



OPANIJE

CULTURAL IMMERSIONS

Experience the Soul of Afro-Brazilian Culture

Salvador, Bahia • Brazil

November 2025 – February 2026

A Pewus Venture Experience

Welcome to Salvador

Salvador, Bahia, is the beating heart of Afro-Brazilian culture. As Brazil's first capital and one of the oldest colonial cities in the Americas, Salvador offers an unparalleled immersion into the rich traditions, spiritual practices, music, and dance that define the African diaspora in Brazil.



Opanije Cultural Immersions invites you to journey beyond tourism into authentic cultural experiences. Our carefully curated itineraries align with Salvador's most significant festivals and traditions.

What Makes Our Immersions Special

- ◆ Hands-on percussion and Afro-Brazilian dance classes with master instructors
- ◆ Participation in authentic festivals and religious celebrations
- ◆ Guided tours of UNESCO World Heritage sites and sacred spaces

- ◆ Market visits and culinary experiences featuring Bahian cuisine
- ◆ Small group sizes ensuring personal attention and cultural depth
- ◆ Expert local guides with deep knowledge of Afro-Brazilian traditions

01

November 2025

Black Consciousness Celebration

Celebrate Black Consciousness Month with an immersive journey into Salvador's African heritage.



7-Day Itinerary (November 19–25, 2025)

Day 1 (Nov 19): Arrival & Welcome Dinner

Arrive at Salvador (SSA) airport and receive your transfer. As the sun sets, we'll gather for a Welcome Dinner in the enchanting Santo Antônio Além do Carmo, a neighborhood of cobblestone streets and colonial charm, setting the stage for your cultural journey.



Day 2 (Nov 20): Black Consciousness Day

A powerful day of history and sound. Main Event: Commemorate Zumbi dos Palmares. You'll join thousands in the historic march from Campo Grande to Pelourinho, a deeply moving testament to Black pride and heritage. Evening: Dive hands-on into your Class 1: Percussion, learning the foundational rhythms that pulse through Salvador's very soul.



Day 3 (Nov 21): Dance, Markets & Senses

Morning: Embody the culture in an Class 2: Afro-Brazilian Dance class. This is not just choreography; it's about connecting your body to the ancestral movements and spiritual expressions that liberate the soul. Afternoon: A true sensory immersion at Feira de São Joaquim, Salvador's vast, authentic market. Navigate a maze of colors, aromatic herbs, potent spices, and the vibrant, chaotic energy of local commerce.



Day 4 (Nov 22): Lower City Faith & Folklore

Morning: Class 3: Percussion (Session 2). Rejoin your mestre (master) to build on yesterday's rhythms and deepen your connection to the music. Afternoon: Tour the Cidade Baixa (Lower City), visit the sacred Igreja do Bonfim to tie your wish

ribbon, and walk the historic Ribeira waterfront. Evening: Be dazzled by a world-class performance from Balé Folclórico da Bahia, Brazil's only professional folkloric dance company.



Day 5 (Nov 23): Island Paradise

Escape the city for a full-day boat trip across the magnificent Bay of All Saints to Ilha dos Frades and historic Ilha de Itaparica. This is your day to breathe in the salt air, relax on pristine beaches, swim in turquoise waters, and experience the tranquil beauty of Bahian island life.



Day 6 (Nov 24): Beach, Dance & Bohemian Nights

Morning: Class 4: Afro-Brazilian Dance (Session 2). A final dance session to connect with the ancestral movements and spiritual expressions of the diaspora. Afternoon: Relax at the iconic Porto da Barra beach, known for its calm waters and historic forts. Evening: Explore the bohemian heart of Salvador in Rio Vermelho, a district pulsing with creative energy, live music, and fantastic bars.



Day 7 (Nov 25): Farewell

Enjoy a final Bahian breakfast, reflecting on the profound experiences and sharing memories with new friends. After, you will have a scheduled transfer to the SSA airport (SSA) for your departure.

