

BRAZIL

- BELÉM
- BONITO
- BRASÍLIA
- FERNANDO DE NORONHA
- FLORIANÓPOLIS
- FORTALEZA
- GRAMADO
- MACEIÓ
- MANAUS
- NATAL
- PORTO DE GALINHAS
- RIO DE JANEIRO
- SALVADOR
- SÃO PAULO
- AND MORE...

**THE COUNTRY
IS YOURS!**

It has never been so easy to travel throughout Brazil and discover its natural beauty, rich culture and delicious food





ENDLESS WATER

Cataratas do Iguaçu (Paraná): closer than you think

A WARM WELCOME

Few countries offer so much to visitors as Brazil. And we're not only talking about its natural beauty – places like Cataratas do Iguaçu, the incredible Lençóis Maranhenses, the unique Amazonian landscape, the unforgettable beaches of Rio de Janeiro. The list could go on and on, with spots not to be missed, but Brazil is much more than its landmarks.

Brazilians are so warm and friendly that tourists immediately feel at home staying here – after only a few days, many of them join Carnival parades in Pernambuco and Rio de Janeiro, take part in the Bonfim feast in Salvador, watch in awe the folkloric festival of Parintins and are eager to party at Saint John's celebrations in the Northeast. Museums, plays and art exhibitions, the buzzy nightlife, hikes through national parks, and the possibility to take back home some charming arts and crafts could also be a good enough reason to visit, but nothing would be the same without Brazilian hospitality.

It gets even better at the table: there's not a single person who wouldn't like to get along with visitors over a shot of *cachaça* or a *caipirinha*, or offer them typical local dishes made with ingredients from the sea or from the forest, genuinely Brazilian or influenced by its many immigrants. From simple recipes in homely places to incredible food in fancy restaurants, our memorable gastronomy invites everyone to come back again and again.

Brazil – just like Christ the Redeemer, one of our greatest symbols – has enormous open arms. Welcome!

PHOTOS: EMBRATUR

COVER: MARAGOGI (ALAGOAS). PHOTO: EMBRATUR



Ubatuba (São Paulo); Teatro Amazonas, Manaus (Amazonas); *beijupirá* fish (Pernambuco); Hercílio Luz Bridge, Florianópolis (Santa Catarina)



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MAIN AIRPORTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>ARACAJU - Aeroporto Internacional de Aracaju (Santa Maria)</p> <p>BELÉM - Aeroporto Internacional de Belém (Val-de-Cans)</p> <p>BELO HORIZONTE - Aeroporto Internacional de Confins (Tancredo Neves)</p> <p>BOA VISTA - Aeroporto Internacional de Boa Vista (Atlas Brasil Cantanhede)</p> <p>BRASÍLIA - Aeroporto Internacional de Brasília (Presidente Juscelino Kubitschek)</p> <p>CAMPINAS - Aeroporto Internacional de Viracopos/Campinas</p> <p>CAMPO GRANDE - Aeroporto Internacional de Campo Grande (Antônio João)</p> <p>CUIABÁ - Aeroporto Internacional de Cuiabá (Marechal Rondon)</p> <p>CURITIBA - Aeroporto Internacional de Curitiba (Afonso Pena)</p> <p>FLORIANÓPOLIS - Aeroporto Internacional de Florianópolis (Hercílio Luz)</p> <p>FORTALEZA - Aeroporto Internacional de Fortaleza (Pinto Martins)</p> <p>FOZ DO IGUAÇU - Aeroporto Internacional de Foz do Iguaçu (Catarata)</p> <p>GOIÂNIA - Aeroporto Santa Genoveva</p> <p>JOÃO PESSOA - Aeroporto Internacional de João Pessoa (Presidente Castro Pinto)</p> <p>MACAPÁ - Aeroporto Internacional de Macapá (Alberto Alcolumbre)</p> <p>MACEIÓ - Aeroporto Internacional de Maceió (Zumbi dos Palmares)</p> <p>MANAUS - Aeroporto Internacional de Manaus (Eduardo Gomes)</p> | <p>NATAL - Aeroporto Internacional de Natal (Governador Aluizio Alves)</p> <p>PALMAS - Aeroporto Internacional de Palmas (Brigadeiro Lysias Rodrigues)</p> <p>PORTO ALEGRE - Aeroporto Internacional de Porto Alegre (Salgado Filho)</p> <p>PORTO VELHO - Aeroporto Internacional de Porto Velho (Governador Jorge Teixeira de Oliveira)</p> <p>RECIFE - Aeroporto Internacional de Recife/Guararapes (Gilberto Freyre)</p> <p>RIO BRANCO - Aeroporto Internacional de Rio Branco (Plácido de Castro)</p> <p>RIO DE JANEIRO - Aeroporto Internacional do Rio de Janeiro/Galeão (Antônio Carlos Jobim), Aeroporto do Rio de Janeiro (Santos Dumont)</p> <p>SALVADOR - Aeroporto Internacional de Salvador (Deputado Luís Eduardo Magalhães)</p> <p>SÃO PAULO - Aeroporto Internacional de São Paulo/Guarulhos (Governador André Franco Montoro - Cumbica) e Aeroporto de São Paulo/Congonhas</p> <p>SÃO LUÍS - Aeroporto Internacional de São Luís (Marechal Hugo da Cunha Machado)</p> <p>TERESINA - Aeroporto Internacional de Teresina (Senador Petrônio Portella)</p> <p>VITÓRIA - Aeroporto Internacional de Vitória (Eurico de Aguiar Salles)</p> |
|--|--|

**NATIVE
WONDER**

Salto do Rio Preto
waterfall in São
Jorge, Chapada dos
Veadeiros (GO)

CHAPTER 1

NATURE AT ITS BEST

There are national parks with waterfalls and crystal clear rivers, walking trails and animals of the Pantanal. The central region in Brazil also astonishes tourists with Brasília's unique architecture.

PHOTO: EMBRATUR

DISTRITO FEDERAL

www.setur.df.gov.br

BRASÍLIA

From the heights of **Torre de Televisão**, the tallest metallic structure in Latin America, everyone can see the city's main arteries - Plano Piloto and Eixo Monumental – and marvel at some of the buildings created by famed architect Oscar Niemeyer: **Três Poderes** square, **Congresso Nacional** (home of the Brazilian Senate and Congress), and **Palácio do Planalto** (the office of the Presidency). Niemeyer's characteristic curvaceous lines can also be seen in **Catedral Metropolitana**, the church that is a landmark of Brazilian modern architecture. Many of the buildings are open to the public for free on designated days and hours and they exhibit works by Brazilian artists, such as Athos Bulcão and Burle Marx's panels, Bruno Giorgi and Alfredo Ceschiatti's sculptures or Marianne Peretti's stained glasses.

Once you've been through the historical and artistic routes, it's time to rely on some of the best leisure sites of the country's capital: **Cidade Park**, with jogging circuits, picnic tables, lakes and playgrounds; **Paranoá Lake**, with more than thirty clubs and restaurants on its shore, and **Pontão do Lago Sul**, where you can enjoy or learn water sports like kitesurf, windsurf and stand up paddle.

GOIÁS

www.goias.gov.br/paginas/conheca-goias

ALTO PARAÍSO DE GOIÁS

Even those who have already visited the National Park **Chapada dos Veadeiros** will be glad to return and find some new spots ready to be explored, such the Trilha das Sete Quedas, a

23-kilometer trail opened in 2013 that goes through the vegetation of cerrado, mountains, rivers and waterfalls. And it is just one of several activities the park has to offer, with its amazing erosional forms, natural swimming pools, and fluvial beaches. Around the park, in cities like **Alto Paraíso de Goiás** and **Cavalcante** and in the **São Jorge** district, waterfalls, canyons, zip lines and ropes courses are located in private properties open to visitors. Those who travel through the region have also a great opportunity to taste a recipe created by the old cattle dealers who explored the area in centuries past: Matula, white or brown beans mixed with manioc flour, seasonings and some meat, like sausage or carne de sol (dried beef).

CALDAS NOVAS AND RIO QUENTE

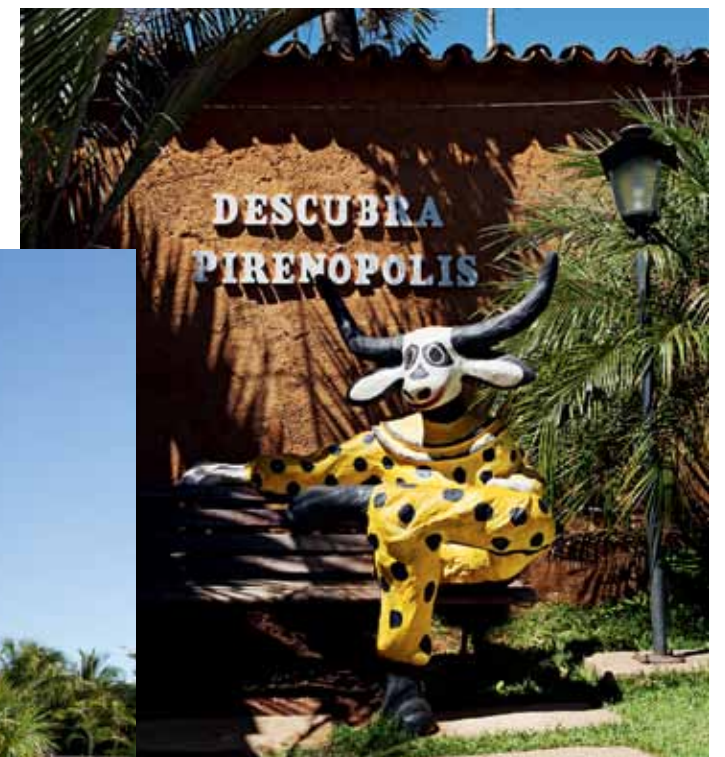
Hotels and resorts of both cities rely on the **warm spring water** that flows from the earth to fill their swimming pools – and many water parks provide recreational opportunities for the entire family, including slides, wave pools and lazy rivers. At **Hot Park**, in Rio Quente, there's even an artificial beach where it's possible to dive and take surf lessons.

GOIÂNIA

Vaca Brava and **Buritis** are two of the nice parks that interconnect the avenues and streets of this planned city, built in the 1930s and known today

DISTANCE (in km)

	Brasília (DF)	Goiânia (GO)	Campo Grande (MS)	Cáceres (MT)
Brasília (DF)	–	211	1079	1364
Caldas Novas (GO)	298	172	204	1255
Goiânia (GO)	211	–	868	1153
Goiás (GO)	327	150	932	973
Pirenópolis (GO)	182	125	1027	1116
Aquidauana (MS)	1220	1009	146	1061
Bonito (MS)	1400	1189	312	1182
Campo Grande (MS)	1079	868	–	911
Corumbá (MS)	1515	1304	441	1347
Cáceres (MT)	1364	1153	911	–
Chapada dos Guimarães (MT)	1032	1003	700	288
Poconé (MT)	1251	1040	798	186



SCENES FROM THE CERRADO

Clockwise: empanão goiano, a savory pie; Congresso Nacional (Brasília); folklore in Pirenópolis (Goiás) and leisure in Caldas Novas (Goiás)

PHOTOS: EMBRATUR

as the “greenest capital of Brazil”. Goiânia is also a good starting point to get to know the typical **cuisine** of Goiás’ state, with recipes like arroz de pequi (white rice speckled with cubes of the yellow pequi fruit, typical of the *cerrado* biome - beware of the tiny thorns that can cause a lot of trouble if you inadvertently bite the whole fruit), empadão goiano (savory pie with ingredients like sausage, chicken, cheese and heart of palm) and peixe na telha (fish cooked on a clay dish with the shape of a tile).

GOIÁS

Ladies in this historical city have a tradition of making and selling candies with poetic names like *passas de caju*, *rosas de coco*, *rosas de laranja* and *pastelinho* – the most famous of them all was Cora Coralina (1889-1985), also a writer, author of beautiful poems about the place. You can begin your journey at her house, **Casa de Cora Coralina**, now a museum with books, pictures, letters, a typewriter and her cooking utensils, and then stroll around the old city, which was the first capital of Goiás state, with centenarian houses and little churches from the 18th century, like **São Francisco de Paula** (1761), with pictures on the ceiling and on one of the altars that represent Saint Francis’ life. One of the most beautiful places in the state is **Serra Dourada** Park, with curious erosional forms and thousands of species typical of the *cerrado*, a vast tropical savanna biome of Brazil.

PIRENÓPOLIS

Nature, adventure sports and historical sites – like the centenarian **Theatro de Pirenópolis** and **Matriz Nossa Senhora do Rosário**, the first church in Goiás – attract tourists to this lovely city. Zip lines, rappelling and ropes courses challenge visitors at the **Santuário de Vida Silvestre Vagafogo** farm and trails at the state park **Pireneus** take you to waterfalls with natural swimming pools. During **Festa do Divino Espírito Santo**, a cultural and religious celebration that begins forty days after Easter Sunday, Pirenópolis is the stage of a unique show: **Cavahada**, a performance in which horsemen represent a millennial battle between twelve Christians (wearing blue costumes) and twelve moors (in red).



