

Miriam Chesner takes a look at Rio de Janeiro's famous Copacabana beach

New Jersey-based Latin American cultural expert and experienced ESL educator Miriam Chesner explores Rio de Janeiro's incredible Copacabana beach.

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Arguably one of the most famous beaches not just in Brazil, but in Latin America as a whole, Rio de Janeiro's incredible Copacabana beach is instantly recognizable and indeed known globally for its stunning white sands, a bustling boardwalk, and as a famous party and festival destination, according to [Miriam Chesner](#).



In the very heart of Rio de Janeiro, Copacabana affords visitors with a wide variety of amenities, chief among which is a vast array of popular restaurants and hotels, many of which look directly over the beach itself. "Copacabana is particularly famous for its festivals and parties, with New Year's Eve, in particular, attracting millions of people, making it one of the beach's biggest annual celebrations," explains Miriam Chesner, a New York University graduate, Latin American cultural expert, and experienced ESL educator. Copacabana, says Chesner, also remains the most popular official venue for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup.

Located in Rio de Janeiro's 'South Zone,' Copacabana enjoys 4km of largely uninterrupted white sandy beachfront, flanked by many upmarket, residential properties which are among Brazil's most prized—and most expensive—private homes. According to cultural [expert Miriam Chesner](#), the wider Copacabana area was originally known as 'Sacopenapã,' or 'the way of the socós,' a variety of Brazilian bird. "In the mid-18th century, however," she explains, "a chapel holding a replica of the Bolivian patron saint, the Virgen de Copacabana, was constructed in the area, leading to the name change which remains in place today."

Copacabana beach lies on the Atlantic shore and has historical forts at each end. "Fort

Copacabana can be found at the south end, and was built in 1914," reveals Chesner, "while at the north end is the much older 'Forte Duque de Caxias,' completed in 1779."

Ipanema beach, [says Miriam Chesner](#), is another wonderful beach near to Copacabana, while Arpoador beach is also close by, equally beautiful, and often less crowded than either Ipanema or Copacabana. Arpoador is particularly popular with surfers and local bathers, and one of the few beaches in the area which is well-lit at night, making an evening dip a possibility, according to the New Jersey-based cultural expert.

"While Copacabana beach may be famous the world over," she adds, wrapping up, "it's important to remember that Brazil enjoys over 8,000km of coastline and more than a thousand individual beaches, so there's always an opportunity to discover your own favorite should you find yourself visiting the vast and beautiful South American nation on your travels."

Bryan Powers
Web Presence, LLC
+1 7863638515
[email us here](#)

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