

# THE ARGENTINIAN TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
OF PROJECTS ABROAD  
ARGENTINA

ProjectsAbroad



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## Editorial



Hola!

It's a pleasure to write to you all as the Social Manager in Argentina. I've been here for about three months now and was made to feel welcome by the staff and all volunteers. I've already seen many volunteers come and go, and though it's been busy, I've tried my best to get to know all of our volunteers that come to here. I love to hear the stories of their placements, their travels, their "only in Argentina" stories... anything and everything.

Since returning to Argentina, I've been reminded about how important family is to Argentines. I come from a small family, but here I am part of a large family. Like the volunteers, I myself am staying with a host family. Though this is temporary, the family has welcomed me into their home as if I was one of their daughters. They have a large extended family and have invited me to countless asados every weekend and to many birthday parties for relatives I have still yet to meet.

I have heard similar stories from many volunteers. They've told me about the welcome lunch the family made for them, the many parties their family invited them to, or the weekend trips to the Sierras to visit grandparents or other relatives. These moments are what make ones Projects Abroad experience ever more memorable and the feeling of being so welcome is wonderful after travelling halfway across the world and entering into something completely unknown. I know that I now have an Argentinean family that will always be special to me.

At the same time, volunteers not only become part of a host family in Argentina, they become part of the Projects Abroad Argentina family. There is a special bond that is formed amongst volunteers when they are here as they learn and share experiences and memories. Volunteers gain friendships that last a lifetime, memories that will stay forever, and life experiences that will change their lives in many ways.

Many volunteers – past, present and future – can or soon will be able to attest to this feeling of family from their experience. I look forward to sharing this all with you in the months to come! Welcome to our family!

Saludos!

Stephanie

## Argentina Inside & Out

### Peninsula Valdes!

Heading south along the coast of Argentina you will find the gorgeous Peninsula Valdes. It is especially noted for its vibrant coastline, which features a stunning array of tall cliffs, rocky reefs and hidden inlets surrounded by crashing surf. Considered one of the most valuable wildlife habitats in the world, it is home to some of the most exotic marine creatures, along with penguins, sea lions, seals, and whales. Because of its geographical proximity to the beautiful, pristine southern lands and the fact that it shares some of its weather, the region is known as Atlantic Patagonia and was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999.



The San Jose and Nuevo Gulfs lie to the north and south of Peninsula Valdes respectively. Every year animals and mammals alike return to these calm, protected waters to mate and raise their young. Large colonies of penguins, sea lions and elephant seals inhabit miles of coastal beaches, while huge whales are easily spotted meandering off the gulfs.

Punta Delgada is the most southeastern area of Peninsula Valdes. Its long beach offers great viewing of elephant seals. In addition, myriad other wildlife can be seen in the area, especially during the months of October and November, breeding season for many of its seasonal inhabitants.

No trip to Peninsula Valdes is complete without a visit to the Chibut River valley a few miles south, and its huge continental penguin colony of Punta Tombo. And the quaint towns of Puerto Madryn and Trelew offer a fascinating look at one of the last - and most unlikely - migrations from Europe to the New World. There are celebrations throughout the entire Chubut River valley on 28 July when Gwyl Glaniad, Landing Day, commemorates the 1865 arrival of the Welsh in Patagonia.

Peninsula Valdes is easily reached from its chief settlement of Puerto Madryn, a great place to



start your travels as you can choose from a wide selection of accommodation and transportation options. The region (along with Trelew further south) is also the jumping-off point for travel to Patagonia, visits to some of the largest estancias on the planet, and home to a wealth of outdoor activities in what is considered one of the most pristine environments on the continent.

- Excerpt from All About Argentina Travel Guide

## News & Updates!

NOVEDADES! NEWS!



### *New Desk Officer - Sofia Mignacca*

It's been a busy month in our office and with the many new volunteers we saw throughout the month, we also saw changes in our staff. Welcome Sofia Mignacca as our new Desk Officer! Sofia has worked with Projects Abroad for almost two years now as a Volunteer Coordinator. She has transitioned quite smoothly into her new role as Desk Officer and is the very friendly and helpful voice that helps volunteers before, during and after their stay in Argentina!

### *Bienvenido Matias - New Volunteer Coordinator!*

Hola! I'm Matías, the new Volunteer Coordinator at Projects Abroad. I am from Cordoba and studied International Business & Marketing at the National University of Cordoba. After my studies I went to travel and spent five months in the US working at a ski resort in Colorado. I also went to New Zealand for one year to work. I like sports like downhill skiing and kitesurfing, and also traveling and meeting people. I am very happy to be working with Projects Abroad. Hasta luego!



### *Our Condolences*

Our staff and volunteers would like to extend their condolences to the Arias family who are mourning the loss of their four children after an electrical shortage set fire to their wood house while they were sleeping. The neighborhood that the family lived is located near the Ricardo Nassif School and the Copa de Leche where we have both care and teaching placements. The children were students of the Ricardo Nassif school. We are all saddened by this

news and share our deepest sympathies to the family during this very difficult time.