EYE CONTACT

To float in Nobres (Mato Grosso): with the fishes

Besides their natural beauties, cities like **GOIÁS AND PIRENÓPOLIS** preserve their history in buildings and churches from the 18th century

MATO GROSSO

www.sedtur.mt.gov.br

CHAPADA DOS GUIMARÃES

Near the state capital, Cuiabá, the city is home to a national park bearing the same name, **Chapada dos Guimarães**, with gigantic erosional features, waterfalls and trails. In Cidade de Pedras, the deep erosion canyons with rugged rims are similar to a “stone city”, hence the name in Portuguese. In Vale do Rio Claro, the trail leads to belvederes and natural swimming pools where one can swim with the fishes. Points of interest and activities outside the park include **Aroe Jari**, **Gruta da Lagoa** and **Kyogo Brado** caves, on Água Fria Farm, canyoning, ziplining, ropes courses, horseback riding and **boats** that cross the rivers Coxipó, Paciência and Claro.

PHOTO: EMBRATUR

NOBRES

You don’t have to be a diver to enjoy the rich underwater fauna in the crystal clear rivers of Nobres: while **floating** one can see piau, pacus and piraputangas, among other native fishes. Nothing more would be required to make this a very special place, but you can also experience the sunset at **Lagoa das Araras**, with flocks of birds passing by, board boats or rafts to explore Cuiabazinho River and get on floats that go down the rivers Salobra and Quebó.

PANTANAL NORTE

Where the Cuiabá and Paraguai rivers come together, the national park **Pantanal Mato-Grossense** embraces only 1% of the total area of the Pantanal, known as the largest wetland in the world, which spreads through many cities in the states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso



100%
NATURE

Clockwise: Gruta do Lago Azul, in Bonito (Mato Grosso do Sul); waterfall in Chapada dos Guimarães (Mato Grosso); caimans and flocks of birds in the Pantanal

do Sul. Poconé is the place for ecotourism, with boat trips, horse rides and tours to watch the wildlife. The dry season – between April and September – is best to see caimans (Brazilian alligators), capybaras, marsh deers, many birds and, with some luck, jaguars (onças-pintadas) and giant otters (ariranhas). It is in Poconé that the **Transpantaneira** road begins: 145 kilometers, mostly unpaved, with more than 100 wooden bridges and little ponds where animals take shelter. It's best to drive between 5am and 8am or after 5pm, when the birds are nestled on the trees.

Another city in Pantanal Norte, **Cáceres** is a paradise for recreational fishing. There are well equipped hotels for the practice and boats that can be rented by the week. Fishing is forbidden between November and February, during the piracema (when fishes reproduce).

MATO GROSSO DO SUL

www.seprotur.ms.gov.br

BONITO

Some of the most beautiful spots in the state – and in the country – are located here. The main activity is to float down rivers like Sucuri, in its clear waters with sparkling bluish reflections, alongside fish such as dourados, piraputangas and curimãs. After a 1,9-kilometer trail on wooden footbridges, tourists reach **Nascente Azul**, where turquoise water and lush green plants that surround the river come together in a marvelous landscape. Nature is also astonishing in **Gruta do Lago Azul**, a 10 million year old cave where solar rays enter to give the water an almost unreal color. At **Abismo Anhumas**, rappelling leads to a huge crater and a crystal clear lake where you can dive and float. Finally, when you just need to relax, it's possible to enjoy waterfalls, natural swimming pools and paddle boats at several balneários, or resort areas.

CAMPO GRANDE

The state's **cuisine** is a mixture of delicacies from the Pantanal combined with Paraguayan, Bolivian and Japanese influences. From Paraguai came chipa, a cheese bread shaped like a horseshoe, and sopa paraguaia, a savory pie with cheese, onions and corn. At **Feira Central**, the central fair, many stalls sell sobá, a Japanese soba noodle

PHOTOS: EMBRATUR

soup with shredded omelet, fish stock and green onion brought by the Japanese immigrants in the early 20th century. Great for walking, **Nações Indígenas** Park has capybaras, macaws and toucans, as well as the **Arte Contemporânea** Museum (exhibiting contemporary art) and **Dom Bosco** Museum (with indigenous artifacts, a rock collection and taxidermied animals). On Saturdays, **Trem do Pantanal** leaves Campo Grande at 8am heading for Miranda, on a 10-hour train trip.

JARDIM

Highlights in Jardim are very similar to the ones in the neighbor city Bonito: you get to float on the limpid waters of the **Prata River** and **Olho D'Água** spring, side by side with shoals of pacus, piraputangas and curimãs and other fish. It's also possible to float and dive at **Lago Misteriosa**, with a 50-meter visibility, and gaze at the innumerable macaw nests at **Buraco das Araras**, a sinkhole caused by the erosion of calcareous rocks, with a profundity of 126 meters.

PANTANAL SUL

Corumbá, the largest and most structured city of Pantanal Sul, has a protected historic group of houses from the 19th and early 20th centuries, museums about the local nature and history, many crafts stores and hotels equipped for ecotourism and fishing. During the dry season, between April and September, it is possible to take the **Estrada-Parque Pantanal**, a road from the 19th century, to see birds and prairies. In the cities of **Aquidauana** and **Miranda**, hotels promote horse and boat rides, expeditions to see animals and activities on farms.

SITES

Abismo Anhumas: www.abismoanhumas.com.br
 Buraco das Araras: buracodasarasas.tur.br
 Catedral Metropolitana: catedral.org.br
 Congresso Nacional: www.congressonacional.leg.br
 HotPark: www.hotpark.com
 Lagoa Misteriosa: www.lagoamisteriosa.com.br
 Palacio del Planalto: www2.planalto.gov.br
 Parque Nacional da Chapada dos Guimarães: www.icmbio.gov.br/parnaguimaraes
 Parque Nacional da Chapada dos Veadeiros: www.icmbio.gov.br/parnachapadadosveadeiros
 Santuário de Vida Silvestre Vagafogo: www.vagafogo.com.br

CAPÍTULO 2

AMAZONIAN POWER

One of the region's highlights is sailing along the rivers and watching the amazing forest. There's also ecotourism, waterfalls, historical sites and beautiful fluvial beaches – not to mention the food

*THE KING
OF THEM ALL*

Amazonas River:
boat rides and
jungle lodges

PHOTO: EMBRATUR



CULTURE EVERYWHERE

Clockwise: Festival de Parintins (Amazonas); Fortaleza de São José do Macapá (Amapá); Calçada da Gameleira, in Rio Branco (Acre) and Teatro Amazonas, in Manaus (Amazonas)

AMAZONAS

www.visitamazonas.am.gov.br

MANAUS

Manaus delights both travelers that want to experience the Amazon Forest, while enjoying some days in jungle lodges, as well as those interested in culture. One of the most popular activities is to board on a boat and travel as far as the dark waters of the Negro River meet the muddy waters of Solimões River. Hotels located in the forest promote night expeditions to observe local animals, canoe rides, fishing and visits to nearby homes. In the city, trees almost 30 meters high, manatees and giant otters can be seen at the **Bosque da Ciência/Inpa**, while **Zoológico do Cigs** is home to jaguars, monkeys and birds.

Many historical places are located in the city center: the beautiful **Teatro Amazonas** (1896), **Rio Negro** Palace (19th century) and **Palacete Provincial** (1874), home to five museums. For a complete journey into the past, take a boat to **Seringal Vila Paraíso**, which recreates a village from the 19th century. And before heading to the fluvial beach **Ponta Negra**, go to **Mercado Municipal** to sample some unique treasures from the Amazonian cuisine, such as *costela de tambaqui* (fish ribs), *caldeirada de tucunaré* (fish stew) and *sanduíche de tucumã*, or *x-caboclinho* (sandwich with slices of a local fruit).

NOVO AIRÃO

Drivers from Manaus can take the bridge over the Negro River to reach the city. Although, the best thing to do once you are there is to book

DISTANCE (in km)

	Rio Branco (AC)	Manaus (AM)	Belém (PA)	Boa Vista (RR)
Rio Branco (AC)	–	1497	4957	2317
Manaus (AM)	1497	–	5434	824
Presidente Figueiredo (AM)	1626	133	5563	694
Belém (PA)	4957	5434	–	6254
Santarém (PA)	3715	2224	1431	3044
Porto Velho (RO)	510	854*	4452	1603*
Boa Vista (RR)	2317	824	6254	–
Palmas (TO)	3801	4278	1300	5098

* 461 km without pavement in the middle of Amazon Forest, with no infra-structure, making it impossible to drive.

ACRE

www.ac.gov.br

RIO BRANCO

Named after a Brazilian environmentalist and trade union leader, **Parque Ambiental Chico Mendes** has stretches of primary forest, a zoo, maloca replicas (the typical long houses used by natives in the Amazon) and a memorial. Along with the **Museu da Borracha**, it's a good place to start exploring the city. **Parque da Maternidade** has other interesting attractions: a library, Casa dos Povos da Floresta, with a permanent exhibition that shows the lives of the natives from the state of Acre, and Casa do Artesão, a crafts store that also sells sweets. At **Mercado Velho**, built in the 1920s, you can taste some local **cuisine**, which mixes indigenous traditions and influences from the Brazilian Northeastern region, Lebanon, Syrian and the Andes. At the historical center, the main attraction is **Calçada da Gameleira**, a promenade with bars and restaurants located in historical houses.

AMAPÁ

www.setur.ap.gov.br

MACAPÁ

The imaginary line of the Equator crosses Amapá's capital – you can go to **Marco Zero** and plant one foot on each side of the hemisphere. In the center of the city, **Fortaleza de São José do Macapá** (1872) is a fortress with 15-meter walls designed to protect the Amazon River. Nearby is **RPPN Revecom**, a park with trails that take you through different types of environments with an array of animals to be seen. Don't miss the typical local **crafts** made by several ethnic groups using wood, plants, clay, feathers and seeds; nor should you miss the fried fishes, stews and shrimp recipes of the delicious **cuisine**.

PHOTOS: EMBRATUR

a boat trip that allows tourists to see parrots, *guariba* monkeys, waterfalls and villages on the shores of the rivers. Or go to Anavilhanas National Park, an archipelago with 400 islands and places where you can walk to observe the animals. A visit to **Jaú** National Park requires two days, with lodging in camps or natives' homes.

PRESIDENTE FIGUEIREDO

The city is well known for its beautiful waterfalls. **Santuário**, with natural swimming pools, is located inside an environmental protected nature reserve; **Pedra Furada** is similar to a shower head due to the perforations in its rocks. On the way to **Iracema** waterfall you get to see an interesting geological formation and can then keep walking as far as **Araras** Waterfall, with plenty of water to be found. In another protected reserved area, the caves **Maroaga** Cave and **Gruta da Judeia** limit the number of visitors to 60 persons per day; it is best to book in advance. Another site worth the trip is **Vila de Balbina**, a village built in the 1980s around a hydroelectric power station, where you can have lunch on the lake's shore while watching river dolphins swim and leap.

PARINTINS

The second largest city in the Amazon, Parintins can only be reached by boat or by plane. In June, tourists from all over Brazil come for the **Festival Folclórico de Parintins**, one of the most important cultural events in the country. The parade depicts the ancient rivalry of two associations (called *bois*): Garantido (in red) and Caprichoso (in blue). During the three days of the festival, the folkloric origins of the *bois* and the daily life of the region are shown in dances of indigenous origins and allegorical costumes.

PARÁ

paraturismo.pa.gov.br

BELÉM

One of the best places to start your visit is **Estação das Docas**, a group of three old warehouses remodeled and turned into restaurants, bars, ice cream parlors, crafts stores and a theater. On boat tours departing from there, you can get a glimpse of the tropical

forest and its biodiversity. In the historical center, **Ver-o-Peso** Market allows tourists to see and taste some of the ingredients from the famous and unique local **cuisine**: regional fruits, fishes, herbs, roots and spices – *tucupi*, a yellow broth made of manioc root, is mandatory in dishes like *tacacá*, a savory soup served mainly at evenings.

Near the market you can visit **Forte do Presépio**, a fortress that dates back to the 17th century, **Casa das Onze Janelas**, from the 18th century, the ancient house of a sugar mill owner, and **Catedral da Sé**, from 1748, the starting point of the Catholic procession **Círio de Nazaré**, which takes place every October and has 2 million followers. It's also worth taking the guided tour of the **Theatro da Paz**, a theater at Praça da República, and walking the promenades of **Zoobotânico** Park, a big reserve with species from Amazonian fauna and flora. Another point of interest is **Mangal das Garças**, a park with butterfly nurseries, aviaries, belvedere and a memorial with old vessels on the borders of Guamá River.

ILHA DE MARAJÓ

Bathed by the Atlantic Ocean and the Amazonas and Tocantins rivers, the most important island of the largest fluviomarine archipelago in the world has often deserted beaches, mangroves and nearly three buffalos per inhabitant – buffalo's meat and cheese are abundant in the local cuisine as in dishes like *filé marajoara* and *frito do vaqueiro*. In the city of **Salvaterra**, the highlights are Joanes and Grande beaches. **Soure** has hostels, restaurants and crafts stores that sell the renowned *cerâmica marajoara*: vases, plates, bowls and other utensils made from clay and embellished with graphic figures and symbols. Trails, canoe rides and buffalo rides are some of the attractions at local farms, like **Araruna**, **Bom Jesus** and **São Jerônimo**.

