

THE  NAVIGATORS®

CULTURAL TRAINNING:

ARGENTINA 101

SUMMER TEAM 2017  
La Plata, Buenos Aires

## WELCOME TO ARGENTINA

**Argentina.** The name conjures up images of soccer, tango, Pampas, Evita and Maradona.... But there is more, much more. It is a country of endless variety that offers you a stupendous range of colors, scents, styles, customs, architecture and geography.

If you have a sense of history you will love the museums, the legendary ruins and art. If you enjoy cultural traditions you can see a spectacular music, dance and folklore show almost everywhere.

If you like to be energetic, you can choose from rafting, gliding, trekking, fishing, skiing, safaris, and all the activities you can imagine. Or go tracking wildlife in the Andes Mountains on the west or one of the 34 national parks of the country. From beach resorts of holy cities, to cool hill stations and high mountain villages, the choice is enormous, whether you want an inexpensive experience, a cultural tour, or a high-priced exclusive holiday. Another of Argentina's special charms is the food. With many highly refined regional styles, eating in different parts of Argentina is a voyage of discovery.

Comprising almost the entire southern half of South America, Argentina is the world's eighth largest country, covering an area of 2.8 million square km. Argentina possesses some of the world's tallest mountains, expansive deserts, and impressive waterfalls, with the diversity of the land ranging from wild, remote areas in southern Patagonia to the bustling metropolis of Buenos Aires.

### Buenos Aires

The City of Buenos Aires is the capital of the Argentine Republic and is located in the southern hemisphere, latitude 34° 36' and longitude 58° 26'. The city extends on a plain and has 202 square kilometers (78.3 sq miles). Approximately 3 million people live in this city. Including the metropolitan area, the total population of Buenos Aires is above ten millions, making it one of the 10 most populated urban centers in the world.

The Río de la Plata and the Riachuelo are the natural borders of the city on the east and south, respectively. The General Paz Avenue from north to west surrounds the rest of the metropolitan perimeter. This avenue provides a fast connection between the city and the Greater



Buenos Aires, a densely populated area with important business and industrial activity. The climate of Buenos Aires is mild all year round. The mean annual temperature is 18° C (64.4° F), making extremely hot and cold days very infrequent.

Buenos Aires has always been an open-door city. Its inhabitants are called porteños, which makes reference to the fact that the city is a port. The inhabitant of the province of Buenos Aires is called bonaerense.

## Argentine properties inscribed on the World Heritage List



**Cueva de las Manos, Río Pinturas (1999)**



**Jesuit Block and Estancias of Córdoba (2000)**



**Quebrada de Humahuaca (2003)**



***Tango, Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (2009)***



***Iguazu National Park (1984)***



***Ischigualasto / Talampaya Natural Parks (2000)***



**Los Glaciares (1981)**

## Cataratas del Iguazu



Iguassu Falls is the international name of the falls, however is referred locally as Iguazu Falls (Spanish) and Iguaca Falls (Portuguese). The falls are located on the border of Brazil and Argentina and not far from Paraguay.

## LA PLATA

La Plata, the capital of Buenos Aires, is located to the southwest of Buenos Aires. It is a city with history, tradition and a strong European accent placed not only on its architectonic design but also on the geography of the city. It contains magnificent buildings and innumerable open spaces.

It is known as “the city of diagonals” because of the avenue constructions: there is an avenue every six streets and a park or a square in each intersection, all of them, interconnected by diagonals. It is a green city plenty of trees like limes, jacarandas, oranges and chinaberries.

The city design and its buildings possess a strong Freemason symbolism.

The designs for the government buildings were chosen in an international architectural competition. Thus, the Governor Palace was designed by Italians, City Hall by Germans, etc. Electric street lighting was installed in 1884, and was the first of its kind in Latin America.



Panoramic view of La Plata:

The Cathedral of La Plata, in neo-Gothic style, is the largest church in Argentina.

The Curutchet House is one of the two buildings by Le Corbusier in the Americas.

The Teatro Argentino de La Plata is the second most-important opera house in Argentina after the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires.

The University of La Plata was founded in 1897 and nationalized in 1905. It is well known for its observatory and natural history museum.

Ernesto Sabato graduated in physics at this university; he went on to teach at the Sorbonne and the MIT before becoming a famed novelist. Doctor René Favaloro was another famous alumnus. During its early years, it attracted a number of renowned intellectuals from the Spanish-speaking world, such as Dominican Pedro Henríquez Ureña.

The most important tourist sites are located in the heart of the city's founding, between Streets 51 and 53, being the center of the city's Plaza Moreno. The square separates two great works of the city: the Metropolitan Cathedral of La Plata "Immaculate Conception" and the Palacio Municipal.

The city of La Plata has many monuments and historical sites. Among them are: the Banco Provincia de Buenos Aires headquarters, the Curutchet House, Casa de Gobierno Provincial, Casa Mariani - Teruggi, Centro Cultural Islas Malvinas, Centro Cultural Meridiano V, Centro Cultural Pasaje Dardo Rocha, Iglesia San Benjamín, la Legislatura Provincial, Museo de Ciencias Naturales, the Quinta Oreste Santosago, the Rectorado de la UNLP, Museo Ferroviario of Tolosa, the Teatro Municipal Coliseo Podestá, the Anfiteatro Martín Fierro, the Estadio Ciudad de La Plata, entre otros.

## ***ETHNOGRAPHY***

The Ethnography of Argentina makes this country, along with other areas of new settlement like Canada, Australia or the United States, a melting pot of different peoples. Most Argentines are descendants of colonial-era settlers and of the 19th and 20th century immigrants from Europe, with about 90 % of the population being of European descent.

## RELIGION

The Constitution guarantees freedom of religion but also requires the government to support Roman Catholicism economically. Until 1994 the President and Vice President had to be Roman Catholic, though there were no such restrictions on other government officials; although since 1945 members of other religious groups have held prominent posts. Catholic policy remains influential in government though, and still helps shape a variety of legislation. In a study assessing world-wide levels of religious regulation and persecution, with scores ranging from 0–10 where 0 represented low levels of regulation or persecution, Argentina received a score of 1.4 on Government Regulation of Religion, 6.0 on Social Regulation



**Catedral de La Plata.**

of Religion, 6.9 on Government Favoritism of Religion and 6 on Religious Persecution.

According to the World Christian Database Argentines are: 92.1% Christian, 3.1% agnostic, 1.9% Muslim, 1.3% Jewish, 0.9% atheist, and 0.9% Buddhist and others. Argentine Christians are mostly Roman Catholic with estimates for the number of Catholics varying from 70% to 90% of the population (though perhaps only 20% attend services regularly).[125]

Evangelical churches have been gaining a foothold since the 1980s with approximately 9% of the total population, Pentecostal churches and traditional Protestant denominations are present in most communities and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints claims 330,000 followers in Argentina (their seventh-largest congregation in the world).

Argentina has the largest Jewish population of any country in Latin America. A recent study found that approximately 11% of Argentines are non-religious (which includes those who believe in God but do not follow a religion), 4% are agnostics and 5% are atheist. Overall 24% attended religious services regularly. Protestants were the only group with a majority of followers who regularly attended services.

