

**HANSEATIC inspiration**

---

**Brazil**  
**where the explorer's heart dances the samba**

**From Montevideo to Belém**

**28/02/2024 - 14/03/2024**

**INS2404**



**Text in German and pictures: Dr Hajo Lauenstein**

**Translated to English by DeepL and Nadine Armbrust**

## 28. February/Wednesday

### Montevideo / Uruguay

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Width	Length		Air	Water		
36°53.8' S56°14.5' W		1016	23	24	90	S 3
Sunrise: 06:30				Sunset: 19:23		

We are tired and a little exhausted when we finally reach our new home for the next few days, the HANSEATIC inspiration, at around 4.00 pm. The long flight to Montevideo, the city tour, the unaccustomed heat, the time difference, all not so easy. Finally we arrive - most of our suitcases too - and we move into and marvel at the beautiful cabins of the HANSEATIC inspiration. Whether you like it or not, the safety drill at 18:30 is compulsory for all guests. Shortly afterwards, at 19:30, we leave the harbour of Montevideo and set course for the big destination of our journey - Brazil.

We enjoy dinner in peace and quiet, either under a tropical starry sky on the Lido Deck or in one of the two indoor restaurants, and shortly afterwards slumber in the cosy bed of our cabin in anticipation of the new day. As most of us were able to take part in a city tour on our arrival in Uruguay, here are a few words about Uruguay and Montevideo.

Uruguay is often overlooked as a tourist destination. Yet a young scene and plenty of culture make the capital Montevideo one of the most exciting places in the whole of Latin America. The name, a promise: Montevideo, capital of Uruguay. Ruffled by the wind, beleaguered by the water, tanned by the sun. A harbour city without any vanity. 1.3 million Inhabitants, a million trees, spread over an ugly frontage to the sea, spacious avenues and run-down streets.

Europeans are fond of the city, which is small and inconspicuous next to its big sister Buenos Aires. Where horse-drawn carriages set the pulse, dark bar parlours guard centuries-old secrets. The Europeans enjoy the rough melancholy of the city of immigrants, which is friendly and open to foreigners, but suspicious of the fashions they bring with them.

A few years ago, the people of Uruguay rejected their government's attempt to privatise state institutions such as the post office and telephone service, following the example of Argentina. In addition, its capital has so far shown itself to be resistant to the egalitarian consequences of globalisation. Hardly any luxury brand has a branch in Montevideo, no label wastes money on large advertising posters. "You are the Buenos Aires that we once had and that has quietly slipped away over the years," wrote the Argentinean Jorge Luis Borges about Montevideo.

The long shadow of the Argentinian capital Buenos Aires extends as far as Montevideo: Uruguay's capital on the north bank of the Rio de la Plata is often compared to its Argentinian rival on the south bank. Especially by the locals, who live more or less on both sides of the estuary.

To outsiders, the two metropolises could hardly be more different. While Buenos Aires presents itself as a city rich in tradition with a glamorous past, Montevideo is a city that radiates youthfulness everywhere - with a vibrant street art scene, countless bars and cafés and a lively street life on the Rambla, the seafront promenade along the city's coast. The city's young attitude to life is most evident in its small squares. For example, in the Plaza de la Constitución in the old town, where the younger generation uses free Wi-Fi and e-scooters. With Wi-Fi in public squares and e-scooters filling the streets, Montevideo is the top dog of the digital age in Latin America.

Students run even the city's most famous café, the Café Brasileiro, which dates back to 1877. Brass chandeliers cast their light on the youthful baristas, while Montevideo's venerable ancestors gaze sternly from portraits on the wood-panelled walls at the servers, who take all the time in the world - in keeping with the self-imposed credo of slow food - even when serving the simplest espresso.

Uruguay ranks first in Latin America when it comes to issues such as e-government and democratic participation, according to an assessment by the US State Department. A quarter of the population is under 15 years old, the majority between 20 and 50, and only 15 per cent are over 60.

The Uruguayan tango is officially a UNESCO Intangible World Heritage Site. It is therefore hard to escape the young atmosphere of the capital. Nevertheless, Montevideo preserves its customs. Such as the tango. It is danced on the street corners. Alternatively, in the popular "Baar Fun Fun". Here, however, it is more like a delicate prelude than a choreographed sequence of steps. Anyone who assumes that this sensual dance is of Argentinian origin is likely to run into serious difficulties. The nearby museum, where the cashier explicitly points out to visitors that it is the Uruguayan tango and not its Argentinian counterpart, also provides information about its history.

At weekends, dozens of drummers can be found in the neighbouring alleyways, beating the heavy beat of Candomblé. Slaves abducted from Africa once brought this percussive dance to Uruguay. Today, it is not only part of the traditional carnival in Montevideo; Candomblé street musicians regularly attract spectators in the capital like a magnet. Therefore, if you do not feel confident enough to dance the tango, you can swing your hips in the open air without any prior knowledge.

To top off the dancing Montevideo experience with culinary delights, we head to the Mercado del Puerto, the lively old harbour market. Bearded hipsters like to shake hands with butchers here, who - unlike their beef - look like they are way past their sell-by date. The stalls sell grilled meat and fresh fish from the Rio de la Plata. The more adventurous dare to try a "choto" - a grilled lamb tripe dish that can only be found in Uruguay. Accompanied by a Tannat - the velvety red wine is considered the national grape of Uruguay. There are 270 wineries in the Canelones district alone, which also includes parts of the capital Montevideo. If you wake up the next morning with a hangover, Montevideo has a solution for you too: yerba mate.

What coffee is to New York, yerba mate tea is to Montevideo: a way of life! The caffeinated herbal tea is drunk from a spherical container using a metal straw that filters out tea crumbs. Locals of all ages always carry their favourite hot drink with them in a set with a thermos flask. Without yerba mate, life in Uruguay would not be the same - and tourists would have one less souvenir.

Mate drinking is part of the culture and has the role of a ceremonial peace pipe. It is best drunk with strangers, with everyone drinking from the same straw. It is a ritual that brings people together in Montevideo, regardless of age, gender, race, socio-economic status or class. The proverbial glue that can hold everything together in this fascinating city.

The various sculptures in Montevideo are particularly beautiful, many by the artist Belloni, but also many others. Those who took part in the half-day excursion after the flight were able to see the city and the beautiful market hall, where countless restaurants compete in the barbecue.



*Charcoal grill in the market hall*



*Artigas Monument on Independence Square*



*La Carreta Monument*



*Charrua Monument*



*Monument to the drowned seamen*

## 29. February / Thursday

### At sea towards / in the direction of São Francisco do Sul / Brazil

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Width	Length		Air	Water		
33°32.0' S52°09.6' W		1017	24	24	92	E 3
Sunrise: 06:16				Sunset: 19:03		

South America is big and the coastline is long, very long. That is why we now have two days at sea ahead of us. Therefore, we have enough time today to prepare ourselves perfectly for the coming days, starting at 11.00 a.m. with our General Expedition Manager Nadine Armbrust in the HanseAtrium. We are taken on a "verbal tour" of the HANSEATIC inspiration and given important information about life on board and we get to know the concessionaires and the expedition team.

Immediately afterwards, Shore Excursion Manager Ramona Lauenstein-Schröter and geologist Dr Hajo Lauenstein, who has spent 17 years of his life in Brazil, introduce us to the first part of the excursions on this trip, from São Francisco do Sul to Rio de Janeiro.

At 15:00, we can visit the experts in the somewhat hidden Ocean Academy, the ship's knowledge centre. They explain how to use the study wall, introduce us to microscopy with binoculars, and show us the rock collection and the small scientific library.

In the afternoon, our biology expert Dr Wolfgang Wenzel gave the first lecture. His topic was "Water, wind and waves - science on the high seas". It doesn't necessarily have anything to do with biology, but a biologist does not just have to know biology, does he? The Earth is the only planet in our solar system that has liquid water and without liquid water, there would be no cruise. South America is the continent of great rivers and the Amazon is quite simply huge. It releases around 100 times more water into the sea than the Rhine does. The water of large forests such as the Amazon rises, rains down, rises again, rains down again and ultimately forms a wind system in the atmosphere. Wind is created by pressure differences. All over the world, the air moves from an area of high pressure to an area of low pressure. This creates wind, which is ultimately responsible for the waves. The waves, in turn, are responsible for seasickness, a topic that my colleague is passionate about.

At 18:30, Captain Ulf Wolter invites us to the Captain's Welcome Cocktail on the pool deck and introduces us to the senior officers of the HANSEATIC inspiration. Champagne or gin and tonic and a few small appetisers to prepare us for our welcome dinner accompany this. The Brazilian sky then presents us with a beautiful sunset.

Then our day at sea is already over, so it is time to head to the cosy bed in our cabin or listen to the sounds of our ocean pianist Alexander Gorlenko in the Observation Lounge or the live music of Stefan Glass on the pool deck.



*Captain Ulf Wolter introduces his team*



*Champagne on the pool deck*

In the evening, the first musical highlight - The best of the Sixties. Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, The Beatles, Udo Jürgens, these stars are still unforgotten today. Marina Kaljushny on piano and Michael Kaljushny (clarinet and moderation) revive the melodies of a wonderful time. A mix of swinging sixties and nostalgia.





*Sunset with a captain's welcome cocktail*

## 01. March / Friday

### At sea towards / in the direction of São Francisco do Sul / Brazil

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Width	Length		Air	Water		
28°55.8' S48°48.3' W		1016	26	26	88	NW 2-3
Sunrise: 06:07				Sunset: 18:45		

The last day at sea before we set foot on the "Terra Brasilis" tomorrow morning, on the land of Brazil, after which Brazil is named. Once again, we take the opportunity to acquire a little theoretical knowledge with the lectures given by our lecturers.

In addition, as we will be setting foot on land in Brazil for the first time tomorrow, the eve is a good opportunity to get to know the most important Brazilian drink a little better. Caipirinha - the second most consumed drink in Brazil.

"Water that the bird won't drink", "Virgin's tears", "Maker of old men", "Urine of the saints", these are just some of the names given to cachaça (sugar cane spirit) in Brazil. Its history begins in the first decades of the Portuguese colonialization of Brazil. At the beginning of the 17th century, the Jesuits were already producing the liquor known at the time as "Aguardente de Cana".

Cachaça soon became an indispensable drink for slaves after hard labour on the sugar cane plantations and in the gold mines and when diving in the cold, gold-bearing rivers. It was then that the saying arose: "You can be badly dressed and badly drunk, but you can never be without a sip of cachaça". The production of the "saint", which was initially used to keep the slaves calm and able to work, to withstand the cold and wet and to barter with Africa, was gradually extended to new horizons.

The ease of production and low production costs quickly made cachaça a "democratic drink" in Brazil. It is not necessary to invest in a large production plant, a small sugar cane farm with a rudimentary distillery is sufficient to produce the very best cachaça quality.

In the 19th century, the production and consumption of cachaça was already so widespread that cachaça became synonymous with Brazil. During the revolution in Pernambuco in 1817 and during the battles that led to Brazil's independence from Portugal, toasting with wine or other drinks that were not cachaça was a sign that one was not aligned with the Brazilian side, but with the Portuguese. This situation escalated to the point where "not drinking" cachaça was seen as an unpatriotic attitude.

During the Paraguayan War and the Battle of Canios, a mixture of cachaça and gunpowder was recommended to soldiers as a sacred medicine against cowardice. Cachaça as a medicine against cold, dampness and cowardice became over time a remedy for all kinds of illnesses in home medicine. Mixed with various

It was used as a remedy for countless diseases such as snakebites, rheumatism, syphilis and menopausal fever. Cachaça was even said to be effective as a medicine against alcoholism. The "sick" person was given large doses of cachaça mixed with owl's blood or cemetery earth!

Of course, cachaça soon found its way into one of the most important aspects of Brazilian life; religion. It is impossible to imagine African "candomble ceremonies" without cachaça. But cachaça soon found its niche in Catholicism too. The poet and composer Melo Morais Filho integrated cachaça into his Christmas cycle called "Baile da Aguardente".

If the various tinctures with cachaça could cure almost all illnesses, then it must also be possible to produce recipes that freed cachaça from the stigma of being a "poor man's drink". Jenipabola liqueur, a noble drink of the middle classes, soon became the drink of the townspeople when mixed with the "saint". In the 19th century, an English engineer served a mixture of cachaça, sugar, lime, cinnamon and red wine at one of his receptions. In the bars of the monarchy, cachaça was served with "golden drops", bitters or Fernet Branca. Today, cachaça is served with lime, sugar and ice as a Caipirinha.

