



# David

from

Kitchener

to

Paraguay

*“Baishupa?”*

What’s up, in the second official language of Paraguay, Guarani!

I’m living it up down here, in Paraguay. A lot has passed since my last BeaverTale so let me try and catch you up! A trip to Patagonia, Argentina, Christmas, New Years, second host family and a trip to Brazil! Those are listed in chronological order, so you can follow.

So Patagonia: Oh Patagonia Trip, how can I begin to describe you? Amazing, awesome, awe inspiring, beautiful, breath taking. I’m just getting started and I’ve barely covered the A’s and the B’s. This trip was so wonderful, I loved exploring Patagonia with 50+ of my best friends. This is something I can honestly say that I’ll never forget. I’m so grateful to Rolling Travel for this life changing experience.

Christmas: Christmas was very cool, very different but, it was interesting to see different traditions and have a lot of fun with my first host family before I did my first switch! Missed the food, family, Christmas spirit and presents I knew were back home, but a few Skype calls helped ease the longing.

Switching host families: Switching host families was an exciting and daunting task. There was such a mix of emotions, happiness, confusion, excitement, scared, not evening the butterflies in my stomach. As I said my goodbyes to my first host family and said hello to my second host family, this new experience has been an extremely positive one. My new host family is compromised of my host dad, an extremely funny optometrist who loves joking around and is a really good time, not to mention his “perfect” English. My host mom is a doctor and one of the most caring people I have met on exchange, be careful with your words around her cause if you say anything that

makes you sound remotely sick, you'll be put on bed rest for sure! My host sisters are amazing! They are both older than me and in university. They always interact with me and have helped me learn so much Spanish, I love it!

New Years: New Years was cool, but different. A very big meal, lots of sidra (an alcoholic drink, that of course I didn't drink) and fun time with family. My host dad liked playing Celine Dion on the computer and pointing dramatically to the computer and saying "Canadiense! Canadiense!" Followed by me enthusiastically nodding my head yes.

And Brazil: The capital of Brazil, seemingly endless Açaí and delicious gas station buffets, a natural water slide, endless life chats, partying in the Atlantic Ocean, learning to surf, learning to paddle board, dune buggy rides, boating in the ocean, endless days on the beach, spending too much money on souvenirs, laughing too hard with friends, Rio!!!, Christ the Redeemer and Sugar Loaf. Just a few of the things I did while in Brazil and some of the memories I will never forget. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to Terra Brasil Turismo for providing me with one of the most amazing opportunities ever.

Last but certainly not last, my Spanish: My Spanish has drastically improved and I am oh so very proud of myself. When I look back, just 2 months ago I can tell that I'm wayyyyyy better now! I am slowly, but surely, falling in love with this beautiful language. Spanish is such an amazing language and I'm so glad I'm able to learn it!

When I think back to a little over a year ago, and the seemingly endless paperwork, the interviews, the stress, the orientation weekend and camp Wanakita, I try to reflect and remember whether or not this is how I imagined my exchange year. Not how I envisioned my exchange year, but better than I ever could have expected! I would like to thank my home club the Rotary Club of Kitchener as well as my host club, the Rotary Club of San Lorenzo. As well as my Districts, 7080 and 4845, my home and host districts, respectively.

"Oh it's your time now' yeah, that's what everybody say" - Drake, Summer Sixteen

*David*