### Extra info about Religion (in spanish)

*Una encuesta de la UCA en 5700 hogares revela que sólo el 18% asiste a algún oficio religioso por semana; si bien hay menos casamientos, se mantienen los bautismos*

20.11.2014

*El 87% de los argentinos cree en Dios, 4% menos que en 2011. Y el 87% de aquéllos se identifica como católico, 13% más que hace dos años. Sin embargo, entre los católicos, sólo el 18% asiste a algún oficio religioso por semana. Mientras los matrimonios por Iglesia cayeron casi 70% desde 1990, los bautismos se mantienen estables, con una leve disminución de 1,2%. En 2012, el 74% de los bebés fue bautizado.*

*Éstas son algunas de las conclusiones de la encuesta "Los argentinos y la familia", del Observatorio de la Deuda Social, de la Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA), que incluyó 5689 hogares de todo el país y que se hizo en el último trimestre de 2013.*

*El trabajo, presentado anteayer por el rector de la universidad, el arzobispo Víctor Manuel Fernández (muy cercano al Papa), arrojó también algunos resultados polémicos. Dos de cada diez católicos "comprometidos" -los que van a misa al menos una vez por semana, en la clasificación del estudio- están de acuerdo con que la ley permita el aborto, y uno de cada diez considera que la noción de matrimonio alcanza a las parejas del mismo sexo. Según la investigación, el 21% de los católicos comprometidos está en*

*desacuerdo (15%) o muy en desacuerdo (6%) con que la ley no facilite el aborto. Ante la consigna "para que haya un matrimonio se requieren un varón y una mujer", el 8% se mostró en desacuerdo y el 3%, muy en desacuerdo.*

*Esta posición apenas varía al considerar el total de los encuestados, es decir, católicos y no católicos: el 59% cree que la ley no debería facilitar el aborto, el 31% está de acuerdo con la despenalización y el 10% no se expresó a favor ni en contra.*

*Por otra parte, el 72% de los argentinos coincide en que un matrimonio se conforma entre un hombre y una mujer, y el 26% está de acuerdo con los matrimonios del mismo sexo.*

*"Entre los encuestados en general y los católicos comprometidos, los promedios en las respuestas fueron similares, por ende creemos que se trata de tendencias culturales", explicó al respecto Beatriz Balian, vicerrectora de Investigación de la UCA, a cargo del informe.*

*Con relación a la creencia en Dios y a la identificación religiosa, el 43% de los encuestados se considera poco religioso; el 35%, bastante religioso; el 11%, muy religioso, y el 10%, nada religioso. Sin embargo, el 31% de los que se reconocen católicos nunca va a oficios religiosos; alguna vez al año, el 31%; una vez al mes, el 20%, y al menos una vez por semana, el 18%.*

*Un dato que llama la atención es que a pesar de que entre 2011 y 2013 disminuyó un 4% la creencia en Dios, en ese mismo período creció un 13% la identificación católica, un porcentaje realmente alto considerando el corto margen temporal. "Al respecto es necesario aclarar que si bien este cambio de autoidentificación como católicos merecería profundizarse en futuros trabajos de investigación, la designación de monseñor Jorge Bergoglio como papa Francisco podría haber influido en esta transformación de los datos", explica el informe. Bergoglio fue elegido papa el 13 de marzo de 2013 y el estudio de la UCA se realizó a fines de ese año, en plena "Franciscomanía".*

*Según esta investigación, la edad es un factor significativo en el análisis de las apreciaciones sobre el casamiento. Entre los jóvenes de 19 a 34 años se evidencia la desinstitucionalización del matrimonio con el predominio de los unidos de hecho, mientras que la condición de quienes están casados por civil y por Iglesia es predominantemente en mayores de 60 años.*

*Por otra parte, el significado atribuido al matrimonio difiere de acuerdo con el estrato socioeconómico. El 32% de las parejas con hijos de nivel de ingresos muy bajo están unidos de hecho, mientras que los casados por civil e Iglesia representan una menor proporción (12%).*

*Desde la década del 90, los matrimonios sacramentales vienen en picada, alcanzando casi el 70% de disminución. En 1995, en pleno gobierno de Carlos Menem, tuvieron su mejor pico, y entre 2000 y 2001 se*

*registró una abrupta caída del 25%, lo que se lee como un claro impacto de la crisis socioeconómica de esos años.*

*El hecho de que en este contexto el número de bautismos se mantenga estable evidencia una mayor valoración de la iniciación en la fe que del matrimonio. En efecto, durante 2012, se bautizó al 74,2% de los nacidos, mientras que los matrimonios sacramentales de ese mismo año solamente alcanzaron el 44,4%, según datos del Instituto para el Matrimonio y Familia de la UCA. "También creo que esta menor disminución en los bautismos se debe a una gran valoración que existe hacia los hijos y también la renovación del pastoral del bautismo de los últimos 10 o 15 años", agrega Balian.*

*A lo largo de toda la investigación se observa cómo la inmensa mayoría atribuye espontáneamente una gran importancia a la familia como ámbito de ayuda mutua, de educación de los hijos y de transmisión de valores éticos.*

*El 70% de los argentinos, en caso de necesidad urgente, siempre podría confiar en su familia; el 26% casi siempre, y sólo el 2 y 1% dijo que casi nunca o nunca. Al mismo tiempo, el 94% dijo considerarse capaz siempre y casi siempre de ayudar a un familiar a enfrentar dificultades.*

*Asimismo, la presencia de hijos o pareja parece influir positivamente en el ánimo, mientras que el malestar psicológico es levemente mayor en los hogares con un único padre (27%) y en los unipersonales (25%). En este caso, el hecho de tener o no pareja parecería ser la variable que marca la diferencia.*

*Al contrario de lo que muchos creen, se podría deducir que la presencia de hijos estimula los proyectos personales. Tanto en los hogares de parejas con hijos como en los hogares monoparentales, 88% y 83% respectivamente expresaron tener proyectos de vida, una cifra realmente destacable.*

*De igual forma, casi la totalidad de los encuestados (el 96%) concluyó que la educación de los hijos es fundamentalmente responsabilidad de los padres. "En efecto, y pese a todo, pudimos concluir que la familia sigue siendo un valor muy importante dentro de la sociedad argentina, independientemente de los tipos de hogares y de los estados civiles", concluye Balian*

## PRACTICAL ADVISE

### *Safety*

Argentina's economic crisis in 2001 has affected crime and personal safety in the country. Unfortunately, crime has considerably increased and lost some of the reputation of being one of the safest countries in South America to travel in. Compared to other countries in South America, Argentina is still somewhat safer and there is no need to be paranoid providing you take basic precautions and being aware of the tourist scams that may or may not happen in the big cities and in areas where there is a lot of poverty and easy access to drugs and arms that makes opportunistic crime.



- Walk along lit-up public places and keep valuable objects out of sight.
  - If you go to a restaurant do not leave your valuable belongings hanging from your chair or unattended.
  - If you are going to use an ATM or cash machine, look around for any suspicious person. If you are not sure, do not use at that moment.
  - Do not exchange money on the street. Only in authorized exchange places or banks
  - Never resist a robbery. There is always someone else hidden nearby. You can't take him on your own.
  - Make sure you always look both ways before crossing the street (even when you have a green light)
  - Make sure you always check your bill at a restaurant or store.
  - Always carry some sort of ID with you (they may ask you for it whenever you pay with your credit card)
  - Do not carry any expensive jewelry, iPods, laptops or important documents with you.
  - Always carry your emergency contact list with you.
  - Avoid demonstrations. You may occasionally encounter groups of demonstrators (piqueteros) blocking major roads into and out of Buenos Aires during times of social unrest. In such cases you should expect significant delays to your journey.
  - “Mostaceo”. There is a common trick in Argentina which involves a con man / woman squirting mustard or tomato ketchup onto your clothes. His / her accomplice will then attempt to remove the stain while the other individual makes aim for your wallet or other valuables.
  - If you are approached by someone claiming to be a plain clothes policeman then insist on seeing their identification. If you are required to accompany them to the police station then insist on taking major roads and not taking any backstreets. Go with them via foot and do not get into their car. If they ask you for identification then be sure not to hand over your passport or any other items of personal identification. If they are genuine, then they will happily accept this documentation once you have arrived at the police station. (see picture above).
  - When getting into a taxi, ensure that there are handles on the inside, which enable you to make a quick exit if required. Do not give the driver payment for any journey until you have gotten out of the car with your entire luggage intact. See taxi drivers “cambio trucho” technique.
  - Never accept food or drink from individuals whom you do not know as it is possible that they may contain drugs, in which case, you may wake up hours later having had your belongings stolen.
- In case of getting lost, ask for a public phone (telefono publico) or “locutorio” and give us a call. If for some reason you can't get in touch with us, take a taxi and meet us at the office or our house (if we are in City Bell)
- For the police, you can dial 911 or in case of a medical emergency 107 or 421-2234 (this last number is a private ambulance that we might have to pay for afterwards).

### **Country and City Area Codes**

Argentina country code is +54  
 Buenos Aires city: 011  
 La Plata: 0221

Mobile phones: 15

Dialing to the US: 001 + (area code) + number

Dialing to Argentina: 011 + 54 + 221 (La Plata) + number (4...)

Dialing to Argentina (mobile): 011 + 54 + 9 + 221 (La Plata) + (4...)

### **Electricity**

220V watch out!

