



# Trekking the Planet

Discovering the Cultural and Natural Significance of the World



## Where are we now?

- Darren and Sandy are in Mendoza, Argentina, located at 33° S and 69° W.
- We have traveled approximately 63,938 miles (102,940 kilometers) from our starting point in California.



## People and Culture

- In 1816, the United Provinces of the Rio Plata declared their independence from Spain. After Bolivia, Paraguay, and Uruguay went their separate ways, the area that remained became Argentina. The country's population and culture were heavily shaped by immigrants from throughout Europe, but most particularly Italy and Spain, which provided the largest percentage of newcomers from 1860 to 1930.
- Argentina has a population of about 42 million. The growth rate is around one percent. Ninety-two percent of population lives in cities. Buenos Aires is the capital with approximately 13 million people.
- Ninety-two percent of the population is Roman Catholic.
- Spanish is the official language. Ninety-seven percent of the population has Spanish or Italian heritage.
- Argentina benefits from rich natural resources, a highly literate population and an export-oriented agricultural sector. Argentina is the third largest producer of beef in the world.
- Pato is the official national sport of Argentina. It is a combination of polo and basketball.



Buenos Aires at night (source: [WorldCountries.info](http://WorldCountries.info))

## Banking Crisis of 2001

In 2001, Interim President Rodriguez Saa declared a default on the government's foreign debt - the largest in history. In 2002, his successor Present Duhalde announced that the Argentinean dollar would no longer be linked to the US dollar. The economy bottomed out that year and then grew an average of 8.5% annually over the next six years.

source: [CIA.gov](http://CIA.gov)



Argentinean-style Beef Short Ribs with French Fries (source: [Flickr.com/Diego3336](http://Flickr.com/Diego3336))



*Carancho in flight (source: [Wikimedia.org](http://Wikimedia.org))*

## Patagonia

Patagonia, the southern region of Argentina, is a combination of pastoral steppes and glacial regions. Located in this region near the Chilean border is Parc Nacional Los Glaciares, where some 300 glaciers make up part of the Patagonian Ice Cap. The ice cap, flowing into the Pacific oceans from the Andes, is the largest in the Southern Hemisphere outside of Antarctica. Thirteen of the glaciers feed lakes in the region.



*Perito Moreno Glacier in Parc Nacional Los Glaciares (sources: [Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org), [Flickr.com/twiga269](http://Flickr.com/twiga269))*

## Nature and Environment

- Argentina is located in southern South America, bordering the Atlantic Ocean (east), Chile (west) as well as Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil and Uruguay (north). Argentina has 3,100 miles (4,989 kilometers) of coastline.
- Argentina is a large country. It is the second largest in South America (after Brazil) and eighth largest in the world. The country's 23 provinces are divided into seven zones by climate and terrain.
- Argentina is subject to a variety of climates. In the north of the country it is very hot and humid in the summer with mild drier winters. Central Argentina has hot summers with tornadoes and thunderstorms and cool winters. The southern regions have warm summers and cold winters with heavy snowfall.
- The highest point in Argentina, as well as in the entire Western Hemisphere, is Cerro Aconcagua at 22,834 feet (6,960 meters). Aconcagua is part of the Andes range. The lowest point in Argentina, as well as in the entire Western Hemisphere, is Laguna del Carbon at 344 feet (105 meters) below sea level.
- Iberá, in the northeast of Argentina, is a biologically rich region, with many ponds joined to marshes and swampland. The area is home to hundreds of bird species and thousands of insects, including a wide variety of butterflies.

## Our Plans

- We have arrived in Argentina from Uruguay and are staying in Mendoza. Next, we will be travelling south to trek in Patagonia.
- Once we have completed our stay in Argentina, we will cross over to Chile.
- What would you like to know about Argentina? Send us your ideas and we will try to include them!

## Eva Perón

María Eva Duarte de Perón was born on May 7, 1919. She was the second wife of President Juan Perón (1895–1974) and served as the First Lady of Argentina from 1946 until her death in 1952. She is often referred to as Evita.



sources: [Wikipedia.org](#), *Personal Library*

## More Information

- <http://wanttoknowit.com/interesting-facts-about-argentina/>
- <http://www.articleswave.com/facts/fun-facts-about-argentina.html>
- <http://www.argentina.gov.ar/argentina/portal/paginas.dhtml?pagina=1470>
- <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/argentina>
- <http://www.everyculture.com/A-Bo/Argentina.html>

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