Fortaleza, Brazil is ranked 12th for world’s most dangerous cities. Capital of Ceara State in northeastern Brazil, Fortaleza is the 5th largest city in Brazil. High level of violence and a murder rate of (61 per 100,000) The prevalence of crime against tourists is greater in areas surrounding Ceara State capital the airport, hotels, bars, nightclubs, and other establishments that cater to visitors. The risk is greater at night in Fortaleza, crime on the roads remains a problem for both visitors and local residents, especially during evening commutes and traffic jams. Roadside robberies that target passing and stopped vehicles. While kidnappings for ransom have become less common in Fortaleza, this threat still exists, tactics organized gangs use is to target individuals observed withdrawing money from ATMs or exiting banks after making a withdrawal. These gangs frequently operate in teams and are armed. The Capital experience the effects of persons addicted to illicit drugs. Street assaults, robberies, and other criminal activity generate proceeds to support their addictions. Brazil is the number two consumer of cocaine in the world, behind the U.S. A large proportion of crime is drug-related. Visitors should take special care while on the beaches, as robberies occur in broad daylight, especially in the Boa Viagem neighborhood. A trend called “arrastão,” in which a gang performs multiple, simultaneous robberies during congested traffic or on the beach. “Arrastões” and random robberies may occur during major events (Carnival, soccer games, and even during peak times at the beach). Fortaleza Police officials frequently lack resources, staffing shortages, basic equipment, and morale as reasons for widely varying response times and unsolved crime. FAM advises visitors to travel with high caution while abroad in Fortaleza Brazil.

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