The production of cachaça:

1. The sugar juice is extracted from the raw sugar cane using a simple press. The sweeter the sugar cane, the better.
2. The sugar water is poured into the fermentation trough or tank. It is left there overnight without the addition of any chemicals.
3. Already pre-fermented, the sugar water is now poured into the distillation vessel (Alambique), which is usually made of copper. Here, the sugar water is boiled and evaporated for around six hours.
4. The escaping vapour is routed via a serpentine
5. The vapour cools and liquefies in the serpentine. Now we already have the semi-finished product (pinga or cachaça), which is transferred to a wooden barrel and remains there until it has an alcohol content of around 20 %. For high-grade cachaça, it is distilled again.
6. The first and last 10% of the distillation process (pre-run and post-run or methyl alcohol / blindness and essential oils / headache) are discarded in a good cachaça.

Here are a few more facts:

Brazil produces around 1.3 billion litres of cachaça per year  
Minas Gerais alone produces 180 million litres per year  
In 2002, Brazil exported 12 million litres  
60 countries import cachaça from Brazil

A decree (4.702/02) signed by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso stipulated that the name cachaça may only be used for the corresponding beverage fermented from sugar cane and produced in Brazil.

So how do you make a "real, genuine Brazilian" Caipirinha?

There are so many ways to prepare a Caipirinha and so many types of cachaça in Brazil that one Caipirinha can taste completely different to another in the same city, in a restaurant two street corners away. Nevertheless, there are some basic rules for a good Caipirinha that you should always follow.



### *Caipirinha*

Here is my basic recipe:

#### Ingredients:

1. heavy water glass
2. Wooden pestle
3. 1 organic lime (green, juicy and untreated)
4. 1-2 teaspoons of white! sugar cane sugar
5. 3-4 ice cubes
6. Brazilian sugar cane spirit (cachaça)

#### Preparation:

Firstly, remove the peel from both ends of a juicy organic lime. Then cut the lime open lengthways and remove the white, bitter, membranous centre with a sharp knife. Then cut the lime into 6-8 equal parts and place in a heavy glass of water. If the lime is not juicy enough (like a good lemon), use a squeezer to squeeze the juice from 1 - 2 more limes and add to the glass of water. Very good limes can be found on the market or in Lebanese and Turkish shops.

Then add 1 -2 large teaspoons of white (not brown!!!), fine sugar cane sugar (available in good drugstores). Now crush the limes together with the sugar using a wooden pestle until most of the juice has been squeezed out of the lime pieces. Now add 3-4 large and uncrushed!!! ice cubes to the glass. Shredded ice thaws far too quickly! Now fill the glass up to the rim with sugar cane schnapps!!! (Velho Barreiro, 51 or Pitú). Stir well once more and the Caipirinha is ready. You may drink it without a straw. Saude.

Now to today, the second sea day of our trip. Sea days are great for lectures, and we have three of them in our daily programme. Our expert for Brazil, Dirk Hauptmann, starts the programme and introduces us to "Brazil: geography, history and economy. Brazil is 23 times larger in area than Germany but has only 203 million inhabitants. The largest city is São Paulo, whose metropolitan area is home to around 20 million people. In Brazil, the country's economy is closely interwoven with its history. The five major economic periods run parallel to the historically important dates: Brazil wood - discovery, sugar cane - colonial administration and development of the cities, capital becomes Salvador da Bahia, gold - development of the interior, capital becomes Rio de Janeiro, coffee - kingdom and finally independence.

Then it is the turn of our geologist Dr Hajo Lauenstein. His lecture is entitled "Feldspar, quartz and mica, I'll never forget them". The most important rock-forming minerals will be presented. We will then look at the nomenclature of rocks, which are divided into three main groups, igneous rocks, sediments and metamorphic rocks, which are summarised in the cycle of rocks. The importance of rocks both in the tourism industry and in the economy is emphasised. At the end of his lecture, Dr Lauenstein reminds us that we are surrounded by geology and mineralogy everywhere in our daily lives, with the diamond necklace on our necks, the buildings all over the world, art, be it painting or sculpture, and the landscapes of the earth. You just have to be able to see it. So the next time we visit a church, we don't just want to look at whether it is Romanesque or Gothic, but also what rock it is actually built from and where this rock comes from.

In the afternoon, we learn interesting facts about the conquest of Latin America from Dietmar Neitzke, our ethnologist. Portugal and Spain search for a new trade route to the Far East and discover the "New World". Columbus discovers the Caribbean, Magellan finds the passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific and Alvarez Cabral discovers Brazil almost by chance. In the Treaty of Tordesillas, the Pope divides the world into two halves, a Portuguese and a Spanish hemisphere. The colonisation of South America brings unimaginable misery, both for the indigenous people and for the slaves imported from Africa.

At 18:30, we are shooed out of our cabins by a loudspeaker announcement. We are told to go into the corridor dressed as we are (although we should be minimally clothed) and take an empty champagne glass from the cabin with us. Once the champagne glass is filled with champagne, we can get to know our cabin neighbours in a bathrobe, flip-flops, eveningwear or shorts and a sunburnt face. Great fun for everyone.

We reach Balneário Camboriú late in the evening. Here we are cleared in for Brazil. Let us hope that everything goes well and that we can all go ashore tomorrow.

**02. March / Saturday**  
**São Francisco do Sul / Brazil**

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Width	Length		Air	Water		
26°14.1' S48°39.0' W		1017	28	28	85	ENE 4
Sunrise: 06:09				Sunset: 18:43		

São Francisco do Sul is the third oldest inhabited settlement after the discovery of Brazil in 1500 and is located in the north of the state of Santa Catarina, in the north of the island of Ilha de São Francisco do Sul. It was founded in 1504, but only became independent in 1660 and a city after 1847. It is located on the Atlantic bay of Baía da Babitonga.

São Francisco do Sul has the fifth largest container port in Brazil and is the most important in southern Brazil alongside the ports of Itajaí and Rio Grande. 70% of the town's income is generated here. The harbour is located on the island of Ilha de São Francisco do Sul, approx. 45 km from Joinville, 60 km from Jaraguá do Sul and 160 km from Blumenau. It supplies the above-mentioned towns with goods and the local textile and shoe industry ships large parts of its export cargo here. The draught of the access channel is 14 metres. That is more than enough for our little HANSEATIC inspiration.

Portuguese immigrants, mainly from the Azores, built this town, whose 150 historic buildings have been listed as historical monuments. Despite the busy harbour, the town has retained the character of a romantic place that stretches quietly along the shores of Babitonga Bay. When the French navigator Binot Paulmier de Gonneville anchored in the region in 1504, this signalled the founding of Santa Catarina's oldest settlement. There are 13 beaches in the area, all on the nearby Atlantic Ocean. From the Marechal Luz fortress, which is located on a hill above the town, you have a panoramic view of the island of Paz and the bay. The building was erected in 1909 on the ruins of the Old Portuguese fortress. Around 100,000 tourists visit the city in summer.

Santa Catarina itself is a federal state in the south of Brazil. There are a considerable number of people of German origin in Santa Catarina. Blumenau is famous for its half-timbered houses and its Oktoberfest. Other cities such as the capital Florianópolis, the harbour town of Itajaí, the small town of Pomerode and the textile industry have also made Santa Catarina famous. Some places with German names were Portugueseised, such as Treze Tílias (Thirteen Lines), the "Brazilian Tyrol".

From 1822 to 1889, it was the province of Santa Catarina in the Empire of Brazil. In 1839, the Farrapen Revolution spread to Santa Catarina, where the short-lived Republic of Juliana was proclaimed.

The state has a short border with Argentina to the west. Santa Catarina is bordered to the east by the Atlantic Ocean, to the south by the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul and to the north by Paraná. The capital is Florianópolis, other well-known cities are Joinville and Blumenau.

As early as the beginning of the 16th century, various references to Santa Catarina are mentioned in the records of Spanish seafarers. What is certain is that in 1515, a ship belonging to the explorer Juan Díaz de Solís wrecked on the coast of the state, which can be interpreted as the beginning of colonisation by the Spanish. Later, the Portuguese came to Santa Catarina, especially emigrants from the Azores. In the 19th century, there has been an increased immigration of Italians, Poles, Russians, Belgians and Germans. To this day, these groups continue to characterise Santa Catarina's culture and give this federal state a special, European-influenced charm.

### **The Colonisation Association**

Brazil had been a Portuguese colony until 1815, and in 1822 the Portuguese king's son declared independence. In 1827, the Hamburg syndic Karl Sieveking had already concluded a trade agreement for Hamburg merchants in Rio de Janeiro. After the beginnings could still be kept secret, a "Society for the Promotion of Emigration to the Southern Provinces of Brazil" was founded in the late autumn of 1846 with the aim of settling an area roughly twelve times the size of Hamburg's territory at the time in the provinces of Rio Grande or Santa Catharina. The negotiations dragged on for various reasons. This and the general political situation in Germany meant that the "Society for the Promotion of Emigration to the Southern Provinces of Brazil" was dissolved without a murmur in autumn 1847.

In the spring of 1846, Hermann Blumenau had already travelled to Brazil with the help of the "Society for the Promotion of Emigration to the Southern Provinces of Brazil". Blumenau had drawn on reports and assessments by Johann Jakob Sturz (1800-1877), who had campaigned for the abolition of slavery from his own experience. Sturz had become Brazilian consul for Prussia in 1843. Hermann Blumenau had only been in the service of the Society for a short time. He had returned to Germany in 1848 to recruit settlers. He founded his own settlement in 1850. The projected site was smaller than the one planned three years earlier. The association undertook to settle a fixed number of colonists each year. Slave labour was explicitly excluded. The colony was named "Dona Francisca" in honour of the Princess of Joinville. The first town was to be called "Joinville". Shares were issued to finance the project. The money was to be used to create plots on which settlers could build houses, which would then form the town of Joinville. The settlement grew by 1812 members between 1851 and 1855. In 1867, Johann Jakob von Tschudi's travel report described the great difficulties and adversities at the beginning, but gave a positive outlook. In 1870 the colony had 6500 settlers, in 1880 18000. The "Colonisations-Verein von 1849 in Hamburg" existed until 1897 and was then merged with the "Hanseatische Kolonisationsgesellschaft".

Our fears that the nightly check-in at Balneário Camboriú could take forever proved to be completely wrong, thank God. We had reckoned on about 4 hours if everything went well - everything was ready in 30 minutes. Therefore, our excursions in São Francisco do Sul can start on time.

We have two different excursions on offer. For example, Joinville and a visit to Hemerocallis Park. We arrive in Joinville after a 50-minute bus journey and take a short tour of the most important sights. The influence of the German settlers is still recognisable in many places. We then take a walk through the Hemerocallis Park to discover the wonderful variety of colourful flowering plants. Jordi Castan designed the garden. There are various areas to discover.



*The symbolic flower of Santa Catharina (Laelia purpurata) (c/o Dr Wolfgang Wenzel)*



*Daylily in the Hemerocallis Park (c/o Dr Wolfgang Wenzel)*



The gardens include a water garden, the sun garden and an area especially for daylilies. After a stay of around 1 hour, we return to Sao Francisco do Sul and arrive at the pier on time to catch the last tender to the HANSEATIC inspiration.

However, there is also plenty to discover in São Francisco do Sul itself. Here we first take a guided walk through the narrow streets of the historic city centre of São Francisco do Sul. It is the third oldest city in Brazil and there are more than 400 buildings from the colonial era. We visit the public market and the Nossa Senhora da Graça church, which dates back to 1699, and continue to the Parque Ecologico Municipal (municipal forest), which includes a viewpoint offering a beautiful view of the city and bay.



*The Church of Nossa Senhora da Graça*



*Old town house*

Afterwards, we still have enough time to explore the old town on our own, drink an ice-cold Brazilian beer or try a few Brazilian specialities. Here are a few impressions of the historic centre of São Francisco do Sul:



*House in the old town centre*



*View of the church of Nossa Senhora da Graça*



*View of the historic centre of São Francisco do Sul*

At 15:00, the HANSEATIC inspiration leaves her anchorage and sets course for our next destination, Paraty. We actually wanted to leave at 14:00, but the pilot we need to leave the harbour told us that he would not come until after lunch and a nap on Saturday - we are in Brazil and have to sail a little faster to reach Paraty on time tomorrow.

