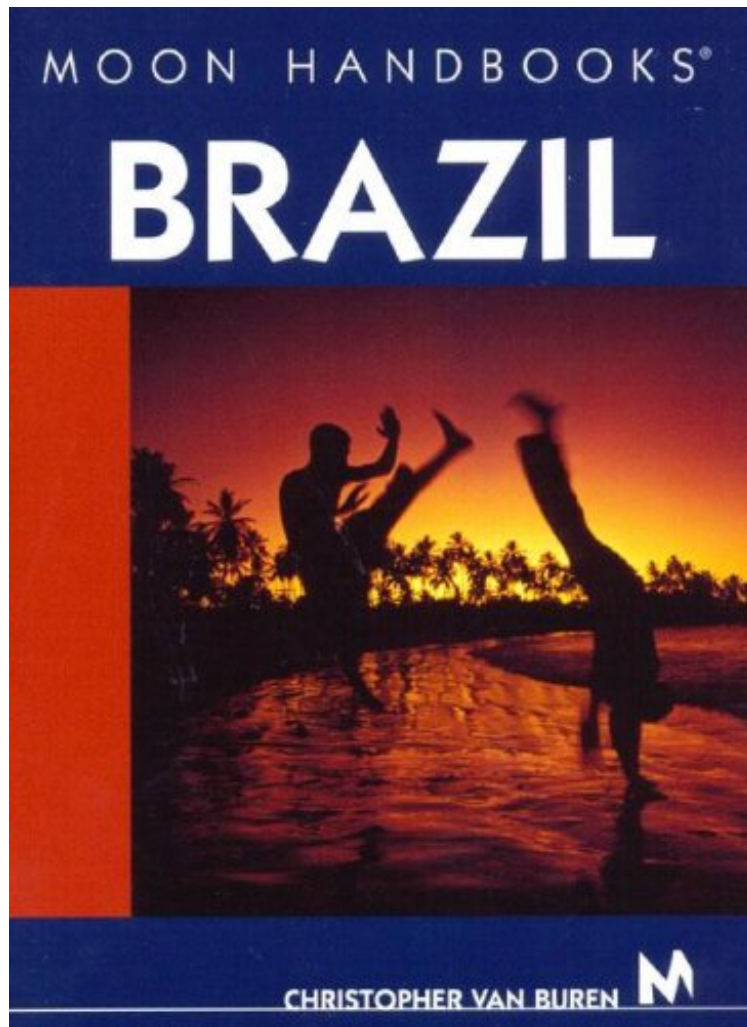


## Moon Handbooks Brazil

*Christopher Van Buren*  
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**Christopher Van Buren : Moon Handbooks Brazil** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Moon Handbooks Brazil:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Rio part is mostly wrongBy Igor NovgorodtsevThe Rio part of this book is replete with gross errors. Some of the restaurant prices are 2 to 3 times what they are listed in the book. One of restaurants that is listed as a bargain is, in fact, one of the most expensive in Rio.The maps of Rio are plain awful, they simply show "points of interest" that are two or three blocks off their actual location. I am not talking about one or two, but more like half that I have tried to find...Kinda makes you wonder if the author has been to Rio at all...0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Author knows NOTHING about Joao Pessoa, BrazilBy J. FoleyI wanted to go to Brazil to find out more about what the people were like. I bumped into a great guy at a Brazilian band in Illinois. He invited me to Joao Pessoa, Brazil. I was determined to learn enough Portuguese so I could take the bus, talk with

people etc. I know some high school Spanish- 4 years. So I listened to Pimsleur Portuguese tapes for about 150 hours. I could put together some sentences with my dictionary, but most importantly I could understand the words most people were saying to me even if I didn't know what they meant. Then I could look them up in my dictionary. I read this travel guide AFTER I returned from staying for a month in Joao Pessoa, Brazil - the easternmost point on South America that sticks out into the Atlantic. The author says in Joao Pessoa the beaches are dirty and littered with coconuts and that the transportation in the city is bad. He was wrong on both counts. This guy doesn't even know anybody in Joao Pessoa, so how would he know about the city or any other city where he doesn't know anyone? The author doesn't mention the friendly people. He doesn't mention them because he probably only breezed through the place. If you are an American, about once a week you will have someone offer to show you around or give you their number-mostly ladies if you are a guy. I met some frescobol [paddleball] players who showed me how to play. I played every weekend for a month! The author doesn't mention frescobol on the beach does he? But he talks about coconuts littering the beach. I never saw them! I met some great friends playing frescobol at the beach. There is a great bus system! Always a bus to the beach. I went to an area 5 miles from my hotel at the beach. I didn't see the bus back right away, but I did see an unofficial taxi [private people stop their car and wait for people to walk up to get a ride into town]. I got a ride - quickly with the unofficial taxi and met some women that I talked with. This NEVER would have happened if I had depended on the author's advice. He doesn't know anything about how this city works. I could tell you more about it and more interesting stories. From another reviewer Halcyon: "However, the restaurant and hotel recommendations were terrible. I often wondered if the person had ever been to these places! We visited two of the "specially" recommended hotels in Natal. The first one was a real dump and the other had burned down! We found this to be true of all the recommended hotels and pretty much stopped using the book for this purpose." Just proves the author probably did not go to all the places [ a friend says travel writing can be like this ] or just went to the city and asked someone what they recommended but did not see it for himself. A friend says that Lonely Planet travel books-view of backpackers and budget people he thinks are fairly accurate. I think you will learn more by making a friend before you go to Brazil. Talk to people on Skype, teach them English and after a while you could get an invitation. They will show you around and tell you the real story about how things are and work in the country. Or you can read some inaccurate book and just take a bus tour and look at churches for two weeks- boring. You'll never know the real Brazil.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Good guide for historical perspective - bad maps and recommendationsBy HalcyonI just returned from a four week trip around Brazil. I took this guide and Let's Go Brazil. This guide was very useful from an information point of view. The author gave a lot of background into the country's history and culture.However, the restaurant and hotel recommendations were terrible. I often wondered if the person had ever been to these places! We visited two of the "specially" recommended hotels in Natal. The first one was a real dump and the other had burned down! We found this to be true of all the recommended hotels and pretty much stopped using the book for this purpose.The prices were also wildly off. I expected some discrepancy between the book prices and the real prices, but not to the extent we encountered. In Salvador we tried one of the moderately priced restaurants. It turned out to be one of our most expensive meals, and not one of our most memorable either.The maps in this book are also wildly off. In Salvador, some of the most important landmarks were put on the wrong spot. We also encountered problems with other maps. The Rio one seemed to be okay though.Overall, I'd recommend this book for someone who wants some background information on the country and its culture. However, I wouldn't rely on the hotel or restaurant recommendations or the maps. Buy another guide for that.

From taking in the view of Rio de Janeiro from the Cristo monument and exploring the world-famous architecture in Brasilia to relaxing on the sunny beaches of Salvador, Moon Handbooks Brazil is the guide to the best the country has to offer, both on and off the beaten path. Practical information includes suggested travel strategies and lists of must-see sights, plus essentials on dining, transportation, and accommodations for a range of budgets. Complete with details for romantic getaways in Sao Paulo, jungle trips in the Amazon, or going on a safari in the Brazilian Pantanal, Moon Handbooks Brazil gives travelers the tools they need to create a more personal and memorable experience.