



ABOUT ARGENTINA

The vast Argentine territory has a diversity of landscapes, where ice fields contrast with arid zones; mountains with valleys or plateaus; fluvial streams and lakes with large oceans, broad grassy plains with woods and forests.

Capital: Buenos Aires
Language: Spanish
Estimated Population: 40.000.000 hab.
Currency: Peso (\$)
Area: 3.761.274 Km2
Political System: Republicano, Representativo y Federal

How to...
You can check the exact distance between cities in the Argentine Republic (expressed in kilometers); the National Direction of Roads and Highways offers this service from its web site.
www.vialidad.gov.ar

Origin of the name Argentina
The word Argentina comes from the Latin Argentum, that means "silver".
[More information in argentina.gov.ar](http://argentina.gov.ar)

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HISTORICAL SUMMARY

History of the Formation of the Argentine State

Hispanic Period

The Territory of the Río de la Plata, comprised partially or totally, by the area where today are the Provinces of Buenos Aires, Entre Ríos, Corrientes, Santa Fe, Chaco, Formosa, Misiones and the current republics of Paraguay and Uruguay, had a secondary role in the colonising process during the 16th. and 17th. centuries. Fostered by a later economic growth, these lands turned to have a strategic value that moved the Spanish Crown to create the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata in 1776. During that period, commonly called Hispanic Period, power organisation was rudimentary and with no clear distinction of competence. In Spain, as well as in America, the power institutions performed executive, legislative and jurisdictional functions, with no distinction between each other.

Revolutionary Period

In May 1810, due to the success of the Napoleonic invasion in Spain, Buenos Aires called for an Open Cabildo, to agree on appropriate actions targeted at the solution of the expiration of the Viceroy's government and the transference of sovereignty rights to the people; and as an immediate consequence, the establishment of a new government.

Between 1810 and 1816 different regimes and authorities took power, which lead to the appointment of the First Junta (a collegiate type government, regulated mainly by two documents: the Ruling of May 25 – sanctioned by the Cabildo– and the Ruling of May 28 – sanctioned by the Junta itself). According to the Ruling of May 25 the deputies from the interior were incorporated to the Junta, which in turned constituted the Big Junta, the institution that later established the Provincial Juntas and decreed the creation of a Triumvirate. Subsequently, the Provisional Statute of the Superior Government of the United Provinces of the Río de la Plata and the decrees on press freedom and individual security were sanctioned. In October 1812, the Second Triumvirate called for a General Constitutional Assembly, conformed the following year, which was the first congress of our history that took on the representation of the United Provinces of the Río de la Plata sovereignty.

Although the Assembly of 1813, as a representative body, did not comply with its fundamental objective of sanctioning a constitution, it developed a vast legislative activity pro individual freedom and constituted the opening into new institutional modes. From the point of view of the political organization, it established a Unipersonal Executive Power, creating the position of Supreme Director of the United Provinces of the Río de la Plata. It instituted May 25 as a patriotic date, established the Coat of Arms and the Anthem and ordered to mint an own coin, actions through which it demonstrated its will to create a sovereign state.

Finally, in 1816, the General Constitutional Congress held in Tucumán declared the independence of the United Provinces and sanctioned the Provisional States

The Escarapela

Among several versions, there is one that asserts that the white and light blue colours were first adopted by the Patricios, the first urban military body of the Río de la Plata, during the British invasions (1806–1807). Afterwards the Escarapela became popular among native people. It is also said that the Argentine Escarapela was first used by a group of ladies in Buenos Aires in an interview with Colonel Cornelio Saavedra, chief of the Patricios Regiment, on May 19, 1810. For more information you can check the cultural Events of the Ministry of Education.

www.me.gov.ar/efeme/18demayo

The National Flag

Created by Manuel Belgrano on February 27, 1812 and adopted as such by law on July 25, 1816. The Argentine Flag is the reflection of the patriotic sky, as one can contemplate on calm days: a light blue sky colour with no clouds, with the sun of freedom shining in the middle of it. You can know more about it at the Belgranian National Institute.

www.manuelbelgrano.gov.ar

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tute of 1816, the Provisional Ruling of 1817 and the Constitution of the United Provinces of South America. As a consequence of the defeat at Cepeda battle in 1820, the General Congress was dissolved and the Cabildo of Buenos Aires retook the universal government of that city and its provincial territory and at the same time appointed an interim governor, what lead to the extinction of the national government. As of that moment, the provinces, still strongly autonomous, kept being integrating a kind of shapeless structure, strengthened by a series of inter-provincial agreements (the Benegas Treaty and the Quadri-lateral Treaty). In December 1826, a new Constitutional Congress sanctioned the Constitution of the Argentine Republic , that was rejected, in the general aspects, due to the disagreements with respect to its content. In 1831 the Federal Agreement between Santa Fe, Buenos Aires and Entre Ríos was signed, to which afterwards the other provinces adhered and where the existence of the Argentine State was acknowledged as a republic, conformed by the provinces integrated into a federation.

National Organisation Period

After Caseros battle, that brought about the resignation of Juan Manuel de Rosas as governor of Buenos Aires, the provinces of Buenos Aires, Santa Fe, Corrientes and Entre Ríos signed the Palermo Protocol. Afterwards, the San Nicolás Agreement, signed in presence of the majority of the provincial governors, ratified the character of fundamental law of the Federal Agreement. Shortly afterwards, in 1852, it was decided to call for a General Constitutional Congress, with the goal of dictating a constitution for the Confederation. The constitution was promulgated by Justo José de Urquiza on May 25, 1853; the Republic was pledged allegiance to it on July 9, with the exception of Buenos Aires, which would integrate the Confederation in 1860, after Cepeda battle and the signature of the San José de Flores Agreement of the previous year. Immediately after, the Constitution was amended, thus conforming the union of the whole country. This amendment stressed the federal form of government of the republic while at the same time, from the ideological point of view, it kept the scheme of the National Constitution of 1853.

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Argentina: Crucible of Races

The first inhabitants of the present Argentine territory were indigenous peoples, who, congregated in tribes, developed their respective cultures at different extents. In the XVI Century the arrival of the Spanish conquerors brought their own customs and values, thus generating a cultural convergence of everlasting dimensions, not without pain in some cases and cooperation in others. From the population point of view such convergence gave place to the mix of white and indigenous peoples, to which later, in a lesser degree, the addition of black people brought from Africa or Brazil as slaves, particularly in the area of the Río de La Plata, was added. South American Indigenous people and mixed race people have thus shaped the conformation of the local ("criolla") population. In the second half of the XIX Century and the first half of the XX Century, an important flow of immigrants predominantly of European origin took place, what constitutes another fundamental pillar at the time of defining the essence of "what is Argentinean", as the product of a true "crucible of races".

INDIGENOUS POPULATION

The first tribes of Asian hunters arrived in America through the Strait of Bering approximately 30,000 years ago, while their arrival in the present Argentine territory is considered the result of internal migrations that took place around 18,000 years ago.

The indigenous communities developed different styles of life related mainly to the geographical region:

The pampas, querandíes, tehuelches, yamanas and onas were hunters and wild fruit gatherers.

The omaguacas, tilcaras, diaguitas, huarpes, comechingones and sanavirones were farmers.

These populations settled basically in two regions:

Mountains: the oldest testimonies at present are the traces of population groups that go back to 8,000 years ago in Ayamapatin (Province of Córdoba) and Inti Huasi (Province of San Luis). There are also traces of other antique culture of populations that worked with stone and ceramics in Tafi (Province of Tucumán).

