

2. THE NORTHEAST REGION

The Northeast region comprises the states bordering the Atlantic Ocean on the North and Northeast coast of Brazil: Maranhao, Piaui, Ceara, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraiba, Pernambuco, Alagoas, Sergipe and Bahia. It covers 18,28% of total Brazil with 42.387 million inhabitants, 20% of the country' total. The Northeast region's main features are:

- * 3.500 km (2.175 mi) of fantastic coastline with unspoilt white-sand beaches, warm transparent waters, coconut groves and sand dunes.
- * National Marine Park of Fernando de Noronha, an archipelago of 21 islands of impressive beauty and transparent waters featuring the richest ocean life, including endemic species.
- * Abrolhos Archipelago National Marine Park, famous for its exquisite coral formations and exuberant ocean life.
- * Flat and rocky "Sertao" semi-arid hinterland, with a cactus and dense scrub vegetation.
- * Recife, called the Brazilian Venice for its canals, considered as the capital of the Northeast Region, a modern city with colonial relics and wonderful beaches, Olinda, declared by UNESCO "Natural and Cultural Patrimony of Mankind" for its preserved colonial architecture and natural beauty.
- * Salvador, the most mystic and African city in Brazil, a treasure-trove of colonial architecture and tropical beaches. Rich artistic heritage, abounding in Colonial and Baroque architecture and Baroque religious art. Racial mix of Indians and Portuguese in the hinterland, and of Portuguese, Africans, Dutch and French on the coastal areas, resulting in a friendly and hospitable people. Vivid folklore, result of the imprints of the various cultures involved in its history and racial formation.
- * Carnival in Olinda and in Salvador, among the three most important in Brazil. Deep mysticism, rooted in the Catholic Religion as well as in African religions.
- * Rich craftsmanship, featuring the most diversified effects in leather, wood, clay, fibres and metal, besides wonderful handmade lace and hand-embroidered linen and clothes.
- * Delicious cuisine based on seafood, including local lobster and crab dishes; delicious exquisite tropical fruits.
- * Sunny and warm climate throughout the year, with a constant breeze on the coast areas that keeps the temperature pleasant.
- * Wide lodging options from moderate inns and hotels to spectacular beach resorts and 5-star hotels with tropical flavour.

The Northeast main cities are Salvador, Recife, Fortaleza, Natal, Maceio and Sao Luis. All of them are linked to other capitals in Brazil by air and by road. Due to far distances, air trips are the more recommended means to visit the area. Weekly flights from North America reach Fortaleza and Recife. Recife is also served by a weekly flight from Europe. The region's major ports are Fortaleza, Natal, Recife, Maceio and Salvador.

2.1. SALVADOR



Capital of Bahia State, with a population of 2.998.056 inhabitants (2009 census), Salvador is called by Brazilians “Land of Happiness” because life there is a constant celebration of happiness, and also called “The Land of All Saints”, not only for its location by the All Saints Bay, but also for the deep and extensive mysticism of its people. It is one of the most fascinating cities in the planet, a world of beauty, magic, traditions and warm hospitality. It has its own special identity, almost a country within itself. The city is bounded by the ocean to the East and by All Saints Bay to the South.

Salvador - Excursions

Half Day Panoramic City Tour of Salvador (approx. 4 hours)

Pick up at your hotel, the tour begins in Barra neighborhood, with the Atlantic Ocean view and Barra’s most famous icon, the lighthouse at the Saint Antonio Fort. Walk around the first lighthouse of the entire American continent, passing by the Dique do Tororó where you’ll see the Orixás sculptures, representing the force of the earth by the Orixás - the Afro-Brazilian Goddess. You will see the Fonte Nova football stadium, proceeding to the Lower City, visiting the quiet waters of the Itapagipe peninsula, where the first holiday residences were built, now it’s a peaceful family district, life moves much slower than the bustling upper city. Pass by the Pier and the Bonfim church, an icon of religion devotion, one of the most of pilgrimage in Brazil and deeply syncretized with the Candomble afro religion. Stop at the Fort of Mont Serrat, one of the best examples of military primitive architecture in Brazil. From there it is possible to have a panoramic view of Salvador. You will see the Ribeira neighborhood, ending the tour with Lacerda Elevator and Mercado Modelo.

Includes a stop for experiencing the drink icon of Bahia, the coconut water.

The order of the visits may change according to the best logistic.

