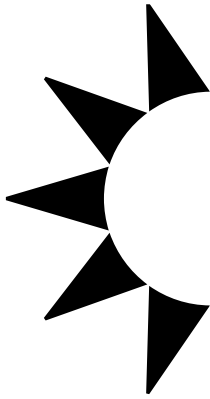




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# BRAZIL COCOA BIKE TOUR

ILHÉUS-SERRA GRANDE-ITACARÉ-BA



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# THE EXPERIENCE



The Cocoa Coast region of southern Bahia is home to some of the greatest biodiversity on the planet, with landscapes preserved by a set of areas protected by lush Atlantic Forest, filled with rivers, lagoons, crystal clear waterfalls and deserted beaches, ideal for taking a dip after overcoming each stretch on your bike.

In addition to the lush nature, the history and architectural heritage related to cocoa production, with bucolic 19<sup>th</sup> century farms, mark the landscape of this region and invite us to immerse ourselves in this fantastic universe of cocoa and chocolate.

Immortalized by the literature of Jorge Amado, the region known as the "Land of Cocoa" is now experiencing a virtuous production cycle of high-quality fine chocolates, with certification of origin and sustainable operations, proving that it is possible to reconcile production, profits and the conservation of the Atlantic Forest.

More than a bike ride, this is a journey of sensory and cultural immersion into the identity of one of the most beautiful and still largely unknown regions of the blessed land called Bahia.

## LEVEL

Moderate – hilly with moderate climbs

## BICYCLE TYPE

Cannondale Mountain Trail, 29" rim, aluminum frame, front suspension and hydraulic disc brakes

## AVERAGE DISTANCE

24 km/day

## TERRAIN

Sandy on stretches of beach, dirt road and paved road.



#### DAY 1

Reception at Ilhéus Airport and transfer (50 minutes) to Fazenda Capela Velha, which produces high-quality cocoa and chocolates of certified origin. After a typical farm lunch, we'll take a guided tour and learn about all the stages of the chocolate production process, from cultivation in agroforestry system through to the transformation of the cocoa seeds into beans, fermentation and drying. The finalization will be in the chocolate factory, with a tasting session of "Tree to Bar" chocolate.

Transfer to Serra Grande (approx. 80 minutes), with stop to visit the beautiful Fazenda Provision, with its architectural set (Chapel and Headquarters) built in colonial style in the mid-1970s and interior decorations featuring furniture and utensils from the era of the coronels.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodations: Village of Mata Ecolodge.

#### DAY 2

We'll start the day biking on a side road in the shade of the Atlantic Forest preserved by Condurú Park, at the top of a plateau, ensuring plenty of spots with panoramic views of Bahia's blue ocean, not to mention the fresh Atlantic breeze that accompanies us throughout the day. We'll make a stop at a partner site, with a lookout that boasts views of the entire coastline, from Serra Grande to the city of Ilhéus, as well as at the Tibina Dam, an essential break for an invigorating swim. At Fazenda Boa Esperança, a farm that produces organic cocoa, chocolates and dairy products, we'll be greeted by the friendly, multi-talented owner of Chinese origin, who welcomes us with a brunch prepared with fresh ingredients from the farm and, of course, chocolates. After a brief tour of the grounds, and after being well-hydrated and fed, we'll get back to biking along the beaches of Sargi and Pé de Serra to the hotel. Afternoon free to enjoy the end of the day and accompany the fishermen arriving on their rafts.

Meals included: Breakfast, brunch and lunch (on the beach at Sargi or in the hotel).

Distance pedaled: 30 km

Altitude: 310 m of accumulated uphill climb

Accommodations: Aldeia da Mata Ecolodge.

#### DAY 3

Today, we'll be taking a bike tour of the bucolic village of Serra Grande, visiting its main overlooks and the dam. Afterwards, we'll continue on dirt roads to Fazenda Juerana Milagrosa, one of the most beautiful and preserved cocoa farms in the region! Surrounded by the native Atlantic Forest, this farm protects incredible waterfalls, lakes, rivers and overlooks in its Private Natural Heritage Reserve (PNHR) and also produces organic cocoa, demonstrating that it's possible to reconcile conservation with sustainable production.

