

# Vélos Andins

from Ushuaïa to Cancun by bicycle



March to September 2010

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## Introduction

We believe that childhood dreams should come true, especially when they lead one to discover the world, uncover unknown cultures and experience a great adventure.

It's not easy to leave everything behind -- family, career, home -- for six months and take off to realize a dream.

So we are taking advantage of our youth and seeking adventure : we will realize our childhood dream by traveling up the western coast of South America by bicycle.

During this voyage, we wish to discover cultures of different people; there are so many other ways of life and thought than those to which we are accustomed. We want to share our experience more widely, and South and Central America provide the perfect opportunity.

To help us along the way, we have created an association (via French law 1901) named "Vélos Andins" (Andean Bikes).

This report introduces the ultimate purpose, organization, and resources for our 6-month bike adventure that will take place from March to September of 2010.



# Cyclist Biographies

## Antoine Baloge



Born on April 1st, 1986

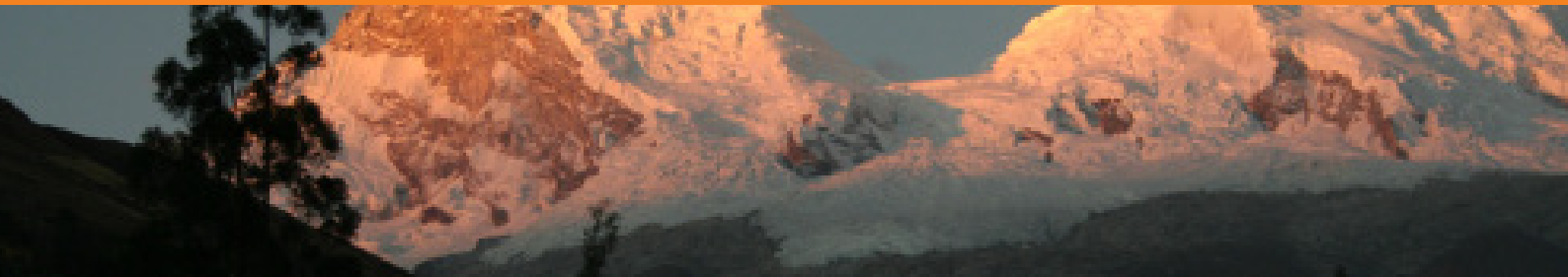
Currently working in network administration and audiovisual maintenance technology in Paris

Hobbies : sports, entertainment and street arts, photography, travel.

Last year, my friend Hoëlig suggested that I follow him on a 6-month trek to explore Latin America. The decision was not an easy one to make (leaving my family, friends and career), but my desire to travel and discover was too strong to ignore.

Moving up the coast from Ushuaïa's glacier to the Caribbean sea promises great geographical and cultural diversity. This is an opportunity to meet new people, experience new cultures and traverse new landscapes. But first and foremost, it's a human adventure.

The important thing is not to reach Cancun as fast as possible, but to take the time to live a unique experience. I hope I'll learn a lot about myself and see things differently when I return. As a technician in audiovisual administration in Paris, I feel the need to live something outside of my daily city life.



# Cyclist Biographies

## Hoëlig Le Clainche



Born on January 24th, 1986

Engineering student at the Ecole Centrale of Lille

Hobbies : Cycling, magic and free diving

Before beginning a career as a full-time engineer, I want to discover something new and change my point of view on events that affect my daily life.

I want to separate myself from my assumptions about the conditions of life, cultures or political systems in other places. And South America is a rich, diverse continent that will allow me to fully discover this.

Though my heart condition could have stifled my motivation and limited my capacity for achievement, I decided long time ago that it would not dictate how I live, and this voyage is further proof of my convictions.

# Our Purpose and Goals

## Why leave ?

Our approach is oriented towards the sharing of experience. We will spend six months in Latin America, but our experience is intended to be rewarding from the beginning of our preparations in France to our return flight home.

Our project focuses on the following objectives:

### - **Meetings and exchanges**

The bicycle is an environmentally friendly mode of transportation. It especially allows for proximity -- we want to participate in daily life and establish contacts with the people we will encounter.

