

Two Blind to Ride riding by Picacho Peak  
80 miles south of Phoenix, Arizona, USA.



## Stage 4: Panama City to Phoenix

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**Total to date:**  
Ushuaia to Phoenix  
17,670 km / 10,948 miles  
Dec 2011 – Feb 2013



*A 16,000-mile journey to raise awareness about blindness and the abilities of the visually impaired.*

### Overview

Being that we are from Phoenix, Arizona, this particular stage was quite special. As we rode through Mexico along the western coast, we felt anxious to get to the US border and to make it in time for scheduled events we had in Phoenix. In particular, we had to be at the Arizona Hiking Shack scheduled on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February to talk about our journey and to share our project to raise awareness. We did take some buses where convenient to make time and where it was safer due to either traffic or relevant concerns. We only managed to make school visits once we crossed into the US given the time constraint

#### **Stage 1:**

Ushuaia to Santiago  
3457 km / 2143 mi  
Dec 2011 – May 2012

#### **Stage 2:**

Santiago to La Paz  
2616 km / 1622 miles  
May 2012 – Aug 2012

#### **Stage 3:**

La Paz to Panama City  
5444 km / 3375 mi  
Aug 2012 – Nov 2012

#### **Stage 4:**

Panama City to Phoenix  
5669 km / 3508 mi  
Nov 2012 – Feb 2013

#### **Stage 5:**

Phoenix to Lake Watson  
TBD km / TBD mi  
Feb 2013 – June 2013

#### **Stage 6:**

Lake Watson to Deadhorse  
TBD km / TBD mi  
June 2013 – Aug 2013

# Project Summary

For this stage we focused primarily on getting to Phoenix. As we rode through Central America, we tried to get in touch with schools and organizations for the blind; however, given our limited Spanish and the difficulty of finding contacts, we were unable to visit anyone. For awareness, we met and spoke with people along the way about our ride. It wasn't until we reached Arizona that we started getting in touch with contacts in Tucson and Phoenix.

## Visiting Schools & Organizations for the Blind



Figure 1 Christi and Tauru presenting their journey to date.

### Tucson & Phoenix, Arizona

We met the students at the Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind and shared our story in hope of encouraging them to also fulfill their dreams. We also spoke at the Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired in both Tucson and Phoenix. In Phoenix, we gave a presentation at the Arizona Hiking Shack and did a fundraiser for River of Dreams to support their mission to share the outdoors with persons with a disability. We raised \$860 that night.

## Raising Awareness In The News

### KPHO CBS 5 and 3TV

Our friends at KPHO CBS 5 invited us into the studio for an interview when we arrived in Phoenix. After 13 months and some 11,000 miles, returning to the studio to talk with Paul and the TV crew was surreal. We actually made it! Though the journey still has 6,000 miles to go to reach Deadhorse, Alaska, we felt that the remaining leg was simply a matter of waking up and doing it – the logistics and concerns about endurance had been tested. We also got in touch with 3TV to share our project with their Phoenix viewers.

Both news clips are on our website in the Archives page under "In The News." We promised to come back into the studios if and when we complete our journey and return to Phoenix later this end-of-summer.





# Ride Summary

## Camping in Costa Rica

The heat and humidity in Central America was made bearable by cheap hotels (\$7 to \$15 per room per night). We only camped one night (in Costa Rica); otherwise, we were able to find affordable rooms in towns we passed along our route. Road traffic varied from country to country: Costa Rica was difficult due to limited shoulders, Nicaragua was fantastic because of good roads and good shoulders, Guatemala was horrible because of high traffic and no shoulder, and Mexico was good with good shoulders.



## Round The World Japanese Cyclist

One of the pleasure of cycle touring is meeting other cyclists. In Mexico, we met a southbound cyclist from Japan who had been on the road for a couple of years now. He was on his last leg of a round-the-world journey that started in New Zealand and Australia and routed him through South-east Asia, Asia, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa, and now North America. He was en route down to Ushuaia where we had started our trip a year ago. We chatted for a little bit, but then the road beckoned we parted. Good luck to him!

