[Document title]

[Document subtitle]

[Company name]

Rio Carnival is the Mother of All Brazilian Carnival Parties

**Table of Contents**

[History of Carnival in Brazil](#_Toc461878236) 2

[The Carnival Origin](#_Toc461878237) 2

[History of Carnival in Brazil](#_Toc461878238) 3

[How are the Carnival Holiday Dates calculated?](#_Toc461878239) 4

[The Ingredients of Rio Carnival](#_Toc461878240) 5

[Read More about Carnival](#_Toc461878241) 7

History of Carnival in Brazil **Adapted from www.dobrazilright.com**

Carnival is one of the best-known parties, and it's in Rio de Janeiro where it's held the largest Carnival celebrations in the world. It's filled with music, parades, parties and people having the time of their lives. The carnival, a national holiday in Brazil, runs from Friday night to noon of the following Wednesday. That's the official length, but many Brazilians turn it into a 10-day holiday. It brings in about half a million foreign tourists each year.

Carnival is a popular festival that emerged in antiquity intending to celebrate the pagan gods and nature. It was recognised by the church and included in the Christian calendar after many centuries, today it's celebrated worldwide. It has different characteristics in each country that celebrates.

The carnival celebrated in Brazil was influenced by a street party, of Portuguese origin, the Entrudo (Shrovetide), which was to play with flour, egg and paint people. But the celebration has also undergone changes because of indigenous folklore and African culture, brought by slaves. All these cultural factors built a distinct carnival in every part of Brazil. Rio de Janeiro is famous for the samba schools parade, in Bahia, Sound Trucks (Trios Eletricos) in Portuguese [[1]](#footnote-1)\* attract millions of people every year and in other states, such as Pernambuco and Minas Gerais, the street carnival is the most popular.

There are other traditional ways of celebrating the carnival, which is the last party before Lent. In the thirteenth century, the French nobles began to promote large parties where guests were required to wear masks and luxurious clothes – the balls – and probably that's how costume parties started. These parties soon became popular among the upper classes throughout Europe and have spread throughout the world, currently being common.

The Carnival Origin

The origin of the carnival is uncertain, but is believed to have arisen in Greece around the year 520 BC. It was a party in which wine was essential and the people gathered with the sole intention to have fun, celebrate the arrival of spring and fertility. This type of celebration became popular in Rome during the first centuries.

Carnival name comes from "Carne Vale", its meaning is linked to the fact that this festival happens during the three days preceding Lent, a long period of deprivation, so it was like a farewell of sins of the flesh. This name came about after the celebration was legalised by the Catholic Church to curb what the institution classified as sinful celebration. That is, the celebration had as main objective to vent and do everything that was forbidden during Lent.

In 1545, after the Council of Trent, Julian's calendar was switched to the Gregorian's calendar, and the Carnival has become an official date for Catholic Christians. Thus, it is recognised as a popular street party that suffered a series of cultural changes up to the present day.

# History of Carnival in Brazil

The carnival arrived in Brazil starting on the eighteenth century, when the Portuguese brought the game of Entrudo (Shrovetide) in 1723, typical of the Azores and Cape Verde region, which consisted of a game in which people littered each other with paint, flour, eggs and also throwing water. No one, even royalty, was immune from being drenched. It was eventually outlawed because the authorities didn't like to see so many people losing control.

The nineteenth century promoted Parisians dances, in which the guests should wear masks. Grew interest in this kind of party because the Shrovetide caused much confusion because it is a practice which called for violence. At the balls, taking place indoors, the audience was made up of guests who were willing to dress up and listen to music. An important figure of this period is Chiquinha Gonzaga who composed carnival songs and belonged to this bourgeois class group frequenter of the balls.

In the mid-19th century, Jose Nogueira de Azevedo was a shoemaker who marched through the streets on Carnival Monday playing drums, tambourines and whistles. He welcomed anyone who wanted to join in his march. This eventually became Ze Pereira, name for this types of Street Parties with drums. The "Grandes Sociedades" debuted in 1855 as a parade for aristocrats. About 80 members of the upper class, including the emperor, would wear masks and elaborate costumes and parade through town to the beat of music. In 1870, characters were introduced to the festivities, who would perform according to the costume they were given; other participants began to wear oversized papier-mâché masks.

