

Argentina

Climate:

This great north-south length embraces regions of striking diversity, including the Andes Mountains, the thorny scrubland and seasonal swamps of the Gran Chaco, the broad, fertile plains of the Pampas, the stark tableland of Patagonia, and an undulating Atlantic coastline of some 2,900 miles (4,700 km). The high-elevation, cold climatic phenomenon in Argentina is sometimes referred to as tundra climate and, in even colder mountaintop areas, as polar. Generally, the tundra climate occupies the mountain zones where average annual temperatures are below 50 °F (10 °C); The Pampas, which includes Buenos Aires, occupy a transitional area between high summer temperatures to the north and cooler summers to the south. The range of mean temperatures for summer months (December to February) is about 72-75 °F (22-24 °C), whereas that for winter months (June to August) is about 46-55 °F (8-13 °C).

Currency: The local currency is the Peso. Keep in mind that crisp, new US dollars are crucial when trying to change money. Dollars that are written on or have frayed, torn edges are usually not accepted. The best exchange rate will be at the ATM, where no exchange transaction fee should occur and you receive the current rate of the day. Before departure, call your bank to determine locations of ATMs in the cities and towns throughout your itinerary, and be sure and ask if the ATM will have instructions in English. Nearly all should. Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diner's Club cards are widely accepted. Go to <http://finance.yahoo.com/currency?u> for current exchange rates.

Visas: For U.S. and Canadian citizens, a valid passport is needed for entry into all South American countries. However, it is NOT necessary to obtain a visa BEFORE entering any South American countries.

Departure Tax: \$29

Immunizations: Recommendations change frequently, so you must check directly with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a traveler's clinic or other medical authority.

<http://www.cdc.gov/Travel/destinationList.aspx#P>

Tipping Guideline: Drivers - \$5-\$8 pp per day
Mainland guides - \$10-\$20 pp per day
For trekking trips: Cooks - \$4 pp per day
Porters and other trekking staff - \$3 pp per day

Budget: You will need to analyze your spending habits and decide how much extra money to bring for alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, gratuities, souvenirs, and laundry. For a ten day trip, budget at least \$200 - \$300pp for additional expenses. A rule of thumb: take half the clothing and twice the money you thought you would need!



Dialing Code: 54

Time Zone: GMT/UTC -3

Electricity: 220V, 50Hz

Additional Country Information: More country specific information can be found on our website. Go to the Travel Center page (<http://www.mythsandmountains.com/2000/travel/center.cfm>) and then scroll down to the bottom of the page. There you will find links to various websites from the CIA Factbook to travel films.

Spanish 101:

please - por favor

thank you - gracias

hello - hola

goodbye - adios

see you later - hasta luego

yes - si

no - no

I'm sorry - lo siento

excuse me - perdón

I don't understand - no entiendo

Do you speak English? - habla inglés?

I don't speak Spanish - no hablo español

Good afternoon - Buenas tardes

Good night - Buenas noches

How much is? - Cuanto es?

Good - bueno

bad - malo

car - coche

postcard - postal

map - mapa

menu - la carta

bill - la cuenta

waiter/waitress - camarero/camarera

tomorrow - mañana

yesterday - ayer

today - hoy

I need - necesito

breakfast - desayuno

lunch - almuerzo

dinner - cena

Airport - aeropuerto

departure - salida

arrival - llegada

petrol - gasolina

chemist - farmacia

Doctor - medico

aceite de oliva - olive oil

ajillo/ajo - garlic

arroz - rice

atún - tuna

champiñones - mushrooms

gambas - prawns

ensalada - salad

a la plancha - grilled

pollo - chicken

helado - ice cream

al horno - baked

huevo - egg

jamón - ham

mariscos - seafood

pan - bread

papas - potatoes

pavo - turkey

pescado - fish

pimiento - pepper

queso - cheese

sal - salt

salchicha - sausage

sopa - soup

tortilla - spanish omelette

tostada - toast

agua - water

agua sin gas - still water

agua con gas - fizzy water

bebida - drink

botella - bottle

café con leche - coffe with milk

cortado - espresso with milk

café solo - black coffee

cerveza - beer

hielo - ice

leche - milk

té - tea

vino - wine

zum - fruit juice

zum de naranja - orange juice

SUGGESTED READINGS

See the Longitude Books website: <http://www.longitudebooks.com/> for more book ideas.

Guidebooks:

Bao, Sandra (2002). Argentina, Uruguay & Paraguay
Lonely Planet; 4th Edition

Fodors (2004). Fodor's Argentina
Fodors; 3rd Edition

Other books:

McEwan, Colin (1998). Patagonia

The companion volume to an exhibition at the British Museum, this wonderful book is an illustrated overview of the natural history, geography and human history of "the Uttermost Part of the Earth."

Chatwin, Bruce (1989). In Patagonia

A master of travel, history, and adventure. There's no travel writer as engaging, insightful and just plain wonderful as Bruce Chatwin. His award winning book captures the allure of the land, its history, wildlife and people.

Chester, Sharon (1995). Birds of Chile

Designed for easy reference in the field, this handsome book includes a checklist of the birds of Chile - and features 29 color plates illustrating 300 common birds.

Antoine de Exupery (1995). Night Flight

Alone in a storm over the Andes en route from Punta Arenas to Buenos Aires. In this wonderfully evocative novella, de Exupery captures the thrill of early flight and the courage of the pilots. Based on true-life experience, de Exupery pioneered the first regular postal routes in South America and the Sahara in the 1920's.

Sarmiento, Domingo (1970). Life in the Argentine Republic in the days of the Tyrants: or, Civilization and Barbarism

Durrell, Gerald (1975). Whispering Land

Auto Mapa MAP. Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego

A detailed physical relief map (1:1,000,000) of Tierra del Fuego. On the reverse is a smaller-scale map of the lower part of South America from just below Buenos Aires to Cape Horn. Imported.

Darwin, Charles (1989). Voyage of the Beagle

The wide-eyed tale of a young man on a five year voyage that changed his life - and our way of thinking about the world. It is still essential reading: evocative, insightful and of more than historical interest. His descriptions of Tierra del Fuego, Patagonia and the Chilean fjords are an excellent introduction to the region.



Lindenmeyer, Clem (1992). Trekking in the Patagonian Andes

This convenient guide features trail maps and route descriptions of walks throughout Patagonia, including long sections on Torres del Paine in Chile and Glacier National Park in Argentina. With detailed practical information, color photography, 27 maps and good background on preparing for your trek.

Ackerman, Diane (1992). The Moon by Whalelight

In a series of astute and delightfully readable essays, journalist Ackerman introduces us to whales, bats, alligators, penguins, and the people who study them. Her chapter on Roger Payne and his work on the right whales of Peninsula Valdez combines anecdote, observation and solid natural history.

"A mind that is stretched by a new
experience can never go back to its
old dimensions."

-Oliver Wendell Holmes