

Antarctic Rediscovery



Tamara Klink together with Matheus, Valdemir and Elias - the winners of the the Brazilian Navy cultural "Brazil in Antarctica".

In January 2014, when I began producing the video with which I and my biology teacher used for the contest sponsored by SECIRM, I had no idea that this series of choices of words and images would be our passport to an Antarctica entirely unknown to us. That may sound strange to some, considering that two trips to the same place are completely equal. Or maybe for those who find that Antarctica is an entirely white place where animals are few and similar. However, I would not only visit the Comandante Ferraz Antarctic Station, about which I had only heard of, but I would see again an environment alongside researchers, and with an amazing logistical support.

Going from Punta Arenas to King George Island watching the sea from the Hercules cabine, made me even want the journey to last three days, which is the time it usually takes to get there by boat. In March 2014, the short time we spent in Antarctica was divided between the helicopter and the station. The scenes we saw out the window, large icebergs that looked small, the cracks in the snow mountains, the waves, which were thin white scratches at sea, were the most

amazing so far. Within the two longer and shorter hours of my life, I passed quickly and with attention by the station with the feeling that we would never see there again..

What was my surprise to find, in December of that year, that we would go back to that place? But it was not the same, it never is. With no pull ups, we landed in Frei again in January. Arriving by helicopter in Ferraz, humpbacks and emperors (not penguins, but the crew of the base group) welcomed us. In three days, we watched the collections and preparation of equipment for researchers, visited colonies of penguins and elephant seals, we saw small ice blocks releasing from big ones and met a totally different Antarctic from the one I knew.

After the experience in the station, we went to the ship Almirante Maximiano, and got a few extra days due to a "bad" sea. More than the ship in itself, I liked meeting some of the many people who work in it, most of them with wide smiles on their faces; people who worked nights and days to map the seabed, performing water sampling from various depths and raising soil samples from miles below sea level. The researchers

showed us some of their many scientific treasures, treasures that were not in the algae, lichens or ice chips, but the combination of these with their knowledge and their ability to make them useful as scientific discovery and drug development, less toxic pesticide, among others.

Returning home after this trip was not a happy event at first. But being able to share this experience over and over again, with people who, like me, were not very familiar with the work of Brazil above 60 degrees latitude, it made me happy to multiply it and immensely grateful to all the people who contributed to it.

Source: Tamara Klink - one of the four winners of the cultural contest "Brazil in Antarctica", carried out by the Brazilian Navy.

