



PETER DAUN / 2001—2002

South America Expedition

Three months across Argentina, Chile and Brazil
A travel diary in words and photographs

Before the road began

Four chapters, three countries and one journey that kept growing.

Dear reader,

This is a diary written during a 3 months long vacation in South America. I spent my vacation with 4 different groups of people, it was not planned like this for a start, I was suppose to be there until mid-February, but I extended my stay 2 times. In total I was travelling for 3 months before returning to Europe.

The first phase was with Pär, Linda, Bo, Günther and Anders. We went to Argentina and Chile. The highlight was the Aconcagua mountain approach with the following time in Chile. They left for Sweden January 27th according to plan; I had planned to go to Rio for the carnival.

The second phase was not fully planned. I had got contact information from Stafford, who works with Coca-Cola Company and had a team of 23 people setting up SAP in Coca-Cola Brazil. I luckily got a good contact with Janet and Patricio, who introduced me to several of the people in the SAP team, so my stay in Rio became a real blast. I got to see the best of Rio and the Carnival.

The third phase was with Lars and Lars, where I finally got a cheap Brazilian travel pass, even though I should not have got it when already being in Brazil. The highlights of this extension were the Brazilian coast with Jacomaü, Fernando de Noronha and finally into the Amazon.

The fourth phase was with Ireni and her friends for 2 weeks in São Paulo, seeing normal life in a 17 million city.



The planned route through Argentina, Chile and Brazil.

This diary was written during the trip, in past or present tense depending on when the diary was available. Do not take it too seriously; much of what is written was simply expressed in that moment.

- 01 Argentina & Chile
- 02 Rio & Carnival
- 03 Brazilian coast & Amazon
- 04 Everyday life in São Paulo

I hope you enjoy the reading. — Peter

Preparing for the expedition

Training, vaccinations and learning to carry only what mattered.



Training with the expedition group before departure.



Packing and conditioning in London.

You need to be in good shape to climb a mountain like Aconcagua. We did different approaches in our preparation. The others — Pär, Linda, Bo, Günther and Anders — went camping in the early winter, walked with light packing and exercised at a gym. I joined them for one day in the forest to see if my body could stand the weight on my back.

For the rest of my training, as I lived in London and it was difficult to walk in the forest, I put my gear on and walked around Hyde Park just to get used to having everything on. I must have looked funny. For conditioning, I went dancing several nights a week, spending 3–4 hours on the dance floor and dripping with sweat.

We then had to take vaccinations. I got Yellow fever, Hepatitis A, Salmonella, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio and Malaria. Not all of this was necessary for Argentina and Chile, but the Amazon in Brazil required Yellow fever and Malaria.

The rest was a matter of going through the equipment and not bringing a single thing more than necessary.

THE ESSENTIAL RULE

Not bringing a single thing more than necessary.

Equipment

Everything needed for the mountain — from crampons and sleeping bags to water filters and blister plasters.

FÖTTER

- 1 stegjärn
- 1 kängor
- 1 Timberland-sandaler
- 2 tunna strumpor
- 2 tjocka strumpor
- 30 fuktpärrar/fryspåsar

HÄNDER

- 1 handskar
- 1 ullvantar
- 1 skinöverdrag

BEN & RUMPA

- 2 långkalsonger
- 1 Gore-Tex-byxor
- 1 Peak-byxa/shorts
- 3 kalsonger
- 1 fleecেকalsonger
- 1 badbyxor Nike

ÖVERKROPP

- 2 underställströjor
- 1 fleecetröja
- 1 Gore-Tex-jacka
- 1 dunjacka
- 2 T-shirt
- 1 skjorta + svarta byxor

SOVA

- 1 underställströja
- 1 långkalsonger
- 1 duntöfflor
- 1 Therm-a-Rest-liggunderlag
- 1 sovsäck
- 1 sovsäckslakan i siden
- 1 liggunderlag

HUVUD

- 1 mössa
- 1 keps
- 1 pannband
- 1 pannlampa

GEMENSAMT

- 1 tält
- 1 kök
- 5 l bränsle
- 1 värmefilt
- 1 silvertejp
- 1 vindplåt
- 1 gasollampa
- 1 kastruller
- 2 vindsäckar

GREJER

- 1 hopfällbara stavar
- 1 liten kåsa
- 1 sked
- 1 ryggsäck
- 2 böcker
- 2 solglasögon
- 1 skidglasögon
- 1 termos
- 1 vattenflaskor
- 1 kniv
- 1 pass
- pengar
- 1 biljetter
- 1 försäkringspapper
- 1 vattenfilter
- 1 kamera
- 1 Megalite + 3 batterier
- 1 kompass
- 1 nål & tråd
- 6 extra remmar
- 1 transportväska

TOALETT & MEDICIN

- 1 handduk
- 1 tandborste
- 1 tandkräm
- 1 tvål
- 1 borste
- 1 Idominsalva
- 1 nagelsax/raksaker
- 1 öronproppar
- 2 tvättlappar för barn
- 4 toalettpapper
- 2 solkräm/sunblock
- 10 plåster
- 1 liten parfym
- 10 skavsårplåster
- 1 Beecham-vitaminsdryck
- 1 värktabletter
- 1 elastisk binda

Who are we

Eight travellers, linked by one expedition and the journeys that followed.



Peter Daun



Pär Samuelsson



Linda Vixner



Anders Mases



Bo Tigerstrand



Günther Björklund



Lars Melin



Lars Norström

The journey began before the first flight.

In forests, city parks, packing lists and conversations about the road ahead.

84 days. Three countries. One remarkable journey.

From the thin air of Aconcagua to the streets of Santiago, Carnival in Rio, the beaches of Brazil and the deep green of the Amazon. Written day by day, this is the journey as it happened — immediate, personal and unfiltered.

Resan	DAY 01	25 December 2001
Aconcagua	DAY 02	26 December 2001
Chile	DAY 15	8 January 2002
Rio	DAY 34	27 January 2002
Kusten	DAY 53	16 February 2002
Amazonas	DAY 64	27 February 2002
Rio	DAY 69	4 March 2002
São Paulo	DAY 70	18 March 2002
Resan	DAY 71	19 March 2002



CHAPTER 01

Resan

Day 01 · 25 December 2001 · Sweden - London

Sweden - London

25 December 2001

10:15h Departure from Falun, Sweden to Arlanda, the main airport in Sweden. Our package was large and heavy, close to 33 kg. This is what I will have on my back for 3 months. Landed safe at Heathrow with a 6 hour wait for the flight to São Paulo in Brazil. Started with some dinner at Fridays. Pär just called and said their flight was delayed by 30 min, so they may miss their Paris connection to Argentina. I guess I will see if they make it in time to Paris or I may have to spend a day or so by my self in Mendoza, Argentina. I got on the flight in time.



Peter in falun



CHAPTER 02

Aconcagua

Day 02 · 26 December 2001 · Mendoza - Argentina

Mendoza - Argentina

26 December 2001

08:40h Brazil time (3 hours difference Swedish time) The flight went well, I got 5 hours of sleep, but I still smell of travel. Need a shower; I guess this is still nothing of what will come. It's 19C outside and cloudy. It's a nice start compared to the -32C we had in Falun, Sweden. It's now 5 hours before I know if the 5 others made it in time for their Paris - Buenos Aires flight. They have a taxi transport between the international and domestic airport, they may get problems due to all riots in Argentina. Puhh, the São Paulo check-in went OK and I saw my bags leaving the London flight. I hope they put it on the right flight to Mendoza or I have to spend another SEK 10 000 to get new equipment.

13:30h Arrived on time in Mendoza and all my equipment was there!!! Got approached by a taxi driver, who could offer a "cheap" dollar trip to the city centre. He claimed to have been living in US and been a drilling miner, but his dad died 9 months ago so he returned to take over his (one) taxi business. You never know if they're telling the truth. It could be like the guy Pär and I met in Tunisia; telling us he worked at a hotel and bla bla bla, in the end the only thing he wanted was to drag us into his small shop. I said I have to wait from my friends and see what they have planned. They said that someone should wait for us at the airport. Good start of the day in Mendoza, 37C outside again compared with -32C in Falun.

Then Pär "brain crash" gave me flight number 1416 arriving 14.35h in Mendoza, the flight doesn't exist!!! Lucky me, the flight desk checked and the others have landed in Buenos Aires and have already checked in on flight 1422 arriving 17:25h. Another 4 hour wait, yahhkk. Luckily I'm used to get around by my self, so I take it as it comes. 17:25h The others arrived on time. They told me that flight 1416 was cancelled and they just got the information at the check-in. Orvitz mountain shop, who had fuel and mules arranged for us picked us up at the airport. The first action was to get our mountain permits, we arrived 5 minutes before 18:00h. They had closed, but we managed to talk us in and got US\$200 poorer. That's the fee to enter the mountain area for 21 days.

They only accept US\$ cash due to the Argentinean economical crises. We got a room at Hotel Internacional for US\$30 per person, shower and breakfast included. We decided to start with a quick shower after 30h of travel. Then it was time to look for a supermarket to buy the last food; we walked around for 1h and did not find anything that we could use. The city supermarkets were almost empty on food. Bo and Günther decided to go outside to a large supermarket they heard about (Libertad), they found everything they needed. The rest of us decided to try the Argentinean meat "Tournedos". The meat was marvellous; 500g, 5cm thick and rear grilled. It just melted in your mouth, this is one of the best Tournedos I ever had. We went to bed at 23:30h after a long and tired day.



Boys in argentina



Buying permit

Mendoza - Argentina

27 December 2001

08:00h We decided to take a trip to the supermarket to get some additional stuff we may need. It was very strange to go into Libertad; a big supermarket like a full soccer field, but almost totally empty on people.
12:00h Jose from Orvits picked us up to go to his shop and get gasoline and pack the Landrover for our 3h trip to "Punt de Inca" at 2700m over sea level. He decided to take the mountain road instead of the highway. That was a nice trip with great view and steep mountain roads. After a short half way beverage stop we continued to Punta de Inca; arriving at 18:00. Started to check arrange the mule transport, had a small pizza and went to bed. You feel the altitude difference; 700m to 2700m.

Linda had more problems than us headache - level 1 on the high altitude scale.



At the hotel mandoza



Jeep mendoza



Jeep resa



Gunther in training



Mule transport

Punta de Inca - Argentina

28 December 2001

My 35-year birthday, ophs. Linda's problems from the day before were gone. Pär, Anders, Linda and I decided to walk to Punta de Inca centre some 7km away in the burning sun. Anders turned after 3km feeling tired and hot. We continued and had lunch that was hard to get down, the appetite decreases the higher up you get. We found an old Inca hot water source, were we had a footbath. Anderna is volcanic with several active volcanoes around. We got informed that a Japanese guy had left Punta de Inca at 2700m and gone directly to Plaza de Mulas at 4300m in one day. He had arrived and got breathing problems and dropped dead. This shows the need to just go 400-500m per day in altitude to acclimatize he went 1500m.

We felt the altitude and sun; luckily we got a ride back with our mule guy. I was tired when we got back partly altitude but mostly the sun and to little water during the day; Linda had the same problem second day arrow and she started to get blisters on her feet. I slept the whole afternoon, hardly made it to dinner were the guys had ordered a chocolate birthday cake. I could only get down a small piece and then back to bed with some headache pills. It was a hard day for my body and I guess it's more to come. What a birthday!



Hotspring



Linda at hotspring

First day on Aconcagua - 1 - Argentina

29 December 2001

I woke up feeling great; all problems from yesterday were gone. We re-packed the last things what we should carry and what we should send by mule. 11:00h We were picked-up at Hotel Ayala and transported to the Aconcagua park gate instead of the ranger house, a 2km extra walk, puhh. It went well with the registration and we got garbage bags with numbers on, that we needed to return at the end or get a US\$100 fine. We had divided us into 3 pairs; Linda - Anders, Bo - Günther, Pär - Peter. We decided that each team could walk in their own tempo and look after each other. Our walk started toward 3370m, our first camp place at Confulencia. Everything went OK until after the bridge some 2km from the ranger house.

The steep mountain started, my legs got like jelly so we took a 30 min lunch at the top of the first part. Then it was upward again, I had to stop now and then because of my back muscles. We ran out of water and had to clean some muddy water, the fabric coffee filter did not do the trick so we had to put a paper filter inside. We got the water light, not fully clean, but the cleaning drops made it drinkable. 18:00h We arrived at Confulencia. My head was spinning, but some water and food made everything OK. We put up our tent and waited for the others to arrive, Bo - Günther came 30min later and Linda - Anders 30min after that. All of us needed some rest before walking around the campsite. It was some 30 tents AND some nice looking babes to talk with.

Linda had been tired the whole day and felt a headache again, plus her feet got worse. Just when it started to get dark around 20:00h, the snow/rain started to fall so we called the night; I started to read my Spanish education book. We could see a thunderstorm over Aconcagua.



