



# TOUR UPDATE



The Newsletter of mikesworldtour



## Tour Highlight:

March 2023  
São Paulo, Brazil

## The land of Portuguese

Contributed by Michael Davis



## A QUICK HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, & SOCIAL OVERVIEW

Brazil got its independence from Portugal in 1822 in what is considered less bloody than its Spanish speaking counterparts. After independence it was relatively stable under Pedro I and Pedro II except for various regional revolts. In 1889 the monarchy was overthrown as citizens thought it represented the past colonial roots. Its population had also been growing at a very rapid rate combined with the abolition of slavery ended the power of the monarchy. 1888 to 1922 is described at the emergence of the New Brazil. The "coffee presidents" took over after including a literary boom and increased immigration. The middle class rebelled against the coffee elites, and a new constitution was created in 1934. Democratic elections continued for the rest of the 20th century, but in the 1990s inflation and corruption became a major problem in the country. Corruption continued to be an issue in the 21st century, but the country saw a leftist leader come (and come back today) to power with Lula. Brazil's political system includes a large number of effective political parties (7-10). The EIU lists Brazil as a flawed democracy.

# São Paulo, Brazil

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## Some quick tips for São Paulo :

- This city is actually so huge which is good for activities but can make it hard to get around sometimes
- Make sure you are paying attention near the Sé it is a very busy area
- For good restaurants and nightlife stay near Pinheiros and Vila Madalena

## FOOD

### GAEL COZINHA MESTIÇA

We found this place online trying to look for good dinner places. The drinks here are super intricate, and its a good place to have some great drinks. Not a super memorable meal, but their pasta was very good. I have not had pasta in a while because it doesn't feel very ~Latin American~ to me but this pasta was pretty good and satisfied the cravings that I was having during the day. It also has outdoor seating which is always a plus to me.



### BOTANISTA

This place has a lot of vegan options, and is so good. The dishes have so many colors. To me when food has a lot of color in it that means its healthier (I guess candy is healthy??) but either way this place is really good. Located in walking distance to the center of the city it is the perfect lunch stop on your trip to São Paulo that will leave you feeling refreshed and ready to explore. I had pumpkin chicken that was so so good.



### FIGUIERA RUBAIYAT

We got this place recommended to us and it was also delicious. We decided to split a bunch of dishes including burrata, vegetables, and mashed sweet potato. Something that is really cool about this restaurant is a giant tree is just going through the entire place. They basically have built the entire theme of the restaurant and the decoration inside around this huge tree. Vibes were absolutely very high here.



# São Paulo, Brazil

## EXPERIENCES

São Paulo is such a big city that you easily could spend weeks here without seeing everything. We had 3 days here, and one of them included going to the Lollapalooza music festival that was there. We tried to squeeze as much as we could into these days seeing various neighborhoods and famous buildings in the city.

### CATHEDRAL DE SÉ



Built in the neo-gothic style, construction on the church began in 1913 and was not finished until 40 years later. The history of this church goes many years back to old structures in 1589. Multiple churches have been located here, but have been demolished to build bigger and grander ones. Several important individuals relating to Brazilian history are buried in the crypts of the church. It is the largest church in Latin America and one of the fifth largest churches in the world. It is located in the heart of the city. Sitting in a completely quiet church locating in the middle of a city can feel strange at times because you are aware of the hustle and bustle going around beyond the church walls. However, I think there is a beauty in this and there is always time to make time for yourself.

### FAROL SANTANDER

A 35 story skyscraper including multiple art exhibits, a coloring room, coffee shop, observation deck, and even a skate park (yes) this building has everything. We did not expect to have so much fun inside this building. At the tallest building in the city from 1939-1947 this building was largest building of reinforced concrete in the 1940s. It was sold to Santander in 2000, and on the main floor they have an area dedicated to their origins in Brazil and São Paulo. On the observation deck you truly can see how big the city is with skyscrapers and buildings jetting out into every direction. The building was closed from 2015 to 2018 where a remodel took place to create it into the cultural and entertainment center that it is today.



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## PATEO DO COLLEGIO



In 1554 the mass that started the birth of the Jesuit movement happened where this building is located. Two years later a fight occurred between settlers and other religious individuals led to the Jesuits being expelled, but they were able to return 13 years later. It was home to the seat of the government in the providence from 1765 to 1912. This building marks where the originally city of São Paulo was founded in 1554. The city's origins and history are closely tied to the Jesuits making this building very important. In 1979 a museum was put inside the building containing historic items. Inside there are remains from an old constitution which dates back to 1681.

## BECO DO BATMAN

An alleyway in the Vila Madalena neighborhood, it is filled with graffiti and shops. Its name comes someone making a graffiti mural with Batman here in 1980, and then art students filled the alley with psychedelic influenced designs as well as in the cubist style. This area saw thousands of visitors each day during the Fifa World Cup when it was hosted in Brazil. Here you can also find painters making art creation in building located within the alley. It is constantly being renovated, and is taken care of by local community members.



## LOLLAPALOOZA!

This was the 10th edition of Lolla in Brazil and it sure was really fun. They have great food vendors, and people actually really respect personal space during concerts. We saw Sofi Tukker and Tame Impala and they both were so great! Being from Chicago and having been to Lolla there it was cool compare my experiences at both Lollas.



*See You On the Next Stop on the Tour!*