

## Mexico August 2017 by Mara West

I had the pleasure of visiting Mexico back in August 2017 with Girlguiding UK. For this trip I had to fundraise £2500 in twelve months - quite a challenge! Luckily I was fortunate to receive lots of support with my fundraising, including a grant from the URC.



The trip itself was three weeks long, and included lots of exciting and rewarding activities. One of my favourite parts was spending some time with children from a local orphanage. These children were of all ages and backgrounds, so we prepared a whole host

of games and crafts for them to take part in. A proportion of the money raised for the trip was used

to buy materials for these activities, and both the children and their teachers were so appreciative. Despite the language barrier (only one member of our group spoke Spanish!), both groups had a great time and it was incredibly rewarding to see how excited the children were.



As well as our time with the children, we enjoyed meeting people from all over the world, trying new foods and even waterfall jumping! It was a truly unforgettable experience that wouldn't have been possible without the support I received in the run-up to the trip.

Since the trip I'm now a lot more aware of different cultures and ways of life. I also realised a lot more about my own character, and am already considering applying for another adventure!



Mara West