

Hi everyone,

We have just crossed the border of Chile for the third time during this trip. Normally it's the last time, especially as it is always very long to cross this border. Chileans fear diseases and parasites from neighboring countries so they simply prohibit entering the territory with fresh products (eggs, fruits, vegetables ...)

It is also our last letter on the American continent. This is a big page that turns, one of a trip that began in Canada on September 21, 2018 ... We will write our next letter from New Zealand!

We are today on the coast of Chile to talk about **sustainable fishing**.



From our wwoofing in Argentina, we go by **bus** this time (we get lazy, yes...) to Chile where we meet Alejandro Perez, a researcher working at the Marine Conservation Center of Las Cruces. He's an ocean specialist. He often dives at sea to list the species and understand the evolution of the marine environment.



He tells us about this small marine reserve 1,500 feet long located just in front of the research center, prohibited to fishing and where there are now ... 9 times more fish than in areas where fishing is allowed.



It was important to talk about fishing in Chile, the 8th largest producer of fish in the world with a coastline of 3,320 miles. The fishing situation is very delicate here. As everywhere in the world, two conceptions of fishing face each other: so-called **artisanal** fishing and **industrial** fishing. The major difference between these two types of fishing concerns the size of the boats. The artisanal fishing boats are less than **54 feet** here while the industrial fishing boats are up to **400 feet** (we speak of a factory ship).



Industrial fishing has a very negative impact on the environment because it does not target the fish it has to catch and rejects into the sea all the dead fish it doesn't need (25%). In addition, industrial trawlers use large fishing nets which will scrape the seabed and destroy the life there. In Chile, industrial fishing belongs to a few large families who concentrate all the wealth from this fishing.



The solution to support artisanal fishing is to be vigilant about the origin of your fish and avoid buying trawl fish. There are more and more labels that exist to guarantee sustainable fishing.



After this little filming on fishing, we go to **Valparaiso** to do a little tourism and discover this extraordinary city, all in color invested by street artists.



It is a city which developed strongly at the beginning of the 19th century when the ships loaded with goods stopped there before making way from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean. It was a crossing of several months and it was essential to stop there to stock up on food and goods.



In 1913, when the Panama Canal was opened, boats could go directly from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean without going through Cape Horn and therefore without passing by Valparaiso. The city started to get poorer. There was no more work and no reason to go there. In recent years, Valparaiso has experienced a new golden age thanks to tourists who come to discover this open-air street art museum.

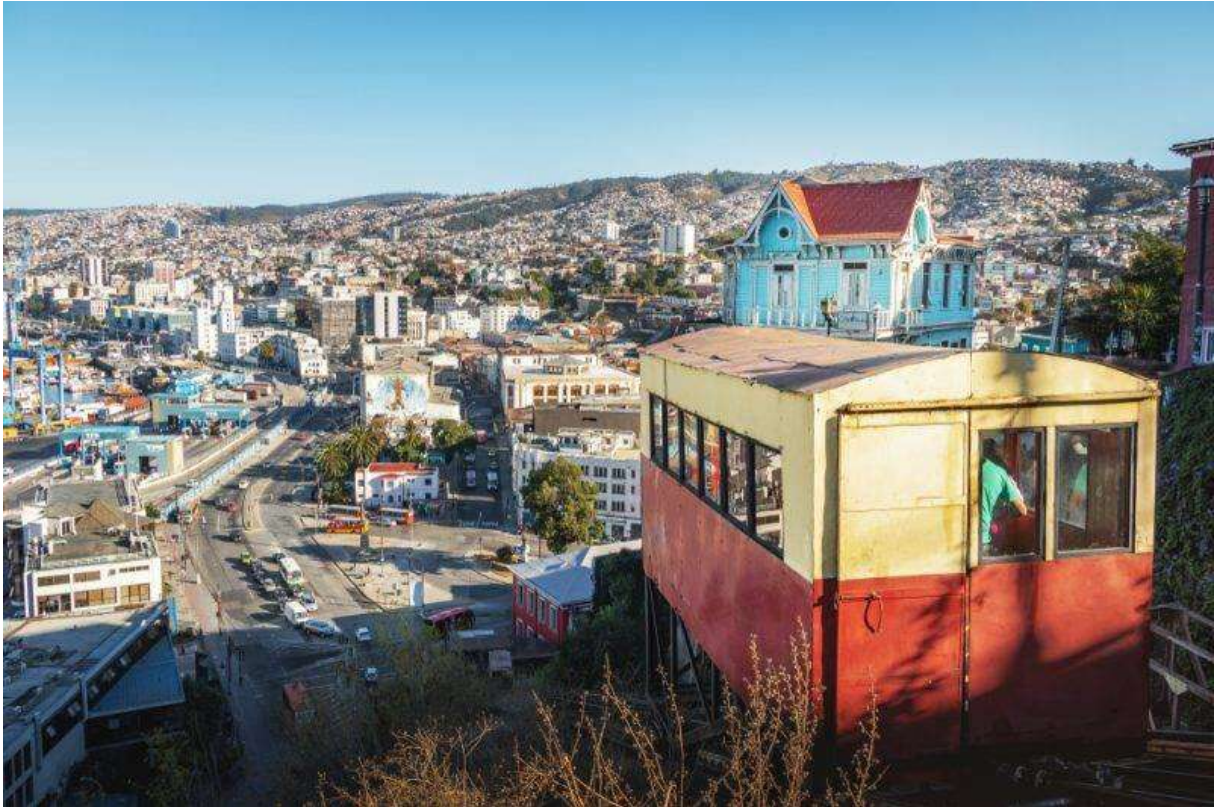


Each wall is covered with frescoes of several feet high very often carrying a political message. But do you know the difference between tag, graffiti and fresco? You can also see the 3 on the photo above!

We also meet in Valparaiso our friends from Argentina with whom we did wwoofing.



It is an opportunity to stroll together, homemade ice cream in hand. The city was built on hills where you move through colorful stairs or by taking small funiculars built a century ago.



The perfect city to rest a little before undertaking our crossing to New Zealand!

See you soon for new adventures.

Sylvain and Kalima

Written on February 7, 2020