## *New Care Placement- Asociación civil Ayuda Solidaria Los Boulevares*



Our newest Care placement is with the Asociación Civil Ayuda Solidaria Los Boulevares. It is a daycare located outside of the city center, about 20 minutes from the Projects Abroad office. The center offers childcare service to low-income families who bring their children here while they are working.

There are about 35 children that come to the daycare on a daily basis, ranging in age from 45 days to 4 years old. The volunteers will be helping with the daily tasks at the care center, including preparing breakfast and lunch, as well as playing with the kids. The center welcomes ideas for organized games and recreational activities by the new volunteers!

The center does not receive any governmental funding, so relies heavily on the support of the community and

the local staff. The staff fundraises by baking cakes and sweet treats to sell the community, and puts the money towards the day care.

This new placement allows the opportunity for volunteers to work with young children. The center is very excited to receive our volunteers and we look forward to working together in the months to come!



## *New Journalism Placement - La Metro!*

Our newest Journalism placement is at La Metro School of Design & Audiovisual Communications. The school attracts about 700 students a year and offers courses in study various types of media ranging from radio and film, to photography and graphic design.

Volunteers that work here will be working closely with the staff to document various activities going on in the school for publication on the radio, website or maybe in graphic print. Work includes media coverage of school events such as seminars, lectures or workshops; interviews with current students and the projects they are doing; and/or interviews with professors. The various interviews and coverage may be made in written, audio or video format and may be posted on the school website and or published in the TV site.

Volunteers are playing an important role to help document the various events that happen in the school on a weekly basis. You are contributing a great deal to creating this archive which is very important and valuable to the school!



## Two Week Specials 2011!

### Two Week Specials - Spanish & Care !

The second group of Spanish & Care Two Week Special volunteers arrived in the middle of July. During their stay the volunteers had Spanish lessons every morning for 3 hours in different groups according to their level. Besides learning the secrets of the Spanish language, they also learned how to make the famous Argentine Alfajores (shortbread sandwich cookies with a sweet filling of dulce de leche); visited the Memorial museum that made them understand and learn part of the Argentinean history; and watched the famous movie Motorcycle Diaries that documents the motorcycle road trip Che Guevara went on in his youth that showed him his life's calling.



The afternoons were fun and gave a unique opportunity for the volunteers to share their time with local kids as they worked in local dining halls or the Eva Peron Orphanage. For two weeks, each group of volunteers was given a number of tasks depending on their placement. These consisted in the afternoon of snack preparation and indoor and outdoor activities – a small gesture that did not only fill empty stomachs but also made these kids forget for a few hours their struggles and enjoy the afternoon like any other child. Moreover, the volunteers worked on a special project for three days – the makeover of the dining room at the Copa de Leche! Volunteers worked hard for three days to prepare and paint the main dining area of our care placement at Copa de Leche. The end result was a beautiful mural and lots of bright colors to lighten up the place. Take a look at the pictures!

The volunteers also helped organize an outing for the kids from the Copa de Leche to an animal farm one afternoon. The kids were really excited and everyone had a great time visiting the farm, feeding

the animals, learning about their needs and diet, and finally ending the day with a sea lion show! The kids were really grateful for the afternoon spent with the volunteers.

The Spanish and Care program combines intensive Spanish lessons, amazing weekend trips and, most importantly, daily contributions to kids who need our support. By playing, caring and giving attention to these children the volunteers brought back to their daily lives the chance to become kids



again and simply have fun and laugh. All volunteers agreed that two weeks simply wasn't enough time here in Argentina! Thank you for your hard work, well done guys!



### Two Week Specials - Medicine program!

In the second half of July and beginning of August, Projects Abroad welcomed two more groups of the Medicine Two Week Special volunteers to Cordoba. About 14 in total, they were based in a number of different hospitals and clinics located in downtown Cordoba but also on the outskirts in smaller towns like Jesus Maria and Calera. These placements offered volunteers an excellent opportunity to observe the medical profession first hand.



Volunteers had the chance to witness all aspects of working in hospitals and in smaller clinics. They visited a variety of different departments that allowed them to observe everyday procedures in different units, watch surgeries and interact with doctors about cases they had witnessed and medicine in general. A helper was always present to assist and translate for the volunteers if needed and explain to them certain aspects of medicine in Argentina being, for the most part, students or graduates of medicine. In addition to shadowing doctors, the volunteers had the chance to have an anatomy class and dissect human bodies one afternoon and take a First Aid class another.

Outside of the hospital or operating rooms, volunteers also had a chance to learn about Argentina culture. A tango class, bowling & a traditional Argentinean barbecue were part of the many socials organised for the volunteers to meet up and have fun! At weekends, they had the chance to visit the beautiful mountains of Cordoba, see traditional villages, and enjoy a full day zip-lining at the Peñon de la Aguila!

