

January - June 2014



Back to normal in Buenos Aires

2014-01-07 San Fernando, Buenos Aires, Argentina
34° 26,6 S 058° 31,7 W

Now we are back to normal after Christmas and New Year's celebrations. Almost all of the yachts that have been out of the marina during the holiday are back and the ones working on their yachts have returned. The heat is not that hot and after a thunderstorm the other day, it was almost cold, but now it is hotter again (approx 35 during the day).

We have met one of Lisa's relatives here in Buenos Aires and he took us to places you do not come to as a tourist. Nice!

The street musicians are on the streets again, nice music that sometimes get the audience on their feet dancing - tango of course!



Walking in the Andes

2014-01-16 Bariloche, Argentina
41° 08,3 S 071° 17,2 W

Some days ago we took the bus from Buenos Aires 1.600 km, direction: south west. We started with passing Pampas for 500 km, continued over the same type of landscape for another 1.000 km, passed some villages and cities and then all of a sudden after 20 hours there was a city of 100.000 inhabitants, a fantastic mountain landscape and beautiful lakes. The area is called Bariloche which is also the name of the city.

We have been exploring the city and tomorrow we will rent a car and go into the mountains. We have brought tent and sleeping bags and will go walking and camping for a week. If we take the bus or the plane back to Buenos Aires, we do not know yet, but the Swedish Scania buss that took us here was very comfortable, so the trip was OK even though it was many hours.



More walking in the Andes

2014-01- 26 Bariloche, Argentina
41° 08,3 S 071° 17,2 W

We have been camping in the Andes. Some nights we stayed at the Pampa Linda campsite at the foot of the Mount Tronador where we made tours during the days. Tronador is the highest mountain in the area, 3,500 meters high, at the border to Chile. The name of the mountain comes from the sound the ice makes when it leaves the glaciers at the top of the mountain. The sound is like thunder. When trying to sleep we could hear the "thunder" from a distance.

The photo above is from the top of another mountain, Cerro Catedral, some 2,100 meters above sea level.

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La Boca

2014-02-17 San Fernando, Buenos Aires, Argentina

34° 26,6 S 058° 31,7 W

Back in Buenos Aires the weather is a bit cooler and we have started with the necessary maintenance work: washing, waxing and varnishing exterior teak. Inside the yacht we have installed a new radio (FM and CD) and made some

improvements. It is so much easier to work when the temperature is OK!

The photo above is from the area La Boca, former a place for poor immigrants from Europe. They did not have money for house paint so they took left over from ships maintenance. Today the area is a "tourist trap" and busloads of tourists come here every day to look at the colourful houses. The area has also a well-known football club - Boca Junior - Diego Maradonas club.



Train to the centre

2014-03-07 San Fernando, Buenos Aires, Argentina

34° 26,6 S 058° 31,7 W

To come in to the centre of Buenos Aires we take the train. It leaves from the station Victoria and to come there we take the cycles. The trip costs 1.80 peso, apr 0,2 €. The train takes 50 minutes and there are activities the whole time! First the socks salesman arrives, then the water and is cream man. Followed by others selling: chocolate, chips, telephone cards, MP3-players, CD etc. Then there is music, we have seen those who are singing, playing the guitar, harp and harmonica. There are also beggars, both children and grownups. It is always interesting to go by train!



Waterfalls on the border

2014-03-17 Iguazu, Argentina

There is a fantastic area with waterfalls on the border of Brazil and Argentina, Iguazu. Across a width of almost three kilometers you find between 160 and 260 waterfalls with a maximum height of 80 metres. The number depends on the amount of water, most water in October, least in April. The waterfalls have a permanent haze around them, the water droplets forming lots of rainbows. We were visiting Iguazu during some days, both the Argentine and a Brazilian side. We also went to Paraguay which is just "next door". Around the waterfalls are large national parks with many different plants and animals, we saw many different species of monkeys, caimans, butterflies, birds, turtles, coati and many that we do not know the name. A fantastic trip!



Rock formations in different colors

2014-03-20 Salta, Argentina

From Iguazu we went to Salta in north west Argentina, at the foot of the Andes. Here the mountains are up to 6,000 meters high, and in many places, nature has been playing with shape and color. Especially in the afternoon when the sun was low, the mountains were red, yellow, green and brown. Absolutely magical. Here

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you also find some of the old Inca culture left: paths, sites, museum objects and crafts. We stayed some days in the provincial capital Salta and then rented a car and drove around for a week. In addition to mountain and memories of the Inca, they also grow wine in this area. The white grape "torrotes" grow here and give a good white wine. Cafayate is the capital of these vineyards; there we stopped for a few days. We took the opportunity to make a few visits to the vineyards to learn more about the wine and taste. We got a few favorites!



