visitor to Russia. In winter, bring some good shoes with good traction. Sweeping of ice and snow from walks is spotty in Moscow and Kazan and it is easy to slip.

Rome is without doubt one of the most beautiful cities in the world; every year millions of tourists come from around the world to admire the treasures and masterpieces of Roman art and architecture. But a trip to the Eternal City can be eternally confusing for first-time visitors. This guide will make it easier to uncover Rome, offering lots of practical advice that will help you discover and enjoy the city in all its glory. Planning your travel in Rome Because Rome is such a huge tourist draw, choose the date for your trip carefully. The best times of the year to visit are April, May, and late September through October. In the depths of summer, the heat and the crowds make the city nearly unbearable. August in particular should be avoided because this is the month that the entire country of Italy seems to go on vacation. Traveling too late or too early in the year can also be risky because the opening hours for many attractions are shorter, and some are closed completely. Airfares typically drop quite a bit when "shoulder season" begins in the early autumn, making this the optimal time to visit in my book. The days are still warm, the nights are slightly cool, and the tour groups and student mobs have mostly disappeared. Sleeping in Rome To plunge fully into the essence of Rome, I highly recommend staying in a hotel where you can simply walk out your door and into the heart of the city. Before you make a reservation, look at a map of Rome and confine yourself to hotels that are east of the Tiber River and west of Station Termini. Also be aware that distances on a map might not be as close as they appear; I once stayed at a hotel in the fashionable Via Veneto area thinking that it would be fairly close to all the major attractions, but in reality it took nearly half an hour to reach anything at all from there on foot despite the fact that it looked oh-so-close on paper. The most vibrant area to stay in is the half-mile stretch between Piazza Navona and Piazza Barberini. Guidebooks are fine for gathering ideas, but hit the Internet to get the best deals. Or if you prefer, book a hotel directly with ItalyGuides. Dining in Rome Going hungry is one thing no traveler should ever worry about while in Rome; the city is literally overrun with good places to eat. The busy area just south of the Spanish Steps is full of them, and the maze of intersecting side streets tucked between Via del Corso and Piazza Navona contains dozens as well. Most have outdoor seating and offer similar menus containing pasta, pizza, veal, chicken and a few seafood dishes. The food is typically simple, fresh and delicious, and even the restaurants that seem to be tourist traps will still feed you well. For the younger folks we suggest an evening sipping beer in "Piazza di Campo dei Fiori" near the Pantheon, or in picturesque Trastevere, typical hangout zone for young Romans. Some useful phrases for dining are: Remember also that, especially during summer, Roman restaurants will be open until well after ten in the evening. Exploring Rome Take out that handy map of Rome again. There is also a ticket called " Roma Pass " that offers you transport and two museums free of charge as well as reductions for all other museums and major events in Rome for a 3-day pass. Rome is a city that is best savored slowly, like a glass of robust red wine. Allow yourself the chance to see it properly by formulating a touring plan before you arrive. Another hint is to save the attractions closest to your hotel for last; you may be tempted to do just the opposite, but these will be the easiest sights to visit if time starts to run short. Leave a comment below to inspire future travelers. Let us know what you enjoyed most or give us valuable advice to improve visits!

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Chapter 5 : Helpful Tips | The official website of Tourism Fiji

Today's Departure: Your daily dose of travel inspiration How we use your email Fodor's may use your email address to send you relevant information on site updates, account changes, and offers.