### - **Teaching**

We included primary and secondary school students in our voyage preparation and execution, who will follow our adventure as we travel. To make this easier and more effective, our website will be updated regularly during our journey, while the classroom teachers will lead discussions, presentations and other history lessons on Latin America.

### - **Overcoming handicap**

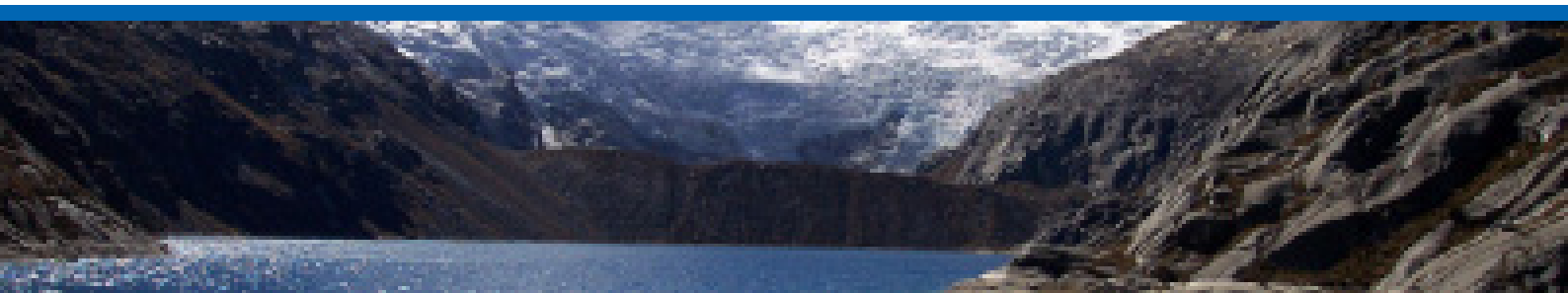
For this project we are helping the National Association of Congenital Heart (ANCC : Association Nationale des Cardiaques Congénitaux) which has agreed in return to be part of our partners. We will complete a report on heart disease, and how one can resume a more normal life after surgery.

Because Hoëlig has a history of heart disease, he is very involved in this cause.

We also hope that our adventure brings more attention to the ANCC and the important work that they do.

### - **Enjoyment**

This trip will also be for us, to take advantage of the time we have to travel, quench our thirst for discovery, and enjoy this journey in very new and different surroundings.



# Itinerary

## Route Map



# Itinerary

## Our Trip in Numbers

During our journey we hope to travel an average of 50 to 60 kilometers per day by bicycle, taking public transit when necessary. At this rate, we believe that we will need four and a half months to reach Cancun, leaving a 3 to 4-week margin to linger, explore and discover the surrounding areas at our own pace.

Route : **15,000 kilometers from Ushuaïa to Cancun**

Altitudes :

0m : Ushuaïa (Argentina)

4,070m : Potosi (Bolivia)

Temperatures :

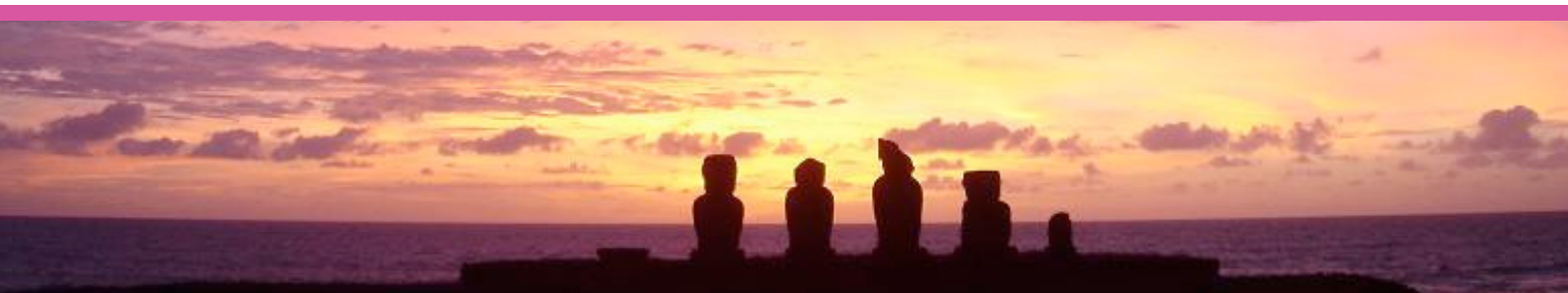
- 20°C : Desert of Uyuni (Bolivia)

