

IRACAMBI INFORMATION PACK

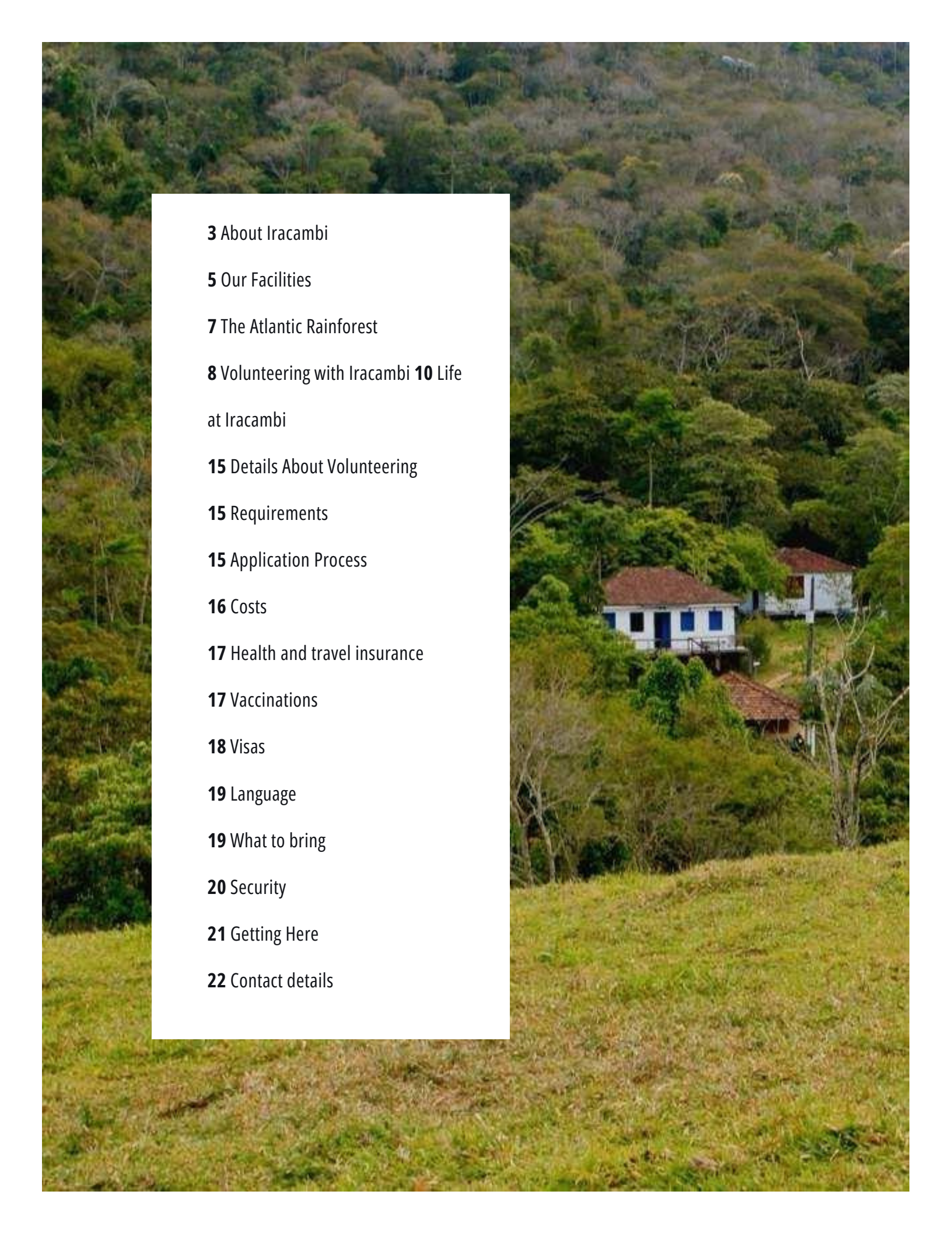
Iracambi Research and Conservation Center

Saving forests, changing lives

Iracambi Research and Conservation Center | 2024 v1.3

IRACAMBI
Atlantic Rainforest - Brazil





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About Iracambi

The Iracambi Research and Conservation Center is located in the county of Rosário da Limeira, approximately 6km from the boundary of the Serra do Brigadeiro State Park, which is part of the UN Biosphere Reserve and shelters the most important remnant of seasonal semi-deciduous Atlantic Forest in the state of Minas Gerais.