The population of greater Tokyo is around the 30 million mark! While there is always the chance of changing conditions or events beyond our control, these are extremely rare. We have sent customers on trouble-free trips to Japan for many years. If you need any further advice, our experienced travel consultants are on-hand and happy to help. Contact a health professional up to 6 weeks before your departure to see whether you need any vaccinations. Take out suitable travel insurance, ensuring that any adventure activities are covered. For more information Travel Advice and Advisories are government resources offering impartial travel advice about every country in the world. Find the latest official government contacts for security, local laws, and passport and visa information on our travel advice page. This is unsurprising given the complexity of the climate in a country spanning 20 degrees of latitude. From the harsh winters and mild summers of Hokkaido to the sub-tropical Okinawan climate there is a great variety in Japanese weather. Even in the same city both extremes of weather can be experienced in a year - Sapporo in Hokkaido can experience temperatures of minus 10 in the winter but heat waves of 30 degrees in the summer are not a rare occurrence. On the mainland, summer temperatures are generally between 20 and 30 degree centigrade. In the early part of summer mid-June to mid-July there is a rainy season lasting a few weeks, this is however broken up by days of fine weather. Rains come again in late summer thanks to typhoons, although these usually blow over in a day. If you need to know more, why not look at our When to Travel Feature Electricity Unusually Japan does not have a single national grid, but instead has separate grids in the east and west of the country. The standard voltage is V across the country, but the frequencies vary: Plugs are the flat 2-pin kind similar to the US. If you have a US plug converter, this will work fine in Japan. Mobile Phones There is a lot of confusion surrounding the use of overseas mobile phones in Japan. Please note that the information given here is intended as a guide only. We cannot be responsible for charges made by operators or rental companies. You will find that charges for using a mobile phone in Japan are expensive and this is especially the case for data email and internet - we recommend you turn off roaming on your mobile telephone to avoid a nasty surprise! One great option is to hire a mobile phone in Japan: The mobile network in Japan works on a different system to the rest of the world and until recently no overseas mobile phones would work. However, with the advent of 3G phones this has changed. The rule is basically this: If you have a 3G handset it will work. If you do not have a 3G handset it will not. If you ask your mobile provider they may inform you that your phone will work in Japan if it is tri-band or quad-band. As of September , Softbank is much cheaper for domestic calls within Japan yen per minute. Calls to the US are yen per minute and to the UK yen. The Mobal Narita service is yen for domestic and international calls. For Softbank international SMS messages are yen. Data charges internet and e-mail for both are very high. Note that the SIM has to be returned and is not pre-pay. You will need to provide credit card details and will then be billed for usage. Even some common cold remedies see final paragraph are not permitted so it is always worth checking prior to travelling. We advise contacting the Japan Embassy in your country for the latest information. However, if you are unsure it is always best to check. If your medication is prescribed, we advise that you take either a copy of the prescription or a letter from the doctor stating that the medication has been prescribed to you. It is also advisable to take the medication in the original packaging. If you are taking more than the quantities mentioned above, or if you need take needles, you will have to apply for an import certificate, known as a Yakkan Shoumei. Further information and the application forms, if needed, can be found on our website: Any medication containing pseudoephedrine ie. Sudafed is not permitted as this is a banned substance in Japan under the anti-stimulant laws. If the medication contains a narcotic like codeine or morphine, then you will need to obtain a different certificate regardless of the quantity being taken into Japan. Currency The Japanese unit of currency is the Yen. These are all shown above. The highest

