



# Fact Sheet

## PARINTINS, BRAZIL

### **Where is Parintins?**

Parintins is an isolated city with 114,000 inhabitants located in the heart of the Amazonas region. The city covers an area of 7,069 km<sup>2</sup> and is located on the right bank of the Amazon River on the Tupinambarana Island.

Parintins is located 420 km from Manaus, the capital city of the Amazonas State, and can be accessed only by plane or by boat. There's a daily 1.25 hour flight from Manaus. Traveling by water offers a larger variety of options, from the simple use of local boats to luxury liners, locally known as catamarãs. It takes approximately 12 hours to sail down the river and 18 hours to sail upstream.

### **What are Parintins main attractions?**

Parintins is known primarily for its annual boi-bumba folklore festival, one of the largest revenue sources for the city's residents. The 3-day dueling theatrical celebration uses elaborate costumes, parade carts and puppets to perform a show based on indigenous legends gathered from several tribes and based on tales from the Brazilian Amazon half-breed caboclo traditions. The Caprichoso and Garantido schools compete each year. More than 100,000 people travel to Parintins every June for the festival. More information is available at [www.boibumba.com](http://www.boibumba.com).

The land that gave birth to the boi-bumba legend also offers many other noteworthy attractions. Outstanding among them is fishing, with an abundant variety of species such as Tambaqui, Pirarucu and Tucunaré that live in this region. September and October are the best months to enjoy fishing in this region.

### **Why was Parintins selected to become a digital city?**

Parintins faced innumerable hardships. Most notably, challenging conditions for installing telecommunication networks and transportation systems. As a result, the city had almost no Internet access and services. For example, 50 schools are located within city and 140 schools are located in the surrounding rural areas. In addition, just one school had computer lab and Internet access (64kb), which was provided by Brazil's federal government

Because of the city's remoteness, Parintins' residents also struggled to get adequate medical attention, with only 12 general physicians and 20 specialists offering services.

The area located close to the huge street-stage Bumbodromo is the best developed area in the region and features well-planned neighborhoods. However, the city's remotest areas lack running water, sewage systems and electricity.

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