

SOUTH AMERICA · MOUNTAINS · HIKING · WINE · FOOD · CITY BREAKS · WILDLIFE



Argentina

Perito Moreno Glacier calves house-sized chunks of ice into turquoise water, Iguazú's 275 waterfalls thunder through subtropical forest, and Buenos Aires keeps its tango halls full well past midnight. Patagonia and the north run on opposite calendars, so choose your season with your route in mind.

 Before you go, read the UK government's travel advice for Argentina and entry requirements (visas, passport validity). Last updated by FCDO 7 May 2026.

 CAPITAL Buenos Aires	 CURRENCY Argentine peso (ARS) £1 ≈ ARS 2,038	 LANGUAGE Spanish	 BEST TIME Mar–Apr, Oct–Nov
 DAILY BUDGET £50–£250 ££ Moderate	 PLUGS Type C, I 220V · adapter needed	 FLIGHT FROM LONDON 14h direct ~£850–£1,500 return	 TIME ZONE UTC-3 standard time

Argentina is the world's eighth-largest country, stretching some 3,700 km from the subtropical north to Tierra del Fuego, so a first trip is really a choice of corners linked by flights. Most start with a few days in Buenos Aires, then fly south to El Calafate for Perito Moreno and on to El Chaltén for the Fitz Roy trails. Iguazú Falls in the far north-east is the other near-essential. With more time, add the red-rock gorges and colonial towns around Salta and Jujuy, the vineyards beneath the Andes at Mendoza, or the whales and penguins of Península Valdés on the Atlantic coast.

Argentina runs late: dinner rarely starts before 9pm, and Buenos Aires milongas get going around midnight. Long-distance buses with fully reclining cama seats make overnight hops comfortable, but the distances still eat days, so most visitors mix buses with domestic flights. Prices have swung sharply in recent years and Argentina is no longer the bargain it once was; Patagonia in particular is expensive, while the north-west stays cheaper. It suits hikers, wine lovers and committed carnivores, and surprises people with how European Buenos Aires feels, how empty the Patagonian steppe is and how seriously everyone takes their mate.

Top 5 highlights

1

NATURE

Perito Moreno Glacier

A wall of ice about 5 km wide and some 70 m high that pushes across Lago Argentino and sheds chunks with gunshot cracks. Watch from the walkways, take a boat to the face, or book a guided mini-trek on the ice itself.

2

NATURE

Iguazú Falls

Around 275 cascades spread along a near-3 km horseshoe on the Brazilian border. The Argentine side gets you closest, with catwalks to the roaring Garganta del Diablo; allow a full day, plus half a day for Brazil's panoramic side.

3

ADVENTURE

Fitz Roy treks from El Chaltén

Argentina's self-styled trekking capital sits beneath the granite spire of Cerro Fitz Roy. Well-marked day hikes lead to Laguna de los Tres and Laguna Torre for the classic dawn views, and the trails are walkable without a guide.

4

NATURE

Quebrada de Humahuaca

A UNESCO-listed valley in Jujuy where mountains striped red, ochre and green frame adobe villages such as Purmamarca, Tilcara and Humahuaca. Pre-Inca ruins, llama stews and Andean carnival give it a feel quite unlike the rest of the country.

5

FOOD

Mendoza wine country

Argentina makes most of its wine around Mendoza, where malbec vineyards in Luján de Cuyo and the high Uco Valley sit beneath snowy Andean peaks. Tour Maipú's bodegas by bicycle or book a long winery lunch.

Biggest cities

LARGEST CITY

Buenos Aires

≈ 15.5 million people

Grand boulevards, café culture and barrio-hopping between San Telmo's Sunday market, La Boca's painted houses and Palermo's parrillas. Give it at least three days, and see a tango show or, better, a milonga.

2ND LARGEST CITY

Córdoba

≈ 1.6 million people

Argentina's student city has a UNESCO-listed Jesuit Block and a lively bar scene, and makes a handy base for the Sierras de Córdoba and the Jesuit estancias outside town.