Both groups also had the chance to go to the Ricardo Nassif school and two different dining halls



in very poor neighbourhoods – Comedor de Unquillo and the Copa de Leche of Villa Hermana Sierra to teach dental hygiene and spend a couple of hours with the kids. It was a moving moment that was the final touch to two incredible weeks in Argentina. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication!

## Testimonials Two Weeks Specials!

“I would recommend Projects Abroad to anyone. The staff are amazing and you will definitely have the time of your life when you are abroad. Everyone you meet are lovely - locals, volunteers and staff. The project allows you to gain independence and see the world. Wonderful experience!”

**Adele Rutherford UK (2WS Medicine)**

[Most memorable experience] “My time here has been full of moments I am really proud of and picking out a single moment is so difficult. Having one on one time with each of the kids at Eva Peron was so enjoyable and feel that it was so much fun for both involved. One night when working at Eva Peron with a girl, Julieta, I was helping her to do her homework. At first she was finding it really difficult and after 10 minutes of working away at it, we had a break through, and the look on her face was priceless. She looked so pleased and happy; I felt so satisfied and that, together, we had really managed to accomplish something.”

**Selena Arbe-Barnes, UK ( 2WS Spanish & Care)**

“My most valuable experience was making the connections with the kids - when we could talk and joke around with them all in Spanish, and we were all just having so much fun playing and I knew they were giggling and happy because of me - it was just the best feeling. To be able to make other people happy and be looked up to and to be completely immersed in another language all felt great. I loved being with the kids, all innocent and happy, makes me happy!”

**Leah Shorb USA (2WS Spanish & Care)**

“As a student looking to come abroad to volunteer, I would recommend Projects Abroad to anyone. The organisation, experience has been fantastic and the staff so very helpful...Outside of the placements the most memorable thing I will take away from my trip in Argentina is the people I have met and the friends that I have made.”

**James Gardner UK (2WS Medicine)**

(Extracts of the Debriefing Forms)

**Gracias a todos for your dedication and commitment!**

## Birthdays!



**And this time the greetings go to:** Chris Kosmer, Daphne Kontos, Victoria Dewavrin, Rowena Ward, Brontë Cloete-Wakefield, Valentina Lorni, Lucy Pomfret, Hayes Lao, Iris Duinck, Roberta Gibbons, Haaris Beg, Margaux Larrouilh, Opeoluwa Fawole, Tina Richter, Kristel Baars, David Hartman, Armaan Pai, Rut Wingens, Oliver Kemp, Louise Baudelle, Nuno Mourao, Marcus Lomax, Assad Mohunlol, Anne Fløe, Rachel Ranger, Anne-Katrin Kaspar, Berit Gleixner, Mieke van Suijlichem, Amanda Southwick, Roos Willems, Mathilde Berghout, Elza van Dijk, Eleonor Dauphin, Nick Palappessy, Ainur Abzhanova, Veronica Luisi, Susan Neuhart, Christine Misquitta, Johannes Czernin, Christina Kolb, Isabelle Wheeler, Lena Nuehnen, Michael Mather, Rebecca Archer, David Gouron, Lucas Rivet-Crothers, Anne-Laura Boira, Elizabeth Shackleton-Swain, Emily Hoskins, Antoine Desjonqueres, Ngaree Cunningham, Arthur Belais, Eric Marin, Hye Jin Park, Aqsa Hussain, Sreekar Molakalapalli, Ellery Nagle, Chris Edwards, Torrey Cohenour, Veronika Kiermeyer, Katharine Price, Hugo Blanc, Diego Fragachan Quinteros, Ole Sandbu, Laura Marnet, & Joshua Winkler!

**Feliz cumple to all of you!**

## Testimonials!

“Working in the Emergency Room at Hospital Rawson was my most valuable experience at my placement. The doctors were willing to show me and explain to me everything that happened there. They also let me perform various noninvasive functions with the patience in addition to seeing all of the maladies, surgeries and operations of the ER. The knowledge I gained and my new perspective on providing healthcare more universally will both be instrumental in future medical pursuits.”

**Kyler Crawford, USA (6 weeks, Medicine)**

“Yes! I would recommend Projects Abroad! I have felt very comfortable and supported while I have been here. Love the socials that go on each week and extra chances to help out in the community. Really enjoyed my time here and the freedom to travel at the weekends. Unforgettable experience - thanks!”