The civilization of La Aguada (territory comprised by the Provinces of San Juan, La Rioja and Catamarca) is more recent, which development dates back to the years 800 to 650 where their inhabitants cultivated corn and worked with bronze.

Plains: there are traces of a population group in Tandil (Province de Buenos Aires), of approximately 6,000 years ago, which inhabitants worked on stone and ceramics.

In the Littoral, similar traces account for the so-called Culture of the High Paraná, of the same period.

The southern area and the Tierra del Fuego channels are considered the place where the first people arrived at around 6,000 years ago, who lived in semi-

Indigenous People

Indigenous Communities
The Province of Salta provides broad information on:

- Pre-Columbian civilizations.
- Hunters and fruit gatherers.
- Food producers.
- Geopolitical and religious organization of the Incan territory.
- The Incas of the El Toro Valley.
- Colonising currents.
- The Indian christianisation.
- Evangelisation.
- Aboriginal communities in the Province of Salta.
- American beverages and other related topics.

www.portaldesalta.gov.a

Statistical Information

About Indigenous Populations
The National 2001 Population, Households and Houses Census of the Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos – INDEC (National Institute of Statistics and Census) incorporated a question aimed at detecting homes where at least one person acknowledges being a descendant of or belonging to an indigenous population. This instrument was the first stage of a thorough methodological proposal which second stage is to carry out the Supplementary Survey on Indigenous Populations .

www.indec.gov.ar

How to...

report a discrimination situation?

Please call: 0800-999-2345.
The National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism (INADI) is the body responsible for handling these reports nationwide, advising and giving information on the proceedings, keeping a national record of reports, collecting information and issuing the final reports.

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underground circular huts. They hunted, fished and used boats and harpoons to catch marine mammals and molluscs.

Many of these communities left traces such as ruins of cities, pieces of ceramics, handcrafts made of stone or fantastic paintings on rocks.

In the different regions of our country, such as the Norwest, Littoral and Patagonia there are traditions still alive, beauty handcraft (knitting, ceramics, basketry), festivities and rites that help us go deeper into our roots.

Chaco Region

This region was inhabited by the following aboriginal communities: abipones, mbayaes, payaguaes, mocovíes, tobas, pilagaes, maticos/wichis and chiriguanos.

Guaycurúes: it is the name given to the group of people of patagónido origin that inhabited the immense land of Chaco, divided into:

abipones, mbayaes, payaguaes, mocovíes, tobas and pilagáes. From these groups only the mocovíes, the tobas and the pilagáes survive in Chaco and Formosa.

They basically were wild fruit gatherers and hunters when it was not the fishing season.

Maticos/Wichis: were called "maticos" by the Spanish colonisers. They are of patagónido race with andean and brasíldo influence.

Their economy was basically based on fruit gathering and fishing. They lived in hemispheric dome huts made of branches and straw with no doors. They ate meat, generally barbecued, dried fish, algarroba fruit and beans.

The great vice they had was tobacco that they smoked in pipes made of wood or baked mud.

Chiriguanos: they arrived in the Salta–Chaco region by mid 1500, sharing the same territory with the former Andean populations and adopted that existing culture that was stronger and more sophisticated.

Their economic organisation was mainly based on agriculture. They cultivated corn, beans, pumpkins, manioc, sorghum, melon and some fruit.

La Pampa Region

At the beginning the old Pampas moved all across this region. They were composed by the Querandíes and the Taluhet who inhabited the humid steppe and the Diuihet who lived on the dry steppe.

Querandíes:

Upon the foundation of the city of Buenos Aires the Spanish colonisers had to deal with these indigenous populations. They occupied an area from the south of Santa Fe, at the north, up to the bottom of Sierras Grandes, at the west, and all the area of the north of the province of Buenos Aires up to the Salado river at the south.

They were robust, dark skinned, and they lived organised in groups that obeyed chiefs and "caciques". They were nomad hunters and fishers that travelled

Juan Bautista Ambrosetti Ethnographic Museum

Facultad de Filosofía y Letras
– UBA.

Moreno 350.

(C1091AAH) Ciudad Autónoma
de Buenos Aires.

Phone: (54–11) 4331–7788.

E–mail: etnogra@mail.retina.ar

www.museoetnografico.filo.uba.ar

Related Public Organizations

National Institute of Indigenous Affairs (INAI)

San Martín 451, Entre Piso.
(1004) Ciudad Autónoma de
Buenos Aires.

Phones: (54–11) 4348–
8235/46/38.

E–mail: indigena@medioambiente.gov.ar.

National Institute of Anthropology and Latin–American Thinking (INAPL)

3 de Febrero 1378.

(1426) Ciudad Autónoma de
Buenos Aires.

Phone/fax (54 –11) 4782–
7251 / 4783–6554.

E–mail: postmast@bibapl.edu.ar

www.inapl.gov.ar

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when the hunting season was favourable. They developed special weapons as the "boleadoras". Their basic diet consisted of fish, huemul (Andean deer), roots, fruit and lobster. The primitive Pampas' shelter was a typical leather covering that remained being used in the subsequent centuries.

In the 16th. Century the Mapuches, of trans-Andean origin, initiated their movement towards the Argentine Patagonia and steadily started to transmit their culture to the local tribes that since that situation changed their language and beliefs.

Towards the end of the 19th. Century, the region was only inhabited by Araucan origin populations. The Araucanisation was a process derived from the Spanish pressure over the Chilean indians who had been expelled from the other side of the Cordillera.

Littoral and Mesopotamia Region

This region was inhabited by the Charrúas and Guaraníes.

Kaingang (men of the forest): This group of people was the one the colonisers found when they arrived in the Mesopotamia. Shortly after, it disappeared as an ethnic entity, being absorbed by the Charrúas and the Guaraníes. Their economic organization was based on wild fruit gathering, hunting and fishing. They lived in shelters made of braided vegetal fibres that were knitted to form a saddle-roof hut, with no walls. The groups of this type of constructions formed populations that were governed by a "cacique".

Guaraníes (warriors): They lived in villages, in the open areas of the forest and constituted a true tribal unit for being economically independent from each other, and thus self-sufficient. The general custom was monogamy. The relationships were not very stable and separation was common. They were basically farmers, families had an exclusive lot of land in the community plantations and every wife had a personal area for cultivation. They were deeply religious and with a high degree of spirituality. The "Shamán" or "Page" had supernatural powers and a director role- he was the conductor of his population over all the community actions.

The North-Western Region

There were five aboriginal cultures in this region: Diaguitas, Omaguacas (Humahuacas), Atacamas, Chiriguanos and Lule-Vilelas.

Diaguito-Calchaquí Culture: it is the most representative of the old aboriginal inhabitants of North-western Argentina and conforms the most complex and numerous population. This group is integrated by three different groups that are known as:

Pulares, in Salta Vallley;

Calchaquíes, in Calchaquí and Yocavil valleys -Salta- in Tucumán and Catamarca; and Diaguitas in La Rioja.

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Their components were of Andean race and they shared a common language called "caca" or "cacán".

It was a population of sedentary farmers, who developed artificial irrigation by means of channels and cultivation tracks for their main products: corn, pumpkin and beans. They bred "llama" (a mammal with softly woolly hair, closely related to lamoids) from which they used their wool for knitting and to carry burdens. They also picked fruit such as those from carob and "chañar", that were stored in big amounts.

They had a strong hierarchical structure, probably hereditary, with chiefs that could control many communities. The monogamous family was the vital core of the community, being the chiefs or "caciques" the only polygamous.

They adored the sun, thunder and lightening. They celebrated rituals for lands fertility and funerals were elaborated as an expression of the cult for the dead, as a crucial transit in their culture life cycle.

