

January – June 2015



Ushuaia - end of the world

2015-01-05 Ushuaia, Argentina

54° 48,2 S 068° 18,1 W

It was a clear day with wind against us when we went the last miles by engine to Ushuaia - the most southerly city in the world! We moored at the AFASyN club and was helped by some friends we met before. Now the feeling spread: we had sailed the tuff cost of Argentina and come to its most remote city. No problem with the yacht or us, we were relieved and happy! Then we had to go to see the authorities when we wanted to celebrate with friends, but this is the daily life of a blue water sailor!

The temperature is like in our home town Göteborg, 5-10 degrees, rain and snow and 7 degrees in the water. The difference is that here it is summer, there it is winter. But it is very beautiful here, green hills with high, snow covered mountains and many, many tourists.

Now we rest, mingle with other sailors (mostly from France) and are planning the future.



Prison at the end of the world

2015-01-18 Ushuaia, Argentina

54° 48,2 S 068° 18,1 W

In Ushuaia there is an old prison that was built in the early 20th century by prisoners sent here from the north of Argentina. The prison was closed in 1947 and has now become a museum. The prisoners were dressed in the Swedish colors, beautifully striped in blue and yellow. But being a prisoner was not pleasant; it was cold both inside and outside. It was hard work, and without the possibility to get out, neither escaping nor be released, most sat here for life. The prison was an interesting historical document.

There was also a historical description of Antarctic expeditions and there was the Swedish expedition with Otto Nordenskiöld. They left Gothenburg in 1901, wintered in Antarctica but when they would be picked up in 1902 the vessel was screwed down by the ice and both members of the expedition and the ship's crew had to wait a year to be rescued. The Argentine ship Uruguay came to their rescue in 1903, the first rescue expedition to Antarctica ever. Did they go to rescue them because the Swedish expedition had an Argentinian member?



Kap Horn

55 59,59 S 067 15,95 W

2015-01-26 Kap Horn, Chile

On January 26 we sailed around Cape Horn, it felt like something big, but actually it is not so difficult when you come from the inland as we did. You only have to choose a day when it's good weather to go around the Horn. It was different with the big sailing ships, they had to go around the Horn whatever weather it was.

It was the Dutch ship Eendracht in 1616 that found the way through the Le Maire Strait and round Cape Horn (the island was named after the city of Hoorn in the Netherlands). This was an easier route to round South America than by the Magellan Strait. But the sea around Cape Horn is known for storms, high waves, strong currents and wind gusts. When we were there it was rain and gale. Typically Cape Horn weather!



Calm and Quiet

54 56,11 S 067 37,00 W

2015-02-05 Puerto Williams, Chile

Now we are in Puerto Williams in Chile and like Ushuaia Puerto Williams is situated by the Beagle Channel. Here it is quiet and we have no wind. Puerto Williams is a village/town of 2,500 inhabitants, almost no shops, hotels or restaurants (or the internet for that matter). Here, we have been working on the boat, talked to all sailors who are going in different directions and walking in the beautiful surroundings.

In a few days we continue further north in the archipelago known as Patagonia. This area is very deserted, so we have stocked up with food, water and diesel. The next time we come to civilization, is the earliest in 4-5 weeks. The whole journey through Patagonia we believe will take about 3 months.



Our first glacier

54 47 S 069 37 W

2015-02-09 Seno Pia, Chile

We visited our first glacier already after a few days, the Pia glacier. It is impressive to see the glaciers that "tip their toes" in the water. They also let go of ice in the fjord, so you try to go slowly forward to avoid running in to the biggest ice floes. We took some ice to the evening drink and toasted our first glacier. There are more to come ... The landscape is impressive, high mountains round us, but we also have the fog, rain and wind. We have many places to choose from as night harbour and it is not as crowded as in the bays in Sweden!