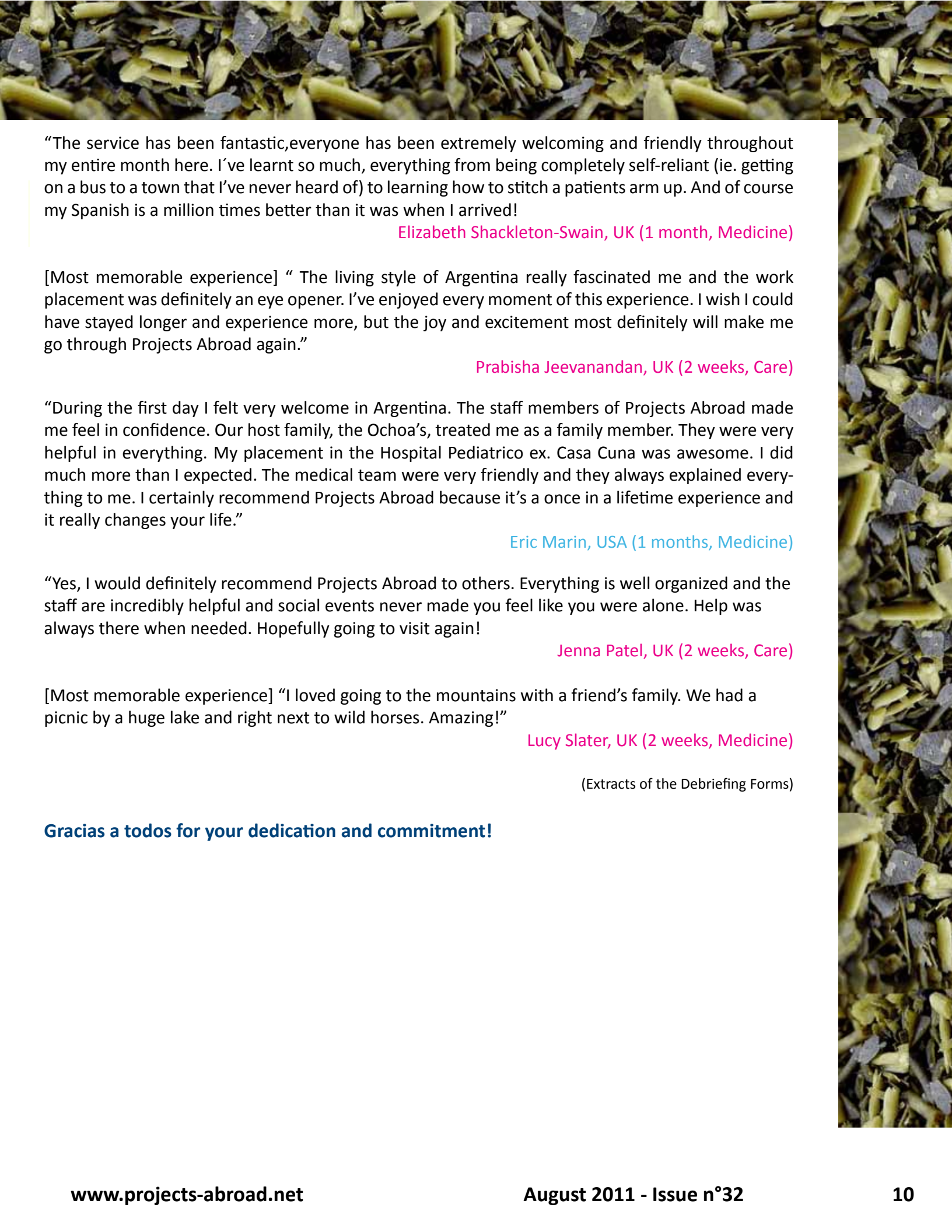
**Katie Price, UK (1 month, Equine Therapy)**

“The overall experience was great. My host family is great for any volunteer, they like to involve you in all daily activities. My placement gave me the opportunity to experience something so special that only a few other people will ever have the chance to experience.”

**Brian Ma, Canada (1 month, Care)**

“Recomendaria 100% esta experiencia porque no te ayuda sola a crecer y a desarrollarte en tu campo de interés profesional sino que te ayuda a desarrollarte como persona. El estar en contacto con otros individuos diferentes culturalmente te hace ver el mundo desde una perspectiva diferente.”

**Stephanie Maldonado Torres, USA (1 month, Medicine)**



“The service has been fantastic, everyone has been extremely welcoming and friendly throughout my entire month here. I’ve learnt so much, everything from being completely self-reliant (ie. getting on a bus to a town that I’ve never heard of) to learning how to stitch a patient’s arm up. And of course my Spanish is a million times better than it was when I arrived!

Elizabeth Shackleton-Swain, UK (1 month, Medicine)

[Most memorable experience] “The living style of Argentina really fascinated me and the work placement was definitely an eye opener. I’ve enjoyed every moment of this experience. I wish I could have stayed longer and experienced more, but the joy and excitement most definitely will make me go through Projects Abroad again.”

Prabisha Jeevanandan, UK (2 weeks, Care)

“During the first day I felt very welcome in Argentina. The staff members of Projects Abroad made me feel in confidence. Our host family, the Ochoa’s, treated me as a family member. They were very helpful in everything. My placement in the Hospital Pediatrico ex. Casa Cuna was awesome. I did much more than I expected. The medical team were very friendly and they always explained everything to me. I certainly recommend Projects Abroad because it’s a once in a lifetime experience and it really changes your life.”

Eric Marin, USA (1 month, Medicine)

“Yes, I would definitely recommend Projects Abroad to others. Everything is well organized and the staff are incredibly helpful and social events never made you feel like you were alone. Help was always there when needed. Hopefully going to visit again!

