



Megan

From Burlington Lakeshore to Brazil

I have fallen in love with Rio

I can't believe it is beaver tale time again! You have no idea how FAST time goes by. I only have 4 more months here, which is CRAZY! Sorry for capitalizing words but it is seriously so scary! So now I have been here for about 6 months, and I kind of wish time would go by slower.

So since my last beaver tale so many things have happened: Christmas, New years, Recife, Rio de Janeiro and so much more! Christmas was great to start off; my Brazilian aunt who lives in New York City came down to visit us again. She brought me peanut butter and maple syrup, which was heaven because they have neither here in Brazil. It was awesome to see people eat peanut butter and seeing all their reactions, one boy literally just spat it out because apparently it didn't taste too good. Crazy: how can you not like peanut butter! Then we wrapped about 200 gifts for this present giveaway we were doing on Christmas Eve. That definitely kept us busy for a few days! Then on Christmas day my host mom gave me a few presents and I gave my family the presents I bought for them. It was surely a nice, *warm*, Christmas. Is it weird that I actually miss snow?! Also I can't forget to mention my Grandma actually sent me *home-made* ginger bread cookies and candy canes to munch on during the holiday season!

Of course after Christmas, there was New Years! I got to spend my New Years celebration on the beach in my city with my host family. There was champagne being thrown around everywhere and everyone hugging each other. We ended up staying to watch a concert that was happening on the beach and just having a good time. Don't even get me started on finding a taxi at the end of the night though; it was crazy since everyone wanted a taxi.

Around the holidays all the inbounds in my region had the chance to travel to a city called Recife, which is about an eight hour drive from my city of Aracaju. So all seven of the inbounds in my city hopped into a bus and made our way to Recife. It was actually a lot of fun; we all entertained each other with music, songs, DVDs so it wasn't that boring. When we arrived in Recife we quickly passed by the beach for some sightseeing. The thing we all found the most amusement in was the "Sharks dangerous! Don't swim" sign and there was still people swimming! The whole time I was eyeing the water to try to find a shark fin. Then we ended up eating "Acai na tigela" which is the best thing in the world. It is a fruit from the Amazon and they make kind of this ice cream, fruit shake out of it. Any inbound coming to Brazil will be eating it 24/7. After we made our way back to the farm we would all be staying at for the time we were in Recife. It was on the outskirts of the city so it literally took us about 2 hours to get from the beach to the farm as traffic is terrible in Brazil. The rest of us just ended up watching MTV the rest of the night to pass the time. We got to meet up with the other 40 inbounds in our district the next day and we ended up having a Christmas dinner with everyone which was a lot of fun. We did a gift exchange and someone brought peanut butter so everyone ended up wanting that! All the North Americans miss it so much!

Finally one of the highlights of the past few months was when I went to Rio de Janeiro! It was amazing and I have fallen in love with that city! I went with two other inbounds in my city and there was a total of 45 inbounds there. First, everyone on that trip was amazing and friendly. I made some good memories with some people who I am definitely going to miss! The first day we went to Copacabana beach which was beautiful and hot, but the water was freezing! I was expecting really warm water but it was SO cold! We ended up staying there for about 3-4 hours, just spending time in the sun. That same day we also went to a little market near the beach and I bought a lot of stuff. The next few days were filled with so many events and stops that it is kind of a

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blur in my mind. But some of the highlights were: the Sugar Loafs, Christ the Redeemer and Ipenema beach. The Sugar Loafs are those big mountains you see all around Rio. We took a cable car to the very top and the view was breath taking! All of us agreed it was a kind of surreal feeling and I was personally touched! Then the next day we went to Christ the Redeemer, which was amazing! It was awesome to see it actually in front of you! It was so tall; I think I read somewhere it is 13 stories. Anyway we took many photos and had a blast. Unfortunately the trip to Rio ended too fast, I will miss you all! So my second beaver tail is now over, it is so sad I only have 4 more months left and my exchange is almost over! Well, I will savour every moment and have the best time ever!

I will talk to you soon with the next beaver tale!

Until next time

Megan