REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA

SOUTH AMERICA





GENERAL INFORMATION & TRAVEL GUIDE

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Travelers to Argentina

Argentina is in the southern part of South America and, thus, in the southern hemisphere. Its frontier with Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Chile has a perimeter of 29,038 km. Its Atlantic coastline is 5,117 km long.

The Name Argentina:

Argentina's name comes from the Latin argentum, which means silver. The origin of the name goes back to the voyages made by the first Spanish conquistadores (conquerors) to the Río de la Plata. The shipwrecked survivors of the expedition mounted by Juan Díaz de Solís discovered Indians in the region who presented them with silver objects. The news about the legendary Sierra del Plata, a mountain rich in silver, reached Spain around 1524. At that time, the Portuguese named the river of Solís, the Silver River or "Río de la Plata." Two years later, the Spanish used the same name. Since 1860, the official name of the country has been the República Argentina (Republic of Argentina).

Country Size:

Argentina has an area of almost 3.8 million square km, of which 2.8 are on the continent & the remainder in the Antarctic. Its length of 3,800 Km goes from latitude 22° to 55°.

Population:

The current population of Argentina is estimated to be some 45.81 million; 17.5 million live in the federal capital and the province of Buenos Aires. These figures give the country a population density of 16.5 inhabitants per square kilometer.

Ethnicity Mix of People:

95% of Argentineans are Caucasian, of principally Italian and Spanish descent. The purely indigenous population of Mapuches, Collas, Tobas, Matacos & Chiriguanos, are 0.5% of the population, with the remaining 4.5% of the population of mixed European and indigenous ethnicities.

Religion:

There is complete religious freedom in Argentina, although the official religion is Roman Catholic.

Type of Government:

The country is a federal republic and has 23 provinces. It is a representative democracy underpinned by three branches of government: the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. The first is exercised by the President of the Nation, elected to a term of 4 years. He has ample powers, including the power of approving or vetoing decisions by Congress. The National Congress has 2 chambers. The Chamber of Deputies has 254 directly elected members. The Senate has 72 members elected by provincial jurisdictions, 3 per province & 3 for the Federal Capital. The provinces and the city of Buenos Aires are autonomous and elect their own officials. The Governors and Chief of Government are the ultimate authorities. Argentina's Constitution dates back to 1853 and has undergone changes on various occasions. The last time it was changed was in August 1994, when the President of the Nation was reelected for an additional term.

Capital City:

Buenos Aires



Historic Dates:

- 25th of May 1810: The First "Gobierno Patrio" or Home Government Assembly was constituted.
- 9th of July 1816: Proclamation of Independence by the Provincias Unidas del Río de la Plata.

National Emblems:

The flag has 3 horizontal stripes: the middle one is white, with a golden sun & the 2 outside ones are sky blue. The national flower is the ceibo. The national stone is manganese spar or "the rose of the Inca".

Geography:

The fundamental characteristic of Argentina is the enormous contrast between the immense Eastern plains and the imposing mountain range of the Andes to the West. This is the frontier with Chile, and it has the highest peak in the Western Hemisphere - Aconcagua, 6,959 meters / 22,841 feet high. From Jujuy in the north to Tierra del Fuego in the south, the Andes present marvelous contrasts: windswept plateaus of the Northwest, serene mountain scapes in the Lakes Region, and the forests & glaciers of the Patagonian Andes. Between the Paraná & Uruguay Rivers the provinces of Entre Ríos, Corrientes and Misiones are formed by low hills where pools and marshlands show the ancient courses of these great rivers. Occasionally, there are fissures which provide spectacular phenomena like the Falls of Iguazú. La Pampa, in the center of Argentina, is the largest and bestknown plains area. It primarily produces agriculture & livestock and includes the provinces of Buenos Aires, La Pampa, southern Santa Fe, and the southeastern Córdoba. Its landscape is broken to the South by the small mountains of Tandil & La Ventana. And, to the West, by the Córdoba Mountain ranges. To the south, comprising the Andes to the sea and the sterile, stony inland plateau, is Patagonia. Patagonia spans part of southern Chile and part of southern Argentina. It has no official political boundaries or borders. Rather, Patagonia is as often described as a culture and a mindset as it is a land. It encompasses the rugged Atlantic coastline in the west, lined with high cliffs, fjords and diverse marine life, through the glaciated Andes Mountains, eastward into the barren, windswept pampas.

