Buzios, What Dreams Are Made Of

(by Matt Everett)

Many people vacation to Brazil every year, especially to Rio de Janeiro to experience the beautiful beaches and beautiful scenery. But there are some drawbacks to the big city of Rio, especially for the explorer trying to escape from the big city atmosphere. About two and a half hours north of Rio sits amoeba-shaped peninsula, named Buzios. Buzios has 23 beaches along its beautiful coast, ranging from a mile long to less than a hundred feet wide. But no matter which beach you end up on, you are guaranteed a beautiful sun and view.

Buzios started off as a small fishing village, settled in the 16th century when Brazil was discovered. When the Portuguese arrived in Brazil, Buzios was already inhabited by the Tamoio and Goitacas tribes. But, because the Portuguese did not provide protection for Buzios, it was the prime target for French, English and Dutch pirates, because of the many inlets and small coves. In 1555, the French start to provide protection for the Tamoio and Goitacas tribes. But this did not last long with the Portuguese royal family, soon after the Portuguese fought several battles with the French and regained Buzios in 1615.

Buzios did not become a popular destination spot until mid 1960’s, as a great alternative, to the big city beaches of Ipanema and Copacabana. The huge swell of travelers coming to Buzios, earned it a comparison with St. Tropez, another of Brazil popular travel destinations. During the summer months Buzios population grows to about 40,000 people, nearly 4 times its usual population of only 10,000. But behind the beautiful beach front, you can see the regular occurrence in most Brazilian cities of poor lower class living. It is amazing on one street there is designer shopping and the next grocery stores selling the necessities for locals in Buzios.

The scenery all over Buzios is beautiful; the streets are very similar to Paraty. Large cobblestones cover the streets and walkways, in the downtown area. We know now that Buzios is beautiful but what is there to do? There is many shops downtown, including designer fashion all the way down to the local selling necklaces on the side of the rode. So the traveler can find both most
fashionable new styles, to the little trinket that will provide them with perfect memories of Buzios.

Also, if you are in search of something to fell your day do not look any farther than downtown. All along the streets there are travel agents looking to provide you with a good time. On my visit my group and I decided on a schooner island cruise. We walk down a fairly large dock, to an even larger boat. Our tour guide, Bruno, set up cruise that included free drinks (except beer, but including Capirinha), fruit, and a four island stop. Also the cruise had an on-board photographer, which would sell you the pictures of your day and other beautiful days in Buzios. The cruise was magnificent, the crew was very polite and helpful, and scenery was amazing. And what was even more amazing is that it cost 30 rials each, equivalent to less than 15 American dollars.

No matter what you choose to do in Buzios, you will find yourself surround by beautiful people and a beautiful place. Buzios is an amazing vacation spot, filled with a million things to do. It a beautiful escape from big city life, a true getaway from the crime, pollution, and over crowded beaches. My visit to Buzios left me with only one uneasy feeling. When would I be going back?