

EXOTIC CITY BREAKS

Visit a city of unique character for a short break that will feel like you have been away from home for much longer. Due to the complete contrast in culture and lifestyle, it is refreshing to discover a new way of life in a different, vibrant and cosmopolitan city. All the cities chosen here have something special and unique: the blend of Portuguese and African history in Salvador; the unique society of the Cuban revolution in Havana; the Inca and colonial heritage in Cusco; and the amazing location of Rio de Janeiro, with its music, dancing and beaches together with modern arts, trendy bars, restaurants and Royal heritage.

Photographs and information: [web veloso.com/exoticcity](http://www.veloso.com/exoticcity)

BRAZIL - SALVADOR



Salvador, in the state of Bahia, is a fascinating blend of African and Portuguese culture, history and beliefs, which together form a new identity. This combination has generated an energy and creativity, expressed in the infectious rhythms of 'Axé' music; painting, mostly Naive in style, literature such as Jorge Amado, and a "joi de vivre" that represents the essence of Brazilian identity, adopted by all Brazilians whatever their background. African traditions have been preserved, and can be seen in the Orixá deities, the Candomblé religion and Capoeira, a martial art or dance. The central Pelourinho area, a World Heritage Site, boasts Portuguese colonial architecture, numerous churches including the Our Lady of the Black men, which has a black Jesus. The theatre has a dance show and at times there are improvised

music performances in the street, such as the Olodum rehearsal on Tuesdays. Local art galleries have a wealth of paintings to admire and possibly bring home with you. The cuisine is a unique blend of tropical ingredients such as the 'moqueca de peixe', a traditional fish stew. The colourful city of Salvador is truly an exotic destination.

Exotic-Salvador

Depart from London on Air Europa to Madrid and direct, non-stop onto Salvador. Arrival and departure transfers, one full day tour of Salvador with our guide and transport, accommodation with breakfast for 6 nights at the Hotel Casa do Amarelindo. Hotel description on page 58. Return flight home overnight. Additional hotels & excursions available.

CUBA - HAVANA



Havana is a surreal and fascinating city. Old delapidated buildings stand next to modern renovations, all with beautiful Cuban character, many in the Spanish style. Step back in time to a world where people live at a slower pace, their basic needs satisfied, with little urgency or worry. Cubans are kind, laid-back people, always welcoming to visitors and willing to show off their island. In Havana lively Caribbean rhythms can be heard around every corner, local musicians playing on street corners and in bars. 1950s American cars still drive around next to bicycles and horse drawn carts through the unpaved streets. Outside the city there are few motor vehicles, and much of the countryside is used for small scale farming, as well as growing crops like tobacco and sugar. The ongoing renovation of Old Havana has been an

outstanding success. Cafés, bars and restaurants run by local families, some with outdoor seating in leafy plazas, can be found along the cobbled pedestrianised streets. Cuba, with its unique history and Caribbean climate, is ideal for an exotic getaway.

Exotic-Havana

Depart from London on Virgin Airlines, direct, non-stop to Havana. Arrival and departure transfers, one full day tour of Havana with our guide and transport, accommodation with breakfast for 6 nights at the Hotel Palacio O'Farrill or similar. Hotel description on page 171. Return flight home overnight. Additional hotels, excursions and extensions to see more of Cuba available, pages 170-171.



BRAZIL- RIO DE JANEIRO



Rio de Janeiro is unique among Latin American cities: the Portuguese Royal family, along with their court of 15,000 nobles, came to live in Rio in 1808 due to the Napoleonic invasion, effectively moving the Imperial capital to the colonies, the only Royal family ever to do so. They transformed the city, adding a rich cultural heritage that can still be seen today. During their thirteen year stay, they held a Coronation and a Royal Wedding, as well as establishing the Botanical Gardens, Opera House and the first Bank of Brazil, adding greatly to its importance. Even the setting of Rio is stunning; with its huge lagoon, massive granite peaks, long beaches and tropical forest, its natural ambience can be felt on all sides. Today Rio de Janeiro is a fascinating, vibrant, cosmopolitan city with a unique blend of culture, modern and traditional life. There

are excellent shops, restaurants, wonderful Samba music and dancing, as well as theatre, art, and museums. Rio de Janeiro is certainly an exotic city you must visit.

Exotic-Rio

Depart from UK Regional Airports and London Heathrow on TAM Brazilian Airlines, overnight flight, direct, non-stop to Rio de Janeiro. Arrival and departure transfers, one full day tour with our guide and transport, accommodation with breakfast for 6 nights at the Hotel Excelsior. Hotel description on page 51. Return flight home also overnight. Support and concierge service is provided by our guide and office in Rio de Janeiro. Additional hotels, excursions and extensions to beach resorts, countryside and Parati, available on pages 50-56.

PERU - CUSCO



Cusco was the capital of the Inca empire. High in the Andes, the Incas felt secure close to the stars, with impenetrable forest to the west, barren Pampas to the south, and to the north, the swamps of the Darién Gap. The descendants of the Incas still live in Cusco and the surrounding mountains and valleys, with their traditions and Quechua language, magnificent archaeological sites, colonial heritage and a unique way of life. Filled with the fascinating mysteries of ancient Andean civilisations, Cusco is an exotic city to visit.

Exotic-Cusco

Depart from London on LAN Airlines to Lima overnight, connecting with the flight to Cusco. Arrival and departure transfers, one half day tour of Cusco with our expert guide, accommodation with breakfast for 6 nights at the Hotel Costa

del Sol Picoaga (First Class). Hotel description on page 102. Return flight home overnight. Additional hotels and excursions available.

INDIVIDUAL TOUR PRICES		
Departures every day throughout the year		
No. of travellers	Single Traveller	Double Sharing
Exotic Salvador		
Jan-Jun, Sep-16Dec	£1598	£1558
Jul-Aug, 17Dec-30Dec	£2008	£1608
Exotic Havana		
May- Jun, Sep-16 Dec	£1605	£1334
Jan-Apr, Jul-Aug	£1802	£1531
Exotic Rio de Janeiro		
11Jan-14Oct	£2854	£1922
15Oct-10Jan	£3205	£2273
Exotic Cusco		
Jan-Jun, 25Sep-16Dec	£2208	£1797
Jul-Aug, 17Dec-31Dec	£2432	£2021

Prices per person including return flights from London, all transfers accommodation in a standard room with breakfast, one guided tour as described on the itinerary and the support services of our guide/host in each city. *Prices for Triple rooms, Children, Single Rooms, Christmas, New Year and Easter available on request.