Iracambi focuses on conserving, restoring and protecting the extraordinary biodiversity of the Atlantic Forest, working alongside the local community to promote sustainable development. Our vision is to see the beautiful Brazilian Atlantic Forest restored, with prosperous communities living in a flourishing landscape, and our programs are designed to include applied research and practical techniques of conservation.

In addition to our goals of sustainability and conservation of the Atlantic Forest, Iracambi runs environmental education programs for local schoolchildren with the objective of raising a new generation of Young Eco Leaders. We also host group visits where students and teachers can learn about the native species and conservation of the Atlantic Forest.



Iracambi is a non-governmental, non-profit organization founded in 1999 that works with the community to make the conservation of the Atlantic Rainforest more attractive than its destruction. With a mission to save forests and change lives.

In 2015 we were the Grand Winner in the Peer Awards for Excellence as well as individual winner in the Volunteer category and also Educating the Community.

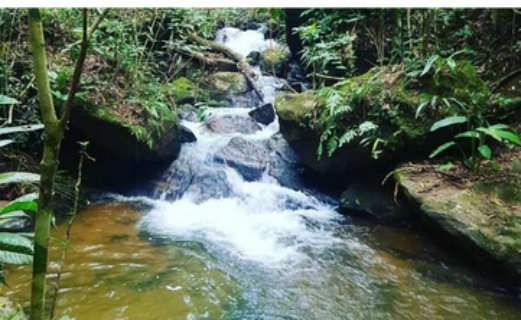
In 2016 we won the International Life Sciences Awards as the Best Non-Governmental Organization for Tropical Forest Preservation.

Our Facilities



- ♦ Central house is where volunteers, interns, guests, researchers and visitors can stay, with accommodation for 2 people in 2 bedrooms, two bathrooms with hot showers, and a fully equipped kitchen.
- ♦ 4 individual cabins, each accommodating 4 people in 2 bedrooms, all with hot showers, study space, tables, chairs and storage space.
- ♦ Multi-use space used as office/classroom and study area, space for up to 50 people and multimedia projection.
- ♦ Computer which houses the Iracambi GIS and its database of maps, some of which are online. <https://goo.gl/GWQD1u>
- ♦ Dining area with capacity for up to 40 people which can also be used for exhibitions and meetings.
- ♦ Laboratory equipped with stereoscopes, basic glassware, benches, tables, sinks and trap cameras for fauna monitoring.
- ♦ Pico da Graminha Forest Reserve (4 km from the Center) with Mountain House where you can take a break.
- ♦ Multi-use Forest House with classroom and exhibition space.

- ♦ Forest Nursery containing 15.000 seedlings for our reforestry project.
- ♦ Five forest trails in the area immediately surrounding the Center and a further two within a couple of kilometers.
- ♦ Tool shed.
- ♦ Photo library containing hundreds of photographs taken by volunteers and researchers.
- ♦ Online library of Iracambi research projects.
- ♦ Experimental coffee plantation with shaded coffee and agroforestry.



THE ATLANTIC RAINFOREST

One of the world's top five biodiversity hotspots, the Atlantic Forest is a place of extraordinary beauty and a treasure house of biodiversity. The Brazilian Atlantic Forest once covered approximately 330 million acres, but today, tragically, only 7% remain, and much of its immense variety of fauna and flora is severely threatened by habitat loss.

Even so, these forests contain an extraordinary amount of endangered and endemic species, found only in this region, such as:

- 80% of its primates,
- 74% of its bromeliads,
- 64% of its palm varieties,
- 54% of its trees,
- 40% of its mammals, butterflies, reptiles, amphibians and birds.

For its size, the Atlantic Forest contains an even richer variety of habitat for flora and fauna than the Amazon Forest, along with the world's largest diversity of woody plants per hectare (458 species.) While in the whole of North America approximately 810 bird species have been registered, the state of Minas Gerais (with an area slightly smaller than the state of Texas) contains 750 species. In the forests around Iracambi the list, still incomplete, has already reached 260 species.

