managed the last trip to the coast in 1934. Here, at the mouth of the river, lie the port and the town of Fortaleza, with its picturesque colonial architecture and its many churches and monasteries, and for this reason remains the most suggestive, the most Brazilian of our cities, past and present. It is divided into a lower part—the busy trading centre—and an upper part—beautifully set overlooking the bay.

Bahia is proud and full of dignity, conscious of the nation she has mothered, of the Portuguese traditions she has preserved, and of the spiritual way she continues to exercise over the hearts of all Brazilians. The town was formerly the main slave market. Hence the omnipresence of negroes and their own particular way of life—indolent, soft people, dancing at voodoo gatherings or praying in religious processions, an inextricable mixture of Saint and Witch Doctor. These two aspects which stamp Brazilian life are best expressed in that great popular revellery, the carnival. The negroes' haunting songs and their highly spiced cooking have left their mark in Brazil everywhere. The dresses of the Bahia women are the inspiration of our artists.

The next flight takes one over a thousand miles, along a continuous coastal chain, to the modern airport of Rio, right in the heart of the city. No more advantageous view of the whole bay can be obtained than by air. From above, all its beauties join in a single panoramic sweep. Long white beaches in graceful curves, lush green islands and the serried rank of the tall residential blocks of Copacabana rise in brilliant colours like the reflection of a surrealist. The town, so different from any other, nestles in the valleys, follows the broken contours of the beaches in endless strings of jewels, on a most lovely setting. The well-known beauties of its harbour need not be described. What must be pointed out here, however, is that Rio undergoes a vast plan of reconstruction. Stately Government buildings, sky-scrapers and palatial flats spring up everywhere. A vast avenue was torn right through the centre of the town, as wide and longer than the Champ-de-Elysées; diagonals are foreseen to ease the traffic congestion.

From Rio two air-lines branch inland: one to Belo Horizonte, the comparatively new capital of Minas Geraes and the other to São Paulo, the coffee and industrial centre.

The first flight takes one over abrupt, rocky mountains to the plateau of Minas—a heart of gold locked in a breast of iron, as someone once called it. Around the capital are the gold mines, one of which, the St. John d'El Roy, has been in operation since colonial days. From them derives the name of Minas Geraes. They were discovered by the Paulistas, those famous bandeirantes who played such a part in exploring and appropriating the vast unmineralized spaces of Brazil, with total disregard of the Pope's line of demarcation between Spain and Portugal.

From Belo Horizonte motor roads branch to the ancient mining towns,