

## BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

### Wally and Wendy Perform The Tango

When we hooked up with the small OAT Patagonia tour group in Buenos Aires we were treated to a short Tango lesson... by the very best teachers in Argentina! Wendy and I practiced the Tango every evening in our room during the Patagonia tour. This is a photograph of us dancing the Tango at our very first public performance upon our return to Buenos Aires. We were very fortunate to have hooked up with the internationally known costuming, makeup and hair styling company called “mentiras y más mentiras” for this performance. You may recognize the name from my frequent use of them in past Flying Pig Adventures travelogues.



### Wally's Situation Room: Buenos Aires Bureau

Directly across the street from the hotel we stayed at and within the hotel's free WiFi access was this cafe. Mornings, after the street people had woken up, stowed their cardboard mattresses in the cracks and crevices of the cafe's and adjacent buildings walls; the cafe opened, they watered their exotic carrot tree and I was finally allowed access. Over a couple croissants and coffees I would watch Buenos Aires wake up, go to work, ready themselves for another day and plan my own walk-a bouts. Over the course of only a couple days one could easily feel and recognize the rhythm to Buenos Aires mornings.





## Buenos Aires Street Paintings

As with most large cities around the world, there is street painting and graffiti of a varying degree of quality. I asked locals a couple of times about the purpose and possible background of the street painting and was never given a straight ahead answer, (or at least any very satisfying explanations). After that I just left the questions alone and enjoyed the paintings and graffiti. Some seemed political and some pictorial. Following is a selection of photographs of the paintings I saw.









## Buenos Aires Walk-A-Bouts



### Concrete Bench

Upon first sight this was an invitingly soft bench right on the street and a welcome reprise from my long walk-a bouts. It was to be a great soft cushy place to watch the city pass by while I rested me feets! How incredibly considerate of the city! Upon plopping down on it one will find it is as hard as concrete block, which it is, (albeit very durable in all kinds of weather). A very creative and very realistic surface treatment, but be careful on just how hard you plop yourself down on these.



### The "Buenos Aires Round-A-Bout"

The "Buenos Aires Round-A-Bout", made famous and necessary by the past several decades of fiscal mismanagement. The once great and modern city of the early 1900s is crumbling and falling further into disrepair. It remains unseen and unknown if they can muster a repair and rebuild this great city or if it will decline further into a photographers dream mecca of urban decay.



An interesting juxtaposition of buildings. Another indication, (at least at first look and impression), that resources may not be being used in the best of ways by some standards. Certainly not a juxtaposition we can't find in our own back yards if we look hard enough.

A La Boca neighborhood Situation Room where the locals are hard at work solving the same issues as we do in our own situation room, (although we have been doing it with iPhones and iPads for some time now).

I like the decor here and have it in mind to chat with the head staff at our own Situation Room in Poulso.



Seems like everyone was looking at someone....



**The Red Hat Club, Argentina**

These people may be waiting for Wendy and I to give Tango lessons but we lacked the proper work permits.

So, as a backup plan, they wait for the unsuspecting tourist to make portraits with and dislodge them from monies to do so.



## Juan Manuel Fangio

A full sized bronze of Argentina's National Hero Juan Manuel Fangio, nicknamed El Chueco or El Maestro. Fangio was a racing car driver from Argentina, who dominated the first decade of Formula One racing, winning the World Championship of Drivers five times

Below is a recent painting I did of him in his Mercedes-Benz W196 car.



## Recyclers

There were a lot of recyclers on the streets in Buenos Aires. While I never figured out how it worked in detail, it appeared to me that they had, in a general sort of way, worked out territories and materials that belonged to each.

One block from where armored cars lined the street in front of bank after bank, guarded by plain clothes and uniformed security people; there was a man sitting on the curb beating an electrical transformer he had acquired from the rubbished TV of a nearby trash bin, into submission for the copper wire inside. And so it was through out the city areas we saw.



## Dog Walkers

There were lots of dog walkers in Buenos Aires... even more dogs... and even more dog poop. I never saw one dog walker with anything that resembled a poop bag... maybe the black bag around her waist is... it's possible!?





## Visions Of Roof Top Gardens

Seems like there would, and should always be, good photographic opportunities from roof tops, so I generally try to search them out in the places we stay.

