

Argentina



A country of diverse terrain, Argentina is nearly 4,000 km long from the subtropical north to the sub Antarctic south. It encompasses part of the Andes mountain range, swamps, the large plains of the Pampas, and a lengthy coastline. In the past twenty-five years Argentines have had to struggle with military dictatorship, a lost war over the Falkland Islands, and severe economic difficulties.

ARGENTINA FACTS

Population: 38.4 million (UN, 2003)

Capital: Buenos Aires

Major language: Spanish

Major religion: Christianity

Life expectancy: 71 years (men), 78 years (women) (UN)

Monetary unit: 1 peso = 100 centavos

Main exports: Food and live animals, mineral fuels, cereals, machinery

Average annual income: US \$6,940 (World Bank, 2001)

Internet domain: .ar

International dialing code: +54

Argentines gave the world the tango. They are mad about soccer, and are reckoned to be the best polo players. Their love of horses is best personified by the figure of the Argentine 'gaucho', the solitary, independent ranch-hand, who has become known throughout the world.



Flag Description: three equal horizontal bands of light blue (top), white, and light blue; centered in the white band is a radiant yellow sun with a human face known as the Sun of May. For more information go to: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1192478.stm