

COMLAND Meeting in Brazil (16 - 22 May 2005): Information about Accommodation, Travel, Meals and Field Trips

HOTELS

Below I make a list of hotels that can provide a good accommodation in Uberlândia. Rates, sites, phone/fax, venue distance and a little description are listed too.

Hotel	Rate (day)	Home Page	Phone/Fax	Venue Dist.	Credit Cards
Plaza Inn Hotel	US\$50 (single) US\$60 (double)	http://www.plazashoppinghotel.com.br	55 34 3239-8000 55 34 3239-8100	At the venue place	All
Villalba Hotel	US\$20 (single) US\$25(double)		55 34 3212 9200	200 m	All
JVA Hotel	US\$40 (single) US\$50 (double)	http://www.jvahotel.com.br	55 34 3236 6654	500 m	All
Parthenon	US\$33 (single) US\$40 (double)	http://www.accorhotels.com.br	55 34 3233 4000	3 km (bus service)	All

There are many others hotels that I will indicate in the second circular, with prices like US\$7, but I don't indicate this because it's far from the venue or with bad conditions of accommodations.

TRAVEL

Uberlândia has a national airport with links to main airports of Brazil. International flights have connections only at São Paulo, with transfers from Cumbica International Airport to Congonhas Airport, which is 40 km far. There are 2 companies that operate at Congonhas with connections to Uberlândia 6 times a day, from 6:45 am to 7:15 pm. Air Flights Companies were listed below.

VARIG – <http://www.varig.com.br> (Star Alliance Member)

TAM – <http://www.tam.com.br> (Code Share with Air France, KLM and American Airlines)

Flights from São Paulo to Uberlândia cost between US\$50 to US\$150 (TAM). This difference is due to promotional offers. If people book with more than 30 days, probably they obey the fewer prices.

Uberlândia is accessed by bus from every place in Brazil. It's 600 km far from São Paulo, 1050 km from Rio de Janeiro and 400 km from Brasília. The trip from São Paulo takes 8½ hours by bus. Tickets cost US\$30.

MEALS

The meeting will be held at a Center Convention that make part of a complex with a hotel (Plaza Inn) and a shopping center. There are a food place at this shopping center with 15 fast food places (MacDonald's, etc) and restaurants (Brazilian, Chinese, Japanese, Italian, etc) some ones are self service system and other a la carte. There is an international restaurant at the Plaza Inn Hotel with high costs. The others at the shopping centers are cheap. No more then US\$5 per person.

In the surroundings of the venue there are some restaurants with traditional Brazilian food and barbecue. Prices are cheap too.

FIELD TRIPS

I have programmed three field trips with no more then 30 people in each. These trips will make a rout of 800 to 1200 km including the return to Uberlândia. The price per person will be approximately US\$250, including meals, transport, accommodation and visits.

Field Trip I - Serra da Canastra (São Francisco River's Headwater) (3 days)

- Land Degradation by Miners and Intense Erosive Processes (gullies) - São Francisco River's Headwater.
- Route: Uberlândia - Indianópolis & Iraí's Plateaus - Monte Carmelo - Araxá - Pratinha - Medeiros - São Roque de Minas - National Park of Serra da Canastra; Return to Uberlândia.

Field Trip II - São Francisco River (High-Medium Course) - Pirapora-MG (3 or 4 days)

- Degradation of Lands (Erosive Processes) and Waters (São Francisco River and Velhas River).
- Land's Environmental Impacts and Water Degradation in the High Course of São Francisco River (known as the River of the National Integration).
- Route: Uberlândia - Indianópolis & Iraí's Plateaus - Monte Carmelo - Patos de Minas - Três Marias - Várzea da Palma - Corinto - Pirapora; Return to Uberlândia.

Field Trip III - Vazante-MG (3 days)

- Land Degradation (Erosive Processes), Intense Exploitation of Zinc in Karstic Relief (Subsidence Processes) in the city of Vazante/MG e Indiscriminated Use of Thermal Waters in Caldas Novas/GO.
- Route: Uberlândia - Indianópolis & Iraí's Plateaus - Monte Carmelo - Abadia dos Dourados - Vazante - Guarda-Mor - Pires Belo (GO) - Catalão (GO) - Caldas Novas (GO); Return to Uberlândia.