On our way



Park entre



Signing in



First lunch



Setting up tent

Aconcagua day 2 - Argentina

30 December 2001

07:30h After a night sleep it was 8C outside and a thin snow layer from the night. I had a conscious sleep which means I was not in a deep sleep. I went for the morning toilet it was just a hole in the ground with some plastic walls around. You had to stand up and do your thing, not what we are used to. The sun started to come up on the mountainside so it was a beautiful morning; the sun would reach the camp within 1h and warm it up. The mountain ranger's helicopter flew by six times in the early morning. It's only used at emergencies, we have not got any information, but I guess the thunderstorm we saw last night had its victims. 09:00h Had blueberry and havre flakes, did not taste that good.

Pär and I decided to take a look at the south side of Aconcagua, Linda wanted to join. Our route was the north side where we could walk to the top; the south side is lot of climbing. Linda had huge problems on her way up so Pär and I had to leave her at a big stone until we got back. She had almost no breath walking up hill and had to stay every 10 meters, I hope she re-cover to proceed with us. We ended up at 4020m and got some really good photos, the view was marvellous the whole day. We saw a small waterfall on our way down so we stopped to have a nude shower. I was the only one who showered in the melted snow water. The 2 other chickens just washed themselves lightly. 16:00 We got back into the camp, the others had just had a day relaxing and talking with people.

Linda was really tired and had altitude problems again, she wanted some closeness with Pär so she and I switched tent for a night.



Confulencia morning



Linda feet



Southside



Confulencia camp



Peter bath

DAY 07 / ARGENTINA

Aconcagua day 3 - Argentina

31 December 2001

07:00h The night has been OK, but still some conscious sleep. I heard the helicopter passing by early this morning. It's close to 0C out side, but 6C inside the tent, we will be lacy and stay in our sleeping bags until the sun reach the camp and heat everything up. After 2 nights in Confulencia, its time to move on to the next camp at Ibanez, 3600m. Today's walk started with a steep mountain and 250-altitude meters straight up. We got up on a plateau were we could see miles around us. It was slightly down hill to a large grass area were we had our morning snack break. After that a stone dessert over some 25km started, you could see around 8-10km ahead and than a corner with another 8-10km dessert and 3-4 km were the camp Ibanez was located.

We had to end the walk by crossing a river barefoot; it was a cold by nice experience after the hot day, 28C in the shadow. I understand how people feel trapped in the dessert without water and food you can easily die. 16:00h Pär and I arrived first at the camp. The camp was nothing, just stone and dirty water around. We spent 1h-cleaning water to get our dinner ready, risotto with mushrooms and cheese, nammm. Pär and I had a fairly easy walk today, while both Linda and Anders dragged them self through the dessert arriving 1.5h after us. They were really tired and both of them felt altitude problems. Bo and Günther had a really hard day; actually it was Bo who had a fever.

Pär got some fire in his ass (fungus) so he needed to go commando during the day and dip his vital part in the dirty river. It was cold and I guess he may catch some mule decease on his dronk, just joking. The water at Ibanez was just shit, we had to clean it for a long time before we could drink it. 19:50h Now its time to celebrate New Year, we decided to do that 20.00h Argentinean time. That's 24:00 in Sweden; we would never manage to be awake until midnight local time. We had brought some Argentinean champagne with us and will get 1.1dl per person and then its goodnight. I must thank Pär who carried the bottle the whole way. All of us were sleeping 10min after 20:00h.



Lunch grass



Linda needs a piss



Hot day



Dessert walk



Par fire ass



New year

DAY 08 / ARGENTINA

Aconcagua day 4 - Argentina

1 January 2002

07:30h I woke up after a slightly better sleep. We realised that it had been full moon the last nights, so it could be the reason why we slept light. Bo was still feeling sick so he and Günther decided to stay 1 extra day at Ibanez. 11:00h We started our walk toward the base camp; Plaza de Mulas. It started slowly upwards with another stone dessert at the end that was slightly upwards. We got to the end where there was a mountain wall of 100-altitude meters. We saw on the GPS that it was only 2km left to the camp, so we hurry up the wall to 4300m. Just to see that we HAD to go down 70- altitude meters and then up 150-altitude meters before reaching the camp. That was a killer; I had to rest every 20 meters while Pär just walked up with no problems.

The first things we see is 2 people half dragging another person to the doctor's tent. He has got altitude problems; the helicopter arrives some 20 minutes later to pick him up. 16.00h The base camp consists of

some 50-60 tents and restaurants. You have a very nice view over Aconcagua and the other mountains from the campsite. Linda and Anders were 1.5h after us, Pär had to go and meet them to carry Linda sack the last meters. We could see that Linda used her last 10% to reach the camp; she had non-what so ever energy left. We helped Anders to setup the tent and get in order while Linda rested. We decided that we should buy dinner in one of the restaurants, we got a small piece of bad meat, egg and mashed potato for US\$46 for 4 people. I must say it was worth it.

18:00 A thunderstorm went in over the camp with lot of snow, at least 20 cm over night. We just started to feel what would come the next days. We got all our equipment in order and went outside to look at the storm. It looked really hard up at Nido, the camp at 5500m, it would not be fun to sleep there the coming night. I had no problems in my Canadian goose jacket; jumpy and warm. It's now used for what its supposed to, not some up-nosed Stockholm people who want to be hip in a 0C environment. I'm now stuffed down in my goose sleeping bag with silk sheet and goose socks. I guess I'm ready for the night; it's already -7C in the tent and much colder outside.

Both Linda and Anders had a hard day, Anders starting to develop a flue and Linda with continuing altitude and feet problems. Linda start to blame Pär for dragging her into this, It was her own free will to come along.



Tent at ibanez



Mule



Par enjoy



Arriving mulaspg



Rest at mulas



Snowstorm

DAY 09 / ARGENTINA

Aconcagua day 5 - Argentina

2 January 2002

10:00h A lazy resting day at Plaza de Mulas, not much happens. The visits to the toilet is not the daily highlight, but the smell is less now when there is snow and cold. We did some reading, walking around the camp in slow motion, you loose your breath as soon as you move around. Our bodies need to adapt to the altitude, so the resting day is good. Bo and Günther arrived 15:00h, their day had gone OK and Bo looking better. As usual some snowstorm arrived in the afternoon. We went to bed at 21.00. Anders had started to talk about going down due to his flue, and take a flight home to Sweden as soon as possible. We suspect it's more of missing his love in Sweden than actually the flue .



Par peter tent



Better weather



Pee in nature



Toilett

Aconcagua day 6 - Argentina

3 January 2002

09:00h We decided to have another resting day due to the weather. The storm continues over Nido, which means that we can be stuck at Plaza Canada 5070m for several days. There is no protection from the wind at that place, it's better to stay in base camp and take a acclimatization trip to Canada carrying food, gasoline and 1 tent. It's always better to sleep on a lower altitude. Anders has decided to go down tomorrow and take a bus to Santiago for some days before returning to Sweden. His flue and throat problem has increased and he spitted some blood. It's hard to say if it's dangerous, but it's stupid to take any risks at this altitude. It's important to check and listen to your body; if you force it to hard you may get permanent injuries or die.

We have also started to have sleeping problems due to high altitude. You need to get rid of CO2 in huge amounts. When you go to sleep your breath slows down as it does on low altitude and you almost choke and wake up chipping for your breath. Last night was the first night I felt it and I thought I was dying; it took some 5 minutes before I got enough oxygen to feel OK. I half slept the rest of the night. 16:00h Now it's time to clean up and change underwear for the first time in several days. I have bought "Pampers baby cleaning" paper, that's a hit getting clean and not freeze in cold water. Another snowstorm is moving in again, but we have already made everything ready to go to Plaza Canada in the morning.

Linda will move in with Pär and me now when Anders leaving in the morning. She really starts to have second thoughts about this, staying with 2 smelly guys in a tent up to 8 more days. We who use pee-bottles at night and fart; you get lot of gases at high altitude.



Bo cleaning tent



Par linda



Linda sun

DAY 11 / ARGENTINA

Aconcagua day 7 - Argentina

4 January 2002

08:00h We woke up with a snow and thunderstorm. We had to stay in the base camp the whole day, playing card. All of us started to get board and laugh at everything; farts, names, stories, etc. One fun thing was that Pär had fungus; 1 day later Anders got it and the Linda. How did that happened? Linda and Pär are a couple, but Linda and Anders share the tent!?! The storm forced Anders to stay another day at Plaza de Mulas. 19:00h The storm has just ended and the sun is coming up, the light is incredible. Hopefully we will go up to Plaza Canada in the morning. It's boring just to be in a tent a whole day, but very good for acclimatization.



Peter drink



Light over acon



Light

DAY 12 / ARGENTINA

Aconcagua day 8 - Argentina

5 January 2002

08:00h Woke up with a nice weather. Anders said goodbye and started his trip back. We started our day trip toward Plaza Canada at 5070m. The trip up went very easy for me, I was just jumping and half running up. Linda had another really hard day walking slowly and breathing like a hippo. Pär and Linda took it very slow, when they arrived at our lunch stop some 40min later. Linda was breathing heavily, almost throwing up, having hallucinations and talking like a drunk. She will not go any higher; Pär will take her down directly after lunch. Bo, Günther and I continued up to Plaza Canada. Günther saw a shortcut uphill, that he suggested we should take, I rushed up while the others rested. Then I saw Bo and Günther talking with some people and taking the long way up.

I arrived around 30min before them and had a nice rest looking out over the mountaintops. When they finally arrive, I asked why they did not take the same way as me, the people they talked with said that way was used to go down it was to step to go up, thanks for the extra exercise. 14.00h We decided to go down, but try

a shortcut on the other side of Plaza Canada. We went down some 50-altitude meters on the right side and ended up at a step. We had to go up again, phuu. On the way down my left knee started to hurt, at the end I could hardly walk, I had to use my walking sticks as left leg. When I came down tired and with a hurting knee, Pär and Linda had talked about the day, she still wanted to try to reach the top.

Pär suggestion to me was that we would carry some of her stuff. I got a half breakout being tired and said no way, each one carry their own stuff. It's very hard to go up, you need to minimize the weight as much as possible. The chances to get to the top are 1-of-6 so putting more weight is not the way to get there. 18:00h Linda did a control and her verdict was that I have problems going downhill and may destroy something inside if I force it any more. This means that I can go uphill, but have serious problems getting down. This could be life threatening if there comes a storm when we approaching the top. I would not be able to go down quick enough to get protection. Our final decision on what to do will be tomorrow evening.



Up acon



Canada



View canada

DAY 13 / ARGENTINA

Aconcagua day 9 - Argentina

6 January 2002

09:00h The weather is totally amazing, you can reach the top the whole day, and normally it's only a window between 11:00-14:00. My knee is still hurting, but I got one knee protection so we will see if that helps. I still want to go up. Current status, Linda and I rest while Pär goes to Nido to take some pictures, if he's happy with this we will go down tomorrow and have 2 extra weeks in Chile with sun and beaches. If not, we will go up and I put a bandage around my knee on the way down and hope it works. I don't feel like I have failed the top, I made over 5000m and had really good condition, I regret I did not continue up yesterday. I could have gone to Nido and back.

It's my knee downhill that causes the problems, worse case I would be stuck on the mountain in a storm and, second have to do a operation when I get down. Non of the alternatives are fun. Even if I get up to the top and down to Plaza de Mulas again, I have some 40km down to Punta de Inca, which would be in pain. It's a

shame it has gone so easy up to 5070m, if we had carried all stuff with us and continued up, I would never have felt the problem until it was time to go down from the top. Pär is back and discussing forward and back if he should go up. I said I could bandage my knee and try. Linda started to say that if we go she would go.

Both Pär and I realized that she would never make it, so he started to get his stomach feeling that something bad would happen if we tried. The next suggestion was that he teamed up with Bo and Günther while Linda and I went down, but we did not think they had the capacity to reach the top. Our final decision is to go down in the morning and not risk anything. This is the right decision even thus it feels sad right now. The helicopter comes up several times a day to pick up people with frostbite, height sickness and some dead ones. Time to go to bed, I hope my knee works down to Punta de Inca.



Sunny day



Peter in sun

DAY 14 / ARGENTINA

Aconcagua day 10 - Last day - Argentina

7 January 2002

06:00h Woke up early with a nice sunrise. The camp has not woke-up yet; everybody waits for the sun to heat up the tents. It's still -10C, but it will go up to 20C as soon as the sun is here. Pär, Linda and I preparing to go down today, we will send all our stuff with the mules, just carrying water and some lunch. Bo and Günther prepare to start their trip toward the top, they have all our food to choose from. They will not have any lack of food the coming days. A short goodbye and we are on our way. I start directly to feel my knee down hill, but it's not as painful as 2 days ago. I just take it slowly and it works OK. Linda started to get tired already after 2 km and her feet's looking really bad with huge blisters, only some 38km left.

