



Centro Argentino de Dallas/Fort Worth

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ARGENTINA AT A GLANCE



Escudo Nacional Argentino

Comprising almost the entire southern half of South America, Argentina is the world's eighth largest country, covering an area of 2.8 million square km. Argentina possesses some of the world's tallest mountains, great pampas, expansive deserts, and impressive waterfalls, with the diversity of the land ranging from wild, remote areas in southern Patagonia to the bustling metropolis of Buenos Aires in the north.

Cuyo & the Andean Northwest

This area surrounding the Andes began as a colony of Peru, but today only a few miners and herders occupy this unforgiving region of volcanic peaks and salt lakes. Very little rain falls in Cuyo, though to the east are found the fertile river valleys and subtropical lowlands of the Gran Chaco.

Mesopotamia & the Northeast

Mesopotamia, a broad, flat plain between the Parana and Uruguay Rivers in northern Argentina, some areas are wet, swampy and hot during the summer. The northern province of

Misiones, a more mountainous region nearly enclosed by Brazil and Paraguay, is densely forested and contains a section of the majestic Iguazu Falls.



The Chaco

This parched area in the west is part of the enormous Gran Chaco, a region that Argentina shares with Bolivia, Paraguay, and Brazil. The Chaco contains both grassland and thorny forest.

The Pampas

These fertile plains are Argentina's bread-basket. They consist of the Humid Pampas along the seaboard and the Dry Pampas in the west and south. This region has world-class beaches of its surrounding area.



Patagonia and the Lake District

South of the Rio Colorado, experiences a desert climate, although temperatures range from mild to subzero and terrain varies from bucolic river valleys to the gigantic, ice-capped southern Andes. Its cool grazing grounds support enormous flocks of sheep, and numerous fruit and vegetable farms can be found in the valleys. Patagonia also holds vast reserves of oil and coal.



Tierra del Fuego

The Land of Fire is actually an archipelago including the Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego (which Argentina shares with neighbouring Chile) and numerous smaller islands. Northern Isla Grande is similar in terrain to Patagonia's plains, while the mountainous area in the south is filled with forests and glaciers. Its climate is usually mild year-round, although storms are frequent.



Bandera Argentina



ENTRE RIOS



FORMOSA



JUJUY



LA RIOJA



LA PAMPA



MENDOZA



MISIONES



Provincia de Buenos Aires



Ciudad de Buenos Aires



CATAMARCA



CHACO



CHUBUT



CORDOBA



CORRIENTES



NEUQUEN



RIO NEGRO



SALTA



SAN JUAN



SANTA CRUZ



SANTA FE



SGO. DEL ESTERO



SAN LUIS



TIERRA DEL FUEGO



TUCUMAN

Geography / People

Location:

Southern South America, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean, between Chile and Uruguay

Geographic coordinates:

34 00 S, 64 00 W

Area:

total: 2,766,890 sq km
land: 2,736,690 sq km
water: 30,200 sq km

Area - comparative:

slightly less than three-tenths the size of the US

Land boundaries:

total: 9,861 km
border countries: Bolivia 832 km, Brazil 1,261 km, Chile 5,308 km, Paraguay 1,880 km, Uruguay 580 km

Coastline:

4,989 km

Climate:

mostly temperate; arid in southeast; subantarctic in southwest

Terrain:

rich plains of the Pampas in northern half, flat to rolling plateau of Patagonia in south, rugged Andes along western border.

Natural resources:

fertile plains of the pampas, lead, zinc, tin, copper, iron ore, manganese, petroleum, uranium

Natural hazards:

San Miguel de Tucuman and Mendoza areas in the Andes subject to earthquakes; pamperos are violent windstorms that can strike the pampas and northeast; heavy flooding

Environment - current issues:

environmental problems (urban and rural) typical of an industrializing economy such as deforestation, soil degradation, desertification, air pollution, and water pollution.

