

THE ARGENTINIAN TIMES

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ProjectsAbroad



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Editorial

I hope that this fills you up with energy to make you believe that in life nothing is impossible!



“Almost everything we’ll ever do in life that is really powerful, that really produces a result in our lives, that quantum-leaps us to a new level requires us to do something uncomfortable. It takes risks to achieve. It’s often scary. It requires something you didn’t know before or a skill you didn’t have before. But in the end, it’s worth it. As former Congressman Ed Forman says, ‘Winners are those people who make a habit of doing things losers are uncomfortable doing.’ Make today your day to start that uncomfortable new habit.” – Jack Canfield

This interview reminds me of a concept often used in the comfort zone. In the industry of air conditioning this zone defines itself like an ambient temperature of around 22°C where one doesn’t feel heat or cold and you feel good. It is also called dead zone.

As you imagine we cannot live in a room where the temperature is 22°C all year round, we need to go outside, and go from one point to another. In life, it’s the same, when we abandon our comfort zone, risk going to unknown places and take up new challenges, we learn new things and gradually increase our comfort zone.

As volunteers, we permanently leave our comfort zone. That’s where we’ll find success to all our efforts. When do we leave our comfort zone? When we make an effort in speaking in Spanish; when we try and have a good relationship with staff members at our placements; by being proactive and think of activities to do. This is an exercise that we need to do every day. We don’t need to do it all in one go, we can give ourselves small goals and do a different thing every day.



Let’s not stay in the dead zone, let’s leave it and discover the world!

Un abrazo a todos!

Guillermo Cogorno
Country Director

Argentina Inside & Out

Buenos Aires!



Buenos Aires is the most European of all Latin American cities. With its wide boulevards, leafy parks, grand buildings and varied culture and nightlife, the city is reminiscent of Paris or Barcelona. The Porteños, as the residents of Buenos Aires are called, seem more European too – but this is hardly surprising considering that most are descended from European, predominately Italian, immigrants who settled here in the 19th century. With them came a culture and a cuisine that still flavor the city and can be enjoyed in countless art galleries, theaters and museums, as well as fine restaurants. But the city has also spawned its own art forms, notably the tango, for which Buenos Aires is

famous.

Buenos Aires is the third largest city in South America and comprises 47 barrios (neighborhoods) in which nearly three million people live. Situated in the east of Argentina beside the Rio de la Plata and surrounded by seemingly never ending flat land known as the Pampas, the vast sprawling conurbation is a true 24-hour city – there is always something going on to occupy the senses. The downtown area is as noisy and congested as any other major urban center, but the city is really a pleasant place to walk around.

Nuestra Señora de Santa Maria del Buen Aire was founded by the Spaniard Pedro de Mendoza in 1536. It was named after the Patron Saint of Sailors, who is said to be responsible for the good wind or buen aire. Provisions ran low and five years later settlement attempts were abandoned until Juan de Garay refounded the city in 1580. In 1776, Buenos Aires was pronounced the Capital of the Viceroyalty of the Rio de la Plata region – a huge region that included what is now Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia and parts of Chile and Brazil. The Criollos (Argentines of Spanish descent) merchants, having successfully expelled British invaders in 1806 and 1807, began to rebel against Spain in 1810. It was only after the Declaration of Independence in 1816 that the city became free of colonial hindrance. Following the city's federalization in 1880, mass European immigration occurred as workers were brought in to service agriculture and the railways. Development ceased in the mid-20th century as the country's economy declined – mostly as the result of lack of investment from war-torn Europe. Buenos Aires only re-emerged from its economic woes in the 1990s when the currency was stabilized. Those with money spent it and new buildings, shopping malls and entertainment centers emerged, creating a new way of life for the inhabitants.

For the visitor from abroad, there has never been a better time to visit Buenos Aires. With several new museums and a continuous agenda of cultural attractions and events, there is much to see and do. Buenos Aires has a mild climate and is a year-round destination, although the city can get very hot and humid during the summer months (Dec-Feb). The city can also be quiet during summer as many Porteños take their holidays at this time.

New Care placement - Por un mundo mejor!

Por un mundo mejor is a private center located in Villa Allende, just outside Cordoba city. Disabled adolescents and adults are welcome to go there and participate in the many workshops they organise alongside a group of professionals. Artcrafts, music, sports and carpentry are some of the many activities organised there on a daily basis. The money collected from the sale of the objects/ and paintings is used to fund the institution.

