

Walk Brazil

The Bahia Blend



Chapada Diamantina – colonial Salvador – Boipeba island
beautiful mountain scenery – relaxed walking – waterfalls and pools – long
empty beaches - charming small hotels - varied scenery – local guides

Combine three completely different aspects of Brazil's Bahia province.

Tour the stunning mountain scenery of the Chapada Diamantina with day walks to the most beautiful sites.

Savour the vibrant music, culture and food of Salvador.

Explore the quiet palm fringed beaches of Boipeba island.

This is a Pura *handmade* holiday with an activity rating *medium* and a comfort rating *first*.



Wander along the empty beaches of Boipeba.



"This trip just blew me away. Every day it felt like we were discovering some new gem. Loved it all, thank you." Janice G

Holiday Itinerary

Day 01 | Salvador | **travel to Brazil**

Fly to Brazil.

Please note that international flights for this holiday are quoted separately.

On arrival you are collected by your guide who takes you to your charming hotel in a colonial area just away from the main centre of Pelourinho.



Sunset from the hill of Pai Inacio.

Day 02 | Lençois | **Chapada Diamantina**

Set off early to travel by road to the town of Lençois on the edge of the beautiful Chapada Diamantina National Park.

This journey is made by coach as this is more comfortable and spacious than travelling by car.

The Chapada Diamantina is an enormous region defined by lush grasslands with high table top mountains, cave networks, waterfalls, pools and streams.

The area is excellent for walking with the added advantage that a dip in cooling water is never far away.

On arrival in the town of Lençois, your guide meets you to walk you across to your stylish hotel in the heart of the pretty colonial town.

As the sun begins to set, your guide will drive you the 20 minutes or so to *Morro de Pai Inácio*, one of the table top mountains so emblematic of the region.

The mountains are actually the hard plugs of volcanoes so do more or less look like fat corks dotting wide, open valleys.

Park up about 100m below the peak to walk the 15 minutes to the top which is at 1,240m above sea level.

There is a short section on this walk where you will need to use all four limbs.

The views from the top justify its status as a tourist must-visit. There are great views to north, south and east, and even the less-pretty west is beautiful with the sun setting.

It can get windy up here at sunset but it is a warm wind and the light tends to be spectacular. (b)

Day 03 | Lençois | **explore caves**

One of the dominant features of the Chapada Diamantina is the relative abundance of water, despite this being a relatively arid area.

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The waterfalls at Poco do Diabolo near Lençóis.



Walking across the Chapada Diamantina



Looking down from the dry lip of a waterfall at Cachoeirão

Even when the waterfalls and pools above ground are at their driest, just under the surface of the landscape are many beautiful underground lakes.

Today is a relaxed opportunity to explore some of the beautiful caves or grottos that dot the landscape around Lençóis in the company of your guide.

Your longest stop will be at the Devil's Pool or *Poço do Diabolo* which is a dark brown, almost black colour.

The waters are dyed by ores rather than anything sinister though swimming in the dark waters can take a bit of getting used to!

After a full day exploring, return to Lençóis for the night. (b,l)

Day 04 | Capão | **walk across the north**

Start walking across the Chapada Diamantina National Park today.

Your bags travel by road to meet you again at the end of the day.

Walk along a valley to skirt around one of the highest mountains in the northern part of the park.

For anyone comfortable with steep terrain, climbing to the summit is an option. It is not a long side trip but it is a steep scramble.

The reason to try to get up here is that, apart from the spectacular views, you also see unique vegetation which grows in almost perfect isolation on top of these remote hilltops.

As ever, there are beautiful waterfalls and pools in which to cool off along the way. Walk 15km, 5/6 hours.

Spend the next two nights in the village of Vale do Capão which is basically a hippy community so has a charming atmosphere.

The setting of the village is the real draw as it is nestled in a narrow valley with beautiful views. (b,l,d)

Day 05 | Capão | **hike to a waterfall**

Staying in Capão gives you access too the *Cachoeira da Fumaça*, the second highest waterfall in the Americas.