Iracambi is located in the buffer zone of the Serra do Brigadeiro State Park. The park's craggy mountains and deep ravines protect an extraordinary range of biodiversity, including the largest known population of *Brachyteles hypoxanthus*, the Woolly Spider or Muriqui monkey.

Volunteering at Iracambi



Reforestation: You'll find our nursery manager hard at work every day, and you can help him plant new seedlings, harvest seeds, and take care of the seedlings to be planted. Our model of forest restoration includes education, advocacy, a lot of work in the nursery during the rest of the year, and large scale community involvement. This project needs most help during the wet season -normally November through March, but this can vary from year to year.



Agroforestry: Volunteers help offsite in a project of analog agroforestry: an approach to sustainable farming that enables a new model of food production dynamics together with natural regeneration of the forest.



Therapies of the Forest: Understanding and learning the medicinal and healing capacities of the native plants from the Rainforest, developing recipes for natural cosmetics and learning how to integrate those medicinal properties on said products. Nurturing and maintaining the medicinal plants garden.



Trail Maintenance: We have a system of forest trails which is used by researchers, schoolchildren, volunteers and visitors to Iracambi. The trails require regular maintenance, signage and cleaning.

Reserve Maintenance and Gardening: If you are interested in getting your hands dirty and helping us, this place is right for you.

Wildlife Surveillance: Use Camera Traps and other techniques to monitor fauna activity in the surrounding area, and pinpoint the existence (or lack) of particular species. This involves cataloging animals and plants, taking pictures, making notes and identifying the different species.



GIS: Collecting data for mapping a new reforestation trial area and marking out the trial plots. This is ongoing work and it depends on your interest and skills. <https://goo.gl/GWQD1u>

Ecosystem Monitoring: Iracambi has a lot of work to do putting together this information every month, and volunteers are more than welcome to help us in this very important process that integrates with the GIS system.



Photographers and Movie Producers: Volunteers are welcome to make videos, photos and any type of audiovisual production. We also plan to produce a video every month with the volunteers who are present to showcase our activities.

Communications: Improving our website and social media, creating informative videos, creating material for students and universities about everything we offer, writing grants and fundraising, seeking partners for our organization - all part of giving us greater visibility, attracting more people and increasing our impact.



Environmental Education: Working in local schools with our program of environmental education Young Eco Leaders.

Fundraising Assistant: Help our fundraiser look for new partners, companies and associates which have the same interests and values as Iracambi, thereby helping our NGO to have an ever wider impact.



Volunteer Coordinator Assistant: Your job is to understand what the NGO has to offer, and help our volunteers make the most of their time at Iracambi.

Your own project: At Iracambi you are welcome to create your own project and figure out new ways of helping the environment and the community. Several ideas have already been developed by former volunteers, and have been very successful. Be the change you want to see!



Life at Iracambi

Iracambi is what you make of it...



Studying, interning, volunteering or visiting Iracambi provides you with a fantastic opportunity to be part of a lifestyle that is likely very different from what you are used to. You will be sharing the Research and Conservation Center with people of many different nationalities, backgrounds, skills, ages and interest, and everything right in the center of Atlantic Rainforest.



You be living either in the Center itself or in one of the four cabins. The Center, which is +75 years old, has four bedrooms, each hosting up two people, a living room, library and two bathrooms. The cabins each have two bedrooms, bathroom and a living room. The houses are well maintained and have electricity, hot showers and wireless access 24 hours a day.

We have a restaurant, that provides three delicious meals a day.



Rae Merrigan

"I spent a month in the Atlantic forest volunteering at Iracambi. It is a beautiful and tranquil location in Minas Gerais, Brazil, where you can connect with nature, stumble across prehistoric trees, swim in watering holes, climb mountains in time to watch the sunrise and gaze at the starry night sky.

Perhaps more importantly, it is a special place because of the people you will meet. The staff are passionate about saving the forest and have dedicated their lives to it. Binka and Robin have years of stories to share about their conservation work and how they came to reforest former farmland.

Iracambi will be what you make of it - so make the most of your time there. Get involved in any way you can, volunteer your skills and your creativity to help enact the change that is needed to keep their great work alive!"

***“Iracambi is what
you make of it...”***

Carlos Nunez

"I've been for 1 month in Iracambi center, I met many people from States, Europe and Mexico. It has been a pleasure to work with them as a team, sometimes hard work and sometimes very relaxing.