### **Time Zone**

UTC/GMT -3

### **Measure**

1 liter = 33,81 ounces

1.5 liters = 50,72 ounces

2 liters = 67,62 ounces

1 meter = 3 feet

5 meters = 16.4 feet

100 meters = 328 feet

1 Kilometer = 0,52 miles

15 Kilometers = 9.3 miles

22 Kilometers = 13,67 miles

42 kilometers = 26,09 miles

1 Kilogram = 2,20 pounds

3 Kilograms = 6,61 pounds

6 Kilograms = 13,22 pounds

32 Kilograms = 70,54 pounds

4 Celsius = 39,2 F

10 Celsius = 50 F

17 Celsius = 62,6 F

25 Celsius = 77 F

### ***Working Hours***

Banks and Currency Exchange Bureaus:

Mondays to Fridays from 10.00 to 15.00 hours.

Business Offices:

generally from 09.00 to 12.00 and from 14.00 to 19.00 hours.

Shops and commerce:

In the big cities from 09.00/09.30 to 19.30 hours, although in the outskirts and the provinces they tend to close at midday and stay open later in the evening.

On Saturdays the hours are from 08.30/09.00 to 12.30/13.00 hours.

Cafés and pizzerias:

They are open most of the time except between 02.00 and 06.00 hours.

Restaurants:

Lunch starts from 13.00 and dinner from 21.00 hours.

Many establishments offer fast menus at all times.

## ***Transportation***

### **Taxis**

A yellow roof on a vehicle indicates a metered taxi. Cars are usually black and yellow (in La Plata they are currently white and green). They are easy to find in cities, and can be hailed by standing on the street corner and waving your hand. Most cabs are metered, but make sure they start at ARS 5,30 (in La Plata) when you start your journey. Cab drivers may charge extra for luggage. Radio taxis (remises) come without meters for a fixed fare to certain destinations. Ask about the fee before embarking.



### **Train**

There are more than 21,000 miles (35,000 km) of rail in Argentina, making it one of the most extensive in the world. However, many of those rails are not in service. Train service in the greater Buenos Aires region, however, still exists, and often at less expensive rates than the bus. Inter-city routes are not advisable for business travel as the schedules are not dependable.

FYI - The train that goes from La Plata to Buenos Aires is NOT very safe.

### **Metro**

The subterranean system in Buenos Aires, comprised of five lines and known as subte, runs until 1:30a.m, except Sundays, when it stops earlier. If planning to use the subway more than once, buy several tokens in advance to avoid the lines during commute hours. Maintain a high security awareness when riding the subway, especially at night.



### **Buses**

Buses (colectivo) run 24 hours a day in Buenos Aires, but are often crowded. Expect as reckless a ride as you might in any other mode of motorized transport. Fares vary according to distance.

It is always best to have coins when traveling by bus (except the long distance ones in which case you will have to buy the tickets at a kiosk near by). There is also the option of purchasing a magnetic card called SUBE which tracks how much credit you have at a kiosk.

## ***Tipping and Bargaining***

In places like restaurants and bars it is best to leave a tip of around 10%. In regard to taxis, service personnel in hotels, ushers and doormen in cinemas and theaters, beauty salons, and others voluntary tipping is in accordance with the services rendered and is not obligatory. You don't have to tip the taxi driver (unless you are at the airport and he helps you with your luggage).

Bargaining in Argentina is not used much, nevertheless you can ask for a discount if paying by cash or for a large group.

## ***Meals***

There are four basic meals:

### *Breakfast:*

Time: 8/9am.

Usually Argentines don't have a big breakfast: toast or crackers, coffee or tea and maybe cereals.

### *Lunch:*

Time: 12:30/1:30pm. During the week, lunch is pretty light: pastas, milanesas (chicken fried steak) with mashed potatoes, salads etc. On Sunday get ready for big Asados or Grandma's homemade pasta.

### *Tea time:*

Time: 5/5:30pm. Usually people like to drink mate/coffee with cookies or facturas (croissants, pastries, etc.)

### *Dinner:*

Time: 9/9:30pm. This is the most important meal during the week and is usually a time to spend as a family.

## ***Food***

### **Asado**

Argentina is known for its asado or grilled beef where meat is placed on a grill and barbecued over charcoal fire. There are restaurants that serve only asado and many local restaurants always have asado on the menu. Argentines consume large amounts of beef. The beef in Argentina is different from that of most other countries. For one thing, the cattle feed on the grass of the Pampas, which is to say their last days are spent in a field, not a feedlot; and for another, the cuts are different. But most important, the meat is cooked and consumed fresh. Argentines find the thought of aged beef unpleasant. Here the time between the slaughter of an animal and the moment it appears on the table is much shorter than in the northern countries, where it can extend to weeks, even months.



Asado is a technique for cooking cuts of meat, usually consisting of beef alongside various other meats. Which are cooked on a grill (parrilla) or open fire. Asado is quite popular in the Pampa region of South America.

An asado typically has a sequence of meats presented by the asador (the cooker). First are the chorizos, often accompanied by provoleta, a grilled cheese dish. Then costillas or asado de tira (ribs), next come vacío (flank steak) are served, then matambre and possibly chicken. Sometimes these are served on a coal-heated brasero. An asado also includes bread, a simple mixed salad of lettuce, tomato and onions, or it could be accompanied with Verduras asadas (grilled vegetables), like onions, sweet peppers and eggplant, seasoned with olive oil and salt. Beer, wine, soda and other beverages are common. Dessert is usually fresh fruit.

An asado can be made al asador or a la parrilla. In the first case a fire is made on the ground or in a fire pit and surrounded by metal crosses (asadores) that hold the entire carcass of an animal splayed open to receive the heat from the fire. In the second case, a fire is made and after the coals have formed, a grill (parrilla) is placed over with the meat to be cooked.

## Milanesas

The milanesa is a common meat dish, mostly found in Argentina as well as in Italy and other American countries to a lesser extent, where breaded meat fillet preparations are known as a milanesa.

The milanesa was brought to the Southern Cone of South America from Central European immigrants, its name probably reflecting a original Milanese preparation cotoletta alla milanese, which is similar to the Austrian Wiener Schnitzel.

A milanesa consists of a thin slice of beef, chicken, or sometimes pork or veal, and even eggplants or soy. Each slice is dipped into beaten eggs, seasoned with salt, and other condiments according to the cook's taste (like parsley and garlic). Each slice is then dipped in bread crumbs (or occasionally flour) and shallow-fried in oil, one at a time. Some people prefer to use very little oil and then bake them in the oven as a healthier alternative.

By adding tomato paste, mozzarella cheese and sometimes ham, a dish called milanesa a la napolitana (Milanese in the Neapolitan style) was created. "Neapolitan" is not taken from "Neapolitan pizza", but because it was first made and sold in Pizzeria Napoli owned by Jose Napoli in Argentina in the 1930s.

In Argentina, milanesas are frequently served hot with fried or mashed potatoes; this dish is known as milanesa con papas fritas or milanesa con puré. In Argentina and Uruguay, it can be topped with a fried egg, known as milanesa a caballo (milanesa riding horseback). They are often used cold as a sandwich filling, with salad. Lemon juice and sometimes mayonnaise are commonly used as a seasoning.



## Pastas

Being as appreciated as meat, the Italian food and its traditional pasta are also quite common. Though the variety is big, the top dishes are spaghetti (fideos), gnochis and delicious filled pasta such as sorrentinos, canelones and lasagnas. Last but not least, the pizza is always welcome and in Argentina they taste really superb and there are lots of toppings.

## Empanadas



An empanada is a stuffed bread or pastry baked or fried in many countries in Western Europe, Latin America, and parts of Southeast Asia. The name comes from the Spanish verb empanar, meaning to wrap or coat in bread. Empanada is made by folding dough or bread around stuffing, which usually consists of a variety of meat, cheese, huitlacoche, vegetables or fruits, among others.

Argentine empanadas are often served at parties as a starter or main course, or in festivals. Shops specialize in freshly made empanadas, with many flavors and fillings.

The dough is usually of wheat flour and beef dripping with fillings differing from province to province: in some it is mainly chicken, in others beef (cubed or ground depending on the region), perhaps spiced with cumin and paprika, while others include onion, boiled egg, olives, or raisins. Empanadas can be baked (Salta style) or fried (Tucuman style). They may also contain ham, fish, humita (sweetcorn with white sauce) or spinach; a fruit filling is used to create a dessert empanada. Empanadas of the interior regions can be spiced with peppers. Many are eaten at celebrations.

