

Costa Rica: A New Vision for Escapeartist - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

Costa Rica enters a new Era with Escapeartist and a new strategic media partner

Escapeartist Costa Rica has a new face and a new media partner for the future – with the launch of the new portal, Escapeartist readers can expect frequent updates with our new bi-monthly EscapetoCostaRica ezine and authoritative news about the real Costa Rica. Escapeartist is proud to announce the launch of this new website, ezine and partnership with the country of Costa Rica.

Our new portals provide a dedicated resource to a single dream destination operated by an experienced expat who knows the ends and outs of their adopted country. With over 20,000+ visitors per month, this website will be the window to the world and everything you want to know about Costa Rica.

This new partnership with the Escapeartist media brand incorporates 15 years of experience in knowing what our readers are interested in learning about. Escapeartist Costa Rica is an extension of the internet's longest standing and most reliable source for authoritative articles written by our staff, our subscribers and the greatest expats in the world – the people really truly living overseas...Escapeartist Expats!

Escapeartist is a leading publisher of informative and authoritative content relevant to traveling, living, retiring, investing and working abroad. We have built a loyal following over the last decade by showcasing the stories of real people who are actually living abroad and sharing their life's experiences with you, the reader. Whether you are planning a move to Costa Rica, traveling or investing in a future retirement home Escapeartist Costa Rica is now the internet's best destination for making this dream a reality.

To learn more about living working, traveling and investing in Costa Rica please request the Complimentary Escapeartist Costa Rica Guide by [CLICKING HERE](#)

It is this dedication that has inspired and provided the courage to hundreds of thousands of people around the world that has earned Escapeartist the coveted ranking of being recognized as a top 1% website in the world. With over one million visitors per month for more than five years running and 400,000 loyal readers, Escapeartist is most certainly the 800lb Gorilla of the international lifestyle

Pura Vida" All in One Place right under a Palm Tree!

The New Escapeartist Costa Rica Website Features:

- Living in Costa Rica
- Traveling to Costa Rica
- How to move to Costa Rica
- Medical Tourism in Costa Rica
- Real Estate in Costa Rica sales/rentals
- Eco-adventure tourism
- Business Visas in Costa Rica
- Immigration Law in Costa Rica
- Entertainment / calendar
- Maps and Embassies
- Costa Rica Classifieds
- Banking in Costa Rica
- Costa Rica News / weather
- The Costa Rica Lifestyle/Top Ten Lists
- Expat Community in Costa Rica
- Costa Rica Employment
- Law in Costa Rica
- Costa Rica Education Spanish Lessons
- Yachts / sail boats / sport fishing
- Civil Aviation airport guide

Read all about it! Escape to Costa Rica Online Magazine

Escapeartist Costa Rica will be covering many different subjects that the content based on material facts written by people who have been there, done that, or they are doing it right now... and in real time. Our readers will be able to get direct access to valuable information with tips from our help guide blog that our readers contribute to the content. Being able to acquire this firsthand information brings you all of the best that Costa Rica has to offer and it could help you navigate the road and avoid the pitfalls and bumps in along the way to discovering the real meaning behind "Pura Vida".

This is a service that visitors to Escapeartist Costa Rica will find to be a much more reliable source than the Madison Avenue "info articles" most travel sites pump out and are likely to have been written by a person who has never been to Costa Rica. Follow our writers as they discover Costa Rica, or join us by contributing your story!

Want to Share Your Story on the Internet or T.V.?

Escapeartist Costa Rica wants to hear about your unique story and share it with our readers worldwide in Escape to Costa Rica Magazine online. You may even get your story told on our upcoming TV Special "**The Escapeartist**" produced by Jim Hayden the multi-Award Winning producer and President of [Planet Pictures](#) in association with [EscapeartistCostaRica.com](#) and [Escapeartist.com](#).

We will be Streaming Real Stories in Real

Escapeartist Costa Rica will be linked to all of the social networks where you can get the latest and greatest stories, photos and video clips from real people living and traveling in Costa Rica in real time... You will be able to post your relevant content on all of the most popular social networks and several blogs relating to different topics in and about Costa Rica in real time.

The Thumbs Down Lists

In all fairness we must include the places *not to go to* and things *not to do* while in Costa Rica (and in all likelihood anywhere else in the world). Giving our readers balanced and reliable information on ***how to avoid the pitfalls and become an expert on how to do it right*** while visiting or living in Costa Rica, is particularly relevant for travelers from the USA and Canada.

Please submit your personal stories, photos and video clips of any cautionary tales of misfortune while in Costa Rica.

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Spiritual Journey: Black Butterflies My Journey to India - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

I had just finished college in Australia and was back at home in Singapore. Fresh out of school Free as a bird, thrilled about my new found freedom to adventure ...

The world was my oyster and I felt like a myriad of possibilities were about to open up to me. I was in my early twenties at the time. Having returned to the tiny, densely populated island / republic of Singapore, I lived with my family as most young people do. My dad was looking forward to my getting a stable job and settling at home after having spent years away at college.

I, on the other hand, had other plans. I was ready to begin my career but I wanted freedom, adventure and growth to come with it. I was not about to choose an ordinary life. Much to the chagrin of my father I had firmly decided to design something quite unusual ... even quite extraordinary.

I woke up one morning for an early morning breakfast in the heart of town. Sitting in Borders Cafe in the heart of an orchard I was in a great place to be the observer and take in the sights of this dynamic metropolis. In the small hours of the morning, the city's peaceful demeanor was a rare sight. The city had not yet awoken ... I leaned back enjoying my early breakfast and tea, sitting by myself and enjoying my own company.

On the table next to me, two women were speaking very excitedly and sharing a meal. I could not help but notice their bubbling exuberance and I found myself rather drawn to them.

Then a most surprising moment transpired. Like a gift fluttering from the heavens, a velvety black butterfly arrived and danced amongst our tables. The excitement escalated to giddy squeals as this force of nature came to each one of us kissing us on our cheeks, weaving past our hair. This butterfly was not shy!

The lady at the table next to me said "It's a black butterfly! Black butterflies always arrive at the most opportune moments in my life"! She started regaling numerous significant moments in her life when black butterflies had appeared.

We basked in the butterfly and her story. This brilliant performance from nature connected us all instantly. The lady who spoke of black butterflies introduced herself as Shantelle Gold an Inspirational Life Coach. She asked me for a means of contact and I offered a simple business card that stated in plain and simple font ... WRITER.

She gasped and said "I'm a writer myself and I've been looking for a writer to document MY Life story. I've had a remarkable journey to [India](#) in the past few years ... I've needed help and here you are. The Black Butterfly brought you to me."

I'd like you to work with me to write my story. Come with me to visit my guru in India. I want to share my journey with the world ...and I'm leaving in ten days."

Lo and behold, I had a week to obtain my visa and I was jetting off to New Delhi!

The adventure had begun in a most unusual way. Before we knew it, we were on a plane diving into the unknown. This would be my first trip to India and we would arrive on New Years Eve of 2002. The plane landed and we were whisked away to a home in the heart of Delhi.

All I remember upon arrival was being taken aback by the immense difference in my environment. The architecture was grandiose and old, emanating of eras and legends past. Cows walked casually in the streets, nonchalantly mingling with traffic and dust.

I had always been well-travelled, having visited most of the world's continents, but nothing had quite prepared me for a sight such as this. The scene before me seemed to be painted in a reddish brown sheen. The buildings, even the air was painted in this rich coat of color. I felt like I had been delivered to an entirely new world. The noises and the hustle and bustle in the air seemed so foreign. As the observer, I watched this new society as it went about the importance of its daily regime.

Although I had lived in Asia, I had never been surrounded by such a crowd of beautiful people all with huge, almond eyes and long velvet lashes. In the midst of the clamor, I admired the raw beauty about me. It was as if I had been transplanted into the heart of a National Geographic Special.

All these thoughts buzzed through my mind as we were driven to the home of one of the Sangat. The family we would be staying with was actively involved in the running of the [ashram](#) we were to visit out in the outskirts of Delhi. We were being taken to their home in Delhi that was situated next to the restaurant that they owned. Half of the house was a family home and the other half opened up to a restaurant that served the most delectable Indian food I had tasted in my life! It was a family business and everyone had a role and was involved in its running.

Chotu (which in Hindi means tiny), was the name of the robust, stocky son who had picked us up from the airport and served as our main guide. He was a true testament to his parents as he was wonderfully respectful of his family and made it his responsibility to cater to all our needs.

Immediately, I sensed the strong bonds within their family. Although the mother of the family was Catholic and her husband was Sikh, they both warmly embraced their respective religious practices. The walls of their home were decorated with altars of the Virgin Mary and the Christ child, as well as depictions of Guru Nanak's lineage of spiritual leaders.

Here we were, five strangers from all walks of life and different parts of the world who had been brought to their home. Knowing nothing about us, other than we were there for the ashram they readily assumed responsibility to take care of us, unconditionally.

In the excitement and glee, they hugged and welcomed us so warmly, I instantly felt at home. Truly this was a culture that was wonderfully accepting.

We were told it was time to feast and no one was about to argue with that idea. Our orders were swiftly taken and in less than an hour a huge buffet of food was brought over from the restaurant to the living room.

We licked our lips, as savory vegetarian dishes were delivered one by one ... Saagpaneer, cucumber raita, spicy vegetable curries, and rich desserts. The feasting began and we were being spoiled. Everyone glowed and shared stories of who they were and what they were in search of. I was amazed by the different walks of life that had gathered and the gentleness in their souls and the deep desire that each one had to evolve in their lives.

We kept on chatting and sharing even as we nestled in our beds. There was so much to learn about each other and we were all extremely hopeful about the adventure that was about to unfold.