Their art, many times oriented to religious matters, is the most elaborated in our aborigine cultures; not only in ceramics but in metallurgy, as well.

The Patagonia Region

Different indigenous races inhabited the Patagonia thousands of years before the Spanish colonisation arrived. Nowadays there only remain funerary storage rooms, caverns, paintings on stones and places where they used to work.

Patagones of the North (Patagonia plateau)

This area was inhabited by two indigenous groups, very different from one another. The Tehuelches and the Mapuches.

The Tehuelches inhabited the area from the Colorado river to the Magallanes channels, divided into various groups, on a land of strong winds and very cold winters with scarce water what did not allow them to cultivate the land. They were nomad, and hunted guanacos and ostriches. They spoke the ken group language, they were robust, and they had a narrow head and elongated face.

Patagones of the South (Tierra del Fuego)

Onas: They lived in Tierra del Fuego. They belong also to the Tehuelches group. They were very good at guanaco hunting that was the base of their economy. They had no chiefs or "caciques", but only an elite integrated by the "chamanes", wise people and prophets that had privileges and social recognition.

Yámanas and Alcaluf: They lived along the coasts and isles of Tierra del Fuego channels. These peoples were similar both, for their physical characteristics and their cultural aspects but different in the linguistic aspect. They lived in huts made of branches that had an excavation in the centre and fed from sea products – mollusc, mussel, crayfish, fish – and fished marine animals. They wore seal or nutria skin cloak.

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Central Hills and Cuyo Region

The Comechingones, the Sanavirones, the Puelches and the Pehuenches lived in the region comprised by the central hills and Cuyo.

Comechingones: they lived in the mountain chain shared by the provinces of Córdoba and San Luis. They formed small independent groups, governed by “caciques” (chiefs).

They were one of the aborigine populations with most pictographic richness and left paintings and engravings in the interior of innumerable caverns.

Sanavirones: they lived in huge houses harbouring many families, built with vegetables and arranged in small groups circled by thistle and other thorny and prickly vegetation used for protection. They were farmers and also gathered wild fruit, fished and hunted.

Pehuenches: they lived in the south of Mendoza and the Andean region of Neuquén. Their basic food was the pine kernel from which they extracted flour to bake bread and to prepare an alcoholic beverage similar to the “chicha”, once fermented.

Puelches: they lived in the northern area of Mendoza. In Araucanian language the word means “people from the east”. Their principal diet was based on the “algarroba” and for that they were called “algarroberos”.

Puelches and Pehuenches: they were guanaco and ostrich hunters and seeds pickers. After the arrival of the Spanish colonisation they started to eat horses, as well.

They lived in shelters made of animal leather tightened with branches located near the woods to have fruit at hand. They wore clothes made of leather with feathers, copper or silver rings and they painted their faces, arms and legs. Each type of dressing had a meaning: mourning, war or peace.

THE FIRST COLONISERS

The territory that today conforms the Argentine Republic was discovered, explored and colonised by the Spanish Crown but not all the regions were discovered by colonisers that arrived directly from Spain. Argentina was in the extreme portion of the territory on which the conquest moved forward, and for this reason the colonisation was carried out by people who were coming from other colonies.

The First Colonisers

After the arrival of Christopher Columbus in America in 1492, other expeditions took place. One of those was the expedition by Américo Vespucio in 1502, that was the first contact of Spaniards with what would later turn into the Argentine territory, at that time populated by different indigenous groups, mostly nomadic.

Later, in 1516, in a vain attempt to find a connection between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans, Juan Díaz de Solís arrived at the Río de la Plata. This con-

Population Planning

Urban planning in the big cities was arranged based on communication and internal transport infrastructure, following demographic rules that resulted in the growth of communities quite homogeneous from the political, racial and religious points of view. Hispanic populations gathered in the northern and north-western areas of the territory, in conjunction with the Jesuitical and Franciscan missions. Contemporaneously, some indigenous groups were tempted by most of the colonisation activities. This assimilation was reflected in the social aspect giving origin to the local mestizo (people of mixed European and indigenous non-European ancestry). Nevertheless, other more warlike and autonomous people fought for their independence, implemented what was called the malón, raids conducted by Indian tribes, practice that extended for a long time until the Conquest of the Desert. It is worth mentioning that in the first century of Spanish domination, indigenous population went down by 25%.

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queror was killed on these lands by the indigenous peoples. He was succeeded by Sebastián Gaboto, who arrived heading a new expedition sent by the Charles I, the Spanish King, and in 1527 he made the first foundation: the fort Sancti Spiritu.

In 1534, thanks to an agreement signed jointly with the King, the conquest was transferred to Pedro de Mendoza, who two years later funded the city of Nuestra Señora del Buen Ayre, by the Río de la Plata. After Mendoza's death in Spain and the dismantlement of such population by the indigenous harassment, the centre of the Spanish conquest on these lands moved to Asunción del Paraguay in 1541.

The Spanish Crown, mainly mobilized by the eagerness to find precious metals, preferred to settle in Lima rather than on the South American east, that had virgin lands and nomadic tribes only. For this reason the Viceroyship of Perú got gradually stronger, always under the shadow of the Inca Empire.

The second and definitive foundation of Buenos Aires took place in 1580 by the last conqueror, Juan de Garay, who in turn colonised a great portion of the Argentine territory. In 1617, the government was divided into two districts: Buenos Aires and Asunción. As of that moment successive governors took office and the missionary activity became stronger. Due to the increase of the rivalry between Spain and Portugal with respect to the dominance of the American territory, the Viceroyship of Río de la Plata was created in 1776, as a way to re-affirm the Spanish Crown's possessions. Upon consolidation of the port of Buenos Aires, the British craving for these lands became manifest, which coupled with the decay of the Spanish Crown in itself, would encourage the two British invasions of 1806 and 1807. Nevertheless, British attempts to conquest the territory failed due to the strong resistance by local people.

Population Currents

Since the 16th. Century until 1810 there were three population currents on the Argentine territory, namely:

Eastern Population current: it came directly from Spain, arriving through the Río de la Plata and Paraná rivers. It founded the cities of Buenos Aires, Asunción del Paraguay, Santa Fe, Corrientes and Paraná.

Northern Population Current : it descended from Perú and came across the Humahuaca Plateau founding the cities of: Santiago del Estero, San Miguel de Tucumán, Córdoba, Salta, San Fernando del Valle de Catamarca, La Rioja and San Salvador de Jujuy. It was characterized by an urban and cultural development with population settlements accompanied by an economic growth.

Western Population Current : it arrived from Chile and founded the cities of Mendoza, San Juan and San Luis. In 1700 there were around 2,500 Europeans in the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata. By 1810 there were scarcely 6,000, over a total population of 700,000 inhabitants in the present national territory.

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European Immigration (1880 – 1914)

Immigration was one of the main factors that gave place to the transition from traditional Argentina to modern Argentina. And without it, it is not possible to understand contemporary Argentina. There has been no other period where the proportion of adult foreigners was so significant; for more than seventy years, 60% of the population of the Capital city and almost 30% of the population of the provinces of Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Santa Fe were immigrants. The “Europisation” of Argentina and the modification of the national character, so yearned for by the 80’s generation, were translated into an open immigration policy.

Immigration Stages

Until 1880, agriculture, cattle raising and transport were fostered through population policies to later carry out our country industrialisation. Within that heterogeneous immigration current, almost half was coming from Italy, mainly the south, and a third from Spain.

The second stage started after 1880. At that time skilled labour was demanded for a massive agricultural production, but only a few immigrants could be landlords. In view of the unsuccessful plan to allocate land under an ownership mode, immigrants chose to be renters or agricultural labourers, and looked for urban centres to live in. For this reason the population policies implemented failed. As immigrants were mostly males, they sought for rural jobs, what favoured the development of an agricultural economy that allowed the country to turn into the main wheat exporter in the world, while until 1870 Argentina had to import it.

