



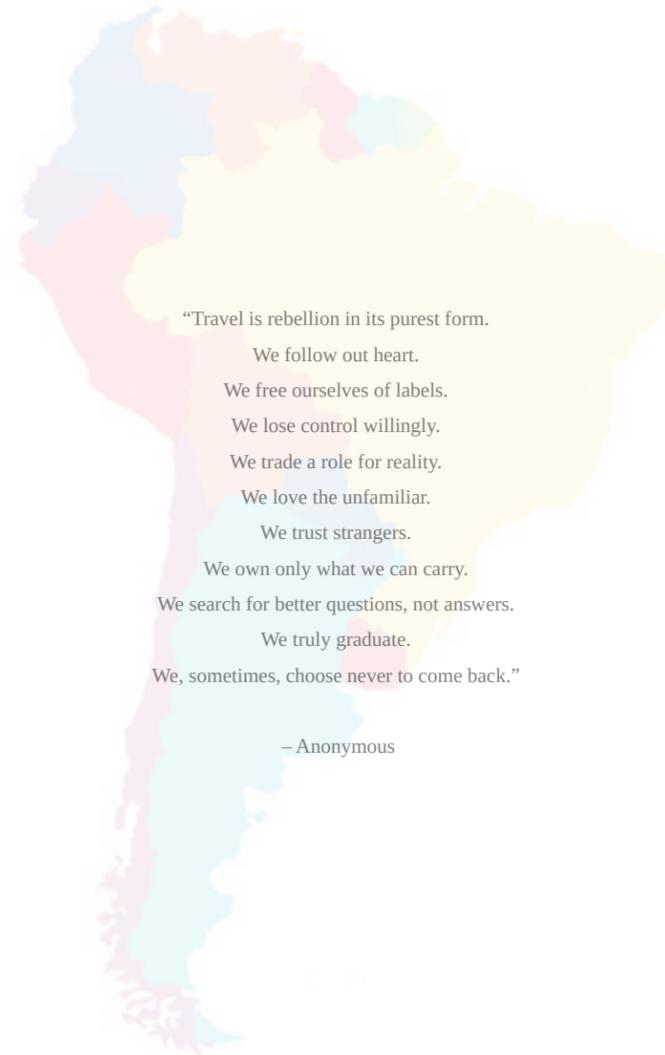
VISIT SOUTH AMERICA

ISSUE 01

PERU
ECUADOR
CHILE
BOLIVIA

EXPLORE. DREAM. DISCOVER.

Cover by:
Michael French / @michael.french.foto



“Travel is rebellion in its purest form.
We follow our heart.
We free ourselves of labels.
We lose control willingly.
We trade a role for reality.
We love the unfamiliar.
We trust strangers.
We own only what we can carry.
We search for better questions, not answers.
We truly graduate.
We, sometimes, choose never to come back.”
– Anonymous

Sharing the culture, landscapes, and stories of this wonderful continent through meaningful travel experiences. Pack your bags, your story is next.



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Image Contributor:
Jake Anderson / @jakeanderson



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PERU

featured locations

-  Machu Picchu
-  Ausangate Trek



COUNTRY INFO

Capital: Lima

Population: 17.62 Million

Languages: Spanish, Quechua, Aymara

Currency: Peruvian Nuevo Sol

MACHU PICCHU

Michael French, 29

Michigan City, Indiana

Michael enjoys taking old vehicles and bringing them back to life—just recently he finished building a 1960s-inspired camper from scratch. His interests have also gravitated towards photography, mainly shooting with a Panasonic LUMIX and a GoPro HERO3+. From his experiences backpacking solo throughout Asia and South America, he has learned a lot about what not to bring on his adventures and has developed a very practical, minimal method. Some of the items he considers essential include flip flops, a camera and an extra long phone charger. What drives Michael to keep on traveling is the feeling of freedom and his sense of curiosity. With nothing but a backpack and a budget, he feels he gains a lifetime of knowledge every time he embarks somewhere. “I have an extreme curiosity for the unknown, seeing and experiencing all of what the world has to offer. I love the feeling of not knowing what is next. I am terrified of routine.”

Spread: pg. 8-13

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AUSANGATE TREK

Brandon Morris, 28

Seattle, Washington

Any new experiences Brandon discovers he considers them all thrilling, which is why he is keen on various hobbies such as fly fishing, photography, trekking, mountain biking and traveling—rarely is he without his fly fishing rod. After returning from a trip, Brandon and his wife had a huge epiphany that it was time for them to finally pursue what they had been wanting to do—set off to the unknown for a whole year with no agenda and be enhanced in a completely new aspect. He and his wife left their jobs and a life of luxury back home to see what they can learn from the world and from each other. When their trip crossed paths in South America, they roamed Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina for 3 months, documenting their moments using a Nikon D7000 and logging their thoughts on their website. Together, they are still continuing their global journey and currently can be found venturing around New Zealand in a van.

Spread: pg. 14-23

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“Travel as much as you can. As long as you can. As far as you can. Life’s not meant to be lived in one place. I think that at this particular point in my life this is exactly how I am feeling.”

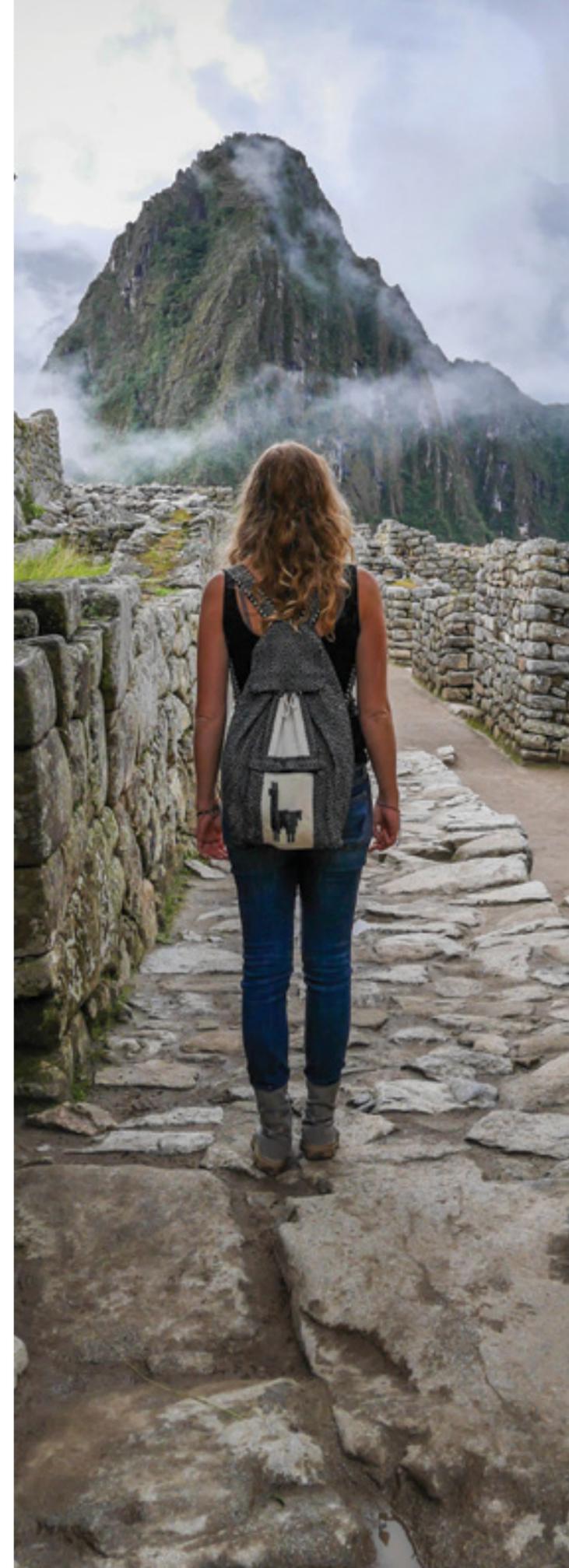


MACHU PICCHU

story by Michael French

The morning of the hike I woke up at 4:30 am to have breakfast and hiked up to the gates before they opened at 6:00 am. Being one of the first people in line, I couldn't wait much longer for them to let me enter. After the gates opened, I began climbing the ruins as the sun started to come up, layers of boulders as big as me on both sides. Ascending hundreds of steps and eventually getting to a nice lookout point, I turned around to see nothing but fog. It rained for the first two or three hours while I stood there in my poncho hanging out with the llamas. We shared a banana (well, I ate the banana and they shared the peel). At this point, my llama friends and I were both wet and had the same hairdo but then the fog began to lift.

Every few minutes I could see a bit further and further. Then the face of the Inca started to appear!



Machu Picchu was discovered by American archeologist, Hiram Bingham III, on July 24th, 1911.

“Most people don’t plan on going during the off season because it rains so much, but the rain is a gift. It keeps the tourism down and by 1:00 pm most people were turning in for the day. By 5:00 pm, I had literally lapped up and down acres of ruins 3 times. Before heading out, I sat at the top where my day had begun, sitting on a ledge looking out still in amazement.”



“When I first started traveling, the simple things would give me those euphoric feelings inside I didn’t know I could feel. After traveling for years and seeing so many amazing things, it now takes a lot to get excited but man, standing on top of the number one spot on my bucket list and watching the sun come up, basically having the whole place to myself, was unbelievable!”

The citadel is built on two fault lines. However, its ingenious construction protects it from most earthquakes.

“My advice would be to take the last train there and the first one back—it could save \$100. Go during the off season and there will be less than half the people. Don’t give the llamas banana peels or they will follow around all day.”



“Every few minutes I could see a bit further and further. Then the face of the Inca started to appear!”



AUSANGATE TREK

story by Brandon Morris

When my wife and I started discussing our year-long travel plans, South America was always on the list, but little was known about the countries we wanted to visit and what we were going to expect. From the chosen countries, Peru was a wildcard. It turned out to be one of the top places we have visited so far and we already have a long list of to-dos for the next visit to this amazing country.

