

Riskline / Destination Report

This document was generated on 22 December 2023



ARGENTINA

Overall risk level

Low Take normal safety precautions	Moderate Take normal safety precautions	Medium Exercise caution	High Reconsider travel	Extreme Defer non-essential travel
--	---	-----------------------------------	----------------------------------	--

The Overall Risk Level will be determined by the higher of the Security Risk Level and Covid-19 Risk Level.

Security risk level

Low Take normal safety precautions	Moderate Take normal safety precautions	Medium Exercise caution	High Reconsider travel	Extreme Defer non-essential travel
Safe, with few security risks	Generally safe, with some predictable security risks	Not completely safe, but typically presents predictable security risks	Can be dangerous and may present unexpected security risks	Extremely dangerous and presents unpredictable security risks
Travel is possible with an expectation of routine disruptions and delays	Travel is possible with an expectation of routine disruptions and delays	Travel is possible, but there is a potential for disruptions	Travel is possible, but there is a potential for disruptions	Chaotic; travel impossible

Covid-19 risk level

Low Take normal safety precautions	Moderate Take normal safety precautions	Medium Exercise caution	High Reconsider travel	Extreme Defer non-essential travel
Travellers should take normal precautions when travelling to Low Risk locations, which have limited or no restrictions on international travel and domestic activities.	Travellers should take normal precautions when travelling to Moderate Risk locations, which have few restrictions on international travel and limited or no restrictions on domestic activities.	Unvaccinated travellers should exercise caution when travelling to Medium Risk locations, and vaccinated travellers should take normal precautions. These locations may have some restrictions on international travel, but few restrictions on domestic activities.	Unvaccinated travellers should reconsider their need to travel to High Risk locations, and vaccinated travellers should exercise caution. These locations may have severely restricted international travel and partially restricted domestic activities.	Unvaccinated travellers should defer non-essential travel to Extreme Risk locations, and vaccinated travellers should reconsider their travel. These locations may have severely restricted international travel and domestic activities.

Overview

Upcoming Events

There are no upcoming events scheduled

Travel Advisories

● **Medium risk: Tri-border area of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay**

Exercise caution for travel to the **tri-border area (TBA)** of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay until further notice because of transnational criminal activity.

The **Triple Frontier**, or **tri-border region**, between Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina's **Misiones province** is known as a regional hotspot for transnational and international criminal activity including black market smuggling. Some 43 billion United States (US) dollars are estimated to be laundered in the area annually by organized crime groups. The area has also been designated by all three governments as a region of international terrorist fundraising, especially the city of Ciudad del Este on the Paraguayan side of the border. For years, the Lebanon-based Shi'a Islamist political party and militant group Hezbollah has used the region – home to a significant Arab community of predominately Lebanese origin – to launder money, and also plan attacks both internationally and within South America. While the group carried out two bomb attacks in Argentina in the 1990s, there is no recent evidence to suggest they are actively targeting Argentina, Brazil or Paraguay for imminent or future attacks. However, explosives were seized at a bus terminal in Paraguay near the port of **Posadas, Misiones province**, in November 2020. The group has also been linked with the trade of "black cocaine" – cocaine disguised as charcoal, an ideal cover for drug smuggling and terror finance in a region that is a large exporter of charcoal.

Although surveillance of the tri-border area was improved in 2002 by the creation of the '3 + 1' Group on Tri-border Area Security, comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and the US, corruption and general lawlessness remain rampant in some pockets, with instability in Venezuela, high inflation in Argentina and stepped-up money-laundering enforcement in Panama and the Caribbean increasing the attractiveness of the region as an alternative for transnational criminal organizations looking to launder illicit funds. This has resulted in increased law enforcement pursuits to combat criminal activity as evidenced by a July 2018 operation where USD 10 million were seized by authorities after a money-laundering scheme of a group with reported ties to Hezbollah was detected at a casino in **Puerto Iguazú**. Former President Mauricio Macri's government also

declared Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation and froze Hezbollah's and its detained treasurer's assets in July 2019. In September 2021, the governments of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay announced plans to create a joint financial intelligence unit in the area. Criminal groups, however, continue to prey on people desperate due to the economic crisis triggered by restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to cross the **Paraná** and **Iguazú rivers** with small boats or use drones or remote-controlled speedboats to move contraband even amid heightened border controls. Farms on the **Paraná River's** banks serve as receiving points for drugs smuggled into Argentina. Authorities seized notable quantities of marijuana in October 2020 (10 tons), February 2021 (seven tons) and May 2023 (5.4 tons), totalling more than 5,000 tons seized in the last 25 years.

