



Pernambuco, Paraíba & Rio Grande do Norte

Includes ➔

Pernambuco	486
Recife	487
Olinda	498
Fernando de Noronha	503
Paraíba	513
João Pessoa	514
Rio Grande do Norte	519
Natal	519
Praia da Pipa	525

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Mesa da Ana (p511)
- ➔ Cruzeiro do Pescador (p528)
- ➔ Oficina do Sabor (p502)
- ➔ Camarões Potiguar (p521)
- ➔ Patuá (p502)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Toca da Coruja (p527)
- ➔ Pousada Ilha do Vento (p530)
- ➔ Spa da Alma (p527)
- ➔ Pousada Casa de Taipa (p530)
- ➔ Cama e Cafe Olinda (p499)

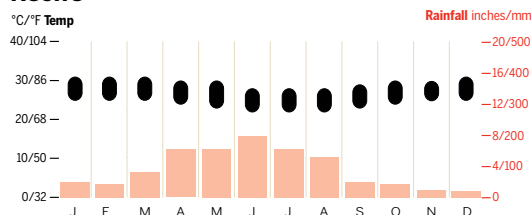
Why Go?

The nearly 1000km-long coastline edging the three states at Brazil's northeastern corner consists of one sandy, sunburnt beach after another, backed by dunes, palms or cliffs. It's dotted with villages and small towns that are just perfect for tasty meals, sunset drinks and chilling out in a homey pousada (guesthouse) – that's when you're not dipping, snorkeling, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing or diving in the delicious tropical waters. Or racing around the beaches and dunes with the wind in your hair on a beach-buggy ride.

The coast is home to four very different cities: gutsy, historic, cultural Recife; cute, artsy Olinda; appealingly revived João Pessoa; and the holiday playground of Natal. You'll never lack for urban vibes to spice up your beach idylls. What is arguably the continent's greatest aquatic treasure also lies 350km offshore: Fernando de Noronha, a tropical-island getaway unrivaled in South America for its world-class beaches, diving and scenery.

When to Go

Recife



Feb & Mar Head to Recife and Olinda for Carnaval...if you can cope with inflated prices.

Apr–Jul Rainy season; lower prices, lower temperatures, lots of heavy showers.

Dec–Feb High season; the sunniest, driest, busiest, most expensive months.

Pernambuco, Paraíba & Rio Grande do Norte Highlights

- 1 Being stunned by the world-class beaches, scenery, diving and snorkeling at crowd-free **Fernando de Noronha** (p503).
- 2 Dancing in the streets and experiencing the unique culture of artsy **Olinda** (p498) during euphoric Carnaval.
- 3 Enjoying the stylish but unpretentious international beach scene of beautiful **Praia da Pipa** (p525).
- 4 Immersing yourself in the cultural, culinary and historical attractions of the region's best city, **Recife** (p487).
- 5 Digging your toes into sands less traveled at **São Miguel do Gostoso** (p529).
- 6 Feeling the wind in your hair on a beach-buggy ride from São Miguel do Gostoso to remote **Galinhos** (p530).
- 7 Taking in a stunning sunset to a saxophone rendition of *Bolero* in **João Pessoa** (p518).

