



# CULTURAL COURSES: MUSIC IN BRAZIL

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Sun, Samba, Energy, Capoeira, Music, Laughter and the fabulous and lavish Carnaval ... Brazil has all of this and much more.**

**If you are looking for an injection of life to make you feel alive, Brazil is the place for you!**

This tropical paradise is alive with mad passion in every walk of life. *Axe* (a-chay) means energy in Brazil and nowhere else is the heart-pounding, rhythmic energy more prevalent, be it an impromptu capoeira roda on a street corner, bursting with music, excitement and physical perfection, or the sound of loud raucous laughter between two acquaintances over ice cold beer in local open sided bars.



**What could make for a more perfect setting in which to while away the hours spending time developing your *love & understanding* of music??**

Music is part of the Brazilian soul, rhythm flows through each and every conversation, ebbing its way down into the way the people walk, and in the way they live their lives day-by-day. Music in Brazil is everywhere – it can be found in a complex rhythmic pattern beaten out by an old man with his fingers on a cafe table, or, rolling down in the thundering beat of samba echoing from the hills around Rio in the months leading up to Carnival.

***Music is a passport to happiness for Brazilians, an escape from everyday frustrations and (for most) a hard and difficult material life. "There's an amazing magical, mystical quality to Brazilian music. Their music is paradise," says jazz flutist Herbie Mann.***

Over the course of the last five centuries, Portuguese, African, and -to a lesser extent - Amerindian rhythms, dances, and harmonies have been mixing together, altering old styles and creating new forms of music.

***In Brazil you choose: Music is a very personal and very individual love. No two people will share entirely the same taste – and certainly musicians are no different. Abilities, experience, tastes, preferences range immensely.***

**This is why you choose!** Whether you want to be thrown in at the deep end and be immersed in your passion or, you would rather simply devote a proportion of your time to your music during the week/s leaving time to also explore other interests. **It's entirely up to you** – we will work as closely to your preferences as we can to ensure you get the absolute most from your time studying music with us in Brazil. Whether you go to study percussion in Foz, or, you chose to play the piano in Rio– *it's up to you!*



Because Music is such an individual passion most music placements are arranged specifically for the individual – however, some music course placements do cater for the dynamics of the group over the individual.

**Simply let us know your choice of instrument/s, musical preferences / tastes / styles, ability level and experience, and of course the experience that you're looking for and we'll do the rest!**

**You decide whether** your placement will be based in the modern town of Foz do Iguacu, where you can enjoy soaking up the sun in the looming shadow of its neighbours, Argentina and Paraguay - both of which can be found sitting just across the river from you, along of course with the simply awesome presence and power of the world's largest waterfall - **the grand Iguacu Falls.**

**Or, whether you decide** to be located in the heart and soul of Brazil, in one of the world's most talked about cities, **Rio de Janeiro.** Both destinations have similarly equally appealing experiences to offer.



### **Most Brazilian music shares three outstanding qualities:**

It has an intense lyricism tied to its Portuguese heritage that often makes for beautiful, highly expressive melodies, enhanced by the fact that Portuguese is one of the most musical tongues on the earth and no small gift to the ballad singer. Second, a high level of poetry is present in the lyrics of much Brazilian popular music. And last, vibrant Afro-Brazilian rhythms energize most Brazilian songs, from samba to *baião*.

### **Samba**

Among the different styles that make up what is known as Brazilian music, samba stands out as the most characteristic and popular, both in Brazil and abroad.

Its origins can be traced to the 17th century Bahia, where slaves captured in Angola and Congo landed, divulging their *semba* gatherings (at the time called *umbigada*, or belly bumping). At the closing of the 19th century, the city of Rio de Janeiro - at the time the country's capital - became Brazil major cultural centre, where melting pot of rhythms of diverse origins, such as the Polka, the Lundu, the Habanera, the Maxime, would blend with the old African Rhythm from the semba gatherings...generating the samba in the process.



In the beginning of the 20th century, the neighbourhoods adjacent to downtown Rio - Estácio, Saúde, and Praça Onze, became the ultimate bastion of this genuinely Brazilian rhythm. That was where the "bairanas", affectionally called "aunts" by the people, settled.