Exercise caution for travel to the **tri-border area** of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. While foreign nationals are unlikely to be the direct target of any criminal activity or violence associated with it, the risk of incidental or by-stander injury is possible. Register travel details with local embassies or consulates and consider utilising local reputable guides for travel outside of urban centres.

● **Moderate risk: Outbreak of mosquito-borne viruses in the Americas**

Mosquito-borne virus cases have seen a steep upward trend in the Americas in 2023, and are expected to rise further amid increasing temperatures. Take measures to prevent mosquito bites and ensure vaccine coverage and medication before departure.

Several mosquito-borne viruses (Chikungunya, dengue, malaria, yellow fever, Zika) are endemic to tropical and subtropical regions of **Central** and **South America**, the **Caribbean**, **Mexico** and the **United States**, and appear in both rural and urban areas, most often during the rainy season, which varies from country to country.

Climate change, deforestation and urbanisation are some of the factors behind the increasing number of outbreaks of mosquito-borne viruses. Mosquitoes thrive under increased precipitation and higher temperatures; outbreaks have increased even in areas of dry weather. Following a two to seven year cycle, El Niño weather phenomenon is developing since June, further increasing the risk of higher temperatures across the region and above-normal rainfall with an increased risk of flooding on the **West Coast** of the **United States**, **Peru** and **Ecuador**.

Dengue accounts for the largest number of cases in the Americas region, with epidemics occurring every three to five years. In **South America**, dengue is moving further south to countries such as **Bolivia, Peru** and **Paraguay**, with over 2.8 million cases reported in 2022 compared to 1.2 million a year earlier. Since January 2023, over 4.1 million cases have been reported of which over 1.8 million have been confirmed in the Americas, with higher-than-usual numbers of dengue cases reported including in **Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Martinique, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay** and **Peru**. Authorities in **Costa Rica, Bolivia** and **Jamaica** have issued emergency alerts due to the situation as of September.

Confirmed cases of chikungunya in the region have also increased from 50,000 in 2022 to over 230,000 in 2023, with an expansion observed beyond historical areas of transmission. **Paraguay** and **Brazil** reported the highest infection rates. Reported cases of Zika virus have remained in a lower level than in 2022, with **Brazil, Bolivia** and **Belize** reporting the highest share of the over 3,200 confirmed cases. While malaria has been nearly or completely eradicated in many countries in the Americas, the region remains vulnerable to outbreaks. **Costa Rica** has reported an ongoing outbreaks of malaria in **Limón, Alajuela** and **Puntarenas provinces**, with over 515 cases reported since April. The impact of the increased transmission will depend on several factors, including country capacities for a coordinated public health response, high mosquito densities due to interrupted vector control activities during the COVID-19 pandemic and the susceptibility to infections, particularly in areas where these viruses are newly circulating.

In 2022, cases of both dengue and chikungunya peaked in May in the southern hemisphere. Transmission rates are expected continue high in the coming months, due to weather conditions favourable for the proliferation of mosquitoes. Such an increase may be followed by a high transmission season in the northern hemisphere, given the susceptible populations and increasing temperatures.

Symptoms and Treatment

Each of these viruses when contracted present their own list of symptoms and require varied treatment plans, whether preventative or reactive.

Viral infections transmitted by the bite of the **Aedes** mosquito include chikungunya, dengue fever, yellow fever and Zika virus. The most common virus transmitted by the bite of the *Anopheles* mosquito is malaria. Both insects are most active during early morning and late afternoon hours, though some species

are nocturnal making preventative measures like repellents and mosquitos nets an important strategy.

Cases of Zika virus are usually mild and include symptoms of fever, headaches, conjunctivitis, rash and joint and muscle pain; most cases are asymptomatic. Zika virus may also be transmitted through sexual contact with an infected person and has been linked to microcephaly in unborn children. There is no treatment for Zika virus, beyond rehydration and bed rest.

Initial symptoms of yellow fever include a high fever, chills, vomiting, nausea and backaches/muscle pain, with a risk of potentially fatal complications, including jaundice, severe haemorrhaging and kidney failure. There is no post-infection treatment for yellow fever, making vaccination against the disease imperative prior to travel.

