

Louisiana PASS



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Party On!

The city that never sleeps welcomes everyone to have a great time. No, we're not talking about New York. We're talking about an awesome celebration with dancing, costumes, and non-stop partying. And no, we're not talking about the New Orleans Mardi Gras either. We're talking about Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Carnival is a four-day celebration. It starts on a Saturday and ends on Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras). The festival of Carnival may have its origins as a pagan celebration in ancient Rome or Greece, but its precise history is somewhat unclear. What is known is that this awesome celebration came to Brazil in the 1930's. Although the religious aspect of Carnival is no longer a key element, this celebration is a very big deal. Catholic churches cancel mass, and restaurants and businesses close. It's much like the Super Bowl in its power to put all other aspects of daily life on hold.

A popular attraction is the Samba Parade, which starts at 7:00 p.m. and does not end until 6:00 the following morning. Carnival balls feature live music, dancing, and colorful costumes. Good music is also a huge part of Carnival, and Carnival provides a venue for many new bands to achieve fame. Banda de Ipanema started as an unknown street band in 1965, but their performances are now among the main highlights of Carnival.

Sounds like fun, doesn't it?

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