



Northwestern ARGENTINA

歴史を振り返りながら、文化の融合を楽しむ

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Think Argentina, and you may envision the glaciers of Patagonia; the wine-lovers' haven of Mendoza; or the capital city of Buenos Aires, whose leafy streets and artistic offerings have earned it comparisons with Paris. Considerably less-traveled is the country's more rugged northwestern region — not as economically prosperous, but whose dramatic scenery and intriguing culture make it a worthy destination in its own right.

The region's largest urban locale is San Miguel de Tucuman in Tucuman province, which has the flavor of a typical Argentinian city, including Spanish-style colonial architecture and plazas hosting events such as tango performances. Local cafes offer *merienda*, an early-evening light meal such as coffee with croissants, or more decadent offerings including *torta rogel* (a crisp tart layered with thick cream and merengue).

The city additionally houses combination restaurant-galleries featuring food with live cultural



performances. While some have closed after succumbing to economic downturns, these are altogether unique spaces where an artist might stop by to recite an impassioned poem in exchange for a couple of coins.

San Miguel de Tucuman has also played an important role in several facets of Argentinian history. Independence from Spain was proclaimed here in 1816 on July 9, a day feted yearly with vibrant celebrations and prominent displays of the national flag.

On the more difficult side of history, Tucuman province was the site of the country's first large-scale battle during the 1976-1983 military dictatorship, when thousands of left-wing activists were disappeared and murdered by state forces. Numerous monuments honor their memory nationwide, along

with street art conveying the strong message *nunca mas* ("never again").

This spirit of vocal resistance is prevalent among Argentinians, who regularly attend street demonstrations bedecked with creative outfits and signage to speak out on various socio-economic and political issues. *Ni Una Menos* ("Not one less"), a movement to protest domestic violence-related killings that later spread throughout Latin America, has also encompassed related causes including legalized abortion and LGBT rights — particularly significant issues in the notoriously conservative Tucuman province.

圧倒的な自然の豊かさ

Deeper rural areas of Tucuman are ideal for experiencing northwest Argentina's striking natural scenery. The Estancia Las Carreras cattle ranch, built in Tafi del Valle by Jesuit missionaries in the 1700s, offers tours of its impressive cheese factory amidst the stillness of the towering mountains. The local Calchaqui Valley is also home to numerous

indigenous groups, including the Quilmes, who famously resisted invasion by the Incas in the late 1400s, and shortly thereafter by the Spanish.

Nearby, the relaxed town of Amaicha del Valle features streets lined with earthen homes and street dogs enjoying the plentiful warm sunshine. The local Pachamama museum, named for the traditionally worshipped earth goddess, is also excellent for exploring indigenous art.

Taste more of northwestern Argentina's uniqueness in Tucuman's adjacent provinces. Northward in Jujuy, along the Bolivian border, are the incredible chromatic vistas of the rainbow-





colored mountains at Quebrada de Humahuaca. The lovely nearby towns of Tilcara and Purmamarca feature local crafts and textile markets, performances of traditional *folklorico* dancing and acoustic music, plentiful street art, numerous atmospheric restaurants and shops, and proud displays of local indigenous flags.

Mendoza meets its wine-producing rival in the town of Cafayate, Salta province, where high-altitude mountain wineries produce quality Malbec and Torrontes varietals. Enjoy a bottle along with local specialties such as *locro* (a rich squash-based stew), *asado* (meat grilled on a spit over an open fire) or the quintessentially Argentinian *empanada* (a rich pastry filled with meat or cheese).

In Catamarca province, the central plaza of capital city Catamarca flaunts an equestrian monument to Jose de San Martin, a general who was instrumental in the country's liberation from Spain. Three hours away by bus, in an area dotted with walnut, peach and almond trees, along with flowering cacti framed by more massive mountains, lies the

tranquil village of Mutquin, whose name means "place of fragrance" in the indigenous Quechua language.