She had to stay every 2-3 km to change blister protection. She had to walk backward the last 4 km downhill; Pär and I could not do anything. Each person has to walk by them self; it's not possible to carry a person on this ground. We offered her to jump on a mule, but she said no. Pär had to take her walking sticks in one end and drag her the last 2 km, while she was crying and hardly could walk. The first thing she said when they arrived at the Rangers house was " I would sell my body, just to get a ride to the hotel". The walk was 40 km and it took us 9h, normally it's around 6h. We did not have the option to stay at one of the camps over night due to the fact that we sent everything with the mules.

We ended up at the Hosteria at Punta de Inca, with a nice shower and good steak.



Morning light



Downhill



Statue



Muleman



Linda hardtime



Dirty water



CHAPTER 03

Chile

Day 15 · 8 January 2002 · Punta de Inca / Santiago - Chile

Punta de Inca / Santiago - Chile

8 January 2002

09:00h Had a super night sleep at the Hosteria. It's time to pack the last things and catch a bus to Santiago. Rude Parra the mule guy down us to the customhouse where we could stop a bus. Linda tried to get us on the first bus, but she returned really angry. The driver had talked to her and gesticulated a lot ending up touching her breast several times. The second bus was better; we got onboard after some paperwork at the Argentinean boarder. After 1 h drive it was time for Chile boarder control. It took some 1.5 hours; they emptied the whole bus and scanned all luggages for food and other illegal things. Then there was step down hill on serpentine roads all the way to Santiago.

15:00h We got off at the central station, where we took a bus directly to Restaurant Marle, a place owned by some friend to Linda's parents. We got a warm welcome and were offered to stay in the empty apartment above the restaurant. We gladly said yes and we had a place to store our mountain stuff, we would not need any of that at the beaches. We started by walking around the city, it reminds me of New York in some way. First stop a barbershop to get a haircut and shave with old fashion barber knives. It was really nice after 2 weeks of non-shaving. 22:00h We got invited to go out for dinner with Eugene (speaks Norwegian), his wife Marianne and daughter Daniella and friends (only Spanish). Daniella looks really good after 10 days on a mountain.

Actually, I would look after her at any time, she is an aerobic teacher with long dark hair and blue eyes at least 1.75m high. They took us to a party area called "Suezia" (Sweden) that's the main area to go out at night. It was like coming into a party zone with bars, restaurants and discos everywhere. After a "mojito" at bar "La Habana", we went to a place that felt like a Swedish folkdance place, but with Chile music. We got some barbeque and good wine. 4 friends of Daniella arrived, one of which called Monica how lived in Köln. My first thought of her way of dressing was that she was a stripper or hooker in Köln, but she's a hairdresser. She talked German so Pär had a chance to practice his German.

She got interested in me after Pär in German try to sell me in, but she is so very much NOT my type. After the restaurant, Linda, Eugene and Marianne went home to sleep leaving Pär and me with 4 girls to party with. We went back to Suezia and a disco/bar who played techno!!!! mixed with Latino music. We stayed out dancing until 04.00h before we went home at 05:00h. I must say that sweds; tall and blond are popular here. There was 2 girls on the dance floor just focusing to get Pär's and my attention, but they did not approach when the other girls were around, which they were all the time. Still, Daniella was good looking, but hitting on our hosts daughter is not right, so I left that where it was along with keeping Monica at a distance.

Even thus Pär did everything to "sell" me to her, that's friends.



Peter Linda



Curvy road



Shaving



Dinner



Par dance

DAY 16 / CHILE

Santiago - Chile

9 January 2002

08:00h 3 hours of sleep, some of us more dead than others. We started the day by going to the Internet shop and got a message from Anders who stays at Hotel "Estadio Nacional", we went there to leave a message. Linda continues to have feet problems, so we looked for a taxi back. Went to get some clothes, it's really cheap in this country, but they have this Latino design with high waist. It's like pulling your pants half the way up over your stomach, with your balls on each side. I will continue to look for a normal pair in La Sarena. That's the place we going to by the night bus leaving 23:45 arriving 06:30 the morning after. It was some 13 500 pesos, very cheap for a nights ride of 450 km.

We also got a phone contact with Anders who decided to go home as quick as possible; he's in love. He will try to get last minute seat everyday until he gets home. It would have been fun to have him with us to La Sarena. Now it's time to get some food and take the night bus .



Par hangover



Santiago

DAY 17 / CHILE

La Sarena - Chile

10 January 2002

07:00h Slept well on the bus, Linda had to wake me up. We arrived at a cloudy place with lot of hotel sales people. We said OK to one of them and he took us down to the beach and a hotel. We did not like the place, but we found a bungalow just around the corner for US\$75 per night, 2 rooms, one with a double bed and 1 with 2 singles. That's not much divided on 3 people. We will start here and buy up if we find something better on the way. It's actually a nice place, but we don't have control of the bar area yet. Did some shopping; nice pants SEK 200, boxers SEK 50, shirt SEK 50. I guess we survive. We also bought breakfast and wine a nice combination. By the way the weather is cloudy, but hot so we get tanned anyway.

We should not talk about the water, it's only 20C when the air is 27C compared to Santiago's 36C. Hopefully it will get better in some days. 13:00h Now it's time to rent a combo cycle to go down the beach and find the right restaurants and discos. We got some bicycles and went down the whole beach, we found out that we stayed in the place were it all happens, but normally it's mostly Argentinean tourists and they can't afford coming this year. I guess it will be very calm the coming weeks. Pär and I met 2 Swedish girls while Linda was sleeping; they studied in Santiago for 6 months. Tove is a "babe" who likes languages; English, French, Spanish, and next Russian.

Linda continues to have feet problems and the heat gives her more and more problems, she just want to be in the shadow and sleep a lot. 21:00h It's now time to get some dinner and see what the night has to offer. We found "Pub el Papayo" and had one OK fish dinner and several drinks, so we got very dizzy. On our look around during the day we found disco "Kamikaze", the best disco according to locals, but the average age was around 18 so we took a walk home by some bars. We also decided to check for some flight to Lima, Peru to walk the Inca trail for 3-4 days. Our guess is that it will cost some US200 extra to do, some local travel agencies must have information, but that's for tomorrow.



Bungalow



Largebed

La Sarena - Chile

11 January 2002

Linda finally got a small "a" in her book. She was able to take a shit after 12 days of nothing. I found out that she did not like the hole toilets at Aconcagua and did not want to go, this stopped up her stomach and she did not drop anything for 12 days. I guess this did not help up the rest of her problems, girls girls... Now it's time to find some other friends to Linda's family, these ones has also a restaurant. I had enough with my Spanish education book, so I will buy Harry Potter in Spanish and try that one out. I will learn some basic Spanish before I go back to Europe. 15:00h Went for lunch and a beach walk and then it were time for the pool. We decided to look at some movies on TV before going out for dinner.

Linda is very scared for movies like "The Haunted House" and that one was on, so we had to see it. Pär and I could hardly move without Linda jumping high. Pär and I had a blast just making small noises all the time, making Linda scream. 22:00h We went for another fish dinner with "Ostrones à Parmensan" and beef in pili-pili. The bar had also a cover band that played all songs ½ tone faster than normal. Pär and Linda went home at 23:30h, while I decided to take a look around and see all the places along the beach. I went by the bar toward the discos and al were half full with people just sitting down, not the place to just drop in and start to know people. Passed by all discos on the disco street, either to little people or to young.

I decided to try "La Chemere", were the music was techno. The place was very dark; you could hardly see the girls faces who were really young or drunk. I decided to try "Casino la Playa", everybody was older and just focusing on playing; 1 guy lost 1 500 000 pesos in 20 minutes, SEK 25 000 and continuing loosing when I left. 1 500 000 pesos, that's 1 year salary for may people in Chile. Passed by some more pubs on my way home, at last I found a fun place close to our bungalow. Lot of people dancing, but still sitting at the tables in between dances. It should be an OK place if you eat and dance. I will go there with Pär and Linda tomorrow.



Par linda love

La Sarena - Chile

12 January 2002

The same as usual in La Sarena cloudy when we wake up and it goes until 14:00 before it's sunny. We decided to go to the centre to find Lonely Planet for Peru and Chile, some books and travel cost to Peru and finally Linda's friends' restaurant. We went around in the centre, lot of different shops but no Lonely Planet. It lives some 200-300 thousand people in this area. 13:00h Time for lunch; the restaurant sales people were crazy, screaming at each other and dragging in us. We got feed up and left them for a small local pub around the corner. We found out that a trip to "Easter Island" would cost US\$670 and Lima US\$255, so we will go for Lima. We just have to wait for Bo and Günther to arrive in Santiago.

We went home to relax before dinner, Linda fell to sleep and at 23:00 she was deadly tired and did not want to join for dinner. Pär had bought some underwear called "Kaiser", which Linda hated and we were teasing hear with them all the time and we had to take a picture for the future. Pär in Kaiser and I in some leopard woman tanga. 24:00h Pär and I had to go out by ourselves; we went for "Club Paradiso" the place I saw yesterday. We found that this was a super place for eating and dancing. We had a big "Tournedos", beer, wine and drinks it was really good. At 01:30 it started to drop in babes all over the place with some real good looking ones. The only problem we had was language hardly anyone speaks English. We were more spectators looking around than taking part.

The staff came all the time asking us, why we did not dance with the girls. In the end a tall girl and her friend got my and Pär's attention and we danced all nightlong. We got our communication running on a combination of Spanish, English and French. It's fun and I get more Spanish into it everyday. Andrea, her friend and I left the place 05:30h, Pär had left for Linda at 04:00, good guy. Linda has not been sleeping while we were out, due to something scratching on the wall; she was still scared from the movie last night. We went for another bar down the street, but it was "kindergarten", so I ended up driving them home in a taxi to the next city.



Peter par beach



Kaiser



Kaiser par

DAY 20 / CHILE

La Sarena - Chile

13 January 2002

I stayed lazy in bed until 12:00, Pär and Linda trying not to disturb, toeing around in the bungalow. We had breakfast/lunch, Pär and Linda left for the beach leaving us to take a shower and get down to the beach. Talked to Andrea from the other night and, we decided to meet at the pool at 17:00 to get some sun, dinner. Pär, Linda and I decided to leave for Santiago the next morning and get tickets to Lima as soon as we got contact with Bo and Günther. We may take a 2-day trip to Valparaiso outside Santiago when we wait for them. Linda bugging me for the condoms I brought up on Aconcagua, they must have frozen a part and I will get a Chile Peter running around, it would not happen. Finally I got fungus between my toes.

Andrea did not show-up for the pool, but she left a message telling that her mother had Sunday dinner ready, so she could not come until later. We had lunch at the beach; grilled chicken, Pär and Linda got the rush. Linda's weeks of dumping problems was over, her rear was like a rocket engine. I guess they got a string of salmonella; I did not feel a thing. On top of her rocket engine, she had burned her self in the sun, red and hurting all over. In the night we went back to "Playa Paradiso" for the Tournedos and some drinks, the servants was so nice the whole night, we could not really understand why. We did not eat a lot and just tipped 10% as we did the night before.

Andrea called at 01:00, she was sad she missed our date, but she could meet up at 02:00 in a bar close to the bungalow. I told her that we may leave in the morning, but she wanted to meet up for a drink so I did. I guess I can sleep on the bus back to Santiago. They had to postpone their Zorro play for the moment, Pär doing the Z with his sword.... They got to share the single bed for activities. The single beds have thin wood in the bottom so it will be fun to see were this goes.



Linda red



Singlebed

DAY 21 / CHILE

La Sarena - Chile

14 January 2002

Dead tired, we checked the Internet if Bo and Günther had arrived; nothing, we decided to stay another night before going to Santiago. They should come Monday or Tuesday according to our schedule. We got our bus tickets leaving Tuesday 15/1 - 13:30. We will stay max 1-2 nights in Santiago before going to Lima, the latest leaving Friday. If Bo and Günther want to join, we could go to Valparaiso for some days while they get some sleep. Andrea had to work between 18:00-23:00 so we decided to have dinner after midnight. We met at 00:30 and went in direction of Coquimbo, we found that everything was closed due to lack of Argentinean tourists.

We had to take a taxi toward La Sarena, we found a fish restaurant where we had a big fish plate and white wine, watching out over the ocean, romantico.. I found out why we had got this good serving at "Playa

Paradiso". Pär and I had tipped 10% on our bill, normally the servants did not get anything or just 100-200 pesos, we had given 8 000 the first day and 5 000 the second day its only some SEK 80-110 for a full dinner. But it's a day's salary for the servants. We were also discussing Andrea's studies, she was just finalizing her accounting studies and the University and will now continue in a specialized institute for advanced accounting.