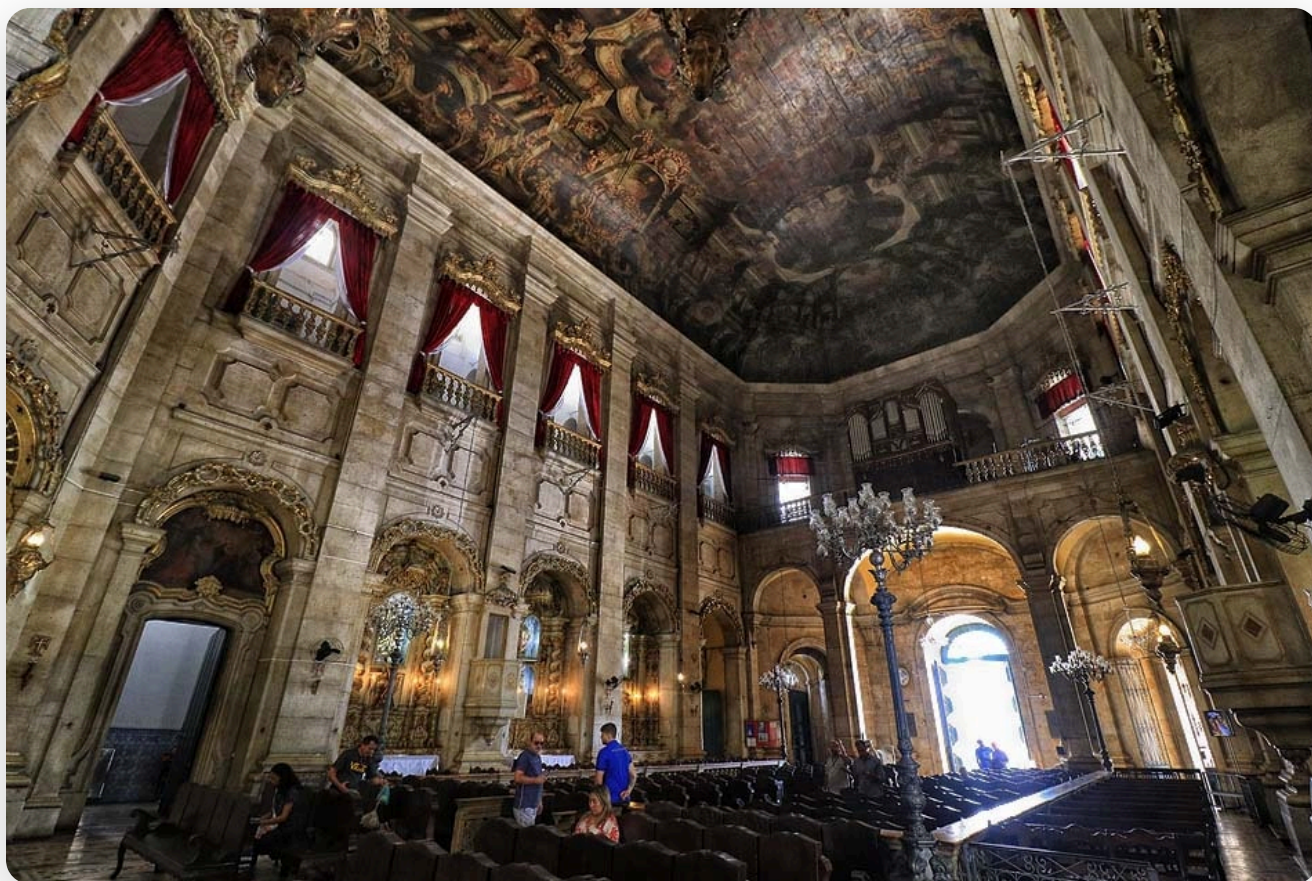


02

December 2025

Holiday Season & Cultural Deep-Dive

Experience Salvador during the magical holiday season with Brazil's oldest religious festival.



**7-Day Itinerary (December 8–14,
2025)**

Day 2 (Dec 9): Percussion, History & Olodum

Morning: Class 1: Intro to Afro-Brazilian Percussion. This is more than rhythm; it's a journey into the spiritual heartbeat of African heritage. Afternoon: Guided walking tour of the Pelourinho UNESCO World Heritage site. Evening: Feel the power of the Benção do Olodum, the world-famous bloco afro's weekly public blessing and rehearsal.



Day 3 (Dec 10): Dance, Markets & Senses

Morning: Class 2: Afro-Brazilian Dance. Connect to ancestral movements that blend sacred Candomblé traditions with contemporary expression. Afternoon: A sensory immersion at the vast Feira de São Joaquim. Evening: Free to explore Pelourinho's nightlife or relax.



