



**EXPLORING AFRO  
BRAZILIAN CULTURE:  
PROFESSIONAL  
JOURNEY & LEARNING  
EXPERIENCE TO BRAZIL**

***FEBRUARY 15-24, 2019***

**ALTERRA  
CONSULTING**

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### PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY & LEARNING EXPERIENCE TO BRAZIL

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## CONTEXT • WHY BRAZIL?

This is an 8-day, 6-night program to **Salvador da Bahia** – Brazil's 'Black Rome'. Here we explore Brazil's African heritage. From the city's Pelourinho core, a UNESCO World Heritage site, you will explore Afro-Brazilians' rich and diverse culture and history

## AFRO-BRAZILIANS: THEIR HISTORY, CULTURE, AND LEGACY

Over 8 days – February 15-24, 2019 – with a history and culture that has links to the countries from Congo, Angola, Nigeria, and elsewhere, descendants of Africans brought to Brazil as part of the same Atlantic slave trade, the legacy of which we in the United States also still grapple with today.

Via roundtable dialogues, school observations, cultural activities, and even community service, we explore heritage and history – but also draw Brazilian comparisons to the US civil rights and Black Lives Matter movements. Alongside Brazilian subject matter experts and colleague-educators, we ask whether access to high-quality education is equal, or whether it is the province only of those with means. We assess gender equality, and whether Brazil's commitment to achieving it is robust. We'll come to understand how Brazilians view race relative to social class.

## WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE

Both faculty and students can participate in the program. If you want to learn of Afro Brazil's history, culture, arts and more, join us to broaden your perspectives! This global experience offers you fresh new insights and learning experiences.

Concept of The Two Parallel Tracks: Faculty & Students

This program approaches the learning experience along 2 separate tracks. There is a **Faculty Track** and a separate **Student Track**. The aim of creating separating tracks is to meet faculty and students where they are. For faculty, this experience will suggest globally relevant curriculum. For students, it will inspire by highlighting which of these new perspectives they may use in their roles as agents of change.

- **Program Dates** / February 15-24, 2019
- **Program Price** / Program price is **\$2900 (Single rooms are available for an addition \$420)**

This includes registration for the entire 8-day professional program; airfare from Boston; 6 nights' international-class accommodation in Salvador da Bahia; all breakfasts; lunches during the workweek; all ground transport; English-language guiding & interpretation; program design; and access to professional speakers, educators & other subject-matter experts.

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Our proposed format is thematic, with education-related dialogues, service, and cultural activities designed to interlock with each other and with the prevailing theme.

During our visit to Brazil, we engage local subject-matter experts to stimulate active dialogue and nuanced awareness of prevailing issues. Dialogues are paired with – *enriched by* – multiday service experiences designed to elicit further awareness of Salvador’s pressing challenges, especially around structural inequality and its root causes.

### I. Experience in 3 Parts: Alterra’s Proposal at a Glance

► **Envisioning & Designing Roundtable Dialogues.** Alterra proposes to design and effect relevant, interactive dialogues with subject matter experts onsite at university and high school campuses, local NGO headquarters, and government offices. Guest speakers will open with a brief presentation of the selected challenge. A moderator will ensure that each dialogue ‘pops’ with robust dialogue, a spirit of questioning and exploration. Small-group exercises, breakout sessions, and student feedback presentations may be incorporated, as appropriate and time permitting.

► **Active, Reinforcing Community Service.** Alterra will organize active community service to a local community with an identified need. Service will be *central* to the learning experience in Salvador. To accomplish the service and its aims, we propose to partner the visiting US faculty and student delegates with a handful of local peers, as and when appropriate.

► **Cultural Activities to Complement Dialogue & Service.** Carefully selected cultural activities will shine a light on Salvador’s uniqueness as a locus of Afro Brazilian heritage; as a vibrant contemporary center where the arts, music, and dance traditions thrive; and, importantly, as a locus of variety of religious practices that continually evolve and interlock with each other. Certain practices – *candomblé*, *capoeira*, and more – have backstories tied tightly not only to West African faith traditions, *but also identifiably as reactions to the slave experience*. Delegates’ enjoyment of, participation in, selected cultural activities is designed to round out a nuanced and textured local experience.

### II. Six Themes Underpinning Dialogue & Service

We propose to design both the roundtable dialogues and the applied, multiday service experiences with several broad themes in mind. The aim is to introduce participants to the core concepts, key obstacles, and central players in the creation of high-quality and accessible education —in Salvador’s case, race and race relations, a long history of social inequity, combating poverty, human and social justice, economic and environmental challenges where they exist – in Salvador, to be sure, but also with lessons for our own trends at home in the United States.

Designed properly, this program will allow participants to grasp the structural forces that have been, and still are, at work in Salvador and the wider world. The service experiences, in particular, will allow participants to discover for themselves the recurrent themes and long-standing patterns that define and drive society’s responses to inequality and deprivation.

We propose exploring these five recurrent themes:

### III. Contours of the Community Service Component

To *reinforce* dialogues, we will perform service that reflects the main themes we're exploring. We'll join a literacy-promotion initiative, where we'll assist hands-on work with students and teachers in Salvador da Bahia. We will acquire an *action-oriented* outlook, engaging with local residents to meet demonstrated needs in meaningful ways.

► **Partnering.** Participants will work under the guidance of community leaders and NGO staff, who know the community and region.