She will also get a permanent access to E-mail, so I guess we will have E-mail contact in the future were I write Spanish and she English. She also told me that she has a daughter of 8 years old, but she lives with Andrea's relatives in Santiago, she only visit her daughter at school vacations. Andrea was only 17 teen when she got her, she will start to take care of her daughter when she finished her studies within 2 years, the father is not in the picture, just calling now and then, no cash help there. It's very common in South America that young girls get pregnant, due to no sex education in schools; their families end up raising the kids. Lima, Peru is next.



Lazy at bungalow



P I beach

DAY 22 / CHILE

La Sarena / Santiago - Chile

15 January 2002

09:30h I woke up and had a shower and then breakfast with Pär and Linda. The first thing we found was Linda sleeping on the floor, her bed had broken, what did they do during the night?!? Linda claimed that she fell through when she turned, my conclusion is that Pär and her tried the Zorro act and broke the bed. We dropped by the Internet shop, still nothing from Bo and Günther!?!? My brother Thomas was actually online, he has it's birthday today, it was fun to chat from the other side of the world. He found out that messenger is a good tool to keep contact. Finally "Vimsemajan" Mia, as she called her self, got a mail through. It will be fun to start to know her again after, not have seen her in I think 5 years. On to the bus and 6 boring hours on a bus.

19:30h Back in Santiago, Bo and Günther had left a message on Pär's GSM, we should met them at Plaza de Armas. They succeeded to reach the top, it was cold like "hell" according to them, but they got up and down without injuries. 21:00h We needed to celebrate this, so we went for Suezia to drink and have dinner. 4 guys and 4 Long Island Ice Tea later equals 1 sober pissed Linda and 4 drunken guys in Santiago. Linda dragged a drunk Pär home, who did not want to leave his beer. They arrived home at 04:00 and he told her that someone must stay awake to let me in when I came back, just said that and he was sleeping.

I got back 07:30 after a long and expensive taxi journey who cost 15 000 pesos, the normal was 5 000 pesos, they try to rip you off at all chances and I was not in the state to argue in Spanish. I did not want to walk in central Santiago at this time. What else, Bo lost one glass in his eyeglasses and then thrown out by the guards.



Party1



Party2



Party3



Party5



Party6



Party7

DAY 23 / CHILE

Santiago - Chile

16 January 2002

Major hangover!!!! Linda was pissed on all of us. We spent the day walking around Santiago and checking for trips to Peru. Our conclusion was that it would be too expensive, just the flight would be US\$575 because of late flight day. We will once again change our plans, we will tomorrow night take the bus down to Pucon some 650 km south of Santiago. Pucon is a lake area that is supposed to be very beautiful. We also met 9 other Swedish people who had been at Aconcagua all drinking Coca-Cola, due to hangovers from the day before, they had been in the same area as we, but we missed them. Of the 14 people around the table 7 reached the top, that much better than the average. Tonight its early in bed to get some real sleep for a change.



Hangover

DAY 24 / CHILE

Santiago - Chile

17 January 2002

Nothing special happened this day. We got our tickets to Pucon, did some tourist activities; visited "Santa Lucia", saw "Lord of the Rings" and headed for the night bus to Pucon.



Sleep1



Sleep2

DAY 25 / CHILE

Pucon - Chile

18 January 2002

06:15h The bus driver woke us up with breakfast. We came into Pucon a small nice town with a lake and live Vulcano; the some coming out in the top. It's a town mostly made in timber style. We had breakfast at "La Terea" a small nice place with the best breakfast so far in Chile. Some discussion if we should head for some small mountain place directly or stay 1-2 nights in Pucon, we stay in the centre for a while. Some bugging around the table about girls, points, wanting own rooms, tired of travel companions, etc, most caused by bad sleep on the bus. After a short look around and trying to get some dog of our tail, we found a small Hostel were we got 3 rooms. It should be 5000 pesos per person, but as we are 5 I got the suggestion to take a small room on the base floor.

There was a double room next to the others; I got a good price of 8000 pesos per night for my own double bed. It had a nice view over the mountains. 13:00h The beach is small with black lava sand, hot like hell, but the water is cold, clear and clean. Pär thinks it's too cold, that winy. We had a terrible lunch, Cesar salad without the dressing, when we asked they were like question marks "should there be dressing on the salad?" We ended up with some Rode Island type sauce, yeah... Pär got some rocket action 2 hours after lunch; it was not the best quality. Pär and Linda went home to bed after lunch, she continues to have real problems with the heat. Bo, Günther and I cruised the city and had some beers and coffee.

We also bought a rafting trip for tomorrow at 13:00 in the upper part of the river. It's supposed to be 3-4 on the river scale, we will see if it's some action or not. Pucon consists mostly of backpackers at this time doing rafting, Volcano trips, etc. We will see tonight if there is some fun and action here. Pär and Linda has decided to have the night by themselves, Linda needs a break from us. I hope they get a romantic night at the seaside. We went for dinner and tried some bars, but it was quiet so we were home in bed at 02:00.



Puconvolcano



Pucon breakfast



Pucon dogs



Pucon bad

DAY 26 / CHILE

Pucon - Chile

19 January 2002

11:00h Woke up late and had lunch directly on our way to the rafting. We had some problems with the driver and got away late. The rafting itself was fun, but not too special, only 2 waterfalls of 4 meters and us getting wet. We should have gone for the "Camel Tour" run. Spent some time at the beach and discussing what to do next, warm springs, continue to Puerto Mott in the far south of Chile, horse riding, Valparaiso, wine yards and Volcano trips. Pär and Linda will do the Volcano in the morning and we check the other alternatives during the late afternoon. Puerto Mott is out, it will take 5 days just to get down and back, and we don't have that time left. 22:00h Pär and Linda went to bed due to their early Volcano trip.

Bo, Günther and I went for dinner at 01:00; Bo had enough and went to bed. Günther and I went to the bar "Mamas & Tapas" and a 10cl cariprisma (Lemon and Ron). Then it was time for action at disco "Kamikaze",

they had a "hardhouse" (techno) room where we spent most of the night dancing. We spent some 3 hours on the dance floor, left totally wet. I must say, Günther surprised and danced for 3 hours. We went around looking at some babes, but the age was around 20 or less, so it was just looking. There was this "goddess" dancing; mulatto, long dark hair, white top, brown eyes and perfect body, BUT only around 18, so it was just looking again. 05:30 They closed Kamikaze, boring home to bed.

We got home at 06:00, Pär and Linda had to wake up at 06:30, we were tempted to wake them up, but we figured out that Linda would not have been too happy.



Rafting1



Rafting2



Pucon

DAY 27 / CHILE

Pucon - Chile

20 January 2002

09:00h I was feeling OK. Bo, Günther and I went for lunch and checking busses to Valpariso and horse riding. The horse riding is for 4h starting next to the airport. I guess it will just be around the close mountain area in standard tracks, no adventure. I will probably skip that and have a club night instead, after our planned hot-spring night between 21.00-01.00. I got a mail from Lars; he will arrive in Rio Feb. 13 and travel around until March 10. I will think about extending my stay another month. I will take the decision around Feb. 5 or 6, when I feel my status of long travelling. Linda is very sensitive about how we travel; it must be comfortable "cama" busses and as short travel time as possible. It's a bus where you can make the seat a bed and sleep OK.

As a joke we told Linda that we booked a "classico" for her and Pär going directly to Valpariso, while we chosen a "cama" passing by Santiago, but with 3 hour more travel time Linda got really "NOT" want to, but we gave them the old tickets and it took Pär 2h before he saw we tricked them and he laugh and asked us to keep up the joke for Linda. We will see how many +++ he and we will have after this. Bo, Günther and I got our tickets to Valpariso, while Pär and Linda will have another romantic night in Pucon, (I guess Linda is in desperate need of some love and get a break from us) before coming up to us. 20:00h We met up at the mini

bus and went for the hot springs "Los Torones" some hot spring. The driver drove like a crazy, but we got there.

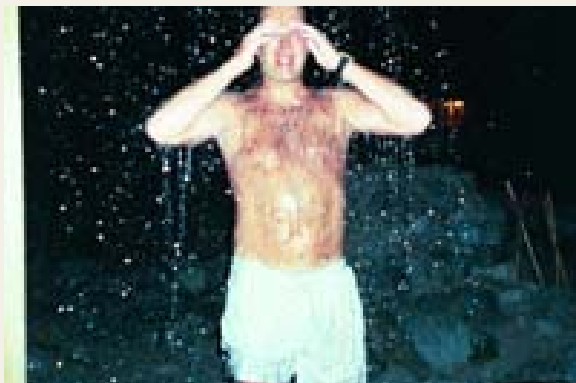
It was some 6-8 small "man made" springs, it was supposed to be natural. Anyhow it was really hot and nice, we combined it by jumping in to the cold river. This is a place to spend some hours with a girl, so we missed that part. The sky was dark with thousands of stars accompanied with some small lights above the hot springs. The owners should have a crash course in how to light things up and make it really romantic. We passed by Kamikaze on the way back, but it was too little people, so I decided to sleep instead.



Pucon hotspring1



Pucon hotspring2



Pucon hotspring3

DAY 28 / CHILE

Pucon - Chile

21 January 2002

10:00h Bo got some real rocket along with fever, so he stayed in bed, no horse riding. The others went for horse riding while I went for the beach for some sun and bath. Must say it's probably more beautiful things to look at on the beach than in the forest. Now it's time to draft a business plan for my and Pär's London project. One comment from Günther after the horse riding was "were do you place your balls during a galop". I guess his balls had some hard time bumping toward the saddle. They are now blue, red and yellow according to his own story, we said no to have a look. We had some "Shize" kebab before leaving for Santiago in our "cama" bus. The only problem was that the driver was turning on and off the light inside the bus until 24:00h.

We got some good sleep after that woke up at 06:00h still 1.30h left to Santiago.



Bo tanga



Horse3



Horse1



Horse2

DAY 29 / CHILE

Vina del Mar / Renaca - Chile

22 January 2002

07:30h We had a smooth transfer to the next bus 07:55 to Vina del Mar. Directly when we arrived several people gave us suggestion of hotels 3-4 blocks from the beach, but it was nothing we really liked. We decided to take a local bus to "Renaca" a small town just outside Vina del Mar. We found our "Nilhaue" hotel with a balcony and view of the ocean. The sun was not really present, but as in La Sarena it would be there in the afternoon. Both Günther and I had some sun oil on so it should give us a tan, Günther got somewhat read within an hour. Disappointing, we just found out that alcohol is forbidden on the beach, just Coca-Cola, boring!!! We who like to have a beer and look at babes on the beach. The alcohol area starts on the other side of the main road.

We decided to stay 1 night to see what this has to offer. I got an E-mail from Andrea asked if I would pass by La Sarena, it would be fun but it's to little time. We should keep mail contact and perhaps I pass by Chile another time. Günther and I are on our balcony viewing the ocean along with some beers. 22:00h Renaca by night is not the hottest place to be, after a sushi dinner it was time to got to bed for Bo and Günther. I decided to try the whole coast area, I started by local bus to Valparaiso, were I jumped of at a square close to Avenue Ecuador. I started by being chased by a dog over the square. The party street was OK, but no people. You can see this street like a harbour town street, I got the feeling of ruff Amsterdam places with bars and discos combined.

Could be fun when it's Friday or Saturday, the rest of Valparaiso is really ruff, not a place to go by night. 01:00h Took the bus to Vina del Mar, it's a place with much higher class especially around the casino area, several bars with higher class than in Santiago, but still few people around. I continued back to Renaca and the Kamikaze disco. It was the same as in the other towns, but a couple older babes, I got contact with a Argentinean babe and took here to the dance floor. It went OK until we started to talk, she spoke no English and I mean no English, we ended up laughing and she picked up her friend who spoke English as a translator.

It ended up with her and me friend flirting and dancing until I went home at 05:00. I must learn Spanish to be on this continent.



Renaca1



Renaca2



Renaca3

DAY 30 / CHILE

Renaca - Chile

23 January 2002

10:00h Got some short sleep before Pär and Linda arrived and woke us up. They have been travelling the whole night, got a bus with no blankets and full of scout kids. Pär had been on the beach the whole day yesterday, but still whiter than me. I made a decision, if no one goes out tonight; I'm going to La Sarena where there is some party. Pär promised he would join tonight, this gang is the sleepest ones I have been with. We started the afternoon by some tourist activities in Valparaíso, it was not much to see so we went back to spend some time on the beach, lot of things to look at, dark girls with nice bodies. Bo and Linda went home while Günther, Pär and I went to the "Heineken" bar drinking 5 after beach beers. Pär talked about his "stomach" feeling and Aconcagua.

He also popped that he had several insurances; one english covering internal damages up to £ 75 000. Our big laugh was then if this insurance would cover his "stomach" feeling, hi hi hi hi. 21:00h We went for dinner at Con-Con another small town close, it was also a dead place, but we got some food. Pär then passed going out even thus he made me stay in Renaca instead of going to La Sarena. He's getting old and tired, plus I think Linda has her influences on him!!! I will go to La Sarena in the morning, it feels like I'm out travelling with "PRO", these guys eat and sleeps more than they are awake. All places are mostly empty; we have been told that February is the month with most people. Still its strange there are several thousand people on the beaches each day.