Symptoms of dengue fever include a high fever, joint pain and headaches, although severe cases may cause significant falls in blood pressure and/or haemorrhaging, which can be fatal. There are no treatments for dengue fever though vaccine research is ongoing.

Symptoms of chikungunya fever include a high fever, joint pain and headaches; the disease is typically non-fatal. In most cases those infected recover after seven to ten days. There are no vaccines or treatments for chikungunya.

Symptoms of malaria include a high fever, joint pain, anaemia, chills and headaches; if left untreated, symptoms can become life-threatening. While pre-departure courses of anti-malarial prophylactics are available, these do not guarantee immunity to malaria. If contracted and caught early, malaria can be treated easily with a range of anti-malarial medications.

Travellers are advised to take measures to prevent mosquito bites such as wearing long sleeves and pants, applying insect repellent to exposed skin and clothing, using a bed net when sleeping in a room that is not screened or air-conditioned. Travellers should ensure they are up-to-date on vaccines before departure, consult medical professionals about use of prophylactics, take precaution with selection of sexual partners and ensure use of protection.

● **Medium risk: Heat wave disruptions across South America**

Exercise caution for travel in multiple South American countries and territories,

namely the **Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil** and **Ecuador**, in the medium-term due to health risks and possible travel disruptions from ongoing as well as forecast heat waves and drought.

Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina and **Brazil** have all experienced record September temperatures, as a result of a heat dome, as a ridge of high pressure builds over an area and stays for days or even weeks, trapping hot air. While heat warnings were issued in multiple **Brazilian states** in September, weather officials indicated that higher than usual temperatures also continued in all five regions of the country in October. Officials in **Brazil, Bolivia** and **Paraguay** issued new warnings for high temperatures also in November, with over 100 million people under a red heat warning across central **Brazil** as of mid-November. Earlier in August, **Argentina, Bolivia, Chile** and **Paraguay** registered an unseasonal heat wave linked to a stagnant anticyclone, resulting in a suspension of air circulation and temperatures of over 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit) higher than typical for the winter season. Prolonged exposure to high temperatures or high humidity levels have been attributed to dozens of heat-related deaths, which was seen across **Mexico** and the **US** in June-July. During this time, temporary heat wave warnings covered over 100 million people in the **US** alone, and forecasters expect such warnings to continue in many areas of the affected countries/territories in the near-term.

Apart from affecting health conditions directly, heat waves can trigger disruptions to essential services and overland travel, while warmer temperatures increase the transmission of diseases. Heightened demand for air conditioning can lead to planned or unplanned power outages and the firing of coal plants to meet such demands can produce unhealthy levels of air pollution. Prolonged heat waves can damage road surfaces and deform railway tracks. Extreme temperatures can trigger drought, bushfires and even flooding and mudslides, when snow melt accelerates in mountain ranges, causing considerable damage to crops and infrastructure. High temperatures can also prolong wildfires, resulting in haze and evacuations, as witnessed across **Canada**, and subsequent air quality issues in parts of the **US** since May. Similar situations are possible in wildfire-prone areas of other countries as well.

Meteorological experts have attributed global warming and the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phase warming the Pacific Ocean temperatures, among other factors, as causes of these heat waves. August, September and October are typical hurricane season months when temperatures still remain high in parts of North

America and the Caribbean, while South America is heading towards warmer summer months. **Chile** already faces a severe drought from a heat wave in February which resulted in several deaths from wildfires, while authorities imposed emergency decrees in much of **Bolivia** and implemented daily power cuts in **Ecuador** in October, and imposed a 60-day state of emergency in parts of **Peru** through December, due to drought conditions. The biggest impacts of El Niño are expected in February, March and April 2024.

Travellers are advised to check weather forecasts of destinations. There is no universally agreed-upon minimum temperature that qualifies as a heat wave. Temperatures reaching 38 degrees Celsius (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit) often trigger warnings in many countries, but it is generally advisable to avoid enduring any degree of uncomfortable temperature for an extended period of time. Temperatures detrimental to health can vary from person to person and depend on the humidity level, among other factors. When travelling to heat-wave-affected locations, ensure a steady supply of safe drinking water and access to air-conditioned accommodations with sufficient power supply before departure. During hot temperatures, increase non-alcoholic fluid intake, limit outdoor movements during daylight hours and stay in air-conditioned rooms when possible. Anticipate possible travel disruptions from high temperatures damaging transportation infrastructure and heightening the demand for electricity. In case of a wildfire resulting from high temperatures, follow all emergency directives. When pollution levels are high due to wildfires, avoid unnecessary outdoor activities, wear a respiratory mask and expect possible disruptions to overland and air travel from low visibility.

