

My best memory

On June 24, 2017, the morning was beautiful, excellent for strolling and discovering new places. It was 9:30 and my father informed us that we were going to spend the day away from home. I had just to prepare my backpack, but I had no idea where I was going, though I assumed we were going to a beach or a pool, because my mother told me to bring my swimming shorts and a towel.

My father started to slow down and we stopped at a restaurant car park, near a river. I thought we were going to take a break and go on afterwards, but it wasn't like that, because my dad started to get things out of the car. I asked him why we had stopped there and why he was getting things out of the car and he immediately replied that we were going to spend the day there, at the river beach of Senhora do Desterro.

Really angry at what I had just heard, I slammed the car door very hard, which I did not regret doing, because my parents knew that I didn't like rivers very much, and yet I would have to spend the day in one. My mother chose a place to stay and my ultimate adventure to survive there began. I hated insects and icy water, but the cool breeze, in that tremendous heat, was one of the things that made me feel comfortable.

Two hours after our arrival, we decided to have lunch and thank goodness for that, as I was feeling quite bored. We took the food from the cooler and ate on a stone table that was on the left side of where we were staying. An hour after lunch, I decided to go into the water and it was the first time in my life that I felt so good in a river and in such cold water, because it was a tremendous heat and it felt quite good in the water. My father got tired of playing with me, which helped to pass the time very quickly, and in the late afternoon, a few minutes before we left, my father explained and showed me why he liked going there so much. We walked no more than 150 meters and I soon noticed the magnificent landscape that was in front of me, that is, in one of the parts of the river there was a small viewpoint where you could see an incredible waterfall with vegetation around it, where you could see flowers of various colours and even hear birds singing. It was simply amazing. My dad said he wasn't there just because of that, but because we could swim there before we left, and when I went into the water, it looked magical.

When we got back to go home, the sun was setting and, right after packing, we continued our journey and returned home. After that day, whenever asked if I want to go for a swim in a river, I immediately say yes, because of that incredible memory.

André Cardoso

