

Day 22 Saturday 4th August

We entitled today as 'The wheels on the bus go round and round, round and round, round and round.... For 21 and a half hours!')

With a 4am up and 5am start we headed for Santa Cruz in our less than spacious Bolivian coach, with luggage strapped to the roof, and jolters squeezed into seats! 903km of Bolivia to cover!

There was a general feeling of foreboding as we climbed out of La Paz with the coach groaning and struggling with the steep climb. It was quite an old vehicle, the heating system also struggling to cope as many of us recouped some lost sleep.



As the sun rose and warmth started to warm our bones the many stirred like reptiles emerging from the cool night. Some started to complete the JoLt puzzle book, others started a weaving project using some kindly donated alpaca fleece. The morning was spent in good spirits and when we stopped for lunch at a food mall for refreshments and a chance to stretch our legs, the morning hadn't dragged at all.

We returned to the coach and soon split into teams for a quiz, this time it was Livvy's team (included Dan, Jamie Lee and Lisa) to take the top position with an outstanding lead of 10 points.

At some point we went through a pass of 4414m high, the highest altitude we had faced and then the road started to head down, the scenery altering from the mountainous terrain to a greener and lushier vista reminding us of our time in the rainforest. As the terrain changed we also became conscious of the change in altitude, we were finally heading for lower ground.

As the afternoon went on there also came a realisation that in fact our destination of Santa Cruz was many more miles away. As a cyclist overtook us on a down hill stretch we also began to realise that at the speed we were travelling that we may be arriving a lot later than we had anticipated. Josh Gr echoed many of our thoughts as he more than once could be heard saying "Are we there yet?" .

Getting lost in Santa Cruz and having to use a taxi to direct the coach to our accommodation could have been the final straw but we kept our cool. The last few hours were hard but there wasn't a leader not impressed by our team who eventually sat on the coach for an arduous journey of twenty one and a half hours as we arrived at 2.30am! What a journey!