



Pelourinho
Salvador, Bahia

S A L V A D O R, B A H I A

Salvador, the capital of the state of Bahia, is one of Brazil's principal destinations for foreign tourists. The city is steeped in Afro-Brazilian culture and heritage, which is reflected in its annual carnival, one of the most exhilarating and diverse in the country. The city has a vibrant music scene, splendid colonial architecture and delicious Bahian cuisine. The city centre provides a fascinating trip through time, exploring its central role in the history of Brazil: Salvador was not only the first large city in Brazil, but also the capital for the Portuguese crown in the Americas until 1763, and the most important port in the southern hemisphere until the 19th century. Many of the best beaches on the stunning Bahian coastline lie

within a couple of hours' drive, not to mention the beaches in the city itself.

Climate

Salvador is warm all year round, and drier than many other cities in the tropics.

How to get there

There are direct flights to Salvador international airport from many cities outside Brazil, with a regular service from London via Lisbon.

Accommodation

As in all Brazil's major cities the options range from luxurious international-class hotels to cheap guesthouses.

What to do there

- **Beaches** – The Salvador urban area has 50km of beaches, including the internationally acclaimed Praia da Barra with its great views of the city and famously spectacular sunsets.

- **Music** – Many people believe Salvador is Brazil's most musically creative city and fortunately there is no shortage of opportunities to catch live performances.

- **Capoeira** – With its origins in the history of black Brazil, this graceful, athletic mixture of dance and martial art is closely linked with Bahia. Salvador's many *capoeiristas* regularly show their skills in outdoor performances.

- **Fundação Casa de Jorge Amado** – A museum devoted to the life and work of Jorge Amado (1912-2001), one of Brazil's most famous writers.

- **Sample Bahian cuisine** – Palm oil, seafood and spices help to make Bahian food very distinctive. *Moqueca*, a delicious seafood stew, is not to be missed.

- **Carnival** – Join the dancing masses during the annual

carnival. It attracts around two million people (including an average of 800,000 Brazilian and foreign tourists), with the music provided by *trios elétricos* (mobile sound systems) and over a hundred *blocos* (parade groups).

