



SALVADOR DE BAHIA

BRAZIL



Salvador De Bahia was one of the first settlements to be established in the New World. From 1534 through 1763 the city was the capital of colonial Brazil after which the seat of government was moved to Rio.

The past wealth and power of the city can be seen in its beautiful colonial architecture that stands today in sharp contrast to the economic and social challenges facing Salvador. The city has long been a vital port. As the colony's first slave market it was through Salvador that the vast majority of African slaves entered Brazil. The traditions and cuisine that was brought over from Africa have had a tremendous influence on the cultural life of Salvador.

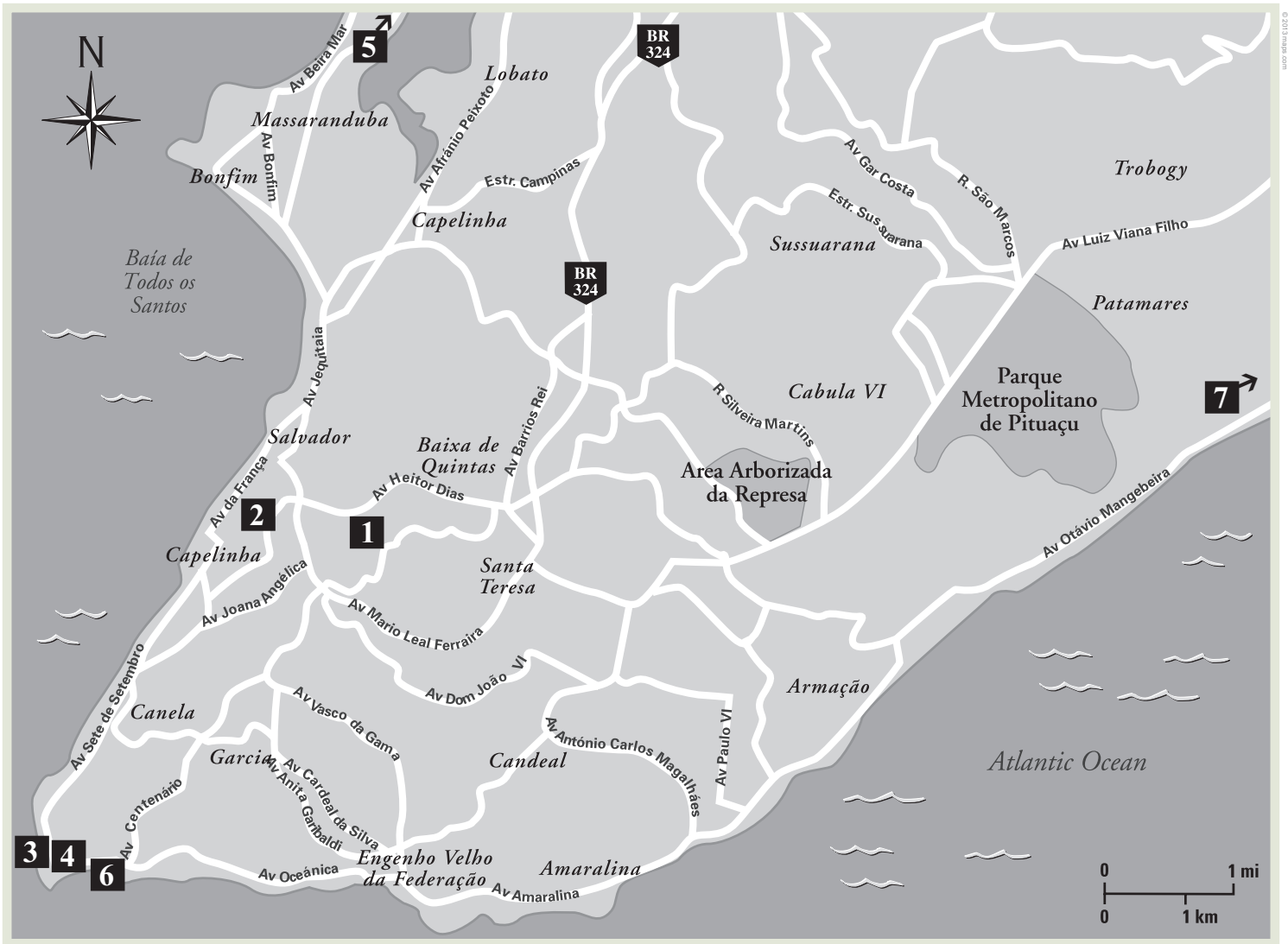
HISTORY

The great Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci, still in search of a westward passage to the spices of India and the Orient, while under the flag of Portugal's King João III reached latitude 12°58'S and longitude 38°33'W on his map...a large and beautiful bay on the Atlantic Coast of Brazil. The date was November 1st, 1501...All Saints Day for those of the Roman Catholic faith. Captain Vespucci carefully charted the entrance of the bay, named it "Bahia de Todos os Santos", the Bay of All Saints...and sailed on.