The walk is relatively short but you do climb to the top in order to look down from the top of the waterfall.

The water flow of water is very light for much of the year so it falls almost as a mist. The wind often blows the water upwards giving the effect of smoke.

Shuffle towards the precipice on your stomach to look down the 400m vertical drop. Although your guide holds onto you, this probably not one for those of you who suffer from vertigo.

After a refreshing swim under a somewhat smaller waterfall make your way back to Capão to relax. Walk 12km, 4 hours.

Take the opportunity to wander through the friendly village to soak up a bit of the local colour. (b,l,d)

Day 06 | Mucugê | **walk to Guiné**

After breakfast, set off on one of the most beautiful treks in the Chapada Diamantina National Park.

It's about 15km to the village of Guiné which takes around six hours including stops for food and swimming along the way.

During the walk you cross through beautiful high meadows *Gerais do Vieira* and *Gerais do Rio Preto*.

You can also see down into the Pati Valley, which is considered one of the most beautiful in Brazil.

At the end of the walk you are met and transferred by vehicle to Mucugê (40km by dirt road / 40min approx).

Stay in a charming pousada tonight. (b,l,d)

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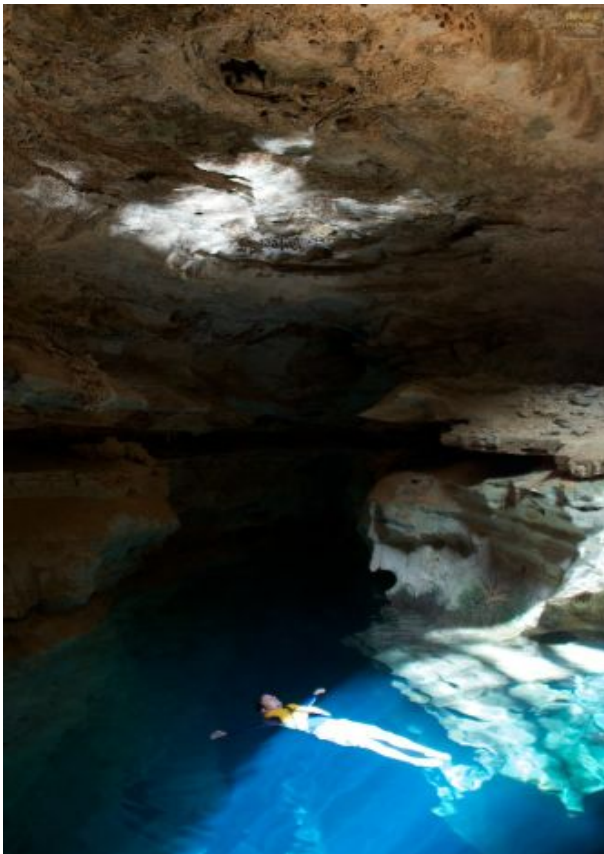


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Stay in a selection of carefully chosen small hotels.



Floating in the beautiful waters of the Poço Azul.

Day 07 | Igatu | **walk along a riverbed**

Travel by car to the south of the national park in order to visit some of the most beautiful spots in the Chapada Diamantina.

Walk up to the *Cachoeira do Buracão* which is a 100m waterfall which cascades literally down through a big hole into the valley floor.

Continue to the semi-deserted village of Igatu where you stay in a charming small inn for the next two nights.

The village stands testament to the fleeting diamond rush which gave the area its name.

Vegetation is reclaiming large parts of the village creating a fascinating and eerie environment. (b,l,d)

Day 08 | Lencois | **visit the blue pool**

Travel an hour north to the *Poço Azul* or Blue Pool.

The pool is in a pretty unprepossessing place: just a couple of buildings, a couple of showers, a rack of lifejackets and a gateway surrounding a dusty square. However, head down the wooden steps into the cave and you are in for a treat.

With the sun shining through a hole in the roof of the cave, you'll see the water in the pool below shining bright blue. It's a truly beautiful sight.

