

Campinas Travel Guide

Campinas: Culture, Science & Nature

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Things to do in Campinas

Landmarks & Monuments

Iconic structures and historical monuments that define Campinas' architectural heritage and civic pride.

Tower of Campinas (Torre de Campinas) Must See

QR code to map location

30 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

Historic clock tower built in 1913, standing 42 meters tall at Largo do Rosário. This Art Nouveau structure is one of Campinas' most recognizable landmarks and a symbol of the city's architectural heritage. Offers panoramic views of downtown from observation deck.

Cathedral of Campinas (Catedral Metropolitana) Must See

QR code to map location

45 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

Impressive Neo-Gothic cathedral completed in 1883, featuring stunning stained glass windows and ornate interior. The cathedral dominates the skyline and serves as the spiritual center of the city. Regular masses and occasional cultural events.

Rosário Square (Largo do Rosário) Top Pick

QR code to map location

1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

Historic central square surrounded by colonial and Art Deco buildings. The heart of downtown Campinas with cafés, shops, and cultural activities. Perfect for people-watching and experiencing local urban life.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Visit early morning for best photography light and fewer crowds
- The tower has limited visiting hours - check ahead
- Nearby cafés offer excellent local coffee



Museums & Galleries

World-class museums and cultural centers showcasing art, science, and local history.

Museum of Image and Sound (Museu da Imagem e do Som)

Must See

QR code to map location

2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Cutting-edge museum dedicated to photography, film, and media art. Features rotating exhibitions of contemporary and historical works. Interactive displays explore the evolution of visual media in Brazil. Housed in a modern architectural landmark.

Pontal Cultural Center (Centro Cultural Pontal)

Top Pick

QR code to map location

90 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

Contemporary art space in a historic mansion featuring exhibitions, workshops, and performances. Focuses on local and emerging artists. Beautiful courtyards and garden spaces. Free admission to permanent exhibitions.



Carlos Gomes Theater (Teatro Carlos Gomes)

Top Pick

Book

QR code to map location

Ahead

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Map

Historic 1846 theater named after the famous Brazilian composer. Features ornate Belle Époque architecture with red velvet seats and crystal chandeliers. Hosts theater, dance, music performances, and classical concerts throughout the year.

State University Science Museum (Museu de Ciências - UNICAMP)

Top Pick

QR code to map location

2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Interactive science museum with hands-on exhibits exploring physics, biology, and technology. Housed in the former Physics Department building. Features planetarium shows and rotating themed exhibitions. Educational programs for families.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- Many museums offer free admission on Sundays
- Check for special exhibitions and cultural events online
- Campus museums require advance notice for large groups



Parks & Gardens

Green spaces offering respite, recreation, and natural beauty in the heart of the city.

Bosque dos Jequitibás Must See

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

QR code to map location

[Map](#)

Largest urban forest in Campinas with 73 hectares of native Atlantic Forest. Features walking trails, native plants, and botanical garden sections. Home to diverse bird species and small mammals. Contains ancient Jequitibá trees (300+ years old) that give the forest its name.

Araçoba Park (Parque Araçoba) Top Pick

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

QR code to map location

[Map](#)

Scenic 17-hectare park with lake, walking paths, and recreational facilities. Features sports courts, playgrounds, and exercise equipment. Popular for jogging and cycling. Peaceful setting with mature trees and natural landscape.



Botanical Garden (Jardim Botânico) Top Pick

1.5 hours No Booking Needed

QR code to map location

[Map](#)

Beautifully landscaped botanical garden with diverse plant collections. Features themed sections, greenhouse exhibitions, and environmental education center. Peaceful environment ideal for contemplation and nature photography.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Early morning visits offer best weather and wildlife observation
- Bring water and wear comfortable walking shoes
- Parks are excellent for photography and picnics



Religious Sites

Sacred spaces reflecting Campinas' spiritual heritage and architectural beauty.

Basilica of Our Lady of Good Success (Basílica Nossa Senhora do Bom Sucesso) Must See

QR code to map location
[Map](#)

45 minutes No Booking Needed

Stunning Neo-Gothic basilica completed in 1910 with soaring towers visible from across the city. Features intricate stained glass windows, marble altar, and ornate ceiling frescoes. Active pilgrimage site with significant religious importance to local community.

Church of Santo Antônio (Igreja de Santo Antônio) Top Pick

QR code to map location
[Map](#)

30 minutes No Booking Needed

Colonial-era church with simple yet elegant architecture dating to the 18th century. Features original wooden elements and baroque details. Historic site reflecting Campinas' religious heritage and colonial period.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Check visiting hours as churches have specific schedules
- Dress respectfully when visiting active places of worship
- Photography may be restricted during services



Neighborhoods & Districts

Distinctive areas offering unique character, dining, and local experiences.

