



 **AIDS 2026**



Pre-departure guide

26–31 July 2026 · Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



AIDS 2026

Table of Contents

1. Pre-departure checklist.....	3
2. Transport	4
3. The conference venue.....	5
4. The conference programme.....	6
5. The virtual platform.....	6
6. Translation and interpretation	7
7. Registration requirements and arrival process.....	7
8. Other useful information	8
9. Contacts.....	12



AIDS 2026

1. Pre-departure checklist

Before leaving for Rio de Janeiro, please make sure that you have the following items:

- ☐ Your valid passport (valid for at least six months after your return date)
- ☐ Valid visa if required
- ☐ Photocopies of your passport and visa(s) for easy replacement if necessary
- ☐ Accommodation booking confirmation
- ☐ Essential medication (and a note from your doctor for prescription medication)
- ☐ Your mobile phone and headphones if you plan to access simultaneous interpretation during sessions (free Wi-Fi will be available)

Please familiarize yourself with the [AIDS 2026 code of conduct](#).

Important:

Medication: If you are travelling with medication, please find relevant information [here](#). We invite you to consult this website carefully before leaving for Rio de Janeiro.



AIDS 2026

2. Transport

Arriving in Rio

Upon arrival at RIOgaleão International Airport, official taxi services and prepaid taxi counters are available in the arrivals area. These are operated by authorized cooperatives and offer fixed fares agreed in advance. To use these services, proceed to the official taxi desk in the arrivals hall, where your fare will be confirmed before departure. Use only official, clearly marked taxi services and do not accept transport offers from individuals approaching you inside or outside the terminal.

Pre-arranged private transfers, bookable in advance of arrival, are also an option. Vetted drivers with knowledge of safe and efficient routes offer a more secure alternative, particularly given the general security considerations associated with the route from the airport.

Please note that ride-hailing applications are not recommended for journeys between the airport and the conference venue, or for longer journeys across the city due to the general security considerations involved.

Going to Riocentro

Taxi

Official taxi services are widely available throughout Rio de Janeiro, including at hotels, restaurants and transport hubs. Delegates should exercise caution when selecting transportation providers and also confirm accepted payment methods before commencing travel.

Ride-hailing services

App-based transportation platforms, including Uber and 99, are widely used throughout Rio de Janeiro. Delegates should make their own informed decisions regarding transportation options based on their itinerary, location, time of day and personal circumstances.

Public transportation

Rio de Janeiro has an extensive metro, bus and BRT network, including services operating near Riocentro. As with many large urban environments, petty crime and opportunistic theft can occur on public transportation and at transport hubs. Delegates choosing to use public transportation should remain aware of their surroundings, maintain control of personal belongings and avoid displaying valuables.

Free transfers to and from the AIDS 2026 venue

Fixed morning and end-of-day transfers are available between the conference venue and the official conference hotels (when not within walking distance of the conference venue). Bus transfers are available on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority boarding for the delegates who have submitted the transportation survey. To use the conference transfers, you must show your delegate badge. If you have not picked up your conference badge, show your AIDS 2026 registration confirmation.

Find further information about bus routes and schedules [here](#).



AIDS 2026

Leaving Rio de Janeiro

Hotels do not offer airport transfers. However, hotel concierge or front desk staff can arrange a taxi for you at your cost.

Please allow **extra travel time when travelling to the airport**, as traffic congestion – particularly during peak hours – can significantly affect journey times. Make sure to plan extra time for return flights.

3. The conference venue

Riocentro Convention & Event Center
Av. Salvador Allende
6555, Barra Olímpica
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Find more information about Riocentro [here](#) and access the location directly via Google Maps [here](#).

Important to know:

- To ensure streamlined entry, only small handbags and laptop bags are permitted inside the venue. Leave larger bags at your hotel or place them in the cloakroom available in the registration area.
- The catering services are provided exclusively by the conference venue supplier. Food outlets are available for delegates in Pavilion 3 and outside the convention centre in the food court. Water fountains will be available inside the venue. We strongly encourage delegates to bring and fill their own reusable bottles.
- Smoking and the use of electronic smoking devices (e-cigarettes/vapes) are prohibited in all indoor or covered areas, including walkways and the outdoor food court.
- If you require special assistance, please go to the special assistance desk in the registration area or email us at specialassistance@aid2026.org.