Summary

Overall ● Moderate Risk

Argentina is a **Moderate Risk** destination: take normal safety precautions.

Security ● Moderate Risk

Moderate Risk locations are generally safe, with some predictable security risks. Travel is possible with an expectation of routine disruptions and delays.

Covid ● Low Risk

Nationwide lockdown measures were lifted, with eased restrictions in place through the end of the year. International travel has resumed.

Social distancing measures and a health emergency were extended countrywide through at least 31 December.

Political Instability ● Moderate Risk

A presidential democracy led by right-wing President Javier Milei since 10 December, Argentina has maintained a relatively stable presidential system since its transition to democracy in 1983, when it previously experienced alternating periods of military authoritarian leadership and democratic rule. The ever worsening economic crisis propelled Milei to victory during November elections on a platform of intense spending cuts to various sectors aimed at reducing the impact of inflation. It remains to be seen if his blend of neoliberal economic policies and ultraconservative beliefs will result in adequate reforms during his time in office.

Conflict ● Low Risk

A longstanding border dispute exists with the United Kingdom as Argentina has continually claimed thousands of miles of ocean that include the British-governed Falkland, South Sandwich and Georgia Islands. The conflict is unlikely to escalate beyond political posturing and a reiteration of the events of the 1982 Falklands War is a remote possibility. Minor border disputes with Uruguay and Chile exist though are of less importance and unlikely to develop into military conflict.

Terrorism ● Low Risk

Lebanese groups in the **Triple Frontier border area** shared with Paraguay and Brazil have been linked to financing Hezbollah in the past and evidence suggests they assisted with terrorist attacks in **Buenos Aires** in the 1990s. However, the current terror threat posed by groups in the area is small due to multilateral intelligence efforts; the Triple Frontier is now used primarily for arms and drug trafficking, contraband smuggling, document and currency fraud, money laundering and the manufacture of pirated goods.

Unrest ● Medium Risk

The country has a long history of social agitation escalating into civil unrest, with large rallies often disrupting overland travel particularly near **Plaza de Mayo** in **Buenos Aires**; anti-riot police tend to take a heavy-handed approach in response to major protests. Protesting groups effectively block transport routes with little notice to further their objectives. Violence is known to erupt at football matches between rival teams in **Buenos Aires** and **Rosario**.

Crime ● Medium Risk

Rising crime in urban centres is becoming a major problem, especially in **Buenos Aires**, **Rosario** and **Mendoza**, where muggings, armed robberies as well as gang-related violence and drug trafficking are common. Travellers are most likely to experience petty crime such as pickpocketing at tourist spots, airports and transport hubs and shopping districts.

Natural and Environmental ● Moderate Risk

Argentina faces the highest flood risk in Latin America. Most rainfall occurs in the northeast, in the **Humid Pampas, Mesopotamia** and the east of **Chaco province**, especially during the summer, when stationary fronts bring long rainy periods. Flooding most often occurs in the low-lying areas along the **Paraná** and **Uruguay rivers** between March and May. During the spring, **Salta province** is occasionally plagued by severe, week-long dust storms. **San Miguel de Tucumán** and **Mendoza** in the **Andes** are the most prone to rare earthquakes.

Local Travel ● Moderate Risk

Overall, driving is considered risky for inexperienced drivers since locals are known to drive aggressively and recklessly, particularly in **Buenos Aires**. Public transport systems are generally safe and efficient, although petty crime such as pickpocketing can occur; it is recommended that city bus travel is avoided at night for this reason. Flights are recommended for long-distance travel to reduce travelling time. Travellers should avoid hailing a cab or 'remis' from the street, to reduce the risk of robberies and route/fare scams.

Health and Medical ● Moderate Risk

The quality of services is generally high, especially in **Buenos Aires** and other major cities, where several staff are likely proficient in English. Outside major urban hubs, the quality can vary though hospitals generally are equipped to handle emergency situations. There is a slight risk of contracting mosquito-borne viruses in the more remote regions of the country, including **Jujuy** and **Salta provinces**.

