



IFSA CUSTOM PROGRAMS

INSTITUTE FOR STUDY ABROAD

Activism through the Arts in Buenos Aires, Argentina University of Wisconsin Madison January 2-18, 2020





CONTENTS

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| | Page |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Welcome | 3 |
| Key Contacts | 4 |
| IFSA Travel Tips: Packing | 5-6 |
| Health & Safety | 7-8 |
| Arrival Details | 9 |
| Money Matters | 10 |
| Housing Details | 11-12 |
| Unique Facts About Argentina | 13 |
| Classroom Location | 14 |
| Returning Home | 15 |





WELCOME

INSTITUTE FOR STUDY ABROAD

We look forward to welcoming you to Argentina and the beginning of your study abroad experience!

Please read the information in this handbook carefully, and refer to it often for information on safety, accommodations, arrival details and travel tips. We highly recommend you bring this on the program.

We also ask in advance that you **please bring your student ID with you to all events and excursions.** You might not be admitted onto a site if you do not have your photo ID with you.

We look forward to getting to know you better. Please reach out to the IFSA team, your study abroad advisor, or the faculty joining you on the program if you have any questions!

Sincerely,

IFSA Team



KEY CONTACTS

INSTITUTE FOR STUDY ABROAD

While you are still in the United States, your IFSA contact to reach out to with any questions about your upcoming program is:

Kerry Uniyal, Program Advisor

kuniyal@IFSA-Butler.org / 317-940-4248

If questions or problems arise while you are traveling to the start of your program, you should share that with our IFSA Argentina staff. Once you arrive to Buenos Aires, the local IFSA staff will be meeting you at the airport, helping you get to your housing, and will attend any planned activities you have with us.

Victoria Picchetti, Program Coordinator

+54-9-11-3166-3367

Beyond the IFSA team, the following are people from your campus you can reach out to with any additional questions you might have.

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IFSA TRAVEL TIPS: PACKING

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Essential Packing List for Travel to Argentina

Use this page as a checklist to mark off what you have prepared for your travels! **You should have 2-3 copies of the following documents** (1-2 on you, saved in separate areas as you travel (for example in carry on and in passport holder), and 1 with a family member back home):

- ☐ Passport information page (page with your name and photo on it)
- ☐ Flight itinerary (for flights to and from Argentina)
- ☐ Contact information for the faculty member going with you
- ☐ Contact information for the IFSA Buenos Aires office
- ☐ Address for your lodging in Buenos Aires (if we have provided it to you already)
- ☐ CISI insurance card

Non-clothing essentials:

- ☐ Passport
- ☐ Money – discuss with your bank to learn what the best options are for your time abroad. For example, some abroad stores will not accept Mastercard. Make sure you read carefully the *Prepare ahead for Expenses* chapter below.
- ☐ All medications you take – bring them in their original bottles with the prescription label. Talk to your doctor about getting enough for the length of your program and know that some medications might require a note from the doctor in order to be allowed in the country.
- ☐ Power adapter / converters: (Try to find one that can do both. In addition to Argentina being on a 220 volt system, the plug shapes are different than those we use in the U.S.A.)
- ☐ Personal electronics you plan on bringing: smart phone, tablet, laptop, camera, etc. (Ask your instructor if a computer is needed for your program – if not, leave it at home)
- ☐ Backpack or small bag to bring to class or on excursions
- ☐ Personal toiletries: toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, vitamins, feminine products, extra contacts and contact solution, etc. Not all public bathrooms have toilet paper or soap so we recommend carrying tissues and hand sanitizer with you at all times.
- ☐ This handbook
- ☐ Since you will be staying with a host family, bring some gifts for them (books showcasing your hometown or college, American candy, a nice picture, etc.)

When in doubt about an item not listed above or if it is valuable, it should stay at home!



IFSA TRAVEL TIPS: PACKING

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Additional Packing Tips

Remember that not every airport or place you still stay at will have elevators handy. This means that you should limit your luggage to only what you can carry at the same time. Additionally, many international airlines have lower weight and size limits than American companies. You should look up the rules for your airline prior to departure day to avoid any excess fees for oversized or overweight luggage.

Clothing:

When choosing clothes to pack, bring things that are easy to wash by hand or machine, can air dry and / or could be worn multiple times before washing. It is wise to have clothes that can mix and match, so you have more outfit combinations. You will already stand out as a tourist, but your clothes can make you stand out even more and not in a good way; for example, it is best to leave your tie-dye or Greek lettering shirts at home.