Centollas

54 56 S 70 46 W

2015-02-13 Caletón Silva, Chile

Shortly after us to the bay Silva, came a fishing boat. "Would you like to have...?" they asked us and held up a crab. "Yes," we said and Sven rowed over with a bottle of wine. He stayed for a long time over the railing before he came back with 16 crabs (centolla, King-crabs)! We cooked the crabs for hours and had it as meal for a week. It was good! Centolla is caught by divers who put in cages and pick them up deep down in the sea. A fishing boat has several divers on board; usually we see four or five diving suits to dry on the boats.



Humpback whales

53 41 S 70 46 W

2015-02-19 Caleta Gallant, Chile

When we came up to Magellan strait it was possible to sail (this is hard in the more narrow channels). Then of a sudden the whole strait in front of us was filled with humpback whales! We sailed slowly to our harbor for the night and looked at all the whales. They blow about three times and then dive while showing the tail in the air. Fantastic every time!



Magellan strait

S 53 03,85 W 73 47,95

2015-02-28 Caleta Uriarte, Chile

Magellan strait gave us a nice weather and we could sail for some days. Our last harbor in the strait was the small bay Uriarte that did not give us the shelter we wanted. We had gusts of over 60 knots of wind and when we were on deck we had to hold on, otherwise we blew over board! The dinghy blew onto the yacht in a hard gust and there was a big hole. We did not like this as we need the dinghy to go ashore. After some thinking we could fix the problem, at least a bit, now we only need to pump the dinghy twice a day!



At last some sunshine!

S 51 44,50 W 72 30,15

2015-03-10 Natales, Chile

After one month head wind, rain and mist, we wanted to see some sun. Therefore we sailed to Natales, a detour of about 100 nm. But it was worth it! The sun was shining when we came to Natales, and we enjoyed the weather and looked at the boats, houses and people, which we had not seen for a long time! We enjoyed the civilization with restaurants, shops and cafes. Especially it was lovely to be able to buy bread, it has become apparent that we are not very good at baking bread! We were able to stock up on supplies of both diesel and food before we set out in the channels again.



Torres del Paine

2015-03-12 Natales, Chile

We took the opportunity to make a trip from Natales to Torres del Paine national park. Here you walk and enjoy the surroundings. The mountains are between 3,000 and 4,000 meters high and there is snow even in summer. There are many mountain peaks, some covered by glaciers. The name Torres del Paine is a mix of Spanish (Torre = Tower) and the Indians tehuelces name on blue (Paine). The blue color is found in glaciers, icebergs, rivers and lakes. There are also many wild animals such as Rhea (a small ostrich), condor, flamingo, guanaco (a kind of llama), puma, fox and others. We were not alone in the park; about 200,000 visitors come here every year.



Eden in Patagonia

S 49 07,80 W 74 25,60

2015-03-26 Puerto Eden, Chile

Between Puerto Williams and Puerto Montt there is only one village, the small village of Puerto Eden. Here live about 100 people and there is a limited supply of service. We visited the two small food shops and bought some baskets made in the village. We bought 150 l diesel and one night we were at the home of Don José, where his wife had cooked salmon for us. We paid for this dinner, this was our contribution to the village's economy.

Randivåg 2015

The village gets their supply from the ferry that runs between Natales in the South and Puerto Montt in the North. Vegetables and fruit come from Puerto Montt and diesel from Natales. There was no diesel when we got to Eden, but the ferry from Natales came after some days with diesel. We did not wait for the ferry from Puerto Montt, so we did not get vegetables or fruit.



The art of anchoring

S 48 20,35 W 74 33,40

2015-04-03 Caleta Point Lay, Chile

It is a special way of anchoring here in the Chilean channels. You anchor from the bow, and go backwards towards land. Then you tie some ropes in the trees on land and the boat is safely moored. It is similar as to moor in Sweden; the difference is that in Sweden you go with the bow towards land. As it is deep all the way to the shore, you can step ashore from the yacht. In Chile you moore far from the shore as it is quite shallow near the shore. This means that we must use the dinghy if we are going ashore. Unfortunately it is so often you can come ashore; the vegetation is so dense so it is completely impossible to go between shrubs and trees. Have we said it rains a lot here? It does and everything is growing fast!