I guess it's not a tradition to go for after beach or out to bars. Anyhow I'm going to La Sarena in the morning for 3 days before going back to Santiago to meet the others. The its of to Rio de Janeiro, but Saturday night in Santiago will be hard my flight leaves at 07:45 so I need to be at the airport 05:45. I guess it will be directly

from the restaurant/bar to my flight.



Renaca5



Renaca4



Valpariso2

DAY 31 / CHILE

Vina del Mar / La Sarena - Chile

24 January 2002

09:00h The weather is not the best so I will go to La Sarena. I called Andrea at 09:15 to confirm that I coming there for 3 days. I went for the bus station and I had to wait for 2,5 h for the first bus. Started by a walk around Vina del Mar to get some local feeling, it's a nice town with lot of small shops. 12:30h I'm finally on my way to La Sarena, it will take some 6-7 hours. Pär will get ahead with his suntan today, some 5 hour more than me, humm. But he will not get any sun tomorrow and I will so I should stay ahead in the tan competition. I should not care due to my coming 16 days in Rio. The bus trip goes slow, stops in almost every city on the way; La Calera, Limari, its better to go by night and sleep away the hours.

20:45h I got a bungalow at El Palmar, the same place as we had before, but this time only paying \$45 per night. Ooopss, the whole bungalow just trembles from a small earthquake. A swim in the pool and shower before going out with Andrea and her friends.



Valparaiso

DAY 32 / CHILE

La Sarena - Chile

25 January 2002

10:00h Had some breakfast and then of shopping, the weather was not the best as usual before 14:00h. Andrea bought "Dj Mendez" who is popular in Chile, they are playing his music at all bars around, "Estocolmo" is her favourite. We went in to the centre to visit Andreas work "do Brazil", it's a place she works part-time to finance her studies. Then out of nowhere, it's a parade of musicians dressed in mid-century clothes, around 100 of them. The same kind of musicians who sang the first nigh we were at La Sarena, they could not sing and was just a pain to have in the restaurant. We then went by the "Japanese Garden", a very beautiful place. 01:00h We went for Toledos for some "Ostriones a la Parmensan" and white wine "Don Isadora".

Then it was time for "Camancha" a discotheque for people in our age, not like kindergarden "kamikaze". It was not full the best day is Thursdays. At "Camancha", I got a rush in my stomach; the "Ostriones" was not in the best shape. At the toilet I found out there was no paper. I had to sacrifice my underwear to clean my behind, oh I had to go commando for the rest of the night. I went home to bed at 05:00, I had actually 3 hours sleep this night, and the days get totally turned up side down.



Andrea1



Andrea2



Andrea3

DAY 33 / CHILE

La Sarena - Chile

26 January 2002

09:00h Woke up dead tired and getting ready to checkout at 12:00. I took the bus to "Quinboue" and had 1 hour of walking around in the fish market. Quinboue is not as beautiful as La Sarena, it's a harbour and fish city. The fish market was interesting with all kinds of fishes and smells; the place was also crowded with pelicans on rows waiting for leftovers. 13:45h I said bye to Andrea and on my way to Santiago for the last night in Chile for this time. I wonder what Pär and the others have planned for tonight. I need to be at the airport 05:45 and they will do anything to give me a hangover and not sleeping. We have promised our hosts that we will bring them out for dinner. 20:15h I arrived at the apartment; the others just arrived from a day with our hosts.

They had a big lunch, with all kinds of local food. We got changed and went for the "Bellavista area for dinner. The feeling was directly; "This is our kind of bars" We went to a jazz bar with movie theme. We had Carpaccio, cariprisima and fajitas it was very good. I tried to pay with my Visa, but it said no, I have to check what the problem is. We cruised the area and dropped into a club with live music, we passed a disco on our way home and decided to go in for 1 hour. 02:15h Had enough of this, only 3.30h before I has to be at the airport. I will at least get 2h sleep before leaving, bummer it won't happen. There is some bubbles in my stomach and I sweet like hell. I don't know if that was the food from today or a reaction from yesterday's fish.

Anyhow I had to go to the toilet and put the fingers down to get all out. I felt better directly and got 1h sleep before going to the airport. Remarks from the night: Bo is really a party animal, WHEN you get him into a place. It was "no" go home to sleep, but we dragged him in to the disco and 10min later he was dancing like a crazy. I wonder I Pär become a "toffel"? It was "no" I go to sleep and looked at Linda who were on her way home and said "no" We were teasing him and he finally said yes, hihi. Must say that both Bo and Günther are hard to get out, BUT as soon as they get there they having a blast.



Andrea5



Hosts



Party bellavista



CHAPTER 04

Rio

Day 34 · 27 January 2002 · Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

27 January 2002

05:20h Got down to the pre-ordered taxi-bus that should be at the door at 05:20h. 05:30h no bus so I got into a taxi paying 8 000 pesos instead of 3 500 pesos, but I had to get to the airport in a rush. I was there 20min later, just to find that I had to wait in line for 1:30h to check in. I got onboard and feel to sleep again. Landed in São Paulo 3:40h later dropping some people off before continuing to Rio. 14:00h Arrived at Gaurdia National, it was hot like hell, 35C in the shadow. The airport was quite dead. I started by looking for luggage storage; I don't want to bring all my mountain stuff around for 2 weeks when I don't need it. I found a place and asked what it would cost for 16 days, they wanted R\$200 in advance and did not take Visa.

Normally you pay on pick-up! I went to take out some money, several ATM did not take Visa and the one who did said "limited reached" I guess the things I bought in Falun, cash exchange in Stockholm and spending in Chile got on the same month, so the limit is reached. I will send a e-mail to my bank to pay this of directly, I should not be limited at this point. It could also be some fraud, but I can't check that until I'm back in Europe. I had some cash and travel checks left, went back to the bank to change, they wanted US\$20 to change a check of US\$100!!!! I found an American Express office who change for free, I finally got R\$350 for a start, so I will be OK until the Visa works again. I just have to bring all the stuff with me, 27kg.

The tourist information got me a hotel at Ipanema for US\$48 per night, not the best I been in (San Marco), a small room with fridge and TV. I directly got changed and jumped into the ocean; nice and warm. The Ipanema beach is nice and full of girls with SMALL bikinis all over. I had a walk at the beach and checked out some alternative hotels, all was full of much more expensive. I tried to find "Lonely Planet Brazil" to get some backpackers places, but the store was out of it. Did send some mail and got home to rest for the night events. 21:00h Fell to sleep, woke up 22:00h, to early to go out, woke up 01:00h, ohh need to get ready, just some resting on the bed, woke up 03:00, slept the rest of the night.

I guess the lack of sleep the last week and travel has done its business. It was nice to sleep a whole night even when it's hot.



Ipanema



Stringipanema



Sanmarco

DAY 35 / BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

28 January 2002

10:00h Today its time to get the Visa to work, be tourist, walk on Copacabana, Azucar and find a trip to Amazons or the northern pat of Brazil. It would also be great to find a "Lonely Planet". HELP the Visa is still not working!!!!!! The walk trough Copacabana was nice, but hot, I was totally wet. Had to take the bus the last meters to Azucar "cable car". It's nice to go in James Bonds footstep "Moonraker", the view over Rio is beautiful. I took the bus back to Ipanema to change and take a long swim. I called "Janet" (Stafford's friend who work for Coca-Cola in Rio with the SAP implementation) and we met at a restaurant "La Florentina" for a pizza and beer, her boyfriend Patricio came along. They work on the same project Stafford is a real matchmaker.

They offered me a spare room for R\$60 per night, that's not a difficult choice compared with my current place. I hope they have space over carnival, they will check tomorrow. I must say Rio is quite dead at night, you must know exactly were to go. Not many people just walking around, ok it has been rain. It the same as all other places, Thursday, Friday and Saturday is when it happens.



Copa



Azucar



Azucar2



Azucar3



Azucar1

DAY 36 / BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

29 January 2002

06:00h Had to wake up early to call my bank and get my Visa to work. Woke up 04:15h, it was hot still with the air condition on, half slept until 06:00h.. Got on the phone to Paula, she would pay €2 000 and the card would work at the latest tomorrow. I was thinking about getting out of the hotel at 10:00h without money. I don't want to use my last Reals, thus I need to eat and be a tourist. 10:00h I got down and checked out, telling the "portier" that I had some problems with the Visa. He said, "I will try" it worked with no problem. Life gets easier when you got money. The new place is a 5-star place compared with 2-star, with complements of Coca-Cola and R\$60. Stafford and his employees are the best. Now let's plan for the coming days.

Took the bus to the central area and jumped off early and had to take the metro 2 stations more, it was too hot to walk. I finally got the station, but it was only for normal busses, bummer!! forget the trip to Ouro Preto. I gave up and went touristy, first the Cathedral, which was amazing, then Cristo by train up to the top. The view over Rio is breath taking, that's a must if you are in Rio. Then a long tiring trip by bus (kamikaze driver on a formula 1 track). 19:00h Got to the hotel alive, but needed to cool down in the hotel pool, took a shower and called Janet just after 20:00h, they left by 5min. I guessed they went to "Marius" as we talked about last night. I went there by bus, but they was not there. I then had a walk down Copacabana and some beers.

All the places full of people, mostly older white guys with black hookers in tight clothes. Got back to the hotel and met Janet, they went to dinner at a local place with Coke people, sad I missed that. I got to a sushi place, the sushi was nice, but no air-condition, it was a quick dinner. Bar "Emporio" has started to get busy now at 22:00h, but I will give it some 2h before going. There were still no people at the place,



Visconti1



Visconti2



Visconti3

DAY 37 / BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

30 January 2002

09:00h Had some breakfast and went to get a ticket to Natal. Manaus / Amazons is out of the question, they want close to US\$1000 for 3 nights inclusive flight. Natal is somewhat better with only US\$600 for 5 nights. I also had to find a hotel in Rio for 3 nights before going back to Europe, that's a problem. What happens in Rio during carnival is; all the hotels double the prices and have 5,7 or 9 day packages. The minimum would be US\$1100 for the last 7 days plus dinner and drinks. I finally got a place at a hostel for 3 nights, sharing a room with 1 person for R\$375 or 20 people for R\$105. I will see when I come back what I get. I wouldn't mind, because who will sleep during the carnival. I got back to the travel agency and after 1:30h I got a preliminary reservation.

In Brazil you talk with everyone, don't focus too much at customers. Time to pay with Visa.....STOP again. There is nothing wrong with the card, I got US\$200 this morning. NO they just want my bank to clear the transaction. I just took my authorization and left, I wonder if I should go back tomorrow or stay in Rio and do the 3P instead. Went home and changed for the beach, had another nice view of the Ipanema beach. Met Janet and Patricio for dinner at "Garota de Ipanema", the bar where the famous song "The girl from Ipanema" was written. We had some traditional Brazilian dish with meat that we cooked at the table, rice, fritas and banana plant.



Ccoffice

DAY 38 / BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

31 January 2002

10:00h Started the day by skipping the Natal trip at the travel agency. I tried to book on Internet instead, but the service was down, so it looks like I will spend most of the time in Rio and just take the bus to "Ouro Preto" for some days. Changed for the beach and got some really tan. I will do a last try tomorrow with Natal. I tried the Internet and also sent a request to "Ticket i Falun" to see if they could book and I get the ticket here in Rio. Visited the Cristos statue, it was an amazing view to get on the top. 20:30h Thunderstorm and rain in Rio, so I will stay in until 22:00-23:00h before getting dinner and then its bar jumping. Met up with Janet and Patricio for Thai dinner, but it was full so we went for a French type snack bar who is hip at Ipanema.

23:00h Started the night by scanning Emporio, it was quiet dead, so I continued to check "Hippo" who now was called "Barnnita". It was a hipp place that did not allow shorts, so I had to change to normal pants, just to find out that entrance is R\$45 for male and R\$9 female. This meant 8 Caprinoska or some additional food, I choose 6 pieces sushi for R\$22, so I would only need 3 Caprinoska and 1 beer to fill the quota. Barnnite is a nice place with lot of high-class babes, who act like Stockholm/Östermalam babes with their nose high. Nice to look at but boring to bring home OR maybe Latino fire in bed? The place played great music, much techno. I saw this blond Brazilian babe with a super body in top and white tights, not all are dark.

I got was told there is a huge german colony and she coming from there.



Cristos1



Cristos2



Cristos3

DAY 39 / BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

1 February 2002

10:00h I just found out that Barnnite is the most expensive and hot club in Rio. It's located in Ipanema, just a block from the hotel. Must say that the 4 beers and 3 Caprinoska feels today, the drinks in Brazil are around 10cl alcohol in a 30cl glass, and glad I had some food instead of 8 Caprinoska, would have been hard today. My bath shorts fell down from the balcony to the pool area. No one seems to see them, I guess someone wants a pair of nice shorts. Took a walk and got new shorts, but my card didn't work again. Someone has repeatedly tried to access my card and blocked it. They have also taken out US\$600. I guess the travel agency took out money even though they demanded a bank request. They don't have my signature, so it's a fraud case.

