

Day 37 – Along the Magellan straight [Sunday 27-Feb-2011]

We woke up fairly early and got out into the eating area where I worked on the diary for a while.



Luis uses a wood fired stove in the kitchen to heat up tea water.



The breakfast is included at La Casa Escondido and it is a treat.

Equipped with a car we wanted to go exploring today. The weather was overcast and mixed rain, but that seems typical of Patagonia. We headed south west, past Punta Arenas, along the Magellan straight.



At one place we stopped to watch a school of dolphins play in the frigid water



We also saw a seal, near the shore, supposedly chewing on something

We followed the road along the coast of the Magellan Strait, as far as it would take us. That took us to a small place called San Juan. That is very close to the southernmost tip of continental South America. We stopped there and ate a lunch snack. We had hoped for a view of the Darwin Mountains on the other side of the straight, but things were just engulfed in clouds/fog.



A poor view of the Darwin Mountains from the continental tip of South America

After huddling a while in the cold and windy weather we headed back home. Along the way, we unintentionally picked up a Chilean hitch hiker, who held out his hand next to a required stop at a Carabinieri checkpoint. We mistook him for an officer and by the time we realized our mistake, it was too late -- we had an additional passenger. He rode with us back to Punta Arenas and did not speak a word of English.



Dinner where we stayed (La Casa Escondida)



Home cooked fresh sea bass stuffed with king crab and bacon. What a treat!!

The place we are staying at, La Casa Escondida, offers assorted for-pay dinner options, if you are interested (about \$22/person). We had them prepare fish dinner for us. It was a real treat.