

SURVIVING GUIDE TO THE EXCHANGE STUDENT IN

BELO HORIZONTE



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OBTAINING A VISA

ONLY IF YOU NEED!

Applying for a visa should happen at least 3 weeks before you are scheduled to leave for Brazil, preferably more. The process varies by country, and is carried out through the closest Brazilian consulate or embassy in your home country. Make sure that you keep the original visa application form that you submit – you need this to register your stay once in Brazil.

AIRPORT

Tancredo Neves/Confins International Airport is Belo Horizonte's main airport. Be prepared to spend some time at baggage claim and customs if arriving from overseas. The city is 45 minutes to an hour's drive away, and can be accessed via the Conexão Aeroporto bus run by Unir. Tickets are purchased from the counter at the airport, do not need to be booked in advance, and cost around R\$37,00 one way.



REGISTERING WITH THE FEDERAL POLICE

If you entered on a visa and/or are staying for more than 90 days (i.e. you), then you have 30 days after you enter Brazil to register your stay with the Federal Police. You will face hefty fines if you forget to do this. It is a lengthy, but relatively straightforward process. You will need:

- Your passport, with Brazilian visa and entry stamp.
- Notarised copies of the relevant pages in your passport: main information page (with your name and passport number), Brazilian visa, entry stamp from when you arrived in Brazil. Getting copies notarised is easy and can be done at a “Cartório” in town. There is one near the corner of Rua Sao Paulo and Avenida Amazonas.
Make sure to bring your original passport when you go.
- Your original visa application form.
- Two recent, colour, 3x4cm photos of yourself (two copies of the same picture). You should be facing front on and not smiling, with your head taking up most of the frame, just as for a passport photo.
- The payment receipts from the fees – see in the next page.
- The form obtained from registering online – see in the next page.

When you are registering on the Federal Police Website: **www.dpf.gov.br**, make sure you have your host family, friends or even the SRI's team to help you out. Having a person who speaks portuguese will make it easier.

INSIDE OF CEFET-MG

● Dining Service/Restaurant

The Student card will provide you access to a meal plan. Thanks to CEFET Feeding Programme (Programa de Alimentação Escolar), each single meal has a cost of R\$1, 50 which you will pay by charging your Identity/Access card. Lunch and dinner are offered from Monday to Friday, having a whole range of meals and one vegetarian option as well for each day. You can check everyday meals by visiting the Diretoria de Desenvolvimento Estudantil website: <https://www.dde.cefetmg.br/apresentacao-dos-restaurantes/cardapios/> , but remember, this page is in portuguese.

GETTING AROUND

● Buses

- Buses follow a route usually indicated by a four-digit number, and sometimes a letter;
- Google Maps and Moovit are a useful tool for determining which bus you need to take;
- If you see your bus, you have to hold out your arm in order to let them know you need to enter it;

- When you see you're approaching your bus stop, make sure to press the button to signal or pull the string above the holding place;
- Most routes are serviced frequently enough that you should not have to wait more than 15 minutes;
- The numbers of buses reduces late at night and on Sundays;
- Schedules are available in the app BHBUS+;
- Most inner-city buses cost R\$4,50. You can either pay with cash, by paying the driver or purchase a rechargeable card from some shops (that's available in the BHBUS+ app). These can be loaded with money, credit card or pix at the BHTRANS website, though you may need a Brazilian bank in order to do this.

● **Walking**

Belo Horizonte is relatively pedestrian-friendly. It only takes around 15 minutes, for example, to walk from Praça Raul Soares (the circular park in the city centre) to the shops and restaurants in Savassi. Take care when crossing roads – even more than you usually do. Unlike in other countries, when the green man light changes to red, you have 2 or 3 seconds maximum before the cars start moving. Even if you have a green light, look both ways for the cars or bikes that occasionally ignore the lights.

● **Taxis**

Costs of taxis are more or less in line with international cities. Make sure that you get into a taxi marked with the Belo Horizonte city logo. It pays to know how to tell your driver where you would like to go in Portuguese or at least have it written in your cell phone or a paper. Some taxis accept credit cards, but not most – ask first.

