

Report on Travel and Logistics for the 2014 World Sprints in Rio

The following covers information obtained on Lara's recent trip to Rio regarding the IVF World Sprints Event 2014.

Safety Concerns and recommendations

We have some very strong concerns about safety, especially for our juniors.

Managers and juniors will be briefed on the issues around safety and they need to clearly understand the dangers.

Over the next few months Waka Ama New Zealand will be developing some travel guidelines and rules for our entire NZ contingent competing.

One of these rules will be that every junior team must have one adult traveling with every three juniors (U19 down) (1 to 3 ratio)

Also all participants will be required to complete a safety waiver acknowledging their awareness and responsibility of the risks.

More information on this will follow.

The Venue and Logistics

Rio de Janeiro IVF World Sprints 2014: Rio de Janeiro is an interesting and vibrant city. The population is 6.3 million people. Further information about the city can be found here. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rio_de_Janeiro

Lara's Travel:

The flight was very long! To get there I had a 12 hour flight to Santiago (Chile), then a 3 hour flight to Montevideo (Uruguay) followed by a 2.5 hour flight to Rio. Total travel time was about 21 hours.

The cost of the flight was \$2860 (return).

Lara's first Impressions:

I had been warned not to wear flashy jewellery and to be very careful with my belongings. I didn't take too much notice because I thought I was pretty well travelled and I knew better. I also don't consider the jewellery I wear to be overly flashy. However on the first morning after I arrived, the group of IVF delegates and myself, decided to venture to Copacabana beach and check out the surrounding areas. Whilst waiting on the side of a street to cross a road, a guy on a bicycle rode past me and grabbed my necklace and pendant from around my neck, he pulled so hard it came off and he rode away with it in his hand. I was a little shocked and everyone in our group took a lot more care of themselves from that point on.

It was apparent that one should:

- Not carry a bag
- Carry money and credit cards on your person – not in a bag
- Not wear any jewellery – especially gold (earrings, rings, necklaces)
- Not let your credit card out of your sight, always sign or use the pay machine at the table in a restaurant.
- Not catch private buses
- Only take taxi's
- Always make sure the taxi driver puts the meter on

- Lock passport up in hotel safe
- Make sure you have at least 2 photocopies of your passport

If you get mugged - give them what they want.

Language:

The language of Rio is Portuguese. Not very many people speak English (Including taxi drivers) so getting around and communicating can be difficult.

To assist with language difficulties we will be providing some links on the website to help with communication, some basic key phrases and words etc.

Money:

The currency of Rio is REAIS (pronounced HEY'EYE)
The current exchange rate is 1 NZ Dollar = \$ 1.68 REAIS

Getting cash out is not easy. There are few ATM machines that are in English and you should only use the ones that are inside banks for safety.

Most places accept all major credit cards

Cost of Food: because of the exchange rate this was relatively good value. A 1 litre bottle of water was less than \$1 NZ

A decent meal in a restaurant was around \$20-\$30

A Big Mac was \$6

Canoes:

The organisers have not yet confirmed the make and model of the canoes that will be used in the event.

Lanes:

The organisers have not yet confirmed how many lanes will be used in the event.

Dates: The event will be in August, but dates have not yet been confirmed. As soon as we know we will let you know.

Accommodation:

For safety reasons: Waka Ama NZ will be engaging with a travel agent who will provide 2 or 3 options for hotels. Teams and individuals going to Rio under the New Zealand umbrella (Club and Elite) should stay at one of these options. – As soon as these options are available we will let you know.

Lara's visit to hotels:

I spent 2 days visiting hotels, hostels and apartments close to the race site.

It would be my recommendation that the NZ contingent, for safety reasons, stay in one hotel or apartment building or at least very near to each other.

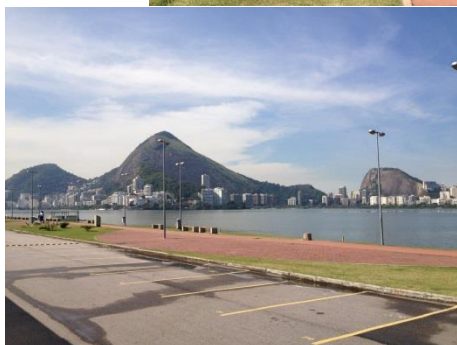
Getting around the city is difficult and the further away teams are from the race site the more safety issues are likely to arise.

The area immediately around the race venue is also the safest part of Rio and for that reason I would recommend staying in that area (Lagoa, Leblon, Ipanema).

I visited 10 places to stay and although most places could not give us a price for August 2014, if you based it on current prices it would be approximately \$600 - \$700 Reais per night for 4 people in a room. That was for a room with a kitchenette in it also. Very reasonable.

The Race Venue: Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas <http://rio2016.com/en/the-games/venues-map>

The race venue is in Lagoa. It is a nice area of the city and the actual venue is very clean and tidy. It has a grand stand, tower, 2 restaurants and a cinema complex. It is the site of the 2016 Rio Olympics Rowing venue.



Estimated Costs:

- Flight \$2850 ex Auckland
- Accommodation for 10 days - approx. \$1200 per person
- Food and expenses (budget \$50 per day) \$500
- Estimated total \$4550 per person

Other costs to consider: Travel insurance, entry fees, transport, sight seeing