

Buenos Aires  
Feb. 8 - 11

Here's 3 new countries for you to find!  
Buenos Aires, Argentina;



Our friend Phil found someone in the streets of Buenos Aires to tango with!

Buenos Aires, Argentina;

We entered the narrow channel on the Rio de la Plata using the red and green buoys as our guide. It's was very shallow with only 10 feet under our keel at times. This river bed that leads us into Buenos Aires is 200 miles long and 60 miles wide at the entrance. There are 3 different rivers that feed into this river. The Rio Parana, Rio Paraguay and Rio Uruguay. IT was hard to tell when we went from the Atlantic Ocean to the River. The best way to tell that we were in the river was by the brown color of the water.

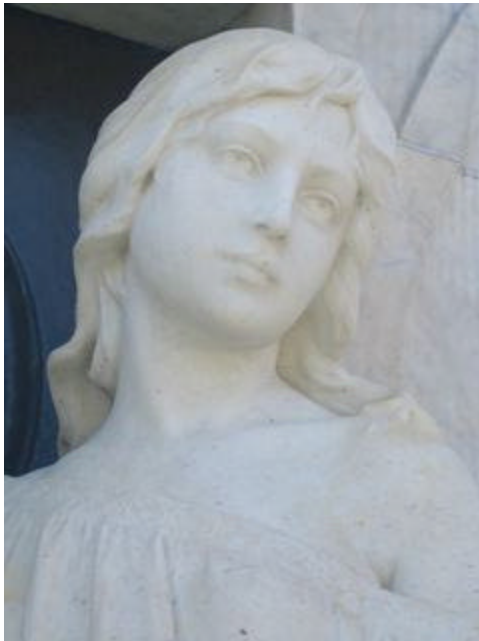


Buenos Aires mean "Fair Winds" and believe me....it lived up to it's name. There was always a perfect breeze blowing. Sailors sail in the river rather than the ocean but they have great wind and the river is so wide that you can't even see the other side of it. We saw several sailboats sailing with their sails full of the "beautiful air" that gave Buenos Aires it's name.

Again, this town is very European. They call it the Paris of the South. This city is famous for a dance called the Tango. You can find places to watch these dances everywhere. We watched people doing it on the streets. The dance, whose rhythms were influenced by the Cubans, is embraced all over the world as a unique Argentinean dance.

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Montevideo, Uruguay



**Montevideo** (IPA: [\[monteβiˈðeo\]](#)) is the largest city, the capital and chief port of [Uruguay](#). Montevideo is the only city in the country with a population over 1,000,000. Also, it has beautiful beaches, such as Pocitos, Buceo, Malvín, Playa de los Ingleses, Playa Verde, Punta Gorda and Carrasco. Many monuments and museums are found in the city, as well as historic buildings and squares. According to [Mercer Human Resource Consulting](#), Montevideo provides the highest quality of life in [Latin America](#).<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> It is the seat of the [Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Montevideo](#)

Montevideo, Uruguay

Uruguay means "the plate where the painted birds live" There's a wonderful variety of trees that are filled with colorful parakeets that sing and chirp all day long! You can't help but notice it as soon as you enter town.

To get to Uruguay we had to cross the Rio De La Plata. It took all night long to get there because it's so shallow. The Captain took it very slow.

Uruguay is like a tiny buffer between Argentina and Brazil. It's one of the smallest countries in South America. Most of the people are of Spanish and Italian origin. We hired a taxi and had him take us on a tour of the town and then for an afternoon drive through the countryside.

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At Sea 2 days-

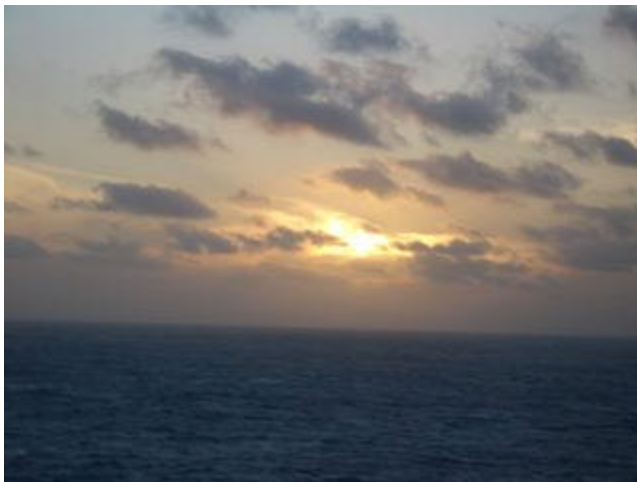
For the last 2 days we've been influenced by the Brazilian current that runs predominantly in a southwesterly direction at about 1 knot . We're going north so it's not helping us much.

