

Thank you very much for the grant towards my World Challenge expedition to Venezuela. I have enclosed some photos from my expedition and will send some more when I have the photos from our expedition leader.

In Venezuela I went on two treks – the first in Para Peninsula, a rain forest and national park and the second in the Andes. There were some very challenging days that would last up to eight and a half hours but they were both also very enjoyable. My team-working, communication and determination skills were greatly developed throughout the treks.

In between these two treks we went to Angel Falls for two days. On the first day we were walking through the water falls and on the second day we took a four hour boat ride to Angel Falls. This was one of the most memorable parts of the trip as it was such a surreal experience.

We also did a project in a National Park for a week. Through this we were helping the local community and helping to bring more visitors to the National Park. Some of the tasks involved planting new trees, litter picking on the mountains and on the paths to the lagoons as well as painting signs, fences and benches. It was also a great opportunity to socialise with some of the local people as well as significantly developing my Spanish.

The trip was ended by going to a historical market town Barquisimeto followed by going to Choroni beach. In Barquisimeto we tried a lot of the local food including enchiladas and fried plantain. It was very busy compared to everywhere else we had been. It was interesting to get the chance to see what life was like for the local people and to look around some of the main attractions. In Choroni we went to a night market and bought many souvenirs from the local people. Many of them spoke some English so it was a great chance to talk to them about what life was like in Venezuela.

This was an extremely enjoyable, unforgettable and challenging experience. I have many good memories from this expedition that I will never forget and have significantly developed as a person within my skills and my knowledge of other cultures. Thank you very much for your grant. It was very helpful in allowing me to go on this great adventure.

Thank you!

Yours faithfully

Isobel Neal