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Fernando de Noronha

# FERNANDO DE NORONHA, PERNAMBUCO

The spectacular aquatic life in the ocean around the archipelago of Fernando de Noronha, 200 miles off the coast of northeast Brazil, makes it one of the best places in the world for scuba diving and snorkelling. It also offers great surfing and a seductively laid-back atmosphere.

Most of the archipelago is protected as an ecological reserve and all the tourist accommodation is on the main island (12 square miles), which has a permanent population of around 3,000.

### Climate

The island enjoys warm, sunny weather on most days of the year, although there is a greater chance of encountering cloud and rain during the 'wet' season from February to July. Sea breezes

prevent temperatures from ever becoming oppressively hot.

### How to get there

Almost everyone who visits the island arrives by plane from the north-eastern coastal cities of Recife or Natal. The island's airstrip is able to receive small jet and propeller-driven aircraft, but not large airliners.

### Accommodation

The vast majority of visitors stay in simple but comfortable pousadas (guesthouses) on the main island, most of which offer full-board.

### What to do there

- Given the abundance of colourful fish, along with dolphins and breathtakingly beautiful giant turtles, it would be a shame to visit Fernando de Noronha without trying scuba-diving

or snorkelling. The water is warm and wonderfully clear, with visibility of up to 50 metres.

- For those wishing to take a look at the aquatic life without going on a dive trip, snorkelling is a simple (and cheaper) alternative. You won't have to go far for an enjoyable snorkelling experience as many of the island's beaches and inlets have large expanses of shallow water.
- Go surfing. While some stretches of the island's coastline have very calm waters, others offer waves that are big enough to raise the pulse of experienced surfers.

- The fact that Fernando de Noronha's main attractions are daytime activities doesn't mean there is nothing to do at night. There are quite a

few restaurants and bars, and on most evenings there will be at least one place where you can dance to live *forró* music.

- After a day of diving, snorkelling, swimming or surfing, however, many visitors are content to spend their evenings in a hammock gazing at the stars.

