

BOLIVIA LOST WONDERFUL PLACE IN THE WORLD

Hello everybody!



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My name is Eulàlia and I'm a girl from Barcelona who spent the last July in the city of Cochabamba, in Bolívia. Maybe some of you don't know much about that incredible country, neither did I, but let me tell you about it.

I spent four weeks making practices in the Viedma Hospital, in the center of the city Cochabamba. The city is quite big, you have everything you can need nearby, but it's not a huge city where you can get lost easily or where you need to take a car to get everywhere you want. There were several pubs and discos all around, commercial malls, and so on!

There I met incredible people. I shared a flat near the hospital with other international students, three people from Mexico, one guy

from Austria and two other friends from Spain. Also, there were other international students, living with different bolivian families. Our flat was de meeting point between all the international students and with the IFMSA guys also, who received us in the best way I can imagine, introducing us to the doctors in the hospital, making a great social program so as we could meet each other. We definitely made a very good group all together, we shared hilarious dinners and parties in the flat all together.

We used to meet in different bars, visiting things around the city, going out at night, having dinner all together celebrating parties in the flat.

In the weekends, we also had time to travel around. All the international students went together to de 'Salar de Uyuni', the most famous place in Bolivia, the prettiest place if ever been to! There we spent 3 days in the Salar, with an excursion in a jeep. We also went to de valley of 'Toro-toro', in the center of the country, a beautiful place in the mountains where we visited some caves and saw dinosaur's tracks.

The practices in the hospital were great too. I was in the emergency department, 8 hours everyday. There I met excellent Bolivian students making their internship, they always let us help them suturing, healing wounds, making ECG, etc. I was also able to get in the surgery room, where the surgeons let me help in two or three operations. I learned a lot, because for a european student, sometimes it's difficult to practice in the hospital, as there's many things we

can't do. That absolutely made me improve a lot in my skills. We made a really good friendship with all of them, I still keep in touch with them. I couldn't be more grateful.

To sum up, it was a great experience in every way I can think of! My new friends and all the people I met in the hospital are definitely the best thing I take from Bolivia, that's why I only needed to think for a minute to accept to write this little article, so all of you take the chance to spend a perfect month in Cochabamba like us!

Bolivia is a wonderful city with great culture and great people, people treated us like family, as I went out a lot and met great wonders of Bolivia, we had a welcome party with all people of UMSS IFMSA, a great experience with great people will not forget, and I hope they did not forget us, it always the carry in my heart and there are no words to thank what we learned from them, I hope more people come to visit and explore this country, rather lost on the map so far, thanks for everything Bolivia hope to return soon. they became a family soon, strangers known to friends by choice.

Photo with inmates in hospital emergency Viedma.

Salar de Uyuni, the whole group of international students.

Photos of the department, dinner with the guys from IFMSA.

Photo tour of underground caves Toro-toro. (Social program scope)
enclosed in the application