



### Buzios

Only a week or so into our trip, our instructors gave us the opportunity to plan a daytrip to experience a place near Rio de Janeiro outside what we already had planned. Several students, I included, had heard of a place people describe as “heaven on earth.” The name of this special place is Buzios, a small town located 105 miles north of Rio de Janeiro. Once our group had decided that this magical place was indeed where we wanted to go, we scheduled a bus ride with our soon to be friend Bruno and researched some activities that would keep us busy for the majority of the day. I also asked several locals about this mysterious city and was shocked at how overwhelming positive a response our daytrip seemed to be getting time and time again. I was astonished with how similar everyone’s impression was of the place. This pre-departure excitement only further convinced our group that Buzios would be the perfect destination to further explore.

Our group of ten students somehow managed to wake up and load onto the tight confines of Bruno’s bus at an absurd hour in the morning. Most of the group slept in the back of the bus although from the front seat I managed to view several things that will stay in my head for many more years. I still can’t get over the strong haze of pollution that floated over the harbor as we departed Rio de Janeiro and headed for Buzios. It was an exciting ride, especially from the front seat, as our newly acquainted friend did his best to maneuver the bus in and out of traffic and safely get us to Buzios. There is still great debate as to whether Bruno ever once took his foot off the accelerator before reaching his destination. The sometimes nerve-racking ride was worth it once we arrived at the much awaited Buzios beach, a place that we too now refer to as “heaven on earth.”



--Brigitte Bardot with her Brazilian boyfriend.

Buzios was first discovered by European pirates and slave traders before becoming a fishing village. Buzios rise in popularity happened after the famous French

actress, Brigitte Bardot, began vacationing there with her Brazilian boyfriend. Although we did not see this first hand, there is said to be a statue of Brigitte sitting down overlooking the water. Visitors are invited to sit down on Brigitte's lap and take pictures. The statue is a true testament to how influential Bardot was in shaping Buzios reputation and making it the magnificent place it is known to be today. Buzios is one of the most popular destinations for the elite. Unlike most other Brazilian beaches far from the main cities, Buzios is scattered with people from all around the world. Its beauty and surroundings are a true attraction no matter where you're from. It's been named one of the most beautiful areas in the world, something our group would have a hard time disagreeing with. While famous for its small town atmosphere, the accommodations surrounding this quant little village compete with any big city.



Buzios contains more than twenty pristine beaches which are packed with some of the most beautiful women in Brazil. Contrary to the beaches in Rio; the sand was light and fluffy and the water was clear. A perfect setting to relax, surf, swim, tan, and drink; all of which we did for the beginning of the afternoon (with the exception of surf). One source explains Buzios as an “exuberantly sculptured landscape and exotic vegetation, which a prodigal ‘Mother Nature’ has privileged with a wonderful year-round summer.”

The peninsula where Buzios is located includes three communities; Ossos, Manguinhos, and Armacao. Ossos means “bones” and is on the northern tip. It's said to be the oldest and most attractive of the three communities. Manguinhos and Armacao are located south of Ossos and require more effort to find. Although, as we did, a map of the peninsula can be easily obtained at the visitor center free of charge. The city of Buzios is about five miles long and contains both the Brazilian and Antarctic maritime currents.

The east side of the peninsula contains beaches and coves with considerably colder water than the west side.

In conclusion, Buzios is the perfect getaway for anyone desiring any and all forms of beauty. The white sand beaches are a perfect compliment to the crystal clear water. The town is splattered with numerous dining, shopping, and leisure destinations which combined create the perfect atmosphere for young and old alike. As well as various expensive boutiques the town also caters to even the most frugal visitor. If your looking for excitement, sun, food, clothes, and beauty at a place considered to be truly special; Buzios is the place for you.

[www.buziosonline.com](http://www.buziosonline.com)

Buzios, Brazil

Bonnie Hamre

<http://gosouthamerica.about.com/cs/southamerica/a/BraBuzios.htm>