



IWSF WAKEBOARD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

5, 6, 7 & 8 DEC. 2002

RIO DE JANEIRO / BRAZIL





Rio`s Beaches and Surf !



The Brazilian Wakeboard Association, and all brazilian wakeboarders were all very excited when we first heard that the 2002 IWSF Wakeboard Worlds Championship was going to be held in our country.

So we had to decide where it was going to take place. It didn`t take us long to decide the obvious : **Rio de Janeiro.**

The event site, Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon, is Brazil`s most traditional place for international wakeboard events, mainly because its localization. It faces the Christ Statuet and is only a few blocks from Ipanema Beach.

Ipanema Beach. Copacabana beach. Barra da Tijuca. All these names come to our minds when we think about Rio. They are probably a big reason many of you decided to come to Rio, besides of course, to ride in this Event.

There are about 40 km of beaches between Flamengo and Grumari. Urbanized or wild, each beach in Rio has its own characteristics. But they all interact with the city`s geography, following the contour of the mountains and forests.

This bulletin gives an overview of the three of most famous of these beaches, and also the surfing conditions.

Hint : Brazilians only carry a towel , sun tan oil or sun block and a small amount of money to the beach. We suggest you do the same. Avoid swimming far from the shore and be careful with overexposure to the sun , especially if your skin is sensitive . You should avoid the beach from 10 a.m to 3 p.m , particularly during the summer . Remember , you are in a tropical country!

Rio de Janeiro - Map of Beaches





Copacabana Beach



The name Copacabana has a Bolivian origin. Historians trace it to a XVII century image of Our Virgin Lady of Copacabana, brought by the Portuguese from a small village around distant Lake Titicaca. It was installed in a chapel that would later be demolished for the construction of Forte de Copacabana.

Until the late XIX century Copacabana was a distant area covered with sand, dunes and shrubs - not unlike Barra in the 60's. A small fishermen's village concentrated most of the dwellers. The neighborhood only started to grow with the opening of Tunnel Velho, connecting it to Botafogo and Downtown.

The inauguration of the Av. Atlantica along the beach around the 1900's was a major turning point. When Copacabana Palace Hotel opened its doors in 1923, romance and glamour became Copacabana trademarks. Neoclassical and art-nouveau skyscrapers (4 to 12 stories high) added a touch of sophistication and wealthy Cariocas started to move to the suspended mansions.

Copacabana today is one of Rio's most democratic and eclectic neighborhoods. There are penthouses and apartments along the beach that are easily worth more than a million dollars. There are also buildings with as many as thirty tiny studio apartments on the same floor, and no parking garage.

Copacabana is perfectly suitable for walking tours, as it is basically flat, and distances are relatively small. To better understand the diversity of the neighborhood we suggest you take your time, and use one or two days exploring all possibilities. Copacabana has a little (and sometimes a lot) of everything, and there's fun for everyone. (source : www.ipanema.com)



Copacabana from above



Copacabana Beach - continued



Copacabana Beach

This beach is home to Rio's famous New Year's celebration. It attracts over 2 million people from all over the world! Following a local tradition, most people dress in white for good luck. Offering a white flower to Yemanjá, the goddess of the seas, is also a part of the ritual. The exquisite fireworks festival starts at midnight, lasting almost a half hour. With white sand and waters that are never rough, this is also a very popular beach for sunbathing. During the summer international championships of beach soccer, volleyball and other sports are promoted in arenas along Copacabana Beach. Some beach kiosks are open around the clock, offering refreshments and snacks. Cross the street and explore the beachside cafes, restaurants, and night clubs along Av. Atlantica. (source : www.ipanema.com)



