

## **City Tours Date 23 March**

**Visit the most beautiful tourist spots.**

**Departure time 9:30 am Return time 3:30 pm**

### **MAC - CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM**

Designed by architect Oscar Niemeyer and built on Boa Viagem Viewpoint, a prime location, the museum leans over the waters of Guanabara Bay and leads the visitor's eye to the other side, where the Corcovado and Sugar Loaf are. Niemeyer states that upon visiting the site, he "envisioned the museum as something loose in the landscape, a white bird taking flight over the sea and sky of Niteroi, which shows a supreme respect for the landscape. It was inaugurated on September 6, 1996.

Price: adults - R\$ 5,00 / Students: R\$ 2,50

### **SANTA CRUZ FORTRESS**

In 1555, Villegaignon improvised a fortification to defend the entrance to Guanabara Bay. The Santa Cruz Fortress participated in important moments of our history, preventing invasions by French and Dutch. While it was a prison, it received characters such as José Bonifacio, Bento Gonçalves and Euclides da Cunha. Its last shot, against the Tamandaré cruiser, was in 1955. With its impressive and grand architectural complex, the Santa Cruz Fortress causes the impact of shocking and calming beauty to the observer.

Prices: adults – R\$ 6,00 / Students (registered): R\$ 3,00

### **Stop for Lunch**

#### **XV Square**

This is the center of Rio since the end of the 1500 years when the first inhabitants transferred to that place the city that was founded at the bottom of the Sugar Loaf. For more than 200 years the Governments and emperors lived there. Praça XV was, for a long time, the most important square in the city. It is surrounded by the most important buildings that mark the history of Brazil. The Imperial Palace was the home of the governors and viceroys and the head office of Dom João VI, Pedro I and Pedro II reigns. From its windows, Pedro I declared its decision to stay in Brazil, which was the first step for Brazil's Independence, and from where Princess Isabel declared the abolition of slavery. The Imperial Palace, which is now a cultural center. Nossa Senhora do Carmo Church in Rua Primeiro de Março, the former Cathedral of Rio de Janeiro dating back to 1761 (the current storefront was built in 1922) is also a Carmelite Convent. It was restored and its splendor was reestablished. In the crypt are the mortal remains of Pedro Álvares Cabral.

#### **Lapa Arches**

The arches were built in 1740/1750 to give way to allow the stream of the Carioca river from the bottom of Corcovado Mountain to the center of the city. They were deactivated in the middle of the nineteenth century. For more that 100 years they are used by the cable car that goes to Santa Teresa, a station located close to the Petrobras building. The district of Lapa has a very lively nightlife, with dozens of bars, botequins, restaurants, cultural centers and other points for the bohemia in Rio. The Cathedral of St. Sebastian and the Petrobras Building are the templates of the modern architecture.