In the afternoon, Shore Excursion Manager Ramona Lauenstein-Schröter, supported by our Brazil experts Dirk Hauptmann and Dr Hajo Lauenstein, presents the destinations for the second part of our trip.

A recap and precap before dinner. Dr Wolfgang Wenzel reports on Graf Spee and the events surrounding his ship, which was sunk off Montevideo by his own crew. Dirk Hauptmann introduces us to a very special boat that is still used by anglers in northeast Brazil today - the Jangada.

Dr Hajo Lauenstein introduces us to the destinations for the next two days. Paraty and the Ilha Grande - one of the natural highlights of our trip.

### 03. March / Sunday Paraty / Brazil

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Width	Length		Air	Water		
23°12.3' S44°30.0' W		1015	26	28	85	calm
Sunrise: 05:55				Sunset: 18:25		

At lunchtime, the streets of Paraty's historic city centre are almost deserted. The dark cobblestones glow in the heat and lost tourists try to find their way out of the city centre in a hurry. They stumble over the large and irregular slabs, and many a person curses the invention of flip-flops. The city sets the pace here. The tranquil colonial town of Paraty between the big cities of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil is a reminder to take your time. To move slowly, to linger and listen to the turbulent history of the city. Here, only the old colonial buildings defy the temperatures of the Brazilian summer.

If you leave the hot cauldron of the city centre and head away from the coast, just eight kilometres inland, you are greeted by the pleasant shade of the Mata Atlântica. The Atlantic Rainforest covers more than 99,000 square kilometres on the east coast of Brazil. Trees 30 metres high provide shade. Trunk to trunk, their sap-green leaves weave a thick, moist carpet. Locals and tourists flock here to find shelter from the sun and admire the wonders of what remains of the rainforest. Around 350 waterfalls and numerous rivers can be found in the region around Paraty. There are also orchids, sloths and monkeys.

Right next to the Cachoeira do Tobogã runs a section of the pivotal point of Paraty's history: the Caminho do Ouro (which translates as the Gold Trail). It has been closely interwoven with the history of the town since the end of the 17th century. Long before the colonial era, tribes of Tupi-Guarani Indians lived on the coasts of Paraty. They built a network of paths to cross the dense jungle. One of them led from Paraty to the highlands. When gold and precious stones were found in today's neighbouring state of Minas Gerais at the end of the 17th century, the old Indian trail was the fastest transport route from the mines to the port of Paraty and from there to Rio de Janeiro. The Caminho do Ouro made Paraty rich.

Numerous Portuguese settlers followed the call of gold and settled in Paraty in search of nuggets. In the 18th century, 1420 tonnes of gold were mined worldwide, 840 tonnes of which were mined in Brazil. In addition to gold mining, the slave trade also revitalised the city. African slaves extended the old Indian trail to make it accessible for oxen and carts, worked in the mines and were sent on to Sao Paulo.

However, the period of prosperity disappeared as quickly as it had arrived. The Caminho Novo, the New Way, was built - a direct and faster connection between Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro. The Caminho do Ouro had had its day. Paraty increasingly fell into oblivion. In the early to mid-19th century, the coffee trade revitalised the Caminho do Ouro and Paraty once again. Then large landowners decided to build a railway line between Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Paraty and the Caminho do Ouro disappeared from the scene. From 16,000 inhabitants in 1851 the town's population to around 600 by the end of the 19th century. Paraty fell into a slumber.

In 1970, dozens of workers cut a swathe through the dense rainforest and built a road linking Rio and Santos. From then on, life returned to Paraty. The seclusion that had attracted many hippies and artists in the 1950s and 1960s was over. Empty colonial buildings were restored and restaurants and galleries were opened. The old houses were refurbished; guest houses and hotels were opened. The facilities in old cachaça distilleries were polished up. Today, more than 37,000 people live in the city.

Paraty welcomes everyone. Backpackers in search of relaxation, tour groups in search of culture, gourmets and, above all, (survival) artists in search of like-minded people. You can still meet hippies in the streets today, selling home-baked or homemade goods at low prices. They live in cheap accommodation outside the city or sleep on the beach. A colourful mix of Argentinians, Brazilians and Europeans live along a river in the Mata Atlântica. Not in the open air, however, but in a large, semi-open cave that offers them protection from the frequent rainfall in the region. This is a description of this town in Merian.

However, we still have some time before we go to anchor off Paraty and we can use this time for a lecture. Our regional expert Dirk Hauptmann introduces us to Brazilian cuisine, although there really is no such thing as Brazilian cuisine. The dishes from southern Brazil, Minas Gerais and northern Brazil are completely different. In the Amazon region, the regional dishes are strongly influenced by the indigenous dishes of the native inhabitants, in Bahia; African-influenced cuisine dominates, while in the south there are strong influences from Argentina, Germany and Ireland.

The afternoon entrance into the wide bay of Paraty already seems to fulfil all the promises of the travel guides. The steep mountain ranges of the Atlantic rainforest rise gently into the sky. At the entrance to the bay, our HANSEATIC inspiration drops anchor right on time at 13:30 and we can already make out the small town in the distance. It is a long tender journey, almost half an hour. Nevertheless, that should not put us off. The first tender boat leaves the ship shortly before two, as there are four different excursions on the programme for the afternoon.

The tour begins with a ride in an off-road vehicle. Along the Caminho de Ouro, the gold road that used to connect the gold mines in Minas Gerais with the harbour town of Paraty, we first drive to the Pedra Branca waterfall. The journey continues to a cachaça distillery, where we learn how this Brazilian sugar cane spirit is produced. In addition, of course there is a tasting session. After visiting another waterfall, we return to the ship.

Of course, the programme also includes a schooner trip in this fantastic world of small islands, hidden bays and dreamlike beaches. We have time to enjoy the wonderful landscape, time for swimming and snorkelling.



*Waterfall in the Atlantic rainforest*



*Excursion with the schooner*

However, most guests opted for a walk through historic Paraty. Moreover, rightly so. This small town from the middle of the 18th century, from the heyday of Brazil, the time of gold, is a real gem and therefore a must-see.

Nowadays it is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A 90-minute walk through the narrow, cobbled streets, whitewashed houses with colourfully painted windows and doors, richly decorated stylish façades, small shops and art galleries is sure to impress everyone. The whole experience is rounded off with, how else it could be, a sip of cachaça, the typical Brazilian sugar cane schnapps. The footbridges that we sometimes have to walk over are also interesting, as the streets in the city centre are often flooded during high tide. This is because these streets used to end directly in the water of the bay, making it easier to transport goods directly from land to ship and vice versa.



*At the Paraty pier*



*Flooded road at low tide*

*Here are some more impressions from the city tour in Paraty:*







Gourmets and amateur chefs will have lots of fun on a cookery course with internationally renowned chef Yara Roberts.

Many of us spend the afternoon in Paraty, as this city has a very special flair, especially in the late afternoon. Moreover, we will not encounter the culinary specialities of Caicara cuisine on the rest of the trip. However, we need to be careful not to miss the last tender departure back to the ship at 18:30 in the face of Brazil's national drinks, ice-cold beer and Caipirinha.



*Evening hour on the pier*

## 04. March / Monday Ilha Grande / Brazil

Midday position		Air pressure	Temperature (°C)		Humidity	Wind
Width	Length	hPa	Air	Water	%	Beaufort
23°07.8' S	44°09.6' W	1014	26	27	79	N 2
Sunrise: 05:54				Sunset: 18:00		

Azure blue sea in front of dense Brazilian jungle and guaranteed relaxation: 108 kilometres from Rio as the crow flies, the "big island" spoils many holidaymakers. However, few people know the dark past of Ilha Grande.

Ilha Grande, around three hours from Rio de Janeiro, is a welcome opportunity to escape the hustle and bustle of the beaches of Copacabana and Ipanema. If you arrive by boat from the coastal town of Angra dos Reis on Ilha Grande today, you will feel little of the dark past in the village of Vila do Abraão - the island's main town. A few cosy cafés and restaurants, some located directly in the foothills of the waves, as well as a few pousadas (guesthouses) underline the first impression of having arrived in paradise. Abraão, where the island's daily life takes place, is considered the island's main centre. The majestic jungle rises up directly behind the village. An Eldorado for hikers and nature lovers.

Abraão is also the starting point for all tours to the island's beautiful beaches. Cars are prohibited on the island and would be of no use. There are no roads, only sandy and muddy hiking trails. Therefore, the only option for visitors is to walk, sometimes through the impassable jungle. Exhausting, but beautiful. What often awaits at the end? A secluded bay or a dreamy beach. For example, Lopes Mendes, the most famous beach on the island and one of the most beautiful in Brazil. The 10-kilometre hike across the island takes an athletic six hours. A more comfortable option is to take a taxi boat to a neighbouring beach. From there, a 30-minute walk leads to Lopes Mendes.

Tropical juices, tropical animals and tropical plants: the days just fly by on Ilha Grande. After two or three nights, you forget how long you have been on the island. Howler monkeys, parrots, water turtles and various snake species ensure a wide variety of wildlife. Around 5000 inhabitants live on Ilha Grande, many live from fishing, but tourism is the most important source of income. Several ferries and speedboats from Angra dos Reis, Mangaratiba or Conceição call at the Abraão pier every day. Several cruise companies also have the island in the Atlantic in their programme. There is a pharmacy and numerous supermarkets, but you will not find an ATM or a bank here. It is therefore advisable to take enough cash with you. However, it is possible to pay by credit card in almost all restaurants.

There is little to suggest the dark past of this now idyllic island. After all, Ilha Grande was once something like Brazil's Alcatraz. A penal camp was officially founded there in 1903, followed by the Colônia Penal Cândido Mendes prison, which housed members of militant left-wing extremist groups from the 1960s onwards. Things became extreme with the emergence of the major criminal organisations at the end of the 1970s. The Comando Vermelho (Red Commando), or CV for short, which still dominates some of Rio's poor neighbourhoods today, is one of them. It was not founded in some favela in Rio, but on Ilha Grande.

Many of the CV's key decision-makers were once imprisoned on Ilha Grande, where murder orders were issued inside, outside the prison, where bank robberies and drug deals were organised, and from where the CV spread to the favelas. The location was also chosen because escaping from the island was considered hopeless at the time, as the mainland was 21 kilometres away. Organised crime spread like a virus from Ilha Grande to Brazilian society. Even the destruction of the prison in 1994 did nothing to change this. Today, almost nothing reminds us of the dark times. The island is a recreational paradise for holidaymakers - including those from Europe. As soon as you set foot on the island, all you really have to do is grab the national drink Caipirinha, switch off, and enjoy. According to a report by n-TV.



*The remains of the former prison near Abraão*

We have a whole day and a whole evening to explore this paradise. Four organised excursions and plenty of opportunities for individual exploration - quite difficult to decide.

This cultural hike is the easiest and shortest of the hikes on offer. The tour starts at the landing point in Abraão and first leads to the church of the small village and on to the beautiful Praia Preta beach with stone carvings by the indigenous people. Here we have the opportunity to take a refreshing dip in the sea. The route then takes us to the old military hospital and on to an overgrown aqueduct in the forest with another short swim in a natural pool. On the way, we learn interesting facts about Ilha Grande, the history of gold and slavery in Brazil.

The path is flat and leads over sandy ground or forest paths, interrupted by a few rocky sections, back to Abraão.



*The aqueduct*



*The beach of Lopes Mendes*

Lopes Mendes Beach on the south side of Ilha Grande is certainly one of the most beautiful beaches in Brazil. Due to the swell, (the beach faces the open sea), it cannot usually be reached directly by local boats or Zodiacs, but only on foot. An almost 1-hour boat trip on a schooner takes us from Abraão along the beautiful coast to a pier on Mangues Beach on the east side of the island. From here, we walk for about 30 minutes on forest and rocky paths through the interior (steep ascent and descent of about 15 minutes each). We then reach the long Lopes Mendes beach with its powder-white sand. This paradisiacal beach is unspoilt, i.e. there are no restaurants or sanitary facilities here and shade can be found under the trees. After a good 2-hour stay, which we can use for a swim or another walk to the nearby St Antonio beach, we return to Abraão on foot and by boat.

