

Brazil

Exploring the
African Diaspora in
RIO & SALVADOR



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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
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Traveling Bulldogs™

May 17-27, 2027



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™ ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Traveling Bulldogs™

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join us on an illuminative journey to experience the depth of Afro Brazilian heritage. During four nights each in high-energy Rio de Janeiro and soulful Salvador, get to know the folkways, foodways and other traditions of the African diaspora in Brazil.

Visit the landmarks of a painful history, including Valongo Wharf and the Largo do Depósito in Rio's Little Africa and Salvador's Pelourinho district, that tell of the suffering and oppression of the enslaved Africans brought to Brazil. You'll also learn of the great African contributions to Brazilian culture, a legacy found in music, dance, religion, food and even the Brazilian martial art of capoeira. Meet local musicians, cook a succulent local specialty with a local chef, and get a deep look into Candomblé, a blend of African religions and Roman Catholicism.

Along the way, you'll also have the opportunity to admire Brazil's natural beauty, including Sugarloaf and Corcovado Mountain, where you'll stand at the foot of the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue.

This exceptional program has been thoughtfully designed with educational enrichment from expert guides and lecturers. It also offers you the security, ease and value of group travel with plentiful opportunities for independent exploration. You'll appreciate the camaraderie with other curious travelers and make your own discoveries during free time. Guarantee your spot by making your reservation today!

Sincerely,

Jeff Davis
Executive Director
MSU Alumni Association

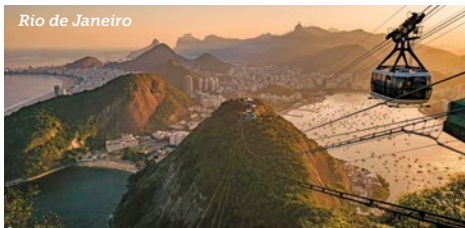
Leanna Smith '09, '16
Assistant Director
MSU Alumni Association

Travel Insurance: An application for trip cancellation, baggage and medical insurance will be sent to you by the MSU Alumni Association's travel program once you are registered for the tour. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Contact Leanna Smith at 662-325-3360 or lsmith@alumni.msstate.edu for further information.

UNESCO World Heritage

1. Rio de Janeiro: Carioca Landscapes between the Mountain and the Sea
2. Valongo Wharf Archaeological Site, Rio de Janeiro
3. Historic Centre of Salvador de Bahia
4. Mata Atlantica Biosphere Reserve, states of Rio de Janeiro and Bahia

Rio de Janeiro



Toucan, Carioca Landscape



Discovery begins here



From Shore to Soul

Rich, colorful and complex, Afro Brazilian culture is inextricably linked to Brazil's heritage. The contributions of contemporary Brazil's enslaved ancestors have produced samba, the national dance; capoeira, a martial art with a worldwide following; and talented drummers with global appeal. African influences also abound in gastronomy, religion and nearly every aspect of daily life, creating a dynamic culture that invites you to experience it for yourself!

Top: Pelourinho | Above: Percussion musicians

Cover: Bahia woman, Salvador | Mail panel: Pelourinho | Christ the Redeemer, Rio

Inspiring Moments



- Get to know the ways that **Brazil's African heritage** has been preserved in cuisine, music, religion and more.
- Discover **two historic cities, Rio de Janeiro** and **Salvador**, with strong Afro Brazilian communities.
- Immerse yourself in Afro Brazilian culture in Rio's **Little Africa** neighborhood and Salvador's **Pelourinho** district.
- Admire colorful Carnival costumes and floats at a **samba school**.
- Embrace Afro Brazilian flavors during **a cooking lesson with a local chef**.
- Delight in performances of capoeira and Afro Brazilian **folk dances**.
- Get an up-close look at the imposing **Christ the Redeemer** statue atop Corcovado Mountain.
- Experience four **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.



Botanical Garden of Rio de Janeiro

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. 🌐

Day 2 | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Upon arrival, transfer 🚗 to the hotel and begin your Brazilian journey!

Urca Hill & Sugarloaf Mountain. Take two cable cars to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain for a dazzling 360-degree view of the city, including Copacabana and Ipanema beaches, the Christ the Redeemer statue on Corcovado Mountain and more.