Jenna Patel, UK (2 weeks, Care)

[Most memorable experience] “I loved going to the mountains with a friend’s family. We had a picnic by a huge lake and right next to wild horses. Amazing!”

Lucy Slater, UK (2 weeks, Medicine)

(Extracts of the Debriefing Forms)

**Gracias a todos for your dedication and commitment!**

## Project Articles

The following articles are contributed by volunteers sharing their experience in Argentina.

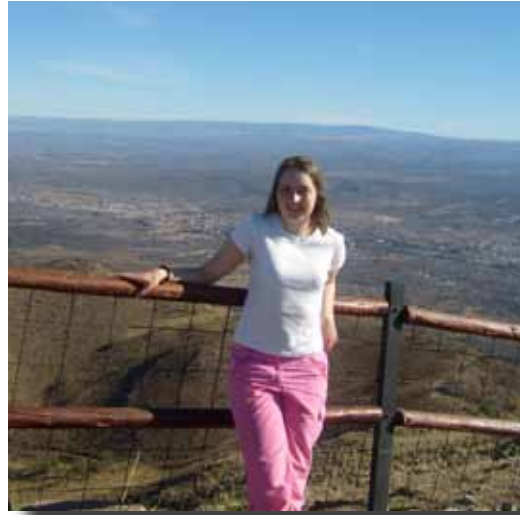
### *Charlotte Davys, SCOTLAND* *(Care, 2 weeks)*

Wow, what a 21st birthday present, 2 weeks working in a children's home in Cordoba, Argentina! I was determined to make the most of my trip and use my limited Spanish. On arriving in Cordoba I had a great first chance to practice my Spanish, when my bag didn't appear on the carousel and I was left with only the clothes I was wearing, fortunately everything arrived three days later.

Working at the Eva Peron Children's Home was a tiring but rewarding experience. During my time there, there were only eight children to work with. However, this was a benefit as it allowed me and the other two volunteers the opportunity to spend more time with individual children and to build relationships. The language barrier didn't deter the children from interacting with us, although a couple preferred to talk with the one volunteer who spoke good Spanish and they all appeared to enjoy trying to improve our Spanish by using hand gestures and speaking slowly, as if we were a little simple!

All the children we worked with at Eva were full of energy and enthusiasm. They all really enjoyed taking part in any art activities we prepared for them and investigating any materials we had brought for them to use. If we arrived in the morning with a bag they were extremely curious to see what was inside and would hang around until they found out what surprises were in store.

Living with a host family is a brilliant way to immerse yourself in the culture and get the most out of a trip to a new country. From the moment I met my hosts I felt welcomed and part of the family. My host mother was full of information, whatever my query, and was willing to offer me help when I was practicing my Spanish. She also loved cooking traditional dishes for me to try,



including dishes where I wasn't quite sure exactly what I was eating!!! Although I enjoyed almost everything I had the opportunity to try, the jury is still out on the traditional breakfast pastries.

Throughout my, rather fast, two weeks I found the local people very friendly and willing to help, even if they couldn't speak English and my Spanish was far from perfect. One memorable, but typical, incident happened on a trip I undertook outside the city with another volunteer, just a couple of days after arriving. Whilst travelling on a bus to a Nature Reserve outside the city we discovered that there were no recognizable bus stops. After travelling for what seemed like ages and with no idea where we were, we decided to ask the driver if we were going the right way. We received a fast and incomprehensible reply in Spanish, so were still unsure whether we were going in the right direction. We decided that it probably wasn't our stop so sat down again but after a further 30 minutes decided we would get off the bus at the next stop anyway. We were prevented from carrying this out by a Argentinean family, who must have heard our query to the driver and told us this was the wrong place but that we should get off the bus when they got off. Finally, as we reached the destination, after over 2 and 1/2 hours travelling, the family made sure we got off at the right place and the bus driver showed us to the connecting bus to La Cambrecita. Thanks to the helpfulness of the locals we arrived at our destination and spent an enjoyable day in the countryside.

My time in Cordoba passed far too quickly but left a wealth of great memories, from working with some lovely children and volunteers, exploring a very small part of the food and culture, learning a little more and different Spanish and being welcomed as part of another family.

Returning to a rather wet and cold Scottish summer and even with an exciting new teaching job starting shortly, I would love to be on a plane heading back to Argentina.



*Leonie Vrugtman, NETHERLANDS*  
*(Care & Journalism, 4 months)*



April 6th 2011 I woke up early and very nervous. After months of saving money and arranging all my needs this was the day I would leave home for Argentina and I would not come back home for another 134 days. I was scared, excited, curious and happy to go and had no idea what to expect.

At the airport in Cordoba I got picked up by Vanessa, the former Social Manager and my future Volunteer Coordinator. She dropped me off in Unquillo at the house of Viviana and Miguel, who welcomed me with kisses, hugs, food and mate. This is my new home!

For everybody the day after arrival is the induction day, where, if possible, (sometimes it is one of the other coordinators) your Volunteer Coordinator shows you around, helps you to get started by changing money, getting your phone to work and showing you our meeting spot: Patio Olmos shopping mall on San Juan street.

