

# Islanders' trip to tip of South America nearing end

Former British Airways captain Chris McLaughlin and his copilot/wife Corrine, a British Airways purser, are returning to southwest Florida after flying thousands of miles to the tip of South America and beyond, raising awareness of the importance of organ donations and the often unmet need for organ transplants.

The McLaughlins will soon clear customs in Opa-Locka, Fla. and land in Naples, where their "Cape to Cape" flight will take a short break while the couple head to England for a month. During that time, they will visit the transplant unit at London's King's College Hospital to again thank the team that saved Chris' life.

Nantucketers can expect to greet the McLaughlins in mid- to

late May at a "welcome home" celebration at Nantucket Memorial Airport, where their journey began.

As they traveled, they celebrated their Nantucket roots by unfurling the island's familiar blue and white burgee at Ushuaia, Argentina – the southernmost city in the world – and hiked the trail on the Brazilian side of Iguassu Falls.

The journey was not without its challenges – from medical problems to the lack of fuel at small airports to numerous aircraft issues with their Cessna Skyhawk – but "still we persevered because this cause is so important," Chris said.

The McLaughlins even had a well-publicized visit to the Falkland Islands which was "quite similar to Nantucket," they said.

Details of the trip can be viewed at [www.flight4lives.com](http://www.flight4lives.com).



Courtesy of Betsy Sanpere

Chris and Corrine McLaughlin at Iguassu Falls during their journey to the southernmost tip of South America earlier this month.

[www.ack.net](http://www.ack.net) – Nantucket's News First

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