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denomination note is the 10, yen note Ichiman-en satsu in Japanese. Japan is still a cash based society and relatively safe, thus despite their high value you will see plenty of ichiman-en notes in circulation. The other notes are worth 5, yen, 2, yen and yen sen-en satsu. Although there are four different denomination bank notes you are unlikely to see any 2, yen notes unless you bring these with you to Japan. This bank note was introduced in to mark the new millennium. However, nearly all of these notes have since been distributed to overseas banks and only make their way back to Japan in the wallets of tourists. They are so unusual that shopkeepers are likely to remark on the note when you pay. As for coins, there are three silver coins: The 10 yen coin and 5 yen coin again, with a hole in it are both bronze; the almost worthless one yen coin is silver and weighs next to nothing. The yen coin top left is the highest value coin in general circulation anywhere in the world. Basically this means that everything costs yen. These can be very good value so keep your eyes open. The 5 yen coin is the only coin which does not have its value in displayed in Arabic Numbers on the coin e. Up until the financial crisis the yen had weakened over the proceeding 6 or 7 years to reach lows of an incredible to the pound and to the US dollar. For many years now money has been cheap to borrow in Japan, so huge volumes of yen were borrowed and then used to buy other currencies to invest in countries with higher yields. But with the financial crisis came the run for safety and as the yen is seen as a safe haven currency, huge flows of currency came back into yen and the currency gained in value dramatically hitting highs of 74 to the US dollar and to the pound. The following exchange rates were taken from xe. Please do keep in mind that exchange rates can change, so we always advise checking for the latest rates. You can change your money at the airport, at most banks and at post offices. They should have the current rates of exchange clearly on display. You can get a cash advance on a Visa card at Sumitomo banks but these will not always be convenient and are not found outside of the major cities. How much money will I need in Japan? An onward ticket is sometimes required in order to be allowed into the country. You may avoid some commission by using yen-denominated Travellers Cheques. However they are not used as much as in western countries. At a supermarket there may only be one till where you can pay with plastic and more often than not you will not be able to use a credit card. Avoid cash machines at banks as these do not normally accept foreign-issued cards. You will need a 4 digit PIN number to do this. There are no personal cheques in Japan - mail order items and the like are often paid for by bank transfer. Tipping As a rule there is no tipping in Japan - just pay the price on the bill! There are many stories of unwitting foreigners leaving a tip on the table only to be pursued down the street upon leaving the restaurant by staff frantically trying to return the "forgotten" cash. In a top end restaurant this will not happen but there is certainly no requirement to leave a tip in Japan and it is not expected. The same goes for taxis. There is no need to pay the driver more than the metered fare. However, if you wish to leave the change with the driver most will accept this. Some however, will not, and will return your money to you. At hotels there is no need to tip the bellboy for helping you with your luggage. This is all part of the service and no tip is required. If you utilise the services of a guide during your stay in Japan you are not expected to tip at the end of the day. However, instead of a tip a small gift from your home country is very much appreciated as a thank you. This should be no more than a token present such as a box of sweets or biscuits, or perhaps a tea towel. Anything from your local town or city will be very well received. Occasions to tip There are a couple of occasions when it is appropriate to tip. The first is when you stay at a high end ryokan. Unlike in the West where tips are given after the service is provided, you should tip your maid at the beginning of your stay. A suitable tip would be 1, yen per night of your stay and this needs to be left inside an envelope on the table in your room. Never hand a cash tip to anyone in Japan as this is considered rather uncouth. The money should always be hidden from view in an envelope. Fortunately, every convenience store sells a range of envelopes suitable for this purpose. The second occasion when a tip is appropriate is if you use the services of a driver for a day. Again the tip should be given at the start of the day. A suitable figure would be 1, yen for a half day and 2, yen for a full day.

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Chapter 6 : Vancouver, BC Travel Tips & Tools

Travel tips. Rome travel guide for first-time visitors The food is typically simple, fresh and delicious, and even the restaurants that seem to be tourist traps.

