

WORLD BOX

BRAZIL

Travel the World of Faiths and Festivals.

Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, refers to events of the Carnival celebration, beginning on or after the Christian feasts of the Epiphany and culminating on the day before Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras originated in Brazil.

[Click here](#) to watch a short film about Mardi Gras.



Christmas in Brazil:

Many Brazilian Christmas traditions come from Portugal as Portugal ruled Brazil for many years. Nativity scenes, known as Presépio are very popular. Christmas Nativity plays called 'Os Pastores' (The Shepherds) are popular. In the Brazilian versions a woman tries to steal the baby Jesus! After the Missa do Gallo (or Brazil's version of Midnight Mass) church service there are often big firework displays and in big towns and cities there are big Christmas Tree shaped displays of electric lights.

In Brazil, Santa Claus is called Papai Noel & Bom Velhinho (Good Old Man). Sometimes children leave a sock near a window. If Papai Noel finds your sock, he'll exchange it for a present!

Favourite Christmas foods in Brazil include turkey, pork, ham, salads and fresh and dried fruits. Everything is served with rice cooked with raisins and a spoon of "farofa" (seasoned manioc flour). Popular Christmas desserts include tropical fruits and ice-cream.

Brazil's population is a mix of many different cultures and people that originally came from different countries, so you may have Italian Panettone in São Paulo, Portuguese salted Cod in Rio de Janeiro and some African style food in the states of North East Brazil.

The meal is served around 10pm on Christmas Eve and exactly at Midnight people greet each other, make a toast wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and exchange presents.



Online Access: Supervise young people when they're online and give them advice about staying safe.

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