*Christ the Redeemer*

The statue weighs 635 [metric tons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metric_ton%22%20%5Co%20%22Metric%20ton), and is located at the peak of the 700-metre [Corcovado](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corcovado_%28Brazil%29) mountain in the [Tijuca Forest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tijuca_Forest%22%20%5Co%20%22Tijuca%20Forest) National Park overlooking the city of Rio. As a symbol of Brazilian Christianity, the statue has become an icon for Rio de Janeiro and Brazil.  It is made of [reinforced concrete](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reinforced_concrete%22%20%5Co%20%22Reinforced%20concrete) and [soapstone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soapstone%22%20%5Co%20%22Soapstone), and was constructed between 1922 and 1931.

The idea of building a large statue atop [Corcovado](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corcovado%22%20%5Co%20%22Corcovado) was first suggested in the mid-1850s, when [Vincentian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congregation_of_the_Mission%22%20%5Co%20%22Congregation%20of%20the%20Mission) priest, Pedro Maria Boss, suggested placing a Christian monument on Mount Corcovado to honour [Princess Isabel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isabel%2C_Princess_Imperial_of_Brazil%22%20%5Co%20%22Isabel%2C%20Princess%20Imperial%20of%20Brazil), princess regent of Brazil and the daughter of [Emperor Pedro II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emperor_Pedro_II%22%20%5Co%20%22Emperor%20Pedro%20II), although the project was never approve he second proposal for a landmark statue on the mountain was made in 1920. Local engineer [Heitor da Silva Costa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heitor_da_Silva_Costa%22%20%5Co%20%22Heitor%20da%20Silva%20Costa) designed the statue; it was sculpted by Polish-French sculptor [Paul Landowski](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Landowski%22%20%5Co%20%22Paul%20Landowski).

The statue was struck by lightning during a violent [thunderstorm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thunderstorm%22%20%5Co%20%22Thunderstorm) on February 10, 2008, and suffered some damage to the fingers, head and eyebrows. A restoration effort was put in place by the [Rio de Janeiro state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rio_de_Janeiro_%28state%29) government to replace some of the outer soapstone layers and repair the lightning rods installed on the statue. It was damaged by lightning again, on January 17, 2014, where a finger on the right hand was dislodged.  This allows Catholics to hold baptisms and weddings there.