Money Money provokes a certain sense of confusion in Cuba as the dual-economy takes some getting used to. Two currencies circulate in Cuba: For the average Cuban it will be obvious which they are referring to, but this may lead to confusion for tourists who consider that they are bargaining in local currency only to find that their counter-party expects payment in CUCs! For most tourists moneda nacional has little relevance since most, if not all of their expenditure will be in CUCs. This includes accommodation, food in most restaurants, taxis, bus tickets, nightclub entrances, tips and so on. Things, which can be paid for in local currency, include fruit and vegetables at the agricultural market, street food such as pizza and peanuts as well as local buses. Even at the agricultural market the prices are such that a pound of tomatoes may cost CUC 1 or 24 Cuban Pesos i. The best currencies are Euros, Canadian Dollars, or Sterling since these are the most common and the exchange rates are generally quite reasonable. If you change money at the hotel front desk you will generally receive a worse exchange rate than elsewhere. It is generally very easy to find the nearest CADECA and you should be aware that any Cuban who tries to persuade you that it is complicated or that he can provide you a better rate of exchange will probably be engaged in some sort of scam which is best avoided. BFI is the most reliable. You may be able to use other Cuban banks but these are less likely to be able to meet your needs since most operate mainly in Cuban Pesos. Always bring new bank notes, with no rips, tears or markings. All foreign coins are useless. Make sure that you get a printed receipt when changing money Credit Cards Cash is king in Cuba. Except in major hotels you should not count on paying for goods or services with a credit card anywhere in Cuba. Packing Cuba is many thingsâ€”a tropical paradise full of passion, soul, warmth, music, good coffee, great cigars and fine rum. Shopping nirvana it is not, however and while you can get most basic stuff in Cuba typically it is overpriced and very poor quality. So bring what you need unless it is a Cuban specialty. Cuba is a sub-tropical country so pack for summer. Bikinis, shorts, sandals, short-sleeved cotton dresses and shirts are the order of the day. But, bear in mind that Cuban men would never wear shorts in the City! A night out at Tropicana or La Guarida restaurant needs something smart if not overly formal. Bring some warm clothing long sleeves, a sweater or fleece, since there is nothing more frustrating than being frozen to death in a tropical country! Lightweight rain gear is suggested if you are coming in the summer. It can be a nice gesture to leave behind some gossip magazines for Cubans you meet along the way. Medical kit As in many countries a fully stocked medical kit should be packed as part of your travel luggage. This should include Anti diarrhea Imodium some form of antacid Roloids or Tums for stomach problems. The Cuban health care system works pretty well but there is no harm in bringing more than you absolutely may need. Other Bring insect repellent, sun tan cream, a wide brimmed hat, plug converter, spare batteries and anything else you need to function. For specialized sport cycling, climbing, fishing etc. Electricity Generally Cuban electricity is V with the square American plug socket. Some hotels have predominantly V and round sockets. In some state restaurants they may claim this is a tax, which is not true. Staff in an all-inclusive resort CUC per week As a general rule if someone seems to be making a special effort with you a gardener giving you a flower, a waiter getting you champagne after happy hour has finished etc. A dollar here and there goes a long way. Change CUC 20 at the start of a week to spend in tips. Toilet assistants c per pop Yes it would be nice if toilets had running water, toilet paper and some semblance of hygiene but let's face it sitting outside a toilet collecting cash is not the best job either. So get some change, grin and bear it. Parquedores 25c to 1CUC Cuba has no parking meters and very few places where you have to pay to park your car. However anytime and anywhere you park your car someone is likely to come and ask you for money for looking after it. Mostly these will be licensed parquedores who may point to an official price list, which confusingly does not really properly distinguish between moneda nacional and CUCs. The basic rule is that anywhere that you park the

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car give someone 25 cents CUCs. Outside a major nightclub or at the beach for a while they will probably want 1 CUC. There is no need to pay more than a dollar and especially in tourist ghettos many musicians make a reasonable living. But nonetheless music is the life of Cuba and a dollar here or there is appreciated.

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Chapter 7 : 10 Thailand Travel Tips | Travel Advice Thailand | Rough Guides

Everything you need to know about Vancouver's population, languages, currency, taxes, time zones and workdays.

Note that the following European countries are not part of the Schengen area: If you move between any of these countries, or from one of these countries into the Schengen area, you will therefore have to go through border controls. The European mini-states Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City are not formally part of the Schengen area, but can be entered from the neighbouring Schengen area countries without going through border controls. Internal border controls The Schengen Borders Code allows member states to temporarily reintroduce border controls in the event of a serious threat to public or internal security. Any country wishing to reintroduce controls at its internal borders must except in emergencies give prior notice to the European Council and other Member States. For information on border controls, including which countries have temporarily reintroduced controls, please refer to the website of the European Commission. New Zealanders wishing to enter a Member State that has reintroduced internal border controls may be required to provide travel documentation i. There may also be additional security checks at some border crossing points. Visa-free access for New Zealand visitors to Europe New Zealand passport holders are able to spend up to three months visa-free in most European countries, and up to six months visa-free in the United Kingdom. The only European countries that require New Zealand passport holders to have a visa for a stay of less than three months are Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine. Visa-free access for New Zealand passport holders intending to stay for more than 3 months in the Schengen area is complicated. Prior to travel you should contact your travel agent or the embassy or consulate of the Schengen area countries you plan to visit to get the latest update on visa requirements. Schengen area countries permit most holders of passports from outside the Schengen area to stay visa-free in the Schengen area as a whole, regardless of the particular country or countries, for no more than 3 months out of a 6-month period. This is sometimes expressed as 90 days out of a day period. New Zealand has bilateral visa waiver agreements with many of the individual countries in the Schengen area. Some of these visa waiver agreements allow New Zealanders to spend a limited time in the relevant country, without reference to time spent in other Schengen area countries. Entry, and the length of stay under these visa waiver agreements, is subject to the decision of the local immigration authorities. Visa waiver agreements, and the overall Schengen area visa waiver, are not work visas or work permits. You are also advised to ensure that your passport is stamped on entry and exit at the external borders of the Schengen area. Officers at ports of entry may wave travellers through without stamping passports, but it is important to have evidence of the date of first entry into the Schengen area for any subsequent dealings with local police or other authorities. You are advised to retain evidence of your time spent in particular Schengen countries, such as accommodation and travel receipts. Crime Europe is a major destination for New Zealanders, especially during the northern hemisphere summer. Every year tens of thousands of New Zealanders travel to Europe and while most will encounter few if any problems, some will become the victim of a crime. The onset of the northern hemisphere summer tourist season brings about an increase in the number of New Zealanders who will become the victims of crime. Most of these crimes involve theft of funds, passports and other personal possessions, but muggings and other attacks can also occur. New Zealanders travelling to Europe need to be aware of the increase in crime in many parts of Europe especially during the northern hemisphere summer tourists are often seen as easy targets and can be most vulnerable in or around major tourist centres and sites criminals frequent tourist areas and major attractions such as museums, monuments, restaurants, hotels, beach resorts, trains, train stations, airports, subways and ATM machines crimes can occur at any time of the day or night. Thieves are highly skilled operators and New Zealanders need to be alert to contrived distractions that are set-ups for theft New Zealand travellers should exercise caution, carry limited cash and credit cards, and leave extra cash, credit cards, passports and personal documents in a safe location e.