I knew I was about to meet the young guru everyone was buzzing about. He was simply and affectionately known as Babaji and was said to be the reincarnation of ShriHaidakhanBabaji, a man who was said to be 'pure at heart and holy in spirit'. It was said that "His voice was deep. His speech was full of gentleness and grace. He used to say that courtesy does not cost anything and only the meek and humble inherit the kingdom of God. Whenever he spoke, the air seemed to stand still and mute wonder lurked in the hearts of man and woman to imbibe the sweetness of his words."

And so ended my first night in Delhi and I fell in to a peaceful sleep. At the crack of dawn, at 5 am, we were awoken. Several jeeps had been arranged for our group to be transported deep into the heart of the Punjab province to a small town known as Patiala. We would be visiting and staying at the Guru Nanak Ashram located in the village.

The open-top jeeps soon left New Delhi's perimeter and began to speed past rocky roads. We travelled across the most amazing scenery, passing through villages whose people were engaged in their early morning activities. I was shocked to see so many making cow manure patty cakes that they were drying out to use in a variety of ways. Cow manure cakes provide the fuel that generates heat and electricity. I could see why cows are so revered in India. They provide dairy products, leather, labor and were also a valuable source of fuel.

I was jolted once more into profound culture shock. Seeing such poverty before me, I could only fall silent and give gratitude for the luxurious life I had been exposed to back home. How could I even begin to complain about anything in my life, when there are so many that people who inhabit this huge continent who smile and laugh despite the few possessions they own and the many adversities they face.

Even small children were hard at work, their childhood filled with the very mature, adult concerns of making money and providing for their family. It seemed like the innocence and rapture of childhood was stolen from so many.

My heart broke in witnessing this utter destitution. With poverty that was so extreme and conditions that were so widespread, I did not know how to embrace what I was faced with, except to make a sworn testimony to always be grateful and always live my life to the fullest, and to touch as many as I possibly can with my life's work.

While my heart kept breaking, and I breathed into silence I knew I was being weaned on the milk of compassion. And this was the first and very powerful lesson of this spiritual journey.

Hours passed and we eventually approached our destination, the city of Patiala. It was a small quiet province in south-eastern Punjab. Foreigners were rare in these parts and we had been told to dress conservatively in Shalwarkameez in respect to the culture in to which we would be entering.

We brushed against green foliage and shrubbery entering into the humble infrastructure that made up the town. Donkeys lumbered by with their owners and the crowd stared at us quizzically. As much as we tried to dress the part, we were obviously foreigners. The town folk could not help but drink in our presence that represented a world so removed from their reality.

To be continued ...

About the author: Born and raised on the tropical island of Singapore, [Mahira Amir Khan](#) is an award winning producer/writer/poet whose work has appeared in a variety of international venues. Having read her Bachelor of Arts in Australia, she is a world explorer with a successful career in the media.

Mahira's career began in South East Asia with a background in lifestyle journalism. At the young age of 27, she held the post of Chief Editor of a Singaporean medical health magazine. She then travelled across the oceans to the West to dive deeper into her creativity. Whilst based in Los Angeles, she held a 6 year career as a producer in the action sports industry, producing 17 publicly acclaimed extreme sports films, several TV specials as well as two seasons of a popular reality TV series titled 'The MOTO – Inside the Outdoors'. The series airs on Fuel TV.

True to her lineage that is Afghani, Persian with traces of Pakistani and Indian blood, Mahira possesses a rare and most innate gift for the arts. She is currently working on publishing her inspirational writings.

Her life's mission lies in the production of film/TV and written works that are empowering and awakening. Thus raising the public to their fullest potential, offering knowledgeable entertainment and powerful new perspectives, inspiring her audience

to live the greatest life they could possibly live.

When a Patriotic American becomes an Expatriate you Know it's Time to Escape From America - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

On the tenth anniversary of the 9-11 attacks on the USA, which caused the deaths and injuries of thousands of innocent people, many people spent the day reflecting and remembering the loss of life, and on what has happened to America since that fateful day. The deaths and injuries were, in themselves, an appalling tragedy but an ongoing serious consequence of the attacks has been, and still is, the gradual erosion of civil rights and privacy of US citizens.

My time of reflection on September 11 was spent in the delightful company of Dave vonKleist, an American patriot, who for many years was on the frontline of the battle to keep America free from government tyranny and to protect the civil rights and freedom of the American people. Using humor and the politically incorrect music that he wrote, performed and recorded, Dave vonKleist entertained and informed listeners with his unique style of broadcasting on a radio show, The Power Hour which he co-hosted with Joyce Riley.

Dave vonKleist is also well known for the production of two video documentaries, "911 In Plane Site" and "911 Ripple Effect". These documentaries were an examination, by experts, of the video evidence of the attacks on the twin towers and the pentagon and posed questions that could not be answered with any credibility. To this day, Dave vonKleist is still on the receiving end of a mix of warm accolades and vicious attacks for daring to raise questions that needed to be asked.

Now living in Argentina, Dave vonKleist is a world away from the life when he relentlessly spent his days working towards increasing the American people's awareness of the corruption and tyranny that are slowly eating away at their rights and freedoms.

Relaxed and happy, Dave vonKleist agreed to a "no questions barred" interview. Among other things I asked him to explain his reasons for leaving America to become an expatriate; for the truth behind his departure from The Power Hour; I wanted to know his reasons for choosing Argentina as his adopted home; and to give a response to, and comment on, the personal attacks and financial losses he has endured.

Susan Beverley: *I am sorry to start off with this question, but there is a small part of our audience that will want to know this: Do you hate America?*

Dave vonKleist: Maybe that part of the audience is not so small, because that question is raised frequently. I fought for many years and tried to contribute to the effort to bring the USA to what it once was and to bring attention to the problems our government and country was experiencing. This resulted in small minded individuals coming to the conclusion that I must somehow hated my country, when in fact it is my love for my country that motivated me to draw attention to its weakness in the hopes that we could correct the direction it was taking. For many of us who became vocal activists, we had to endure the same negative assumptions that we endure now as expats. If those who had been active participants in the rumor mongering and ridicule game had directed their efforts in to effecting the real change, it is likely people such as myself would not have felt the need to become expats. If someone truly loves their country, then it is their duty to do all they can to correct problems as they develop, rather than condemn those with the courage to do so. Sadly, the majority of the American "sheeple" fail to understand this essential philosophy, which is why things have gotten so bad and folks like myself are pegged as "hating their country". Those who parrot and subscribe to the phrase, "America, love it or leave it" are a major reason why things have gotten so bad.

To answer your question, I do not hate America – I hate what America has become. The corruption and the deprivation of our civil rights have destroyed my personal American dream.

Susan Beverley: *When a super patriot becomes an expatriate it suggests to me that this is time for all Americans to seriously consider relocating overseas. What were the circumstances that led you to make the decision to leave America?*

Dave vonKleist: Leaving my country was not an easy decision. Having thrown my heart and soul into the resistance movement for the past twenty years and rubbing elbows with some the most dedicated, honest patriotic people that I have the pleasure of knowing, I came to the sad realization that the majority of Americans have become to depend on the efforts of a few, when what is truly required is the efforts of many.

I sometimes had the impression that by being a radio talk show host and discussing topics that were either shunned or ignored by the main stream media, that we were somehow filling a need for the globalists by giving our listenership a place to vent.

It is easy to believe that something can get done when sitting at home listening to a short wave radio or computer or live stream where people discuss these topics and have the mistaken impression that by simply listening we can win this thing. Complacency, apathy and fear all play a vital role for the powers that be. It is a well known fact that the attention span for most people is 2 to 3 weeks. For many Americans, whatever the issue or topic is that makes their blood boil, after a few weeks they "cool off" and then it's business as usual. Until the majority of Americans realize that it's time to break out the tar and feathers, the pitchforks and torches and storm the castle then nothing will be accomplished.

Susan Beverley: *You spent many years as an activist trying to raise the American people's awareness of government corruption and their attacks on the constitution. Now you are an expat have you totally withdrawn from such activism and if so why?*

Dave vonKleist: Early on in my activist role I was told by many to beware of burnout. At the time I didn't quite realize what that meant. However as the years passed and my pace was maintained I began to understand how important it is to take the time to try and enjoy some things in life rather than constantly carrying the burden of a black cloud.

I became somewhat disenchanted as I found that some of the "patriots" in the movement were more concerned with their personal status, pride maintenance and nourishing their ego. Regular listeners to my program will attest to the fact that for many years my mantra was: "If you're in it for the praise, recognition, accolades or money, you're in it for the wrong reason. What part of divided we fall don't you understand? What part of united we stand don't you get?" We as patriots should not see others in the movement as competitors, but rather as teammates. We don't have to agree on all topics or issues. Patriots need to see the common enemies and issues and work towards overcoming them. Then they can all get back to the infighting, backstabbing and gossip, (if that's what they think they need to do.)

The infighting and rumor mongering became commonplace in the patriot movement. The issue for some appeared to become that of "exposing others" and it saddened my heart to find that so many well meaning patriots had egos so fragile that they could no longer focus on their issue and rather redirected their efforts towards personal attacks and defending against them. What a great way to neutralize someone who is successfully affecting a change! Put them on the defensive to the point that they can no longer effectively move forward! I for one could care less of what people say about me.

With all the crazy attacks and accusations I was subjected to, I very rarely responded. And the idiots who believed that tripe are no more worthy of my time than those spewing it.

Sadly, given the disharmony and lack of unity in the "patriot" movement I came to realize that my words spoken in 1995 were truer than I wanted them to be: "Either we all fight them together or we all sit back and wait for them to collapse under the weight of their own corruption".

The way I see it, I paid it forward enough for a couple of lifetimes. My priority now is to enjoy what time I have left on this earth, to 'live, laugh, love and sing about it'.

I have not completely withdrawn but am on hiatus to give myself time to heal from the personal, emotional and financial losses suffered at the hands of other so called "patriots".

