

Day 3 – Crater Lake

The adventures and images of today made it an unforgettable experience. Everything about the Posada Oveja Negra is amazing, including the rooms (a log house with three stories), the luxuries, the food, and the view- oh the view! The day started with an exquisite breakfast- eggs, and freshly-baked bread with butter and plum jam, and soon after we made our way down to the road where a convoy of two pickups was waiting for us. We slowly wound through the beautiful Andes, with colorful greenery, beautiful steep volcanic cliffs, quick mountain streams and brooks, and villages of friendly and hard-working natives. The journey was something different - instead of being stuffed in a bus listening to our iPods, we got to smell the fresh air, enjoy the beautiful mountains, and most of all, get some exercise. Along the way, we stopped to help a group of nice natives to clear the destruction of the mudslide. It was especially amazing because we walked in on something special- an experience of a true community.

- Peter Dolbir, 10th grade

After clearing a path, we wandered through the fog, catching glimpses of the forest as we drove. We finally arrived at Quilotoa, a crater lake, after a long ride. After consuming our lunches, we gazed down upon the great lake, the view blanketed by fog. The descent began. The path was a combination of rocks and extremely loose soil, resulting in a heavy amount of sliding. After losing 900 feet of altitude, we reached the lake, its blue surface reflecting our muddied clothes. We stopped to take pictures, play ultimate, and rest. Burros began to trickle in, transportation up the mountain for some, though my testosterone did not allow me to partake. After a strenuous climb, we reappeared at the top of the volcano's rim. Piling back into the cars, we were anxious to get back to the Inn and take a nap. The ride back was much faster, but just as terrorizing, the trucks experiencing periods of only three-wheel use. We ended our day dancing with native children and playing cards.

-Skyler Hutto 11th Grade

The adventure continues