

Email from Daniel Beniston of sydneypinz.com

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Subject: Rio 2016 One month to go - NOC release

Well this city is looking amazing. The brand new Terminal 3 I flew into the other day and is spectacular, processing times by customs was fast, and luggage was on the belt ready when we arrived. The airport upgrades of Terminal 2 for duty free exit is complete and a very big surprise.

The airport is being dressed, the flags and banners are up, and the last minute road works are being completed.

Head to Centro and the new tram is operating and has completely changed downtown. Where the port area is it's the new "place to visit" for the local Cariocas, they are enjoying the space and what the city has become. This area during Games time will be a hive of activity with a live site, the 3,800 residents from the Cruise Ship and a large volume of Private and Open to the public hospitality houses. Also rumoured to be the location of the Cauldron.

On your way to Copacabana and you have the tunnels all dressed with Look of The Games, and as you approach the Beach the most spectacular venue of the Games is nearing completion. The Beach Volleyball Venue is breathtaking! Its 5 metres from the road and 10-15 stories high, a remarkable temporary venue which is THE EVENT you cannot miss.

Copacabana itself is getting ready with the normally open expanse of the Avenue a little more closed in with the middle islands all filled with crowd barriers ready to despatch and temporary seating for the Triathlon Stand. Also the Vehicle Entry point is being placed in a giant tent, so the venue is nearly ready.

In the middle of Copa is the Megastore which has already opened, trading from 10am – 10pm daily at the moment I went past last night at 7pm and there was a queue to get in. They have some great items (look out for the Bandanas – great gift for under \$10 and a personal plug there as its one of our licensed products!)

The Line 4 Will open and Will work. You can buy the passes for this now online if you have a Brazilian address and from 15th July for tourists <https://cartaojogos.riocard.com/#!/institucional/cartao>

Barra Olympic Park is ready and getting dressed now.

This will also be used on the TransOlympica BRT to move from Barra Olympic Park in the South to Deodoro Olympic Park in the north. The road is complete, the bus shelters are in and everything is ready to go.

I will say something, in Beijing 2008 I remember being there for ticket collection 8 weeks before the Games and they were constructing many things and roads and I thought how could they get this done in time. We spent three days in lockdown and when we emerged it was remarkable to see everything was done and they were making Mascots out of the trees on the sidewalk.

Come 8 years later and I am seeing the same thing happen, overnight things are done and completed. It looks like chaos and instantly its polished.

Things won't be easy, transport is untested and we all know every Games has its challenges, but these Games will be something very special. I can see it unrolling in front of me and for a country that has suffered over the last 12 months with their economic crisis they are really trying to get ready to welcome the world. The least we can do is come to the party.

Best wishes
Daniel