In those places (usually take-away shops) where several types are served, a repulgue, or pattern, is added to the pastry fold. These patterns indicate the filling. In larger cities, empanadas are more commonly eaten as take-away food, sourced from restaurants specialized in this dish. They usually carry dozens of different varieties, which is not the case in Northern provinces, where empanadas are usually made at home, out of more traditional recipes.

## Locro

Locro (from the Quechua ruqru) is a hearty thick stew popular along the Andes mountain range. The dish is a classic Ecuadorian cheese and potato soup from the Ecuadorian cuisine. This is also a dish in Peruvian cuisine, which at one point held the center of the Inca empire. It typical also in Argentina prepared by the different native Indian tribes at the time of the Spanish conquest. Its origin dates to before the Spanish colonial times.

The defining ingredients are corn, some form of meat (usually beef, but sometimes beef jerky or chorizo), and vegetables. Other ingredients vary widely, and typically include onion, beans, squash or pumpkin. It is mainly eaten in winter.

In Argentina it spread from the Cuyo region to the rest of the country. It is considered a national dish and is often served on May 25, the anniversary of the May Revolution.



## Wines

When it comes to drinks, one can perfectly claim that wines (vinos) in Argentina are really popular. You will find budget versions that come in tetrabrick packaging as well as the top quality selections that have made the country a renowned wine producer.

## Mate

Mate, is a traditional South American infused drink, particularly in Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, southern states of Brazil, south of Chile, the Bolivian Chaco. It is prepared from steeping dried leaves of yerba mate (*Ilex paraguariensis*) in hot water.

Mate is served with a metal straw from a shared hollow calabash gourd. The straw is called a bombilla. The straw is traditionally made of silver. Modern, commercially available straws are typically made of nickel silver, called Alpaca; stainless steel, or hollow-stemmed cane. The gourd is known as a mate.

As with other brewed herbs, yerba mate leaves are dried, chopped, and ground into a powdery mixture called yerba.

"Tea-bag" type infusions of mate (mate cocido) have been on the market in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay for many years. This is considered a completely different drink. It is never drunk from a gourd nor is it associated with the gaucho culture.

There is another drink that can be prepared with specially cut dry leaves, very cold water and, optionally, lemon or another fruit juice, called tereré. It is very common in Paraguay, northeastern Argentina and in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil. After pouring the water, it is considered proper to "wait while the saint has a sip" before the first person takes a drink.

(At this point we'll show you have to prepare the mate).



## Ice Cream

Argentina is also home to some excellent desserts. Ice cream or helado is particularly good, especially from shops that make their own.

## Dulce de Leche

Dulce de leche is a sweet prepared by slowly heating sweetened milk to create a product that derives its taste from caramelized sugar. Literally translated, it means "candy of milk" or better "candy[made] of milk", "milk candy", or "milk jam" in the same way that "dulce de frutilla" is strawberry jam. It is popular in South America, notably in Argentina and Uruguay.



## Alfajor

The alfajor is a traditional and very popular sweet layered pastry which reminds a yo-yo. It's commonly filled with dulce de leche (caramelized milk) and coated with chocolate. The most famous alfajores in Argentina are manufactured in Mar del Plata but can be found anywhere in the country.

## Dance



The tango was born by the end of the 19th century from a mixture of several rhythms that were danced in the suburbs of Buenos Aires. Originally it was almost exclusively connected to cabarets, a sort of contention house for the predominantly male population that was increasingly immigrating to the country. Since only prostitutes would dare performing this dance, in the beginning most couples were formed by two men.

The tango then started to call more and more attention, not only in the obscure areas where it came from but also among working-class neighborhoods. Even respected Argentine families got fascinated by the dance, especially after it reached great success in Paris and then all over Europe.

Its distinctive sound came to life thanks to the combination of violin, guitar and flute, which was eventually replaced by the "bandoneón" or concertina. Additionally, the immigrants added all their nostalgia to the lyrics and helped to develop tango's unique flavor.

Carlos Gardel was the first and most famous tango singer, who also gave an enormous contribution to spreading this Argentine music overseas until he tragically died in 1935. During the 60's, the tango had been virtually abandoned outside its home country, but it was brought to life again thanks to the more jazzistic traits added by bandoneón genius Astor Piazzolla. Nowadays, the tango is more alive than ever. Although it is not a massive phenomenon as in its early years, it is still the best way to penetrate the Buenos Aires soul and will always stand as its most genuine symbol.

## Women

Argentina is a traditional, male-dominated society, and women continue to occupy a somewhat secondary position in all aspects, including business. Despite this, Argentine women are generally considered to have more freedom and a greater opportunity than women in many other Latin American societies. Generally restricted to a position in the home, Argentine women nevertheless tend to be well-educated. In the last decade or so, this has been changing gradually with more women are entering the workforce, albeit often in relatively low level positions. Argentina has one of the biggest ratios of women in College compare to other nations and this fact alone bodes well for obtaining equality in all areas of Argentina's life.

They are also becoming more responsible for monetary contributions to the family budget. Foreign businesswomen should experience few difficulties in Argentina, although they may face some rather frank questioning regarding their personal situation, as well as public comments (although these are less aggressive here than elsewhere).

## Castellano Rioplatense

Rioplatense Spanish is the Spanish of Argentina and parts of Uruguay. Rioplatense Spanish is strongly influenced by Italian. A large portion of the population of Uruguay and parts of Argentina are descendants

of both Spanish and Italian settlers. The Italian settlers had a great influence on the language over time causing it to evolve into a unique form of Spanish.

## Pronunciation

Rioplatense Spanish distinguishes itself from other dialects of Spanish by the pronunciation of certain consonants.

Like many other dialects, Rioplatense features **yeísmo**: the sounds represented by ll and y is a voiceless [ʃ]. As in most American dialects, also, Rioplatense Spanish has seseo (traditional /θ/ merges with /s/). That is, casa ("house") is homophonous with caza ("hunt").

In popular speech, the fricative /s/ has a tendency to become 'aspirated' before another consonant (the resulting sound depending on what the consonant is, although stating it is a voiceless glottal fricative, [h], would give a clear idea of the mechanism) or simply in all syllable-final positions in less educated speech.

This change may be realized only at the word level or it may also cross word boundaries. That is, esto es lo mismo "this is the same" is pronounced something like [ˈe̞h̞t̞o̞ ˈe̞h̞ l̞o̞ ˈmi̞h̞m̞o̞], but in las águilas azules "the blue eagles", /s/ in las and águilas might remain [s] as no consonant follows: [las ˈa̞yilas a ˈsule̞h̞], or become [h]; the pronunciation is largely an individual choice.

In some areas, speakers tend to drop the final r sound in verb infinitives. This elision is considered a feature of uneducated speakers in some places, but it is widespread in others, at least in rapid speech.

Aspiration of s, together with loss of final r and some common instances of diphthong simplification, tend to produce a noticeable simplification of the syllable structure, giving Rioplatense informal speech a distinct fluid consonant-vowel-consonant-vowel rhythm:

Si querés irte, andate. Yo no te voy a parar.

"If you want to go, then go. I'm not going to stop you."

[si ke're ˈite ãn'date. ʃo no te βoi a pa'ra]

Note: Not pronouncing 'r' in "irte" and "parar" is less educated speech.

## Pronouns and verb conjugation

Argentina is the largest country that uses the voseo, is associated as exclusively belonging to that nation.

One of the features of the Argentine and Uruguayan speaking style is the voseo: the usage of the pronoun vos for the second person singular, instead of tú. In other Spanish-speaking regions where voseo is used, it is typically considered a nonstandard lower-class sociolectic or regional variant (Central American Spanish, however, is a notable exception); whereas in Argentina, voseo is standard. Vos is used with forms of the verb that resemble those of the second person plural (vosotros) in traditional (Spain's) Peninsular Spanish.

The second person plural pronoun, which is vosotros in Spain, is replaced with ustedes in Rioplatense, as in most other Latin American dialects. While usted is the formal second person singular pronoun, its plural ustedes has a neutral connotation and can be used to address friends and acquaintances as well as in more formal occasions. Ustedes takes a grammatically third- person plural verb.

