Tim, Jess, Mark, Kevin, Vicente at the Rapaport Cabin 24/03/05

Expedition members

Leo Houlding (leader),GB, 24 , Sheffield, Full time rock climber sponsored by Berghaus.
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Kevin Thaw, GB, 36, Uppermill, Full time climber sponsored by North Face. Resident in Bishop, California.

Jessica Corrie, GB, 25, Sheffield, Medical student

Vicente Banate, Argentina, 34, Buenos Aires, Trekking Guide.

Mark Karhl, USA, 38, Bishop California, Software engineer

Tim Koiesk, USA, 28, Sidka Alaska, Fisherman

Tommy Hienrich, Argentina, 43, Buenos Aires, Entrepenuer.

Expedition Diary

March 2005

8th	Rendezvous Barriloche
9th	Purchase supplies
10th	Drive to El Bolson
11th	Drive to Lago Puelo
12th	Cross Lago Puelo
13th	Locate Gaucho
14th	River in flood
15th	Unable to access Valley
16th	|
17th	|
18th	|
19th	|
20th	|
21st	|
22nd	River goes down
23rd	Begin horse trek
24th	Horse trek to Rapaport Cabana
25th	Heavy rain Rapaport Cabana
26th	Trek into Turbio IV valley
27th	Continue trek arrive Turbio Cabana
28th	Explore valley study la Mariposa
29th	Descend to Rapaport Cabana
30th	Descend river in dingy to bivi.
31st	Descend river in dingy to Conon's farm.

April 2005

1st	Cross Lago Puelo
2nd	Bus to Barriloche
3rd	Barriloche
4th	Barriloche to Manchester

Report

Leo and Kevin spent February in the Fitzroy region of Patagonia making free alpine ascents of Fitzroy's North Pillar (5th ascent) and Poincenot's West Face before travelling north to rendezvous with the rest of the team in Barriloche on March 8th. Supplies were purchased here including small rubber boats for the river descent. Unusually heavy rain delayed crossing Lago Puelo until March 12th. Upon Locating the Gaucho Conono Fernandez the team were informed that it was impossible to enter the valley as the Rio Turbio was in flood and that no amount of money or coercion would persuade him otherwise. The rain persisted and the team was forced to spend 8 days with Conono and his family on their farm. An enlightening experience observing the Gaucho way of life little changed for centuries. We found them to be very friendly and hospitable.
Eventually the rain stopped. We waited a day to for the river to go down then on March 23rd the 7 team members accompanied by Conono, his brother Cholo and 5 pack horses saddled up and rode up river. During the multiple river crossings it became apparent why it is not possible to access during high water. The horses struggled in the still deep fast flowing water and whole trees deposited in the flow suggested the river can become a dangerous torrent in times of flood.
One bivi was made on the horse trek though a smaller convoy could do it in a day.
Due to fallen trees blocking the trail on the second day the team was forced to carry their equipment for the last 2 hours to the Rapaport cabana. The Rapaport Cabana is a large old cabin with a shingle roof containing a cast iron stove and rustic sleeping area for 6.

Leo on summit Fitzroy 02/02/05

Gaucho taxi Lago Puelo 13/3/05

Jess, Tim, Kevin and Tommy 23/03/05

The rainforest trek into the valley 26/03/03

March 25th was torrential rain. On March 26th loads were reduced to a minimum including climbing gear and food for 5 days. The trek into Turbio IV proved to be extremely demanding. A vague trail through the dense forest was difficult to follow forcing the team to make a bivi before arriving at the Turbio Cabana late on March 27th. The Trubio Cabana is a typical Patagonia climbers shack though a very good one. Rain proof with small wood stove and sleeping area for 6. March 28th was spent exploring and mapping the valley. Two hours from base camp the Mariposa can be seen though the approach to the base requires technical climbing. Due to the limited time remaining and seriousness of the descent to civilisation no climbing attempts were made. March 29th brought heavy rain but lack of time forced the team to descend in poor conditions. With knowledge of the route the trek to the Rapaport Cabana was made in 1 long day. March 30th the team trekked to the confluence of the river, inflated our small dingies and began the river descent. With one boat each plus some 50kg of equipment the turbid white water was unnerving but enjoyable thanks to the best weather experienced on the trip. March 31st the team continued the river descent arriving back at Lago Puelo's west shore late in the evening. April 1st we collected or equipment from Conono's farm and crossed the lake back to civilisation in heavy rain.

