

# DESTINATION INFORMATION ARGENTINA

## What You Need to Know Before You Go

### PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

In order to enter Argentina as a citizen of the United States, you will need:

A signed passport valid for 6 months beyond the completion of this trip and proof that you have paid the Argentine Reciprocity Fee. Make sure your passport has enough blank pages (excluding amendment pages) available for entry and exit stamps.

Prior to arrival in Argentina at any entry point, US citizen tourist and business travelers must pay a \$160 reciprocity fee by credit card online at [www.migraciones.gov.ar](http://www.migraciones.gov.ar).

To pay your reciprocity fee you need to register on line, provide personal information and a credit card number. Once paid, you must print out the receipt and present it to the Argentine immigration officer at the time of entry even when returning to Argentina from half-day, full day or overnight stays in neighboring countries. The fee is valid for ten years from the date of payment and multiple entries. If you have travelled to Argentina since 2009 and have an existing 10-year "fee-paid" sticker in your passport you do not have to pay the fee again. Fees and procedures are subject to change.

Note for visitors to Iguassu Falls:

If your itinerary includes a visit to Iguassu Falls, you must obtain a tourist visa in advance for Brazil if you intend to cross the border on a day-trip from the Argentine side to view the Brazilian side of the Falls. The Brazilian visa cannot be obtained at the border and authorities will refuse entry to anyone not holding a valid visa.

If you are not a citizen of the United States, your entry requirements may vary. Please consult the nearest diplomatic or consular office of the country or countries you will be visiting.

### CONSULAR INFORMATION

The US Department of State provides Country Specific Information Sheets for every country in the world, as well as Travel Alerts and Warnings. Find this information by calling 888 407 4747 or 202 501 4444 or online at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov).

### CURRENCY

Argentina's unit of currency is the Argentine Peso.

Exchange currency only at authorized outlets such as exchange kiosks, banks and hotels and exchange only what you think you will need during your trip. Do not to convert currency through unofficial, "black market" vendors. Converting your money back upon departure may be difficult. Coins cannot be exchanged. Save your exchange receipts; you may need these to reconvert local currency.

Major credit cards are generally accepted in urban areas although some merchants in may add a surcharge. Overseas merchants and vendors are increasingly requiring cardholders to enter their

personal identification number (PIN) instead of signing a receipt for sale transactions. Be careful to shield your PIN from view while punching in the numbers on a keypad and never verbally disclose your PIN information.

ATM access (with payout in Pesos) is available in urban areas. If using an ATM, do so during business hours at a location inside a bank, supermarket, or large commercial building. At present, US dollars are accepted by many tourist-oriented businesses and shops and restaurants offer favorable prices to those willing to pay in cash (rather than a credit card). US dollars also bring a higher rate of exchange.

## HEALTH

It is a good idea to read up on any health issues or concerns related to your destination. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers current health information; it can be reached at 800-232-4636 or online at [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel).

### Required vaccination(s)

Argentina, as well as the rest of South America, requires no vaccinations.

We suggest that you see a healthcare provider at least 4-6 weeks before your departure to allow time for any vaccinations or treatments to take effect.

If your journey includes travel in the High Andes regions of Chile and Argentina or the Altiplano or Atacama Desert regions of Chile, you may experience altitude sickness. Please consult your healthcare provider for suggestions on prevention and treatment.

## WEATHER

Argentina is a long country stretching over 2,000 miles north to south and the climate in each country varies by region and altitude. Here, the seasons are reversed from the northern hemisphere and winter occurs during the months of June through August.

Most of Argentina (except for the sub-tropical northern regions and sub-polar southern regions) enjoys a temperate climate with hot, humid summers and cool, dry winters. Tropical regions experience high temperatures and rainfall year-round. The mountainous regions feature an arid climate and Patagonia is cold and windy. Tierra de Fuego's weather is generally cold and rainy with summer temperatures rarely climbing beyond the 60s.

## ELECTRICAL SERVICE

Argentina - 220 volts and 50 hertz

Voltage converters and adapter plugs may be found at your local electronic store or on here on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

## WHAT TO PACK

Daytime attire: Pack comfortable, casual clothing in natural, breathable fabrics. Temperatures will change as altitudes and time of day change, so it's best to bring shorts as well as long trousers, and clothing you can layer.

Evening attire: Somewhat smarter clothing is appropriate for evening dining in city restaurants. In Buenos Aires especially, residents are very fashion conscious and it is customary to dress for dinner. Formal clothing is not necessary.

If visiting mountainous regions or exploring Patagonia, pack a lightweight parka or windproof jacket (preferably water resistant) and windproof slacks, made of fabric such as Gor-Tex®. Winds can be fierce; you may opt to bring earmuffs and gloves to wear. (Hat, gloves, and scarf are necessary for winter travel.)

