



BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Factsheet 2024

CULTURAL ASPECTS

EUROPEAN MELTING POT

During the 19th century, Argentina experienced a high rate of European immigration, specifically from Italy and Spain, which is prominently reflected in modern-day culture. The people, the food, and the architecture are all influenced by this wave of immigration.

SOCIAL CULTURE

Argentines are known for being friendly and for spending lots of time socializing. It is very common for friends to sit for long hours in the late afternoon during **merienda** (tea time), chatting over coffee or **mate** (a local loose-leaf tea). On the weekends, friends and family will often gather for **asados** or Argentine barbecues.

GREETINGS

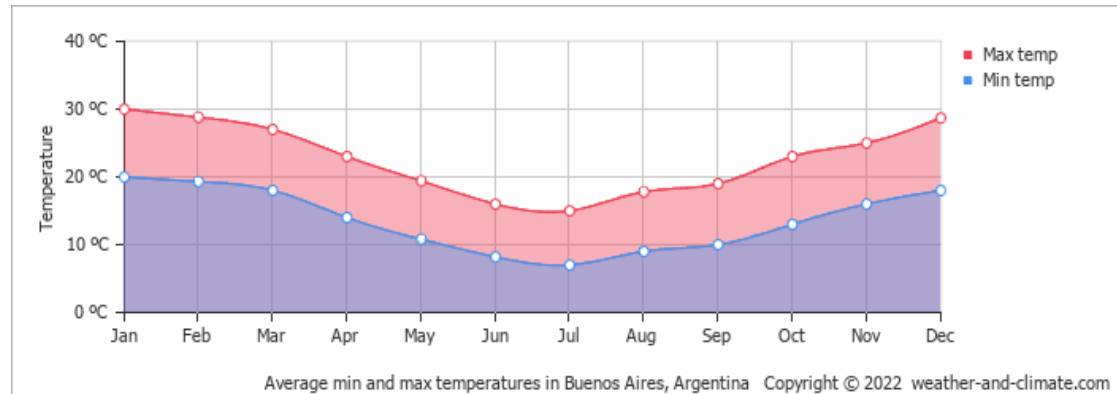
Argentines tend to be affectionate between friends, family members, partners, and even people they just meet. It is customary to exchange a kiss on the right cheek when greeting others, so don't be alarmed if your new Argentine friends greet you this way.

ARRIVING LATE IS OKAY

It is customary for Argentines to arrive a bit late to social gatherings. For those who are used to an organized, on-the-go lifestyle, it may take some time to adapt to the more relaxed Argentine way of life.

CLIMATE

Argentina is located in the southern hemisphere, so winter is June – September while summer is December – March. Students should keep these seasons in mind when planning their trips. In the city of Buenos Aires, there are a few weeks in the winter when students will need a winter coat and a scarf but usually never hats and gloves (minimum temperature rarely gets below 5 degrees Celsius). On the other hand, it can get very hot and humid in the summer, so pack accordingly. Listed below are the average high and low temperatures during the year:



LANGUAGE

Upon first arriving in Argentina, foreigners often notice the strong porteño accent that is common in the city of Buenos Aires. Here people use the “vos” form instead of the “tú” form for informal conversations and the Spanish double L is pronounced like “sh” instead of the “y” heard in other Latin American countries.

LOCAL TERMS TO KNOW

- **Porteño** – a person from the port (the city of Buenos Aires)
- **Asado** – a typical Argentine barbecue
- **Mate** – an herbal, loose leaf tea drank from a gourd and a metal straw
- **Tango** – the national dance
- **Colectivo** – a public bus
- **Subte** – the subway (metro)
- **SUBE** – the public transportation card needed to ride both the subway and bus
- **Cajero Automático** – ATM (Cash Machine)
- **Che** – an informal way to address another person

Things to See and Do in Buenos Aires

5 Sights to See:

- The Obelisco and 9 de Julio Avenue (the widest avenue in the world)
- Casa Rosada and Plaza de Mayo
- Puerto Madero
- Recoleta Cemetery
- The street of Caminito in the neighborhood of La Boca