Social Structure

As a consequence of the immigration process, Argentine social structure turned to be more complex and at the same time changed the political culture due to the increase in popular strata and middle class sectors. Though the amount of industrialists and traders increased, the high class did not give place to immigrants and kept their wealth and prestige for themselves (based on “seniority and ancestors”) as well as the political and economic power associated with land ownership.

At that time, class structure was divided into four segments. The first one was represented by the the high or aristocratic class , which, until 1914, represented one per cent of the population. Second one was the upper middle class , that, though prosperous, had little social prestige. The lower middle class had neither economic strength nor social power but had some possibility to improve. Finally, the low class, that represented two thirds of total population, was at the pyramid’s base.

Immigrants Museum

Find out how the first immigrants arrived and what their first activities in our country were. Visit the Immigrants Museum Hotel of the National Immigration Office.

www.migraciones.gov.ar

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The Argentinean type suffered many changes. The dominant class was composed by cattle breeders, agriculturists, traders, lawyers and politicians. The middle classes bonded with immigrants through their participation in the economic field and in the modernising culturisation process. The lower classes, spread all across Argentina, kept the country duality. To govern modern Argentina it was necessary to integrate immigrants without putting at risk the national integrity.

Between 1902 and 1910, big changes took place in the social structure what brought about strong cracks in the political system. The I World War in Europe encouraged the income of immigrants who sought for new places for their well-being. The 1914 war not only did interrupt the immigration flow but also called their compatriots what resulted in a negative immigration balance in the 1914–1918 period. Nevertheless, Argentina was able to keep the offspring of the first immigrants, inclined to social promotion as well as political participation. Most of them, who had obtained college degrees, engaged in the activity of anarchist unionists, generating the struggle that characterised the country at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Urban population duplicated. And it was the middle class the most developed strata thanks to the contribution of foreigners; in it, the independent sectors grew (employees, officers, technicians). At the same time, in the urban centres there was a pronounced social ascent that favoured the integration of the all strata in the social order of that time.

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PATRIOTIC SYMBOLS

The National Flag

Created by Manuel Belgrano on February 27, 1812 and adopted as such by law on July 25, 1816. The Argentine Flag is the reflection of the patriotic sky, as one can contemplate on calm days: a light blue sky colour with no clouds, with the sun of freedom shining in the middle of it. You can know more about it at the Belgranian National Institute.

www.manuelbelgrano.gov.ar

The Argentine National Anthem

It was approved by the National Assembly on May 11, 1813. The text was composed by Vicente López y Planes and the music by Blas Parera. It was first sang in Mariquita Sánchez de Thompson's house. In 1890, during the Presidency of Julio Argentino Roca, it was decreed that in official festivities schools would only sing the first and last quartet and the chorus; with the purpose of keeping an harmonious co-existence with the Spaniards residing in Argentina and with Spain. If you want more information about the National Anthem, please check the cultural Events of the Ministry of Education.

www.me.gov.ar/efeme/diahimno

The Escarpela

Among several versions, there is one that asserts that the white and light blue colours were first adopted by the Patricios, the first urban military body of the Río de la Plata, during the British invasions (1806–1807). Afterwards the Escarpela became popular among native people. It is also said that the Argentine Escarpela was first used by a group of ladies in Buenos Aires in an interview with Colonel Cornelio Saavedra, chief of the Patricios Regiment, on May 19, 1810. For more information you can check the cultural Events of the Ministry of Education.

www.me.gov.ar/efeme/18demayo

National Anthem

Oíd, mortales, el grito sagrado:
"¡libertad, libertad, libertad!"
Oíd el ruido de rotas cadenas,
ved en trono a la noble igualdad.

Ya su trono dignísimo abrieron
las Provincias Unidas del Sud
y los libres del mundo responden:
"Al gran pueblo argentino, ¡salud!"
Al gran pueblo argentino, ¡salud!"
Y los libres del mundo responden:
"Al gran pueblo argentino, ¡salud!"

Estribillo

Sean eternos los laureles
que supimos conseguir,
que supimos conseguir.
Coronados de gloria vivamos...
¡o juremos con gloria morir!,
¡o juremos con gloria morir!,
¡o juremos con gloria morir!

El Grito Sagrado

Some patriotic songs by Argentine singers. To listen to or download them, contact the Government of the City of Buenos Aires.

www.buenosaires.gov.a

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PATRIOTIC SYMBOLS

Quechua Language

Quechua is part of the quechumara (quechua + aimara) family spoken from the south of Colombia to the centre of Chile, passing through Ecuador, Perú, Bolivia and Northeastern Argentina. It includes around twenty dialects (at least three in Argentina) that are mutually understandable for its clear and simple grammar. In the Province of Santiago del Estero, a dialect of strong personality and rather different from other varieties of Perú and Bolivia is spoken. For some linguists, it is a non pre-Hispanic language that came in with the yanaconas indians brought by the Spaniards from Perú, while other researchers assert the opposite. Apart from the Santiago del Estero case, others are reported in La Rioja and Catamarca, spoken in rural areas until the beginning of the 20th century. The variety of the Calchaquies Valleys, Salta and Jujuy Valley, still kept in some places should be added to those two.

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LANGUAGE

The Spanish Language

Spanish is the official language in the Argentine Republic. It was brought by the Spanish conquerors; it underwent changes from its coexistence with the native aboriginal peoples that enriched it, especially in its lexical aspects. The successive immigration waves that took place in the course of the 19th. century and the beginning of the 20th. century also contributed to the Argentineans language. The dialectic differences in the territory, far from making communication difficult, enrich it, thus contributing to consider language as a “simplex” language, that is to say, such language which varieties are intelligible between each other. The Spanish language in Buenos Aires adopts lunfardo forms, a slang of Buenos Aires City.

Other Languages Spoken in Our Country

Araucanian Language

The Araucans constituted an important Amerindian population nucleus of the Araucanian linguistic family. They lived in the central and meridian areas of Chile and the center and west of Argentina. In the Quechuan language they were called auca and in Araucan language: mapuche, that means people of the land. They speak chilidengu or mapudungun, which in turn have many dialects. The main araucanian surviving populations are the picunches, mapuches, hui-lliches and cuncos. With the course of time, the words araucano and mapuche have turned synonyms and their language is also named in this indistinct way. At present they live in communities in the southern area of South America, in the pampa and patagonia areas, struggling against snow and cold weather and claiming the ownership of their lands since historical times. In Argentina there are about two hundred thousand mapuches who, organized in over one hundred communities, keep their language and traditions alive.

Guaraní Language

When speaking about guaraní o tupí-guaraní, it is referred to the Amerindian population that was settled in the area of eastern and north-eastern Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil and part of Bolivia. Some historians locate them from the south of the Amazons river to the slopes of the Andes. Their languages were tupí and guaraní. Still today they are spoken in these regions, guaraní being the second official language in Paraguay. Since the 18th. century, a great portion of the native peoples have taken customs and traditions from the colonizers in the Jesuitical missions and after that religious order was expelled, they became integrated in various settlements. They traditionally called their language ñe'engatú (“precious language”), or abá ñe'é (“man language”). The guaraní language has given origin to many dialects as the carioca, the tupí, the cario and the caribe, among others. There are some symbols that cannot be reproduced by our Spanish alphabet.