35°C : Cancun (Mexico)

Countries crossed:

Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Belize, Mexico.

During this journey, we will cross many remarkable and unique locations; a large number of them are classified as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.





## Partnerships

### Schools

#### **Secondary school of Beg Er Vill (Quiberon, 56)**

We met with two classes of Quiberon's secondary school, which will follow our voyage via Internet part of their curriculum. A presentation of our project was made in the presence of journalists, followed by an informational exchange and a call for volunteers.

In return for a presentation on one of the countries on our route, we will find each student a correspondent from a school in their chosen country.

#### **Primary school of Gouvé (Roubaix, 59)**

After having pitched a tent in the school as an example of our equipment, we presented our project to 4 classes, complete with equipment demonstrations and a Q and A session. The CE2-CM1 class will follow our progress in conjunction with work on the subjects mentioned below.

#### **Schools of South and Central America**

As part of our commitment to Beg Er Vill's students, we will encounter students from schools in every country we visit. The objective is to establish a partnership between French and South American schools.

Subjects covered:

History

Geography

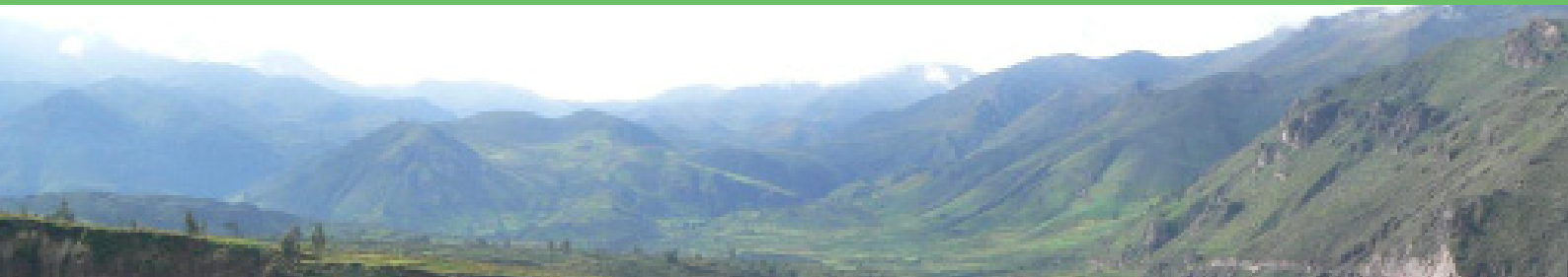
Civics

NTIC through Email and Internet usage \*

French

Spanish

\* NTIC: New Technologies of Information and Communication



## Partnerships

### The ANCC Association

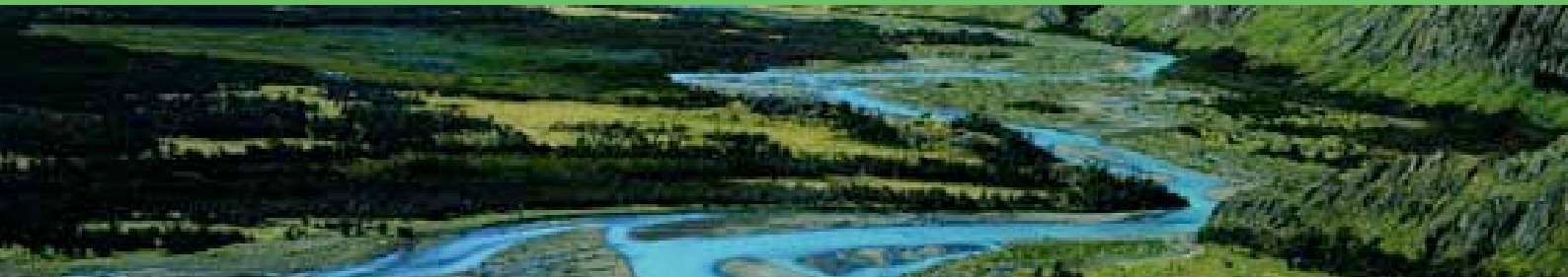
Because of Hoëlig's heart disease, we understand the concerns of parents of children with this condition. It is very important for us to show that though the diseases may affect them in negative ways, it doesn't mean the end of their life.

