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Salvador, Brazil

Salvador, the capital of Brazil's northeastern state of Bahia, is known for its Portuguese colonial architecture, Afro-Brazilian culture and a tropical coastline. The pelourinho neighborhood is its historic heart, with cobblestone alleys opening onto large squares, colorful buildings and baroque churches.



I did a bus tour and from sea and from the ship the city looked very charming, boy was I wrong. When our guide boarded the bus after introducing himself the first thing he said was if you are wearing any gold jewelry take it off and hide it. I wasn't wearing anything but a lot of the women were. The city is very dirty and very few property owners maintain their property and everyone has a wrought iron gate to their property with very high walls with coiled razor wire, glass pieces across the top or sharp metal points to keep people from climbing over their wall. Lots of graffiti everywhere. Driving to our first stop after seeing part of the city I was very uncomfortable so I stayed on the bus for the whole tour. Definitely not a place I would ever want to come back to. The population is about twice that of Honolulu and like Rome they have a church on every corner. We were told that they have 374 churches. The city reminded me of the Nogales, Mexico side of the border with all the colored shacks built on the side of the hills. The pictures make it look better than it was. Rio de Janeiro in a few days, hopefully it will be better.

