WHAT IS A VISA?
A visa is the document endorsed by the Brazilian Consulate in a foreigner’s passport showing that the person is authorized to travel to the port of entry in Brazil. The Brazilian visa contains the bearer’s name and date of birth, passport number, length of authorized stay (normally 90 days) and validity, which is related to the nationality of the applicant. For example, US citizens may have a tourist visa granted for up to 10 years due to a reciprocal agreement between Brazil and the US. The visa does not give a foreigner any rights, including any right to enter Brazil or to remain there, and may be revoked at any time.

IF I HAVE A VISA, WILL I BE AUTHORIZED TO ENTER BRAZIL?
Not necessarily. There is no guarantee that you will be authorized to enter and stay in the country. Entry is determined by the Brazilian Federal Police at the port of entry, and your passport will be stamped upon approval.

DOES EVERYONE NEED A VISA TO GO TO BRAZIL?
1. Nationals/citizens of certain countries do not need a Brazilian visa depending on the purpose of their trip. A waiver generally is valid for tourism and business, depending on reciprocal agreements between Brazil and that specific country.
2. US citizens must require a visa to enter Brazil.

MAY I APPLY FOR A VISA WHEN I ARRIVE IN BRAZIL?
Brazil does not grant visas on arrival. Those required to possess a visa to travel to Brazil must apply for one in advance at a Brazilian consular post abroad.

HOW MUCH DOES A VISA COST?
Fees charged by the Brazilian government are reciprocal, i.e, applicant will pay the same fee a Brazilian national would pay to apply for the same type of visa to the applicant’s country of citizenship. Therefore, the visa fee varies according to the applicant’s nationality/citizenship.
WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO OBTAIN A VISA?
When applying for a visa at a Brazilian Embassy or Consulate, you will be required to present proof of identification and other documents such as evidence that you are able to financially support yourself, that you have made appropriate arrangements for lodging, health insurance in case of emergencies, have not been convicted of certain crimes, and so forth. Depending on the purpose of your trip to Brazil and the visa you will apply for, specific documents will be required.

DO I NEED TO LEAVE MY PASSPORT AT THE CONSULATE WHEN APPLYING FOR A VISA?
Yes. Your passport is your valid international identification and the visa label will be applied directly to one of its pages. Notice that a passport is considered a valid document only if it is signed by its holder. Therefore, make sure you sign your passport before bringing or mailing it to the Consulate General of Brazil.

HOW LONG IS A VISA GOOD FOR?
It varies. A visa may be good from only 10 days (transit visa) to up to 10 years (granted to US citizens for tourism/business). As previously mentioned, validity depends on your nationality/citizenship. For some nationals of foreign countries, the Brazilian visa must be used within 90 days of the date it was issued.

MAY I STAY IN BRAZIL FOR AS LONG AS I WISH?
No. The validity of the visa is not the same as the authorized period of stay. The visa validity will indicate how long you will be able to use it for multiples entries into Brazil. The length of stay indicates how long you may stay physically present in the country, which is authorized and determined by the Brazilian Federal Police at the port of entry. In Brazil, a tourist/business visitor may generally stay up to 90 days, extension or renewal possible for at most 90 days, totaling 180 days (After that time the foreigner must leave the country).

WHAT IF I WANT TO STAY LONGER THAN 90 DAYS?
Beyond 90 days, you must request an extension with the Brazilian Federal Police. Without proper authorization, a fine will be applied and you will be subject to immediate removal from the country. Overstaying is considered unlawful immigration even if the visa is still valid. If you overstay, you will be breaking the law, subject to deportation, and may be prohibited from reusing the visa. After staying a total of 180 days, you will not be able to get another extension and will have to wait for a period of time determined by the Embassy or Consulate before reapplying for a visa.

ONCE I HAVE BEEN GRANTED A VISA, WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES CAN I GET INVOLVED IN WHILE IN BRAZIL?
It is important to note that your visa allows you to stay in Brazil exclusively for the specific purpose for which it was issued. For instance, you are not allowed to work if you have been
granted a tourist or student visa. Always clearly state the purpose of your trip when applying for a visa.

**IF MY VISA IS STILL VALID AND I DECIDE TO TRAVEL TO BRAZIL AGAIN BUT FOR A DIFFERENT REASON, DO I HAVE TO APPLY FOR ANOTHER TYPE OF VISA?**
Yes. You will always have to apply for a new visa if the purpose of your trip to Brazil changes and the new purpose requires another visa to enter Brazil.

**WHICH TYPES OF VISAS ARE ISSUED TO GO TO BRAZIL?**
Tourist, business, cultural, artists and athletes, student, work, resident journalist, resident missionary, and permanent visa.

**IF MY PASSPORT EXPIRES AND MY VISA TO BRAZIL IS STILL VALID, WHAT SHOULD I DO?**
When you travel to Brazil, you will have to take both passports with you: the new one as a valid travel document, and the old one with the valid visa. You don’t need to apply for a new visa if the one in your expired passport is still valid.

**CAN MY VISA APPLICATION BE DENIED?**
In some circumstances, a visa may be denied. Common reasons are fraud or misrepresentation, disrespect for the visa adjudicator or for Brazil, criminal record, security risk, lack of strong ties to the country of residence, intention to reside or work in Brazil when not authorized, lack of a legitimate reason for traveling, not having travel arrangements or health/travel insurance, applying on excessively short notice, previous rejection of a visa application and previous immigration violations, among others. If your visa is denied, the processing fee will not be refunded.

**IF THE CONSULATE DENIES MY APPLICATION, MAY I REAPPLY?**
Yes, but you must prove, with supporting evidence, that the reasons for which your previous application was denied are no longer valid.

**WHY ARE MY BANK STATEMENTS OR PAYSTUBS REQUIRED DOCUMENTS?**
They are proof that you will be able to support yourself financially while in Brazil and serve as evidence of strong ties to your country of residence.

**HOW DOES THE CONSULATE PROTECT MY PRIVATE INFORMATION?**
After your visa is issued, all documents in your application are shredded and recycled.