

ANOTHER BRAZIL

Brazil specialists Anthony Lynch and Oliver Lever take on the enviable task of discovering some of the country's lesser known beach destinations.



Pousada Maravilha, Fernando de Noronha



Trancoso



Local fisherman

FACT FILE

An 11-night stay in Brazil including four nights at Pousada Solar do Loronha, three nights in Rio, two nights in Olinda and two nights at Iguacu starts from £2,495 per person including international flights and accommodation in four-star hotels and pousadas. Please contact Anthony, Oliver, Paula, Susan or Malachy on 01993 838 610.



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Details of travel to Brazil

Brazil's coastline is more than 8,000 kilometres long, so it can be a tricky business trying to choose the right place to relax and unwind after the almost inevitably busy itinerary that most people take on when they visit this beautiful country of extremes.

A great place to start has to be Fernando de Noronha. Set off the northeast coast, the flight to this archipelago is stunning, with wonderful views of the beaches, lush interior and unusual rocky outcrops. We snorkelled and scuba dived in the company of turtles, took a boat ride with pods of dolphin in swift pursuit, trekked along the rocky rim of one of the island's cliffs and, of course, relaxed on the many beaches. The pristine island is small, so hiring a golf buggy proved an excellent way to explore. Accommodation is at a premium, and the Pousada Maravilha is without doubt the most exclusive option. It has views of the

archipelago from its infinity pool, the food is exquisite and the barman can make the best caipirinha in Brazil! If you are looking for something a little more low-key, Solar de Loronha is a new four-star hotel with lovely wooden bungalows where you can enjoy a romantic meal served on your own private balcony.

Further down the coastline, approximately 50 kilometres south of Porto Seguro, is the small town of Trancoso which has become a hotspot for the Sao Paulo and Rio elite. This was a very small fishing village until a group of hippies 'rediscovered' it in the 1970s, and though Trancoso now attracts visitors from all over the world it has managed to maintain the sleepy ambience which made it famous. Pousada Etnia is located within Trancoso village, a few minutes' walk from the main square. Each room has its own stylish character and the

colourful, modern feel makes this a favourite with many visitors. The exclusive setting of the Villas Trancoso makes it a perfect hideaway location and a great alternative to Etnia.

Much further south, Ilha Grande is a wonderful haven away from the hustle and bustle of Rio de Janeiro, and has arguably Brazil's most beautiful beach at Lopes Mendes. No cars are allowed and so often the only noise to be heard is the relaxing bossa nova sound of Joao and Astrud Gilberto. There are some simple pousadas with their own private beaches offering great views of the surrounding Costa Verde. Asalem is a good choice for a mid-range option. For something a bit more upmarket, Sitio do Lobo is a short boat ride from the small town of Abrao and boasts interiors by the same designer that advised the footballer Ronaldo on his home in Rio.



Pousada Vida Sol e Mar



Ilha Grande

Lastly, a great option for wildlife lovers has to be a stay near Florianopolis, as Southern Right whale spend several months each year off the coast between September and early November. Pousada Vida Sol e Mar is situated



Fernando de Noronha



Fernando de Noronha fishing boats

on Praia do Rosa, 50 kilometres south of Florianopolis, and is home to the Right Whale Institute where you can view these magnificent creatures. For the height of luxury, one of Brazil's most exclusive resorts has to be Ponta dos Ganchos. Situated on a small point nestling between two fishing villages and surrounded by the sea of the emerald coast, this beautiful boutique resort with twenty bungalows is set amongst stunning gardens. The facilities are second to none in Brazil and every last detail has been thought of.

These are just some of the highlights of Brazil's vast coastline, which provides an exquisite addition to any trip into the country's huge, lush interior.

Oliver Lever & Anthony Lynch
Brazil Specialists