Spanish Royal Academy

The Spanish Royal Academy, founded in 1713, at present it has as its main mission to “watch over the changes undergone by the Spanish Language so that in its constant adaptation to the needs of its speakers it does not break the essential unity kept in the overall Hispanic environment”. The Academy Dictionary of this institution has a regulatory value over the whole Spanish speaking world. Its website has a free online version of its last printed dictionary –the 22nd. issue of 2001– and current amendments.

www.rae.es

Pan Hispanic Dictionary

It acknowledges divergences between the Spanish and American rules or between rules of a certain country or region and the ones valid for the rest of the Hispanic environment. The Royal Spanish Academy provides an on-line service for this purpose.

buscon.rae.es/dpd/

Related sites

www.letras.edu.ar
www.aplunfardo.org.ar
www.oni.esuelas.edu.ar
usuarios.arnet.com.ar/yanasu

ABOUT ARGENTINA

LANGUAGE

Quechua Language

Quechua is part of the quechumara (quechua + aimara) family spoken from the south of Colombia to the centre of Chile, passing through Ecuador, Perú, Bolivia and Northeastern Argentina. It includes around twenty dialects (at least three in Argentina) that are mutually understandable for its clear and simple grammar. In the Province of Santiago del Estero, a dialect of strong personality and rather different from other varieties of Perú and Bolivia is spoken. For some linguists, it is a non pre-Hispanic language that came in with the yanaconas indians brought by the Spaniards from Perú, while other researchers assert the opposite. Apart from the Santiago del Estero case, others are reported in La Rioja and Catamarca, spoken in rural areas until the beginning of the 20th century. The variety of the Calchaquies Valleys, Salta and Jujuy Valley, still kept in some places should be added to those two.

ABOUT ARGENTINA

PATRIOTIC DATES

National Day of Memory for Truth and Justice

March 24

It was declared the National Day of Memory for Truth and Justice in remembrance of the state of siege of 1976. At the first light of that tragic day, the Armed Forces overthrew the democratically elected government of Isabel Perón, enforced a strict economic program and established an illegal systematic repression plan that led to the disappearance of around 30,000 persons.

In the site below there is a complete development of this subject prepared by the Secretariat of Means and Communications, Chief of Cabinet Office, Presidency of the Nation.

www.24demarzo.gov.ar

Veterans Day and Day of Those who Died in Malvinas War

April 2

The war between Argentina and the United Kingdom between April and June 1982 ended up in a new British occupation of Malvinas Isles territory. In 2000, the National Congress of the Argentine Republic declared April 2 the Veterans Day and the Day of Those who Died in Malvinas War, this being a national holiday.

www.me.gov.ar/efeme/2deabril

First National Government

May 25

The local people, gathered in Plaza Mayor and claiming for news about what was going on yielded: "we, the people, want to know what is going on". That day the local authority acknowledged the authority of the Revolutionary Junta and in turn the first national government was created. May Revolution was a crucial change that marked a before and an afterwards in Argentine history. It underwent a critical time during the so-called May Week, from May 18 to 25 in 1810.

www.me.gov.ar/efeme/25demayo

The Flag's Day

June 20

The Argentine flag was raised for the first time on February 27, 1812 at the banks of the Paraná river by Lieutenant General Manuel Belgrano. It is said that its creator was inspired by the colour of the sky or the Virgin's cloak when he chose its colours, but in fact, there were the light blue and white of the escarpela (already worn by that time) which finally gave the colour to the national flag. On June 20, 1816 the Congress officially declared the flag designed by Belgrano as the national symbol. In 1918 the sun was added on the white strip

How to...

know about national holidays this year?

You can check the list of national holidays for this year, provided by the Ministry of Work, Employment and Social Security. It shows the holidays that are moved to Mondays when they fall on a nonworkday or Tuesday through Fridays.

www.culto.gov.ar

National Sanmartinian Institute

This institution has the objective of developing historical research about Liberator Lieutenant General Don José de San Martín's life, personality and collection of his ideas. To spread this material, there are permanent courses and conferences on different disciplines.

Mariscal Castilla y Alejandro Aguado.

(1425) Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires.

Phone Fax: (54-11) 4801-0848 or 4802-3311.

E-mail: insadministracion@arnet.com.ar

www.sanmartiniano.gov.ar

National Belgranian Institute

Its main objective is the elevation and divulgation of General Manuel Belgrano's personality. Through numerous publications, and research and historical divulgation activities, it keeps this hero's image current and appraised.

Av. Bullrich 481.

(1425) Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires.

Phone/ Fax: (54-11) 4775-1550.

E-mail: institutonacional@manuelbelgrano.gov.ar

www.manuelbelgrano.gov.ar

Veteran's Malvinas War

For information on work rights and obligations of war veterans, please contact the Ministry of Employment and Social Security.

www.trabajo.gov.ar/unidades

ABOUT ARGENTINA

PATRIOTIC DATES

to be used in case of a war. In 1938, June 20 was declared The Flag's Day and a national holiday, in homage to its creator, who died on June 20, 1820.

Declaration of the Independence

July 9

In 1816, the Congress gathered in Tucumán decided to proclaim the Declaration of the Independence, thus declaring the formation of a new nation "free and independent from the King of Spain and any other foreign dominance".

www.me.gov.ar/efeme/9dejulio

Death of Lieutenant José de San Martín

August 17

That day in 1850 José de San Martín died in Boulogne–Sur–Mer, France. His remains were repatriated in 1880 and today rest in peace in the mausoleum built inside Buenos Aires Cathedral.

In most cities in Argentina there is a square, a street, a school or a social club with his name. Apart from the numerous monuments built in his name, his portrait is stamped on bills, coins and postal stamps.

www.me.gov.ar/efeme/17deagosto

Teacher's Day

September 11

The Inter American Conference on Education, integrated by educators from all over America, gathered in 1943, 55 years after Domingo Faustino Sarmiento's death and declared September 11 as the Teacher's Day in all the American continent.

www.me.gov.ar/efeme/sarmiento

Day of the Race

October 12

After navigating for 72 days, on October 12, 1492, sailor Rodrigo de Triana saw a piece of land in the horizon. This discovery changed the general idea about the planet and brought about something that not even Colón had imagined: the union of two worlds. This discovery allowed America to receive a major cultural input, of artistic expressions, both occidental and oriental, and also allowed Europe to perceive the cultural richness, progress, creativity and art of the New World.

www.me.gov.ar/efeme

National Historic Museum of Buenos Aires Cabildo

It is located in the building of the Cabildo which was the government house as of 1776. Declared a National Historic Monument in 1933, this building and its collections conform a unique heritage that evokes those political and historic events that forged our identity as a country: the Cabildos and their institutional functions, the conquest and defence of the city during the English invasions of 1806–1807, May Revolution and the First Junta in 1810.

Bolívar 65.

(1066) Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires.

Phones: (54–11) 4342–6729 or 4334–1782.

E-mail: cabildomuseo_nac@yahoo.com.ar

Open hours: Tuesdays through Fridays, from 10.30 am to 5 pm.

www.cultura.gov.ar/direcciones

National House of The Independence Museum

From the old house the only place kept intact was the room of the independence oath. The house was rebuilt in 1943 with some original elements from the 18th, century. Today it is the National Monument and Independence Museum. Walking across its rooms, visitors can travel along the history of these lands, from the colonial period up to the declaration of the independence.

Congreso 141.

(4000) San Miguel de Tucumán.

Phones: (54–381) 4310826 or 4221335.

