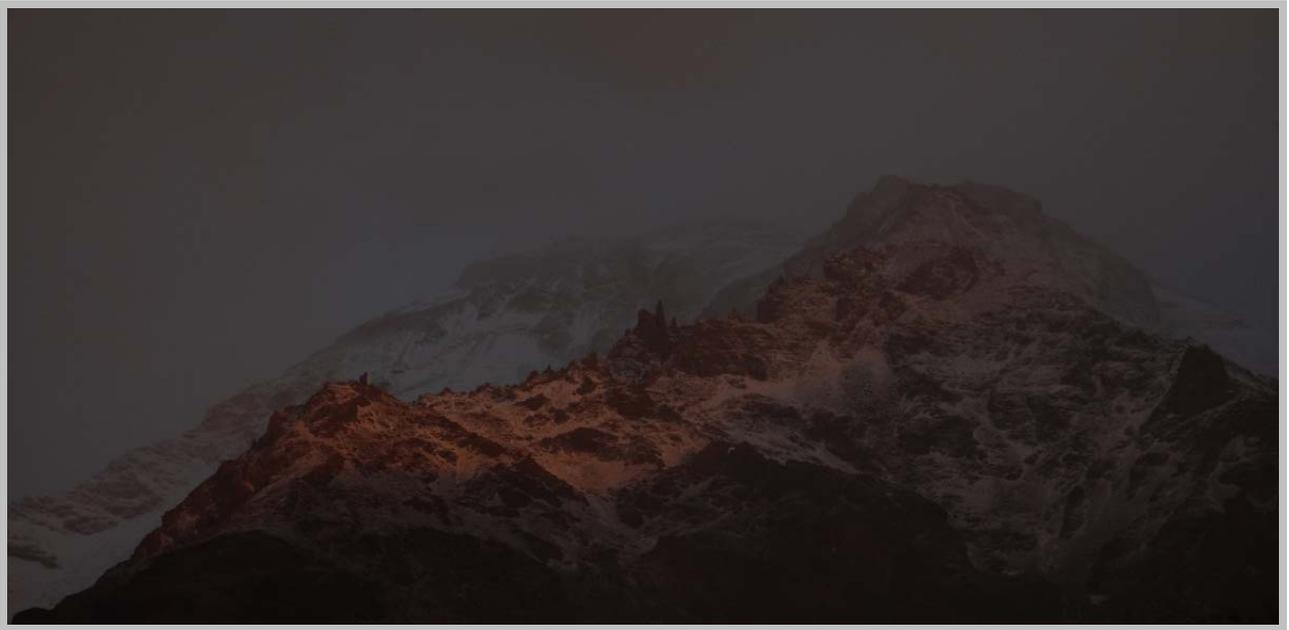
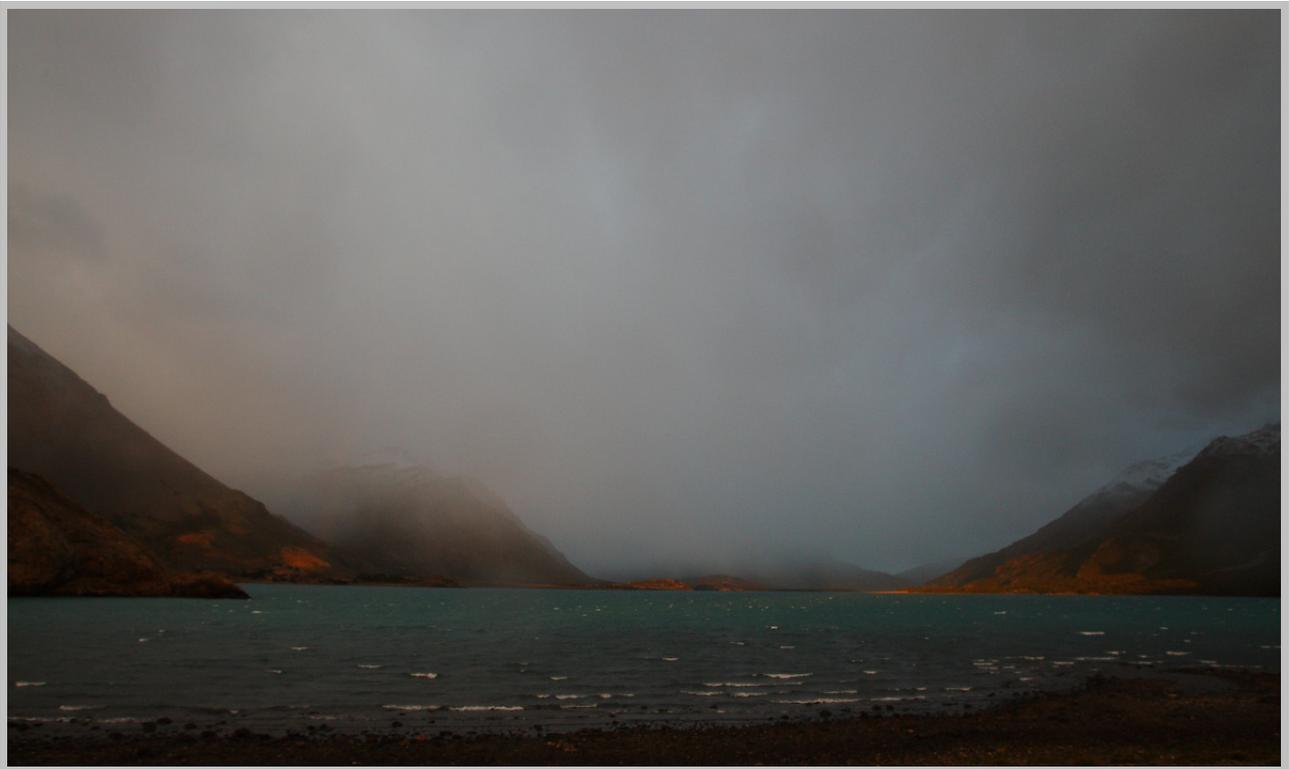