They were based on the traditional figure cut by heavy-set women from the state of Bahia. Wearing their wide, white garbs, swaying to their own rhythms, they contributed to this "migratory movement", which hastened the blending of those styles, culminating in the creation of samba.

As well as traditional sweets and goodies, the "aunts" from Bahia brought the tradition of religious syncretism in their back yard celebrations, aligning profane and religious traditions, always swayed by great music. The most famous of those celebrations were held at Aunt Ciata's where young and talented musicians and composers of that period, among them Pixinguinha, João da Bateria and Donga, would get together. The latter, a habitué in those celebrations and son of famous Aunt Amélia, recorded in 1917 what many believe to have been "the first samba to be recorded": *Pelo Telefone*. The music contrived in Aunt Ciata's back yard was sort of a collective creation, the first part of which had permanent lyrics (usually by an unknown author) and the second part made up of verses improvised on the spot.

Performed at batuque gatherings in Rio de Janeiro, several names were used to define it: caxambú, jongo, partido alto, and, later, samba and batucada. Disseminated from Estácio to the rest of the city, different kinds of sambas emerged, such as samba-cancão, samba-exaltação, samba de breque, samba de terreiro, samba the partido alto, samba enredo, etc.

### **Foz do Iguacu - Placement Centres**

Music centres in Foz do Iguacu are split between those found right outside your door; such as the Beethoven Music School - at a short hop, skip and a jump. While the others simply require a short bus ride to reach them, such as possibility of studying



percussion with the *Jeba do Cavaco*, who is based just on the edge of town. Regardless of location – we are sure that you will find the experience a truly exceptional one. *Additional information will happily be provided on request in respect of the specific placement being sought.*



### Percussion with ‘*Jeba do Cavaco*’

*Jeba do Cavaco* – He is known by that nickname due to the instrument he can play ‘with his hand behind his back’ – the “cavaco”, which is one of the most popular samba instruments.

Jeba, or Jefferson (for those who prefer calling him by his full name) was born in the town of Foz and grew up in a family of percussionists, being introduced to the music world when he was still a baby.

Nowadays, Jeba is considered the best “cavaquinista” (cavaco player) and percussion player in the region, and is also the singer of the most popular samba group in Foz called *Muvuca do Samba*, which can be translated as “*Mess in the samba*”.

The group enjoys a wonderful reputation which is well-earned. They are well-known, not only locally in Foz, but across the breadth of the country, with the group having travelled as far as Rio de Janeiro to perform. Rio is in fact the group’s birth place and spiritual home, and the brothers are known as “*Cariocas*” (the term given to someone born in Rio). Now though, *Muvuca do Samba* has made the town of Foz do Iguacu their home, which gives you the opportunity of studying with them.

*Muvuca do Samba* performs “*Samba Pagode*” which is a style of slow Samba that is very popular in the Foz do Iguacu and the Parana region. *Pagodes* are popular party-style gatherings, and this is where this type of samba originated from. The atmosphere is totally casual - often around a table. Musicians play and take turns, listeners join in singing, people dance (often without a break until dawn) - forgetting their troubles and celebrating life. A *Pagode* is a place where the young and old alike can hone their musical skills.

***Jeba’s Course Location:*** The location for lessons will be their studio which is located just a short distance from one of our longest serving voluntary projects in Foz do Iguacu - *Nosso Lar*. The studio is just a short bus ride away from your accommodation. The cost of transport to-and-from your lessons are included in price of your placement.

### Music with the Beethoven Music School, Foz do Iguacu:

The school is located less than 5 minutes walk from your accommodation. It’s a compact but warm centre – with a good infrastructure. All instruments are provided by the school – although it is still recommended where possible to bring your own instrument for practicing purposes.

The school provided for lessons in the following instruments: The piano, keyboard, organ, guitar, violin and flute among others. *Please enquire for further details.*

Lessons are taught on a one-to-one basis and are able to be held in either the mornings or the afternoons, thus allowing for your music lessons to be combined with one or more of the other activities available - whether its volunteering in the crèche, coaching sports, or, perhaps learning the language. Lessons usually last for approximately 40 minutes.

### Foz do Iguacu - Placement Availability

Foz is just the same as Rio with Music Course Placements revolving around the national academic calendar; breaking for two weeks in the month of July and then again for an extended break from the middle of December through until after the carnival has finished, which is normally by mid-to-late February.

