

We have run out of continent! Time to make a U-Turn.



After a great meal in Ushuaia, we spent the next morning walking around the town. Ushuaia feels like a simple mountain town that just happens to sit beside the sea. But what makes this mountain town special is that it sits at the end of the world.

We knew we had reached the most southern city, when we reached Ushuaia, but had we truly reached the end of the road? The answer is no, so we kept driving.

We drove into Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego, following the road all the way to Bahía Lapataia where it felt the road truly stopped. Standing there, looking out over the water and the wild landscape around us, it appeared that this was the end – we believed we could not drive any farther south on the continent. We asked a group of tourists to take our photo to mark this incredible moment, and something else left a mark: we were 5,782 miles from home, standing at the edge of the world, only to realize just how small it can feel. The group taking our picture lives in Redington Beach, about five miles from where we live – “it’s a small world after all” is more than a cliché and a song.



Not ready to accept the end, we kept exploring.

It was a perfect sunny day, and since Ushuaia had welcomed us with some clouds, we decided to backtrack to Mirador Garibaldi, an incredible lookout where you get a sweeping view of Lago Escondido – *Hidden Lake* – nestled in the tall mountains that mark the beginning of the Andes.

We spotted a steep dirt road that appeared to descend toward Lago Escondido. Naturally, we decided to test Taco Libre’s capabilities a bit more and see if we could “uncover” the hidden lake. TL delivered and took us all the way to the lake’s shore, where there was no place for it to hide. Not wanting to stop the adrenaline of this adventurous road we kept going until we reached Lago Fagnano, where Taco Libre dipped his shoes into the cold waters of Patagonia. It was one of those moments that made us appreciate once again how much freedom TL offers because there are so many corners of Patagonia that can only be reached if you’re willing to leave the pavement behind and get a little dirty.



And with such appreciation, we decided to climb up another steep dirt road. This one, would provide a magnificent view of the Beagle Channel – the long, narrow strait in Tierra del Fuego archipelago separating Argentina (north) and Chile (south), named after the ship HMS Beagle that Charles Darwin sailed in the area. As we stood on the Argentina side, the clouds were taking over and the raindrops started to make their appearance, fighting with the sun. But raindrops were not all that appeared. Without warning, a magnificent rainbow surfaced, revealing its beautiful colors, and stretching itself to decorate the entire Chilean land on sight. And soon thereafter... whales to add to the ambiance... and penguins swimming close to shore... and condors gliding across the water... the Beagle Channel felt truly magical!



So magical that we thought we might find a pot of gold. But not having a wetsuit handy, we decided to explore such magical place from above water. We took a boat out into the Beagle Channel. The day could not have been more perfect. The sky was clear, the sun was shining, and not a cloud interrupted the horizon as we left the port, watching Ushuaia slowly shrink and fade behind us.

The wildlife that day was extraordinary. As we approached Les Éclaireurs lighthouse, the emblematic lighthouse that sits in the channel, we saw Peale dolphins darting in the water, humpback and sei whales surfacing in the distance, and albatrosses following the boat while riding the wind behind it. Seeing an albatross, a symbol of the wild sub-Antarctic seas, was a gift from nature.

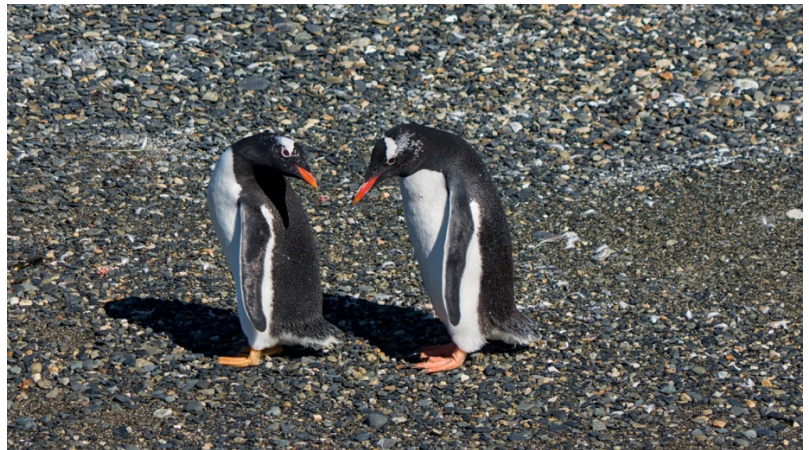


Also priceless was watching an Andean Condor perched next to the lighthouse, poised and confident, as any guardian ought to be. Neither the sound of the boat, nor the chaos of two sea lions barking loudly, disturbed him.

After leaving the guard on the rock, and the sea lions mid-fight, we headed to Isla los Lobos in search of sea lions. We spotted a colony on the island and a raft on the water. Did you know a group of sea lions on land is a colony but in the water is a raft?

Leaving the colony and raft behind we headed to Isla Martillo, where we saw three different kinds of penguins: King penguins, Magellan penguins and Papúa or Gentoo penguins – new for us.

As if that weren't enough, three condors circled high above the island, an incredible sight over a colony of penguins at the edge of the world.



It was one of those days where nature seemed determined to show us everything at once. Check out our YouTube video [Wildlife along the Beagle Channel](#).

Another unexpected highlight was the people we met along the way. On the boat we spent time talking with a couple from Brazil, and it reinforced something we've been noticing throughout this journey. Next to Colombians, Brazilians might be some of the warmest and most generous people we've encountered. More than once along the trip, Brazilians we've met have offered us contact information and told us to reach out if we need anything when we eventually travel through Brazil.

After a few days exploring Ushuaia and the Beagle Channel, we set out for one more detour looking for that last piece of land on the continent, as we were convinced there was more road to explore farther south. We drove toward Puerto Almanza, a small fishing village, detoured east, and finally found truly the farthest point you can drive south: Peninsula Mitre – a vast, uninhabited area, declared a provincial protected area in December of 2022, and guarded by the Argentine Navy.

Along that stretch of coast, we had another incredible wildlife moment. We saw dolphins and sei whales. At one point we counted at least a dozen whales moving through the water.



Having ran out of continent to the south, it was time to make the inevitable U-Turn to start heading back north. Time to go back home.

That evening we parked Taco Libre near a lighthouse overlooking the sea. From our campsite we could still see whales in the distance and the raft of sea lions swimming into the sunset.

Our next stops will take us back to finish something we had started earlier in the journey: Torres del Paine, via Punta Arenas, and La Carretera Austral, via the highly anticipated 42-hour ferry through fjords.

March 18, 2026