Crowd in Copacabana beach



Copacabana beach and Sugarloaf on the back



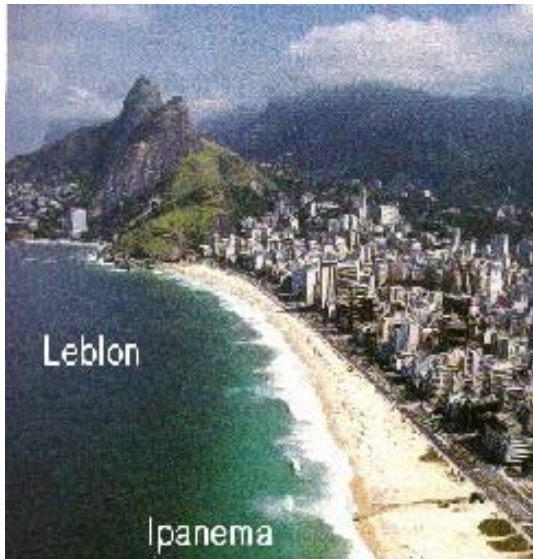
Ipanema Beach



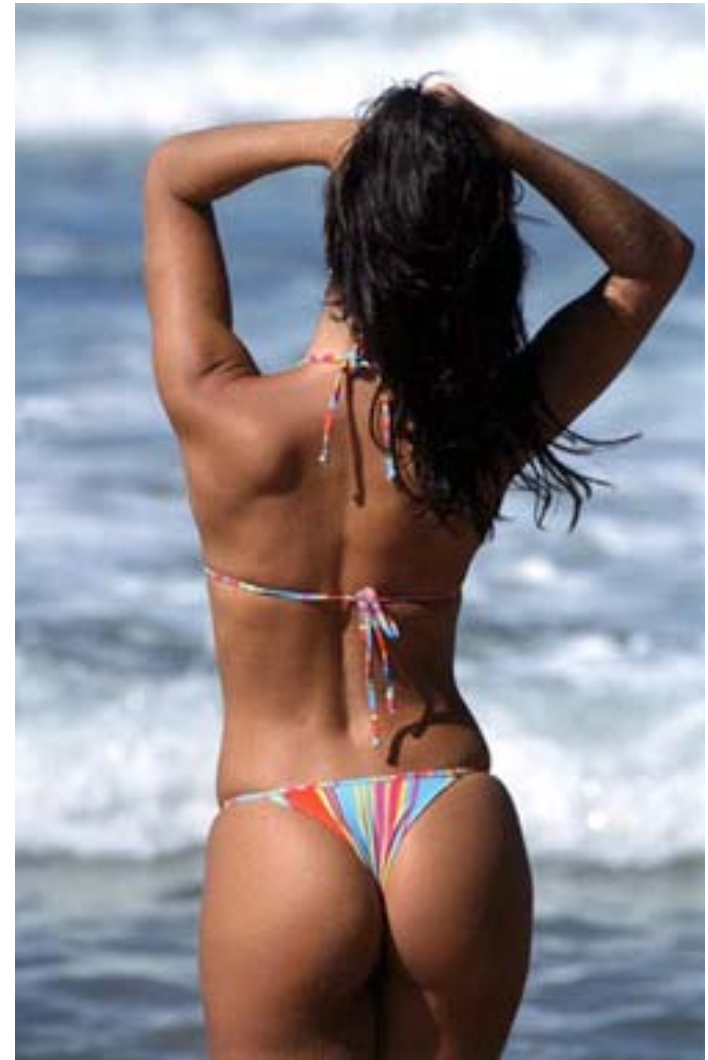
Ipanema is a neighborhood with a tradition of freedom and innovation. Ipanema Beach is where the summer "happens" in Rio. News in Ipanema make big headlines in all major newspapers in the country.

A trend-setter, Ipanema beach was the first in Brazil to see a pregnant woman proudly walking in a bikini (the quintessential Ipanema icon, actress Leila Diniz). Rose de Primo, a fashion model with a perfect body and a lot of attitude, set new grounds in the 70's with her tangas, tiny bikinis, that soon became the object of desire of a whole nation.