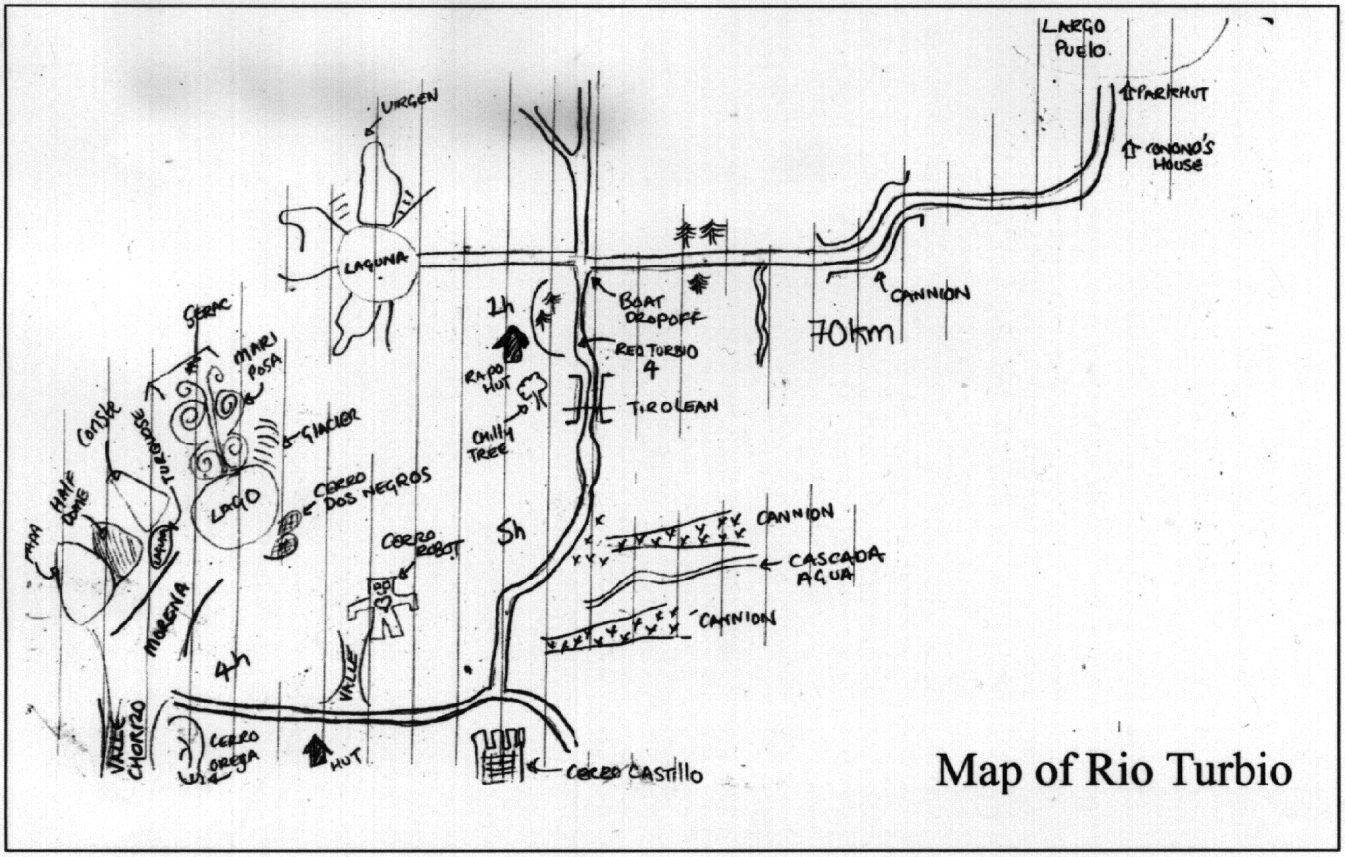
The N.W.Face of La Mariposa showing serac.