In Rio de Janeiro, the twentieth century brought the first samba schools. The parade of floats in today's Carnival celebration began as an event called Corso in 1907. At that time, it was a parade of cars, a relatively new invention at the time, through the city. Parade watchers brought streamers and confetti to throw. Another portion of the modern Carnival is the Ranchos Carnavalescos, which began in 1872 but became popular in 1911. In a Ranchos Carnavalescos, participants dressed up in costumes and performed during the parade accompanied by music played by musicians. Their popularity grew as each Ranchos Carnvalesco competed with the others to become more elaborate and entertaining. They are now one of the most popular parts of Carnival. The only time the parades were halted was during WWII, but they resumed in 1947.

At the end of the 1920s, the Samba parade became the most popular Carnival celebration, still very strong until nowadays, both in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.

The samba, which is the primary music of Rio's Carnival, was born in Rio. The samba is a ritual Candomble dance to drums and handclaps. At the end of the 19th Century, Tia Ciata, a Candomble priestess, used to have meetings in her home where live music was played while, in the backyard, others danced the samba. The two musical beats eventually combined to form what we call the samba today. The first song that was called a samba was composed in Tia Ciata's house.

In the Northeast of Brazil, the most popular way to spend the carnival is to go to the streets, keeping a bit of tradition brought by the Portuguese. In Bahia, more specifically remained the custom of the street carnival, but strengthened the electric trios (trucks) after the 1980s.

# How are the Carnival Holiday Dates calculated?

This calculation was stipulated that there be no coincidence with the day of Catholic Easter and that it did not occur on the same day of the Passover. So, it begins with the spring equinox in the northern hemisphere, from it you need to know on which day will be the first full moon because Easter is celebrated exactly on Sunday after this moon. That is, it is known that Tuesday's Carnival is one that precedes Easter in 47 days. In Brazil, the date is celebrated in the fall, then starts counting from March 21, day of the equinox in the southern hemisphere.

The Carnival begins on Friday and ends on Ash Wednesday, but the Winners' Parade happens on the Saturday after the carnival ends.

### YEAR STARTING FRIDAY

2017 February 24th to March 1

2018 February 9th to February 14

2019 March 1st to March 6

2020 February 21st to February 26

2021 February 12th to February 17

2022 February 15 to February 20

# The Ingredients of the Rio Carnival

Rio

carnival

## Street parties

Revellers are always welcome to join the street parties that take place at every corner in the city. No matter where you go you will find hundreds of people with their hips gyrating to the mesmerizing beats of the samba. Most street parties begin at a street corner or a bar and march through the city, gathering a frenzied group of revellers along the way. At the centre of every street party are bands that lead the parades. Among the most popular street parties is the Banda de Ipanema, which attracts a large gay crowd. The Simpatia é Quase Amor street party is more of a family oriented event ideal for the kids to join in. These bands compose their own samba songs with the samba drummers providing the foot stomping beats to keep the thousands of revellers dancing to their rhythms.

Street parties begin as early as January and continue until the end of the Brazil Carnival. Leblon, the upscale area of Rio is known for its beaches and vibrant nightlife where Carnival parties are never in short supply. One of the most scintillating street parties is the "Estica do Flamengo" at Flamengo, one of Rio's popular neighbourhoods. To literally soak in the revelry, you can follow the Barbas block party where a water truck sprays the crowd as the party heats up through the night. Lapa has an incredible amount of youngsters that host street parties. The neighbourhood is also the best place to sample traditional Brazilian cuisine and other mouth-watering delicacies.

## Street Bands

Each neighbourhood in Rio has its favourite Carnival street band(s). There are more than 300 of them in Rio nowadays and this number increases year by year. Each band has its place or street to parade and for the big ones the streets usually close to the traffic. Frequently the people who organize the band's procession compose the music for their own parade.



The Carnival bands consist of an orchestra, mainly brass. They march along a predetermined route or stay at the same place. Nonetheless they are always joined by hordes of enthusiastic samba revellers dressed in costumes, bathing suits, plain clothes, and many even in drag.

*Blocos* are usually the smaller ones, attracting more of a neighbourhood crowd. Bandas are bigger in size.

