

It takes 3 to tango in South America

Rio, Buenos Aires, Uruguay winning locations south of equator

South America has summer during the winter and spring during autumn. It's a Bizarro world, when compared to its northern counterpart. Rumors about flushing water ... That's just a wives' tale.

Two continents on opposite sides of the equator share a common trait: a myriad of travel destinations.

South America is an eclectic land. Pristine beaches surround its coasts. Languid evenings close days, and lost cities hide in plain sight. The Andes Mountains rise and serve as a symbol of strength. And the Amazon River flows 4,000 miles, meandering through unique countries that all have stories to tell.

This vast continent extends from the equatorial tropics to the outskirts of Antarctica. It's a land that shares many personalities – all of them wondrous. Many destinations await, but there isn't enough space to mention them all.

Rio de Janeiro, however, isn't one of those places. Framed by stout granite peaks and the beautiful Ipanema and Copacabana beaches, it is a city that basks in the glow of the bright sun.

Christo Redentor sits high above the city and watches over the blessed area. Guests can ride cable cars to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain and witness city lights twinkle around Guanabara Bay.

Rio's romantic beaches rest in the



CRASHING DOWN – Tourists witness the falling waters of Iguazu Falls that sit on the border of Brazil and Argentina. *Image: R.M. Nunes. Adobe Stock.*

foreground of the lush, 13-square-mile Tijuca National Forest. The world's largest urban forest boasts quiet paths and shady spots that provide sweet comfort under cinnamon trees.

Buenos Aires often is referred to as the "Paris of the Southern Hemisphere." Its broad avenues, charming sidewalks and exuberant rococo buildings put Argentina's capital city among the

classiest in the continent.

Its name means "fair winds" in Spanish and guests can wander down tree-lined boulevards or visit Casa Rosada Presidential Palace and museums near the Plaza de Mayo.

San Telmo is one of the city's oldest neighborhoods and is known for its bohemian charm, street performers and expansive antiques market. Taste

an Argentine Pica while visiting an outdoor cafe. It's an assortment of meats, cheeses and olives sure to whet your palate.

The Tango is Argentina's national dance and no trip to Buenos Aires would be complete without cutting a little rug. Milongas (dances) take place throughout the city. Take part in a dance class and watch a demonstration.

Puerto Iguazu is home to Iguazu National Park and Iguazu Falls. Located 12 miles from the city, the cascades are comprised of 275 individual falls, each as high as 275 feet. Devil's Throat is the most famous of the falls. Clouds of spray reach 100 feet, creating a perpetual rainbow. The cascade's incessant roar is overwhelming, seemingly shaking the very foundation of planet Earth.

Colonia del Sacramento is a popular day trip from Buenos Aires. Located across Rio de la Plata in neighboring Uruguay, it's connected by ferry. A restored 18th-century drawbridge marks the entrance to the old city with its thick, fortified walls and tree-lined Plaza Mayor.

Tourists can climb to the top of the old lighthouse, explore the ancient churches and museums or wander cobblestone streets. The Calle de los Suspiros – or Street of Sighs – is a narrow pedestrian walkway that reverberates with the legends and tales of condemned men, homesick sailors and lost love.

Head to the sun at Glacier National Park

Legendary roadway takes adventurers to great heights

The natural beauty of the U.S. comes to life in the Montana territory. Tucked away well west of the Mississippi and hugging the Canadian border, it offers magnificent sights and journeys.

Its greatest creation is Glacier National Park – hallowed ground populated by exquisite wildlife, mountains and lakes. It's a bevy of land wrapped in a metaphorical blanket of heaven.

Established in 1910 and boasting 1,583-square miles of wilderness, it's home to more than 760 lakes, 71 animal species and 276 documented bird species. More than 3 million travelers flock to this sacred destination annually.

Witness sights by hiking and camping. Roadways are scarce, but its hallmark path is a journey through the heart of this western wonder. It certainly will light the way to an excursion few places among the U.S. can match.

Going-to-the-Sun Road steals your senses. Arguably Glacier National Park's greatest attraction, the 50-mile, two-lane highway bisects land from east to west. It winds over passes, crosses the Continental Divide and travels through spectacularly varied terrain. Glacier lakes and jagged cliffs rank among the best sights.

Experience majestic sights from



DRIVE TIME – Going-to-the-Sun Road travels through the heart of Glacier National Park. *Image: jgorzynik. Adobe Stock.*

nearby or miles away, as the road reaches elevations as high as 6,646 feet on Logan Pass. Absorb the beauty of Jackson Glacier Overlook and Lake McDonald. Witness cedar forests in the lower valleys and windswept alpine tundra atop the pass. Scenic viewpoints and pullouts line the road, allowing motorists to stop for extended views and photo opportunities.

Elevation and changing climate conditions limit the road's availability. An abundance of snowfall – reaching as high as 80 feet – force certain areas to close during winter and spring months. July through October is considered the best time to experience the entire route.

Hikers can take advantage of the park's more than 700 trails. Amazing sights await, including Iceberg Lake –

considered a gem among backpackers.

Witness stunning views of Mount Wilbur, Iceberg Park and the Continental Divide upon reaching the snow and ice-filled lake. The hike begins at Swiftcurrent Lake and shares the Ptarmigan Tunnel Trail before splitting past Ptarmigan Falls.

Hikers experience views of gorgeous alpine meadows in the spring and summer. Travelers also are destined to see grizzly bears, bighorn sheep and mountain goats. And the best time to witness floating icebergs on the lake is from late spring to early summer.

The Pitamakan/Dawson hike, meanwhile, offers more than 3,300 feet of elevation to provide some of the most breathtaking, panoramic views of the park.

Glacier National Park combines utopia with reality. The wildlife and natural wonders share environmental features sure to burnish memories that will last a lifetime.

Renowned American naturalist and environmental philosopher John Muir might have best described the park's ambiance, when he wrote:

"Give a month at least to this precious reserve. The time will not be taken from the sum of your life. Instead of shortening it, it will definitely lengthen it and make you truly immortal."