

World Maritime Day 2010 – Buenos Aires – Argentina

THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

The name is derived from the Latin *argentum* (silver). The first use of the name Argentina can be traced to the voyages of the Spanish conquerors to the Río de la Plata. The explorers who shipwrecked in Juan Díaz de Solís' expedition found native communities in the region who gave them silver presents. Said explorers informed in 1524 the existence of the Silver Hills, a mountain filled with that precious metal.

From that moment on, the Portuguese called "River Plate" the river discovered by Solís. Two years after that, the Spanish also started using that name.

The National Constitution enacted in 1853 added the name "Argentine Republic" to the official names to be given to the national government and territory.

Geography

It is located in South America; hence, it belongs to the South Hemisphere. It has a total surface area of 3.8 million km², of which 2.8 million km² belong to the continent. There are approximately 54% of plains; 23% of plateaus, and another 23% of hills and mountains (the rest belongs to the Antarctica).

It extends from 22º to 55º South Latitude. It is bordered by Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia and Chile throughout a 9,376 km long-perimeter. It has an Atlantic coast that extends over 4,725 kilometers long.

Climate

Argentina has a wide variety of climates: temperate and humid in the Pampas plains, cold and humid in Western Patagonia, subtropical in Northern Mesopotamia and hot in the Northeast. The average temperature from November to March is 23° C, whereas from June to September, it is 12° C.

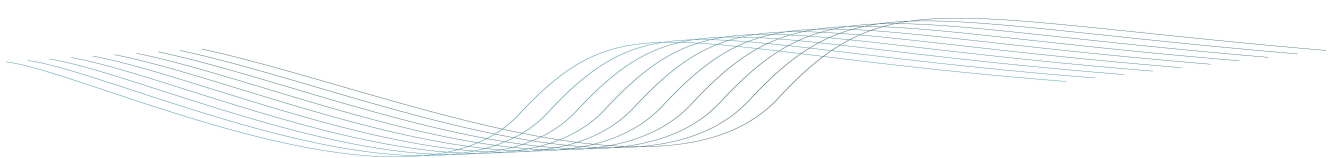
In the city of Buenos Aires, the temperature in October ranges from 13 °C to 21 °C.

Language

Spanish is the official language of the Argentine Republic.

Currency

The official currency of Argentina is the "peso". There are 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 bills, and 1 peso and 5, 10, 25 and 50 cents coins.



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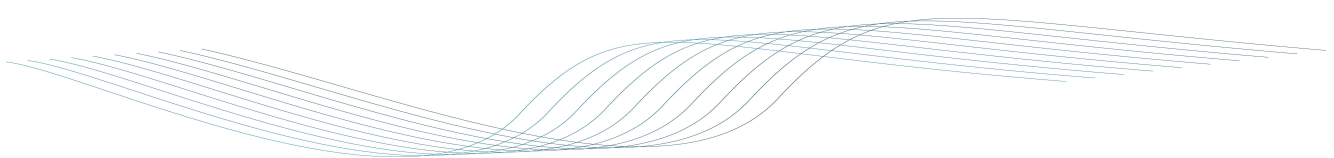
Population

The current population in Argentina is of over 39 million inhabitants (2008 survey), almost the half of which lives in the City of Buenos Aires (Capital City of the Argentine Republic) and in the province of Buenos Aires. Population density is of 13 persons per square kilometer of land area.

Approximately 95% of Argentines are white, mainly descendents from Italians and Spanish. With the massive European immigration, the number of *mestizos* (born from whites and natives) decreased, and today, it represents only 4.5% of Argentine population. The pure native population (mapuches, collas, tobas, maticos and chiriguano) represents 0.5% of the inhabitants.

Religion

The Roman Catholic is the official religion of Argentina, although there is freedom of religion. There are also Protestants, Jews, Islamite, Greek orthodoxies, and Russian orthodoxies, among others.



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PARALLEL EVENT-RELATED FACTS

Accommodation

Hilton Hotel:

The Hilton Buenos Aires hotel is ideally situated in the Puerto Madero District, one of the newest and most picturesque neighborhoods in the city. This leading hotel in Puerto Madero, Buenos Aires, Argentina, is just a short walk to the financial district, prominent tourist attractions, limitless restaurants and nightlife, with quick access routes to both the domestic and international airports.

Contemporary in design and style, this Buenos Aires Hotel boasts a breathtaking glass atrium lobby which stands seven stories high and is covered with a 7,535 square feet glass roof plus two additional Executive Floors which complete the architectural facade.