Took a long walk on the beach and got changed to get to the travel agency. They had cancelled the trip, but they had managed to draw the money, so I asked if they had the tickets, but no. This is something I have to solve from Europe, 20:00h We went to the Barra area to see the New Your amusement centre. It's a huge place with restaurants, bars, shops, disco "Studio 54". We had dinner at "TGI" and went to see the movie "RatRace", one of the funniest movies I seen in a long time. 01:00h Went back to Ipanema and I went out. Started with Emporio and Brannite. Decided to see some more; Irish pub "Shinnigan" many people, but much like a traditional Irish pub in UK. Continued to disco "Daliübar" which was packed with 18-29 years old.

Caligula was closed, but I found bar "Resto" with cover R\$10 equal only 2 drinks, the second one was made on local "caska" and tasted shit. Passed Emporio once again and home to bed. Barnnite is the best place so far, tomorrow its time for Copacabana clubs.



DAY 40 / BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

2 February 2002

09:00h The first day of the Carnival, this may be fun! The Carnival in Rio consists of many street carnivals and the big one at the end in a special carnival area. Started the day with paying the hostel between 9-12 Feb, it was only R\$105 in a room with 20 people. That's OK I will not sleep much the Carnival night goes from 20:00 until 06:00 the day after. It's a cloudy and rainy day so its some Internet surfing and movie watching today. I also decided to look into extending my stay and go with Lasse to see the northern Brazil. I will get their flight schedule and see if I can book the same for a reasonable cost. Had a short talk with Andrea in Chile, everything is OK, but she wants me to come back.

A thunderstorm is just going over Rio, perfect start to the street carnival. The rain is like a shower in this place; I have never seen this much coming down in one time. 40min of rain has filled the streets with 20cm of water. Anyhow, raio or not the carnival starts today. Went to the Ipanema park, it was full of people; singing and dancing AND the rain started again in full speed. I tried to stay under some roof, but I got wet and could press out water from my t-shirt. Everybody was singing and dancing not taking notice of the rain. Was out with thousands of people for 3 hours; dancing, drinking beer before getting in to change to dry clothes.

22:00h I met up with 5 Coca-Cola girls; we went to a samba school, which was packed.

Another thousand people-dancing samba, 3 hours later and once again wet of sweat, this is what the Carnival is about, it will be a fun week.



Thunder1



Thunder2



Day1a



Day1b

DAY 41 / BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

3 February 2002

11:00h Somewhat tired after last night, so I spent the day relaxing and watching movies until the next street carnival between Ipanema and Lebon. I have a small headache after all beers yesterday, had to sleep for some hours, it's raining so it doesn't matter. 17:15h Time for the carnival, the rain has almost stopped. THEN it came down worse than yesterday, so I got my Gore-Tex clothes and it was no more problems. There you see Gore-Tex is not only useful on the mountain. The rain slowed down at 19:00 so I could get out of my Gore-Tex, its warm under, due to the temperature of 28C. The parade was not as fun as yesterday, but still fun. It was also mostly a Gay parade. The hormones must be cheap in this country; half the guys had real tits.

It's fun to look at all originals showing their special dresses. Planned to go out to eat, but the rain started again. So now its chicken breast salad and beer in the room.



Storm1

DAY 42 / BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

4 February 2002

10:00h Started the day by going to the bus agency to get a trip to Ouro Preto. They had ticket, but the trip would take 7:30h in a standard bus, no semi or full cama. I skipped this; I guess I got comfortable in my 5 star suite and focus on the carnival instead. Lasse has finally got their travel plans trough, if I buy the same in Brazil it would cost SEK 14 600 to join for 3 more weeks. That's not an alternative, there is something called "Brazilian travel pass" valid for 21 days priced at SEK 5 000. The only problem it has to be purchased out side Brazil, so I send a mail to "Ticket i Falun" and Resman to see if they can issue a ticket that Lasse brings with him.

12:00h Time for the beach, I stayed for 6 hours to get a real tan with oil, getting darker and darker; Pär you are not even close. I also got this flirt on the beach with a Brazilian princess type. We talked on a mix of languages. After some 30 min she wanted to talk "pukito language". (go to my room and have sex). I, WHAT!! Stop there a moment I would like to know you some more, so we talked about this and that and I got out that she worked at "HELP" on Copacabana. That was the end of this flirt; HELP is the biggest nightclub in Rio, but its only female hookers and male tourist there.

For you who don't know what "pukito" is the language of making love down here? Sad she was a really beautiful girl .On top of this the guy who rent out sun chairs offer me something to drink, I said no and he continued with offering marijuana and cocaine. Otherwise the day was fun with lot of waves and red flag. The

helicopter came once to pick up a person who was dragged to sea. Nice with a cold shower and some rest, before going out for dinner and some basic party, it's a slow night with no street carnivals close.



Peter brown

DAY 43 / BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

5 February 2002

11:00h A silent day spent on the beach reading, bathing and getting even more tanned. I also go a NO on the Brazilian pass from Resman, it has to be purchased with the incoming flight ticket, so I going to Europe the 12th. I just saw some patetic Swedish guys on the beach; red and drunk. One had black loafers with small rosettes. The other tried to be hip; he bought lime green shorts and t-shirt. Some people can't dress 23:00h Decided to have a night at Copacabana clubs; B.A.S.E, bunker 94 was closed so I went by HELP, to see what it's about. It's an open disco; lot of space, good music, but only female hookers all over the place and white tourists. Over 50% of them would beat the girls in London and 25% in Sweden.

I got dirty suggestions all the time and the girls touched ALL over me as they passed or I moved around. I had a couple of beers and then took of to the local bar Emporio next to my hotel. Now I sen HELP once. I will not go there again.



Storm2

DAY 44 / BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

6 February 2002

10:30h Decided to have another tourist day, went to breakfast and saw 3 Swedish guys, one who had a "bajen" t-shirt!?! Took the bus to the football stadium, a huge place. KISS during Monster of Rock has the record with 220 000 people inside the arena. Continued through "Boa Vista" a big Portuguese park, nice with small lakes and walking areas. It was then time to see the Rio Zoo, must say it was a sad place to see, stressed animals walking forward and back in the same moves. Birds who can't use there wings, small cages some in bad state. 19:30h I meet up at Ana-Maria's hotel to go with the girls to Hard Rock Café carnival opening night. We ended up being 12 people eating and drinking. A samba band came on stage some 2.30h late, caroca time according to the others.

Ha a nice dinner and talking a lot to Andrea. She's 28, working with the Marketing module at Coca-Cola, SAP. All of us were dancing a lot; I started to get the hang of samba. The others left so I stayed with 3 of the girls another hour.



Football



Hardrock



Hardrock2

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

7 February 2002

07:00h 3 hours of sleep!!! Then I started the process to extend my stay for another 3 weeks, as it turned out "Ticket i Falun" had the possibility to fix a Brazilian Travel Pass. They have now fixed all flights and I will get a final confirmation tomorrow morning. I will now stay until March 6, hope everything works out. The day has been cloudy, so it's OK to be low after yesterday's party. Now it's some rest and get ready for some squash and hopefully sushi dinner with Andrea. 18:00h I got to play squash with Andrea, then Ane-Maria and finally Javier. He played really good; I have never sweated this much, 30C and loosing 2-3 litres in 45min. It was also first time I played in sandals, I lost but it will get better tomorrow whit normal shoes.

21:00h Met up with Andrea for some sushi dinner. It was really a nice dinner, we chatted for 2.5h. Time to get some sleep and get ready to fix the last ticket.



Cristos4

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

8 February 2002

08:00h The tickets are OK so I will stay for another 3 weeks. Went to the Coca-Cola office to have another sushi dinner with Patricio, Janet, Andrea and Ane- Maria. That Janet's birthday today, but I think she and Patricio will have an evening by them self. Andrea has also fixed me a ticket for the Coca-Cola "Kuat" party the 12th, we will go there directly after the rafting. Everybody needs to have this special nice lime green t-shirt to get in. It's at "Meli Melo" Andrea had also to give my name on the invitation, she had only my first name, Peter and could only think of Stafford Green, so she gave me the name Peter Green, this would amuse Stafford. Time to get some rest before the next street carnival.

18:00h This street carnival was slow in the beginning; it took some 2h before it started to move. During that time we had some beers and looked at people, we saw the 2 Swedish guys from the beach. Today; one of them had red loafers with roses, pink t-shirt and purple flower shorts, pathetic. Finally, the parade started to move, one of the delays was that they could not get the big condom to stay erected it stayed half way. Not a good promotion for a condom producer. We also met some "Marillis" people from a local carnival club; this was their 15-year anniversary. We more or less danced with them the whole night. We ended the night by having a pizza at "Barril 1800" a restaurant located at the Ipanema beach. We had some ice cream on the way back to the hotel.

The girls was tired so we called the night and focus on tomorrow.



Day2



Day2a



Day2b

DAY 47 / BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

9 February 2002

11:00h Time to check out and move to the hostel for 3 nights, I will leave some stuff in the suite for storage, its nice, I can leave all my stuff here during my trip to northern Brazil. Started the day to play squash with Herman. I won, but it was hot. Herman then offered me to stay in his 300m2 suite; I think I will accept for the night 12th, due to the Meli Melo party. 17:00h Met up with the girls to go another street carnival. AS usual it started to rain, not as much as last week, but enough to get totally wet. We started to dance and drink beer with the Marillis guys from yesterday. Some dressed up gay guy wanted to hug me and Iliana got that on video, the girls were laughing their head of.

I bought some foam and we started a war, everybody was full of foam and beer. It was the most fun parade so far. 21:00h Paula, Iliana and I went back to Paulas place to eat and get some shower; it was a nice 2h break before getting out. During our pizza dinner, Iliana got the hiccups and we got a big laugh. 23:00h We met up the others to go the Barra area and "Nouch". We were some 10 people who partied all night long. As usual we had to pay R\$40 in entrance to be drunken, I got 8 caprinoska down it was not too hard. All dancing and heat just mad it go through with out getting me to drunk. We got home when they closed at 04:00h.



Day3a



Day3



Day3b



Day3c

DAY 48 / BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

10 February 2002

10:00h Woke up after the first night at the hostel with 20 people in the same room. I started the day by having lunch with a Norwegian girl who studies in Australia. Went back to Ipanema with a small hangover to pick up my stuff at Paula's place. We ended up going to the beach for some sleep. 18:30h Started the night with a burger and then went to meet the other 15 people for the carnival night. It was thousand of people at the carnival area and then it started to rain again. Got some drinks, no alcoholic, just soft drinks. The carnival train started at 21:00h with 7 samba schools to perform during the night, it is as expected a beautiful thing to see, but it took a long time, ending 07:30 in the morning. The 2 last schools were the best "Selgoura and Bejia-Flor".

All dresses looks nice and advanced in all the light, but when you get close, you see that all its done with cheap material and not with precision. This was a one time thing to do, have you seen it once you seen it all. The street carnivals is what its about, that's the real Carnival in Rio.



Carnival1



Carnival2



Carnival4



Carnival5

DAY 49 / BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

11 February 2002

13:00h Had 4 hours of nice sleep at "Novo Copa Chatlet". Started the day by going to Ipanema to fix Hermans apartment for tomorrow night and book a hotel for the 2 nights Lars and Lars will stay in Rio from the 13th to 15th. It's difficult to find a place during the carnival that is OK in price. I have some suggestions, but I will wait for them to come to Ipanema and we make a decision then. I met Andrea for a swim in the pool and then a walk down Ipanema and Copacabana. Had dinner at a beach restaurant "linguado" not as good as in Pucon, Chile. Are now back to the hostel for some sleep and get ready for the rafting at 06:00h.

I had to repair my sandals; they are not made for playing Squash. 12 Februry 2002 - Rio de Janeiro - Brazil 05:30h My sleep was not the best; I woke up every 1 hour mostly because I was afraid to sleep over. All 9 of us made it in time for the bus; it was a 2h hour crazy trip with a bus driver who tried to break the sound wall. We got to the rafting hotel and started with a early lunch, then it was of to rafting, we just got helmets and a life vest this time. The part of the river we went down was 24 km long, not as wild as in Pucon. Anyhow, we got really wet several times. The guide liked to go into the backwater to push the water into the raft. We also got to jump from a 6 meter high train bridge into wild water, had to do it twice.

