



ARGENTINA

BIENVENIDOS A ARGENTINA!

The name **Argentina** comes from the Latin word for silver, *argentums*, and means “the silvery one”. It refers back to the colonial discovery of the country, in the 1500’s, when the first Spanish explorers to the region were shipwrecked. After the shipwreck these explorers met local Indians who presented them with objects of silver. They later returned to Spain with stories that the land was a mountain of silver, and soon this region came to be known as “The Land of Silver”.

In today’s Argentina, you will be struck by a lifestyle and architecture reminiscent of a European heritage, especially in Buenos Aires. Many parks and majestic buildings make it known as “The Queen of the (river) Plata”.

Argentines are polite, educated, and have developed a taste for the good life, art, music and food.

Argentina’s geography includes tropical forests, desert-like canyons, snow-covered mountains, busy cities, and rich, fertile farmlands. These farmlands are known as ‘pampas’, and are the home of the legendary ‘gaucho’ (Argentinean cowboy).

Coming to Argentina as an exchange student will be an experience which will allow you to combine the spirit of Europe with the warmth and affection of Latin America.



Short Facts



Area: 2,780,400 km². Argentina is about the same size as the part of United States west of the Rocky Mountains, or all of continental Europe from Sweden and Germany westward.

Climate: The climate ranges from the hot, subtropical weather of the lowlands in the north to cold and rainy Tierra del Fuego in the south (Patagonia). Buenos Aires’ climate is similar to Tokyo or Washington, D.C.—hot summers and cool but short winters. Like Australia, the summer occurs in December through to March and the cooler months are in the middle of the year.



Population: 38, 600, 000.

Religion: Over 90% of the population is Roman Catholic. However, religious freedom is encouraged and the Protestant as well as Jewish communities are small but active.

Government: Argentina has a democratic form of government.

Capital City: Buenos Aires



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History: The Argentinean nation was built by the blending of diverse national and ethnic groups. Waves of European immigrant arrived in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Today, descendants of Italian and Spanish immigrants predominate, but many Argentines also trace their origins to British and Northern European ancestors. Syrian, Lebanese, and other Middle Eastern immigrant's number about 500,000 and are concentrated in the cities. In recent years, there has been a substantial influx of immigrants from neighbouring Latin-American countries. The native Indian population, estimated at 50, 000 is concentrated in outlying provinces of the north, northwest and south. Argentina's population has grown less quickly than in most Latin America countries. Eighty percent live in urban areas, with more than one-third of the population in the metropolitan Buenos Aires area alone. The sprawling capital, with more than 10 million inhabitants, serves as a focus for the life of the nation.

Economy: The economy is primarily based on agriculture, with the vast lands producing both grain and meat for export. Argentinean beef is famous around the world and you will enjoy its unique style as served here. Argentines enjoy a comparatively high standard of living; half the population considers itself middle class.

Education: School attendance is compulsory for grades 1-7, starting at age 6. The adult literacy rate is 94%. Education and artistic tastes have been largely influenced by Western Europe and more recently by the United States.

AGE	GRADES	SCHOOL
6	1-7	Primary
13	8-13	Secondary

YFU students attend both public and private schools, depending on their host family. Some private schools are not co-educational. All schools have 12 compulsory subjects, but each is taught only two or three times in a week.



Family Life: There is no typical Argentinian family. Family life differs according to many factors, such as religion, region, ethnic background and income. Traditionally, fathers are considered the head of the family, mothers are in charge of the household. Some families have hired help to do domestic chores.

Recreation: Popular activities in Argentina include trekking and hiking, sailing, diving, golf, horseback riding, soccer, skiing, snowboarding, kayaking, fishing and enjoying nature.



Arts and Culture: Argentina's most famous style of dance is the Tango – the dance of love! When visiting Argentina, be sure to try local dishes such as empanadas (stuffed pastry), locro, humitas and yerba mate.

YFU in Argentina: The National Office, located in Buenos Aires and its 27 branches in the provinces are all involved in the selection of students and host families. During the exchange, collaborate to solve any kind of inconvenience by establishing a permanent communication between students and their families. They are also offered advice through various orientation courses.

Exchanges with: YFU Argentina currently exchanges with countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands, Switzerland and The United States.

YFU Activities: Optional cultural activities could include day trips in Buenos Aires to famous tango schools, a tourism related trip and other local activities with YFU students from around the world.