In addition to your daily clothes, you will also want to bring:

- ☐ 1-2 nice outfits for events such as welcome and farewell dinners, visits to museums, etc.
- ☐ 2-3 pairs of shoes, including a pair of comfortable walking shoes
- ☐ A light, waterproof jacket
- ☐ Umbrella

Typical Weather during Your Program

Remember the weather as you are packing! Typical weather for when you come visit Buenos Aires during late May and June is:

Highs: 86° F / 30° C

Lows: 69.8° F / 21° C

January is one of the hottest month of the year for Argentina and it's very likely to rain a few times during your stay.



HEALTH & SAFETY

INSTITUTE FOR STUDY ABROAD

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

If you are feeling unwell or would like to speak with a medical professional at any point, please contact IFSA staff, your professor, or the insurance company, CISI, to get assistance right away!

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS: If you are calling from an American phone, you need to dial out of the USA and then into Argentina. You do this by calling 011 (to get out of U.S.) and then 54 (country code to get into Argentina).

Local Fire, Police, Ambulance: 911

CISI (Insurance Company): 800-303-8120 ext. 5130 (from U.S.); 203-399-5130 (outside U.S.)

Assist America: 800-872-1414 (from U.S.); 609-986-1264 (outside U.S.; collect calls accepted)

IFSA Buenos Aires office – Monday to Friday 9am- 5pm: +54-11-4394-1666/5144/7744

IFSA Emergency Phone (outside office hours): **+54-9-11-6298-1557**

You need to save these numbers on the phone you will use for the duration of the program prior to departure day. If an emergency is truly happening, you should call the emergency services listed and then as soon as possible, reach out to IFSA staff.

What constitutes as an emergency?

- You feel that your life or the life of someone else is in immediate danger
- A crime is currently taking place or just occurred
- You see something suspicious that is currently happening or just occurred

What happens when you call the IFSA emergency phone?

When you dial the IFSA emergency phone, a trained professional will ask you for your message and then send that to the appropriate IFSA staff member. The IFSA staff member will then call you and assist you further. Please make sure you give your full name and the best phone number at which to contact you. Remember, this should only be done in an emergency. Please email our staff or call the office line during our office hours so we can help you with a non-emergency situation.

If your passport is lost or stolen, it is important to let IFSA staff know this immediately. They will help connect you to the US embassy to get a replacement one made as soon as possible. Not having your passport means you cannot leave your current country until the replacement passport is created. There is a fee of about \$150 USD that you would be responsible for paying.



HEALTH & SAFETY

INSTITUTE FOR STUDY ABROAD

Medically Preparing For Your Program

If possible, you should meet with your regular doctor prior to the program starting, to ensure you are up to date on any vaccinations or prescriptions that might be needed during your travels.

Miscellaneous Safety Rules and Expectations

The following are rules and expectations all program participants are required to follow.

- IFSA requires all students to have a basic cell phone during the Program for safety and security reasons. This cell phone must be able to receive calls and text messages from a local number in the Host Country. The student is responsible for all charges associated with the cell phone, including but not limited to, phone rental or purchase, a SIM card, monthly plan for minutes and data, and all usage charges and associated fees. The student is also responsible for keeping the cell phone charged, powered on, and with a minimum balance of minutes so he/she can contact or be contacted by IFSA staff in the event of an emergency. Students must provide their cell phone number to IFSA by the last day of the mandatory Program orientation.
- Students renting cars or driving is strongly discouraged in all locations.
- Drinking ages vary by country and it is possible that while you might not be old enough yet to drink in the USA, you will legally be old enough in Argentina. It is important to talk with your faculty leader to know the drinking rules for your program but know that all IFSA will not offer or pay for alcohol at any IFSA sponsored event.
- Your housing placement is yours – and is not intended to have other students from the program, visiting friends or family spend the night.
- Drink only bottled or filtered water and do not have ice, unless you learn the water is safe.
- With classes and planned excursions, there is little time for travel outside Buenos Aires during the program. If you are planning additional travel, coordinate it after the program is completed. You are responsible for all visas, costs and logistics if you stay longer.
- On your medical form, you will have had the opportunity to disclose any physical or learning disabilities you have now or have dealt with in the past. Disclosing these helps the IFSA team know what special accommodations you might need outside of the classroom. If there is something you would like to share with us, please do so as soon as possible so we can try to make your time abroad as enjoyable as possible.



ARRIVAL DETAILS

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Arriving at the Airport

When you arrive to the airport, you will need to go through the customs line for non-nationals. The border officer will ask to see your passport, flight itinerary, and your reason for visiting.