Susan Beverley: *I would like to ask you about the Power Hour that you co-hosted with Joyce Riley. This was, and still is an immensely popular radio show. So why did you quit?*

Dave vonKleist: Quit? That idea has been publicized but is quite untrue. You can figure out the opposite of "quit". I suppose all things run their course and the Power Hour had a good run. Joyce and I had a difference of philosophy and the direction the show had taken and she made a "business decision". My only regret is the way I was terminated and that I was not afforded the opportunity to thank the listeners for their support for all those years and to say goodbye... at least for the time being.

There are still unresolved issues on this topic and so I will leave out the finer details ... for now. It is said "when poverty comes in the door love goes out the window". Sometimes a success can have the same effect. The problem is when the success or financial rewards overshadow the very reason you began your endeavor in the first place, you end up corrupting your own values for the sake of more "stuff".

Susan Beverley: *You had thousands of followers who were inspired by your motivational broadcasts and unique delivery; do you feel you are letting them down by no longer being on the air?*

Dave vonKleist: I remember listening to the "For the People" broadcast with Chuck Harder when I lived in Connecticut. When the station that carried his broadcast changed its programming I felt the loss. I can understand how many listeners may have felt when I was no longer on the radio. I am truly sorry for any loss they may have felt or still feel, but again the circumstance was not under my control.

Susan Beverley: *You worked for many years supporting Gulf War Veterans providing free information packages and DVD's. Are you still involved in any way in providing ongoing support to vets?*

Dave vonKleist: Joyce Riley and I came together in the mid 90's because of our common concern for our men and women who had served in the military. The Power Hour began in the year 2000 and at first maintained a focus on Veteran issues and became a clearing house for free information for those who simply asked. Over the years we gave away several hundred thousand dollars in videos, documents, printed materials, clothing, basic necessities and in some cases cash to Vets who had reached a point of desperation.

I believe it is because of our efforts to help Vets the Power Hour became the success that it was. As the radio show became more popular, our topics became more diverse and it appeared to me that we might have lost sight of the very reason that we became involved in the first place.

I would challenge anyone to visit the Power Hour archives or guest schedule today and find how many shows per month are dedicated towards the Vets. I had no say in the scheduling of guests on the program. The direction it took was a result of Joyce Riley being at the helm. My support for Vets remains un-wavering; it is my resources that are no longer available. Vets can still contact the Power Hour and ask for help.

Susan Beverley: *Your two video documentaries, 911 In Plane Site and 911 The Ripple Effect opened many people's eyes to the possibility that the attack on the WTC and the Pentagon were not simply terrorist attacks and raised many questions that to this day are still unanswered. What motivated you to go ahead and produce these videos?*

Dave vonKleist: On that horrible day we were preparing to go on air with our live broadcast. As we fired up the equipment and turned on our TV monitor I saw the north tower smoking, as it had been hit at 8:46 AM (EST) – just minutes before our live broadcast. When our microphones went live at 9 AM, the first thing I said to the listeners was, “Wherever you are, whatever you are doing, run, don’t walk to your VCR, put in a tape and start recording any network you can find”. Many of our listeners did just that and 3 minutes later the south tower was hit. After several months of America suffering a 911 hangover, video tapes began arriving by mail.

Listeners across the country were sending me copies of what they had recorded and I ended up with between 65 and 70 video tapes of raw, unedited live broadcasts. At first I didn’t know what to do with them but when the controversy about the Pentagon began to build I began reviewing the video tapes. What I found in regard to the pentagon led me to review the footage of the events in New York City. Shocked does not describe my reaction. I realized that Fox has Fox footage; CNN has CNN footage and NBC, ABC, CBS and all the others all have their OWN footage. Here I am in the middle of nowhere Missouri with a box of video tapes with ALL the footage! The way I saw it, I had no choice but to try and share what I had seen with our listeners.

911 In Plane Site was released in July 2004. Admittedly, I was surprised at the level of attention it received. I was invited as a guest on many radio shows. When the US government released the “more complete” security camera video footage from the Pentagon in ’05, I was asked to be a guest on the [Glen Beck show](#) (when he was still with CNN). I knew right away that this would be an attempt to discredit and ridicule myself and others who dared question the “official story”. Despite his efforts, Glen Beck actually drew more attention to the questions I was raising simply by ignoring video footage and photographs and relying on the age old methodology of attacking the messenger because you don’t like the message.

[Popular Mechanics](#) was forced into doing a damage control article and addressing issues that obviously had been avoided by the main stream media. The article was a collection of “massaged information” and total avoidance. James Miges was invited numerous times to appear on the radio show (either live or recorded) and simply refused. I wrote a [response piece](#) and also addressed the propaganda in a [segment](#) of “911 Ripple Effect”.

The controversy continued to build and the hits just kept on coming. The ripple effect following the release of 911 In Plane Site led to the production of the second film, “[911 Ripple Effect](#)”. Many have stated that the second film is like the first only on steroids. The ridicule and attacks seemed to subside somewhat after the release of the second film. The questions raised, coupled with the mainstream media and government reaction over the release of the first film lent credibility to the second. I still get letters, emails and Facebook messages from people all over the world who thank me for opening their eyes and I am humbled by it. It is I who should thank them.

Susan Beverley: *Following the release of the first and then the second 911 videos you were on the receiving end of some brutal criticism from those who labeled you as a conspiracy theorist whacko and a Nazi disinformant among other things. What is your response to these critics?*

Dave vonKleist: As they say you don’t catch flak unless you are over the target. I still challenge anyone who calls me a conspiracy theorist to tell me what ‘theory’ I am promoting. I was and remain very careful about making any definitive statements in regard to the 911 attacks and this infuriates many of those who want to somehow negate the validity of the questions raised. And they are just that, questions raised. (Questions that many not only do not want answered, but don’t want asked).

As far as the “Nazi disinfo” label please consider the source [davevonkleistdisinformant.com] - a defrocked, disbarred “attorney” who called herself a ‘good Christian’, claims she wants to expose the “truth” and yet has no documentation, evidence or proof to substantiate her outrageous charges. Sometimes it’s wise to examine the accusatory finger rather than the direction to where it is pointing. Anyone with functioning brain matter who reads through the website would likely find it akin to Jack Nicholson’s rambling writings in “The Shining”. Again, I won’t even waste my time responding to questions raised by idiots who get their information from websites of that caliber. In my public appearances and radio broadcasts I have stated many times, if you have proof or evidence that I am a CIA agent, Mossad agent, a Neo-Nazi skinhead, or anything else, please expose me for the fraud you say that I am but please do so with credible evidentiary facts. Not by innuendo gossip rumor mongering or demonstration of an over active imagination.

Susan Beverley: *The 911 videos sold tens of thousands of copies, therefore it is reasonable to assume you have a very comfortable retirement fund on which you can live in style in Argentina. Is that the case?*

Dave vonKleist: There are some who think I left the US with a bag of money from the video sales. The fact of the matter is that William Lewis, co-producer of “911 Ripple Effect”, slapped a lawsuit on me in a dispute over “gross profit” vs. “net profit” a month after the DVD was released. The issue was over \$2.42 per minute of advertising and promotion on the radio and travel expenses to Wisconsin to promote the video’s release (just over a few hundred dollars). After hiring an attorney to respond to his lawsuit, his attorney (I assume at William’s instructions) foot-dragged and delayed responding. I was prevented from duplicating, distributing or selling the video until I could obtain sales receipts, which Joyce was unwilling to provide. The result was that I have not received a single penny from the video and to date, I am not involved in any duplication or sales. Those who want to know more can ask William Lewis why he handled it so “fairly”. It is a little difficult to accept being so thoroughly screwed over by other “patriots” who claim they love their country more than money. Deeds not words. Let that be the barometer to judge other’s motivations.

Susan Beverley: *You are equally well known for your patriotic and frankly politically incorrect music and have written and recorded 3 albums. Can we expect to hear any new musical offerings from you in the future?*

Dave vonKleist: I am flattered that so many people expressed their appreciation for my music and sometimes humorous musical antics. Music is in my blood and always will be. I still involve myself with politically incorrect musical projects but not to the extent of the past 15 years.

Sales of my albums were mediocre only because the numbers of people involved in the resistance movement have been mediocre. I hate to admit it, but despite the fact that more Americans have awakened in the past few years most have not moved to the second stage which is direct involvement.

I have been a musician for 40 years now and had quite a successful run during the 70's and 80's as a singer, guitar player and studio vocalist. I have moved back to my roots as of late only because it is what I did for so long and quite frankly I don't suck at it.

No matter what happens in the coming years, people will always want music to express their love, joy and sometimes heartbreaks of life. Most people would rather listen to their favorite album of familiar songs than to some patriotic politically incorrect, in- your-face-you-lying-SOB-government musician giving a lyrical lambasting to the powers that be.

Let's face it wouldn't you rather listen to your favorite love song than to some guy shaking a musical fist in the faces of the globalists and vowing an eternal fight for the coming generations?

Susan Beverley: *I have to ask the obvious – why did you choose Argentina as your new country of residence?*

Dave vonKleist: The world economy is on the brink of collapse. The US military industrial complex has a stranglehold on the economy of our country and the world. When our country's economic survival depends upon feeding a machine that kills for profit with total disregard for human life or the survival of the planet it should be clear that global military conflict is inevitable.

