**Street Parties or Blocos in Rio Carnival**

***The street parties are the soul of the Carnival in Rio***

Blocos are groups of individuals who plan street parties during the Carnival in Rio de Janeiro. Their parties are much more casual than the parades in the Sambadrome. Each Bloco writes a theme song and has a band to play the Samba music. These groups gather in their local hangouts and play percussion music well into the early hours of the morning.  Many of these Blocos have official T-shirts that anyone can purchase while at the Rio Carnival. The Blocos are considered the heart and soul of the Rio Carnival - there are Blocos popular with singles and others that hold parties suitable for families.



1. **History of the Bloco**

In the late 1800s Cordoes were formed. These Cordoes were groups of people that organised parades throughout the city.  Many of the groups played instruments and choreographed dances. As the Cordoes progressed they began to form bands in their neighbourhoods. These groups were the successors of the Blocos.  As a result, they earned the name of Blocos.

1. **Modern Blocos**

Today the Blocos form their parades in specific neighbourhoods. Each Bloco consists of a musical band and a group of partiers. The Blocos organise and run block parties during the year. The parades start as early as January and then run through to the Sunday after the Carnival. While the Blocos parade in just about every neighbourhood, the most popular neighbourhoods for these parties are Copacabana, Ipanema, Jardim Botanico and Lagoa as well as downtown. Many of these Blocos write their own theme songs and add classic samba songs to their repertoire. The Polka Dot Bloco (Cordao do Bola Preta) and Armpit of the Christ (Suvaco do Cristo) are two of the most popular Blocos. One of the oldest Blocos, Monobloco, is so popular that they actually play concerts year round.

1. **Government Regulations**

In 2010 the government required the Blocos to register with the city. This met with a lot of resistance. One Bloco used the ferry ride from Rio de Janeiro to Niteroi as their parade route and they feared the government would never approve such a route. Officially 269 Blocos registered with the government and they will hold approximately 499 parades in 2017.

1. **The Music**

If a Bloco has brass instruments in their band they are called Bandas or Bands. When it is time for the parade the Blocos will rent a truck and the guitar players and singers ride on the truck playing their music. Most of the time the Blocos play samba but Bandas can play Marchinhas, a polka like music. Prior to the addition of samba to the Blocos parades Marchinhas was the only music played.

1. **Individual Blocos**

The largest Bloco is Cordao do Bola Preta and over 200,000 people will attend their street party. Simpatia e Quase Amor draws about 100,000 people to its celebration. Monobloco holds their party on and up to 80,000 revelers attend this Carnival party. These larger parties are held on Avenida Rio Branco, one of the largest streets in Rio and there is no other place that can accommodate such large parties. Spectators are invited to join in or, if they prefer, to watch from the stands that line the avenue.

1. **Banda de Ipanema**

Banda de Ipanema holds three different street parties. These parties are very popular with the gay crowd. This Bloco starts the Rio Carnival by drawing up to 30,000 people during its first two parties held the Saturdays just before the Carnival. They have a 3rd party the Saturday of the Carnival week.

1. **Suvaco do Cristo**

The Suvaco do Cristo Bloco holds their parade in the Jardim Botanico district. They were formed in 1985 by a group of friends. Every year they have their own Samba-enredo, a percussion section, a flag and flag bearer and a group of women who dress in Bahia clothing. Their colors are sliver, blue and green. They typically hold their parade the Sunday before the Carnival begins.



1. **Monobloco**

Monobloco (ref) has the honour of closing the Carnival. In 2009 there were 400,000 people that joined the 200 strong Monobloco band. Monobloco began in 2003 parading on Leblon beach. The band has 200 musicians and they play samba, coco, xote, congo, and even Brazilian square dance and quadrilha music. Locals even enjoy attending their rehearsals in Lapa. This Bloco is very popular with young people.



1. **Other Blocos**

Carmelitas Blocos host their parades in the district of Santa Teresa. The Carmelitas dress as nuns during their parties. Their parade tells the tale of a nun who escaped her convent to celebrate the Carnival. One of the oldest groups founded in 1918 is Cordao do Bola Preta. This band holds two parties as well as a black and white ball. Simpatia e Quase Amor launches their parade in Zona Sul. The parties are held the Saturday prior to the Carnival and on Sunday during the Carnival. This Bloco was formed in 1985 and named after a character in a popular Brazilian book.

