

Visiting itinerary for foreigners to São Carlos

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---|
| 1. PLANING YOUR TRIP | 2 |
| 1.1. Documents..... | 2 |
| 1.2. Transportation to São Carlos | 2 |
| 1.3. Acomodation in São Carlos..... | 2 |
| 1.4. Other useful informations about the city | 2 |
| 2. LIVING IN SÃO CARLOS | 3 |
| 2.1. Transportation..... | 3 |
| 2.2. Changing money | 3 |
| 2.3. Health insurance..... | 3 |
| 2.4. Safety issues | 3 |
| 2.5. Tourism, leisure and entertainment..... | 4 |
| 2.6. Useful tips..... | 4 |

1. PLANING YOUR TRIP

1.1. DOCUMENTS

To study in Brazil for a short period of time, the student must contact the Brazilian consulate in his/her country of origin and require a temporary visa (inquire about the appropriate type of visa according to the nature of the activity to be developed in Brazil). Once in Brazil, the student must arrange the rest of the documentation in compliance with the guidelines found in Annex I.

With all documents at hand the student should go to the Undergraduate or Graduate Section of the Physics Institute for other administrative measures.

1.2. TRANSPORTATION TO SÃO CARLOS

Here are the detailed instructions to travel from Guarulhos International Airport in São Paulo to São Carlos:

- 1) The arrivals area at Guarulhos Airport (São Paulo) is on the ground floor. When you arrive, leave the airport building without changing the floor. Outside the building, before crossing the street, look for the bus box office “Airport Service”. It can be situated at your right or left, depending the arrival terminal.
- 2) Buy a ticket to the Terminal Rodoviário Tietê (which is the main bus station of São Paulo). The approximate cost is R\$ 36,50.
- 3) Take the bus on the street in front of the bus box office. (Note, that there are several buses going to different destinations! Care to take the one going to Tietê – usually on platform 4.)
- 4) The trip until the Tietê Bus Station takes up to 30 minutes.
- 5) When you arrive at Tietê, go to the upper floor of the bus station to find the box office. Find the box office of either the bus company Empresa Cruz or Cometa, and buy the ticket to São Carlos (the approximate cost is R\$ 55,19). Buses leave every 30 minutes normally, but this may vary.
- 6) After buying the ticket, go down to the bottom floor to find the platform indicated on the ticket.
- 7) The trip to São Carlos takes approximately three and a half hours. There will be a stop on the way after two hours of travel.
- 8) Arriving in São Carlos, take a taxi to the hotel.

1.3. ACOMODATION IN SÃO CARLOS

Find some hotels in São Carlos near the USP on the following site:

<http://www.ifsc.usp.br/crint/index.php/useful-links/2-uncategorised/13-acommodation-in-sao-carlos>

1.4. OTHER USEFUL INFORMATIONS ABOUT THE CITY

São Carlos is the home town of two big universities, hence it is a young, joyful city with many options of leisure and culture. The city is located in the countryside of the state of São Paulo and is considered to be medium sized according to Brazilian standards. As in most of Brazilian cities, it is unusual that everybody knows how to communicate in English. However, because of the great amount of college students, it will not be difficult to find someone who can help you in your daily activities, such as going to the supermarket or to the bakery, for example.

Concerning the weather, São Carlos has a pleasant climate – warm during the day and a bit colder and windy at night. The city is known as “Climate City”, because in the same day it is possible to feel the characteristics of all four seasons. In winter, however, the temperatures may vary

between 25°C during the day and 10°C at night. It is advisable to bring warm clothes, because houses and buildings do not have heating systems.

2. LIVING IN SÃO CARLOS

2.1. TRANSPORTATION

The company in charge of public transportation in São Carlos is called Athenas Paulista. The tariff of the buses is R\$ 2,65. Check the timetable [here](#).

Attention, the buses are not exactly punctual. It is a good idea to arrive 5 minutes before the established time and wait until 15 minutes more.

If you wish to rent a car, there are many companies that provide this service. The range of prices is really big. You may find [here](#) a list with different options to rent a vehicle.

