

HMC S. ST. CROIX

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RECIFE



WHAT AM I DOIN'
HERE ?

RECIFE (BRAZIL)

General Information

Recife, the Capital of the State of Pernambuco, is the best equipped and principle port in the Northern part of Brazil. There is a Naval Base and also a large Army Garrison in Recife.

The city consists of three portions: 1. Recife (the Reef), lying on a peninsula; 2. Sao Antonio, on an island between the peninsula and the mainland; 3. Boa Vista on the mainland. These three districts are connected by stone and iron bridges. Because waterways run through the city, Recife is often called the "Venice of Brazil".

Recife's population is about one million and the proportion of coloured folk is large. The municipal bus service is the best in Brazil. The first Brazilian printing press was installed in 1706 and Recife claims to publish the oldest daily newspaper in South America.

Rio is 1,120 nautical miles and Salvador, where BONAVENTURE and the remainder of the Task Group are, is 400 nautical miles southward.

Medical

The climate is healthy, but a few cases of Typhoid Fever are always present. Dysentery is common. Bathing in inland waters is prohibited. Prostitution is practiced a great deal and is concentrated in the Dock area. Venereal Disease is rampant.

Milk and water should always be boiled before use. Stick to carbonated drinks ashore.

Money

As in Rio the currency is the Cruzeiro. These may be obtained from the Royal Bank of Canada which is open from 1210 to 1600. The rate of exchange should be the same as in Rio. The Bank will also accept back surplus currency. The officials of the Bank are apparently all English.

Recreation

The British Country Club has the following facilities which may be offered for our use:

- a. three floodlit tennis courts
- b. soccer and cricket pitches

The Brazilian Navy may arrange for soccer Matches but, no doubt, their teams will be far superior to ones we could muster.

There appears to be only one golf club which is called "The Caxanga Golf and Country Club".

Good swimming is to be had at Bao Viagem. Take a bus from Praca Rio Branco to the Bridge of Impertarix, and then a bus to Boa Viagem. (about 25 minutes)

Religions

Church of England

Holy Trinity Church, which is a small attractive church adjacent to the British Country Club, is the only one. Service is on Sunday at 1800.

Roman Catholic

The nearest church is Madro de Deus and is in Rua Madre de Deus (in the Dock area). Masses are at 0730 daily and 1000 on Sunday.

There are countless old churches in the town and many of these are well worth a visit. The majority of these churches date from as early as 1606 to 1864. The best way of seeing them is to buy locally a booklet: "Templos Catolicos de Recife", which has excellent photographs, and then seek out the ones you wish to see and personally photograph.

Shopping Centres

The best shopping areas are Rua Nova (New Street) in Recife, San Jose Market, Rua Duque de Caxias and Rua Imperatriz. The main goods manufactured locally are textiles (cotton) and synthetic rubber. The Recife souvenirs are much the same as those from Rio.