



BRAZIL

Christmas



Many Christmas customs in Brazil are similar to ones in the United States including decorating Christmas trees in individual homes and caroling. Santa is known as Papai Noel and Bom Velhinho (Good Old Man) in Brazil, and while he is delivering presents in the southern hemisphere he changes into his lighter weight Santa suit. This one is made of silk to keep him cool in the warm summer weather. As part of the Brazilian Christmas tradition, sometimes children leave a sock near the window. If Papai Noel finds your sock, he exchanges it for a present! Amigo Secreto, a form of Secret Santa is popular in Brazil and lasts for most of December. Names are traded and small gifts are given for the month using a pretend name, called an apelido. On Christmas Day, the amigo secreto is revealed. Many people like to go to the beach at Christmas because it is summer and very hot. Rio de Janeiro boasts the world's largest Christmas tree, which floats on the Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon. The tree weighs 542 tons and is wrapped in 3.3 million light bulbs, which are lit every year during a spectacular Christmas fireworks show!

BOOKS ABOUT BRAZIL

- Rio: Greetings From Rio! by Benjamin Harper
- The Sock Thief by Ana Crespo
- [The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest](#) by Lynn Cherry.
- Brazil ABCs: A Book About The People and Places of Brazil by David Seidman
- Kids Around the World: We Live in Brazil by François-Xavier Freland

RECIPE

RABANADAS

(Brazilian French Toast)

MUSIC

SINO DE BELEM

(Jingle Bells)

BORBOLETA PEQUININA

(Little Butterfly)

CRAFT

Brazilian Flag Ornament

