

The Land of Towers

7 March 2008

The Land of Towers held many wonders.

Including waterfalls



The Land of Towers

The pack behavior of the local fauna



The individual behavior of the local fauna



Photo by Stephanie Hackney

The Land of Towers

The birds





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Glaciers and icebergs



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Photo by Stephanie Hackney

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And always, of course, the grandeur and ever changing views of the mountains



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Photo by Stephanie Hackney

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So we explored this land, this land of towers



Photo by Stephanie Hackney



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But regardless if it was sunrise



Sunset



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Bright sunshine



Or shades of gray



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The mountains held their secrets, high in the towers



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Finally, on the rarest of nights - moonless, cloudless and windless - under the starlight, the mountains finally spoke of the mysteries.



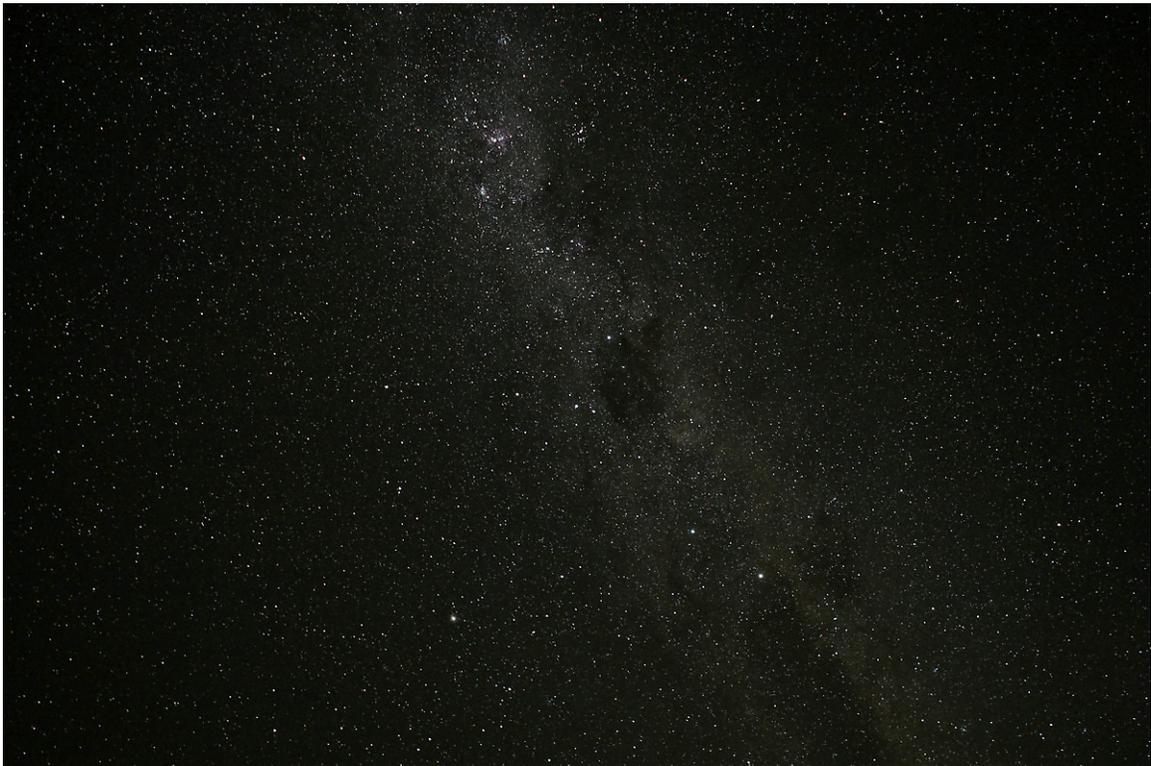
The Land of Towers

“Look up,” they said. “For you must be in this land to see the secrets of the sky.”



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"You must be in this land to see the secrets of the sky revealed."



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“There lives your mystery, there lives your answer, there lives your destiny - among the infinite stars.

There are infinite potential outcomes for your life, but only one will be yours.

Pick a destination, pick a star, and ride it through the sky.”



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All photos are from Parque Nacional Torres del Paine (Towers of Paine National Park), Magellanes, Chile.

The star field shots are, page 18, the Magellanic Clouds and pages 19-20, the Southern Cross, both visible only in the southern latitudes of earth.

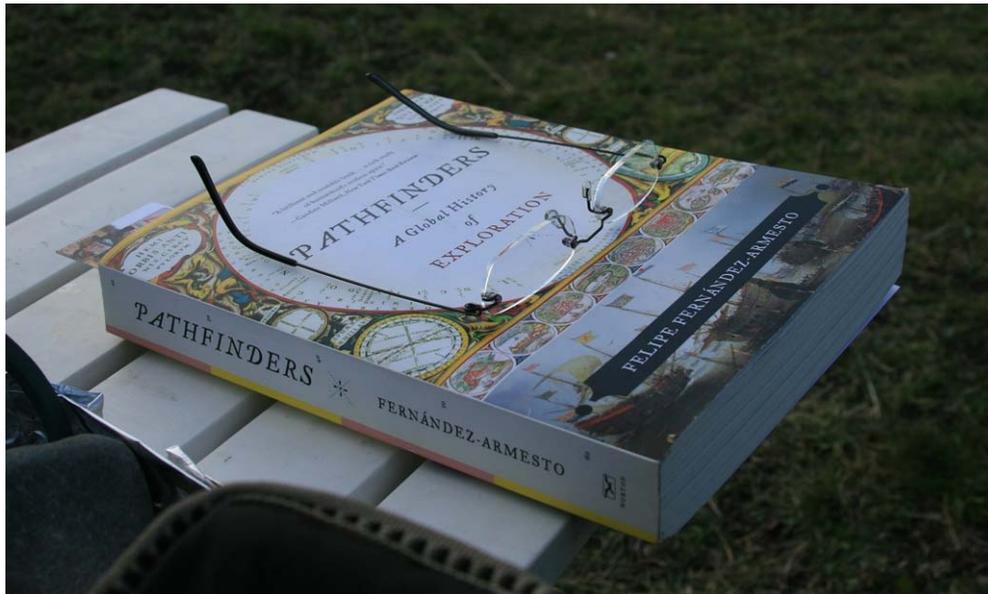
The progression of images for the Southern Cross reveal was created by ISO bracketing. The last image of the Southern Cross on page 20 was edited to isolate that constellation. All other star field shots are unedited, and if anything, fail to fully illustrate the breadth, depth and awe inspiring scope of the night sky in this place.

The slight motion blur in the stars, most noticeable in the image on page 21, is caused by the 20 and 30 second exposures used to create the images. I do not have a star tracking tripod head with us and the rotation of the earth during the long exposure blurs the stars slightly in those shots.

The dim streaks in the image on page 18 are satellites.

The Southern Cross was discovered by the first European explorers to sail the southern ocean and was taken as a clear and direct sign to them from God; and confirmation that their explorations and subsequent conquests were righteous and ordained.

We hold no such presumptions regarding our explorations, but do try to learn from those who have preceded us.



Unless otherwise noted, all photos by Douglas Hackney

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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>