

Monday 30th July

It was a 6.30 start and most of the JoLters were happy for the lie-in this morning. The hotel breakfast was lovely with lots of fresh fruit, scrambled eggs and frankfurters followed by pancakes. As usual the JoLters tucked in with relish.

Most of the JoLters were unsure what to expect this morning as we headed out on two boats across Lake Titicaca. We were told the lake was 40km by 179km and certainly from the viewpoint we had from the jetty we could have been heading out to sea. The lake is full of the local fish of carache, a fish that we had had opportunity to try over the last couple of weeks. Our destination this morning was to the 'Floating Islands of Uros'.



We asked a few of the JoLters to share their impressions of the visit..

Jamie-lee



I thought that the islands were amazing how these man made islands stayed afloat from the Tortola, when you walked around it was like walking on a mattress but had a very strange and unique feel. I also loved the different culture, how they live, talk, dress and sing, it's all beautiful in its own way and I would love to learn more about it, I found it very interesting how the women dress, because they wear things that are unique like they show their status, if they wear bright colours in their hair it means they are available and if it's dark colours then they are married, and how they wear 3-4 skirts they are very thick and heavy, and most if not all

the textiles were hand made by the women. Another thing that I noticed was the items they sold and the quality of it, it's better then what I would get back home and to know they it takes less then one day to make it I think is amazing, and if I ever get the chance I will definitely go to the floating islands of Uros again.

Daniel

The Uros Islands were very interesting . I really enjoyed being with the people and trying on the traditional dress .The ground felt really strange like being on a mattress and you had to walk funny.The view reminded me of Holland with the boats and lots of water around. I would like to live there, because it was really chilled out and pleasant and the people were really nice.



Shawn

I thought the trip to the islands was something different, I've never saw anything like these islands before, the islands are so unique. I could of never imagined that people could live on reeds, it was like walking on a bed. The boat journey to the islands was amazing, the view from the boat was breath

taking, it was like looking at a postcard. Whenever we got to the island we were visiting, we had a very nice welcome from the very few people who lived on the small island. They welcomed us on to the island and brought everyone over to sit in a circle and they started singing to us in three different languages and then they asked us where we came from and they started singing in English 'Mary had a little lamb', which was really nice that they made the effort to learn a short song in English. After they told us how they lived and what they did for living most of us went on a small boat made out of reeds called a catamaran, there were two levels on this small boat, 30 people could of got on the small boat which I though was impossible. It was amazing experiencing how they travelled to each of the islands. There world is so much different to ours its an amazing opportunity to learn about different culture.



After the visit we had a little chill time to get ready for afternoon tea at the Libertador hotel, although this was a converted prison it was now the only 5 star hotel in Puno. The JoLters enjoyed the chance to dress up and it was a very elegant group that arrived at the hotel. We had afternoon tea of cakes and an assortment of variety of teas, some the JoLters had never heard of but we all enjoyed the chance to try.

A quiet night followed with all the JoLters using their time to pack a small bag ready for the final camping trip of our journey.