We were inspired to visit South America because we wanted to learn a new language, experience the diverse cultures and see the dynamic landscapes. The latter was easily accomplished being deeply immersed in very unique and thriving cultures all throughout the continent.

While researching, we came across a photo of Vinicunca, “the rainbow in the mountain,” and quickly became obsessed. We scoured the local shops in Cusco, the Internet, every social media outlet we could find, and yet it was as if the location never existed. Our expectations of Vinicunca on the Ausangate Trek were based solely on images we had seen. When we finally arrived, it truly rivaled anything we had ever seen before. The place was magical. It was one of the best experiences we had all through our year of venturing around the world. It is a must-see during any trip to South America.



Describe your journey through the Ausangate Trek.

The journey took us 6 days to complete. Starting in a village called Tinki, we walked 4 hours to our first camp of the night. Weather rolled in and we huddled in our tent, taking sips of coca tea to keep warm while we waited out the storm. Just before dusk, the hail subsided and we were greeted with blue skies. We enjoyed a relaxing soak in a natural hot springs and watched as the night fell.

With short days we were given little time to trek before the dark would come. We would wake up when the sun rises, make a strong cup of coffee and oats, and start off. Our days were filled with stunning sceneries around us as we walked kilometer after kilometer. We were lucky as far as the weather went, rain shortening our journey only twice. We set up our tent the second day in the rain at the base of a glacial tarn and waited out the wind, sleet and snow. Once Mother Nature was done with her query, we again slurped our coca tea and

watched as the sun, now high in the sky, warmed the glacier above and sent sheets of ice the size of a car into the lake below.

Exhaustion set in on the night of the third evening, not because of the intensity of the hike, but because emotions got the best of us. Earlier in the day we summited what we came looking for—The Rainbow in the Mountain. It was the most exhilarating and magical place we’ve ever been, such complete solitude and pure beauty. We sat in silence and stared in awe, amazed by the wonders this world has to offer.

Ausangate Trek isn’t a well-trodden path. One can expect to see more local farmers living in the hills rather than tourists. In fact, we saw only two trekkers our entire trip but encountered numerous locals wanting to show us their trade or tell us about their alpacas. Seeing the land they live on, untouched by tourism, and hearing them talk about the harsh conditions they have to overcome everyday was humbling.

Between the Ausangate Trek and the Inca Trail, which would you choose? Why?

The Ausangate Trek. My wife and I decided to trek it simply because it was off the beaten track. We didn’t know much about it except for the fact that few travelers choose to endure it because because of the sheer physicality it demands.

Requiring over 5 mountain passes and harsh camping conditions, the Ausangate Trek is not a trek to be taken lightly. The landscape is one so wildly diverse it changes daily—offering up beautiful snow-capped peaks with hanging glaciers, uniquely colored desert sands, natural hot springs, thousands of roaming alpacas, deep blue lagoons, swampy green pampas, and intense terrain that continually begs for attention with every step.

“Ausangate Trek isn’t a well-trodden path. One can expect to see more local farmers living in the hills rather than tourists.”

13°47'19"S 71°13'52"W



100 km southeast of Cusco



How is it traveling with a loved one?

This has been without a doubt the best experience of our lives. We are approaching a year of traveling together, and there are not many moments we have spent apart. The experience has not only made our bond stronger but has also made us better people. The best part of traveling with a loved one is that you get to experience things together, and there is no better person to do that with than with my wife. It has fully changed our perspectives on the world, and we hope our travels will inspire many others to travel with a partner.

What advice would you give to someone taking on the Ausangate Trek?

Spend some time acclimatizing in Cusco—this trek takes place above 4000 m. The terrain is demanding, the weather is unpredictable, and the area is extremely remote. Look into some guided tour options if route finding skills and gear are minimal. Know your limits, ensure you have proper gear and be prepared for the trek of a lifetime. This trail is a must for any adventure seeker looking for world-class scenery and an escape from the crowds.

“When we finally arrived, it truly rivaled anything we had ever seen before. The place was magical.”





“The terrain is demanding, the weather is unpredictable, and the area is extremely remote... It was one of the best experiences we had all through our year of venturing around the world. The Rainbow in the Mountain is a must-see during any trip to South America.”

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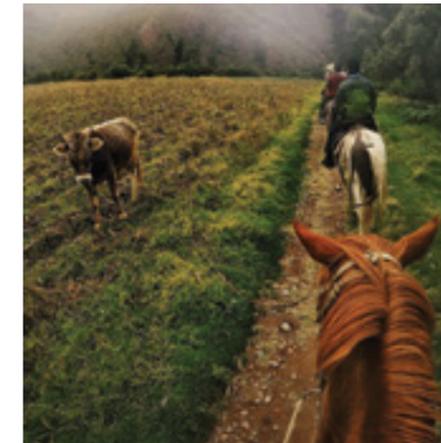
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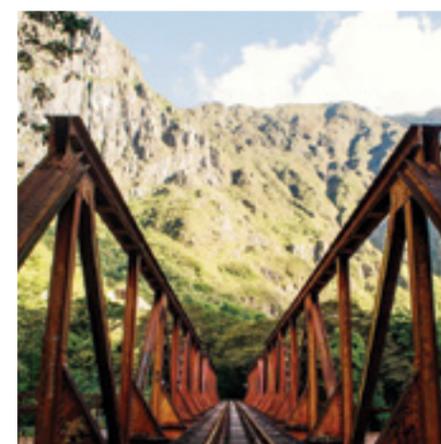
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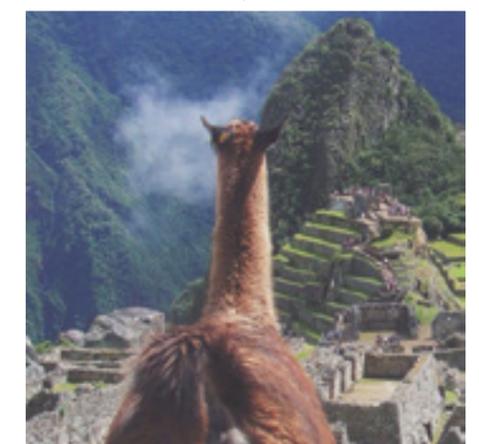
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CUSCO, PERU

1. Michelle Bogaerts / @michellebogaerts - Traditional Peruvian clothing reflects what village a person is from.
2. Carlos --- / @geo_cusco - The Sacred Valley of the Incas was the heartland of the Inca Empire.
3. Marco Schenone / @calcuchimac - Culture and tradition passed down three generations of family lineage.
4. Pamela Carranza / @pamelamhc - Andean people have a rich knowledge of natural dyes used on their cloths.
5. Craig Howes / @craighowes - Go back in time and experience the Sacred Valley of the Incas by horseback.
6. Tom Ryan / @blogrigado - Some of the best whitewater rivers in the world are found just 2 hours away.
7. Lee Wilson / @lee.vs.world - The agricultural test zone of Moray has a 15 °C spread between top and bottom.
8. Caitlin Collins / @augustaleighphoto - Travel Tip: Book your train ride in advance or risk tickets being sold out.
9. Jamie Waterhouse / @artzeefartzee - The evaporating salt mines of Maras are still in use since pre-Inca times.
10. Hilton Davila / @hiltondavila - Follow the train tracks from Hydro Electrica to get to Aguas Calientes.
11. Nikita Bah / @nikita_bah - In the Quechua language, Machu Picchu means, 'Old Peak' or 'Old Mountain.'
12. Ivan Reynoso / @reylozanos - Machu Picchu llamas are very photogenic and are known to strike a pose.

#ExperiencePeru



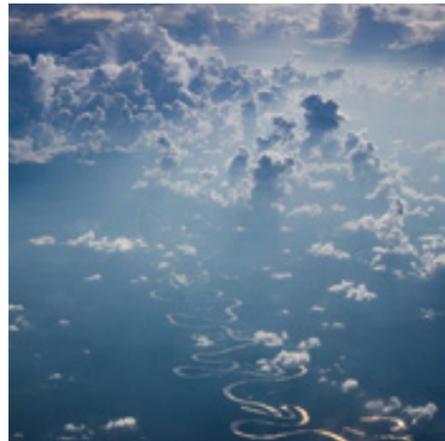
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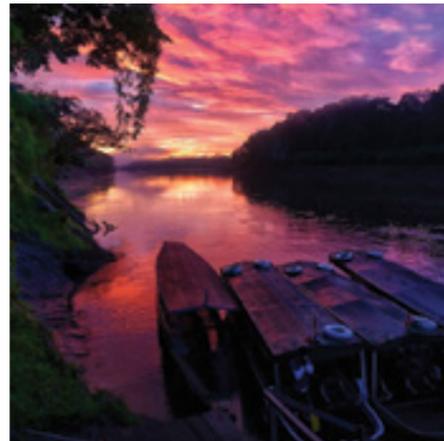
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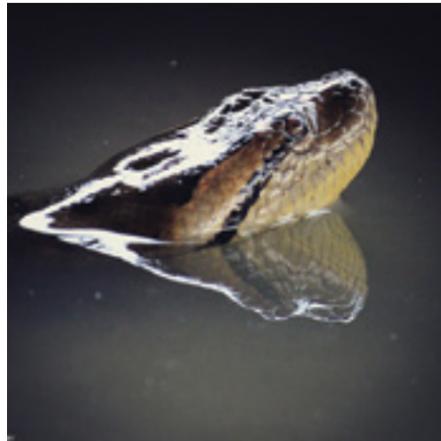
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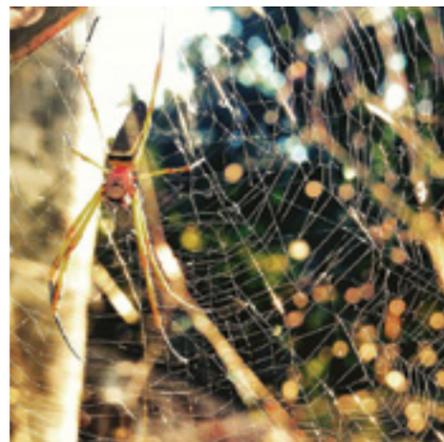
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EXPERIENCE PERU

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HUACACHINA, PERU

- 13. Dom Richichi / @domrichichi - The Ica Desert was once the thriving seafloor of an ancient ocean.
- 14. Adam Sivakoff / @adamsivs - The famous oasis is known for sandboarding and high speed 4x4 dune rides.

