

Hi everyone,

After the bike, here we are today in Patagonia with Julie and Gabriel, Sylvain friends from "Louis Lumière" Photo School, for a new part of our trip on foot this time.



After a flight from Buenos Aires to El Calafate, we go to the Perito Moreno glacier. This glacier is extraordinary in every way. It is 100 square miles, 20 miles long, advances 6 feet per day and its ice cliffs rises 180 feet above the lake into which it flows.



In thunderous noises, we see sections of ice, the size of a building, collapsing in the lake, forming mini tsunamis in their fall. It's a mesmerizing spectacle.

We then gain by bus El Chalten which will be our base of excursion to go to the ice field and at the foot of Mount Fitz Roy. We equip ourselves for a 4 days hike independently, with our tent and food, to do 40 miles of walk in the national park of "los glaciares" (the glaciers). This magnificent park is on the edge of the Patagonian ice field and is dominated by the famous **Mount Fitz Roy**.



We leave equipped with harnesses and hooks for the crossing of two rivers which will be done with zip lines. Unlike with the bike, we have to count our food rations as accurately as possible because a difference of a few pounds is felt all the more when we carry the weight on our shoulders.



We discover during this hike hunger as we have rarely felt, when accustomed to eating gargantuan portions for cyclists, we find ourselves reduced to lunch with a micro **piece of bread** and a single **sardine**. But morale is high, because we are enjoying rather mild weather and magnificent landscapes. The first day we even walk directly on the edge of the glacier. Convenient to fill your bottle!



We arrive after a few hours of walking, at a narrow gorge where a river flows. It's time to see if you really know how to use a harness to take a zip line. Mission successful! No one fell into the water!





After a day and a half of walking, we discover the Patagonian **ice field**, an ocean of ice as far as the eye can see. It is the third largest ice cap after Greenland and Antarctica. It supplies no less than 48 glaciers thanks to its 6,500 square miles area.



Each pass is a challenge. We have to face a **wind** so violent that we hardly hold on our legs. Patagonia is known for its strong winds, and we are paying the price...



On the last day of walking, we overlook a bay where icebergs come loose from the glaciers. This is the moment chosen by a magnificent **condor** to fly over its 11 feet wingspan. It is a nice birthday present for Sylvain who is celebrating his 38th birthday on this day.



Arriving in **El Chalten**, we find the comfort of a good hot shower after frozen baths in 34 degree Fahrenheit lakes.



It is also an opportunity to celebrate Sylvain's birthday this time with good waffles covered with **dulce de leche** (milk jam).



We rest a little before starting our last hike of 2 days to get to the foot of the **Fitz Roy**. As it is a very popular walk, we decide to go there at the end of the afternoon to enjoy the sky which should be clear, with the hope of being a little more alone during these late hours. We therefore camp right next door so that we can return at night.



As we climb the last few feet and meet the last tourists who come back down, we are not disappointed with our choice when we suddenly find ourselves facing Mount Fitz Roy which is gradually emerging from the clouds.



Facing us, its snow-capped peaks and two turquoise lakes. A gray Patagonian fox is walking indifferent to our passage. For once there is no wind and we can cook our pasta and enjoy until sunset the incredible spectacle.



The next day is farewell time, our friends leave by bus and we continue hitchhiking our journey to go up to Santiago where we will celebrate Christmas and the New Year.

See you soon for new adventures!

S & K

Written on 12/14/2019