SANTARÉM AND ALTER DO CHÃO

On the river shore, **Terminal Fluvial Turístico** has bars and crafts stores. This is also the place for booking boat tours with destinations such as the confluence of rivers Amazonas and Tapajós



LOCAL FLAVORS

Clockwise: **Estação das Docas**, in Belém (Pará); adventure in Jalapão (Tocantins); *tacacá*; a beach in Alter do Chão, near Santarém (Pará)



PHOTOS: EMBRATUR



CLOSE TO THE SKY

Monte Roraima: one of the highest places in Brazil

and beautiful local beaches with white sand and crystal clear waters. The best period to enjoy the beaches is from August to January, during the ebb tide of the Tapajós River. The district of **Alter do Chão** has wonderful beaches near the village. You can also extend the journey and take a two day trip to **Floresta Nacional do Tapajós** and **Reserva Extrativista Tapajós-Arapiuns**, and enjoy the natural reserves' trails and animal watching.

RONDÔNIA

www.rondonia.ro.gov.br/setur

PORTO VELHO

The city's history is closely linked to the construction of Estrada de Ferro Madeira-Mamoré, a rail line that celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2012. To watch river dolphins swim and see the local fauna, take a **boat trip** – one of them goes up the Madeira River as far as

Utensils made of wood and straw, bows and arrows and other artifacts represent the unique **HANDICRAFT** from Rondônia and Roraima. In Tocantins, check the costume jewelry created with *capim dourado*

Usina de Santo Antônio. Guaporé River is a good place for fishing, especially between July and November, when the tides are low. Porto Velho is also a good place for buying **arts and crafts**: straw baskets, utensils made from wood or clay, and indigenous artifacts such as clappers and bows and arrows. Fishes are a staple of the local **cuisine**, with recipes like *caldeirada de tambaqui* (fish stew) and *dourado na brasa* (grilled fish).

RORAIMA

www.turismo.rr.gov.br

BOA VISTA

Close to where Brazil, Venezuela and Guiana boarder one another, Boa Vista is the only Brazilian capital entirely situated on the Northern Hemisphere. You can walk along the promenade of **Orla Taumanã**, on the shore of the Rio Branco River, taste the varied **cuisine** or buy **crafts** such as utensils made from wood, straw or

PHOTO: EMBRATUR

latex. To visit **Monte Roraima** National Park, you must go to the Venezuelan city of Santa Elena de Uairén and then head to the park, an astonishing place with steep-walled canyons, lakes, waterfalls and endemic species of fauna and flora. The highlight of the place is Monte Roraima, with a 2734 meter high plateau.

TOCANTINS

portal.to.gov.br

PALMAS

No other crafts are as representative of Tocantins as are their hats, bags, necklaces and bangles made of **capim dourado**, a golden yellow color type of straw, sold everywhere from stores to street fairs. Less than 30 kilometers away from Palmas is the **Taquaruçu** district with more than 70 waterfalls, such as Roncadeira (70 meters high) and Sambaíba (with a good natural swimming pool).

JALAPÃO

Waterfalls, creeks, crystal-clear natural swimming pools, prairies and dunes can be seen at **Jalapão**, a complex of five nature reserves which are home to capybaras, maned wolves and blue macaws. Visitors usually book a tour from Palmas or stay in cities like Mateiros and Ponte Alta do Tocantins. In either place, it's better to travel in the company of a guide. The famous **dunes** of Jalapão have the look and feel of the desert. At **Fervedouro de São Félix** you can swim in a natural swimming pool bathed by sun rays. And two of the most beautiful waterfalls are **Fumaça** and **Formiga**, which also has a natural swimming pool.

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CHAPTER 3

HERE COMES THE SUN

Incredible islands and paradisiacal beaches. Monumental parks. History and culture. Adventure and sports. Welcome to the warmest states in Brazil

TO DIVE OR DIVE NOT

Crystal clear water in Galés de Maragogi: the largest group of natural swimming pools in Alagoas

PHOTO: DIVULGAÇÃO

ALAGOAS

www.turismo.al.gov.br

CORAIS COAST

North of Maceió, this is one of the most beautiful stretches of coastline in Brazil, from Paripueira to Maragogi, on a 130 kilometer drive on the state roads AL-101 and AL-435. Your first stop could be at **Carro Quebrado** Beach, in Barra de Santo Antônio, with colorful sea cliffs and charming hostels. **Patacho** Beach, in Porto de Pedras, is spectacular: during the low tide, it is possible to reach natural swimming pools by simply walking the ocean floor and small ponds.

LAGOONS AND MARES DO SUL

Alagoas' South coast has an 80 kilometer stretch of beaches, ponds and rivers. Highlights begin at **Francês** Beach, visited by families and surfers alike. **Marechal Deodoro**, which was the first state's capital, is also interesting. Down South are **Barra de São Miguel** and its famous **Gunga** Beach, on the confluence of the ocean and the **Roteiro** Lagoon. If you have time, visit **Vila Palateia**, one of the biggest oysters farms in Brazil, 5 kilometers from Barra de São Miguel.

MACEIÓ

Everybody is amazed by the colors of the sea at urban beaches in Maceió. The incredible green is ubiquitous across the shore – **Pajuçara**, **Ponta Verde** and **Jatiúca** beaches are home to many important hotels and restaurants. From Pajuçara, you can take a boat near **Feira de Artesanato** and head to some beautiful natural swimming pools. In Ponta Verde there are plenty of *barracas*, or beach stalls, and Jatiúca is the place to enjoy live music offered in many of its bars. Also worth the visit are the more distant beaches **Ipioca** and **Pratagi**. To

take back home colorful blouses, tablecloths and shawls, don't miss **Rua das Rendeiras**, with stores specialized in selling the local lace *filé*.

MARAGOGI

Here you will find the largest group of natural swimming pools in Alagoas, **Galés de Maragogi**. To get there you can take boats that run schedules depending on the tides. Other pools, like **Taocas**, **Barra Grande** and **Barreira da Peroba**, are equally beautiful and have fewer people, just like **Burgalhau** and **Japaratinga** beaches. In **São Bento** Beach you can taste the local delicacy *bolo de goma*, little cookies shaped as sea shells. If you feel like walking, **Visgüeiro** trail crosses the Atlantic Forest biome and allows you to see waterfalls and a 500 year old tree.

SÃO FRANCISCO

Only 240 kilometers of the São Francisco River – a tenth of its extension – run through Alagoas. But the state is very proud of the *Velho Chico*, as it is called. From the historic city of **Penedo**, you can visit its islands and little villages. Nearby, in **Piaçabuçu**, boats go through mangroves and coconut trees as far as the river's estuary – buggies can make the same journey.

For those more adventurous there is the trail **Rota do Cangaço**, in **Piranhas**. Dressed like a *cangaceiro* (ancient outcasts of the Northeastern region), the tour guide leads the group as far as **Grota do Angico**, the place where Lampião,

DISTANCE (in km)

	Maceió (AL)	Salvador (BA)	Fortaleza (CE)	Natal (RN)
Maceió (AL)	–	604	1072	552
Penedo (AL)	169	485	1199	679
Lençóis (BA)	859	394	1368	1369
Porto Seguro (BA)	1187	722	1902	1698
Salvador (BA)	604	–	1376	1114
Fortaleza (CE)	1072	1376	–	552
Jijoca de Jericoacoara (CE)	1321	1492	296	829
São Luís (MA)	1579	1576	1055	1588
João Pessoa (PB)	386	948	704	184
Caruaru (PE)	196	758	939	419
Recife (PE)	266	828	822	302
Parnaíba (PI)	1492	1489	500	1033
Natal (RN)	552	1114	552	–
Aracaju (SE)	283	345	1159	793



PHOTOS: EMBRATUR, © 1 DIVULGAÇÃO

SWEET TEMPTATIONS

Clockwise: Rio da Barra Beach, between Trancoso and Arraial D'Ajuda (Bahia); moqueca in Salvador (Bahia); lighthouse in Abrolhos (Bahia); Penedo (Alagoas)



NICE VIEWS

Pai Inácio Hill in Chapada Diamantina (Bahia); opposite, historical houses and Igreja do Passo, in Pelourinho, Salvador (Bahia)

the most famous *cangaceiro* of them all, was murdered in an ambush.

BAHIA

www.setur.ba.gov.br

BALEIAS COAST

From Caravelas, boats go as far as **Abrolhos** National Maritime Park, which is 70 kilometers from the shore. Reefs, corals, shoals of fishes and sea turtles can be seen from the vessel or in underwater diving – scuba diving requires special boats and guides. From **Prado**, between July and October, tours take visitors on humpback whales watching. Another city that takes you to both Abrolhos and whale-watching is **Nova Viçosa**.

CACAU COAST

The places celebrated in the books of Jorge Amado, a famous Brazilian author, can still be visited in **Ilhéus**: Bar Vesúvio and Bataclan Cabaret, not to mention the writer's home, now

Casa da Cultura. Some cocoa farms are opened to visitors – the tours end with a chocolate tasting. On the way to **Itacaré** you will find the most beautiful beaches. The **resorts** are located on the Ilhéus-Canavieiras road. Also in Itacaré there are good restaurants, stretches of Atlantic Forest biome and excellent hotels. Beaches such as Tiririca, Prainha, Jeribucaçu and Itacarezinho are surfer's paradises.

CHAPADA DIAMANTINA

Lençóis is where one should start off to explore the beauties of **Chapada Diamantina** National Park: Pratinha and Torrinha caves and a trail that leads you to a beautiful sunset at Pai Inácio hill, or expeditions to waterfalls such as Fumaça, in **Vale do Capão**, and Sossego. In nearby cities, some of the highlights are the incredible blue waters of Poço Encantado, in **Andaraí**, and the various waterfalls of Cachoeirão, in **Mucugê**. In **Ibicoara**, Buracão Waterfall appeals to the more adventurous, who don't mind swimming or walking through narrow alleys to reach the

destination. The crossing of **Vale do Paty** can last three to five days, with lodging in local homes. Another good tour starts at Remanso community, 18 kilometers from Lençóis, on small boats that go to **Pantanal da Chapada**, an area with water lilies, and to Roncador waterfall.

COQUEIROS COAST

From Salvador airport, heading North on Estrada do Coco (Linha Verde road), there are many villages and beaches. The main one is **Praia do Forte**, with excellent choices of resorts, hotels and hostels, where the highpoints are Projeto Tamar, an organization that studies and preserves sea turtles, and Castelo Garcia D'Ávila, ruins of one of the first fortresses in the country. On the border between Bahia and Sergipe, you can buggy ride to the dunes of Mangue Seco Beach.

DENDÊ COAST

The islands of **Boipeba** and **Tinharé** have some of the most paradisiacal beaches in Bahia. In

Boipeba you can book a hostel either in Boca da Barra or Moreré villages and enjoy the semi-deserted Bainema and Cueva beaches, some natural swimming pools, horseback riding or stargazing. **Morro de São Paulo**, on Tinharé Island, attracts more tourists with an irresistible mix of a beautiful landscape and beach parties at Segunda Praia. Primeira Praia is more family oriented and Terceira and Quarta Praias are excellent to spend the day sunbathing.

DESCOBRIMENTO COAST

Brazilian high school and college graduates commonly celebrate the end of the school year with a trip to **Porto Seguro**, where parties are a constant in huge stalls at beaches like Taperapuã, with *axé* as the official beat. At Passarela do Álcool, a strip of bars and restaurants, live music and alcoholic drinks attract daily crowds. To escape the buzz, go to Mutá Beach, visit the historical sites of Cidade Alta or book a tour to Reserva Pataxó da Jaqueira, an indigenous reserve.

PHOTOS: EMBRATUR

Also in Costa do Descobrimento – the name alludes to the history of the country, discovered by Pedro Álvares Cabral in 1500 – are the towns of **Santa Cruz Cabralia**, **Santo André** and **Arraial d’Ajuda**, all worth the trip. The incredibly charming **Trancoso** has exclusive hotels, good restaurants and many bars and stores in Quadrado Square. Beautiful beaches like Nativos, Coqueiros and Rio Verde, near the village, or the more distant Ponta de Itaquena and Rio da Barra, are a must. Even more sophisticated is **Praia do Espelho**, where you can enjoy the day in chaise lounges and gazebos rented from hostels. Cars are not allowed in the pleasant village of **Caraíva**, separated by a river from Porto Seguro. On the sand-covered streets, life is calm.

LAKES AND CANYONS OF SÃO FRANCISCO

Built around the hydroelectric power station of the same name, in Northern Bahia, the city of **Paulo Afonso** offers tours to Raso da Catarina, a biological reserve on the *sertão* biome, and to the canyons of the São Francisco River. Catamaran tours, trekking and bungee jumping are other local activities.

SALVADOR

It’s not by chance that tourists choose **Elevador Lacerda** – the elevator that links Cidade Baixa (“low city”) and Cidade Alta (“high city”) – to start vacationing in Salvador. There you have a wonderful view of Baía de Todos os Santos, the city’s bay. Below you can see **Mercado Modelo**, a traditional market with stores and restaurants. **Pelourinho**, the heart of the historical center, is located just a few steps away, with an incomparable number of churches (don’t miss the amazing **Igreja e Convento de São Francisco**) and houses from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Other touristic highlights are more distant from the downtown area, but all worth visiting: **Farol da Barra**, an old lighthouse at Barra Beach, **Nosso Senhor do Bonfim** Church, **Arena Fonte Nova**, the renewed soccer stadium that was part of the Fifa World Cup, and **Largo de Santana**, a town square in the neighborhood of Rio Vermelho, near which a museum dedicated to the famous writer Jorge Amado is due to open by the end of



JERI MOMENTS

Pedra Furada, in Jericoacoara (Ceará): to get there you can walk, ride a horse or take a buggy

From Elevador Lacerda you have a wonderful view of Baía de Todos os Santos, in **SALVADOR**. In **PRAIA DO ESPELHO** it is possible to enjoy the day in chaise lounges and gazebos rented from hostels

2014. Among the beaches are the more crowded **Porto da Barra**, **Farol da Barra**, **Flamengo** and **Stella Maris**; for a little more peacefulness, go to **Buracão**, behind the houses located in Rio Vermelho. Intense flavors mark the beloved local **cuisine**, that relies greatly on fish, seafood and the strong *dendê* oil in dishes like *acarajé*, *moqueca*, *bobó*, *caruru*, *xinxim de galinha* and *vatapá*. Accessible by ferry, **Itaparica** Island can be seen on a one day trip.