From the landing point in Abraão, we set off early in the morning on a challenging 3½-hour hike to Feiticeira beach. The initially flat path leads across Praia Preta beach to an overgrown aqueduct in the forest. This is followed by a long, sometimes steep ascent of around 45 minutes on forest paths with roots and rocks. The route continues uphill and downhill to a waterfall that invites you to take a refreshing dip. The stones at the waterfall are slippery, so be careful here. After about 30 minutes, the last section of the hike begins: In around 45 minutes, we descend to the small, beautifully situated Feiticeira beach. After another swim at the beach, we are picked up by a local boat and taken back to Abraão.



*The second highest mountain, the Pico de Papagaio (986m), can be seen from everywhere*



*The Feiticeira waterfall*



*The beach of Feiticeira*

Then there is the boat trip to the bay of Saco do Ceu, including a delicious lunch. This leisurely excursion takes us to the bay "Himmelsack". Surrounded by mangroves and high mountains, the bay is known for its crystal-clear water. The first beach we reach is Praia de Fora. Here we have an hour's free time to swim and relax. We then continue to Love Beach. On the onward journey, we discover the mangroves and finally visit a typical restaurant where we are served a tasty lunch of moqueca, a typical Brazilian fish stew. After a further 30-minute boat trip, we arrive back at the jetty.



*Praia de Fora*

In the evening, our HANSEATIC inspiration is still in the bay of Angra dos Reis off Abraão until 23:00, allowing us to enjoy the night-time atmosphere in the village.



*Abraão by night*



**05. March / Tuesday**  
**Rio de Janeiro / Brazil**

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Width	Length		Air	Water		
22°53.6' S43°11.2' W		1015	31	25	85	E 3
Sunrise: 05:50				Sunset: 18:17		

Rio de Janeiro is the second largest city in Brazil after São Paulo and the capital of the state of the same name. It is located on Guanabara Bay in the southeast of the country. The name (German: River of January) is based on a mistake made by the navigator Gaspar de Lemos, who discovered the bay on 1 January 1502 and mistook it for the mouth of a large river. Just over 6.7 million people live in the administrative urban area, while the metropolitan region of Rio de Janeiro has around 13.3 million inhabitants. This makes Rio de Janeiro one of the world's mega-cities.



*The Ilha Fiscal in Guanabara Bay*

From 1815 to 1821, Rio de Janeiro was the capital of the Kingdom of Portugal and Brazil and, following Brazil's independence in 1822, the country's capital until 1960. It then ceded this function to Brasília, but remains the country's most important commercial and financial centre after São Paulo. From 1808 to 1822, the city was also the seat of the Portuguese court, which had to flee to Brazil due to an attack by Napoleon Bonaparte. The inhabitants of the city are called Cariocas, after a word from the Tupí-Guaraní language of the Tupinambá, which means "white man's hut".

Rio de Janeiro's landmarks are the Sugar Loaf Mountain, the 38-metre high figure of Christ on the summit of Corcovado and the beach in the Copacabana district, which is considered one of the most famous in the world. The city is also known for the annual Rio Carnival. The colourful parade of samba schools is one of the biggest parades in the world.

Rio de Janeiro is located immediately north of the Tropic of Cancer, nestled between the Atlantic Ocean to the south, Guanabara Bay to the east and the foothills of the Serra do Mar, part of the central Brazilian highlands, to the north and west. Rio is characterised by the bays and beaches along its shores, as well as by granite hills called Morros, which are part of the foothills of the Serra do Mar.

These granite hills also include Rio's two landmarks, the 394 metre high Sugarloaf Mountain, located directly on a peninsula in Guanabara Bay, and the 704 metre high Corcovado with the statue of Christ on the summit. Another is the 533 metre high Morro Dois Irmãos. The highest point in the urban area is the 1022 metre high Pico da Tijuca, which lies in the middle of an extensive nature reserve.

The urban area is divided into two parts by a chain of hills. The Zona Sul (South Zone) stretches along the Atlantic coast with the famous beach districts of Ipanema and Copacabana. The northern part, on the other hand, comprises the historic city centre and today's business centre as well as the districts in the north.

In accordance with the Treaty of Tordesillas, the Portuguese laid claim to the territory of present-day Brazil, which was discovered at the end of the 15th century. In 1680, Rio de Janeiro became the capital of the southern regions of Brazil; at this time, the settlement was one of the most important Portuguese bases on Brazilian territory with around 4,000 inhabitants. From 1700 onwards, Rio de Janeiro developed into the most important port city in Brazil, mainly due to gold discoveries in the neighbouring region of Minas Gerais.

Although the city was attacked and occupied by the French in 1710 and was only able to achieve the withdrawal of the French for a high ransom, it recovered quickly in the following years and became the capital of the Viceroyalty of Brazil on 27 January 1763.

Rio de Janeiro experienced a further significant increase in importance in 1808, when the Portuguese court fled there in connection with the French invasions of Napoleon's forces marching on Lisbon. A large number of artists, scientists and aristocrats moved to Brazil with the court, and the economic and cultural life of the city underwent enormous change. The Brazilian National Library, for example, can be traced back to the collections brought by the Portuguese royal family. In 1815, Rio de Janeiro became the capital of the United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil and the Algarves.

In the course of this, many colonial restrictions were lifted, which greatly promoted economic development and triggered a population explosion that lasted until the 1980s. Within just under a hundred years, the population rose to over 500,000 inhabitants (1891) and reached around five million by 1980.

At the beginning of the 19th century, Rio became a transshipment centre for the African slave trade in South America. Around 900,000 slaves reached the continent via the Valongo Wharf in the city centre, which was started in 1811.

The Portuguese royal court returned to Portugal in 1822 because of the Liberal Revolution that broke out in Portugal in 1820. After the departure of the Portuguese court, Brazil declared itself an independent empire under Prince Dom Pedro de Alcântara. Rio de Janeiro retained its status as the capital, where the prince now resided as Emperor Pedro I. Due to succession disputes in Portugal and domestic political problems in Brazil; he abdicated in 1831 and left his underage son behind. He ascended the throne as Dom Pedro II in 1840. Among other things, he initiated the construction of a railway, the first section of which was opened in Rio de Janeiro in 1858, followed by the Companhia Ferro-Carril de São Cristóvão in 1873.

Even when Brazil became a republic after a military coup in 1889, Rio de Janeiro remained the capital. In the first half of the 20th century, Rio de Janeiro experienced a social boom, as the city became a focal point for film stars and international high society. Some Portuguese writers, such as the writer and translator Jorge de Sena, sought refuge in Rio de Janeiro from the "statist" authoritarian dictatorship Estado Novo in Portugal, founded by António de Oliveira Salazar. A final cultural outgrowth of this era was the emergence of Brazilian jazz bossa nova from 1957 onwards, which became world-famous thanks to songs such as Garota de Ipanema/The Girl from Ipanema by Antônio Carlos Jobim and Vinícius de Moraes.

With the advent of mass tourism in the second half of the 20th century, the image of the districts close to the beach in particular has changed dramatically and is now characterised above all by numerous hotels, while the districts further away from the sea have been characterised above all by increasing slums, known as favelas.

In 1960, Rio de Janeiro lost its status as capital to the city of Brasília, which was newly built under Juscelino Kubitschek. At the same time, the city became an independent city-state of Guanabara, which was merged with the state of Rio de Janeiro in 1975. The city became the capital of the new state. The city gained international political attention again in 1992 when the UN Environment Summit was held there.

As a venue for the 2014 FIFA World Cup and host of the 2016 Summer Olympics, the city once again attracted the world's attention, but was only able to keep its head above water financially with the help of the German government.

The first highlight of Rio begins before we even set foot on land. Just in time for sunrise, our HANSEATIC inspiration sails past Copacabana and Sugarloaf Mountain into Guanabara Bay. The statue of Christ rises steeply into the sky above the beaches of Botafogo and Flamengo - without being shrouded in clouds as usual. Passing Ilha Fiscal, we quickly reach the Maua pier. Our shore leave can begin.



*Entrance to Guanabara Bay, directly under the Sugar Loaf Mountain with the Corcovado in the background*



*The statue of Christ on the Corcovado*

Unfortunately, we only have one day to experience this fascinating city. For those of us who have never been to Rio de Janeiro before, the full-day excursion is practically necessary. It includes everything you could possibly want to see in Rio, which of course includes two mountains primarily. Therefore, our shore excursion begins with a bus ride to the Corcovado mountain railway, which takes us up through the Tijuca National Forest to the comfortable Corcovado.

Once at the top, a breath-taking panoramic view opens up over the city and the bay, the surrounding landscape, the Sugar Loaf Mountain and, of course, the unmissable statue of Cristo Redentor. It all takes time and now we fortify ourselves with a barbecue in a typical Brazilian restaurant. We then pass the beaches of Ipanema and Copacabana on our way to the second mountain, Sugar Loaf Mountain. A modern cable car takes us up to the top, from where we can once again enjoy the fantastic view over Rio and the Bay of Guanabara.



*The cable car to Sugar Loaf Mountain*



*The cathedral of Rio de Janeiro*

If you would like to swap the Corcovado for a city tour, we can also help. The half-day excursion city tour/ walking tour and Sugar Loaf Mountain, including a stop at the Cathedral of Rio de Janeiro, a work by a student of Oscar Niemeyer, is ideal for this.



*View of Copacabana from the Sugarloaf Mountain*

In addition, those who would rather stand under the Christ the Redeemer statue and skip the Sugar Loaf Mountain are well catered for on the "Corcovado and Rio's beaches" excursion.

If the hustle and bustle of the big city is too much for you, take the Jeep to the Tijuca Forest. The Tijuca National Park is the largest forest area in the world surrounded by a city. We make our way through the rainforest in various jeeps. We drive past the Cachoeira dos Macacos ("Waterfall of the Monkeys") and learn about the history of the reforestation process and the importance of the Mata Atlantica. At Vista Chinesa we marvel at the most beautiful viewpoint Rio de Janeiro has to offer. Here we can admire the whole city from a bird's eye view, including its landmarks Corcovado and Sugar Loaf Mountain.



*Vista Chinesa in the Tijuca National Forest*



*View of Rio de Janeiro from the Vista Chinesa*

If you have some time before or after the excursions, take a stroll along the pier to the Amanhã Museum, the museum of tomorrow, a futuristic building, both from the outside and the inside. The museum is a science museum and was designed by the Spanish neo-futurist architect Santiago Calatrava and built next to the promenade on the Maua pier.



*The Museu Amanhã*

If the approach to Rio de Janeiro in the early hours of the morning was already a real highlight, it is easily topped by the exit. It is pitch dark but all parts of the city are brightly lit. The statue of Christ at the top of the Corcovado is illuminated and a small cloud above it gives the statue a halo. Directly in front of us, aeroplanes land and take off at Santos Dumont city airport. The sky is repeatedly lit up by small thunderbolts. Simply unearthly beauty. Moreover, all this while enjoying a sail-away cocktail on the pool deck.



*Bye bye Rio de Janeiro*



## 06. March / Wednesday

### Armação dos Búzios / Brazil

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Width	Length		Air	Water		
22°44.7' S	41°53.5 W	1017	25	28	86	S 3-4
Sunrise: 05:46				Sunset: 18:11		

Since its "discovery" by Brigitte Bardot and Jacques Cousteau in 1964, Búzios, formerly a sleepy fishing village, has been known as the "Pearl of the Costa do Sol" 160 kilometres east of Rio de Janeiro.

The population has tripled since 1997, mainly due to immigration, including from Germany. The population was estimated at 33,240 on 1 July 2018.

Tourism became the most important economic sector before fishing: in Brazil, only Foz do Iguaçu and the five metropolises (Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Salvador, Recife and Brasília) record overnight stays by foreigners than little Búzios. Brazilians consider Búzios elitist. The tourism infrastructure and varied gastronomy at a high level are unique in South America - in a small area.

The town centre is located on a 16 km<sup>2</sup> hilly peninsula. There are 25 beach bays around the peninsula. The year-round balanced maritime climate with low rainfall (740 mm annual average) and the relative proximity to Rio de Janeiro (170 km) also contribute to the popularity of Búzios, as does the well-preserved fishing village atmosphere due to strict building regulations: In Búzios, only one- and two-storey buildings are permitted, and construction is prohibited on most beaches. There are no large or multi-storey hotel complexes in Búzios, instead there are numerous family-run mini-hotels (pousadas) and "guest houses".