Barão Geraldo District Top Pick

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

QR code to map location

[Map](#)

Vibrant university neighborhood near UNICAMP campus. Hub of youth culture, independent cafés, bookstores, and restaurants. Features local art galleries and vintage shops. Lively atmosphere with outdoor dining and street markets.

Vila Industrial Top Pick

2 hours No Booking Needed

QR code to map location

[Map](#)

Artsy neighborhood experiencing revitalization. Features street art, small galleries, craft breweries, and independent shops. Growing restaurant scene with focus on craft beverages. Popular with creative community and young professionals.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- Barão Geraldo has best nightlife and late-night dining
- Vila Industrial offers authentic local experiences
- Both neighborhoods best explored on foot or by bike



Tours & Activities

Guided experiences and interactive activities for discovering Campinas.

City Walking Tours Top Pick Book Ahead

2 hours Book Ahead

Guided walking tours of historic downtown highlighting architectural landmarks, cultural sites, and local history. Professional guides share stories about Campinas' development and cultural heritage. Available in Portuguese and English.

Agricultural Heritage Tours Top Pick Book Ahead

4-5 hours Book Ahead

Explore Campinas' agricultural significance with visits to fruit farms, coffee plantations, and agricultural research centers. Learn about sustainable farming practices and regional agriculture. Includes farm-to-table dining experiences.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book tours through local tourism office or hotels
- Agricultural tours require advance reservation
- Tours often include local food tastings



Day Trips & Excursions

Nearby destinations perfect for exploring beyond the city.



Holambra (30 km) Top Pick

half day No Booking Needed

QR code to map location

Map

Charming Dutch settlement famous for flower cultivation and gardens. Features flower shops, art galleries, and flower-themed festivals. Colonial Dutch architecture creates unique atmosphere. Popular weekend destination for flower shopping and scenic drives.



Monte Alegre do Sul (50 km) Top Pick

half day No Booking Needed

QR code to map location

Map

Rural mountain town known for vineyards, horse farms, and countryside estates. Features wine tastings and gourmet dining. Scenic hiking trails and panoramic viewpoints. Peaceful getaway with colonial architecture.

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- Rent a car for maximum flexibility
- Best visited during weekdays to avoid crowds
- Plan morning departures to maximize daylight

Practical Information

Climate: Campinas has a subtropical climate with two distinct seasons.

Best Months: April-September (autumn/winter) with temperatures 15-25°C, lower humidity, and less rainfall. December-February (summer) is hot (25-30°C) and wet but features festivals.

Rainfall: Heaviest December-February. Lightest May-September.

Humidity: Year-round humidity ranges 60-80%. More comfortable in cooler months.

Festival Season: Main events occur March-June and September-October.

Getting There:

- **By Air:** International arrivals through São Paulo (Guarulhos 1.5 hours away, Campinas/Viracopos airport 30 min)
- **By Bus:** Extensive long-distance bus network connecting major Brazilian cities
- **By Car:** Via SP-340 and other state highways from São Paulo

Local Transportation:

- **Buses:** Comprehensive municipal bus system with multiple lines (R\$3-4 fare)
- **Taxis:** Available but pre-booking recommended



- **Uber/Ride-share:** Available in main areas
- **Bicycle:** Growing bike-friendly infrastructure in downtown
- **Car Rental:** Available at airport and downtown agencies

➔ Airport Transfer

Viracopos International Airport (VCP) to city center:

- **EMTU Airport Bus:** Regular coach service to downtown Campinas in about 35 minutes, roughly R\$15
- **Intercity Bus to São Paulo:** EMTU line to Tietê/Barra Funda terminals in São Paulo takes around 1.5 hours, about R\$40
- **Taxi:** Metered ride to central Campinas takes about 25 minutes, typically R\$60-80
- **Private Transfer:** Pre-booked car service to Campinas or São Paulo hotels, around R\$150-250 depending on distance, roughly 30-90 minutes

Shopping Areas:

- **Largo do Rosário:** Historic center with boutiques, cafés, bookstores
- **Barão Geraldo:** Independent shops, vintage stores, craft breweries
- **Vila Industrial:** Art galleries, craft shops, artisan goods

Shopping Malls:

- **Dom Pedro Shopping:** Large mall with international brands
- **Campinas Shopping:** Central location with diverse stores

Local Products:

- Agricultural produce: Coffee, fruits, vegetables from surrounding regions
- Handicrafts: Local artisan goods and ceramics
- Art: Contemporary pieces from local artists

Markets: Weekend farmers markets (sábado) in public squares with fresh produce and artisan goods.

