

Ports & Excursions



Fortaleza, Brazil

Brazil's fifth largest city began life in 1654 as the Dutch fortress of Shoonenbroch. Soon captured by the Portuguese, the citadel was renamed Fortaleza de Pequena de Braganca. While Fortaleza has been the capital of Ceara State since 1799, the city's true growth came in the second half of the 20th century as Brazilians began flocking to Northeastern Brazil, drawn by the area's superb climate and beaches. Today, Fortaleza is a thriving city of some two million souls.

Ceara State was the first state in Brazil to abolish slavery at the end of the 19th century. While travelers instinctively head for such famous beaches as Cumbuco, historic Fortaleza offers treasures of its own.

Points of Interest

1 Fortaleza Cathedral

This imposing Gothic-Roman masterpiece accommodates 5,000 people and is the third largest cathedral in Brazil. A must-see in its own right, it is close to a bustling craft market and the beach.

2 Cachaça Museum

Learn about and sample Cachaça, Brazil's favorite fermented sugarcane juice liquor and see the largest wooden barrel in the world. Besides the Museum, there is a family "adventure park" experience.

3 Cumbuco Beach

This beach is a must see on any trip to Fortaleza. Amazing sand, ideal swimming conditions, and perfect location for windsurfers and surfers. Also, enjoy quad biking and horse or pony rides along the shore.

4 Jose de Alencar Theater

Showy on the outside, stunning inside. Frescoed ceiling, woven cane chairs, decorative wrought iron railings, colored glass windowpanes fuse Victorian classical and Art Nouveau architecture.

5 Centro Cultural Dragão do Mar

Lavish cultural center for Brazilian theatre, art, music and dance with performances held in the theatre, amphitheatre and also in the open-air Green Square, all celebrating Brazil's diversity.

6 English Bridge

A photographer's dream with the surrounding ocean and city as a backdrop and the bridge itself, a unique combination of a wood and metal architecture, striking a pose. Best shots are around sunset.

Special Child Pricing Available!

Children age 12 and younger, savings up to 50%. For actual pricing information, click on tour title or Reserve button.