

Day 35 – Santiago, Chile [Friday 25-Feb-2011]

We slept better than expected and woke up at 7AM to our great surprise. We showered and walked down to eat the breakfast that was included in the price. It tasted good, except they, too, use freeze dried coffee.



Breakfast is included at La Chimba Hostela in Santiago



A girl gets a kiss from a “living” statue outside of Catedral Metropolitana

After we had eaten breakfast we decided to walk a trail in Santiago that was proposed by our Lonely Planet book. We arrived at Plaza de Armas, where we were approached by a tourist representative in a Segway with “clothes”:



The tourist office in Santiago use several covered Segways.

The tourist representative had brochures and other information material in shelves on the inside. After briefly talking to him, we walked into Catedral Metropolitana. It was quite ornate.



Inside Catedral Metropolitana in Santiago, Chile



Lots of stained glass windows inside Santiago's Catedral Metropolitana

After exploring the church a bit, we continued the proposed path and walked down to Mercado Central, a major produce (fish, meat, bird) market in Santiago. We contemplated if to eat there, but we felt a bit awkward since pretty much all of them use “chasers” to bring you into their respective restaurant. We’d much rather decide about a place on our own terms. Instead, we ended up getting Empanadas (filled warm breads) that in this case had cheese in them. That tasted good.



One of many fish stands inside of Santiago's Mercado Central



Enjoying a warm Empanada de Queso outside of Mercado Central

After eating, we headed back to Plaza de Armas and continued further to Plaza de la Constitucion, where some 100 guards were standing outside of the presidential palace. It appeared as if they were paying tribute of a foreign visitor. We later learned that Chile had formally recognized Palestine.



An apparent honor guard is getting ready for a state visit at Plaza de la Constitucion

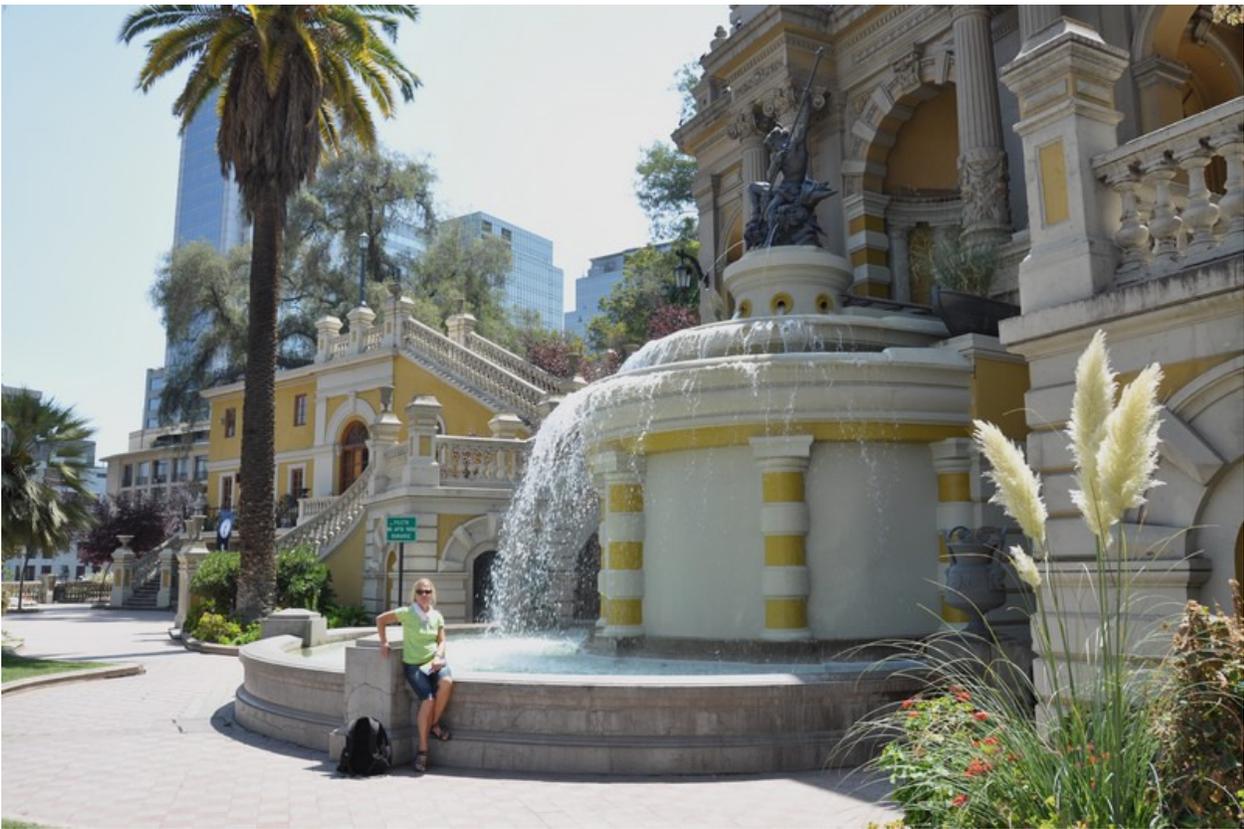


Boots and olde rifles



Salvador Allende was overthrown by Augusto Pinochet, Chile's last dictator

It's curious to note that Allende was overthrown in a military coup on 9-11, but back in 1973. We then continued along Avenue O'Higgins up to a municipal park named Cerro Santa Lucia, where we walked up to enjoy a great 360 view of the city.



Lilli is posing in the municipal park Cerro Santa Lucia



A view of Santiago from the top of Cerro Santa Lucia



Flowers as we walked down from the municipal park (Cerro Santa Lucia)



Hmm... what is this Lama doing in town?

When we got back to the hostel we took an extended nap, since we did not plan to sleep at night to be ready for our flight.

In the evening the hostel arranged a night of eating and drinking. They prepared empanadas to order, with your own selection of fillings. The empanadas were fried in a pan. With that you got a small glass of Chilean wine. It tasted really great.



This evening you could custom order fried empanadas at the hostel for just \$2 a piece

We joined a bigger group of young guests. One couple was French, one an Irishman and a girl from Scotland. We told stories and started with some light drinking.



We hung out with a group of mainly American college kids, plus one Irish and one Scottish

The light drinking soon turned into a series of booze games, such as “fuck the geologist (a game of quizzing one of the students about rocks)” and “fuck the dealer”. I think you get the idea.



It did not take long until the table turned to drinking games and chugging

One of the hosts of the hostel offered me a local Chilean drink referred to as a Pescola. It tasted very nice.



When you mix Pisco with Coke or Ginger Ale you get Piscola, a traditional Chilean drink