

GUEST GUIDE - POUSADA LITERÁRIA

Welcome to Paraty!

Built in a region of the Atlantic Forest where the sea and the mountains meet, Paraty has been seducing visitors since the 17th century. Its unique architectural ensemble, combined with its natural wealth, earned the city recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2019. Together with Ilha Grande (Angra dos Reis), the town became the first in Brazil to receive the title of mixed site, which celebrates both the cultural value and the richness of the local biodiversity. Today, Paraty is synonymous with culture, tradition and good gastronomy. Whether it's with major festivals such as FLIP or with religious festivals that are preserved with great care, the city is active all year round, with an extensive calendar of events and activities. Its countless beaches, waterfalls and hiking trails are also popular with tourists. There is no shortage of options for those who are visiting Paraty for the first time or for those who already know the city. We've listed some of these options below for you to choose from.

- **HISTORIC CENTRE:**

One of the best preserved colonial architectural complexes in Latin America, Paraty's Historic Center is full of surprises for visitors. Its cobbled streets, now surrounded by thick iron chains, have seen both the city's heyday and its decline. Today, the 31 blocks are home to renowned restaurants, distinctive stores, cultural activities and priceless historical attractions. Put on comfortable shoes, forget the maps and get lost in the city's most picturesque neighborhood. Taste the typical sweets sold in the bakeries and patisseries, sit at the outdoor tables in the bars and discover hidden ateliers in centuries-old houses.



A) WHAT TO DO

1. Churches and Museum of Sacred Art

Founded by the Portuguese in the 17th century, Paraty preserves old Catholic traditions to this day, such as the centenary Festa do Divino, registered as a Brazilian cultural heritage site by IPHAN, which celebrates the day of Pentecost and brings together a veritable crowd of Paratians and tourists at the Igreja Matriz. The town's main church, dedicated to Nossa Senhora dos Remédios, is located in Praça da Matriz. Inaugurated in 1873 and unfinished to this day, the imposing church still preserves the altarpiece of the 18th century internal chapels and the 17th century baptismal font. On Rua do Comércio, the Church of São Benedito and N. S. do Rosário (1757) stands out, built by the enslaved to practice their faith. It is the only church in the city with gilded altars. Closed to visitors, the Chapel of Nossa Senhora das Dores (1800) is on Rua Fresca and is worth a visit because of its privileged location at the meeting of the Perequê-Açu River and the sea. Finally, one of the city's great landmarks, the photogenic Church of Santa Rita de Cássia (1722) houses the city's Museum of Sacred Art, with centuries-old religious pieces and a vault containing all the silverware from the local parish.

Information: Secretariat of Nossa Senhora dos Remédios parish: Largo do Rosário - Historic Center - Paraty/RJ. Phone.: +55 (24) 98828-8699

Museum of Sacred Art: Largo de Santa Rita – Historic Center - Paraty-RJ. Phone.: +55 (24) 3371-8328 and (24) 3371-8751

2. Livraria das Marés

Since the first edition of FLIP (Paraty International Literary Festival) in 2003, the city has become the capital of literature in Brazil. Housed in a historic mansion next to the Pousada Literária, the Livraria das Marés is the city's benchmark for literature: the place houses around 7,000 books in its collection. The project was designed by architect Bel Lobo, who turned the space into a cozy, charming and comfortable meeting place. At the back, you can enjoy the garden and the delights of an irresistible cafeteria, and on



the shelves the best of world literature with a panorama of the most powerful Brazilian culture. The mezzanine, equipped with audiovisual equipment, is used for workshops and lectures.

Information: Livraria das Marés. Tenente Francisco Antônio street, 52 – Historic Center - Paraty/RJ. Phone.: +55 (24) 3371-2296

3. Rua do Fogo (“Fire Street”)

Perhaps the most charming street in Paraty's historic center. Located between Largo de Santa Rita and Rua da Lapa, Rua do Fogo (“Fire Street”) has been immortalized in hundreds of paintings depicting the small tree-lined passage with the Church of Santa Rita at the back. Legend has it that the "fire" that gives the place its name is due to the cabarets that operated there during Colonial Brazil. The fact is that today the place is home to well-rated stores, cafes and restaurants that are well worth a visit.