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Chapter 8 : 8 tips for your first trip to Southeast Asia – Travel information for Vietnam from local experts

Travel alerts. It's a good idea to check the State Department's travel warnings and alerts. It's also smart to print out the address and contact information of the local embassy.

You should check with the Brazilian Embassy or Consulate having jurisdiction for your specific area of residence for the very latest visa information. If you require a visa, it can be obtained by application to the Brazilian Embassy or Consulate having jurisdiction for your specific area of residence. Once issued, a visa must be used to enter Brazil within 90 days of its issue date. See the general visa requirements and, if you have any questions, please contact the Brazilian Embassy or Consulate having jurisdiction for your specific area of residence. Citizens of the following countries do NOT need a visa when traveling to Brazil for tourism for a period of up to 90 days: Visitors traveling from these countries for any other reason than tourism should check with the specific Brazilian Embassy or Consulate having jurisdiction. Travel Budgeting Any attempt to provide a daily budget for any Brazil travel itinerary would be futile. Remember, Brazil is slightly larger than the continental United States and the costs of lodging, food and transportation can vary widely depending upon the city, the area, the time of year high or low season as well as other factors. It all depends on where, when These per diem rates should provide you with a point of reference when planning a budget for your own trip. Depending upon where your Brazilian travel plans take you, it is possible to travel for less. This information can provide invaluable when budgeting your own trip. Copa and Gol , Varig, the once proud flagship airline of Brazil, filed for bankruptcy in , was sold and reorganized and now only offers international flights from a few European cities. Worth and Los Angeles. Find and work a travel agent that is either a flight consolidator or works closely with one. Flight consolidators are companies that buy seats in bulk from airlines. You can look upon them as a type of wholesaler. Consolidators buy seats in volume, so they can usually offer tickets for less than the normally published fare. For example, a flight consolidator may buy a certain number of seats on every flight to Brazil on a certain airline. Do an online search for "flight consolidators" and check out your options. You may find that a flight consolidator has tickets available for flights which the airlines show as being completely sold out. On the down side, many consolidators have restrictions and you may have to make more stops than you like, travel at an inconvenient time or change travel dates. But beware, most consolidators charge penalties for any changes in travel dates or any cancellation. The more flexible you are about departure times and dates, the less your round trip ticket may cost. Your airline should distribute immigration and customs forms for you to fill out before your arrival. There will be different immigration lines for Brazilian citizens and foreigners. At immigration, make sure you get your passport stamped and keep the copy of the entry form that you are given. All American citizens are both photographed and fingerprinted as part of their immigration clearance process. This is because Brazil practices diplomatic reciprocity and processes American citizens entering Brazil the same way the U. This is most assuredly NOT the place to demonstrate any displeasure with this process. More that a few Americans including at least one airline pilot have been arrested, fined thousands of dollars and ejected from the country forever for making an obscene gesture during this process. Goods purchased at a duty free shop in Brazil have few restrictions. Bringing in a reasonable number of the same item no matter what is justifiable either as gifts or for personal use or consumption. More than a reasonable number of any single item makes you look like an importer and, thereby, possibly subject to customs duties. This is not for tax reasons. They just want to know. To determine the equivalent amount of your currency, use our online currency converter. Simply put, to Brazilians, any foreigner in Brazil is a gringo females are gringas. To Brazilians, if you are a foreigner in Brazil, you are a gringo. After all, you were able to pay an unbelievable amount of money to them to buy a airplane ticket just to visit Brazil. That makes you very rich in their eyes. Because there are some similarities between Spanish and Portuguese and because both languages originated on the Iberian peninsula and are both Romance languages, many erroneously believe that Portuguese is merely a dialect of Spanish. Nothing could be farther