Political Overview : ● Moderate Risk

Despite being one of the world's most prosperous countries at the turn of the twentieth century, 50 years of military regimes and economic mismanagement have eroded Argentina's wealth and development. The ideology of Juan Perón (elected president in 1947) continues to influence Argentine politics, as the Peronist party remains the most powerful political institution in the country. Unsuccessful neoliberal reforms led to the devaluation of the Argentine peso and world-record debt default that closed off most international lending in 2001, resulting in a dramatic spike in poverty, unrest and an economic downturn that persists into the modern day.

On 19 November, right-wing Javier Milei of the Partido Libertario (Libertarian Party, PL) won the presidential ballot with more than 55 percent of the vote, defeating peronist and former minister of economy Sergio Massa of the Renewal Front (Frente Renovador, FR) who had 44 percent of the vote. The political dominance by peronist politicians across several decades amid the ever-worsening economic crisis affecting the nation saw Milei garner support from many social classes of Argentine society. Milei has been outspoken in his views of government overspending and supports a range of policies aimed at minimising both the economic and social influence of government in the lives of the populace. Milei faces rising poverty and spiralling inflation which currently sits at more than 140 percent, the highest since 1991. It is to be determined if Milei will continue efforts to reschedule Argentina's more than USD100 billion sovereign debt with lenders, which include the International Monetary Fund (IMF). What is known is that he strongly opposes the current state of the Argentine Central Bank and went as far to propose eliminating the entity entirely. During his first days in office, Milei devalued the Argentine peso by more than 50 percent and cut government spending to subsidies such as fuel and public transport as his administration attempts to curb hyperinflation. Restructuring Argentina's medium- and long-term debt will, however, remain a challenge for Milei's administration with outside observers feeling that the feasibility of his goal of drastic economic overhaul is questionable at best. It remains to be seen how collaboration with the opposition will work to govern the country out of recession, amid fears that Argentina could return to the populist policies that helped push the country to its current state. Though opposition politicians may be forced to collaborate more closely after former president Cristina Fernández de Kirchner (CFK), the biggest heavyweight in Argentine politics, was convicted of corruption and banned from holding public office on 6 December; an appeal process remains ongoing.

The term of Milei's predecessor, Alberto Fernández, was marked by anti-government protests to denounce planned economic reforms. Depending on the immediate impact felt by a majority of Argentines as a result of Milei's drastic reforms, his administration may face a similar wave of unrest though this remains to be seen.

Recent incidents

19 November 2023 - 20 November 2023

● **Moderate risk:** Massa and Milei to advance to presidential run-off vote on 19 November - Update

Sergio Massa of the Unión por la Patria ruling coalition and Javier Milei from La Libertad Avanza coalition were expected to advance to the presidential run-off vote on 19 November as they led the 22 October election with 36.35 and 30.16 percent of the votes, respectively. Opposition leader Patricia Bullrich won 23 percent of the votes.

19 November 2023 - 20 November 2023

● **Moderate risk:** Milei wins presidential run-off vote - Update

Javier Gerardo Milei from La Libertad Avanza coalition won the presidential run-off vote as of evening hours local time after his contender Sergio Tomás Massa of the Unión por la Patria ruling coalition conceded defeat. Milei won 56 percent, compared to Massa's 44 percent, after 87 percent of the votes cast were counted, and is expected to assume the presidency on 10 December.

22 October 2023 - 23 October 2023

● **Moderate risk:** Authorities schedule presidential election on 22 October

Local sources reported that electoral authorities will hold the presidential election for the 2023-2027 presidential term on 22 October; a run-off election will be held on 19 November if no candidate wins either 45 percent of the votes cast or 40 percent with a 10 percentage point lead to the second-place candidate.

13 August 2023 - 14 August 2023

● **Moderate risk:** Authorities schedule primary elections on 13 August

Local reports indicated that the primary elections are scheduled on 13 August to select representatives for the presidential and legislative elections scheduled to be held on 22 October.

Conflict : ● Low Risk

External Conflicts: In 1982, Argentina fought a war with the UK over the **Falkland Islands**, with the latter maintaining sovereignty over the island group. The territorial dispute continues to strain bilateral relations as Argentines view the issue as a permanent objective and symbol of national pride. The dispute resurfaced when the Falklands's administration decided to grant 25-year fishing licences starting in 2006, which former President Kirchner termed "a treacherous attempt" to consolidate British influence. Argentina has repeatedly renewed its claims to 1,700,000 sq km (650,000 sq miles) of ocean in the south Atlantic that include the British-governed Falkland Islands, Sandwich and Georgia Islands. In 2021, President Alberto Fernández launched the Malvinas 40 Years Agenda with the intention to denounce what they see as 'unjustified UK military presence' and plan strategies to claim sovereignty of the islands. However, a return to military conflict is highly unlikely. Argentina does not possess the military means to wage a successful war against the UK with just legal and diplomatic posturing the extent of Argentina's claim in the modern era.