3RD LARGEST CITY

Rosario

≈ 1.4 million people

A riverside city on the Paraná with grand early 20th-century architecture, the National Flag Memorial and Lionel Messi's childhood streets; worth a night en route north rather than a special trip.

Ranked by urban-area population where available. Figures are rounded estimates, and sources define city limits differently, so rankings of similar-sized cities can vary.

When to go to Argentina

Best time: **Mar-Apr, Oct-Nov.**

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

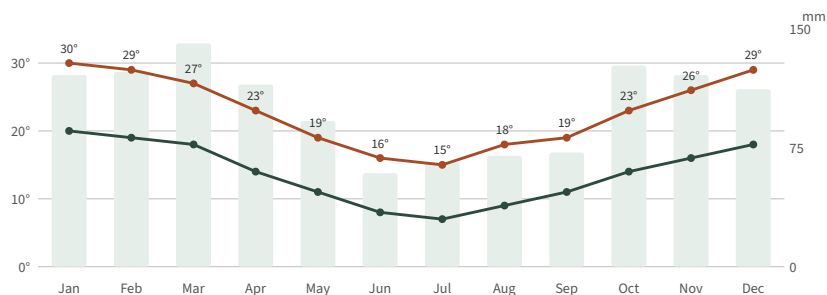
Nov

Dec

■ Best ■ Good ■ Mixed ■ Poor

Average climate in Buenos Aires

— High °C — Low °C ■ Rain (mm)



Festivals & events

Jan–Feb	Carnaval del País, Gualeguaychú Argentina's biggest carnival runs on Saturday nights through January and February in a purpose-built corsódromo in Entre Ríos, with feathered comparsas in Brazilian style.
Mar	Fiesta Nacional de la Vendimia Mendoza's grape-harvest festival peaks in early March with a parade of floats through the city and a night-time spectacle in the Frank Romero Day amphitheatre, where a harvest queen is crowned.
Aug	Tango BA Festival y Mundial Buenos Aires' city-run tango festival and world championship fill August with free classes, concerts and milongas, culminating in the stage and salon tango finals.

How much does Argentina cost?

SHOESTRING £50 per person / day ≈ ARS 101,883 hostels, street food, buses	MID-RANGE £115 per person / day ≈ ARS 234,331 3-star hotels, restaurants, some taxis	COMFORTABLE £250 per person / day ≈ ARS 509,414 4-star+, guided trips, private transfers
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Estimates per person per day, excluding flights. Prices vary by season and city.

Food to try

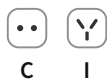
Asado Beef ribs, chorizo, morcilla and sweetbreads slow-grilled over wood embers and served with chimichurri; a Sunday family asado is close to a national ritual.	Empanadas Baked or fried pastry parcels, best in the north-west, where Salta and Tucumán argue over whose hand-cut beef filling is better.	Locro A thick Andean stew of maize, beans, squash and pork or beef, traditionally eaten on the 25 May and 9 July national holidays.
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Getting around

Distances are huge, so most visitors fly: Aerolíneas Argentinas, Flybondi and JetSMART link Buenos Aires with El Calafate, Bariloche, Salta, Mendoza and Iguazú. Long-distance buses are comfortable, with semi-cama and cama seats on overnight runs, and can be booked online. Hire a car for the Salta–Cafayate loop or Ruta 40. In Buenos Aires, use the Subte and city buses with a rechargeable SUBE card; Uber and Cabify both operate.

Practical information

PLUGS & VOLTAGE



220V — bring a UK-to-C/I adapter

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance: **107**

Fire: **100**

Police: **911** or **101**

To contact the emergency line (**911**) in Buenos Aires from outside Argentina call: **+54 11 4309 9600**, extensions **261099** or **261098**

(only accessible in Argentina).: Tourist Police ('Comisaría del Turista'): **+54 911 5050 9260** (24 hours)

Tourist Police WhatsApp: **+54 911 5050 9260**

Source: FCDO "Getting help"

DIALLING CODE

+54

TAP WATER

Generally safe to drink

TIPPING

Leave about 10% in cash at restaurants, as tips often can't be added to card payments; the cubierto (cover charge) on the bill is not a tip.

