The aim of this paper is to chart the leisure in Brazil based on reflections that involve historical, social, political and academic aspects. The first part of the text contextualizes the initiatives related to recreation and leisure in the Brazilian context during the twentieth century highlighting conquests and challenges verified in the political and social field over the years. The paper also discusses some of the issues that marked the process of diffusion / production of knowledge about the experiences in Brazil since the 1970s. The third and last part of the text proposes a discussion on the peculiarities of leisure in the Brazilian social imaginary, showing some paradoxes that involve this discussion in Brazil.

KEY WORDS: leisure, recreation, Brazil, history, theoretical development.