

While in the state of Bahia and in the capital city of Salvador, Brazil, I decided to take the ferry across the Todos os Santos Bay and disembarked at the pretty town of Cachoeira with the intention of heading south on BA101 to the beach town of Itacare.

The turnoff sign that was on a single post and about 3ft. long by 6in. wide was impossible to see as it was nearly dark so I went another couple of miles until common sense prompted a turnaround. With more care I made the turnoff and arrived at a town some miles from Itacare to arrange for a hotel.

In the morning I continued to the exceptional beach community to enjoy two days by the water.



Itacare Beach in the Bahia, Brazil

During the last day of my stay in I was relaxing at a picnic table not far from the beach when a Brazilian couple walked up and offered some information in Portuguese about returning to BA101. Since I couldn't understand the words it was through gesture I understood I shouldn't use a route but it was unclear which one they were cautioning against. I had a map of the area in my car which was not far off so using my slim Portuguese asked if they would wait while I get so they could point out the route to avoid unfortunately when I returned they were gone. What trouble this would cause.

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The route to the BA101 was easy to find outside of Itacare and the beginning of the road was firm and appeared well traveled so I continued confidently.



The early section of the road outside Itacara



For about 20 kilometers the road condition was good however this was about to dramatically change. I pulled up to two typical dwellings and could see in the distance a young man approaching wearing a very large machete. The scene was wild as the outback in Brazil. These moments can be cause for concern and caution but instead I took my camera, wheeled around to focus for several shots.

The young man was at the window of the rental and, since I was seated, my view was eye to waist. This was a formidable machete but the fellow smiled and asked WTF was I doing here?



Cautious onlookers in the Brazilian outback