Many fantastic glaciers

S 46 33,63 W 73 56,37

2015-04-10 Laguna San Rafael, Chile

We have seen many great glaciers here in Chilean Patagonia. Several glaciers are coming down into the sea and you can get up close with the boat. The largest glacier is the furthest north: San Rafael. The glacier is 30,000 years old, 60 meters high towards the water and 5-6 km wide. Icebergs in different blue shades are floating in the lagoon. We lay still with the boat, sailed back and forth and rowed around among the icebergs. We stayed in the lagoon throughout the day before we left this magical place for a safer night anchorage in a river a short distance away.



The pink gold

S 45 14,04 W 73 29,84

2015-04-20 Puerto Rosita, Chile

Chile has many fish farms and they are all located in Northern Patagonia. They started to grow salmon in the mid-1980s, and it wasn't long before this became one of the main industries in the country. Chile quickly became the world's second-largest salmon producer after Norway, and the sight was set to be the largest by 2020. But then the farms became infected by ISA - Infectious Salmon Anemia. Between 2005 and 2010 production fell from 400 000 to 100 000 tons and more than 25 000 jobs disappeared. Now the production of salmon has gone up again and today the three largest exporting countries are: Japan, Brazil and the United States.

There are fish farms everywhere all along the coastline and this obviously has an impact on the nature with pollution and garbage. Many environmental organizations are critical of the fish farms but it is also easy to understand that this is a fairly good income opportunity for those who live in the area.

The salmon is also possible to buy in Chile, fresh and smoked salmon can be purchased in stores and restaurant serve nice salmon dishes.



Houses on stilts

S 42 28,75 W 73 45,35

2015-05-10 Castro, Chiloe, Chile

Chiloe is a large island located at the end of Patagonia. Chiloe is a fertile island where cows and horses graze in the meadows. It looks totally different than further south, the climate is also milder. We have been exploring the island by car and liked the open landscape.

Castro is the largest city on the island and along the costs around the town are houses built on stilts, so called palafitos. People moved into town from the countryside in the 1950s when the potato crop had failed for several years. They hoped to make money in the town and they built houses on stilts out in the water, then they did not need to buy expensive land. Today the houses are sought after and are being renovated to a high standard.



End of the Patagonia trip

S 41 30,00 W 72 59,27

2015-05-18 Puerto Montt Chile

Now we are in Puerto Montt, the city where we end our Patagonia sailing. This is a big city where you can buy most things, so we will surely be able to fix most of the items that do not work on board.



Sailing pause

S 41 30,00 W 72 59,27

2015-06-15 Puerto Montt Chile

Randivåg is now on land and we take a break in the sailing for the winter. We will visit the Swedish summer and will return to Puerto Montt in the spring. This means we will return to Puerto Montt in October. First, it will be sailing in the area near Puerto Montt and then we will continue into the Pacific Ocean.



High lake

S 17 00,00 W 72 00,00

2015-11-15 Titicaca in Boliva and Peru

We have made a trip to Bolivia and Peru and visited the highest navigable lake - Lake Titicaca. The lake is on 3 800 meters altitude and you see the Andes round the lake and can visit the many islands - "normal" and made off reed. Here the islanders live as they always have been living - and in addition get money from the tourists. And here are many tourists!

Spring work

S 41 30,00 W 72 59,27

2015-12-15 Puerto Montt Chile

Now we are preparing Randivag for the next sailing season. The weather in Puerto Montt is like in Goteborg in spring, sometimes sunshine and 25 degrees, sometimes rain and 13 degrees. But the work is improving and soon we will be out on the water again!

