

ATLANTIC FOREST GREAT RESERVE GRACIOSA PORTAL

Antonina • Morretes



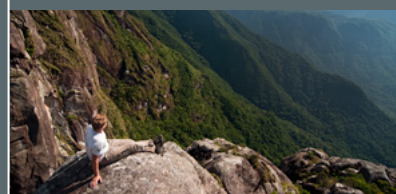
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ATLANTIC FOREST GREAT RESERVE

The Atlantic Forest Great Reserve is a voluntary initiative that brings together a diverse range of stakeholders—public, private, community-based, non-governmental, and academic—to promote regional development actions focused on nature-based tourism within the largest remaining continuum of Atlantic Forest in the world. Covering around 3 million hectares of well-preserved natural environments, the area spans the states of São Paulo, Paraná, and Santa Catarina. Home to rich wildlife, mountains, caves, waterfalls, bays, mangroves, and beaches, this region is considered a significant natural, cultural, and historical heritage site. The initiative aims to position it as a nationally and internationally recognized nature tourism destination. This movement was born from the

belief that preserving and conserving nature is essential for the planet's balance and for future generations. It promotes the idea that tourism can be a positive economic activity when practiced responsibly and sustainably, enabling a restorative economy and improving the quality of life for dozens of traditional and historic communities. This work represents a unique opportunity to conserve one of the world's most important biodiversity hotspots. The Atlantic Forest is a national treasure of Brazil and must be valued, recognized, and preserved by all.



ATLANTIC FOREST

THE GRACIOSA PORTAL IN THE LITORAL DO PARANÁ SECTOR

The Litoral do Paraná Sector is the true heart of the Atlantic Forest Great Reserve, thanks to both its central location and its incredible diversity—from the Serra do Mar mountains to stunning bays, beaches, and islands.

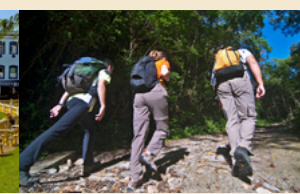
Until the mid-20th century, the Graciosa Road was the only paved road in Paraná and a key route for transporting agricultural goods. Today, it's a beautiful path into the Graciosa Portal. The scenic train ride through the Serra do Mar, one of the state's most popular attractions, leads visitors deep into this great forest. Here lie the historic towns of Antonina and Morretes, whose colonial architecture reflects the strong Portuguese heritage of the region. Visitors can enjoy rich local cuisine

and a variety of handmade goods, such as craft beers, cachaças, souvenirs, and products made from cassava and bananas. The surrounding area features mountain rivers, waterfalls, lookouts, trails, and peaks—perfect for tourists seeking authentic Atlantic Forest experiences. Activities include cycling tours, canoeing, hiking, river tubing, hot air balloon rides, river swimming, and birdwatching. Charming inns nestled in the forest offer guests the chance to unwind and reconnect with nature. This gateway also leads to the Pico Marumbi, a breathtaking peak with panoramic views of the coastal plain—ideal for mountaineering and rock climbing.

For more information and contact details, please visit our website.



MORRETES



TRAILS



ANTONINA



SEA FOOD



BANANA CANDY



CACHAÇA PRODUCTION



NHUNDIAQUARA RIVER



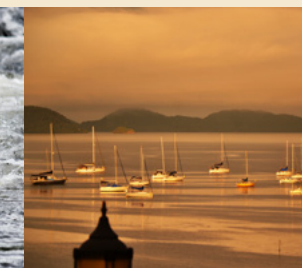
NSRA, DO PILAR SANCTUARY



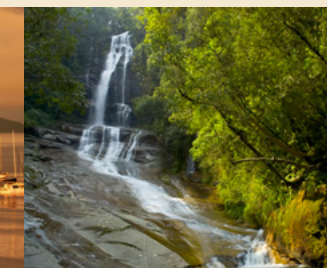
TRAIN TOUR



BOIA CROSS



ANTONINA'S BAY



SALTO DOS MACACOS

SEAFOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Visitors from across Brazil and around the world flock to Antonina and Morretes for their signature cuisine, making this one of the most visited areas in the state. The most iconic dish is **barreado**—a flavourful stew of meat and spices, slow-cooked in a clay pot sealed with cassava flour. This tradition, inherited from the first Portuguese settlers along the coast, is still alive today. But the culinary richness of the Graciosa Gateway goes far beyond barreado. In the **historic town centers**, visitors will find a variety of restaurants and unique dishes to please all palates. A vibrant culinary movement is taking shape, featuring gourmet creations made with seafood and local ingredients—offering unforgettable dining experiences. None of this would be possible without the resilience and dedication of local

family farming.