As an example, see the conjugation table for the verb amar (to love) in the present tense, indicative mode:

## Inflection of amar

Person/Number	Peninsular	Rioplatense
1st sing.	yo amo	yo amo
2nd sing.	tú amas	vos amás
3rd sing.	él ama	él ama
1st plural	nosotros amamos	nosotros amamos
2nd plural	vosotros amáis	ustedes aman
3rd plural	ellos aman	ellos aman

Tú amás is only used in some parts of Uruguay, where it coexists with Vos amás. However, tú and vos are not interchangeably used, but rather vos denotes a more intimate relationship between the parties in conversation. In formal speech, usted ama.

Ustedes is used throughout all of Latin America for both the familiar and formal. In Spain, it is used only in formal speech for the second person plural.

Although apparently there is just a stress shift (from amas to amás), the origin of such a stress is the loss of the diphthong of the ancient vos inflection from vos amáis to vos amás. This can be better seen with the verb "to be": from vos sois to vos sos. In vowel-alternating verbs like perder and morir, the stress shift also triggers a change of the vowel in the root:

deemed incorrect.

### *Cultural Differences*

It would be very important for our team to take some time to think about your own culture and the hosting culture around us. It is hard to look at ourselves objectively. We tend to understand everything through our cultural glasses. In order to adapt to any culture we have to learn that “culturally speaking” there is no “correct” and “incorrect”. We have to acknowledge the fact that cultures are just **DIFFERENT**. If we don’t understand this, our adaptation will be hard on us.

People in Argentina look different than people from the USA. They think different, talk different, feel different, etc. People in Argentina look different than people from Mexico. Not all Latin American countries eat spicy salsa and tacos.

If you don’t acknowledge the fact that they are simply “different” and that difference is not necessarily bad, you can end up being very frustrated and resentful toward the culture and people.

Let’s take a look at some of the characteristics that make us different:

Typical Argentine:

- ...are highly influenced by the Italian culture
- ...are very loud
- ...are extroverts (most of them)
- ...love to hang out and talk for hours.
- ...like foreigners
- ...like to go dancing without having any room to dance (¿?)
- ...have no sense of personal space
- ...are smooth talkers (girls: be careful with them)
- ...like to dress provocatively (guys: the way they dress or look at you might mean NOTHING)
- ...are big feelers and passionate
- ...are very opinionated
- ...are not very literal when they talk (a couple of hours might mean six hours, not exactly two.)

Things that are important for them:

- 1) Family and friends
- 2) Soccer (most have a strong opinion that their particular soccer team is the best)
- 3) Birthday parties
- 4) Sunday lunch at home
- 5) Coffee at coffee shops with friends
- 6) Mate in the afternoon
- 7) Fidelity in relationships

### House Cleaning

Cleaning freaks. Houses are harder to clean due to the lack of air conditioning and excessive dust. Some families have maids. (services are usually much cheaper than in the States)

### Dishes

Usually they don't have dishwashers and wash dishes after every meal.

### Showers

Try not to use a lot of water since you can run out of hot water and leave the rest of the team without water

### Burping

NOT ALLOWED

### Passing gas

NOT ALLOWED (If for some reason you happen to pass some gas in public, go get your passport and we'll meet you at the airport). Don't laugh at someone if they accidentally pass gas in front of you!

### Picking your nose

It's allowed (as long as YOU think no one can see you)

### Repeating a dish

Wait until they offer you another plate (unless you know the person really well)

### Image is VERY, VERY important in this country.

In Argentina the incidence rate of Anorexia and Bulimia is out of control. The percentage of sufferers (based on population) is almost three times greater than that of the United States. Women across Argentina will resort, at all costs, to look their best and are obsessed with their bodies. According to an article written by Lori Leibovich, "Some blamed the nation's preoccupation with the body on the country's volatile political and economic climate. Others said that the Italian immigrants who settled in Argentina at the turn of the century simply brought with them a flair for fashion and an appreciation of beauty. And some Argentine feminists say that 'machismo' is responsible for the epidemic, encouraging a climate where women are valued for how they look, not who they are." Women that don't fit into the harsh Argentine ideal typically end up in their own world of self-hate.

It is more frequent that the men here leave their faces slightly un-shaved so to have a scruffy (macho?) look. It is very common for them to have longer hair compared to North Americans, usually sporting a mullet covering down their necks. The girls in general dress well and make good use of make-ups. Women here seem to be of medium built compared to North American women and carry a hand-bag everywhere they go.

### Remember:

People might make comments about the way you look, especially if you have gained some weight since your last mission trip, but without having the intention of hurting your feelings.

Clothing stores don't carry all the sizes and you might have a really hard time trying to find your size.

Skinny models and crazy tv shows.

This is a very sensual culture. Here are some very important tips to remember while you stay in this country:

- First and most important: Pray that God might give you the strength to overcome any sexual temptations and commit yourself to stay pure.
- Do not stop at the "puestos de diarios" (little magazine stores on the streets). They sell all kinds of pornography magazines and you will have them right in front of your eyes.
- Girls can dress very provocatively. If you are struggling with that, find an accountability partner.
- Argentine guys are professional smooth talkers, don't believe everything they say.
- Remember this is not a time to find a boyfriend or girlfriend. If you are starting to have strong feelings for an Argentine, talk to your leaders.

### Greeting and Communication

Kiss on the cheek (it's not a real kiss...we'll tell you later), happens between girls, between guys (in informal contexts)

-There are not many barriers between people who do not know one another very well.

Argentines do not have a sense of personal space. They get really close to you when they talk, might bump you with the shopping cart or read your newspaper while seating on the bus.

They may touch each other when speaking. In their earnest desire to compliment and be warm and friendly, Argentines will lavish praise and compliment extensively even something that-from another point of view-could be considered an insignificant event or achievement. This is not insincerity, and a visitor would be making a grave mistake by deprecating these expressions or misinterpreting them.

Argentines tend to stare at people when they first walk in a place.

Argentina is a relationship-driven culture, so it is important to build networks and use them.

Argentines maintain and use an intricate network of family and friends to call upon for help, favours or assistance.

If a favor is done for you, you will eventually be called upon to re-pay it.

They give friendship an almost religious feeling and consider the expression "hacer una gauchada" as the key that opens the coldest of hearts, because the "gauchada" is an institution in Buenos Aires, and asking someone to do a "gauchada" is doubtlessly something more than asking "for a favour".

Name-dropping and nepotism do not have the negative connotations as it has in the West and can be used to your advantage.

Above all Argentines like to do business with people they know and trust.

They prefer face-to-face meetings rather than by telephone or in writing, which are seen as impersonal.

Once a relationship has developed, their loyalty will be to you rather than to the company you represent.

Looking good in the eyes of others is important to Argentines. Therefore, they will judge you not only on what you say, but also on the way you present yourself.

Avoid confrontation. Argentines do not like publicly admitting they are incorrect.

It is imperative to show deference and respect to those in positions of authority. When dealing with people at the same level, communication can be more informal.

Try to avoid talking about war and politics. If they keep insisting, let them know you feel uncomfortable talking about those issues.

Try to avoid talking about how much money you had to raise to come to the States.

Try to avoid comparing both countries.

Argentines can be very curious and ask very personal questions (like how much money you make or how old you are). If you don't want to answer their questions, let them know you feel uncomfortable.

### Meetings

When you first arrive to the room, say 'hi' to everybody. You don't need to kiss each person if there are lots of people. When leaving the room, say good-bye to everybody.

In general, Argentines prefer third-party introductions, so you should wait for your host or hostess to introduce you to others at a small gathering.

Maintaining eye contact indicates interest.

If you get an invitation to drink mate to somebody's place it means: I want your friendship. Mate is an excuse. If you can't take up on that invitation don't say: 'I have plans'. It sounds suspicious, an excuse. Try to say why.

If invited to dinner at an Argentine's home bring a small gift for the hostess.

Gifts are opened immediately.

People might stop by whenever they are in the neighborhood without calling in advance.

Hanging out can be a period of time that can last between two to eight hours.

Hanging out does not have to include any special activities besides talking.

Punctuality is not an Argentine virtue.

Argentines are not by nature organized and efficient people. Relationships come first.

Argentines are a warm people and their unreservedness brings to the fore their passion and sentimentality. They want to show you their cities, their people and are happy to chat with you. They are not afraid to embrace you and spend quality time with you

### Loyalty

Argentines are strongly faithful to their friends. Friendship is one of their biggest values.

### Promises

Don't promise people you will call them and write them, if you won't. They can get strongly hurt.

