

Timeline of Brazilian History

- 1500 Pedro Álvarez Cabral of Portugal discovers Brazil while enroute to India. He claims the land for Portugal. He finds native people living along the coast and along the Amazon River.
- 1532 São Vicente becomes the first permanent European settlement in Brazil.
- 1542 Spanish explorer Francisco de Orellana completes the first navigation of the entire Amazon River.
- 1549 Jesuit priests arrive to convert the native tribes to Christianity.
- 1565 The city of Rio de Janeiro is established.
- 1630 The Dutch establish a colony on the northwest coast of Brazil.
- 1661 Portugal takes over the territory of New Holland from the Dutch.
- 1727 The first coffee plant is grown in Brazil. Millions of slaves will be brought from Africa to work the coffee plantations. Brazil will become the world's largest producer of coffee.
- 1807 French Emperor Napoleon invades Portugal. The Portuguese King John VI flees to Brazil.
- 1822 Pedro I, son of John VI, declares Brazil an independent country and names himself the emperor Brazil.
- 1824 Brazil is recognized by the United States.
- 1888 Slavery is abolished in Brazil. Approximately 4 million slaves are freed.
- 1889 The monarchy is overthrown and a federal republic is established.
- 1891 The First Republican Constitution is adopted.
- 1917 Brazil joins World War I on the side of the Allies.
- 1960 The capital city is moved to Brasilia.
- 1964 The military takes control of the government.
- 1985 Democracy is restored in Brazil.
- 1988 A new constitution is adopted. The powers of the president are reduced.
- 1989 Fernando Collor de Mello becomes the first president democratically elected since 1960.
- 2011 Dilma Rousseff is elected the first woman president of Brazil. She was impeached and removed from office in 2016.
- 2016 Rio de Janeiro hosts the Olympics.