



Brazil's beaches: Rio de Janeiro's South Atlantic beaches have long exerted a legendary allure.

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# On the road to Rio

## Brazil's capital city spruces up for Earth Summit

By JAMES BROOKS  
NEW YORK TIMES SYNDICATE

Back in the days when environmentalists called themselves naturalists and traveled by steamship, Rio de Janeiro's green forests, gray granite hills and south Atlantic beaches exerted a legendary allure.

So it is appropriate, 30,000 environmentalists have descended by jet on Rio, a tropical city where nature is never far from view.

Formally called the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the meeting will last until June 14.

Preparing for what may be modern history's largest environmental gathering, Rio's city leaders have invested heavily, hoping to reverse in one stroke a negative image of crime and decay.

From Rio's newly refurbished international airport visitors will speed down a specially constructed five-mile superhighway that feeds into tunnels leading to the South

### TRAVEL

ern Zone's beachfront neighborhoods.

Along 20 miles of open ocean beaches, from Copacabana to Barra da Tijuca, new sidewalks, new bicycle paths, new food kiosks, tightened water pollution control and improved police protection have restored Rio's special lure: the urban beach.

Despite its surface sensuality, however, Rio is not a Caribbean resort but a city of 6 million people, largely poor, and street crime is a serious problem.

Avoid pickpockets by walking in the same alert way you would in the downtown streets of a large American city. Leave your hotel with the minimum — a cheap watch, a photocopy of your passport, enough cash for the day and, if necessary, a camera hidden in an old shopping bag.

### Cultural events

At the Museum of Modern Art, at 85 Avenida Infante Dom Henrique, six expositions will take place. There is a \$2 charge for entrance to all of them.

Until July 26, noon to 9 p.m., the Eco Art 92 gathering of 129 artists from the Americas will exhibit their paintings in ecology. Concurrently, there will be an exhibit by Franz Kraljic, a renowned Brazilian artist. For more information call 210-2188.

There are two English-language, event-oriented programs on Rio radio: "That Man in Rio" every day from 6 p.m. to 6:05 p.m. on Tropical FM 104.5 and Eco Radio on Imprensa FM (102.1) from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. until June 20.

Tips on how to avoid muggers will be given every morning on ECO Radio by Ronald Higgs, the British mastermind of the 1960s Great Train Heist, who has lived in Rio since 1970.

The way to truly enjoy Rio's ex-

uberant flora and fauna is on foot. For \$1 admission the doors swing open at the Botanical Garden, in the neighborhood of the same name, Jardim Botânico.

One square kilometer of greenery planted in the heart of the city, the 184-year-old garden contains 6,200 species of plants and trees from all over the tropics. Spruced up with its largest cleanup in 40 years, the garden's well-kept paths are ideal for quiet walks and quiet talks. The garden is open Tuesday through Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visitors who do not have the time to fly 2,000 miles north to the Amazon will be happy to discover that an untouched chunk of rain forest is a 20-minute \$10 cab ride from downtown Rio.

Tijuca National Forest, a dense, 13-square-mile tangle of Atlantic jungle, is considered the largest urban forest in the world. Hikers routinely get lost, marooned in the wilderness after a few miles from a city of 6 million people.

Brazil Nuts, a travel agency here, offers a Tijuca National Park Ecology hike — a six-hour, \$50-a-person program that includes a guided hike to the 3,350-foot summit of Tijuca Mountain and a stop for lunch (\$10 extra) at the Floresta Restaurant, an 18th-century house renowned for the hummingbirds on its veranda.

On most tours here, prices are lower for larger groups. For more information call Brazil Nuts in Rio 511-8236, or Brazil Nuts in Fairfield, Conn. (800) 553-9559.

Another colonial structure worth visiting is the Acade Museum, at Estrada do Acade, Alta do Boa Vista. Surrounded by walking trails and endowed with a rare collection of Portuguese tiles, this museum on the edge of Tijuca park reopened May 30 after extensive renovations.

Indeed, in preparation for the Earth Summit, 240 workers have been cleaning trails and sprucing up the park. The museum will be open from Thursday to Sunday, 10

a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is 40 cents.

What to do  
In a city filled with fresh-air excursions a newly popular outing is to rent bicycles and pedal down the new paths alongside beaches or around Rio's Internal lagoon.

