

### **James Hutt - South America , Summer 2013**

On 19th July I arrived in Lima, the capital of Peru, to begin my two month trip across South America. Travelling by bus we saw the Nazca Lines, Huacachina a desert Oasis and the capital itself before flying to Cuzco for the Inca trail. During the 4 day trek through the Andes we explored many Inca ruins as we battled with the altitude. Thankfully the majority of our equipment was carried by porters and llamas, which are still central to the Highlander's way of life. On the 4th day we arrived at Machu Picchu, one of the wonders of the modern world for sun rise - a spectacular view and well worth the days of effort to reach it.

After Peru we travelled to La Paz, Bolivia. This was a central point for many other trips, particularly a 3 day tour of the Bolivian Amazon. The variety of bird life was awe inspiring and we saw thousands of alligators, caiman and pink dolphin as we travelled down the river. After returning from the Amazon we took a 16 hour bus to begin a 4 day tour of Torotoro National Park, the highlights of which were various lagoons, coloured with minerals washed down from the mountains which turned the water green, white, red or black.

From Bolivia we flew to Buenos Aires, a city with a huge amount to offer culturally. Through various walking tours laid on by the hostel we had the chance to visit the poorest and richest neighbourhoods of BA. Our experience was similar in our final destination, Rio de Janeiro, where favelas lie in the heart of the city and people from all backgrounds mix. Much of our time was spent on the beaches both in Rio and the nearby island, Ilha Grande. On one of our final evenings we climbed to the base of Cristo Redentor at sunset for a view of the entire city. This was an amazing end to a once-in-a-lifetime trip where I enjoyed incredible cultures, views and experiences.