Without Brigitte Bardot, Búzios would never have become what it is today. In January 1964, Brigitte Bardot chose a small fishing village to spend her holidays. Afterwards, the place, Armação dos Búzios, became known as B.B.'s secret paradise. Brigitte Anne-Marie Bardot was born in Paris on 28 September 1934 and enjoyed a very strict upbringing. She began her career as an actor and singer in her youth and became world-famous in 1957 at the age of 23. That year, Brigitte played the leading role in the film "And God Created Woman". From then on, the actor was known by the initials B.B. and became the biggest sex symbol of the time. She has not been seen on the big screen since the 1970s. She is an animal rights activist who speaks out clearly on this subject in the press.

The time Brigitte Bardot spent in Búzios changed the reality of the seaside resort. Thanks to the presence of the world's biggest film star at the time, Búzios made it onto the front pages of newspapers and magazines all over the world.

The actor visited the city twice. The first time was between 13 January and 28 April 1964, when Brigitte stayed in a house on Manguinhos beach accompanied by her boyfriend Bob Zagury.

The second stay took place from 18 December of the same year to 8 January 1965. During this time, the actress lived in a house in what is now Rua das Pedras, but no longer anonymously. Her previous visit was already well known and the press flocked to the place. The harassment by reporters and photographers meant that B.B. did not return to the city after New Year's Eve 1965. In her memoirs, she writes about her first stay: "There was no telephone, no fridge, no running water, but I was by a sea that was like sky-coloured champagne, and I experienced the most beautiful days of my life".



Brigitte Bardot em Búzios

We now have a whole day to visit this elite spot for Brazilians. In addition to the charming main town, there are 23 beaches spread across a peninsula. The success of Búzios is not least due to its privileged climate. The town has around 210 days of sunshine a year and an average annual temperature of 26 degrees. This makes the schooner trip to the beaches and islands of Búzios the ideal excursion. A beautiful schooner, ice-cold drinks, one bay more beautiful than the next, swimming, snorkelling and letting the good Lord be a good man. That is the motto of this excursion.

If you want to be active yourself, get into a Hawaiian canoe (unfortunately it turned out to be just two normal kayaks tied together) and canoe for around 1½ hours through the crystal-clear water along some of the beaches. The effort is then rewarded with a barbecue lunch consisting of various courses.

If you prefer to travel on land, you can choose between a trolley tour and a scenic bus tour. One bay after another is approached on bumpy cobblestones. Canto, Arma ção, Ossos, Azeda, Azedinha, João Fernandez, João Fernandinho, Brava, Forno Ponta da Lagoinha, Ferradura. Will we be able to tell them all apart in our photos later?



*The beaches and bays of Búzios*

Back in the town, we then have enough free time along the Rua das Pedras to go shopping, have lunch, drink a Caipirinha or simply take a stroll along the Orla, the main street. Where can we find the famous bronze bust of Brigitte Bardot? Where all the tourists are clustered with their mobile phones out, of course. Just a few hundred metres from the pier where we land with our Zodiacs. The sculpture of the three fishermen bringing in their nets in the water is also beautiful. Here are some impressions of Búzios and its bays.



*Who counts the bays, counts the beaches?*



*Praia João Fernandes with red garnet sand*



*The Rua das Pedras*

Time passes quickly and at 17:30 the last Zodiac returns to the HANSEATIC inspiration, where a barbecue awaits us in the evening under the Southern Cross. Fine food from the grill, cool drinks, background music by Alexander Gorlenko and Stefan Glass. Travelling can be so beautiful.



*The statue of Brigitte Bardot*

**07. March / Thursday**  
**At sea / direction Porto Seguro / Brazil**

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Width	Length		Air	Water		
19°57.0' S	39°17.6' W	1020	27	29	92	N 4
Sunrise: 05:38				Sunset: 17:59		

The history of Brazil begins two years after the official discovery of the New World by Columbus in the small Spanish town of Tordesillas, or, depending on your point of view, in Porto Seguro, where we plan to arrive tomorrow. Therefore, here is some information about the "discovery" of Brazil.

In 1494, the New World was divided between the kingdoms of Spain and Portugal by an arbitration award of Pope Alexander VI. All territories already discovered and yet to be discovered were divided "for all eternity" along a north-south demarcation line 370 miles west of the Cape Verde Islands claimed by Portugal into a Spanish zone of influence to the west and a Portuguese zone of influence to the east. The other seafaring nations of France, England, Italy and Denmark were simply excluded.

Portugal wanted to retain control of the sea route to India along the African coast, specifically to secure the lucrative spice trade in the Pacific region and to keep the African route free from Spanish influence. Spain, on the other hand, wanted to secure control and rights over the western lands recently discovered by Christopher Columbus (the Americas, thought to be India).

It almost is understood that the other major maritime powers such as England, France and Holland did not recognise this treaty. The Portuguese sailor Alvarez Cabral discovered Brazil in 1500 on 22 April. He set foot ashore at Porto Seguro in what is now the state of Bahia. Like all great adventurers, explorers and conquerors, Cabral was mainly searching for riches, gold, silver, diamonds and emeralds for the Portuguese crown. If not that, then at least exotic spices from the Moluccas or silk from China.

However, he only found naked Indians who wore flowers, seeds and bird feathers as jewellery, had no permanent dwellings and no religious temples. So nothing with gold, silver, diamonds and other precious stones. As a result, the discovery of Brazil was initially a failure for Portugal and poor Cabral even became the laughing stock of the Portuguese court.

While other world sailors from Mexico and Peru brought back tonnes of gold and silver and the finest spices from India to their home country, Cabral only had a few plant samples and two parrots to show for it. Cabral fell out of favour at court and never took part in any more expeditions.

In 1504, also at Porto Seguro, the French set foot on Brazilian soil. They too found nothing but Cabral. No gold, no silver, no precious stones. But the French discovered something that the Portuguese had missed.

Brazil wood (*Caesalpinia echinata* from the legume family). Chopped up and boiled in lye, the wood produced a wonderful crimson or purple-coloured dye, which was ideal for dyeing textiles, especially for the clergy and nobility. Previously, the purple dye could only be extracted from the purple snail with great effort. After the discovery of pau brasilis, or Brazil wood, the land was renamed Terra Brasilis, "Earth of the True Cross", from Terra de Vera Cruz, "Earth of the Brazil Wood".

Brazil's first major economic period began with Brazil wood. On the coast from the equator to the Tropic of Capricorn, the tree was felled with the help of the Indians. By 1550, almost all the brazilwood, which grew up to 20 kilometres inland, had been felled. By 1900, there was almost no more pau brasilis up to 180 kilometres inland. More than 70 million trees were felled in 3 hundred years. From 1500 to 1550, brazilwood was the only source of income that Portugal had from its colony. The felling of the pau brazils also marked the beginning of over a hundred years of war and hostilities between the French and Portuguese for supremacy on the Brazilian coast.

So much for the story, but now to today's plan. After a leisurely breakfast, we can admire yesterday's "find of the day" under the microscope in the Ocean Academy. Our biologist Dr Wolfgang Wenzel had deployed the plankton net and found a few things in it.

Before lunch, our geologist Dr Hajo Lauenstein gave a lecture. He explained the geology of Brazil using a number of tourist highlights, which in turn are linked to the development and history of Brazil. The Brazilian mountains, including Sugar Loaf Mountain and Corcovado, are the remnants of the ancient Gondwana continent that have survived to this day. The fact that Brazilian coffee dominates the world markets is due to the drifting apart of Gondwana. The Table Mountains on the border with Venezuela lie on the rocks of Gondwana and have resisted weathering to this day and the dunes of the Lençóis Maranhenses desert boast hundreds of lakes and a wide variety of colours due to a simple layer of clay.

The afternoon continues with a lecture by our regional expert Dirk Hauptmann. His topic is "Capoeira and Candomblé, the Afro-Brazilian heritage".

Afterwards, ethnologist Dietmar Neitzke will report on the Indians in Brazil "10,000 years of life and survival".

Before dinner, the last recap of our trip. Dirk Hauptmann and Dr Hajo Lauenstein prepare us for activities in Porto Seguro and Salvador da Bahia. In the recap, Dietmar Neitzke introduces us to corvids and frigate birds.

## 08. March / Friday Porto Seguro / Brazil

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Width	Length		Air	Water		
16°27.1' S	39°02.6' W	1018	30	25	86	E 3
Sunrise: 05:37				Sunset: 17:55		

Porto Seguro is considered Brazil's historical heritage, as the Portuguese navigator and conqueror Pedro Álvares Cabral first set foot on Brazilian soil near the city on 22 April 1500. The place name Porto Seguro translates as safe harbour and indicates the function of the town from the perspective of the sailors who landed here. The 30th June 1534 is considered the date the town was founded. In 1980, there were still 5,000 inhabitants here, today there are 150,000. 500 hotels make Porto Seguro the third largest tourist centre in Brazil, just behind São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

The city is now considered one of Brazil's most important tourist destinations and is visited by tourists from Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile and Europe. The city and its surroundings have several luxury hotels and hundreds of smaller hotels, as well as an airport that is well connected to the major Brazilian cities. In addition to tourism, other important economic sectors are agriculture (especially cashew and coconut cultivation), reforestation with eucalyptus trees, livestock farming, trade and services.

The Monte Pascoal National Park was established in 1961 to preserve the place where Portuguese warriors discovered Brasilia. It includes marshlands, salt marshes, river swamps and a coastline around the rocky, high, round hill that is considered the first land point seen by the crew of Portuguese traveller Pedro Álvares Cabral. It covers an area of 144.8 square kilometres, including the protected area of the Pataxó tribe. In addition to its historical significance, it also provides protection for one of the last areas of Atlantic forest in northeast Brazil. The area serves to preserve valuable woods such as brazil wood and is still home to many endangered animal species, including the collared sloth and the black bear.

We anchor shortly after 06:00 in front of the coral reef that lies in front of the beach and the town. The walk to the pier, today with our tenders, takes about 20 minutes and the tenders sail continuously every full and half hour.

The first two excursions, trekking in the Atlantic rainforest and a visit to the Indio village of Jaqueira, start at 07:30. A huge jackfruit tree trunk, toppled by nature itself, stands for the return to the origins and serves as a historical and cultural reference in honour of the ancestral fathers and mothers of the Pataxó families who recently moved to this 8.27 square kilometre Indian reserve. Their huts, scattered throughout the original forests of the Atlantic Rainforest, have retained their original format and give visitors the impression of being transported back 500 years to the time before the colonisation of Brazil.





*Weevils (c/o Dr Wolfgang Wenzel)*



*Bromeliad (c/o Dr Wolfgang Wenzel)*



*Insect? (c/o Dr Wolfgang Wenzel)*

1º de Maio de 1500

Porto Seguro

E assim seguimos nosso caminho  
por este mar de longo, até que  
cerca-feira das Citavas de Pascoa,  
que foram vinte e um dias de Abril,  
topamos alguns sinais de terra.

E saber primeiramente de  
um grande monte, mui alto  
e redondo, e de outras serras mais  
baixas ao sul dele.

e de terra chã, com grandes  
arvoredos, do qual monte  
alto o capitão pôs nome  
**D MONTE PASCOA**  
e a terra a Terra de Vera Cruz!

