

New Year's Eve in Copacabana 2026/27: trip guide

Vela Brasil. Up to date as of October 23, 2026.

The party runs through the night of Thursday, December 31, 2026, into Friday, January 1, 2027, a national holiday in Brazil. As of October 23, 2026, Rio's city hall and Riotur hadn't announced the 2026/27 program: stages, artists, fireworks, road closures and the metro plan. Below is what is already settled, what to expect and when, and last year's rules as a guide.

Already settled

- The date, and January 1 as a national holiday (Law 662 of 1949).

What to expect (based on last year's timing)

- stage program: announced on December 4 last year;
- MetrôRio's special New Year's pass: last year it was sold in the MetrôRio app and website until 18:00 on Dec 31;
- road closure and transport plan: published on December 26 last year;
- Port Authority (Capitania dos Portos) rules for boats: not published as of October 23.

How the night worked in 2025/26

- Copacabana had three stages: the main Palco Rio, a samba stage near Rua República do Peru and a stage in Leme near Rua Anchieta. The program started at 18:00, with 13 stages across the city.
- The fireworks started at midnight, fired from barges along the beach.
- More than 2.6 million people were on Copacabana and about 5.1 million across the city (Riotur).
- Many people wear white, a Rio New Year's tradition.

Logistics: last year's rules (December 31, 2025)

The 2026/27 rules will be published closer to the date and may differ.

Roads:

- from 06:00 on Dec 30, no parking on Avenida Atlântica and its access streets (on some streets until 21:00 on Jan 2);
- from 00:00 on Dec 31, charter buses, minibuses and vans couldn't enter or park in Copacabana and Leme;
- from 07:00, Avenida Atlântica was closed along its full length;
- from 19:00 to 21:00, only regular city buses and taxis could enter;
- from 21:00, closed to all vehicles; reopening started at 05:00 on Jan 1;
- from 21:00 to 05:00, buses left from the Terminal Enseada de Botafogo.

Metro:

- from 19:00 on Dec 31 to 05:00 on Jan 1, entry only with the special round-trip pass (QR code, entry slot at 19:00, 20:00, 21:00, 22:00 or 23:00); regular metro cards weren't accepted;
- the pass had to be bought in advance, only in the MetrôRio app or on its website, until 18:00 on Dec 31;
- the way back worked with a wristband from 00:00 to 05:00, boarding after midnight at Cardeal Arcoverde, Siqueira Campos, Cantagalo, General Osório and Jardim Oceânico;
- not allowed on the metro: bags over 25 liters, fireworks, bottles and containers, boards and bicycles.

Beach: pedestrians reached the sand through access points with bag checks. Glass, fireworks and large containers weren't allowed.

Ways to spend midnight

- On the sand with the crowd. Agree on a meeting point and a return time with your group beforehand.
- At a beach kiosk party in Copacabana, Leme, Ipanema or Leblon, with live music or a DJ and food.
- At a restaurant or hotel table with a view of the fireworks, booked in advance.
- On a yacht or boat facing Copacabana. Only vessels inspected by the Capitania dos Portos (Brazilian Navy) may go. Last year, boats without a pass were kept out of the barge zone from 18:00 on Dec 31 to 02:00 on Jan 1, and skippers needed a zero-alcohol wristband.
- A helicopter flight isn't part of the night. We book a sightseeing flight over Rio separately, on another day of the trip, with a spare day in case of weather.

What to bring

City advice (COR Rio, December 31, 2025): ID and an emergency contact number, an ID wristband with a parent's phone number for children, your own medication, plenty of water, light clothes and shoes (don't go barefoot), and care about where food and drinks come from. We'd add white clothes for the tradition and a small bag, since last year bags over 25 liters weren't allowed on the metro.

Emergency numbers in Brazil: 190 (Military Police), 192 (SAMU ambulance), 193 (Fire Department).

Before you travel, check entry requirements on official websites.

Need help? What to include in your request

- where you want to be at midnight: sand, kiosk, restaurant or hotel, yacht;
- number of people and children's ages;
- arrival and departure dates;
- whether you need a hotel, in which area and at what level;
- whether you need a guide, and in which language;
- whether you'd like a helicopter flight or a yacht trip on other days.

Vela Brasil

Website: https://velabrasil.com/new-years-eve-rio/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=outreach&utm_campaign=n-g-2027&utm_content=memo

Email: comercial@velabrasil.com

Price on request, proposal within 24 hours.

Sources (checked October 23, 2026, unless noted)

- Presidência da República, Law 662/1949 on national holidays: planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/leis/l0662.htm
- COR Rio, Réveillon 2026 operations plan (closures, metro, buses, sea zone, advice): cor.rio/reveillon-rio-2026-prefeitura-apresenta-planejamento-operacional-para-as-festas-da-cidade-na-virada/ (Dec 31, 2025)
- Prefeitura do Rio, Réveillon 2026 operations plan: prefeitura.rio/cidade/prefeitura-apresenta-o-planejamento-operacional-para-o-reveillon-2026/ (Dec 26, 2025)
- Prefeitura do Rio, Rio Réveillon 2026 program: prefeitura.rio/noticias/rio-reveillon-2026-celebra-o-futuro-e-traz-atracoes-ineditas-para-a-maior-festa-de-ano-novo-do-mundo/ (Dec 4, 2025)
- Riotur, Réveillon 2026 results by stage: riotur.rio/editorial/confira-como-foi-o-reveillon-2026-em-cada-palco-da-cidade/ (Jan 1, 2026)
- Riotur, beach kiosk parties: riotur.rio/editorial/reveillon-a-beira-mar-quiosques-da-orla-tem-festas-exclusivas-para-a-virada-de-2026/ (Dec 15, 2025)
- Capitania dos Portos do Rio de Janeiro: marinha.mil.br/cprj (no 2026/27 rules yet)
- Riotur: riotur.rio (no 2026/27 program yet)