The landscape is beautiful but still needs a lot of work to become as it was before, and I'm sure that Iracambi, the local communities and people who collaborate with these projects will reach it.

Thank you for trying it!!"



Weekend Activities

- ♦ **Hiking with or without camping:** If you enjoy hiking, we're sure you'll love Iracambi, as there are a lot of places to see!
- ♦ **Itajuru Peak:** 1,585 meters. Located at the southern end of the Serra do Brigadeiro State Park. It's a great option for hiking or camping.
- ♦ **Graminha Peak:** 1,350 meters. Located only a three hour walk from Iracambi, it is one of the most beautiful views of the whole region, especially at sunrise.
- ♦ **Cruzeiro Peak:** 1,144 meters. Located in the neighboring county of Ervália, it's another great hiking option. Around seven hours.
- ♦ **Bandeira Peak:** 2,892 meters. It is the third highest peak in Brazil and the highest accessible to hikers. Located in the National Park of Caparaó, 170 km from Iracambi, it's ideal for three or four days of activities in this paradise.

- ♦ **High Trail:** Part of the Iracambi trail system, this is located in the forest reserve. Here we photographed the mountain lion and you can also see monkeys, camp out and glimpse a beautiful sunrise.

- ♦ **Secret Valley Trail:** Part of the Iracambi trail system leading to forest monitoring plots, it's an interesting trail which you can combine with a walk through the Serra das Aranhas community.

- ♦ **Waterfall Trail:** Part of the Iracambi trail system, we cross the stream of crystal clear water to our waterfall with several points for bathing along the way.

- ♦ **Dawn Trail:** Part of the Iracambi trail system, leading to the highest part of the Research Center area, where you can observe a beautiful sunrise.

- ♦ **Nature Trail:** Part of the Iracambi trail system, it runs through the Research Center area and comes out in the Bamboo Forest.

- ♦ **Medicinal Plants Trail:** Part of the Iracambi trail system, follow the signs and check out some of our medicinal plants.

- ♦ **Waterfalls:** If you like to swim, you will find several natural places to swim along our crystalline water streams that form pools and waterfalls.

Social events:

- ♦ **Bonfires:** We often make a bonfire on the weekends, and bonfires are almost always accompanied by Caipirinha, a traditional and famous Brazilian drink.
- ♦ **Local festivals:** Whenever there are local parties and feast days in the communities or in Rosário da Limeira we join in. It's a great way of interacting with the community and also having fun.

**MUCH MORE
THAN WALKS AND
MOUNTAINS...**





Details About Volunteering

Requirements


- Your minimum stay must be 3 weeks,
- You should be able to speak English or Portuguese at a high level,
- You must be over 18 years of age.

The work in Iracambi is very varied, so we have no specific requirements. Do bring a sense of adventure, a willingness to fit in, and a sense of humor.

However, we require volunteers to submit their resume (CV) and conduct a brief interview prior to the selection, we have limited space and we must consider the needs of Iracambi since we can not accommodate all volunteers who apply.

Application process

The application process is extremely easy and fast:

- [Fill out the brief online application form](#)  and send it with your resume (CV) attached.
- Once we receive your online application, we will get back to you to arrange an online meeting.
- If we accept your position in Iracambi, we wait until your \$100 deposit is made to confirm your position.
- The last step is for you to send us a copy of your health and travel insurance (preferably one month before your arrival).



Your placement is only confirmed upon receipt of your deposit. If for any reason you decide to cancel, this deposit is non refundable. We will provide specific payment options by email.

Costs

Period	Price	To be paid when
Non-refundable Deposit	\$100	10 business days after initial meeting
Per week (if you stay less than a month)	\$210	10 business days before the arrival
Per month	\$800	10 business days before the arrival

The Deposit is important to guarantee your spot at Iracambi. After you pay the fees of your stay we will discount the Deposit from it.

The fees covers volunteer accommodation, internet access 24 hours a day, 3 meals a day (breakfast, lunch and dinner) at the restaurant at Iracambi. Also project costs and investments.

Volunteers are responsible for the payment of additional costs, such as travel costs, visa costs, etc. In addition, you may also want to go out for dinner and do weekend activities.

