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"KNOW BEFORE YOU GO" ARGENTINA

Passports: A U.S. Passport valid for 6 months beyond stay is required for travel. Your passport should have at least 2 empty Visa pages, even though you will not need a visa for this trip. If you have not sent a copy of your passport to Carol's Travel Service, please do so. This helps us in case of any emergencies. Without your passport you will be denied boarding of your flight. If you hold a passport from a country other than the USA you will need to check with your country on the proper documentation you will need for travel to Argentina.

Health: There are no vaccinations required for travel to Argentina. Please check with your own physician for any health travel advice. They normally will want you to be up to date with your Tetanus shot and Polio boosters. Bring your own medications and pain reliever of choice (Tylenol, Aleve, etc.). It is recommended to carry written copies of prescriptions or allergy notifications. Many doctors will recommend you bring Pepto-Bismol along for an upset stomach. We recommend drinking bottled water throughout your trip even though much of the tap water is deemed safe for drinking.

Currency: The Argentine peso (ARS) is the standard currency. The legal tender notes called pesos come in denominations of \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, \$ 5 and \$2. Coins are called centavos and come in 50, 25, 10 and 5 cents. There are also 1 cent coins, but they are rarely used. Prices are written with a \$ sign in front of them, but this refers to the peso – not the US dollar. Anything listed in dollars should have *US\$* in the price, although US dollars are no longer accepted officially. In the more tourist-oriented areas, higher-priced items are often listed in pesos and in dollars as a means of providing a comparison to shoppers. Currency can be exchanged in most banks and exchange bureaus called *Cambio's*. ATMs are widely available and will provide money in Argentine pesos. If you would like to have Argentine pesos on you before departing the USA, you can order them through your bank, most likely for a fee. It is advisable to keep receipts of currency exchanged in case it is necessary to reconvert Argentine pesos back into dollars before leaving the country. Always check with your bank before your departure to find out their fees and if they have special instructions for your usage of an ATM in another country. You must have your PIN number to use an ATM machine.

A great web site to print out currency conversion before you leave is www.oanda.com/currency/converter/. You can print out a cheat sheet of US dollars to Argentine peso and Argentine peso to US dollars. There also are a variety of currency converter apps you can put on your mobile device.

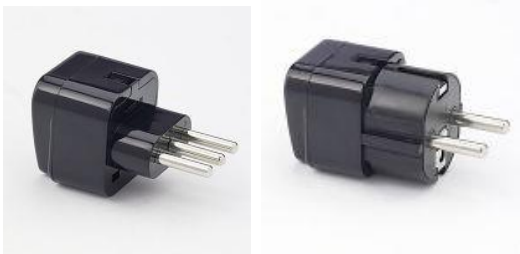
Budgeting: To help you budget, the approximate cost of soft drinks and mineral water is \$ 2.00 USD; coffee \$4.00 USD; salad or sandwich with soda or water, \$10 USD and upward; steak dinner at a mid-range restaurant with dessert and non-alcoholic beverage is approximately \$30.00 USD and upward. You will need money for meals that are not included as well as beverages, local guide gratuities, shopping and incidental expenses. You might want to budget approximately ARS\$50 per day per person. It can be helpful to travel with some USD singles and fives. In a pinch you can use these for tips although they are not preferred, and you will not be able to use them in shops and restaurants.

Credit Cards & Travelers Checks: Master Card and Visa are the most widely accepted cards at most shops, restaurants and large hotels. Before you travel, be sure to let your bank know the country(s) that you may use your card in order to

avoid a fraud alert. You will need a PIN number for any ATM cards or to use a credit card for a cash withdrawal. Do not bring travelers checks, they are increasingly difficult to use.

Electricity: The electric voltage is 220 volts, 50 cycles (220v 50Hz). The use of appliances or electric devices designed for 110V need the use of a transformer. Most travel appliances like notebook computers have an auto volt (110V-240V) transformer that will adapt to Argentinean electricity. If you are carrying electrical appliances to Argentina, you will need to bring a converter (if your appliance is not dual voltage) and plug adapter with you. These may be purchased at most hardware stores, luggage sections of retail stores and Brookstone. They are also widely available for on line purchase. Your hotels will have hair blow dryers in their guest rooms.

In Argentina the power plugs and sockets are of type C and I. Check out the following pictures which show both types, both grounded and non-grounded.