E-mail: cshtc@tucbbs.com.ar
www.casaindependencia.com.ar

ABOUT ARGENTINA

RELIGION

In the Argentine Republic no religion has an official character. The Roman Catholic Apostolic Church, the most traditional and also with the largest organized body, has a juridical status different from the rest of churches in line with the National Constitution, that supports this religion (Section 2°). However, apart from Catholicism, in our country there are over 2500 officially recognized cults and religions, that co-exist harmoniously, such as Protestantism, Pentecostalism, Judaism and Islamism, among many other creeds. In Argentina there is freedom of cult and religion consecrated in the National Constitution. Religions diversity has had a long tradition that honours our country. The legions of immigrants of the most diverse origin that arrived in our country in the first half of the past century gave our land an unquestionable universalistic, humanistic and plural seal. In that sense, the National Secretariat of Cult acts as the link between the national government and each of faith organizations.

Freedom of Cult

Our National Constitution, in its 14th. Article establishes that "All inhabitants in the Nation have same rights conforming to the laws that rule their practice, namely: to run any licit industry; to sail and trade; to petition; to come in, stay, travel and go out of the territory; to publish their ideas on the press with no prior censorship; to use and dispose of their real estate; to get associated for useful purposes; to freely practice their cult or religion; to teach and to learn".

Religion Calendar

Main Popular Festivities

- Our Lady of Itatí: July 9.
- Virgen of Carmen de Cuyo: July 16.
- Pacha Mama: August 1.
- Saint Cayetano: August 7.
- Our Lady of Luján: October 1.
- San Martín de Tours: November 11.

To know about these and other popular religious festivities, please contact the Secretariat of Cult.

www.culto.gov.ar

Main Catholic Festivities

- New Year: January 1.
- The Three Wise Men: January 6.
- Easter and Sunday of Resurrection: The date varies according to the year.
- Immaculate Conception of Virgin María: December 8.
- Christmas: December 25.

How to...

know if a cult has official recognition in this country? Please contact the National Register of Cults which contains an updated listing. You can search by name or by province in the National Secretariat of Cult.

www.culto.gov.ar

To take into account

Calendar of religious festivities

Check the calendar of religious events of different religions: Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and other cults or shared by many of them provided by the National Secretariat of Cult.

www.culto.gov.ar/festividades

Amia and the Embassy of Israel

The terrorists attacks on July 18, 1994, against the headquarters of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Aid Association (AMIA) and on March 17, 1992, against the Israeli Embassy, with a terrible death toll and material loss, have meant an irreversible damage to our society.

www2.jus.gov.ar/Amia

ABOUT ARGENTINA

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

Geography

Geographic Location

The Argentine Republic is located in the South and West Hemisphere. Its relative position in South America gives the country a diversity of land and culture. From the arctic regions in the south, to the forested jungle regions in the north, from the ocean coastline on the Atlantic, to the rugged mountain regions in the west, and bordering five other countries, Argentina provides an important cultural and economic connection for all of South America.

Limits and Extreme Points

American Portion

To the North it is bounded by the Republics of Bolivia and Paraguay, which extreme point is in the confluence of the rivers Grande in the Province of San Juan and Mojinete in the Province of Jujuy (Lat. 21°46' S; Long. 66°13' W).

To the south it is bounded by the Republic of Chile and the Atlantic Ocean being the most austral point the Cabo San Pío, located in Isla Grande of Tierra del Fuego (Lat. 55°03' S; Long. 66°31' W).

To the east it is bounded by the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and the Atlantic Ocean. The extreme eastern point is located in the city of Bernardo de Irigoyen, in the Province of Misiones (Lat. 26°15' S; Long. 53°38' W).

To the West it is bounded by the Republic of Chile. The extreme point is located between Cerro Agassis and Cerro Bolados (in the Mariano Moreno mountain chain) in the Glaciers National Park – Province of Santa Cruz (Lat. 49°33' S; Long. 73°34' W).

Antarctic Portion

The Antártida Argentina is the portion of territory comprised between the 25° and 74° West Longitude meridians, at the south of 60° parallel.

General Characteristics

The vast Argentine territory has a diversity of landscapes, where ice fields contrast with arid zones; mountains with valleys or plateaus; fluvial streams and lakes with large oceans, broad grassy plains with woods and forests.

Area

The Argentine Republic area of emerged lands is of 3,761,274 sq km of which 2,791,810 sq km correspond to the American Continent and 969,464 sq km to the Antarctic Continent (including the Islas Orcadas del Sur) and the austral islands (Georgias del Sur and Sandwich del Sur).

For its area, the Argentine Republic is the fourth-largest country in America (after Canada, the United States of America and the Federative Republic of Brazil).

Worldwide, for its area it is the seventh-largest country.

External limit of the Argentina Continental Platform

Report developed by the Argentine Chancellery on the external limit and sovereignty of Argentine overseas territories. It deals with general aspects of the Convention of the United Nations on the Law of the Seas (CONVEMAR), the National Commission of the Continental Platform Exterior Limit (COPLA) and specific aspects related to the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the Argentine Antarctic region.

www.cancilleria.gov.ar

Related Public Organizations

Military Geographic Institute
Av. Cabildo 381.

(1426) Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires.

Phone: (54-11) 4576-5565.

www2.jus.gov.ar/Amia

National Weather Service
The National Weather Service provides the following information: weather forecast, radar images, ozone, peak rainfall and temperature graphs, real time or deferred satellite images.

www.smn.gov.ar

ABOUT ARGENTINA

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

Climate

Climate in Argentina

The main types of climate in Argentina are four: warm, moderate, arid and cold. The extension of the territory and the features of its relief determine the existence of varieties in each of the mentioned types.

Among the warm climates are the subtropical with no dry season, which comprises the provinces of Misiones and Corrientes, the northern area of Entre Ríos and the eastern section of the Chaco region. Its main features are high temperatures and abundant rainfall the whole year round. The tropical one has a dry season, and it comprises part of Salta, the west of Formosa and Chaco, the eastern plains of Tucumán, nearly the whole of Santiago del Estero and the NW Santa Fe. It is of similar features to the previous one, with a difference in that there is a dry season in the first half of the year. Up NW, the mountainous area that includes the sub-Andean hills, its valleys and gullies, is considered to have tropical highland climate.

The area of moderate climates includes the province of Buenos Aires, a large area of Entre Ríos, centre and south of Santa Fe, the eastern strip of Córdoba and a part to the NE of La Pampa. Among these climates it is the area of the moderate pampeano climate, featuring especially the banks of the Paraná and La Plata rivers. Along the edge bordering the subtropical climate is the moderate variety with no winter season, characterised by the lack of a definite cold period. The moderate climate, with an ocean influence, is located in the Buenos Aires Province littoral, in Mar del Plata and Necochea area, where the influence of the sea brings moderate temperature. Mild climate is found in Córdoba hills and their valleys. Finally, there is a transition belt towards the west, where the area of moderate climate derives into a region of arid climate.

The arid climates are in high plateau called La Puna, Catamarca's Andes, La Rioja and San Juan, the neighbouring pre-andean area and Patagonia extra-andean. Among their main varieties there is the arid mountain climate, in the high plateau and the Andes, from Catamarca down to Mendoza. To the east of the arid Andes there is the arid climate of the hills and fields, which roughly involves the area of the Pampas hills. The arid steppe climate stretches down to the south of the region of hills and plains; to the west it ends at the foot of the mountain chain and loses its aridity in the south of Mendoza; to the east it borders the transition belt and to the south, between 40° and 42° south parallels, the transformation of the thermal system derives into another type of climate: the patagonian cold arid climate.