CEARÁ

www.setur.ce.gov.br

AQUIRAZ

Near Fortaleza, **Beach Park** is a water park with plenty of fun for families and four resorts inside the complex. The newest area, Arrepius, has five water slides that reach 25 meters high. The town of Aquiraz is good for shopping for clothes, tablecloths and other goods made of lace, the typical *bilro*, *labirinto* and *filé*.

CANOA QUEBRADA

“Rota do Sol Nascente” (CE-040), or “Rising Sun Road”, starts in Fortaleza and takes you first to **Beberibe** and beautiful beaches like Morro Branco and Fontes, with colorful sea cliffs, with the next point of interest being **Canoa Quebrada**, known for a sculpture of a star and a half-moon on its cliff. Buggy tours go to quieter beaches, such as Ponta Grossa and Redonda.

CUMBUÇO

It’s one of the best places in the world for **kite** and **windsurfing**, just 35 kilometers from Fortaleza – you get to drive on road CE-085, named “Rota do Sol Poente”, or “Sunset Way”. Between July and February, trade winds allow professionals and amateurs alike to engage in classes and enjoy the sports; local schools rent the necessary equipment. **Taíba**, a 20 kilometer trip, is also a good spot for kitesurfing, with an array of kites coloring the sky.

PHOTO: EMBRATUR

FORTALEZA

At Avenida Beira-Mar Promenade you will find big chain hotels (with large swimming pools), wandering tourists mesmerized by the sunset, a nocturnal **arts and craft's fair** at Meireles Beach and the more distant **Futuro's Beach** huge stalls – *barracas* – that attract visitors with a cornucopia of live music, massages, small water parks for children, some public Wi-Fi connection and performances by stand-up comedians, a trade mark of Ceará's capital.

A brief walk through the center of town allows visitors to get a glimpse of the state's culture, mainly by observing over 15 000 objects on display at **Museu do Ceará** and the crafts and food sold at **Mercado Central** and **Centro de Turismo**, both good for shopping. A very interesting place is **Centro Cultural Dragão do Mar de Arte e Cultura**, a complex with museums, a planetarium and a movie theater surrounded by bars. Rebuilt for the World Cup 2014, the soccer stadium **Arena Castelão** offers guided tours for visitors.

Off road CE-040 you can see the production of *rapadura*, blocks of unrefined whole cane sugar, in mills that also sell the sweet delicacy – other specialties from rich cearense **cuisine** are *pargo* (fish) baked on coarse salt, recipes with lobster and *peixada* (fish stew). Those who seek adventure can **dive** at the State Maritime Park **Pedra da Risca do Meio**.

JERICOACOARA

This remote fishing village attracts tourists from all over the world who enjoy its hostels, wonderful landscape and charming stores - but it continues to be a basic destination. The best activities are pretty common: walking to **Pedra Furada**, a rock with the shape of an arc (depending on the tides, a buggy or a horse ride are the way to go), or watching the sunset at **Duna do Pôr do Sol**. Buggy tours take you to lagoons with shallow waters in the nearby towns of **Jijoca** and **Tatajuba**- the latter also being a good place to take **kitesurfing** lessons as the more experienced practitioners go to **Preá Beach**. "Jeri", as the village is known, is part of a touristic route called **Rota das Emoções** that also includes tours to Delta do Parnaíba, in Piauí, and to Lençóis Maranhenses, in Maranhão.

JIOCA DE JERICOACOARA

Tourists usually park their cars in this city before heading to Jericoacoara, one of the most famous beaches of Ceará, which can only be reached by pickup trucks. But the place has its own beauties, such as **Paraíso** and **Azul** lagoons, where you can relax in hammocks hanging over shallow waters.

JUAZEIRO DO NORTE

A place of pilgrimage in the South of Ceará, Juazeiro has a huge icon: the 25 meter statue of **Padre Cícero**, a Catholic priest believed to be a saint by the local population – and many Brazilians alike. It was in Juazeiro that *Padim Ciço*, as he was called, spent more than 60 years of his life; pictures, books and personal objects are on display at **Memorial Padre Cícero**.

MARANHÃO

www.turismo.ma.gov.br

LENÇÓIS MARANHENSES

Due to the scorching sun and the long journey walking on the sand, one can think it's a mirage, but this incredible landscape does exist. To get the most out of it, pick the right season to go, which is between May and August, when the lagoons are full and the rainy season is over. There are a couple of options to enter the National Park of **Lençóis Maranhenses**: from **Barreirinhas** you can take a pickup truck to Azul and Bonita lagoons or get on a boat and explore Preguiças River. Other lagoons can be visited from **Atins** (Verde and Mário) and from **Santo Amaro do Maranhão** (the less crowded Gaivota and Betânia).

SÃO LUÍS

This is the only Brazilian city founded by the French, who wanted to establish themselves in the tropics in the 17th century. The Portuguese reconquered the place twice: they ousted not only the French but also the Dutch that occupied it for three years. This saga can be seen on the streets and alleys of **Cidade Velha**, with historic mansions from the 18th and 19th centuries, many covered by Portuguese tiled walls. You



THRILLING AND DELICIOUS

Clockwise: historical buildings in São Luís (Maranhão); Lençóis Maranhenses (Maranhão); Beach Park, in Aquiraz (Ceará); and *arroz de cuxá*, a typical dish of Maranhão

PHOTOS: EMBRATUR



GO EAST

Ponta do Seixas, in João Pessoa (Paraíba): the Eastern spot in South America

can start your walking tour on Rua do Sol, the street where **Museu Histórico e Artístico do Maranhão** and **Teatro Arthur Azevedo** are located. Other interesting spots are **Matriz da Sé**, a church built by the Jesuits, **Casa de Nhozinho**, a museum dedicated to craftsmanship, and **Palácio dos Leões**, an old fortress now home to the state's governor. At Estrela Street, **Casa das Tulhas** has stalls selling sweets, liquors and spices. The highlight of the local **cuisine**, though, is *arroz de cuxá*, rice mixed with *vinagreira* (a sour herb), manioc flour, toasted sesame seeds and dried shrimp.

PARAÍBA

www.portal.paraiba.pb.gov.br

CONDE

Short trips from João Pessoa will take you to two of the most famous beaches of Paraíba's Southern coast: **Tambaba**, the first nudist beach in the Northeastern region – but there's also a little stretch of sand where you can keep your clothes on – and **Coqueirinho**, beautiful and very crowded on the weekends, surrounded by coconut trees, rocks and water springs.

JOÃO PESSOA

Small buildings on the seaside give the city a pleasant climate. Walking on the promenade between **Cabo Branco**, **Tambaú** and **Manaíra** beaches is a common activity. For sunbathing, **Bessa** is the place. In the evenings, many tourists go to **Jacaré** Fluvial Beach to watch the sunset while a bar owner plays Ravel's *Bolero* on the saxophone.

Other highlights include **Centro Cultural São Francisco**, a beautiful complex of baroque art, the museums of **Estação Cabo Branco de Ciência, Cultura e Artes** (the visit can be combined with a trip to **Ponta do Seixas**, the most Eastern point in the Americas), **Feirinha de Artesanato de Tambaú** and **Mercado de Artesanato Paraibano**, places where one can buy clothes made with organic cotton. Don't leave Paraíba without tasting the local dishes of *cozinha sertaneja*, the typical food from the backcountry, such as *paçoca* (shredded dried beef with manioc flour) and *rubacão* (a mixture of rice, beans, beef, cheese and vegetables).

PHOTO: EMBRATUR

PERNAMBUCO

www.pe.gov.br

CARUARU

Quadrilhas, dances routines that can gather up to 4.000 people, are one of the symbols of **Festa de São João**, a gigantic feast in honor of Saint John. It goes on from late May to the end of June and attracts more than 1 million people to the city. Another huge event is **Feira de Caruaru**, held every Saturday at Parque 18 de Maio with stalls selling everything from local food to arts and crafts made from clay, leather, straw and lace. Also worth visiting are the artist's studios in the Alto do Moura neighborhood; their work is inspired by that of Mestre Vitalino, the late craftsman who created small sculptures depicting the state's traditions.

FAZENDA NOVA AND NOVA JERUSALÉM

Near Caruaru, the district of **Fazenda Nova** attracts thousands of people every Easter to watch the staging of The Passion of Christ played by Brazilian actors and more than 500 extras. It is a 46 year old tradition that occurs inside the walls of **Nova Jerusalém**, which some believe to be the largest open-air theatre in the world.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA

Is it a perfect place for weddings and honeymoons or a diver's paradise? Both! The archipelago of Fernando de Noronha is a national maritime park – because of preservation laws, you have to pay a daily fee to enter the island. It's a good idea to start your vacation on a **boat tour** that allows you to get familiar with the island's geography, starting at Porto de Santo Antônio and sailing along Mar de Dentro (the coast that faces the continent) to Ponta da Sapata – it's not rare to see dolphins swimming along the way. On your way back, stop at **Baía do Sancho**, one of the most beautiful beaches in Brazil, difficult to be reached by land (you would have to descend a steep set of stairs inside a narrow crevice).

To visit other beaches, such as **Baía dos Porcos**, rent a motorbike or book a tour with taxi or buggy drivers. At Mar de Fora (the coastal area

It's a good idea to start your vacation in **FERNANDO DE NORONHA** on a boat tour that allows you to get familiar with the island's geography - it's not rare to see dolphins swimming along the way

facing the ocean), highlights are **Baía do Sueste**, a great place to scuba dive with sea turtles, **Leão Beach**, with a belvedere, and **Atalaia Beach**, protected by reefs, with a natural swimming pool on the low tide (30 minutes trekking tours depart from Trinta village). Another trip worth the effort is the 5 kilometer and 5 hour hike from Atalaia. For **diving**, September and October are the best months; for surfing, go between December and February. **Projeto Tamar**, an organization responsible for the preservation of sea turtles, promotes year-round lectures.

GARANHUNS AND GRAVATÁ

Between valleys and small hills, **Garanhuns** has a mild climate and temperatures as low as 7 °C during the winter months - extremely unusual for a state like Pernambuco. Since 1991 there's an important **winter festival** that offers music, theater, dance, movies, circus and other performances. Once in the city, enjoy vigorous dishes like *buchada de bode*, a strong-flavored stew made with goat's meat and offal. Known as "the

Switzerland of *agreste*" (a narrow zone between the Northeast's coast and the semiarid *sertão*), **Gravatá** (2 hours from Garanhuns) also has mild temperatures, good hotels and nice restaurants.

IGARASSU AND ILHA DE ITAMARACÁ

Located on the continent, Igarassu has preserved its old houses, streets lined with stones, and beautiful churches, such as **Convento de Santo Antônio**. Across the bridge is **Itamaracá**, the island with **Forte Orange**, an ancient fortress built during the Dutch occupation of the Northeast, destroyed and then rebuilt by the Portuguese in the 17th century. The beaches of Itamaracá are also worth the trip: reefs and fishpounds in **Baixa Verde** and **Forte Orange's** deep blue sea. If you're travelling with children, don't miss **Ecoparque Peixe-Boi**, an organization that helps fight the extinction of manatees.

IPOJUCA (PORTO DE GALINHAS)

Natural swimming pools attract many tourists to Porto de Galinhas - 10 minute raft trips take you to the reefs. Other highlights include **buggy rides** to Muro Alto (where the most luxurious resorts are located) and Pontal de Maracaípe (where you can take a raft to watch seahorses). **Enseadinha Beach**, across Maracaípe River, is good for children, **Maracaípe Beach** for surfing (and less expensive hostels) and **catamarans tours** take to Santo Aleixo Island and Carneiros Beach.

OLINDA

Steep streets of the historical center exhibit baroque treasures such as the churches **Basílica de São Bento** (1582) and **Convento de São Francisco** (1585). In the area, one can also find coffee shops and ateliers settled in old houses. A touristic train travels around the city and has 11 hop-on and hop-off stops. At **Alto da Sé**, one should not miss *tapioca* (manioc pancake). For another view, take the **Elevador Panorâmico** that goes high up the water reservoir. Its neighbor, the **Observatório Astronômico**, from 1890, is one of the oldest observatories in Brazil.



