

Kelly Thornber

SWIM FOR TERRI: Post-swim commentary

I was one of the lucky four who flew out to Greenland for the swim. The whole trip was fantastic, and the swim was a huge success. Myself and Anthony (both students at Oxford) met up with Reece and Summer (from Cambridge) and hit it off immediately, despite the university rivalry! I think all three of them were as honoured as I was to be able to take part in such a great event for such a worthy cause.

On flying into Greenland, we were awestruck by the beauty of the country, and also awestruck in a different sense by the pilot, who only narrowly missed the mountains on our landing! We were met at the airport by Stephen and Ivaak, our super-friendly, enthusiastic hosts who went out of their way to ensure we had a thoroughly enjoyable stay. Our first afternoon was spent looking around the country's capital, Nuuk. Since the 'city' is home to only 15,000 residents, I think we can safely say we saw pretty much all of it – it was lovely! Then a game of 10-pin bowling in what has to be the most remote bowling alley in the world finished us off for the day.

The next morning we were up early and made it to the swimming pool despite only being able to see 30cm in front of our faces due to the blizzard that had set in overnight. The warm, inviting pool was like an oasis in the middle of the white desert! The swim was a great success - I think we all swam a total of around 70miles!! That was double the distance we needed to swim!! There were even little babies doing laps of the little pool! It was myself and a local girl who started off the swim, and there were lots of pictures being taken, even the local press was there doing interviews! I swam 10km in total, double the distance I have ever swum before! The others all did equally well, and we were all so tired that evening that the big night out on the town in Nuuk was much quieter than planned! Ivaak showed us some of the fantastic Greenland hospitality and cooked us a great dinner and entertained us for the evening...quite a feat considering we were like four exhausted zombies who you would have thought hadn't eaten for weeks!

Our final day in Greenland was spent looking round, seeing the real Santa's grotto, and going on a walk in what felt like almost the wilderness but was actually just a few metres from Nuuk! The entire trip was fantastic and a once in a lifetime opportunity that I am pleased not to have missed out on. I hope Terri may one day get to see the beauty of Greenland for herself, and am sure she will enjoy it as much as we did. Terri I wish you all the best for the future, and look forward to hearing about your success in years to come!