

ADVENTURE
WAITING

AROUND THE
WORLD

Geomatics Abroad

Peru 2022-2023



Sara Garcia '23

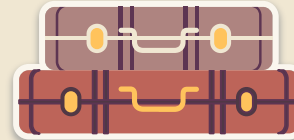
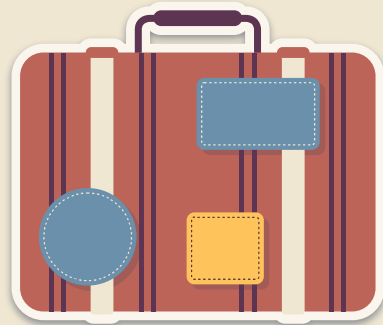


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Thank You!!



12/27/2022 - Our first day in Lima!



Highlights of the Day:

- Discovering concrete cylinders like the ones we made in CVEN 342
- Trying Peruvian chaufa for the first time!
- The origin of the “Snake Gang” :)



12/28/2022 - Visiting Barranco, Kennedy Park, & Parque del Amor



Highlights of the Day:

- Not only meeting, but impressing a famous Peruvian YouTuber ([Henry Spencer](#))!!
- Getting exposed to traditional, artisan hand craft work at the outdoor market
- Becoming the number one clients of the local Plaza Vea Super Dasso



12/29/2022 - Historic Downtown Lima

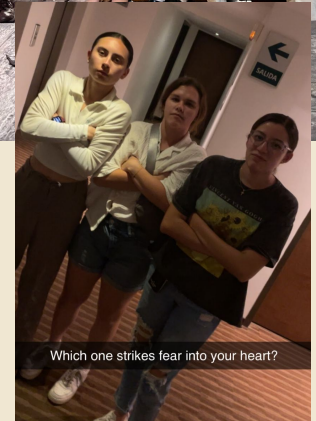


Highlights of the Day:

- Accidentally getting scolded at by priests for sitting on holy property while attempting to take photos
- Feeling like a powerful woman in STEM with such a female strong group!!
- Getting throne lifted by my best friends :)



12/30/2022 - Huaca Pucllana Dinner <3



Which one strikes fear into your heart?

Highlights of the Day:

- Experiencing my first multi-course meal in Peru
- Getting to meet my new classmates in a casual setting (especially becoming close to Laura) <3
- Caroline & Cynthia helping me complete one of my life bucket list items (to get the Corps of Cadets hairstyle done)

12/31/2022 - New Year's Eve!!

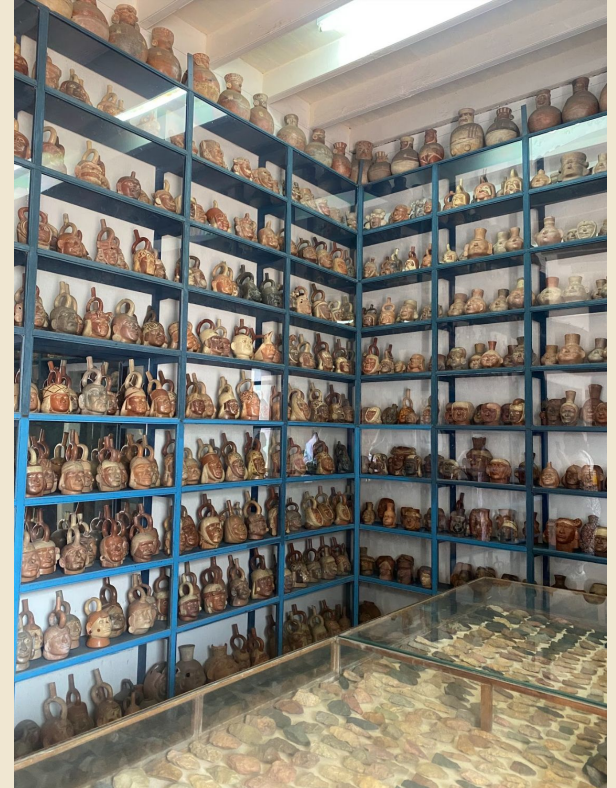


Highlights of the Day:

- Going around the lunch table discussing our highs, lows, and points of growth from 2022
- Walking Allison home so she could rest...after a long day :)
- Exploring Larcomar & eating freshly made ice cream!!