Gather for a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 3 | Rio de Janeiro

Enrichment: *The African Diaspora in Brazil.*

Little Africa. In Pequena África, or Little Africa, learn the origin of Brazil's African heritage. Visit Praça XV, where enslaved Africans arrived for 300 years until the mid-19th century when the city moved the slave docks to Cais do Valongo. An estimated 900,000 enslaved Africans arrived at Valongo between 1811-1831 before being held and sold at the nearby Largo do Depósito warehouses. See the Pedra do Sal, or the Salt Stone, the birthplace of samba. Continue to the New Blacks Research and Memory Institute, established at a cemetery for enslaved Africans. Then, admire artwork exploring the legacy of African slavery in Brazil at the Museum of Afro Brazilian History and Culture.

Savor a lunch of delicious Afro Brazilian cuisine.

The Magic of Carnaval. Go behind the scenes at one of Rio's renowned samba schools, which creates the flamboyant floats and costumes used during Carnaval. Try on some of the costumes and learn some samba steps!

Day 4 | Rio de Janeiro

Corcovado Mountain & the Rio Botanical Garden.

Mountains, hills and the Atlantic Ocean all have contributed to Rio's dramatic cityscape. Ride a funicular through the scenic Atlantic forest, part of the Mata Atlantica Biosphere Reserve, to the top of Corcovado Mountain for an up-close look at Christ the Redeemer. Then, tour the exquisite Botanical Garden of Rio de Janeiro for a guided walk through the tropical paradise, home to toucans, marmosets and other wildlife.

Enjoy a traditional Brazilian BBQ lunch.

Free Time: The rest of the day is free to explore Rio on your own.

Day 5 | Rio de Janeiro

Enrichment: *A Comparison of Slavery in Brazil & the United States.*

Free Time: Enjoy a leisurely morning.

Santa Teresa. Stop at the colorful, tiled steps of the Escadaria Selarón, one of Rio's iconic sites. Delight in the bohemian vibe of Santa Teresa, a historic district with art galleries and studios, colonial architecture, villas and leafy, cobblestone streets. Visit a cultural center with a spectacular view of Rio.



Upper and lower towns of Salvador

Free Time: Enjoy time to explore on your own. Join a festive group dinner in Santa Teresa.

Day 6 | Salvador

Fly to Salvador this morning. Have lunch before setting out to explore the city.

Pelourinho. Salvador's historic district boasts beautiful colonial architecture — brightly painted buildings, ornate churches and palaces. Visit the Catedral Basílica de Salvador and the Largo do Pelourinho. See Municipal Square and the Elevador Lacerda, which opened in 1873 to transport people between Salvador's upper and lower towns.

Check into your hotel.

Free Time: Enjoy an evening at leisure.

Day 7 | Salvador

Percussion Traditions. A local musician shares the history of Bahia's world-famous percussive style and its role in Afro Brazilian culture. Then, enjoy the chance to make some music with traditional drums!

Samba school, Rio



Free Time: Enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Casa de Iemanjá & Rio Vermelho Street

Food Experience. Learn about the Afro Brazilian religion of Candomblé at a temple dedicated to the sea goddess. Later, join a favorite local evening pastime and venture out to Rio Vermelho, where locals enjoy music and street food in an exhilarating atmosphere. Explore this district with the group and savor local culinary treats from appetizers to dessert.

Day 8 | Salvador

Terreiro, the Heart of the Candomblé Community, & São Joaquim Market.

Expand your understanding of Candomblé during a visit to a terreiro, a house of worship and community center that promotes Afro Brazilian traditions. Continue to the São Joaquim Market, where locals shop for fresh produce and meat, spices, local handicrafts and items used for Candomblé rituals.

AHI Connects | Bahia Cuisine. Join a chef to learn how to make a local specialty called moqueca, a creamy seafood stew.

Moqueca





Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **4 nights** in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at the first-class Grand Mercure Rio de Janeiro Copacabana.
- **4 nights** in Salvador at the deluxe Fera Palace Hotel.

Transfers (with baggage handling)

- All transfers in the Land Program: flights and deluxe motor coaches.