Organic and agroforestry practices thrive here, especially in the communities of América de Cima, Anhaia, Fortaleza, Pantanal, São João da Graciosa, and Rio Sagrado. In such a special region, sustainable land use, deep respect for nature, and the preservation of cultural traditions are essential values. This Portal also boasts two exclusive **Geographical Indication (GI) labels**. Antonina's **banana candy** is a beloved treat and makes a great gift. Morretes is renowned for its **cachaça and "aguardente"**, among the best in Brazil. Local **cassava flour** and **barreado** also hold GI status. Even craft beer is made here using pure water from the preserved forest. These are just a few examples from a wide range of truly authentic regional products.



BARREADO

NATURE, CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Graciosa Road is one of the most scenic routes in Brazil. Long before the 18th century, as early records show, it was used by Indigenous communities. The paved section dates back to 1873 and served as the state's most important commercial route for many years. Officially, the road begins in Antonina, winds through protected areas, climbs the mountains via Morretes, passes through Quatro Barras, and ends in downtown Curitiba.

The **Paranaguá–Curitiba Railway**, designed and built by the Rebouças brothers, was a bold engineering project completed in 1885. In addition to transporting goods between the capital and the port, it offers a breathtaking train ride through the Serra do Mar. **Colonial trails** like Itupava, Arraial, and Graciosa—once branches of the ancient Peabiru Path—invite visitors to retrace, on foot and with local guides,

the journey once taken by our ancestors from the coast to the plateau.

Both towns have preserved much of their **original architecture**. Facing the bay, the historic center of Antonina is listed as Brazilian Cultural Heritage by IPHAN. Highlights include the Matriz Church, built in 1714, and the International Pharmacy Museum, founded in 1911. Morretes, nestled along the Nhundiaquara River, features a historic district with the Church of Nossa Senhora do Porto (1850) and the Rocha Pombo House, a 19th-century gem.

The Graciosa Portal hosts festivals that celebrate music, culture, and nature throughout the year. Morretes stands out for its cultural and gastronomic programming, while Antonina keeps its traditions alive with major popular celebrations, musical events, and cultural activities.

ECOTOURISM AND ADVENTURE

The scenic **Graciosa Road** offers stops that provide access to mountain rivers. In the **São João da Graciosa** community, visitors can enjoy trails, art installations, tree climbing, hot air balloon rides, rappelling, zip-lining, human bubbles, workshops, and much more. In **Porto de Cima**, the popular boia cross (river tubing) is a favorite attraction. The area also offers lodging, dining options, and bike rentals. From here, you can reach **Marumbi Peak State Park**—known as the birthplace of mountaineering in Brazil—which features trails of varying difficulty, camping areas, the historic Engenheiro Lange Station, and the beautiful Salto dos Macacos waterfall.

The train from Curitiba arrives at the Morretes Railway Station and connects to the Antonina Station with the historic Maria Fumaça steam train. In Morretes,

crystal-clear rivers and views of the Serra do Mar, especially from the Marumbi Massif, are standout features—along with 4x4 tours through the surrounding region. Antonina, on the other hand, offers access to the bay and one of the best-preserved areas of the Atlantic Forest Great Reserve. Visitors can enjoy canoeing, kayaking, sailboat tours, sport fishing, and breathtaking views of the Ibitiraquire Massif. **Birdwatching and cycling** tourism are favourites among visitors. The region's rich variety of habitats

supports a wide range of bird species. Cycling is well established, whether for challenging routes, sports competitions, or relaxed rides through the plains. Many activities are easily accessible, but the experience is even more rewarding with the guidance of a local expert.



CYCLING





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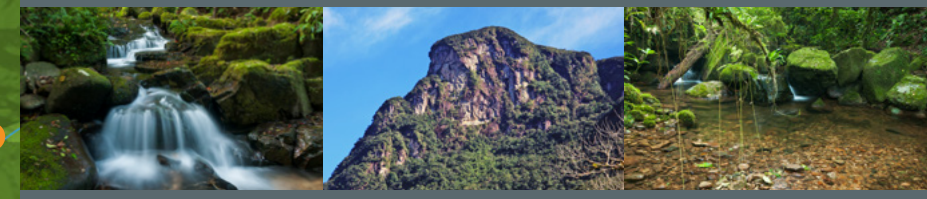
ATLANTIC FOREST GREAT RESERVE

GRACIOSA PORTAL



- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| SUBTITLES | SERVICES AND REFERENCES |
| Continuous forest | Balloning |
| Sustainable areas | Boat/transport |
| Parks and reserves | Camping |
| Great Reserve limits | Culture |
| Graciosa Portal | Cycling |
| Portal borders | Fauna watching |
| Sector limits | Food production |
| Urban areas | Food service |
| Communities | Handcrafts |
| Roads | Historic site |
| Railroads | Hosting |
| | Lookout |
| | Mountaineering |
| | River bath |
| | Sport fishing |
| | Trails |
| | Tree climbing/zip-lining |
| | Waterfall |
| | Water sports |
| | 4x4 tour |

PROTECTED AREAS



GRACIOSA STATE PARK

Created in 1990, this 1,190-hectare park protects Atlantic Forest ecosystems in the Serra da Graciosa. Known for its scenic viewpoints, it spans a mostly mountainous area on the right side of the Graciosa Road (heading toward the coast). While the park has no internal infrastructure, visitors can access its attractions through nearby private areas, preferably with a local guide. Along the road, one of the park's most visible landmarks is the imposing Morro do Sete (1,450 meters), where a natural granite formation resembles the number seven.



