

# itinerary

## coastal treasures

cities	nights
Rio de Janeiro	3
Paraty	2
Salvador	2
Praia do Forte	2
Recife   Olinda	1
Fern. de Noronha	3



Brazil's 7,491km-long coastline boasts some of the most stunning tropical beaches in the Americas. Countless coves and bays with crystal-clear tropical waters shelter an astounding array of idyllic beaches, each with its unique charm. As the tourist travels from south to north, they visit the crown jewels of Brazil's magical coastline, from densely forested archipelagos surrounded by coral reefs and rustic lodges on paradisiacal palm-fringed beaches to famous cities and charming historical towns overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. schooner trips, diving excursions and free days on the beach allow visitors to fully take in these fantastic locations.



### DAY 1 | RIO DE JANEIRO

Arrival at the airport, meet-and-greet with our local bilingual guide and transfer in private air-conditioned vehicle to the hotel. Overnight at selected hotel.

### DAY 2 | RIO DE JANEIRO

After breakfast pick-up at the hotel for a full day tour Corcovado & Sugar Loaf (with lunch). Designed for those who have a full day available and wish to visit both of Rio's main attractions, this tour is basically a combination of the City Tour with The Sugarloaf plus Corcovado with Maracanã Stadium and the Sambódromo.

The first stage of the tour takes in a number of sites of interest in downtown Rio de Janeiro, namely the contemporary Metropolitan Cathedral, with its vast stained-glass windows and Aterro do Flamengo, a calm, spacious park with lawns and blossoming trees, offering lovely views of Rio and The Sugarloaf. The tour then proceeds through the old Urca neighborhood towards the Sugarloaf, where a cable-car starts the steep, exhilarating 215m climb up Morro da Urca. From here, the cable-car travels high above the rugged, vegetated terrain to the Sugarloaf's 395m summit. Visitors can enjoy wonderful panoramic views over Rio de Janeiro from the top, sunsets being particularly spectacular.

Perched atop the Corcovado (Hunchback) Mountain at an altitude of 710m, the statue of Christ the Redeemer is certainly one of the world's best-known and most-visited monuments. Clad with a soapstone mosaic, the statue is also one of Rio's finest Art Nouveau monuments and at night becomes a shining landmark visible from all over the city. From the top there are breathtaking views of Copacabana, Ipanema, Leblon, the Botanical Gardens, Jockey Club and Rodrigo Freitas Lagoon.

A rack railway takes the visitor up to the foot of the statue, the train leaving the Cosme Velho district and climbing the steep slopes of Tijuca Forest. Located around the base of Corcovado and with many springs and waterfalls, this dense forest was proclaimed a National Park in the early sixties. After descending, the tour stops at Mário Filho Stadium, known worldwide as Maracanã, and the Sambódromo, designed by Oscar Niemeyer and the stage for the largest and most flamboyant carnival celebrations in Brazil. The tour includes a delicious lunch at a steak house. Overnight at hotel.

### DAY 3 | RIO DE JANEIRO

Pick-up at the hotel for a half day Guanabara Bay boat tour.

Aboard a schooner, passengers are treated to fabulous views of the Rio coastline, passing the fortress of Santa Cruz and the ruins of Forte São Teodósio and Forte São João that overlook the entrance to the bay. The visitor will also see the extraordinary Contemporary Art Museum designed by Oscar Niemeyer to house the paintings and sculptures of one of Brazil's foremost modern art collectors. Further sights include the Rio-Niterói bridge that spans the bay and the Fiscal Island with its green Neo-Gothic palace, designed by Adolfo Del Vecchio and completed in 1889. Once an observatory for shipping operations, it now belongs to the Brazilian Navy. Overnight at hotel.



### DAY 4 | RIO DE JANEIRO - PARATY

Check-out and private transfer along the green coast to Paraty, where tourists are dropped off at their hotel. Overnight at selected Pousada.

### DAY 5 | PARATY

After breakfast, visitors are picked up at the hotel and proceed to the harbour to board a large schooner, which sets sail and heads to an archipelago of densely forested islands,

crystal-clear waters and secluded white beaches. Having arrived at this paradise, the schooner makes three one-hour stops for sunbathing, swimming and snorkelling in the emerald-green waters. Amongst the islands visited are Comprida, Algodão, Cotia and Praia Vermelha. Late afternoon arrival back at the port. During this tour lunch is included. Overnight at selected Pousada.

#### DAY 6 | PARATY - SALVADOR

Morning transfer (without guide) to the airport for flight to Salvador. Arrival at the airport in Salvador, meet-and-greet with our local bilingual guide and transfer in private air-conditioned vehicle to the hotel. After check-in, free time to relax around the hotel and historic Salvador (Pelourinho). Overnight at selected hotel.

#### DAY 7 | SALVADOR

After breakfast pick-up for a full day city tour. A combination of a historical and panoramic tour of Salvador, this charming excursion first takes the tourist into the historical heart of Salvador - The Cidade Alta, revealing some of the first streets laid in Bahia. The excursion begins at "Farol da Barra", a lighthouse that now functions as the city's nautical museum. The excursion then proceeds in the direction of "Porto da Barra", from where visitors can see the Santa Maria and São Diogo forts. From here, the tour moves on to Salvador's more traditional neighborhoods, namely Corredor da Vitória, Campo Grande and Piedade.

By far the most significant site visited during the excursion is the Pelourinho, the historical center of Salvador and a true World Heritage site, considered by UNESCO as a highlight of XVII and XVIII century colonial architecture. Clinging to the steep terrain, the picturesque colonial houses and churches (such as the Igreja do São Francisco) of the Pelourinho, artistically decorated in a myriad of colors, make this enchanting part of town a must for anyone visiting Bahia. Lunch is served at one of a choice of restaurants in the Pelourinho, depending on the visitors' tastes.