● **Uber**

You can also use the *Uber* app, specially at night because it's safer. We recommend you to check the driver's evaluation, the closer to 5 it gets, it's better. Also remember to check the driver's name and the car's plate before entering it.

MONEY

How you wish to arrange money will depend on your length of stay and your home bank's policies with regard to transfer fees. Most places will accept Mastercard and Visa, including the ATMs that are located inside banks (not on the street). You cannot open a bank account until you have received your "Protocolo" (see "Registering with the Federal Police").

SAFETY

Belo Horizonte is relatively safe, but robberies do occur like in any big city, so you should always use common sense. Try not to carry large amounts of money. Split your money up (in your wallet, a money belt, in your bag, back at home) so that if you are robbed, then you will still have money available. If you are using a credit or debit card as your sole means of withdrawing money while in Brazil, then consider leaving this card at home and only carrying what cash you will need for the day/night.

If you're out drinking, make sure that you have a way home before the end of the night. Avoid being drunk and alone in the city late at night.

CELL PHONES

Purchasing a sim card and top-ups is simple, but you will need a Brazilian social security number to activate the sim card. Ask your host or a friend to help you with this. There are four major providers: Claro, Oi, Tim, and Vivo. The main thing to consider when deciding on a company is that it is much cheaper to call

and message those on the same network. Ask your host, friends, and co-workers which provider they use, as they will be the people you'll call often.

THINGS TO SEE & DO

● **Mercado Central:**

Mercado Central is a must-see. This large indoor market sells everything, specially brazilian traditional foods and drinks, cheeses and even handcraft made by locals.



● **Lagoa da Pampulha:**

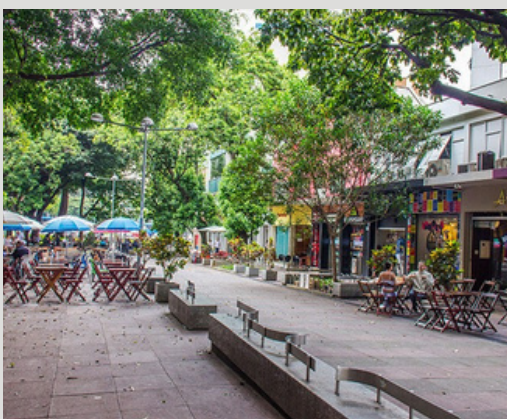
This large artificial lake is home to many art museums and famous buildings. The Zoo and football stadiums, such as Mineirão e Mineirinho, are also nearby. There's an amusement park close to the Igreja de São Francisco de Assis. With an 18km circumference of flat, uninterrupted pavement, Lake Pampulha is also a popular place to run or spend the afternoon with friends and family.

Around Lake Pampulha you can also find a lot of bars, which will serve brazilian food and drinks like caipirinha, torresmo, açaí and a lot more.



● Savassi & Praça da Liberdade:

Savassi is the area of town with the most restaurants, bars, and shopping. The nearby Praça Liberdade is home to many museums and interesting architecture. You can check the programation of one of them in <https://ccbb.com.br/belo-horizonte/bh-programacao/> . It is also a short walk from here to the Municipal Park.



● Nearby Belo Horizonte:

Many small colonial towns are within a couple of hours' drive. Ouro Preto is a beautiful mining town that (along with nearby Mariana) is host to the annual winter arts festival, Festival de Inverno, in late July. The region of Serra do Cipo has many spectacular waterfalls, including the state's tallest near Tabuleiro. You can also check Santuário do Caraça which is full of adventures for its visitors, with trails to various locations, from waterfalls to caves and peaks



Ouro Preto / MG



Cachoeira Véu da Noiva



Santuário e Serra do Caraça

OTHER INFO:

Belo Horizonte was planned and built in the 1890's to be the capital of Minas Gerais, replacing Ouro Preto. The grid layout eases navigation.

There are three different police forces in Belo Horizonte: the civil, military, and federal police. The military police are law enforcement at the street level, while the other two perform more administrative roles.



*Secretaria de Relações
Internacionais
CEFET-MG*