

Alex Bourke of Vegetarian Guides and Brazilian vegan nutritionist Scarlet Hughes are in the 2016 Olympic city.

RIO DE JANEIRO

Rio is visually stunning, with miles of perfect sandy beaches, towering forested mountains, and the downtown old Centro full of museums and galleries. To really experience the views take a coastal cruise or – for the more daring – hang glide. Bronze on Copacabana or chic Ipanema, and feast in over 30 vegetarian restaurants and cafés, where lunch buffets (£5–£8) often feature the national dish feijoada, a slow-cooked black bean stew with tempeh or smoked tofu. Tropical fruit juices include açaí, which looks and tastes just like chocolate milkshake.

Org Bistro is a fabulous vegetarian restaurant one block from the 18-kilometre beach in upmarket Barra, home to half the Olympic venues and the biggest shopping centre in South America. Chef Tati Lund and her

crew serve up colourful, seasonal dishes such as moqueca coconut milk stew with bananas roasted in farofinha cassava flour; or quinoa with purple onion, chestnuts and roast pumpkin with passion fruit sauce. Finish with vegan Brazil nut cheesecake with berries, or cocoa almond cake with pecan coconut cream filling.

Bio Carioca vegetarian restaurant in Copacabana has a menu in English and dishes of the day (£5). Most popular are feijoada or rustic penne, and they also have gnocchi, soups, salads, and pizzas in the evening. Nearby **Rio Vegano** is a vegan lunch restaurant with feijoada, stroganoff and pastel, a pastry with different fillings each day such as tofu and carrot or heart of palm. Both places have banana and Brazil nut pie for dessert.

Also recommended...

● **Reino Vegetal** is a big weekday lunch restaurant in an old mansion in Centro, with a pay-by-weight buffet and northern food like acarajé bean fritters, moqueca plantain stew, and coconut tapioca mousse.

● **Refatório Orgânico** is one of several veggie lunch restaurants around Botafogo, an area with cheaper accommodation between Copacabana and Centro.

Vegana Chácara is a tranquil hidden gem in a cul-de-sac garden amongst trees. Further inland, **Prana Cozinha Vegetariana** is in front of Corcovado station, from



Vegetariano Social Clube in Leblon, between Ipanema and the Botanical Gardens, is Rio's top vegan restaurant. Come for the lunch buffet (£6–£8) with six hot dishes, four salads and a soup. Thursday is pizza night while Friday and Saturday there are *comida de boteco* bar snacks. Try stroganoff, feijoada, quinoa risotto, shiitake pancake or banana pizza, and finish with chocolate cake. If you've overdone the sightseeing or sunbathing, they also deliver.

NEED TO KNOW

Org Bistro

www.orgbistro.com.br

Bio Carioca

www.biocarioca.com.br

Rio Vegano

www.espacoriovegano.com

Vegetariano Social Clube

www.vegetarianosocialclube.com.br

Reino Vegetal

www.restaurantevegetariano.com.br

Refatório Orgânico

www.refeitorioorganico.com.br

Vegana Chácara

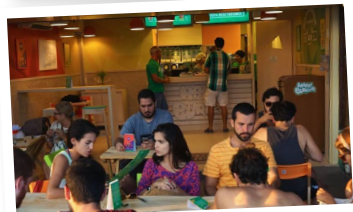
Facebook: Vegana Chácara

Prana Cozinha Vegetariana

www.pranavegetariano.com

Hareburger

www.hareburger.com



where trains wind through the forest up to the giant statue of Christ the Redeemer.

● **Hareburger** veggie fast food restaurants all over town serve burgers, salads, desserts and juices.

ABOUT ALEX & SCARLET

Alex Bourke is the publisher of Vegetarian Guides to London, the British Isles and Paris; find out more at www.vegetarian.travel. Scarlet Hughes has a BSc in nutrition sciences and wrote the nutrition chapter in Alex's forthcoming book, *How To Be Vegan*. You can find her on Instagram as Miss_Scah.