



Day 4

A JoLt start this morning, up at six, breakfast at seven and onto the coach by 8am! As we made our way out of Paracas the scenery changed along the route from the built-up city area to scrubland and the villages and houses got few and far between. It started to feel like the Peru we had all been expecting. We tried our first JoLt singalong with Dan on the guitar with lead vocals Marcelle and Georgie! The Pan Am Highway followed the coastline, and was bordered by satellite towns, and huge chicken farms! Occasionally we caught glimpses of the sea and as we headed south the grey skies dominating Lima started to break. By the time we reached the Hotel Miramar in Paracas we had blue skies. A quick lunch, then with eager anticipation we headed for the main activity of the day which was a trip to some of the largest sand dunes in the World!

What a brilliant experience! It was a short trip from the hotel that takes you further into the desert located some kilometers away from the Paracas Reserve. Once there we adorned sand goggles, had a safety briefing and were strapped into our dune buggies, kitted out with full roll cages! Despite the checks nothing had quite prepared us for the thrill ahead. We started out with the



gentler slopes admiring the desert landscape but gentle slopes soon turned quickly to dips and drops more suited to theme parks. We soon found ourselves on a roller coaster ride reaching the precipice one moment and hurtling down the dunes at breath taking speed, all the time feeling that we were on a runaway train. Squeals of delights could be heard as we twisted and turned and made our way into the depths of the dunes. "Peruvian drivers are crazy!" exclaimed Lisa, with sand between her teeth! As the buggies arrived one by one, those waiting used the time to make sand shadows although this activity soon became far too tame for JoLters as we decided hurtling off the top of sand dunes could provide far more fun.



Soon we were ready to tackle sand boarding. Hard to describe the sensation of hurtling down the slopes sat on a snow board but soon the infectious laughter was too hard to resist even for any reluctant sand boarders and one by one each of us had our turn. Over the afternoon we got braver, some tackling the board standing up, some lying flat and boards were heavily waxed to increase speeds. Some spectacular crash landings provided even more amusement with more than a few of us (including leaders) sporting bumps and bruises, all forgotten by the evening meal as we relived the excitement of the afternoon.

We are all rather in awe of Zahra for managing to take a photo of herself mid run and for Joshua Ga and Vicki who both insisted on walking back up the sand dune (no mean feat) once they had their turn. Particularly impressive had to be Joseph Mu and Jade for tackling the board standing up although Joshua Gr took the spectacle of the day award for his brilliant run from the top standing on the board together with his rather impressive somersault crash landing too! "This was so much better than a roller coaster!" shrieked Jamie-Lee, covered from head to foot in sand!

The pool back at the hotel was too hard to resist for most of the JoLters despite the cool water and it had a distinctly sandy bottom as we shed the layers of sand ingrained over our bodies. Dinner followed by our first JoLt sing-a-long evening with Dan leading us again on guitar brought an end to the best day of our journey so far.