More information at: www.hilton.com

Panamericano Hotel:

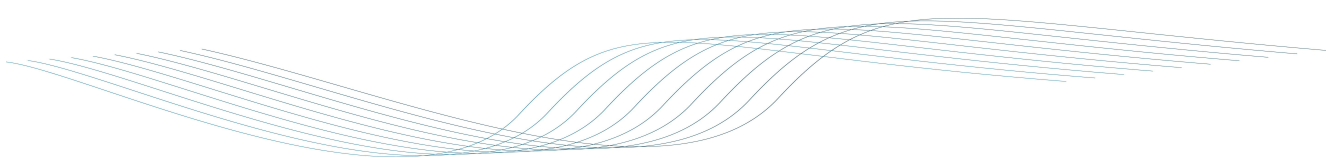
Guests at the Panamericano Buenos Aires Hotel & Resort enjoy stylish rooms, outstanding personal service and a location that can't be beat. Many of the rooms and suites offer spectacular views of the city, and the world-class spa and fitness center provides a place for guests to relax and enjoy inspiring views of Buenos Aires.

The hotel is perfectly situated near the historic Obelisk and the Teatro Colón Opera House, right in the middle of the financial and commercial districts where you'll also find upscale shops, restaurants, theatres, galleries and museums. Buenos Aires is known for its intellectual flare, European style architecture and distinguished culture and charm.

More information at: www.panamericano.travel

Sheraton Libertador Hotel:

Enjoy stylish convenience at the Sheraton Libertador Hotel, in downtown Buenos Aires. One of the world's greatest urban centers, Buenos Aires is as alive during the night as it is during the day.



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Our ideal location is close to the financial and commercial districts as well as the main stores and theatres, such as the famous Teatro Colon.

More information at: www.sheraton.com/libertador

Madero Hotel

Defining a style of urban and contemporary comfort, the Hotel Madero invites you to experience a new concept in the hotel. It is located in the strategic area of Puerto Madero, the most modern neighborhood of Buenos Aires, just 5 minutes from the city center.

With a unique urban proposal in the city, here you will be able to enjoy the river and to be close to entertainment zones, historical and tourist interest places as well.

More information at: www.hotelmadero.com

Meliá Hotel

The Meliá Buenos Aires Hotel boasts a privileged location in the cosmopolitan city of Buenos Aires, in the most exclusive part of the city centre. A short distance from Puerto Madero, the elegant San Martín Square and Recoleta.

This modern hotel provides 209 spacious and comfortable rooms including Standard Rooms, Superior Rooms, Deluxe Rooms, Junior Suites, Executive Suites and Premium Suites. All the rooms have been carefully designed and combine elegance, quality service and the latest technology, as well as modern temperature control systems and soundproofing.

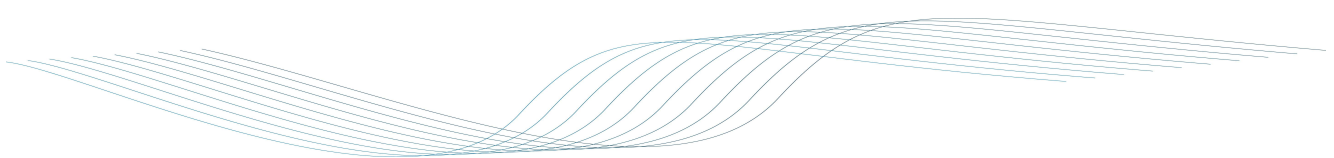
More information at: www.meliabuenosaires.com.ar

República Hotel

With its privileged location and its traditional service class, Hotel República Wellness & Spa is the best place for a great stay in Buenos Aires.

Shows, restaurants, sightseeing, downtown, shopping malls...Everything just a few steps from us. A warm and pleasant place in the middle of the city activity.

More information at: www.hotelrepublica.com.ar





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Entry Requirements

Foreign citizens should have a valid passport to enter the Argentine Republic. Please contact the Argentine Embassy or Consulate to find out whether your country needs a visa.

Exchange

Up to July 28, 2010 the exchange rate is 1 US dollar = 3.94 Argentine pesos and 1 Euro = 5.10 Argentine pesos. It is possible to change money at the airport, as well as in banks and hotels of the city.

Diet Conditions

If you have special meal requirements due to religion or personal diet, please inform us in the registration form.

Electricity

The electric current is of 220 V.

Local Time

The local time is -3 with respect to the First Meridian.

