

Magical Places Tours

Afro-Brazilian Cultural Tour

Salvador (Bahia) – The Heart of Afro-Brazil

August 21-29, 2026

With its vibrant African heritage, **Salvador** (the capital of Bahia state) is one of Brazil's most magical places. It is the heart of Afro-Brazil, where we will experience the unique music & dance, cuisine, and religious traditions (*candomblé*) of Bahia. On this tour, you will meet and interact with locals and experience the region's rich cultural life firsthand. After a city tour on the first day, we do a walking tour of the city's historic **Pelourinho** neighborhood, which pulsates with local music & rhythms and is blessed with colonial architecture. With that, we begin eight memorable days with the people of Bahia!



Salvador's iconic *Pelourinho* neighborhood

8-Day Land Package

[With 6-Day Alternative Package]

Day 1 – City Tour of Salvador – The Heart of Afro-Brazil

9:00 am – **Breakfast** at the hotel (included daily)

10:00 am - **City Tour** by van with stops at major sights:

- **Farol da Barra** – Iconic lighthouse at the entrance to All Saints Bay
- **Pierre Verget Museum** - Black cultural history in photos
- **Espaço Carybé das Artes** – Works of renowned Bahian artist Carybé
- **Dique do Tororó** – Sculptures of principal *Orixás* – African deities.
- **Igreja do Bonfim** – The People's Church of poetic & musical fame.

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- **Lunch** (open)– Bahian cuisine at a traditional restaurant (Praia da Ribeira)
- Stop at Salvador’s most famous ice cream parlor (tropical fruit flavors)
- Beach time at **Praia da Boa Viagem**
- **Evening** – Free / Overnight Stay at Grande Hotel da Barra

Day 2 – Pelourinho neighborhood – Walking tour of historic district

8:00 am - Breakfast

- Walking tour of the **Pelourinho**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, including:
 - ‘**Ordem 3ª de São Francisco**’ Church with its richly detailed facade.
 - Salvador’s beautiful **Cathedral**.
 - ‘Rosário dos Homens Pretos’ Church – Symbol of black resistance.
 - Museum of **Jorge Amado**, Brazil’s most famous novelist.
 - **Olodum** – a top Carnival Afro musical ensemble (*Afro bloco*).
- **Lunch** (open)
- Guided walking tour of **MAFRO Museum & Benin House** (Casa Benin) – highlighting Bahia’s cultural traditions.
- Return to hotel to freshen up
- 8:00 pm – Welcome Dinner with ‘**Balé Folclórico da Bahia**’ show, by one of Bahia’s principal dance companies, featuring Afro-Brazilian culture.

Day 3 – Visit to Ilê Alyê - Salvador’s first Carnival Afro musical ensemble

- Morning - Guided tour of **Liberdade**, Salvador’s most quintessential black neighborhood, and the headquarters of the **Ilê Alyê** Carnival ‘Afro block’.
- Lunch (local suggestions provided)
- Afternoon – **Beach time** or optional Boat trip on ‘All Saints’ Bay / Watch sunset
- Return to hotel / Dinner (open - suggestions provided)

Day 4 – Handicrafts & Museums

- **Mercado Modelo** – Shopping at Salvador’s largest handicrafts market.
- Praça da Capoeira – We will learn about *capoeira* martial arts at the source.
- Take the iconic **Lacerda Elevator** to Upper City / Visit **Casa do Carnaval da Bahia**
- Lunch – (open - suggestions provided)
- Guided tour of the **Afro-Brazilian Museum** and two other museums on Bahian Carnival traditions, local culture, history, and religious traditions.

Day 5 – A Live ‘Celebration’ of Bahian spirituality, music, and dance

- Visit to **Ilê Axé Opô Afonjá**, one of Bahia’s oldest *terreiros* (i.e., a site where traditional African religious practices are observed).
- Lunch (included with home-style Afro-Brazilian cuisine)
- An afternoon filled with the music and dance that are central to Bahian culture and religious practices – tracing their roots to Benin.
- **Dinner** (open – suggestions provided)

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Day 6 – History, Culture, Dance & Capoeira (martial arts)

- **Walking tour** of Santo Antônio Além do Carmo neighborhood, including Igreja do Passo (church), famous for its spectacular architecture, Igreja do Carmo (church), with its historic convent, and beautiful vistas of the ‘All Saints’ Bay.
- **Capoeira** (martial arts) presentation at Forte de Santo Antônio.
- **Maritime museum**
- **Group Farewell luncheon** /Distribution of “Cultural Experience” Certificates
- **Optional Extension to Rio de Janeiro (4 days)** / Consult us for details.