Day 5 (Dec 12): Island Escape

A full-day boat trip to the tropical paradise of Ilha dos Frades and Ilha de Itaparica. This is a perfect pause, offering a chance to relax on stunning beaches, swim in crystal-clear waters, and simply enjoy the scenic, tranquil beauty of the Bay of All Saints.



03

January 2026

Lavagem do Bonfim

Experience Salvador's most important syncretic festival—the Washing of Bonfim.



7-Day Itinerary (January 12–18, 2026)

Day 3 (Jan 14): Festival Briefing

Morning: Class 2: Afro-Brazilian Percussion. Afternoon: Visit the sprawling, authentic Feira de São Joaquim market. Evening: Prepare for the main event with a detailed historical briefing. You'll receive your traditional white t-shirt and fitas do Bonfim (wish ribbons), followed by a local live music performance.



Day 4 (Jan 15): Lavagem do Bonfim

A full-day, unforgettable immersion into Salvador's most important syncretic festival. Morning: Join the faithful for an early start at the ecumenical service. Procession: Feel the collective energy as you join the iconic 8km procession to the Colina Sagrada (Sacred Hill). Climax: Witness the powerful ritual as baianas

wash the church steps with scented water—a profound public symbol of purification. Afternoon: Celebrate at the massive, joyous street festival surrounding the church.



Day 5 (Jan 16): Island Recovery

After the intensity of the Lavagem, this day is for necessary rest and integration. We'll take a full-day boat trip to the idyllic Ilha dos Frades and Itaparica. Let the gentle sea breeze and calm turquoise waters restore your energy as you reflect on the powerful, collective spiritual experience.



Day 6 (Jan 17): Ilê Aiyê

Morning: Class 3: Percussion & Class 4: Dance. Re-engage with your artistic side, integrating the energy of the festival into your practice. Afternoon/Evening: An authentic cultural pilgrimage to the Liberdade-Curuzu neighborhood for the Ensaio do Ilê Aiyê, Brazil's revolutionary first Afro-bloco.



04

February 2026

Festa de Iemanjá

Honor Iemanjá, the Queen of the Sea, in Salvador's largest Candomblé manifestation.



7-Day Itinerary (February 1–7, 2026)

Day 1 (Feb 1): Arrival & Vigil

Arrive at SSA airport and transfer to your accommodations in the heart of the action, the Rio Vermelho neighborhood. Evening: Witness the beginning of the Festa as devotees start their vigil and deliver the first offerings to the fishermen's colony headquarters.



Day 2 (Feb 2): Festa de Iemanjá

A full-day immersion in Salvador's largest public Candomblé manifestation. Pre-Dawn (5 AM): The festival begins with the traditional alvorada (fireworks display). Morning: A vision in white and blue. Join thousands of devotees bringing flowers and gifts for Iemanjá, the revered Queen of the Sea. Afternoon (4 PM): Experience the deeply moving climax as a flotilla of boats carries the collective offerings to a sacred spot in the ocean.



Day 8 (Feb 8): Filhos de Gandhi

Morning: Relax at the classic, song-worthy Itapuã Beach. Evening: A truly special experience. Attend a public rehearsal of Afoxé Filhos de Gandhi—the "sons of Gandhi"—and immerse yourself in their unique ijexá rhythm and powerful message of peace.



Day 10 (Feb 10): Pre-Carnival Buzz

Morning: Visit the CAIXA Cultural Salvador for a contemporary art exhibition. Evening: The energy in the city is electric. Feel the building excitement as you experience a pre-Carnival street party with a local bloco rehearsal.



Day 11 (Feb 11): Eve of Carnival

Morning: Class 7: Final Combined Arts Class. A celebratory session to integrate all the rhythms and movements from your journey. Afternoon: The city's energy is palpable. We'll visit bloco headquarters to see the massive costume displays and final preparations. Evening: A final Farewell Dinner to celebrate your incredible cultural immersion.



Day 12 (Feb 12): Departure

Enjoy a final breakfast and depart on the very first official day of Carnival. On your scheduled transfer, you'll glimpse the city transforming with the first trios

elétricos (sound trucks) and crowds gathering.



Plan Your Journey

Ready to experience the soul of Afro-Brazilian culture? Each immersion offers a unique window into Salvador's living traditions.

Website

www.opanije.com

Email

info@opanije.com

Location

Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

"Opanije" is a Yoruba greeting that honors the ancestral spirits and traditions. We invite you to honor these living traditions with us in Salvador.

OPANIJE

Cultural Immersions | Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

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