My placement was Comedor 'El Parque' in Unquillo, a dining hall where 5 women try to provide healthy food for the poor kids in their neighbourhood. I am proud to say that after 10 years of hard work they now not only hand out food, but also provide a safe playground for the kids and they even organize drama, dancing, music and art classes. Most days I would use my mornings for a Spanish class, quality time with my family, discovering Unquillo, Rio Ceballos and Cordoba or preparing my daily activities for the Comedor. After lunch I had to get ready for work and when I arrived at the Comedor we would all start preparing the food for when the kids came out of school and got a snack (criollos, flan, gelatina, mate or milk). Most of the kids arrived around 4.30 or 5pm, and we would have an activity or class between 5 and 7pm. 3 times a week, after the activities, some kids stay for English class. At seven the Comedor starts handing out dinner, and when the temperature is good, some whole families will even stay for dinner!

Working as a volunteer is not always ideal, though. The kids speak another language, have a difficult family situation, the staff do not always cooperate and sometimes there is no food to hand out. The months I worked at the Comedor there were occasions when we could not provide the dinner, because there was not enough money. This meant we did not have to cook (which saved us a lot of time), but there were also less kids (which was sad). I sometimes felt like I did not help anybody or was wasting my time, but then the workshops Projects Abroad provided helped me see that my work was important. I mean, even though they don't get food, we still gave them the opportunity to play and have a safe place to come after school, teach them English and help them understand different cultures. The kids were so sad when I left, and when I worked at my new placement I tried to return

a few times, so I wouldn't miss them so much!

After my two months of care I started my project at Las Rosas Radio and Magazine in Cerro de las Rosas, one of the barrios in Cordoba. I moved to Córdoba after an amazing trip to Salta and Jujuy and



felt welcomed by my amazing new host mum: Ceci. At Las Rosas I did an internship to be sure I liked media before starting my Media, Information and Communication studies in Amsterdam. I wanted to improve my Spanish by writing articles and learn about the different jobs and needs in a radio station and magazine. At Las Rosas I worked from 10:30 to 13:30 and from 15:30 to 18:00 most days. In the morning my job was to write small articles on everything a woman can find interesting: Funny news, celebrities, music, movies and beauty. In the afternoon I wrote some bigger articles for the website or magazine and I downloaded music for the radio.

Projects Abroad has been very flexible about my hours: some days I would take of some hours to visit museums, and some long weekends I used to travel. Of course I compensated my hours by working a little longer other days, but I was lucky I was allowed to take the 2 weeks off in separate days.

I've seen Mendoza, Salta, Jujuy, Iguacu and almost everything in the province of Córdoba. Travelling in the country for me was not only interesting, beautiful and a relaxing gap between volunteer work, but it also helped me to understand the culture more by getting to know the regional differences and learn about history and arts in one of the many amazing museums that Argentina contains.

In my time here I did not only learn a lot about Argentina, but I also met a lot of foreign volunteers with different lives, cultures and ideals. For me this was an amazing opportunity to reflect all these different habits to myself. In this way, I feel like I have also learned a lot about myself.

Every volunteer has a story, a reason to start travelling and discover more than 'home'. For some it is because they have been through a rough time, for others it is simply to get to know more about themselves, the world and culture and some travel abroad to have a better CV. Whatever your motive is, Projects Abroad can make it happen in Argentina, but also in their other amazing destinations. I already have my new adventure ready!



*Siempre Adelante!*  
*Carine Amadoff, FRANCE*  
*(Care, 1 month)*

I am Carine from Paris, France. I am a bank director in my country and left my job for half a year to travel, meet people and volunteer. I travelled with my best friend around South America. We travelled together from Argentina to Ecuador. Then, it was almost time for me to come back to France and I decided to get back to Argentina first, where my long travel started and where I had my first volunteer job! A nice end!



Thanks to Projects Abroad I volunteered in La Casa Ronald Mac Donald in Córdoba in March, to help children that are very ill and their families. Three things: listen to the advice from your coordinator, be pro-active and be positive! Working there and living with an Argentinean family was the best way to get integrated and live the culture. Thanks to Projects Abroad I also took care of animals in the wild jungle of Peru and was glad to see there is now a new eco volunteer project in Argentina! Both experiences were amazing and rewarding. You learn about yourself and about others.



Apart from those missions I got a collection of money in France before leaving. We already published an article in a former Newsletter (April 2011) about the first donations. Fortunately, we could help Quisquizacate, a house for girls, refreshing the place, and the Villa Libertador Rugby Club, buying kitchenware. I made photos and videos, posted on our blog [www.siempreadelante.over-blog.com](http://www.siempreadelante.over-blog.com), to show our donator what we did with their money. They seemed to like it and I received 2 other donations! One was used in Potosi (Bolivia) to help the minors there. And I kept the other one for Quisquizacate, as I was coming back in Córdoba to say goodbye to my friends.

