



Pernambuco, Paraíba & Rio Grande do Norte

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Best Places to Eat

- Oficina do Sabor (p495)
- Palhoça da Colina (p507)
- Tapas (p522)
- Chica Pitanga (p487)
- Camarões Potiguar (p518)

Best Places to Stay

- Toca da Coruja (p522)
- Manary Praia Hotel (p517)
- Pousada de São Pedro (p494)
- Pousada Ilha do Vento (p524)
- Spa da Alma (p521)

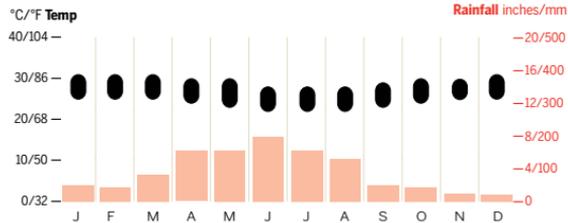
Why Go?

The nearly-1000km-long coastline of the three states at Brazil's northeastern corner is 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 and sunset drinks and chilling out in a homey pousada – 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 also home to four very different cities – gutsy, historic, cultural Recife; cute, artsy Olinda; appealingly revived João Pessoa; and the holiday playground of Natal. So you need never lack for urban vibes to spice up your beach idylls.

And arguably the region's greatest treasure lies 350km offshore – the Fernando de Noronha archipelago, a tropical-island getaway unrivaled in Brazil 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 Dance in the streets and experience the unique culture of artsy **Olinda** (p492) during euphoric Carnaval.
- 2 Be stunned by the world-class beaches, scenery, diving and snorkeling at crowd-free **Fernando de Noronha** (p499).
- 3 Enjoy the stylish but unpretentious international beach scene of beautiful **Praia da Pipa** (p519).
- 4 Immerse yourself in the cultural, culinary and historical attractions of the region's best city, **Recife** (p482).
- 5 Dig your toes into sands less traveled at **São Miguel do Gostoso** (p523).
- 6 Feel the wind in your hair on a beach-buggy ride from São Miguel do Gostoso to remote **Galinhos** (p524).