4. Praça da Matriz (“Matrix Square”)

The life of every small town usually takes place in its main square. In Paraty, the situation is no different. The Praça da Matriz (“Matrix Square”) is still the meeting point for young people who go flirting at the weekend, bohemians who enjoy the bars and pubs and families who go for a walk after mass. This is where the heart of the city beats and where the people of Paraty go to "see the action" and chat with friends and acquaintances. Grab an ice cream, sit on a bench and watch Paraty life happen at its own pace.

5. Rua Fresca/Terra Nova (“Fresh Street” / “New Land”)

The sea breeze that circulates along Rua Fresca (“Fresh Street”) makes it one of the most pleasant streets to walk along in Paraty. Located in a relatively recent area, the result of a landfill, Rua Fresca is also called Terra Nova (“New Land”) by the locals for



this reason. There, visitors can observe the ecological richness of the mangrove in front of them, and can also see the Church of Nossa Senhora das Dores and the house of João Maria Orleans e Bragança, a descendant of the royal family who has lived in Paraty since the 20th century.

6. Rua do Comércio (“Commerce Street”)

Tenente Francisco Antônio street, where Pousada Literária is located, is the city's main shopping area. Rua do Comércio (“Commerce Street”), as it is also known, is home to big brand stores such as L'Occitane au Brésil and Richards, as well as local businesses such as the century-old Esperança Bakery (founded in 1900), the Átame clothing store and the Cana Caiana cachaçaria. As it is one of the main streets in the Historic Center, you will certainly pass through it many times. Also look out for the good restaurants that operate there!

7. Casa da Cultura (“Culture House”)

Established in 1990, the Casa da Cultura (“Culture House”) is housed in a historic building dating from 1754 on the corner of Dona Geralda and Samuel Costa streets. It is the city's main cultural facility: it hosts temporary exhibitions in its halls and cultural presentations in its auditorium. Currently, the exhibition "1945-2019:

Towards a Cultural History of Paraty" is on show, telling the recent story of the city's "rediscovery" from the second half of the 20th century. It's a program not to be missed!

Information: Casa da Cultura: Dona Geralda street, 194 – Historic Center - Paraty-RJ. Phone.: +55 (24) 3371-2800. Open Tuesday to Sunday, from 11am to 20pm. Free visit with suggested donation.



8. Sesc Santa Rita

Sesc Santa Rita is a space for exhibitions, workshops and discussions. It also hosts musical performances and film screenings in the mansion located next to the Church of Santa Rita.

Information: Sesc Santa Rita: Dona Geralda street, 320 – Historic Center - Paraty/RJ.
Phone.: +55 (24) 3371-4516. Free entry.

9. Paraty Historic and Artistic Institute (IHAP)

Founded in 1976 by a group of researchers and intellectuals to preserve Paraty's memory, IHAP - Instituto Histórico e Artístico de Paraty, in portuguese (original) - is the guardian of documents, images and objects that help tell the city's History. It is housed in the building where the city's old public jail used to be. The century-old mansion still retains the iron bars and thick walls of the old jail. IHAP organizes periodic exhibitions and cultural events on a regular basis.

Information: Paraty Historic and Artistic Institute (IHAP). Largo de Santa Rita, no number - Historic Center - Paraty/RJ. Free entry.

10. Teatro Espaço (“Space Theater”)

With a fifty-year career and international critical acclaim, Companhia Contadores de Estórias settled in Paraty in 1985. Since then, the group has opened the Teatro (“Space Theater”), a versatile stage with 94 seats for its plays. Puppet theater, a hallmark of the group, stands out in the program. Without a single word in its script, the award-winning show “Em Concerto” (“In Concert”) thrills the audience with small, everyday stories. Teatro Espaço is currently directed by its founder Marcos Caetano Ribas.

Information: Teatro Espaço. Dona Geralda street, 42 – Historic Center - Paraty/RJ -
Phone.: +55 (24) 3371-1161 e +55 (24) 3371-1575. Shows every Wednesday and Saturday, always at 9pm.





11. José Kléber Square's Cinema

One of the only public cinemas in Brazil, the Square Cinema was completely renovated in 2018 by the local town hall, which chose to pay homage to the poet and actor José Kléber, star of Cinema Novo films shot in Paraty. The old Cine São Jorge, the city's most striking and longest-running movie theater, operated there from 1949 to 1973. All the screenings, which take place regularly, are free. All you have to do is pick up a ticket at the box office to secure your place.

