



Tylee

from

Burlington North

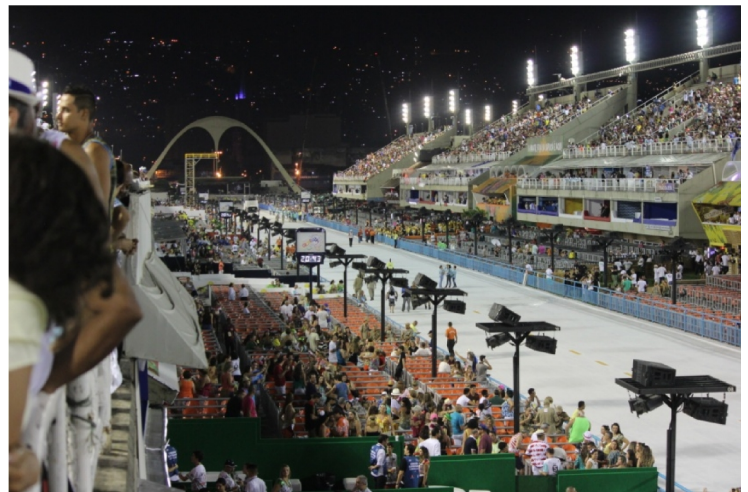
to

Brazil

“I can't wait for the rest.”

I can't believe that as I am writing this I will have been in Brazil for seven months. What an adventure it has been. Since the last BeaverTale; I have traveled to the Amazon, visited some of the largest cities in Brazil, switched schools and grown my language skills. Everyday continues to be an adventure and provide an opportunity to explore.

Rotary recently decided to move me to a new school because it is much closer to the houses of my last two host families. The school is much more advanced then my last, we have classes all day and on Saturday! Not to mention tests on Sundays. I am now in the equivalent of grade twelve. My favourite classes are the geography and history of Brazil because it lets me understand the country more and what events in the past influenced the culture they have today. Every night I spend at least an hour working on my Portuguese. Reading, writing, and understanding are much easier now but the pronunciation is still the hardest part of the language.



My first trip with Rotary started in November and ended in December, it lasted 22 days and there were 37 other exchange students on the trip. The trip was focused



on the North of Brazil and exploring some of the most famous cities. We traveled to Brasilia, Jericoacoara, Canoa Quebrada, Fortaleza, and the Amazons. In the Amazon we hiked multiple mountains, met and danced with the tribals, slept on a boat for four days, and even caught a full sized alligator. My favourite city on this trip was

Jericoacoara. The city was in the middle of the desert and we had to sit in the back of a hummer with our suitcases for an hour to get there. However the Atlantic ocean and the desert met right beside the city so there was beach. This was breathtaking because we could climb a sand dune to sit and watch the sun go down over the ocean. Jericoacoara was a small city; the streets were not even paved, all the streets were sand and you could walk around the city in your bare feet.

My second and most recent trip with Rotary was one of the most remarkable experiences of my life. This past month I spent a week in Rio de Janeiro and Partay. I checked two more things off my bucket list. The trip started with a 17 hour drive and arriving in the city at 6am, we went and explored the city that morning and in the afternoon we took the tram up to the Christ statue. In the beginning it was underwhelming but that was because we were in the middle of a cloud so we couldn't see the statue or the city when you looked over the edge. When the cloud started to rise and the statue and city became visible you could hear the screams of excitement from everyone who was there. Overall one of the greatest views I have ever seen. The day after we went to "Pão de Açúcar" or Sugar Loaf, another location with mesmerizing views.

On the trip to Rio I experienced the best part of my exchange so far. I had the privilege to see the Parade of Champions. The Parade of Champions is the final parade in Carnival it showcases the top six samba schools in Carnival. The parade started at 7pm and finished at 6am the next day. It felt like a dream being there; all the colours, people, and dancing.



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I want to say thank you to everyone who has helped me get to this point; Brazil and Canada, Rotarians or not. You have all made this a once in a lifetime experience and I will forever be grateful. I have changed so much in the past seven months and I can't wait for the rest.

Tchau!

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