Half Day Historical Tour of Salvador (approx. 4 hours)

This tour gives you the chance to see a little of the new and the old city. The focus will be in the city sites related to the colonial Brazil, and Afro-Brazilian history, taking advantage of Pelourinho being the greatest baroque neighborhood outside Europe, declared by UNESCO a world heritage site. Tours begins from Barra neighborhood, with the Atlantic Ocean view and the first lighthouse of the American continent, at the Saint Antony Fort. We proceed on our pleasant ride through the traditional neighborhoods of Corredor da Vitória, Campo Grande (big outdoor scene for Salvador’s carnival), with a stop at the Municipal Square to visit the Modelo Market, one of the oldest and most traditional commercial zones of the city of Salvador, followed by the Lacerda elevator (Art Décor architecture from 1930 - that connects the lower city to the upper city in a short 30 second trip! Stop at the Tomé de Souza Square) for overlooking the Todos os Santos bay. You will visit the Pelourinho area, stone-paved streets of the upper city, passing by squares, seeing all this important site of Brazil colonial roots and also the Terreiro de Jesus square for visiting the San Francisco church.

Lunch is not included.

Not available on Carnival dates (Mar 01/06, 2019), 2nd Thursday of January (Lavagem do Bonfim), July 2nd, Dec 8th (Nsa Sra da Conceição).

On Sundays limited access due to the mass at São Francisco church.

Half Day Historical City Tour of Salvador with lunch (approx. 6 hours)

Departing from the hotel directly to Farol da Barra (Lighthouse) at Barra district, where we will stop for photos. Continue to Municipal Square with a stop at the Lacerda Elevator, where you will have a breathtaking view of Baía de Todos os Santos (All Saints Bay). Walking through the cobblestone streets of the Pelourinho district, the city's historic old town, you will understand why UNESCO has called the architectural complex the most important colonial architecture extant. You will visit the Baroque Cathedral, built by the Jesuits in 1672, Sao Francisco Church, Brazil's most famous religious structure with its intricately carved gold-leafed rosewood interior, fine paintings and sculpture and valuable silver ornamentation - the blaze of gold will take your breath away. Visit also the Pelourinho Square and stop for lunch in a local restaurant. After lunch walk back to the bus parking. This tour will give you a good overall impression of Salvador and its principal historical landmarks. Return to the hotel.

Beverages are not included.

Not available on Carnival dates (Mar 01/06,2019), 2nd Thursday of January (Lavagem do Bonfim), July 2nd, Dec 8th (Nsa Sra da Conceição).

On Sundays limited access due to the mass at São Francisco church.

Half Day Historical City Tour of Salvador incl. Modelo Market (approx.5 h)

Departing from the hotel directly to Farol da Barra (Lighthouse) at Barra district, where we will stop for historical information and photos. Continue to Municipal Square with a stop at the Lacerda Elevator, where you will have a breathtaking view of Baía de Todos os Santos (All Saints Bay). Walking through the cobblestone streets of the Pelourinho district, the city's historic old town, you will understand why UNESCO has called the architectural complex the most important colonial architecture extant. You will visit the Baroque Cathedral, built by the Jesuits in 1672, Sao Francisco Church, Brazil's most famous religious structure with its intricately carved gold-leafed rosewood interior, fine paintings and sculpture and valuable silver ornamentation - the blaze of gold will take your breath away. Visit also the Pelourinho Square and walk back to the bus parking. Then proceed to the handicraft market, the famous Mercado Modelo. This tour will give you a good overall impression of Salvador. Return to the hotel.

Not available on Carnival dates (Mar 01/06,2019), 2nd Thursday of January (Lavagem do Bonfim), July 2nd, Dec 8th (Nsa Sra da Conceição).

On Sundays limited access due to the mass at São Francisco church. Available in only in the morning. The Modelo Market closes at 12pm.

Full Day City Tour of Salvador with lunch (approx. 8 hours)

Leave the hotel directly to the lighthouse, Farol da Barra. From there you will go to the "upper city", passing by Corredor da Vitoria (the residential district of Campo Grande), the Castro Alves Theater, with a stop at the Municipal Square to appreciate the marvelous view over the "upper" and the "lower" city. From there you will walk through the center of Salvador to know more about its history. The tour includes a visit to the Basilica Cathedral, the São Francisco Church and the famous Pelourinho, followed by a scenic tour to the oceanic Avenue, the Fonte Nova (the soccer stadium), Vale de Nazare and Americo Simas tunnel, which links the "lower" with the "upper" city. At Ribeira, you have a partial view to the suburbs of Plataforma and Lobato (the first place where petrol was discovered in Brazil). Then you will pass by Our Lady of Penha Church, Beira Mar Avenue and visit the Bonfim Church. Following by Mont Serrat, with the fort and its church of the 17th century, from where you have the most spectacular view on the city of Salvador, then you go the port of Salvador, handicraft market (the famous Mercado Modelo) before returning to your hotel.