Border Conflicts: A dispute exists with Uruguay over the construction of paper mills along the **Uruguay River**. Backed by international environmental organisations, residents on the Argentine side of the river regularly block the bridges connecting the countries, particularly in **Gualeguaychú, Entre Ríos province**. A 2006 ruling from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) allowed the construction of the pulp mills, further stating in 2010 that the pulp mill did not cause environmental damage and rejected Argentina's demand for compensation. Both countries signed an accord establishing a monitoring plan for the plant and the river. Despite the ruling, visitors travelling to or from Uruguay could still encounter delays or be forced to turn back and take a boat or an international flight due to lingering protestors.

A fresh diplomatic row erupted in August 2021, when Chile issued charts allegedly in violation of a 1984 treaty with Argentina regarding boundaries of the continental shelf in the Drake Passage between Chile's mainland, Cape Horn and the South Shetland Islands. Argentinian authorities see Chile seeking to appropriate some 5,000 sq km (1,930 square miles) of the Argentine continental shelf, seabed and ocean area, while Chilean authorities regard their claim as legitimate as the two countries had historically overlapping claims.

International Alliances: Although Mercosur is an economic agreement among countries in the southern cone, the alliance has strengthened relations among

member nations by promoting peace in the region. Aside from Argentina, members include Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay, while associate member status has been granted to Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname. Argentina is also an active international participant and has sent military troops to partake in UN peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo and Haiti, among others.

Strength of Military Forces: Argentina's armed forces consist of an army, navy and air force controlled by the president and a civilian minister of defence, while the Interior Ministry controls an additional gendarmerie (responsible for guarding the borders) and a coast guard (enlisted to protect major rivers and maritime territory). The armed forces have played an important role in the country's political history, particularly during the period of military dictatorship from 1976 to 1983. The number of active troops is estimated at 84,000.

Terrorism

International Terrorism: There are suspected dormant Hezbollah cells in the tri-border region in Paraguay's Ciudad del Este. Although they are not believed to be active at this time, Iranian-funded terrorists based in Syria and operating out of the tri-border area are suspected of having provided technical surveillance and operatives for the bombing of the Israeli embassy in **Buenos Aires** in 1992, and the bombing of the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina's (AMIA) Jewish cooperative building in **Buenos Aires** in 1994. Despite the lawlessness of the tri-border area, in the aftermath of 9/11 enough attention from intelligence services served to reduce the terrorist threat emanating from the region. Rather, the tri-border area has long been and continues to be used for arms and drug trafficking, contraband smuggling, document and currency fraud, money laundering and the manufacture of pirated goods. Surveillance of the tri-border area was improved by the creation of the '3 + 1' Group on Tri-border Area Security, comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and the United States (US).

Bombings: Although the incidence of terrorism is low in Argentina, **Buenos Aires** does have a history of terrorist attacks, most of which have targeted the Jewish population at the Israeli Embassy and the AMIA community centre. The 1992 bombing of the **Israeli Embassy** killed 29 and injured 246 others, while a car bomb attack against AMIA in 1994 killed 86 persons and injured another 309. In 2006, an Argentine prosecutor accused the former presidents of Iran, Hashemi Rafsanjani and Hassan Rouhani of being on the committee in charge of planning the 1994 AMIA bombing, sparking tensions with Iran over the issue.

More recent explosions in the capital have been blamed on criminals and anti-globalisation groups and have mainly targeted foreign banks and security forces. In 2019, motorcycle-borne assailants threw an improvised explosive device (IED) at police during a chase in the **Buenos Aires CBD (Microcentro)**, while numerous incidents of IEDs left at police stations and official buildings were reported a year earlier. Two local groups historically operating in the country include the People's Revolutionary Army (the military branch of the Argentine communist party) and the Montonero Peronist Movement (a left-wing Peronist guerrilla group), but both were largely dismantled during the country's military dictatorship in the 1970s.