Among the cold climates is the humid strip of the Patagonian Andes, characterised by a progression of rains that occur N to S – from 34° S– in this cordilleran sector. The arid-windy climate in Patagonia is characterised by its low temperatures, with scanty rainfall and, in winter, strong snow storms. The humid-austral climate includes a strip of Santa Cruz province, at the south of the previous zone, and the province of Tierra del Fuego, except for the snowy climate of the high mountains; rainfalls are heavier and there is no summer period

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WORLD HERITAGES TO HUMANITY

Ischigualasto–Talampaya Natural Parks

These two contiguous parks, extending over 275,300 ha in the desert region on the western border of the Sierra Pampeanas of central Argentina, contain the most complete continental fossil record known from the Triassic Period (245–208 million years ago). Six geological formations in the parks contain fossils of a wide range of ancestors of mammals, dinosaurs and plants revealing the evolution of vertebrates and the nature of palaeo–environments in the Triassic Period. The site contains a complete sequence of fossiliferous continental sediments representing the entire Triassic Period (45 million years) of geological history. No other place in the world has a fossil record comparable to that of Ischigualasto–Talampaya which reveals the evolution of vertebrate life and the nature of palaeoenvironments in the Triassic Period.

whc.unesco.org/en/list/966

Jesuit Block and Estancias of Córdoba

The Jesuit Block in Córdoba, heart of the former Jesuit Province of Paraguay, contains the core buildings of the Jesuit system: the university, the church and residence of the Society of Jesus, and the college. Along with the five estancias, or farming estates, they contain religious and secular buildings, which illustrate the unique religious, social, and economic experiment carried out in the world for a period of over 150 years in the 17th and 18th. The Jesuit buildings and ensembles of Córdoba and the estancias are exceptional examples of the fusion of European and indigenous values and cultures during a seminal period in South America. The religious, social, and economic experiment carried out in South America for over 150 years by the Society of Jesus produced a unique form of material expression, which is illustrated by the Jesuit buildings and ensembles of Córdoba and the estancias.

whc.unesco.org/en/list/995

Iguazú National Park

The semicircular waterfall at the heart of this site is some 80 m high and 2,700 m in diameter and is situated on a basaltic line spanning the border between Argentina and Brazil. Made up of many cascades producing vast sprays of water, it is one of the most spectacular waterfalls in the world. The surrounding subtropical rainforest has over 2,000 species of vascular plants and is home to the typical wildlife of the region: tapirs, giant anteaters, howler monkeys, ocelots, jaguars and caymans.

whc.unesco.org/en/list/303

Related Public Organizations

Secretariat of Tourism
Suipacha 1111, Piso 20.
(1368) Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires.
Phones: (54–11) 4312–5611/15.
E-mail: webmaster@turismo.gov.ar

www.turismo.gov.ar/eng

Secretariat of Culture
Av. Alvear 1690.
(1014) Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires.
Phone: (54–11) 4129–2452.
E-mail: info@correocultura.gov.ar

www.cultura.gov.ar/home/

National Parks
Av. Santa Fe 690, Planta Baja.
Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires.
Phone: (54–11) 4311–0303, extension 147.

E-mail: informes@apn.gov.ar
www.parquesnacionales.gov.ar

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WORLD HERITAGES TO HUMMANITY

Cueva de las Manos

The Cueva de las Manos, Río Pinturas, contains an exceptional assemblage of cave art, executed between 13,000 and 9,500 years ago. It takes its name (Cave of the Hands) from the stencilled outlines of human hands in the cave, but there are also many depictions of animals, such as guanacos (*Lama guanicoe*), still commonly found in the region, as well as hunting scenes. The people responsible for the paintings may have been the ancestors of the historic hunter-gatherer communities of Patagonia found by European settlers in the 19th century. The Cueva de las Manos contains an outstanding collection of prehistoric rock art which bears witness to the culture of the earliest human societies in South America.

whc.unesco.org/en/list/936

Los Glaciares National Park

Thousands of years back, a great portion of present land was covered by glaciers. With the course of time, ice eroded and gave shape to the landscape, forming rugged, towering mountains and numerous glacial lakes. At the same time it fragmented and dragged numerous rocks that built up at the glaciers front and sides forming mounds and moraines. A later climate change coupled with a temperature increase brought about a reduction in the area occupied by ice, until it reached the present state. Due to its incredible natural beauty, its glaciological and geomorphologic interest, and the animal species under extinction, the UNESCO declared this place Cultural Heritage to Humanity in 1981.

whc.unesco.org/en/list/145

Península Valdés

The Valdés Península juts out into the South Atlantic Ocean at 77 kilometers from Puerto Madryn. It is one of the few places in the world that offers the possibility of watching a huge amount of animals in their natural environment. The endangered southern right whale as well as important breeding populations of southern elephant seals and southern sea lions, orcas, penguins, marine birds and other wild fauna is concentrated in this natural reserve of 360 thousand hectares. For its outstanding faunistic population the UNESCO declared this site as a World Heritage.

whc.unesco.org/en/list/937

Quebrada de Humahuaca

Quebrada de Humahuaca follows the line of a major cultural route, the Camino Inca, along the spectacular valley of the Rio Grande, from its source in the cold high desert plateau of the High Andean lands to its confluence with the Rio Leone some 150 km to the south. The valley shows substantial evidence of its

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WORLD HERITAGES TO HUMMANITY

use as a major trade route over the past 10,000 years. It features visible traces of prehistoric hunter–gatherer communities, of the Inca Empire (15th to 16th centuries) and of the fight for independence in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Quebrada de Humahuaca valley has been used over the past 10,000 years as a crucial passage for the transport of people and ideas from the high Andean lands to the plains. Its valley reflects the way its strategic position has engendered settlement, agriculture and trade. Its distinctive pre–Hispanic and pre–Incan settlements, as a group with their associated field systems, form a dramatic addition to the landscape and one that can certainly be called outstanding.

whc.unesco.org/en/list/1116

Jesuit Missions of the Guaranis

The ruins of São Miguel das Missões in Brazil, and those of San Ignacio Miní, Santa Ana, Nuestra Señora de Loreto and Santa María la Mayor in Argentina, lie at the heart of a tropical forest. They are the impressive remains of five Jesuit missions, built in the land of the Guaranis during the 17th and 18th centuries. Each is characterized by a specific layout and a different state of conservation.

whc.unesco.org/en/list/275

ABOUT ARGENTINA

MAJOR CITIES

Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires

The Autonomous City of Buenos Aires is the Capital of the Nation. It has an autonomous form of government, with own legislation power and jurisdiction and its governor is directly elected by its citizens.

Its area is of 203 km² (79 sq mi) and its population is around 3,000,000 inhabitants.

The Río de La Plata and the Riachuelo are the natural borders of the City on the east and south, respectively. The rest of the metropolitan perimeter is surrounded by Av. General Paz, that bounds the city from north to west. Buenos Aires is connected to the interior of the country and to border countries through a large network of transports which connection points are a port that receives cruisers and ferries, two airports – the international airport: Ministro Pistarini at Ezeiza at 22 km (14 miles) from the Obelisk, and the domestic airport: Jorge Newbery, at 6 km (3.7 miles) from downtown–, railroad tracks, highways, national roads and a passengers terminal station at 1 km from downtown.

Population: 2,970,950

Climate: Mild with maritime influence.

Average temperature: 10° C – 50°F (winter) / 24° C – 77°F (summer).

www.buenosaires.gov.ar

Córdoba

The city of Córdoba was founded on July 6, 1573, by Jerónimo Luis de Cabrera, by the banks of the Suquía River. It is the capital of the Province of Córdoba and has around 1,300,000 inhabitants, what places it at the second-largest Argentine city, after the city of Buenos Aires.

It has seven universities (among them, one of the oldest ones in the continent: the National University of Córdoba, founded in 1613), that receives students from all over Argentina and South America.

It has multiple cultural and commercial centres and services offering a variety of entertainment and recreation for the whole family.

