

Travelling Locally: Getting Around Brazil



Ride-hailing, metros, buses, domestic flights and match-day logistics - how to move around eight host cities safely and without overpaying.

The short version

Use ride-hailing apps in cities, metro where it exists, and domestic flights between host cities. Brazil is roughly the size of the continental United States - the distances between tournament venues are larger than most visitors expect.

Ride-hailing: your default

Uber and 99 both operate across all eight host cities. Install both before you fly and set up payment in advance - having a second app is your backstop when one has no drivers at stadium exit time.

- **Why it beats street taxis:** the route is tracked, the price is fixed in advance, the driver is identified, and you can share your trip in real time.
- **Always check the number plate** against the app before you get in, and ask the driver to say your name rather than you saying it first.
- **Sit in the back**, on the far side from the kerb.
- **Share your trip** with a friend on every night journey. Both apps have a one-tap share.
- **Do not wait outside for your car.** Wait inside the bar, restaurant or lobby and walk out when it arrives.
- **Set the pickup point somewhere lit and busy**, not a side street.
- **Payment:** both apps take cards; register a card so you never handle cash in the car.
- **Uber has a "women drivers" preference** in some Brazilian cities, and 99 has similar features. Check in-app when you arrive.

DO NOT HAIL UNMARKED CARS

Never get into an unbooked car that pulls up offering a ride, especially outside stadiums, bus terminals and airports. Use the app, or an official airport taxi rank with a fixed-price desk.

Metro and urban rail

Where a metro exists it is modern, cheap, fast and well-used. Trains generally run from about 05:00 to midnight, with short intervals. A ride costs around R\$5-6.

CITY	METRO SITUATION
Sao Paulo	The best network in Brazil. Line 3 (red) goes directly to Corinthians-Itaquera for the stadium.
Rio de Janeiro	Clean and efficient in the Zona Sul. Line 2 serves Maracana station directly - the easiest stadium arrival of the tournament.
Brasilia	Two lines, limited coverage. You will use cars for most journeys.
Belo Horizonte	Single line; useful for the Mineirao (Vilarinho line, Sao Gabriel and Minas Shopping stops nearby).
Salvador	Two lines, genuinely useful and growing.
Recife, Fortaleza, Porto Alegre	Metro/rail exists but coverage is patchy for visitors. Plan on ride-hailing.

- **Women-only carriages** operate on some lines during rush hours in Rio and Sao Paulo - look for the pink signage on the platform.
- **Bag in front, phone away** on crowded carriages.
- **Buy a rechargeable card** on arrival rather than queueing for single tickets each time.
- **Avoid empty carriages late at night** - move to where other people are.

City buses

Extensive, very cheap, and used by everyone - but harder for visitors: routes are poorly signed, you often pay a conductor in cash, and they are a common pickpocketing environment. Perfectly usable in daylight on a route you have checked. As a solo traveller arriving late at night with luggage, take a car instead.

Between host cities

Look at the map before you plan a multi-city trip. Salvador to Porto Alegre is over 3,000 km - comparable to Miami to Seattle. Overland is not realistic for most tournament schedules.

MODE	BEST FOR	2026 COST GUIDE
Domestic flight	Almost every host-city pair. LATAM, GOL and Azul fly frequent routes; Rio-Sao Paulo has multiple departures an hour.	From R\$250-600 one way (approx. US\$50-120)
Intercity bus	Shorter hops - Rio to Sao Paulo, Recife to Olinda, Salvador to coastal towns. Comfortable "leito" sleeper classes exist on long routes.	Rio-Sao Paulo from about R\$120; longer routes R\$100-300
Car hire	Rarely worth it for a tournament trip. Urban driving is aggressive, parking is difficult, and a car is a liability you have to guard.	-

BOOK INTERNAL FLIGHTS THE MOMENT THE SCHEDULE DROPS

Brazilian domestic aviation was already running at record volumes through 2026, and the tournament will compress demand onto eight specific city pairs across four weeks. Fares on match-adjacent dates will rise steeply. Book flexible fares early rather than cheap fares late.

Airport arrivals

- **Pre-book an airport transfer for your first arrival.** Landing jet-lagged in an unfamiliar city is the worst moment to be improvising. It is worth the extra R\$30.
- After that, use the app or the official taxi desk inside the terminal.
- Expect R\$40-90 for a typical airport-to-city transfer in a major hub.
- Have your accommodation address written down in Portuguese - do not rely on pronouncing it.

Long-distance buses

- Book online in advance during the tournament; terminals will be busy.
- **Keep valuables on your person**, not in the overhead rack and never in the hold.
- Overnight buses are cold - air conditioning runs hard. Bring a layer.
- Arrive at terminals in daylight where you can. Bus stations and their surrounding blocks are generally the least comfortable part of any Brazilian city at night.

Match-day logistics

- **Arrive early - two to three hours before kick-off.** Security queues at a World Cup are long, and the atmosphere outside is half the experience.
- **Use the metro where one serves the stadium** (Rio and Sao Paulo especially). Roads around stadiums close and ride-hailing surges hard.

- **Agree a meeting point before you go in.** Phone networks routinely fail when a full stadium empties at once. Pick a landmark, not "outside gate C".
- **Expect a 45-90 minute wait for a car after the final whistle.** Walk 10-15 minutes away from the stadium along a busy, lit road before ordering - the price drops and the car actually arrives.
- **Take almost nothing in.** Check the official bag policy; most stadiums restrict bag size. A clear pouch with phone, one card, some cash and your ticket is ideal.
- **Screenshot your ticket** and know how to open it offline. Stadium data is unusable.
- **Charge to 100% and bring a power bank.**
- **Do not wear a rival team's colours into a partisan crowd,** and skip the political statements. Women's football crowds in Brazil are famously good-natured - keep it that way.

Walking

- **Daytime, busy streets: walk freely.** This is how you actually see a city.
- **After dark: take a car,** even for short distances, even in Ipanema or Savassi.
- **Walk purposefully** and look like you know where you are going. Check the map before you leave, not on the street corner.
- **Trust the street.** If a road suddenly empties of people, turn around. Brazilians themselves navigate cities this way.
- **No headphones in both ears** while walking in an unfamiliar area.

Your transport checklist

- ☐ Uber and 99 installed, payment card added, account verified before departure
- ☐ eSIM or local SIM sorted so you have data from the moment you land
- ☐ Offline maps downloaded for every host city on your route
- ☐ First airport transfer pre-booked
- ☐ Internal flights booked as soon as the match schedule is confirmed
- ☐ Accommodation address saved in Portuguese, on paper and on your phone
- ☐ Power bank packed and charged
- ☐ Emergency numbers (190 police, 192 ambulance, 180 women's helpline) saved

Please double-check before you fly. This guide was written in August 2026 for the FIFA Women's World Cup Brazil 2027 (24 June - 25 July 2027). Visa rules, prices, and safety conditions change. Always confirm with your own government's travel advisory, the Brazilian consulate for your country, and the official FIFA tournament site before booking or travelling. Safe Passage Brasil 2027 is an independent travel resource and is not affiliated with FIFA, CBF, or any government body.