Román, my former Projects Abroad Coordinator and, most of all, my friends, helped me, again! We decided to offer the girls a DVD Player, and something personal. Nothing belongs to them, even their clothes. So we bought a really girly perfume for each one.

They were very happy about the DVD player. They now have access to culture through music, movies,

educational DVD's, etc. I have to say it was a great emotion for them to have a personal present. They first didn't dare to open the gift box: "Is it really for me?" Román explained the little girls that, in Argentina, you are supposed to tear the paper, for good luck! So they did it with a huge smile. Then we spent time showing the girls how to use the perfume spray. It was a great moment of happiness, and Román and I will probably smell for the next ten years :-)

When we left the house, we spent a minute outside, listening to the girls expressing their joy... I thank again all the donators for their generosity and trust, and Román for being so helpful! It was such a nice end for my travel. Very symbolic. Suerte!



## Socials & Dirty Weekends



In August we had many Social meetings. Amongst all these memorable moments with the volunteers we visited the historic town of Alta Gracia, tasted some of the best pizza in Cordoba, saw a tango show and teamed up for a friendly game of paintball. We also had some fun at our Dirty Day activities including a puppy donation, food collection and helping out at a local clothes fair. Thanks to all of you who take the time and effort to attend our Socials as you make it possible to have a good time together!

### Alta Gracia!

We took advantage of a beautiful Saturday to head to the historic town of Alta Gracia. The town gained fame as being the childhood home of the famous Argentine revolutionary, Che Guevara. We first visited the museum that operates out of his former home and then had lunch together in the main plaza. We later visited the historic Estancia Jesuita to learn a little of Argentina's history. It was a nice mix of history and fun - and enjoyed by all!



### Monthly Social - Pizzeria Italia!

Our monthly social brought everyone together to Pizzeria Italia, where they claim to have the best pizza in Cordoba. We sampled a variety of pizzas and most of the volunteers seemed to agree that it was the best!



### Drinks & Tango Show!

In honor of the international Tango Festival taking place in Buenos Aires this month we headed to see a performance of this traditional Argentine dance. We met for a drink and then to the show!





### Outdoor Paintball!

Our last social in August, war was declared...we split into two teams and played 3 hours of strategy, speed and fun. Unquillo created the best playing ground and volunteers ended covered in paint and with a few bruises - but it was well worth it!





## *DIRTY DAY! Fundacion Querubines!*

We met in town and took a bus together to go to la Fundacion Querrubines, a home for young children. Every month they organize a clothes fair to collect money and they asked Projects Abroad to give a hand. We helped tidy everything up, fold the clothes back in place for next day's fair. Good atmosphere once again, all went well.

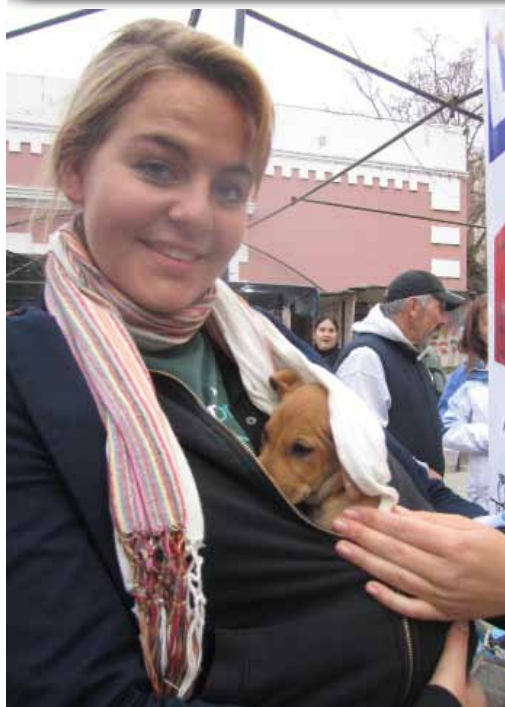
Muchas gracias to Alexandra Fry for helping out!

## *DIRTY DAY! Puppy Donation!*

Last year Projects Abroad started up a new animal care project related to the suffering of the many street dogs in Cordoba. Projects Abroad collaborates with a dog shelter, Revivir, located in Villa Allende where volunteers work to help care for the dogs and clean and maintain the facility. Since we have begun working there has been change in a positive direction and the lives of many street dogs have improved!

To close out the month of July, we organized a mini Dirty Day and took 10 puppies from the refuge and brought them to the very popular outdoor crafts fair held in downtown Cordoba every weekend. Volunteers chatted with the many people passing by in hopes that they will adopt one of the dogs. Within 4 hours we found caring families for 8 puppies!

We would like to thank all the volunteers who participated that day and put all their heart into the task of finding a new home for these puppies! Gracias!



## *DIRTY DAY! Food Collection Campaign for Dining Halls!*

Countless families around Cordoba can barely afford to feed themselves and many of them depend on the help of local dining halls. Projects Abroad currently works with the Copa de Leche in Argüello and el Comedor in Unquillo. These are two facilities where children can go for a snack/meal in the afternoon and stay to do their homework or play games with the volunteers.

