

# RUSS IS BOLIVIAN BOUND!

*Russ Pearce is a 34-year-old mature student from Bridgend. Having recently completed his HND in travel and tourism management at Bridgend College, he plans a degree top-up year at the University of Glamorgan in Pontypridd.*

*Before then, he is off to Bolivia to carry out voluntary work!*

*In order to support this venture, Russ would welcome any donations towards costs. Contact Trish, his wife on 01656 767341.*

*Readers will be able to follow his Bolivian experiences through regular reports in The Recorder.*

**T** HIS summer, I will be spending three months in the South American country of Bolivia.

It is not a particularly well-

known country and many people will think only of the Andes mountains, pan-pipe music and llamas.

Bolivia is the poorest country in South America and is twice the size of Spain.

Landlocked since losing its coastline to Chile in the Pacific War of the 1880s, it also borders Peru, Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina.

Bolivia boasts a diverse terrain ranging from the High Andes in the West to the Amazon Rainforest Basin in the East. I will be living and working in Santa Cruz, which sits nicely between the two regions and boasts a pleasant climate all year round.

My placement provider, i-to-i, has arranged for me to work in the main tourist office in Santa Cruz and I hope to get involved in tourism development projects. This is one area where the poorer people of Bolivia really have the chance to

Letter from  
South  
America  
by  
RUSS PEARCE



improve their lot by making the most of the tourist pound/dollar.

On Sunday, June 27, I fly to Santa Cruz via Sao Paulo in Brazil. It's not going to be easy and I hope my Spanish will be good enough.

Thankfully, I managed to do a course in the language but I know it will be very different when I arrive, especially as only 70 per cent of Bolivians actually speak Spanish. The rest speak Quechua, the language of the Incas, or Aymara, a pre-Inca language.

Somehow I doubt I will be developing my linguistic skills that far!

Follow my progress here in The Recorder, or check out my on-line Travelogue via [www.rruss.com-travel](http://www.rruss.com-travel)

*'Adios amigos y hasta luego!'*  
(Cheerio my friends, and I'll see you later!)