Information: José Kléber Square's Cinema. Marechal Deodoro street, 3 - Historic Center - Paraty/RJ - Phone.: +55 (24) 3371-7412. Free tickets.

12. Studios

Paraty's cultural wealth is also expressed in the plethora of visual artists who live in and populate the city with their work. A recent list have counted around 120 active studios in the municipality, all of which are worth a visit. In the Historic Center, some are worth highlighting, such as the studio of ceramist Dalcir Ramiro (Santa Rita street, 167), rich in clay sculptures, traditional to the region. Lúcio Cruz's space (Dona Geralda street, no number) has paintings and papier-mâché masks, famous during Paraty's carnival. Patrícia Gibrail (Comendador José Luiz street, 375) produces paintings that mix geometric shapes and strong colors. Studio Bananal (Comendador José Luiz street, 280A), run by the duo Sergio Atilano and Fernando Fernandes, produces sculptures and mobiles made from discarded materials, as well as abstract paintings and photographic works. Finally, Márcio Franco's studio (Largo do Rosário, 50) draws the attention of visitors and locals with its tropical-inspired works.

13. Caiçara Handicraft

One of Paraty's greatest treasures is its Caxeta handicrafts. A light and malleable wood, it is used to make miniatures of the traditional baleeiras, the fishing boats that are now also used in tourism. Ateliê da Terra ("Studio of the Land"), founded by Mestre Gavião,



sells a multitude of boats and oars produced by the caiçara community of Saco do Mamanguá. It's the perfect gift to take back from Paraty.

B) WHERE TO EAT

1. **Quintal das Letras.** Haute cuisine with the Pousada Literária quality standard. Tenente Francisco Antônio street, 362 – Historic Center - Paraty/RJ. Phone.: +55 (24) 3371-2616.
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2. **Banana da Terra.** Contemporary caiçara food from award-winning chef Ana Bueno. Samuel Costa street, 198 – Historic Center - Paraty/RJ. Phone.: +55 (24) 3371-1725.
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3. **Pupu's Panc.** Gastronomy with an Asian touch. Tenente Francisco Antônio street, no number – Historic Center - Paraty/RJ. Phone.: +55 (24) 99266-2221.
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4. **Punto Divino.** With three decades of history, the city's first and best Italian restaurant. Marechal Deodoro street, 129 – Historic Center - Paraty/RJ. Phone.: +55 (24) 3371-1348.
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5. **Thai Brasil.** Since 2000, it has been serving excellent Thai cuisine with a Paraty accent. Tenente Francisco Antonio street, 308A. Phone.: +55 (24) 3371-2760.
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- **PARATY OUT OF THE CENTER**

Although the Historic Center has plenty of options to fill more than one trip, Paraty's wealth goes far beyond its most famous district. The municipality covers 925 km² and is full of tourist attractions for those who enjoy hiking, natural beauty, extreme sports, beaches and waterfalls. The list below shows incredible options to be visited by car - or boat. Check with reception for more information on tourist agencies and tours.



A) WHAT TO DO

1. Southern Beaches

Some of Paraty's most famous beaches are to the south, on the way to Ubatuba (SP) via the BR 101 highway. Paraty Mirim beach is a 25-minute drive from the city. It has a beautiful, long stretch of sand, cut only by a river that flows into the sea. Two kiosks help to quench visitors' thirst and hunger. The neighborhood is very old and was an anchorage for ships in the colonial period. The Church of Nossa Senhora da Conceição (1720), right on the beach, is a remnant of this period. If you go there, be sure to buy some traditional handicrafts in the Itachi Guarani MByá village. From there, you can access Saco do Mamanguá on a short boat trip. Another point of interest in the south that welcomes tourists from Brazil and around the world is the Trindade neighborhood (35 minutes from the city). Its ocean beaches, trails and natural pool form a rare natural ensemble. With good infrastructure, the place has a variety of options: for surfers or for those who just want to relax. Whether it's Cepilho, Rancho, Praia do Meio or Cachadaço, Trindade has a beach just for you.