For being located in the centre of Argentina, its strategic position turns it into a hub of air and terrestrial transportation, both national and international.

Population: 1,267,774.

Climate: Mild.

Average temperature: 8° C – 46°F (winter) / 25° C – 77° (summer).

www.cordoba.gov.ar

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MAJOR CITIES

La Plata

It is the capital city of the Province of Buenos Aires. Its foundation was projected in 1880 after the city of Buenos Aires was declared the capital city of the Argentine Republic. The then governor, Dardo Rocha, was in charge of its construction. Its foundational stone was placed on November 19, 1882, during the first presidency of Julio Argentino Roca.

Today it is a modern urban and very well designed and developed city, famous for its square layout, its diagonals, its woods and all squares located at exactly every six blocks from each other.

It was the first Argentine city to have electric street lighting, thanks to a power generator built for that purpose.

Population: 600,000.

Average temperature: 9°C – 48° (winter) / 21°C – 70° (summer).

www.laplata.gov.ar

Mar del Plata

The City of Mar del Plata is located in the Province of Buenos Aires (District of General Pueyrredón), at 400 km south from the City of Buenos Aires. Due to its landscape of a Pampean steppe and hills sloping down to the Atlantic Ocean it received the name of "the pearl of the Atlantic". Mar del Plata has an urban centre that, though it concentrates most of the population, it is surrounded by the wild and residential beauty of Sierra de los Padres and the neighbourhoods of San Francisco, Los Ortiz, Loma Alta, Quinta de Peralta Ramos, Félix U. Camet, Chapadmalal, El Boquerón, Las Hermanas and Valle Hermoso, among others. Mar del Plata's development encouraged by tourism offers the charm of its natural resources, its vast and modern infrastructure and the hospitality of its inhabitants.

Population: 600,000 inhabitants.

Coast: 47 km (30 mi).

Climate: Mild with maritime influence.

Average temperature: 8° C – 46° F (winter) / 20° C – 68° F (summer).

www.mardelplata.gov.ar

Mendoza

Mendoza is a beautiful city conformed on a depression that extends at the east of the last hills at the bottom of the Andes Cordillera at 750 meters (2,460 feet) above sea level. It was founded on March 2, 1561 by Captain Pedro del Castillo, when he arrived from the territory of Chile on the then Valley of Huentala, inhabited by the huarpes Indians, who have been submitted by the Inca civilization, from which they inherited the drip irrigation system.

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MAJOR CITIES

The city is crossed from north to south and from east to west by roads number 40 and 7, respectively. The central urban area occupies around 150 blocks, including the Civic Neighbourhood and the commercial and financial district, visited daily by a floating population that widely surpasses the city's own population.

Population: 130,000.

Climate: Dry.

Average temperature: 8°C – 46° F (winter) / 25°C – 80° F (summer).

www.ciudaddemendoza.gov.ar

Rosario

Rosario is located in the Province of Santa Fe and has one third of the total population of the province (over 1 million inhabitants). Most are Italian and Spaniard descendents. Labour training is comparable to that of the most developed countries in the world, particularly at technical and professional levels.

Rosario Outskirt is an important regional development center within the Argentine Republic conforming an industrial, commercial and financial centre located in the core of the most important agricultural production region in the country. Rosario is the intersection point of the two major transport corridors that are having full development in connection to the MERCOSUR.

The bi-oceanic corridor connects Rosario to the Pacific Ocean through Córdoba and Cuyo to Valparaíso (Chile). The maritime system of the Paraguay-Paraná Hydro and the Río de La Plata Hydro way connects its port with the Argentine and the Uruguayan coasts and projects it through the ocean to the rest of the world. Rosario is also connected to the center and north of the country through terrestrial routes and has a high potentiality to absorb foreign trade traffic from the country as well as from the MERCOSUR.

Population: 908,163.

Climate: Mild Pampean.

Average temperature: 10°C – 50° F (winter) / 26°C – 80° F (summer).

www.rosario.gov.ar

San Miguel de Tucumán

It is thought that the name Tucumán derives from the quechua Yucuman, that means "place where rivers are born".

The city was founded under the protection of Saint San Miguel Arcángel on May 31, 1565 by Diego de Villarroel, originally at the extreme portion of the Portugués Plateau on the lands of Ibatín, but due to bad water quality and harassment by the calchaquí indigenous population, it was moved to its present location in 1685 at that time named "La Toma", located at the right bank of Salí River.

ABOUT ARGENTINA

MAJOR CITIES

In 2000 it was declared historical city, both for its architectonic and urban patrimony, and for its outstanding role in our national history. On July 9, 1816, a Congressional meeting held in this city declared the independence from Spain. Such emancipation action took place in the so-called Casa de la Independencia (House of the Independence), widely known as Casa de Tucumán (Tucumán House).

In Tucumán there are the National University of Tucumán (founded in 1914), the National Technological University (founded in 1954), the Northern University Santo Tomás de Aquino and the Lillo Institute, devoted to biological research.

Population: 527,607.

Climate: Warm, sub-tropical with a dry winter season.

Average temperature: 13°C – 55°F (winter) / 25°C – 80°F (summer).

www.tucuman.gov.ar

San Carlos de Bariloche

This international tourist centre is located at the northwest of the Province of Río Negro, on the southeast bank of the Nahuel Huapi lake, inside the Nahuel Huapi National Park, at 764 meters (2,506 feet) above sea level. The city, in the Patagonian Andes area, is characterised by its mountains, woods, lakes and crystalline rivers as well as for bordering the high Cordillera mountains on the west, some of which are covered by glacier snow most of the year. Skiing is the favourite sport during winter, while rowing, fishing, trekking and adventure trips are preferred in summer.

Population: 274,509.

Climate: Continental cold with a dry season.

Average temperature: 6°C – 43°F (winter) / 18°C – 65°F (summer).

www.bariloche.gov.ar

ABOUT ARGENTINA

USEFUL WEBSITES

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

www.casarosada.gov.ar

www.me.gov.ar/efeme/

www.cultura.gov.ar

www.casaindependencia.com.ar

www.museo.gov.ar

POPULATION

www.indec.gov.ar

www.censo2010.indec.gov.ar

www.desarrollosocial.gov.ar

www.inadi.gob.ar

www.indec.mecon.gov.ar

www.migraciones.gov.ar

LANGUAGE

www.letras.edu.ar

www.cui.edu.ar

www.rae.es

buscon.rae.es/dpd

PATRIOTIC DATES

www.letras.edu.ar

www.manuelbelgrano.gov.ar

www.sanmartiniano.gov.ar

RELIGION

www.culto.gov.ar

www.me.gov.ar/efeme/ssanta

www.turismo.gov.ar

www.mrecic.gov.ar

ABOUT ARGENTINA

USEFUL WEBSITES

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

www.indec.gov.ar

www.cancilleria.gov.ar

www.igb.gov.ar

www.csmn.gov.ar

www.museo.gov.ar

WOLR HERITAGES TO HUMMANITY

www.indec.gov.ar

www.cancilleria.gov.ar

www.igb.gov.ar

www.csmn.gov.ar

www.museo.gov.ar

www.talampaya.gov.ar

www.ischigualasto.org

www.parquesnacionales.gov.ar

www.madryn.gov.ar

whc.unesco.org

www.turismo.misiones.gov.ar

MAJOR CITIES

www.buenosaires.gov.ar

www.cordoba.gov.ar

www.laplata.gov.ar

www.mardelplata.gov.ar

www.ciudaddemendoza.gov.ar

www.rosario.gov.ar

www.tucuman.gov.ar

www.bariloche.gov.ar