



**Join us for a cultural journey into Northeast Brazil as we experience the Bahia of its African-Brazilian majority.**

Bahia Street brings people together by providing community-based travel and volunteer experiences that promote cross-cultural understanding and support locally-driven social change. Since 2003, Bahia Street has organized cultural journeys to Bahia for community members, educators, NGO professionals, and university students.

**Cost\$:** 2,100 per person double occupancy  
(plus international airfare)

### **Highlights**

- Travel with Bahia Street's award-winning co-founder and director, Rita Conceição.
- Tour Salvador, Cachoeira, and Ituberá.
- Experience Bahian culture through music, dance, and hands-on cooking.
- Spend four days immersed in a work project that benefits a community.
- Join an international community learning about and working for peace through equality.

### **Benefits**

- Individually-customized travel schedule
- Small group size (up to 12 people)
- Local guides & experts from within Bahia Street's community
- Opportunity to volunteer within community
- Extensive orientation materials and support
- Opportunities to extend time in Brazil beyond trip
- Tax-deductible support for NGO focused on locally-driven social change

### **What past participants have said...**

- ▲ "It was an amazing trip! We were able to get an authentic, inside view of the way people live in Bahia."
  - ▲ "I left for Brazil hoping to have an eye opening, genuine experience, and that is what I had."
    - ▲ "[Bahia Street staff in Seattle] was so helpful!"
      - ▲ "Amazing! Educational and fun!"
        - ▲ "A trip I will never forget."

**Bahia Street breaks cycles of poverty through education and civic engagement.** Beyond Brazil, Bahia Street promotes greater understanding about society, equality and social change. Bahia Street's name reflects its deep roots within Bahia and its position at the heart of where people come together, on the streets and walkways of their neighborhoods. [www.bahiastreet.org](http://www.bahiastreet.org).

## ABOUT *INSIDE BAHIA*

Bahia has long been known as Brazil's soul, home to rich cultural traditions that span continents and connect the human experience of the diverse people who live in Northeast Brazil. From the dance and music forms of Samba, to the African-Brazilian martial art/dance practice of Capoeira, to the African-derived spiritual experience with Candomblé, *INSIDE BAHIA* offers visitors an opportunity to experience cross-cultural connections while sharing their own culture with a local community.

We believe that the best trips are those that are flexible, leaving time for opportunities that may arise during the course of the journey. We also believe that it is individuals' diverse interests that enrich the group's overall experience, so our tour leaders take time to talk with each person about their specific interests and provide suggestions or make arrangements to tailor the program to those interests. Bahia Street provides an outline of the trip and a more detailed itinerary one month prior to departure, but participants should be flexible around changes that arise in Brazil.

### Journey overview

Saturday, July 23	Leave for Brazil
Sunday, July 24	Arrive in Salvador (1 night) – <i>Welcome!</i>
Monday, July 25	Travel to Cachoeira (2 nights) – <i>History and culture of the Recôncavo</i>
Wednesday, July 27	Travel to Ituberá (2 nights) – <i>Environment of the Atlantic rainforest</i>
Friday, July 29	Travel to Work Project (4 nights) – <i>Local social change</i>
Tuesday, August 2	Travel to Salvador (3 nights) – <i>Urban life, culture, and connections</i>
Friday, August 5	Trip ends. Leave for home or extend your trip! – <i>Extending the community</i>

## ITINERARY

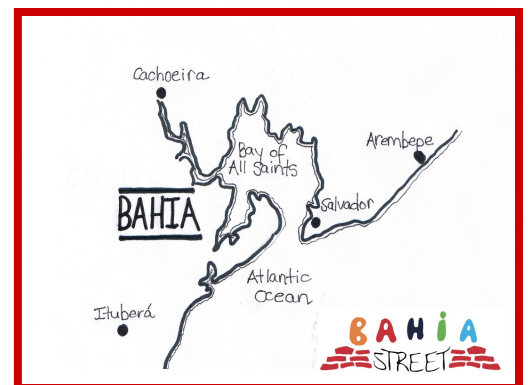
All participants arrive in Salvador during the day of Saturday, July 23. Bahia Street staff will meet you at the airport and transport you to our hotel in Salvador, giving you one night to get oriented, rest, and prepare for the rest of the trip.

### Cachoeira

The study trip begins by traveling through the area surrounding Salvador called the Recôncavo. This is a



region with rich fertile agricultural land on which farmers grow sugar cane and tobacco, among other products. We will spend two nights in Cachoeira, a historic town full of lovely colorful Portuguese buildings from the 1800's. This town was central to slavery and African-Brazilian history and was a home to some of Bahia's most noted African-Brazilian intellectuals. Cachoeira sits along the Rio Paraguaçu and is a center for delicious local liquors made from area fruits. Many famous woodcarvers call Cachoeira home, and it remains a center for practitioners of the African-Brazilian religion of Candomblé. Candomblé is a remarkable and complex religion that is central to the spiritual life of most Bahia residents. We will explore the religion of Candomblé, its connections to Catholicism, its history and roots in Africa, and the politics of racial and religious oppression. Weather permitting, we will journey up the river by boat, learning about this important waterway from a local fisherman and visiting with a clay pot maker.