5 Things To Do:

- Explore Palermo on a city [Ecobici](#) for a small fee or take a guided bike tour around the city with [BA Bikes](#)
- Drink coffee at the historic [Cafe Tortoni](#)
- Explore the fashion boutiques and restaurants of Palermo
- Drink mate in the park with facturas (pastries)
- Browse the antique market in San Telmo on Sundays

5 Cultural Activities:

- See a ballet or opera at [Teatro Colón](#) (or just do a [tour](#))
- Head to the [Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires](#)
- Take a guided tour of the [Evita Museum](#)
- Enjoy the drums at [La Bomba de Tiempo](#)
- Take a [graffiti tour](#) and uncover the city's street art scene

5 Nights Out:

- Eat steak at a famous restaurant like [Don Julio](#) or [La Cabrera](#)
- Sip cocktails at Palermo's best night spots like [Uptown](#)
- Dance until dawn at a nightclubs like [Kika](#) or [Crobar](#)
- Watch and dance tango at a traditional milonga like [La Catedral](#)
- Eat pizza standing up at the famous [Pizzería Guerrín](#)

5 Sports Activities:

- Watch a game of polo at a [Hipodromo](#) in November/December
- Watch a professional football game at a bar like [Locos X El Fútbol](#)
- Go canoeing in Tigre river delta
- Play fútbol with locals with [BAFA](#)

5 Sights Outside of Buenos Aires:

- Take the train to Tigre and take a boat tour through the river delta
- Head to an estancia, or ranch, in San Antonio de Areco
- Take the ferry to Colonia, a charming and picturesque town in Uruguay
- Head to Iguazu Falls, one of the great natural wonders of the world
- Visit the Mendoza wine region to try some of the world's best wine

Holidays and Festivals

Argentina celebrates a diverse range of annual festivals throughout the year. They range from traditional to contemporary and no matter when you plan your trip, there is always something going on. Here are just a few of the bigger ones:

MONTH	FESTIVALS
January	Folklore Music Festival
February/March	Carnival; Buenos Aires Tango Festival
April	International Independent Film Festival
May	Día de la Virgen de Luján
June	ArteBA (Contemporary Art Festival)
July	Rural Exposition
August	Fiesta Nacional de la Nieve; Tango World Festival
September	Festival Nacional del Esquí (National Ski Week)
October	Oktoberfest; International Jazz Festival
November	Gay Pride; Argentine Polo Open; The Buenos Aires Marathon
December	Festival of Chamamé

Other Useful Information

SAFETY

Buenos Aires is one of the safest large cities in Latin America. Nonetheless, students should practice street smarts to avoid any potential problems. Expanish conducts a safety orientation on the first day of classes to help keep students safe and healthy during their program. Here are some quick safety tips:

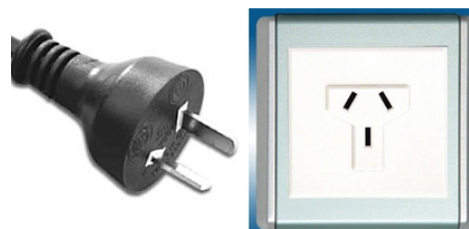
- Use a money belt for important documents and large amounts of cash.
- Carry a photocopy of the passport at all times while leaving the original in a safe place.
- Keep safe on the streets by avoiding the use of cellphones, wearing flashy jewelry, or leaving large, expensive cameras hanging around your neck.
- Keep your bags and purses on you at all times, even when sitting down at a restaurant or bar.
- **Solo Female Travelers:** Buenos Aires is safe for women traveling alone, but students should be aware that it is common for men to whistle and comment on their looks when passing by.

ELECTRICITY

You can buy a transformer and/or electrical adaptor at most travel stores, but these items can also be found in any hardware store in Buenos Aires and are inexpensive.

Voltage: 220v

Argentina has two types of plugs – the European plug with two circular metal pins and the Australian-style plug with two flat angled blades and one vertical grounding blade.



