Wednesday 1st August

We got up at 6.15 to a sunrise fitting for an island called after the sun. We broke camp and loaded up the boat to make the excursion to the north side of the island. The boat dropped us off in another picturesque bay before heading for the campsite whilst the JoLters faced one of the biggest challenges of the trip that certainly was gong to require teamwork if we were going to succeed.

We were about to start hiking along an Inca trail, visiting the Temple of the Chinkana and aiming to teach the summit. Our first challenge was climbing out the bay carrying people and wheelchairs up the rocky uneven path. It was certainly a team effort as we made our way slowly but surely up the path. Even those not holding the chairs helped by shouting words of encouragement especially to Josh Ga who set the walking pace with his crutches.

As we walked at an altitude of 4000 metres it was not too surprising that many had to catch their breathe once in a while. Every JoLter took a turn as we made our way to the ruins, sometimes using the slings to pull and tug over the rocky terrain, sometimes acting as brakes to slow the chairs down. We learnt about the Inca's at the ruins and about many of the gods they worshipped before making our way to the sacred rock where we were lucky to take part in a blessing, each JoLter being blessed in turn. There was something quite magical about the ceremony and it made our journey to the summit even more special.

It was a tired but elated group that finally made our way to the top, as usual a few false summits a long the way but the JoLters taking it in their stride. Here are a few of their thoughts...

Josh Ga
"It was amazing when I got to the top of the mountain and for a minute my feet stopped hurting but it was all worth it. It did take me a bit longer than everyone else but I raced to the top once I could see it plus I knew I was getting food when I got there so I worked that extra bit harder once I knew it was only 20 minutes away. I'm glad I got the opportunity to get to the top of the mountain and it is worth all the pain in my legs after."

Jade
"After such a long, hard,gruelling walk up such difficult terrain, the views at the highest point were spectacular. What made it even better was the chicken sandwich with ketchup and mayo in our packed lunches- when you've been deprived of tomato sauce for so long,

you worship it and to worship it at such a great height with such great scenery was AMAZING. Then to top it all off, Maria fell through some Inca ruins and completely demolished it, which made my day!
As difficult as the walk was with pushing, pulling and carrying wheelchairs the views and beautiful final destination on the beach definitely made it all worth it!"

Pixie

"It was a long, hard walk for those who had to pull me up to the highest point of the mountain on the island was hard for them and for me to try and stay in my wheelchair because of all the broken rocks and bumpy road, my team of many got me up to the top. Once we got to the top the view was MIND BLOWING!!! For lunch we got chicken sandwiches and mayo which put a smile on a lot of the JoLters and leaders. Going up the mountain I thought the leaders were mad for wanting to do the trek but getting to the top I could see why. It was amazing.
There were two people who were lost someone came up to a JoLter and asked where the ruins were and his friend perked up and said 'They are ruined stupid' this made me crack up hard to the point of tears, which made me laugh for the rest of the day.
Thanks for getting me up there."

It was a very tired but elated group that made it to the new campsite, but the sight of the tents pitched on the beach seemed to revitalise some who managed a game of volleyball, others enjoyed dipping their feet in the sea from the small jetty whilst Dan played his guitar. As the sun went down we had a lovely meal of soup and chicken and finished off a very successful but challenging day with a camp fire on the beach and a good old JoLt singsong.