2. Northern Beaches

In the direction of Angra dos Reis there are beaches that are very popular with the people of Paraty. Practically on the edge of the BR 101 highway, with plenty of space for parking, are São Gonçalo and São Gonçalinho (30 minutes by car). They are the locals' favorites, with lots of kiosks and long stretches of sand. The calm sea, typical of bay beaches, is a good option for those traveling with children. In both São Gonçalo and São Gonçalinho, it is possible to take short boat trips to paradisiacal places such as the islands of Cedro, Cedrinho, Pelado and Peladinho. The northern axis also offers beaches such as Iriri and Cão Morto (25 minutes from the center), with fewer kiosks



and services, but more privacy and tranquility. A visit to Araújo Island from the Praia Grande pier (a 15-minute drive) is also a good option for those who want to get to know Paraty Bay.

3. Waterfalls

Most of the city's waterfalls are concentrated along the RJ-165 highway, also known as the Paraty-Cunha Park Road. Practically on the border between the states of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, there are options such as the famous Cachoeira do Tobogã (Toboggan Waterfall) - 20 minutes by car plus a short trail. There, fearless locals practice a sport typical of Paraty: surfing on the rock that gives the place its name. For tourists and novices, it is best to go down the "toboggan" sitting down for safety reasons. Even so, the adrenaline rush is guaranteed. If adventure isn't your thing, Poço do Tarzan, next door, has a lovely swimming area and a restaurant. Other freshwater falls worth visiting are Poço da Jamaica (15 minutes), Pedra Branca (20 minutes) and Poço dos Ingleses (15 minutes).

4. Boat trips around Paraty Bay

Paraty Bay is so rich in beaches and islands that it offers dozens of options for a boat trip. The traditional schooners usually take pre-arranged routes to Lagoa Azul, Ilha Comprida, Saco da Velha, Praia da Lula and Praia Vermelha. Although these places are full of natural beauty, the intense flow of tourist boats can put off those who want something more exclusive and select. The tip, therefore, is to hire one of the lifeboats that offer private trips near the pier or go to the pousada's reception to check the availability of partner boats, which offer personalized destinations among the 65 islands and 300 beaches scattered around the bay. Still off the tourist routes, Saco do Mamanguá is a great choice for those who want to enjoy Paraty's natural beauty in privacy. The only "tropical fjord" in the world, Saco do Mamanguá is full of beaches, waterfalls and mangroves. If you like adventure, you can take a one-hour hike to the



top of the Pão de Açúcar (Sugar Loaf Mountain), where you can enjoy breathtaking views. Our schooner Maria Panela offers an exclusive trip to Mamanguá with a gastronomic experience included.

5. Forte Defensor Perpétuo (Perpetual Defender Fort)

With century-old cannons imported from England, the Forte Defensor Perpétuo (Perpetual Defender Fort) bears witness to the beginning of local history. It was there, at the top of Vila Velha hill, that Portuguese settlers founded the first village that would become Paraty. After the population migrated to what is now the Historic Center, a defense fortification was erected there. Built in the 17th century, the site is now home to a museum that tells a little about the history of the territory's occupation. You can also visit the old gunpowder house, one of the best preserved in Brazil. The view from the Fort is an attraction in itself: you can see both the city and the immensity of the sea.

Information: Forte Defensor Perpétuo Museum. Morro do Forte, no number - Pontal - Paraty-RJ. Phone.: +55 (24) 3373-1038. Check opening hours.

6. The Gold Trail

The Gold Trail is a link between the past and the present, between the riches that forged the nation and the breathtaking landscapes that nature offers. Its paths are marked by the stories of the drovers and slaves who passed through during the Gold Cycle on their way to Minas Gerais. Located in the heart of the Serra da Bocaina National Park, the 4-kilometer stretch still preserves parts of its original sidewalk. The route was traced from the paths opened up by the indigenous people, who taught the Portuguese the shortcuts through the forest. It is possible to visit the site from the Penha neighborhood (15 minutes by car), but it is recommended that you visit with a guide so that you can enjoy all the details. Check with reception or a local tourist agency.



