

WALES YFC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME



Report by: Siwan Davies

Why did you apply for a trip with the Wales YFC International programme?
I applied for the trip to Patagonia with Wales YFC as I've travelled a lot of the world, and have always wanted to go to Patagonia. The trip with Wales YFC sounded like the perfect trip for me.
Where did you travel to?
I went, with 11 other girls from Wales, to Patagonia, South America.
What did you do – include the highlights
Visting the Andes Travelling across the prairie. Learning a lot about Patagonia from our guide. Competing in the Chubut Eisteddfod. Visiting schools, chapels, monestaries. Going to a Cymanfa Ganu. Getting a warm welcome from farmers to learn more about farming in Patagonia. Eating lots of Asado's. Trying Mate. Buenos Aires – seeing a Tango Show and Liniers livestock market. The list is endless!
What personal benefits did you get from the trip?
Personally, I enjoyed learning more about Patagonia, while trying to imagine how hard it would have been to establish somewhere to live there back in 1865, but also the battle of the Welsh over the to keep the language alive. It was an amazing experience to speak Welsh and to sing at a Cymanfa and Welsh concert the other side of the world.
Tips for other membes who will be going on the trip
Go no, to hear the Welsh alive, and to have an amazing experience, as in 20 years it could have disappeared. Take plenty of layers and different clothes, ready for all sorts of weather – we went form 30°C to snow! You don't need that much money – about £15 a day (depending on how much you spend) – as lots of food and extras are included in the price. Hope that you like cheese and ham toasties!
How does the experience differ from a normal holiday?
The trip was different to normal holidays as we were a group of 12 girls, getting to know each other during the trip, getting up at 7 and not stopping until 12 at night. Days are full to the top of learning and enjoying.
Your most lasting memory?
Seeing Welsh events like those in Wales over the other side of the world, such as the Gorsedd Ceremony, Eisteddfod, Cymanfa Ganu and Concert. Experiences that I will never forget.