PHOTOS: EMBRATUR

SCENES OF PERNAMBUCO

Clockwise: natural swimming pools in Porto de Galinhas; Carmo Church, in Olinda; clay sculptures in Caruaru; Oficina de Cerâmica Francisco Brennand, in Recife



**IS IT A
MIRAGE?**

View from the
belvedere Dois
Irmãos, in Fernando
de Noronha
(Pernambuco)



BEAUTY EVERYWHERE

Clockwise: flock of guarás in Delta do Parnaíba (Piauí); rupestrian paintings in Serra da Capivara (Piauí); São Francisco Square, in São Cristóvão (Sergipe); buggies in Genipabu (Rio Grande do Norte)

RECIFE

Recife would be worth the trip even if you went there just to taste one delicacy of their local **cuisine**: *bolo de rolo*, with very thin layers of cake filled and rolled up using guava marmalade. Luckily, there's plenty to see between a bite or two. Most of the hotels are located on the pleasant **Boa Viagem Beach**, good for sunbathing – just don't swim behind the reefs, where sharks can sometimes be seen swimming. In **Recife Antigo**, the old town, there are many historical sites, such as **Bom Jesus Street** (home to Jews that left Europe in the 17th century; the ruins of the synagogue they built can be seen at **Centro Cultural Judaico**, on the same street) and **Torre Malakoff** (an old observatory from 1855). Other sites include **Embaixada dos Bonecos Gigantes** Museum (showing large puppets that are a symbol of the local Carnival) and **Paço do Frevo** (dedicated to *frevo*, a typical rhythm).

In the neighborhood of Santo Antônio you can buy beautiful cordel engravings at **Casa de Cultura** and enjoy two **memorials** in honor of famous musicians born in Pernambuco, both located at Pátio de São Pedro: Chico Science and Luiz Gongaza, who is also remembered at **Cais do Sertão** museum, in the restored harbor area. Also in Santo Antônio, **Catedral de São Pedro dos Clérigos** and **Capela Dourada**, from 1697, are churches worth the visit. Far away from the city center are the **Instituto Ricardo Brennand** Museum, with the world's largest collection of Frans Post's paintings, and **Oficina de Cerâmica Francisco Brennand** Museum, where beautiful gardens surround sculptures and tiled walls.

PIAUI

www.piemtur.pi.gov.br

PARNAÍBA

A 6 hour boat tour begins at Porto dos Tatus, in Ilha Grande, and navigates through the narrow riverbanks of **Delta do Parnaíba**, a unique landscape in Brazil. You can also explore the area on motor boats that take to the fluvial beach Baía do Caju; depending on the season, on the way back you can admire flocks of *guarás*, scarlet ibises. In the city of **Luís Correia**, pickup trucks cross dunes and beaches at Atalaia, Coqueiro e Maramar, the most beautiful stretch of Piauí's coast.

PHOTOS: EMBRATUR

PEDRO II

Mining activity plays a major role in the local economy, with stores producing and selling jewelry and costume jewelry made with **opals**, a precious stone that comes in many colors. The well preserved historical center holds a winter music **festival** that usually happens in June.

PIRIPIRI

50 kilometers from Pedro II, the city is home to **Sete Cidades** National Park, with seven curious erosion formations, Riachão Waterfall, rupestrian paintings and a natural swimming pool. You can drive, walk and bike through the park. Guides are available at the entrance.

SÃO RAIMUNDO NONATO (SERRA DA CAPIVARA)

From the modest town of São Raimundo Nonato you can reach **Serra da Capivara** National Park, a huge and well structured archeological site with more than 40 000 records of prehistoric rupestrian paintings. The drawings, that range from 6 000 to 18 000 years old, depict dances, hunting and sex scenes. **Pedra Furada**, a perforated rock, is the most famous attraction. Don't miss **Museu do Homem Americano**, with fragments that indicate the evolution of prehistoric men on the American continent and show the importance of the studies developed at the museum.

RIO GRANDE DO NORTE

www.setur.rn.gov.br

NATAL

You could eat shrimp everyday if it weren't for other delicious local **cuisine** dishes like *ginga com tapioca* (manioc pancake with small fried fish). Don't overindulge, though, because you will most likely be taking a buggy to drive you as far as Genipabu or Praia da Pipa, up and down the dunes, or to **Cajueiro do Pirangi**, a cashew tree with a crown measuring 8 500 square meters.

In Natal, most of the hotels, bars and restaurants are located on **Ponta Negra Beach**; Via Costeira is home to more luxurious resorts.

Two of the city's main attractions are **Parque das Dunas**, with three different trails through the dunes, and **Forte dos Reis Magos**, an old star shaped fortress. Also worth the visit is **Associação das Labirinteiras de Campo de Santana**, 45 minutes from the city center, where you can buy tablecloths and other interesting products made from a local type of lace, *labirinto*.

NORTH COAST

You can start your tour of the Northern coast in **Genipabu**, driving along the shore to enjoy towns like **Maracajaú**, where boats take you to the *parrachos* (coral reefs), and **Touros**, home to the highest lighthouse in Brazil, Farol do Calcanhar. In **São Miguel do Gostoso**, with simple and charming hostels, time seems to stand still and there's always a hammock inviting you to relax under the cashew trees. Windsurf and kitesurf professionals and amateurs meet at Ponta do Santo Cristo Beach. Buggy tours go from Gostoso to **Galinhos** on a route that will take you on a drive along ten beaches and end up in Tourinhos, where the sunset can take your breath away.

SOUTH COAST

Pipa is the highlight of the Southern shore – from a hippie village, it turned into a charming and often crowded place. For a nice view of the heart-shaped Amor Beach, go to Mirante do Chapadão belvedere. Curral has dolphins and Minas is the preferred beach for kitesurfing. The neighbor city of **Tibau do Sul** is way calmer than Pipa, with a well-known sunset at Guarairas lagoon. And the small **Baía Formosa** is home to the state's largest Atlantic Forest reserve, Mata Estrela, with a trail to Araraquara lagoon.

SERGIPE
www.se.gov.br

ARACAJU

Many hotels and restaurants are located in **Atalaia** Beach, where residents and tourists alike enjoy the promenade that offers a playground, stalls and sports courts. In June, the neighborhood is also home to **Arraial do Povo**, a traditional feast in celebration of Saint John. Installed in an old refurbished house on

HAPPY PLACE

Praia da Pipa, near Natal (Rio Grande do Norte):
romance and adventure



Once a hippie village, **PRAIA DA PIPA** is now a beloved destination with beaches like the heart-shaped Amor and Curral, where you can see dolphins swim. In **TIBAU DO SUL**, don't miss the sunset

PHOTO: EMBRATUR

the shore of Sergipe River, **Museu da Gente Sergipana** uses technological resources to celebrate the local people with areas dedicated to the state's food, crafts, fauna and flora. At Serra da Itabaiana, 45 kilometers from the city, **Parque dos Falcões** is an aviary dedicated to the preservation of predators such as falcons, hawks and owls. Down South you can take a boat tour to visit the sandbanks of **Croa do Goré** and enjoy the day sunbathing at **Saco** Beach.

LARANJEIRAS AND SÃO CRISTÓVÃO

Less than 30 kilometers from Aracaju, both cities played an important role in the state's history. In colonial times, **Laranjeiras** was the base of sugar mills and a place for slave trading. This part of history is depicted at the **Museu Afro-Brasileiro**, located in the historical center and surrounded by churches from the 18th and 19th centuries, and at **Museu de Arte Sacra**, a museum of

religious art. Founded in 1590 and Sergipe's first capital, **São Cristóvão** has churches, museums and monasteries around the São Francisco square. At **Lar Imaculada Conceição** you get to buy a local delicacy, briceletes, sweet biscuits made by the nuns.

SITES

Arena Castelão: www.arenacastelao.com
 Arena Fonte Nova: www.itaipavaarenafontenova.com.br
 Beach Park: www.beachpark.com.br
 Centro Cultural Dragão do Mar: www.dragaodomar.org.br
 Embaixada dos Bonecos Gigantes: www.bonecosgigantesdeolinda.com.br
 Fundação Garcia D'Ávila: www.fgd.org.br
 Fundação Museu do Homem Americano: www.fumdam.org.br
 Instituto Ricardo Brennand: www.institutoricardobrennand.org.br
 Museu de Arte Moderna da Bahia: bahiamam.org
 Museu da Gente Sergipana: www.museudagentesergipana.com.br
 Paço do Frevo: www.pacodofrevo.org.br
 Paixão de Cristo - Nova Jerusalém: www.novajerusalem2014.com.br
 Parque das Dunas: www.parquedasdunas.rn.gov.br
 Projeto Tamar: www.tamar.org.br

**ARMS
WIDE OPEN**

Cristo Redentor,
in Rio de Janeiro:
welcome to the city

CHAPTER 4

EVERYTHING AND EVERYWHERE

It's difficult to find something that these four states don't have: Beautiful beaches, historical sites, national parks and adventure sports, plus delicious food, many shopping areas and an exciting nightlife

PHOTO: EMBRATUR

ESPÍRITO SANTO

www.descubraoespiritosanto.es.gov.br

ANCHIETA

Besides its 30 kilometers of beaches, the city founded in 1565 by priest José de Anchieta – declared a saint in 2014 – preserves the site where he lived for most of his life. At **Santuário Nacional do Beato Anchieta** you can visit N. S. da Assunção Church, a building that served as a school offering religious education, the saint's quarters and a museum displaying ancient religious artifacts. In June, thousands of pilgrims walk **Passos de Anchieta**, a 100-kilometer hike from Vitória to Anchieta.

DOMINGOS MARTINS AND PEDRA AZUL

Located on a beautiful stretch of mountains, **Domingos Martins** has plenty of charming hostels and stores specialized in organic products such as honey, fruits, vegetables, juices, coffee, mushrooms and meat. In July, more than 20 000 visitors participate in the **Festival Internacional de Música Erudita e Popular**, a classical and popular music festival with live performances, classes and seminars. The highlight in **Pedra Azul National Park** is a big rock covered by lichens that changes its color as it is hit by the rays of sunshine – one of the trails take you also to natural swimming pools created by rain and other changes in weather conditions.

In the neighboring **Fjordland Farm** you can ride horses to a belvedere, to natural swimming pools and to coffee plantations – a more extreme activity is rafting on Jacu River. It is also worth exploring **Aracê** and **Santa Isabel** districts, with many hostels, and the adjacent towns of **Alfredo Chaves** and **Afonso Cláudio**, where Benevente River forms a 42 meters high waterfall.

GUARAPARI

No other stretch of the coastline in Espírito Santo is as lively as this – especially around **Meaípe** Beach with sand covered streets, chestnut trees, and little boats in the calm waters. Heading North you will reach some of the most beautiful beaches, like **Padres**, where the sea is green, and **Bacutia**, with large crowds and cold water. Vermelha, do Sul, Ermitão, Aldeia, Adventistas, Três Praias, Setiba Pina and Setibão (for surfing) are equally gorgeous. With clear waters and rich maritime fauna, Guarapari is also a great place for **scuba diving**.

VENDA NOVA DO IMIGRANTE

German and Italian descendants who helped shape the area now support agricultural tourism: **Pedro Cola** road (ES-166) has rural properties and stores that sell and offer tastings of a variety of products, from pasta and jams to *cachaça*, the abundant Brazilian distilled spirit, plus artisanal crafts, candies, liquors, cheese and *socol*, a typical sausage made with pork loin. Some farms take visitors to observe the production of brown sugar, *cachaça* and molasses.

VILA VELHA

Near the capital city Vitória, Vila Velha attracts many visitors during the weekends to enjoy

DISTANCE (in km)

	Vitória (ES)	Belo Horizonte (MG)	Rio de Janeiro (RJ)	Santos (SP)	São Paulo (SP)
Guarapari (ES)	64	550	476	902	853
Vitória (ES)	–	544	533	959	910
Belo Horizonte (MG)	544	–	444	676	602
Ouro Preto (MG)	459	100	402	762	688
São João del Rei (MG)	1416	185	337	537	401
Búzios (RJ)	446	592	179	664	615
Paraty (RJ)	709	581	256	296	307
Petrópolis (RJ)	512	373	72	525	476
Rio de Janeiro (RJ)	533	444	–	500	451
Visconde de Mauá (RJ)	641	422	202	360	311
Campos do Jordão (SP)	777	503	340	243	194
Santos (SP)	959	676	500	–	80
São Paulo (SP)	910	602	451	80	–
São Sebastião (SP)	904	669	445	145	206



EARTH TONES

Clockwise: Vila Velha (Espírito Santo); Pedra Azul (Espírito Santo); Tiradentes' crafts (Minas Gerais), clay pots in Vitória (Espírito Santo)



PHOTOS: EMBRATUR

beaches like **Costa** and **Barra do Jacu**. But it's on the Sunday following Easter that the city draws large crowds, with more than 1 million pilgrims participating in the religious feast promoted by **Convento Nossa Senhora da Penha** with masses, processions and even music performances. On the top of a hill, the church of Penha, built in 1558, has a chapel and a museum with religious artifacts.

VITÓRIA

You can visit the historical attractions in the state's capital simply by walking along **Cidade Alta**. At Praça João Clímaco, the renovated **Palácio Anchieta** is home to the state's government – its construction began in 1573 and was only finished in 1759. There are buildings from the 16th and 17th centuries nearby: **São Gonçalo**, **Rosário** and **Convento de São Francisco** churches still bear their original façade. Most recently built, **Catedral Metropolitana** (1920) has a neo-Gothic style design and **Teatro Carlos Gomes** (1927) was inspired by the Italian Scala theatre. Finalize the tour in **Solar Monjardim**, a museum with objects from the 18th and 19th centuries.

With strong winds, steady sea and a 6-kilometers shoreline, **Camburi Beach** offers windsurf, kitesurf and stand up paddle. Other nice areas along the coast are located in **Ilha do Boi** and **Ilha do Frade**, with natural swimming pools and the open sea at Castanheiras Beach. With almost no sand, **Canto Beach** is often crowded with people that enjoy sports courts, playgrounds and skating, as well as stores, bars, restaurants and coffee shops in the area. It's a great place to flavor one of the typical dishes from Espírito Santo, the *moqueca* (fish and seafood stew) or *torta capixaba* (baked with eggs, fish, seafood and heart of palm). Both are made in clay pots produced by artisans from the **Goiabeiras** neighborhood.