When I first considered leaving the country I asked myself the question that many others ask themselves – where in the world is it safe? The question should be – where is it safer than where I am? No place is truly safe when facing the specter of a third world war and if or when it comes, it will be on a scale that is beyond most of our ability to comprehend. Nuclear, chemical and radiological toxins are already at intolerable levels. Can you imagine what the Northern hemisphere will be like if the entire Middle East, Far East, Europe and yes, North America are plunged into a war that utilizes chemical weapons, nuclear weapons, depleted uranium rounds and biological agents? The collapse of the infrastructure of many cities will throw humanity into a state of total anarchy. Don't laugh! – a "Mad Max" scenario is truly possible. The weather patterns and ocean currents for the most part will keep much of the pollution and contamination to the Northern hemisphere. For me, this was one of the reasons why I considered moving to the Southern hemisphere. When looking at a globe, one can see that most of the land mass is north of the equator. The Southern hemisphere consists mainly of the Southern third of Africa, part of Indo-China and Australia, New Zealand, the Southern half of South America and Antarctica. After doing some research, checking the climates agriculture and other logistics I came to the conclusion that Argentina was to be seriously considered as relatively safe haven to ride out what the coming storm. No, it's not perfect here, there are political problems and corruption as there are anywhere else, but the people here are more in touch with their families and loved ones. Unlike the US, Argentina has seen economic collapse and tyranny in recent years and the people know the consequences. They are more prepared in many ways to make it through hard times. The area I'm in is rural, agricultural and the people are well versed in the barter system. Sure, the infrastructure isn't on par with the US, but who cares when it comes to basic survival.

Susan Beverley: *I understand you recently made a trip to the USA after living in Argentina for the past year and half. What observations and comparisons can you share with us, in particular to the lifestyle and attitudes of the people in your home nation and your new adopted country?*

Dave vonKleist: In years previous, people who had no concern or interest in a "patriot" or "resistance" movement, people who subscribed to the status quo, people who actually poo-hooed the idea that something is wrong, appear now to be suffering the consequences of their complacency. During my recent visit, friends whom I had not seen for some time were now expressing fears and concerns about issues like the illegality of the federal reserve and IRS, the exponential and unchecked growth of the military industrial complex, the corporatism that now rules over both parties, all branches of government, the media etc., all are issues that I and many others were screaming about for years. I had to resist numerous opportunities to say, "I told you so."

When immersed in the American culture it is very difficult to see the problems and short comings of our country until things get so bad that you wake up one morning and find you are staring in to the eyes of a beast. The other way to become aware of Americas warts is to step away for a while and look back from a new perspective.

After having now gained a whole new perspective, looking from the outside in, my perception is that the people in America are angry, frustrated and more afraid than they were before 9-11 or any other time in our country's history. Now America has the department of homeland security, super congress, FEMA, a Patriot Bill, none of which were brought in to existence by Osama, Saddam or Al Qaeda (Al CIAda). So why don't Americans feel safer? Did it ever occur to them that the whole point was to bring about their discontent so as to justify the creation of the bureaucracies, the passage of oppressive laws and economic conditions that have brought us to a higher level of complacency? (The Hegelian dialectic still works)

By comparison, the people in the area of Argentina where I live are freer to focus on the more important things in life. A lifestyle that is unencumbered by the fear, frustration and anger is the goal of many expats like myself who have chosen to relocate to an area where the values are more focused on family, friends and quality of life. After all, isn't that what we all want?

Susan Beverley: *Are you back in Argentina permanently now, or do you anticipate any circumstances or changes that that would entice you to returning to live in the USA?*

Dave vonKleist: All options are on the table, but quite frankly until the USA offers the security, opportunity and moral fiber that I grew up believing was available, I have every right and indeed duty to myself and loved ones to pursue greener pastures as I see them. It breaks my heart to say so but I'm simply calling a spade a spade.

Susan Beverley: *Overall, do you feel safer living in Argentina than in the USA?*

Dave vonKleist: Absolutely! If you want to be free, you have to live free. As mentioned, my new mantra for the remainder of my life is simple: "Live, Laugh, Love and Sing about it!" Until conditions in the United States of America improve, I will be unable to return because I cannot "live" there.

Susan Beverley: *And to conclude this interview, what message would you like to share with anyone who has an interest in your whereabouts and wellbeing?*

Dave vonKleist: First off, I want to thank those who supported me during the "Power Hour" years and want them to know my heart is, and always will be, with those who stood with me at all those events we attended around the country. My message to them and to all the others who care is to find peace with your friends and family. In the end, all we have is the love around us, and that is the only thing that matters. If we are to be consumed with anger, frustration, fear and hatred, it diminishes and distracts us from the important things in life and lessens us as human beings. I have accepted the fact that I could only do so much and gave all I had to give... and then some. Despite my efforts, vets are still abused, the real perpetrators of the 9/11 attacks continue to run free and the globalist-NWO agenda continues to move forward. I can't change that.

What time I have left is now dedicated to sharing with my loved ones and bringing music and laughter to those around me.

27 Questions and Answers About Costa Rica - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

Why should I move to Costa Rica?

[Costa Rica](#) is an ideal choice for expats, retirees or those looking to relocate to a peaceful country with no army, moderate year-round temperatures, affordable quality medical and dental care as well as close proximity to the United States. This country is one of the most stable and peaceful democracies in all of Latin America.

How can I restart my life in Costa Rica?

The very first step is to visit the country and see for yourself what it has to offer. You can begin an exciting new stage of your life while making new friends, experiencing a new culture, learning a new language, staying busy and happy and regaining your youthful passions. All this can make you feel better and possibly help you to live longer. Some expatriates remark that living in Costa Rica was like discovering the Fountain of Youth. Truly, Costa Rica can change people's lives for the better.

Why do so many people want to live in Costa Rica?

The best answer to that is the ideal weather and close proximity to the United States. The climate in Costa Rica is often rated in the top five desirable climates to live in worldwide which is about mid 70's average in the Central Valley. You will rarely need air conditioning and never need to turn on the heat. In most places, no one has a furnace—say goodbye to heating bills forever! There are two seasons in Costa Rica, dry and rainy, both with tons of sunshine. The growing season is year round as opposed to regions where a winter season brings a dormant period.

What sets Costa Rica apart from other countries?

Other places such as Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama may have a lower cost of living but as the old adage goes, "you get what you pay for." Lack of infrastructure and quality of life in other foreign countries can leave a lot to be desired. Safety is also of major concern, especially where police have too much power or are very corrupt. Costa Rica is a politically stable country without a military presence and violent crime is the exception rather than the rule.

Are hurricanes a problem in Costa Rica?

Historically hurricanes have not been an issue for Costa Rica. On a few rare occasions, they have hit the Caribbean side of the country. However, there is an 11,000 foot mountain range separating the Caribbean side from the Pacific side. The mountains act as a huge buffer zone offering shelter from the heavy winds associated with large storms. Our real estate company can help you with buying Costa Rica land at higher elevations that have been carefully selected.

What is the religion of Costa Rica?

The official religion in Costa Rica is Roman Catholic. Costa Rica is a Spanish conquest maintaining the language and religion of Spain.

What is the Costa Rican culture like?

The culture is noticeably friendly and family oriented. The most definitive aspect of the Costa Rica culture is the people's devotion to maintaining good relations with everybody. Costa Ricans begin and end every conversation with greetings and compliments to retain warm relations with everyone they meet. Having long called themselves "Ticos," they are not offended if an outsider refers to them as such. The Ticos are a hard working people and are also highly literate, which makes for trustworthy working relationships.

To learn more about living, investing, retiring and traveling to Costa Rica please request Escapeartist's complimentary series of reports by [CLICKING HERE](#)

How do the locals treat Americans?

People from the United States and Canada make up a high percentage of tourists in Costa Rica and are very often referred to as "*gringos*," or more formally "North Americans," used to make a clear distinction, since many in Latin America also call themselves Americans. Tourists are almost always well liked and treated with friendly respect, mostly because of the Ticos' "Pura Vida" mentality and attitude of getting along with everyone.

What does "Pura Vida" mean?

Pura Vida means "Pure Life." It can be used as a greeting, a goodbye or to express general satisfaction. Some foreigners use the phrase as an expression of a leisurely lifestyle and of friendliness. However, Ticos use the saying to communicate a belief in strong community, happy moods, enjoying life at a slower pace, or as a celebration of good fortune. Foreigners who adopt the expression correctly usually get a big grin in return—a genuine response of the Costa Ricans' attitude toward life.

What is the location and natural features of the land?

Costa Rica borders Nicaragua on the north and Panama to the southeast. The Caribbean shoreline lies on the east and the

Pacific Ocean on the west. Both coastlines have an abundance of beautiful beaches. Between the coasts, the interior of the country is fashioned by four mountain ranges, which run from north to south, with several active volcanoes. This small country is comparable in size to West Virginia. The capital city of San José is situated roughly in the center of the country in a highland valley. Cascading down from the Central Valley are Costa Rica's many grand rivers. Costa Rica is situated very near the equator at just 8 degrees latitude.

Costa Ricans, being environmentally sensitive, have reserved one quarter of their land as beautiful protected areas and magnificent national parks. Within is found an astounding 5% of the world's biodiversity, including more than eight hundred species of ferns, thousands of orchids and flowers, two thousand species of trees, and over two hundred species of mammals, thus making this region one of nature's greatest wonders. Although well recognized as an invaluable nature refuge, Costa Rica is best known as a *haven of peace*.

What are the geographical divisions of Costa Rica?

Costa Rica has seven provinces: San José, Alajuela, Heredia, Cartago, Puntarenas, Guanacaste and Limón.

What is the climate like in Costa Rica?

Costa Rica's weather is famous for being an atmospheric delight, consisting of year-round mild subtropical conditions. Extremes in temperature and extended periods of gray are nearly nonexistent. Temperatures vary mainly with elevation, the higher the cooler. Most of the rainy season lasts from May through November. There is usually a dry spell from February to April. Most of Costa Rica's rain falls on the Caribbean coast, creating a much more desirable climate in the area of the Pacific. The Caribbean side generally experiences nine to ten months of rainy season with just a couple of months of dry season, in sharp contrast to the Pacific coast, where we typically experience temperate conditions all year.

What happens if I want to stay longer in Costa Rica?