"Time is not money"

### Telephone

It's very expensive. If you borrow someone's cell or home phone, be quick.

### Electricity

It's very expensive as well. Make sure you turn off the light after you leave your room.

Services in general are cheaper than in the United States that's why most of middle class families have maids or gardeners.

### Hair salon

You don't have to leave a tip.

### Waitresses

Most of waitresses are college students and don't make any money. So don't get surprised if you don't get a good service. Waiters in general are more polite and offer a better service.

Free refills

There is not such a thing and they always charge you for water. Tap water is not served.

Doors

Doors open from the outside to the inside.

When you get off the car, do not slam the door. It is considered very rude.

Humor

Argentines can be very sarcastic and use a lot of double meaning when they talk.

Argentina is not Mexico. Argentine are not use to spicy food and rice in every meal. Argentina has a very strong Italian influence reflected in its foods and traditions.

Argentine Spanish is different from Mexican Spanish, just as American English is different from British English:

People tend to speak really fast and cut off their words.

They use “vos” instead of “tu”.

They use a lot of slang or Lunfardo: chabon, che, guita, birra, copado, etc.

## The real meaning of Mate:

*Mate is not a drink. Well, it's liquid, you drink it, but it is not a drink.*

*In our country no one drinks mate because he is thirsty. It's an instinct, like scratching. It's the opposite of TV. It makes you talk if you are with someone, or think if you are by yourself.*

*When someone knocks at your door, the first thing you hear is "hi" and the second one : "let's make some mates".*

*This happens among intelligent, noisy or problematic women. It is also enjoyed among serious or immature man. It even happens among older people at a nursing home or teenagers while they are studying.*

*It's the one thing that parents and children share without arguing or attacking each other.*

*Peron followers or the opposing political parties drink mate without asking questions. In summer or winter we drink it without any distinction between victims or victimizers, good or bad people.*

*When you have kids, you give it to them the first time they ask. You give it to them warm, with lots of sugar and it makes them feel "older", it gives them an overwhelming feeling that they belong to your world. And you feel so proud when you see that little human drinking it for the first time. It's like the heart comes out of your body because you know all the talks and unmemorable moments that will follow that first mate together. No cell phones allowed.*

*When you meet someone for the first time, you always say: ....come home, let's have some mates.*

*When you are not that close to the other person, you say: sweet or without sugar? And he responds back: however you like it...*

*All the computer keyboards in Argentina have the keys stained with mate or yerba. The same yerba that you find in times of inflation, famine, recession, democracy, plagues and eternal cursings. And if one day you run out of it, you go and get some from your neighbor; even if it means meeting him for the first time. You can't say no when someone asks you for Yerba. Yerba is the one thing that cannot be denied.*

*This is the only country in the world when the transition from being a kid and becoming an adult starts the first time you go and make yourself a mate. It's not the day you move out of your house or start the university. It's the first time you have the need to have a mate alone. It's not a coincidence. It doesn't just happen. The first day a kid grabs the kettle, warms up the water and has mate with no one around, it's the day he discovers he has a soul. He feels a revolution inside. Mate is by definition a demonstration of values: it's to put up with those washed out mates only because you don't want to stand up to change the yerba and stop comforting your friend. It's the definition of fellowship and community. It makes people share those struggles that they wouldn't even dare to share in a different context.*

*It's the obligation to say 'thank you' at least once a day.*

*The obligation to stay even when you have to go.*

*What motivates you to stay, with the only expectation of being there for a friend, even when all you hear is the calming noise of sipping the mate.*

*Now that you know, go and start warming up the water...*

## How To Prepare The Mate

### STEP # 1

Get your set of tools ready for the mate and make sure that all tools are complete and entirely clean and hygienic.

#### Basic Utensils:

- Pava – Kettle
- Mate – Gourd
- Bombilla – Sipper
- Sugar Bowl
- Spoon
- A Thermo, of course



### STEP # 2

Pour the yerba mate inside the mate until it is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.



### STEP # 3

Mate could be drunk bitter or with honey, sugar, or any other kind of healthy sweetener. We prefer a bitter mate, no sugar or sweetener. The mate is much healthier this way, but you have to get accustomed to it. If you choose to have the mate sweet, then add sugar, one or two teaspoons at max (omit this step if you chose to sweeten the water, which is not recommended, it will wash the mate too soon).



### STEP # 4

Cover the mouth of the mate with one hand, invert it and shake it vigorously for about 5 seconds. The purpose of this process is to get the smallest particles to sit on the top of the brewing. By doing so, the possibilities of them passing through the small holes of the strainer of the sipper-bombilla and block it are diminished. This mate is looking good!!!



**STEP # 5**

Place the mate again in its original position— taking care of the brewing to remain inclined on one side. This step is optional, but this the right way.



**STEP # 6**

Heat the water to a boiling point. When the water is warm, pour softly a sufficient amount of water into the hollow part of the brewing, so that only the yerba on that side gets wet. Allow the mate to rest for a few seconds. The yerba is now getting soaked and the infusion starts taking place. Hmmm!! The mate keeps looking better and better!!



**STEP # 7**

Cover the mouth of the bombilla with your thumb and put the filter end into the hollow part of the brewing where the yerba is wet. Uncover the bombilla only when you have found the definite position of the bombilla touching the bottom of the gourd. This way you will keep the filter from blocking with fine particles.



**STEP # 8**

When the water has reached its optimal temperature (before boiling), you can begin to brew. Pour the water softly in the hole next to the bombilla and add sugar to the mate when you think it necessary (if you have not chosen to sweeten the water). Usually, if you add sugar, you do it every two or three mates so it will not be so sweet



and wash the mate tea after a few servings (cebadas). Try to pour the water always in the same spot next to the bombilla, without getting the rest of the yerba wet.

## More about Argentines and friendship

1. A normal friend knocks at your door. An Argentinean friend opens the door and happily yells, "I'm here!"
2. A normal friend asks if you could please make her coffee. An Argentinean friend goes straight to the kitchen, helping herself to the coffeemaker and asking your neighbor for sugar if you don't have any.
3. A normal friend plans a visit a week ahead of time and asks for a confirmation. An Argentinean friend calls anytime and says, "I'll start cooking in five minutes, bring the vino."
4. When you visit a normal friend at his office, he introduces you using your first and last name. An Argentinean friend says, "Man, this dude is my bro."
5. If you're going through hard times, a normal friend tells you, "I didn't call you before because I wanted to give you your space." An Argentinean friend calls every hour saying, "B....., let me know what you need."
6. A normal friend could be a friend for some time. An Argentinean friend will be your friend for life.
7. A normal friend never asks you for food. An Argentinean friend is the reason you're putting dinner together.
8. A normal friend asks, "How are you doing?" when he sees you. An Argentinean friend hugs and kisses you, saying "Look at you, you son of a bitch, you look so amazing!"
9. A normal friend may not have seen you cry. An Argentinean friend has cried with you a dozen times.
10. A normal friend sends you flowers and a card when you're at the hospital. An Argentinean friend goes to see you and falls asleep on a chair next to your bed.
11. A normal friend will borrow something and give it back to you in a couple of days. An Argentinean friend borrows something and forgets in a week that it doesn't belong to him. He will never return it and you will never ask for it.
12. A normal friend offers you her couch to sleep on. An Argentinean friend gives you her bed while she sleeps on the floor next to you, keeping you up all night talking.

## How to piss off an Argentine

### ***Don't have change or small bills.***

Just try paying for your 12-block taxi ride with a 100-peso bill.

### ***“Microphone” while you’re drinking mate.***

Drinking mate has a pace to it. It's not like sipping coffee. When you really get it, you see how it sets the rhythm of a conversation, or *charla*. When it's passed to you, sip purposefully until the mate is completely empty (you need to hear a gurgling sound), and then pass it directly back to the *cebador* (person serving the mate). Don't say “gracias” unless you want to communicate to the *cebador* that you're finished and don't want another round.

Argentines take a lot of care in how mate is prepared and served. In any way tampering with the *bombilla* (straw), stirring the yerba around, playing with it, trying to prepare it yourself and then mess up the temperature of the water, the amount of yerba, etc, or most of all, sitting there talking while you're holding the mate (microphoning) — all of this gets people ornery.

