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## Buzios Brazilian Hot Spot in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Millenium

When given the opportunity to travel to a small town approximately three hours from the overwhelmingly beautiful city of Rio de Janeiro, it doesn't take more than a few seconds to realize that this is a chance of a lifetime. After being consumed by the city of Rio itself and the culture of Brazilians, a taste for something different than city life was on the minds of ten students who yearned for visual pleasure that didn't consist of clouds sliced by buildings and taxis honking and swerving in and out of lanes. By word of mouth we had heard repetitively that Buzios was a beautiful place, and now after having experienced it, beautiful doesn't even suffice to describe the type of place it is.

About one hundred and ten miles east of Rio, we were dropped in the middle of an antique looking town that consists of twenty-three beaches. A hot spot for upper class Brazilians to spend their holidays and a new renowned international tourist attracting because of the diverse beaches and entertainment available in the small town. While many of the beaches are typical vacation spots with rented umbrellas and vendors selling jewelry and sunglasses along the shore line, one can simply be engulfed by the sounds of the waves crashing on the beach if they stumble across a beach much more private and reserved than others. Not only are the beaches diverse in reference to the amounts of people, but also when referring to the ocean. Surfers can find their own paradise while in search of the perfect wave on many beaches that provide set after set with ten foot faces depending on the weather, and others can find a much more low key beach scene with smaller waves and a tranquil atmosphere.

So, one might ask what ten college students would do in a town where they could not speak Portuguese but still be able to visit as many beaches as possible. Buzios offers various boat trips that take tourists all around the peninsula, visiting smaller isolated beaches while still enjoying the Brazilian culture from the crew on the boat. Brazilian music blasting as the soundtrack to flips off of the side of the boat along with popular Brazilian drinks and fruit that make even the most American tourist feel as if they are welcomed into a culture very different from their own. Other activities available by resorts along the beach as well as tourism lodges are windsurfing, nature hikes, sea kayaking, and of course the infamous nightlife that doesn't end until dawn.

One can only truly experience Brazil by simply going wild during the nightlife along with the other Brazilians who seem to have this routine memorized. While many bars and clubs in the United States offer dancing and drinking, they are not known for their late hours and endless partying. Buzios offers a nightlife that is simply amazing which entails not only dancing and drinking but a crowd of people that soon take over the streets as the sun goes down and the volume of the music only increases. As Brazilians are known for their party-like personalities, witnessing a local Buzian party at night is as entertaining and exciting as it gets.

For those who do not necessarily depend on the nightlife, there are also hundreds of delicious restaurants that serve incredible seafood but even shore side vendors that sell delicious corn on the cob soaked in butter if a snack is all that is desired. The streets are filled with a variety of restaurants that serve quick meals to soak up the booze or luxurious sit down dinners that are romantic for two.

The cobble stone paths that lead around the small city of Buzios allows tourists to appreciate the antique feel of the area and the remotely small feeling that is so captivating. Shops that line the street are filled with fancy clothes for the upper class society as well as well priced clothing for those who did not come there primarily to shop but maybe grab a new bathing suit and some comfortable flip-flops.

Although Buzios has been known as a place that tends to be very pricy and unaccommodating for those not willing to spend a pretty penny, this is not entirely true. Obviously ten college students do not want to spend a large amount of money on a place they were only going to visit for one day so when we realized that we could each spend thirty five reals (which is less than twenty dollars) on a boat ride that would keep us entertained, fed, and hydrated (well I guess hydrated isn't exactly the word that should be used) for four hours, there weren't any questions besides "Where do I pay?" It might be that as Northern Americans we are used to spending a great deal of money for something that doesn't necessarily give you what you paid for, but Buzios was more than what we could've imagined for as little money as we spent going there.

If one were to ask where to go in Brazil, I can honestly say that Buzios would be the first place I would send them if they wanted to experience the Brazilian culture as well as the breathtaking eye candy that is available within such a small town with such a great atmosphere. IHU?