Swim gently through the incredibly clear water.

Return to Lencois for a relaxed afternoon and your last night in the Chapada Diamantina. (b,l,d)

Day 09 | Salvador | **travel to the coast**

Set off back to Salvador on the comfortable bus, arriving early this afternoon.

On arrival you are met by your guide at the bus station and taken to your hotel in the colonial part of town.

The balance of the day is at leisure. (b)

Day 10 | Salvador | **explore Salvador**

Full day to enjoy the city in the company of your guide. Salvador is an amazing place: where Africa really does meet South America. The culture of Salvador is the pride of Brazil.

It manifests itself in many different ways from food to art, from traditional dresses to capoeira.

However, the thing that really stands out in Salvador is the music. It is everywhere, all the time.

The colonial centre really never sleeps so your hotel is in a quieter street nearby allowing you to enjoy the great nightlife and wonderful restaurants whilst also getting some rest at the end of the evening.

The beautiful colonial buildings and churches and the colorful houses form the background to a city literally full of music. (b)

Day 11 | Boipeba | **onto the island**

Set off early for the airport from where you take the air taxi down onto the peaceful tropical island of Boipeba.

Jump out onto the sand and stroll to your *pousada* (boutique hotel) along the beach and then up onto the bluff. Your bags are brought up for you.

Spend the rest of your day relaxing and enjoying your view of beaches, palms and blue seas. (b,d)

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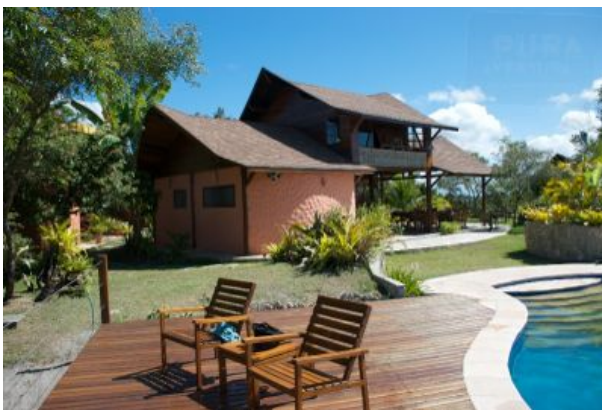


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Rooms with a view.



The gardens of your hotel



The sands of Boipeba



Locals on Boipeba practicing their capoeira.

Day 12 | Boipeba | **walk and snorkel**

There is a selection of activities you can enjoy on the island such as sea kayaking, boat trips, walks and snorkeling but you can set your own pace if you prefer. Activities on the island are not included but your host, Leandro, can help you arrange anything.

Walk along the pristine beaches stopping for a swim whenever you like.

Have lunch in a small straw hut where you can taste the fresh fish and seafood of the area.

In the afternoon take a short boat ride to a shallow natural pool in the sea where you can snorkel and easily spot a dozen different fish.

The island is still very much a fishing community so you can watch the locals catch fish by dragging nets along the shallow waters.

Take the boat back to the *pousada* for dinner and rest. (b,d)

Day 13 | Boipeba | **walk and kayak**

Inland, the island offers a great hike to a remote fishing village and completely isolated tropical beach.

After lunch you could ride back to the inn by boat.

Enjoy the beautiful afternoon light as you canoe on the flat waters of the river which cuts through the island. (b,d)

Day 14 | Boipeba | **day to relax**

Spend today exploring or relaxing. (b,d)

Day 15 | flight | **relax on the island**

Relax before your air taxi back to Salvador where you connect with your transatlantic flight. (b)

Please note that international flights for this holiday are quoted separately.

Day 16 | home | **arrive back**

Space for your notes and questions for us

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Holiday Information

Pura Handmade

This holiday is unique to us.

We have designed and deliver this holiday using our own people and carefully selected local suppliers to create a *Pura Handmade* holiday.

In the mountains, your surroundings are beautiful, serene and other-worldly.