### ***Misinterpret the kissing thing.***

In Argentina you greet people with *besos*. It's not about hugs or fistbumps or handshakes. Regardless of gender, people's friends, family, their friends of friends, even casual acquaintances are greeted and said goodbye to with a quick peck on the right cheek. So don't start having panic attacks when you're suddenly stubble to stubble with some dude, or mistake that the girl is actually interested in you. Check yourself: It's a *saludo*, nada más.

### ***Obey traffic rules / give right of way to a pedestrian.***

The roads in Argentina are unpredictable. On every conceivable level, laws, lanes, common sense, and courtesy are thrown out the window, replaced with a kind of machismo hierarchy based on the size/velocity of your vehicle.

Q: Who has right of way at a four-way stop? A(1): Whoever doesn't stop, and (2) whoever's momentum and vehicle size would inflict the most damage on others.

There is one universally followed law: No matter what, you do NOT stop for *peatones*(pedestrians), and if you do, prepare yourself for a chorus of raised fists, and possible rear-endings.

***Leave a party or social event early.***

And by “early” we’re talking 2am. In Argentina, the phrase/excuse “I’ve got to get up early for work tomorrow” doesn’t exist.

***Refuse hospitality.***

In the same spirit, Argentines will want you to eat, drink, party until you reach a comatose state. When you’re literally passing out on someone’s sofa, that’s when you’re done. You can try to claim dietary restrictions or simply say you’re too full for a fifth *portion* of meat, but you’ll be doing irreparable damage.

***Ask if they speak Portuguese.***

Buenos Aires is not the capital of Brazil (where, yes, they speak Portuguese), but Argentina, where they speak *castellano*, aka Spanish.

***Doubt their directions.***

If you stop and ask for directions, Argentines have two rules: (1) Never say “Sorry, I don’t know,” and (2) Even if you don’t know or aren’t sure, create elaborate, ultra-convincing, and completely false directions as a bluff. With enough language skills, perspicacity, and time spent in Argentina, you can begin to recognize when somebody is actually telling you the truth versus “playing the guitar,” but either way, just smile, nod, and enjoy the show.

***Be from the US. . . and be right about something.***

I’m not saying it isn’t somewhat deserved (just check your history: Operation Condor), but an obscure antipathy towards *Los Yanquis* definitely exists in Argentina. Even if you manage to ingratiate yourself with a local crew (and it’s surprisingly easy as long as you’re not an apparatus), there will always be this tiny layer of something like jealousy, suspicion, a sense that you’ve had it easier somehow. . . . I’m not exactly sure how to describe it.

All I know is that if you just go with it, outwardly accepting, that yes, you’re a the “*B-word*” when it comes to carving meat, building fences, tending horses, hitting on girls, whatever it is, all will be fine. But as a gringo, as soon as you suggest something — like driving slightly faster on a dirt road to smooth out the bumps — and your (likely male) Argentine friend discovers you’re right? Prepare for extended sulking, bitterness, even outright rage.

***Don’t give up your place in line for a pregnant woman.***

This is a truly beautiful (if inconsistent with the pedestrians thing) part of Argentinean culture: People in lines always give up their place for pregnant women. Are you a healthy 20-something backpacker waiting

for the ATM where you'll leverage ridiculous euro or dollar exchange rates to extract more pesos for your night in San Telmo than the pregnant woman at the back of the line (with four *nenes* pulling on her) will withdraw in a month? God help you, let her pass in front of you.

***Call yourself an "American."***

While this is true in other Latin American countries, Argentines seem particularly sensitive to the fact that technically all of us throughout the Americas are "American" and that the proper term is *estadounidense*.

***After getting made fun of for your accent, ask about their English.***

Imitating gringo accents is just a kind of national pastime in Argentina. You can live there for years, speaking with so much fluency, grace, and *jerga* that no Latino outside of Argentina would ever guess you weren't from there...and still, the second you round off the the d's and r's of "Puerto Madero," you're gonna get made fun of. And you're expected to just take this in good humor. The second you laugh at their version of "Bob Marley," "Pink Floyd," "Rolling Stones," etc. — the second you ask about their English — *prepare for their wrath.*

**Be a vegetarian**

As one of the top beef consumers in the world, Argentina takes pride on their ability to mercilessly slaughter and grill large slabs of various grass feeders. If you ever get invited to an asado by a porteño, make sure leave your animal rights flyers at home. The asado offers a traditional outdoor barbecue where numerous cuts of meat are grilled and served as separate courses throughout the day. Traditionally, aside from a few rolls and a small salad, that's all there would be. In the city, parillas, or steak houses, are also very popular and provide a more urban experience to being a carnivore.

***Have a heated discussion about the Malvinas (Falklands)***

Even using the wrong name for these highly debatable islands will furrow the brow of a porteño. The Malvinas lie southeast off the coast of Argentina and are a highly sensitive subject for Argentines and Brits alike. The ownership of the Falklands has been a long-standing dispute for centuries, shifting among various European periods of colonization and ultimately falling under British rule. In 1982, Argentina invaded the Falklands attempting to retake control until the UK responded and drove them out. This is still a touchy topic for most Argentines and it's important to be respectful to their beliefs.

**Root for the wrong team**

The biggest divide in Buenos Aires is inarguably between the soccer teams Boca Juniors and River Plate. The rivalry between Boca and River has been known to tear apart families, cause people to lose jobs, and generally ruin lives. Boca has traditionally been a team for the working class and River has a more well off following, making this rivalry a social and economic conflict. During the Superclásico, the official soccer match between the two teams, the city becomes divided and stepping into the wrong bar in the wrong colors could be the last decision you ever make.

If you really don't want to endanger your life, make sure you never say anything remotely negative about Messi. He is a *god* to the Argentines.



## ***Cultural SHOCK***

### **Definition**

It is the term used to describe the anxiety produced when a person moves to a completely new environment. This term expresses the lack of direction, the feeling of not knowing what to do or how to do things in a new environment, and not knowing what is appropriate or inappropriate. The feeling of culture shock generally sets in after the first few weeks of coming to a new place.

We can describe culture shock as the physical and emotional discomfort one suffers when coming to live in another country or a place different from the place of origin. Often, the way that we lived before is not accepted as or considered as normal in the new place. Everything is different, for example, not speaking the language, not knowing how to use banking machines, not knowing how to use the telephone and so forth.

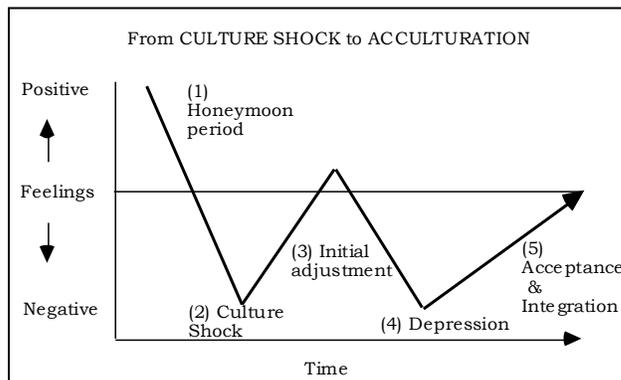
The symptoms of cultural shock can appear at different times. Although, one can experience real pain from culture shock; it is also an opportunity for redefining one's life objectives. It is a great opportunity for leaning and acquiring new perspectives. Culture shock can make one develop a better understanding of oneself and stimulate personal creativity.

### **Symptoms:**

- Sadness, loneliness, melancholy
- Preoccupation with health
- Unwarranted criticism of the culture and people
- Aches, pains, and allergies
- Insomnia, desire to sleep too much or too little
- Changes in temperament, depression, feeling vulnerable, feeling powerless
- Anger, irritability, resentment, unwillingness to interact with others
- Identifying with the old culture or idealizing the old country
- Loss of identity
- Trying too hard to absorb everything in the new culture or country
- Unable to solve simple problems
- Lack of confidence
- Feelings of inadequacy or insecurity
- Developing stereotypes about the new culture
- Developing obsessions such as over-cleanliness
- Longing for family
- Feelings of being lost, overlooked, exploited or abused
- Heightened irritability

### **Stages of Culture Shock**

A typical culture shock experience has 5 principle points, as shown by the following diagram:



- Stages (1) and (2)

During phase 1, the honeymoon period, everything seems brighter, better and tastier. The positive reasons for going abroad are confirmed. We concentrate on what we expect (distortion), and much of the culture is filtered out (deletion). As the sojourner begins to become acquainted with the new culture, so the natives are found not to do things as expected, and we experience discomfort: stage 2.

