

## BIKE

# COCOA BIKE TOUR

Ilhéus-Serra Grande-Itacaré

6 Days



**Brazil** – with this term one associates endless Amazon jungle, wonderful beaches, Rio de Janeiro, carnival and samba. This is all correct but in reality, Brazil is much more, a huge country of the superlatives. Brazil, a country of immense proportions and contrasts, has a mysterious attraction for many people. With a surface of 8,5 million km<sup>2</sup>, Brazil is approximately as big as Europe and covers half of the South American continent. The climate changes from the permanent warm, tropic north over all sub tropic variants to the moderate South. Since the 16th century - when Portuguese have begun to settle in the country - Brazil had always a magic attraction on foreigners. First there was the gold and then rubber and coffee and today it is above all the rhythm and the exotic that attracts tourists. People over there show a lot of happiness, kindness and spontaneity. The biggest country of South America is a mirror of fascinating pictures.

## Day 01

## Ilhéus-Serra Grande

- ✓ Meals: Lunch
- ✓ Transfer airport to Capela Velha Farm (Cocoa Production)

**The Cocoa Coast-** *The Cocoa Coast region, in southern Bahia, is home to one of the greatest biodiversity on the planet, with landscapes preserved by a set of areas protected by the exuberant Atlantic Forest, full of rivers, lakes, clear water waterfalls and deserted beaches, ideal for a dive after conquering each cycled stretch. In addition to the abundant nature, the history and architectural heritage related to cocoa farming, with bucolic centenary farms, mark the landscape of this region and invite us to immerse ourselves in this fantastic universe of cocoa and chocolate.*



*Immortalized by Jorge Amado's literature, the region known as "Terra do Cacau" is currently experiencing a virtuous production cycle of high quality fine chocolates, with certification of origin and sustainable management, proving that it is possible to reconcile production, income generation and conservation of the Atlantic Forest.*

*More than a bicycle trip, this is a journey of sensory and cultural immersion in the identity of one of the most beautiful regions, and still little known, of this blessed land called Bahia*

### **Technical Notes:**

**Level:** Moderate, mountainous terrain with moderate climbs. 24km per day

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

**Ground:** Sandy on the beach portion, dirt road and stretches of paved road

*Remarks:* Minimum 6 passengers to confirm

Reception at Ilhéus airport and transfer (50 minutes) to Capela Velha Farm, which produces high quality cocoa and certified chocolates. After a typical rural lunch, we will take a guided tour where we will know all the stages of the chocolate production process, from cultivation in an agroforestry system, through the transformation of cocoa seeds into almonds, fermentation and drying. The end will be at the chocolate factory, with a tasting of the "Tree to Bar" chocolate.

Transfer to Serra Grande (approx. 1h20), with a stop to see the beautiful

Fazenda Provisão, with its architectural ensemble (Chapel and Headquarters) built in colonial style in the mid 70's.

Overnight at the **Aldeia da Mata Ecolodge** (standard room)

## **Day 02**

## **Serra Grande**

- ✓ Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- ✓ Visit to Boa Esperança Farm

We will start the day cycling along a side road, shaded by the Atlantic Forest preserved by the Condurú Park, on top of a plateau, which guarantees many places with panoramic views of the blue sea of Bahia. In addition to the freshness of the Atlantic breeze that will accompany us as we travel throughout the day we will do a stop at a partner site, with a lookout that guarantees a view of the entire coast, from Serra Grande to the city of Ilhéus; also at the Tibina Dam, a mandatory stop for an invigorating dive. At Fazenda Boa Esperança, which produces cocoa, chocolates and dairy products organically, we will be welcomed by the friendly and multi-talented owner of Chinese origin, who will await us with a brunch prepared with fresh ingredients from the farm and, of course, chocolates. After a short tour of the property, and well hydrated/fed, we will return cycling along the beaches of Sargi and Pé de Serra to the hotel.



Distance: 30 km

Altitude: 310 m of accumulated ascent

Overnight at the **Aldeia da Mata Ecolodge** (standard room)

## **Day 03**

## **Serra Grande**

- ✓ Meals: Breakfast
- ✓ Serra Grande Tour

Today we will take a biketour through the bucolic village of Serra Grande, visiting its main viewpoints and dam. Afterwards, we will continue along dirt roads to the Juerana Milagrosa Farm, one of the most beautiful and preserved cocoa farms in the region! Surrounded by native Atlantic Forest, this farm protects incredible waterfalls, lakes, rivers and viewpoints in its Private Reserve of National Heritage (RPPN), in addition to producing organic cocoa, demonstrating that it is possible to reconcile conservation and sustainable production.

We will take a light walk, of approximately 20 minutes, through the forest and cocoa plantations, until we reach its waterfall "Milagrosa". We will recharge our energies with a delicious vegetarian lunch, prepared with fresh ingredients from the farm (not included, to be paid on spot). After lunch, depending on the group's mood, we will ride to the mouth of the Rio Tijuípe, one of the most beautiful, preserved and wild places in the entire Cocoa Coast.

Distance: 25 km

Altitude: 250 m of accumulated ascent

Overnight at the **Aldeia da Mata Ecolodge** (standard room)

---

#### **Day 04**

#### **Serra Grande-Itacaré**

- ✓ Meals: Breakfast
- ✓ Beach tour

Today we will visit 4 paradisiacal beaches in Itacaré: Engenhoca, Havaizinho, Gamboa and Itacarezinho. After traveling for approximately 20 minutes by car, we will start a gentle walk (15 min.) through the Atlantic Forest to Engenhoca beach, recommended for surfing due to the quality of its waves. Returning to the trail and following the coast for another 15 minutes, you arrive at Havaizinho beach. From there, following the coast, we will pass the deserted Gamboa beach and finish the trail at the beautiful and long beach of Itacarezinho, which offers a great restaurant.

No bike riding today

Overnight at the **Pousada Vila Barracuda** (standard room)

---

#### **Day 05**

#### **Itacaré**

- ✓ Meals: Breakfast
- ✓ Transfer to Itacaré
- ✓ Taboquinhas Tour

Breakfast and 30-minute transfer to Itacaré! Today we will discover the secrets of the bucolic village of Taboquinhas (rural area of Itacaré) which, in the first half of the 20th century, was an important cocoa hub. From Itacaré, we will cycle around 24 km along an asphalt track, on a not very busy road, parallel to the Rio de Contas and with shaded sections, to the center of Taboquinhas; and we will continue to the charming Fazenda Vila Rosa, where we will be welcomed by its beautiful garden, lake and natural pools, which invite us to take a bath. We will take a guided tour to learn about the cocoa harvesting, fermentation and drying process and the artisan manufacture of chocolate, with tasting. Lunch at a typical restaurant on the banks of the Rio de Contas, with a unique view (not included, to be paid on spot), and return to Itacaré by boat.

Distance: 24 km

Altitude: 331 m of accumulated ascent

Overnight at the **Pousada Vila Barracuda** (standard room)

---

#### **Day 06**

#### **Itacaré-Ilhéus**

- ✓ Meals: Breakfast
- ✓ Transfer from Itacaré to Ilheus airport

**\*End of Our Services\***