

January 15, 2009

Natalie Cortez and Megan Wummer

Our Journey back to Caracas started early, with a 7am departure time. We packed our suitcases, loaded the bus and headed for the capital. Waiting in Caracas to collect us was our friend Charlie Hardy (who lived in Venezuela for 23 years)! Charlie Hardy took us to *La Estancia*, a park that used to be exclusively for the elite and that now is open to the public. The peaceful park, lined with beautiful flower beds, was a welcome contrast to chaotic Caracas. After meandering around the park and lying in the grass for an hour, we boarded the bus and headed to our hotel on the corner of historic Plaza Simon Bolivar. En route to the hotel, we passed Miraflores, the presidential palace, and the bridge where protestors were shot at in 2002. After a quick stop at the hotel, we made our way to the house where Simon Bolivar was born. Born in 17something, Simon Bolivar liberated many countries in South America from Spanish rule and is revered by many in Venezuela. After a tour of Simon Bolivar's birthplace we made our way to the hotel. Some of us toured the city on our own and others went in search of Venezuelan rum. After a lengthy search for rum we returned back to the hotel and set off to have our last group dinner.





SIMON BOLIVAR

NACIO EN ESTA CASA

EL DIA 24 DE JULIO DE 1783.