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**Paraquedismo - Brazil's Parachuting**

**By Marina Petroni**

Ready. Set. And you don't even wait for go. In this high speed sport, your adrenaline is pumping at

equally high speed, and the thrill of free falling just can't wait. From your vantage point, you're flying towards a mapped-out Earth below, which is smiling wide at you. You can scream any profanity, sing an aria from your favorite opera, enjoy the view in Zen peace and quiet - you are anything you imagine at this height, where you own the world below, and the only thing that world below knows about you is that you're a tumbling speck high up in the sky. Suddenly, it feels as though mom (because in this state, you are as carefree as any happy 5 year old) has grabbed you by your collar and brought your wild freedom to a sudden halt. Then you realize that your parachute has opened, and in your newfound comfort zone, you enjoy the rest of the ride and the view.

Such is the experience of parachuting, a sport rapidly gaining popularity in Brazil. The locals are not the only ones taking advantage of Brazil's world-class parachuting facilities and natural beauty to admire from so high up in the sky. Travelers to the country are now also adding the exotic Brazilian natureza to their experience of this action-packed sport.

However, as the first word of this article states, being ready is essential to parachuting. As with any action sport, training is an imperative component of a successful parachuting experience. In Brazil, you will find three different ways to begin your journey learning to parachute. The first type of jump is called o salto duplo, known as tandem in English. This jump takes the least training, and is a good option for those who think they are interested in trying parachuting just once, to cross it off the "things to do before I die" list. In tandem, you are sharing a parachute with a trained instructor on your back - fortunately he's only on your back in the literal sense, to control the situation and to pilot a safe and enjoyable ride for you. Tandem is the safest and simplest way for the novice jumper to experience parachuting.

For those who are may be interested in learning to parachute with the aim of eventually being able to perform their own jumps, the other two types will be more interesting. Of these, the Accelerated Free Fall (AFF) will likely come first. After intensive training, this jump involves two instructors holding you upon jumping, eventually leaving you on your own to release the parachute and land safely. High levels of confidence, fitness, and training are necessary to perform this well, and the AFF course is

intense enough to prepare you for this.

A step further beyond the AFF is the Static Line jump. This jump is performed completely solo, and is sometimes only recommended or allowed for those who have successfully completed AFF training and jumping. Naturally, jumping alone means the jumper has complete control of what he is doing. While the parachute will automatically release, the skydiver must know how to manually release the line if a problem arises, and must be able to land smoothly to avoid injury. Static Line, therefore, takes the most training and preparation.

Armed with this knowledge, the last step left is to choose the site where you will jump! To maximize safety, be sure the company you go with provides parachutes, airplanes, and instructors of only the best caliber. Checking that the club you are interested in parachuting with is a member of the United States Parachute Association will confirm that this particular club upholds the safety standards of the USPA.

Be ready to enjoy one of the most exhilarating times of your life, when you become absolutely extraordinary, taking part in one of the most radical activities a human can participate in.

About the Author: On request of Pára-quedismo Boituva. This article may be published only with active HTML links to

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## **Try An Exotic Brazil Holiday**

**By George Johnson**

If a Brazil holiday sounds appealing to you, consider looking into Brazil rentals and vacation homes. There are a lot of options for vacationers and the prices are surprisingly reasonable. Vacation rentals are a great alternative to expensive hotels. They are like the proverbial home away from home.

A Brazil holiday is ideal any time of year. The country offers a lively nightlife and excellent weather all year. The country offers many different activities as well. There are thirty-six states in Brazil and each state has something of interest to everyone.

You can visit beaches and scuba dive or you can hike over mountains and check out the scenery and the wildlife. Brazil appeals to those who prefer cultural activities as well. There are artisan's workshops, dance classes and religious festivities that are unique and dear to the culture.

There are many listings from which to choose. You can opt to rent a sky rise apartment. These apartments provide the same services that you expect from a hotel but you still have the feeling of being home.

Sky rise apartments offer balconies and magnificent views, but they are also very close to shopping

and restaurants. You can spend the day at the beach, make a quick change and visit the local stores and restaurants that you expect to find on a Brazil holiday.

Rentals offer many services that come in handy during a vacation. Most of the buildings are secure and are designed to entertain a family with children, couples or business people. You can find rentals for your Brazil holiday that provide a gym, sauna and pool. You can visit coffee shops, bakeries and retail stores.

The height of the travel season in Brazil is December through February and there is another peak season in July. In order to find the best rates, it is best to make arrangements during the off-season. Since Brazil's slow season spans nine out of twelve months, your options are vast.

Rentals are also appealing to people who are looking to take business trips to Brazil. Many rentals have all of the equipment necessary to run an office. Properties offer fax machines and phone lines along and some offer Internet connections. There are laundry services as well that can take care of your cleaning while you work. This gives you time to make the business trip into a Brazil holiday.

When you plan your Brazil holiday, make sure to give yourself a lot of time. Rentals are abundant pretty much all year, but flights can be very expensive if you book them too soon. Travel agents recommend that you book your flight to Brazil three months in advance to take advantage of discounted flights.

I would give some serious thought to taking my next holiday in Brazil.

<http://brazilholiday.info>

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