**Pre-Carnival**

**South Zone**

* Flamengo
* Botafogo
* Leme
* Copacabana
* Ipanema
* Leblon

and São Conrado Beaches, plus Lagoa, Gavea, Catete, Laranjeiras and Jardim Botanico.

**Downtown Area** – Lapa and Santa Teresa

Table 1: Pre-Carnival

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Block Party Name** | **Neighbourhood** | **Date** | **Starts** | **Ends** | **Gathering Location** | **Estimated Public** |
| DESLIGA DA JUSTIÇA | Gávea  |       | 10:00 | 14:00 | Santos Dumont Square | 5000 |
| SPANTA NENÉM | Lagoa | 11 Feb | 13:00 | 16:00 | Lagoa Park Bike Lane | 12000 |
| GB BLOCO | Laranjeiras | 11 Feb | 15:00 | 19:00 | Jardim Larangeiras Square | 3000 |
| IMPRENSA QUE EU GAMO | Laranjeiras | 11 Feb | 15:00 | 19:00 | Gago Coutinho Street | 10000 |
| BANDA DE IPANEMA | Ipanema | 11 Feb | 17:30 | 22:00 | General Osório Square | 40000 |
| ME ESQUECE | Jardim Botânico | 12 Feb | 10:00 | 14:00 | Jardim Botanico Street | 15000 |
| VOLTA, ALICE | Laranjeiras | 12 Feb | 10:00 | 14:00 | 01 Alice Street | 10000 |
| CALMA, CALMA SAU PIRANHA | Botafogo | 12 Feb | 11:00 | 15:00 | Visconde de Caravelas Street | 3000 |
| INOVA QUE EU GOSTO | Flamengo | 16 Feb | 19:00 | 22:00 | 200 Praia do Flamengo | 2500 |
| BADALO DE SANTA TERESA | Santa Teresa | 17 Feb | 21:00 | 01:00 | Largo das Neves | 1500 |
| CÉU NA TERRA | Santa Teresa | 18 Feb | 08:00 | 13:00 | Odilo Costa Neto Sq | 6000 |
| IMAGINÔ? AGORA | Leblon | 18 Feb | 10:00 | 14:00 | Jose Linhares Street | 15000 |
| XUPA MAS NÃO BABA | Laranjeiras | 18 Feb | 12:00 | 16:00 | Alice Street | 4000 |
| SIMPATIA É QUASE AMOR | Ipanema | 18 Feb | 16:00 | 20:00 | Teixeira de Melo Street | 100000 |
| BLOCO BRASIL | Leme | 18 Feb | 16:00 | 20:00 | Almirante Julio de Noronha Square | 15000 |
| BLOCO DA ANSIEDADE | Laranjeiras | 18 Feb | 17:00 | 20:00 | Gago Coutinho Square | 4000 |
| RIO PANDEIRO | Laranjeiras | 18 Feb | 17:00 | 21:00 | São Salvador Square | 2000 |
| BANDA BANDIDA | Copacabana | 18 Feb | 18:00 | 21:00 | Rodolfo Dantas Street | 3000 |
| GIGANTES DA LIRA | Laranjeiras | 19 Feb | 09:00 | 14:00 | Jardim Larangeiras Square | 7000 |
| FOGO E PAIXÃO | Downtown | 19 Feb | 10:00 | 15:00 | Largo São Francisco de Paula | 12000 |
| AFROREGGAE | Copacabana | 19 Feb | 10:00 | 14:00 | Atlantica Ave Posto 6 | 120000 |
| SUVACO DE CRISTO | Jardim Botânico | 19 Feb | 10:00 | 14:00 | Jardim Botanico Street with Faro St | 35000 |
| CHORA ME LIGA | São Conrado | 19 Feb | 10:00 | 14:00 | Prefeito Mendes de Moraes Ave | 30000 |
| BLOCO DA PRETA | Downtown | 19 Feb | 11:00 | 15:00 | Presidente Vargas Ave | 400000 |
| QUEM NUM GUENTA BEBE AGUA | Laranjeiras | 19 Feb | 14:00 | 18:00 | Gago Coutinho Square | 2000 |
| EMPLGA ÀS 9 | Ipanema | 19 Feb | 16:00 | 20:00 | Ipanema Beach – Post 9 | 15000 |
| BOKA DE ESPUMA | Botafogo | 19 Feb | 17:00 | 21:00 | Margques de Olinda Street | 4000 |
| LARGA ONÇA, ALFREDO! | Laranjeiras | 19 Feb | 18:00 | 21:00 | 49 Ipiranga Street | 2000 |
| BADALO DE SANTA TERESA  | Santa Teresa | 23 Feb  | 21:00 | 01:00 | Largo das Neves | 15000 |
| BLOCO DAS CARMELITAS | Santa Teresa | 24 Feb | 15:00 | 19:00 | 4098 Almirante Alexandrino | 12000 |
| BLOCO VIRTUAL | Leme | 24 Feb | 18:00 | 22:30 | Atlantica Ave Posto 1 | 7000 |
| BANDA DO LIDO | Copacabana | 24 Feb | 19:00 | 22:00 | Lido Square | 3000 |
| EMBAIXADORES DA FOLIA | Downtown | 24 Feb | 20:00 | 00:00 | Nilo Pecanha St x Graca Aranha St | 8000 |
| ROLA PREGUIÇOSA | Ipanema | 24 Feb | 20:00 | 23:00 | Viera Souto Ave x Maria Quiteria | 30000 |
|  |  |  |  |  | TOTAL |  |