However don’t be despondent as this isn’t true of all our music courses on offer, many run through out the year. *Again, please do enquire for further information on the possibilities available to you.*

### Foz do Iguacu - Food & Accommodation

You’ll stay in a very comfortable hotel downtown - very conveniently located for your transport needs, local centres / schools, supermarkets, shops, ‘dining & wining’ - close to the hub of all the activity, and perfect for all your needs. The staff are all very helpful & friendly, and they are good sources of information about what to see and where to go in the region. You will share a room with one or maybe two other Travellers volunteers depending on the type of room provided. You will, if sharing, be paired with someone of the same sex, who is also a Travellers volunteer - unless of course otherwise requested (please do so well in advance!).



### Volunteer Feedback:



**NAME:** Jessica Alsan  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** 30 April 1985  
**NATIONALITY:** British

This is a letter from Jessica to Ana, our Foz Organiser, after she'd finished her placement:

Hi Ana I'm fine!! how are you? it is good to hear from you, how is Foz? I imagine that it is a lot hotter there then here now, I'd much rather be there! I didn't get your last email, sorry, my computer puts a lot of my proper emails into the trash which is annoying to say the least. HAVe you any news from Foz? I am still in contact with Sally, Sophie and the boys which is nice, have you any new volunteers out there now? I will definitely be coming back to Brazil at some point, i loved Rio and will definitely be back for more! I will write the feedback on this email, I hope that is ok:

The percussion placement that I had in Brazil taught me so much about Brazilian percussion and also improved my musicality generally. The level at which I studied was just right for me, and I know that Marquinos would have adapted to make the lessons easier or harder had my level of musicianship been different. I would recommend this placement to beginners and professionals alike, I think that one would be hard pressed to find such an expert musician dedicating so much time to teaching in England. The language barrier was not a problem at all, even though I didn't speak a word of Portuguese, it was really easy for Marquinos to convey to me how I needed to improve and what I needed to do to learn the technique of Samba drumming. I learnt the percussion on a range of instruments, though mainly concentrating on the congas and the pandeiro. These are particularly tricky instruments to learn, and the lessons were extremely thorough. I feel that I came away from Brazil a confident conga player, and have took years longer to get up to an equivalent standard with one lesson a week on the violin when I was younger.

For a professional percussionist I think that they would benefit a lot from these lessons. There are several reasons for this, starting with the range of instruments available to be learnt to the totally different rhythmic systems used. As a classically trained musician I feel like I have learned a totally new musical language, as well as ways in which to play hand hit percussion, which is a lot more technically challenging then one would think.

Of course if the percussionist is a professional samba musician at the top of his game they may not benefit from the lessons, but I know a lot of professional percussionists who I have now begun teaching samba percussion classes myself and who are also learning totally new things to them. Overall I would whole heartedly recommend these lessons, and feel that they have changed my perspective on the different ways in which rhythm can be used in many different genres of music.

If you need any other info just ask. good to hear from you Ana, send my love to everyone in sunny Foz!!  
 Take care,  
 Jess



-o-

## THE NEXT STEP

If you would like to join us on one of our exciting projects then please fill in either an online application form at our website ([www.travellersworldwide.com](http://www.travellersworldwide.com)) or one that is attached to our brochure. Once you have booked and confirmed your place we will send you detailed pack information regarding your placement and country.

**I do hope you join us and please do call or email if you have any questions at all about this or any of our other projects – 01903 502595 or email [info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com)**

**If you would like to know more about Travellers in general, or about any of our other projects we run in over 18 countries worldwide, please visit our website at [www.travellersworldwide.com](http://www.travellersworldwide.com)**

**TRAVELLERS WORLDWIDE**  
 7 Mulberry Close  
 Ferring



West Sussex,  
BN12 5HY, England  
Tel: +44 (0)1903 502595  
Fax: +44 (0)1903 500364  
Email: [info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com)

**Travellers are very proud to introduce their new Division, TEFL Time!** Get qualified to teach English as a Foreign Language. TEFL Time runs professional UK based weekend and online courses - see [www.tefltime.com](http://www.tefltime.com) for details.

