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PORT EXPLORER



BUZIOS BRAZIL

By 1575 Ponto dos Búzios was clearly marked on Portuguese maps of the Brazil's Atlantic coast. Due to the peninsula having many hidden coves and easily accessible beaches it became a favorite for pirates and smugglers. Fisherman and whalers soon followed and the little fishing village of Armaçao dos Búzios was slowly established.

For centuries everything continued peacefully as it always had until one day in 1964 a certain young, blonde and beautiful French movie star came to quiet little Búzios to escape the international paparazzi ... she fell in love with the charming town and things have never been the same since.

Today Búzios is one of the most popular beach resort towns in Brazil. To the credit of the town leaders, they have tried to avoid over development and thereby maintain the small, yet warm and welcoming character and charm of Búzios as well as the natural beauty of the hilly tree covered peninsula.

Brazil itself is an amazing country. Yet there are still parts of the country that have not been reached by modern man and there may be some indigenous people that have never had contact with the outside world. This has presented Brazil with serious ecological and sociological challenges. Brazil is a nation of vast natural resources with the Amazon River basin and rain forest perhaps the most widely known. The government, private conservation groups and responsible business interests have been working hard to strike a balance in the utilizations of the country's natural riches while maintaining a healthy and sustainable natural environment. At the same time the socially conscious are trying against tremendous odds and opposition to protect the land and way of life of the dwindling native population. In both cases, ecologically and socially, it is a daunting task.



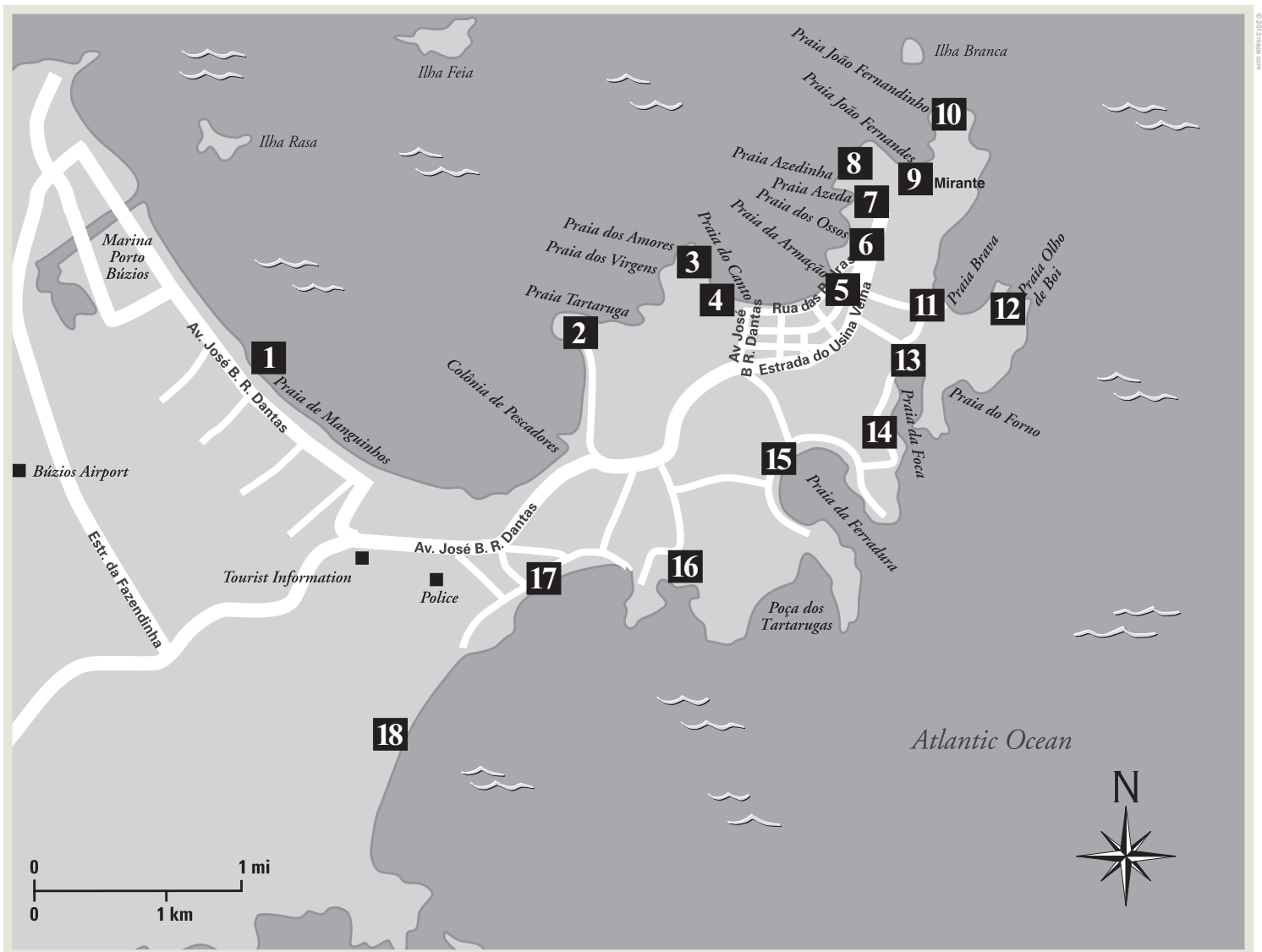
HISTORY

As the indigenous tribes of Brazil had no written language, very little is known about the people before the arrival of the Portuguese. On April 22, 1500, Portuguese navigator and explorer Pedro Alvares Cabral came ashore in northeast Brazil ... planted a cross and flag in the sand, claimed the land in the name of his king Manuel I and the Holy Roman Church ... then promptly sailed away. It would not be until 1549 that Portugal would send a governor together with six Jesuits priests whose task it would be to civilize the native people.