After lunch, the excursion proceeds to offer the tourist various beautiful panoramic views of the city, plus the famous Bonfim church, which hosts a range of religious events, the most important perhaps being the "Lavagem do Bonfim" or washing of the steps. Visitors then go to Mercado Modelo, Bahia's largest arts and crafts center, where two of the most traditional restaurants are also located: Maria de São Pedro and Camafeu de Oxossi. Over the years, these acclaimed restaurants have attracted many local and foreign celebrities. Overnight at selected hotel.



#### DAY 8 | SALVADOR - PRAIA DO FORTE

Pick-up from the hotel and transfer to Praia do Forte, a peaceful paradise with a strong emphasis on the preservation of local flora and fauna, being protected against over-exploitative tourism and other threats to the environment by a private foundation. Comprising twelve kilometers of untouched beaches, coconut palms, rivers, lagoons, colourful

reefs and crystal-clear tide pools, the name "Brazilian Polynesia" is well deserved. Praia do Forte also offers excellent infrastructure including large resorts and has so many leisure, accommodation and gastronomic options that it is difficult to know where to start. Apart from being an excellent diving location, Praia do Forte is a base for a number of other watersports such as sailing and windsurfing. Time free for leisure. Overnight at selected hotel.

#### **DAY 9 | PRAIA DO FORTE**

Free day in Praia do Forte. Overnight at selected hotel.

#### **DAY 10 | PRAIA DO FORTE - RECIFE / OLINDA**

Pick-up at the hotel and private transfer to the airport of Salvador for flight to Recife. Arrival, meet and greet and private transfer to the historic coastal town of Olinda in the neighborhood of Recife. Overnight at selected hotel in Olinda or, who prefers, in a beachfront hotel of Recife.



#### **DAY 11 | RECIFE / OLINDA - FERNANDO DE NORONHA**

After breakfast early pick-up for a half day city tour Recife and Olinda. The city tour starts with a drive along the ultra-modern seafront of Boa Viagem and then proceeds to Rua do Bom Jesus in Old Recife. This district was founded by the Dutch, as evidenced by the tall, narrow four-storey houses that resemble those of Amsterdam. The street was formerly named Jews' Street, as it was the site of the first synagogue to be built in the Americas, now a Jewish museum. Visits include the Praça da República, surrounded by fine buildings: the Law Courts, the Governor's Place and the Santa Isabel Theatre. There is also the Capela Dourada (Golden Chapel), a gilt-clad church that contains a small sacred art museum with some fine pieces of gold and silverwork. The tour continues with a visit to the exotic world of the artist Francisco Brennand and Casa da Cultura, once a prison but now with each cell converted into a craft shop.

The tour then proceeds to Olinda, a breathtaking colonial town that overlooks Recife and the Atlantic Ocean. As Olinda's historical wealth won it a place on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1982, the tour includes several unique attractions, such as the Mosteiro de São Bento, built in 1582. The monastery is lavishly decorated with gold and excellent woodcarvings and for 24 years was the home of Brazil's first law school. The tour takes in the Igreja da Sé (the first parish church in the Northeast), Igreja Nossa Senhora da Graça (the old Royal Jesuit College), Convento do São Francisco (consisting of the convent, a chapel and a church) and the former slave market. Just walking down the cobbled streets of this enchanting colonial town is a true delight and Olinda is well worth the visit.

After the tour drop-off at the airport for flight to Fernando de Noronha. Arrival in Fernando de Noronha, meet and greet and transfer to selected pousada or hotel.

## DAY 11 - 14 | FERNANDO DE NORONHA

The archipelago of Fernando de Noronha consists of 21 islands totalling 26 square kilometres, 345 kilometres off the northeast coast, created over 10 million years ago by a volcanic eruption. Surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the archipelago breathes nature through every pore. In 1989 it was declared a National Marine Park. Native sub-tropical vegetation, secluded beaches and varied flora and fauna reward the visitors who undertake the trip to Fernando de Noronha.

The possibilities for scuba-diving and snorkelling are excellent. Thousands of sea-turtles live here and although it is now prohibited to swim with the dolphins (the archipelago is home to the only school of spinner dolphins in the Atlantic Ocean), they can be admired from unspoilt beaches such as Praia da Quixaba, Praia do Leão, Praia do Bode or by boat tour. From the top of the Morro do Pico, visitors have a lovely view of the 21 islands. Environmental protection has top priority. For this reason no high-rise hotels are built on the island and living conditions are modest. Visitors are obliged to pay an environmental protection tax (not included in the rates mentioned below). Three overnights at selected hotel.



## DAY 14 | FERNANDO DE NORONHA - RECIFE

Transfer to the airport for flight to Recife, where passengers wait for connecting flights back home.

**INCLUDED:**

- Rio de Janeiro 3 nights at selected hotel
- Paraty 2 nights at selected pousada
- Salvador 2 nights at selected hotel
- Praia do Forte 2 nights at selected hotel
- Recife/Olinda 1 night at selected hotel
- Fernando de Noronha 3 nights at selected hotel
- Transfers as specified in air-conditioned vehicles.
- All excursions and packages listed above with English-speaking guides
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Breakfast plus all meals as specified.

**NOT INCLUDED:**

- All domestic and long-haul flights, airport taxes etc.
- All meals and excursions not listed above

The itinerary is available with different categories of hotel selected on the basis of customer preference.

Due to the vastness of the country, the best way to visit Brazil is by using a "Visit Brazil Air Pass" which allows you to fly between cities.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The destinations, hotels and excursions presented in this itinerary may be altered according to customer preference. All tours are presented as LAND ONLY (no airfare is included). All tour programs are subject to your acceptance of our Terms and Conditions on reservation. Please review Terms & Conditions.