Note:

second-largest country in South

America (after Brazil); strategic location relative to sea lanes between the South Atlantic and the South Pacific Oceans (Strait of Magellan, Beagle Channel, Drake Passage); diverse geophysical landscapes range from tropical climates in the north to tundra in the far south; Cerro Aconcagua is the Western Hemisphere's tallest mountain, while Laguna del Carbon is the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere.



Population:

39,921,833 (July 2006 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 25.2% (male 5,153,164/female 4,921,625)

15-64 years: 64.1% (male 12,804,376/

female 12,798,731)

65 years and over: 10.6% (male 1,740,118/female 2,503,819) (2006 est.)

Population growth rate:

0.96% (2006 est.)

Infant mortality rate:

total: 14.73 deaths/1,000 live births.

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 76.12 years

male: 72.38 years

female: 80.05 years (2006 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

0.7% (2001 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Argentine(s)

Ethnic groups:

white (mostly Spanish and Italian) 97%, mestizo (mixed white and Amerindian ancestry), Amerindian, or other non-white groups 3%

Religions:

nominally Roman Catholic 92% (less than 20% practicing), Protestant 2%, Jewish 2%, other 4%

Languages:

Spanish (official), English, Italian, German, French

Literacy:

definition: age 15 and over can read and write

total population: 97.1%

male: 97.1%

female: 97.1%



Government / Economy

Country name:

local long form: Republica Argentina
local short form: Argentina

Government type:

republic

Capital:

Buenos Aires

Time difference: UTC-3 (2 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions:

23 provinces and 1 autonomous city*

Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires Capital Federal*, Catamarca, Chaco, Chubut, Cordoba, Corrientes, Entre Rios, Formosa, Jujuy, La Pampa, La Rioja, Mendoza, Misiones, Neuquen, Rio Negro, Salta, San Juan, San Luis, Santa Cruz, Santa Fe, Santiago del Estero, Tierra del Fuego - Antartida e Islas del Atlantico Sur, Tucuman



Independence:

9 July 1816 (from Spain)

Constitution:

1 May 1853; revised August 1994

Legal system:

mixture of US and West European legal systems; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal and compulsory

Executive branch:

President Nestor KIRCHNER (since 25 May 2003); Vice President Daniel SCIOLI (since 25 May 2003); Cabinet appointed by the president

Legislative branch:

Congreso Nacional consists of the Senate (72 seats; members are elected by direct vote; presently one-third of the members elected every two years to a six-year term) and the Chamber of Deputies (257 seats; members are elected by direct vote; one-half of the members elected every two years to a four-year term)

Judicial branch:

Corte Suprema (the nine Supreme Court judges are appointed by the president with approval by the Senate)

Diplomatic representation from the US:

Ambassador Earl Anthony WAYNE
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Flag description:

three equal horizontal bands of light blue (top), white, and light blue; centered in the white band is a radiant yellow sun with a human face known as the Sun of May

Economy - overview:

Argentina benefits from rich natural resources, a highly literate population, an export-oriented agricultural sector, and a diversified industrial base. Although one of the world's wealthiest countries 100 years ago, Argentina suffered during most of the twentieth century from recurring economic crises, persistent fiscal and current account deficits, high inflation, mounting external debt, and capital flight. Beginning in 1998, with external debt equivalent to more than 400 percent of annual exports, economic growth slowed and ultimately fell into a full-blown depression, as investors' fears grew in the wake of Russia's debt default, political discord caused by then-President Carlos MENEM's unpopular efforts to run for a constitutionally prohibited third term, and Brazil's devaluation. The government of Fernando DE LA RUA, elected President in late 1999, tried several measures to cut the fiscal deficit and instill confidence and received