This trip will be an opportunity to document Hoëlig's experience vis-à-vis his condition and make this information accessible to affected families. We will show that the disease is not fatal and that a challenge like ours is still feasible after the healing process.

The ANCC, which is close to the families and patients of heart disease, will ensure the broadcasting of our report to a wide audience. We will also be releasing reports and updates on their website and in partner schools.

Companies and individuals who wish to support us in achieving our goals can donate through the ANCC. Donors can receive a tax credit of 60 percent of the value of the gift.

In addition to our communication partnership with the ANCC, they have promised to give us all donations received for our project.



# Project Financing

## Sponsors

To help us to fund our project, we are looking for sponsors and/or partnerships. In return, we are offering different communication media to be made available to sponsors during and after our voyage to enhance this partnership.

- Communication on our website
- Quality photos (Canon EOS 400D / G11)
- HD Video (audiovisual training)
- Regular monitoring of project progress
- Complete technical review on equipment (based on engineering training specializing in strength of material)
- Other: to be determined

## Micro-Sponsorship:

We want to involve the people around us every day by proposing to help us financially in exchange for visibility on our website and blog, as well as access to various documents produced after our return.

## Grant Requests:

Several grant applications are currently being considered by various administrative departments:

Town council of Quiberon (56)

Town council of Boulogne-Billancourt (92)

Departmental Management of Youth and Sports of the Hauts de Seine (92)



# Project Financing

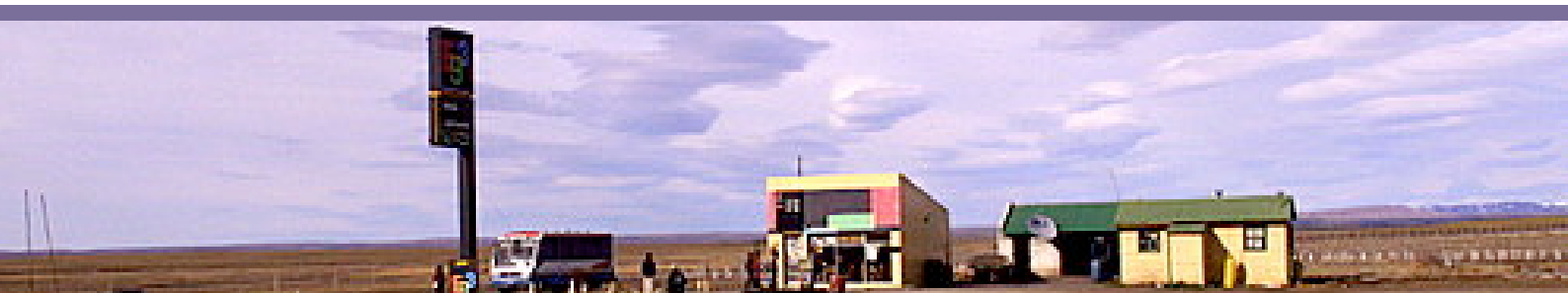
## Contribution

Our personal contribution is now the main financial source for this project. We hope to reduce it to a minimum, while also allowing to our partners to benefit from the image presented by this adventure.