On our care placements it is important that you show the initiative and enthusiasm to immerse yourself into the job and spend your time productively. Your role is essentially as an extra pair of hands as, as where disabled people are involved, the more help that is available the better! As well as helping with the day-to-day running of the Center, you will also have the freedom to come up with games and activities to keep them amused and occupied. We recommend that you come prepared with ideas. You could even teach some basic English and maths, if you feel this would be useful to the center. Art, music, drama and sport are always popular!

Testimonials!

[Most valuable experience] "This was a very enriching experience! I will go back with a lot of experience, memories, friends abroad, and so much more!"

Stephanie de Graeve, BELGIUM (3 months, Journalism)

"I love Teaching and having my own conversation group that I organized lessons for was great. I loved working with the other teachers as well and improvised my Teaching & Spanish skills."

Shradha Kulkarni, USA (2months, Teaching & Medicine)

"Overall my experience here was wonderful. The people, in my family, at work, and within the Projects Abroad organization were all wonderful. My placement was great and I loved being able to get out of the city and work with local children. I would recommend the organization and the placement to anyone wishing to travel & volunteer."

Haley Warren, USA (2 months, Equinetherapy)

"Overall it was a wonderful experience. I got to see health care from a different perspective which was very interesting. All the health care staff was very friendly and more than willing to allow me to observe their procedures and assist where possible. My most valuable experience was probably just being able to see procedures done in the hospital on a daily basis."

Charlotte Horne, CANADA (2 weeks, Medicine)

[Most memorable experience] “ Too many to put down here. 1- The 25 Mayo party with the adults I teach where we danced and ate and drank and chatted. Lovely occasion. 2- Playing guitar and singing with the nuns and children at the Copa de Leche. 3- When a child at Nassif punched through a glass window in my first 10 minutes in the school. 4- The Social to Cuesta Blanca. Beautiful! And not bad company either! ☺”

Leo Baker, UK (1 month, Teaching)

“Apadro (care placement) is the best experience I have had in Argentina. Everyone is so nice and thoughtful. They also have taught me a lot about the culture of Argentina.”

Sarah Clue, USA (1 month, Care)

[Most memorable experience] “There is not one experience. The first was feeding and burping a baby! Further down I learned that the oxygen limits need to be between 85-95% or the baby could get complication; saw the tools used to revive what could have been a collapsed lung; saw surgeons straighten a 16 year old girl’s back; numerous cesareans and doctor consultations have shown me the importance of knowing your tools as well as how important it is to watch details like if the balance is tarred when watching a baby’s weight.”

April Lee, USA (1,5 months, Medicine)

(Extracts of the Debriefing Forms)

Gracias a todos for your dedication and commitment!

Birthdays!



And this time the greetings go to: Sean Rogers, Leena Desai, Melissa Danesh, Anna Maria Wezorke, Eveline Wong, Isabella Blatter, Christopher Jones, Eva Voskort, Catherine Franks, Nicholas Welna, Nicholas Brown, Marjan Cauwenberg & Marjolein Sechterberger, Eleanor Banks, Carl Minniti, Jane Hornsby, Florianne Sollie, Astrid de Wit, Malene Martinsen, Annamaria Biccari, Violette Wolters, Caroline Magri, Jacinta Cox, Yatnee Encarnación Ginés, Syrine Ben Tkhayat, Erin McDonough, Noemi Hughes, Emil Andersen, France Hassenforder, Jill Keogan, Charlotte Davys, Stien Bosse, Justin Brownen, Christiane Doerschel, June Bul, Inge Verschoof, Florence Marot, Ibraaheem Talbot, Elise Rensing, Linda Tveit, Simon Davies, Anouk Van de Kelder, Jennifer Miao, Kavya Kommaraju, Rene Saldanha, Scott Park, Sean Rodriguez, Vera Borwitzky, Rachel Entwistle, Meghan Morrissey, Vanessa Pitt, Alice Wood, Nancy Maggini, Yvette van den Berkhof, Sean Rogers, Rachel Anthony,

Feliz cumple to all of you!

Project Articles

The following articles are contributed by volunteers sharing their experience in Argentina.