Bicycles can be rented for \$2 an hour from a tattooed young sufferer named Jabson who operates the southernmost food stand on Leblon's oceanfront avenue, Delfim Moreira, near Rua Rita Ludolf. (Prices may briefly balloon during the Earth Summit.)

To master Rio's confusing geography of hills, tunnels and beaches, first-time visitors traditionally have climbed to Rio's landmark statue, Christ the Redeemer, at the top of 2,929-foot Corcovado Mountain. Access is by taxi or funicular train which leaves every hour during daylight from 513 Rua Cosme Velho.

The visit has been improved by a recently completed \$2 million overhaul of the 61-year-old statue.

# Terrain influences couple's pottery, weaving

By EVERETT POTTER  
SPECIAL WRITER



One of the most charming, evocative places in Ireland is the Dingle Peninsula.

On the map it juts out like a finger from the southwestern corner of Ireland. Dingle is the northernmost of five such peninsulas, the most famous being the Ring of Kerry.

It is mountainous with gentle, sweeping valleys. In some areas the cliffs dip into a raging Atlantic Ocean. Sun, wind and rain often occur at once; the colors of the sea and sky are always changing.

The land is sparsely populated and Irish is the first language. Many visitors come to see the area's array of Iron Age fortifications and early Christian monuments.

The Dingle peninsula is also home to Louis Mulcahy, one of Ireland's best-known potters. A former TV cameraman for RTE, the national network, Mulcahy is a self-

taught ceramicist who left Dublin and moved to the remote village of Clogher in 1975 with his wife Lisbeth, who is Danish.

"We began as a two-man operation," Mulcahy says, "and now we employ 23 people here at the pottery, mostly locals. There's lots of unemployment in this part of the country, and we walk a knife's edge trying to keep young people from emigrating."

Indeed, the Dingle peninsula is not an easy place to make a living. While the region is dotted with picturesque cottages, many of them are holiday homes, inhabited only a few weeks a year.

But the Mulcahys have braved a sparse resident population and the vicissitudes of the climate.

In fact, they use elements of the landscape in their crafts. The forms and glazes of Mulcahy's pottery, which is popular throughout Ireland and abroad, display the colors of the landscape.

The designs are simple, sensuous and strong. The glazes are as full of contradiction as the Irish sky. For example, a blue glaze is never solid blue, but mottled with green and gray.

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Louis Mulcahy

Among the most affordable buys are bowls, which display Mulcahy's glazes very well and range from about \$29 to about \$60. Dingle oil lamps are about \$13. Table lamps can be fitted for American electrical service. They range from about \$35 to about \$108.

The tall planters and urns for which Mulcahy is well-known start at about \$90. A bathroom vanity sink about 15½ inches in diameter, available in a variety of glazes, is about \$110.

A pale-blue dinner service for six, with the pieces edged in terracotta, is about \$389. A tea set for six is about \$143 and a copperium set is about \$63. All these pieces can be shipped to the United States.

Lisbeth Mulcahy, a weaver, owns The Weavers' Shop in the town of Dingle, a charming seaport in the heart of the peninsula.

Located in a 60-year-old house on Green Street, the two-story shop is filled with hand-loomed articles which she designed.

Throughout the day visitors hear the timeless and hypnotic clacking and banging sound of one of the shop's four looms as Mulcahy patiently makes shawls and rugs.

Like her husband, Lisbeth Mulcahy is influenced by the look of Dingle's terrain — and she actually uses the natural plant dye from local plants in some of the knee rugs and shawls.

Mulcahy uses only natural fibers to make scarves of alpaca or linen

and cotton. Her wall hangings and floor rugs are made of wool or colored yarn.

Gossamer light linen/cotton scarves are about \$17.50, alpaca scarves are about \$22. Finely woven wool shawls in majestic color combinations of purple and black or purple and green are about \$98.

Shawls are about \$30 and floor rugs that could double as wall hangings range from about \$316 to about \$687. Soft knee rugs, perfect for cushioning in front of a fire, are about \$48. All items can be shipped to the United States.

Both Mulcahys keep a small stock of each other's wares at their respective shops. Keep in mind that 21 percent of each item's price is the value added tax, which is refundable on leaving the country.

For information contact Louis Mulcahy, Pottery at Clogher, Ballyferrier, Dingle, Co. Kerry, Ireland, or call 011-353-66-56229.

For information contact Lisbeth Mulcahy, The Weavers' Shop, Green Street, Dingle, Co. Kerry, Ireland, or call 011-353-66-51688.



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