Annual Events:

- **Festival of Lights (December):** City-wide illumination and holiday celebrations
- **Campinas Jazz Festival (June):** International jazz performances
- **SESC Dance Festival (May-June):** Contemporary dance performances
- **Chamber Music Festival (April-May):** Classical music performances
- **Street Art Festival (September):** Urban art exhibitions and performances

Cultural Events:

- Theater productions at Carlos Gomes Theater year-round
- Art exhibitions rotating through cultural centers
- Music performances in parks and squares
- Food festivals celebrating regional cuisine

Day 1: Historic Center & Architecture

Start at Largo do Rosário (8 AM) to avoid crowds. Visit Tower of Campinas (9 AM), tour Cathedral (10 AM), explore Pontal Cultural Center (11:30 AM). Lunch at local restaurant in Rosário Square (12:30 PM). Afternoon: Cathedral Basilica (2 PM), stroll through historic streets (3-4 PM). Dinner in downtown area (6 PM).

Day 2: Museums & Culture

Morning at Museum of Image and Sound (9 AM-12 PM). Lunch at Barão Geraldo (1 PM). Afternoon at Carlos Gomes Theater if performance available, or explore UNICAMP Science Museum (2-4 PM). Evening walking tour of neighborhood (5-6 PM). Dinner in Barão Geraldo (7 PM).



Day 3: Nature & Relaxation

Bosque dos Jequitibás forest walk (8 AM-11 AM). Lunch nearby (12 PM). Botanical Garden (1:30-3:30 PM). Araçoba Park sunset visit (4-6 PM). Casual dinner (7 PM).

Day 4: Day Trip & Local Life

Day trip to Holambra for flowers and lunch (7 AM-2 PM). Return to Campinas (2-3 PM). Explore Vila Industrial neighborhood (4-6 PM), dinner at craft brewery (7 PM).

Day 5: Deep Dives & Hidden Gems

Morning: Agricultural museum or farm tour (8 AM-12 PM). Lunch in rural area. Return for afternoon city exploration of lesser-known neighborhoods. Evening: performing arts at cultural center or live music venue (7 PM).

Best Photography Locations:

- **Tower of Campinas:** Golden hour (6-7 PM) for glowing cityscape backdrop. Early morning (6-7 AM) for soft light on historic square
- **Bosque dos Jequitibás:** Morning light through forest canopy (7-9 AM). Overcast days capture forest mood
- **Basilica of Bom Sucesso:** Twilight (6:30-7:30 PM) with illuminated towers. Sunrise (6 AM) for dramatic shadows
- **Largo do Rosário:** Blue hour (7-8 PM) for urban night photography with tower backlit
- **Vila Industrial Street Art:** Midday (11 AM-2 PM) for vibrant colors. Overcast days prevent harsh shadows
- **Botanical Garden:** Morning (7-9 AM) for dewy plants and soft light

Tips: Early mornings offer best light and fewest people. Golden hour (sunset) provides warm, flattering light for architecture. Overcast days ideal for even, diffused lighting.

Voltage: 110V, 60 Hz (some areas use 220V - check with accommodation)

Outlet Types: Brazil uses types N (three round pins), C (two round pins), and I (three flat pins at angles) plugs.

Adapters & Converters:

- International travelers should bring universal adapter for type N/C plugs
- Most modern electronics (phones, laptops) are dual-voltage - check device labels
- Step-down converters needed for high-wattage 220V appliances to use on 110V
- Available in electronics stores and airport shops (may be expensive)

Practical Tips: Bring adapter before arrival, as finding correct type can be challenging. USB charging ports increasingly common in hotels and cafés.

Must-Try Dishes:

- **Feijoada:** Black bean stew with pork, served with rice and orange slices
- **Pão de Queijo:** Cheese bread - local specialty, best warm from bakery
- **Tropical Fruits:** Passion fruit (maracujá), guava (goiaba), açaí
- **Fresh Sugarcane Juice (Caldo de Cana):** Popular street drink
- **Brigadeiros & Docinhos:** Sweet treats at every café

Dining Recommendations:

- **Barão Geraldo:** Best for trendy restaurants, cafés, international cuisine
- **Vila Industrial:** Craft breweries and contemporary Brazilian dining
- **Largo do Rosário:** Traditional restaurants and casual eateries

Coffee Culture: Excellent local coffee tradition. Visit traditional cafés for strong espresso (cafezinho). Growing specialty coffee scene.

Dining Tips: Lunch (almoço) 11 AM-2 PM is main meal with set menus (prato feito). Dinner lighter and later (7-10 PM). Most restaurants accept cards, but cash useful for small vendors.



Tourist Passes

Campinas City Card

Discounted access pass providing reduced admission to major museums, cultural institutions, and attractions. Includes public transportation benefits. Available for 24, 48, or 72-hour periods.

QR code to www.campinas.sp.gov.br
www.campinas.sp.gov.br

Cultural Events Pass

Monthly pass providing access to performances, exhibitions, and cultural events at municipal institutions including theaters, galleries, and museums. Substantial savings for active cultural participants.

QR code to www.campinas.sp.gov.br
www.campinas.sp.gov.br