AIDS 2026

4. The conference programme

From reflection to action: What to expect

In the face of an unprecedented funding crisis and major cutbacks to HIV programmes, AIDS 2026, [the 26th International AIDS Conference](#), will unite people living with HIV, researchers, policy makers, healthcare professionals, funders, media and communities – to [rethink, rebuild and rise](#).

An effective response means rethinking outdated models, rebuilding systems to put people first, and rising through inclusive policies, innovation and collaboration.

Explore the full programme of AIDS 2026 at: programme.aids2026.org.

The programme includes:

- Over 150 sessions, including plenary presentations, invited-speaker symposia, oral abstract sessions, pre-conferences and satellites
- Over 2,400 posters, most of which will be presented in person in Rio de Janeiro
- A dynamic exhibition featuring leading HIV organizations

Scan to access the online programme:



5. The virtual platform

How to log in to the AIDS 2026 virtual platform

The conference platform will be accessible through the [AIDS 2026 website](#). To access the conference platform, you need a conference account, which is linked to the email address you used to register for AIDS 2026. **The platform will be operational from 23 July.**

We recommend that you check your [conference account](#) now to ensure that your registration status is shown as "registration confirmed". Without this confirmation, you will not be able to access the AIDS 2026 virtual platform. You are also encouraged to access and make yourself familiar with the conference platform before the official start of AIDS 2026.



AIDS 2026

6. Translation and interpretation

To ensure that AIDS 2026 is as inclusive and accessible as possible, interpretation will be available in over 60 languages. This service allows you to fully engage with key conference sessions – both virtually and in person – without language barriers.

To access interpretation, please have your phone and headphones ready. Simply scan the QR code provided in each session room or on the online platform, select your preferred language, and click "Join". You will then have the option of reading captions or listening to audio.

[Click here](#) for more information.

7. Registration requirements and arrival process

Where:

Riocentro, Pavilion 3

When:

Sunday, 26 July	07:15 – 18:00
Monday, 27 July	08:45 – 18:30
Tuesday, 28 – Thursday, 30 July	07:45 – 18:30
Friday, 31 July	07:45 – 16:30

We encourage you to finalize your registration in advance and **to bring the QR code confirmation you receive once your registration is finalized** to avoid unnecessary queues at the registration desks.

Payment

If you have paid by bank transfer but have not received an invoice or registration confirmation, please bring proof of payment or a bank transfer slip with you to the conference.

Payments on site can only be made by credit card. Cheques or cash will not be accepted.

Badge pick-up process

- **If your registration is confirmed**, please have the QR code confirmation ready on your smartphone or as a printout from the email you received from the AIDS 2026 Registration team. Go to the **badge self-printing desks** in the registration area and print your name badge.
- **If your registration is pending**, please proceed to the counters for **registered delegates** in the registration area to complete your registration.



AIDS 2026

- **If your media registration is pending**, please go to the **registered media** counters in the registration area to complete your registration. Any missing media credentials must be provided and approved by the IAS Media team before your media registration is completed. **Please note that we cannot guarantee approval of pending media registrations on site.**

Delegates registered as part of a group

If you are registered as part of a group, please check with your group manager about when and where you will receive your name badge.

8. Other useful information

Banks and currency

Exchange offices can be found in the Rio International Airport. Banks are a safe option, but may have higher fees.

Using credit cards is much more common than using cash. Make sure that you check with your bank before arrival in Brazil to be aware of any extra fees that you may be charged for using ATMs and credit cards.

There are no ATM's in the venue.

Business and shopping hours

Monday – Saturday: 08:00 – 06:00

Sunday: Closed

Emergency telephone numbers in Brazil

Police: 190

Ambulance: 192

Fire: 193

Harm reduction and medical services

While in Rio de Janeiro, the IAS is required to follow rules and guidelines for the provision of harm reduction services as determined in Brazilian legislation. As stated in the **National Policy on Comprehensive Care for People Who Use Alcohol and Other Drugs**¹, Brazil recognizes drug dependence as a health condition and promotes treatment-based approaches rather than criminalization. Harm reduction is integrated into public health strategies, particularly in HIV prevention, mental health and drug policy frameworks.