NAZCA, PERU

- 15. Yata Onin / @aomable - The Nazca Lines are an ancient mystery that remain unexplained to this day.

IQUITOS, PERU

- 16. Jose Benasco / @followthecanary - The Amazon River is the world's second longest river at 6,280 km long.
- 17. Shannon Avery / @shan_hoofilms - More than half of the world's species of fauna and flora are in the Amazon.
- 18. Jesse Linderman / @photobohemian - The Amazon contains more than 50% of the total rainforests on earth.
- 19. Mayra Serpa / @maiseesaw - Must Do: Take the boat ride through the Amazon to visit Monkey Island.
- 20. Luis Edgardo / @nomade_dreams - Anacondas can remain submerged for up to ten minutes at a time.
- 21. ----- / @meazythebullshitters - About 30 species of piranhas inhabit the lakes and rivers of South America.
- 22. Jefferson Canto / @jeffersonhlc - It is also estimated that about 3,600 species of spiders inhabit the Amazon.

PUNO, PERU

- 23. Evasisto Junior / @evaristojr7 - At 3,811 m ASL, Lake Titicaca is the highest navigable lake in the world.
- 24. Solvejg Jost / @inti_ari - Lake Titicaca is home to pre-Inca people who live on floating totora reed islands.

#ExperiencePeru

CHILE

featured locations



- Atacama Desert
- Torres Del Paine

COUNTRY INFO

Capital: Santiago
Population: 17.62 Million
Languages: Spanish
Currency: Chilean Peso

ATACAMA DESERT

Lucas Wiman, 21
Owensboro, Kentucky

Besides playing soccer and reading books (specifically James Patterson books), Lucas enjoys traveling and documenting his adventures with the help of his camera. While exploring the Atacama Desert, Lucas used his Nikon D610 35mm F/1.8 lens to capture the beautifully vast, dry, and desolate land. Growing up in a town surrounded by cornfields, Lucas always had the urge to travel and seek the unknown. “I am inspired to travel because I grew up in an area that doesn’t have much to offer naturewise. I love exploring because of the things I get to see, as well as the conversations and stories I get to share after. It’s great because in the process, it inspires other people from my area to do the same thing.” The closest Lucas has ever experienced an environment like the Atacama Desert was Death Valley. “However, the Atacama takes it to a whole new level,” he says.

Spread: pg. 18-25
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Website: www.lwimann.tumblr.com

TORRES DEL PAINE

Diego Weisz, 29
Punta Del Este, Uruguay

Photographer and adventurer, Diego, makes it not only a mission to catch first sunlight at the crack of dawn but also finds himself on the hunt for light at the final hours of each day. He says, “I love being outside, going to the beach, surfing and practicing all kind of sports. I’m kind of a golden hour addict so you may usually find me waking up really early in the morning or chasing the last rays of light in the afternoon to capture the perfect image.” However, his love for photography is surpassed only by his love for his golden retriever, Paco. Aside from his Canon 5D Mark II, Diego uses the help of his GoPro HERO4 to capture amazing moments during his travels—whether he’s surfing out in the water, kayaking to a glacier, or taking on a steep hill with the help of Paco and his skateboard. “I travel to basically get out of my comfort zone and challenge myself to explore places, see landscapes, meet people and live experiences. Waking up in a place that I don’t know and catching the perfect sunrise feed my soul.”

Spread: pg. 26-37
Instagram: @diegoweisz
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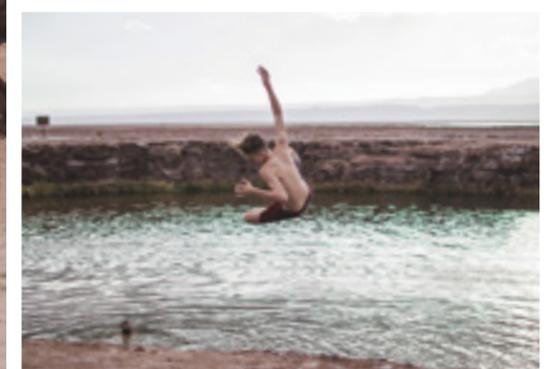
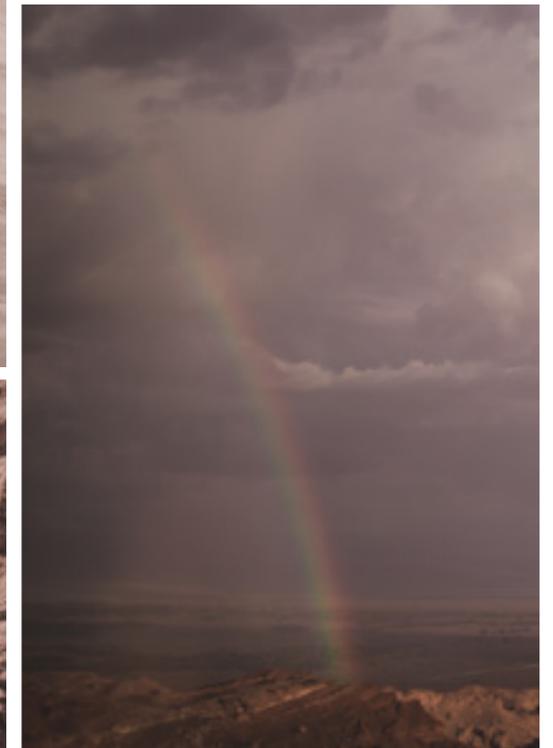
ATACAMA DESERT

story by Lucas Wiman

“Man, this place is so wild. It felt like I was on the moon or something.”







The first day I got to the desert, I went straight to Valle de la Luna to watch an epic sunset over what seemed like the Chilean Grand Canyon. The next morning I rode mountain bikes to Valle de la Muerte to sandboard. I am a huge fan of snowboarding and this took the experience over the top. It was difficult but still so fun. The Atacama Desert is one of the best places I have ever been in regards to exploring and adventuring. Plus, the weather was insane. The first two days were beautiful—sunny and warm, but not too overwhelming. I felt like I was on another planet. I can't describe it. The desert was desolate and empty, yet so beautiful.

What was your favorite part of traveling to the driest place on earth?

The stargazing. The Atacama Desert is considered one of the best places in the world to view the stars and it did not disappoint. I've never seen the sky lit up like it was there. After that, my next favorite part was just the different landscapes and terrain. It's such a unique place and I may not see a place similar to it ever again. Again, the sandboarding was epic—enough said.

Driest Desert in the World



4 in of rain per 1000 yr



What advice would you give to someone heading to the Atacama Desert?

Go on tours with guides. This is an area that is too difficult to navigate by yourself. It would become such a stressful trip if you tried to plan things, do things, and get places on your own. It would ruin it honestly. The guides are all from the area and know everything there is to know. You don't have to worry about anything. It makes it much more enjoyable. If I would have tried to get to the best place to sandboard by myself, I would have failed.

Our guide actually spent the entire trip with us, taking us place to place every day and we absolutely loved it. We spent a little bit more money but it was so worth it. Do as much as possible. This is a place that is unlike anywhere in the world, so there are things to do that one might not be able to do elsewhere. Also, eat the fried chicken from local restaurants. It is amazing.



TORRES DEL PAINE

story by Diego Weisz

Torres del Paine was one of the most beautiful places we've ever been. We went there in September, almost spring, so the weather was really nice. We thought we would find ourselves in a really hostile environment but to our surprise it wasn't as cold as we expected. The mountains still showed a lot of snow but the valley cleared. We were lucky and didn't get any rain or super cold weather. It snowed only once during our short road trip.

On long walks we found ourselves going through amazing changing landscapes—from mirror lakes to burned woods caused by a massive fire back in 2012, to huge snowy fields and mountains with surreal viewpoints and all kinds of wildlife animals. We even got acquainted and had lunch with some local farmers who told us pretty cool stories about pumas and how the creatures attacked their cattle the past few days.

Every morning the sunrise was epic. The famous Torres del Paine Mountains slowly covered themselves with red and orange tones while the chilling sounds of birds filled the scene with complete harmony. It was really worth getting up early to see the magnificent hour. Being in a place with no light pollution that made the night sky glow in a special way, we were immersed in this huge vault covered with stars and the mountains shining in the background. It was hard going to sleep when there was a scene like that outside the window, but then again, we needed to rest and prepare ourselves to catch the next sunrise!



What were your first thoughts when you entered Patagonia?

We really didn't know where we were going. It was an improvised trip so we couldn't plan it the way we'd like, but we knew we were heading to one of the most beautiful places on earth. Sometimes it is better to travel this way—not knowing 100% where to go leads to days full of surprises.

“Not knowing 100% where to go leads to days full of surprises.”







How was kayaking in the lake? Was it easy or difficult?

It was a unique experience—something we always wanted to do! We woke up at 4:00 am and started the 2 hour ride to the glacier. As the sun was starting to rise, we could still see the blinking stars and a waning, crescent moon over us. Again, luck was on our side, a perfect spring day was ahead of us. According to the locals, it's not common to have such beautiful days near the glacier zone.

We arrived around 7:00 am to the kayak lodge after a small boat trip across Grey Lake. Although it was a beautiful day, it was extremely cold down there due to the shadows projected by the mountains. Taking clothes off to put on the wetsuit was an adventure itself. After a short explanatory talk with the guides, we anxiously went into the waters. At first, it was hard to coordinate with our kayak partners, but after a few minutes and almost bumping up against some small glaciers, we felt like Olympic competitors. The paddle to the glacier was about 45 minutes with beautiful scenery along the way. We felt the cold water hit our hands and our feet started freezing inside the kayak, but once we got there we understood it was all worth it. The glacier is magnificent—it's not easy to describe. We even got the chance to stop at a small "beach" and walk really close to this huge mass of ice while the guides served us some hot, local tea. The whole experience was a dream!