Pêro Vaz de Caminha

Description of the discovery of Brazil by Pero Vaz de Caminha

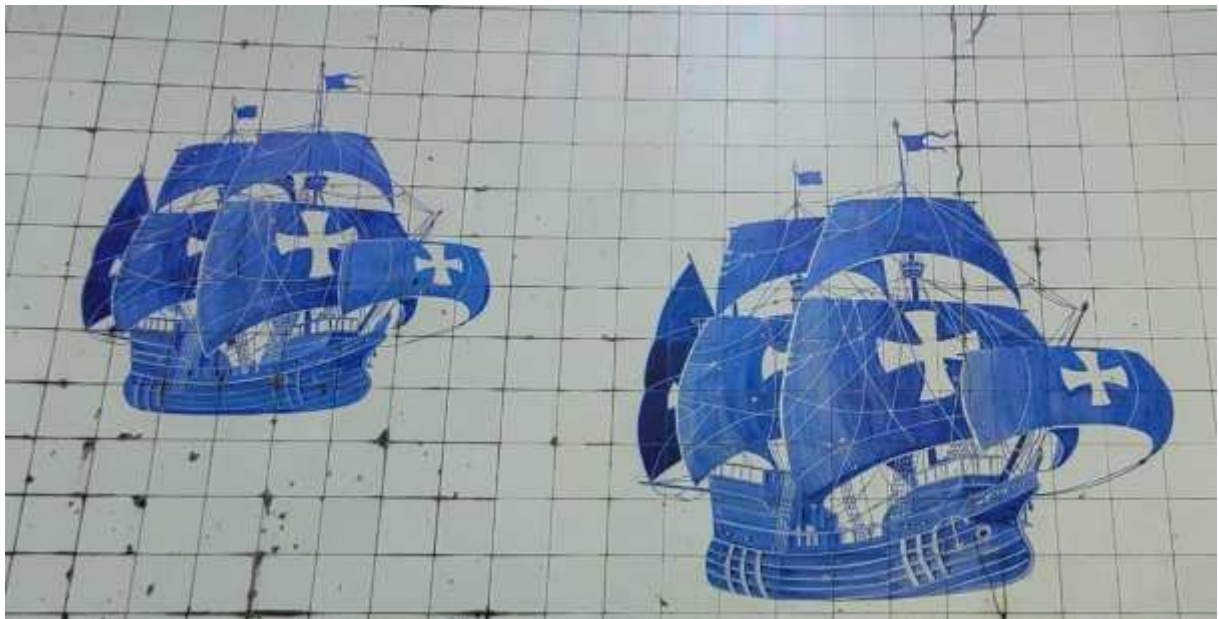
*" 1 May 1500, Porto Seguro*

*So we follow our destiny across this wide sea until we arrive at our destination on the Tuesday before Easter. 21 April we saw signs of land. At least one large mountain, towering and round, and other lower hills below it. And large trees underneath. Therefore, the captain gave the mountain the name Monte Pascoal (Easter Mountain)*

*and the land the name Earth of the True Cross.*

*Pero Vaz de Caminha"*

The next two excursions start at 08:30 and are virtually identical. One is a city tour without a stay on the beach and the other is a city tour with a stay on the beach. Firstly, after a brief introduction to the history and significance of Porto Seguro, we take the bus to the upper town and go on a one-hour walking tour.



*Depiction of two caravels*



*Church with a fence from "Fitinhas"*



*House in the upper town*

The historical site in the Cidade Alta is a national cultural monument. It was one of the first cities in Brazil and played an important role in the early years of European colonisation. It comprises 3 churches and around 40 buildings (including private homes and public buildings), which were restored by the state government to mark the 500th anniversary of the discovery of Brazil. The Church of Nossa Senhora da Penha Matrix is located in Pero de Campos Tourinho Square in Cidade Alta and was built at the end of the 18th century. It consists of a nave, a main chapel, a sacristy and a bell tower.



*Maculele demonstration*



*Capoeira demonstration*



*Acaraje*

After admiring the beautiful old houses and visiting the churches (which were usually all open, which is only the case three days a month), we go to a nice shady square to watch a short but crisp maculele and capoeira show. Then we go to two small stalls. A Bahia offers us tasty acarajés to try and at the stand next to it, we can sample two delicious, ice-cold fruit juices, graviola and cacau, two fruits that are completely unknown to us, as we only know the beans and not the tasty, slightly sour flesh of the cacau. Now that we have fortified ourselves, we take the bus to the lower town where we have enough time to fortify ourselves with beer, Caipirinha and/or a typical Bahian snack in one of the pubs for the next four days at sea after Salvador.



*Houses in the lower town on the Passarela do Alcool*

At 14:00 sharp, the HANSEATIC inspiration is back on its way to the last destination of our voyage, Salvador da Bahia.

Therefore, there is enough time for another lecture in the afternoon. Our biologist Dr Wolfgang Wenzel has chosen the Atlantic as his topic. Geography, myths, ocean currents are some of the topics. How did people in the past and today perceive the Atlantic? How big is the earth? How did global trade develop - the famous route to the Spice Islands around Africa, planned by Henry the Navigator, executed by the best navigators of the 16th century (Bartolomeu Dias, Vasco da Gama, Cabral or Magellan are just a few names). How did the exchange between the New World and the Old World change the flora and fauna and the history of nations? Many questions, many answers.

Before dinner, the members of the Hapag-Lloyd Cruises Club meet for a cocktail behind the Ocean Academy.

Although we are travelling along the Brazilian coast, tonight's motto is "Italia! Amore mio! - Romantic, classical, cheerful. Marina and Michael Kaljushny will immerse us in the musical world of the Italian composers Rossini, Bellini and Paganini or enjoy the film music of Morricone, the Neapolitan Canzone and the Tarantella.

**09. March / Saturday**  
**Salvador da Bahia / Brazil**

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Width	Length		Air	Water		
12°58.2' S	38°30.9' W	1016	31	30	80	calm
Sunrise: 05:37				Sunset: 17:51		

Although Brazil wood was the most important economic sector until the end of the 16th century, we will only talk about the economic cycle of Brazilwood until 1550. From 1550 onwards, a new Brazilian product began to dominate world trade for 150 years. Sugar cane. In the 15th century, sugar was still an incredibly expensive commodity and was only available to the king and the nobility. One kilo of sugar was worth one gram of gold. Around 1530, Martim Afonso de Sousa introduced the sugar cane plant during a military and colonisation expedition.

As the growing conditions for sugar cane on the Brazilian coast were ideal, sugar cane plantations sprang up everywhere from Salvador onwards. The cane sugar cultivation area stretched from the equator to the Tropic of Cancer near today's Rio de Janeiro, and up to 200 kilometres inland, just like the deforestation area of Brazil. The centre of sugar cane cultivation, however, was Salvador.

However, growing sugar cane economically required a little more effort than cutting down the Brazil wood. Agricultural knowledge and equipment were needed. Sugar cane mills had to be built, incredible amounts of firewood were needed to produce sugar, the farms and workers had to be supplied with food, livestock was required, transport routes from the plantations to the factories and the coast had to be created, harbour facilities had to be built, expanded and protected. The first towns were built. An administration had to be introduced. Briefly: Brazil now really had to be colonised. Portugal had to invest.

Until 1550, the coastal strip was still divided into 15 self-governing "capitanias", but now a governor general was appointed and the country was placed under the direct administration of Portugal. The first governor-general, Tomé da Souza, had extensive military, civil, judicial and fiscal powers. Salvador da Bahia was established as the capital of the colony.

However, one of the young colony's biggest problems was the catastrophic shortage of labour. Most of the Indians had been wiped out by the measles. The remaining tribes refused to do any work on the plantations, unlike in the felling of Brazil wood. In addition, the forcible enslavement of the Indians was, if not completely prohibited, and then extremely restricted by a decree from 1570. So where would the necessary labour come?

From 1550, one of Brazil's darkest chapters began in parallel with the sugar cane cycle. The African slave trade, which was absurdly promoted by the Jesuits in particular, who in turn wanted to protect the Brazilian Indians from enslavement.

Around 1570, there were around 3000 black Africans living in Brazil. Around 1600, 70% of all workers on the "Engenhos", the sugar cane factories, were black. At that time, there were only around 100,000 inhabitants in the whole of Brazil. In total, around 6 million Africans were trafficked to Brazil and enslaved.

The end of the 17th century saw the first crisis in sugar cane cultivation in Brazil. Due to global overproduction, the more productive plantations in the Caribbean became more and more established. Although sugar cane is still an important economic factor in Brazil today, it can be said that around 1700 the sugar cane cycle in Brazil was over for the time being.

The city of Salvador da Bahia is so interesting that almost all the guests have decided to take part in a city tour. Therefore, five buses, each with 23 guests, set off 15 minutes apart to explore the lower and upper city in four hours. The first stop is at the beach, at the lighthouse in the Barra district. Then we drive to the upper city where the bus spits us out at the Lacerda lift. Here we enjoy a wonderful view of the lower town with the lift, the sculpture of the "Mayor's Butt", the Mercado Modelo and Fort Marcelo lying in the sea. We then continue on foot to the small "Memoria Bahiana" museum and on to Praça da Sé where we learn interesting facts about the first bishop of Salvador (stranded in a storm and rescued only to be eaten by Indians). Directly behind the bishop is another sculpture, "Zumbi", the black hero of the liberation of slaves.



*The Barra lighthouse*





*The old town hall*



*The Lacerda lift, Mercado Modelo and the sculpture "The Mayor's bum"*

From Praça da Sé, we continue to São Francisco Square. Now we visit two fantastic churches, the cathedral, the only one of the churches on the Pelourinho that was not built in the Baroque style, and the São Francisco church, the "most golden church" that Brazil has to offer. So that we do not get dehydrated, we are supplied with fresh, cold coconut milk straight from the nut at a stand before we watch a small capoeira show. 30 minutes of free time are enough to buy a few souvenirs or try an acaraje, which the Bahianas prepare in their small stalls in a very tasty and clean way.

Then we continue down to Pelourinho Square with the Church of the Slaves. Our bus is waiting there to take us back to the pier on time.



*Capoeira music group*



*São Francisco Church*



*Interior of the São Francisco church*



*Pelourinho Square*

Some guests have opted for the excursion to Praia do Forte. There we can find out about the TAMAR project, a turtle breeding programme, and spend time on the beautiful beach, including lunch.

The HANSEATIC inspiration leaves All Saints' Bay punctually at 15:00 and we set off on the long, four-day journey to the final destination of our voyage, Belém.



*Sunset behind Salvador da Bahia*

Before dinner, cruise consultant Heike Plura invited Captain Ulf Wolter and our expert Dr Wolfgang Wenzel to an interesting talk. "The trip of a lifetime...to Antarctica".

Then it is time for the "Chefs' Dinner". There are culinary creations from all over the world. Each chef prepares his or her favourite dish today. So that we can get to know the chefs personally - the kitchen is a "no go area" for the guests - all the chefs introduce themselves after dinner over a cosy digestif in the HanseAtrium.

**10. March / Sunday**  
**At sea / direction Belém / Brazil**

Midday position		Air pressure	Temperature (°C)		Humidity	Wind
Width	Length	hPa	Air	Water	%	Beaufort
09°27.8' S	35°12.8' W	1015	30	30	89	ESE 4
Sunrise: 05:25				Sunset: 17:36		

You can use a day at sea like this to think about whether you would like to serve a traditional Brazilian dish to your friends, relatives or acquaintances at home. Here is my suggestion:

**Moqueca mista bahiana**

**Ingredients for four people**

500 g	Sea bass(es) or another firm-fleshed white fish, sliced
400 g	Shrimp(s)
2 toe/s	Garlic
2	Onion(s)
1	Lemon(s), juice thereof
2	Pepper(s), red and yellow
2	Tomatoes
½ waistband	Coriander
2	Hot peppers
	Salt and pepper
300 ml	Coconut milk
3 TBSP.	Palm oil (Azeite de dendê)

**Preparation**

Wash and dry the fish. Sprinkle over the lemon juice and season with salt and pepper.

Peel the onions and cut into half rings. Wash the peppers and tomatoes and cut into rings. Wash and finely chop the coriander, peel and finely chop the garlic.

Lightly fry the garlic in a large pan or frying pan in a little palm oil. Then remove the pan from the heat and place a layer of onions, a layer of tomatoes, the fish and the prawns on top. Spread the finely chopped peppers and the rest of the onions over the fish, then add the tomatoes and finely chopped chillies. Finally, add the coriander. Now add the coconut milk.

Place the pot or pan back on the hob and simmer for approx. 20 minutes with the lid on. At the end of the cooking time, add the remaining palm oil and simmer for a further 10 minutes with the lid on.

It goes well with rice, farofa and pirão. You can find out what farofa and pirão are on the Internet.

Note: It is somewhat difficult to find the right fish here. It should definitely be a firm fish and not fillets, as these fall apart too quickly. The fish should still have a bite. You should be able to find it in an Asian market, for example, as well as palm oil (dendê - also rather difficult). Original fish varieties such as cação or garoupa are used.

And this is roughly what it should look like:



*Moqueca Mista Bahiana*

However, we will have to wait a little longer before cooking. Instead, we can sweeten the day with lots of sport so that we can feast without a guilty conscience. Throughout the day, we can take part in the "walk the cruise" on our own. In addition, our fitness coach has the following to offer: 08:00 circuit training, 10:50 shuffleboard, 15:00 abdominal special, 15:45 fascia training and 17:30 stretch & relax.

There are also lectures, of course. Geologist Dr Hajo Lauenstein explains how the geology of South America and some of the most beautiful tourist highlights go together. Convergent plates - the Andean volcanoes, the Atacama Desert and Torres del Paine, divergent plates - the Amazon and the Iguazú waterfalls, hotspots - the Galapagos Islands.

