

## CRUISING NOTES FOR THE BAIÁ DE TODOS OS SANTOS

### Arriving at Salvador

You have basically two choices:

- Bahia Marina: 12°58.7S 38°31.1W (newly built and not shown in most charts). We went there because Tom Morgan's South Atlantic Circuit highly recommends the place but found that it is basically a ghetto and rip-off. The marina is mostly used by local motor yachts. We paid 57 reais per night for a 35-footer.
- Centro Nautico (CENAB): Most cruisers go there as it is more centrally located and cheaper than the marina. You can either moor stern-to at the northerly pontoon or anchor at around 12°58.3S 38°31.0W. Even if you are at anchor, you can use CENAB's good sanitary installations. At the pontoon, we paid 21 reais per night for our 35-footer. In the winter months, there can be an unpleasant swell in CENAB. During our stay in May/June, several yachts had problems with broken mooring lines.

### Formalities

It took us VERY long to get the whole clearing thing done and we met many other yachts that made the same experience. Before you go to any office, I would recommend to ask Bruno at the Centro Nautico about the latest information. He will generally help foreign yachts to complete the whole thing, especially if you speak French. If you are on your own, try the following four steps. Expect at least half a day for the whole exercise, with immigrations being the most unpredictable link in the chain.

**Step 1:** Policia Federal (immigration). The whole crew has to go there. From CENAB, walk about 300 meters along Avenida da Franca in NE direction. On your left, you will see a wooden door leading into the harbour area. Go in, turn left, and walk 200 meters back along the waterfront in SW direction. 30 meters before the wooden wall, you will see a small entry into a white building. The Policia Federal is in the first floor (the stair up around the corner at the end of a narrow corridor). If you are lucky, the police officer is in. Most of the time, he will be visiting large ships in the harbour and you may need to wait an hour or more for him. Some yachties describe the guy as a lunatic, our experience with him was mixed. He only speaks Portuguese. Note: don't go to the headquarters of the policia federal, they will not deal with the clearance for boats!

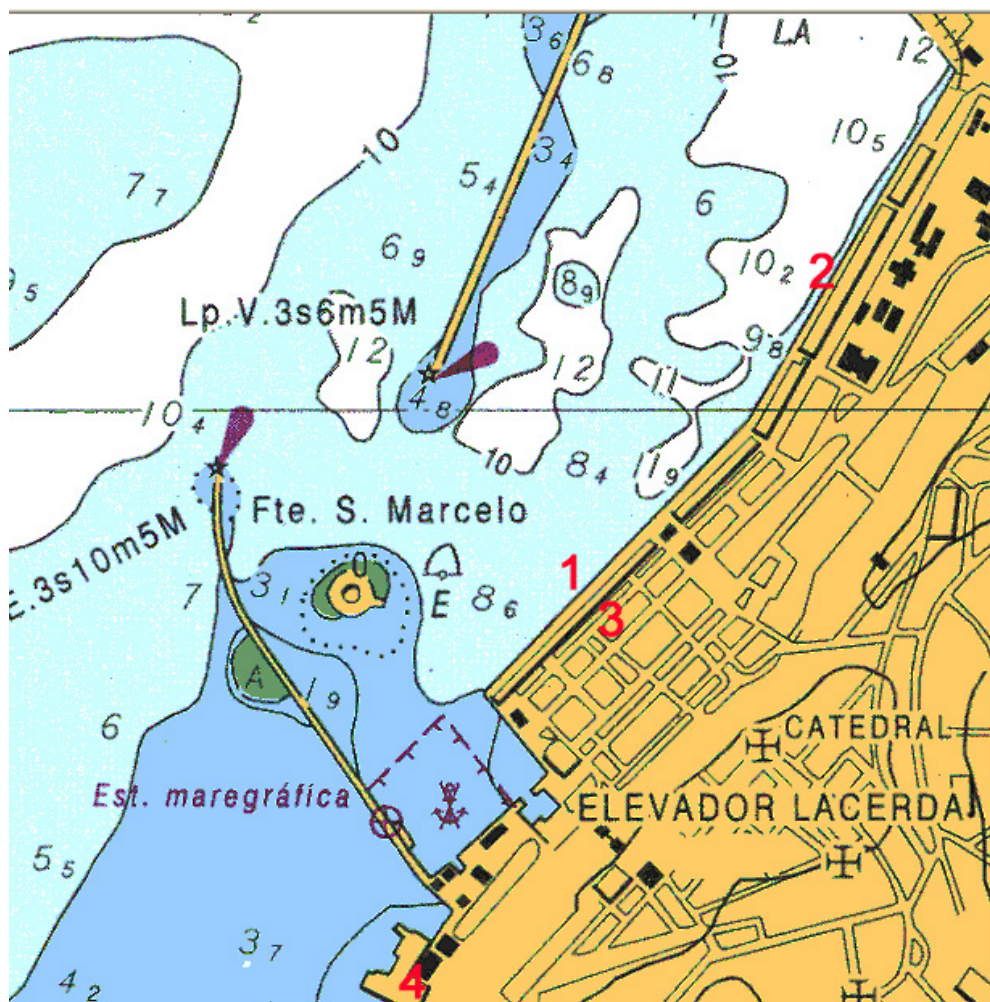
**Step 2:** Vigilancia Sanitaria. From the federal police, walk some 600m along the waterfront. There is a white sign "anvisa" with an elegant blue cross outside their office. One of their officers speaks English.