What advice would you give to someone making a trip to Torres del Paine?

Don't think twice about whether seeing the park or not—it is a must! Take a GoPro or a camera, but bear in mind having gloves on, a good strap is also needed so as not to hit the same unfortunate luck like we did—we lost a Go-Pro! But as we say in our country, "A cat in gloves catches no mice," which means a goal cannot be accomplished by being careful and nice.





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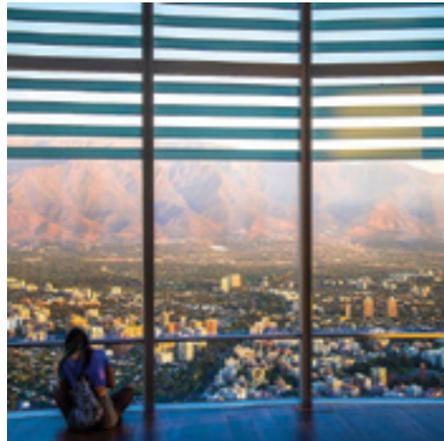
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EXPERIENCE CHILE

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VALPARAÍSO, CHILE

1. Mari Koskelo / @maricomente - The city is known as one of the most special street art meccas in the world.
2. Anna Sylvia / @the.elys - In 2003, the colorful city's historic quarter was declared a World Heritage Site.
3. Mallory Markham / @markhammallory - Must Visit: The neighboring hills of Cerro Alegre and Cerro Concepción.

SANTIAGO, CHILE

4. Grant Legan / @grantlegan - The observation desk, Sky Costanera, was opened to the public in August 2015.
5. Daniel Gois / @danielgois - Sky Costanera offers 360° views of Santiago from the public floors 61 and 62.
6. Paula Aravena / @otropensamientomas - Gran Torre Santiago is the tallest building in Latin America.

ANTOFAGASTA, CHILE

7. Keilah Kinang / @misskeilah - Mano del Desierto is a 36 ft hand sculpture located in the middle of the desert.

ATACAMA, CHILE

8. Priscila Sgavioli / @ps_bonvoyage - Lászar Volcano is the most active of the northern Chilean Andes.
9. Lyle Nelson / @lyliepop - Laguna Cejar's high concentration of salt allows swimmers to float.

EASTER ISLAND, CHILE

10. Edward So / @wanderlust - Easter Island is a Chilean territory but is deeply rooted with Polynesian culture.
11. Felipe Bengoa / @fbengoa - The island's ancient name, Te Pito o Te Henua, means 'The Center of the World.'
12. Guilherme Tait / @photo_gui - The average moai statue is 14 ft 6 in tall and weighs over 14 tons.

EXPERIENCE CHILE

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LAKE DISTRICT, CHILE

13. Jem Celis / @jemrockcelis - Termas Geométricas is home to more than 20 volcano heated thermal baths.

TORRES DEL PAINE, CHILE

14. Daniel Fernandez / @nacholledo - Lago Pehoé is located in the very heart of Torres del Paine National Park.

15. Russell Mosis / @fstop_hop - Torres del Paine is pronounced “TOR-rays-del-PINE-ay.”

LAGO GENERAL CARRERA, CHILE

16. Natasha Koutsoukis / @pineapple.hat - The Cuevas de Mármol is the most beautiful cave network in the world.

17. Cristobal Arnolds / @cmekisarnolds - The Cuevas de Mármol is a 6,000 year old work in progress.

18. Matthias Huber / @flipstarmh - The swirling patterns of the cave change depending on the season.

SANTA INÉS GLACIER, CHILE

19. Nils Krueger/ @phototravelnomads - The glacier is known for its crystal clear waters and fantastic whale watching.

EXPLORADORES GLACIER, CHILE

20. Emma Gaffer / @emmagaffer - Must Do: The glacial hike is only a 2-hour drive from Puerto Río Tranquilo.

21. Jackman Chiu / @elanmizrahiv - Experience mini waterfalls, intricate ice caves, lakes and so much more.

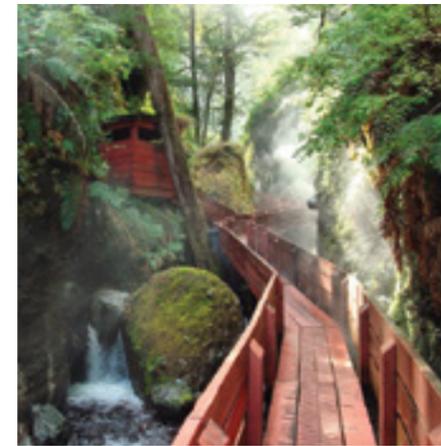
PUCÓN, CHILE

22. Anton Malishev / @mumwearefine - Celebrating a 2,360 m ASL ascent in style at Volcán Quetrupillán.

LAGO GREY, CHILE

23. Dafne Barraza / @dafgonzalezbarraza - Huge fragments of ice frequently break off and float next to shore.

24. Melissa Mock / @melm0 - A 3-hour voyage is made on board of the vessel Grey II to see the Grey Glacier.



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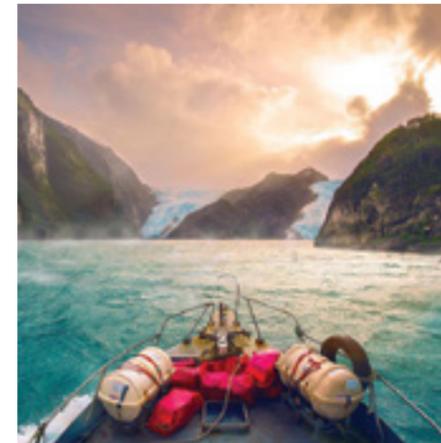
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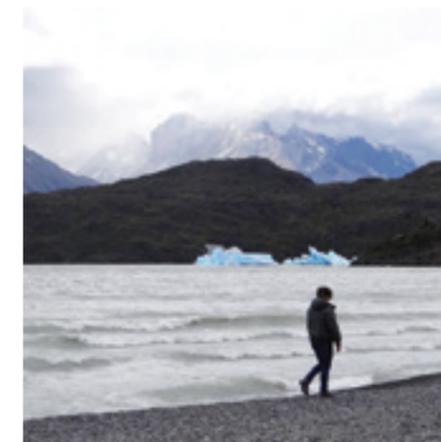
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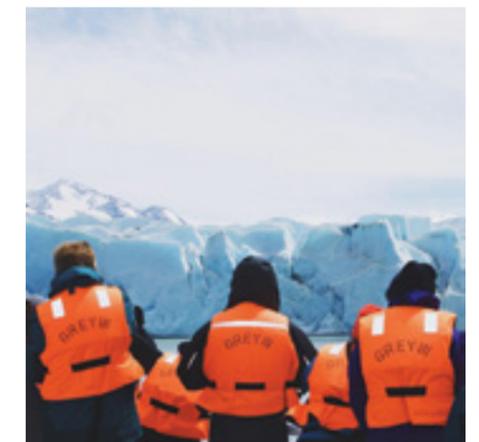
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#ExperienceChile

ECUADOR

featured locations

- Galápagos Islands
- Quilotoa



COUNTRY INFO

Capital: Quito
Population: 15.74 Million
Languages: Spanish
Currency: United States Dollar

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Darren Brogan, 31
Dunfermline, Scotland

Hill walking, photography, and travel is the name of the game for Darren. Using his Canon 700D combined with an arsenal of lenses including his 10-18mm, 18-55mm, and 55-250mm, he travels the world and captures moments that make you want to live his experiences. Darren says, “I am inspired to travel because I love to explore new places, sample new cultures and taste new and interesting foods. Photography is also a big drive. I love to try and capture the essence of a place using photography.” So far, Darren has been lucky enough to visit Chile, Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador. He and his wife had been traveling for about 6 months before reaching the Galápagos Islands. “It was the last stop of our trip before heading home and we couldn’t wait to see the archipelago. We are both interested in wildlife, which was one of the huge reasons we decided to visit,” he says.

Spread: pg. 53-59
Instagram: @poetic_mouse
Website: www.poeticmouse.com

QUILOTOA

Tyfany De Piccoli, 27 & Hugo De Piccoli, 29
Lyon, France

This globetrotting couple went on a five month adventure of a lifetime that started in the United States and ended in Patagonia. After Colombia, they made their way through Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Chile before arriving in Argentina. Tyfany says, “When we prepared our trip, Patagonia was one of our dreams. We decided to start in Colombia and continue our route because of all the crazy landscapes and beautiful cultures.” If you follow through their adventures, you’ll find just that—incredibly beautiful landscapes mixed in with rich photos of everyday life they encountered along the way. With the help of their FujiFilm X-M1 and Canon 5D Mark III, Tyfany and Hugo documented their travels in a unique way that makes you feel you are traveling right along with them. Tyfany says, “We enjoy road trips and making moments with our photographs. We prefer places in the middle of nowhere, places where people have never been.”

Spread: pg. 60-67
Instagram: @tyfany & @hugo_dp
Website: www.atraveltoast.com

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

story by Darren Brogan

“I was overwhelmed by the beauty of this place.”



Describe your experience while adventuring through the Galápagos Islands.

We spent 2 full weeks in the Galápagos Islands and that was a great amount of time to do some land-based exploration, as well as enjoying a 5-day cruise on one of the big ships.

My wife and I love to walk and sightsee on foot so we did a lot of walking on the main inhabited islands—it’s a great way to take in the volcanic scenery and the beautiful beaches. On our walks, it was clear to see that the islands are buzzing with life, flora and fauna at every turn. Sometimes we had to be careful where we strolled because on a number of occasions, we almost walked into a sea lion on the beach.