Extensive Meal Program

- 8 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Welcome Reception to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Afro Brazilian Museum. See a famous collection of 27 carvings of Candomblé deities.

Bahia Folk Dancing. Revel in a mesmerizing performance of the Balé Folclórico de Bahia, an acclaimed folk dance troupe.

Free Time: Enjoy an evening at leisure.

Day 9 | Salvador

Capoeira. Watch a demonstration of Brazil's martial art. Learn the history of capoeira and have the opportunity to try some moves.

Free Time: Enjoy a free afternoon.

Rosary of the Blacks Church & the Terça da Benção. Glimpse a traditional church service that blends Catholic mass and Afro Brazilian elements. See the Terça da Benção, a weekly street festival with traditional drumming, music and dancing.

Gather for a festive Farewell Dinner.

Day 10 | In Transit

All guests transfer to the Salvador airport for an included flight to São Paulo. In São Paulo, catch a return flight to your gateway city.

Day 11 | In Transit

Arrive in your gateway city today.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

✈ Flights and 🚗 transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Active Travel

This **Active Program** is designed for people who are in good health and can comfortably participate in a demanding daily schedule of physical activities. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this program require:

- walking on unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- walking up and down hills
- getting on/off motor coaches
- long days filled with activity

Escadaria Selarón, Rio





Terça da Benço, Salvador



Above: Zumbi dos Palmares monument, Salvador | Below: Santa Teresa, Rio



2027 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates † **May 17-27, 2027**

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates* **May 18-26, 2027**

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Land Program

Full Price **\$6,045**

Special Savings **\$750**

Special Savings Price* **\$5,295**

***This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$1,000 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 150 days prior to departure.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single accommodations are an additional \$1,095 (limited availability).

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://misst.ahitravel.com/destinations/2046A?schoold=108>.

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

AHI Travel Expertise

Travel Consultants guide you through the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators offer assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides and Knowledgeable Lecturers deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



Accommodations

Our experts have carefully selected these hotels for their prime locations and amenities. In Rio de Janeiro, the first-class Grand Mercure is near the city's landmarks and just steps away from iconic Copacabana beach. The deluxe Fera Palace is in the heart of Salvador. Its authentic art deco styling with modern flourishes welcome guests to the public areas. Enjoy friendly service and inviting, well-appointed guest rooms at both hotels. Complimentary Wi-Fi also is available.



Fera Palace Hotel | Salvador



Grand Mercure Rio de Janeiro Copacabana | Rio de Janeiro



Little Africa, Rio



Afro Brazilian Museum, Salvador



Book your journey today!

800-323-7373

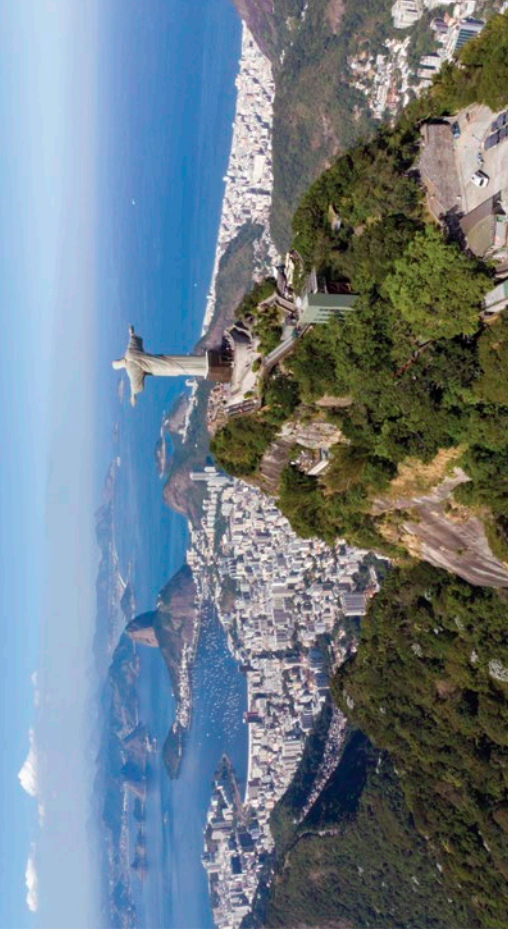
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