## Ituberá

Ituberá is located south of Salvador in the *Mata Atlântica*, a tropical rainforest created by trade winds. The region around Ituberá is beautiful, with stunning forest and mangroves along the coast, and with agro-floral farms growing lilies and other tropical flowers for sale around the world. North of Ituberá within the Michelin Plantation is a beautiful waterfall, the *Panacada Grande*. Activities include taking local hikes, visiting the waterfall, and exploring the city of Ituberá. Local guides will share their knowledge about indigenous flora and fauna. A beautiful beach is a short drive way.



## Salvador

The highlight in Salvador is a visit to the Bahia Street Center, home of the non-profit organization co-founded by Rita Conceição (with Margaret Willson, author of *Dance Lest We All Fall Down* about Bahia Street's founding). Bahia Street breaks cycles of poverty and violence through quality educational opportunities for young women and girls in Salvador. Sixty-five girls from the shantytowns learn all basic subjects, receive health and nutrition services, and develop as leaders through Bahia Street's comprehensive program. You will witness the tremendous energy and excitement in which Bahia Street girls now learn and thrive.



While in Salvador, you will visit its historic city center, **Pelhourinho**, and explore on your own its excellent museums and craft shops. Rita will lead a tour of the **shantytowns** (both established and more recent ones considered "invasions") surrounding Salvador's downtown and show the contrasts between where middle and upper class residents live and where the vast number of Salvador poor call home. You will also have the opportunity to experience **capoeira**, the African-Brazilian martial art and dance that integrates self defense, oral history, and traditional music into an art form. Buy gifts for home at one of Salvador's largest outdoor **public markets**, known to resemble markets in West Africa.



## Work project

Bahia Street partners with a number of local community-based social change organizations and cultural projects that serve different types of people. Bahia Street will organize a work project that engages participants in social action alongside local community members. The exact nature of the project will vary according to the group size and the needs of local community partners closer to the time of departure. The work project will be guided by Bahia Street's core values of supporting locally-driven social change that promotes equality and cross-cultural understanding.



## Free Time

There is a lot to do in Salvador! You won't want to miss seeing some of the excellent museums or 365 churches in Salvador, one for each day of the year. There are local shopping opportunities for people interested in exploring stores with local crafts. During the day, you might want time on the beach to relax in the sun and swim in the warm Atlantic water. The food of Bahia is some of the best in the world, combining rich African traditions with European influences. For the evenings, why not check out some local music or cultural programs—we'll provide information on what is going on. Grab a taxi and get where you want to go.

## Trip Extensions

There are many places within Bahia worth a longer stay, including the beaches to the north of Bahia such as Arembepe and Praia do Forte and the interior, picturesque town of Lençóis in the Chapada Diamantina. Beyond Bahia, Rio is always worth a visit! Let us know if you need recommendations.

## TRIP LEADERS

The trip will be led by **Melanie Wyffels**, a Brazilian-American based in Seattle with strong ties to Salvador, Brazil. Melanie was born into a family of renowned educators, is fluent in Portuguese and English, and has extensive experience in intercultural communication and exchange. On the trip, she will be joined by **Rita Conceição**, Bahia Street co-founder and now director of the Bahia Street Center. Ms. Conceição grew up in one of Salvador's most notorious shantytowns, and she remains an activist and civic leader working for a better life for impoverished African-Brazilians. Complete biographical information on trip leaders can be found on the Bahia Street website: [www.bahiastreet.org](http://www.bahiastreet.org).

## MORE INFORMATION

**Participants:** We limit the number of participants to 12 in order to be nimble in traveling by van and flexible around individual needs and interests. Participants range in age and background, from student to retiree and from international development staff to corporate CEO. We welcome participants from any country. Participants between the ages of 12 and 20 are welcome with an accompanying adult.

**Costs:** The cost of the study trip is **US\$2,100** (not including airfare) from pick up in Salvador to return delivery at Salvador airport. This will include hotel accommodation (double occupancy), group transportation, speaker honoraria, all breakfasts, and two dinners. Not included is individual transportation to and from Salvador, individual excursions or fees for individual attendance at events or shows, guides hired by individuals, dinners beyond the two included in the trip costs, and the visa needed by US citizens to enter Brazil. Single accommodation is available for an additional US\$400. Bahia Street strongly encourages participants to purchase travel insurance.

**Flights:** You should arrange your air travel independently. Participants from the US should expect to pay between \$800 and \$1,200 for airfare to Brazil, based on their city of departure.

**Hotels:** Accommodation is at tourist class hotels with private bath. Internet facilities are available in Salvador.

**Visas:** Brazil requires US visitors to enter with a tourist visa, which costs around \$200. (Please note that Brazil matches its visa fees with the United States, charging Americans the same fee that Brazilians are charged to enter the United States. If US fees increase, Brazil fees will do the same.) People of other nationalities may have a different visa situation and may contact Bahia Street for information.

## Application materials

Application materials are available on-line at [www.bahiastreet.org](http://www.bahiastreet.org). You are also invited to go on-line to see pictures from past trips, read what past trip participants have to say, and read more about trip leaders.