Climate Patterns & Seasons

Argentina's seasons are the reverse of the Northern Hemisphere. Spring weather begins in October. The warmest summer months are January, February & March. April is considered early Fall (September in our part of the world). November's average temperature is 50° F. December & January average 61°, and March temperatures return to 50°. Anglers should be prepared for either type of condition. Conditions in Tierra del Fuego are, generally, cooler and can be wet. Anglers should prepare as they would for a trip to Alaska.

Language:

Spanish is the official language of the Argentine Republic. In Buenos Aires, forms of the city slang, *Lunfardo* are used. Aside from the large hotels in Buenos Aires, and centers of tourism like Cordoba, Bariloche, Esquel and Mendoza, few people in Argentina speak English. If you don't speak Spanish and plan to do some travelling on your own, a good Spanish dictionary, phrase book, or pocket translator can be useful.



Currency:

The official Argentine currency is the Peso, and it can be exchanged for in banks, hotels & airport bureaus. There are also ATM's readily available in cities and towns. The U.S. dollar is the preferred currency when paying services in Buenos Aires, and for lodge gratuities.

• Note: ATM machines DO NOT offer the best exchange rates. ATMs in Argentina will withdraw in between 3,000/5,000 pesos per day (equivalent in USD \$80/\$135) and will charge you \$5 to \$10 per transaction. ATMs in Argentina will not give you \$USD.

Credit Cards:

The most accepted credit cards are: American Express, VISA, and Master Card. Just about all restaurants will accept credit cards. Gratuities in restaurants should be paid in cash \$, credit cards are not accepted.

Electricity:

220 volts AC. Electrical outlets accept standard 2 round prong design, in use in Continental Europe. Most modern electrical devices like cameras, iPods, laptops, GPS and satellite telephones will accept 110 – 240 volts and output automatically to US standard 110, and for theses *all you will need is a simple plug adaptor*. If, however, your device does not convert to 110, it is best to bring an external converter. We suggest a dual-wattage foreign travel AC converter; it lets you use 110VAC (USA) devices on 240 VAC foreign, for motorized or heat producing devices up to 50 watts, such as radios, irons, lamps and handheld hair dryers.

Type C

Europe (except United Kingdom, Ireland, Cyprus and Malta)

Two round parallel prongs.

Two round parallel prongs.



Business Hours:

Banks & Exchange Bureau: Mondays to Fridays from 10:00 to 15:00 hours. Business Offices: from 09:00 to 12:00 and from 14:00 to 19:00 hours. Shops & commerce: In the big cities, from 09:00/09:30 to 19:30 hours. Although, in the outskirts & provinces, they tend to close at midday & stay open later in the evening. On Saturdays, the hours are from 08:30/09:00 to 12:30/13:00 hours. Cafés, cake shops & pizzerias are open most of the time except between 02:00 and 06:00 hours. Restaurants: Lunch starts from 13:00, dinner, from 21:00 hours. Many establishments always offer fast menus.

Telephone Service:

Make calls either by cell phone (operates on SIM system), collect, or via a telephone credit card, obtainable at kiosks. The hotel telephone charges from your room can be up to 400% of the normal rate. And remember tariffs are reduced between 22:00 and 08:00 hours.



To call from abroad to Argentina, dial 011, then the country code 54, then the number of the place you want to call, area code first. In the city of Buenos Aires you need to dial 11. If you need to call to a cellphone, you need to dial 9 before the area code.

00 International

54 Argentina

9 Cell Phones

11 Capital Federal

If you call from the hotel in BA or a local cellphone:

Ex. 4777-7879 (Land Line)

Ex. 15-5046-2536 (Cellphone)

Health Services:

Medical services are good but may not meet U.S. standards. Hospitals & doctors often expect immediate cash payment for health services. U.S medical insurance is not always valid outside the U.S. Supplemental insurance that covers overseas medical cost. Provisions for medical evacuation are recommended.