Thirty-five years later Portuguese Captain Francisco Pereira Coutinho would be given a land grant and permission by the king to establish a permanent settlement on Bahia de Todos os Santos. The plan would have a tragic setback due to the harsh manner in which Captain Coutinho treated the local Indians. The Indians attacked the Portuguese settlement and Coutinho and many of the villagers barely escaped with their lives by fleeing to a fortification near Porto Seguro, 250 miles south along the coast.

Shortly afterwards Captain Coutinho resolved to return to Bahia de Todos os Santos and reclaim from the Indians the land he believed belonged to him. Sailing north along the Atlantic Coast foul weather engulfed his ship and it went down with the loss of many lives. Coutinho himself was one of the fortunate few who were rescued from the storm tossed sea by Tupinamba Indians. His providential reprieve was short lived however, if not a bit poetic in its justice. For the Tupinambas, as they were prone to do when victorious over a feared enemy, killed, roasted and ate the brutal Captain Coutinho.

On March 1st, 1549 the first Portuguese Royal Governor, Tomé de Sousa, sailed into Bahia de Todos os Santos. The Governor was accompanied by 600 skilled craftsman who had been ordered to Brazil to build a new settlement, 50 of the king's soldiers and 6 Catholic Jesuit priests who would change the lives and fate of the indigenous people forever.



De Sousa named the town “Nossa Senhora do Salvador da Bahia de Todos os Santos”...Our lady of the Savior of the Bay of All Saints. Salvador became the colonial capital. With the planting of sugarcane the surrounding region soon prospered. As the enslaved indigenous people died out due to European disease, overwork and sanctioned genocide, Salvador became the first and most important African slave market in the New World.

SALVADOR DE BAHIA PLACES OF INTEREST

Salvador is basically divided into two parts; the “Lower City” and the “Upper City”. It all has to do with elevation. It is the historic Upper City, most easily accessible by the Lacerda Elevator, which is home to many of Salvador’s beautiful Colonial Era buildings and churches.

1 The **Church and Convent of Saint Francis** was built in 1723 and is a wonderful example of Salvador’s architecture. The interior of the church is finely crafted, ornate and took nearly three decades to complete. Much of the craftsmanship was accomplished by slaves.

2 The **Church of Our Lady of the Rosary of the Blacks** (A Igreja de Nossa Senhora do Rosário dos Pretos) is in the Pelourinho neighborhood. Construction began in 1704, again, with slave labor ... but this was to be their church. It is said that construction only took place at night so as not to penalize the slave owners who worked his people during the day. It is no wonder that completion took over a century.

3 The **Farol da Barra** (lighthouse) has helped to guide ships into Bahia de Todos os Santos for generations. Today the lighthouse is also home to a small museum.

4 The **Fort of St. Anthony** is the oldest of more than one dozen Portuguese fortifications that were built in and around Salvador. The Fort of St. Anthony was started in the late 1500s during a period when numerous European sea powers were causing havoc up and down the Atlantic Coast of South America.

There are a number of nice beaches in and around Salvador.

5 Porto da Barra is on the bay side of the city and the waters are generally calmer than the Atlantic Ocean.

6 Barra is located near the Farol da Barra (lighthouse). It has some sections that are natural pools made from rocks that act as breakwaters.

7 Piatã is north of Barra. It is a long and beautiful beach with many palm trees that provide shade from the hot Brazilian sun.



SHORE EXCURSIONS

To make the most of your visit to Salvador De Bahia and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. As with any big city, Salvador has its share of crime. Common sense is the key word here. Use caution, especially if sight-seeing on your own. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only the items you need and secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS

Bargaining: Many vendors are happy to bargain.

Tipping: A 10% tip is customary at restaurants.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES

Salvador's cuisine has been primarily influenced by European immigrants and the descendents of former African slaves. Acaraje, a deep fried ball of bean mash stuffed with a mixture of shrimp, coconut milk and bread. Caruru is a seafood dish using shrimp or fish with cashew nuts, chili peppers and okra. Frango com Quiabo is a chicken stew with okra. Feijoada is a stew made with meat and black beans, often served with white rice. Moqueca de camarao is a classic stew made with garlic, tomatoes, chili pepper, onion, and shrimp, served with rice.

Cachaca is very strong liquor made from sugarcane. It is often mixed with lime, sugar and crushed ice to make a cocktail known as Caipirinha. Three of the most popular beers in Brazil are Brahma, Antarctica and Skol.

SHOPPING FACILITIES

The Mercado Modelo caters to tourists. Visitors may find some interesting handicrafts, gifts and mementos there. Most vendors will bargain.

LOCAL CURRENCY

Brazil's currency is the Real (BRL). Many shops and vendors will accept U.S. dollars in small denominations. Major credit cards are widely accepted however some shops offer discounts if the item is paid for in cash.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES

A Post Office is located right near the Cruise Ship Terminal.

Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card:

AT&T: 0.800.890.0288

MCI: 0.800.890.0012

TRANSPORTATION

Taxis are plentiful; however, try to agree upon a fee before departing. As in many cities, a small percentage of the taxi drivers are less than forthright.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist Information Offices are located at "Mercado Modelo" and at the upper sector of the Lacerda Elevator.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

The official language of Brazil is Portuguese.

Hello - Alô

How are you? - Tudo bom?

Thank you - Obrigado