Last night we went up to the top deck to look for the constellation called the Southern Cross. The true wind was 40 knots and we were moving at about 20 knots so it was like being in a 60 knot wind. It was a challenge keeping yourself from blowing over while looking up into star lit sky. Thanks to the celestial navigator on this ship, we learned a lot about stars and how people use to navigate by them. The Southern Cross holds her position with grate pride up there with all the other constellations. That star shaped cross has been telling sailors for hundreds of years which way south is! She points right to it!! We don't get to see her in our Northern hemisphere but we do get the North Star which always tell us where North is. Can you imagine navigating your way around the world by following certain stars? The stars, the sun and the moon played a big role in navigation back then and they still do today.

The Ocean;

As I sit here in my window seat gazing out at the ocean, I can't help but think about how very much I love the sea. I envy the Albotrose with his 12 foot wing span and wish sometimes that I could soar as he does. I've fallen in love with that bird along with those funny pengins and many other fasinating critters. My time out here on these oceans has made me realize jsut how much water there is in the world. Our planet should be called "Water" not "Earth." They say only 10% of the oceans have been explored and that 80% of life is in the marine world. There are places in the ocean that are deeper than mount Everest is high! Anyhow...the more I learn about the oceans, the more I'm fasinated with it. It makes me want to protect it, along with all the fascinating little critters that live there.

The Albotrose has less than a 2% chance of living a full life because of fishing traps and garbage that we dump into our oceans. There's a place called the Pacific Gyre where they've found accumulated trash floating on the water that's twice the size of Texas! The Albotrose , along with other birds and animals that eat the plastic trash, becasue they think it's food; end up dieing because of it. They've found many ocean critters and birds with their entire bellies full of plastic TRASH! Our TRASH...YOUR TRASH! I want to encourage all of you to help clean up our planet Earth. Everything that we buy, ends up on our planet forever. Where does that plastic cup that your coke came in- end up? Where does that plastic toy that you've only played with 3 times end up? Instead of asking for things on your birthday, why not ask for a membership to the Aquarium, the Zoo, the planitarium, the Field Museum. Do you recycle your trash? Does your city have a program for that? If not....why don't you start one? These are all ways that we can be ambasitors for our planet Earth. Once we gain a better understanding of what we're doing to our planet, it makes it a lot easier for us to protect and preserve it.



Sunset off the stern of our ship.

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Rio de janeiro, Brazil  
84

Sea Temp- 82 Air Temp

This is where we disembark from our ship. From here we plan to spend a few days traveling through Brazil and then fly home. I thank God for his protection over us as we've traveled by boat almost 6,000 miles. Thank you for letting me share my experiences with you. I'm sorry I haven't responded back to e-mails but it costs 75 cents a minute to be on the web so I have refrained from keeping up with personal e-mails! Although you haven't been with me physically on this journey, you were carried with me, in my heart.

Love,  
Susie and Don



## Rio de Janeiro

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*This article is about the Brazilian city. For the state with the same name, see [Rio de Janeiro \(state\)](#).*

<b>Rio de Janeiro</b>
<b>— Municipality —</b>
<b>The Municipality of São Sebastião do Rio de Janeiro</b>



Rio de Janeiro



Flag



Seal

Nickname(s): **Cidade Maravilhosa** ("The Marvelous City") or simply, **Rio**



Location in the [State of Rio de Janeiro](#)



Rio de Janeiro is famous for its natural settings, its [Carnival](#) celebrations, [samba](#) and other music, and hotel-lined tourist beaches, such as [Copacabana](#) and [Ipanema](#), paved with decorated [black and cream swirl pattern mosaics](#) known locally as "pedra portuguesa". Some of the most famous local landmarks in addition to the beaches include the giant statue of [Jesus](#), known as [Christ the Redeemer](#) ('Cristo Redentor') atop [Corcovado](#) mountain, which has recently been named one of the [New Seven Wonders of the World](#); [Sugarloaf](#) mountain (*Pão de Açúcar*) with its cable car; the [Sambódromo](#), a giant permanent parade stand used during Carnival and [Maracanã stadium](#), one of the [world's largest football stadiums](#).

The city also boasts the largest and second largest urban [forests](#) in the world: *Floresta da Tijuca*, or "[Tijuca Forest](#)".<sup>[1]</sup> and (almost connected to the first) the forest in *Parque Estadual da Pedra Branca*, or *White Stone State Park*. [Galeão - Antônio Carlos Jobim International Airport](#) connects Rio de Janeiro with many Brazilian cities and also operates several international flights.

Despite its charm and beauty, Rio is reputed to be one of the most violent cities in the world<sup>[2][3][4]</sup> and motivated movies such as [Bus 174](#), [City of God](#) and [Elite Squad](#) portraying severe social issues. Much of the violent crime is concentrated in the "favelas," or shantytowns. But it also spills into middle- and upper-income neighborhoods. In Rio, unlike other major cities, many of the slums are directly adjacent to some of the wealthiest areas of the city.