

# WALES YFC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME



Report by: Gwennan Jenkins

## **Why did you apply for a trip with the Wales YFC International programme?**

I applied as it was under 30 years of age and this was one of the only trips that was available to me (as I am over the competing age)! I had always wanted to visit Patagonia mainly because of the Welsh connection but also as I had never been to South America before. I also felt it was good value for money and that it would be more fun to travel in a Group. I also like the idea of having everything organised for me!

## **Where did you travel to?**

Patagonia, South America. We also visited Buenos Aires and stopped over in Rome Airport for hours with the flight!

## **What did you do – include the highlights**

It was a jam packed fortnight, we visited farms, saw amazing wildlife including whales, penguins and flamingos. We visited the two Welsh medium schools, several chapels, Eisteddfod, crossed the Paith, had a very warm welcome from the Welsh Society and received several asados!

## **What personal benefits did you get from the trip?**

I gained the understanding that the Country is quite poor, it is only 150 years old therefore a fairly 'new' Country compared to Wales. It was very barren aswell and I found it difficult to adjust to this. Personally I think I learnt alot about the history of Patagonia and it was great to hear the Welsh language being taught and spoken.

## **Tips for other membes who will be going on the trip**

As with any YFC trip really, go with an open mind. I would also swot up on the history of this Country prior to travelling as everything would then become alive to you.

## **How does the experience differ from a normal holiday?**

As it was a Group travel you constantly had company and a laugh! We were treated well by the tour guides and were given tickets to special events eg. Eisteddfod Tea, Gymanfa Ganu, Eisteddfod. We were also invited to people's houses for supper and to experience their way of life which you couldn't do on a normal holiday.

## **Your most lasting memory?**

Singing Anfonaf Angel in the concert with the Welsh Argentinians singing with us – it sent shivers down my spine and was very surreal.