## Estimated budget

We established a estimated budget, with all of the expected costs we will incur:

Grade	Budget	Budget per person
Bike	4000 €	2000 €
Performer Goal X 26/26 adapted to the project, including spare parts and reparir kit		
Clothes	1550 €	775 €
Clothes adapted to the climatic conditions of countried visited		
Health / Security	990 €	495 €
Vaccines, care kits, daily hygiene		
Camp	1025 €	512 €
Complete equipment for camping (tent, sleeping bag, mattress, mosquito net, etc)		
Kitchen	3800 €	1900 €
Basic equipment for cooking in all circumstances, including daily food budget		
Electronic	1625 €	812 €
Electronic equipment (cameras, camcorders, netbook, solar charger, etc)		
Transport / Housing	3300 €	1650 €
Transport by plane (national and international), local transport (taxi, buses), hotels		
Various	1000 €	500 €
Miscellaneous material, spare time activities, etc		
TOTAL :	17290 €	8645 €



# Security

## Daily Security

Recognizing that this trip also presents a risk to our health (physical or medical risks), we will leave equipped with an ARGOS type beacon (the same type as those embedded in the Vendée Globe sailing race), allowing us to locate ourselves and indicate our state of health to our families via internet, or trigger a process of repatriation in case of more serious problem.

We researched and purchased equipment based on meetings with people with similar travel experience who traveled with the same type.

For the preparation of our trip, we were inspired by books on this subject in order to make good decisions about choosing the right equipment, our itineraries and tips on cultural sensitivities to be aware of in certain countries.

Of course, we will start with a full rescue kit tailored to the regions traveled (designed with a specialist from the Latin American of Institute Pasteur of Lille) and all of our vaccines up to date.

### **Daily security :**

Our contact with people who have already done this type of trip helped us prepare ourselves. We have a clear idea of where our camps lay and situations to avoid, and have prepared “their bags\*” -- just in case.

\* Bags with little money, credit card blocked, fake papers, etc in order to give them up quickly in case of aggression, without compromising our safety or the rest of our trip

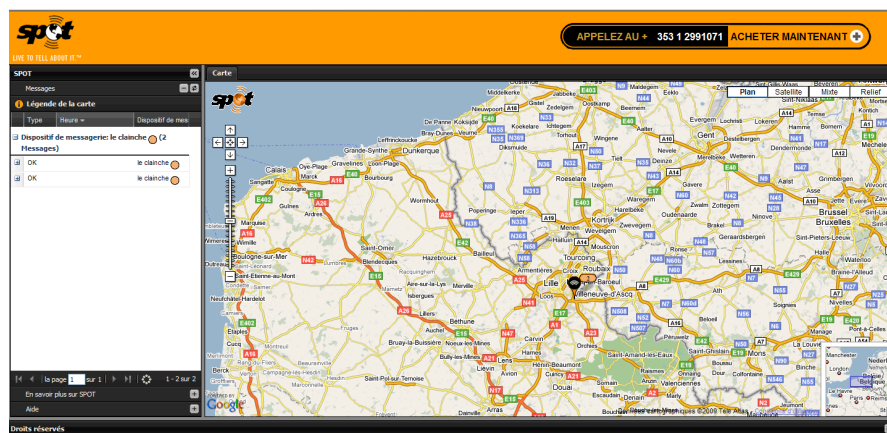


# Security

## Daily Security

### The SPOT system :

We will embark with a SPOT system beacon, which is a new generation system, similar to the “ARGOS beacon” but capable of transmitting signals such as “I’m fine” from our location to subscribers (like our parents). Our advancement up the coast will be visible on our website, thanks to SPOT points added automatically on the map.



### Medical preparations:

The international vaccination centers have informed us about the risks and precautions necessary before a trip like this. We will have received all recommended vaccinations before our departure, and completed our safety training (PSC1: Prevention to Civic Aid level 1). Our personal experience hiking independently has provided us with the first aid and accident response skills.

## Annex

### Educational project

EDUCATIONAL PROJECT  
“THE DISCOVERY OF THE ANDES”  
SCHOOL YEARS 2008-2009 and 2009-2010

#### DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

This project was born from the desire to get students at Beg er Vil School to open themselves internationally from meeting two young men who wish to share with the students the experience of their journey through South America by bike.

