

Antarctic trip diary, Part 10

1/9/07

This morning we entered Porto Natale. The entrance is through a very narrow cut but it was at some ungodly hour so I did not see it. Tomorrow morning we depart at a less ungodly hour so I just might get up to watch it. Across the channel from where we are moored are several fish farms. I was involved with the design of prototype hardware for these things a couple of decades ago and before I lost touch with the project, I had heard there was interest in Chile in our design concepts. I wonder ...



The trip to Torres del Paine National Park was a long day but the scenery was definitely worth it. We passed sheep and cattle ranches enroute and then wild guanaco. We also saw some condors which are magnificent birds; I now understand the concern for their well-being. It is the park itself which is so spectacular with the lakes and the mountains being the notable features. The lakes are fed by glacial run-off but don't drain, so the sediment builds up. The water in each lake varies a bit in color from each other but they are all shades of brilliant (Caribbean) turquoise or aquamarine. The mountains were formed by a geological aberration and are very rough and craggy, like the Tetons but much more so. I wonder what Ansell Adams would have done if he had stumbled on these instead of the Tetons. I'm no Adams but I did get some spectacular photographs. Just as in Antarctica, even a chimpanzee with a camera could take beautiful photos with this kind of scenery. Patagonia, like Antarctica, is exceeding our expectations.