Just leave the country for 72 hours and upon your return your permit will be renewed for an additional 90 days. The vast majority of people go to Panama for a long weekend and return for another 90 days. Some expats actually turn their whole life into a Costa Rica vacation by doing this every quarter, living full time in Costa Rica without ever formally applying for residency—a process that is perfectly legal.

How do I bring a pet to Costa Rica?

Dogs and cats must have a health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian dated within two weeks of traveling to Costa Rica. The required vaccinations for pets four months and older are: hepatitis, distemper, leptospirosis, rabies and parvo. Additionally the veterinary forms will require a stamp (for a fee of course) from the Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services as well as a stamp (for another fee) from the [Costa Rica Consulate](#) nearest you.

What is the food like in Costa Rica?

Referred to as "*comida típica*," Costa Rican cuisine relies a great deal on starches and red meat. Beans, rice, plantains, and potatoes are the staples. Like many Central American countries, breads, sweet pastries, and cakes are very popular. The food tastes delicious and is seasoned without being overly spicy with a mixture of dry spices and sauces that give it a distinctive Costa Rican flavor.

What kind of electrical power does Costa Rica use?

Costa Rica follows the U.S. standards and electrical outlets are also the typical U.S. flat-prong type.

What inoculations do I have to get to go to Costa Rica?

If you are North American or European, no vaccines are required to enter Costa Rica unless you are arriving from a specific yellow-fever infected area in Africa or Latin and South America within five days.

What is the currency in Costa Rica?

The currency is called the colón. U.S. dollars and major credit cards are also widely accepted and you will find ATMs distributed throughout the country.

How much is the sales tax in Costa Rica?

Sales tax is currently 13%.

What telephone number should I call in case I have an emergency?

Call 911 for immediate assistance.

What time zone is Costa Rica located in?

Costa Rica is on Central Standard Time (same as Chicago and St. Louis) which is six hours behind Greenwich Mean Time. Costa Rica does not use daylight saving time.

Can I drive in Costa Rica with my regular driver's license from home?

Yes. Your valid license and passport are all that you need to drive in the Costa Rica, for as long as your visa is current. Be

aware that if you are not driving on a valid license, you have no insurance coverage even if you paid for it.

I want to drive my car to Costa Rica. How much will I have to pay in taxes if I decide to keep it in the country?

You may drive your car into the country on your tourist visa for three months without paying a fee. That can usually be extended for an additional three months. After that, you must pay the duty tax which varies on the make, model and year as well as the value of the car. You should be able to obtain a current tax schedule from any [Costa Rican embassy](#), consulate or a reputable and knowledgeable customs agent.

Can I drink the water in Costa Rica?

Yes, although we recommend drinking bottled water in some areas and will strongly caution you against drinking water directly from rivers, streams or lakes.

Can I enter Costa Rica with a one-way airline ticket?

All visitors must have a round trip ticket as a requirement to enter the country.

Can foreigners buy property in Costa Rica?

Yes, there are no restrictions to property ownership by non-residents other than concession lands. Yes, there are no restrictions to Costa Rica property ownership by non-residents other than concession lands, a formality which applies to certain beachfront property.

To learn more about living, investing, retiring and traveling to Costa Rica please request Escapeartist's complimentary series of reports by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Nomadic Retirement: Chapter Two, From Chile to Argentina - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

In the [first installment of this series](#) on circling the globe in the southern hemisphere, we visited New Zealand and then headed east to South America, where we will encounter cultural treasures, vastly opposing landscapes, and diverse people. From the frozen southern Tierra del Fuego to the steamy swamps of the Darien Gap, from the beaches of Brazil to the heights of Mt. Aconcagua, this fascinating region of the world has a lot in store for the open-minded explorer.

We ended up our last segment with a description of Chile's geography. 2700 miles long, but only averaging a width of 109 miles with over 4000 miles of coastline. It is no wonder that a nation with that much access to the ocean has become very dependent on seafood. The rich cold water and the Humboldt Current's low salinity are a breeding ground for many species of fish and shellfish. About 20% of the world's seafood originates in this region, so take advantage of restaurant menus stocked very liberally with all kinds of delights emanating from the sea.

In spite of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that inflicted so much damage and suffering on Chile last year, life went right on. Today, you will not find much of the damage visible, as a massive cleanup and reconstruction effort has been highly effective. The Chilean people are very hardy and used to having these occasional disruptions in their lives.

Santiago de Chile is the rapidly growing, vibrant center, the heart and soul of the nation, and any visitor to Chile should spend some time there. Getting around on the public transportation system as well as on foot is easy, and there are plenty of parks, museums, cultural centers, shopping areas, Chilean wineries, and abundant nightlife. The beaches to the west and the Andes Mountains to the east are all very close by, offering a nice variety of experiences within easy reach. A ninety-minute bus ride will take you to the beach resort of Viña del Mar, the site of the International Song Festival in February. And wine tourism in the Central Valley is a great way to spend time learning about Chilean winemaking and enjoying a taste of this traditional lifestyle.

Beyond the Central Zone, Chile offers up an amazing variety of natural landscapes along with some intriguing cultural treasures. Attractions in the north include the Atacama Desert, a number of ancient cultural sites, salt flats, lakes, geysers, and towering volcanoes of the altiplano.

In the opposite direction, the Southern Zone features snow-capped volcanoes flanked by the greenest of forests and rising up out of the bluest of lakes. But it is further south, in the Austral Zone, where the major adventure travel and eco-tourism has really taken off in recent years, as the scenery becomes dominated by a steep, mountainous coastline dotted with islets and cut by deep fjords, and inland, the ice fields and glaciers continue to shape the extreme landscape. Among the numerous national parks in this region, Torres del Paine stands out as one of the world's most stunning.

So after enjoying Chile's many natural wonders, we will now cross the Andes and set off for Argentina, the eighth largest country in the world, covering 1,068,302 square miles. Argentina has a long and troubled history, having at one time had the promise to be one of the world's wealthiest nations, but that destiny was robbed by a succession of corrupt and inept leadership.

Today's Argentina is able to offer all the comforts to the Nomadic Retiree that you would expect from a developed nation. Travel in the country is made easy by a very efficient network of intercity buses (called Micros) offering everything you may need on those long journeys, including meals and fully reclining seat-beds (at extra charge). When arriving in Argentina from Chile, you will be given a 90 day permit to remain in the country, which is extendable for a further 90 days for the current cost of 300 AR Pesos (about US\$75) by going to any immigration office. Coming in from Santiago de Chile, your first major city will be Mendoza, in the heart of Argentina's wine growing region. If you love good wine then this is a good start, as you really need to figure out two things here: How long do you want to spend in Argentina and how much of it do you want to see?

From the Andes to Buenos Aires, from the steamy jungles in the north where the Iguazu Falls separate Brazil and Argentina, all the way to Ushuaia and the Beagle Channel at the southernmost tip of Tierra del Fuego, it will be very easy to while away a few months. I will not try to route you in a particular direction, as there are so many ways to explore, but will try instead to give some impressions of places that have earned my affection.

Buenos Aires, the capital, is one of the world's largest urban areas with a population of about 15 million, more or less, depending on which areas are included in the census. It is the economic, political, and cultural capital of the nation, offering year round entertainment in many forms, from theater to concerts, indoors and out, from wildly popular fútbol matches to traditional polo and horse races, from shopping malls to artisan markets to street vendors. The many restaurants in the city offer virtually everything under the sun to the discerning palate, and between lingering meals, there are many facets to explore and museums to take in.

What Buenos Aires is probably most famous for is the Tango, being the birthplace thereof, and December 11 is a very special day in the city. It is the celebration of the National Day of the Tango, which coincides with the birthdays of two of the biggest tango legends, Carlos Gardel and Julio De Caro. Carlos Gardel was the most beloved Tango performer of his day. There is a great rivalry between Uruguay and Argentina, both claiming him to be a native son. He himself added fuel to that controversy when making conflicting statements about his early years, such as "I was born in Buenos Aires when I was 3 years old" and the other one, giving Uruguay its strongest claim to Gardel being a native son, "I am Uruguayan, born in Tacuarembó." In reality, he was born in Toulouse, France to a single mother who migrated to Argentina when he was 3 years old. He died along with his band and management in a tragic air crash in Medellin, Colombia in 1935, but his spirit is alive and well throughout the dance halls of Buenos Aires any day of year.

When exploring Buenos Aires, whether in the daytime or night, do not let your guard down, as petty crimes and worse are very common. And while looking out for potential sources of trouble, do not stop looking where you step, as the infrastructure of “the Paris of South America” has not been maintained over the last few years, and there are many hazards in the form of open holes, giant cracks, and an excessive amount of dog feces. The same can probably be said about most South American metropolises, so no matter where you go, there you are.

In contrast to the thrill of Buenos Aires, there is Córdoba. Located about 450 miles northwest of Buenos Aires, it is Argentina’s second largest city, and the former heart of the Jesuits’ establishment in the region. They arrived in 1599 and in short order started building many magnificent buildings and the Colegio Maximo, the precursor to today’s National University of Córdoba. The historical old downtown area is a collection of sixteenth and seventeenth century buildings, cathedrals, and churches, as well as many old government buildings still in use today. What makes this area very attractive is the fact that you can safely explore these marvels on exclusive covered pedestrian walkways, with plenty of police protection. Even the stray dog population is nice looking and friendly. During my stay in this lovely place, I was completely overwhelmed by the cleanliness and friendliness of what I perceived to be an urban park with businesses and residences. The air felt clean in spite of being in the heart of a vibrant city, and never once did I feel that I was in any kind of peril.

The falls of Iguazu are one of the most spectacular sights on the planet. This leading contender for being one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World is located in the extreme north of the country. While the falls themselves mark the boundaries between Brazil and Argentina, Paraguay is located just a few kilometers to the west, across the Río Paraná. This destination is a must on any slow traveler’s itinerary and may be reached by bus or air. However you plan to go, be advised that it is a hot and humid environment, which calls for the usual precautions against mosquitoes.

