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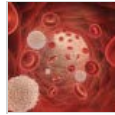


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ONLY IN

# Only In...Paraty

Four things you can do in the hippie-posh, colonial-era coastal getaway and nowhere else

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February 11, 2012



Casa Turquesa Iain Kemp

### 1. Stay in a Brazilian prince's villa.

Upscale boutique hotels like Casa Turquesa are increasingly appearing in Paraty's historic center, though the best accommodations are still in private homes there and on nearby isles. You can rent out the waterfront palace of João de Orleans e Bragança, Paraty's most prominent resident and a pretender to the Brazilian throne. The 18th-century stone house revels in its regality, with old family portraits and period furniture. It also comes with a household staff. From about \$2,000 per night, [brazilianbeachhouse.com](http://brazilianbeachhouse.com)



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Stand up paddle surfing Michael Smyth

### 2. Hike a gold trail through the rainforest.

In the 18th century, gold and precious stones would be brought down to the coast ships via a cobblestone road carved out of Atlantic rainforest by African slaves. Parts of the old Caminho do Ouro have been restored and form one of the best routes through Parque Nacional da Serra da Bocaina. Hikes past colonial churches and plantations run about three hours and come with the required guide.

Make arrangements with Paraty Tours (from \$50 per person, [paratytrips.com.br](http://paratytrips.com.br)) or Paraty Explorer (from \$50 per person, [paratyexplorer.com](http://paratyexplorer.com)), which combines treks with beach-going or stand up paddle surfing to isolated fishing communities.



Enlarge Image

Bloco de Lama Associated Press

### 3. Paint yourself in mud and carry a cattle skull.

In 1986, a few days before Carnival, some friends walked into town after trouncing through the mud in a local mangrove swamp, Praia do Jabaquara. Commotion ensued. The next year, a larger group came, as it did the following year. Now the Bloco de Lama (Mud Block) is an annual

ritual. Attendees resemble a prehistoric tribe of mud people carrying bones and chanting guttural sounds in the hopes of warding off any evil spirits that have shown up for the festivities. City officials, who at first frowned on the mob, have

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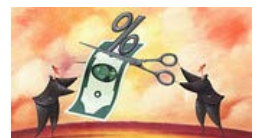
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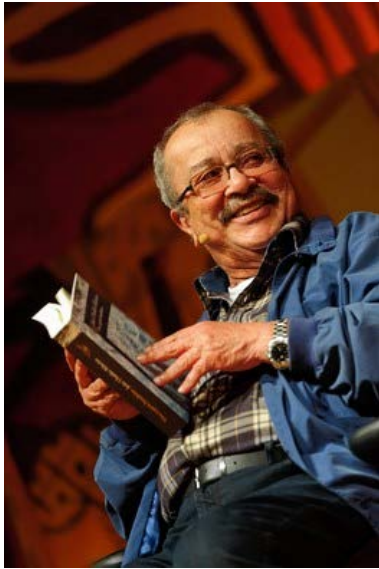


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embraced the event as a form of outdoor theater and now encourage a finish in the Rio Perequeaçú or at Praia do Pontal. Bloco de Lama takes place on the Saturday of Carnival at 5 p.m. [blocodalama.com.br](http://blocodalama.com.br)



Festa Literária Internacional de Paraty, aka FLIP  
Walter Craveiro

4. Attend an all-ages literary festival.

In 2003, Liz Calder, a former model and co-founder of London's Bloomsbury publishing house, launched the Festa Literária Internacional de Paraty, aka FLIP. Now a major literary event, every July it draws culture vultures from around the world to mingle with big-name authors, from João Ubaldo Ribeiro (right) to Salman Rushdie. Perhaps more unusual are its parallel festivals aimed at school children and teenagers, known as Flipinha and Flipzona. It's book fun for the whole family. [flip.org.br](http://flip.org.br)

—Nicholas Gill

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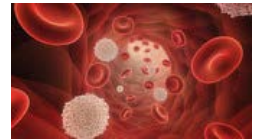
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