Comfortable, walking shoes with low or no heels

Lightweight, waterproof and well broken-in hiking boots that provide ankle support for trekking related activities in Patagonia, Chilean Lake District and desert regions as well as Amazon rainforest regions.

Sweater or lightweight jacket Lightweight raincoat or poncho Swimming suit  
Sunglasses, sun block and a sunhat Mosquito repellent

Lightweight binoculars (optional) Simple first-aid kit

Prescriptions and medications (We recommend you carry these in their original bottles and/or packaging.)

Charging cables for electronics  
Voltage converter and adapter plugs  
Optional items if visiting Patagonia: waterproof daypack, collapsible walking stick, small flashlight  
Note: Laundry service is available at your hotels.

## What You Need to Know When You Arrive

### TIME ZONES

Argentina operates on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) –3 hours. At 9:00 a.m. in Argentina, it is:

EST	7:00 a.m. the same day
CST	6:00 a.m. the same day
MST	5:00 a.m. the same day
PST	4:00 a.m. the same day

### LANGUAGE

The official language in Argentina is Spanish, although you will almost always find English speaking service in hotels and other tourist destinations.

Please consult with your guide on translations, if needed.

### AIRPORT INFORMATION

At most international airports, passengers cannot be met inside secured areas. This includes Immigration, Customs halls and Baggage Claim. Your Escape Artist representative will greet you upon exiting customs.

## PROTECTIONS AND PRECAUTIONS

Use the safes where available in your accommodations to secure your valuables, especially passports, medications, jewelry, money and electronics. If you must carry valuables, keep them on your person at all times. Be mindful of your surroundings and take extra caution in crowds.

Photocopy the personal information pages of your passport; leave one copy with a family member or friend and pack another separately from the passport itself. You may want to scan and email a copy to yourself for easy, online access. This will help speed up the replacement process.

## ETIQUETTE AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Unless you are shooting a crowded public scene, it is considered courteous to ask permission before taking pictures of local people, especially small children. Please be respectful of local people who do not wish to be photographed.

Photography is not permitted at some locations, which may include government buildings, museums, art galleries, private houses, etc. These areas are usually clearly marked. If in doubt, please ask.

Be sure to pack ample amounts of batteries and memory cards or film for your camera and video equipment, along with the appropriate charging cables. A dustproof case or sealable plastic bags and lens brush are also recommended.

## FOOD AND DRINK

Do not use tap water for drinking or brushing teeth. Even “purified” water in open containers should be avoided. It is always preferable and safer to use only bottled or canned water.

Regardless of precautions, changes in water and diet can result in mild abdominal upsets and nausea. To prevent serious illness, avoid suspect foods such as uncooked vegetables, peeled fruit, un-pasteurized milk and milk products. Beware of any food or drink sold by street vendors.

## SHOPPING

Escape Artist guests enjoy the chance to purchase items that reflect their destination, and so as a courtesy, your guide may recommend a particular shop or arrange a shopping visit. Please note, however, that these recommendations should not be taken as The Escape Artist’s endorsement of the shop, merchandise and/or pricing. You assume all responsibility for any transactions that take place, including shipping arrangements that are made.

The decision to shop while travelling is a personal choice and shopping is never compulsory. If at any point during your journey you feel pressured to shop or make purchases, please immediately discuss the matter with your guide/driver.

Throughout South America, prices at hotel shops and tourist shops are generally fixed; however, when shopping at the local markets, bargaining is expected.

To avoid disappointment, we suggest the following guidelines:

- Compute the exchange rate and thoroughly review credit card receipts before signing.

- Take your purchases home with you whenever possible. Airfreight can take many months and actual shipping charges can be quite excessive. Customs delays, fees and regulations can further complicate the issue.
- Duty taxes, if applicable, are paid as you re-enter the United States. Regardless of assurances by merchants, these cannot be prepaid on your behalf.
- Keep all sales receipts for items purchased throughout your trip and try to pack all items that you will need to declare together. This will ease the Customs process upon re-entry into the U.S.

Consult the U.S. Department of State for current customs and import restrictions:  
[http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips\\_1232.html#customs](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#customs).

## COMMUNICATIONS

Contact your cellular telephone provider to determine if your phone operates on the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) and what, if any, activation may be required.

If your phone is not GSM-enabled, you may find that renting a phone specifically designed for use overseas is the most practical option.

## TIPPING GUIDELINES

If you are traveling on a group or individual journey, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars):

Local Guides	\$15 per person, per day (full day)
Drivers	\$10 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	\$5 per person, per transfer
Cruise Vessels	\$10-\$15 per person, per day – Gratuities accepted on board the boat and shared among the staff.
Lodges in Patagonia/Easter Island/Atacama	\$10 per person, per day – Gratuities accepted at each property and shared among the staff.
Hotel Porters	\$2 per bag
Housekeepers	\$2 per person, per night
Room Service	10-15% unless already added
Restaurants	10-15% unless already added