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Empire of the Sun

Special green section | Great Plain of el Chaco by Daniel Aldo Gomez

RECENTLY BUILT TO TOURIST DESTINATIONS OF NATURE, THE PROVINCES OF SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO, CHACO AND FORMOSA HAVE THE PRIVILEGE TO LODGE 60% OF THE SECOND LARGEST NATURAL REGION OF SOUTH AMERICA, AFTER AMAZONAS .EVEN IF IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE STILL BY ITS FORESTS JAGUARS WANDER, ARMADILLOS, ANTEATERS, TAPIRS AND THE RARE AGUARA GUAZU OR WOLF OF CRIN, ONE OF THE MOST ENDANGERED SPECIES OF OUR WILDLIFE.

The Natives called it "Chacu" which in Quechua means "place of hunting" for the abundance of wildlife that were there and were their main sustenance. Then the Spanish changed it to "Chaco". Ricardo Rojas, Argentine pillar of literature, called "The Country of the Jungle" to that "region that extends from the basin of the great rivers to the first undulations of the mountain." The vast Chaco plains witnessed an important part of our history, and its indomitable nature gave birth to myths such as that of Salamanca, the "Rune Uturunku" or Man-Tiger, Mul'Anima the Kakuy and many others, inspired by the mysterious and impenetrable forests and creatures. Today it continues to reveal surprises and begins to attract a new generation interested in the human and natural landscape of the region.

Chaco is the natural region of Argentina of largest area, covering almost one third of the national geography. Also it has the privilege of hosting the largest forest mass in the country with 23 million hectares. Beyond its borders, covers half of Paraguay, and small areas of Bolivia and Brazil, while in Argentina the most part. This natural region is the second largest in South America after the Amazon. The landscapes, flora and fauna have been shaped by natural cycles, such as floods and fires. The irregular distribution of rainfall created over the centuries a mosaic of environments that favoured the rich biodiversity of the region.

Thus we have in the east end, called the Humid Chaco, where the rains come to 1.300 mm per year, and feed a wide variety of aquatic environments such as estuaries, reservoirs, ponds, rivers and streams. In contrast in the western called the Dry Chaco, the rains just reach the 500 mm annually. The landscape in this area is poor in rivers and water bodies.

PALM TREE CARANDAY IN FORMOSA SURVIVOR OF CLEARING. THE ENTIRE CHACO REGION IS SUFFERING IN DISCRIMINATED CLEARINGS OF PROGRESS FOLLOWING A MODEL THAT IS NOT SUSTAINABLE. FROM ALL OF US IT DEPENDS ON THE CARE AND WISELY USE THE NATURAL RESOURCES, THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE.

Recommended locations:

In Formosa:

PN Pilcomayo, Santa Olga Lodge, Reserva Ecológica El Bagual

In Santiago del Estero: PN Copo

In Chaco: PN Chaco

DENSE FOREST OR GALLERY FOREST THAT ACCOMPANY RIVERS, PALM TREES WITH PASTURE IN THE HIGHLANDS AND VARIED AQUATIC VEGETATION

NATURAL CURL IN A PEHUAJO LEAF 2.TALKING PARROT, A SPECIES IN NUMERIC BACK WARD DUE TO ITS LEGAL CAPTURE AS A PET 3.PALO BORRACHO OR PINK FLOWER OR SAMOHU.4.TATU BALL, THE OLY ARMADILLO CAPABLE TO SHUT ITSELF COMPLETELY BECOMING A FORTAS FOR ITS PREDATORS.

So the Humid Chaco is characterised by the presence of dense forest or gallery forest accompanying rivers, palm trees with grassland in upland areas, and a variety of vegetation that inhabit aquatic environments. It is home to a huge diversity of animals adapted to water, like alligators, capybara (the world's largest rodent), tapirs (the largest land mammal in South America), herons and storks, and many others. Pastures are the favourite



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refuge of the Aguara guazu wolf, the largest of the native foxes, one of the most endangered species of our fauna. The tops of the gallery forest are inhabited by the noisy howler monkeys and the mysterious mirikiná, the only nocturnal monkey species on the continent. The forest floor is run by herds of lipped and collared peccaries, which are groups of up to 50 individuals or more.

The Dry Chaco is no slouch in faunistic rarities. Its impenetrable forests of quebracho lodge the last wild populations of jaguar, a species that has suffered indiscriminate persecution. Also here is the little armadillo cart, the largest family of armadillos, native to South America, which reaches 1.5 meters long and 60 kg. Another peculiar-looking animal that lives in these forests is the great anteater with a long snout and long tongue, which uses masterfully to remove ants and termites from their nests. Hopefully the Country of the jungle, El Chaco, bonded by green and life will continue for some time the refuge of landscapes, flora and fauna unique. To us it depends to care and maintain.