



Praia do Santinho
Florianópolis, SC

FLORIANÓPOLIS, SANTA CATARINA

The city of Florianópolis is situated on an island just off the coast of Santa Catarina, a geographically diverse state that clearly displays the cultural influence of mass immigration from Italy, Germany and the Azores in the late nineteenth century. Stunningly beautiful and boasting more than a hundred beaches, the island has long been popular with tourists from southern Brazil, and also Argentina, but it currently enjoys the high international profile it deserves.

Climate

The climate is more Mediterranean than tropical. Summers (December-March) are very warm, though it's a dry rather than humid heat. Winter temperatures fall to an average of around 16 degrees, much less

conducive to beach life, although there are still occasional warm spells.

How to get there

Hercílio Luz Airport, 12km from the city centre, is served by domestic flights from most Brazilian state capitals, and international flights from Buenos Aires. There is also a good bus service to other cities in south and south-east Brazil. Porto Alegre is 450km away, and São Paulo 700km.

What to do there

Take your pick from the array of beaches, which include:

- Praia Mole – Perhaps the trendiest beach to hang out on. Has a touch of Ibiza in summer with outdoor sets by international DJs.
- Praia Brava – Popular with young people in general, and a particular favourite with the surfing crowd due to its big waves.

- Praia Campeche – A strikingly beautiful but still fairly quiet beach, with waves that are fantastic for surfers but less so for swimmers.

- Visit the laid-back and picturesque fishing village of Armação, in the south of the island, which has some excellent guesthouses. It's also the departure point for the Ilha do Campeche, an unspoilt island of dazzling white sand beaches where development is prohibited and also a few hundred visitors are permitted at any one time. The 3km boat journey takes about half an hour.

- In the city centre, visit the superb market with its *bancas* (stalls with seating). The fresh seafood – including oysters, shrimps and mullet – is not to be missed.

- Enjoy a natural open-air jacuzzi in the form of the hot springs at Caldas da Imperatriz.
- Go hang-gliding from Morro Queimado. Fly with a trained instructor, enjoying an unforgettable panoramic view of the eastern and southern coasts of the island.