The cost of dinner outside Iracambi(without drinks) ranges from 15 to 30 reais. The cost of the tours (including a guide, equipment and entrance fee) comes to about 100 to 140 reais depending on the activity and how many volunteers come.

The currency in Brazil is Real. Check with your bank to see if your cards will work in Brazil, be sure to memorize your pin code, and inform your credit card company that you will be traveling overseas.

The nearest ATM to Iracambi is in Muriaé (1.5 hours.) Please note that you cannot change dollars in Muriaé. Change money at the airport on arrival. Most ATMs will not accept American Express, it's a good idea to bring a Visa credit/debit card. ATMs provide a better rate than money exchange places (casas de câmbio).

Health and travel insurance

Please note that Iracambi requires you to have health and travel insurance. Please take measures to cover yourself prior to departure for Iracambi. It may also be possible to extend your home insurance coverage to cover you for overseas travel. You will need to send the details of your insurance, together with details on your next of kin, to Iracambi before your departure to Brazil.

Make sure to familiarize yourself with the international medical coverage your country has provided and that you know how to make a claim if necessary. Though Iracambi takes precautions to ensure the safety of Iracambistas, we regret that we are not in a position to accept people with serious medical conditions or physical disabilities.

There is a small clinic in Rosário da Limeira which provides first aid, and an excellent hospital in Muriaé.

Vaccination

It is important that you ensure you are inoculated against the following:

- Hepatitis A
- Tetanus
- Typhoid
- Yellow Fever
- Diphtheria
- Polio

Iracambi is not located in a malarial area, but if you plan to travel to other parts of Brazil, such as the Pantanal or the Amazon, you will need a suitable prophylactic, which you can pick up in Brazil. Your doctor may also suggest Hepatitis B and Rabies, but you are unlikely to need them.



Visas

All volunteers who wish to stay under 6 months should apply for a tourist visa and not a volunteer visa.

Visas are required for tourists of several countries, including Australia. You can now get these easily online within five days!

Please check what the visa conditions are for your entry into Brazil. Visas are valid for 90 days, with a possible extension for another 90 days.

European nationals do not require visas but are issued with a visitor's pass on arrival, these are also valid for 90 days, with a possible extension. If you are from a European country that has adopted the Schengen protocol you will not be able to renew your visitor's pass beyond 90 days. The UK is not a Schengen protocol country.

For volunteers coming from other countries, be sure to check visa requirements for your nationality!

For visa or visitor pass renewals, in case you wish to stay longer than 90 days, you will need to head to the nearest federal police headquarters, in Juiz de Fora, Rio de Janeiro or Belo Horizonte, making sure it is on or before your 90 days is over or else you may be fined! After renewing your visa or visitor pass, you are permitted to be in the country for 90 days from the date of renewal, so make sure you count the days correctly before you plan to leave the country or again you may be fined. If you need to state your address on arrival, here it is: Fazenda Iracambi, Rosário da Limeira, 36878-000 - Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Please check your specific visa and travel regulations yourself before you come to Brazil!



Language

In order for us to be able to communicate with you, we require that you speak either English or Portuguese! Although you will be fine at Iracambi without a word of Portuguese, you'll get much more out of your visit if you can communicate, at least a little, in Portuguese.

If you are interested in community- based research work it will be essential to speak Portuguese, and even if you are not, you will find that even the most slender command of Portuguese will enormously enrich your time speaking with our wonderful neighbors, most of whom do NOT speak English.

What to Bring

- **Equipment:** mosquito repellent, sunscreen, sleeping bag (we provide all bedding so this is only for camping), tent (if camping), camera, a towel, laptop for work, flashlight. If you buy a sim card make sure it is CLARO or VIVO. A mosquito net.
- **Documents/Money:** credit card, passport, visa, proof of vaccinations, print out of your medical and travel insurance.
- **Entertainment:** books and movies on your computer.



Clothing: walking shoes, boots (waterproof is a good idea), shoes to relax in; sweater/jacket, waterproof coat (the very rainy season is between December and March but you should always bring a waterproof), swim wear, various long and short sleeved shirts as well as long pants and shorts, work gloves. We recommend dark colored clothes, and remember that jeans take a long time to dry!!

It is advisable that you bring your own laptop and a pair of hiking boots (we recommend you invest in boots with good ankle support as the countryside around Iracambi is very hilly).

