

Carnival – Salvador 2005



THE BIGGEST PARTY ON EARTH

Understanding the Party...

No other popular party in the world is more famous than carnival in Brazil. It is an explosion of happiness you've certainly never seen before.

The party happens in every city of the country, but no other city in Brazil has a carnival as Salvador!!! We know that this may sound strange to foreigners who always ask: "what about Rio?" No doubt, the carnival parade in Rio is maybe the most beautiful spectacle in the world, but if you are looking for real fun, Salvador is the place to go.

Carnival in Salvador is different and bigger... If in Rio you are a spectator of the parade, in Salvador you are the show... If in Rio the carnival parades are realized in two days, in Salvador they last one week!!!



The Trio Elétrico entering at the Campo Grande Circuit

It is not a coincidence that thousands of Brazilians move to Salvador every February.

Let us try to explain how the things occur. Instead of the famous parade of Samba Schools with those wonderful fantasies that most of the people know, carnival in Salvador happen *"behind the Trio Elétrico"*.



The Trio of Timbalada, at the Barra – Ondina Circuit

Roughly speaking, the *Trio Elétrico* is a big truck, driven very slowly, loaded with thousands of watts of sound equipments and with a band playing on the top.

Surrounding the truck, there is a big rope carried by hundreds of security guards.

This structure is organized by a private company, called "***bloco***".

Each *Bloco* sells a different T-shirt called "*Abadá*". This T-shirt is your entrance ticket and allows you to get into the rope. The biggest *Blocos*, like the *Camaleão* have over four thousand people, dancing, drinking, kissing and having fun...

The people who aren't in *blocos*, and therefore are outside of the roped-off areas around the trios, are called "*Pipoca*". Inside the rope the security is good and the situation is reasonably organized, what cannot be said at the "*Pipoca*".

One tip, if you want to go to Salvador on Carnival, don't think about saving money not buying the *Abadás*! It is absolutely necessary.

Other good option is buy the entrance for a "*Camarotes*" (a kind of balcony along the parade route) from which they can watch the *trios* and then descend into the street when they feel like it, but enter into the rope. The best *Blocos* are The *Camaleão* and *Nana Banana*, played by the band *Chiclete com Banana*, *Crocodilo* played by *Daniela Mercury* and *Coruja*, played by *Ivete Sangalo*.



The *abadá* and the customs of *Nana Banana*



The *Camaleão*, the largest *bloco* in Salvador



Daniela Mercury at the Crocodilo 2004



The members of Nana Banana



The Nana Banana Balcony

Another very traditional kind of carnival in Salvador are the *Afro blocos*, that are important agents for the resurgence of African-Brazilian identity.

The most famous are the Ile-Ayé and the Filhos de Gandhi (Gandhi's Sons), over 5000 men, all them using white dresses and turbans.

The party normally last for 1 week. This year starts on the 3rd of February and goes until the 9th of February.

Officially the carnival from Brazil is from the 5th until the 10th, but in Salvador they started a little early so they can enjoy a longer period of parties.

There are 2 circuits from where the *Blocos* pass through. One close to the old district and another close to the beach.

Each *bloco* plays for 3 days. You can by "abadás" for all these days, or just for one day.

If you want, you can also mix different *blocos*, that is the alternative to see everything this amazing party can offer.

You can also buy "abadás" for the balconies, an option for those who want to have fun without getting too tired. It also provides a great view from the party.

Just remember that it is not safe to stay at the "Pipoca"... we advice you to either buy the "abadá" or stay in the balconies.



The Filhos de Gandhi at Castro Alves Square