

South America
MOTORBIKE TOURS

SAMtNEWS 03

February / March 2010

1.0 SAMt PATAGONIA TOUR

"The road connecting Alaska to Ushuaia, the end of the world"

2.0 FOLLOW DAKAR 2011

"The DAKAR is back in south america in 2011"

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1.0 SAMt TOUR PATAGONIA

“The road connecting Alaska to Ushuaia,
the end of the world”



Traveling through the Patagonia with a group of Mexican riders, 10 friends with a dream in common; to ride the Americas, the road that joins Alaska to Ushuaia, a small village located at the very bottom of the world!

**Total kilometers 4,000.
8 days, 7 nights.**

It was late February, the day before Chile was hit by a massive earthquake which devastated numerous coastal townships just south of the capital, Santiago. We were in Punta Arenas ready to commence a tour with our new Mexican friends. A journey of nearly 4,000 kilometers from Punta Arenas to Osorno which is to be the first part of various stages in the southern hemisphere to complete the route between Alaska and Ushuaia. This group of amigos has already successfully completed Alaska – Mexico and now turn towards South America. Their new challenge is to complete the various stages which will take them from Ushuaia to Mexico. The first stage (Patagonian), presented numerous challenges to the group which they had not experienced before, the dreaded winds of the Patagonia and the gravel roads of the infamous Ruta 40 (route 40) which runs the entire length of Argentina.



First day, February 27

We left Punta Arenas on February 27 bound for Porvenir via a ferry which crosses the Strait of Magellan to Tierra del Fuego with a sailing time of 2 ½ hours. Upon reaching Porvenir, we tackled the first 145 km's of gravel roads to reach San Sebastian which borders Chile with Argentina. **Everyone started with a very good pace, coffee break in between, followed by lunch provided by SAMt on the road which included a delicious soup of the day.**

Our final destination was 450km away, Ushuaia. Luck was on our side, fine weather with moderate winds accompanied us on this first day.

The hotel at Ushuaia was waiting for us with all its comforts and spectacular view over the Beagle Channel. The group got their hands on the numerous bottles of Tequila they had brought

from Mexico and celebrated the completion of their first days ride in true Mexican style.

Second day, February 28

Our destination on day two was Cerro Sombrero, which is an oilfield camp 45 kilometers south of the Strait of Magellan. The Patagonian climate displayed itself and all its features. We began with a slightly overcast morning which quickly turned to drizzle. After crossing the Garibaldi Pass Rio Grande, we found ourselves back in the wind one again which swiftly cleared away the clouds, allowing way for an incredible sun to make its presence. However, as we went forward, the winds reached gusts of over 100 km per hour and controlling the bike became more difficult and our riders faced conditions they had never experienced before. **This was an experience**





that will not be easily forgotten, the bikes moving from side to side, pulling the riders off the road and forcing them to use all their skills to stay upright on the bikes. To the surprise of many, they all beat the challenge, number of falls 0, definitely a night to celebrate!

We arrived at the border with Argentina and the dirt road appeared again but now with even more wind. Our riders were now ready to fight back against the road and weather conditions. We arrived at Cerro Sombrero late in the afternoon all looking forward to a good meal and a well deserved rest.

Third day, March 1

The third day began with another ferry ride; 25 minute crossing and then we were on our way to Calafate.

The paved road and low wind speeds were a welcome change and appreciated by the riders. All

enjoyed the beautiful ride along side Lake Argentina before reaching our hotel for the evening which welcomed us with its spectacular lake views and excellent service.





Fourth day, March 2

The next morning we visited the famous Perito Moreno Glacier, with its towering walls of ancient ice blue and turquoise waters, where huge icebergs fall into the icy water, and, the weather was still on our side!

We continued on the mystical Ruta 40, this time our destination was Gregory, and once again, we faced the wind that began to blow gently in a menacing manner. However, by this time our riders

had dominated the 40 with all its dirt and wind. Without difficulty we arrived at the Estancia La Angostura, where the owner Bonchi was outside welcoming us with a cold beer whilst a lamb on a sword was beginning to cook slowly. A dream location in the middle of the Pampas, flamingos, cows and sheep living in absolute peace. In the evening we shared an excellent Argentine barbecue prepared by Julio, a typical "Gaucho", who has lived all his life on this land.





Fifth day, March 3

Dawn in the Patagonia begins with a clear sky full of shining stars until such time as the rising sun gently takes over for the day. Our destination for the day, La Estancia las Manos (The Hands Farms), 60 km from Perito Moreno. More dirt for our riders with some paved sections giving evidence of what will be the new Ruta 40 in a few years to come.

The visit to the canon of "The Cave of the hands" was incredible, a great wall

of rock which is the home to 10,000 year old paintings which is testimony to the ancient inhabitants of the Patagonia. On the way back we all shared another great Argentine barbecue, lamb on the sword complete with Tequila and wines to the delight of our riders. The group was surprised with the diversity of landscapes and lodges, combining luxury 5-star hotels with the character of the Farms, where many came to feel like home. Frederick celebrated his 48th



birthday with cake and champagne along with the mañanitas birthday song, (Mexican typical birthday song) which we all sang together.





Sixth day, March 4

The next day was the longest of the tour; nearly 600 kilometers separated us from our next destination, Las Termas (Hot springs). We left at 6.30 am, just upon dawn.