This project fits into more than one title in the Project preparation and echoes a comprehensive approach already undertaken in various areas.

It allows an opening for the cultural discovery of a continent of different cultures and geographies, histories and a reactivation of existing links between Britain and South America (their journey will be made along the coastline and in highland areas which leads to a connection with the maritime mythology of Britain and Ushuaia). The work done thus enhances the school's identity as an institution linked to the sea, its traditions and history.

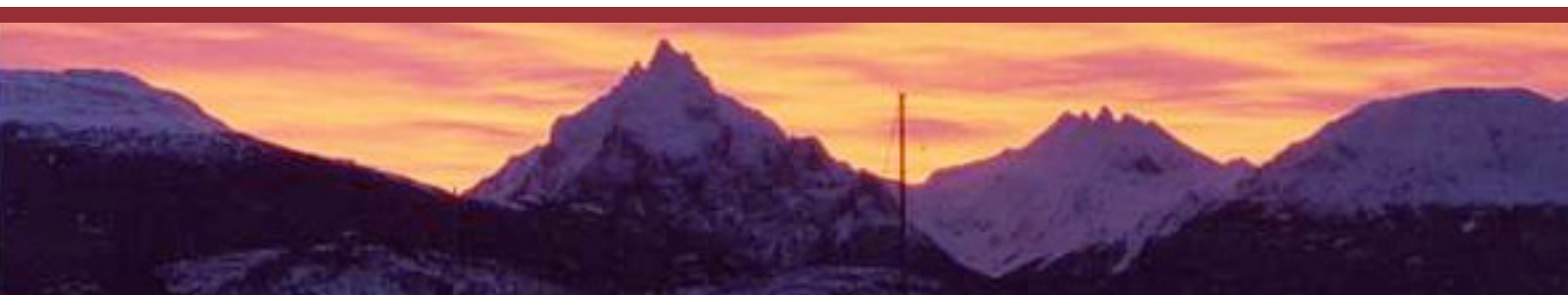
It helps develop the language component of the school plan through relationships with correspondents. The travelers intend to connect South American students with students at this school participating in the project.

This project hopes to provide a platform for cultural exchange in both the initial construction (research on destinations, suggestions of places to visit based on elements updated by students) and in monitoring the progress of the trip (regular contacts before, during and after).

It will also address more concretely the themes related to citizenship (cultural differences, discovery and respect for others and the difference, racism and Human Rights).

#### PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

The involvement of the students in the project is spread over two academic years (2008-2009 and 2009-2010). It can hardly be followed by one class in particular. Moreover, a subject of this nature imposed on students does not seem to be adequate for retaining the attention of students.



## Annexes

It was therefore decided that the project would be offered on a voluntary basis among the pupils of current 5th and 6th grades.

The group will accompany the project:

- In its preparation phase
- In its progress through regular contacts via Internet
- Exchanging personalized with a correspondent from a country crossed by the selected student (this approach would increase the involvement of students in learning the Spanish language if chosen as a second foreign language)
- The experience could be shared by other college students through lectures, photo exhibitions, etc)

### FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS AND TRADE

February 24th, 2009 was the first meeting between Hoëlig and classes of 5th and 6th grades for the presentation of the project.

This meeting led to the informal training of the group of student volunteers who will commit to participating in this project. This will require the phase of reflection at regular intervals with contacts between the group and the organizers of the trip to measure the progression and evolution of the project.

During the second meeting with Hoëlig, project coordinators outlined that regular contacts are to be expected during the period of 6 months that will last the entirety of the trip, via Internet or by webcam if possible.

A third meeting will be scheduled upon the return of the voyagers, in which the students will present their work for the rest of the group and other students at the school.

### CONTACT

Our website (in construction): <http://velos-andins.com>

Project liasons at the school:

Daniel LE BEUAN: Principal

Maryse AUBERT: C.P.E.

Maiwen COANTIC: librarian





# Annexes

## Contact Information

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