

Chile & Argentina



Millenium Sailing trip,
February 2000



Buenos Aires, Argentina



After many trips to Argentina on pure business, I now had a chance to bring my wife along to my Argentinian favorite – the capital, Buenos Aires (Little Paris). It is not so small after all, and there are many things to do and see, so one has to be selective and well prepared. Fortunately, I had my local distributor who could show us some of the best places including restaurants.

We had only three days, before continuing to Chile, but a couple of days can also be great if well used. San Telmo, the bohemian part of Buenos Aires (compare with Greenwich Village, NYC), has loads of good restaurants to choose from. Best way to see this section is to just wander around without a clear plan just to get the atmosphere. There are many antique shops here as well if one is into this.

Recoleta (Barrio Norte) is very near Retiro and walking distance from Plaza San Martin. Here is also the cemetery where the famous Evita Peron is buried.





La Boca, Buenos Aires

Colorful "working class" quarters

La Boca is another must when visiting Buenos Aires. Perhaps a little too many tourists for my taste, but the colorful and very decorative architecture is of course one of its main attractions. The area is best known for these corrugated and colorfully painted townhouses.

Naturally, there are also many cafés and restaurants to choose from here. An advice is to check beforehand as some are catering primarily to the tourists, and this sometimes affects the quality a bit in a negative way.

Our walking tour started at Caminito. Try and wander off the main streets where there are fewer people, but still many nice cafes. Did I mention Argentina's most famous soccer team – La Boca Juniors. Maradona himself started out his career here and is no less than considered a god in this area and Argentina as well of course.



Parrillas (steakhouses) a must!

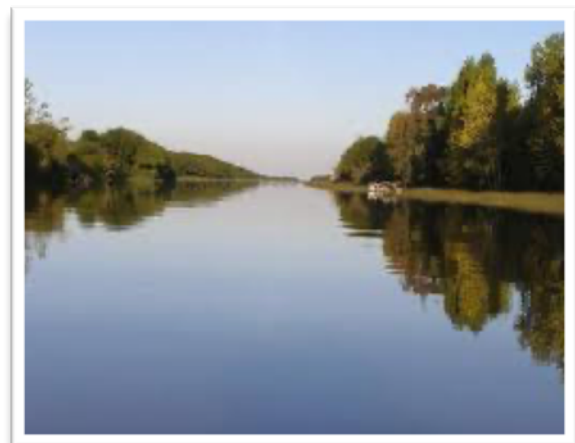
If you are a meat-eater, and I hope you are, then there are loads of really good restaurants all over town. Again, be selective and ask for recommendations. We went with friends to El Trapiche.

Another must, when in Buenos Aires is to try Tango. There are many places to choose from here as well. Many of them combine good food and Tango. We went with good friends who knew where to go. Me, I needed quite a bit of wine before trying out the Tango. It is not an easy dance. Prefer to watch others perform....



Tigre in Rio de la Plata...

Tigre is an old and small-town ca: 30 km north of Buenos Aires. Today many exclusive private villas and clubs are located here. Enjoy a boat trip on the canal and rivers.



The best way to get to Tigre is to ride the train. It takes a little longer and stops along the way, but you get to see a lot more this way. The air is subtropical, but still clear and free from all the pollution from the down-town Buenos Aires area. Many come up for the weekend to relax at Tigre and a few are also fortunate to have villas along the canals and rivers. Here. Many private clubs also house their activities here. You can also easily hop-on – hop-off on the taxi-boat system if you decide to make a lunch break at a nice restaurant.

Back to Buenos Aires for a change of clothes. We were invited out to our friend's hacienda just outside of Buenos Aires. We were served a grand Asado outdoors accompanied by good red Argentinian wine of course. At first, we thought we had arrived to a school as the place was absolutely packed with kids of all ages. It turned out our friends had 7 kids of their own and another couple had 13! Did I need to mention they were practicing Catholics? If my memory serves me right, I believe this was the evening my wife and I decided it could be time possibly to increase ours numbers of kids a little bit as well. 9 months after our trip we had twin-boys. So, four in total.... Enough ☺