Lunch included during the tour. Beverages are not included.

Not available on Carnival dates (Mar 01/06,2019), 2nd Thursday of January (Lavagem do Bonfim), July 2nd, Dec 8th (Nsa Sra da Conceição).

On Sundays limited access due to the mass at São Francisco church. Available only in the morning. The Modelo Market closes at 12pm.

Full Day Historical Tour of Cachoeira with lunch (approx. 8/9 hours)

Located 121 kilometers from Salvador, on both banks of the Paraguaçu River, guarded by a couple of green mountains, you will see two special places: Cachoeira and São Félix. The first is the most worth seeing – with fine colonial architecture not yet overshadowed by modern buildings. Diogo Alvarez was the father of the founders of Cachoeira and the only survivor of a shipwreck in 1510. This Portuguese version of Robinson Crusoe was saved by Tupinambá Indians who called the ugly white creature from the waves Caramuru (Fish-Man). He lived about 20 years with those Indians and married Catarina do Paraguaçu, the chief's daughter. Their sons founded the town of Cachoeira, which later on became twice the state's capital and the world's center of sugarcane and tobacco cultivation. The small town today is still one the main Candomblé centers of Bahia: inside the tiny huts on the mountain Fridays and Saturdays, the beat of the spirit drums is heard all over the region. Tour proceeds to the historical city of Cachoeira visiting the interesting local market, the mansion of Casa de Camara e Cadeia (1698), the Santa Casa da Misericórdia (1734), the Ajuda Chapel (16th century), the Third Order of Carmo Church (1584), and The Boa Morte Order Church (of a black religious sisterhood created to help free the slaves). Visit Muritiba City and lunch at Santa Cruz Farm (or at Pousada do Convento). After lunch you will visit the Dannemann Tobacco factory, and then cross the Emperor Bridge on your return to Salvador.

Full Day Tour to Praia do Forte Beach – 85 km (53 mi) north from Salvador (approx. 8h)

You will leave the hotel early in the morning, driving along the northern coastline to reach the Coconut Road around 1 hour, then stop at the ruins of Garcia D'Ávila Castle to enjoy splendid view of the beach. Depart to Fisherman's Village to visit the Tamar Project, which focuses on the protection of sea turtles. The tour includes lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, you will walk through the main center of village. On the way back, another stop at Guarajuba Beach to take a swim in its sparkling waves. Return to Salvador late in the late afternoon.

Castelo Garcia D'Avila closed on Mondays.

Bahia by Night Miguel Santana Show including Dinner at Uaua (approx. 4 hours)

Depart from the hotel around 18:30h to enjoy a remarkable experience by seeing a sample of all typical Afro-Brazilian traditions through the language of music and dance. The folklore and the culture of Brazil are formed by the combination of three different chains: European, through the Portuguese settling; African, because of the slaves; and the aboriginal, the natives of the land. Created in 1988, the Bahia Afro Ballet it is the only professional ballet company dedicated to Folkloric dance in Brazil, and has a significant curriculum of activities in its nation and worldwide performances! This modern dance company with a "Brazilian strong accent" presents a highly international recognized show at the Miguel Santana Theater in Pelourinho. The show starts at 20:00h, lasting 1 hour. Then you will have dinner in a charming restaurant in front of the Theater. Afterwards, return to the hotel.

Available Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat.

Bahia by Night Coliseu Show including dinner (approx. 4 hours)

Depart around 19:00h from the hotel to the Coliseu, a local restaurant located in the old part of Salvador, that offers a buffet of regional cuisine and the Afro-Bahia show. The show starts at 20:30h at the main stage of the restaurant. A presentation of the strong West Africa cultural influence in the customs, in the history of Bahia and northeast of Brazil, through acting and dances, including the capoeira, a pure Afro-Bahia martial art and dance, the percussion rhythms, the African goddess dance which representing the Candomblé religion, the maculelê dance played by long knives, the fishermen acting for the gratefulness

to the sea Goddess Yemanja and samba de roda. 1 hour show with an atmosphere full of energy and rhythm.