**Step 3:** Aduana (customs). From Vigilancia Sanitaria, walk back and leave the harbour area through the main gate and walk back towards CENAB. The entry to



customs is about 100 meters from the CENAB on your right (in fact, just behind the federal police).

**Step 4:** Capitania (navy). The main entry to the navy complex is opposite the CENAB (you will see the checkpoint for all the cars going into the semi-closed area). The guards will direct you to the office of the capitania.



### Services

Nautical equipment can only be found in Salvador. Opposite the navy area, there are plenty of nautical shops – most of them aiming motor yachts. We found that Dumar had the best choice for cruisers; for basic equipment, the other shops may be cheaper. Regatta, in Bahia Marina, stocks many specialist items (e.g. Harken equipment) at twice the price listed in the West Marine catalogue. In general, it seems to be impossible to find any imported electronic equipment at a reasonable price.

There are some services available. We had our electrics fixed by “Douglas” (ask for him at CENAB) and were quite happy with his work. Douglas is also the local Raymarine rep. For some jobs, we used “Marcelo” as service broker. Marcelo is very good at making things happen but be careful with his pricing. We had a guarantee issue with him and he did not even reply to our e-mails.



For large-scale provisioning, we'd recommend Mercantil Rodriguez – about 2km N of the city center (close to the main entrance to the Mercado São Joaquim). If you're looking for premium goods (at premium prices) have a look at Perrini.

### Places to visit

#### *Salvador de Bahia*

Of course, you have to visit Salvador...

#### *Itaparica*

We found that most boats staying in the bay for some time will end up using Itaparica as their main base. Life is much more relaxed on the island than in hectic Salvador, you get drinking water that does not smell like a swimming pool, you find clean beaches, and – apart from specialist nautical services – you find everything there (including laundry [ask for the Argentinian lady Olga], internet [use the connection in Café Namaste or go to Olga], gas [Brazilgas will fill foreign cylinders], ATMs [the ATM at Bonpreço will accept VISA], supermarkets ). And if you really need a special thing from town, you can still make a day-trip to Salvador with the lancha. Yes, we liked Itaparica. Marina berths are the same price as CENAB (0.6 real per foot) but you can also stay at anchor.

#### *Salinas*

Salinas is just around the corner from Itaparica. The town is not spectacular but very relaxed. In winter, Salinas is one of the best sheltered places in the bay.

#### *Rio Paraguaçu*

The trip up the Paraguaçu is nice but probably not the greatest experience of your life. There is a good market in Maragojipe every Saturday. Apart from this, Maragojipe is not spectacular and it is quite painful to get ashore. Cachoeira can be visited by bus from Maragojipe; if you are into adventures, you can also sail up the river (make sure you get current waypoints; some yachts that tried the trip touched ground several times). Try the lovely mooring at the entry of the river.

#### *Aratu*

Aratu is the ideal place to leave your boat for some time. Visitors will generally stay at a mooring buoy (15 reais per day; first three days free). We liked the club with the little swimming pool, the reasonably priced restaurant, and the 24/7 taxi boat service to the buoy. Aratu can get a bit smelly and the area is not the most beautiful in the bay.