MARUMBI PEAK STATE PARK

The Marumbi Massif is the centrepiece of this 8,745-hectare park, home to eight distinct peaks of varying difficulty. Climbing these mountains can be challenging, and the guidance of an experienced mountaineer is recommended. Near the park's headquarters, visitors will find a free public campground with restrooms and showers. From the peaks, you'll enjoy panoramic views of the Litoral do Paraná Sector. Main access is via Estrada das Prainhas, by train, or by minibus from downtown Morretes.



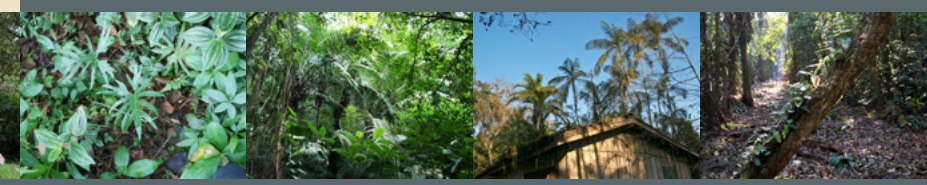
PAU-OCO STATE PARK

Located south of the Marumbi Massif, Pau-Oco State Park was established in 1994 and spans around 905 hectares. It can be accessed via the Anhaia road in Morretes. Inside, visitors can discover Salto da Fortuna, a beautiful waterfall nearly 40 meters tall, nestled in dense forest. The park still lacks infrastructure, so visits should be made with a local guide. It also contains the historic Arraial Colonial Path, a 16th-century trail that once connected the coast to Curitiba.



EKÔA PARK

With excellent infrastructure, Ekôa Park offers immersive ecological experiences in a 238-hectare preserved area at the foot of Serra da Graciosa. Attractions include interpretive trails, birdwatching, an observation tower, tree climbing, zip-lining, balloon rappelling, kayaking, and a variety of workshops and courses. The park also features a restaurant with a menu inspired by nature and regional flavors.



MARUMBI AREA OF SPECIAL TOURISTIC INTEREST

This Sustainable Use Conservation Unit covers more than 66,000 hectares and was created to foster connections between people and nature. It includes five parks—four of which are listed here—plus the Pico Paraná State Park. The area safeguards much of the Serra do Mar in Paraná and includes significant cultural and historical sites.

ROBERTO RIBAS LANGE STATE PARK

Established in 1994, this 2,700-hectare park conserves Atlantic Forest on the left side of the Graciosa Road (for those descending toward the coast). It connects to the Pico Paraná State Park to the north. Though it lacks visitor infrastructure, the park is frequented by experienced hikers and mountaineers.

PERNA DO PIRATA PRIVATE RESERVE

Created in 2010, this 41-hectare RPPN is surrounded by forest remnants, hills, and rural properties. Located south of Pau-Oco State Park, it hosts small-scale agriculture and permaculture projects, sociocultural gatherings, and ecotourism events.

GRACIOSA PRIVATE RESERVE

Situated in Porto de Cima, this 17-hectare private reserve shelters vital springs and protects the riparian forests of its internal waterways, ensuring local water security. Created in 2011, the project grew out of the owners' passion for a landscape that captured their hearts at first sight back in 2007.

ENCANTADAS PRIVATE RESERVE

Near Ponta da Pita in Antonina, the Encantadas RPPN (Private Natural Reserve) is a small private reserve covering about 18 hectares. It was created to promote ecotourism and deeper connections with nature.

VÔ BORGES PRIVATE RESERVE

Located on Reta do Porto road, it was the first private reserve established in the Municipality of Morretes, in 2007, and preserves 21 hectares of lowland Atlantic Forest.

Conceito e design: Andrés Stubelt, Ricardo Borges, Ignacio Jiménez, Lenise Scharf | Textos: Ricardo Borges, Solange Latenek, Marcos Cruz Alves, Tiago Choinski e Portal Graciosa | Revisão: Karen Parolin de Castro Fotografia: Adriano Almeida; Allan Neto; Cervejaria Porto de Cima; Christopher Wisniewski; Cynthia Duarte; Dani Person; Ekôa Park; Everson Gelasko; Indústria Floresta; Luiz Guilherme Peralta; Marcello Kawase; Marcelo Machado; Pousada Graciosa; Priscila Forone; Acervo ADETUR Litoral; Restaurante Casa do Rio; Ricardo Borges; Samanta Carvalho; Serra Verde Express e Zig Koch.