

# jengreen

santiago &  
valparaíso, chile



— To celebrate the end of finals in December, Jen Green and Mary Johnstone spend four days hiking in the south part of Chile, stopping here at the Torres Del Paine.

**JEN'S MAJOR(S):** International relations—Individualized Major Program (IMP) with minors in Spanish and French

**YEAR/TERM ABROAD:** Academic year 2002-2003

**REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM:** I studied in Spain in high school, and Chile was really interesting economically and also how diverse it was and how safe it was—my parents liked that.

**FAVORITE CLASSES:** poetry and journalism classes

**DESCRIBE THE HOUSING SITUATION:** I lived with families for both semesters. Both of whom were single older women. With the first, every Sunday the extended family would get together. With the second, she had no family nearby but a close circle of friends, so it was interesting to see the different dynamics.

**BEST MEMORY:** The day I got back from traveling in the desert was a celebration for Valparaíso. The city was named a UN Patrimony of Humanity, so it was fun to come home to a huge celebration, to drink wine, listen to music and watch fireworks.

**BIGGEST SURPRISE:** How natural it all seemed after adjusting for a few weeks and the initial shock. It was easier than I expected, to get used to the lifestyle.

**WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT:** How and where to pitch a tent. Traveling was a completely different kind of experience. A lot of the places I wanted to visit were off the beaten path, so you had to be pretty outdoorsy.

**EXPERIENCES WITH CULTURE SHOCK OR REVERSE CULTURE SHOCK:** Reverse: having homework everyday and cutting yourself off from a culture that you worked so hard to immerse yourself in everyday—that was the hardest.

**GOING ABROAD VS. STAYING ON CAMPUS, DISCUSS:** No contest. That was a reason why I was so upset when I came back to Bloomington: knowing that everyday's not going to be some interesting adventure. Campus is so boring after you can jet off to Lima or Argentina on an \$80 plane ticket.

“While you're abroad, you just have to teach yourself to take advantage of every opportunity. It's always good though *to leave a few things undone so you have a reason to go back.*”

**ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS:** It's OK to be afraid but don't let it stop you from throwing yourself in different situations. You wouldn't think that 12 months go by so quickly, but it does.