

Afro-Brazilian Cultural Tour

Salvador (Bahia) – The Heart of Afro-Brazil

December 1 - 10, 2026 & June 12 - 21, 2027

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 nine memorable days with the people of Bahia!



Salvador's iconic *Pelourinho* neighborhood

9-Day Land 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 Verger 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
- **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 - suggestions provided)
- Guided walking tour of **Benin House** –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 Aiyê* - Salvador’s first Carnival Afro musical ensemble

- Morning - Guided tour of **Liberdade**, Salvador’s most quintessential black neighborhood, and the headquarters of the **Ilê Aiyê** Carnival ‘Afro block’.
- Lunch (open - suggestions provided)
- Afternoon – **Beach time** / Watch sunset over All Saints Bay
- 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 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 herbal bath or, alternatively, a performance of music and dance 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**
- Free time - beach and other options

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

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

Day 9 - Flex Day in Salvador - Beach / shopping/optional classes

including cooking, capoeira, dance, drumming, and music instruments (e.g., *berimbau*, *cuica*)

**** 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 connecting 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 with 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 10 nights (including arrival day)
- **Meals:** Breakfast (daily), and the meals underlined above with the 9-day package, including: Welcome Dinner and Farewell Dinner.
- **Van & driver** for in-town and out-of-town excursions, including airport transfers
- **Bilingual local guides** steeped in the history of the African diaspora in Bahia & its struggle for freedom and equality.
- **People-to-people cultural experiences** in local Afro-Brazilian communities:
 - 1) **Oxala** Dance company at Welcome Dinner.
 - 2) Visit to headquarters of the renowned **Olodum** 'Afro Bloco.'
 - 3) Day visit to a major Afro-Brazilian *terreiro* religious community
 - 4) Interactive session at the historic 'Boa Morte' sisterhood headquarters in Cachoeira, Bahia.
 - 5) Interactive visit members of the *quilombo* community of **Kaonge**, founded by escaped slaves

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

Package Price (9 days/10 nights): \$3,275 pp (double occupancy) / \$500 (single supplement)

Deposit: \$500.00 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** at williamdentjr@gmail.com or call/text at (202) 487-5343.

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RESERVATION FORM

To hold your 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 \$500 per person. Mail to William Dent/MPT, 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 _____

EXTENSIONS:

☐ / Check here if interested in
customized extension options

FORM OF PAYMENT

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

☐ I am making a Zelle transfer to wdent@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: _____