

CITY OF BELÉM

Area	:	718 km ²
Population	:	560,000
Temperature	:	27°C
Geographic Situation:		01° 28' 0" - South Latitude 48° 29' 18" - West Longitude

On December 25, 1615, the Portuguese officer Francisco Caldeira Castello Branco left the State of Maranhão for the Amazon River. On January 12, 1616, the fleet anchored in the Pará River. All the coast was inhabited by the Tupinambás Indians. Castello Branco chose a strategic point and built a wood fort, name "Forte do Presépio" (presently called Castle Fort). The help given by the Portuguese missionary priests was of a great value to solidify the pioneer settlement. On October 28, 1637, Pedro Teixeira, another Portuguese officer enlarged the Brazilian border, which was not marked in the Tordesilhas Treaty signed between Spain and Portugal. The original name given the city (Happy Luzitania) was changed to Our Lady of Belém of Grão Pará. From the Açores Islands came several families to dedicate themselves to agriculture.

In 1966, Belém was named the Amazon Metropolis. One of the cities in world that has an enormous variety of fruits. It is also very famous for its colonial architecture, the beauty of the parks and the hospitality of the people. It is the largest city in the North of Brazil. It is 83 miles from the Atlantic Ocean - 45 minutes by air taxi to the Marajó Island - 1 hour and 30 minutes by boat to the beautiful shores of Mosqueiro Island.

It is connected by air and by road to Brazilia, capital of Brazil.

Principal products for exportation are Brazil nuts, Jute, black pepper, lumber and animal skins.

It has several industries such as cement, plywood, vegetable oil, Brazil nuts, etc.

There is a daily bus service to Brazilia leaving Belém at 5:00 AM. This service has connection to other cities located in the South. Ships of all kinds and sizes travel in the Amazon River (River Sea), giving opportunity to the passengers to know the cities located in the Brazilian, Colombian and Peruvian Amazon regions, and also the junction of Rio Negro, Tapajós and Amazonas waters.