Available Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays (subject to change depending on the time of the year).

2.2. RECIFE



Recife, capital of Pernambuco State, is Brazil's sixth largest city, with a population of 1.561.659 inhabitants (2009 census), but still preserves the tranquillity and relaxed life-style that characterizes the Northeast of Brazil. Recife is a land of glorious beaches and one can count on blue skies and gentle breezes at Boa Viagem, Pina and Porto das Galinhas Beaches. The town of Olinda, 10 km (6 mi) far from Recife, with its centuries-old churches and mansions, is one of Brazil's loveliest colonial vestiges, and was

designated by UNESCO as Natural and Cultural Patrimony of Mankind. It is a smaller town with 340.673 inhabitants.

Recife - Excursions

Full Day City Tour Recife/Olinda (approx. 10 hours)

In this tour, you will see the best of Recife/Olinda including the tree Islands (Recife, Santo Antônio and Boa Vista), Maurício de Nassau Bridge, República Square, Government Palace, Santa Isabel Theatre and small stop at Casa da Cultura. In Olinda you will see the Alto da Sé, Misericórdia and Sé Churches, where one can enjoy the best view of Recife and Olinda. On the way back to the hotel, a brief pause at Boa Viagem Beach.

Lunch and entrance fees are not included.

Not available: Dec 25th, Jan 1st and during Carnival (Mar 01/06, 2019).

Full Day Tour to Porto de Galinhas Beach (approx. 10 hours)

With largest coconut fields, Porto de Galinhas is the mean of best life style and amazing natural beauty, where you can get your dreamed happier, original primitive fishermen village. In the last century the place was used as an illegal slave trade and today it is one of the most beautiful beaches in the country.

Full day Tour to Caruaru and Nova Jerusalem (approx.10 hours)

Crossing the Borborema Plateau and continuing as far as Caruaru, considered as the capital of the "Agreste" (the bare rocky-soil zone situated between the coastal strip and the "Sertao" semiarid hinterland) and site of the famous Caruaru arts-and-crafts market. After leaving Caruaru, proceeding to Nova Jerusalem, the one-third replica in granite of the old city of Jerusalem, for visit of the city and lunch.

Lunch is not included.

2.3. FORTALEZA



Capital of the State of Ceará, with 2.505.552 inhabitants (2009 census), Fortaleza is a flat city with a coastline characterized by sand dunes and palm trees. The city is located on the North side of the Brazilian coastline. At present Fortaleza is a very important industrial centre with strength on cotton materials production and clothes manufacturing. Its beautifully embroidered linen clothes are famous all over Brazil and exported to other countries.

Fortaleza - Excursions

Half Day City Tour of Fortaleza (approx. 3h 30m)

During the city tour, the tourist is invited to make a historical and touristic recognition of the city of Fortaleza. The Portuguese people were the first non-native settlers of Ceará, and their struggle with the Dutchmen for the Fort of Schooneborch, gave origin to the small village that would officially become the city of Fortaleza de Nossa Senhora da Assunção, on April 13th, 1726. During the city tour, we visit the ancient and the young Fortaleza, today the fifth Brazilian capital, with approx. 2.200.000 inhabitants, discovering the diversity and the beauty of the capital, that keeps its historical buildings, such as: the Metropolitan Cathedral, Central Market, the President Castelo Branco Mausoleum, the Martyrs Square, the Tourism Center, the Statue of Iracema, Meireles Beach, with its famous fair of craftsmanship, the beach that shelters the Rafts Harbour of Mucuripe and the famous beach "Praia do Futuro".

Full Day Tour to Cumbuco Beach (approx. 7 hours)

The Sunset Road also preserves many natural beauties. 37Km away, west of Fortaleza in the district of Caucaia, we find the Beach of Cumbuco. Ancient colony of fishermen, Cumbuco surprises with a landscape full of dunes punctuated by green coconut trees and intercalated with ponds. Endowed with an excellent tourist structure of hotels, bars and restaurants, Cumbuco is a beach that offers several leisure options (optional - not included), such as the tour aboard a jangada, traditional Ceará boat, the donkey tour, and the surprising buggy tour in the mobile dunes, where you will experiment the local sport: the Ski-bunda (literally skiing on your bottom), that ends with a refreshing dive the Parnamirim Lagoon.