Apadro! Lies Merens, BELGIUM (Care, 5 months)

Toen ik een jaar geleden plan aanvatte om vrijwilligerswerk te zoeken viel mijn keuze al snel op Projects Abroad Argentinië. Zij bieden namelijk de kans om te werken met kinderen, adolescenten en volwassenen met een beperking. In België werk ik in het buitengewoon onderwijs dus dit leek me

de ideale combinatie van beide. Een manier voor mezelf om als vrijwilliger te werken en tegelijk nog meer ervaring te verwerven.

Begin november startte ik mijn avontuur in de wereld van het vrijwilligerswerk bij APADRO. En wat een avontuur, met weinig tot zelfs geen kennis van de Spaanse taal werd ik bij APADRO ontvangen en wegwijs gemaakt. Zelfs met de woordenboek ernaast mocht ik van dag één zoveel mogelijk deelnemen aan de verschillende activiteiten.

En dus nam ik elke dag de bus van Córdoba naar Villa Allende om daar in één van de verschillende werkgelegenheden van APADRO te helpen. De eerste twee maanden werkte ik voornamelijk in het revalidatiecentrum. In dit centrum werken kinesitherapeuten, audiologen, logopedisten, psychologen en sociaal assistenten. Zelf werkte ik nauw samen met Valeria, één van de kinesitherapeuten, waarbij ik de kinderen (vaak nog baby's) probeerde rustig te houden of af te leiden tijdens de sessies.

Hier begeleidde ik ook een groepje kinderen met gehoor- en spraakproblemen, samen deden we verschillende activiteiten, gaande van knutselen, puzzelen tot liedjes zingen in groep. Nadien was er dan ook steeds een overleg met de audioloog en de logopediste die de kinderen ook individueel begeleiden. Het revalidatiecentrum is er gelukkig niet alleen voor de kinderen met een beperking, maar ook voor de ouders, broers, zussen, grootouders, iedereen die op de één of andere manier zijn of haar leven ook zag veranderen. Via workshops en groeps gesprekken worden ook zij gehoord en geholpen.

Naast het revalidatiecentrum beschikt APADRO nog over twee tallers, nl. een beschutte/beschermd werkplaats en een murga.

De beschutte of beschermde werkplaats is vooral gericht op voedselproductie en de productie



van vuilniszakken. Er wordt gewerkt met een ochtendploeg en een namiddagploeg, bestaande uit adolescenten en volwassenen met een fysieke en/of mentale beperking. Elke ploeg wordt gecoördineerd door twee begeleiders, Anna en Virginia in de ochtend en Soledad en Fernando in de namiddag. Ikzelf maakte deel uit van de namiddagploeg, waar ik meegeholpen heb bij allerlei activiteiten maar ook mee begeleidde en mee besprekingen met de coördinatoren bijwoonde.

De namiddagploeg bestaat uit 6 jongvolwassenen met een auditieve beperking en 9 volwassenen met een mentale en/of fysieke beperking. Ieder lid van de groep krijgt een taak toegewezen aangepast aan zijn of haar capaciteiten. Deze taken variëren van het maken en verkopen van zoetigheden tot het snijden van vuilniszakken. De verkoop van zoetigheden zoals, alfajores, cornflakes, cakejes, popcorn en de verkoop van vuilniszakken zorgen voor de inkomsten van de beschutte werkplaats. De grootste inkomstenbron is echter de milanesas, vergelijkbaar met shnitzels maar van soja.

Op donderdag worden er milanesas van soja, gevuld met groenten of vlees, geproduceerd. Ieder onderdeel van de productie wordt in de beschutte werkplaats gedaan, het koken van de soja, het bereiden van het deeg, het bereiden van de verschillende vullingen, het vullen en sluiten van de milanesas en tot slot het inpakken en verkopen.

Hier heb ik ook de kans gehad om mee de lessen Argentijnse gebarentaal te volgen. De coördinatoren zijn namelijk steeds bezig met het beter begrijpen van de jongeren en aangezien een groot deel een auditieve beperking heeft was dit een logische volgende stap. Twee namiddagen per week komt Maria Martha dan ook oefenen eerste individueel met de jongeren, na de uren met de coördinatoren.

