



Argentina

Destination Guide

ARRIVING IN ARGENTINA

- 1) After deplaning, enter the Immigration line. Present your passport and answer any questions from the officer.
- 2) Claim your checked bags and proceed through customs.
- 3) Check your travel documents for instructions for transportation to your hotel.

ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS

U.S. passport holders do not need a visa for tourism visits of up to 90 days. A valid U.S. passport is required. You need at least 1 blank page in your passport for entry and exit stamps.

Travel health insurance covering your stay is strongly recommended.

DURING YOUR STAY

TIPPING

Tipping is customary and appreciated. At sit-down restaurants, 10% is the standard for good service and is not included on the bill. Round up café or bar bills or leave small change. Tip drivers by rounding up the fare. Tip porters the equivalent of a couple of dollars per bag. Cash tips in Argentine pesos are preferred.

TIME ZONE

Argentina Time (ART), UTC-3, year-round. Argentina does not currently observe daylight saving time.

CURRENCY

Argentina uses the Argentine Peso (ARS, \$). Obtain pesos from bank ATMs or authorized exchange offices. Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted in cities. Carry some cash for markets, small vendors, taxis, and tips. Be aware that exchange rates can fluctuate; use official channels and decline currency conversion when paying by card.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity in Argentina is 220V AC (50Hz). Outlets are Type C (two round pins) and Type I (two angled flat pins, sometimes with a grounding pin). Electronics from the U.S. require a plug adapter. Most modern chargers are dual-voltage, but hair tools often need a voltage converter.

PHONE CALLS

The country code for Argentina is +54. If calling from your mobile phone, enter +54 followed by the area code and local number (drop any leading 0). Mobile phone numbers often include a 9 after the country code.

DRIVING

Argentines drive on the right. A valid U.S. license plus an International Driving Permit (IDP) is strongly recommended and often expected by rental desks and police. Blood-alcohol limits are low and strictly enforced. Carry your passport, license, IDP, rental agreement, and insurance.

COMMUNICATION

Spanish is the official language. English is spoken in major tourist areas, hotels, and some restaurants in Buenos Aires and other cities, but less widely elsewhere.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

General Emergencies / Police: 911

Ambulance: 107 | Fire: 100

Police (alternative): 101

U.S. Embassy Buenos Aires: +54 11 5777-4533

TRAVEL TIPS

Tourists can be targets for pickpocketing in crowded areas, markets, and on public transport in major cities. Keep a close eye on wallets, phones, and bags. Use hotel safes and avoid displaying expensive jewelry or electronics.

Argentina spans a wide range of climates. Buenos Aires and the north can be hot and humid in summer (December–February), while Patagonia is cooler and can be windy year-round. Pack layers, sun protection, and appropriate clothing for your specific destinations.

Many restaurants add a “cubierto” (cover charge) separate from the tip. Check your bill carefully.

Enjoy Argentine coffee culture and the famous asado (barbecue). Tango is a highlight in Buenos Aires—consider a show or milonga.

Old-town and city streets can be uneven. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

RETURNING TO THE U.S.

1) You may be given immigration forms to fill out during your flight. Keep a pen, your passports, travel documents, and receipts from anything you purchased during your trip near your seat. (Some airports no longer collect paper forms. They offer automated kiosks to collect immigration and customs information.)

2) After deplaning, follow the signs for immigration and enter the appropriate line. Have your passport and completed forms in hand, and answer any questions from the officer.

3) Go to the luggage carousel and claim all your checked bags.

4) Take your belongings through customs. You may be asked questions about what you are bringing back into the country and your bags may be searched. For connecting flights or to reach the final airport exit, you may need to pass your checked luggage back to the airline. This is usually done at a counter nearby, but some airports require you to go to the front of the airport and re-check bags.

Be mindful of liquids. You may need to move liquid into your checked luggage.