We took part in a number of activities, on land and in the water, and one of our favorites was trekking to the top of the Sierra Negra Volcano whilst on Isabela Island. It was a tough climb, given the heat and humidity but the views were spectacular at the summit! It was actually quite exciting because on the morning that we left Isabela Island, one of the northern volcanos erupted.

The weather is known to be quite temperamental in the Galápagos Islands and as a result, the ocean could be quite rough. When we made our way from Isabela Island to San Cristóbal, we decided to fly using one of the small airplane services—it was thrilling. The journey was amazing with stunning views of the islands from above. The Galápagos Islands are well known for their unique wildlife but the landscapes and scenery are worth a mention, too. The lush forests are beautiful and untouched, the beaches are stunning with crystal, clear waters.

“The Galápagos Islands are well known for their unique wildlife but the landscapes and scenery are worth a mention, too.”

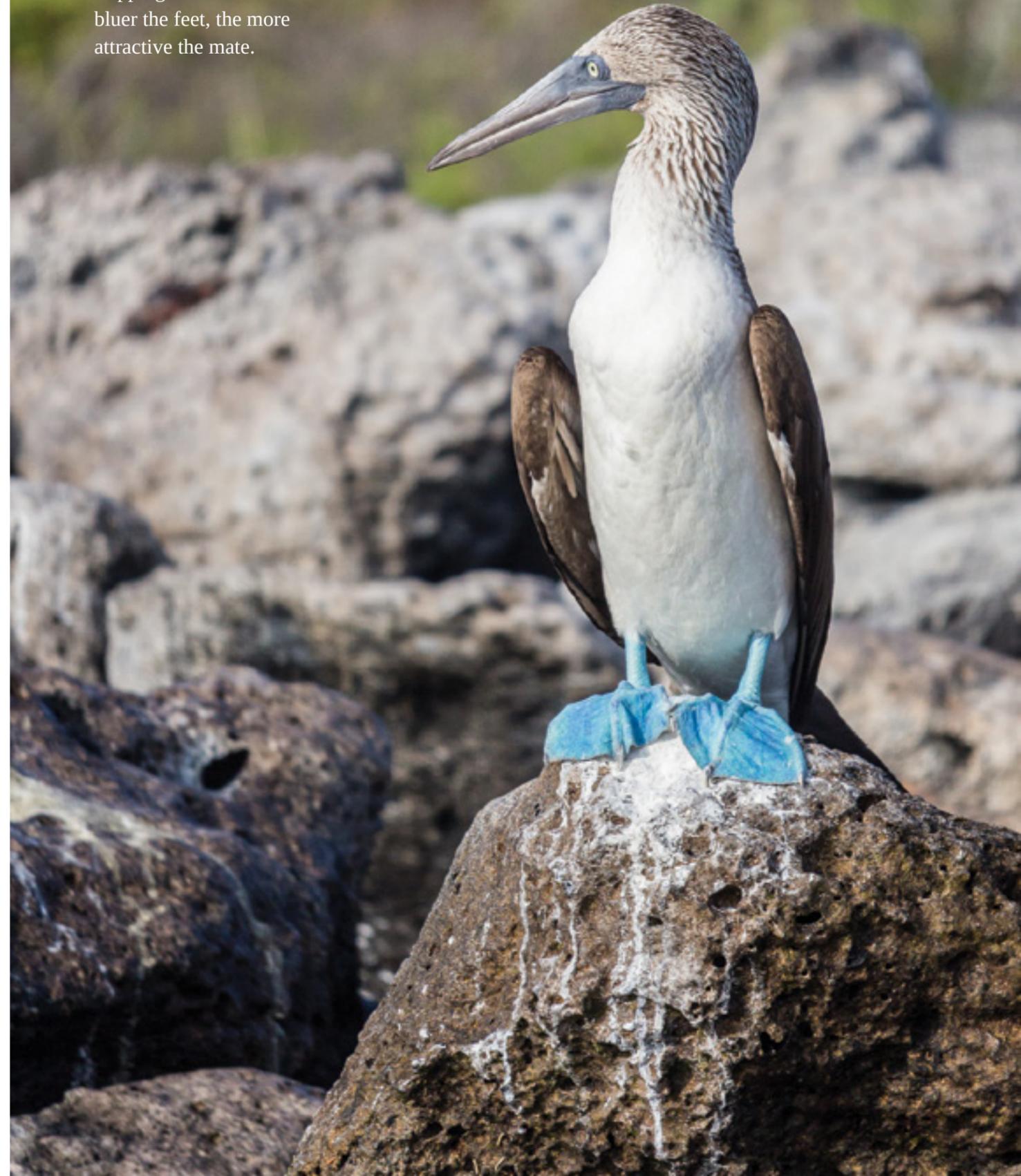
“It was like being in a zoo with no cages.”



“The amazing part about the wildlife was that they were all very comfortable around humans, which means anyone could get really close without greatly disturbing them.”



During mating season male boobies show off their feet to a potential mate with a high stepping dance. The bluer the feet, the more attractive the mate.



Galápagos giant tortoises live to be over 100 years in the wild.



What kinds of wildlife did you encounter? Were the animals receptive to human interactions?

We saw lots of different types of animals on our trip! It was like being in a zoo with no cages. There were sea lions, marine iguanas, pelicans, Galápagos penguins, masked boobies, Galápagos tortoises, yellow warblers...the list goes on! The amazing part about the wildlife was that they were all very comfortable around humans, which means anyone could get really close without greatly disturbing them. As keen photographers, we were able to take wildlife shots that we normally wouldn't have been able to take anywhere else in the world.

Galápagos iguanas can dive up to 9 m underwater to find food.



What was your favorite part of traveling to the Galápagos Islands?

Our cruise the most. We spent 5 days island hopping around some of the more remote islands and we loved it. It was a fantastic experience to wake up each day, exploring a new island and seeing interesting, different species of animals. We 100% recommend putting the Galapagos Islands on the list and finding a way to get there!

QUILOTOA

story by Tyfany & Hugo DePicolli

We took a bus from Latacunga to visit Quilotoa Crater Lake. It's incredible to think that it was formed by the collapse of a once very active volcano. When we got there, the first thing we could think was, this place is amazing. The color of the water was special and the mountains surrounding the caldera were so huge—the peaks of Cotopaxi and Illiniza Sur looked high and strong in the distant. Everything was very impressive and photogenic. As we approached closer and closer to the lake surface, we were taken aback, even stopping in our tracks, by the expanse. Ask the locals how deep the lake is and they will say it has no bottom. It felt enormous, not to mention the golden fields surrounding the area contrasting with many other colors.





0° 51' 40.3"S, 78° 53' 50.23" W



The only certain historical eruption of Quilotoa volcano occurred in 1280.

3414 m ASL



Can you spot the lady in red resting?



“Ask the locals how deep the lake is and they will say it has no bottom.”

How was hiking to the volcanic-crater lake and getting back? Was it easy or difficult?

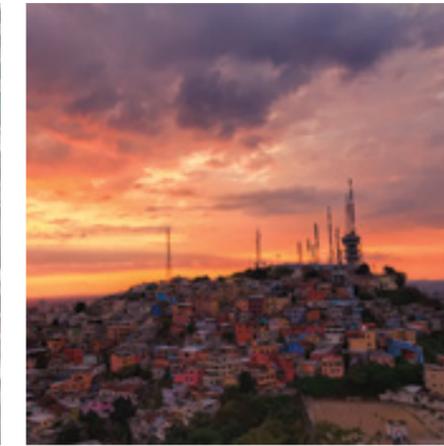
The hiking time may vary from person to person, but it generally takes about a half-hour down from the crater rim viewpoint and a one to two hour hike back up. Camping is allowed at the bottom of the crater. Do not take the horses to get back up. Enjoy the landscape and use your legs! Also, make sure to bring lots of water with you! And try to do the 3-4 days trek. One day is too short!

EXPERIENCE ECUADOR

@EXPERIENCEECUADOR



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GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR

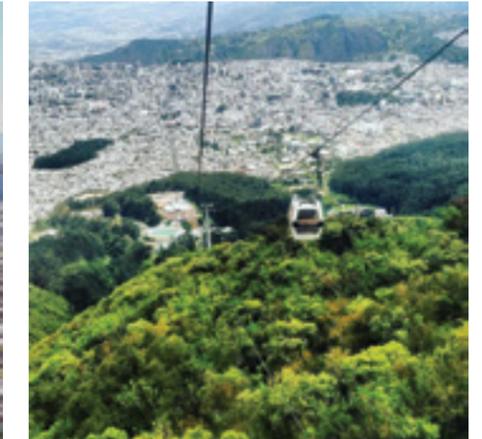
1. Jason Suarez / @notafraid2fail - Santiago de Guayaquil, or Guayaquil for short, is Ecuador's largest city.
2. Daniel Fernandez / @daniel0181 - There's a 444-step staircase to a viewpoint at the top of Cerro Santa Ana.
3. Otto Valencia / @ottovalencia - Picturesque barrio of Las Peñas sits at the foot of Cerro Santa Ana.



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CUENCA, ECUADOR

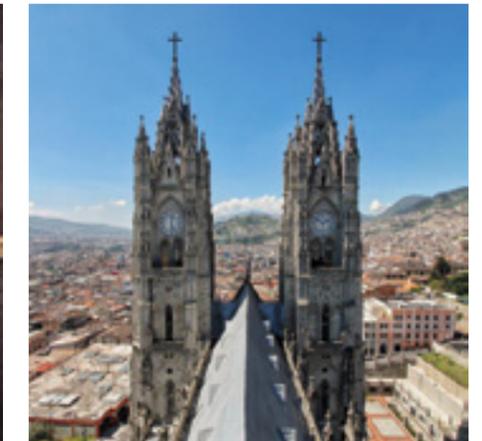
4. Gomer Aquino / @goms77 - The colorful Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe is one of many churches in the area.