Day 7 – Two-day side trip / (First Day) Town of Cachoeira

Breakfast. Check out of Grande Hotel da Barra // 2-hour drive to Cachoeira

To appreciate the town’s Afro-Brazilian roots & history, we visit the ‘Boa Morte’ Brotherhood (an historic Afro-Brazilian association) and a traditional cigar factory

Group Lunch at panoramic restaurant overlooking Cachoeira

Hotel Check-in / City Tour of Cachoeira /Dinner (open – suggestions provided)

Day 8– (Second Day) Visit to a Quilombo Community (founded in 19th century),

Welcome/Conversations about Afro-Brazilian spirituality, culture & *quilombo* communities

Visits to a traditional yuca flour mill, a palm oil extraction plant, and an oyster nursery

Group lunch – traditional home-style Bahian cuisine / Dance performance

Return to Salvador to catch return flights.

**** NOTE on FLIGHTS** – We will assist participants in selecting the best flights to/from Salvador. Please note that the correct airport code is **SSA**, for the city of Salvador, not to be confused with the country of El Salvador in Central America.



Lacerda Elevator between the lower and upper city neighborhoods

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Beach on 'Todos os Santos' (All Saints) Bay



Capoeira – Afro-Brazilian martial arts

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Statues of *Orixá* deities Oxalá, Xangó, etc.



Members of the Olodum School



Our Hotel - Grande Hotel da Barra

Cultural Syllabus. Participants will be provided a 'Cultural Syllabus' in advance of the trip, to help them become familiar with the rich history and traditions of Bahian culture. Also, we note that our bilingual guides will share their own in-depth knowledge and insights into what makes Bahia such a magical place and a spiritual journey!

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PRICING / Terms & Conditions.

Afro-Brazilian Tour Land Package.

Our land package includes:

- **Lodging** (double-occupancy) for 6 or 8 nights (as applicable) of quality accommodations.
- **Meals:** Breakfast (daily), and six main meals (underlined above) with the 8-day package, including: Welcome Dinner and Farewell Dinner.
- **Van & driver** for in-town and out-of-town excursions, including airport transfers
- **Bilingual guides** steeped in the history of the African diaspora in Bahia & its struggle for freedom and equality, still ongoing.
- **People-to-people cultural experiences** in local Afro-Brazilian communities:
 - **Ilê Alyê**, Salvador's first Carnival 'Afro Bloco'
 - The renowned **Olodum** Carnival 'Afro Bloco.'
 - The Afro-Brazilian *terreiro* religious community of **Axé Opô Afonjá**, one of Bahia's oldest
 - The town of **Cachoeira** and its historic 'Boa Morte' brotherhood society
 - The historic *quilombo* community of **Kaonge**, founded by escaped slaves

Not included: Airfare, additional meals, drinks, and services not specified above.

Package Price (Days 1-6): US\$1,975.00 pp (double occupancy)/US\$2,375.00 pp (single occupancy)

Package Price (all 8 days): US\$ 2,675.00 pp (double occupancy) / US\$3,175.00 pp (single occupancy)

Deposit: US\$ 400.00 to hold your place. Payment in full is due 60 days before departure.

For Terms & Conditions, please visit: <https://www.magicalplacetours.com/terms-conditions>

For more information, contact **William Dent** at williamdentjr@gmail.com or text at (202) 487-5343.

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RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Magical Places Tours at (202) 487-5343, send an email to williamdentjr@gmail.com, or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$400 per person. Mail to Magical Places Tours / 4740 Connecticut Ave NW Ste #1012, Washington, DC 20008-5637

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print

Street Address / City State Zip

Telephone (mobile) / Email

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference: _ One bed _ Two beds

I wish to share a room with _____

PACKAGE OPTIONS

_ **6-Day Package** // _ **8-Day Package**

_ Send info on Rio de Janeiro Extension

FORM OF PAYMENT

_ Enclosed is my check (payable to Magical Places Tours)

_ I am making a Zelle transfer to wden@npartners.org

_ I wish to pay by Debit or Credit card

I/We confirm that I/we have read the Terms & Conditions and agree to full payment 60 days before departure.

Signature(s) & Date: _____