

## Sailing to Salvador de Bahia, Brazil – Arrival & Check-In Guide



After a long ocean passage, making landfall in **Salvador de Bahia** is both a welcome relief and a vibrant cultural introduction to Brazil. Salvador lies on the edge of **Todos os Santos (Bay of All Saints)**—Brazil's largest bay—offering excellent protection and countless anchorage options among its 91 islands. Here's what we learned upon arrival:

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### Where to Anchor or Berth

You have two main choices when arriving by sea:

- **Anchor** behind the **breakwall near Socicam Marina**, which provides good shelter.
- **Berth** at **Socicam Marina**, also known as **Terminal Náutico**, by calling ahead or hailing them on **VHF channel 16**.

**Note:** The entrance channel is well-marked but can be busy and affected by strong currents. Watch out for ferries to/from Itaparica, fishing boats, and tourist vessels around **São Marcelo Fort**.

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### Marina Details – Socicam (Terminal Náutico)

- **Mooring:** Med-style mooring (stern or bow to). A rope tied to the seabed will be passed to you on arrival. Staff may assist.
  - **Surge Alert:** There's noticeable surge due to passing ship traffic and swell—use **strong dock lines and fenders**.
  - **Pontoon Condition:** Aging and somewhat loose—take care when stepping aboard.
  - **Call on VHF 16** for assistance.
  - **Socicam charge 30 Brazilian Real per day to tie your dinghy up to their dock (if you anchor outside)**
  - **Be aware that Navy officials may visit the Marina to inspect your vessel.**
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## Marina Facilities

- **WiFi:** Only available in the office and very weak.
  - **Toilets/Shower:** Available but can be locked at times.
  - **Security:** 24-hour presence.
  - **Laundry:** **Not** available.
  - **Water:** On the pontoon, but **not potable**.
  - ⚡ **Power Warning:** We experienced **damaging surges**—lost three screens during our stay. Use surge protectors if possible!
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## Check-In Procedure

All vessels must check in with Brazilian authorities upon arrival. Here's a step-by-step process:

### 1. Head to SAC Náutico

Just a short walk from the front gate of Socicam Marina at Doca 1, Comércio

- 🕒 **Opening Hours:** Mon–Fri, 8am–12pm & 1pm–5pm
- 🌐 [Website](#)
- ✉ Email: [sacnautico@salvador.ba.gov.br](mailto:sacnautico@salvador.ba.gov.br)
- 📍 **Location:** Doca 1, Comércio
- Air-conditioned office, seating available.

### 2. Best Time to Arrive:

Aim to get there **right as they open**—the check-in process can take up to **3 hours**, and **Customs closes between 12pm–2pm**.

### 3. Helpful Contact:

Maritime Agent **Ramon Filho** is experienced and very helpful during the check-in process. No fee for his assistance.

- 📱 WhatsApp: +55 71 8600 3602

What to Bring

- Boat registration copy
- Passport copies for all crew

### 4. Immigration – Polícia Federal

- A few doors down from SAC Nautico
- Show Passports and completed forms
- Receive Passport stamps

### 5. Customs Check-In

- Next building after Polícia Federal
- Only the captain/skipper is required to attend
- Submit your completed forms and copy of boat registration

## Check-Out Procedure

All vessels must check out with Policia Federal when transiting interstate.

It is important to NOTE:

Staying in the country beyond the allowed time is an offence sanctioned by fines from the Federal Police against the carrier and crew members. A fine will be levied on the carrier for each overstaying crew member and a fine will also be issued against the crew member for the number of days in excess of the allowed stay. A penalty of deportation might also be imposed.



### Getting a CPF (Brazilian Tax ID)

Though not mandatory, a CPF makes life easier in Brazil:

- Required for SIM cards, groceries, online orders, pharmacies, medical care, laundry apps, etc.
- Can also unlock discounts

Ramon can help you apply.

[More info for foreigners:](#)

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### Exploring Salvador

- **Historic Center:** Visit **Pelourinho**, a stunning **UNESCO World Heritage site**, via the **Elevador Lacerda** just a short walk away.
- **Barra Lighthouse:** Take a walk along the esplanade and visit the historical Barra Lighthouse which also houses the Nautical Museum of Bahia.
- **Dique de Tororo:** visit the eight giant statues of orixás, the deities of Afro- Brazilian religion Candomble.
- **Church of the Lord of Bonfim:** there are many historical churches to visit in Salvador. In fact, there are more churches than there are days in the year here. But the most famous of the Catholic Churches in Salvador is a pilgrimage site known for the wish ribbons “Lembrança do Senhor do Bomfim da Bahia” ( “souvenir from the church of Bomfim in Bahia”)

*Or check out the many various experiences Salvador has to offer here:*

[Visit Salvador - Bahia - Mix It Up - Official Website](#)

- **Transport:**

- **Uber** is reliable and affordable.
- **Taxis** are also available but usually **twice the price** of an Uber.
- **Safety Tips:**
  - The city is **safe to explore during the day**, especially downtown.
  - Avoid walking at night, particularly near favelas or poorly lit areas.



## Cruising the Bay of All Saints (Todos os Santos)

This enormous bay is a dream for cruisers, with over 90 islands offering countless opportunities to explore:

- **Itaparica Island** – the largest island at the bay's entrance.
- **Ilha dos Frades** – stunning beaches and protected anchorages
- **Ilha de Maré, Ilha de Bom Jesus, and Ilha do Medo** – Cultural stops with unique local charm

## Best Anchorages and Marinas in Bahia

### [Anchorages and Marinas](#)



### Final Thoughts:

Salvador is a rich mix of Afro-Brazilian culture, colonial history, and modern city life—all wrapped in the beauty of Brazil's most celebrated bay. With a bit of preparation, checking in is straightforward, and you'll be rewarded with an unforgettable cruising experience.