



# Aurora

from

**Brampton**

to

**Argentina**

## *“The Beauty of Cultures”*

The past 3 months have been about immense growth. For me, and for a lot of the current outbounds, this is the longest we have been away from home. These three months has brought a lot of first experiences such as first holidays away from home and first New Year away from home. Being away from home has taught me to appreciate all that I have both back home and currently. My first Christmas away from home was quite different but as an exchange student, you quickly learn to find the beauty in all cultures.

Feliz Navidad!

Christmas and the New Year is known to be the toughest time for exchange students. I found that all to be true however, these experiences definitely made me a stronger person in the end. For Christmas, all of my extended host family came over to my house for dinner. Here in Argentina, Christmas is celebrated on Christmas Eve and at midnight everyone goes out. It was a great experiencing meeting all of my extended host family. My host aunts and uncles were very curious about my life in Canada, especially how we celebrated Christmas.

During this time, I was also very homesick. For 18 years of my life I was used to being cold on Christmas with hot chocolate and marshmallows. As a child, I remember waking up on Christmas and seeing snow out my window. This Christmas, I woke up to my host family swimming and playing in the pool. I tried my best to take my mind off things by spending time with my family and friends here in Argentina.

Todo bem?



For the month of January, I spent the whole month touring the northeast coast of Brazil! This trip was one of the best experiences of my life. I got to do so many things I would never get the chance to do back home in Canada. I rode sand buggy's in the middle of one of the most beautiful dunes in Brazil, I went stand-up paddle boarding for the first time, and got to visit one of the 7 wonders of the world- Christ the Redeemer in Rio De Janeiro! This trip was truly a trip of a lifetime and I and 50 of my closest exchange friends got to experience the beauty of Brazilian culture.

Brazil is a beautiful country with a beautiful culture and I am extremely thankful to my family at home in Canada and Rotary International for making this experience possible. There is so much I want to share about this trip but that would take way too long! Here are pictures from the trip, just looking at them make me want to get on a bus and go right back to these beautiful views.





February 2018

It is crazy to think another 3 months have gone by. I still remember landing here and not knowing any Spanish. My Spanish since then has greatly improved. I can understand most things however speaking is always the hardest part. I miss home dearly however I try to remind myself that I am only going to experience this once in my life and home will always be there. To all future exchange students, exchange is going to be hard but be strong and rely on the people around you. This year is about growth and growth would not be possible without the hard times.



Nos vemos pronto Canada,

*Aurora*