Security

Rio de Janeiro: Like any big city in Brazil, you should be cautious, always keep as little money on you as possible, never flash cash, jewelry, cameras or phones, and never walk alone at night in unsafe areas. Be observant and vigilant, always take note of your surroundings and listen to your instincts. See how the locals are acting and try your best to blend in. Having said that, Rio is a marvelous city, and if you take elementary precautions you will fall in love with it.

Iracambi: Far from the big cities, Iracambi is extremely safe, and you can relax and enjoy the the natural beauty on all sides.

- **Wildlife:** We are located in the middle of the forest, which makes it an extremely special place for observing nature, but you should also stay alert to avoid unexpected encounters with snakes and spiders! A few precautions, such as always wearing shoes and emptying them out before use and being cautious when walking are simple steps that can reduce the risk of a bite. But don't worry, it is very uncommon to even see a snake and in eighteen years, we have only had one case. If you should get bitten, a shot of anti-venom in the local hospital will put you right in a few days.



Getting Here

Rio de Janeiro is significantly closer to Iracambi than São Paulo or Belo Horizonte, and you should be able to make it up here if you arrive at the airport in the morning.

We recommend you travel straight to Iracambi, and visit Rio when you have settled in, we also ask that you try to avoid arriving on a weekend, in case you get here and find everybody's off site climbing a mountain or attending a party. Mondays to Wednesdays are ideal, but just let us know!

To get to Iracambi it's very simple, see directions:

From Rio de Janeiro

1. At Galeão Airport in Rio de Janeiro, you can take a **taxi** (head to one of the taxi kiosks located near baggage reclaim), **uber**, or **Rio's VLT** - we recommend you one of the two first options.

You need to go to the **Terminal Rodoviário Novo Rio**.

[View map](#)

2. At the ~~Terminal Rodoviário Novo Rio~~, you should take a bus to Muriaé (Moo-RE-AY EH) operated by Rio Doce.

[Check the bus schedule from Rio de Janeiro to Muriae by the Company Rio Doce](#)

Brazilian buses are safe and comfortable. The journey to Muriae will take around 5-6 hours, there is a toilet on the bus, and there will be a meal stop at some point on the journey.

3. At Terminal Rodoviário de Muriaé, you should take a bus to **Rosário da Limeira** operated by **Novo Horizonte**. The ticket costs about R\$18.00 and it must be paid for in **cash**, after you get in the bus. This trip will last one hour and is the last bus-ride of your journey! Buses to Limeira run at 6:00, 8:45, 11:30, 13:30, 14:45, 16:15 (or 15:45 on Sundays), and 17:30. Bus times may differ depending on the day of the week, but the last bus leaves at 17:30 every day. [View map](#).

4. In Rosário da Limeira, the bus stops in front of the taxi rank. Take a taxi to **Iracambi Centro**. The taxi should cost about R\$70.00. [View map](#).



From **São Paulo**:

1. At the **Airport in São Paulo**, take a taxi to the **Terminal Rodoviário Tietê**.

[View map](#)

2. At the Terminal Rodoviário Tietê, you should take a bus to **Muriaé (Moo-RE-AY EH)** operated by **Kaissara** or **União**. **(Please give priority to União Company)**

Check the bus schedules from São Paulo to Muriaé by the company.

This journey will take approximately 10 hours. There is a toilet on the bus and it will stop at least once for a meal.

3. At Terminal Rodoviário de Muriaé, you should take a bus to **Rosário da Limeira** operated by **Novo Horizonte**. [View map.](#)

The ticket costs about R\$18.00 and it must be paid for in cash, after you get in the bus. This trip will last one hour and is the last bus-ride of your journey! Buses to Limeira run at 6:00, 8:45, 11:30, 13:30, 14:45, 16:15 (or 15:45 on Sundays), and 17:30. Bus times may differ depending on the day of the week, but the last bus leaves at 17:30 every day. [View map.](#)

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Contact details

Iracambi Research and Conservation Center

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Phone: +55 32 99359604

Skype ID: Iracambi

Email: volunteers@iracambi.com or iracambi@iracambi.com

Website: www.iracambi.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/iracambi

Instagram: [@ong_iracambi](https://www.instagram.com/ong_iracambi)



“
*where you can do
much more...*
”



IRACAMBI

www.iracambi.com