

Chile & Argentina

Written by Glenn Tester

Tuesday, 09 March 2010 22:48 - Last Updated Tuesday, 23 March 2010 23:37

Crossing over to Isle Grande de Chilo we travel as far south as Trincao and then back up to the delightful town of Castro. This should supply us with our first view of Arctic Pinguins possibly best seen from a sea kayak expedition.

Heading back past Puerto Monte we cross the border and follow dirt tracks south not far from Route 40 and make a stop at El Bolson, known to locals as the hippy town it s surrounded by some of the most beautiful hikes in Argentina.....maybe the world.

We are now in glacier country. After skimming along the edge of Lago Futralautquen we pass Tecka and Rio Pica before crossing the border once again at Lago Verde.

We zig zag our way south around lakes and across rivers while we photograph and put more and more layers on to keep warm until we reach the coastal towns of Puerto Aisen and Puerto Chacabuco.

After passing through the wind farms of Coyhaique, we find ourselves again crossing back into Argentina.

Continuing south around Lago Buenos Aires, the township of Las Horquetas and Lago Cardiel, we reach Parque National Perito Moreno. With an average of 1200 visitors per year, you will defiantly feel isolated as the snow capped peaks of the Sierra Colarada tower over you like sentinels.

El Chalten amongst the Fitz Roy Rangers, set along a beautiful river will make a great stop to view Cerro Fitz Roy at almost 10500 feet. Extreme hikers flock here every year to have their shot at the peak. Unfortunatly the weather here is very extreme as well, cold, windy, rainy and that's just summer!!

Passing the eastern end of Lago Argentino we are now in Parque National Los Glaciers which is home to the famous Glacier Perito Morno at 30Km long, 5 Km wide and 60 meters high, but what really makes this exceptional is its advancement of over 2 meters per day allowing huge building like icebergs to break off and bounce around. A definite must see!

We cross back into Chile for the last time and see Patagonia's most prestige hiking area of Torres Del Paine and continue in to Puerto Natales for a nights rest.

We can almost smell the finish line now.

Punta Arenas is our next stop and believe it or not is only the mid point of Chile as it reaches all the way to a sector of Antarctica.

Following the Bahia San Felipe to almost the coast we take a ferry across and leave Chile behind for the final time as we pass San Sebastian, Rio Grande and Lago Fegnano to reach our final destination of Ushuaia, the southern most city of the world.

Did I say our final destination.....well for the bikes anyway. From here we will be embarking on an Antarctic expedition for 20 days.

What better way to end "Circle to Circle"!!