Sugarcane plantations were quickly expanding; however the Portuguese planters were dissatisfied with the labor of the Indians ... whom they had enslaved. But the Indians were quickly dying off by the countless thousands due to smallpox and measles introduced into the native population by the Portuguese and against which the indigenous people had neither immunity nor defense. Disease spread with incredible speed. It followed the ancient jungle trails and rivers that led from the coast to the interior. Entire tribes were disseminated before they ever saw a European. The Portuguese planters came up with a profitable answer to their frustrating labor shortage. Through African labor colonial Brazil soon supplied most of the Old World's sugar while Portugal, on land and sea, soon dominated the slave trade in the New World.

Brazil declared its independence from Portugal on September 7, 1822, after three centuries of colonial rule. Monarchies, military juntas, dictatorships and eventually Republican Democracies have followed in randomly rotating succession.

Brazil's National Indian Foundation (Fundação Nacional do Índio) has worked hard to protect the country's indigenous population yet estimates that fewer than ½ million native people survive today and some small tribes still try to refrain from contact with the world outside their own.



BÚZIOS PLACES OF INTEREST

Búzios is surrounded by beautiful beaches and each has its own personality. Our descriptions will be short so we can mention as many as possible.

1 Praia de Manguinhos is the place to go for wind and kite surfing. Lessons are available. This is a long beach with cafes and accompanying facilities.

2 Praia Tartaruga is secluded but easily accessible. The beach has clear, calm waters, small cafes and facilities.

3 Praia dos Amores (“Lovers Beach”) is small, secluded and not easy to reach. It is in a beautiful setting lined by tree covered hills.

4 Praia do Canto is near the center of town and has many nice cafes and shops. It is rarely crowded and the setting is beautiful.

5 Praia da Armacao is home to Búzios’ colorful fishing fleet. This is not a swimming beach but it is great for walks and lined with shops and cafes.

6 Praia dos Ossos is calm and clear. The cove is filled with small fishing boats, pleasure crafts and water taxis. Nice cafes line the beach promenade.

7&8 Praias da Azedinha and Azeda are two beautiful beaches right next to each other. The waters are very calm and clear. There are no facilities.

9 Praia de Joao Fernandes is one of the most beautiful and popular beaches on the peninsula. It has calm waters, cafes and complete facilities.

10 Praia de Joao Fernandinho is one of the best family beaches. It has easy access, great swimming, shade trees, a snack shop and restroom facilities.

11 Praia Brava is rarely crowded due to its being rather secluded. There are no facilities. The wave action here can get a little rough.

12 Olho de Boi is the “au naturale” beach in Búzios. It is very nice and obviously secluded. There are no facilities. Remember your sun-block!

13 Praia do Forno is a very nice beach, generally calm waters and rarely crowded. There are a couple of snack stands but no other facilities.

14 Praia Foca (Seal Beach) is more of a natural pool than a beach. It is very small and difficult to reach so it is never crowded. Snorkeling can be good. There are no amenities or shade.

15 Ferradura Beach is narrow and long, set in a calm bay and good for snorkeling. There are a few snack and beach rental shops.

16 Ferradurinha is hidden in a small rocky cove. It has very calm waters. There are no facilities but there is a little snack shop.

17 Geriba is long, broad and popular with families. It has all the expected facilities and water activities.

18 Tucuns is a surfing beach along with wind / kite surfing. It is secluded with no facilities or lifeguards.



SHORE EXCURSIONS

To make the most of your visit to Búzios and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only the items you need and secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS

Bargaining: Prices are generally fixed however some small shops may bargain.

Tipping: A 10% tip is customary at restaurants.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES

Brazil is a large country but most of the population is found along the Atlantic coast. The seafood dishes in Búzios are fresh and delicious. Brazil's cuisine has been primarily influenced by European immigrants and the descendants of former African slaves. Many of the dishes are regional. Some of the most common include: Acaraje, a deep fried ball of bean mash stuffed with a mixture of shrimp, coconut milk and bread. Frango com Quiabo is a chicken stew with okra. Feijoada is a stew made with meat and black beans, often served with white rice. Moqueca Capixaba was developed by the Indians of Brazil. It is a fish stew with tomatoes then baked in earthenware.

Cachaca is very strong liquor made from sugarcane. It is often mixed with lime, sugar and crushed ice to make a cocktail know as Caipirinha.

SHOPPING FACILITIES

Rua das Pedras (Stone Street) is the main shopping area in Búzios but there are quaint little stores throughout much of the town.

LOCAL CURRENCY

Brazil's currency is the Real (BRL). Many shops and vendors will accept U.S. dollars in small denominations. Major credit cards are widely accepted however some shops offer discounts if the item is paid for in cash.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES

There is a Post Office located Downtown at Estrada da Usina, 360, loja.

Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card:

AT&T: 0.800.890.0288

MCI: 0.800.890.0012

TRANSPORTATION

Taxis are available at the pier.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The Tourist Information Office is located to the right of the pier.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

The official language of Brazil is Portuguese.

Hello - Alô

How are you? - Tudo bom?

Thank you - Obrigado

You are welcome - De nada

Yes - Sim

No - Não

Good bye - Tchau (like the Italian "ciao")