large IMF credit facilities, but nothing worked to revive the economy. Depositors began withdrawing money from the banks in late 2001, and the government responded with strict limits on withdrawals. When street protests turned deadly, DE LA RUA was forced to resign in December 2001. Interim President Adolfo Rodriguez SAA declared a default, the largest in history, on Argentina's foreign debt, but he stepped down only a few days later when he failed to garner political support from the country's governors. Eduardo DUHALDE became President in January 2002 and announced an end to the peso's decade-long 1-to-1 peg to the US dollar. When the peso depreciated and inflation rose, DUHALDE's government froze utility tariffs indefinitely, curtailed creditors' rights, and imposed high taxes on exports. The economy rebounded strongly from the crisis, inflation started falling, and DUHALDE called for special elections. Nestor KIRCHNER was elected President, taking office in May 2003, and continued the restrictions imposed by DUHALDE. With the reemergence of double-digit inflation in 2005, the KIRCHNER administration pressured businesses into a series of agreements to hold down prices. The government also restructured its defaulted debt in 2005, convincing most bondholders to accept a large cut on the value of their holdings, and paid off its IMF obligations from reserves in full in early 2006, both of which have reduced Argentina's external debt burden. Real GDP has continued growing strongly, averaging 9 percent during the period 2003-2006, bolstering government revenues and keeping the fiscal accounts-a key vulnerability in the past-in surplus.

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Tourism

Buenos Aires

As such, is the center of the financial activity, as well as the most important cultural center in Argentina and the site where the Federal Government resides. People living here are known as 'porteños' for the importance The Port acquired in the development of both the City and the Country. Although immigrants populated the City over many decades, Buenos Aires developed its own identity reflected in icons such as Tango and its slang, 'lunfardo'. Three million people each day witness the relentless pace of a City that never sleeps.



Misiones

Offers 500,000 hectares of protected land, two international reservoirs and world class lodging and infrastructure for the convenience of those planning to visit the falls. Two thousand varieties of plants, 400 bird species, over 100 different species of mammals and more than 300 falls of water make Misiones a highly desirable destination. Only 1050 kms from Buenos Aires, the range of activities one can enjoy is impressive, from birdwatching to finding animal trails to admiring archids blossoms in the top of the highest trees.



Rio Negro

From 'mineral' tourism to warm water beaches, Rio Negro offers visitors an outstanding range of possibilities, not to mention having some of the most developed towns and cities in Patagonia, like Bariloche. There is even 'agrotourism' in its valley region, a northern-middle area known as "Alto valle de Rio Negro", where 9 small towns constitute the heart of Argentina's horticultural industry (pears and apples leading the list). The western region, with Nahuel Huapi National Park and Puelo Lake as main attractions, is a well-known destination around the world.



Cordoba

Four hundred years ago, the action of Religious Orders was vast in Cordoba. Both Jesuits and later Fransiscans left a great number of testimonies to their action. Numerous religious buildings and many of the architecture that can be seen in the City are living proof of their action. To the south of Cordoba City, Calamuchita Valley offers a strange mix of natural beauty and the local customs of immigrant with European descent. The northern part of Cordoba has been developed with the visitor in mind, for it has plenty of Cultural activity all year round.



Cuyo

A superb combination of soil, weather and water has enabled some of the best wines to be produced here. That same combination has made possible the development of a great number of outdoor activities all year round. Rafting, kayaking, skiing, overlanding, windsurfing, cave exploration are some examples. Mendoza is where many ski centers operate through the winter season.



Tierra del Fuego

Ushuaia, Capital of the State, is the southernmost City in the world. From the "end of the world" train (Tierra del Fuego Line) visitors are presented with breathtaking views of snow covered mountains, rivers and lakes and a vast natural forest at the Andes ridge. Two distinctive landscapes constitute this State (the Andes run from east to west as opposed to south-north in the rest of South America), the northern part called estepa patagonica and the southern region with its typical mountain geography. The island was discovered in 1520 by conquistador Hernando de Magallanes while he was looking for a path that would connect the Atlantic with the Pacific Ocean

