

# Bariloche, Argentina

by Larry Christie



**Buuuurrriiloche**—News sources report the arrival of 49 “Space C” skiers in Bariloche, Argentina. There were high spirits as the landing party delighted in wearing sweaters, boots and gloves in the cold August winter.

The Saturday finally arrived for the departure of long awaited South American Expedition. “Space” joined Dallas and Austin skiers in Miami for the trip to Bariloche.

The party started upon arrival at Bariloche hotel. Ski passes and travel plans were confirmed on the “what did I buy, when do I fly” program from TC Deborah Christie, while sampling wine and enjoying snacks and sandwiches. Coach Larry Christie documented the event with his digital camera.

The skiers found some challenging terrain in the Cerro Cathedral area early the next day. It seems the visibility was “limited” for the first 3 days. Kathy Young and Dennis Stockton reported that they were able to determine proximity to the top of the lift by watching for the strobe positioned at the top of the chair. There were conflicting reports on the purpose of the lollipop trail marker colors.

Dawn and Ron Rodriguez, KJ Oldroyd, Rosemarie DiMarco, Fritz Kronberger, Maria Tramontin and Chris Urbanczyk skied as much as possible, enjoying the opportunity to ski the Andes. Karin and Kurt Schidlowski admitted to a day of wild skiing (Karin confided they were *wild*, not good skiers). Roger Holzman was accused on navigating the mountain by following blondes down the hill.

Good things happened for those that who waited. The fog cleared on the fourth day and skiers were treated to spectacular views with blue skies and a light powder snow covering. Hardworking TC Deborah Christie found an opportunity to relax at a champagne lunch on top of the mountain and spotted condors flying below.

Bariloche has many fun activities for the group. Liz Scarborough and Nelson Messenger managed a cross-country skiing day. Phil and Mary Endacott scouted a local brewery one afternoon. Bob Gottlieb found a ranch and spent a day horseback riding in the countryside.

Lake Tours aboard ferryboats were popular day excursions. Ann McIntyre, Diane McKenzie, Mary Ann Harrell, Joe Walker, David George, Wayne Kanek, Carol Buck and Joe Daleo were among those who journeyed to Victoria Island and hiked through “Bambi-Land” in the Arrayannes Forest. Christie Burke, Jim McLaughlin, Lynda Henry and Diane McKenzie took in another Lake adventure touring Lago Fria, and spotted a wild boar.

Ann Odegard, Carolyn McGinnis, and Manolo Valle joined many others visiting Mt. Tronador, a wonderful rumbling glacier. This group enjoyed a full day of *possibilities*: lunch, hiking, waterfalls and restroom, too.

Wednesday night we bid Hans Nadig, Brigitte Litz, Martha and Helmut Zenger, Carol and Eric Timmerick, Teresa Morris, Leigh Leathers, Liz Scarborough, Nelson Messenger, and the Schidlowski’s an adios party before their Lake Crossing trip to Chile.

The Lake Crossing gave the twelve travelers a 4-night tour over land and water on a journey to Chile. The many amazing scenes along the bus-boat-air trip that ended each night in a 4-star hotel awed them.

Meanwhile, the remaining Space group flew to the next stop, Buenos Aires.

The “Lakers” rejoined the SCSC group in Buenos Aires after their two-night visit in Santiago.

Hello Senor Tango! The tango dinner show was the talk and dance of the day. Deborah Christie represented the group admirably by dancing with the handsome tanqueros.

Julia Ostistaya and Dawn and Ron Rodriguez spent an evening at the Teatro Colon, taking in an opera. Sandra McCunis, Jose Araujo, Caroline Grunewald, Gai-Lynn Marshall, Luis Torres, and Roger Holzman danced the night away in a town that begins partying at midnight.

The group wound down activities (the Estancia and City Tours) with a final party at the hotel. David George and Wayne Kanek caught a ferry over to Colonia, Uruguay and spent the day touring (and they were able to visit Paraguay before leaving Iguazu Falls).

While Monday found the Iguazu Falls post trip group on their way and the Houston bound group doing last minute shopping, Susan and Frank Stanley enjoyed one of the best city views in town – relaxing poolside on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the hotel.

Deborah Christie continued with the adventures and found the Iquazu Falls – awesome. Everyone was so pleased and impressed with the massive falls surrounding us at all times. Everyone has a memorable moment.

After the Falls, about half of the group returned to Houston, while Deborah and many of the die-hards flew to Santiago for a couple more ski days. The city is wonderful to tour, but the 60+ switchbacks to the ski slope is a view of a lifetime. Santiago’s influence with the ocean and the Easter Islands gave some interesting choices other than Argentina beef.

After Santiago, half did a Rio weekend, while Deborah, worn out, took the others home.