At the place we stayed in Buenos Aires, I was hoping there might be a nice roof top garden, a pool, a cafe, or even a bar on the roof. Going up as far as the elevator would take me, there was still a ceiling above my head, so I started checking doorways, (doorways without room numbers of course). Finding a small deserted exercise room, I noticed a glass door on the far side of it and a circular stairway going up just beyond that. Walking across the abandoned little room I figured the door would be locked... But no, it wasn't... how wonderful... how great...

I started up the short metal, 'utility', circular stairway and when I saw only sky above me a few stairs up, I was very optimistic for roof top gardens and grand views with unique photographic opportunities.

When I popped my head out into the open space my roof garden looked like this... No lounge chairs, walls, railings, trees, nothing to stop a fast decent to the streets below. The only thing to hold onto was the very 'little' thin railing of the 'utility' circular stairway itself... This was a place that only those fearless high steel workers would tread... and it seems they had left without even finishing the job!





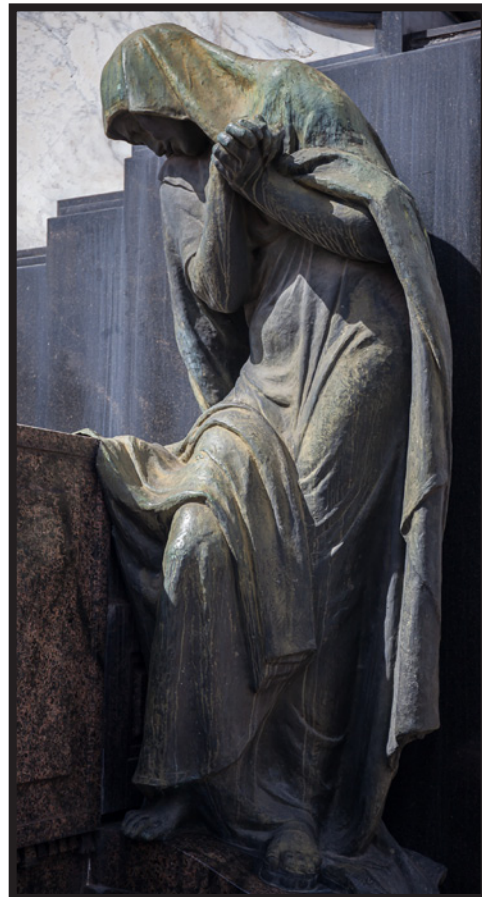
## La Recoleta Cemetery

La Recoleta Cemetery contains the graves of notable people, including Eva Perón, presidents of Argentina, Nobel Prize winners, the founder of the Argentine Navy and a granddaughter of Napoleon. In 2011, the BBC hailed it as one of the world's best cemeteries, and in 2013, CNN listed it among the 10 most beautiful cemeteries in the world.

The monks of the Order of the Recoletos arrived in this area, then the outskirts of Buenos Aires, in the early eighteenth century. The cemetery is built around their convent and a church, built in 1732. The order was disbanded in 1822, and the garden of the convent was converted into the first public cemetery in Buenos Aires. Inaugurated the same year under the name of Northern Cemetery, those responsible for its creation were the then-Governor Martín Rodríguez, who would be eventually buried in the cemetery, and government minister Bernardino Rivadavia. The 1822 layout was done by French civil engineer Próspero Catelin, who also designed the current facade of the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Cathedral. The cemetery was last remodeled in 1881, while Torcuato de Alvear was mayor of the city, by the Italian architect Juan Antonio Buschiazzo.

Set in 14 acres, the site contains 4691 vaults, all above ground, of which 94 have been declared National Historical Monuments by the Argentine government and are protected by the state. The entrance to the cemetery is through neo-classical gates with tall Doric columns. The cemetery contains many elaborate marble mausoleums, decorated with statues, in a wide variety of architectural styles such as Art Deco, Art Nouveau, Baroque, and Neo-Gothic, and most materials used between 1880 and 1930 in the construction of tombs were imported from Paris and Milan. The entire cemetery is laid out in sections like city blocks, with wide tree-lined main walkways branching into sidewalks filled with mausoleums.

While many of the mausoleums are in fine shape and well-maintained, others have fallen into disrepair. Several can be found with broken glass and littered with rubbish. Among many memorials are works by notable Argentine sculptors, Lola Mora and Luis Perlotti for instance.













## Paintings

I conclude with a couple paintings from our Buenos Aires Flying Pig Adventures....









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