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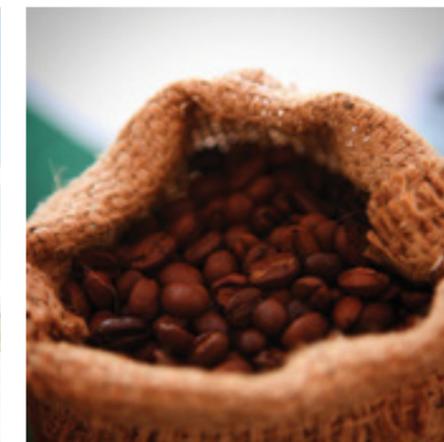
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QUITO, ECUADOR

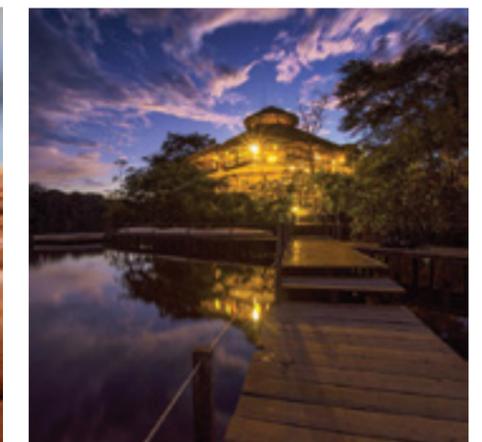
5. David DeNard / @the_greenroom - Ecuador is the first country to declare that nature itself has constitutional rights.
6. María Daniela / @mariadanielacg25 - Quito is one of the largest and best preserved historic centers in the Americas.
7. Maddy Riemenschneider / @maddy_riemo - It's the first city declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1978.
8. Sarah Cohen / @sarac0hen - Basílica del Voto Nacional is the largest neo-Gothic basilica in the Americas.
9. Jackman Chiu / @jackmanchiu - Must Do: Explore the famous balcony tower of the basilica for less than \$1.
10. Maria Rondon / @ mariarondons - 30 m monument at La Mitad del Mundo, or 'The Middle of the World.'



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AMAZON, ECUADOR

11. Carlos Medina / @carlosmedinav77 - Ecuador is 1 of 15 countries in the world to export Arabica and Robusta coffee.
12. Logan Carter / @loganmcarter - La Selva Ecolodge is located in the heart of the Ecuadorian Amazon basin.

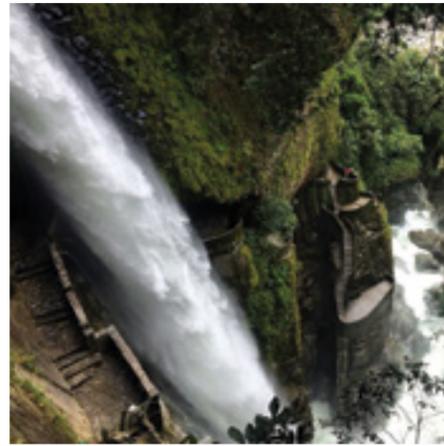
#ExperienceEcuador



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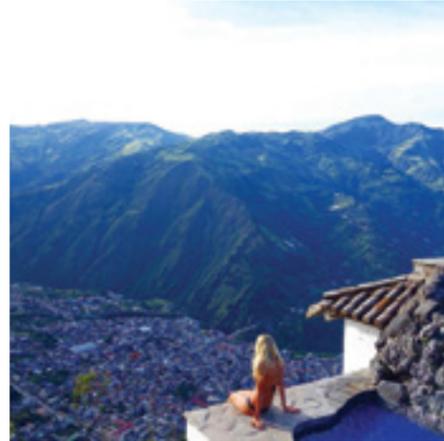
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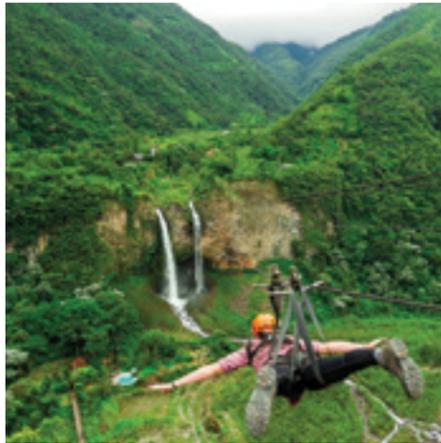
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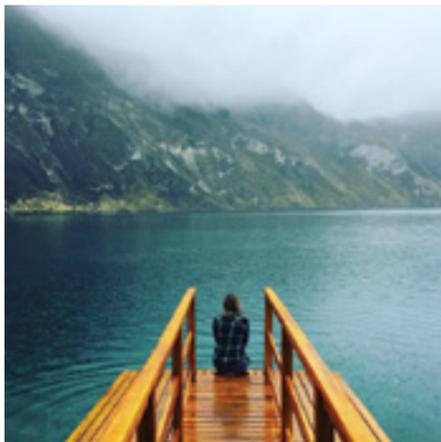
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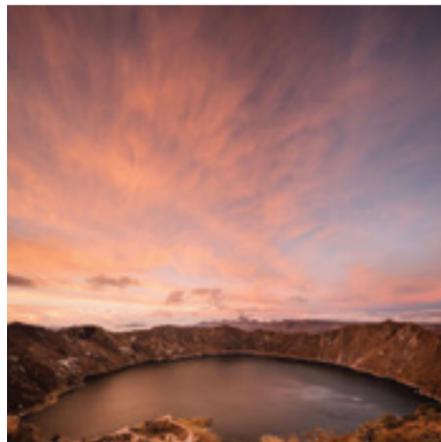
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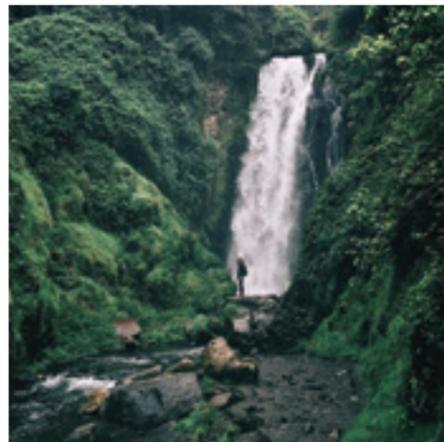
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EXPERIENCE ECUADOR

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BAÑOS, ECUADOR

- 13. Baruch Gabsu / @baruch_gabsu - A suspension bridge over the Pasta River towards the Pailón del Diablo waterfall.
- 14. Audrey McNeil / @audrey_mcneil - It's a 40-min bike ride from the city to the famous waterfall.
- 15. Danielle Hughes / @pooderz - For less than \$1, you can walk through the famous steps of Pailón del Diablo.
- 16. Sean Teper / @seanhtphoto - Swing at The End of the World near Tungurahua last erupted in November 2015.
- 17. Ted Coday / @teddo24 - Must Do: Go canyoning—little to no experience is required.
- 18. Alexandra Szlachcic / @_alexmoon - The volcanic thermal baths and pools of Luna Runtun overlook the city.
- 19. Robin Koehler / @rbnsworld - Zip line to waterfalls along the Ruta de las Cascadas for less than \$15.

COTOPAXI PROVINCE, ECUADOR

- 20. John Garcia / @johngarcia98 - Cotopaxi is one of the highest active volcanoes in the world at 5,897 m ASL.
- 21. Jeffrey McFarlane / @missbond - A 480 m wide crater awaits for those that make it to the summit.
- 22. Lauren DeRocha / @laursss - Quilotoa is filled with alkaline water and only supports some alga life.
- 23. Jeff Bartlett / @photojbartlett - The caldera has steep inner walls rising 400 m above lake surface.

IMBABURA, ECUADOR

- 24. Samia Tabarah / @samiatatz - 50 ft Peguche Waterfall is located at the foothill of the Imbabura volcano.

#ExperienceEcuador

BOLIVIA

featured locations



 Huayna Potosí

 Uyuni

COUNTRY INFO

Capital: Sucre

Population: 10.67 Million

Languages: Spanish, Aymara

Currency: Bolivian Boliviano

HUAYNA POTOSÍ

Max Kruse, 22

Melbourne, Australia

“I was always that kid who did the opposite of whatever people told me to do. I guess years down the track, nothing has really changed. When people warned me about the dangers of Venezuela and Colombia, it made me far more curious to actually see them myself,” says Max. He spent over a year in South America, where he ventured to Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. Max has always been curious of the unknown, the places less traveled. He says, “Growing up, reading and watching National Geographic definitely inspired me to visit the places I’ve been. I’ve never been really interested in cosmopolitan cities. I mean, there’s nothing wrong with them, it’s just not what I’m appealed to. I love the rugged and rural places where your wits and senses are what keeps you safe.” Max documented his travels using a Sony a7R paired with a Zeiss 16-35, 35, and Zeiss 55mm lens.

Spread: pg. 88-97

Instagram: @maxkrusecreative

Website: www.maxkrusecreative.com

UYUNI

Brent Bloom, 26

Los Angeles, California

Brent has been traveling through South America for 7 months now and has no intention of stopping any time soon. “There are a number of things that inspired me to backpack through South America and continue to inspire me to live my life the way I do,” he says. Equipped with a Canon T4i body with a 24-105mm f/4.0L & 50mm f/1.8 lens, Brent is able to document his extensive travels. Being a photographer, videographer, and content creator allows for Brent to live a nomadic lifestyle without having to worry about money running out. “There is something special about South American culture—the way they treat each other, approach problems, celebrate a fútbol victory, go out of their way to help someone in need, etc. is absolutely surreal. Those and also the countless incredible sights to stand before in awe. It’s very difficult to put into words, but if I have to choose just one to describe the continent, it would be: inspiring,” he says.

Spread: pg. 78-87

Instagram: @evilbrent

Website: www.visitsouthamerica.co

HUAYNA POTOSÍ

story by Max Kruse





Describe your experience while adventuring through the Andes.