**Carnival**

Insert spreadsheet

**Post Carnival – Champions´ Parade Weekend**

**South Zone** – Flamengo, Botafogo, Leme, Copacabana, Ipanema, Leblon and São Conrado Beaches, plus Lagoa, Gavea, Catete, Laranjeiras and Jardim Botanico.
**Downtown Area** – Lapa and Santa Teresa

Table 2: Post Carnival

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Block Party Name** | **Neighbourhood** | **Date** | **Starts** | **Ends** | **Gathering Location** | **Estimated Public** |
| SÒ TAMBORINS | Lapa  | 2 Mar | 21:00 | 00:00 | Travessa Mosquera | 3 000 |
| QUIZOMBA | Lapa | 3 Mar | 11:00 | 15:00 | Rua Riachuelo x Mem de Sá | 10 000 |
| SEM SAÍDA | Botafogo | 3 Mar | 16:00 | 20:00 | Rua General Severiano | 1 000 |
| PELA SACO | Botafogo | 3 Mar | 17:00 | 20:00 | Praça Corumbá | 3 000 |
| BAMBAS DO CATETE | Catete | 3 Mar | 17:00 | 20:00 | Praça do Poeta | 1 000 |
| BAFAFÁ | Ipanema | 3 Mar | 17:00 | 21:00 | Ipanema Beach – Posto 9 | 15 000 |
| MULHERES DE CHICO | Copacabana | 3 Mar | 17:00 | 20:00 | Copacabana Beach Posto 2 (Leme) | 40 000 |
| AL QUE VERGONHA | São Conrado | 3 Mar | 18:00 | 21:00 | In front of the Golden Tulip Hotel | 1 000 |
| BERÇO DO SAMBA | Lapa | 3 Mar | 21:00 | 00:00 | Archs Street | 5 000 |
| MONOBLOCO | Downtown  | 4 Mar | 09:00 | 15:00 | Av Presidente Vargas | 500 000 |
| FOFOQUEIROS DE PLANTÃO | Jardim Botanico | 4 Mar | 10:00 | 14:00 | Rua Jardim Botanico | 1 000 |
| CONJ HAB BARANGAL  | Ipanema | 4 Mar | 11:00 | 15:00 | Ipanema Beach – Posto 9 | 1 000 |
| BROXADÃO AHORA È ESSA | Copacabana | 4 Mar | 14:00 | 18:00 | Copacabana Beach Posto 4 | 1 000 |
| BOKA DE ESPUMA | Botafogo | 4 Mar | 17:00 | 21:00 | Rua Marques de Olinda | 4 000 |
| CALDO BELEZA | Flamengo | 4 Mar | 17:00 | 21:00 | Praça Marinha do Brasil | 1 000 |
| GALINHA DO MEIO-DIA | Ipanema | 4 Mar | 17:00 | 19:00 | Ipanema Beach – Posto 9 | 5 000 |