August marked the third month of our monthly food collection for various dining halls. We met in the office on a Saturday morning and set out to canvas the Cerro de las Rosas neighborhood close to the office. Within 3 hours we had collected another generous donation for our dining halls! We are so grateful and know that the dining halls will be too!

We collected over 2kg of sugar, 1kg of polenta, 3kg of white rice, 500g of oats, 1.5kg of flour, 500g of cereal, 6kg of pasta, 1 box of soup, 1 packet of gelatin, and 1 packet of cake mix!

MUCHAS GRACIAS to all of the volunteers who participated in this event and we encourage many more to come in the following months!



## Argentinean Cuisine

### Turrón de Avena!

A delicious and easy-to-make dessert that will have you going back for seconds again and again! The name of this dessert is Socotrocco, but also commonly known as Turrón de Avena. Its name is different from region to region, but the outcome is the same--it's melted chocolate and oatmeal layered with Criollitas crackers (or water crackers, similar to a Saltine cracker).



While the history of this dessert is unknown, it shows another example of Argentines making something (delicious) out of nothing. This recipe is not just simple to make, but also has the simplest ingredients--crackers, butter, oats, chocolate. Nothing fancy or costly, this Turrón is just the type of treat served after dinner among family at abuela's house.

#### Ingredients

2 sticks unsalted butter  
3/4 cup sugar  
3/4 cup cocoa powder  
1 and 3/4 cups rolled oats

1/2 cup milk  
1 packet Criollitas crackers ('water' crackers or saltines may be substituted if Criollitas are not available.)

#### Preparation

Line a rectangular bread pan or 9x9 inch square roasting pan with aluminum foil. It's helpful to leave some extra foil at the edges, to easily remove the finished Turrón as one block from the pan for cutting.

In a medium saucepan, melt the 2 sticks of butter over low heat. Stir in the sugar, milk, and cocoa powder and stir until there is a uniform mixture. Add in the oats, and stir to incorporate. Increase the heat and bring the mixture to a boil. When the mixture reaches the boil, turn off the stove and remove from heat.

Meanwhile, layer the Criollitas crackers on the bottom of the pan, side by side, forming an even layer. Then, using a measuring cup, pour some of the chocolate oat mixture over the crackers, and spread into an even layer atop the crackers. Layer on another layer of Criollitas, and then another layer of the chocolate oat mixture. Repeat until you have no more crackers, or chocolate mixture; end with a layer of chocolate oat on the top.

*¡Buen provecho!*

What?	Where?	When?
<b>Feria del Libro</b>	Cordoba	September 1-21st
Plaza San Martin comes alive for the 25th annual book festival. There are thousands of books for all ages and interests on sale to the public. Throughout the month there will be author discussions, book presentations and workshops, for all to enjoy.		
<b>Soccer Game - Argentina vs Brazil</b>	Cordoba	September 14th
Friendly soccer game between two giant soccer rivals - Argentina and Brazil at Juan Alberto Kempe stadium in Cordoba.		
<b>Dia del Estudiante</b>	Argentina	September 21st
Argentineans wake up from winter and happily welcome the arrival of spring with a country-wide celebration. It is also Student's Day where classes are cancelled and students spend the day outside with picnics, barbecues and parties. Don't miss out on this day!		

*There are many things to see in Cordoba, here are a few places that are worth checking out!*

### **Museo Municipal de Bellas Artes "Dr. Genaro Perez"**

*Founded in 1943, this museum has one of the most complete and best conserved Argentine art collections done by the precursors of the 19th and the 20th century art to our days.*

Av. General Paz 33. Tel. 4285905

Entrance fee: Free

### **Feria Artesanal Paseo de las Artes**

Achaval Rodriguez esq. Belgrano – Barrio Guemes

Hours: Saturdays & Sundays from 6 PM to 10 PM.

### **Tourist office: Casa Cabildo**

Independencia 5

Tel: (0351) 4341200

Hours: Mondays to Sundays from 8 AM a 8 PM

### **Museo de Bellas Artes Palacio Ferreyra**

Hipolito Irigoyen 511. Tel. 4343636/37

Hours: Martes a domingos de 10 a 20hs.

Entrance fee (Wednesday Free)

The background of the page is a close-up photograph of loose-leaf tea, showing various shades of green and brown leaves and stems. In the top left corner, there is a blue banner with a white diagonal line.

## Useful information

### *Media links!*

Check out our Facebook group: [Projects Abroad Argentina - The Official Group](#)! It is regularly updated with photos from Social events and news on the projects and the city of Cordoba!

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/projectsabroad.argentina>

Read our [monthly Newsletters](#)!

<http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/volunteer-destinations/argentina/newsletters-from-argentina/>

See what is going on with Projects Abroad! Read our [Country Blog](#)!

[http://www.mytripblog.org/mod/blog/group\\_blogs.php?gl=true&group\\_guid=263](http://www.mytripblog.org/mod/blog/group_blogs.php?gl=true&group_guid=263)

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