Tot slot heb je dan ook nog de taller de expression of de murga. Een murga is een muziek en dansgroep die op straat oefent en optreedt. Wat maakt deze murga speciaal, ze bestaat volledig uit jongeren en volwassen met auditieve, mentale en/of fysieke beperkingen, maar er worden ook plaatsen vrijgehouden voor broers of zussen van de jongeren.

Oorspronkelijk werd er enkel rond carnaval met murga's gewerkt maar tegenwoordig is het in Argentinië niet meer beperkt tot carnaval. En dus ook die van APADRO niet. Elke maandag en vrijdagmiddag trekt 'los rompesiëstas' naar het dorpsplein waar ze de verschillende ritmes en dansbewegingen oefenen.

Eerst komen de jongeren samen met de drie vaste proffen voor een kort gesprek, waarna iedereen zich met zijn of haar instrument naar het plein begeeft. De jongeren die muziek maken worden begeleid door proffen Alejandro en Carlos, zij oefenen de verschillende ritmes van de cumbia,



rumba, defilé. De typische instrumenten voor een murga zijn verschillende soorten trommels of drums zoals de bombo, sourdo, redoblante en natuurlijk ook de platillos of cimbalen.

Op die muziek moet dan natuurlijk ook gedanst worden en dit gebeurt onder leiding van prof Diego, met hulp van mezelf. In de dansgroep zijn er een aantal dansers met net iets meer mogelijkheden, zij oefenen dan ook de meer ingewikkelde danspassen van de rumba. Alle andere dansen gebeuren echter steeds met de volledige dansgroep. Al dit oefenen is er natuurlijk met als doel te kunnen optreden tijdens optochten.

Telkens weer stond ik versteld hoe goed en hoe snel de jongeren de verschillende ritmes en danspassen oppikken. Ik, met als enige beperking onhandigheid, die de muziek perfect kan horen stond vaker voor een uitdaging dan de jongeren. Dit tot grote hilariteit van de jongeren natuurlijk, het moet gezegd het ritme wordt hier weldegelijk meegegeven met de paplepel.

Ik heb hier ook het geluk gehad in mijn 5 maanden als vrijwilliger om ook enkele optredens mee te kunnen maken. Zo was er de carnavalsperiode in Villa Allende en in San Vicente en ook de murga bijeenkomst in de Paseo del Buen Pastor in Córdoba. Hier leven de jongeren en ook de proffen enorm naartoe, het is een erkenning van hun murga. De dagen van optredens worden dan ook vaak getekend door een ietwat gestresste, maar vooral gezellige drukte. Iedereen tijdig in kostuum, geschminkt en met instrument op de plaats van afspraak krijgen is steeds weer een uitdaging, maar geloof me het is het meer dan waard wanneer je de stralende gezichten ziet. Zelfs als dat wil zeggen op de bus nog gezichten schminken of confetti scheuren, dat is murga.

Na vijf maanden eindigt mijn avontuur waar het begon bij APADRO. Ik hou aan dit avontuur meer over dan ik verwacht had, ik was hier niet zomaar 'een vrijwilliger' ik was deel van een team. De warmte waarmee de coördinatoren hier werken, de openheid en het geduld dat neem ik mee vanuit APADRO, samen met de vele mooie herinneringen.

Ojala nos vemos!





My Projects Abroad Experience! *Maria Paola Rocha, CANADA* *(Care, 2 months)*

I arrived in Cordoba, Argentina –aside from being extremely exhausted- very much excited and overwhelmed. I loved getting off the plane and feeling that warm breeze, hallelujah. That feeling of wow, I am actually on my own in South America

over twenty hours away on flight from my parents, hit me. I had to pinch myself to make sure it was all true. The family I stayed with, Jorge Fernandez and his daughter Lucy, were such adorable people. They were extremely welcoming, relaxed, and easy to get along with. Within days I felt completely comfortable in their home, whipping up dinner for everyone, bringing friends over, and roaming around the house feeling more than welcome. It was very easy for me to emerge myself in the culture, the family I was living in, and the customs. I speak Spanish at home and all the customs I was brought up with are very much like the Argentinean customs, so I found it easy to integrate which made my experience that much better.

