

Tips, Information & Suggestions for Students Studying in Buenos Aires, Argentina Summer 2008



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The information is provided to assist students in making their plans for attending and participating in the study abroad program in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2008. Stetson University College of Law is not responsible for changes in rates, schedules, dates or other facts contained herein or on the websites listed.

OVERVIEW

Buenos Aires is the capital of Argentina and the third largest city in South America; it is situated in the east of Argentina beside the Rio de la Plata and surrounded by seemingly never ending flat land known as the *Pampas*. With its wide boulevards, leafy parks, grand buildings and varied culture and nightlife, the city is reminiscent of Paris or Barcelona where Tango is unique.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Students arrive in Buenos Aires by air. You will be responsible for arranging your own transportation to the student housing, located at the Hotel Arenales. We recommend that students use only the office metered taxis to get to the Hotel Arenales. If you have any kind of emergency, use the Contact Numbers listed on pg. 9 of this document.

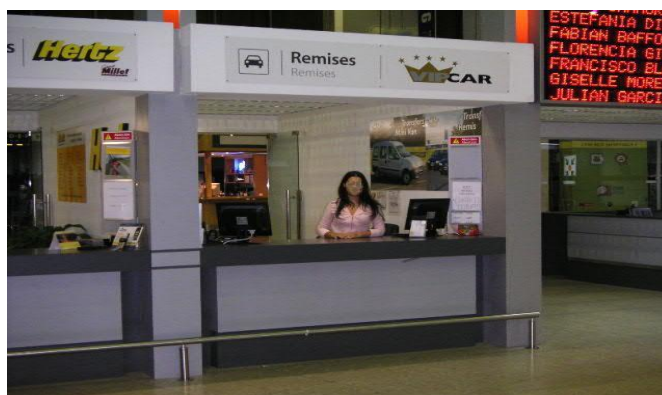
United States citizens are required to have a passport valid for at least the entire period of intended stay. Keep in mind that damaged passports may be refused. No visa is required for stays of up to three months.

By Air

Most international flights arrive at **Ezeiza International Airport (Ministro Pistarini)** that is located approximately 15 miles from Buenos Aires. There is a secondary airport, Aeroparque, but it is mostly used for domestic flights. For more information visit: <http://www.aa2000.com.ar/index.php>. When leaving Argentina, a US\$30.50 departure tax must be paid.

Getting to Hotel Arenales from Buenos Aires Airport

Upon your arrival to Buenos Aires airport you will need to go through immigration and customs. As soon as this is completed, and before exiting the building, proceed to the **"VIP Car Stand"** (see picture below). There you may ask for a *remis* (a private car and driver) to take up to 4 individuals to Hotel Arenales for a fee of approximately 85 pesos (US\$27). The remis are also a great alternative, not only to get to the hotel, but also to get around the main highlights of the city.



We advise you to write this note and show it to the taxi driver: “POR FAVOR LLEVEME AL HOTEL ARENALES, AL 2984 DE ARENALES, ESQUINA CON AUSTRIA, EN EL BARRIO PALERMO.”

If you miss this stand, or if it is closed at your arrival, you may get a remis at Manuel Tienda Leon located outside or look for the taxi signs that say “Al Centro” and stating a price. Check out <http://www.tiendaleon.com.ar> for more information.

STUDENT HOUSING

Student Accommodations are provided at:

HOTEL ARENALES

Arenales 2984
Capital Federal

Tel: (54) 4821-0815 or
(54) 4821-0816

<http://www.hotelarenales.com.ar>

Check-in: Sunday, July 20, 2008, 11:00 a.m.

Check-out: Saturday, August 16, 2007, 10:30 a.m.

(Unless you have made other arrangements with the hotel)

Hotel Arenales is located at Arenales 2984, in an upper-middle class neighborhood of Barrio Norte near the neighborhoods of Recoleta and Palermo, next to the intersection of Avenida Santa Fé and Coronel Diaz. The hotel is within a few short blocks of a major shopping mall and commercial district, with many nearby restaurants and shops.

BASIC & MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Before You Leave

Register Your Trip

The United States State Department requests that U.S. citizens register their trip online. Registration provides an added level of security to your trip in case something happens to you while abroad or the area you are visiting becomes an area of civil unrest. You will need to know your passport number, the countries you are traveling to, and the dates traveling. You can register at: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>.

Home Bank & Credit Cards

Banks and credit card issuers will commonly cancel debit or credit cards that are being used in foreign countries without advanced notification. Therefore, if you plan on using your ATM/debit card abroad, you should inform your bank of the dates and countries you will be traveling to. Likewise, if you plan on using your credit card(s), you also need to notify your credit card companies with the same information.