MINAS GERAIS

www.turismo.mg.gov.br

BELO HORIZONTE

A metropolis that often maintains a calm and relaxed atmosphere: this is the charming capital city of Minas Gerais, with nice neighborhoods waiting to be explored on foot, good shopping areas, rich culture, exciting nightlife and a

fantastic **cuisine** that combines traditional dishes with classic delicacies such as *pão de queijo* (cheese bread), *feijão-tropeiro* (beans with manioc flour), *galinha caipira* (free-range chicken) and *bambá de couve* (a porridge like dish with kale and pork). Your first stop can be **Pampulha**, home of an architectural complex designed by Brazil's renowned architect Oscar Niemeyer: **São Francisco de Assis Church**, with a tiled pannel created by painter Candido Portinari, **Casa de Baile** and **Museu de Arte da Pampulha**, all surrounded by wonderful gardens projected by Roberto Burle Marx. Another interesting address that bears Niemeyer's signature is **Casa Kubitschek**, now a museum, where the Ex-President Juscelino Kubitschek lived in the 1940s. Reopened in 2013, soccer stadium **Mineirão (Estádio Governador Magalhães Pinto)** now has also a museum.

With gardens that were inspired by the Versailles Palace, in France, **Praça da Liberdade Square** is a gathering of museums and cultural complexes installed in buildings from the 19th century – the newest is **Casa Fiat de Cultura**, with art exhibitions, seminars and other events. Also in the neighborhood, **Memorial Minas Gerais – Vale** uses creative features to explore the state's history, **Espaço do Conhecimento UFMG** has a planetarium and a sky observation deck, and **Centro de Arte Popular Cemig** displays sculptures, music instruments and paintings.

BRUMADINHO

This is the largest contemporary open-air art museum in the world – an experience that should not be missed, the **Instituto Inhotim** is surrounded by a gorgeous garden that relates to the works of art displayed throughout the landscape and from its more than 20 galleries. Among sculptures, drawings, installations, photos and videos are the works of 85 artists from 26 countries. From a pavilion that looks like an UFO between the forests to an isolated place where you can hear earth's sounds, everything in Inhotim is unique and unforgettable.

DIAMANTINA

Visiting Diamantina is like entering a time machine: with preserved buildings, its historic center seems to remain in the 18th century,



PAST AND PRESENT

Clockwise: sculpture in Inhotim (Minas Gerais); São Francisco de Assis Church, in Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais); *feijão tropeiro*; the Passion of Christ in Congonhas (Minas Gerais)

PHOTOS: EMBRATUR, © T BRUNO SENNA

COLONIAL JEWEL

Old houses and churches from past centuries: the joy of Ouro Preto (Minas Gerais)



during the peak of the gold and diamond mining in Minas Gerais. Better still, you can see everything just strolling along the cobblestone streets that lead you to churches like **N. S. do Carmo**, with golden altars, the rococo styled **São Francisco de Assis**, and **N. S. do Rosário**, built by slaves. **Museu do Diamante** displays furniture, firearms and religious objects, **Casa de Chica da Silva** tells the story of an ex-slave turned into a society noblewoman, and **Instituto Casa da Glória** still bears an old closed bridge suspended over the street. For a little more of Brazilian history, head to **Casa de Juscelino Kubitschek**, installed in a building from the 19th century, a museum that exhibits documents and pictures of the Ex-President's life.

OURO PRETO AND MARIANA

Up and down the steep cobblestone streets, the colonial houses of Ouro Preto live side by side with students from a federal university and visitors that invade the city every Carnival (usually in February), Mostra de Cinema (a movie festival, in June) and Festival de Inverno (in July, with dance, theater, music and other performances). Good starting points to get to know the historical sites – and understand the importance of the mining cities in the country's history – are **Museu da Inconfidência** and **Casa dos Contos**, where gold was weighed and forged. Part of the immense wealth discovered in local mines was used to embellish churches like **Matriz Nossa Senhora do Pilar**, from 1733, in Baroque style. Designed by Aleijadinho, one of the most important Brazilian artists in the 18th century, **São Francisco de Assis Church** is a masterpiece of colonial architecture.

Near Ouro Preto, several gold mines recreate the old days when slaves worked hard to extract the metal. And just 15 kilometers away, the small city of Mariana exhibits old houses, churches and many artist's studios. Though it has a modest façade, **Catedral Basílica da Sé/Nossa Senhora da Assunção Church** is one of the richest temples in the country, with eleven altars. And in an old house dated back from 1770, **Museu Arquidiocesano de Arte Sacra** displays religious objects from the 18th century, Aleijadinho's works and sculptures.

PHOTO: ENBRATUR

The steep streets of **DIAMANTINA** and **OURO PRETO** are evidences of the gold rush, with well preserved buildings and churches from the 18th and 19th centuries

SABARÁ AND CONGONHAS

Traveling from Belo Horizonte to Ouro Preto, one can make two interesting stops at **Sabará** and **Congonhas**. In Sabará, the highlights are **Solar do Padre Correia**, built in 1763, now the mayor's office, and **N. S. do Ó Church**, from 1717, representing the initial period of Brazilian Baroque with twisted columns and concentric arcs. Congonhas, 85 kilometers from Belo Horizonte, is home to one of the most precious Baroque treasures: **Basílica do Senhor Bom Jesus de Matosinhos**, built between 1757 and 1790, with a dozen sculptures of Biblical prophets designed by Aleijadinho. The six chapels that tell the story of the Passion of Christ were renovated and now display the artist's original project. Beside the church, an ex-votos museum has paintings and wooden figures.

SÃO JOÃO DEL REI AND TIRADENTES

Traveling between the two historical cities couldn't be more pleasant: 40 minutes by train on one of

the country's oldest railroads. São João del Rei preserves churches such as **Catedral N. S. do Pilar**, with gilded woodcarvings, and **São Francisco de Assis** has many Baroque and Rococo details – Ex-President Tancredo Neves is buried in the cemetery behind the church, next to a memorial displaying pictures and documents about his life.

The historic center of Tiradentes can be explored on foot, *jardineira* (a charming opened jeep like vehicle from 1935) or horse-drawn carts. Good places to stop by are **Chafariz de São José**, a fountain that dates back to 1749, **Matriz de Santo Antônio**, one of the richest Baroque churches in Brazil, and **Casa do Padre Toledo**, a museum reopened in 2012. In addition to Carnival and Holy Week, many visitors invade the city for events like Festival de Cultura e Gastronomia (culture and gastronomy festival, in August), Mostra de Cinema (a movie festival, in January) and BikeFest (a motorcycle gathering in June). And no tourist can resist to take back home some of the beautiful crafts produced by local artisans, from small lanterns and sculptures to wooden flowers and toys.

SERRA DA CANASTRA

The town of São Roque de Minas and the district São José do Barreiro are the main entrances to **Serra da Canastra** National Park, created in 1972 to preserve the water springs of São Francisco River. The highlight is **Casca D'Anta** Waterfalls, with its 186 meters drop – due to its water pressure, though, it's impossible to bathe or swim. If you're interested in swimming, head to **Fundão/Gameleira** Waterfall, which forms small tides, or to the three falls of **Cerradão**. If you are lucky, you can see maned wolves, pampas deer, giant anteaters and giant armadillos strolling around the park.

SERRA DO CIPÓ

Sempre-vivas, canelas-de-ema and bromeliads are just some species of ornamental flowers spread through **Serra do Cipó** National Park – trails in the local *campos rupestres* biome, creeks and water springs in São Francisco and Doce basins are other highlights. Hikes take you to **Travessão**, a natural bank, and waterfalls like **Farofa**, **Taioba** and **Congonhas**, all with natural swimming pools.

BELO HORIZONTE, the charming capital of Minas Gerais, has nice neighborhoods waiting to be explored on foot, good shopping areas, rich culture, exciting nightlife and a fantastic cuisine



MIXED EMOTIONS

Clockwise: Angra dos Reis (Rio de Janeiro); Imperial museum in Petrópolis (Rio de Janeiro); feijoada; Pico das Agulhas Negras in Itatiaia (Rio de Janeiro)



RIO DE JANEIRO

www.cidadesmaravilhosas.rj.gov.br

PENEDO AND VISCONDE DE MAUÁ

Full of hostels, restaurants and coffee shops, Penedo district was established when Finnish immigrants first arrived in the city of Itatiaia in 1929 – their story is told in the **Eva Hilden** Museum, with pictures, objects, clothes and a doll collection. In **Pequena Finlândia** mall, besides utensils, crafts and chocolate stores, there's a replica of Santa Claus' house. To enjoy the landscape, rent a horse and ride through farms and rural areas or go to Lontra Waterfall.

Up the mountains, Visconde de Mauá is a combination of three villages: Mauá itself, Maromba and Maringá, with coffee and pastry shops, charming hostels and little stores. You can easily walk to Escorrega Waterfall and enjoy its natural swimming pool, or hike through the woods in Vale do Alcantilado, passing by nine waterfalls. For the more adventurous there is rappel, cascading, rafting and a steep trail to Pedra Selada.



PHOTOS: EMBRATUR, ©1 LEO FELTRAN, ©2 ALEXANDER LANDAU



Nice hostels in the woods, good restaurants, charming stores and hikes through the preserved landscape are the highlights of **PETRÓPOLIS** and **VISCONDE DE MAUÁ**

PETRÓPOLIS AND TERESÓPOLIS

In the mountain area of Serra Fluminense, both cities pay homage to the Brazilian emperors Pedro and Teresa, from the 19th century. Petrópolis has museums, churches and historical sites, charming hostels spread through districts like Araras, Vale do Cuiabá and Vale Florido, plus a beautiful landscape – from one of the trails of **Serra dos Órgãos** National Park you can see Guanabara Bay and Dedo de Deus, a famous mountain peak. Start your tour from the **Imperial** Museum, located in what was once the royal family's summer palace retreat. One of the thrones used by Emperor Pedro II is exhibited at Sala de Estado and his diamond and pearl crown can be seen at Sala de Jóias, as is the quill pen used by Princess Isabel to sign the law abolishing slavery in the country. Other historical buildings are **Palácio de Cristal** (1884), **Palácio Rio Negro** (1890), **Casa da Ipiranga** (1884) and **Palácio Itaboraí** (1892). The imperial mausoleum is located in **Catedral de São Pedro de Alcântara**, built in Gothic style.

Calmer than the neighboring city, Teresópolis also has nice lodging, good restaurants and an entrance to **Serra dos Órgãos** National Park. **Mirante do Soberbo**, on road BR-116, is the best place to observe the Dedo de Deus peak. Along road RJ-130, from Teresópolis to Nova Friburgo, many stores sell interior design items, cheese, honey and cosmetics made from goat milk.

RIO DE JANEIRO

It's not an overstatement to say that this is the most famous city in the country. Between the sea and the mountains, uniquely beautiful, Rio welcomes everyone during all seasons, from children to adults and seniors, for an array of activities – spending a day on the beach, enjoying the cultural life, visiting historic sites or eating *feijoada*, to name a few. If you want to know the reason for so much praise, head to **Cristo Redentor** (Christ the Redeemer) at Corcovado mountains or take the aerial lift to **Pão de Açúcar**: from each place, the astonishing views include world famous beaches like Copacabana and Ipanema or Rodrigo de Freitas lagoon.

Many new tourist attractions reinforce the invitation to visit the city. At the **Museu de Arte do Rio/MAR**, two buildings, each with their own architecture style, have four floors dedicated to exhibits – contemporary art takes an entire floor. In an old house from the 19th century, in Botafogo, **Casa Daros** displays works by 117 Latin American artists. Renovated for the 2014 World Cup, **Maracanã** stadium offers a tour through galleries and dressing rooms – and the new **CBF** Museum that recently opened in Barra da Tijuca displays videos, uniforms and trophies belonging to the Brazilian team.