I had the privilege of being able to see three different orphanages. I worked at Manos Abiertas with babies for two shifts, at Doctor Juan Orrico with children aged four to twelve for two months, and eventually at the Eva Peron orphanage where most of the children I had worked with earlier became transferred to, for a week. I got to see the very significant differences between the public and the private orphanages, both very eye opening experiences. It was very easy for me to bond with the children, considering I could speak Spanish and communicate with them on levels that a lot of the volunteers weren't able to considering the language barrier. Either way, the children weren't judgmental in any way, but I was thankful to know Spanish and able to know the children on a more personal level. By the end of my stay I was very sad to leave. I always tried to be very equal with all the children and give all of them the same amount of attention, but there were always those few kids that I was always around. It was very hard saying goodbye, but knowing that I made them laugh and gave them a different type of attention that the staff doesn't have time to give them, really made me feel like I had made a difference in their life. As a volunteer, at first it is almost awkward. You feel like you aren't really needed, but eventually you realize that yes the orphanage can function without you, but all of the staff there is getting paid to be with those





children, and you, you're choosing to be with them. Overall, my experience in Argentina had the impact on me that I wish it would have. I really feel that I returned home a changed person. A more mature human being with different priorities than the ones I had before leaving for my trip. Volunteering for two months in Argentina is an experience no one can ever take away from me, memories that I will always have and cherish, and I am so grateful for that. Not everyone is a celebrity or the richest person in the world, but if you think about it, there is always something you can give; there is always someone who has less than you. And as a human being, with the ability to give, I think

we are all obliged to. We are all obliged to give in some way, not only is it extremely beneficial to the person you are giving to, but it is so rewarding. Projects Abroad is extremely well organized, always concerned about how your experience is, whether it's interviewing you every three weeks to see how your stay is, checking up on you at your host family's home, or organizing ice-breaking socials, the staff at Projects Abroad are extremely efficient and aware of everything. I recommend this experience to anyone even thinking about doing it. I have been to many breathtaking places around the world, and done many amazing things, but this is by far the best experience of my life. I can finally stroke it off my bucket list!





*Tom Woods, AUSTRALIA
(Teaching, 3 months)*

So where do I start? Leading up to my arrival in Argentina the only real expectations that I had of my trip were really to just throw myself into the deep end and experience a completely different culture and lifestyle to what I was accustomed to back home; and I think it's fair to say that this goal was not only reached but exceeded. The three

months of my life that I spent living and working in Cordoba was an absolute rollercoaster of fun, travel and personal development. As well as my placement working at the Ricardo Nasif School, I was also able to do loads of travel and see plenty of the incredible sights that Argentina has to offer, improve my (still fairly terrible) Spanish, and form countless lasting friendships with people from all around the globe.

However, with my time in Argentina ending all too soon a fortnight ago, I am now faced with the stark realisation that I am back home in Adelaide having missed out on the fun of the Australian summer, and having completely drained my life savings. But do I regret it? The answer to that question is, unequivocally, no.

Being thrown in front of a class full of kids with little teaching experience and, at best, beginner level Spanish was fairly daunting to begin with. However, with time and a bit of help from my teaching mentors Aldana and Agustin teaching at Ricardo Nasif became a very rewarding job. Almost all of the kids knew absolutely no English at all when I started my placement in December, and it was actually incredibly gratifying (and hard) to walk away from my placement in March seeing the same kids speaking and understanding the basics of English.

After flying solo for the first couple of weeks of my placement, I was fortunate enough to be able to work with a number of other volunteers throughout my time at Ricardo Nasif, who also became close friends of mine. Lauren, Jo, Victoria and Jacqueline were all fantastic fun to work with, and made teaching and controlling the kids a lot easier as the class size began to grow. It was particularly helpful having others to bounce ideas off and help share the load of lesson planning and coming up with games and activities for the kids to keep the lessons interesting. That's not to say my placement was all plain sailing by any stretch of the imagination. While we had the expected odd behavioural problem with the kids, it was the local population who provided the biggest obstacles to our teaching as the school was situated in a poorer area of Cordoba. Regularly we would have to sweep up glass on the floor from windows which had been smashed overnight. Also, one day, when we were having a break from teaching to feed the kids juice and cookies, someone decided to throw a fire cracker through one of the school windows which scared the absolute hell out of us! While we had a bit of a laugh once we worked out what had happened, events such as this were a bit disconcerting and from then on we made sure we locked the school doors while we were teaching.

