



Lima (Peru), Mar 21, 2015 The following update is based on a chronicle that I sent to Portuguese-language media from La Paz, in Bolivia, a couple of weeks ago.

"In La Paz, the capital city of the Plurinational State of Bolivia! Another 5,500 miles (8,800 km) done since my last chronicle of three weeks ago sent from Ushuaia. Altogether, I've done close to 9,000 miles (14,400 km) in six weeks. The adventure continues!

But let's go back to where I left things on my last chronicle: After Ushuaia, I kept more or less close to the coast up to Puerto Madryn. On this stretch, the highlights was the crossing of the Strait of Magellan again; Cabo Raso, somewhere between Comodoro Rivadavia and Trelew, with its beautiful beach and *très rustique* hotel; and then the *Península de Valdes*, near Puerto Madryn, with its unique fauna of maritime birds and mammals.

From Puerto Madryn, I continued to Montevideo, in Uruguay, via Santa Rosa (still in Argentina), the int'l bridge of Frey Bentos, and Colonia del Sacramento. This route, kind of around-ish Buenos Aires, was far from what had been planned, but there was a reason for it: while in Ushuaia, my debit card was cloned, fact that left me without a way to access cash. The objective then became leaving Argentina as fast as possible (where traveling on your credit card is expensive...), avoiding big cities (equally expensive). The highlights of this stretch were the west part of Uruguay and Colonia del Sacramento, still showing off today its rich Portuguese heritage. Mention as well to Punta del Este, one of the biggest "resort of the stars" in SouthAm (not too much to my style, but...). While in Montevideo, I did regular maintenance on the bike and kind of sorted out my "cash" problem.

From Montevideo, I went straight north to S. Miguel das Missões, in the region of the Jesuit missions in southern Brazil. In the late 90s, I lived for a few years in Brazil, but I never had a chance to visit this super interesting, and historical rich part of the country. I did it now, and it was well worth it! As it turns out, S. Miguel would end up linked to yet another major change in plans! The initial idea was to continue north through Brazil to the coast of Rio de Janeiro; and then west to Bolivia. The "reality" of my finances forced me to "turn left" right in S. Miguel,

short-cutting way across northern Argentina's "chaco" to Salta. This because I wanted to assure that I would have a chance to visit the salt flats of Uyuni in Bolivia, and southern Peru before I ran out of funds... Salta, which curiously was not in my plans, ended up being quite a nice surprise: architecturally interesting and culturally rich as well.

From Salta I headed north to La Paz, already in Bolivia. The highlights of this stretch were the region of the *Quebrada de Humahuaca* (beautiful road, and my first contacts with the Inca-like culture); the southern part of Bolivia (beautiful road as well); and the salt flats of Uyuni (mandatory stopover for the Adv Rider tribe)! A special mention as well to the city of La Paz itself. This city has a very interesting setting: on a kind of a "bowl-like" depression in the middle of the Andean Plateau (or Altiplano). The suburbs are on the edge of the "bowl" at approximately 13,500 ft. of altitude, and the city is in the middle of it, at altitudes in between 10,500 and 12,000 ft. Making things even more interesting, the city has a few cableways as an integral part of its public transportation system. La Paz is equally extremely interesting a place due to its cultural mix.

Looking forward, I will now visit the Lake Titicaca region, and then southern Peru, of Cusco and Machu Picchu fame. I can barely wait!"

...And don't miss the photos below!!! Until the next update. Cheers!