

Return to Argentina



Tips from the Posse

By Mark Rackay

When you travel, your body may arrive before your soul catches up, leaving you feeling tired. Airplane travel, with speeds over 500 mph, can make your soul take longer to arrive. Eventually, you feel rested, and your soul reunites with you.

In my travels, delays, weather issues, and other mishaps haven't affected my soul's arrival time. Despite the challenges, my soul seems to arrive right on schedule with the rest of me.

This spring, my wife and I embarked on our third hunting trip to Argentina. We ventured 600 miles north of our usual hunting grounds in the Pampas region, near the border with Uruguay, close to the famous Parana River.

Our journey had its share of challenges, especially with airline delays due to severe weather in



The European influence in the old city of Buenos Aires is evident everywhere you look. This residence is downtown. (Mark Rackay/Special to the MDP)

Houston. Despite arriving two hours late and facing further delays, we managed to make our connections and reach our camp.

Argentina is a remarkable country with friendly people. Many speak English, and even those who don't are patient and accommodating. Despite my limited Spanish fluency, I found it easy to communicate with the locals.

Safety-wise, Argentina ranks high in South America. While Buenos Aires can be overwhelming, it's

no more daunting than any major U.S. city.

The Argentine Peso's value is relatively unstable, making it favorable for the U.S. dollar. However, the country is battling high inflation rates, reaching 287% in March 2024, the highest in the world.

Argentina's new President Javier Milei has made modest improvements to the economy, garnering positive attitudes from the people.

Beyond Buenos Aires, Argentina's natural beauty



This Argentinian gaucho is a skilled horseman, and proud of his country. He stopped for a quick picture with us. (Mark Rackay/Special to the MDP)

shines. The Andes offer breathtaking peaks, while Patagonia boasts world-class trout fishing, hunting, and hiking.

Hunting in Argentina is a thriving industry, particularly for bird hunting. Doves and pigeons, considered pests by locals, are abundant in farming areas, making it a shotgunner's paradise.

For big game enthusiasts, Argentina offers some of the world's best free-range red stag hunting. The

country's wildlife protection policies ensure that native species are off-limits to hunters.

Despite its challenges, including inflation and economic uncertainties, Argentina remains a captivating destination for outdoor enthusiasts and adventurers. My trips there have left a piece of my soul behind, prompting plans for future visits.

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May gardening tips to get you growing



Gardening From A to Z

By Linda Corwine McIntosh

There seems to be so much excitement over Dahlias lately that I just have to write about them. It's no wonder that these divas of the garden are gaining in popularity.

They come in a large variety of colors, sizes, and shapes making them an asset to almost any garden.

They also look fantastic as cut flowers in arrangements and will last for days. Do you know there's even an American Dahlia Society?

I'm thinking if you haven't tried growing them before, it's time you did. So here's what you need to know to get you growing.

A friend of mine referred to Dahlias as the "friendship flower." I like that. She said that's because once you have one you can keep dividing it and giving to friends. It's like having sourdough bread starter; you divide it and give some of the starter away so others can divide it and give it away.

There are about 30 species of dahlias and more than twenty thousand cultivars that you can choose

from. They actually come in a rainbow of colors and sizes including variegated and bicolor.

Blue is about the only color lacking in this rainbow. Oh my gosh! It's so hard not to get carried away buying them. The flowers can be double or single varieties.

Double-flowered dahlias have a tightly layered configuration of petals. These can be ruffled, pointed, ball-shaped, or tubular. The double-flowered types can range in size from 1 inch (the pompons) to a massive 12 inches (the dinner plates) with several impressive varieties in between. Single varieties with their pollen-rich centers are bee magnets.

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Photo used with permission by local gardener Renell Good: Dahlias are nothing new but they're sure catching on as the stars of the garden.

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