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from the truth. Brazilians speak Portuguese and Portuguese is not a dialect of Spanish or any other language, but rather a separate and individual language all its own. See our history of the Portuguese Language for further information. Many people, authors and institutions who should know better refer to Brazilians as "Hispanics" and Brazil as an "Hispanic nation. The fact of the matter is this mis-categorization is pure ignorance. This misconception may be due to the fact that Brazil and Brazilians are surrounded by Hispanic nations and Hispanics. A quick check of any English dictionary will show you that the meaning of the word Hispanic is "belonging to Spain, its language or people, Spanish. Wrong, wrong and wrong. Many of these misconceptions may have been perpetuated by Hollywood. For example, during her career Carmen Miranda starred in fourteen films and, although the studios labeled her the "Brazilian Bombshell," her films tended to blur her Brazilian identity in favor of a generalized Latin image. Nothing could be further from the truth. More information about this. Brazilian Women are "Easy"? More than a few American and European men seem to believe that Brazilian women are sexually promiscuous and "easy. Many are also very religious. Just as with every society since time out of mind, there is prostitution in Brazil. The Brazilian government has severe laws against the exploitation of minors. Brazilians can proudly lay claim to a diverse and complex ethnic and racial heritage dating back over years that includes immigrants from Europe Portuguese, Italian, German, Jewish, French, Dutch, Spanish, Greek, Polish, Czech and more , Syria, Lebanon, other middle Eastern countries often referred to in Brazil as "Arabs" no matter their origin and Japan, added to Africans originally brought to Brazil as slaves and native indigenous people. All these ethnic and racial groups have made their mark on the cultural fabric of Brazil, instilling different ideas and ethics, introducing new cuisines, music, art and design, and bringing new words and a charming, novel accent to the Portuguese language spoken in Brazil which unifies the entire country. Brazilians have inherited this diversified ethnic and racial heritage and successfully woven it into a single, shared national identity. Brazilians are known the world over as some of the kindest, sweetest, most gentle people on the face of the planet. And few people on earth are willing to accept new ideas, methods and technologies as readily and as quickly as Brazilians. Brazilians spending more time on the Internet than almost any other people in the world, including Americans. Of these about 24 percent are American and over 40 percent are Brazilian. The preponderance of Portuguese on Orkut has angered numerous English speaking members. Brazilians are fanatical about futebol called soccer in the US and football elsewhere. It approaches the status of a national "religion. Only then can you begin to understand what futebol really is in Brazil. One North American traveler in Brazil reports having watched a group of boys playing futebol in the dry, northeast part of the country. They were playing barefooted, on a dusty dirt road, without goal nets, using a ball handmade from coconut husks and covered with natural latex tapped from a nearby rubber tree. He was astonished at how good they were and says, "No wonder Brazil has won five World Cups. Brazilians are sun worshippers and love spending time at the beach and most have a favorite. They also like festas parties and will use almost excuse or invent one to have one. Most love music and dancing. Brazilian men and many women are beer cerveja drinkers and love nothing better than a cold chopp draft beer or bottle of beer bem gelado well chilled. Try them yourself so you can tell Brazilians your favorite. It is somewhat like drinking a sweet margarita. Brazilian agricultural output is enormous and many believe that Brazil, quite literally, has the potential to feed the world. Social Customs Generally, because Brazilian culture is European based, most common European social customs are observed in Brazil. In both business and social situations, shaking hands upon meeting or taking leave is customary. But Brazilians are also very warm and caring people. Brazilian women may kiss one or both cheeks of other women upon meeting them and, often, kiss men in a similar manner. In some social situations, a man or woman may shake hands upon meeting a Brazilian woman and receive a kiss from them on one or both cheeks when taking leave. Let your Brazilian hostess lead they way. Men will often both shake hands and pat the shoulder of another man upon meeting or taking leave. This is just a simple indication of caring. Again, let your Brazilian host lead the way. But because of the tropical climate, many Brazilian businessmen typically only wear a shirt with collar and slacks. In fact, there are some cities in Brazil where men may not even own a suit, jacket or blazer, or tie. Generally, what would be