Potable Water:

It is recommended travelers only drink bottled water while in Argentina. In the South of Argentina, water quality is excellent and, generally, very safe. However, bottled water is recommended and is available to guests at all our lodges.

Food in Argentina:

Argentina is well known for exceptional beef and lamb, barbequed in the famous *asado* fasion for holidays & festivals over an open fire. With its vast coastline on two oceans, though, Argentine cuisine incorporates a wonderful variety of fresh seafood as well. Contrary to what many travelers think, Argentine cuisine is not spicy.

Wines & Liquors in Argentina:

Argentina's wines are among the finest in the world, and all dinners will be accompanied by one of a variety selected from the country's top vineyards. Argentina is currently the world's 4th largest producer of wine, 1,182,100 liters/year. Mendoza, with over 215,000 hectares dedicated to viticulture, is the powerhouse behind Argentina's colossal industry. Argentine merlots and malbecs are world-class.

Taxes & Service Charges:

Foreign travelers are exempt from paying the VAT (value added tax) of 21% - 16% minus an administrative fee for certain products & services. At the airport, you can recover the 21% - 16% VAT, if you have purchased local products for an amount greater than \$200 (per invoice) in shops which are members of this plan.

Time Zones:

During their summer months, Argentina is one hour ahead of U.S. EST. In winter, it is 2 hours ahead of EST, and 5 hours ahead of PST.

Luggage:

In case of loss (this occurs very rarely in Argentina), report it immediately to your airline representative before leaving the airport. Your lodge representative can help with this & arrange getting your bags out to the lodge. Please pack as light as possible. We recommend carrying a travel rod & reel with you on the plane in the unlikely event that luggage is lost.

Recommended Travel Agent for South America:



Holdy Tours

Alicia Regueiro, (Alicia is great and knows her business inside and out.) 800-446-1111 | Fax 925 927-6640 | alicia@holdytours.com | www.holdytours.com 2065 N. Broadway, Ste. 204 Walnut Creek, CA 94596

International Travel To & From Argentina from U.S.A.:

All airlines flying into Argentina arrive at the Ministro Pistarini (Ezeiza) International Airport of Buenos Aires, 35 km from the city center and connected to it by the Teniente General Ricchieri motorway. Airlines that Service Buenos Aires include American Airlines, Delta, Aerolineas Argentinas, EL AL Israel Airlines, Korean Air, jetBlue, British Airways, and United.

Flying Times to Buenos Aires from **Los Angeles:** 13 hours, **Dallas:** 11 hours, **Houston:** 10 hours, **Miami:** 9 hours **New York:** 11 hours, **Chicago:** 11 hours, **Atlanta:** 9 hours, **Heathrow:** 14 hours.

Aerolineas Argentinas Checked and Carry-on Baggage: www.aerolineas.com

Note: Rods, reels, flies, pliers, hemostats, nippers, and scissors are **NOT** allowed in your carry-on baggage.

Immigration Requirements for Entry into Argentina:

A valid passport is required for U.S. citizens to enter Argentina. U.S. citizens do not need a visa for visits of up to 90 days for tourism or business.

Customs:

Generally, foreign tourists (especially tourists carrying fly rods) are not bothered by customs officials upon entry. You are allowed to bring personal items such as clothing, footwear, toiletries, personal medications, as well as any fishing equipment needed during your stay. It is prohibited to enter the country with plants, or perishable food. You are allowed to enter Argentina with 2 liters of alcoholic drinks, 400 cigarettes and 50 cigars. Expensive camera and video equipment should be declared and brought out with you when you leave.

Airport Transfers:

The companies Manuel Tienda León (Av. Santa Fe 790, Tel. 4315-0489) and San Martín Bus (Av. Santa Fe 1162, Tel. 011-54-11-4816-7676) offer a half-hourly bus service between its offices in Buenos Aires and Ezeiza Airport from 04.00 to 21.00 hours. The fare is \$15-\$20 and the trip takes 40 minutes. There are also taxis and chauffeur-driven rental cars, between \$35 and \$60. City taxi transfers to the airport are expensive and don't usually have the luggage space for all the baggage that groups of anglers carry. Specific information on airport transfers and city hotels will be sent to you.