ETIQUETTE

Friends and even new acquaintances greet with a single kiss on the right cheek. If offered mate, drink it all and hand it back; saying 'gracias' signals you have had enough.

MAIN AIRPORTS

Ministro Pistarini International Airport (Ezeiza) (EZE), Buenos Aires; Aeroparque Jorge Newbery (AEP), Buenos Aires; Ingeniero Ambrosio Taravella International Airport (COR), Córdoba

TIME ZONE

UTC-3 (standard time)

DRIVING

On the right

Visas & entry for Argentina

Shown for a British passport.

No visa needed

You can visit Argentina without a visa for tourism for up to 90 days.

To stay longer, or to work or study, you must meet the Argentine government's entry requirements. Contact the Argentine Consulate in the UK.

From the UK government's FCDO entry requirements for British passport holders — read the full page for passport validity, permits and exceptions.

Health & vaccinations



See a travel health nurse, GP or travel clinic **6–8 weeks before you go**. Make sure routine UK vaccinations (such as MMR and diphtheria-tetanus-polio) are up to date.

RECOMMENDED FOR MOST TRAVELLERS

- Hepatitis A
- Tetanus

SOMETIMES ADVISED — DEPENDS ON YOUR TRIP, ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH

- Chikungunya
- Dengue
- Rabies
- Typhoid
- Yellow fever

YELLOW FEVER CERTIFICATE

No yellow fever certificate is required to enter. There is a risk of yellow fever in parts of the country — vaccination may be advised.

MALARIA

No malaria risk

Source: TravelHealthPro (National Travel Health Network and Centre), checked 21 October 2026. This is a summary, not medical advice.

Public holidays in Argentina

The next 12 months. Banks, offices and some sights may close, and transport and hotels get busy around these dates.

Mon 9 Nov 2026	Visit of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV
Mon 23 Nov 2026	National Sovereignty Day
Mon 7 Dec 2026	Bridge Public Holiday
Tue 8 Dec 2026	Immaculate Conception
Fri 25 Dec 2026	Christmas Day
Fri 1 Jan 2027	New Year's Day
Mon 8 Feb 2027	Carnival Monday
Tue 9 Feb 2027	Carnival Tuesday
Wed 24 Mar 2027	National Day of Remembrance for Truth and Justice
Thu 25 Mar 2027	Maundy Thursday
Fri 26 Mar 2027	Good Friday
Fri 2 Apr 2027	Veteran's Day and the Fallen in the Malvinas War
Sat 1 May 2027	Labour Day
Tue 25 May 2027	May Revolution Day
Sun 20 Jun 2027	Pass to the Immortality of General Don Manuel Belgrano
Mon 21 Jun 2027	Pass to the Immortality of General Don Martín Miguel de Güemes
Fri 9 Jul 2027	Independence Day
Mon 16 Aug 2027	Pass to the Immortality of General Don José de San Martín
Mon 11 Oct 2027	Respect for Cultural Diversity Day

National holidays only. Dates based on lunar calendars can move by a day or two depending on official announcements.

Useful phrases in Spanish

ENGLISH	SPANISH	SAY IT
Hello	Hola	OH-lah
Thank you	Gracias	GRAH-see-ahs

ENGLISH	SPANISH	SAY IT
Please	Por favor	<i>por fah-VOR</i>
Excuse me	Disculpe	<i>dees-KOOL-peh</i>
How much is this?	¿Cuánto cuesta?	<i>KWAN-toh KWES-tah</i>

Know before you go

Foreign cards work widely, but Argentine ATMs charge steep fees per withdrawal and have low limits, so carry some pesos for tips, taxis and small shops.

The Falklands (Malvinas) remain an emotive subject. British visitors are warmly received, but avoid raising it, and don't be surprised by 'Las Malvinas son argentinas' signs.

Patagonia's trekking season runs roughly November to March, and many El Chaltén businesses close in winter; book January flights south early, as that is Argentina's summer holiday peak.

Visa, health and safety rules change. Before you book or travel, check the FCDO travel advice (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and TravelHealthPro (travelhealthpro.org.uk). Costs are estimates. © 2026 Pick My Trip.