Argentina still offers some classic train rides, such as the one between Viedma, the capital of Río Negro Province near the Atlantic Coast, and San Carlos de Bariloche, the famous ski resort in the Andes. The train crosses the vast grasslands and steppes of Río Negro, offering more than occasional sight of one of the many wild animals that thrive far from civilization, such as the Guanaco. Upon your arrival in San Carlos de Bariloche, you are greeted by the scenic Nahuel Huapi National Park and the gorgeous lake. Bariloche is home to summer and winter sports, many fine chocolate shops, world-class shopping, and restaurants offering the native trout on their menus. Summer or winter, treat yourself to a trip up to Cerro Catedral, located 12 miles and a world apart from town, inside the national park. If you come in the summer, there are hiking trails that will take you to Refugio Lynch, Refugio Frey, and on many shorter day hikes. The views from the ski resort are marvelous, with Lake Nahuel Huapi and the Andes ever present.

If you go a couple of hours south from Bariloche, you will find yourself in a completely different environment in El Bolsón. You really are in Patagonia now. Located just a couple of miles north of Latitude 42° South, you have arrived in a small town, that marches to a different drumbeat. This region features a lovely microclimate owing to its surprisingly low altitude of only 1000 feet. This allows for the cultivation of a large variety of fruits and vegetables during its 4 seasons. Berries abound here from October to March, with cherry, apple and pear orchards everywhere in this and adjoining valleys. The park in the heart of town hosts a unique artisan market four days a week, where you will find many regional handcrafted items produced by local artisans, as well as fresh fruits and vegetables from the region offered by the growers. Schedule a few hours on a Saturday to peruse the smells and sounds of this “feria,” and don’t forget to taste some of the locally brewed beer, made from the region’s hops. Accommodations are plentiful and reasonably priced.

Heading out of town again in a southerly direction, you will cross over into the province of Chubut at Parallel 42, and about 10 miles on, you will come to the small town of Lago Puelo, home to the National Park of the same name. You can book an excursion on the historic boat named Juana de Arco to explore this pristine glacial lake and perhaps take short hike at the far end over to Chile. Lago Puelo drains west into the neighboring country, but there are no roads within many miles of the border on the Chilean side. The Juana de Arco makes numerous trips daily, so if you want to go exploring at the far end, I recommend a morning departure, making sure you ask when the last trip returns, as there are no facilities on either side at this tiny border crossing.

The road that brought you from Bariloche to El Bolsón is part of the 3107 mile long Route 40, running from the Bolivian border all the way south to the end of continental Argentina, near Rio Gallegos. Heading south from El Bolsón, you will climb out of the valley and head across lonely distances, and if you would like to visit an authentic Patagonian gaucho town, then detour over to Chollilla. This mountain valley is where the famous outlaws, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, along with Cassidy’s girlfriend Etta (Ethel James), spent a few years ranching after escaping with all of their ill-gotten loot from the United States. The log cabin they built is still standing and can be viewed from the road, and with a little bit of prodding, the caretaker will allow you onto the property to take a close-up view of the dilapidated but still intact home on the range.

If you feel adventurous and have your own method of transport, the stretch of road that goes south from El Bolsón will be an adventure requiring two spare tires, windshield protection, spare gas cans, and food and water to last you a few days, in case you decide to visit some really out of the way places such as the Cueva de las Manos World Heritage Site, a series of caves with ancient artwork depicting hands, in the canyon of the Pinturas River. This trip can also be done by minibus, operating seasonally and providing you with the basic necessities of life on the road. Among the amazing but very spread out sites to see are Los Alerces National Park, where 4000 year old trees grow in temperate forests amongst the Andes; La Trochita, Argentina’s famous narrow gauge steam train; the picturesque Welch settlement of Trevelin; and the awe-inspiring Perito Moreno Glacier.

If the adventure in your blood has driven you to get to the southernmost point in the world that is not part of Antarctica, then you will find yourself in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, where you have reached the end of the world to be sure. Summertime is really quite bearable here, in spite of being at latitude 54°48’ south. There are many excursions available from Ushuaia, taking you to some of the more remote islands in the Beagle Channel or even further south, where you will find yourself surrounded by millions of Magellanic Penguins.

Back north again, our next visits will be to Uruguay and Brazil, then heading back over the Andes, we will go to Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela.

Until the next time, Hasta Luego Amigos Nómades!

All photos by Jamie Douglas

About the author: Jamie Douglas is an Adventurer, Writer and Photographer with an amazing array of Nikon equipment, and a lifetime of experience traveling and documenting. He currently enjoys the great weather and fine wines of Mendoza, Argentina, and edits [Expat Daily News](#) and [Expat Daily News Latin America](#).

If you are interesting in learning more about [Living In Argentina](#) there are hundreds of articles and resources on [EscapeArtist](#) that you can browse for free, no sign up or subscription required.

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Entertainment and Culture in Argentina - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

Escapeartist wants you to explore Argentina and dive into the activities that interest you the most. If you aren't really sure about what types of amazing entertainment and culture is in store for you, Escapeartist is here to help. With our comprehensive research, we are able to highlight the best venues and sources of entertainment and culture in Argentina. You might have heard about Tango, but do you know about the literature, music, gauchos and other forms of entertainment that originated in Argentina? Well we do! So we are here to provide you with this information to assist you in finding YOUR place in Argentina.

Argentina has an extremely active nightlife, where the party just doesn't stop. One minute you are watching a sexy tango performance, then you are whisked off to an opera at the National Theatre, and then as you think the night is about to end, you are invited out to dinner with friends. This leads to dancing at one of Argentina's most popular nightclubs, and then you are off for coffee to calm the night down. By the time you know it, the sun is rising, and what the heck? You stop by a diner for a bite to eat before reaching home to have a good morning's rest.

Argentina's thriving nightlife is home to some of the world's best DJs and Tango performers. If you want to get more involved in the action, there are plenty of Tango classes that you can take. Most schools will go out every weekend to a tango show where the students show off their moves before letting the Pros take a crack at it. It is a really lovely experience, especially if you are looking for something entertaining and physical to do. You can burn off a few calories before chowing down on some of Argentina's most delicious cuisines.

Argentina is also home to quite a few different casinos for those who are willing to make a bet. In Puerto Madero there is a stunning casino that overlooks the water. The exchange rate is about 4 Argentine pesos to the dollar so you can bet low, win big and have a lot of fun while doing so. Puerto Madero is also home to a lot of world class restaurants and entertainment spots. You can take a stroll by the marina and hang out at one of the cafés overlooking the water. As part of your cultural tour, you can view some of the historic ships that are docked in the marina, including the Uruguay Corvette and the Private Sarmiento Frigate. Puerto Madero also holds numerous cultural events at the Center of Museums of Buenos Aires.

For a really fantastic cultural sight and experience, you can venture down to La Boca. This is the oldest neighborhood in Buenos Aires and it has been very well maintained with its vibrant and eccentric colored buildings. This neighborhood was built by the Italian immigrants that came over in the 1800s. For any artistic person, this is the place to be. You will be able to find various local artists chatting with people on the street as they create their works of art. There are also various small clubs for theatre and comedy. Every week there is an art festival in El Caminito where you can purchase unique art at a very low cost, and then you can make your way over to one of the small restaurants for a delicious home cooked Argentinean meal.

If you are looking for something to do while waiting around for the nightlife to begin (it doesn't start until at least 10 o'clock, and this is VERY EARLY) you might want to catch a game at the Boca Juniors stadium in La Boca. The stadium is called the Bombonera and you cannot have a true local Argentine experience without seeing a game. You will understand what local fútbol (soccer) is all about. Just a tip, don't speak poorly of Diego Maradona.

Another famous neighborhood in Argentina is the Recoleta. Many cultural museums of Argentina are here including the National Culture Exhibit Rooms, the National Museum of Decorative Arts (Museo Nacional de Arte Decorativo) and the National Museum of Fine Arts (Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes). You will also be able to go on a tour of the cemetery in Recoleta where ex-presidents and Evita (Eva Perón) are buried. Yes, there is a tour of the cemetery. Yes, it is a phenomenal place to visit that has many interesting stories and beautiful mausoleums, and YES, you will reconsider the afterlife after visiting this cultural hotspot. Recoleta also has an active and vibrant nightlife with clubs, restaurants and even games that are open until the wee hours of the night. These are excellent places to unwind after a full day of sightseeing.

It is our sincere hope that you enjoy your time while in Argentina. There is so much to discover! As such, Escapeartist strives to give you the most up to date information about all of the entertainment and culture in Argentina. So, if you are tired of your same old routine and really want to spice things up, come to Argentina where the nightlife never stops.

If you would like to learn more about Argentina's fast paced nightlife and other living and investment opportunities, please [CLICK HERE](#)

7 Important Things to be Aware of When Buying Real Estate Overseas - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

Buying real estate is different in different countries. Regulations, procedures, licensing, legal systems, property rights, ethical principles, and language are just a few aspects that you may struggle to understand. To give you an idea of what these differences may entail, here are some of the most important issues to be aware of before attempting to purchase property as a foreigner in another country.

1. Ethical principles

Buying real estate as a foreigner in an unfamiliar country is, in many ways, an act of faith. Even if you have the time and the resources to go to a place and investigate for yourself what all is available, what fair prices in the markets are there, and what specific pitfalls may exist, you will ultimately be at the mercy of the people you are dealing with.

Of course, there are scammers everywhere in the world, as well as people who are willing to lie because they are desperate for money. But in some places, there is a cultural mentality that encourages taking advantage in order to get ahead. Although this kind of deceit is not focused just on foreigners, it will most certainly be aware of the disadvantages inherent in being a foreigner. In Panama, it is called "*el juego vivo*," the Game of Life. In Argentina and Uruguay, the term is "*la viveza criolla*," which is a form of pride in being clever and unscrupulous. These attitudes are not universal, but they are something to be aware of, particularly in urban atmospheres.