Topless became a fad when a local soap opera showed that some women in Ipanema chose not to keep a tan line. Men all over the country started wearing horrible crochet g-strings after a famous personality (Gabeira) was seen in one at Posto 9 (reportedly a bikini bottom borrowed from his friend, reporter Leda Nagle). The dental floss bikini had its world debut here, too.



Girl from Ipanema



Overview of Ipanema and Leblon



Ipanema Beach - continued



In the summer of 96 Ipanema made headline news, when police started arresting bathers who blew whistles! They were protesting against what they felt was unfair police persecution against marijuana users at Posto 9. In the summer of 97, an air force dentist had to spend 15 days in detention for the simple reason of having been photographed on the sands of Ipanema, with nothing but a bathing suit on. As his uniform shirt was laying in the sand (neatly folded, truth be said), they used an old law reminiscent from the military years to incarcerate the poor guy. The Drags from Ipanema were the first ones to protest, in their own special way...

Ipanema Beach has several favorite spots. Each block of the beach attracts a different crowd. Tourists and first-timers tend to gather in front of Caesar Park Hotel. Posto 9 , Garcia , Country , Teixeira , Farme Gay , and Cap Ferrat are all reference points used by locals to identify their favorite spot. Practice sports like beach volleyball , soccer and surf, find true romance , have a refreshing drink of coconut water , or just relax and soak up some rays. Bring your sunglasses, so you can watch the good-looking Cariocas without giving yourself in.



Barra da Tijuca



Barra is the city's longest beach, with 18km. The sand is white and thin, the sea is rough and in some points, dangerous. It has good waves for surfing (some international Surf Contests take place in Barra), for bodyboard, windsurf and kiteboard.

Barra is a fairly new neighborhood, with no more than 30 years.

The best place to go to the beach, in Barra, is on the northern part of the beach, near the place called Barraca do Pepê, which is a small bar located on the sand. This is a well known spot where most beautiful girls usually go to the beach.

Barra has also lots of entertainment choices, like movies, bars, danceclubs, and so on.



Barra da Tijuca



Surf Spots in Rio de Janeiro



Rio de Janeiro has several beaches good for surfing. Even though December is a very hot month, the sea water temperature is often low, because of cold water currents, so don't forget your short and longjohns.

Below is a quick guide to surfing in Rio.

ARPOADOR (North side of Ipanema Beach)

One of the best and more traditional surf points of Rio. Nice combination of Point Break and Beach Break, has nice waves with a medium to large swells. Waves to the left can reach 10 feet. Very crowded spot, strong localism.

IPANEMA

In Ipanema the waves are fast and break very close to the shore. When the bottom of the sea is right and with swells from the east, perfect left tubes happen. With southeast swells up to 6 feet, there are nice waves to the right. Heavy crowd also.

LEBLON (south side of Ipanema Beach)

Leblon is almost an extension of Ipanema. Same conditions of Ipanema. The far side of Leblon is a combination of Point break and Beach Break that holds swells of up to 15 feet. Heavy crowd of bigriders and polluted water.

BARRA DA TIJUCA

18km of shore, with clean water and lots of surf spots. Good waves with small and big swells. In the middle of the beach are some of the best spots of this beach, with heavy crowd in the classic days.



Surf Spots in Rio de Janeiro - continued



MACUMBA

Whith south or east swells, long and easy rightside waves, from 2 to 8 feet. Very popular among longboarders.

PRAINHA

One of the most beautiful beaches of Rio, Prainha is a natural reserve forest, with no constructions of any kind. It`s also one of the best surfspots in Rio. Waves in all parts of the beach, specially in the left side. Crowd in the weekends, but no localisms.



Brazilian surffer Peterson Rosa in Prainha Beach

GRUMARI

Located right after Prainha, Grumari has 4km of well preserved beaches. Good waves with the right swells, no crowd, but strong currents.