Type C Above, Type I Below



Calling Home: Check in advance with your cell phone service provider to make sure you can use it in Argentina. Most service providers will let you convert your phone to an international plan for short amounts of time or sell you a SIM card. In Argentina, you may purchase prepaid phone cards that are inserted in pay phones. *Locutorios* (phone shops) are on nearly every block. Simply step into a booth, make your call (local, long-distance or international), then pay what the meter says at the end.

Weather: The average temperature in Buenos Aires during April is a high of 72 degrees and low of 59 degrees (F). The average temperature in Mendoza during April is a high of 74 degrees(F) and low of 50 degrees (F). Rain can occur sporadically and usually doesn't last long.

Packing/Baggage: Your tour allows one check-in piece of luggage per person due to capacity on the motor coach. You are also allowed one soft sided carry on; a carry on with wheels will not be allowed on the motor coach. Therefore, we suggest that you pack lightly and save some room or bring a collapsible carry on that you can put your souvenirs in.

To save room in your suitcase, wear a light jacket during your flight in case you find the plane cool. A pair of comfortable, worn in walking shoes are a must for days out and a comfortable pair of evening shoes are recommended. Typical attire in Argentina would best be described as smart casual or business casual. To minimize the amount of clothing needed, consider packing dark colored bottoms that can be worn more than once. You can pack up to two tops for each day; one for your day time touring and one for your evening out. Evening out tops can be worn more than once and often day time tops can be as well. Bring clothing that can be layered to help with temperature variances. Today's savvy traveler packs light and easy!

Baggage Information: Please check with your air carrier of choice for their information on the size, weight and possible cost of baggage. This will be listed on their website.

Time Zone: In terms of standard time zones; Buenos Aires, Argentina is 2 hours ahead of Eastern Time, 3 hours ahead of Central Time, and 5 hours ahead of our Pacific Time in the United States. Argentina does not utilize Daylight Saving Time.

Safety: Argentina is one of South America's safer destinations, especially outside of the major cities. However, we would recommend making use of the hotel safe and leave non-essential valuables and money locked up. It is recommended to keep your passport, credit cards, travel documents, and money separately from each other. To protect against pick pocketing, keep your money hidden, preferably in an inside pocket or money belt. Keep a copy of your passport in a separate area or on your phone as a picture.

Tax Refund/Tax Free Shopping: After visiting Argentina, non-Argentine tourists can apply for a tax refund on goods bought within the country. A sales tax (VAT) of 21% is added on to most goods and services in Argentina. Most countries offering a tax refund specify a minimum amount that must be spent in a shop to claim a refund. Nonresidents can obtain a tax refund for purchases of more than 70 Pesos in one shop. To reclaim tax, request a VAT refund request form when making a purchase, which states the amount of refund due. You will then have to present your merchandise, passport and paperwork (purchase receipt and refund form from the merchant) to the appropriate office in the airport before departing home. You will need extra time for this process. These documents must be stamped by customs officials as you leave the country and the refund will be processed and sent to you or applied to your credit card. Ask merchants not to include VAT tax, some are able to take it off a purchase.

Tipping Guidelines: Tipping is not compulsory, and there are no fixed amounts. If the service you experienced has not been up to your expectations there is no need for you to leave a tip. On the other hand, if you have been fully satisfied with the services provided the following is a tipping guideline.

Taxis:	Round up to the next 1-2 Peso figure, unless they help with luggage
Restaurants:	10% unless a service charge has been added, then about 5%
Luggage:	2 US\$
Tour Director:	Included on your tour
Driver:	Included on your tour
Local Guides:	\$2 - \$4 per person depending on length of tour. Your tour director will guide you with this.

Language: The official language of Argentina is Spanish. In the tourist cities of Argentina, you should be able to get by speaking English. However, taxi drivers may not speak much English and it is recommended to write down your destination name. Grab a card from your hotel front desk with their address and phone so you always know where you need to return to. While English is spoken by many in Buenos Aires, saying hello and thank you in the local language is always appreciated. It is always useful to know some basic phrases in Spanish. Here are a few!

- Thank you =Gracias!
- Thank you very much = Muchas Gracias!
- You're welcome = Denada
- Please = Por Favor
- Yes = Si
- No = No
- Excuse me =Permiso
- I'm sorry = Perdon
- I don't understand = No lo entiendo
- I don't speak Spanish = No Hablo Castellano
- Do you speak English = Usted Habla Ingles?
- Where is the bathroom = Donde esta el bano?