

Relative Humidity

7 July 2008

We crossed the border between Argentina and Chile at Chile Chico on 29 March 2008. We drove west until we hit the Carretera Austral and then turned left.

For the next 87 days we were in wet, foggy and chilly areas of Chile.

We spent a portion of that time in the rain forests of Chile, where annual precipitation is measured in meters, as in multiple meters of rain per year.

It rained on us so much the area between our driving light lenses and their rock covers turned into mini aquariums.



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But, by the time we got into northern Chile, things had changed dramatically.

100 days after we turned left onto the Carretera Austral and entered the wet zone we stopped for lunch in the Atacama desert.



It didn't rain while we ate our sandwiches in the cab and admired the view.

That was no surprise since it hadn't rained there in the last year.

Or the last decade.

Or the last century.

Or the last millennium.

In fact, it has never rained in that part of the Atacama desert in all of recorded history.

As in before the Incas were around recorded history.

It is the driest known spot on the planet earth.

In exactly 100 days we went from one of the wettest places on the planet to the driest.

Everything in life is relative, including the humidity.

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All photos by Douglas Hackney



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>