

FORTALEZA TO JERICOACOARA

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hile I was sitting at home waiting for the wind to come up, I got a message from the crew at Kite Adventures, inviting me to come down to Brazil to host a Kite-With-A-Pro tour. Once I heard this region (the northeast coast) of Brazil blows every single day, it didn't take me very long to book my ticket! I made my flight arrangements, and the Kite Adventures crew took care of everything else. I didn't have to worry about any of the usual travel hassles: transportation, the language barrier, or where I was staying; every single need was met. This is probably a good thing as I do not speak very good Portuguese!

Dimitri Maraminedes takes flight over the barged hummer while staring down at the blue waters of Brazil.  
Lens: Gustav Schmiege

#kiteboarder  
**THE**  
**BRAZIL**  
**SESSIONS**

Story by Dimitri Maramenedes

Photographs by Gustav Schmiege

After what seemed like a never ending flight, I arrived at the airport in Fortaleza, changed a little money, and was riding in Cumbuco an hour later. Cumbuco is a small fishing village that has been heavily visited by kites over the past two years. The flat water riding is sure to make anyone drool. We did downwinders from our hotel, with the Kite Adventures buggies providing support. We ended our downwinders at Cauipe Lagoon, a flat water paradise that holds 25-30 kites. As the sun started to set, the wind kept blowing and it wasn't until complete darkness that I decided to call it quits.

After a few days in Cumbuco, we drove down the beach to Paracuru, 35 miles away. Paracuru is great for kiting because it sits on a point, so the wind is completely unobstructed. Everyday starting at 9am, the wind kicked up to 20-28 knots. Kite Adventures has a kite house in this area, which provided an amazing base for exploring the area! The flat water was the perfect place for me to try my no harness, kite loops. Luckily we had a crew downwind to catch my lost kites as I played the circus monkey taking beating after beating.

After three days in the kiter's paradise of Paracuru, we drove further down the



Dimitri puts on his usual show for the barge crew. Lens: Gustav Schmiege



Dimitri cuts the top off this little slice of heaven while touring in South America. Lens: Gustav Schmiege



Sunset and flat water gives new meaning to 'soul session' as Dimitri rides out the last bit of light. Lens: Gustav Schmiege

Palapa tops break up the alley as Dimitri cruises the flat water. Lens: Gustav Schmiege



Even a wide open beach in Brazil has its share of Jack Asses. Lens: Gustav Schmiege



Sweet waves, with butter on the inside was the perfect playground. Lens: Gustav Schmiege

beach to Mundau, a beautiful lagoon that was, guess what — perfect for kiting! The only complication was that Mundau is on the other side of a river. To get there, we had to load the Land Rover onto a tiny wooden raft powered by a four horsepower outboard. It was definitely one of the more memorable moments of the trip. After the river crossing, there were miles of unspoiled coastline - this is a completely

isolated area and there with no kites, except us.

As we continued our trek, we headed to Jericoacoara, a primitive and isolated fishing village that was without any contact to modern civilization until about fifteen years ago. Jericoacoara was straight out of a story book, with only five main roads which were covered in sand. The food was amazing and after kiting all

day the local atmosphere was the perfect place to eat, drink, and relax. I don't want to divulge the ultimate secret spot, but a 20-minute buggy ride took us to a secret freshwater lagoon, where the wind blows 20-25 knots everyday. The conditions were some of the best I have ever kited. This is a place you have to visit if you make your way down to this little paradise. After amazing riding conditions



Never one to pass up the spotlight, Dimi uses his flying skills to give the locals a little lens candy. Lens: Gustav Schmiede



A kiteboarding dream . . .  
Lens: Gustav Schmiede



Water, sand? What's the difference, it's all fun on a kiteboard.  
Lens: Gustav Schmiede



Stacked fishing boats added color and culture to the Brazilian landscape.  
Lens: Gustav Schmiede



for four days, we drove the three hours by road back to Cumbuco for an afternoon session. We had one last perfect session, powered on 12s, before we drove on to Fortaleza, where the tour came to an end.

Where there are kites, there is wind.  
Lens: Gustav Schmiede

What an amazing trip this was. It wasn't all about the riding. The local people and the kiteboarding crew made the trip more fun than I could have imagined. I have kited all over the world, but the northeast of Brazil is one of the best spots I have ridden. The diversity of riding was more than any kiter could ever want! We never kited the same exact place twice, combining ocean downwinders with sessions in flat water lagoons. With the water and air temperature at a mild 80-85° year round, it was hard to get motivated to board the plane home. All I could think about was everyone back home waiting for the snow to melt. This will be a place I will be coming back next year for sure!

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