Lunch, Buggy and others optional not included.

Full Day Tour to Morro Branco and Fontes Beach (approx. 7 hours)

85 km away from Fortaleza, we find the district of Beberibe, another sea star of the east coast of Ceará. It has been scenery for several productions for TV and movies. Morro Branco, make a perfect combination between the rustic beauty and the sophistication. Morro Branco is very famous for its handmade works in glass recipients. Here, the tourists are driven by local guides to the labyrinths, formed between dunes and cliffs, and from where the several shades of colored sands are removed.

Next to the group of dunes that draw the Ceará seashore, we find countless sources of fresh water that flow from the barriers of Praia das Fontes beach.

Lunch, Buggy and others optional not included.

2.4. NATAL



Capital of Rio Grande do Norte State, with a population of 806.203 inhabitants (2009 census), Natal is known as The City of Dunes, thanks to the immense quantity of high sand dunes that line its clear-warm-water lagoons and beaches. The city lies by the mouth of the Potengi River, the “big river of the North” that gives name to the state. With little industry to provide employment, Natal has turned into a tourism centre par excellence. Sunshine nearly year-round, constant cool breezes, wonderful beaches, delicious cuisine, excellent

restaurants, plentiful hotels, and the extra attraction of incredible dune buggy rides for those looking for a different type of programme, make Natal a favourite holiday resort.

Natal - Excursions

Half Day City Tour of Natal (approx. 4 hours)

Starting with a visit to Reis Magos Fortress (*entrance fee not included*), then proceeding along the city's beaches and downtown area. Stop at the Tourism Centre, for a visit to its quite interesting art-gallery and handicraft shopping. Proceed along the Coastal Highway to get a view of the beautiful beaches and then return to the hotel.

Full Day Pipa Beach (approx. 7 hours)

Leaving from hotel along the south coast passing by some cities and sugar cane plantations, Pipa Beach is located 80 km (50 mi) from Natal and is considered one of the most beautiful beaches of the North Eastern region. This tour also includes visits to “Tibau do Sul Beach” (with stop for pictures), “Madeiro Beach”, “Cacimbinha Beach” and finally “Pipa Beach”. During a walking tour visit Pipa beach as far as “Moleque” and Love Beaches.
Lunch not included.

2.5. MACEIO



Capital of Alagoas State, with a population of 936.314 inhabitants (2009 census), Maceio is called City of The Waters, as it is located between the Atlantic Ocean and Mundau Lagoon, one of Brazil's largest. The state of Alagoas is a fascinating tourism destination, with 230 km (143 mi) of sandy white beaches, bathed by clear turquoise waters, as well as outstanding handicraft, delicious cuisine and hospitable people. Maceio is a wonderful sample of everything the state offers, with additional lodging facilities.

Maceio - Excursions

Half Day City Tour of Maceio (approx. 3 hours)

This tour offers an overview about Maceio including downtown: "Nossa Senhora dos Prazeres Cathedral" (Our Lady of Pleasures), the state senate and Jaraguá District with a stop for photographs at the Belvedere of São Gonçalo, with a beautiful panoramic view of the city. The tour also includes a stop at "Pontal da Barra Handcraft Center", as well as a scenic ride along the main beaches of the north and south.

Entrance fees are not included

Full Day Tour to the North Beaches (approx. 7 hours)

A leisurely ride to the north along the beautiful beaches trimmed with coconut trees including "Jacarecica", "Guaxuma", "Garça Torta", "Riacho Doce" (where the famous writer José Lins do Rego wrote his novel), "Pratagy" (known as the mermaid beach), "Ipioca", "Paripueira", stopping for swimming and sunbathing.

Entrance fees and lunch are not included

Full Day Tour to the South Beaches (approx. 7 hours)

Heading south of Maceió, along the main beaches, Triken Chemical Industry and Santa Rita Island, where the houses of lake-dwellers can be seen, the tour arrives at the historical city of "Marechal Deodoro", ancient capital of Alagoas. The visit includes the house where the founder of the Brazilian Republic, Marshall Deodoro da Fonseca, was born, San Francisco Convent, the Sacred Art Museum and Saint Madeline Church. Also included are visits to the churches of Amparo, Nossa Senhora da Conceição and the Town Hall. Leaving the town of Marechal Deodoro, the tour proceeds to French Beach for sunbathing and relaxing.

Entrance fees and lunch are not included