01/01/2023 - Day at the (Larco) Museum



Highlights of the Day:

- Being able to inaugurate the new year with my loved ones <3
- Coming to appreciate...interesting...pottery
- Walking 8 miles in the dark as a group back from the museum just to “get our steps in” for the day

01/02/2023 - Ceviche Class & City Exploration



Highlights of the Day:

- The day we **all** finally began to join the “Snake Gang” ;)
- Preparing ceviche from scratch for the first time & trying Inca Kola!
- Sneaking into the “Colegio de Ingenieros del Perú” for a photo opportunity

01/03/2023 - Traditional Peruvian Dance Class



Highlights of the Day:

- Realizing that we have some absolute DANCERS on the trip
- Practicing our daily coffee break (because practice makes perfect)!
- Everyone finally coming out of their shell & becoming more comfortable in their skin <3



01/04/2023 - Dinner at La Rosa Nautica



Highlights of the Day:

- Learning Kristina's entire life history & realizing we relate so much in our musical tastes & background!!
- The restroom being the best photo shoot location & free postcards
- Finally, the VIEW from La Rosa Nautica ;) Absolutely UNMATCHED!!

01/05/2023 - Excursion to Paracas :)

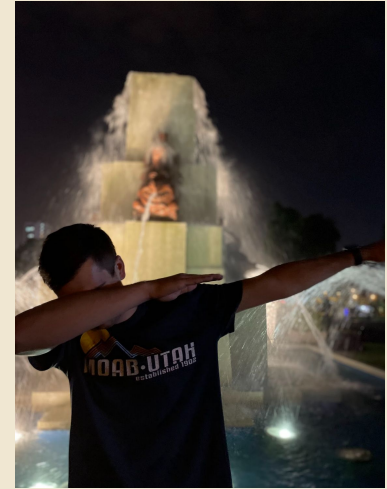


Highlights of the Day:

- More than anything, the dune buggy was 100% my favorite part (I **ADORE** roller coasters!!)
- Being picked up at the crack of dawn by none other than a gentleman named “In Da House”
- Dramamine, Powerade, & saltine crackers ;)



01/06/2023 - Water Fountain Show :)



Highlights of the Day:

- Having Henry finally hop on the dabbing bandwagon
- Drinking freshly squeezed lemonade on the side of the cliff with the squad :)
- Busting out in dance with Caitlyn & Caroline at the face painting station (to what seemed to be my personal playlist)



01/07/2023 - Off to Cusco!



Highlights of the Day:

- The glory that is ~Cusco's magical tea~
- Feeding a mixture of alpacas, llamas, and vicunas!!
- Unintentionally having a "leg day" workout due to the steep hills :)

01/08/2023 - To the Heartland of the Sacred Valley



Highlights of the Day:

- Constant Sara(h) inceptions <3
- Being in awe of every location - each looking site more beautiful than the one before
- Skipping rocks in the river with Maggie, Mason, Henry, Caitlyn, and Rodrigo :)

01/09/2023 - As Close to Machu Picchu as Possible



Highlights of the Day:

- Top-of-our-lung karaoke sessions in the van rides <3 (and introducing Louise to the masterpiece that is “Me Rehuso” by Danny Ocean)
- Mary’s black hole of a Camelbak backpack
- Trying chicha morada ice cream for the first time!!



01/10/2023 - Rise & Shine in the Clouds



Highlights of the Day:

- Going for a morning exploration around Cusco with Maggie & Henry :)
- Purchasing matching bracelets for my loved ones back home <3
- Introducing “pocket bread” to the airplane crew!!