Some banks and credit card companies charge an additional percentage when you make purchases while traveling outside the U.S. This charge varies by issuer and may be called a currency exchange fee or a foreign transaction fee. If you expect to use a card while traveling outside of the U.S., select a card that has a currency conversion method that is favorable to you.

Finally, ask your credit card company how to report the loss of your card from abroad. "1-800" numbers do not work from abroad, but your company should have a toll-free number that you can call while you are overseas.

Staying in Buenos Aires

Culture

While you are no doubt prepared for South America to be different from the U.S., you may not be aware that Americans do often suffer what is called "culture shock" on arrival. South America differs greatly from the U.S. in such areas as class structure, attitudes to service, and standard of living.

Therefore, it is essential that you prepare yourself mentally for the fact that you are going to a foreign country, and not just a smaller version of the U.S. The way to deal with these differences is to be prepared for them, learn about them, and to try to be as open minded as possible about everything you encounter.

In Argentina, all you have to do to start a conversation with locals is to talk about soccer or politics. Argentines are extremely warm and affectionate people, as you will soon notice from their welcoming behavior. The customary greeting between friends and strangers alike is a quick kiss on the right cheek. This is done by both men and women; if you don't feel comfortable with a kiss then a simple handshake will do. Smoking is a very common habit in Argentina, so be prepared to deal with smoke almost everywhere you go. Most restaurants offer a non-smoking section, but be sure to request it.

Currency/Banks

You are advised to change some U.S. dollars into local currency at the airport. Teller machines are available and work with most major credit cards. The Peso (AR) is the official currency of Argentina. However, the US dollar may be accepted as a legal tender. 1 Peso is equivalent to 100 centavos. Coins denominations are 1 peso and 50, 25, 10, 5 and 1 centavos. Peso banknotes come in denominations of AR\$100, 50, 20, 10, 5 and 2. To see the current currency conversion rates, visit: <http://finance.yahoo.com/currency> or www.xe.com.

Banks are usually open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 3 pm.

Taxes: At the airport you may obtain a VAT reimbursement corresponding to any purchases made within the country for an amount over \$70 (per invoice) and in shops operating with the "Global Refund" system. The VAT rate in Argentina is 21 % and the return is the vat less an administration fee. At the shops with the "Global Refund TAX FREE SHOPPING" sign (over 130,000 stores worldwide), the tourist can claim a refund "cheque". When leaving the country, the tourists must show their purchases, receipts and passport to customs officials and have their "Global Refund" cheques stamped. Customs personnel are well informed of the "Global Refund" system. For more information, check out www.globalrefund.com.

Electric Appliances

Electricity in Buenos Aires is supplied at 220 volts and a frequency of 50Hz. Plug fittings in older buildings are two-pin round fittings, but some new buildings use three pin fittings. Thus, you may want to bring adapters, transformers, converters and batteries to operate your equipment.

Food and Restaurants

Buenos Aires offers great food at very reasonable prices. See www.guiaoleo.com.ar. Beef is the primary Argentine dish. Grilled beef is called *asado*. Spicy sausages (*chorizo*), kidneys (*riñones*), sweetbreads (*molleja*) and small intestines (*chinchulines*) are often part of *parillada mixta*. Pasta dishes are very good and common. There is a big variety of spaghetti, gnocchi, sorrentinos, cannelloni, lasagnas, and pizza. The traditional cuisine is called *criolla* and is represented by the *empanadas*, salty pastries which can be filled with meat, chicken, ham and cheese. Argentina produces high quality wines that come in a very wide range of prices. *Clericó*, a mix of wine and fruits, is a very popular drink. However, *mate* is the most traditional, non alcoholic, drink. It is an infusion of *yerba mate* plant served in gourds (also called *mate*) and sipped with the use of a silver straw called a *bombilla*. If you have a sweet palate, you should try ice creams and *alfajores*, sweet layered pastry, commonly filled with *dulce de leche* (caramelized milk) and coated with chocolate.

Groceries

Close to the hotel there are several "*supermercados*" where you will be able to buy food.

Health/Hospitals

The quality of health care and hospital facilities in Buenos Aires is generally of a high standard. If you do not speak Spanish, it is best to take someone along with you who can translate, in case you cannot explain your problem or do not understand the treatment. Although the tap water is safe to drink, it's always better to drink bottled water. If you feel ill, there's a pharmacy on nearly every block in the city, indicated by a green cross. Many are open 24 hours and some even deliver to hotels.

Some of the Hospitals in Buenos Aires are:

Hospital Británico

Perdriel 74

Phone number: 011/4304-1081

Hospital De Clínicas José de San Martín

Av. Córdoba 2351

Phone number: 011/4961-6001 or 4961-7575

Hours of Operation

Official business hours on weekdays are 9:00 am until noon and 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm for offices, although many larger offices remain open all day. Museums and attractions typically close on Tuesdays and many will shut down for a month during the summer (December). Most street shops in the city are open weekdays from 10:00 until 8:00 pm and on Saturdays until 1:00 pm; they are closed on Sundays. Shops in the big malls stay open until 10:00 pm, Saturdays until 1 p.m.

