

Rio Carnival 2027: trip guide

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

The Sambadrome parades take six nights between February 5 and 13, 2027. The Special Group, Rio's 12 top samba schools, parades on February 7, 8 and 9, four schools a night. Tickets are sold only through the official LIESA and Liga RJ channels, and purchase limits are tied to the CPF, Brazil's taxpayer number.

Nights and schools

Night	Date	Who parades
Série Ouro (second division)	Fri Feb 5 and Sat Feb 6	8 schools on the 5th, 9 on the 6th
Grupo Especial (Special Group)	Sun Feb 7	União de Maricá, Beija-Flor, Paraíso do Tuiuti, Vila Isabel
Grupo Especial	Mon Feb 8	Mocidade, Unidos da Tijuca, Salgueiro, Imperatriz
Grupo Especial	Tue Feb 9	Portela, Viradouro, Grande Rio, Mangueira
Desfile das Campeãs (Champions Parade)	Sat Feb 13	the six best-placed schools of the competition

LIESA hasn't published the 2027 start times yet. According to the LIESA FAQ, the Sambadrome gates open at 19:00. The parades run through the night and people head back around dawn.

Tickets: how the official sale works

- LIESA sells the Special Group and the Champions Parade through Ticketmaster Brasil (ticketmaster.com.br/event/riocarnaval) and at its service center (Rua da Alfândega, 25, Centro). Liga RJ sells the Série Ouro.
- Sales open in phases. On March 9, 2026, a named three-night pass went on sale. LIESA opened box requests at the end of April, a closed presale ran August 7 to 9, and the general sale opened on August 10 (up to four tickets per buyer). On September 10, grandstands, chairs and frisas went on sale: up to two grandstand tickets, one pair of chairs and one frisa per CPF per parade day.
- Popular sectors 12 and 13, by Praça da Apoteose: LIESA said it would announce them separately. No date as of October 23, 2026.
- Tickets carry the buyer's name and can't be transferred. Ticketmaster reviews orders after each phase, and cancelled tickets go back on sale. LIESA asks buyers to use only the official site and to ignore unofficial links, profiles and sellers.
- LIESA's published rules say nothing about foreign buyers without a CPF. Sector 9, numbered stands by the drum section recess, is sold by the ABAV-RJ association to travel agencies and receptive operators.

Seats:

- special grandstands in sectors 2 to 11; sectors 2, 4, 6 and 8 are unnumbered, so arrive early;
- numbered chairs in sector 12;
- frisa: an open, fenced box at the edge of the parade route with its own entrance, usually for six people, sold whole for one night;
- LIESA boxes are covered, with an optional buffet, and valid for every Carnival night; commercial boxes are sold by their own organizers.

Frisa wristbands. On October 16, 2026, LIESA said frisa access in 2027 follows the same rules as previous years. Tickets bought in September will be exchanged for wristbands handed out in advance. The requirement that all six guests collect them together, which had appeared on Ticketmaster's site, won't be applied. LIESA and Ticketmaster are looking at collecting data for every frisa guest. Pickup dates will be announced on LIESA's official channels.

Children: admitted from their 5th birthday, and they need a ticket from that age. Under 16s enter only with a parent or legal guardian, and staff may ask for a birth certificate.

Technical rehearsals in January

Before Carnival, the Special Group schools run through the Sambadrome itself while LIESA tests lights and sound. Children's schools open each evening. The rehearsals are open to spectators. Check LIESA's website for entry details closer to the dates.

- Sat Jan 23: children's schools 17:30; from 20:00 União de Maricá, Beija-Flor, Paraíso do Tuiuti
- Sun Jan 24: children's schools 17:00; from 19:00 Vila Isabel, Mocidade, Unidos da Tijuca
- Sat Jan 30: children's schools 17:30; from 20:00 Salgueiro, Imperatriz, Portela

- Sun Jan 31: 17:00 Lavagem da Sapucaí, the traditional "washing" of the avenue; from 19:00 Viradouro, Grande Rio, Mangueira

What to bring

Under the rules posted by LIESA and Rio Carnival, each spectator may bring up to two 500 ml plastic bottles of drink and up to two food items (fruit, a snack or a sandwich). Not allowed: glass bottles, aluminum cans, coolers, plastic bags, weapons, sharp objects, fireworks and flares. Umbrellas weren't allowed in 2026, so a plastic rain poncho is the better choice (Rio Convention & Visitors Bureau guide). Comfortable shoes and a charged phone help, and bring your child's birth certificate if you travel with kids.

Getting there

- Metro: even sectors (2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12) use Praça Onze station; odd sectors (1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11) use Central do Brasil. Rio Carnival puts the walk at about 7 minutes from Praça Onze and about 15 from Central.
- Train: Central do Brasil station.
- Taxi: give the driver your sector number, since the drop-off point depends on it.
- In 2026 the metro ran around the clock on parade days, and CET-Rio closed the central lanes of Avenida Presidente Vargas and the streets around the Sambadrome. That plan came out on February 5. The 2027 plan hasn't been published yet.

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

- the night or nights (Série Ouro Feb 5 and 6, Special Group Feb 7 to 9, Champions Parade Feb 13), or the schools you want to see;
- seat type: grandstand, chair, frisa or box;
- number of people and children's ages;
- whether you need transfers planned around the closures, a hotel, a guide (and in which language), a January rehearsal or a spot in a parade.

Vela Brasil

Website: https://velabrasil.com/rio-carnival/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=outreach&utm_campaign=karnaval-2027&utm_content=memo

Email: comercial@velabrasil.com

Price on request, proposal within 24 hours.

Sources (checked October 23, 2026)

- LIESA, 2027 nights and schools: liesa.org.br/carnaval/horario-dos-desfiles.html
- LIESA, presale and general sale: liesa.org.br/noticias/260729-pre-venda-ingressos.html (Jul 29, 2026)
- LIESA, general sale and Champions Parade on Feb 13: liesa.org.br/noticias/260810-venda-de-ingressos.html (Aug 10, 2026)
- LIESA, grandstands, chairs and frisas: liesa.org.br/noticias/260909-ingressos.html (Sep 9, 2026)
- LIESA, 2027 technical rehearsals: liesa.org.br/noticias/260909-ensaios-tecnicos.html (Sep 9, 2026)
- LIESA, frisa access in 2027: liesa.org.br/noticias/261016-frisas.html (Oct 16, 2026)
- LIESA, tickets and FAQ: liesa.org.br/ingressos, liesa.org.br/carnaval/faq.html
- Rio Carnival, visitor information: riocarnaval.com/informacoes
- Riotur, Série Ouro 2027 draw: riotur.rio/editorial/serie-ouro-2027-sorteio-define-ordem-dos-desfiles-e-abre-nova-fase-na-sapucaí/ (Apr 28, 2026)
- FC&VB-RJ, Sapucaí guide 2026: fcvbrj.org.br/Noticia/Leia/guia-sapucaí-2026_-como-chegar_-o-que-levar-e-onde-ficar-no-maior-espetaculo-da-terra (Feb 11, 2026)
- CET-Rio, Carnival 2026 traffic plan: cetrio.prefeitura.rio/noticias/cet-rio-monta-esquemas-de-transito-para-o-carnaval-do-rio-2026/ (Feb 5, 2026)