Safety first in Rio

by Anne Mary

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With fantastic beaches, spectacular landmarks and incredible views, Rio de Janeiro is rightly regarded as one of the world's great cities and as such attracts millions of visitors each year eager to be part of the atmosphere. From the stunning sight of the monument to Christ the Redeemer and the delights of the Carmen Miranda Museum to the magnificence of the MaracanÃ£ Stadium and non-stop entertainment at Copacabana Beach, there really is something for everyone in this fabulous place.

However, just like all the major cities of the world Rio has a few common sense rules to adhere to in order to stay safe, especially after dark. In reality, the unfortunate truth is that there are very few places these days where it is not necessary to take a few precautions so Rio is no better or worse than many of the others. The first to remember is to stay alert to your surroundings and try to stay in places where there are groups of other people, wandering off the beaten track is asking for trouble, so if in doubt take a cab.

Muggings do occur, so it is best to not bring attention to yourself. Do not wear expensive clothing or jewelery these are magnets to opportunist criminals, similarly if you carry a digital camera keep it in a non-descript bag, certainly not around the neck, which basically advertises that you are a tourist and will be carrying money or cards. With that in mind, it is always best to only take out sufficient funds for that particular evening, some folk are uncomfortable leaving valuables in their temporary accommodation but it is the sensible option.

Of course some people rent a flat in Rio, which helps fit in a little easier. Confidence is a major factor in staying safe, that is not to say you should act over-confident as that too can bring attention to yourself, but walking with a sense of purpose and an air of knowing your surroundings will allow you to blend in simply. If you need to take money out of a cash-point take extra care and be aware of any shady looking characters lurking about, if possible always use tills located inside banks and shopping centers.

Although the beaches are superb they can entice the undesirables too, so extra vigilance is called for, especially with things like watches and camcorders etc., which are often left lying on display. A little research before arrival is always a good thing and can help when out and about and prevent to need to ask directions and project a sense of know-how. Avoid speaking English too loudly on public transport and ignore any locals who try to talk to you, they may well be part of a group who operate together to take advantage of a tourists innocence.

Never venture out into what are known as the favelas or slum areas, you will certainly be asking for trouble off some very desperate people. Stay on the recognized established routes and a visitor will have a fabulous time in a beautiful city. So whether your stopping in a luxury hotels, or you rent a flat in Rio de Janeiro, provided that you use basic traveler wisdom, you will be perfectly safe.

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Rio attracts visitors from all over and those looking for an extended stay should take a look at a http://www.rentflatinrio.com/. Recently voted best apartment rental system in the city, if you want to a rent a flat in Rio this is one of the best places to browse.

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