There are no recent incidents

Unrest : ● Medium Risk

Protests and Demonstrations: Argentina's prolonged depression in the late 1990s and the 2001 economic crisis that ensued led to a period of significant political and social unrest. More recently, creeping inflation rates and widespread economic reforms have triggered a new wave of opposition and union protests.

Argentina's 2001 economic crisis continues to define the country's political landscape and, as of 2023, the situation remains precarious with accompanying social unrest. There continues to be relatively frequent, though diminishing, protests by *piqueteros* ('protesters'). Occasionally rival *piquetero* groups have engaged in violent clashes. *Piqueteros* can be hooded, carrying poles or batons and may even be hiding small arms. Police may use tear gas, water cannons and rubber bullets to disperse demonstrators, which have become deadly on occasion. With many public areas underfunded and mismanaged, protests by labour unions, teachers, farmers, pensioners and other activist groups are expected to continue in the long-term. Additionally, growing crime rates and attacks on women are an increasing source of protest as well.

Demonstrations involving students or low-income workers have the greatest potential to escalate into violence. Visitors should avoid large crowds and expect traffic disruptions in downtown areas in the event of unrest.

Violent Unrest: The Revolutionary Patriotic Movement (MPR)-Quebracho, an extreme-left wing, semi-subversive group with guerilla training, does not operate frequently, but when it does appear operatives infiltrate marches and provoke riots. Most revolts occur in central **Buenos Aires**. A smaller radical group known as *Polo Obrero* partakes in similar tactics as those of Quebracho, mainly operating in the capital and other urban areas.

Strikes: Strikes and roadblocks are a common tactic used by the country's unions and syndicates when demonstrating and calling attention to a particular issue or demand. Social activists, truckers and farmers have led blockades throughout the country's main highways, severely disrupting traffic and causing food shortages in local supermarkets. Although the country's largest labour unions, the CTA, CTAA and CGT, remain split over their position towards the government, the threat of strikes is likely to remain constant in the long-term.

Sports-related Violence: Visitors attending football matches in Argentina should not

carry any unnecessary belongings to football stadiums. Visitors are advised to hire a tour operator to take them to the entrance of the stadium and escort them before and after the match. Trying to hail a taxi when leaving a football stadium can be dangerous and since all the main roads surrounding the stadium are closed to traffic, people have to walk many blocks to find public transport.

Violent brawls are possible between rival supporters and police during rivalry games, particularly in **Rosario** and **Buenos Aires**, with the largest crowds at matches between Boca Juniors (**Estadio La Bombonera**) and River Plate (**Estadio Mâs Monumental**).

Recent incidents

22 December 2023 - 23 December 2023

● **Moderate risk: Unionised workers to rally in Buenos Aires on 22 December**

Members of the State Worker Association (Asociacion Trabajadores del Estado, ATE) plan to rally outside the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers' Office (Avenida Presidente Julio A. Roca 782) in Buenos Aires from 13:00 local time (16:00 GMT) on 22 December, to condemn President Javier Milei's decree altering or revoking over 350 norms.

20 December 2023 - 21 December 2023

● **Moderate risk: Social activists to march in Buenos Aires on 20 December**

Activists, including those affiliated with the Piquetero movement, plan to march at Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires on 20 December, to denounce President Javier Milei's austerity policies. Further details were not immediately available.

20 December 2023 - 21 December 2023

● **Moderate risk: Social activists to march in Buenos Aires - Update**

Updated reports indicated that social activists, including those affiliated with the Piquetero movement, plan to march from the National Congress building to Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires from 16:00 local time (19:00 GMT), to denounce President Javier Milei's austerity policies. Further details were not immediately available.

25 November 2023 - 26 November 2023

● **Moderate risk: Protests against gender-based violence planned in Buenos Aires on 25 November - Update**

Activists plan to march from the Congress building to Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires from 15:00 local time (18:00 GMT) on 25 November, to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. In Buenos Aires province, demonstrations are planned in La Plata (Plaza Moreno) from 16:00, Lomas de Zamora (Plaza Grigera) from 16:30 and Bahía Blanca (Plaza Rivadavia) and San Martín (Monumento a San Martín) from 17:00.

Crime : ● Medium Risk

Petty Crime: Petty crime most commonly occurs in tourist spots, shopping districts and airports and transport hubs. Criminals often work in groups, including with children, where one assailant distracts the victim by asking a question, while another grabs the victim's bag and runs off. Crime hotspots include the cities of **Santa Fe, