

South American Division – Fast Facts and Mission Posts

From the Office of Adventist Mission

Argentina

1. Argentina has 606 churches and 438 companies. There are 116,391 church members — one for every 381 people in the country.
2. The first Adventists in Argentina were four families who came to Diamante, Entre Rios Province, from Tampa in the U.S. state of Kansas in early 1890. These were German farmers who had been colonists in Russia and had become Adventists while living in the United States.
3. The first official Adventist workers in Argentina were C.A. Nowlen, E.W. Snyder, and A.B. Stauffer who, when they came to canvas in Buenos Aires in February 1892, found that there were already two groups of Sabbath-keepers in Argentina: one at the colony of Esperanza, and the other at a colony near Reconquista, both in Santa Fe Province.
4. In July 1896 the first Adventist camp meeting in Argentina was held in Crespo, Entre Rios; 150 people attended.
5. The first Seventh-day Adventist institution in South America, founded in 1998, was School of the Plata, now River Plate Adventist University. After the Argentine economic crisis in the late 1990s, the number of foreign students increased owing to the devaluation of the Argentine peso, making the university one of the most culturally diverse in South America.
6. The name Argentina comes from the Latin word for silver, *argentum*. The original European settlers believed the country was full of silver.
7. Argentina has dropped 13 zeroes off its currency since 1970, a factor of 10 trillion.
8. There is a Welsh-speaking part of Argentina. It has its own dialect of Welsh.
9. The average person in Argentina spends more than 20 hours a week listening to the radio, the most of any country.
10. In 1891, Argentine police official Juan Vucetich made the first criminal fingerprint identification.
11. The national sport of Argentina is Pato, a game played on horseback. It takes aspects from polo and basketball. The word pato is Spanish for “duck” because early games used a live duck inside a basket instead of a ball. Basketball, polo, rugby, golf, and women’s field hockey are also popular sports.
12. Unlike many other South American countries, such as Peru and Ecuador, Argentina has fewer native people and a large population of people from Europe. About 95 percent of Argentina’s population is of European descent, mostly from Italy, Spain, and Germany.

Brazil

1. Brazil has 9,006 churches and 8,813 companies. With 1,666,125 members, that's one member for every 125 people in Brazil.
2. The Adventist message first entered Brazil through publications that arrived at the port of Itajai, Santa Catarina, in 1879. A young German named Burchard, in trouble with the law, fled Brazil as a stowaway on a German ship. When he was discovered on the way to Europe, he had to work off his passage. While on board he met and talked with Adventist missionaries, and gave them the address of his stepfather, Carlos Dreefke, who lived in Brusque, Santa Catarina. The missionaries decided to send Dreefke some Adventist publications, although it was almost two years before he received them. At first, Dreefke was reluctant to open the strange package, which he had not ordered but eventually he opened it and found ten copies of *Stimme der Wahrheit* (Voice of Truth), printed in Battle Creek, Michigan. Dreefke kept one paper and gave the rest to friends. As a result, the 10 families that received the papers became interested in Adventist teachings and asked for more information.
3. In July 1900 the first issue of *O Arauto da Verdade* (The Herald of Truth), the first Adventist periodical in Portuguese, was published.
4. In 1939, Adventist medical work was established in Brazil, with the foundation of the Boa Vista Clinic (Good View Clinic) under the direction of Dr. Antonio Alves de Miranda. In 1942 the clinic was replaced by the Casa de Saude Liberdade (Sao Paulo Adventist Hospital), under the direction of Dr. Galdino Nunes Vieira, a university teacher who left his job to dedicate himself to medical missionary work.
5. Leo B. Halliwell was a pioneer in boat medical-missionary work, beginning his well-known welfare ministry in 1931 with a launch on the Amazon River, designed and built by himself — the first of a series of such craft named Luzeiro (Light Bearer). Other boats were subsequently built and used on branches of the Amazon. These launches still give assistance to thousands of people. Besides distributing clothing and food, medical help is given for many issues, the most common being malaria, intestinal parasites, malnutrition, skin diseases, general and tropical diseases, and tooth extraction.
6. The Latin-American Adventist Theological Seminary (Seminario Adventista Latinoamericano de Teologia), is located in Brasilia, Brazil.
7. Brazil is the largest country in South America and the fifth-largest nation in the world. It forms an enormous triangle on the eastern side of the continent with a 4,600-mile (7,400-kilometer) coastline along the Atlantic Ocean. It has borders with every South American country except Chile and Ecuador.
8. Most Brazilians are descended from three ethnic groups: Amerindians, European settlers (mainly from Portugal), and Africans.
9. Brazil is home to the world's largest carnival in Rio de Janeiro. Each year about 2 million people take to the streets of Rio to enjoy music, dancing, elaborate costumes, and parades.
10. Brazil has the greatest variety of animals of any country in the world. It is home to 600 mammal species, 1,500 fish species, 1,600 bird species, and 100,000 different types of insects.

11. Brazil has many different soils and climates, so it can produce a great variety of crops. Its agricultural exports include sugarcane, latex, coffee, cocoa beans, cotton, soybeans, rice, and tropical fruits.
12. Brazil was added to the map of the world during the European explorations in the late 15th century, led by Portugal and Spain. When Europeans first reached Brazil, the country was home to about 30 million indigenous people, or Amerindians. Today, only about 300,000 remain, living mainly in Brazil's remotest places.
13. Brazil is the only country in South America that speaks Portuguese.
14. The capital city is Brasilia, while the largest city is Sao Paulo. Other major cities include Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, and Fortaleza.
15. The Amazon River flows through Brazil and is the second-longest river in the world after the Nile.
16. About 60 percent of the Amazon rainforest is located in Brazil.
17. Football (soccer) is the most popular sport in Brazil with the national team consistently among the best in the world, winning the World Cup a record five times.
18. Brazil's highest mountain is the Pico da Neblina (Mist Peak), on the border with Venezuela, at 9,823 feet (2,994 meters) above sea level. Because it is almost permanently shrouded in cloud, it was not discovered until the 1950s, and was first ascended in 1965 (12 years after Everest).
19. Brazil has been the world's largest exporter of coffee for more than 150 years. In the 1920s it supplied around 80 percent of the world's coffee; today it is around a third.
20. Sao Paulo has some of the world's worst traffic jams. According to the city's traffic management agency, a congestion record was set on Nov. 15, 2013, with a total of 192 miles (309 kilometers) of traffic jams around the city during the evening rush hour.
21. Brazil has about 4,000 airports, more than any other country other than the United States, which has 13,513.
22. At least 70 uncontacted tribes live in the Brazilian Amazon.
23. The statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro weighs 635 tons, is 125 feet (38 meters) high, including its pedestal, and has been named one of the "New Seven Wonders of the World."
24. The story goes that on Jan. 1, 1502, the first official tourist arrived in Brazil. The bay where they landed was named Rio de Janeiro (Bay of January).

Paraguay

1. Paraguay has 61 churches, 95 companies, and 12,519 members. In a population of 31,838,000, one in 544 people is an Adventist.
2. The first Adventist worker to visit Paraguay was Lionel Brooking, a colporteur, who sold books in 1892. In August 1900, E.W. Snyder and his wife arrived from the United States. Adventist canvassers had reported that a German at Colonia Nacional (National Colony), Paraguay, had accepted Adventist teachings through reading a German paper sent to him by his brother in Uruguay.
3. Paraguay has three Adventist academies, as well as Paraguay Adventist University (Universidad Adventista del Paraguay), located in the capital, Asunción.
4. Paraguay is a bilingual nation: Guaraní is its first language and Spanish, its second. It is also one of few South American countries to retain its native tongue as an official language. Guaraní is an onomatopoeic language. Many of its words, like its music, imitate the sounds of animals and the natural environment.
5. The Asunción-Encarnación railway line was the first railway line in South America. It was constructed by British engineers between 1858 and 1861.
6. The Itaipu Dam is a hydroelectric dam run by both Brazil and Paraguay on the Paraná River. It is the world's second-largest hydroelectric power plant. Built in 1984, it was the largest until the Three Gorges Dam opened in China in 2008. Paraguay receives 99.9 percent of its electricity from hydroelectric plants, with 75 percent of that coming from the Itaipu Dam.
7. The Paraná River, which runs through Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina is South America's second-longest river after the better known Amazon River.
8. Paraguay's literacy rate is higher than that of the United States. Paraguay's citizens age 15 and older read and write at a 94 percent literacy rate, compared to 86 percent for the U.S.
9. The native Guarana people were living in Paraguay long before the arrival of the Spanish in the early 1600s. Today, 95 percent of Paraguay's people are mestizos, descendants of those Spanish men and Guarana women. This makes Paraguay's population the most homogenous in South America.
10. Paraguay's people make some of the world's finest lacework. Nanduti (spiderweb) is beautiful lace created in circular designs and in a rainbow of various colors. Other traditional folk arts are embroidered cloth, black clay work and ceramics, and silver jewelry in filigree designs.
11. Paraguay's main meal is eaten at noon. Two staples of the diet are corn and cassava, a starchy root vegetable. Cassava (or mandioca) is baked with cheese to make the thick bread known as Chipa. Corn is used in Paraguayan soup (sopa paraguaya), Bori bori soup, and other dishes.
12. Paraguay is home to the world's largest rodent called the Capybara, which is something like a giant guinea pig.

Peru

1. Peru has 2,495 Adventist churches and 3,227 companies. With a membership of 401,184 in a population of 31,838,000, Adventists make up one in 79.
2. Seventh-day Adventist work in Peru began in 1898 with a Chilean missionary named Escobar who, with six others, settled in the city of Lima and worked as self-supporting missionaries.
3. Early Adventist workers in Peru found a hostile reception. One group of Chilean Adventists that went to Mollendo arrived on a Friday and began missionary work the next day. They were immediately attacked by a mob, arrested by the police, and in a few days shipped back to Chile. The first baptisms had to be done in secret.
4. In 1911, F.A. Stahl and his wife, who had previously worked in Bolivia, were transferred to Plateria in Peru. The history of the pioneer experiences and missionary service that endeared them to the Aymara Indians is recounted in Stahl's book "In the Land of the Incas."
5. In 1921 the Stahls moved to the Chanchamayo district in central Peru to work among the Amazonian people. They established the Metraro mission station on the Perene River.
6. In 1928 a boat was purchased — a wood-burning steam launch named Auxiliadora (Helper). In it Stahl made long missionary trips up and down the rivers. In 1940 it was replaced by a more practical diesel-powered launch built in Belem, Brazil, as the twin sister of L.B. Halliwell's Luzeiro II.
7. The Queen of the Andes (English), Titanka (Quechua) or Puya de Raimondi (Spanish), is the largest species of bromeliad (a kind of flowering plant). It is native to Bolivia and Peru and only grows in the high Andes at elevations of 9,800 -16,000 feet (3,000-4,800 meters). It produces a spike 16-23 feet (5-7 meters) in length, bearing 8,000 to 20,000 flowers, and a total of 6 million seeds from each plant. It grows for up to 40 years before flowering and then quickly dies.
8. The Andes, the second-highest mountain range in the world, run through Peru. They run from north to south and can be seen from Peru's beaches 50 miles (80 kilometers) to the west. The highest peak, Mount Huascarán, is 22,205 feet (6,768 meters) high.
9. The people of Peru are a mix of many different cultures, including Indians, Spaniards, and other Europeans, descendants of African slaves, and Asians.
10. Until recently, most Peruvians lived in the countryside. But now, more than 70 percent live in cities.
11. One of the most important Peruvian cultures was the Inca, who lived in Peru about 600 years ago. Their capital, Cusco, is still a major city today. The Inca also built Machu Picchu, a mysterious ancient city in the Andes. They thrived for centuries before being conquered by the Spanish in 1532.
12. Peru shares borders with Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Chile, and Bolivia.
13. The capital city of Peru is Lima and is home to more than a quarter of Peru's population.
14. Spanish is the main language in Peru, although many also speak the Inca language Quechua. The third official language is Aymara.

15. The currency of Peru is the Nuevo Sol.
16. Peru celebrates its Independence from the Spanish Empire on July 28 and 29. It is known as Fiestas Patrias which means “Patriotic Holidays” or “National Holidays” in Spanish.
17. The potato is originally from Peru and comes in more than 3,000 varieties. Peruvians use the phrase “Soy mas Peruano que la papa” (I am more Peruvian than the potato).
18. While Peru remains a poor country, it is one of the richest in terms of natural resources. It is one of the world’s top producers of gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, and zinc and also has reserves of oil and natural gas.
19. The largest bird on Earth, the Giant Andean condor, can be found at Colca Canyon. Standing up to 4 feet (1 meter) high with a wingspan of up to 14 feet (4 meters) and weighing as much as 27 pounds (12 kilograms), the bird can fly for hours without flapping its wings. Native to the Andes, it was considered a sacred bird by the Incas, but is now listed as “vulnerable” by the World Conservation Union.
20. Peru’s Nazca Lines is a collection of giant human and animal geoglyphs scattered along the high desert plateau between Nazca and Palpa and were first noticed from the air in 1927. This collection is made up of more than 70 human figures and animals and 10,000 lines (with some lines running up to 30 miles (50 kilometers) long!).
21. Since pre-Inca times, salt has been collected in Maras by evaporating salty water from a local subterranean stream. The water comes out of a spring, a natural outlet of the underground stream, and is directed into a system of channels so that the water runs down into several hundred ancient terraced ponds. As the water evaporates from the sun-warmed ponds, the salt crystallizes around the edges of the ponds. Today, you can still see families dressed in traditional clothing and some in top hats sifting the water for salt. Each family has their own salt pond that is managed by them and has been passed down to them for generations since Incan times.
22. Thanks to the abundant rainforests and 90 distinct microclimates, Peru counts among the 10 most biologically diverse countries in the world.
23. You can tell the relationship status of a Native Quechua woman by their hat — married women wear straw hats, while single women wear knitted caps.
24. The oldest mummy of a human was found in the Atacama coastal desert of Peru. Some areas of this desert are so dry, they have only received 1 inch (2.5 centimeters) of rain in the past 30 years.

Uruguay

1. Uruguay has 59 churches and 50 companies. There are 7,890 members in Uruguay's 3,457,000 people, making each Adventist one in 438 Uruguayans.
2. The first Adventist in Uruguay was Mrs. Juan Rivoir, who came to Uruguay with her husband in 1890 and who, four years before her arrival, had listened to sermons by Ellen White in Piedmont, Italy.
3. The first Seventh-day Adventist school in Uruguay was organized in 1908, in Nueva Helvecia colony in the home of Julio Ernst, with Otto Heydeker as teacher. Uruguay Academy, now Uruguay Adventist Academy (Instituto Adventista del Uruguay) situated at Progreso, was founded in 1944.
4. Uruguay has two Adventist radio stations: Uruguay Voice of Hope Radio (Radio La Voz de la Esperanza Uruguay) in Maldonado and Montevideo.
5. In Uruguay there are three cows for every one person.
6. Although 46 percent of its population practices Catholicism, Uruguay is the most non-religious country in the Americas.
7. The national dish of Uruguay is a sandwich called Chivito. It is made with thinly sliced steak (churrasco), mozzarella, tomatoes, mayonnaise, olives, and hard-boiled eggs, and is served in a bun. It is often eaten with french fries.
8. The Guaraní word Uruguay means "river of the painted birds."
9. Uruguay inhabitants refer to themselves as orientals (people from the east) to reflect their location — east of the Uruguay River. So, the official name of Uruguay is The Oriental Republic of Uruguay.
10. Uruguay's national anthem is the world's longest. The "National Anthem of Uruguay," also known by its first line, "Orientales, la Patria o la Tumba" (Orientals, our country or the grave), has 11 verses, each followed by the chorus, and lasts about five minutes when played in full. Normally, only one verse and the chorus are sung.
11. The clothing styles that are favored by South American ranch hands are known as gaucho clothes. These styles were first used by traditional Uruguay cowboys and they continue to be very popular with modern day gauchos in this country.
12. Uruguay is the second-smallest South American country (covering an area of 68,000 square miles, or 176,000 square kilometers) and is situated in the southeastern part of South America. This country is bordered by the Uruguay River to the west, Brazil to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the southeast, the estuary of the Rio de la Plata to the southwest, and the Rio Grande do Sul to the south.
13. Uruguay has a literacy rate of 98.1 percent for adults, thanks to the provision of free, compulsory education. In 2009, it became the first nation in the world to provide every school child with free wireless internet and a laptop.
14. Around 95 percent of the electricity is generated from renewable resources, mainly from wind farms.
15. One of the most popular beverages in this country is *mate*, a tea-like beverage produced from dried yerba mate leaves.
16. In 1930, the first-ever FIFA World Cup was held in this country. The capital, Montevideo, hosted all the matches during the competition.