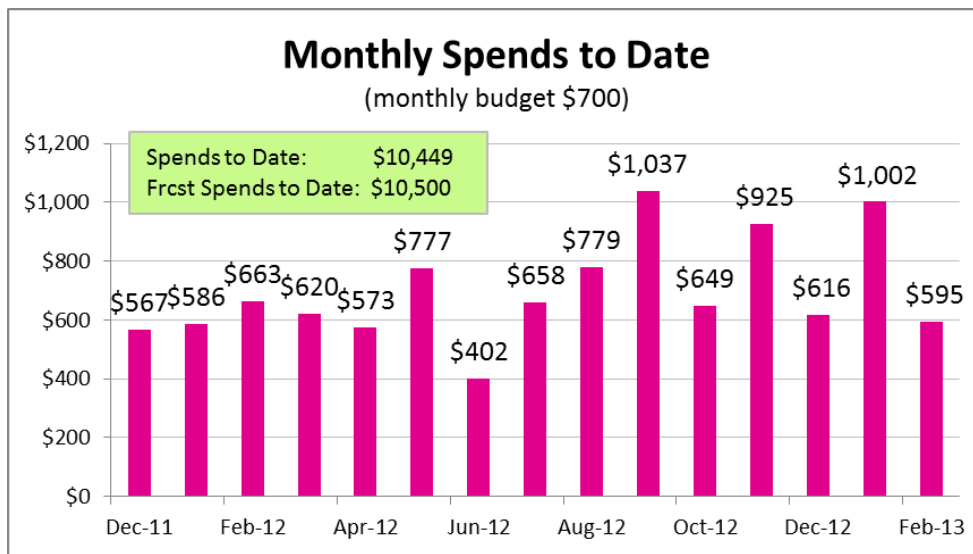
## Finally in the US

After 13 months on the road and almost 11,000 miles, we finally reached the US border at Nogales, Arizona. Though it felt like a home coming and an end to the journey, we knew we still had 6,000 miles to go to reach the northernmost part of Alaska. But being "home" felt giddy because we could now speak English and actually be able to communicate with people.

Our first night in Green Valley with a Warmshowers host was a very much welcomed and warm reception. Being back in the States has rejuvenated us for the final push up north.

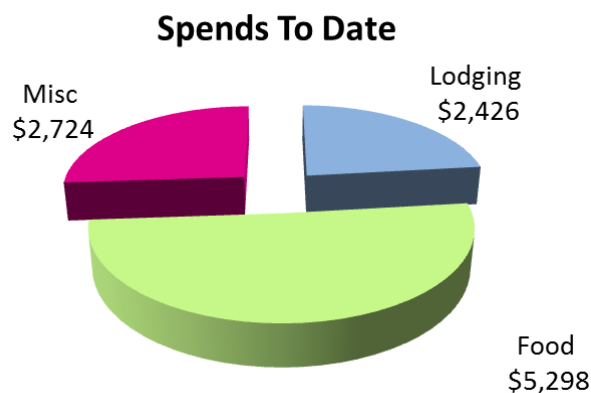


# Expense Summary



After four stages over 15 months, we are averaging on a monthly basis a \$700 per month budget that we had originally planned. As noted in the graph to the left, we were below the \$700/mo budget for the both of us in the beginning. Argentina and Chile were expensive countries; therefore, we camped for the great majority of the first half of this trip. Once we got

into less expensive countries in the northern half of South America and throughout Central America, our monthly average went up because we were staying in hotels (though inexpensive) and visiting stores for snacks. The two months that we went over \$1000 can be blamed on potato chips and cookies! ☺ Overall, we think it is possible to budget \$500/mo for a couple if you really skimp it and \$1100/mo for a couple if you enjoy it. Note that the expenses for bike related items are not included. The figure below on the right contains all expenses.



The pie chart to the left illustrates the breakdown of our spends. For Lodging, approximately \$1500 of the \$2426 was for rooms in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Central America from July 2012 to February 2013. This averages out to ~\$200/mo for hotels. We hope this information will help others who are considering a similar trip.

## Extra-Ordinary Expenses

There are times when expenses incur for more than just daily living expenses. The list to the right illustrates such expenses related to the trip (such as visas) and to the bike (such as repairs and/or replacement parts).

In total we have spent approximately \$14,000 for the past 14 to 15 months of adventures.

Month/Yr		Extra-Ordinary Expenses Related to Cycling	
Dec-11	\$280	2 visas for Argentina	
Jan-12	\$35	New headset (Rio Grande, Argentina)	
Feb-12	\$343	Bike repair, new tent/tripod, ferry Lago Desierto	
Mar-12	\$298	Boats Lago O'Higgins crossing and new bike parts	
Apr-12	\$372	New stove, drive train and ferry Puerto Montt	
May-12	\$164	Medical Christi's back pains (Santiago, Chile)	
Jun-12	\$167	Bike repairs in Argentina (La Rioja, Tucuman)	
Jul-12	\$270	2 visas for Bolivia	
Aug-12	\$115	New bike computer & camera tripod	
Sep-12	\$0	None	
Oct-12	\$441	Boats for Darien Gap crossing	
Nov-12	\$75	Chains and bus tickets to David	
Dec-12	\$754	Bike stuff, bus to Mexico City, visas Honduras	
Jan-13	\$37	Handout cards 1000 ct	
Feb-13	\$31	Bike repair in Phoenix	
	\$3,382	Total EO's Bike Related	
	\$10,449	Daily Spends	
	\$13,831	TOTAL	

# Special Thanks

We want to extend a special thanks to the following people and businesses for supporting our project and for making it possible financially. Their contribution enables us to spread our message that everything is possible throughout both of the Americas and to the rest of the world.

THANK YOU!

## Thanks for your donation!

Scott Parsons  
Chris Chavez  
Garry & Tina Bruchok  
DiAnn Galm  
Bryan Johnson  
Dale Miller  
Raymond Landis  
Renee Defeo  
Dale Mallison  
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**Special thanks to the Arizona Hiking Shack and Desert Voyagers for hosting our presentation in Phoenix, Arizona on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013:**