We will take a light walk for approximately 20-minute through the forest and cocoa plantations, until we reach the waterfall known as "Milagrosa" (literally "Miraculous"). We'll recharge our energies with a delicious vegetarian lunch, prepared with fresh ingredients from the farm. After lunch, if the group is up for it, we'll bike to Foz do Rio Tijuípe, one of the most beautiful, preserved and wild places on the entire Cocoa Coast.

Meals included: Breakfast.

Distance pedaled: 25 km

Altitude: 250 m of accumulated uphill climb

Accommodations: Aldeia da Mata Ecolodge

#### DAY 4

Today we're going to visit four heavenly beaches in Itacaré: Engenhoca, Havaizinho, Gamboa and Itacarezinho. After an approximately 20-minute drive, we'll take a light walk (15 min.) through the Atlantic Forest to Engenhoca Beach, great for surfing thanks to its quality waves. Returning to the trail and following the coast for another 15 minutes, we come to Havaizinho Beach. From there, continuing along the coast, we'll pass by the deserted Gamboa Beach and finish up the trail on beautiful, vast Itacarezinho Beach, home to an excellent restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast:

Accommodations: Vila Barracuda



#### DAY 5

Breakfast and 30-minute transfer towards Itacaré! On this day, we will uncover the secrets of the bucolic village of Taboquinhas (in the rural area of Itacaré) an important cocoa hub in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. From Itacaré, we'll bike about 24 kilometers on pavement, on a quiet road with stretches of shade parallel to the Rio de Contas, to the center of Taboquinhas and then on to the charming Fazenda Vila Rosa, where we'll be welcomed by the beautiful garden, lake and natural pools that invite us to take a dip. We'll take a guided tour to learn about the harvesting, fermentation and drying of the cocoa beans and the artisanal chocolate-making process, with a tasting session. Lunch at a typical restaurant by the banks of the Rio de Contas, with a unique view, and boat trip back to Itacaré.

Distance pedaled: 24 km

Altitude: 331 m of accumulated uphill climb

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodations: Vila Barracuda

#### DAY 6

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out. Transfer to Ilhéus Airport.

Meals included: Breakfast

#### BEST TIME

You can visit the Cocoa Coast all year round. But the best time to enjoy the region is during the autumn months (from April to June) and, spring (from September to November), when temperatures are milder and the beaches calmer for swimming.

#### GETTING THERE

Take a flight to Jorge Amado Airport in Ilhéus. Next, a one-hour ground transfer to the hotel in Serra Grande.







## ACCOMMODATIONS



### ALDEIA DA MATA ECOLOGE

With unique architecture and decorations, each of the 12 bungalows have their own private balcony and are scattered throughout a tropical garden of Atlantic Forest, bordering a sea of warm, crystal-clear waters on a beautiful stretch of beach. The hotel boasts a swimming pool, beach bar and WIFI on the entire grounds.



### VILA BARRACUDA

A boutique hotel in the heart of the city of Itacaré. Picturesque views of the place where the Rio de Contas flows into the sea and unique, welcoming hospitality, which makes guests feel at home among friends. Each room has its own design, but always conveying the region's characteristic sense of comfort and relaxation.





#### OBSERVATIONS

- Amounts are in Brazilian reais (R\$).
- The prices listed in the chart correspond to the investment per person in double room.
- Prices subject to change without prior notice.
- Prices valid until 12/27/22, except on commemorative dates and holidays.

#### INCLUDED

- 3 nights accommodations at Aldeia da Mata Ecolodge, with breakfast.
- 2 nights accommodations at Vila Barracuda, with breakfast.
- All transfers provided for in the itinerary.
- 3 full meals (2 lunches and 2 brunches).
- Visit to 5 Cocoa Farms, including chocolate tasting sessions at two.
- Boat trip on the Rio das Contas.
- Water, fruits and snacks during activities.
- Cannondale Mountain Trail, 29" rim, aluminum frame, front suspension and hydraulic disc brakes, with daily maintenance on the bikes.
- Accompanying cyclist guide (1 guide for every 4 participants).
- Support vehicle present during the biking sessions.
- All the meals listed in the itinerary.
- Call center available 24 hours a day, every day during the trip.
- Travel insurance.
- Welcome kit.

#### NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare/bus fare.
- Arrival transfer from the airport or bus station to the hotel.
- Nighttime shuttle service between hotels in the village of Serra Grande/Itacaré.
- Personal expenses.