17. Uruguay is unique in having the letter “u” appear three times within the first five letters.
18. Uruguay is ranked first in Latin America in democracy, peace, lack of corruption, quality of living, e-government, and equally first in South America when it comes to media freedom, size of the middle class, prosperity, and security.
19. Uruguay is the only country in South America where tap water is safe to drink.
20. Uruguay has tight restrictions on salt use in restaurants (even McDonald’s does not salt french fries), and you have to ask specially for salt at your table.

Easy Veggie Empanadas

Ingredients

Dough

½ cup (64 g) all-purpose flour

½ teaspoon (2.5 g) salt

½ cup (113 g) butter, chilled and cut into small pieces

1 egg

¼ cup (62.5 ml) ice-cold water

Filling

½ butternut squash, seeded (can leave skin on)

Drizzle of olive oil

1 ear of corn

2 cups (312 g) frozen spinach, thawed (or use fresh and cook ahead)

1 tsp (5 g) salt

¼ tsp (1.25 g) pepper

½ tsp (2.5 g) dried oregano

¼ tsp (1.25 g) red chili flakes, optional

1 cup cheese (125 g), optional

Chimichurri (optional for dipping) - see notes

Instructions

Dough:

1. Mix the flour and salt in the processor
2. Add butter, egg, and cold water to the flour mixture. Use fork to mix until flour resembles coarse crumbs.
3. Shape the dough into a ball and wrap dough with plastic. Place in the fridge for 30-60 minutes.
4. Roll the dough on a lightly floured work surface into a thin sheet and cut out discs using a large biscuit cutter or a drinking glass.
5. Brush the edges of the empanada discs with the beaten egg to help better seal them.
6. Fold the empanada discs and seal the edges with a fork or your fingers. Brush the top of the empanadas with the rest of the beaten egg. Chill the empanadas for about 20 minutes.
7. Pre-heat the oven to 400 F (205 C) and bake for 12-15 minutes or until golden.

Filling:

1. Preheat oven to 375 F (190 C).
2. Place squash on a baking sheet face up. Drizzle with olive oil and bake for 40-45 minutes or until squash is tender.
3. Once squash is done, scoop from skin and add squash, thawed spinach, and corn to a bowl and combine well. Mix in salt, pepper, oregano, and chili flakes. Taste and add any additional spices as needed.
4. Prepare empanadas by scooping a bit of the squash mixture into the dough. Seal edges and place on baking sheet.

Dough recipe from My Colombian Recipes

<https://www.mycolumbianrecipes.com/simple-empanada-dough-for-baking>

Filling recipe from The Simple Kitchen

<http://thesimplekitchen.net/easy-veggie-empanadas/>

Yo Tengo Gozo

Sung to the tune of "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy, Down in My Heart"

Yo tengo gozo, gozo, gozo, gozo
En mi corazón, En me corazón
En me corazón
Yo tengo gozo, gozo, gozo, gozo
En mi corazón
Porque Cristo me Salvó

Yo tengo paz, paz, paz, paz
En mi corazón, En me corazón
En me corazón
Yo tengo paz, paz, paz, paz
En mi corazón
Porque Cristo me Salvó

Yo tengo alegría, alegría
En mi corazón, En me corazón
En me corazón
Yo tengo alegría, alegría
En mi corazón
Porque Cristo me Salvó

Yo tengo gozo, paz, y alegría
En mi corazón, En me corazón
En me corazón
Yo tengo gozo, paz, y alegría
En mi corazón

Hit the Penny is a game from the country of Brazil.

Cut a stick (a broomstick or thick dowel) to a length of 12 to 16 inches (30 to 40 cm). Draw a circle on the ground about 2 feet (60 cm) across and hammer the stick into the middle of it. Place a coin on the top of the stick.

1. To play “Hit the Penny,” stand all the players in a line about 3 feet (1 meter) from the edge of the circle.
2. Players take turns throwing a coin at the coin on top of the stick. They must try and knock it off the stick and have it land outside the circle. If they are successful they can have another turn and continue until they miss. If not, the next player has his turn.
3. Players receive one point if they successfully knock the coin off the stick so that it lands outside the circle.
4. The winner is the player with the most points at the end of the game.