Our Guest Relation Manager Harro Bourauel is a true expert when it comes to Hapag-Lloyd history and stories. In his presentation, he regales us with anecdotes and incredible events from the world of Hapag-Lloyd shipping. A wide arc from the merger of Hapag and Lloyd, to Albert Ballin, the inventor of the cruise, to our modern expedition ships.

In the afternoon, we suddenly slow down and finally stop. What has happened? Is there a problem with the engine? Not at all, we have spotted a fishing cutter, get a Zodiac ready and head over to see what fresh fish there is. We make a find and head back to the ship with bonito and jackfish. We are already looking forward to lunch or dinner tomorrow.



*Lone fishing boat with fresh fish for our kitchen*

In the afternoon, regional expert Dirk Hauptmann will introduce us to the music and musicians of Brazil. The lecture begins with the most famous piece of music from Brazil, "A garota de Ipanema", and ends with Brazilian rap music. There is something for every musical taste in Brazil, be it bossa nova, axé, samba, sertanejo or choro.

At 18:15, we meet on the pool deck for an aperitif at the aperitif bar. Afterwards, a South American dinner awaits us in the Lido Restaurant.



*Mystical atmosphere at the aperitif bar*

Marian and Michael Kaljushny are responsible for the night programme today. Under the title A tribute to Giora Feidmann awaits us with "Bei mir bist du schön". We enjoy the popular Klemzer melodies, Jewish songs and Jewish humour. The musical pieces by Gershwin, Heymann and Goodman are a declaration of love to the joy of life.

**11. March / Monday**  
**At sea / direction Belém / Brazil**

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Width	Length		Air	Water		
04°19.4' S36°20.1' W		1015	30	30	86	E 3-4
Sunrise: 05:25				Sunset: 17:35		

Even though we were told the history of the Brazilian monarchy in different variations by our experts on board as well as by the local tour guides on site, a written summary on the second day at sea cannot hurt.

Brazil and its monarchy

**Joao VI**

Imagine Rio de Janeiro in the year 1808. The capital of Brazil, 50,000 inhabitants, almost everyone illiterate, filth and sewage in the streets, unbearable stench. People ate with their hands from the table and not with a knife and fork from the plate. A rather rustic environment, to put it mildly.

Thirty-six caravels with 15,000 people on board set sail for this tropical paradise in 1808. When the French prepared to occupy Portugal, King John VI did something monstrous. Instead of fighting Napoleon and being overrun like all the other states at the time (Waterloo was still a long way off), the Portuguese royal house decided to move the capital of Portugal from Lisbon to Rio de Janeiro.

With 36 ships, some on loan from Great Britain, the impressive fleet arrived in Rio de Janeiro with the king, the aristocracy, the ruling classes from the bureaucracy, the landowners, the clergy and commerce, the state treasury and the national library. This overdevelopment is unique in history. For the first and only time, a colonial power relocates the capital of its empire to a colony. From then on, Portugal was ruled from Rio de Janeiro for 13 years.

These fine and noble 15,000 people first needed houses. So the royal officials set out to explore the city with pots of red paint. Each suitable house had a red cross painted on the door. "Confiscated for the Crown". It was that simple back then. Of course, there was no financial compensation, but at least there was a title of nobility. The Brazilian aristocracy was born. This title entitled the bearer to two important things. Firstly, they were allowed to take possession of land not occupied by the Portuguese, and secondly, they could keep an unlimited number of slaves there. In search of land, the exiles travelled towards Sao Paulo. All the land up to the Paraiba River was occupied and occupied by coffee farms. So they crossed the river, cleared the forest and planted coffee plantations. What nobody realised, however, was that they were no longer growing their coffee plants on weathered granite, a poor soil, but on extremely valuable weathered basalt. Coffee had finally started its economic triumphal march through Brazil. It was thus an irony of fate that the very people who were expropriated and thrown out by the Portuguese crown later became coffee barons and provided the economic basis for financing the monarchy.



However, everything also changed in Rio de Janeiro itself. Before 1808, Brazil was a colony that was only exploited. There were almost no schools and no universities. Magazines were banned and there were no theatre performances. Brazil had no processing industry whatsoever. The entire cotton production had to be sold to Portugal at a special (cheap) price. Textiles were not allowed to be produced. These had to be bought in from Portugal (expensive). There were hardly any beautiful houses or streets. The gutter was a cesspit.

Now Brazil was suddenly no longer just a colony, Rio de Janeiro was now the capital of Portugal, and the nobility wanted to have it cosy. The Brazilian harbours were officially opened to ships from friendly nations. Newspapers and books were allowed to be printed. The ban on manufacturing was lifted. Universities were founded. Theatre performances and fashion shows with international casts came to the new capital. Large, wide boulevards were laid out in Rio de Janeiro. Culture and the economy flourished.

### **Pedro I**

In 1821, the pressure on John VI to return to Portugal grew ever greater. On 24 April, John VI handed over power to his son, Pedro I. On 25 April 1821, John VI left for Lisbon with 3,000 courtiers, the government and the state treasury. It came as it had to. Brazil was to be forced back under the direct rule of Lisbon. Taxes were increased and attempts were made to strangle the economy. Pedro reacted quite indignantly to the policies of the Portuguese crown. When the court then declared the Brazilian regent to be a "rebel", Pedro's patience ran out.

Brazil's independence began on 7 September with the famous proclamation "Independence or death". Pedro was proclaimed Emperor Dom Pedro I on 1 December. In South America, Brazilian independence is a special historical case. Only in Brazil did the monarchical form of government remain in place for more than 60 years after independence.

Brazil experienced an essentially peaceful and bloodless transition from colony to independent state. The political, economic and social structures also remained largely intact.

Despite multiple attempts at secession, the unity of the country remained intact. Despite the huge differences in this immeasurably large country, the institution of the monarchy was probably the decisive factor in national unity.

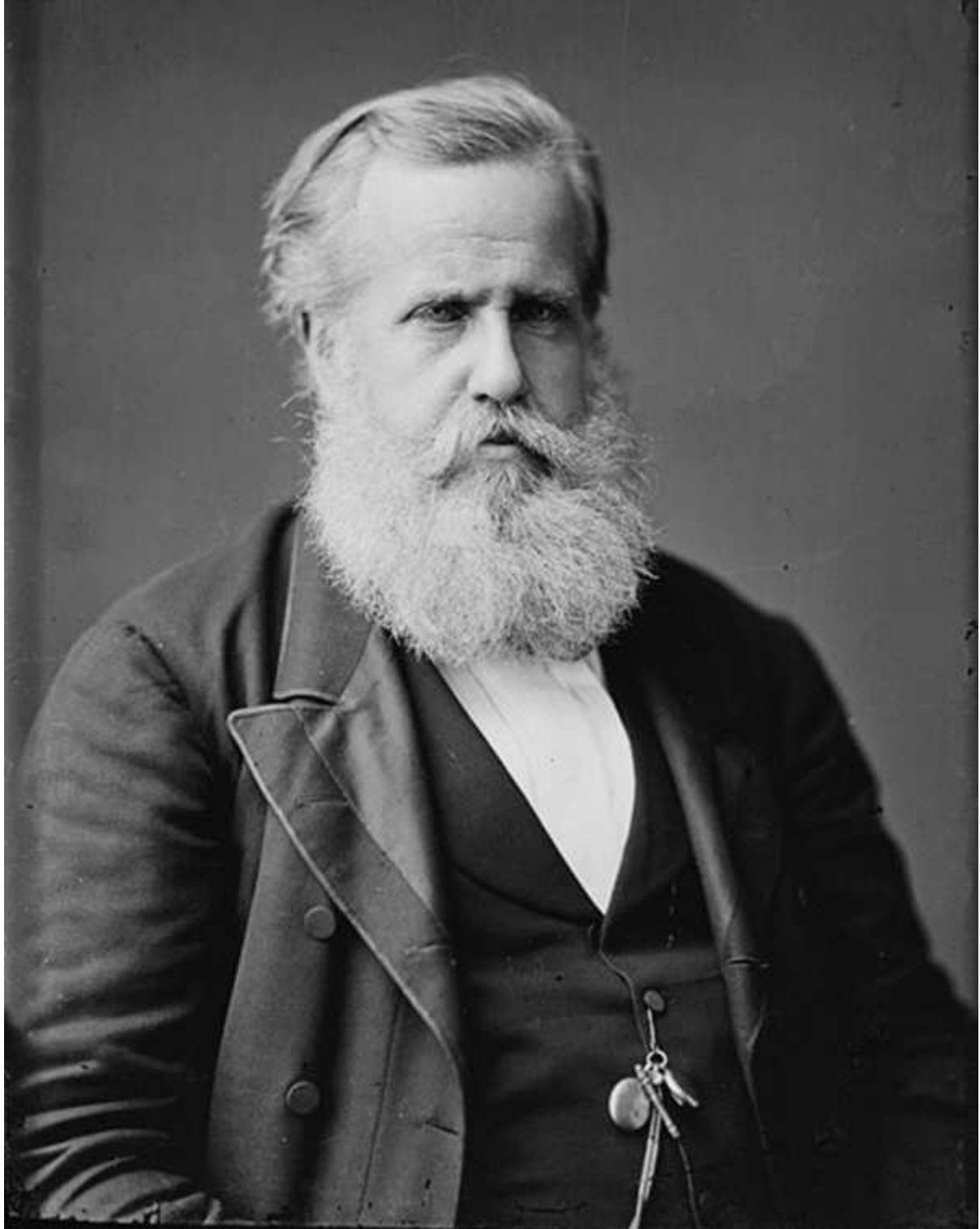
Now back to Pedro. Pedro I's reign was anything but happy. He was increasingly at odds with parliament. When Pedro then endeavoured to succeed to the throne in Lisbon after the death of his father and thus increasingly neglected Brazilian affairs, it hardly surprised those in the know that Pedro I abdicated in 1831 in favour of his only 5-year-old son Pedro de Alcantara and returned to Portugal. For Brazilians, Pedro I has hardly gone down in history as a monarch and politician. Two key points characterised his time in office. The declaration of independence and the fact that Pedro I was considered the greatest womaniser in Brazilian history. Small and ugly, he distributed his blue genes quite indiscriminately among the female population. For the fact that he actually only ran after women's skirts, he achieved quite a lot. Emperor of Brazil, champion of Brazilian independence and, shortly before his death, King of Portugal. If that is not a career for an apolitical man.



*Pedro I*

The decade that followed saw little progress for Brazil. Pedro II was still a child and could not yet receive the imperial crown. The complete lack of an integrating figure in Brazilian politics, which is exactly what the emperor was supposed to be according to the constitution, led to the internal disputes between the various parties bringing Brazil to the brink of civil war. Uprisings and separatist movements, especially in the northeastern states, were the order of the day.

### **Pedro II**



*Pedro II*

Unlike his father, Pedro II was a thoroughbred politician. He carried out his first political masterstroke at the age of 14, an age at which I myself was still almost playing in the sandpit. Pedro rallied the fragmented opposition and liberal forces and encouraged them to introduce a change to the law in parliament, which stated that every Brazilian was of legal age at 21. Except for the Prince Regent. He is already of age at 14. After all, he's almost emperor. The law was introduced and passed. Pedro the Second was crowned the second and last emperor of Brazil at the age of 14.

This marked the beginning of 50 good years for Brazil. Pedro succeeded in reuniting the divided parties. He allowed conservatives and liberals to govern together. The monarchy as an institution was no longer called into question. The independence movements became fewer and fewer. The idea of national unity and a sense of togetherness grew. National pride emerged. The economy flourished thanks to coffee. Pedro II penned much of what is still good in Brazil today. The canalisation of Rio de Janeiro is, unfortunately, still from this period. A railway network was created, although it no longer functions today. The completely deforested Tijuca forest around the statue of Christ was reforested over a period of 13 years. The "Bondinho" on the Corcovado was built.

Pedro was a person who was interested in everything, art, history, politics, but also science. He was multilingual and was nicknamed the "teacher of the nation". The first Brazilian telephone, which connected his summer residence in Petrópolis with the Imperial Palace in Rio, was a personal gift from Alexander Graham Bell. It was on display at the World's Fair in Philadelphia. Pedro had a lively conversation with Mr Bell, with the result that he was allowed to take the piece with him at the end of the exhibition. Pedro was also a keen crusader. On several trips, he visited Scandinavia, Italy, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, China, India and the USA, where he stayed for 18 months. We Germans also have something to thank Pedro II for. He generously supported the construction of the Festspielhaus in Bayreuth.

