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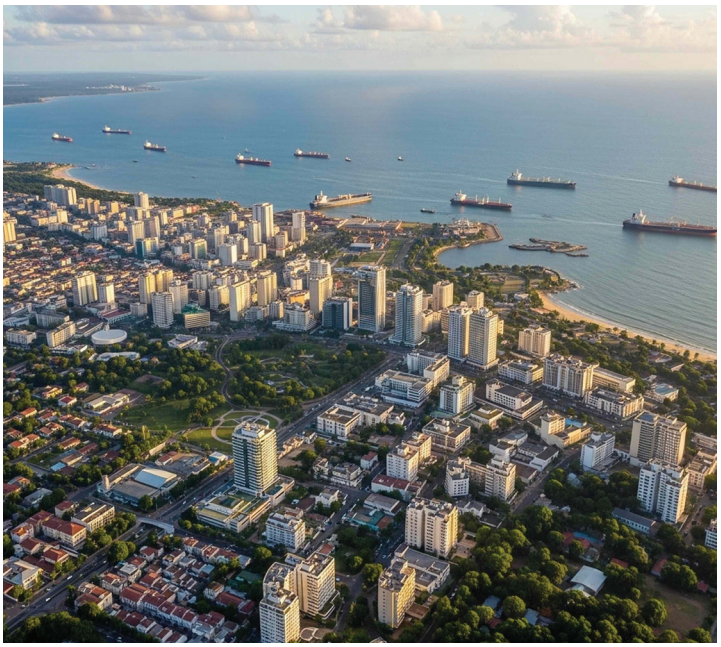
FORTALEZA:CULTURAL ROOTS OF THE NORTHEAST

Fortaleza, the vibrant capital of Ceara in Northeastern Brazil, is famous for its stunning urban coastline, buzzing night markets, and rich cultural heritage. Whether you want to relax on sun-soaked beaches, eat fresh seafood right by the water, or slide down world-record water slides, Fortaleza has something unforgettable for every traveler.
Here are the best things to do in Fortaleza, accompanied by their stunning visual highlights:

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SOAK UP THE SUN AT PRAIA DO FUTURO

Spanning several miles, Praia do Futuro is Fortaleza's premier urban beach, loved for its strong surf and golden sand. What truly sets it apart are its world-class barracas (mega beach clubs), such as Crocobeach and Chico do Caranguejo. These structures offer massive swimming pools, live shows, playgrounds, and beachside dining right under thatched umbrellas.







STROLL ALONG AVENIDA BEIRA MAR & SHOP AT THE NIGHT MARKET

A walk down the scenic Avenida Beira Mar boardwalk is an absolute must. As the sun sets, the coastline comes alive. The iconic Feirinha da Beira Mar pops up every evening, serving as an organized, vibrant open-air market where you can negotiate great prices on authentic lace linens, leather sandals, and local cashews. At the end of the boardwalk lies the Mucuripe Fish Market, where you can buy fresh seafood and have it cooked on the spot.





EXPLORE CENTRO DRAGAO DO MAR DE ARTE E CULTURA

For a deep dive into northeastern history and regional art, head to the Centro Dragao do Mar. This massive, eye-catching architectural cultural complex houses a planetarium, a contemporary art museum, a cinema, and open-air spaces. Its signature red pedestrian bridges make for amazing photos, and the surrounding historic streets are lined with bohemian bars and live music venues.







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ADMIRE THE CATEDRAL METROPOLITANA DE FORTALEZA

Standing proudly in the historic center, the Metropolitan Cathedral of Fortaleza is the third-largest church in Brazil. Designed by a French architect, this breathtaking Neo-Gothic monument took nearly 40 years to complete. Step inside to gaze up at its soaring vaulted ceilings and magnificent stained-glass windows that beautifully filter the bright Brazilian sunlight.



FIND LOCAL TREASURES AT THE MERCADO CENTRAL

Spanning five stories and nearly 10,000 square meters, the massive labyrinth of the Mercado Central de Fortaleza is a treasure trove for local crafts. Boasting over 500 stalls, it's the absolute best place in town to grab souvenirs like raw leather goods, hand-woven cachaça bottles, and regional sweets. Take a break on the top floor to try traditional local dishes like baiao de dois (rice and beans) or peixada cearense (fish stew).





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BRAVE THE GIANT WATERSLIDES AT BEACH PARK

Located just 20 minutes outside the city boundaries in Aquiraz, Beach Park is widely celebrated as the largest water park in Latin America. It features tranquil lazy rivers and resort pools right on the ocean shore alongside record-breaking extreme drops for thrill-seekers. Its most famous attraction, the Insano waterslide, sends riders free-falling down a 14-story vertical drop.