Another cultural habit you may encounter is when honest, forthright people seem to be habitually dishonest according to a strange ritual based on their idea of politeness or because of a lack of deference to time.

The best way to ensure that your project will go as smoothly as it can is to do your best to learn about the situation you are entering into, have patience, and be very careful about choosing a real estate agent and a lawyer that you can trust to represent your best interests and carry you through the entire, complicated process.

2. Legal systems

Legal systems vary, and it is difficult for many to comprehend a system where procedures are the focus rather than substance and registration of a property is more important than the deed to the property. In a civil law system, it is possible, for example, to own the title to a parcel of land, yet if the title is not registered properly, then you are not actually the legal owner of the land. In Costa Rica, there are two documents that define a property; one describes the parcel of land in words and the other is the plat map. If either of these is not registered, or there is a discrepancy between the two documents, or a physical survey of the property proves to be different in any way, then the title is not proof of ownership of the land. You will need to be sure that such minute procedural details are attended to, with the understanding that the rules and regulations may be constantly evolving. They may also be open to interpretation by the bureaucrats who seem to enjoy lordship power over your need for their stamp of approval.

3. Clear title

Titles can be tricky. Ownership of title to a property is not the same as the right to possess it. Although a proper title and registry may not fully protect you from people who claim their right to possess the land that you have purchased, there are steps that you can take to protect yourself from these kind of surprises.

First of all, it is imperative that you verify that the seller of the land is actually the full and clear owner of the title. You may come across land that has not changed hands in many years and is not titled. But registering untitled land can be very difficult, complicated, and expensive when there are multiple claims to the land. A similar scenario can occur when the land is properly titled and registered, but it is owned by several people who do not agree on the price or even if the land should be sold at all. This can occur when a property is inherited by relatives of the deceased owner or when married couples separate. Your financial transaction with one individual and ownership of the title does not prevent the others from making their claims, again resulting in a complicated and expensive legal battle that you are not guaranteed to win.

Also, be sure that there is no designated time period after a piece of land has been titled and registered for the first time during which claims can be made on the title, as is the case in Costa Rica. There, the period is ten years, and this law applies to parcels on previously undivided properties, making newly subdivided real estate a rather risky investment.

Evidence that all prior mortgages, liens, and judgments have been lifted may or may not be among the documentation required for closing the deal, but these issues should be ascertained before any money is exchanged in the deal. You should also ask to see all utility and tax bills to get an idea of cost and verify that they have been paid up to date and there are no outstanding debts. Property rights also come with certain responsibilities.

4. Title v. right to possession

Some countries where rural land has been in use for many generations are still in the process of bringing these lands into the system, so by registering this land, peasants have the "right to use," or the "right to possession" of land that is legally owned by the government. If the land is not kept up according to certain rules or is not used, then the right to possession is forfeited. This land can then be purchased and properly titled, but it is an arduous process that is not recommended for those who are not well versed in the complications of Latin American civil law and land reform practices.

There is also the possibility that your right to possess the land that you own the title to requires diligent and ongoing maintenance, so that the title alone is no guarantee of your rights. Costa Rica's Civil Code grants the right to possession of a property to those people who have occupied and "improved upon" non-cultivated or unimproved land. These *squatters rights* are given priority over property owners' rights, the sympathies of the police and the judicial system are usually with them, and the situation is complicated by the nebulous definitions of "non-cultivated" and "unimproved." So if you own a large piece of property in Costa Rica, or you do not live full time on the property, which effectively requires that you have residency in the country, then you will need to hire a dependable caretaker as an employee – with full benefits (otherwise, the caretaker may end up squatting on your land!).

5. Understand the real estate climate

Panama serves as a good example here, as there are several aspects of Panama's booming real estate market that are very important to be aware of.

Licensing: Protectionist law makes it more difficult for foreigners to get licenses than for Panamanian citizens, so many foreign real estate brokers do not have a real estate broker's license. They refer to themselves as "real estate consultants," and they are allowed to list and show properties, but not to close the sale. However, these consultants are often more experienced and better qualified than licensed brokers who have simply taken a seminar and passed a test, and they can work for an agency that does have a license. The best advice is to use a reputable real estate agency with a sound track record and knowledgeable agents, so do your homework.

No MLS: Panama has no multiple listing service, which is a centralized database of all properties for sale. To find out what is available, you have to look at each real estate agency's individual inventory. Sellers often list their properties with different agencies at different prices, and listings are not regularly kept up to date as a way of presenting more properties than the agency actually has available, so again, do your homework.

Do more homework: Panama is very popular at the moment, which is all the more reason to be extra careful, take your time, look around, and check every detail that you can out *in person*. You need to physically go to a property in Panama several times, in different circumstances, and don't rely on the impression of a property as it appears on paper. Be aware that pre-construction condo sales may be an invitation for disaster, so find out about the track record of the developer and take a good hard look at the construction in process. Don't let aggressive sales pitches pressure you into doing anything rash. Find a good real estate agent and a reputable, independent lawyer, and be thorough.

6. Find a real estate agent

Unless you have a specific seller with whom you will be dealing directly, you need to source out a real estate agent that you can have confidence in. You should feel assured that this agent knows the market well, understands local attitudes and mentalities, will engage in negotiations with the seller on your behalf, and will skillfully guide you through the entire legal process.

Start out your interaction with a prospective real estate agent as if you were interviewing them for a job. Not only do you want to make sure the agent seems competent and knowledgeable about the market you are looking at, but you should also press for a few details about their professional history. Your interest in these details will send a message that you are someone who does do their homework and is not going to be easily taken for a ride.

You might want to inquire about how they operate as far as chasing down titles, coordinating documents, knowing about the banking system, digging through the fine print of contracts, etc. Do they have any support staff? If they are working alone, then you should seriously question their ability to get everything done properly themselves.

When you ask, "Who do you represent?" the answer should be "You, the buyer, of course." If they give any other answer, then you should thank them very much for their time and continue looking for someone who will represent your best interests.

7. The lawyer

Because of differences in ethical principles combined with the probability of there being frustratingly convoluted and ambiguous bureaucracies, you should get a lawyer involved as early in the game as possible. Whether you are working with a real estate agent or negotiating directly with the seller, you should always hire a reputable, diligent, independent lawyer who is licensed to practice in the location where you are buying. Ask for recommendations and be sure to speak to several current and former clients, if possible.

Hiring a lawyer does not mean that you will be leaving everything up to them. You will need to continue to be involved in the entire process. Keep your own paper trail and insist on seeing all paperwork, licenses, contracts, building plans, and anything else that might be involved.

In Conclusion

With a lot of research, a good deal of patience, a reputable real estate agent, a meticulous lawyer, a measure of trust, and constant oversight, you will be able to navigate through the maze and end up with your little piece of paradise.

To view current listings of thousands of properties worldwide visit the [International Real Estate index on EscapeArtist](#) or browse the selection by [Property Type](#)

About the author: Susan Beverley is a writer and editor for Escape From America Magazine and also writes for and maintains [Expat Daily News](#) – the expat news blog for [EscapeArtist.com](#). She traveled extensively before becoming an expat herself having found a place to call home in South America where she has lived since 2005. She understands the concerns,

needs and difficulties that expats face from first-hand experience and is dedicated to supporting and encouraging anyone who is looking for a new nation to call home. [[send her an email](#)]

Adult-Oriented Trips with EscapeDates - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

Have All the Fun You Can Imagine with EscapeDates.

If you've been overworking and underplaying, consider an [adult-oriented trip](#) to rejuvenate and refresh your senses and even your sensuality. It is never too late take a much-needed escape from everyday life and recharge your batteries at exotic locations around the world.

You can leave your cell phone and your computer behind and relax in a cocoon of comfort and luxury for a few days in the adult-only atmosphere of an all-inclusive resort in the location of your choice.

EscapeDates offers suggestions for adult-oriented resorts for couples or singles that cater to fine dining, luxury, and relaxation. You'll also find suggestions for resorts that cater to those who enjoy au natural swimming on beaches and pools. EscapeDates also offers suggestions for resorts that include sensual and sexual freedom among consenting adults for EscapeDates' members.

Join EscapeDates today to make connections with other adults who are ready to expand their social circle with new friends. [CLICK HERE TO JOIN FOR FREE](#)

To help pay for your adult-oriented trips, EscapeDates provides a fun business opportunity for you to make money online by inviting your friends to join EscapeDates. If your friends join and they enroll their friends, you'll automatically begin to build an online business that can fund your travels to resorts through your social networking skills. Imagine making money while you're enjoying a deep-tissue body massage by the beach in Jamaica or while you're sipping Champagne with your lover in the South of France. IT'S THAT EASY!

Whatever you're looking for, you'll find it on EscapeDates:

- At most 'adult' resorts the minimum age is 18 years of age and the entertainment is geared for relaxation and adult-oriented interests and enjoyment.
- 'Couples only' resorts focus on pampering, fine dining, and spa options that offer every imaginable service related to your health, beauty and rejuvenation. These resorts also do their best to put romance in the air with love songs, dancing after meals and even tented beach areas for a couple's ultimate privacy.
- 'Au natural' resorts offer clothing-optional beach areas for those who enjoy a nude, or partially nude, lifestyle.
- 'Singles' adult resorts offer opportunities for those who would like to get away for a few days and meet other singles in a relaxing resort atmosphere with mix-and-mingle events for singles to connect and enhance their holiday.