The walking itself isn't too stretching (though a decent level of fitness is needed for some stretches) and is often on just-there paths so that you don't feel that you're tramping along a well-beaten track. There are few other visitors, and no roads or motors, so it's beautifully quiet.

As well as the walking, the spectacular sights (waterfalls, mountain tops etc) make real highlights. Beyond the walking and sightseeing, it's just a delightful place to be. The climate is good (warm but with a breeze), the towns are pleasant (and few and far between) and the people friendly, helpful and laid-back. With the creation of the National Park, tourism is clearly the biggest industry here, but it doesn't feel it: mostly you get the impression that most people are just getting on with life as normal in rural Bahia.

The island of Boipeba is a little known gem of a place. You stay in a friendly small hotel on a bluff high above the beach, it is owned and run by a friend of ours so you can expect to be well looked after.

How active?

To enjoy it, you've really got to like walking and mountain scenery. The longer walks do need a decent level of fitness (but no more than would be needed for UK hillwalking).

Conditions underfoot are generally good with marked trails. There are parts where you will be walking along river beds or on river rocks in which case you need to think about your footing a bit more.

The highest point of the walking is about 1,300m, the lowest 500m. To get to the tops of the table-tops you will generally find that you need all four limbs for short stretches near the top. These are always side trips so you can always opt out of a trip to the top.

On Boipeba you are in control of how much or how little you choose to do.

When to go?

Really, this is a trip which works almost all year round. There are seasonal shifts as you will see below but basically nothing to stop you visiting at any time of year. If you can avoid May/June when Boipeba is very rainy, that's probably sensible.

Daytime temperatures were high 20s in the day, helped by a light breeze on the higher ground.

BAHIA: Bahia is basically tropical so you can expect warm conditions year round. March is the warmest month at an average high of 30c.

July the coolest at 26c. In Salvador it rains a good deal, May is wettest with 33cm on average, January the driest with 11cm.

CHAPADA DIAMANTINA: temperatures are fairly stable through the year (at an average of 23c) although June through September are the coolest months when temperatures are in the mid-teens centigrade. March to October are the driest times of year, November through

February can be wetter but the landscape can be more beautiful with greater flow of water through the rivers and falls.

It's cool at night.

How comfortable?

We have chosen accommodation on the basis of location, quality and character. In general, this means that hotels are very comfortable but not luxurious.

In Salvador, stay in a very comfortable colonial style pousada. In Lençóis, stay in a similarly comfortable hotel near the town centre. Both are of a good 3 or 4* standard.

In Capão, Mucugê and Igatu stay in guest houses or small hotels. Comfortable and friendly, rooms en suite.

On Boipeba stay in a very comfortable and charming small inn set high on a bluff. Very peaceful, friendly service and good food.

How independent?

Local guide in Salvador, full time guide in Chapada Diamantina and independent on Boipeba.

You have a guide in Salvador and then another guide for the Chapada Diamantina section.

On Boipeba you are free to explore at your own pace.

How do I book?

As a tailor made holiday we need to check availability and prices before taking your booking. If you would like us to prepare you a detailed proposal then simply email info@pura-aventura.com or call 01273 676 712 with your preferred dates plus any other changes you would like us to make.

Once you have the proposal and decide you would like to go ahead then please call in with the following:

- Full names
- Address
- Contact telephone numbers & email
- Deposit of 15%

Deposits can be paid by card, cheque or bank transfer, whichever suits you best (the balance of your holiday is due 60 days prior to travel).

We send you a confirmation email detailing all of the services agreed between us. We ask you to check through all of this carefully and sign off on the holiday.

Prices & departures

2012	Year-round £3,295 guide price
Flights	<i>International flights are quoted separately for this holiday.</i> <i>We can book these on your behalf or you can book them directly. Expect to pay from around £700 for flights London to and from Salvador.</i>
Price includes	All accommodation; guiding throughout; transfers and transport as above; all activities mentioned; and meals (b,l,d) as per itinerary.
Not included	Personal expenses; tips.

Prices are per person, based on two sharing.
Prices may be subject to change: please confirm at booking.

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