7. Alembic Stills

Paraty is synonymous with quality cachaça. The municipality was the main producer of sugar cane brandy during the imperial period. In 1820, there were 12 sugar cane mills and more than 150 stills in operation in the region. Documents from the time estimate that local production reached 1.2 million liters per year. At the 1922 International Exhibition in Paris, Paraty won a Silver Medal for its "Azulada do Peroca" brandy, produced by Engenho do Fundão. It was the first renowned award won by the city, which would go on to win many others in the future. Today there are six cachaça producers in Paraty. They all produce a variety of excellent labels that are recognized in the country and abroad: Coqueiro (1803), Corisco (1977), Maria Izabel (1996), Paratiana (1999), Engenho D'Ouro (2000) and Pedra Branca (2007). It is possible to visit the stills and learn more about the production process and taste a shot of pinga. The facilities at Maria Izabel, which is located in a beautiful cove, and Paratiana, which houses a museum with 5,000 labels of the drink, stand out.

Information:

Alambique Paratiana. Pedra Branca road, km 1 – +55 (24) 3371-6329 e +55 (24) 3371-9620.

Cachaça Engenho D'Ouro. Paraty-Cunha highway, km 8 – +55 (24) 99832-7339, +55 (24) 99905-8268, +55 (24) 7812-1543 e +55 (24) 7812-3290.

Pedra Branca. Pedra Branca road, km 1, 1.100 – +55 (24) 3371-1108 e +55 (24) 7835-4065.

Coqueiro. Rio-Santos highway, km 583 – Fazenda Cabral – +55 (24) 3371-0016.

Cachaça Maria Izabel. Sítio Santo Antônio, no number – +55 (24) 9999-9908.

Cachaça Corisco. Corisco road, no number – +55 (24) 3371-0894



8. Fazenda Bananal

Fazenda Bananal is an area for immersion in the forest, culture, history and gastronomy of Paraty, where people can spend the day as a family and enjoy unique experiences through interactive attractions that promote a real connection with nature. This way, you can learn about sustainability in practice, in workshops, outdoor exhibitions, on the incredible journey of "A Night in the Forest", playing games in the bamboo grove, on a super family picnic or in the Historic Manor, the former headquarters of the farm, which today hosts an exhibition on the history of the property and Paraty's culture. With a restaurant and a café, the cuisine at Fazenda Bananal is a unique sensory experience that values local ingredients and sustainability. At the restaurant, the dishes are re-readings of caiçara cuisine, using the concept "From field to table". The farm also offers an immersive activity that shows you the origin of all the ingredients on the restaurant's menu: a walk through the agroforestry system allows you to get to know the model of sustainable food production.

Information: Fazenda Bananal. Pedra Branca road - Paraty/RJ. Phone.: +55 (24) 3371-0039. Daily visits from 10am to 17pm. Check ticket prices

9. Quilombo do Campinho

In 1999, Quilombo do Campinho was the first quilombo to be recognized in the state of Rio de Janeiro. For a long time, it remained a practically self-sustaining community, almost autonomous from the city of Paraty. From the 1970s onwards, with the opening of the BR-101 highway and the consequent development of the region, the site came under enormous real estate pressure. Since its recognition in 1999, the 287-hectare area surrounded by Atlantic Forest and filled with waterfalls has legally passed into the hands of the locals. Today, family farming, basketry crafts and tourism are the main economic activities of the 550 or so people who live in the neighborhood. The residents are organized into 13 family nuclei. In each of them, the main house belongs to the oldest couple, who then surround themselves with their children and grandchildren,



indicating where they can build on the nearby plots, with no walls separating the neighborhood. It is possible to eat in the quilombo's restaurant, visit its craft stores and take guided tours.

Information: Quilombo do Campinho. Rio Santos road - Paraty/RJ. Phone.: +55 (24) 99988-8943, +55 (24) 99931-6875 e +55 (24) 99816-7438.

10. Birdwatching

So many exotic species of birds live in the woods and forests of Paraty that the city hosts an annual gathering of birdwatchers from Brazil and abroad. With a structure designed especially for those passionate about the subject, Eco-Sítio Paraty is a much-visited bird sanctuary in the Atlantic Forest. Guided by Luiz da Mata, who knows the region's forests very well, visitors can even see the very rare black-hooded antwren, which is now on the list of endangered animals.