$20 descent craft! 50kg for 50km! 31/03.05

Cerro Castillo

Cerro Oreja, Cerro Papa + Half dome

View down valley from Mariposa viewpoint.



Map of Rio Turbio

Objectives

Cerro Oreja (ear) 400m rock wall, slabs to vertical, some vegetation.

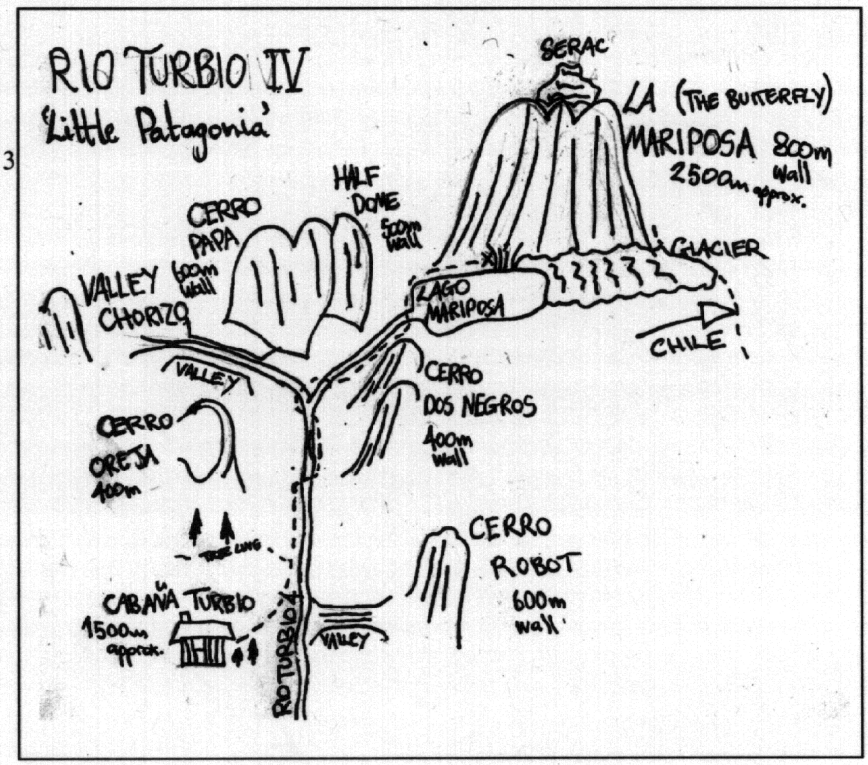
Cerro Robot, 600m, clean alpine rock wall, 3 hour approach.

Cerro do Negros, 400m, some fine clean crack lines, steep, some vegetation.

Cerro Papa and Half Dome, 600m, steep complicated big walls. A little vegetation.

Valley Chorizo, Side valley offering long more alpine rock walls.

La Mariposa (The Butterfly), 800m, Extremely steep, featureless big wall. Complicated approach past lake. Glacial approach. Seracs threaten most of the wall from the summit. A serious proposition.



Conlusion

According to the Gaucho Conono March is the driest month in the notoriously wet region. March 2005 was the wettest for many years denying any attempt to climb the Mariposa. However valuable knowledge was gained regarding the difficult approach, serious nature and awesome stature of the unclimbed wall inspiring Kevin and Leo to return next year.

Expedition Accounts

Please note that these accounts apply only to the British expedition members.

Expenditure

Flights	£3000 (£1000 each)
Supplies	£465
Horses	£200
Transport	£300
Equipment	£250
Insurance	£210
Miscellaneous	£100
Total	£4525

Income

MEF Grant	£525
BMC Grant	£1000
Personal Contributions	£3000 (£1000 each)
Total	£4525

The Expedition would like to thank the MEF and BMC for their valuable support .