

Gabriela Prada Santos, 2013-14 In-Bound Rotary Youth Exchange Student



Gabriela Prada Santos, known as Gabi to her friends, arrived from Columbia on February 11, 2013. Gabi is a sixteen year old student from San Jose de Cucuta, Columbia. She is the daughter of Yanet Santos, an accountant, and Juan Carlos Prada, an entrepreneur, who are both Rotarians. She has two siblings, one brother and a sister, who have both had the opportunity to be Rotary Youth Exchange students in the past.

Gabi is sponsored by Club Rotario Villa del Rosario in District 4271 which was founded on March 15, 1985 and which has a membership of 35.



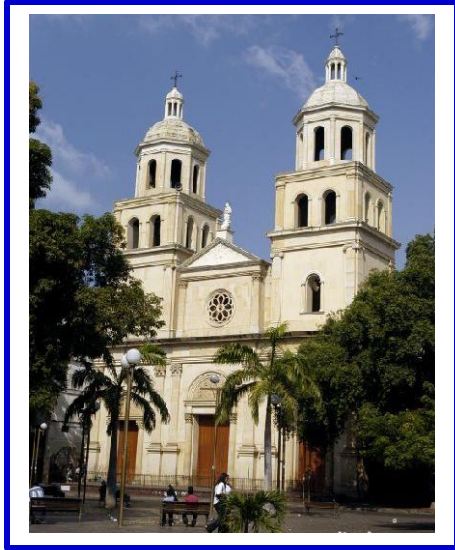
San Jose de Cucuta



Cucuta, as it is commonly known, is the capital of Norte de Santander in the northeast part of the country, bordering Venezuela. Cucuta has a population of 624,661 (2011), which ranks it as the 6th largest city in the country. The Metropolitan area which includes six other municipalities has a population of over 834,000.

Located in the North-East Colombian, with Venezuelan on the border, this city is an important border crossing where 87% of all exports pass through to Venezuela.

The region is particularly of historical significance for the continent, as the experiment of Gran Colombia was created here. Additionally, the region is rich in the natural resources like coal and oil, and possesses a strong agricultural sector. Cucuta and the surrounding area is not only economically robust; it is also known for its tourism infrastructure with a potential for environmental and themed resorts



Gabi's Educational Experiences and Special Interests....

While living in Columbia, Gabi attended Gimnasio las Almendros School, a normal private Catholic school with 300 students. She completed her grade ten while attending the school.

Now that Gabi is in Kelowna, she is attending Kelowna Secondary School, taking grade eleven classes. Classes she is enrolled in include dance, fitness, pre-calculus, arts and English as a second language.

Her future aspirations include completing her secondary education back in Columbia, improving her English, commencing university study, continuing to learn more about other cultures, and definitely travelling. As a side note, Gabi "would love to help make her family restaurant bigger."

Gabi enjoys writing, drawing, dancing, travelling and most importantly learning.

Gabi's Family and Friends in Photos.....