20 March 2008 – First Movie Night

The next day dawned darkly.



The clouds and rain obscured everything beyond the perimeter of the lake.



Firsts – Part Two

Eventually, the rain moved across the lake and enveloped us.



And so we had a very windy, rainy day and evening.



Photo by Stephanie Hackney

We took advantage of it by firing up the video system and watching DVDs all evening. As the wind howled and the rain fell, we munched movie candy and enjoyed drinks, warm and snug in the berth.

We slept soundly that night, which was good, because we needed our rest for our next first.

21 March 2008 – First Low Level Condor

The next day the sky was still so low even the condors were at minimum altitude to stay below the clouds.

Luckily, one buzzed us while Steph had her camera ready.



Getting strafed by an eight foot wing span condor was a little bit spooky, but not as spooky as our next first.

21 March 2008 – First Road Repair

I thought we'd be doing our first road repair filling in a hole or building up a bank so we could get the Fuso down a really bad road.

Instead, we did our first road repair removing a sabotage line.

As we drove down the road to an estancia, sharp-eyed Steph spotted some glass in the road so we stopped to investigate.



There was quite a bit of glass, so I deployed the shovel and began to remove it.



Photo by Stephanie Hackney



Photo by Stephanie Hackney

Firsts – Part Two

The more I dug down, the more glass I discovered, all across the road. At that point I still thought a box of bottles had fallen off the back of a truck, but as I continued to dig, I began to question that theory.

More digging yielded a row of bottles planted neck down with the bottoms broken off. Sometime in the past a row of half buried bottles was put across the road as a barrier, apparently with the intention to sabotage the road. And, it didn't stop with the bottles, there were nails and wire too.



Photo by Stephanie Hackney



Photo by Stephanie Hackney

And even more eerily, I started to unearth dog bones mixed in with the glass, nails and wire.

At this point I was convinced that something bad happened here on this estancia road. I didn't know if it was a disgruntled former employee, a range war or what, but whatever it was, it was not a good thing.

After digging down more than 30 cm / one foot, I removed a sizeable pile of glass.



Firsts – Part Two



We filled in the hole and Steph FOD Walked us out of there, just in time for our next first.