Information: Eco-Sítio Paraty. Colônia road, km 20 - Paraty/RJ. Phone.: +55 (24) 99951-4475.

B) WHERE TO EAT

1. **Le Gite d'Indaiatiba.** Haute cuisine with an exuberant view. Rio Santos highway (BR 101), km 562 - Graúna - Paraty/RJ. Phone.: +55 (24) 99999-9923.

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2. **Pindorama.** Locally inspired cuisine. Rio Santos highway (BR 101), km 564 - Paraty/RJ. Phone.: +55 (24) 97834-2868.

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3. **Gastromar.** Fresh seafood with chef Gisela Schmitt's special touch. Rio Santos highway (BR 101), km 578 - Boa Vista - Paraty/RJ. Phone.: +55 (24) 99844-3788.

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4. **Quilombo do Campinho's Restaurant.** Rio Santos highway - Paraty/RJ. Phone.: +55 (24) 99988-8943, +55 (24) 99931-6875 e +55 (24) 99816-7438.

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5. **Dadico's Restaurant.** Typical caiçara dishes with extremely fresh seafood. Saco do Mamanguá (right side) - Paraty/RJ. Phone.: +55 (24) 99933-4247.

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- **CULTURAL LIFE**

In Paraty's vocabulary, the verb "festejar" ("celebrate") is replaced by "festar" ("party"). More than taking part in a celebration, "festar" is to be part of it, to be the party itself. With a natural vocation for celebrating, Paraty has an extensive calendar of cultural programs throughout the year: from religious processions to profane festivals, there is room for all kinds of events in the city. We've listed some of the events that most often attract the attention of tourists and locals alike.

PARATY INTERNATIONAL LITERARY FESTIVAL (FLIP)

Paraty's cultural history can be divided into "Before FLIP" and "After FLIP". The Paraty International Literary Festival, the brainchild of English editor and publisher Liz Calder, has raised the profile of the city nationally and internationally as perhaps never before. The event has been held since 2003 and usually brings in major authors, such as Nobel laureates. The city is transformed during the week of the event, it becomes even more vibrant and colorful and is taken over by a crowd of book lovers. In addition to the talks on the official program, publishers usually hold debates in their official houses during the event. Until recently, it was held in the middle of the year. In the most recent editions, it was held in November.



PARATY'S CACHAÇA, CULTURE AND FLAVORS FESTIVAL

Held since 1983, the Cachaça Festival is a celebration of Paraty's distillery culture. Held in August, the event welcomes the city's main cachaça producers in a tent set up next to the Perequê-Açu River. In addition, the stills usually hold events at their headquarters to welcome the public. The city is packed with tourists in search of gold, silver, caramelized and aged cachaças. The Jorge Amado and Tereza Batista drinks are also a hit with the public. In the last decade, in addition to cachaça, the local gastronomy has become a highlight of the program.

SCHRIMP FESTIVAL

Held on Araújo Island, the Shrimp Festival is a veritable culinary feast for lovers of the famous crustacean. The festival is usually held in June, after the end of the closed season, when fishing is prohibited for the animals to reproduce. There are all kinds of recipes on the event's stalls: breaded shrimp, "paulista" style, shrimp "bobó", shrimp "casadinho" and many others. All the proceeds from the Shrimp Festival go towards the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul the following month, when the boats go out in procession across the seas of Paraty.

DIVINE HOLY SPIRIT FEAST

Celebrated fifty days after Lent, the Divine Feast is the city's main religious event, registered as a Brazilian cultural heritage site by IPHAN. For 10 days, the city decorates itself in red and white for the celebration. A Portuguese tradition, the event chooses one boy to be emperor and six others to be part of his retinue. In addition to the masses, events such as the mega gymkhana, bingo and community lunch are part of the program. It is very popular with the locals, who usually show their devotion by carrying red flags during the procession.





FEAST OF SAINT BENEDICT AND OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Known as the "Feast of the Divine of the Blacks", the Feast of Saint Benedict and Our Lady of the Rosary also elects a King and his followers, who parade in gala costumes through the city. The festival is held in the Church of Saint Benedict in the Historic Center, built by enslaved people to profess their faith in the black saint. The festival usually takes place in November, close to Black Awareness Day.

Cristina Maseda
Superintendent
Paraty's House of Culture