International and Local Calling

The cheapest way to call home from Buenos Aires is by using calling cards. You can bring one with you and/or purchase them locally. The cheapest ones can be purchased at a "maxikioscos" (a type of grocery stores). You can also make a phone call from the "locutorios" where you can find phone booths. Argentinean national phone numbers are 10 digits long; city code and local number. For example, if you are calling to Buenos Aires from another city in Argentina you dial 0+11+phone number.

To call this number from outside Argentina, add the Country Code (54) and the International Direct Dial Prefix to the Argentinean national number, in Florida is 011.

Country code: 54

Buenos Aires area code: 958

Outgoing international code: 00

SIM cards are another option if you have a compatible AT&T or T-Mobile phone. For more Information call 1-888-762-6373 or go to <http://www.rangeroamer.com/countries/Argentina.aspx>.

Internet

There are some bars and cafes that offer Internet access. Most hotels offer Internet access to their guests.

Nightlife

Aires is very lively. While some places open as early as 6 PM (pubs) people start clubbing around 2 AM and frequently stay out until 6 or 7 AM. The hottest entertainment spots are located in Puerto Madero, Arcos del Ferrocarril, near the Recoleta cemetery, Costanera Norte and Palermo Viejo. Buenos Aires offers space for cultural activities such as tango shows, theater, and opera.

Safety

Buenos Aires is generally safe; however, like any big city (Buenos Aires' population is 11 million) you should take precautions. Petty theft such as bag snatching happens, especially at tourist sites. Make sure to secure valuables and watch people who try to get close to you in crowded places. We advise you to use radio taxi companies.

The US Department of State recommends, "Travelers should remain alert to their personal security and exercise caution. Travelers are encouraged to carry limited cash, only one credit card, and a copy of their passport; leaving extra cash, extra credit cards, passports and personal documents in a safe location. When carrying documents, credit cards or cash, you are encouraged to secure them in a hard-to-reach place and not to carry all valuables together in a purse or backpack."¹

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's internet web site at: <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution Public Announcement, Travel Warnings and Public Announcements can be found. Up-to-date information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S. The Department of State urges American citizens to take responsibility for their own personal security while traveling overseas. For general information about appropriate measures travelers can take to protect themselves in an overseas environment, see the Department of State's pamphlet "A Safe Trip Abroad" at http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1747.html.

Shopping

Each one of the neighborhoods in Buenos Aires presents the visitor with a great variety of boutiques, galleries, and antique shops located in avenues such as Santa Fe Avenue or Florida Avenue. There are also different shopping centers around the city. Don't miss visiting Alto Palermo Shopping mall! For more info please visit: <http://www.allaboutar.com/shopping.htm>.

Tipping

In restaurants, it is common to tip 10% or more if you had a good service. When paying by credit card, you will often be expected to leave the *propina* (tip) in cash, since many credit card receipts don't provide a place to include the tip. Taxis include the tip in their rates. In other services it is optional.

Transportation

Once in Buenos Aires you may want to purchase a Guía "T" or "Lumi." These are small booklets where you will find Buenos Aires transport information, including the underground, taxis, *remises* and buses.

Buses: The bus (*colectivo*) is a fast and inexpensive means of transport to travel in Argentina. There are more than 180 lines going through the city and providing connection with all districts in the Greater Buenos Aires. The service is available at regular intervals. Sometimes, streets may be blocked in the downtown area due to traffic jams. Within the city, there are two fares: 0.90 centavos and 1 peso. The ticket is sold on the bus and only coins are accepted. Hours: Bus service is available all day long but its frequency decreases after 12 am.

Subway: This is the fastest and easiest way to reach your destination. The five subway lines (commonly known as "subtes") are connected with the main avenues and railway and bus stations, and converge upon downtown, the main tourist and hotel area. Maps showing the subway lines in different colors may be obtained at the ticket offices located in every station. Information boards showing line routes and transfer stations between lines are available in all stations. The connections

¹ http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1024.html#safety

allowing passengers to use more than one line are called *combinación*. The service runs Mondays through Saturdays, from 5 am to 10 pm, and Sundays and holidays from 8 am to 10 pm.

Taxis: They can be requested by phone or you may call them on the street. Radio taxis (provided with radio systems) are considered safer. There are a great number of taxis in the city – getting a taxi near the tourist areas is easy at any time of day or night. Usually, you will wait for no longer than a few minutes. Taxis can be easily recognized by their colors – black and yellow. In addition, a red light on the taximeter indicates that they are available.