An IFSA staff member will be meeting you in luggage claim, beyond customs. As participants arrive, the IFSA team will help guide you to a taxi to travel to your host family's residence. They will also inform you of when and where to meet up for your first group event, at which point they will also share a detailed schedule of your program.

If your interrupted travel has you arrive outside of the designated arrival hours at the airport, you will need to contact Victoria Picchetti as soon as possible to determine the easiest way for you to meet up with the group.

Other Arrival and Travel Details

The following are good tips and tricks to know as you travel and arrive at your final destination.

- If you are wearing or bringing a watch, update it to the correct local time. If you have a smart watch or phone, it should adjust times automatically when not in airplane mode. (It might be smart to add Buenos Aires as a second clock on your phone if you plan to leave your American phone on airplane mode for the duration of your program.)
- Be wary of people who offer to help carry your luggage for you.
- That first day, try to not go to sleep until after dinner and try to wake up early the next day. This will help your body adjust to the new time zone.
- Drink lots of water! Caffeine and alcohol will mess with your internal clock.



MONEY MATTERS

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Preparing Ahead for Expenses

You will want additional funds easily accessible in multiple ways to pay for some meals and snacks, souvenirs, and other personal expenses that might come up during your program. It is recommended to bring some currency with you, even if your plan is to use a card for most of your purchases (as not every location will accept a card as payment).

If you are bringing a credit or debit card:

- ☐ Call your bank(s) ahead of time to let them know the dates you will be out of the country and where you will travel to (this will avoid the accounts being closed due to fraud)
- ☐ Make copies of the front and back of the card(s) you are bringing – it is especially important to have the toll free phone numbers handy (in case your card gets lost or stolen)
- ☐ If possible, have only enough money in the checking account that you plan on using during the trip

Remember that most American cards will charge you a fee each time they are used in a different country.

If you are planning to bring currency with you:

- You can exchange money either in the U.S. prior to your departure or once in Buenos Aires
- If you are bringing American cash, it needs to be in \$100 bills that are clean and new. (You can get these from your local bank). Although stores in the USA will accept torn or written on bills, most abroad will not.
- Never carry more than what you need for that day's activities.

Traveler's checks and money wires are no longer the recommended way to pay for things during an out-of-country experience.

Tipping in your host country:

All IFSA organized meals will include the tip already. However, if you go out on your own, it is good to know the following tip amount is customary in Argentina: 10%



HOUSING DETAILS

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You will stay with a host family during the program. Details for your host family (i.e. address, how many members in your family, etc.) will be shared with as soon as they are available.

Some important things to know about your accommodations:

- You will be the only student staying in your host family
- Your host family will provide you breakfast and dinner Sundays to Fridays, and just breakfast on Saturdays.
- Your family will share with you how to access their internet – but remember it might not be as fast or reliable as internet in the U.S.

Laundry Service

You are provided towels and bedding which should be changed once a week. Students cannot use the host family's washing machine. We suggest you do your laundry at an automatic laundry service.

House Visits

Students should not invite guests over. To invite an IFSA student(s) over you should first ask permission of your host family. Invited guests are not allowed to spend the night under any circumstances.

Keys

As soon as you move in with your family you should discuss the safety measures about the use of keys. The host family has the obligation to provide you with a house key and it is your responsibility to keep it in a safe place and not lose it. In case of loss or theft you must inform your family immediately and you will be held responsible for the cost of replacing the locks and keys. You are not allowed to lend or give your keys to other people and you should never write your name or address on your keys.



Fire Safety at Home

- Talk to your family about what to do in case of fire: Where the fire extinguisher is located (if there is one) and how to use it, where the smoke detectors are (if there are any), and where the emergency exits are.
- Check to make sure any emergency exit is not blocked by anything.
- Never leave a lit candles or incense sticks unattended in your room.
- Unplug appliances when you leave home (i.e. hairdryers, computers, chargers, etc.). They can cause a fire due to voltage differences.
- Turn off fans and AC units when you leave home.
- Always check to see if you turned off stove burners when you are done cooking.

Suggestions for Living with a Host Family

- Follow your host family's rules.
- Inform them of what time you will return home.
- Keep your room in order.
- Tell the family if you will not be home for dinner or overnight.
- You can only have IFSA guests over, and only with previous permission from your family.
- You are in charge of your laundry. Under no circumstances you can use your host family's wash machine.
- Ask permission to use the phone and be brief in your calls. Telephone calls in Buenos Aires are very expensive. You should only make calls to a landline and do not call long distance or cell phones.
- When receiving a call, never use the line for more than 15 minutes.
- Only in case of emergency are you allowed to receive calls on the landline after midnight.
- Try to be careful with the use of electricity. Turn off your room lights when you leave.
- If you are vegetarian, try to be patient with your family. They may not have a lot of ideas of what meals to prepare and for a lot of Argentinians, chicken is not considered meat. Tell them exactly what you eat and what you don't.