Another fantastic aspect of my time in Argentina was the opportunities I had to travel outside my time working for Projects Abroad. Doing a three-month placement I was able to take a total of two weeks holiday, during which time I was lucky enough to be able to travel all across the country including places such as Buenos Aires, Mendoza, Salta, Mina Clavero, Alta Gracia, and Montevideo


in Uruguay.

What probably struck me most about my travels around Argentina were the distinct differences in atmosphere and culture that every major city I visited had. Mendoza, which was my personal favourite of all travel destinations, is distinguished by its spectacular location being situated at the base of the Andes in the middle of Argentina's primary wine region. It was quite surreal being able to do a bike tour around the wineries in the heat of a 35 degree day, and look up to see snow-capped mountains in the distance. However, if



one city exemplifies Argentina's rich and diverse mix of cosmopolitan culture it would be Buenos Aires, and it's easy to see why this city is a favoured destination for tourists. I was fortunate enough to visit Buenos Aires three times in all, and visiting different "barrios" every time meant I was able to see a completely different side of the city every time I went there. There are also a number of really cool towns in Cordoba province outside of Cordoba city itself that are worth checking out as well. The weekend I had in Mina Clavero was also one of the more memorable times of my trip, and while Mina Clavero is a popular with Argentinean travellers there were literally no other foreigners there, which was great as it gave us a real taste of local culture. Also, Mina Clavero's main attraction is a river which runs through the town centre, and seeing as I was missing the Australian beach it was great to be able to do some swimming.

However, what I will probably always treasure the most from my time in Argentina is the personal relationships with other volunteers I was able to build in such a short time, and the good times I was able to share with them. My lasting memories with these people include things such as drinking free tequila in our hostel in Mendoza, cramming nine of us into a three-person hotel room in Alta Gracia after everywhere else in town was booked out, diving off ten meter cliffs into the river in Mina Clavero, hanging out with riot police and seeing Charly Garcia perform a cover of Pink Floyd's Comfortably Numb at Cosquin Rock festival, getting caught trying to sneak into a Boca Juniors game in Buenos Aires with fake tickets, and my obsession with diving fully clothed into swimming pools across Cordoba at every possible opportunity with Victoria. While the work and travel was definitely an incredible aspect of my time in Argentina, it was the friends I was able to share these memories with that made this three of the best months of my life, and I really hope that I will always be able to stay in touch with these people in one way or another forever.



*Lucia Vettori, SWITZERLAND
(Care, 2 months)*



Vor drei Jahren fing ich an, Spanisch zu lernen. Schon in jungen Jahren wollte ich das, doch habe ich es immer wieder verschoben. Meine Familie und Arbeit als Architektin ließen nicht all zu viel Freizeit übrig. Mit dem Lernen der Sprache erwachte auch das Interesse für die spanische und lateinamerikanische Kultur. Als ich beschloss meine Stelle zu wechseln,

ergab sich die Gelegenheit, diesen Wechsel mit einem Break zu verbinden. 3 Monate Auszeit, Zeit nur für mich allein. Ich wollte Südamerika kennenlernen, doch konnte ich mir nicht vorstellen 3 Monate „nur“ zu reisen. Ich wollte auch ein Stück Alltag erleben in einem mir fremden Kontext. Bei meiner Suche fand ich viele Organisationen, die Freiwilligendienste anbieten, doch war Projects Abroad eine der wenigen ohne Altersbeschränkung. Und da ich 53 Jahre alt bin, war das eine nicht unwichtige Bedingung. Im September 2010 meldete ich mich bei Projects Abroad an und entschied mich für Argentinien, es schien mir das unserer Kultur verwandteste Land und ich wünschte mir einen sanften Einstieg auf dem fernen Kontinent.

Am 03. Januar flog ich nach Santiago de Chile und hatte zwei Wochen Zeit, von dort nach Córdoba zu reisen. Ich stieg in den colectivo, einen argentinischen Kleinbus und ließ mich in den Süden schaukeln, nach Pucón, Villarica, dann durch die Araucarien-Wälder. An der Grenze zu Argentinien angekommen fragte mich der Zöllner nach eingehendem Studium meines Passes: „¿De dónde sos vos?“

Meine Reise führte mich weiter durch die Unendlichkeit Argentinien und an einem frühen Morgen kam ich in Córdoba an. Ich wurde von einem jungen Mann abgeholt und zu meiner „Familie“ gebracht. Am ersten und zweiten Tag begleiteten uns, die neu Angekommenen, die Leute von Projects Abroad, halfen uns bei den Basics wie Telefon- und Buskarten kaufen und stellten uns unsere Arbeit vor.

