



YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING
Chile

A year in Chile: The best year of my life





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“Hello, my name is Katrine and I am from Denmark.

I went to Chile when I was 16 in 2018 and stayed in the capital Santiago for a year with an amazing host family.

Before I went to Chile, my view of the world was very limited. I had been living in a safe little bubble my entire life. Little did I know when I stepped onto the plane taking me to Chile, it was just a small step towards my whole life perception being altered. My year in Chile was without a doubt, the best year of my life.

I wanted to go to Chile to learn about a different culture and try to get an understanding of the world around me. In Chile, I felt very welcomed by everyone around me and was always met with an openness from the people who ended up turning into lifelong friends and family. Chile beholds many different beauties and has every type of landscape that one could only dream of. I was lucky enough to experience the nature both with my host family and YFU Chile.





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The year was filled with so much joy, wonderful people, art and adventures. But saying that, all of the difficult situations cannot be forgotten. Those tough moments made me learn a lot about myself, the world and ultimately helped shaping the person that I am today.



I learned to stand on my own two feet, become independent, adapt to new circumstances and take action in difficult situations. Some of the things wouldn't have been possible without the help and great support from YFU Chile. One of the things I certainly carry with me today is staying in the present moment. You can't live in the past or the future when you are on exchange.



You are aware that you have limited time in the country and you realize how important it is to be in the moment and enjoy it fully. I worship all of the experiences I had in Chile and carry the memories with me with a great smile every single day. I went to Chile without knowing a word of Spanish and returned to Denmark fluent. My year was filled with both laughs, tears and everything in between and if I had the choice, I would do it all over again.”