It is important to learn how to communicate with your family. If you are not comfortable let them know it and probably the problems will be solved.



UNIQUE FACTS: ARGENTINA

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Here are some unique facts about your host country that will help you prepare for your time abroad!

1. When greeting someone, it is customary to kiss on the cheek (this social norm applies to all genders).
2. Argentina is the world's 3rd biggest producer of beef. While they are known for how they cook their meat, it is possible to be a vegetarian here! Check out this IFSA student's experience: <https://www.ifsa-butler.org/student-story/navigating-argentina-vegetarian/>
3. Yerba Mate is known as the national drink of the country. It is a special type of tea that can be found in most supermarkets in a bottle or can and is sometimes served in other formats, including as an energy drink.
4. The Spanish dialect spoken in Buenos Aires is called Español rioplatense. Like all dialects, it has a particular vocabulary, especially referred to everyday life, for example, fruits and vegetables (fresa/frutilla; patata/papa; boniato/batata; etc.) or clothes (falda/pollera; calcetines/medias; etc). The regional variation also has other distinctive characteristics.
5. In 1892, the country became the first to use fingerprinting to determine guilt in a crime.
6. The country was the first in Latin or South America to legalize same-sex marriage in 2010.
7. In Argentina, peatones (pedestrians) are not given right of way at corners or pedestrian crossings. Pay extra attention to your surroundings when you prepare to cross the road.
8. The top sport enjoyed in Argentina is typically football (or soccer as known in the U.S.). While it is not advisable to go to a game, there are 8 teams that consider Buenos Aires home – so it will be easy for you to find a game to watch on TV with friends or your host family!
9. The dance of the Tango was invented in Argentina in the 19th century!
10. The city is very dog friendly and you will probably see quite a few during your adventures around the city. Be careful though – picking up your dog's poop hasn't become a social norm yet.
11. The country is 90% Catholic. The current leader of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis, is a native of Argentina and once even worked as a bar bouncer in Buenos Aires!
12. Argentina owns territory within Antarctica. Within that land, there have been some firsts for the continent – including the first human birth and first wedding.



CLASSROOM SPACE

INSTITUTE FOR STUDY ABROAD

Remember this is an academic program. You will have class roughly 4.5 hours a day, 5 days a week.

The address for your classroom space is:

Av. Corrientes 880 8° C

<https://www.google.com.ar/maps/place/Av.+Corrientes+880,+C1008+CABA/@-34.601236,-58.377406,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x95bccacef19a2d1d:0x8d8f94985d18868d!8m2!3d-34.6035678!4d-58.3791617?hl=es>

During orientation, IFSA will cover how to navigate to your classroom space from your host families. Your instructor will share with you the class times and assignments.



RETURNING HOME

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Your program end date is January 18, 2020.

A radio taxi paid by IFSA will pick you up at your homestay on the Program's end date to take you to the airport (provided you give IFSA local staff the required information in time).

Planning for your return to the USA:

You will need to fill out a customs immigration form when you arrive at your first US airport on your way back. Each person traveling must fill out their own. The form will ask questions such as where did you visit, what type of activities you did, and what souvenirs you are bringing back home.

Customs can be a long line so if the first US city is your final destination, ask your ride to plan to pick you up 1-2 hours after your international flight lands. If you are going onward to another city in the US, you might need to recheck your bags before arriving to the domestic flights' terminal. Make sure your flight itinerary has 2-3 hours in the first US city to have enough time to catch your second flight.

Again, on your international travel days, you should have multiple copies prepared of your travel documents (passport, flight itinerary, and any visas you might need).

- 1 to stay with you and your passport in your carry-on
- 1 to go in a(nother) bag
- 1 to stay with a friend or family member (preferably the person who is picking you up from the airport)

If you want to return home before the program end date:

Students should talk immediately with the IFSA program staff and their faculty on the program about their desire to return home early. Note you are responsible for changes to your travel itinerary – including any airline penalty fees for flight changes.

We hope that you stay and enjoy the entire time of your program! We are excited to meet you in person and wish you safe travels on your way to Argentina!

Best wishes,

IFSA Staff