Remises: A type of limo service that you request by phone to the numerous agencies spread throughout the city. These cars are not identified with a special color. The minimum fare is between \$6 and \$10; the total fare varies according to the kilometers covered and time elapsed.

Trains: If you want to visit areas outside the Capital or neighborhoods distant from downtown, the railways provide an affordable service. Several lines allow access to the center of the city.

For more information visit http://www.bue.gov.ar/servicios/?menu_id=66&info=transporte or <http://www.argentinaturistica.com/2transpbsas.htm>.

Weather and Time

Seasons are reversed in the southern hemisphere. July is the coldest month with temperatures usually lower than 59°F but will very seldom get below 40°F. In winter, cold is moderate during the day, but the temperature considerably drops at night.

Standard Time Zone: UTC/GMT -3 hours. Argentina does not observe daylight-saving time.

WHAT TO PACK

Plan ahead and pack light: it is expensive to pay for excess baggage. Bear in mind that you will be able to get your clothes laundered at Hotel Arenales or at laundromats close to it. Make a list of your own personal needs and do NOT forget to bring enough prescription medicines. You should always keep your medications and all your valuables in your carry-on luggage or purse.

Basic classroom supplies (legal pads, pens, pencils, highlighters).

Battery-operated alarm clock so you're on time to class!

Business attire.

Casual clothes to wear in the classroom.

Warm jacket and one or two sweaters.

A scarf. Temperatures will drop at night.

Comfortable walking shoes.

Copies of your passport, plane tickets and credit cards.

Electric transformer, converter, and/or batteries for your electric appliances in Argentina.

Glasses and/or contacts and a spare pair and/or your prescription in case you need to replace

International Student I.D. Card (ISIC card) & Emergency Contact Card.

Medication – all that you will need for your entire trip. Bring them on the plane with you. To avoid problems when passing through customs, keep medicines in their original, labeled containers. Bring copies of your prescriptions and the generic names for the drugs.

Money belt or waist bag for your money and valuables. Wear it on the plane.

Small umbrella.

Toiletries (travel kit).

WHAT TO LEAVE BEHIND

Don't bring anything you would hate to lose. Leave at home valuable or expensive-looking jewelry, irreplaceable family objects, all unnecessary credit cards, your Social Security card, library card, and similar items you may routinely carry in your wallet.

Leave a copy of your itinerary with family or friends at home in case they need to contact you in an emergency.

Look for packing tips at: <http://www.travelsense.org/tips/packing.asp>

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Stetson University College of Law

Office of Graduate & Int'l Programs
Associate Dean John Cooper
Address: 1401 61st Street South
Gulfport, FL 33707
Phone: (727) 562-7849 or (727) 562-7857
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Universidad de Buenos Aires

Facultad de Derecho

Prof. Emiliano Buis
Address: Av. Figueroa Alcorta 2263 (C1425CKB)
Buenos Aires – Argentina
Phone: (54) (11)-4809-5600
Website: <http://www.derecho.uba.ar>

U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires

Address: Avenida Colombia 4300
(1425) Buenos Aires, Argentina
Phone: (54) (11) 5777-4533 (Monday–Friday)
Emergency (54) (11) 5777- 4354 or call 5777-4873 (after hours)
Fax: (54) (11) 5777-4240 (Main Embassy)
Website: <http://buenosaires.usembassy.gov>

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Centralized emergency line: 911

Police: 101

Medical emergencies: 107

Fire Service: 100

Free toll number –tourist information: 0800 999 2838

USEFUL LINKS

Buenos Aires Tourism Information

- Official City Guide: www.bue.gov.ar
- Frommers Travel guide: <http://www.frommers.com/destinations/buenosaires/2299010028.html>
- How to get around Buenos Aires: www.argentinaturistica.com/2transpbsas.htm.
- How to get to Buenos Aires: <http://www.aa2000.com.ar/index.php>

School

- Universidad de Buenos Aires: <http://www.derecho.uba.ar>

Miscellaneous

- Cell Phones: <http://www.rangeroamer.com/countries/Argentina.aspx>
- Emergency Numbers: <http://city.skyteam.com/city-guide-buenos-aires.html>
- Weather: www.findlocalweather.com

Others

- http://www.hoteltravel.com/argentina/buenos_aires/guides/travel_tips.htm
- http://www.traveltango.com.ar/english/arg/arg/arg_info_gral_eng.htm. Tax return
- <http://tangotours.wordpress.com/tourist-tips-2/>
- <http://www.argentinaturistica.com/2basiresenia.htm>
- <http://www.alojargentina.com.ar/cityguide.html>
- <http://www.buenosairesantiguo.com.ar/paginasbsashoy/guiadeturismo.html>
- <http://www.allaboutar.com>