The most famous Carnival bands are:

**Cordao do Bola Preta** - one of the most traditional bands parading downtown

**Banda de Ipanema** marches on three separate days in Ipanema, followed by a huge crowd with lots of revellers

**Sovaco do Cristo** parades in the Botanic Garden District, right below Christ-the Redeemer statue's arm

**Carmelitas** was supposedly created by nuns but in fact it is just an allegory of the band. It parades in the hills of Santa Teresa.

## Samba

Almost all the music played during Rio Carnival is samba. It is a uniquely Brazilian music originating from Rio, a dance form that was invented by the poor Afro-Brazilians. The word samba comes from the Angolan world semba referring to a type of ritual music. The word had a variety of meanings to the African slaves brought to Brazil during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. It meant to pray or invoke the spirits of the ancestors and the gods of the African Pantheon. As a noun, it could mean a complaint, a cry, or something like "the blues".

## Queens of Carnival

The Queen of the Carnival in Rio de Janeiro and up to 2 princesses having the duty to woo the revelry, along with the King Momo. Unlike some cities, in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Queens of Carnival do not see a certain school of samba. In competitions, princesses are usually placed as second and third, and are correspondingly 1st and 2nd Princess. Some of them after the reign become queens or battery bridesmaids.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Years | Queens of Carnival | 1st Princess | 2nd Princess |
| 2004 | Priscila Mendes |  |  |
| 2005 | Ana Paula Evangelista | Elaine Babo |  |
| 2006 | Ana Paula Evangelista | Cristiane Hani |  |
| 2007 | Jaqueline Faria | Jacqueline Nascimento | Mônica Nascimento |
| 2008 | Kétula Rocha | Charlene Costa | Jaqueline Faria |
| 2009 | Jéssica Maia | Charlene Costa | Shayene Cesário |
| 2010 | Shayene Cesário | Talita Castilhos | Suellen Pinto |
| 2011 | Bianca Salgueiro | Talita Castilhos | Suzan Gonçalves |
| 2012 | Cris Alves | Letícia Guimarães | Suzan Gonçalves |
| 2013 | Evelyn Bastos | Letícia Guimarães | Clara Paixao |
| 2014 | Letícia Guimarães | Clara Paixao | Graciele Chaveirinho |
| 2015 | Clara Paixao | Bianca Monteiro | Uillana Adães |
| 2016 | Clara Paixao | Uillana Adães | Bianca Monteiro |

Read More about Carnival

From: [**www.brazilbookers.com**](http://www.brazilbookers.com)



## What's the Weather like during Carnival in Brazil?

Each year the Rio Carnival is held between mid-February to early March to coincide with the beginning of Lent. So if you are fortunate enough to be in the city around that time, there is no way you can give the event a skip. While Rio experiences the hottest weather at this time, things get even hotter at the Carnival.

## Is Carnival only celebrated in Rio de Janeiro?

Apart from Rio, the other well-known places to witness the parade is Recife, Olinda in North-eastern Brazil and Salvador, Bahia. The most euphoric event is undoubtedly the Rio Carnival, which is the epitome of Brazilian culture. It takes months of preparation to make the Carnival a grand success, which is why everyone eagerly awaits the start of the Carnival each year. And, of course, on each day of the Carnival, there are plenty of parties that carry on all night and all day long after the Carnival.

## The True Spirit of Carnival in Brazil: la Camaraderie

Brazil is a liberal country and the Rio Carnival is not only about sensuous women doing the Samba. The Carnival is open to gays and drag queens who are as involved in the party as anyone else in the city. Being a tolerant country, crossing social boundaries is commonplace especially at the time of the Carnival.

## Male for Female, Rich for Poor, Anything Goes during Carnival

The best thing about the Carnival in Brazil is the organizing of the event which is truly independent of any sponsors or authorities. Everyone is welcome to participate, which symbolizes the warm spirit of the Brazilians. Moreover, the amalgamation of every class of Brazilian society is what is truly commendable. Male and female swap genders for carnival costuming, the poor dress like the rich, the rich dress like the poor, the Carnival is you ought to expect and accept anything as well.

Bibliography

1. \* Footnote [↑](#footnote-ref-1)