

Peru 2009

Event: International Festival of Children's Rights
Host: Club Infantil 23 de Mayo CHAP
Date and Venue: August 2009, near Cusco, 11,000 feet up in the Andes
Woodcraft Folk: Cambridge (14), Edinburgh, (1), Birmingham (4)
Others: Chile, Bolivia, Peru and Austria

The camp was not easy, quite basic really, but everyone was so friendly and mixed well.



I have never been somewhere and felt more welcome and more special and lucky than how I felt as I got off the bus to find everyone who'd already arrived rush towards us and help us with our luggage and ask us questions and just seem excited that we were there.

The camp and trip was challenging but inspiring. It was winter and our breath condensed and then froze inside our tents over night but we had these really BRILLIANT Summit 5000 sleeping bags donated by Vango.

The best part was living on camp with the

Peruvians and others, really getting to know them and their cultures in a way you wouldn't get just travelling around

The camp food was basic but it was good to learn about the food our Peruvian hosts ate on a regular basis. When we ate out in Cusco and Lima after the camp the food was mostly 'kay rico' (delicious)! The scenery was beautiful and in Cusco the architecture was magnificent and the markets full of lovely things.

After the camp we stayed in Cusco and went on a trip to Macchu Picchu. Walking up to the steps to the site was like climbing stairs and took almost two hours. Then we followed a path through bushes and then suddenly THERE were the Inka buildings and the famous peak right in front of us. AWESOME

We had a great time and learnt a lot about child exploitation, enslavement and labour. The discussions on children's rights were a really interesting part of the event and made more meaningful as we could see children helping their families at work, especially looking after animals, serving in shops and markets. Not getting much education though. There were children in traditional dress earning money by posing for photos and lots of quite poor people.



At the end of the trip we stayed with CHAP families in Lima, a massive city of 8 million. When the CHAP kids came to England for Global Village they asked why our houses had sloping roofs. In Lima it hardly rains and all the houses have flat roofs, often unfinished so they can build another storey on top. We visited a school where there were so many children they were two shifts. One used the classrooms in the morning then went home and the second shift used the classrooms in the afternoon.

Cambridge Woodcraft Folk

bea, ben, bron, chris, dom, dominic, erica, kate, jack, julie, martin, nancy, patrick, richard