The girls skipped it, but the Mexican Alex and Filipe joined. The last fall was over a concrete wall in a 45 angle, we went down and into the backwater. Then we got slightly wrong and I go out like a catapult and under the raft down the wild river. The raft continues down river with several of us outside the raft. I ended up some 100 meter from the raft in the middle of the wild water, so I had a hard swim for a while until they picked me up. Back to the raft hotel and dinner before going back to Ipanema with the crazy driver. 23:00h Had some sleep after the rafting and got into my nice lime green "Kuat" clothes for the Meli Melo party. Went by Andreas place and we went to pick up Ane-Maria to go to the party, at the place everybody looked the same.

As usual a samba band played most of the night with carnival girls dancing like crazy. Had some sushi, beers and caprinoska. Saw several nice girls, but ended up talking to Cecilia, a 30-year old mulatto from Petropolis a town 60 km from Rio, she is a underwear designer, very good looking.. I went home at 06:00, most of the others left already at 03:00h.



View



Carnival6

DAY 50 / BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

13 February 2002

08:30h Woke up the first time, then 10:30h and went for a shower, Lars and Lars showed up exactly at 11:00 as I thought it would be based on their flight schedule. We decided to take hotel "San Marco" and checked in for R\$140 per night. The guys started to be tourists, while I went for the beach to sleep, read the latest Aftonbladet and Expressen. Still wonder if I should call Cecilia and perhaps go to see here in Petropolis after the Amazons for 4-5 days. I guess I will see if I have time when I get back; now some sleep on the beach 22:00h Had 4 ours of sleep after the beach, before going out for dinner. We ended up next to "Garota de Ipanema" and had a lasagne.

Then some walking around and several caprinoska at a beach bar, we ended up at Emporio and met Alex and Filip in a party state.



Lars kakan

DAY 51 / BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

14 February 2002

08:30h We got a noisy room at the hotel, its not possible to sleep. The boys Lars and Lars decided to be tourists for another day, I spent the day on the beach reading. I gave Cecilia a short call and asked about her schedule from the 4th of March, we decided to talk during the evening and decide more details. 19:30h We got a table at the Nam Thai restaurant we tried a week ago, we got a table and the food was OK. I started to get some stomach problems and had to go home while the guys went to get some more caprinoska. 22:30h I was ready to go out and meet the guys, but a hard rain started so I stayed home. 00:30h 2 really drunk guys show up, they had stopped by Emporio for more drinks.

They met some US guys who proudly told them that they had 2 weeks of vacation each year and that they could spend 4 whole days in Rio including the flights. Lars and Lars tell them that 5 weeks are normal in Sweden and 37 h working week. One of the guys also shaves his legs, so L&L told them only girls do that, but Swedish guys shave their nuts, drinking caprinoska like a horse. I also got a contact with Cecilia, we decided that I would call her the 3rd and perhaps stay 5 nights with her.

DAY 52 / BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

15 February 2002

10:00h Not much happen, went to the beach, had a pizza, changed flights due to cancelled flights to Fernando de Norhona. I will now be back in Rio 09:00 the 4th instead of 5th. I will at least have 2 nights with Cecilia if she still want me to come to Petropolis when I get back. 20:30h Sitting at the airport waiting for the flight to Joao Pessoa and Jacomaü. I will probably go to Recife the 21st, 2 days before flying to Fernando to get some local feeling. We just saw this 10 pointer girl, can't explain, but one of the most beautiful girl I seen in a long time. I got a short flirt and smile from her before checking in. Our flight left 30 min late to Recife and well there the connecting flight was cancelled and the next scheduled to 02:00.

Boring to wait 1:30h extra, we finally arrived at hotel Viking in Jacomaü at 04:00h



Lars sleep



CHAPTER 05

Kusten

Day 53 · 16 February 2002 · Jacomaü - Brazil

DAY 53 / BRAZIL

Jacomaü - Brazil

16 February 2002

09:00h Woke up at this beautiful place with a wonderful view over the ocean. Met 2 people from Sundborn, Lars and Marita Björk, they know mum well from Carl Larsson garden. I got a invitation to Leif wedding, it will be fun, catholic wedding with over 200 guests. Took a walk down the beach and later in the small town. We had biff stroganoff for dinner and several caprinoska. 22:00h We went down to the disco area were I saw this beautiful girl sitting at a table with her friends. Her name was Ireni a 26-year-old girl from São Paulo, long curly hair matching her dark brown eyes. I sat down at the table with her and as usual no english so I had to use a mix. There was also an american guy, Rob at the table, so I could communicate with someone.

It's a nice gang, so we decided to meet up the coming days on the beach.



Viking1



Viking2

DAY 54 / BRAZIL

Jacomaü - Brazil

17 February 2002

09:00h A hot morning without air-condition, time to turn the clock back 1 hour for summer time. I went to the beach to met Rob, Marlene, Ireni and the others. Stayed on the beach all day long, really fun time. Had some fritas and fish who made my stomach go crazy. 16:00h Now its time to get ready for the wedding, they have decorated the hotel very well. I will bring Ireni later tonight, when I meet her around 22:00h. The wedding was on Brazilian time delayed by 1:30 hour, Leif arrived on horseback, and the ceremony was beautiful taking 30min and then 30min of signing papers before leaving the church. The music was different, played on an 80:s synth that made the music sound funny, would not allow that at my wedding.

They left together in a horse wagon back to the hotel and big party; there were some 200 people at the reception just sitting talking. From 18:00-21:30 nothing happen except some light food everybody still sitting. I went to pick-up Ireni at the summerhouse, she had a jeans tights dress on, we came back at 22:00, still a came reception. Lars saw her for the first time and just said "holt shit" I need to go. We had a beer and went to see others.. It was not a really party as we expected a Brazilian wedding to be, even the Swedish people stayed came.



Ireni1



Wedding1

DAY 55 / BRAZIL

Jacomaü - Brazil

18 February 2002

Went into the centre of Joao Pessoa with the others, had a sushi lunch once again. Had a swim in the ocean and then had all of us file minong at the hotel. No special events to write about today, except for taking some very beatiful pictures of Ireni with the ocean in the background.



Ireni4

DAY 56 / BRAZIL

Jacomaü - Brazil

19 February 2002

08:00h Woke up, it has almost been 30C in the room all night long. Went for the beach in the morning and then lunch at hotel Viking with Ireni and the others. We spent the afternoon in the pool, just having fun. Someone stole Ireni's "Micky Mouse" towel from the balcony just when we were away for 30min, I promised to get her a new one later. .19:00h We decided to go to the other Swedish pousada in town; we got some curry, ananas and shrimps for dinner a really god dinner. We went forward and back in a beach buggy, at most 8 people in one buggy for 4 people.

DAY 57 / BRAZIL

Jacomaü - Brazil

20 February 2002

Spent the whole day with at hotel Viking together with the others plus several other Swedish people staying at the hotel. Not much happening during the day, but we had great fun jumping around in the pool. I think I got some nice pictures. 21:00h It was time for a barbeque at hotel Viking, the total bill for my 5 days at Viking was only R\$161 + food in other places equals SEK 1 000, that's nothing.



Ireni5

DAY 58 / BRAZIL

Olinda - Brazil

21 February 2002

08:00h Woke up after another hot night, I got ready to leave for Recife. Ireni's flight leaves at 14:30h, we arrived at 12:30h after dumping Marlene and Sola of at her ants place. The plan is now to go down to see them in São Paulo the 4th for a week. The language problem will be hard if I got to São Paulo; I can learn Portuguese it will also help me prepare for Italian. It should not be a problem to communicate by e-mail to get started. We will see in 11 days if I get down to São Paulo. I left the airport and went to Olinda a small city next to Recife. Had to take a bus and then taxi the last meters. It's a nice old Portuguese city from year 1631 with its charm.

I will have a quiet night and be a tourist in Olinda and Recife including prepare for my trip to Fernando de Norhona.



Olinda1

DAY 59 / BRAZIL

Olinda - Brazil

22 February 2002

10:00h Had my first dose of Malaria tablets after another hot night. Started the day by going to Recife to get some more APS film and snorkelling equipment. I will have over 400 photos when I get home. I also found the snorkelling equipment for SEK 280, now I have 2 pair, left the other one in Sweden. I also found an underwater camera, hammock for R\$23. The old part of Recife was nice with lot of old churches from 1500-1600, impressive to see. Back in Olinda, I went for another tour around the old town, really nice, but if you been around Europe you have already seen it. I guess locals and US people is impressive due to lack of reference. Time to use the Internet and check if I got any mails.



Olinda2



Recife1

Fernando de Norhona - Brazil

23 February 2002

13:30h Arrived in the beautiful island Fernando de Norhona, but with poor tourist information and non-existing English help. Got a ride with a local to the Tourist centre where there was no-one present. Finally, I got on the local bus, which had been operational for 1 day, before it had only been high priced local Beach Buggy taxis. To find a room was the next problem, it was full everywhere, they only allow 500 guests on the Island each day so the beds available is limited to that amount. Pousada "Malibu" had a room for R\$80 per night, very expensive for a small room but you don't have a choice; at least it had air condition. An older couple Helen and Ildeu soon started to speak English and inform me about everything on the island.

I found out Helena was a English teacher, Greek orthodox Russian, born in Shanghai, fled to Brazil from Chinese communism. Ildeu is a doctor, who tried to be a opera singer in 1950 by going to Germany to take lessons, but it was to expensive so he returned to his final year in medic school, went into bio research focusing on alcohol damage, visited US and got an idea to build car parts for the Brazilian market and become a industrial manager, later saw an opportunity to sell Brazilian diamantes in US and going into Amazons with US\$ 50 000 in a bag to purchase gold from Indians. A fun couple with an interesting life story.



Fernando1



Fernando10



Fernando12

Fernando de Norhona - Brazil

24 February 2002

07:30h Went with Helen and Ildeu to the beach Antalia, its a natural pool at low tide. We snorkelling among lot of fishes and a baby shark, it was like being in a salt-water aquarium. We continued in a buggy to the most popular beach, just next to the small village. 13:30h Went to the port to get a day trip with a boat around the island, but no one operating frequently on a Sunday. I took the bus to the other side of the island to see the dolphins and dive at Sancho and Porcas beaches. Decided to walk the 2 km back along the beach line, it was high tide so I had to do some rock climbing to get through, it took 2h to get back to the village beach. Had some coconut on the way and finally grilled cheese and beer at the village beach.

Got back very tired to the Pousada, tried to call São Paulo, but it didn't work with local cards. Ended the day in the hammock chatting and drinking whiskey with Helen and Ildeu.



Fernando2



Fernando3



Fernando4

Fernando de Norhona - Brazil

25 February 2002

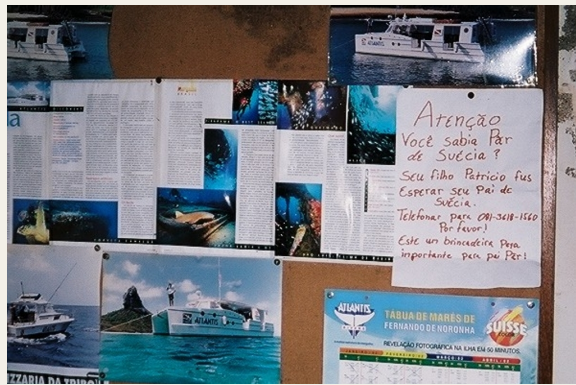
09:00h Started the day by going back to Sancho and Porcos beach doing some snorkelling. Sancho is the most beautiful beach on the island a real love beach. Spent 3 hours swimming around looking at fishes.

13:00h Went back to the port to go to a small lagoon behind the church, were several sharks comes in late afternoon to play, all the sharks are 2 meters or bigger. What else to say, it's difficult to get food, no real restaurants on the island, I manage to get some bad hamburger and pizza, could not find anything much better. I decided to make a practical joke for Pär in the diving centre he visited 10 years ago; he had a short love affair on one of the beaches.

SO I did a sign saying that: A small boy looking for his father Pär from Sweden, with contact number and all, I took a photo of it and we will see if Pär get the hick-up. I will let him believe this for some weeks to come.



Fernando7



Fernando11

Fernando de Norhona / Olinda - Brazil

26 February 2002

09:00h A soft morning; went to the beach for a look and then back to the hammock to read for some hours before leaving the island. 3 nights was 1 to many, due to windy conditions, to much waves to snorkel in the best places and lot of sand thrown up in the places you could snorkel. 14:30h Typical Brazilian flights, it was suppose to leave 14:30h but it was delayed with 1h, so I had to wait 2:3h in total. Another problem was that they had put the wrong flight on my ticket, but I got on the 15:30 direct flight to Recife. I did get into Olinda at 18:00, the boys stayed at the same place as I did last time, Pousada Olinda. I gave Ireni a call, but it was difficult to talk over phone when you don't know the language well, I will try at a later day.