SUN COAST (LAKE DISTRICT)

With 24 beaches, a charming shopping area, nice hotels and good food, **Búzios** is the central point of the Lake District, or Costa do Sol. It has stretches of sand for everyone: Geribá and Ferradura attract the young crowd, Tartaruga is a good spot for families, Olho-de-Boi for nudists, Caravelas and José Gonçalves for a peaceful sunbathing experience – a good way to get to know most of them is by taking a motor boat,

WORLDLY FAMOUS

Ipanema Beach: one of Rio de Janeiro's landmarks

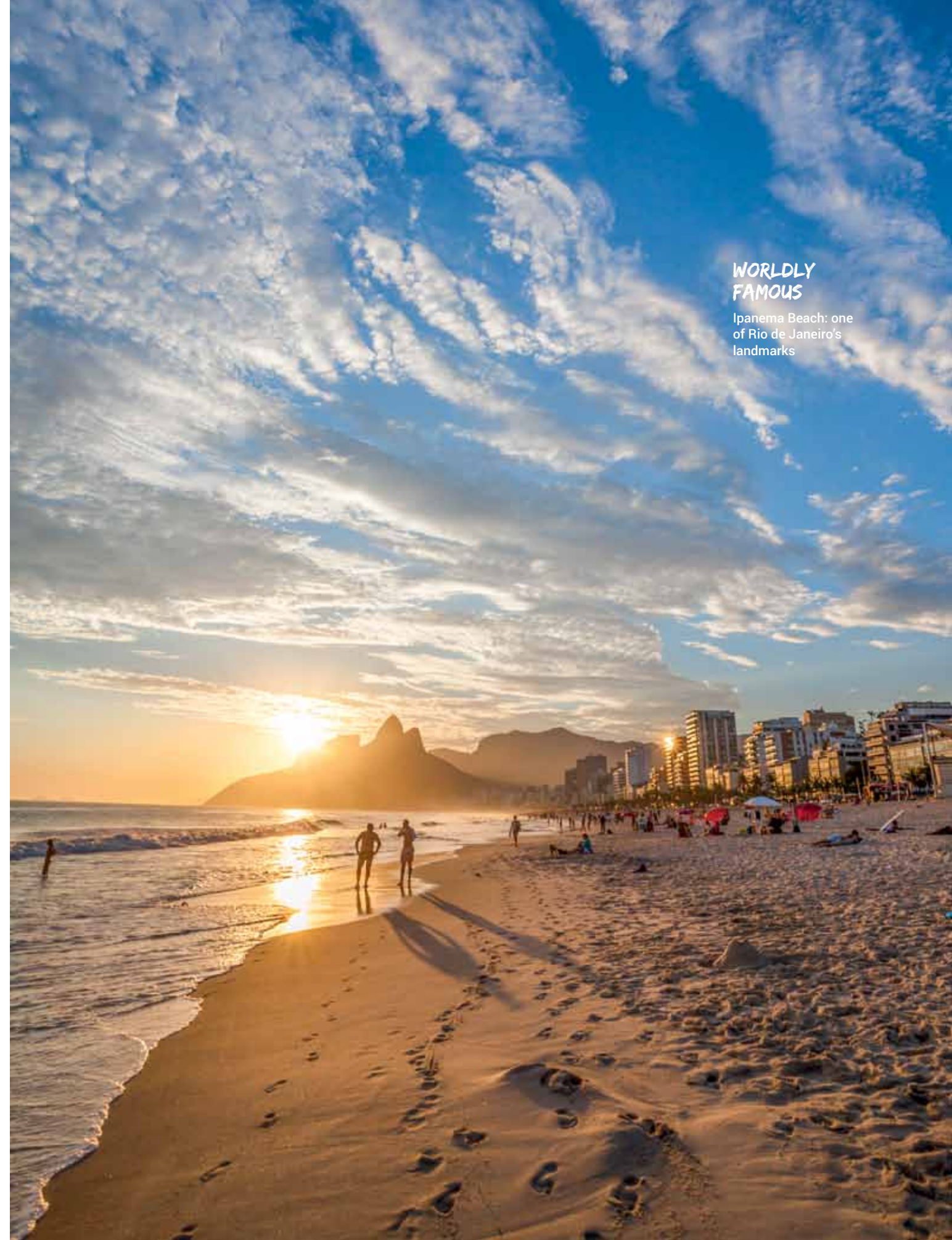


PHOTO: EMBRATUR



CULTURE AND ADVENTURE

Clockwise: Búzios (Rio de Janeiro); Pedra do Baú, in São Bento do Sapucaí (São Paulo); Pelé Museum in Santos (São Paulo); Paulista Avenue in São Paulo



catamarans or schooners tours. In the evenings, the meeting point is Pedras Street, with trendy shops, bars and restaurants.

From Búzios you can easily explore other destinations, such as **Arraial do Cabo**, with its blue sea in Pontal do Atalaia. Boat tours go as far as Farol Beach, where you can scuba dive in crystal clear waters. The largest city in the area is **Cabo Frio**, visited by families and surfers alike. In **Rio das Ostras**, Virgem Beach is located in a protected nature reserve, surrounded by native forest. And **Saquarema** is a must for surfers: Itaúna Beach is a reference for national and international championships.

VALE DO CAFÉ

Vassouras, Valença, Conservatória and Barra do Pirai maintain old farms from the coffee surge, many from the 19th century, well preserved and open to visitors. Two of them are Santo Antônio do Paiol, in **Valença**, and Florença, in **Conservatória** – the tour of the property can include lunch or an afternoon tea. With museums dedicated to Brazilian old time singers, like Vicente Celestino, Conservatória also promotes a delightful serenade on weekends. In June or July, **Vassouras** and other cities receive a festival with classical and popular music venues in squares and historic farms.

VERDE COAST

It doesn't matter if you take a motor boat or a schooner: in **Angra dos Reis**, it's imperative that you tour through some of the 365 islands of white sand and clear waters. In Gipoia, the most visited beaches are Grande and de Fora, with waves and good surfing; Jurubaíba (do Dentista) and Flechas are good for windsurfing.

Boats leave Angra or Mangaratiba heading to Vila do Abraão, in **Ilha Grande**. In this car free island, you must walk, take a "taxi-boat" or take the trails that lead to beaches like Lopes Mendes, Saco do Céu and Cachadaço. Other tours take you to Feiticeira Waterfall, surrounded by Atlantic Forest, Acaiaí Cave, where sunrays change its lake's water colors, and Aqueduto, from 1873, a structure that brought water to the Lazareto Penitentiary, now in ruins. Due to rich maritime fauna and the remains of ship wrecks, scuba diving is special in Angra and Ilha Grande.

CAMPOS DO JORDÃO is a great place to enjoy the pleasures of winter. Vila Capivari is the place to go for shopping, dining and enjoying the nightlife; works of art can be seen at Palácio da Boa Vista

The only way to visit **Paraty's** historic center – and explore its shops, bars and colonial architecture – is on foot: vehicles are forbidden on its cobbled streets. The city can get really crowded during events like Carnival, Divino Feast (May/June) and Flip (International Literature Festival, in July). A boat or schooner tour of the coastal area takes you to beaches like Vermelha, Santa Rita e da Lula. For a final fun experience, drive to one of the nearby distilleries to buy *cachaça* from the producers.

SÃO PAULO
www.turismo.sp.gov.br

BROTAS AND SOCORRO

With a vast amount of activities, the two cities became synonymous of adventure sports. In Brotas, there's **rafting** in the Jacaré-Pepira River, **canyoning** and **rappelling** in waterfalls such as the beautiful Cassorova, Andorinha and in Figueiras, **zip line** and **ropes courses**. Socorro offers pretty much the same with **accessibility** for the disabled people – hotels, streets and parks were planned to support those with reduced mobility.

PHOTOS: EMBRATUR, ©1 DIOGO MOREIRA/A2 FOTOGRAFIA, ©2 DIVULGAÇÃO

NORTH COAST

There's no doubt that the beaches along the Rio-Santos road, which is surrounded by green mountains and the deep blue sea, are among the most beautiful in Brazil. The sequence begins in **Bertioga**, followed by more than 30 beaches in **São Sebastião**: Juquehy, Paúba and Boiçucanga are good for families, Cambury and Maresias are party scenes and Camburizinho and Barra do Una, with charming little creeks, are a spectacle to all.

From São Sebastião, a ferry takes 20 minutes to reach **Ilhabela**, where water sports are as prized as the coast. Laje Waterfall has a natural 30 meter slide and Água Branca concentrates five falls. For a day on the beach, there are plenty of choices: the preserved Castelhanos, Jabaquara, Fome, Saco do Eustáquio and Bonete; Ilha das Cabras, for diving; the trendy Curral, and Armação, for windsurfing and kitesurfing. In July, the city hosts an international sailing event.

Back to the continent, heading North, **Caraguatatuba** has restaurants, shopping malls and liveliness even out of season. In the neighboring city, **Ubatuba**, beaches are spread over a 100 kilometers coastal area. Cedro is one of the most beautiful and Brava da Almada is good for surfing.

SÃO PAULO

The largest city in Brazil is home to the much admired Ibirapuera Park, Paulista Avenue with all its excitement, an imposing cathedral, gorgeous theaters and great museums. With its constant and effusive energy, everything happens at the same time. And there's always plenty of new attractions, such as recent theaters inaugurated in 2014 – **J. Safra**, in Barra Funda, and **NET São Paulo**, in Vila Olímpia mall –, **MAC-USP**, a contemporary art museum renovated in 2013, and the stadium **Arena Corinthians**, built for the 2014 World Cup.

There are also attractions that don't change at all: shopping is still fun – and cheap – in 25 de Março Street, Liberdade and Bom Retiro neighborhoods, exclusive malls keep bringing international flagship stores to Brazil, excellent restaurants are always improving and areas such as Vila Madalena maintain their bohemian feel. São Paulo changes everyday – but it doesn't disappoint those who expect it to be the same.

SERRA DA MANTIQUEIRA

When temperatures go down, thousands of São Paulo's inhabitants drive up the mountains to **Campos do Jordão**, the highest city in the country (1,628 meters above sea level) and a great place to enjoy the pleasures of winter. In July, the city becomes even more crowded due to the Festival de Inverno, a classical music event. Vila Capivari is the place to go for shopping, dining and enjoying the nightlife; works of art can be seen at the guided tour of Palácio da Boa Vista, the governor's winter residence. To enjoy the landscape of Serra da Mantiqueira, book zip lining at Centro de Lazer Tarundu, ropes courses at Aventura no Rancho, hikes at Horto Florestal and climbing at Pedra do Baú, in the neighboring city of **São Bento do Sapucaí**. Less than 100 kilometers from Campos do Jordão is **São Francisco Xavier**, a charming village with nice hostels and art studios.

SOUTH COAST

The city of **Santos** has just received a big tourist attraction: in a house from the 19th century, Museu Pelé pays homage to the greatest Brazilian soccer player of all times – between audio archives, pictures and films, it displays the special Golden Ball received by Pelé in January 2014. To get to Valongo, the neighborhood where the museum is located, you can take the trolley that stops at many historic points of interest such as the Museu do Café.

In the neighbor city of **Guarujá**, it's worth taking a boat tour to see the crowded urban beaches and calmer stretches of the coast. And Acqua Mundo aquarium has 5,000 animals in gigantic tanks of sea and fresh waters.

SITES

Arena Corinthians: www.corinthians.com.br/arena

Casa Daros: www.casadaros.net

Casa Fiat de Cultura: www.casafiat.com.br

Espaço do Conhecimento UFMG: www.espacodoconhecimento.org.br

Inhotim: www.inhotim.org.br

Memorial Minas Gerais – Vale: www.memorialvale.com.br

Minas Arena: www.minasarena.com.br

Museu de Arte do Rio/MAR: www.museudeartedorio.org.br

Museu Pelé: museupele.org.br

Teatro J. Safra: www.teatrojsafra.com.br



PEACE AND
ADRENALIN

Clockwise: São Francisco Xavier (São Paulo); Ibirapuera park (São Paulo); Vila Capivari in Campos do Jordão (São Paulo); rafting in Brotas (São Paulo)





**WATER
SHOW**

Aerial views from
the walkway and
Garganta do Diabo,
in Cataratas do
Iguaçu (Paraná)

CHAPTER 5

EXCITEMENT ALL YEAR ROUND

In addition to its great winter resorts and sunny beaches, the states of Paraná, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul amaze visitors with some of nature's wonders when they arrive at the falls in Foz do Iguaçu and the canyons in Aparados da Serra. The European influence can be noticed in their culture, food and architecture

PARANÁ

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CURITIBA

Paraná's capital has many highlights: the glass greenhouse with plants from the Atlantic Forest in the **Jardim Botânico**, the spectacular **Ópera de Arame** Theatre, with transparent walls and a metallic structure that seems to float above the lake; **Museu Oscar Niemeyer's** eye-shaped tower and parks such as **Barigui** and **Tanguá** – even places where residents perform their daily tasks, such as the lawn dedicated to dog-walking behind Niemeyer's museum, are worth seeing.

In the city center you can visit **Museu Paranaense**, dedicated to the state's history, and stroll around **Largo da Ordem** to see **Memorial de Curitiba**, the beautiful **Igreja do Rosário** and **Casa Romário Martins**, with art exhibitions in an old warehouse from the 19th century. **Antique's fairs** are held every Sunday at Largo da Ordem and every Saturday at Praça da Espanha. For a nice lunch, head to **Santa Felicidade**, an area full of Italian restaurants. Another historical site is **Lapa**, 70 kilometers from Curitiba, an old city with well-maintained houses, monuments and churches, like **Igreja Matriz de Santo Antônio**, from the 18th century.

FOZ DO IGUAÇU

One can safely get very close to the amazing Iguazu Falls, **Cataratas do Iguaçu**, from many belvederes that allow visitors to walk for more than 1 kilometer near the water in the park. The last walkway takes you near Garganta do Diabo, the most astonishing of the falls. For an adventurous experience, take the motor-boat of **Macuco Safári**, which sails through the Iguaçu River for 2 hours and ends its trip at Salto Três Mosqueteiros. **Parachuting** is performed above the point that borders Brazil, Paraguay and

Argentina and the Itaipu lake. At **Parque das Aves** you can see toucans, parrots, blue macaws and other birds surrounded by the native forest. Two recently inaugurated attractions are already a hit, especially with kids: **Vale dos Dinossauros**, with 20 dinosaur replicas, and the wax museum at **Foz do Iguaçu Park Show**.

GUARAQUEÇABA

This small city located on the North shore keeps preserved stretches of nature: **Reserva Natural Salto Morato**, with more than 2 000 hectares of Atlantic Forest (with camping grounds) and **Ilha do Superagui**, one of the most diversified ecosystems in the world (the village has rustic hostels that offer information about the trails you can take to explore the region).