After 2 more hours of walking, the storm was pretty much over the top of us. It was pretty scary. Every strike of lightning lit up the region and the surrounding mountain tops. By this point in time, we were super close to the summit, around 6000 m high. The guides started yelling at each other from a distance and a few minutes later, we noticed the pair ahead of us paced back down the mountain quite quickly. We were all in a little bit of shock. Once the pair reached us, they told us the thunder had hit around them and they had felt the static in the air. Standing on top of a 6000 m mountain, we were the ones conducting electricity. After that, the guides said it was far too dangerous to continue.

We had to race back down the mountain as fast as possible. It was brutal. Walking up was already hard—the way back down under time constraints was just as bad, if not worse. We could barely see 1 m in front of us and the storm brought in lots of snow and poor visibility. Once we made it to the basecamp, everything was completely snowed in and barely recognizable. The photos of our guides and snow around us differ from the ones of the day before captured with all bare rock. This shows how quickly conditions can change in the mountains—one can never be too prepared.



“I was always that kid who did the opposite of whatever people told me to do. I love the rugged and rural places where your wits and senses are what keeps you safe.”

16° 16' 31.94''S, 68° 08' 16.58''W



What was your favorite part of trekking on the world's longest continental mountain range?

The fact I was never entirely in control—it's a strange feeling. One second the weather could be incredible with blue skies, then 10 minutes later a blizzard would surge in a complete whiteout. It's definitely frightening, which is what scares most people, but I believe those who take the risks get rewarded with some of the most spectacular sights few people can only dream of.

Cordillera Real Mountain Range



What advice would you give to a thrill-seeker wanting to hike the Andes?

Come as well prepared as possible, both physically and mentally—some climbs and hikes aren't a walk in the park. It's tough and anyone can be at the mercy of Mother Nature at any moment. Out there, humans are dwarfed by the mountains. Everything is put into perspective and Mother Nature is in control. The Andes is raw, very raw.

UYUNI

story by *Brent Bloom*

I took an overnight bus from La Paz to the town of Uyuni. I arrived very early and spent a couple spare hours exploring the very cool, small town. I wish I had the chance to stay a couple extra days there, but my Uyuni tour started the day I arrived. The first stop, the most popular sight, was the world's largest salt flat. My mind was absolutely blown by how huge and flat everything was—it did not disappoint!

The salt flat has always been placed on a pedestal as a must-see sight. It felt surreal to stand there in front of it all and soak in so much beauty. I was prepared to see Uyuni's landmarks, but I was not entirely prepared for its grandeur. All of the lagoons were magnificent—it's very difficult to choose just one favorite but Laguna Blanca slightly stood out from the rest. It has the clearest water imaginable with the enormous, distant Licancabur volcano reflecting off the lagoon.





Salar de Uyuni is the world's largest salt flat at 10,582 square kilometers.



The Andean flamingo is the only flamingo with yellow legs and feet.



Salar de Uyuni is the legacy of a prehistoric lake that went dry.



Árbol de Piedra is a rock formation shaped from strong winds and sand eroding its soft sandstone.





One of your photos shows a car with the hood open, did something go wrong with the car?

Yes, we had slight car trouble half-way through the third, and final day of the tour. We had some overheating. We would have to pull over every hour or so to pour water in the radiator. However, this gave me opportunities to view sights that not everyone gets the chance to stop for and snap some photos. All in all, while others may think this would be an inconvenience, it was a blessing in disguise for me.

“All in all, while others may think this would be an inconvenience, it was a blessing in disguise for me.”



Would calling you “The Fox Whisperer” be an accurate nickname? How did you manage to get so close to that small fox?

I like it and I would like to think it fits my personality. But realistically, I only had to bribe the fox with a bit of bread and he/she was happy to model for me. I named the precious creature, Megan (the) Fox.

What advice would you give to someone visiting Uyuni?

Prepare for the cold and take the time to enjoy everything. Spend an extra day or so in Uyuni before taking a tour. Once the tour begins, prepare to be blown away by incredible sights, one after another. Relax, sit down, and have a drink. Soak the place in and enjoy the present moment before snapping photos or simply looking through a screen. It is one of the most gorgeous sights

EXPERIENCE BOLIVIA

@EXPERIENCEBOLIVIA

LA PAZ, BOLIVIA

1. Patrick Junge / @patrick.junge - La Paz is the highest capitol in the world at more than 3,500 m ASL.
2. Damien --- / @glokduk - The Valley of the Souls is located only 20 km east of the city center.
3. Franck Gazzola / @frankgazzola - Milluni Miner's Cemetery used to bury massacred miners.

ALTIPLANO, BOLIVIA

4. Alexandra Cohen / @alexcohen - Laguna Colorada is tinted blood red due to a variety of algae found in the lake.
5. Ignacio Palacios / @ip_travel - Laguna Colorada is home to three of the world's six flamingo species.

SANTA CRUZ, BOLIVIA

6. Patricio Guevara / @patricio_guevara - The Chané tribe walk their traditional lands located in southern Bolivia.
7. Mary Vidal / @marydaniv - Simaipata Valley translates to 'resting place in the highlands.'
8. Nick McPhee / @nicks_adventures_bolivia - Over 40 species of toucans are in the South American rainforest.

YUNGAS, BOLIVIA

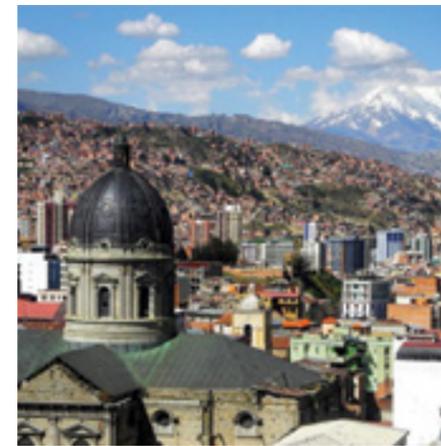
9. Angel Martinez / @angelmt2 - Camino de la Muerte, or Death Road, claims an average of 200 lives each year.

SUR LÍPEZ, BOLIVIA

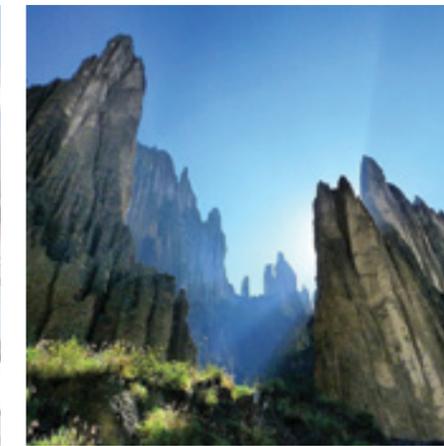
10. Andrea Aguilera / @wanderlustic_a - Árbol de Piedra, or Stone Tree, stands at closely 7 m tall.

UYUNI, BOLIVIA

11. Regina Roeder / @regina_roeder - Solar de Manaña is a collection of bubbling sulfur pools and geyser basin.
12. Byron Carr / @byroncarr - Isla Incahuasi is named Fish Island due to its fish-like shape and giant cacti.



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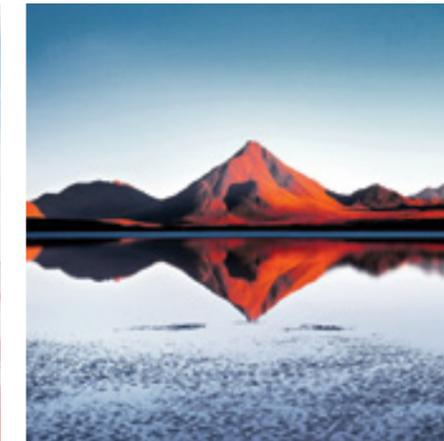
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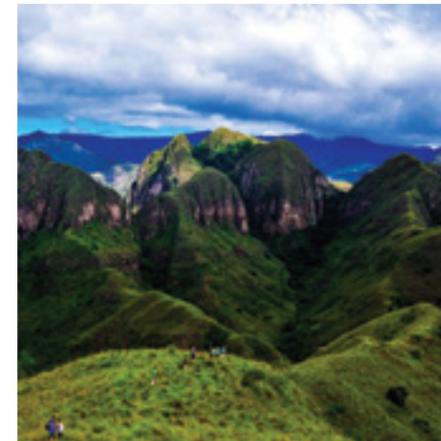
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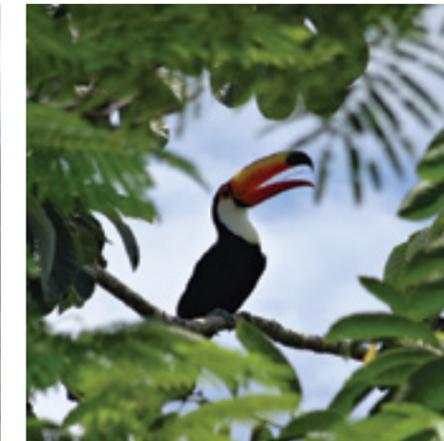
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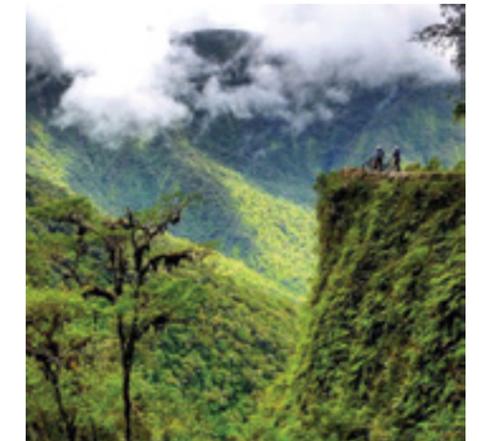
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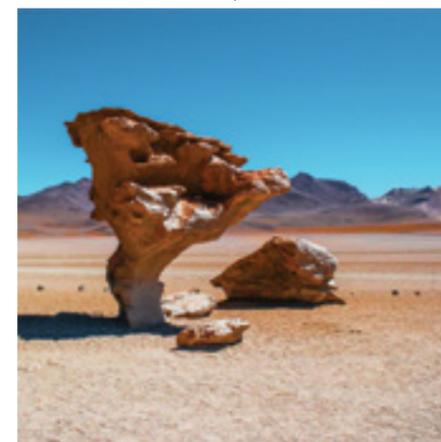
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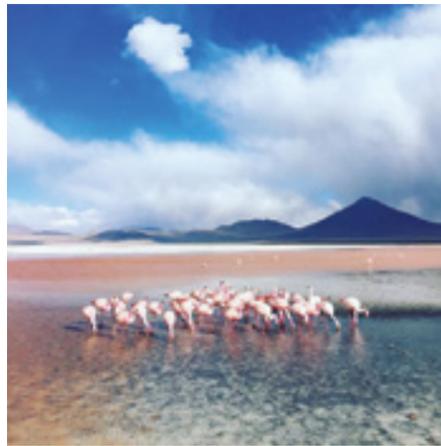


