*Christ the Redeemer*

The statue weighs 635 [metric tons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metric_ton" \o "Metric ton), and is located at the peak of the 700-metre [Corcovado](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corcovado_(Brazil)) mountain in the [Tijuca Forest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tijuca_Forest" \o "Tijuca Forest) 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" \o "Reinforced concrete) and [soapstone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soapstone" \o "Soapstone), and was constructed between 1922 and 1931.

The idea of building a large statue atop [Corcovado](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corcovado" \o "Corcovado) was first suggested in the mid-1850s, when [Vincentian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congregation_of_the_Mission" \o "Congregation of the Mission) priest, Pedro Maria Boss, suggested placing a Christian monument on Mount Corcovado to honour [Princess Isabel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isabel,_Princess_Imperial_of_Brazil" \o "Isabel, Princess Imperial of Brazil), princess regent of Brazil and the daughter of [Emperor Pedro II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emperor_Pedro_II" \o "Emperor Pedro II), 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" \o "Heitor da Silva Costa) designed the statue; it was sculpted by Polish-French sculptor [Paul Landowski](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Landowski" \o "Paul Landowski).

The statue was struck by lightning during a violent [thunderstorm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thunderstorm" \o "Thunderstorm) 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_(state)) 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.