¹ https://www.gov.br/mj/pt-br/assuntos/sua-protecao/politicas-sobre-drogas/arquivo-manual-de-avaliacao-e-alienacao-de-bens/planad_set_2022.pdf



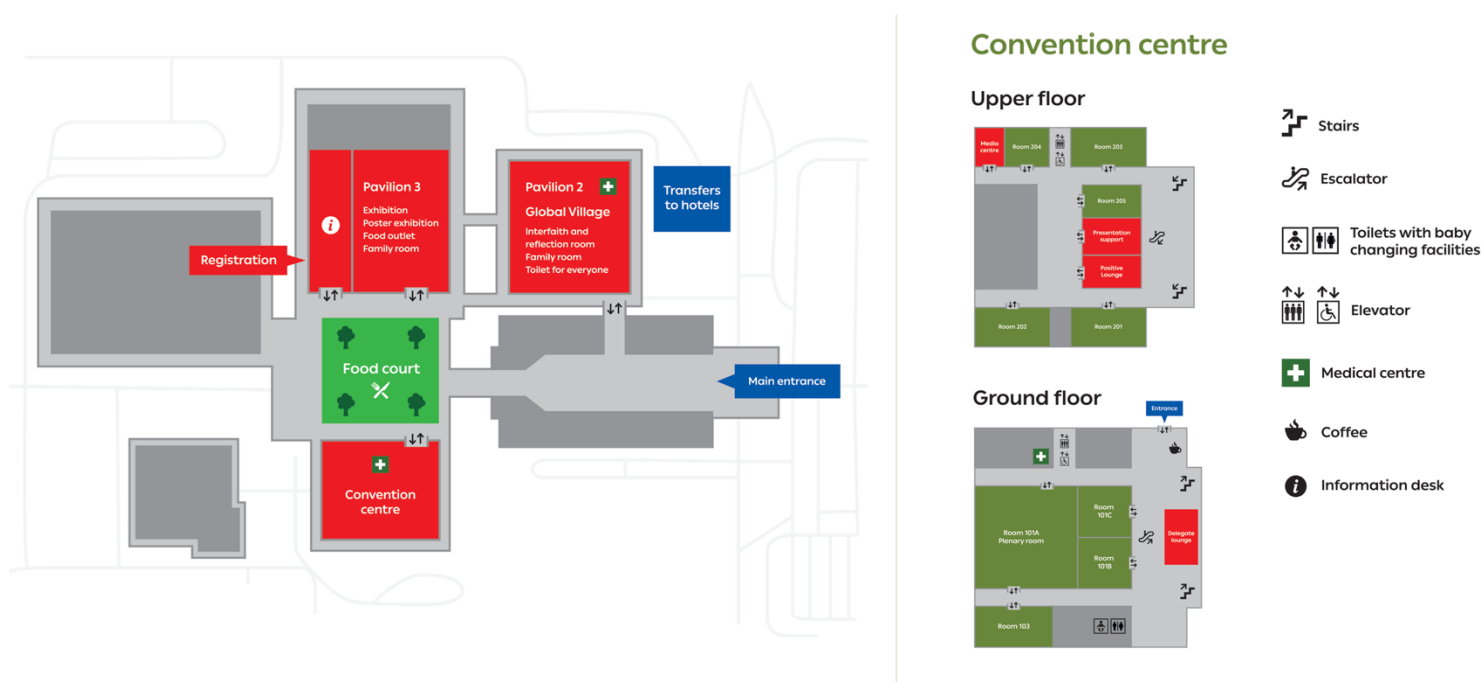
AIDS 2026

An UPA (Unidade de Pronto Atendimento) is a fixed 24/7 public emergency care unit in Brazil. These units bridge the gap between basic health clinics (UBS) and hospital emergency rooms, providing immediate assessment and stabilization for urgent and emergency medical situations.

The three closest to Riocentro are:

- UPA Jacarepaguá, R. André Rocha – Taquara, Rio de Janeiro – RJ, 22730-522, Brazil
- UPA Barra, R. Jardim da Saudade, R. Aquiles da Costa – Barra, Balneário Camboriú – SC, 88332-055, Brazil
- UPA Cidade de Deus, Rua Edgard Werneck, s/n – Freguesia (Jacarepaguá), Rio de Janeiro – RJ, 22763-011, Brazil

This map shows where health centres are located in the convention centre:



There will be two medical posts at the AIDS 2026 venue, located in:

- The convention centre – Medical centre
- Pavilion 2 – First aid room

Delegates will be able to dispose of hospital materials (such as needles) securely in the medical posts.