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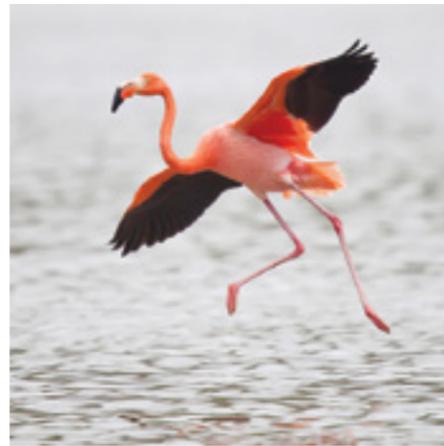
#ExperienceBolivia



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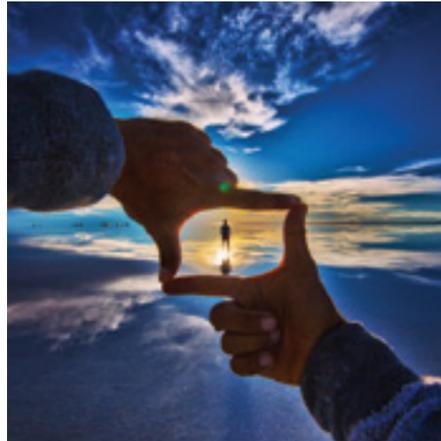
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EXPERIENCE BOLIVIA

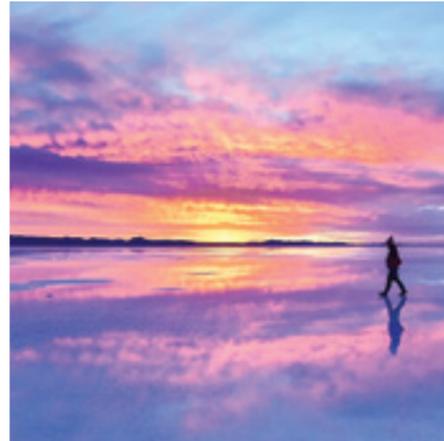
@EXPERIENCEBOLIVIA



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UYUNI, BOLIVIA

13. Nastja Kocovar / @leelookira - Salar de Uyuni is also known as Salar de Tunupa.

14. Lauren Fox / @lau_fox - 80 species of birds can be found in the area, including three different flamingo species.

15. Brookelyn Miller / @brookelynmillerphotogrphy - Every November, thousands of flamingos breed at Uyuni.

16. Stanley Chen Xi / @chenxistanley - The endless sheet of hexagonal tiles are created by the salt's crystalline nature.

17. Marco Schenone / @calcuchimac - The salt flats now rest on the plains of a giant prehistoric lake called Lago Minchín.

18. Tomoko Igarash / @tomo_50 - Salar de Uyuni creates the largest natural mirror during the rainy season.

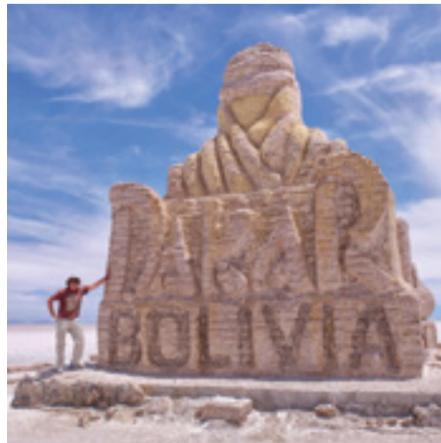
19. Reuben Hernandez / @reubenhernandez - Because there is no horizon, an optical illusion is created in photographs.

20. Mindy Ross / @mindys_maps - The Uyuni salt beds contain approximately 10 billion tons of salt.

21. Brayden Hall / @braybraywoowoo - Photo Tip: Create your own illusion by increasing the distance between objects.



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IGAVI, BOLIVIA

22. Joshua Schumacher / @schmcher - Puerta del Sol, or 'Gate of the Sun,' is estimated to weigh over 10 tons.

23. David Hansen / @bioarch_nomad - The archeological site was built by the pre-Inca civilization of Tiwanaku.

24. Skip Hunt / @skiphunt - The Bennett Monolith was discovered at Tiwanaku in 1932 by Wendell C. Bennett.



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#ExperienceBolivia

DRINKS

SLANG WORDS

YUNGUEÑO
BOLIVIA



(orange juice, pisco, sugar, water)

CAIPIRINHA
BRAZIL



(cachaça, sugar, lime)

VAINA
CHILE



(port wine, cognac, cacao, egg yolk, powdered cinnamon)

CLERICÓ
URUGUAY



(white wine, apples, oranges, bananas, strawberries, sugar)

PONCHE CREMA
VENEZUELA



(milk, eggs, sugar, rum, vanilla, cinnamon sticks)

REFAJO
COLOMBIA



(tamarind soda & beer)

FERNET
ARGENTINA



(fernet & coke)

PISCO SOUR
PERU



(pisco, egg white, lemon juice, simple syrup)

CANELAZO
ECUADOR



(aguapanela, aguardiente, cinnamon sticks, lime juice)

CHIMBA
CAUSA LUCA
CAÑA DALE LEGAL PARÁ
REGIO **BACÁN** DALE
CHENDO CUATE BUSÃO
CHOCHO EPA BIRRA
RICO **CHOMPA**

ARGENTINA REGIO/A - AMAZING
BIRRA - BEER
BOLIVIA CUATE - DUDE
CHOCHO - HAPPY
BRAZIL BUSÃO - BUS
LEGAL - COOL
CHILE LUCA - 1000 PESOS
CAÑA - HANGOVER
COLOMBIA CHIMBA - AWESOME
DALE - YES

ECUADOR ¡CHENDO! - JUST KIDDING
CHOMPA - SWEATER
PERU BACÁN - AWESOME
CAUSA - YES
URUGUAY RICO - TASTY
¡PARÁ! - WAIT, HOLD ON!
VENEZUELA EPA - HELLO
CHAMO/A - DUDE

TOP ESSENTIAL ITEMS YOU SHOULDN'T FORGET

The only thing standing between you and your mpy chevere trip to South America is fitting everything you need into that bag/backpack. **The ultimate game of Tetris.**

Right now you're probably thinking, "I don't want to bring too much..." or "I don't want to regret not bringing enough..." So here's the insider's trick to packing for any trip: You want to bring no more and no less than what you really need. These are some basic necessities you really need no matter where you go. Be sure not to leave home without any of these items!



Flashlight



Sleeping Bag



Notebook



Camera



Sunscreen



Flips Flops



Power Adapter



First Aid Kit



Bug Spray



Boots

TOP WAYS TO BUDGET ON THE GO

BEFRIEND TRAVELLERS

The bigger the group, the more you can save on local tours.



Bundle together at hotels and hostels for discounted prices.

Get valuable tips on where you should and shouldn't go.

MEET THE LOCALS

Find out what the most convenient way to travel is in the area.

Eat where the locals eat. Guaranteed low prices

Ask where the less the expensive hostels are located.

Shop where the locals shop instead of retail super markets.

Don't seem too eager to buy. Shop the area and find the best prices.

Get your poker face ready and negotiate prices.

Gain respect by speaking Spanish and hear prices fall.

BARGAIN AND HAGGLE

COLOR ORDER FROM LEAST IMPORTANT TO MOST IMPORTANT

TOP WAYS TO GET AROUND



TRAIN

Pros

Get from point A to B quick! There won't be any stops along the way.

Food. Recharge your batteries while enjoying delicious onboard meals.

Sit back and relax. You don't have to worry about weather--you're being taken in the right direction.

Cons

Pass small towns. Don't get to experience culture.

Expensive. Steep prices if not booked in advance.

Set schedules. Departures have to match itinerary.



CAR

Pros

Make your own schedule. You are on no one's clock but your own!

Custom Itinerary. Decide where you want to go, when you want to go.

Luggage Space. Buy as many cool gifts you find along the way and just toss it in the car.

Cons

Getting lost. High risk of making a wrong turn.

Damages. Car can get in an accident or get stolen.

Gas. Constant need to find the nearest station.



PLANE

Pros

Travel long distances. Perfect travel method for those short on time.

Comfortable. Take off your shoes and catch up on some well-deserved sleep.

Reliable. Unless something drastic happens, you can count on your plane arriving on time.

Cons

Customs. Airports could impose tax.

Expensive. Flights can cost up to an arm and a leg.

No flexibility. Plane will leave without you.



BUS

Pros

Inexpensive. Travel through half the country at the fraction of the cost.

All aboard! Put on your social hats because you'll be making lots of friends.

Visit smaller towns. Get to know the country better by visiting towns you might have missed by plane.

Cons

Slow. Bus rides can take up to 24 hours.

Uncomfortable. No leg room or recline to sleep.

Unreliable. Drivers can get lost or be late.

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*Special thanks to all the contributors
for making this publication possible.*

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JUST GO

Photo by: Lucas Wiman / @lwimann