You'd be surprised how many 'all inclusive vacation packages' are available for adult-oriented trips that include a wide variety of amenities depending on the cost of the package but generally, most packages include the following:

- Gracious and luxurious accommodations
- Full access to pools and hot tubs, beach chairs and umbrellas, steam rooms and health club areas
- Unlimited fine dining prepared by world-class chefs
- Premium brands of alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks available at all times
- Freshly prepared buffets between meals
- Stage shows and entertainment including parties, dances, and live entertainment
- Sporting events, instructions and equipment for water and land sports
- Many resorts offer free shuttles to-and-from the airport and from resorts into shopping districts
- Many all-inclusive packages also include airfare in the total price for your vacation.

By joining EscapeDates you will find adult oriented getaways to meet all your needs. And, if you're searching for a love-match who might join you, you'll find many choices on EscapeDates. You can post your criteria on your profile and contact others who may also be interested in taking a trip to an adult resort.

Enjoy your lifestyle and find others to join you.

Join EscapeDates today to make connections with other adults who are ready to expand their social circle with new friends. [CLICK HERE TO JOIN FOR FREE](#)

A Fabulous Opportunity to Live (rent free) and Work in Argentina - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

The excitement of leaving the states to begin a new life abroad is tempered some by the predominant question: what will I do to earn a living when I get there? Although the most fortunate of expats have deep pockets that make the question irrelevant, most others must answer the financial dilemma before packing their bags or even selecting a location.

One approach is to assume the role of caretaker. In these arrangements, those seeking to relocate are matched with a homeowner or business owner in the desired location, with a goal toward filling a need or gap, either long term or for a short period of time. Opportunities like these may not be easy to come by, but they are out there.

One such opportunity is now available in the golden sunshine of the Mendoza Province, Argentina.

In the breathtaking wine countryside just outside General Alvear stands a farm that needs a caretaker. The farm is a nursery that grows vines that are then sold to the area's many thriving vineyards. The current owner, who lives elsewhere, hopes to find a mature couple to live on the 15-acre farm and tend the vines.

This is not a place, or a job, for anyone who does not like working the earth, or who is incapable of somewhat rigorous labor. This is farming done largely by hand and by back. The right candidates will be conversant in Spanish, self-motivating and love to have their hands in the dirt; they will be responsible for the cultivation of the vines, upkeep of the property and general maintenance. Little known outside this specialized part of winemaking, the nursery business is as fascinating as it is labor intensive.

The life of a grapevine begins when cuttings left over from winter pruning of mature vines are collected by the thousands, bundled, and then buried in trenches. Come spring, the cuttings, or *estacas* are unearthed and planted in rows. There they grow leaves above the ground and long roots below, and the next winter these *barbechos* are dug up, bundled, buried again, and then later sold to the vineyards.

This farm in General Alvear grows baby vines for Malbec and Syrah grapes, which become the popular red wines of the same names.

Although the process is labor intensive, it is a manageable workload, and the current owner is ready to train the caretakers in all aspects of the nursery operation.

In return for the farm work, the caretakers will live rent-free in a fully furnished, modern house.

The caretakers will be responsible for paying the house utilities of approximately US \$100 per month, including high-speed internet, and the care of two lovable and loyal dogs.

A reliable vehicle will be essential, preferably a truck.

In addition to the free rent, the caretakers will receive a share of the vine sale when sold the following spring.

The farm is ideally located on the scenic outskirts of General Alvear, a progressive agricultural center of 45,000. The city offers every modern convenience, including a hospital, universities, English language institutes, shops, health clubs and excellent restaurants. Construction is underway on an airport that will take travelers to Buenos Aires, and soon a superhighway will extend west across the Andes mountains to Chile.

One-year student visas are available through the language institute, which offers classes in Spanish.

This opportunity requires a one-year commitment and lease, with possible extensions. This position will be filled within one month, and all candidates are subject to a background check.

If you have an adventurous spirit and a love of earth and sunshine, you belong on this patch of paradise. Someday the right expats will open a bottle of good Malbec and know they had a part in producing it.

For more information about this opportunity contact Patrick Bright on lofidity@yahoo.com

Expat Daily News: Top expat news stories from August 2011 - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

If you enjoy Escape From America Magazine and would like to read more about these topics, check out [Expat Daily News](#). There, you will find original articles published on a daily basis covering news, expat information, culture, current events, and other issues of interest to expatriates and anyone planning to make the big move abroad.

Our new Friday [Q&A segment](#), where we address readers' most pressing concerns has proved to be hugely popular in since we started it a few months ago. Don't miss your opportunity to ask your question about expat life and living overseas.

For a taste of what you will find, here are the top five articles from August 2011:

A Spicy Opportunity in Grenada

Not too many people are familiar with the Grenadines, a group of islands located north of Venezuela about 12° North and 61°30" to 45° West. They are still members of the British Commonwealth, but are typically laid back, like most of the smaller islands found in the Caribbean. If there is no reason to do it today, then it can be put off for a while.

The political environment of Grenada is relatively stable, having only been invaded once by the mighty USA for building an airport that would allow direct air service to Europe and the USA/Canada markets. Unfortunately, they enlisted the aid of the Cubans to build it, which quickly brought down an invasion by United States forces, led by General Norman Schwarzkopf, resulting in a substantial loss of lives on all sides, including quite a few civilians.

But that was Ronald Reagan's doing. Over the objections of the UK, Canada, and almost the entire rest of the world, he had the little island nation bombed, strafed, and invaded by Marines and Army Rangers. After a wee bit of regime change and nation building (That part was necessary, as those in power were violent criminals.), the United States graciously completed the airport, which was the original item of contention, returning things to what passes for normal here, more or less, until a rare Category 3 hurricane hit in 2004. Hurricane Ivan hit the island on September 7th and wreaked major havoc, destroying or seriously damaging over 90% of all buildings. [Read more](#)

The Wild and Whacky World of Air Travel Today

Taking a trip soon? Welcome to the amazing deceptive world of fares available to you, or better said, not available to you. With the disappearance of travel agents in the USA, most people now have very few choices when making their own arrangements to fly to their chosen destination.

There are a few online services such as Priceline and Expedia where you can select from a variety of airlines and fares. Say you want to go from Los Angeles to New York and back. You go online and select your date and destination, but it will only give you one-way fares, in this instance ranging from \$ 278 to \$605, without any of the surcharges listed. I chose Jet Blue from LAX to JFK and back to LAX. After going through all the steps and adding fares for both directions, I was finally able to select a seat way in back in the middle section, and my total round-trip fare came out to a mere \$ 299.40, on priceline.com. I then contacted aa.com, American Airlines. I selected the same dates and times and came up with a fare that was slightly more than three times as much, \$916.40. [Read more](#)

Q&A: Costa Rica, Ecuador, or...?

Every now and then, I get something in my inbox that just begs to be made available to a wider audience. I just got back from visiting my lovely Dentista, Barbara, who had the unpleasant task of pulling one of my molars. As the anesthetic is wearing off, I decided to check my email before going prone. As Friday is my Answer Man day, I had to look at what drifted in, and right on top was the following question from Jeff in the good ol' USA, another good soul that has become a victim to the financial catastrophe that is unfolding like an origami swan in the wind.

Dear Jamie,

My name is Jeff. I very much enjoyed and appreciated your comparison between [Costa Rica vs. Ecuador](#).

The date showing at the top of the web page that showed the date of posting was Mar 11 but had no year. My question is: Do you think the economic or other retirement considerations have changed since you wrote article?

My wife and I are residing in the U.S. and definitely do not have the retirement or Social Security income to retire here. We are looking for a viable alternative and so far Ecuador looks to be the most affordable. The language barrier is a bit troubling though.

We probably would be interested in renting for a bit until we were sure we liked the choice and then would likely buy a condo. We would then have to live off our social security of about \$1200 month with any deficits being made up out of savings. That is why affordability is so important to us. The housing market here is so upside-down that we are not even sure we would make a profit off the sale of our house.

Anyway, any comments or suggestions about Ecuador vs. Costa Rica would be appreciated or if you have run into any other locations that you think would make good retirement areas please let us know.

Once again, thank you for your research. We will try to put it to good use.

[Read the answer](#)

Expatriate Technology

Moving abroad to live a simpler life in a foreign culture just ain't what it used to be. Today, technology keeps us all in touch with each other as well as with news and entertainment to the point that sometimes, it is hard to believe that I am sitting in a house one thousand kilometers west of Buenos Aires in a place where television only arrived a few years ago via satellite and we are lucky if the electricity doesn't pop offline for a stretch of two weeks in a row.

But here I am, enjoying the results of all those clever engineers who figured out how to bundle information into strings of zeros and ones and make it possible to see events unfolding all over the world, talk to loved ones via video phones like the Jetsons did, carry a musical library around without needing a wall to hold it all, never ever run out of reading material, look at photos old and new that remind me of who I am and where I have been, learn a language with the aid of live communications with a helpful instructor, and so much more.

Here are just a few of the technological aids – present and soon to be – that might motivate those who are reluctant to let go of many pleasures, conveniences, and lifelines in order to make that leap into the great beyond. [Read more](#)

The Roller Coaster Ride Accelerates

If you are a US Dollar fueled expat, like many of us, surely the last couple of weeks have been stressful on your kitty. All of the insane fluctuations in the stock market; fueled by rumors of everything from A-Z; up 400 points; next day down 600 points; back up 400; down up down up; all on the flimsiest of excuses... Every night I look forward to the opening of the financial centers in Asia and Australia/New Zealand (available on <http://www.stockmarketspore.blogspot.com/>). You can always see how the day will go, depending on whether Hong Kong moves up or down. While it is 8 pm on a Sunday night in New York City, the Dow Jones futures are already down 197 points. Hong Kong is not even open yet. Or as the financial talking heads will have you believe, "It is still a bull market, it's just an adjustment."

Right! One adjustment follows another. From bargain hunters to profit takers; the market shifts from having hiccups to hemorrhoids, with all those high paid analysts having an explanation for everything that will or will not happen. And after they were proven wrong time and time again, they still spout their bull, and have an attentive audience to boot. [Read more](#)

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