01/11/2023 - Fine Dining at the Central Restaurant



Highlights of the Day:

- Jake coming out of the clinic & feeling better :)
- The complex feelings of not knowing whether an item on the table of the world's number two restaurant is food or a prop
- Sarah's rendition of the Peru Baddies at Machu Picchu <3



01/12/2023 - Inca Market



Highlights of the Day:

- Comparing a 12 course meal to being surprisingly better than Chipotle & making Paco laugh :)
- Everyone has now become a semi-native speaker!!
- Practicing my newly learned Quechua from Efrain at the market



01/13/2023 - Goodbye Peru <3



Highlights of the Day:

- Saving the best for last - deep fried cuy & pretending it was Nick's birthday!!
- Paco's iconic 0.5 that will forever live in photographic history
- Visiting the local coffee shop one, last, time <3



Expectation vs. Reality



Preconceptions of Peru before going & learning outcomes after having gone

“The weather will be very similar to the US!”	Yes and no! Lima is a temperature paradise and the ocean breeze keeps the city fresh all year. Cusco on the other hand is a mountain community and temperatures can drop down to the 30s F at night!!
“Being from Texas, many people will pick up on the language fast”	Being Colombian, Spanish is a language that I have grown up with, so speaking it in a foreign country can come as second nature. However, each person learns at a difference pace and being flexible and understanding is key :)
“Can I really afford to eat out every day??”	Absolutely!! We are very fortunate for the exchange rate to be 3.80 Peruvian Soles to 1 USD, so we can often spend as little as \$20 USD each day for food & activities.
“The Peruvian people may not be very receptive to tourists”	On the contrary! The Peruvian community took us in at every step, welcoming us to their country and inviting us to learn more. It is critical to keep an open mind and learn from other peoples’ experiences.
“Eating will just be a break from the experience”	Eating in Peru IS the experience! As one of the global centers of food, enjoying a meal with your loved ones is such a special moment. I’m excited to carry this habit back with me to the US :)
“I’ve traveled before, I won’t get sick on the trip!!”	Very funny Sara - you are in for a treat :)



Learning Lessons

01

When it Lima! (Because you never know when you'll be here again)

02

Your travel buddies are your family for a month, and now, for life <3

03

When in doubt, reapply sunscreen!!

04

Take time to appreciate the little things, that'll be what sticks with you the most <3

05

Ask questions, it's cool to care!! :)

06

Practice money management! There are times to save up, but there are also times to enjoy your savings!!

07

Navigating a new city can be tough, have compassion for the GPS & never give up

08

Order items on the menu that you don't recognize, go for it!!

09

Take SO MANY photos & videos, they last forever <3

10

Dramamine, Powerade, & Pepto Bismol will become your best friends <3

Final Reflection

Thank you all for some of the three of the best weeks of my life! It's incredible to realize how fast time passes, how quickly a foreign place can feel like home, and how easy it is to love those around you.

Coming to the trip, I thought that ArcGIS would be the heart of what I would come to learn on the study abroad, but on the contrary, it was just another one of many experiences I was able to live. If not for this trip, I would not have been able to explore civil engineering predating modern history, refine my palette to a new level, and explore a beautiful & rich culture.

The world is so big and visiting Peru has reminded me of the thrill that comes with traveling and learning new customs, languages, and ways of life.

My deepest thank you to all of the individuals and teams that have played a role to make this trip possible. To ARCOS for well-organizing every day of the program, Erin Kibler & the TAMU Education Abroad department for the constant support (even in unprecedented times), Cesar & Rodrigo Velasquez for opening their hearts and time to us in their home country, and Paco for inspiring us to pursue more and be relentless in our journey of growth. Finally, to all my dear friends on the trip, this is just the beginning :)

Live, laugh, love, Peru Baddies <3

THANK YOU!

Please feel free to reach out!

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