

GERIN 2023

# Maceió





## Maceió

Maceió has nearly 1 million inhabitants, and with each passing year, it has been attracting more visitors. Undoubtedly, the main attraction of the city and the state of Alagoas is its natural beauty. Alagoas beaches are famous for their crystal-clear and warm waters, and Maceió's urban waterfront is one of the most beautiful in Brazil. October is a great month to visit since the rainy season has already passed. In October and November, the northeast wind tends to be active, but this usually doesn't disrupt your visit.

Maceió is surrounded by two lagoons, Mundaú and Manguaba. Almost the entire urban waterfront is protected by coral reefs. The central urban beaches are Pajuçara, Ponta Verde, Jatiúca, and Cruz das Almas. The GERIN hotel is located in Cruz das Almas, which is one of the few urban beaches without coral protection, so it's mostly used by surfers. Heading south, the next beaches after Cruz das Almas are Jatiúca, followed by Ponta Verde and Pajuçara. They are all quite close, the distance from Hotel Ritz Lagoa da Anta to the Ponta Verde lighthouse being approximately 2.6 km.

The coral reef barrier starts at Jatiúca and extends to Pajuçara. It's safe to walk along the waterfront during the day and also at night, but it's advisable to avoid walking outside the central areas at night, particularly Jatiúca, Ponta Verde, and Pajuçara. The busiest area is Ponta Verde, with many beachside bars and pleasant swimming beaches. It's worth visiting the Ponta Verde lighthouse; when the tide is low, you can walk to the lighthouse along the reef. In front of the Ponta Verde lighthouse is the "Marco dos Corais," an open pier overlooking Pajuçara Bay.

Another popular urban beach for swimming is Pajuçara. There are some well-organized beach bars with good food, such as Lopana. A recommended excursion is visiting the natural pools of Pajuçara when the tide is **low**. You need to take a sailboat to get there, which takes about 10 minutes to reach the pool located in the middle of the sea but still protected by the coral reef. It's one of the most traditional tourist attractions in Maceió. Maceió's urban waterfront is frequently used for physical activities, mainly running. The distance from Hotel Ritz to the end of Pajuçara is approximately 5 km. In addition to running, you can also practice surfing in Cruz das Almas and Praia do Francês, kite surfing, diving, rowing, and swimming in Pajuçara Bay. On the Pajuçara waterfront, you'll find the Pajuçara handicraft market and the handicraft pavilion.



## Beaches outside Maceió

Praia do Francês is the most famous, located 20 km from Maceió, and it tends to get quite crowded on weekends. It's a very beautiful beach with a part protected by the coral reef, offering calm seawater for swimming, and another part with open sea frequented by surfers.

Barra de São Miguel is a resort town with one of the most beautiful seas in the state. Near Barra de São Miguel, about 40 km from Maceió, you'll find Praia do Gunga, famous for its coconut groves and the meeting of Lagoa do Roteiro with the sea. This beach has a more challenging access.

On the northern coast, the beaches are known for their shallow, warm, and calm waters. Notable cities along the Golden Coast include Japaratinga, Maragogi, and São Miguel dos Milagres. However, the distance is significant, requiring a 1 to 2-hour drive.

## Restaurants

I recommend Hatsu (Japanese restaurant) and Wanchako (Peruvian cuisine). Both are located in Ponta Verde, near the beach. One of the oldest and most famous restaurants in Maceió is Divina Gula, serving Brazilian cuisine from Minas Gerais and located in Jatiuca. The food is excellent, and there's a wide variety of beers, including local ones like Caatinga Rocks. If you prefer wine, there's Bon Vin, located near Hatsu. For typical local food, I recommend Bodega do Sertão, which offers regional dishes and is located near the beach. Quality Bahian cuisine is served at Akuaba, close the hotel. Massarela and Maria Antonieta, both in Jatiúca, are my recommendations for pasta restaurants.

For seafood lovers, there's Massagueirinha (a simple place with great food). One of the best places to enjoy seafood prepared in the typical style of Alagoas is Massagueira, which is about a 20-minute drive from Maceió. There are several restaurants lined up along the shore of Lagoa Manguaba, offering incredible views of the lagoon and vegetation. My recommendations in Massagueira are Bar do Pato or Croa bar.

#### Tourist Attractions outside of Maceió

The time in Maceió may be short for most, but for those with extra time, here are some excursion suggestions outside of Maceió.

Serra da Barriga is approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes from Maceió and is the place where Zumbi dos Palmares founded the Quilombo dos Palmares. Today, it is a memorial park designated by IPHAN. The visitor center is modern and filled with information.

The city of Penedo is located on the banks of the São Francisco River and is a historic town founded by Portuguese descendants. In addition to the beauty of the São Francisco River, the city is full of museums and historic buildings.

The São Francisco River marks the border between the states of Alagoas and Sergipe. In the hinterlands of Alagoas (Sertão), it forms navigable canyons and serves as the backdrop for typical vegetation. The town of Piranhas is the best place to visit this region.