Taxis:

The only safe cabs to hire once you arrive to Ezeiza Airport are the cabs you find in the main hall in arrivals called "TAXI EZEIZA" these cabs are white and blue. NEVER grab a random cab outside the airport.

Remember, there are two airports in Buenos Aires, Domestic & International. The domestic airport is about 20 minutes from the downtown area, and the International is about 1 hour. You will need at



least three hours for auto transfer between the International Airport "Ezeiza" and the Domestic Airport "Jorge Newbery" Domestic airport taxis are about 80-100 Pesos from your downtown hotel.

Airport to Airport Connections on Week Days:

Anglers arriving EZE on International flights and transferring to AEP in the morning rush-hour (Monday – Friday) (7 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) will need at least 4 hours for the transfer. On weekends, 3 hours is plenty.

Recommended Hotels in Buenos Aires, Argentina

- Hotel Intersur Recoleta: http://www.intersurrecoleta.com.ar/
- Loi Suites Recoleta: http://www.loisuites.com.ar/es/recoleta-hotel-buenos-aires/alojamiento-recoleta
- Serena Boutique Hotel Recoleta: http://www.serenahoteles.com/es-buenos-aires.html
- Alvear Palace Hotel: 011 54 11 4808-2100 | FAX: 011-54-11-4804-9246 | www.alvearpalace.com | info@alvearpalace.com
- Four Seasons 011 54 11 4321-1200 | www.fourseasons.com/buenosaires
- Park Hyatt: 011 54 11 5171 1234 | www.buenosaires.park.hyatt.com

Touring in Buenos Aires:

- LOL Argentina (These services can be booked directly with Alicia Regueiro/Holdy Tours, (800) 446-1111)
- Marina Machiavello (unbeatable guide, expert in tourism solutions) (406) 577-1004 | marina@lolargentina.com | ana@lolargentina and/or info@lolargentina.com
 4474 Güemes St, C1425BLF, Argentina

The LOL Team can make arrangements for tango and dinner shows, trips to Iguazu Falls, boat trips for the day on the Parana River Delta, dinner and hotel reservations, all city and airport transfers and recommendations, on call 24 hours a day. LOL Argentina provides tourism solutions of any kind.



Some of Our Favorite Restaurants in Buenos Aires

A Parrilla is a restaurant specializing in the Argentine *asado*, or barbeque. In addition, Buenos Aires offers very a cosmopolitan selection of excellent restaurants and cafes.

- Las Lilas: This isn't the most famous steak house in the world, but it might be the best! Reservations are a must!
- El Verde: This restaurant is right around the corner from the Lancaster Hotel. It is a small and cozy restaurant, with excellent meat, chicken and pastry dishes, great wines, modest prices, and live music. Truly Argentine!
- The Dora Address: Ave del Libertador 13041. It is open for lunch and dinner from Monday through Saturday and serves generous portions of quality steak and seafood entrees for moderate prices. Be sure to have cash on hand, no credit cards are accepted.
- La Chacra: On Cordoba Ave, this is some of the best beef in Buenos Aires. It has an excellent choice of wines, and the price is very reasonable.
- El Mirasol: The steakhouse of the Argentines, since 1967. Bizarrely situated under a freeway underpass, and highly recommended for an authentic Argentina dining experience.



Buenos Aires Restaurant Recommendations from LOL Argentina

MEAT

La Brigada Estados Unidos 465 - San Telmo El Mirasol Posadas 1032 - La Recova El Mirasol A. M. de Justo 202 - Pto Madero Cabaña Las Lilas A. M. de Justo 516 - Pto Madero La Cabrera Cabrera 5127 - Palermo Miranda Costa Rica 5602 - Palermo La Dorita Humboldt 1911 - Palermo

ITALIAN

Sottovoce A. M. de justo 176 - Puerto Madero Sottovoce Libertador 1098 - Recoleta Piegari Posadas 1042 - La Recova La Pecora Nera Ayacucho 1785 - Recoleta Guido Cerviño 3943 - Palermo Il Ballo Del Mattone Gorriti 5934 - Palermo