TIPPING

Tipping is expected in restaurants and cafes. The standard is a 10% tip. Some restaurants also charge a **cubierto**, which is an additional table fee that is charged per person. A cubierto is not the tip. **Note:** Taxis are not customarily given a tip.

STUDENT BUDGET

We understand that making a budget is an important step when planning your client's trip. In general, we recommend students budget about **US\$800 per month** for long-term housing, food, cell phone data, a gym membership, public transportation, and going out. Here is an example budget of one month for a long-term student in Buenos Aires using the blue rate (see explanation below):

BUDGET ITEM	MONTHLY COST
LONG-TERM BEDROOM RENTAL	US\$400
GROCERIES	US\$200
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	US\$3
CELL PHONE PLAN	US\$15
GYM MEMBERSHIP	US\$30
FUN (GOING OUT)	US\$150
Total	US\$798

Amounts are always estimated as students on a budget can get by for much less and others going out to eat every night would spend more.

BLUE EXCHANGE RATE

There are currently two exchange rates in Argentina - the official rate and the "blue" rate. To make your money go further, we recommend that students access the "blue" exchange rate, which they can get by exchanging cash (USD or EUR and bringing large bills) or using money transfer services like Western Union. If you use your credit/debit card or get money out of an ATM, your bank will use the official rate. Find out more about the blue rate on the Expanish blog [HERE](#). Please note that this blue rate may be temporary and be less extreme during 2023.

INTERNET

Wi-Fi is available for free almost anywhere in the city. Expanish has free Wi-Fi, our housing has guaranteed free Wi-Fi, most restaurants have free Wi-Fi and now public spaces do as well (parks, subway and bus stops, etc.).

CELL PHONES

Expanish recommends that students bring an unlocked cell phone with them and just purchase a local SIM card for their phone. This costs around US\$5 and data for a cell phone costs about US\$0.50 per day.

POSTAL SERVICES

If students would like to receive mail while abroad, please provide any friends and family with our Expanish office address. All mail can be sent to:

Attn: Student Name
c/o Expanish
Federico Lacroze 2315
CABA C1426CPI
Argentina

Please be advised that most larger packages will be held at customs or at the international mail office (Correo Internacional) where it can be time-consuming to obtain and may incur import taxes. Expanish only recommends receiving letters and postcards.

TRANSPORTATION

The public transportation in Buenos Aires is fantastic. Public buses run 24/7 and students can get anywhere in the city. There is also a subway system that runs 5 am to 11 pm and comes every 5 minutes or so. To use any public transportation, students will need a SUBE card, a rechargeable card that one swipes for both bus, trains and subway. Public transportation is paid for by the ride (no weekly or monthly passes) and is about US\$0.30 per ride.

SUBE CARD SHORTAGE

Please note that there is a shortage of public transport tickets (SUBE) in Buenos Aires at the moment. You can find out where to acquire them [here](#). We suggest our students look upon arrival at the Ezeiza airport SUBE ticket office; however it is not guaranteed that any ticket offices will be able to provide. This shortage may be resolved during 2023.

SHOPPING

Retail stores are typically open:

- Monday to Friday - 9 am to 5 or 8 pm
- Saturday - 10 am to 6 pm
- Sunday – Most stores are closed

Larger grocery stores are open 7 days per week as well as cafes and restaurants

VISAS AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For detailed visa requirements, please re-confirm information with your local Argentine embassy/consulate as they will be able to provide accurate and up-to-date visa information. Students are responsible for their own legal status while studying.

All students should enter Argentina on a tourist visa, which lasts for 90 days in most cases. Expanish cannot sponsor a student visa as the Argentine government does not recognize language institutes in this manner. Students can stay in Argentina for up to 180 days by extending their initial tourist visa for a second period of 90 days. Alternatively, they can leave and re-enter the country and their visa will automatically be renewed. A weekend or day trip to Colonia, Uruguay is a popular option for students for this reason. Visa information can be found on the Argentine Immigration website [HERE](#).