

ARGENTINA

FLAG



FACTS AND STATISTICS

- Location: South America, borders with Bolivia 832 km, Brazil 1,224 km, Chile 5,150 km, Paraguay 1,880 km, Uruguay 579 km
- Capital: Buenos Aires
- Climate: mostly temperate; arid in southeast; sub-antarctic in southwest
- Population: 45,195,774 (2020)
- Ethnic Make-up: White (mostly Spanish and Italian) 97%, Mestizo, Amerindian, or other non-white groups 3%
- Government: Presidential Representative Democratic Republic



LANGUAGE IN ARGENTINA

Although Argentina's official language is Spanish, Argentinian Spanish is different from the Spanish spoken in Spain. The vast majority of Argentina speak Spanish as either their first or second language. Where Argentinians speak a second language, they are more likely to speak Italian, German, English or French.

- In some ways, it sounds more like Italian than Spanish.
- There are also many other languages spoken in Argentina, including Italian, German, English and French.
- There are 35 known indigenous languages in Argentina, but only 13 of these are officially listed. These languages include Tehuelche, Guarani, Chorote, Pilaga, Wichi, Quechua, Nivacle, Toba, Mbya and Mapuche. Many of these indigenous languages are spoken in specific regions or areas of Argentina.

ARGENTINIAN SOCIETY & CULTURE

Spain colonized Argentina 400 years ago and it was not until 1816 that the country won its independence. Argentina is a mix of people of principally Spanish and Italian descent, coupled with a small number of the population who are direct descendants of one of the many indigenous groups.

Europeans or Latin Americans?

- Most Argentines are primarily of European descent, which separates them from other Latin American countries where European and Native cultures are more mixed.
- Culturally and emotionally, Argentines often seem more European than Latin American.

Argentinian Family Values

- The family is the center of Argentine life with extended families still having prominence.
- The heads of powerful families command widespread respect, but with this comes a responsibility to care for others in terms of security, jobs, etc, and to maintain personal and family honor.

Religion in Argentina

- The Argentine constitution guarantees religious freedom.
- Roman Catholicism acts as the official state religion.
- Other world religions, notably Islam, are gaining a foothold within the country during the last ten to fifteen years.

Expressive Communication Style

- Argentines are on the whole open, blunt, and direct.
- Argentines are a warm people and their undeservedness brings to the fore their passion and sentimentality.
- In addition, they are close communicators physically so will often touch each other when speaking and maintain little physical distance between speakers.

ETIQUETTE AND MANNERS IN ARGENTINA

Meeting Etiquette

- Argentines give one or two kisses on the cheek. Handshakes are not the norm.
- Maintaining eye contact indicates interest.
- In general, Argentines prefer third-party introductions, so you should wait for your host or hostess to introduce you to others at a small gathering.
- When leaving, say good-bye to each person individually.

Gift Giving Etiquette

- If invited to dinner at an Argentine's home bring a small gift for the hostess, such as something to share like a drink or dessert.
- Do not give knives or scissors as they indicate a desire to sever the relationship.
- Gifts are opened immediately.

Dining Etiquette

- If you are invited to an Argentine home:
- Dress for the occasion. Usually, this means to dress well. Students can likely look to their host family or friends for help. Jeans and a t-shirt, sweats or yoga pants won't cut it. Be sure to ask your host family what is appropriate for the gathering.
- Arriving on time is not the norm.
- Telephone your hosts the following day to thank them.

Watch your Table Manners!

- Wait for the host or hostess to tell you where to sit. There may be a seating plan.
- Table manners are Continental - hold the fork in the left hand and the knife in the right while eating.
- Do not begin eating until your hosts invite you to do so.
- Always keep your hands visible when eating, but do not rest your elbows on the table.
- Wait for a toast to be made before taking the first sip of your drink.
- When you have finished eating, place your knife and fork across your plate with the prongs facing down and the handles facing to the right. This is nice but is not expected of you.