21 March 2008 – First Twilight Two Track

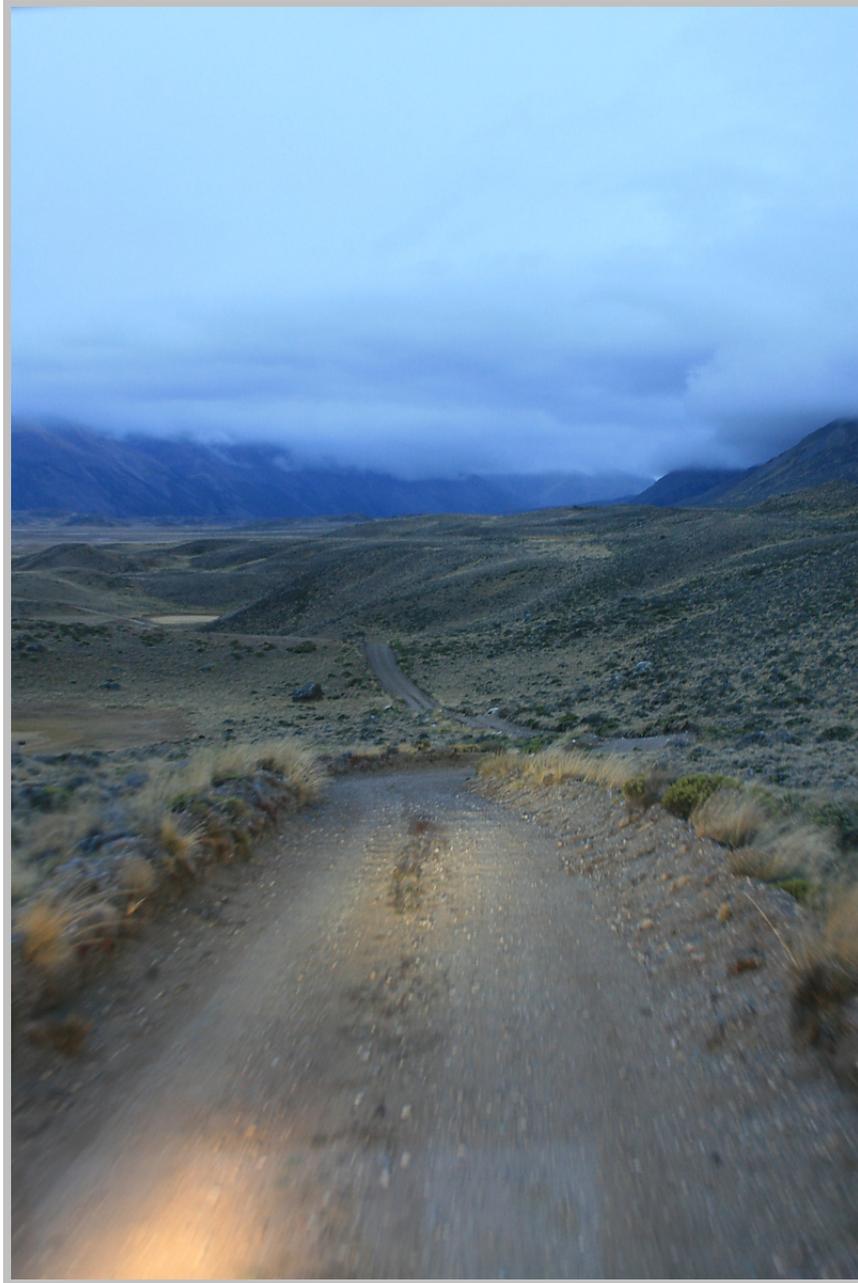


Photo by Stephanie Hackney

As night fell we took this two-track to our day's destination.

Along the way we came across our next first.

21 March 2008 – First Puma Warning Sign



One look at the sign and Steph was ready to stay in the camper for the duration of our stay.

It took some doing, but I eventually convinced her to keep moving towards our goal, the end of another one of the remotest roads in the Argentine National Park system, where the following morning our next first awaited.

22 March 2008 – First Frost



The following morning's sunrise revealed our first frost and skim of ice.

We were at the end of the road, as far as we could go in the Argentine National Park system. There weren't any trails from here because everything between where we were and Chile was a wildlife refuge, with no humans allowed.

But we wanted to get a little closer to the refuge, to see what was out there, which led to our next first.

22 March 2008 – First Cross Country Hike

We talked to the park ranger to find out the limits of the territory and then took a cross country hike out closer to the wildlife refuge.

There were no trails, so we were on our own, just us and the pumas, as far out into the wilds of the Andes as we could get.

We hiked down to the old fence line that marks the boundary where we found some sub-arctic tundra with low lying vegetation.



Firsts – Part Two

That plant growth looks pretty huge, but it's all within a one meter / 3.3 feet square area.



After exploring a little, enjoying the views and shooting some photos, we walked back to the rig and headed out for our next first.

22 March 2008 – First Water Crossing



Photo by Stephanie Hackney

This little water crossing was nothing compared to Hitt Wash, but it was our first in South America and our first with a guanaco audience.

Firsts – Part Two

After that, things settled back into the same-old, same-old, daily grind of yet another wild animal,



Yet another primitive back road to into the wilds of Patagonia,



Firsts – Part Two

Yet another lunch in the cab,



With yet another stunning view.



We'll continue to live like this, repeating the same old pattern, until we come across our next first.

Firsts – Part Two

Unless otherwise noted, all photos by Douglas Hackney.

FOD – Foreign Object Damage. The FOD walk is performed on U.S. Navy aircraft carriers to eliminate damage to aircraft engines via ingestion of foreign objects.

Photo key

Page 2

Two of the kids examine their dead Peugeot	The guys and I adopt the worldwide universal position for males around a broken car.
Luis towing the Peugeot to Estancia Angostura	The kids, Luis and I at the estancia.

Page 3

Estancia antique wagon at sunset

Page 4

Entrance gate with Estancia Angostura in background	Estancia door knob
Estancia shed window	Estancia irons. Estancias make all of their own energy, so there are no electric irons. The stove is powered by gas (propane) and this burner is kept low all day to heat water and the irons.

Page 5

Mate straws. Yerba Mate (mah-tay) is an herbal tea consumed by nearly every Argentine.	Shearing shed oil can used to lubricate shears.	Raw sheep skins.
Antique grinder, made in Philadelphia	Estancia flower	The kids riding horses

Estancia sheep.

Page 6

Sheepskin hinge	Raw wool
Shearing shed interior	Shear power line drive belt
Shearing shed shadows and patterns	Drive belt splice

Page 7

Antique wagon wheel detail

Firsts – Part Two



Photo by Jorge Valdes

Douglas and Stephanie Hackney are on a two to three year global overland expedition.
You can learn more about their travels at: <http://www.hackneys.com/travel/index.htm>