- Stage (2) to (3)

There are a number of responses to this discomfort. In this stage, there may be feelings of discontent, impatience, anger, sadness, and feeling incompetence. This happens when a person is trying to adapt to a new culture that is very different from the culture of origin. Transition between the old methods and those of the new country is a difficult process and takes time to complete. During the transition, there can be strong feelings of dissatisfaction.

- Stage (3)

The third stage is characterized by gaining some understanding of the new culture. A new feeling of pleasure and sense of humor may be experienced. One may start to feel a certain psychological balance. The new arrival may not feel as lost and starts to have a feeling of direction. The individual is more familiar with the environment and wants to belong. This initiates an evaluation of the old ways versus those of the new. We make superficial adjustments to our understanding at the level of behavior, and we even begin to evolve some new strategies.

Acceptance for behavioral difference is equivalent to stage (3), and for a short time is successful. Visible cultural differences are acknowledged and accommodated. At this level, allowance is also made for different language styles, and "when in Rome do as the Romans do."

- Stage (3) to (4)

However, the adaptation is still based on a set of values and beliefs from the original culture. After time, and further exposure to the other culture, real depression can set in due to the conflict between one's own internal culture-bound beliefs and the visible behavior of those in the other culture.

- Towards stage (5)

To reach stage 5, individuals need first to accept the fact that values behind the observable behaviors make sense only within cultural frames. Then there can be a move towards relativism. This will happen through unconscious modeling or through conscious awareness and instruction of the culture shock process.

- Stage (5)

At this stage of the development there is a change in our understanding of ourselves and our position in the world. The most important is the realization that our set of values are not natural, and are not at the centre of the world, but are at the center of our map of the world. Second, there is the realization that values are not

fixed, but are what we value. We all have values, but all cultures value some things more than others, and in different ways.

1) Adaptation New skills are necessary according to a different way of valuing, and this involves mind-shifting: the ability to shift from one worldview to another. The first stage of adaptation is empathy, which means being able to attempt to understand by imagining the other's frame of interpretation. The drawback with empathy is that there is a tendency to believe that all cultural differences are good. Another problem is 'mutual empathy'.

2) Pluralism: It means actually being able to reference or access alternative maps of the world. This is the cultural equivalence of bilingualism. Identity remains paramount with core-beliefs remaining intact.

3) Integration: This is the stage of the true multicultural person, but carries with it internal cultural shock, and existential questions.

There are two aspects.

#### *Contextual Evaluation*

In this way one can also integrate what is most useful from one culture into another. For example, one could note that a particular negotiation will need an American framework, at least in terms of decisions to be made within certain time limits. Another negotiation, on the other hand, may well profit from a more Mediterranean approach. It is at this level that most international communicators and cultural mediators will want to operate: with their own identity and core beliefs, but with a conscious ability to make rational choices at the level of values.

#### *Constructive Marginality*

The person at this stage has gone beyond integration to a meta-cultural level. At this level of development there are no cultural frames of reference, no presuppositions, and no intrinsic rights or wrongs. This is not the level to be sought by most people.

## **How to Fight Culture Shock:**

The majority of individuals and families that emigrate from other countries have the ability to positively confront the obstacles of a new environment. Some ways to combat stress produced by culture shock are:

- Develop a hobby
- Don't forget the good things you already have!
- Be patient, the act of immigrating is a process of adaptation to new situations. It is going to take time
- Learn to be constructive.
- Learn to include a regular form of physical activity in your routine. This will help combat the sadness and loneliness in a constructive manner. Exercise, swim, take an aerobics class, etc.
- Allow yourself to feel sad about the things that you have left behind: your family, your friends, etc.
- Recognize the sorrow of leaving your old country. Accept the new country. Focus your power on getting through the transition.
- Pay attention to relationships with your family and at work. They will serve as support for you in difficult times.
- Establish simple goals and evaluate your progress.

**Focus on what you can “control”**

People in culture shock often feel out of control. So, don't worry about things you cannot change.

**Don't invest major energy in minor problems**

Usually people make "mountains out of molehills" even more quickly in cross-cultural situations than they do in their own culture

**Tackle major stressors head on**

Don't avoid things

**Ask for help**

Create a wide support network as quickly as you can in your target culture

**Write it down**

Record your thoughts and frustrations in a journal. This will give you a healthy outlet for expressing your feelings.

### Help from the Bible

Can Scripture help us with cross-cultural adjustment? Well, the book of Acts would be a good place to start in looking for examples of cultural adjustment or socialization. Paul, who grew up in modern-day Turkey and then was educated in Jerusalem, moved around the Mediterranean planting churches in different cultural contexts. To the Philippians he wrote: "I learned to be content whatever the circumstances." (Philippians 4:11). As Paul coped with various cultural issues, he was also dogged by Jewish Christians from Israel who tried to force Gentile converts to become Jewish (in which case Christianity would have been a mono-cultural movement).

Another Biblical event to look at would be the story of Ruth. Here's a young woman who left her home country and culture and moved to Israel and wound up ultimately being in the list of Jesus' ancestors!

Other Bible stories to ponder include:

- Joseph: He wound up being forced as a slave into another country and culture. He kept his faith and lived in such a wise way that he rose to a position of power. (Genesis 37-50)
- Daniel: Living in Babylon during the exile period, he kept his faith while also being a person of influence in the Babylonian government.

# THE NAVIGATORS

## The Core

Calling Statement: "To advance the Gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of laborers living and discipling among the lost."

## Core Values

1. The passions to know, love, and become like Jesus Christ.
2. The truth and sufficiency of the Scriptures for the whole of life.
3. The transforming power of the Gospel.
4. The leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit.
5. Expectant faith and persevering prayer rooted in the promises of God.
6. The dignity and value of every person.
7. Love and grace expressed among us in Community.
8. Families and relational networks in discipling the nations.
9. Interdependent relationships in the Body of Christ in advancing the Gospel.

## Vision Statement

We see a vital movement of the Gospel, fueled by prevailing prayer, flowing freely through relational networks and out into the nations. Workers for the Kingdom are next door to everywhere!

What characterizes this movement? A heart for the whole person . . . climates of grace . . . compassion for the vulnerable and broken . . . sacrificial unity embracing diversity . . . cultural relevance and sensitivity . . . interdependence with others in the wider family of God . . . transformed men and women, fragrant with humility and the aroma of Christ.

They are marked by a deep engagement with and obedience to the Scriptures as the Word of God. They believe the promises of God. Both personally and in committed communities, they seek to know and pursue the purposes of God.

Laborers and leaders are emerging, with an increasing passion for Jesus Christ. They demonstrate faith and courage as they live and move among their friends and families. As spiritual parents, they model authenticity and relevance.

Ordinary people, in many walks of life, are joyfully leading integrated lives. They live as fruitful insiders among the lost. There is perseverance in the face of hardship and suffering. Around the world, many are coming to faith. As they become established in discipleship, some grow to be foundational for further generations. The Gospel spreads naturally and powerfully, as believers share Christ . . . life upon life . . . family to family.

## THE NAVIGATORS in Argentina

Some differences with the United States . . .

How we identify ourselves . . .

Characteristics of our ministry here in La Plata . . .

## CONTACT LIST

**Summer Team Apartment:**

61 e 6 y 7 nro 583 6A  
4254762

**Chris & Flor**

Calle 26 # 737 bet./ 465 and 466  
Phone: 472.34.26  
Chris: 15.612.82.17  
Flor: 15.613.70.41

**Paula Nanni**

Calle 9 #466 bet./ 41 and 42  
Phone: 425.44.04  
15.572.90.72

**Dan & Diana Travis**

Calle 13b # 27 bet./ 474 and 476  
Phone: 480.31.84  
Dan: 15.477.56.23  
Diane: 15.524.72.90

**Fede & Irene:**

0221 15 5603861  
0221 15 5449306

**Seba y Carina:**

0221 15 5651522  
0221 15 5932134

**Church (City Bell)**

Camino Belgrano and Cantilo

**Church (La Plata)**

Calle 9 # 1323 bet./ 59 and 60

**Remis catini (1er opcion)**

Phone: 472.15.00

**Teletaxi (La Plata)**

Phone: 427.45.00/ 424.49.49/ 453.33.33

**Emergency: 911****Firefighters: 101**