However, despite all the praise for Pedro II, he must also be blamed for two serious failings that still weigh heavily on Brazil today and were the reason for the end of his reign. Firstly, Pedro II made no effort whatsoever to combat the increasingly rampant corruption system. To this day, most of the big politicians, the moneyed aristocracy and the big landowners are still direct descendants of the 15,000 who came from Lisbon to Rio de Janeiro in 1808. Today, Brazil is one of the 10 most corrupt countries in the world.

On the other hand, Pedro II did nothing to actively abolish slavery. This is even more astonishing as he himself was an absolute opponent of slavery. In 1871, the "Vento Livre" law was passed, which stated that every child born in Brazil from a slave was free. This amendment was hardly ever applied.

It was not until 1888 that Princess Isabel, Pedro II's eldest daughter, signed the "Act Aurea", which promised the slaves unconditional and immediate release. Therefore, it was not the aged monarch, who was in Europe to recover from a lung disease, but the representative appointed by him who pushed through this law.

This made Brazil the last country in the world to officially abolish slavery. Unfortunately without the necessary political groundwork. The country lost its free labour force from one day to the next. The former slaves were only occasionally prepared to continue working on the fazendas in return for payment.

The harvest rotted in the fields, industry collapsed, and with it the political and economic system of the monarchy.

In 1889, the last glittering ball of the monarchy took place in Rio de Janeiro, in the buildings on the Ilha Fiscal.

The following day, the republic is proclaimed and the imperial family is put on a ship to Portugal. This marks the beginning of the modern era for Brazil at the end of the 19th century.

Now back to the HANSEATIC inspiration and our day at sea. Three expert lectures are scheduled for today. Our biologist Dr Wolfgang Wenzel starts at 10:00. His topic is "Life in the oceans - everything but fish" Does this also exclude whales? However, this lecture is mainly about small and microorganisms in the oceans.

At 11:45, Dr Hajo Lauenstein asks "Geology and art - or is geology art"? People have been using rocks in many different ways since the Stone Age. They were not only used to make tools, knives, axes or arrows. Rocks were also used for aesthetic purposes, for body painting, for rock paintings or for art purposes in general. Cleopatra might never have been so successful without azurite and Tutankhamun even used rocks from outer space to consolidate his fame. Dr Lauenstein tells us many exciting and interesting facts about these and other connections between art, geology and mineralogy.

In the afternoon, our ethnologist Dietmar Neitzke gave an exciting lecture. Under the topic "Mask stage, feather jewellery and men's houses", he compared two of Brazil's indigenous ethnic groups.

Before dinner, it's "Knowledge before seven". Our experts look back on the journey, which is slowly ending. Dr Wolfgang Wenzel looks at the topic of sea turtles, Dr Hajo Lauenstein talks about Brazilian gemstones, Dietmar Neitzke tells us about the origin myth of the Kayapó and Dirk Hauptmann reports on the origins of the Makulelê, which we were able to admire in Porto Segura.

After dinner, Nadine Armbrust invited Captain Ulf Wolter, Head Chef Björn Seidel and Hotel Inventory Controller Miguel Schott to the HANSEATIC inspiration talk. Then it is time to get back into the cosy bed and sleep off tomorrow.

**12. March / Tuesday**  
**At sea / direction Belém / Brazil**

Midday position		Air pressure	Temperature (°C)		Humidity	Wind
Width	Length	hPa	Air	Water	%	Beaufort
01°56.6' S44°04.1' W		1016	29	30	89	E 3
Sunrise: 05:45				Sunset: 17:52		

Many guests have asked me about Brazilian gemstones, especially in Salvador. Therefore, here is a brief summary.



*These are the locations where Brazil's most important "precious stones" are found*

It all began at the beginning of the 18th century when enormous quantities of gold were found in the Rio das Velhas River near Mariana in the state of Minas Gerais. The beginning of the serious colonisation of Brazil.

In the middle of the 18th century, enormous quantities of diamonds were found in the region around Lençóis. The frenzy lasted less than 50 years, after which Lençóis fell back into a slumber that has only been somewhat awakened by tourism to this day.

However, there was a second gold rush. Gold was found in the Serra Pelada in the 1980s. 50,000 Garimpeiros came here to mine for gold under unimaginable conditions. One claim was exactly one cubic metre in size. The world-famous Brazilian photographer Sebastian Salgado captured the working conditions in an unforgettable photo book.

*Serra Pelada*



Close to Mariana, near Ouro Preto, there is a tiny deposit of marvellous Imperial topazes that are found nowhere else in the world.



*Imperial Topaz raw*



*Imperial Topaz polished*

The Bahia emerald is a crystal specimen with nine large, intensely green protruding emeralds on mother rock. It is the largest known emerald specimen and contains the largest emerald crystal ever found. The specimen weighs around 341 kilograms and was found in 2001 in an emerald mine in the small town of Pindobacu in the Brazilian state of Bahia. Disputes over ownership have been ongoing since 2008 and were awarded to a consortium of three diamond traders by a US court in 2015. The Brazilian state also claims ownership of the specimen.



*The famous Bahia emerald*



In Rio Grande do Norte, in addition to "normal" tourmalines, so-called Paraiba tourmalines are also found, whose colour is similar to that of green gummy bears or green neon lights. As these tourmalines are extremely rare, they achieve the highest prices in good quality.



Last but not least, aquamarine. Enormous quantities of the very best qualities are still found today. In 1910, the largest crystal ever was found in the state of Minas Gerais near the town of Teofilo Otoni. It weighed 110.5kg. In 1992, the largest aquamarine ever cut was produced from a crystal weighing 26kg. It was named "Dom Pedro" after the two Brazilian emperors. In 1993, the gemstone cutter Bernd Munsteiner used it to create the famous work of art "Waves of the sea". It has a size of 48x41cm.



*The raw crystal for "Waves of the sea"*



*The finished work of art*

A particularly beautiful colour variety of aquamarine was named "Martha Rocha" after a Brazilian beauty queen.

So much for the Brazilian gemstones, but now to our day at sea. As on the two previous days at sea, today is also "sea day is lecture day". Our ethnologist Dietmar Neitzke takes us on a journey through the world of sea myths of the "Old World", with the somewhat modified biblical saying "In the beginning was the water" - what do the theologians think about this...



*Rainbow in the early morning.*

The highlight of the day follows at 11:00. The "All Star" expedition team under legendary coach Tizian competes against the "World Selection Guests" in shuffleboard. Tizian succeeds in forcing a draw against the professional guests with an ingenious tactic. With the help of our ethnologist Dietmar Neitzke, he invokes the rain gods, who promptly make it rain before the guests can score a single pin, and the All Stars cannot either. It is clear that a shuffleboard game has to be cancelled for safety reasons when it rains

While we dealt with marine myths in the morning, the afternoon will be a little more scientific. After our biologist Dr Wolfgang Wenzel told us yesterday about everything that is not fish in the oceans, today's talk is about fish and other things.

In the afternoon, regional expert Dirk Hauptmann takes us on a journey through the folk festivals and folklore of Brazil.

Before dinner, Captain Ulf Wolter, cruise consultant Heike Plura and expert Dietmar Neitzke will meet on stage in the HanseAtrium to give us an entertaining talk about a trip to the north, for example through the Northwest Passage, to Spitsbergen or to Greenland.



The nautical chart of the voyage

The farewell cocktail awaits us in the HanseAtrium in the evening, of course. Captain Ulf Wolter bids us farewell on behalf of the entire crew of the HANSEATIC inspiration. On this occasion, the nautical chart of the voyage is also raffled off. The legendary shanty choir of the HANSEATIC inspiration then invites us to sing along to the sea shanties. What an exciting and thrilling day. Let us see what tomorrow, the last day of our journey along the Brazilian coast, has in store for us.

### 13. March / Wednesday

#### At sea/ direction Belém / Brazil

Midday position		Air pressure	Temperature (°C)		Humidity	Wind
Width	Length	hPa	Air	Water	%	Beaufort
23°07' S44°09' W		1014	28	27	78	E 2-3
Sunrise: 06:02				Sunset: 18:09		

Now our trip is almost over and you have experienced some typical Brazilian things, some perhaps not. Here is a list of 20 curious facts about Brazil and the Brazilians.

Different countries, different customs. Brazilians celebrate their football, love samba and carnival. All of us have probably realised that the caipirinha simply tastes best in South America's largest country. However, did you also know that...?

1. There is always a solution in Brazil? The so-called Jeitinho Brasileiro is used to solve any everyday problem. It refers to the dubious ability to circumvent regulations, ordinances and bans. Jeitinho is a diminutive of jeito, which means "way out".
2. There are Brazilian clergymen who regularly preach in buses?
3. There are family toilets in some new Brazilian football stadiums? Even the Brazilians do not know what to make of the sign depicting a man, woman and child. Who is allowed in? Who isn't? There are two cubicles inside, which are the same size as in normal toilet areas. Now everyone uses them - except families.
4. In Brazil, practically anyone and anywhere can build a house if they are fast enough is? The law prohibits demolition once the house is standing.
5. Most showers in Brazil only have two temperature settings. Verão (summer) stands for cold water, Inferno (winter) for warm water.
6. a journey by public bus in Brazil always costs the same, regardless of whether you only take one stop or to the terminus?
7. Brazilians wear probably the tiniest bikinis in the world, (Fio Dental, translated floss) but would never lie on the beach without it? This is considered deeply immoral and can even result in legal proceedings.
8. Brazilians finish work at 1 p.m. during their national team's World Cup matches are allowed to. Nevertheless, most of them stop work at 11.30 a.m. on match day.
9. Distribute sweets to all passengers on public transport buses. In a second round the seller collects the packs or receives the corresponding purchase price.

- 10..... The seats in Brazilian football stadiums will have seat numbers for the first time at the World Cup? So far, the fans have always looked for an empty seat. That was also the case at the 2013 Confederations Cup.
11. ... an Amazonian Indian would never tell a stranger his indigenous name? The Indians believe that they would lose their soul if they did.
12. ... In many churrascarias the guest finds a plastic card on the table that has a red and a green side? If you are full, you put the card with the red side up. Green, on the other hand, means: I want more! That way, the waiters with their meat skewers always know what you want.



*The "No meat - more meat" card*

- 13..... more motorbikes are built at the World Cup venue Manaus than anywhere else in the world. The world? In fact, more Harley-Davidsons are manufactured in this city of two million on the Rio Negro than in the entire USA.
- 14..... every city in Brazil has its own mobile phone area code. The numbers are different additionally by the caller, who must enter a two-digit operator code, depending on their provider.
- 15..... in São Paulo the baby markets, DIY stores and supermarkets are open on Sundays? The city's largest fitness centre, on the other hand, remains closed.
- 16..... you can order a pizza with ice cream in most Brazilian pizzerias?

17.....no car stops at one of the numerous zebra crossings in Brazil? Even the police ignores the waiting pedestrians.

18..... school often only starts in the afternoon? Only about half of Brazilian children learns in the morning, just like in Germany.

19. ...the toilet paper should not be thrown into the toilet, but into an adjacent bucket.

20. ...Rio de Janeiro was the capital of Portugal for several years.

It does not help. If you are not travelling on to the Amazon, you have to pack. But maybe there will still be some time left, for example for the presentation of the photos from this trip by our photographer Scott or the presentation of the travel film by our "video countess" Ramona Harttig.

In addition, when all the clothes are in the suitcase, we might still have time for a very, very last lecture in the afternoon. Dietmar Neitzke has also come up with an extra-long title for this: "Of primeval oceans, sea gods, the mistress of the sea animals and the woman who fell from the sky". A journey through the world of marine myths, part 2 America.

**14. March / Thursday**  
**Belém / Brazil**

Midday position		Air pressure	Temperature (°C)		Humidity	Wind
Width	Length	hPa	Air	Water	%	Beaufort
16°26.4' S48°29.2' W						
Sunrise: 06:19				Sunset: 18:26		

The bridge, the tour guides, the expedition team and the entire crew of the HANSEATIC inspiration as well as the author of this publication wish you a safe journey home.

As there is also an editorial deadline for this travel diary, the daily schedules presented here from 13 March onwards are based purely on speculation. If there are any last-minute changes, please add them yourself in handwriting in the "Own notes" section.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Hajo Lauenstein 13 March 2024**  
**([www.lauenstein.world](http://www.lauenstein.world))**