Local tourism director Jose Luis Barrionuevo, who also runs his own inn, was eager to share more about his village. "Ancient shamans here prophesized the Spanish invasion, and legend says that some turned themselves into cacti to avoid capture," he said, passing around a gourd of yerba mate (a typical Argentinian herbal tea often enjoyed communally). "Native religions and Catholicism coexist here in Mutquin," he added, "and we respect both."

My stay coincided with the local Carnival festival, which included ceremonies thanking Pachamama for local harvests and dance performances in fantastical costumes. After taking me to visit local Catholic churches and monuments, Barrionuevo guided me on a hike to Rumi Monton, a sacred area featuring a dramatic stone-scape, whose presence apparently remains a geological mystery.

"Here in Argentina, people from various backgrounds such as indigenous, European and Middle-Eastern live together



harmoniously," said Barrionuevo as he displayed his tattoo of two condor birds, which represents his connection to his own Calchaqui Diaguita indigenous cultural heritage. "I really feel we have something to model for the rest of the world."

1. フワイ州で見た、スペインからの独立200周年を祝うシーンを描いたストリートアート
2. カタマルカ州の州都にあるカトリック教会で信者たちが聖水で祝福を受ける
3. カタマルカの観光担当者が、自らのルーツを示すタトゥーを誇らしげに見せる
4. トウクマン州で見たデモ行進
5. フワイ州のウマワカ渓谷。さまざまな色彩が混ざっている
6. 北西部で盛んなのはfolkloreという音楽。アルゼンチンタンゴは首都ブエノスアイレスの発祥と言われる



今回の旅の筆者が向かったのは南米のアルゼンチン。首都ブエノスアイレスや、南部のパタゴニアが有名ですが、筆者が訪れたのは北西部の四つの州です。アンデス山脈に近いこの地域は、その豊かな自然とともに歴史や文化を感じさせます。

トウクマン州は、1816年にスペインからの独立宣言の署名がなされた土地です。のちにフォークランド（現地名マルビナス）紛争を導く、当時の軍事政権によるゲリラ壊滅作戦が行われた場所でもあります。住民にも多くの犠牲者が出ました。かつての弾圧の地で筆者が目にしたのは、LGBTの権利などを主張する多くの女性に参加するデモでした。この地は、folkloreの名曲「トウクマンの月」や、アニメ「母をたずねて三千里」で主人公マルコが母親と再会する場所としても知られています。

最北部のフワイ州はボリビアやチリと接しています。この州にあるウマワカ渓谷は「南米のグランドキャニオン」と呼ばれ、色とりどりの景観を楽しませてくれます。2003年に世界遺産に登録されました。

同国産のワインがお気に入りの読者もいらっしゃるでしょう。産地としてはブエノスアイレスの西に位置するメンドサがよく知られるところですが、北部のサルタ州カファジャテにも世界で一番標高が高い場所にあるワイン畑があるそうです。地元料理と合わせると一層楽しめるはず。

カタマルカ州には、アルゼンチンやチリ、ペルーの独立のために戦ったホセ・デ・サン・マルティンのモニュメントがあるそうです。元々はスペイン軍に所属しながら、アルゼンチンに帰国して戦った英雄です。胸像は日本の防衛大学校にもあります。戦後の初代駐日アルゼンチン大使が寄贈したものだそうです。

サン・マルティンのようなラテンアメリカの独立運動指導者たちは「リベルタドーレス（解放者）」と呼ばれ、その名はサッカーの南米クラブのトップを決める大会に使われています。そのリベルタドーレス杯の優勝チームを国別でみると、アルゼンチンがブラジルを上回り、最多となっています。さすが、マラドーナやメッシを生んだ国ですね。

(ハ)



7. 経済状態が芳しくないアルゼンチンだが、レストラン、アートギャラリー、演劇などが人々の安らぎとなっている
8. トウクマンにある、軍事政権の犠牲になった人々を追悼する石碑
9. タルトの一種、トルタ・ロゲル。英国のアフタヌーンティーにあたる「メリエンダ」に楽しむという
10. イェルバ・マテを飲む女性

■ コロナウイルス感染拡大前に取材しました
■ 次回は、ボツワナのデユバ平原です