Wine tasting and mountain hiking

2014-03-27 Mendoza, Argentina

From Salta we continued our trip to Mendoza – here they grow wine! We came at harvest time, the grapes were picked and turned into "juice" that was filled in barrels for fermenting into wine. We visited many "bodegas" and got to see how the work went on. Many knowledgeable guides told us about their vineyards and we got to taste the wine. Mendoza is mainly known for wine made from Malbec grapes, but they grew also other grapes. For us the Malbec vines are best!

Not far from Mendoza you also find America's highest mountain: Aconcagua 6.962 meters high. We went there one day for a walk. To go up to the top you have to stay and acclimatize at several heights, otherwise there is a risk to get mountain sickness, a condition that can be really serious. But we stopped at 3,500 m altitude and returned to Mendoza (700 meters) the same night. The body can manage this without any problems.



Car for sale

2014-04-10 San Fernando, Buenos Aires, Argentina

34° 26,6 S 058° 31,7 W

We are now back in Buenos Aires and have had time to rest. It's tough to be out travelling!

Here we begin to prepare for Easter and continues with maintenance of the boat. It's strange, there will always be new items on the "to do list". When we got back from our trip the fridge did not start. Well, it should not be too hard to fix ...

It's exciting with the cultural differences that exist between countries. In Argentina it is common to put a bottle/container of water on the car roof when the car is for sale. Something to do also in other countries?



In Uruguay

2014-04-30 Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay

34° 28,5 S 057° 51 W

We have sailed to Uruguay, to see something else for some time. Colonia del Sacramento is an old town situated at just the right distance from Buenos Aires for a weekend sailing. In summer, the harbor is a popular destination for sailors from Argentina. Now in the fall the port is empty during the weeks but fills up on weekends.

We have again been wandering the cobble streets (we were here in October) and looked at the buildings from when the Portuguese built the town long ago. We have listened to the monk-parrots in the palm trees and have had beers at restaurants by the sea. We also looked when the sun set in the water, something you can't do in Argentina. We will be here a few more days and then we sail back to Argentina.



The Ensenada day

2014-05-06 Ensenada/La Plata, Argentina
34° 48 S 057° 51,8 W

We are back in Argentina, but we chose to visit Ensenada and La Plata before we sail back to Buenos Aires. La Plata is a bustling university town with a large Cathedral and many other old buildings. Ensenada is a quiet town that celebrated the city's founding with a large parade when we were there. The city was founded 213 years ago and in the parade were representatives from the city's activities: kindergartens, schools, health care, police, military etc. It was a parade that lasted more than two hours. At the end of the parade came "gauchos" -argentine cowboys- on fine horses. Some of them had free running horses with them, it became a bit of a circus when they showed how well the horses followed them, they had the horses running back and forth on the street in front of the delighted spectators.



Why does it not work?

2014-05-25 San Fernando, Buenos Aires, Argentina
34° 26,6 S 058° 31,7 W

Back in Argentina again we continued the search for the problem with the fridge. As is often the case, it is probably more errors, not only the thermostat which we changed. Good that the temperature has fallen so we can have our food outside!

But all is not job, the other day we were at Lisa's second cousin's cousins newly opened "creperie" "La Galette". Ximena and her French husband Eric have just opened a restaurant in the center of Buenos Aires. They serve fabulous French galette (food-crepe) and dessert-crepes. We were taught that you should drink sider with the crepes - which we did. Try that! M.T. Alvear 801 is the address, go there if you are in Buenos Aires!



Autumn leaves and winter cold

2014-06-04 San Fernando, Argentina
34° 26,6 S 058° 31,7 W

Now it is autumn colors on the leaves and they are falling of the trees. Many of the trees are green all the year round, but it's clear that autumn has arrived. We can also see that the cold season is here on that boat owners are not in the marina as often as during the summer and at this time of the year they seldom leave the harbor.

We will now change the winter in Argentina to the summer in Sweden. There is not so much difference in temperatures, but a big difference in the feeling. In Buenos Aires it's autumn, even if it's 15 degrees outside. We are looking forward to the "warm" 15 degrees in the Swedish spring!



We make a pause

2014-06-19 Göteborg

Now we will have a break from living on and sailing yacht Randivag and at the same time we will take a break in writing on this page. We will be i Sweden until the end of August when we will return to Argentina. We hope, though, to go sailing with some friends on the west cost of Sweden or in Denmark for some days...