

ROXTONS

FIELD SPORTS

Finishing (or possibly starting) your season in style – John Duncan reports on a recent trip to shoot doves in Argentina

Having last been to Argentina for a friends 40th birthday four years ago, six members of this party thought enough time had passed to return for a rematch and to get over their withdrawal symptoms as the UK season had just finished.

Setting off from Heathrow on a direct flight to Buenos Aires, the journey was remarkably stress-free and on arrival we were met by our very efficient ground handlers, Alex and Leticia, who have been looking after all of shooters and fishers for more years than I care to remember. They were both on their usual top form and nothing was ever too much trouble. After a night in Buenos Aires, we flew up to Cordoba where we stayed in one of the Hayes brothers lodges, Rio Seco. This was excellent with six well-appointed bedrooms all with their own bathrooms. Having stayed with them elsewhere, all of their recently refurbished lodges are first class and they more than meet your high expectations in delivering on the famous Argentinean hospitality. The steaks were exceptional!

As you may know, in Cordoba the adrenaline and excitement of the high volume dove shooting is hard to beat. Generally guns will shoot a morning flight for two to three hours and then have a similar flight in the evening. Throughout that time the numbers of dove means that any bag limitation is set by you, the gun. It's fair to say we didn't hold back as the doves kept coming in singles and covies, up-wind and down, twisting and turning as the sound of our shots rattled up and down the hills. Each day we moved around to different areas



thus giving us plenty of variety from down-wind grouse to high curling partridge and pheasants – a true sportsman’s paradise. After three days (two full days and two half days) we flew back down to Buenos Aires and then back home to tell stories that we really could shoot as well as George Digweed or Simon Ward!

Whatever you’ve heard about dove shooting in Argentina, you must go, as the accommodation and shooting is superb and it’s cracking value despite all of the talk on cartridge costs. Having sat down and worked out the complete costs for everything i.e. flights, accommodation, transport, gun hire, tips and all your food and drink, it only cost me £1.48 per bird, but we did shoot a few!

Whilst we were only there for a week there are obviously plenty of other thrilling and exciting things to do in Argentina, whether it’s fishing or just exploring this wonderful country so I’d suggest it’s worth considering going for slightly longer.

For further information on all of the lodges we represent, please contact my colleagues Adam Bromfield or Hannah Treliving. Please also remember our sister company Bailey Robinson (www.baileyrobinson.com) can also help with any non-sporting aspects of a trip to South America.

John Duncan
05.04.16

