

A Rainforest Getaway in Trancoso, Brazil



Trancoso — once a fishing village and hippie hangout in the Brazilian state of Bahia — now draws celebrities and other travelers looking for quiet beaches and laid-back yet luxurious places to stay. Perhaps the best known of these is Uxua Casa Hotel & Spa, co-owned by Wilbert Das. During the pandemic, Das and his partners purchased a 15-acre stretch of rainforest along Itapororoca Beach — an isolated strip of coastline about three miles up the road from the hotel — and transformed it into Uxua Maré, a collection of 10 vacation rentals. In an effort to preserve the area, which is known for its tidal pools, Das committed to not cutting down a single tree on the property and repurposing existing structures whenever possible. A laundry shack, for example, was remade into a fisherman’s house with a wood-shingled roof, and three of the other rentals were rebuilt from century-old farmhouses that Das had disassembled and transported to Trancoso from the neighboring state of Minas Gerais. Das and his design collaborator, Peter Kempkens, outfitted each house with modern ceramics produced at Uxua’s on-site atelier, sofas made from hand-dyed vintage Italian linen and private plunge pools. Large verandas and outdoor dining spaces open onto the surrounding forest, which is populated by monkeys, parrots and sloths. By the end of 2025, Uxua Maré plans to have a freshwater swimming lake, a private restaurant, a glass-walled gym and a hiking trail planted with fruit trees, allowing guests to enjoy fresh-picked snacks while they walk. *Rates from about \$950 per night; accepting reservations beginning Dec. 24, 2024, uxua.com.* — Nora Walsh