Ich arbeitete in der Casa Ronald McDonald, einer Institution, die Familien mit kranken Kindern beherbergt. Wir, eine junge Frau aus Holland und ich, halfen wo es nötig war: aufräumen, kontrollieren, mit den Kindern spielen, mit den Eltern plaudern, Unkraut jäten... Wir arbeiteten nachmittags, von 14 bis 18 Uhr. Das war gut, da wir so während der größten Hitze im Schatten waren.



Mit meiner Familie hatte ich großes Glück. Patricia wurde mir eine wunderbare Gesprächspartnerin: sie, die ihr Land so gern hat, schenkte mir einen Einblick in die Geschichte und die Mentalität der Menschen in Argentinien und in Córdoba. Meine Wochenenden verbrachte ich vor allem „stadtwandernd“. Das mache ich unendlich gern, die Straßen einer Stadt sind für mich das schönste Museum der Welt.



In den Wochen in Córdoba war ich nicht nur ein Zaungast, dem es erlaubt ist, die unterschiedlichen Lebensweisen meiner Mitmenschen kennenzulernen. Im nahen Sein mit den Menschen, im Familienleben, durfte ich mich einlassen, war es mir auch erlaubt, mitzufühlen, etwas Preis zu geben und mich zu öffnen für das Andere, das Fremde. Es war eine reiche Zeit, für die Ohren, die Augen und das Herz (auch ohne Gaucho am Arm). Schwer beeindruckt hat mich die Arbeit der jungen Mitarbeiter von Projects Abroad in Córdoba. Toll, wie sie, Ariel, Vanessa, Sofía, Ramón und Agustín das Büro in Córdoba so professionell, engagiert und umsichtig leiten: chapeau!!!



Landschaften auf der anderen Seite des großen Wassers.

Mit all den schönen Erfahrungen in Córdoba im Gepäck bin ich danach noch 3 Wochen durch Argentinien, Uruguay und Paraguay gereist und Anfang April wieder sooo gern heimgekommen, zu meiner Familie, meiner Katze und meinen Freunden. Das Heimweh, das mich auch begleitete, dieses zärtlich schöne Gefühl, ist jetzt nicht mehr da. Dafür bleiben mir nun die kostbaren Erinnerungen an die Menschen und



Socials & Dirty Weekends

In May we had many Social meetings. Amongst all these wonderful moments with the volunteers we visited Cuesta Blanca, played Bowling, had drinks and a bite to eat all together, played paintball & helped a local organisation with a clothes fair. Thanks to all of you who take the time and effort to attend our Socials as you make it possible to have a good time together!



Cuesta Blanca!

Beginning of April Projects Abroad volunteers and I met at Cordoba bus Terminal to head off the beaten track to Cuesta Blanca for a pick nick and a walk to Hippie Island. We had a great time enjoying the warm autumn weather and taking in the beautiful landscape of the area!





Estacion Guemes bar!

A night of music, pizza, drinks and great company in the traditional Guemes neighbourhood for the monthly Social... What could you want more for?



Bowling!

Mid- May we all met for a night of game and fun! Many strikes were scored & plenty of new friendships made!





Outdoor Paintball!

For our last Social in May war was declared... girls vs boys for what was going to be 3 incredible hours of strategy, speed and fun. The hills of Unquillo created a unique playzone and everyone had a great time!



DIRTY DAY! Fundacion Querubines!

Beginning of March we had our mini dirty day at the Querubines Foundation, a home for young children. Every month they organize a clothes fair to collect money and they asked Projects Abroad to give a hand. We helped tidy everything up after the first day of the clothes fair.

Muchas gracias to Morgane Le Lostec for helping out!

Argentinean Cuisine

Alfajores!

While they have origins in Moorish Spain, alfajores are especially popular in South America. They are simple shortbread sandwich cookies with a sweet filling of dulce de leche. Different doughs are used for the cookies depending on the country. Some use normal flour dough, while others add cornstarch or even cassava flour for a more delicate crumb. This recipe uses a mixture of flour and cornstarch.