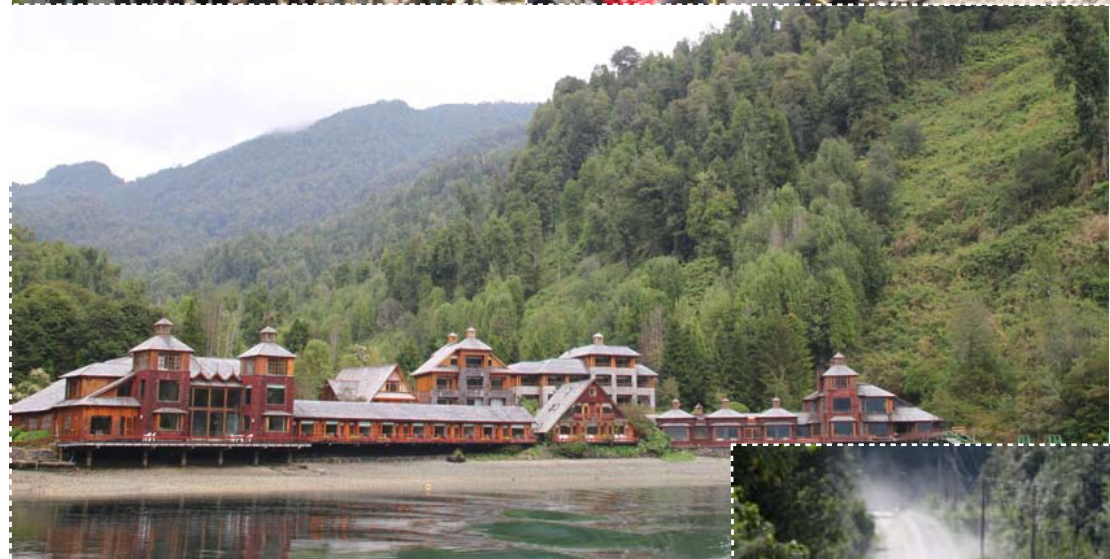
We start with the toughest part of the ruta 40 with coarse gravel, through the pavement to Villa Maniguales Balmaceda, which is the home to rivers where you can see salmon and trout jumping in abundance!, again our riders were impressed.

After that the Queulat National Park with its tight curves and wonderful scenery, we finally arrived to the Hot springs, where together, we would enjoy a relaxing massage leaving the Mexicans ready and energized for the last 2 days of their tour. That night some swam in the sea, following the

example of a SAMt guide who did not hesitate to dive in the cold water after taking a thermal bath.

Seventh day, March 5

Back in Chile and on the "Carretera Austral" we were on our way to Futaleufu, the crossing border, which would take us back to Argentina for the very last time. **A road with many curves and landscapes you would only dream about, Southern Chile was exuberant against the dryness of the Argentine Patagonia.**





Eighth day, March 6

The last day of our tour started early after having shared our last barbeque in Argentina. We started by completing the last 30 km of gravel road that separated us from our path towards Osorno which was located just under 600km away. After passing through customs for the last time, we reached our final destination and celebrated our accomplishment with hugs, slaps on the back, and of course, many photos.

The experience exceeded the expectations of the group and many left with the feeling they had improved their level of riding after completing the challenges that the Patagonia threw at them.

SAMt had the privilege of sharing this experience with an exceptional group of guys. **Until they return, we will be here waiting, to take them further North up the Ruta 40 and one step closer to making their dream come true.**

Log in this link to see pictures of the trip: www.samttours.com, tours, Argentina - Chile Tour Patagonia, Images, See Photo Gallery.
http://www.samotorbiketours.com/galeria/index.php?ruta=patagonia_2010&titulo=Patagonia_Galeria_2010

Testimonials

A great stage! The first of the Southern Cone and so far one of the most interesting in our project to ride through the Americas from one end to the other: Ushuaia

- Prudhoe Bay. Thanks to the great support provide by SAMt Tours, the 4000km Patagonia Tour experience certainly has been one of our best one when it comes to riding. A large diversity in all senses: landscapes, incredible hotels, local farms and the riding and weather conditions.... wind, gravel, fun roads, the emblematic Route 40, cold, heat, all gave our trip a very special touch.

Regards

Federico Haller



...."A real life experience not only because of the places that we had the opportunity to see and appreciate, the excellent hotels and accommodation, good food (including the wonderful Soup "break"), but also living this experience with a group of good friends who share the same passion and goal.

The Riding difficulty on some of the gravel roads with extreme winds made this trip a challenge, but always guided by professionals accompanied by a warm touch and hospitality that we received from our friends John, Gaby and Cesar that made this first stage of the Southern Cone a true success...."

Regards

Bernardo Canales



2.0 FOLLOW DAKAR 2011
The DAKAR is back in south america in 2011

Yes, it has been confirmed, the Dakar is back in South America in 2011 and SAMt will follow it again!

follow **DAKAR2011**
ARGENTINA - CHILE



Cyril Despres

If you haven't seen our last Dakar tour, please log in to our website: www.samttours.com, and enter our Dakar page. Also, read the newsletter and the testimonials from our customers.

Live the Dakar in a different way and let SAMt guide you through this unique adventure.

The tour will go on sale in May, limited vacancies.

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