Fernando9



Fernando8



Fernando5



CHAPTER 06

Amazonas

Day 64 · 27 February 2002 · Manaus - Brazil

Manaus - Brazil

27 February 2002

05:45h A bad nights sleep in a dormitory, hot and full of mosquitoes. Decided to start the day with a shower outside at the pool and then wake up the guys. We got on our way to Manaus almost on time leaving 08:30, just 15 minutes late. We found out this was one of these fun flights, were you land in each major city on the way and pick up people: Fortaleza, São Luiz, Bélem and finally Manaus 6 hours later. 12:30h New time zone set the clock 2 hours back and we got approached by the Amazon trip sales people directly as described in Lonely Planet, they offered river trips for U\$80 per day we got the price down to US\$50 after just 10 minutes, but stood against them and got a free ride into the centre, were a hotel was booked by the sales people.

It was not good enough, so we had a look around and got hotel Intercontinental for a ok price, R\$70 per night for 3 people compared to R\$80 per person on Fernando. After checking it was time to find a jungle trip, we went to Amazon Backpackers and got a trip for 2 nights and 3 days for US\$40 per day, Lonely Planet gave the price indication of US\$80 per night, but few American tourists has pressed the prices a lot. We also made the deal to pay 30% today, 40% tomorrow when we leave and the last 30% when we get back so that they do their best to get a nice trip. I then got stomach sick once again, I guess it was the chicken onboard the flight and the 8 start and landing during the flight.

I used the time in bed to talk to Ireni; it looks like I will go there for 10-12 days before returning to Europe.



Amazon1

Manaus / Amazons - Brazil

28 February 2002

06:00h Feeling better from last night. Got ready to go into the Amazons. As usual in Brazil the guides was 1h late and arrived in a VW buss that hardly stayed together, we got to the port after a slow drive. The port was an interesting view of all kind of stuff, the most interesting was the fish market were they sell all kind of strange fishes I never seen before. A small boat took us over the river, we stooped to see the meeting of the waters; Rio Negro, clean and Rio Solmone, muddy, they have different colour and don't get mixed due to different density and temperature for almost 4 km. Another VW picked us up for a 2-hour drive into another part of the river. We arrived at a small shop located in the river with everything you would ever need.

All 9 of us After 1:30h boat trip we got into camp 1 got down in the wooden boat, the water line which was not exactly what we were told, it just 5 cm from the boat side. A small turn was a 3 story hut with normal toilets in the around the river pushed water inside, so we bottom. We got some spaghetti, rice and had to

hire another boat to get to our first chicken lunch, then of to catch some piranhas. camp. We saw several river dolphins on the way both grey and pink ones. I got the first piranhas and second, in total 4 that we could eat and 2 that I had to put back, the 7 other people just got 4 piranhas, I was the big fisherman today, our guides was impressed I got more than them.

It's different to fish piranhas, you have meat pieces on the hook and need to make as much noise as possible to attract the fish to take the bait. There are several different types of piranhas; the black ones attack everything that comes in the water, the ones with red stomach just when they smell blood in the water. We made soup and grilled the piranhas; it was good but not much food on them. 20:30h Time to catch some alligators by hand; it was full of them at the riverside, just were we bathing during the day, some small just 30cm and some 3 meters. They were hard to catch, due to the full moon, normally you flash the flashlight in their eyes and they get temporary blind and disoriented, much easier to catch.

So it was not easy to get them in the moonlight, but we finally got a 40cm baby alligator, nice little fellow. We also got one 2-3 meters insight next to the boat, but we did not manage to catch that one and our guides got somewhat nervous even trying. We got back to the camp at 23:30 to have a sleep in our hammocks. It has been an exiting day with lot of adventures!!!



Amazon2



Amazon5



Amazon3



Amazon10



Amazon12



Amazon13

DAY 66 / BRAZIL

Manaus / Amazons - Brazil

1 March 2002

07:00h Woke up with the birds, had my second malaria tablet. We started by having a morning swim in the Amazons River, the same place we fished piranhas and catch Alligators. According to our guides; the Alligators swim down to the bottom during the day to sleep so it's not dangerous to swim at the surface, but you should not dive deep. 10:00h We went in to a new wooden boat with the water line 10cm down, to get deeper into the Amazons and sleep in the wild jungle. We got on the boat for a 3-hour trip; the sales guy said it would take 2 hours. It actually took us 6 hours to get there due to a storm that almost sank our boat. We were on one of the wider parts when the storm got in and made waves who went over the side.

Our guide asked if we could swim and asked us to jump overboard to save the boat. The boat had no floating parts, so everything would have gone to the bottom including our stuff, would have been nice deep in the Amazons. We made it close to the shore, before we had to jump out and go into the bushes at the riverside. The rain came down like a shower while we made our way through the bushes, our guide was very afraid for snakes and continued to hit all the bushes to scare them away before we passed by. We found a native house some hundred meters up the river where we had lunch and got dry again. The dinner was as usual made of chicken, but this time with both the feet and neck left, yackh.

It cleared up and we continued further into the Amazons, it started to rain, but it was not too much but it got us wet. The camp was located in the jungle, but half ready made, that were OK now when it was raining. Lot of sounds and small animals all over the place, our guides started by hitting all things in the camp with a stick to check that there was no snakes hiding inside. We started to hang-up our stuff and then off into the jungle for a 3-hour walk, the guides told us to always look where we put our feet. IT was very dark due to high trees and dark sky, the only thing we saw was spiders, frogs and some parrots, but we heard some monkey screaming.

We also tried some jungle fruits and other Amazon stuff, we got back to camp and had as usual chicken and rice for dinner it took several hours to prepare due to wet wood, our guide manage to catch some fish which we grilled, tasted very good this time. 23:00h Got to sleep in my hammock, woke up at 00:30h the heavy rain had started again and it was a small hole just above me, where the water was dripping on me, manage to get some cover and go back to sleep. 04:30h Woke up by a high scream from the jungle, it was a Jaguar who hunted and scared a gang of scream monkeys just some 300 meters away, they made a terrible noise for 30min before stopping and we could get back to sleep.

One of our guides spend most of the night checking for snakes around the camp and kept the fire burning. It was an interesting night with all the sounds. Lars had one comment during the night: "This would be the nature idiot, Bo like, it must be a getting older thing to get out in the forest and camp".



Amazon6



Amazon15



Amazon14



Amazon7



Amazon17



Amazon18

DAY 67 / BRAZIL

Manaus / Amazons - Brazil

2 March 2002

07:00h Somewhat wet all over, everything is actually wet. We had a small breakfast and are now on our way back to Manaus, it was whole day transportation. Our sales guy said it would not be more than 3 hours, tricked again; it was not a happy gang in the boat. We decided not to pay the last 30%, R\$200, because the last day was just transportation and not jungle adventure as the sales guy said. 17:00h Finally back at our hotel and the They suggested we paid R\$100 and forget this, we argument started about the last said no. Then they threaten with the police and we payment. Our 2 guides got the sales said OK fine we are in our room.

They actually came guy who brought his 7 employees to back with the street police who just spoke Portuguese our hotel to get the last money. and Spanish. The street police can't do anything about this, it's not their table, but our sales guy said they would get the federals, so we settle for R\$100 to skip the hazel

going to the police station, its just SEK 130 per person. We should keep in mind that we got from US\$80 down to US\$40 and now to US\$36, that's much lower than suggested prices in Lonely Planet. I also get we are spoiled with all travel and expect more than a normal tourist.

Now it's time to clean some clothes and than dinnertime, everything was mostly closed in the centre after 19:00h, finally we found some, half bad fried beef, we also met Mark a guy who went with our trip. He did the thing you should not do, he left his passport for safe keeping at the Amazon Backpackers, I guess they will make him pay the extra day, he was suppose to stay out in the Amazons, but skipped due to the last days transportation, our hazel will not make it easier for him.



Amazon19



Amazon30



Amazon24

DAY 68 / BRAZIL

Manaus - Brazil

3 March 2002

11:00h A boring Sunday in Manaus everything closed. We visited "Theatre Amazons" and the floating harbour, not much to see. We finally got to a shopping mall at 13:00 and it was closed until 15:00 except for food places and the cinema. I decided to see a movie (Ocean 11) it was an OK film. Then it was back to the centre and just relaxing for 6h before my flight out of this boring city back to Rio. This day could have been un-done. I half slept at the hotel for some hours before taking a taxi to the airport, the guys had a later flight back to Recife and out to Fernando de Norhona before returning to Europe. 02:45h I finally got on the flight after some Internet surfing for the first time in 5 days. It was a 4- hour flight to Rio with a short stop in Brazilia.



Amazon25



Amazon27



CHAPTER 04

Rio

Day 69 · 4 March 2002 · Rio de Janeiro / São Paulo - Brazil

Rio de Janeiro / São Paulo - Brazil

4 March 2002

09:00h Back in Rio and managed to change my ticket once again to stay 2 extra weeks and visit my friends in São Paulo. I was not suppose to be allowed to change the ticket, an APEX ticket can only be changed once for US\$100 so I had to go home March 6. But I found out that Varig was not allowed to do this change, only SAS who issued the ticket and pointed out the wrong doing to the Varig supervisor and she did a new change to March 18th, so I have my 2 additional weeks with Ireni. 11:00h Took the bus to Ipanema to pick up my mountain stuff from the Coca-Cola suite, Visconti Apartment hotel, they SAP implementation team has got a new assignment in Mexico City and moving there in a few days.

I was thinking about staying one night in the suite before going to São Paulo, but Patricio had started to gather his things together so the suite was full of stuff all over. I decided to go directly to São Paulo, took a bus to the station and arrived in São Paulo 6 hours later. 20:00h I will stay at Ireni's place, she was away studying her EMATEUR licence for working inside the Brazilian tourist industry luckily her sister was home. It was a nice reunion after 10 days around in Brazil. 5 -15 March 2002 - São Paulo - Brazil This is a summary of 10 days I spent with in São Paulo. Ireni rents a small house with 2 rooms and kitchen, charming.

She has just moved from an apartment so one of my first tasks was to help her install and put things together; cable TV, electricity things, table, chairs, etc. took some days to do. We went out almost every night to local pubs and saw in total 5 of her 10 brother and sisters. They are working in different restaurants around in São Paulo and had this bar they met after work almost every night. We had dinner at several restaurants, mostly "Charruscarias" with is a barbeque place, the waiters walking around with different kind of grilled meat and cut you a piece of what you want to have.

We also went to see a local soccer game between 2 restaurants at 02:00h in the middle of the night, that was the only free time on the field, was home in bed 05:00h after getting lost for 1 hour in the car. Back to the local pubs, we stayed a whole night with 8-10 people present and the most expensive bill was R\$40 (SEK 170) for all of us, no problem to afford that. As usual it was some nights with heavy rain, the roof in Ireni's house was leaking so we had water all over the floors. 16 - 17 March 2002 - São Paulo - Brazil A bigger house in the area got free March 15, it has 3 rooms and a kitchen, so Ireni decided to change the 16th after that I had fixed everything, yackh. I helped her to take everything down and reinstall it in the new house.

We got everything in order the same with in 2 days, but I was tired that night and day after when we went for the local bar the whole night.



Rio1



Sao1



Sao2



Sao3



CHAPTER 08

São Paulo

Day 70 · 18 March 2002 · São Paulo - Brazil

São Paulo - Brazil

18 March 2002

March 18th came very quick and it was time to return to Europe. I'm tired after all this travel time, so it will be nice to come back to Europe and have a more normal time schedule. It's sad to leave after such a adventure time.. I started by taking the bus back to Rio, just to find out that my flight has the route Rio - São Paulo - London, I could have jumped on in São Paulo and saved 8 hour of travel. I was lucky on the plane and got 3 seats for my self and had a really good sleep for 7 hours back to London, but it will be nice to see a normal bed with a night temperature of 18C. I will sleep like I haven't done in three months. The time in São Paulo has been fun and interesting with only speaking Portuguese, none of people I met spoke English.

My brain got very tired after total focus on Portuguese for 14 days, but I have learned a lot still there is a long way before I can communicate, as I like. Anyhow it's good practice for the coming Italian business venture, thus Portuguese and Italian has some similarities.



Rio2



CHAPTER 01

Resan

Day 71 · 19 March 2002 · London - UK

London - UK

19 March 2002

14:00h Landed safely at Heathrow, I had a connecting flight by SAS at 19:30h, which I planned to skip to stay in London one week before going back to Sweden and Roger and Eva-Lotta's wedding. I was thinking, why not try to change the flight to March 25th, it was not allowed due to the transit status of the connection, but I told the old story of the Varig mess up and the SAS girl just changed it for me, it saved me an additional SEK 1000, nice. 16:00h I arrived at the new house in Wood Green, just to find out that Maria was giving birth. Bernt Ove wouldn't be back until 22:00 according to current progress and I had no key to get in. What to do? I went to the local pub and had dinner and some beers.

Than the lack of good sleep and jet lag struck, so I took my new hammock and put it up in the front yard of the house and had 2 hours sleep before it started to rain, this was not as nice as in Brazil. Luckily, Bernt Ove arrived shortly after with a big smile, because he had got a daughter.

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