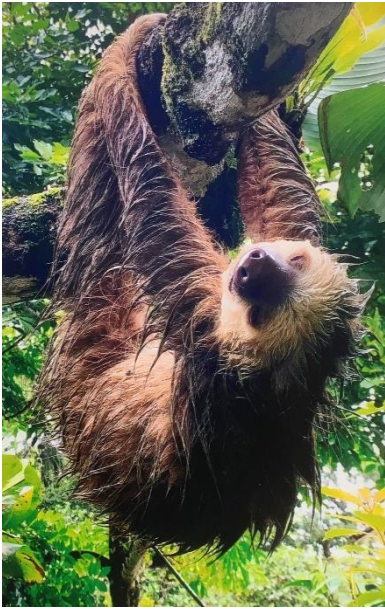


SOUTH AMERICA 2019

We left Australia on 27th July 2019 to travel through some South American countries. We arrived in Costa Rica and met our Seattle son and his family and tripped around Quepos for two weeks discovering beaches and sloths.



We then flew to Cartagena (in Colombia) and then to Leticia (also in Colombia on the border of Brazil, Peru and Colombia). From there, we booked a trek to a jungle lodge on a Peruvian island for three days and two nights. A boat took us to the island where we were faced with a climb of 7 metres up the bank of the Amazon; this was the hardest physical thing that I have ever had to do, coming in second only to childbirth. I had barely put my foot on the top of the bank when we were faced with torrential tropical rain which didn't let up for the 3 hour trek, which was also mud, mud and more mud.



Climbing the Amazon bank



Part of the mud track



Our Peruvian lodge

On our day of departure from the island we had breakfast in Peru, lunch in Colombia and dinner in Brazil. Whilst here, we booked a three day cruise down the Amazon on a cargo boat.



Les boarding the cargo boat



Banks of the Amazon



The hammock deck

Our boat berthed at Manaus in Brazil which, at around 2 million people, is the biggest city in the Amazon. From there we wanted to travel to Georgetown in Guyana. This entailed a bus to Boa Vista and a second bus to Bon Fim, then an expensive taxi to Lethem in Guyana, having our passports stamped out in Brazil and stamped in in Guyana and Yellow Fever checked in Immigration.

There was little to see or do in Lethem so we only booked a bed for the day and then left that evening at around 6pm in a mini bus to travel to Georgetown. This drive was to take around 20 hours but it also included a 4 hour sleep in a hammock which was news to us. We left our hammock shelter around 3.30am and at about 4am we became bogged in the red mud. 5 other mini buses eventually caught up with us and, with 5 guys pulling from the front, another 4 pushing from the back and around 5 more rocking the bus from the side, we were eventually freed.



From Georgetown, we made our way to Paramaribo in Suriname. This entailed a car ride to the border and a boat ride across the Courantyne River followed by another drive to our accommodation.



Boat from Guyana to Suriname



Guyana immigration

From Suriname, we travelled to French Guiana. This again entailed a car ride to the border, a boat ride across the Maroni River and another drive to our accommodation in French Guiana.



Boat from Suriname French Guiana



Cayenne French Guiana

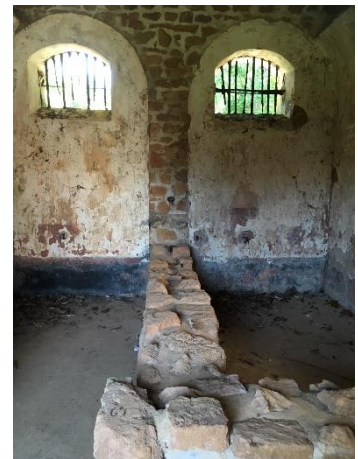
Ever since seeing the movie Papillon, I have had Devil's Island on my bucket list. There are three islands in this group, which is called The Salut Island Group and is made up of Royale, St Joseph and Diable (Devil's). Unfortunately, they no longer allow tourists to Devil's Island due to strong currents (we believe). We went instead to Isle Royale and spent the day wandering around the ruins.



Devils Island



View from Isla Royale



Cell block on Isla Royale

We left French Guiana and flew to Belem in Brazil. From Belem, we took a series of buses down the coast of Brazil. Our bus from Belem to Fortaleza was pulled over by police checking for drugs.



Our belongings were searched by about 30 police and a police dog.



We loved Salvador



Florianópolis: view from our accommodation



Florianópolis: water taxi stop

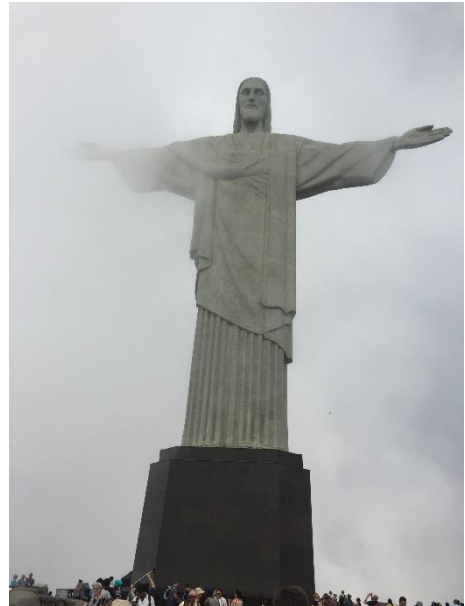


Blumenau Oktober Fest





Rio's favela



Rio