ILHA DO MEL

Accessible by boat from Paranaguá or Pontal do Sul, this carfree island was once visited by hippies and currently attracts many young Brazilians and foreigners. Most part of the North region is protected by an ecological reserve, but it is possible to go as far as **Fortaleza Beach**, where the 18th century fortress **N. S. dos Prazeres** is located. In the South, villages Nova Brasília and Encantadas have the largest concentration of hostels. Three of the most beautiful beaches are the deserted **Miguel, de Fora** (near the lighthouse) and

DISTANCE (in km)

	Curitiba (PR)	Foz do Iguaçu (PR)	Porto Alegre (RS)	Blumenau (SC)	Florianópolis (SC)
Curitiba (PR)	–	648	714	211	297
Foz do Iguaçu (PR)	648	–	936	864	950
Paranaguá (PR)	98	742	804	208	294
Ponta Grossa (PR)	113	557	778	329	415
Bento Gonçalves (RS)	617	798	128	472	485
Caxias do Sul (RS)	582	836	137	437	450
Gramado (RS)	652	907	135	507	508
Porto Alegre (RS)	714	936	–	569	472
Balneário Camboriú (SC)	220	873	539	85	85
Bombinhas (SC)	248	889	512	113	74
Blumenau (SC)	211	864	569	–	162
Florianópolis (SC)	297	950	472	162	–
Garopaba (SC)	380	1010	413	245	101
Lages (SC)	364	752	355	215	228

PHOTOS: EMBRATUR, © 1 DIVULGAÇÃO



HOT AND COLD

Clockwise: Jardim Botânico, in Curitiba (Paraná); pine nut dish in Lages (Santa Catarina); Usina do Gasômetro, in Porto Alegre (Rio Grande do Sul); Snowland, in Gramado (Rio Grande do Sul)



Grande, prized by surfers. In the winter there's a **hang gliding** festival with aircrafts taking off from Morro do Sabão hill, at de Fora Beach.

MORRETES E PARANAGUÁ

The graceful historical center of **Morretes** is well worth the visit, but to fully enjoy the landscape take the train that travels through Serra do Mar on a 3 hour trip from Curitiba, or drive the winding road **Estrada da Graciosa**. On Sundays, the train travels as far as **Paranaguá**, where you can taste the typical dish *barreado*, a beef stew mixed with manioc flour and served with orange and plantains.

PONTA GROSSA

To have some fun at **Vila Velha** State Park, an enormous geological site and one of the highlights of Paraná, glaze at its gigantic stone formations and try to guess what they look like – a cup, a turtle, mushrooms, bottles... Their colors of red change according to the season.

TIBAGI

At **Quartelá** State Park, rafting down the Iapó River's falls and rapids alongside canyon walls on a circuit that can last up to 4 hours is an extreme experience. There's also rafting for beginners, rappelling and hiking.

RIO GRANDE DO SUL

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PORTO ALEGRE

Nothing could be more typical than watching the sunset over Guaíba River near **Usina do Gasômetro** – maybe sipping *chimarrão*, the ubiquitous infusion made from the *mate* herb, one of the most deep rooted traditions of Rio Grande do Sul. Other activities equally sacred for the *portoalegrenses* are eating *churrasco* (grilled beef), buying *mate* at **Mercado Público** Market, strolling along **Parcão**, a nice park full of trees amongst the streets of **Moinhos de Vento** neighborhood, or wandering around **Redenção** Park, which holds an interesting crafts and antiques fair every Sunday.



FANTASY ISLAND

Praia Mole, in Florianópolis (Santa Catarina): beaches for everyone

You can begin your tour in the mountains of Rio Grande do Sul with an opulent colonial buffet in **NOVA PETRÓPOLIS**. In **GRAMADO**, visitors will get a feel for winter by including in hot chocolate, fondue and even snow

PHOTO: EMBRATUR

You can pay your tribute to two celebrated artists born in Rio Grande do Sul by visiting the hotel where poet Mario Quintana lived for 12 years, which is now **Casa de Cultura**, a complex with museums, a theater and movie theaters that is named after the poet. **Fundação Iberê Camargo** is a museum that alternately exhibits 4 000 works by the artist. In front of Guaíba River, at Praia de Belas, the building alone is a work of art: designed by the renowned Portuguese architect Álvaro Siza, the project was made famous at *La Biennale di Venezia*.

SERRA GAÚCHA

So many Europeans immigrated to the mountains of Rio Grande do Sul in the 19th century that you can plan a tour of the area by nationalities found there. For German influence, start with a meal at the all you can eat colonial buffets in **Nova Petrópolis**, with breads, cakes, sausages, *schmier* (fruit jams), apple tea, grape juice and other treats. **Gramado** immediately evokes winter, with specialties like fondue

and hot chocolate or... snow: **Snowland** is the country's first indoor park that recreates skiing and snowboarding slopes. Other points of interest in the neighboring city of **Canela** are **Caracol** Park, **Alpen Park**, with rollercoasters, zip line and climbing walls, and the new **Bondinho Aéreo**, an aerial lift with views of Caracol Waterfall.

In the Italian part of the mountains you can take a tour to visit the wineries of Vale dos Vinhedos, in **Bento Gonçalves**, home of some of the largest producers in the country, and lunch at a local *rodizio*, all you can eat restaurants serving roasted spring chicken with soup, mayonnaise, vegetables, pasta and polenta. Both **Garibaldi** and **Caxias do Sul** also rely on wine production, and **Criúva** is the place to go for ecotourism. On the highest and coldest part of the mountains, **São Francisco de Paula** has rustic hostels and a peaceful ambiance, **São José dos Ausentes** has the state's highest point, Pico do Monte Negro, and **Cambará do Sul** astonishes visitors with the canyons Itaimbezinho and Fortaleza.

SANTA CATARINA

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FLORIANÓPOLIS

The island of Santa Catarina is the heart and soul of Florianópolis, the state's capital city. There's a stretch of beach for everyone: **Mole** attracts the young crowd; Joaquina is good for sandboarding and **Brava** for surfing; **Jurerê Internacional** is a party scene with electronic music; **Ingleses** draws families and **Canasvieiras** offers hotels and restaurants. Down South are more preserved and isolated beaches, such as **Armação**, **Campeche** and **Lagoinha do Leste**. Schooners take you to **Campeche** Island, to the old fortresses of Santa Cruz de Anhatomirim and São José da Ponta Grossa or to **Arvoredo** Island, where diving is a common activity. At **Lagoa da Conceição** you can engage in stand up paddle, windsurf and kitesurf. For an immersion in Florianópolis' culture, stroll along the streets of **Santo Antônio de Lisboa** or **Ribeirão da Ilha**, two of the oldest areas in the city, buy some local **crafts** such as wicker baskets, clay pottery or lace tablecloths, and enjoy its local **cuisine** which uses plenty of seafood.

NORTH COAST

From the heights of Mirante Eco 360° you have a wonderful view of **Bombinhas**, where there's plenty to do: relax at the natural swimming pools of Sepultura Beach, scuba dive in the Arvoredo Island's waters or sunbath on beaches like Bombas and Bombinhas. In the neighboring city of **Porto Belo** you can scuba dive in the island that bears the same name. **Balneário Camboriú** has both natural landscapes and city attractions. Best beaches are Estaleiro, with rough seas, Estaleirinho with clubs and Amores for surfers. Ecotourism and an aerial lift are the highlights of Unipraias Park.

In **Itajaí** bars and restaurants are located on the shore. Just after Itajaí-Açu River you get to **Penha**, where the main attraction is the amusement park **Beto Carrero World**, with a zoo, roller coasters and shows played by cartoon characters. The city is a great place to taste the typical food from the Azores – many immigrants established themselves here since the 18th century. Almost bordering Paraná, **São Francisco do Sul** maintains beautiful old homes near the sea.

SOUTH COAST

The BR-101 road goes down along the coast unveiling beautiful beaches. **Guarda do Embaú** pleases families and offers great simple pleasures – depending on the tide, you'll need to take a small boat to cross the river that runs parallel to the shore in order to reach the beach. **Garopaba** is more developed and has varied beaches: the crowded Central, the more reserved Silveira and Ferrugem, beloved by surfers. Next stop is the charming **Praia do Rosa**, with a preserved landscape and trails heading to the beaches. Kitesurf and windsurf are a must in **Imbituba**, both at the sea or at Ibiraquera Lagoon – and in the winter you get to watch *franca* whales that come near the shore with their young.

VALE DO ITAJAÍ AND SERRA CATARINENSE

The most populated city in Santa Catarina, Joinville has also an important industrial area and is home to a big dance festival that happens every July. It's a good place to start exploring both Vale do Itajaí and the mountains of Serra Catarinense. In **Blumenau**, "beer" is the official language during Oktoberfest, in October, an event that resembles Carnival with music, dances and... beer, of course, served with the typical dish stuffed garganey (a bird related to the duck). **Brusque** is a good place to shop for clothes and shoes and **Timbó** has many adventure sports. In Lages, located in the mountainside area, you will find farm hotels and in higher cities like **Urubici** and **São Joaquim** it can even snow in wintertime.

SITES

Alpen Park: www.alpenpark.com.br
Beto Carrero World: www.betocarrero.com.br
Casa de Cultura Mario Quintana: www.ccmq.com.br
Cataratas do Iguaçu S/A: www.cataratasdoiguacu.com.br
Fundação Iberê Camargo: www.iberecamargo.org.br
Museu de Cera Dreamland: www.dreamland.com.br
Museu Oscar Niemeyer: www.museuoscarniemeyer.org.br
Museu Paranaense: www.museuparanaense.pr.gov.br
Oktoberfest: www.oktoberfestblumenau.com.br
Parque do Caracol: www.parquedocaracol.com.br
Parque Unipraias: www.unipraias.com.br
Snowland: www.snowland.com.br



PHOTOS: EMBRATUR

SEARCHING FOR EMOTIONS

Clockwise: Itaimbezinho (Rio Grande do Sul); São Joaquim (Santa Catarina); Beto Carrero World (Santa Catarina); rafting in the Itajaí-Açu River (Santa Catarina); Balneário Camboriú (Santa Catarina)



São João festival in Campina Grande (Paraíba)

EVENTS CALENDAR

Some of the most important festivals and celebrations in the country

JANUARY

New Year's maritime procession (Angra dos Reis, RJ); **Movie festival** (Tiradentes, MG); **Grape harvest** (Bento Gonçalves, RS); **Sommerfest** (Blumenau, SC); **Bonfim feast** (Salvador, BA)

FEBRUARY

Carnival (Diamantina, MG; Olinda, PE; Recife, PE; Rio de Janeiro, RJ; Salvador, BA); **National grape festival** (Caxias do Sul, RS)

MARCH

Theater festival (Curitiba, PR); **Brazilian beer festival** (Blumenau, SC); **Colonial festival** (Gramado, RS)

APRIL

Fogaréu procession (Goiás, GO); **Opera festival** (Manaus, AM); **São Paulo Fashion Week** (São Paulo, SP); **Holy Week festivities** (Congonhas, MG; Diamantina, MG; Mariana, MG; Ouro Preto, MG; Tiradentes, MG)

MAY

Cavalhada (Pirenópolis, GO); **Tainha festival** (Florianópolis, SC); **Pinhão festivals** (São Francisco de Paula, RS; Visconde de Mauá, RJ); **Mantiqueira festival** (São Francisco Xavier, SP)

JUNE

São João (Campina Grande, PB; Caruaru, PE; Salvador, BA); **International fishing festival** (Cáceres, MT); **Movie festival** (Ouro Preto, MG); **Folklore festival** (Parintins, AM); **Bumba Meu Boi** (São Luís, MA); **Bike Fest** (Tiradentes, MG)

JULY

Winter festivals (Bonito, MS; Garanhuns, PE); **International winter festival** (Campos do Jordão, SP); **Vale do Café festival** (Vassouras, RJ); **Fortal** (Fortaleza, CE); **International Sailing Week** (Ilhabela, SP); **Dance festival** (Joinville, SC); **Flip** (Paraty, RJ)

AUGUST

Pinga festival (Paraty, RJ); **Movies festival** (Gramado, RS); **Shrimp festival** (Ilhabela, SP); **Culture and gastronomy festival** (Tiradentes, MG)

SEPTEMBER

Sairé Feast (Alter do Chão, PA); **Independence Day** (Brasília, DF); **International puppet festival** (Canela, RS); **Senhor Bom Jesus de Matosinhos Jubilee** (Congonhas, MG); **Literature festival** (Ouro Preto, MG); **Mercosul Biennial** (Porto Alegre, RS)

OCTOBER

Círio de Nazaré (Belém, PA); **Oktoberfest** (Blumenau, SC); **Book fair** (Porto Alegre, RS); **Internacional Movie Festival** (São Paulo, SP)

NOVEMBER

Christmas festivities (Canela, RS; Gramado, RS); **Carnatal** (Natal, RN); **Fliporto** (Olinda, PE); **São Paulo Fashion Week** (São Paulo, SP)

DECEMBER

Christmas festivities (Canela, RS; Gramado, RS); **New Year's Eve Celebrations** (Rio de Janeiro, RJ; São Miguel dos Milagres, AL); **São Silvestre Race** (São Paulo, SP)



CITY OF LIGHTS

Evening in Brasília, capital of the country

PHOTOS: EMBRATUR



Sensational!