SEAFOOD

Fervor Posadas 1519 - Recoleta Sorrento Posadas 1053 - La Recova Sorrento A. M. de Justo 410 - Pto Madero Tancat Paraguay 645 - Downtown Plaza Mayor Posadas 1052 - La Recova

PIZZA + EMPANADAS

Piola Libertad 1078 – Recoleta Piola Gorriti 5751 - Palermo Filo San Martin 975 - Downtown Retiro Romario Vicente López 2102 - Recoleta

AUTHOR CUISINE

I central Market Pierina Dealessi 699 - Pto Madero Sucre Sucre 676 - Las Cañitas Thymus Lerma 525 - Palermo Tarquino Rodriguez Peña 1967 - Recoleta Tegui Costa Rica 5852 - Palermo

SCANDINAVIAN

Olsen Gorriti 5870 - Palermo

PERUVIAN

Bardot Honduras 5237 - Palermo **Moche** Nicaragua 5901 — Palermo

FRENCH

Nectarine Vicente López 1661 Loc.15 - Recoleta Croque Madame Av. Libertador 1902— Palermo Croque Madame Av. Callao 1569— Recoleta Brasserie Petanque Defensa 595 — San Telmo

FRENCH/JAPANESE

To Costa Rica 6000 – Palermo

JAPANESE/PERUVIAN

Osaka Soler 5608 - Palermo Kaisen Guatemala 4665 - Palermo Sipan Paraguay 624 – Downtown Sipan Uriarte 1648 – Palermo

ASIAN

Green Bamboo Costa Rica 5802 – Palermo **Lotus Neo Thai** Ortega y Gasset 1782 – Las Cañitas **Empire Thai** Tres Sargentos 427 - Downtown

ARMENIAN

Sarkis Thames 1101 - Palermo El Manto Costa Rica 5801 — Palermo

BASQUE

Bizkaia Nicaragua 4432 – Palermo **Centro Vasco Frances** Moreno 1370 - Downtown

MEXICAN

Xalapa El Salvador 4800 - Palermo **Maria Félix** Guatemala 5200 - Palermo

INDIAN

Bengal Arenales 837 - Downtown Retiro **Mumbai** Honduras 5684 – Palermo **Kathmandú** Av. Córdoba 3547 – Palermo **Tandoor** Laprida 1293 - Palermo

ICE CREAM

Freddo - ALL OVER THE PLACE



Night Life in Buenos Aires:

Nighttime activities begin very late in the evening by gringo standards. Most restaurants don't even begin serving dinner until 9:00 p.m. in the summer. Floor shows usually begin about 10:00 or 11:00 p.m. Nightclubs and bars typically get going around 2 a.m.

Tipping in Argentina:

In Buenos Aires, as in Europe and other South American cities, a general rule for tipping for service in restaurants is 10%. All tips should be paid in cash \$.

Shopping in Buenos Aires:

Florida Street and Santa Fe Avenue are lined on both sides by a myriad of shops and boutiques. Florida Street is for pedestrians only and must be experienced, at least once. More luxurious boutiques can be found in the Recoleta neighborhood. Most shops in Buenos Aires are open all day until 7:00 pm on weekdays, 1:00 pm on Saturdays. Many shops are closed on Sundays. Look for Artisan articles such as knives, mate vessels, silver jewelry (inca rose), fine leather objects (purses, wallets, jackets, belts), carved leather, fur coats, native clothing, wood or rock carvings, clothing, and antiques.

Recommended Ushuaia Hotels

Las Hayas:

Five-star hotel with view of the bay | www.lashayashotel.com

Reservations: lashayashotelushuaia@fibertel.com.ar (011 54-2901) 430710/8 | Fax: (011 54-2901) 430719

Reservations: (011 54-11) 4393-4750 | (011 54-11) 4393-0621

Los Cauquenes Resort & Spa:

Five-star, amazing service.

http://www.loscauguenes.com/en/

De la Ermita 3462, Barrio Bahía Cauquén

(9410) Ushuaia Tierra del Fuego Patagonia, Argentina

Tel: 011 54 (2901) 441300 | Reservation Center: Tel/fax: [+54 11] 4735 2648 | reservas@loscauquenes.com

Hotel Lennox:

Four-star

Av. San Martin 776, 011 54 2901 436430 | www.hotellennox.com.ar/en home.html

Ushuaia Restaurant Recommendations

- Kaupé Restaurant home of recognized chef Ernesto Vivian, voted best restaurant in Argentina for 2005.
- Chez Manu great food and the best view of the bay and city.
- Tia Elvira in the center of the city with a view of the docks and bay.



