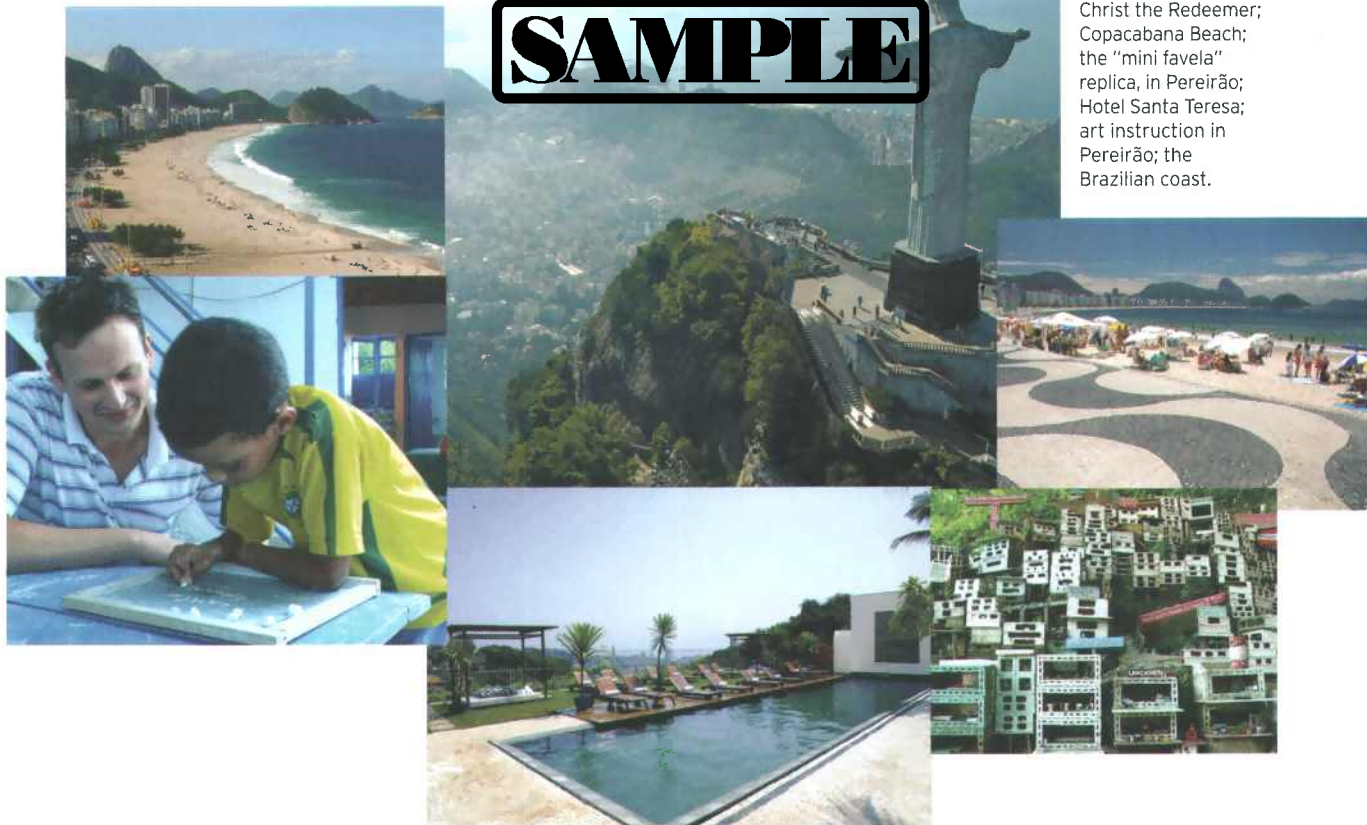


SAMPLE

Views of Rio

Clockwise from top: Christ the Redeemer; Copacabana Beach; the "mini favela" replica, in Pereir o; Hotel Santa Teresa; art instruction in Pereir o; the Brazilian coast.



THE OUTFITTER: HANDS UP HOLIDAYS

VOLUNTEERING: RIO DE JANEIRO

WHY GO Few travelers get to do more than scratch the surface of this city of disorienting contrasts, where a golden coastline and buzzing nightlife districts abut gritty, overcrowded favelas—home to about 20 percent of Rio’s 6 million residents. This 10-day trip from U.K.-based operator Hands Up Holidays gives volunteers a deeper look at the city and a chance to make a difference.

THE TRIP An experienced voluntourism outfitter, Hands Up Holidays excels at balancing unexpected sightseeing expeditions (sunset on Arpoador Beach; hiking in the wetlands of Marapendi; Portuguese-architecture walks) with four days of volunteering in the city’s favelas. Tours of the popular nightlife district Lapa and the bohemian Santa Teresa neighborhood, where a boutique

hotel of the same name is your base, add a level of luxury to days spent in the favelas of Vila Canoas, Pereir o, and Rocinha. There, you’ll help residents paint street murals, or spend your time teaching English, art, and soccer (depending on your skills). Hands Up also takes volunteers to visit Project Morrinho, an arts and culture nonprofit, to see a replica of the famous “mini favela” that was built from bricks and other recycled materials by local youth and displayed at the 2007 Venice Biennale as a way to raise awareness of the city’s impoverished districts.

THE DETAILS *T+L Transformation Vacation by Hands Up Holidays; 201/984-5372; handsupholidays.com; Dec. 9–18, 2009, March 3–12 and June 9–18, 2010; from \$3,250, double, excluding airfare.*

4 MORE TRIP IDEAS

HAWAII

The Operator Habitat for Humanity (10 days)
The Trip Build a house for a family in Kauai.
Highlight Cabin accommodations in lush Kahili Mountain Park. 800/422-4828; habitat.org; Dec. 6–15, 2009; \$1,510 per person.

MEXICO

The Operator Ritz-Carlton, Canc n (1 day)
The Trip Restore furniture and a garden at a school in a Mayan *pueblito*.
Highlight Intro Mayan language lessons are included. 52-998/881-0808; ritz-carlton.com; year-round; \$115 per Ritz-Carlton, Canc n hotel guest.

CAMBODIA

The Operator Pepy Tours (7 days)
The Trip This itinerary (by *tuk-tuk* and bicycle) pairs voluntourism with stays at inns and lodges.
Highlight A field trip to Angkor Wat with schoolchildren. 914/458-4262; pepytours.com; Dec. 27–Jan. 2, 2010; from \$100 per person per day.

KENYA

The Operator Micato Safaris (12–18 days)
The Trip Spot lions, then plant trees at a community center in Nairobi.
Highlight Learn how the center’s advisers save lives through AIDS education. 800/642-286; micato.com; year-round; from \$7,670 per person.