All medication available in the medical posts meet required quality standards. If further medical assistance is required, people will be stabilized and transferred to hospital.



AIDS 2026

Security and safety

Rio is a world-class city and major event destination. However, it also experiences some of the highest levels of street crime of any major conference destination routinely used by multinational organizations.

While criminal activity is often associated with specific high-risk neighbourhoods, visitors should be aware that opportunistic crime occurs throughout Rio de Janeiro, including in tourist, business and conference areas. Theft of mobile phones and valuables remains one of the most common crimes affecting visitors, particularly when devices are used openly in public spaces. Delegates should remain vigilant, avoid displaying valuables, and exercise caution when using smartphones in public.

Visitors should also be aware of the risk of "express kidnap" (sequestro relâmpago), whereby victims are temporarily detained and coerced into withdrawing cash or transferring funds before being released. While the likelihood remains relatively low, the use of trusted transportation providers, sensible movement planning and good personal security practices will significantly reduce exposure to risk.

Walking anywhere around Riocentro outside controlled event movements should generally be discouraged, particularly after dark.

Wheelchair accessibility in the city

Find detailed information on accessibility in the city [here](#).

Smoking laws

Smoking is banned in all enclosed public places, workplaces and public transportation. It is also prohibited in restaurants and bars.

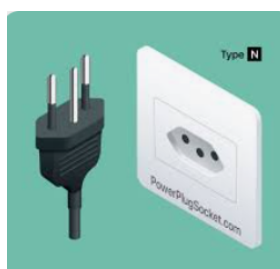
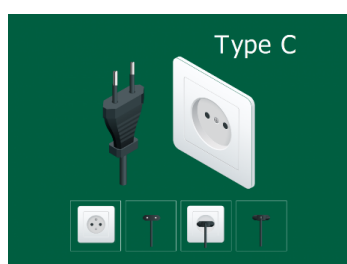
Time zone

The time zone in Rio de Janeiro is GMT -3.

Electrical outlets

Brazil uses Type C and N electrical outlets with a voltage of 220 V and a frequency of 50Hz. If you come from Europe, including Switzerland, your Type C plug usually works directly. If you have a Type E or F, you need to bring a universal adapter.

Additionally, you might want to pack a portable charger (power bank) so that you do not need to worry about recharging your devices when you are out and about.





AIDS 2026

Connectivity

Local SIM cards are readily available. Providers include MTN and Airtel Tigo. Note that by Brazilian legislation, every user/buyer must be registered to activate the SIM, and it is easy to do. Upon arrival, you are required to present a form of identity (ID card or passport). Visitors can register at the point of purchase.

Wi-Fi is commonly available in hotels, cafés and public venues. Wi-Fi will also be provided at the Riocentro.

Tipping

In almost all restaurants and bars, a standard "serviço" service fee of 10% is often added at the end of the bill. This fee is not compulsory; however, most people pay it unless there is a good reason not to.

For radio taxis, which are available at airports, taximeters are not used. The prices are set depending on the destination.

Regular taxis are those that circulate around the city using taximeters, and it is not usual to tip a cab driver. Common taxis (yellow) run on a taximeter, and it is common practice to round up, for example, if the total for the trip is R\$ 11.20, one usually rounds this up to R\$ 12.00.

Weather

At the end of July, Rio de Janeiro experiences its mild, dry winter. You can expect pleasant daytime temperatures averaging 24°C to 26°C (75°F to 79°F) and cooler, comfortable nights around 16°C to 19°C (61°F to 66°F).



AIDS 2026

9. Contacts

Abstracts	abstracts@aid2026.org
Accommodation	accommodation@aid2026.org
Accessibility	accessibility@aid2026.org
Affiliated Independent Events	affiliatedevents@aid2026.org
Continuing medical education	cme@aid2026.org
Educational tours	educationaltours@aid2026.org
Exhibition	exhibition@aid2026.org
Global Village	globalvillage@aid2026.org
Info box	info@aid2026.org
Media	media@iasociety.org
Pre-conferences	preconferences@aid2026.org
Registration	registration@aid2026.org
Satellites	satellites@aid2026.org
Scholarship Programme	scholarships@aid2026.org
Visa	visa@aid2026.org