What experience had the most impact on you?

I think the experience that had the most impact on me was near the end of the trip when the whole group hiked to a beautiful spot on the side of Dinas Emerys in Beddgelert. It was there that we reflected on how much we learned about the history and culture of the Welsh nation and its ancient Celtic roots, we realized how much we were able to connect with the great people and with each other as travelers, and most of all I was impacted by the understanding that my experiences as a whole had made me a part of the culture of the Cymru.
**What were your expectations for the trip? How did your experience differ from your expectations?**

My program leader, Dr. John Ellis, was extremely thorough in preparing everyone for what to expect during the trip down to the finest details. We knew what weather to expect, local customs to abide by, what our hotels would be like and the complete itinerary for each day of the trip. If anything, all I can say is that the experience in Wales was greater than I could have expected.

**What were some of the biggest cultural differences you witnessed or experience while abroad?**

Wales is a bi-lingual country and while it is easy to get around on English alone there are many natives that not only enjoy using Welsh in conversation-but are also very appreciative of visitors who use Welsh, especially since some phonemes are hard to learn for first time users.

**What surprised you the most about you time abroad?**

The most surprising aspect of my time abroad was how wholeheartedly every person I encountered was genuinely friendly. I have been to a few major cities in America and barely seen a smiling face, but especially in the biggest city of Wales, Cardiff, every person was kind and even interested in American culture as much as we were interested in their culture.
*How has this experience Changed or had an impact on you? If yes, please explain how.*

There's no doubt that my experience has made me a better person. I have a greater understanding of the history and culture of Wales and ancient Celts. I have made lifelong friends of my travel companions. I have a reinvigorated desire to learn through travel and experience in conjunction with book and lecture. Overall, I have even learned to incorporate the best things about Wales and Welsh culture into my life here at home as well.

*Blog, Video, or website link about your experience?*

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fn_8VneW5mdze2ObmRsli_ZReEMmZzMhBWXwfx00XR8/edit?usp=sharing

*Willing to be contacted by prospective study abroad students about your experience?*

Yes!