

Colegio Anglo Colombiano, Bogotá, Colombia

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At the beginning of the year in 2014, I spent six weeks in Bogotá, Colombia, and I am quite sure that those few weeks have changed my life forever.

I remember before I was accepted for a student exchange, having to choose my top five destinations. In my mind, a student exchange was all about discovering new things and experiencing things that you will never experience ever again. So I thought, to make everything new, why not go to a country where they speak a language I don't. So, as I searched, I saw that I could go to Colombia. I thought that would be the most original destination possible. I did not see in any way how I would not learn or experience something new over there.

Once my crying mom had let me go and I was in Colombia, everything changed. I was not sure at all what to expect. All of my friends had told me different things that they thought I would see in Colombia. But, once over there, it was completely different. I saw this beautiful city surrounded by all four sides by mountains. I was out of breath (although, in hindsight, that was probably because Bogotá is 2,640 metres above sea level).

My host family found me at the airport and brought me to their very nice home. They instantly treated me as a part of their family. Then came my first day of school. I was not in the same grade as my host, but he still found a way to make sure that I was warmly welcomed. All of the kids I met were curious as to who I was and where I came from, which was a wonderful conversation starter to make new friends.

I took all of the classes at the Anglo Colombiano, which gave me a first-hand experience at all of Colombia's history. At lunch, my new friends would make me try things that I would never would have imagined existed, like mini-bananas and a fruit that looks like an alien egg.

My host family brought me to some of the most amazing places in Colombia. Notably, I got to see some of the amazing things that the Aborigines did with gold, some old villages, and a very cool artisanal market. I had so much fun with my host family! They definitely were like a second family to me.

In those six weeks, I made tons of friends that I will never forget, and learned about a culture that is nothing like ours. I grew as a person. When I came back, I was not the same person I was as when I left. If I could do this again, I definitely would. A student exchange is an unforgettable experience and probably one of the most amazing opportunities that LCC offers.