



The Sampa Tour Newsletter, vol. 2

Unlocking the Brazilian Adventure!

December 21, 2024

The first thing our sharp-eyed readers will notice is that the name of our newsletter has changed from “Ubatuba” to “Sampa Tour” to align with our company name. Sampa Tour has kind of a nice ring to it, we think!

What does our trip to the top domestic Brazilian tourist destination look like? Let’s start at the beginning....

The first item of business is the tourist visa. Brazil and the U.S. have a long history with visas. The U.S. has required Brazilians to have visas since 1986 and in the spirit of reciprocity, Brazil started requiring them for visiting Americans at the same time. In 2019 that requirement for Americans was halted, but unfortunately, the program will begin again in early 2025. U.S. citizens need to send their passport along with a plane ticket to their designated Brazilian Consulate. We can provide instructions for this.



Visa stamp.

Many people ask about the flight from the U.S. With proper preparation it’s actually comfortable and usually pretty easy. From Houston, the overnight flight lasts nine hours. The passage through Immigration and Customs is typically painless, and suddenly you’re in an airport on another continent! Finding your way around is simple with the easy-to-read international signage.

The port of entry for Brazil is São Paulo, a large and magnificent city. A true cultural hub, São Paulo boasts a subway, three soccer teams, multiple museums, and the third largest theater district (after New York and London) in the world! But our final destination isn’t the city so we’ll leave its exploration for another time. Meanwhile, it’s time to head north – to Ubatuba! The international airport is on the north edge of the city of São Paulo, so the traveler is out of town in a matter of minutes. The trip to Ubatuba usually takes about three hours, but the ride is pleasant and the roads are well-maintained with a few rest stops along the way.

Upon arriving in the town of Ubatuba, the visitor is greeted with beautiful views of beaches and far-off islands and jutting peninsulas. The town consists of two main sections – the original older part with its Itagua (it-TAH-gu-AH) Beach and the newer section, called Praia Grande (PRY-uh GRAND-jee). With about 90,000 inhabitants, Ubatuba is on the smallish side and easy to navigate. Most of our trips take place in the low season when it is pleasant, offering shirt-sleeve weather and even swimming! Visitors can safely walk in most areas, and there are many good restaurants to choose from in the quaint downtown area. Live music, a Brazilian specialty, is available on weekends.

Give us a call or email us with any questions or comments!

Note to our readers: We are planning our next trip to Ubatuba for April 23 – May 2, 2025. This means that travelers will arrive in São Paulo’s Guarulhos International Airport the morning of April 23rd and depart from that airport the evening of May 2nd.



Immigration at São Paulo Airport. (Source: Public)



Catedral da Sé in São Paulo. (Source: Public)

Sampa Tour
Tom & Rita Goebel
tgoebel4@gmail.com
(281) 814-0093