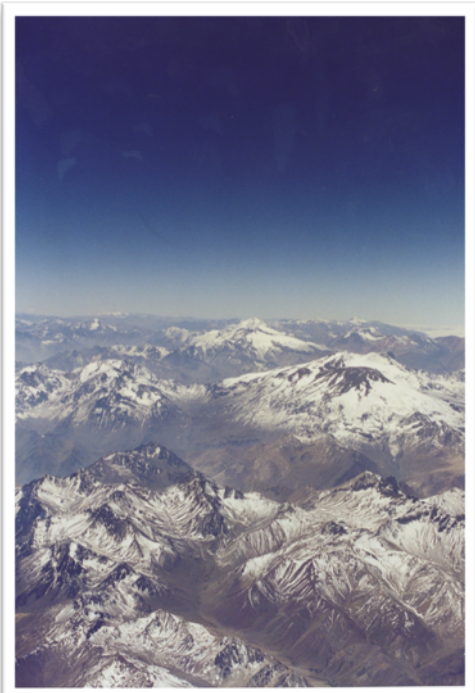


San Rafael glacier, Chile

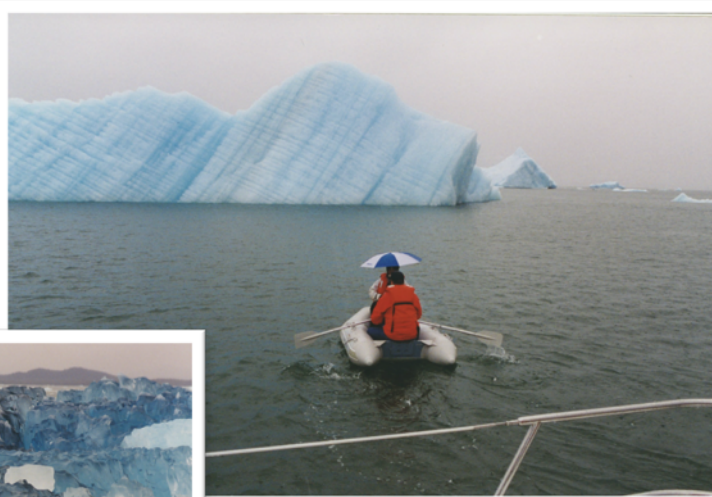
South Chile and the national park San Rafael

After a fairly short visit to Santiago de Chile, we continued with a domestic flight south to Puerto Montt in the Patagonia region of Chile. This is also where our adventure started onboard a 44-foot sailing boat. The plan was to travel down the archipelago for four full days to the National Park of San Rafael. The landscape in parts looked a bit like the Nordic archipelago. Amazing beauty and virtually no people at all. It is a rather difficult area to navigate by boat and very, very difficult to reach by road.

During our 4 days we ran into a handful of fishing boats. Apart from the food we had brought along, we were also able to purchase and trade fresh seafood like crabs, fish of various sorts and lobsters from the fishermen. All food is cooked and eaten onboard.



A Magnificent archipelago!



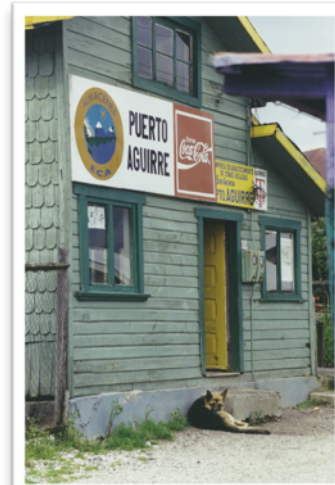
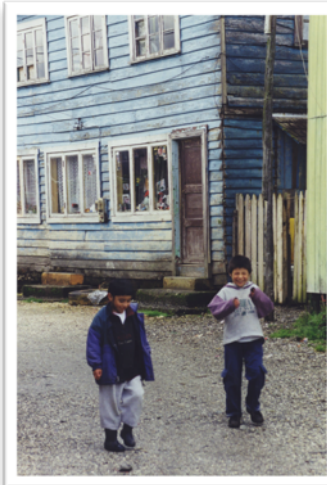
The goal of the trip was of course to see the glaciers of San Raphael. After our first couple of days the weather had been quite warm, but as we were nearing the glacier we could feel the weather changing quite dramatically. We enter the lagoon and anchor at the shore away from the “wall of ice”, as this is a rather dangerous area to get too close to. The glacier is calving from time to time. Large blocks of ice fall in to the sea with enormous power and sound.

A get to take a small rubber boat and row out into the water to take pictures of the boat as well as the icebergs floating all around us. The colors are spectacular. I take a piece of ice, possibly 1000-year-old and bring back to the boat. We use this for our 18-year-old whisky later on.

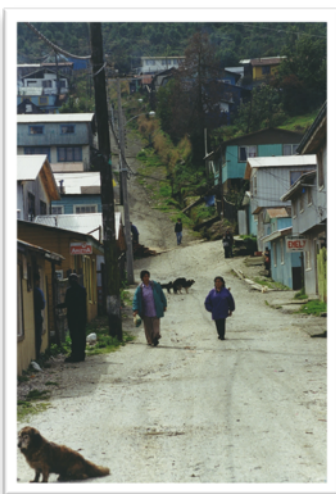


Aguirre, south Chile

Picking up supplies in Pto. Aguirre



Like being transferred back 100 years in time....



On our way back to Porto Montt after our visit to the National Park, we stopped in the only village on a small Island – Pto. Aguirre. The inhabitants here live on fishing and seems to be self-sufficient in most ways. Here, there are no tourists stopping at all.

The houses are built by simple material, often corrugated metal. Everyone seems very curious to our stopping here, but kind. Our mobile phones have been out of service for five days, why I take the time to make some phone calls. There is only one on the Island. There is a small phone-service where I have to que up and wait for my turn. The operator then helps to make sure my call is being completed. This is like going back in time to the 30-ies or 40-ies. Incredible.



Puyuhaupi and Coyhaique...

Before we say our goodbyes for this time after a week together, we stop at the exclusive Hotel- & Spa facility – Puyuhaupi. Here we are able to have good food and some Spa treatment.

From here we need to cross over the mountains to the small town of Coyhaique on the other side. We stay here for the night and wait for our domestic flight back up to Santiago de Chile and then our International flight home to Sweden.

