

Hello, BLS community, and welcome to my journal of my travels around the world. A little background about me. I was born in Ireland, but my family moved to the US when I was a toddler. I grew up in Brighton and attended Latin School as a member of the class of 2001. I then went on to McGill University for my BA in English and Philosophy. I've always been interested in traveling, probably because I grew up in two countries and two cultures.

At the beginning of January my boyfriend, Andrew, and I embarked on a trip which will take us to the other six inhabited continents and, at this time, an undetermined number of countries on the way. We began our journey in Boston and will be ending in Australia and New Zealand, where we plan to spend some time working and travelling. We're both really excited to be visiting so much of the world and look forward to sharing our adventures with all of you.

We've been on the road almost two weeks now, first visiting Argentina and now stopping for a couple of days in Lima, Peru. We spent some time in Buenos Aires, a fabulous city with a lovely waterfront and excellent cuisine (even for those on a budget!). We loved the tree lined streets and the warmth of the people. Avenida 9 de Julio is the widest street in the world with 16 lanes of traffic but somehow, the city still feels small and friendly. We didn't get a chance to learn the Tango but the city resonates with all the sensuality and excitement of this legendary dance.

From there we headed all the way to the north of the country to see the famous Iguazu Falls. Someone once described them to me and "They will make Niagra Falls look like someone left the tap dripping." While I think Niagra will still be as incredible as ever to me, Iguazu was amazing for its sheer immensity. Everywhere we walked in the park there was another waterfall. It seemed as though water spilled off of every rock and turned in a second from a slow meandering stream to a torrent of pounding water crashing into the river below.

The falls are situated in a national park so, other than one short train ride, we walked everywhere. This gave us the opportunity to see lots of wildlife from hundreds of butterflies to small mammals like coaties. The beauty of the falls can't be captured by words or photos but I've given it a shot!

After the falls we headed down south the Patagonia, which was equally beautiful but in a very different way. In the small city of San Carlos de Bariloche we found ourselves in more of a dreamscape than a landscape. Snowcapped mountains flowed down into clear, deep blue lakes. Birds of prey swooped through cloudless skies and the temperature was perfect for hiking through the countryside. Getting off the bus was like walking in a different country. It was hard to believe that this cool dry climate was in the same country as where we'd experienced the oppressive heat and humidity of the rainforest in the north.

We spent several days walking around the town and taking day trips into the mountains. In the winter (Northern hemisphere's summer), Bariloche is a very popular ski destination, so for slightly less than avid hikers, like ourselves, many of the mountains have conveniently installed ski lifts! We went to the top of a couple of mountains and

hiked around the tops. The views were marvelous with the lakes on one side and the snowcapped Andes on the other. Mild hiking trails in Argentina do not always have the same safety precautions as one would find in the US. More than once we found ourselves scrambling on very high, very steep slopes but we survived and have some great photos for our efforts!

For now, it's a short rest in Lima, with some friends of mine that I met while teaching phys. ed. down here in spring '06. In just a few short days we'll be on to Brasil where we are greatly looking forward to some sun and relaxation on the fabled beaches of Rio!

Sinéad Keegan '01