• Volver - on Maipu Street, all kinds of seafood, (ravioli stuffed with salmon, king crab and black hake), and the decor and atmosphere are wonderful.

Holdy Tours & LOL Argentina – Buenos Aires Services & Transfers

In planning your travel in Argentina, especially in Buenos Aires, we would like to recommend the services of Alicia Regueiro of Holdy Tours and LOL Argentina. Alicia, working in concert with the ladies of LOL Argentina can arrange hotel reservations, international and domestic airport receptions, all city and airport transfers, city tours, dinner reservations, tango shows, etc. Please understand there is *no* commission motive in our recommendation of Alicia and LOL. It is merely our genuine belief they will make your visit to Argentina enjoyable and hassle-free.

These transfers include: Reception at airport, assistance w/luggage, reconfirmation of flights & tickets, assistance with dinner and/or lunch reservations, assistance with airport check-in & flight departure, and 24-hr emergency assistance number while in Buenos Aires. 0054-9-11-50462536 (from an International phone) / 15-5046-2536 (from any local phone).

Domestic & International Airline Reservations plus a whole lot more...

Holdy Tours is a reliable and professional travel wholesaler that combines the sensibility of affordable wholesale prices with the benefits of a full-service travel agency to destinations all over the world. Based out of the San Francisco Bay Area since 1981, Holdy Tours is staffed with expert and friendly consultants to handle all your travel needs. They take the anxieties out of traveling to ensure your trip is enjoyable and hassle free.

Staffed with South American ex-patriots living here in the United States, Holdy Tours knows the intricacies of Argentina and Patagonia logistics, literally, like it is their home. They are well acquainted with the small airlines that service the remote fishing areas we frequent.

We at The Fly Shop® do not handle airline ticketing. We leave *that* to the professionals. Many of our clients have wonderful travel agents, or a corporate that does an excellent job of caring for their needs. Others are using frequent flier discounts on the international portions of the trip, and some of you are not concerned at all about saving money on the airline's portions of the travel packages. However, for traveling anglers interested in what may be a significant savings and first-class customer service, we highly recommend Holdy Tours. In addition to airline reservations, Holdy Tours can assist you with hotel reservations, optional tours, and excursions as well as special transfer services.

Holdy Tours
Alicia Regueiro
2065 N. Broadway Suite 204
Walnut Creek, CA 94569
(925) 927-6617 | FAX (925) 927-6640 | (800) 446-1111 | alicia@holdytours.com



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

The Fly Shop® 4140 Churn Creek Road Redding, CA 96002 (800) 669-3474 | (530) 222-3555 | travel@theflyshop.com

Holdy Tours Alicia Regueiro (800) 446-1111 | (925) 927-6617 | <u>Alicia@holdytours.com</u>

• Can book your air and any additional hotel rooms you may request.

LOL Argentina - Marina Macchiavello

PH Gaia: 011-54 911-3150-1667 | PH Marina: 011-54 911-5046-2536 PH Ines: 011-54 911-5505-4165 | PH Office: 011-54-11-4-777-7879

US PH Office: (406) 577-1004

E-mails: marina@lolargentina.com | gaia@lolargentina.com

ines@lolargentina.com | ana@lolargentina.com

U.S. Embassy Buenos Aires, Argentina American Citizen Services Av. Colombia 4300 C1425GMN Buenos Aires

The American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the Consular Section provides a wide range of services to American citizens visiting or residing in Argentina. So, we can better serve you, we encourage you to register with the Embassy through the State Department website if you will be travelling or living in Argentina. In case of emergency, call (54-11) 5777-4354 from 8am to 5pm or (54-11) 5777-4873 after hours.