Ingredients

Cornstarch -- 1 cup
Flour -- 1 cup
Baking powder -- 1 teaspoon

Unsalted butter - 12 tablespoons (1 1/2 sticks)
Sugar -- 3/4 cup
Egg yolks -- 2
Dulce de leche -- 1 cup

Preparation - Makes 20 cookies

1. Sift the cornstarch, flour and baking powder together in a medium bowl. In a mixer bowl, beat the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Add the egg yolks, beating until they are incorporated.
2. Reduce the mixer speed to low and add the flour mixture in 3 batches, allowing each batch to become incorporated before adding the next.
3. Form the dough into a disc without handling it too much. Wrap with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.
4. Preheat oven to 350°F. Remove the dough to a lightly floured work surface and roll out to about 1/8-inch thick. Cut out 40 2-inch rounds, and carefully place the rounds on two lightly greased cookie sheets.
5. Bake for 9 to 10 minutes, but not so long that they begin to brown. Remove from the oven and cool for 5 minutes. Then remove the cookies to wire racks and cool completely.
6. Spread about 2 teaspoons of dulce de leche on the flat half of a cookie and cover it with the flat half of another cookie to form a sandwich. Repeat with the remaining cookies. If desired, sprinkle the finished cookies with powdered sugar.

Variations

- For extra flavor, try adding one or more of these to the dough when you add the eggs: 1 teaspoon vanilla or almond extract; 1 tablespoon of brandy or cognac; 1 tablespoon of lime or lemon zest.
- Use more dulce de leche on each cookie so that some squeezes out the sides. Then roll the edges in grated coconut or ground nuts.

¡Buen provecho!

What?	Where?	When?
Start of the whale season	Puerto Madryn, Puerto Piramides	June - December
Fuerza Bruta	Buenos Aires	June 17th
<p>If an Argentina football game is one of the most visceral experiences in sport, then shows by the Fuerza Bruta company are the most visceral experiences in theatre. It's almost impossible to explain the joy of these athletic performers leaping, splashing, swinging and dancing above your very eyes. Astonishing. It started in Argentina, but has since toured the world gaining five-star reviews in New York, London and Paris. Now they're back, playing in Luna Park in Buenos Aires on the weekend of June 17</p>		
Cuisine & Vins	Boca Stadium, Buenos Aires	June 8th - 10th
<p>Having first-hand experience of the Cuisine & Vins wine exposition, I can heartily recommend it. I think it was good, anyway. The best wineries from across Argentina descend on to the Palacio Paz for three days of ingesting and imbibing. There's a range of guided wine tastings and the chance to try some of Argentina's finest food.</p>		
Fiesta del Hielo	El Calafate	June 17th-20th
Fiesta Nacional de la Noche más Larga del Año	Ushuaia	June 21st

There are many things to see in Cordoba, here are a few places that are worth checking out!

Museo Municipal de Bellas Artes "Dr. Genaro Perez"

Founded in 1943, this museum has one of the most complete and best conserved Argentine art collections done by the precursors of the 19th and the 20th century art to our days.

Av. General Paz 33. Tel. 4285905

Entrance fee: Free

Feria Artesanal Paseo de las Artes

Achaval Rodriguez esq. Belgrano – Barrio Guemes

Hours: Saturdays & Sundays from 6 PM to 10 PM.

Tourist office: Casa Cabildo

Independencia 5

Tel: (0351) 4341200

Hours: Mondays to Sundays from 8 AM a 8 PM

A background image of loose-leaf tea, showing a mix of dark green and yellowish-green leaves and stems. The tea is densely packed and fills the entire page.

Useful information

Media links!

Check out our Facebook group: [Projects Abroad Argentina - The Official Group](#)! It is regularly updated with photos from Social events and news on the projects and the city of Cordoba!

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=299652262027>

Read our [monthly Newsletters](#)!

<http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/volunteer-destinations/argentina/newsletters-from-argentina/>

See what is going on with Projects Abroad! Read our [Country Blog](#)!

http://www.mytripblog.org/mod/blog/group_blogs.php?gl=true&group_guid=263

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http://twitter.com/#!/Proj_AbroadAR