INFORMATION SHEET

1. **Venue**

2. **Accommodation**
SVRI Forum 2017 participants are able to stay at the Sheraton Grant Rio Hotel & Resort at a discounted rate of $179 (excluding taxes). Limited rooms are available until 30 August 2017. Secure your accommodation today by [booking online](http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/area/directions.html?propertyID=255).
For further assistance, please contact the Group and Events Coordinator, Patricia Mello at Patricia.Mello@sheraton.com.  Phone: +55 21 2529 1249  Fax: +55 21 2239 5643

Please see below alternative accommodation near the conference venue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hostels</th>
<th>Hotels</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bella Mar e Sol</td>
<td>Hotel Marina Palace Rio Leblon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favela Experience</td>
<td>Gávea Tropical Boutique Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hostel Sol e Mar</td>
<td>Mercure Rio de Janeiro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varandas do Vidigal</td>
<td>Ritz</td>
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3. **SVRI Forum 2017 programme**
The programme will be available online at: [http://www.svri.org/forums/forum2017/programme.htm](http://www.svri.org/forums/forum2017/programme.htm)

This year, delegates attending the SVRI Forum 2017 will access the conference programme on their mobile phone using an app called Whova. Through this app, you will have access to the latest schedule, be able to mark which sessions you want to go to, interact with other attendees as well as discuss any of the sessions. Further details on how to use the app will follow soon.

4. **Travel documents**
Partners, researchers and colleagues traveling to Brazil for the SVRI Forum 2017 must present an approved travel document (passport or identity card). Visas to enter Brazil are a requirement for a number of countries. It is the responsibility of each delegate to ensure that they have the correct documentations before travelling to Brazil.
According to the Brazilian immigration services website, people from the European and South American countries need not to apply for a visa for a tourist stay of 90 days. If your country is in the list of countries that requires a visa kindly visit a Brazilian embassy close to you to apply. You need to complete an online visa application form and also contact the Brazilian embassy for further details on how to proceed to get a visa. An invitation letter to assist you with your visa application is available in PDF Format (here), should you require it.

5. **Flights**
Flights to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (with code RIO) vary according to the country and city you are flying from. It is advisable to book for a flight as soon as possible in order to get lower rates and your preferred option. Please check best rates online.

6. **Transport**
One-way airport transfers are charged per vehicle with English-speaking driver, as follows:

- A Ford Fusion accommodating up to 3 persons is charged at US$ 80.00
- Hyundai Azera accommodating up to 3 persons is charged US$120.00
- Mercedes-Benz Sprinter accommodating up to 9 persons is charged US$140.00

For further enquiries, please contact: Mr Luiz C Lemos of Curumim Eco Cultural Tours at luiz@curumim.tur.br or Telephone: +55 21 2524-1005

Uber operates in Brazil – delegates need to have the Uber app on their mobile phones to request Uber services

7. **Vaccinations and Health**
You should be up to date with all your vaccinations before you travel. In particular, Yellow Fever is a risk in certain parts of Brazil. Yellow fever vaccine is recommended for travellers 9 months of age or older to these areas.

For more information on Yellow Fever and other health issues in Brazil and other vaccination requirements visit: https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/brazil

8. **Travel Insurance**
Please ensure you obtain comprehensive travel insurance before your travel. Check with your travel agent for assistance with travel insurance.

9. **Security information**
Rio de Janeiro has a reputation of insecurity and being unsafe. Nothing is more important that you your safety and security – please take care and be cautious when moving outside of the hotel. Below are some safety and security tips for you to consider:

- To ensure greater protection from robberies, please only take necessary items out with you and try to avoid wearing jewelry or using technology that may draw attention.
- In the unlikely event that someone tries to rob you, especially if you believe that they are armed, do not struggle or try and engage in conversation with them. Hand over your phone/wallet/bag as requested. If you do this it is likely that they will take your
belongings and disappear quickly. Do not try to chase them. Do not try to fight or argue as that is when robberies can turn violent.

• In the case that you are robbed please find a Tourist Police office or Guard or enter a local establishment and request to use their phone to get in contact with the local police station. You will likely be requested to go in person to a local police station to file a report.

10. **Tourist Police**
There is a police station specifically equipped to deal with crimes committed against tourists close to the Sheraton Hotel. Its address is:


11. **Weather**
Rio de Janeiro experiences an increase in temperature in September as the winter season fades away, with lows of 19°C and highs of 25°C. Those two temperatures remain basically constant throughout the month. For more information, please visit: [http://www.holiday-weather.com/rio_de_janeiro/averages/september/](http://www.holiday-weather.com/rio_de_janeiro/averages/september/)

12. **Electricity and Voltage**
Voltage in Brazil is not fixed. The electric current in Rio is 110 or 120 volts, 60 cycles, alternating current. Travel adapters are required for certain electric devices.

In Brazil, the power sockets used are of type N. See picture below:

![Power socket](image)

13. **Time zones**
Brazil is located across three time zones. The time in Brasília is the official Brazilian time ([see map](https)), UTC -3 hours

14. **Currency and Exchange**
The Brazilian monetary unit is the Real (BRL). Exchange rates are available in every daily newspaper, followed by the U.S. dollar exchange rate used in international business transactions.

Cash and traveler’s checks, especially in U.S. dollars, can be exchanged in almost every bank, currency exchange houses and hotels. All major credit cards are accepted in Brazil and some stores accept foreign currency.
You can check the day’s exchange rate and convert amounts here.

15. Language
The language spoken in Brazil is Brazilian Portuguese. English is often studied in school and increasingly in private courses. It has replaced French as the principal second language among educated people and a large share of the population understands Spanish. Read more about languages in Brazil here.

For more information on facilities and services for tourists in Rio, please visit the Rio Convention & Visitors Bureau

For more information about SVRI Forum 2017, please visit:
http://www.svri.org/forums/forum2017/index.htm or email us at svri.forums@mrc.ac.za

We look forward to seeing you all in Rio!