

Last summer, I went to Mar E Floresta, and had one of the most incredible experiences of my entire life. My time at the Portuguese language village opened doors for me, at school, in my daily life, and in my upcoming future. At school, the Portuguese I learned helped me a lot both to improve my Spanish and my French. In my daily life, I was introduced to the Portuguese community in my city. I met various speakers and talked to them about their experiences with the culture of Portuguese speaking areas. I have also been listening to Brazilian pop music, which, aside from being good music, heavily influenced by American style rock and roll, African style beats, and a charge of Latin flavor, is a great opportunity for me to learn Portuguese. By going to Mar E Floresta, I hope to expand the world into which I am beginning to walk right now.

The largest reason why I want to learn Portuguese is so I can be conversant in Portugal. In the 2009-2010 school year, I am doing foreign exchange, going to Portugal. My decision to do foreign exchange in a lusophone country was greatly influenced by my experiences at Mar E Floresta. As a way to get ready for the complete cultural immersion of this experience, I want to go to Portuguese camp. Going to Mar E Floresta is the best way to learn Portuguese. The kind of vocabulary that I would learn at Portuguese camp would be integral for the enhancing of my learning experience in Portugal. It would make becoming conversant, if not fluent in Portuguese a much easier transition for me. The more I can learn about Portuguese culture, the easier my stay in Portugal will be.

When I went to Mar E Floresta, I found inspiration, and ambition for things that I would never have thought I could do. By going again, I hope to learn more Portuguese and more about Portuguese culture. This will prepare me for my upcoming adventure in Portugal, and expand my horizons into another world, making opportunities that I would never even dreamed of become real possibilities. To me, learning Portuguese at Mar E Floresta is a jumping off point for doing something incredible not just in high school, but with my life.