

The 23rd ACM SAC Conference (SAC2008) Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil

About Fortaleza

Fortaleza (Portuguese for fortress) is the State capital of Ceará, located in the sunny northeastern region of Brazil. With a population of more than 2.5 million, Fortaleza is a modern metropolis with greenish-blue sea, beautiful white-sand beaches, soft wind and a vibrating nightlife. Its complete tourism infrastructure and a rapidly growing industry make it one of the most important cities in the region in economic terms. Fortaleza has been for the last 3 years one of the most searched for cities in Brazil during holidays, second only to Rio. Fortaleza has a mild to warm temperature averaging at 27C (82F) all year around.

Fortaleza is very well served of top-class restaurants. From seafood to the famous Brazilian barbecues, from feijoada (a black beans dish) to international cuisine (French, Italian, etc), Fortaleza has restaurants for all tastes at a very reasonable price. As an example, the top seafood restaurant in Fortaleza (called "Milmares") charges for their seafood festival R\$ 32 (around US\$ 15) per person. Other places are more reasonable. Top-class Brazilian barbecue locations also charge around R\$ 30 (US\$ 14) per person.

Apart from its many tourist and gastronomic attractions, Fortaleza holds several academic and research institutions, including three major universities (UNIFOR, UFC and UECE) and several other smaller ones. Its emerging IT industry has been attracting many IT professionals from other regions of Brazil, which has steadily increased the local demand for IT-related university courses at both graduate and postgraduate levels. Therefore, Fortaleza is well positioned to hold a successful SAC conference in 2008, with the likely possibility of attracting many computer science students and IT professionals, not only from its local institutions but also from institutions located in other parts of Brazil.