

Exploring Ancient Inca Ruins and Penguin Sightings

One 425 family is spending a year traveling the world — this is a glimpse of their adventures. We will chronicle it in every issue in 2015 (assuming they have an Internet connection!). PHOTOS BY RODRIGO DEMEIDEROS

425 contributing photographer Rodrigo DeMedeiros and his wife, Gretchen, along with daughter, Bella, 15; son, Marco, 11; and road-school teacher Heather Holmes left Fall City late last year on a trip around the world.

They recently reported back on their trip to Peru, Chile and Argentina.

Peru was a country full of firsts for the group. They saw the Inca ruins and ran into a first major challenge when their rental apartments weren't ready when they arrived. And this is the first time the kids got sick on the trip.

When they got to **Chile**, it was "chill." The group cooked, edited photos and videos, and took long walks. They enjoyed swimming in the still-chilly pools, and sampled wines in Colchagua and the Casablanca Valleys.

Finally, when they arrived in **Argentina**, they road-tripped sans GPS. Navigating "mostly good" roads, the group saw a lot of topography from Sierra Madre, the Andes, canyons, pampas, oil and dino-rich deserts, and rugged coastlines. The wildlife at Peninsula Valdez was a highlight and included Southern Right whales, penguins and sea lions. It was the kids' favorite experience so far.

Next stop: Brazil!

One of the narrow alleys in the town of Ollantaytambo, the last stop before the Inca Trail



A woman in traditional Peruvian attire sits against ancient Inca ruins in the town of Chinchero, Peru



Expert hands working avidly in Chinchero, at a community of weavers >>

On the road to the ruins of Pisac: Peruvians show their talent for use of small spaces





Buenos Aires, Argentina: Bella and Marco rest among mausoleums in the Recoleta Cemetery, where Evita Perón is buried



Estancia la Porteña, Argentina: The table is set for a splendid "asado," the traditional barbecue



Puerto Valdés, Argentina: A penguin, one of 500,000 in the colony, strikes a pose



A trio of "Gauchos" serenades guests at the Estancia La Porteña



Buenos Aires, Argentina: performers at the famous Piazzolla Tango



*Santa Cruz, Chile:
Marco gets a chariot ride
between Cabernet vineyards*

*Ollantaytambo, Peru:
Bella and Marco's tough life
at Apu Lodge, a B&B by
the foot of the mountains*



We will be following the family's adventures this year in 425 magazine. Rodrigo has been a longtime contributing photographer. Read more and watch videos on their blog at learnlivetravel.com. 