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considered casual business dress elsewhere in the world, is both acceptable and common for both business and social situations, especially during hot weather. For women, slacks or skirts with a blouse, or dresses are common and acceptable, although, a dress or skirt may prove to be much cooler. Brazilian women tend to dress somewhat more provocatively than their European or American counterparts even at the office. If you plan or expect to be invited for lunch, dinner or just a visit to a private home, flowers, chocolates or other confection are acceptable gifts of appreciation. A small souvenir coffee cup, T-shirt, key chain, etc. In both social and business situations throughout the day, Brazilians will often offer um cafezinho a little coffee. A demitasse of this highly sugared espresso will assuredly wake you up if the weather has made you a little sleepy. Like most places elsewhere in the world, smoking has become increasingly restricted in Brazil.

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Thailand is a country of temples, from the magnificent to the miniature, but try to visit them all and you'll soon find yourself fatigued. Narrow it down to the big-hitters instead like Wat Pho and Wat Phra Kaeo in Bangkok, and Wat Phra Si Sanphet in Ayutthaya.

Published on December 3, by Francy 0 Visit Barcelona The Catalan city is an important tourist destination, so it is easy to reach, even economically. Low cost flights to Barcelona are on the agenda, as well as those of major international airlines. The Spanish airline Iberia has daily direct flights from all international airports and connecting flights departing from Barcelona with all the Iberian airports. From the airport, with few euros, you can take the train or bus Aerobus that reach the center of the city in half an hour. For a taxi ride takes approximately 20 euros. For those who want to reach Barcelona by car requires a warning: But just arrived in the periphery can unleashing a real hell: To avoid losing the instructions to follow are Ciudad Center and Port, although many recommend to get an idea of the road structure of the city in advance by studying a road map. Accommodation in Barcelona The hospitality of the Catalan capital is significantly improved over the last decades as the number of available facilities. The increasingly massive influx of tourists has forced the Catalan institutions requiring private hospitality facilities to raise the quality and increasing the authorization for the construction of new reception facilities. Hotels in Barcelona are rated with the international categories from 1 to 5 stars, but it is mainly the lower middle class that has improved in terms of quality and choice. More economic categories are available, as well as in districts already mentioned, even in Clot and Barceloneta barrios. What and where to eat in Barcelona Choose what and where to eat in Barcelona cannot be so easy, given the supply and availability of premises, pubs, restaurants, tapas-bars, tavernas and of course the full range of locals with multi-ethnic cuisine such as South American and Eastern. Perhaps the yardstick for selection is the price. Catalan cuisine is unique, because it combines the maritime tradition and that of the region below the Pyrenees, often integrating them into unique dishes, to the delight of connoisseurs. Among the local dishes you absolutely must taste the following ones: The wine is just local, usually grown in plantations near the coast: And it is absolutely possible, because it is estimated that there are more than places to go in the evening, drinking, dancing, listening to live music, from jazz to flamenco. In the evening, at any time of the year, after And of course on the Rambla, where there are dozens of bars, music bars, the xampanyerias and stages where you can dance until morning. My name is Francesca I love travelling, getting in touch with new lifestyles, new ways of thinking and most of all always discovering news places around the world! I like reading travel books and magazines, art and food. These are my passions that I try to share with you.