



Sydney

from Milton

to

Brazil

“Why I Love Brazil So Much”

A while ago I was writing about my first four months in Brazil and now I only have four months left. I went from only being able to say ‘Oi’ and ‘Tudo Bem?’ to being able to speak almost fluently in Portuguese, from culture shock to immersing myself into the culture and to opening my mind, gaining more confidence, independence and more understanding of the world.



The end of November was the end of school before summer vacation. I was sad to see everyone leave, especially since many of my friends in last year have left for university in other cities. However, we left the year off with a bang. My whole school put on a play in only four days. There was dancing, singing, acting and we even constructed a makeshift war tank in two days, since the theme of the play was ‘noite macabra’ or ‘creepy night’. This is a good example as to why I love Brazil so much. Everyone

participated and worked together to make something amazing before saying goodbye to each other. Everyone here is so talented, many people can play the guitar or some instrument and dancing to Brazilians is as easy as breathing. There is so much creativity and everyone just genuinely enjoys what they are doing.

February 2018

December and January here is summer vacation, which means I had the opportunity to do a lot of traveling. I spent my Christmas in Águas de São Pedro with my friends and host family. It didn't feel like Christmas at first because of the hot 45 degree weather and also because instead of present opening on the morning of the 25th, they open presents on the night of the 24th. However even though it was not my typical winter wonderland Christmas, I still had an amazing time. Afterwards I travelled to Foz do Iguaçu, and saw the famous Cataratas do Iguaçu; beautiful waterfalls, part in Argentina and part in Brazil, with gorgeous rainbows.



Now it is Carnival in Brazil. People in my city, celebrate by getting together with costumes and dancing. The costumes are almost similar to Halloween except with way more glitter and colour. Brazilian music is played the whole night to celebrate Brazil and their one of a kind culture.

Soon on the 14th of February, I will leave for a one week trip to the city of Bonito. Bonito in English means handsome and I think the city will live up to its name. The pictures of the waterfalls and coves I've seen are breathtaking. I'm very excited for this trip and to spend time with the other exchange students, as this district is very big and most of us live far from each other.

If I had not done this exchange, I would have known nothing about this beautiful country and not have met the amazing people that I have. Thank you to all the Rotarians, my Canadian family and my Brazilian one, this would not have been possible without you.

Até Mais,

Sydney