There is still the possibility to call a taxi. Check [here](#) some taxi stations and find the closest one to your place. The prices are not previously fixed and may vary a lot, ask the driver beforehand how much, on average, the run usually costs.

2.2. CHANGING MONEY

São Carlos has three currency exchange houses, two at the city centre and one at the city shopping mall. Check the addresses below:

Confidence Câmbio
No Shopping Iguatemi – Av. Passeio dos Flamboyants, 200
Tel: (16) 3307-4455

Fitta Câmbio e Turismo
Rua Episcopal, 1976 – Loja 03 – Centro
Tel: (16) 3415-7577
www.grupofitta.com.br
** Offers exchange service at home*

Lastro
Rua Conde do Pinhal, 2279 – Sala 04 – Centro
Tel: (16) 3374-9797
www.lastro.com.br

2.3. HEALTH INSURANCE

It is very important that you have your health insurance card at hand before you leave your country of origin. However, if you have any emergency, call the SAMU (Emergency Mobile Care Service) dialing 192. Or go to the public hospital [Santa Casa de Misericórdia de São Carlos](#), at Rua Paulino Botelho de Abreu Sampaio, 573 (near USP's Campus I).

2.4. SAFETY ISSUES

In São Carlos, as in any other city around the world, we should not overlook safety matters. Despite being a peaceful, calm university city, try not to walk by yourself alone in non-familiar places, mainly at night. Do not hesitate in calling for help in case you see something that does not seem normal. Here there is a list with some really useful emergency phone numbers:

- Corpo de Bombeiros (193)
- Defesa Civil (199)
- Delegacia de Atendimento à Mulher (180)

- Polícia Civil (197)
- Polícia Militar (190)
- Polícia Federal (194)

2.5. TOURISM, LEISURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

There are itineraries for everyone in São Carlos. There are many entertainment options: two movie theatres, one theatre, many bars, pubs and night clubs. Moreover, there is a place called SESC that offers a big range of activities, such as sports, dance shows, plays, concerts, circus activities, workshops and more. Some of them are for free and others are offered for a very low cost.

The extent of options in terms of gastronomy is also really big. The town has restaurants specialized in many types of cuisines besides the Brazilian one, such as American, French, Japanese, and Chinese. In addition, there are some coffee shops where you can just hang out to have a pleasant afternoon, or even some “botecos”, places where beer is always cold and ready to be served in small “American glasses”. Unlike in other countries, there is also a type of restaurant serving “rodízio”, i.e. all-you-can-eat food directly served at the customer’s table, normally meat or pizza. Due to the size of the city, there are really many options with a big variety of prices and types of services.

During day time it is possible to visit historical monuments, take a walk at the Zoo, get to know scientific attractions at CDCC, visit the TAM Aviation Museum, and many other activities. There are cultural, ecological, rural, educational, scientific, religious, and technological itineraries. You cannot miss it!

Exciting nightlife is offered in nightclubs, pubs, restaurants, and bars. Some of them have live music or bands performances. Note, however, that some of them charge the entrance. Once again, there is something to do for everyone in São Carlos, it doesn’t matter whether it is day or night.

2.6. USEFUL TIPS

Communication

When you arrive in São Carlos buy a mobile phone chip of a local telephone company. They are really cheap, around R\$ 20,00, and will make your communication life much easier. The most important ones are [TIM](#), [VIVO](#), [CLARO](#), and [OI](#). Normally, if you call to a number of the same company as your own, it will be much cheaper. Check which one fits you better.

Meals

Daily meals are served at the USP’s University Restaurant (menu and information on pricing and time of use [here](#)), or just go to a “kilo restaurant”. In this type of restaurant the customer serves him- or herself and pays for the amount of food, in kilogram, that he/she has taken. This option is really cheap and common for people who do not have much time to cook their own food.

However, if your living place offers conditions to cook and you want to make your own meals, it is possible to buy food and kitchen utensils at supermarkets around USP’s Campus I. Note, however, that this is not a customary behavior among Brazilians.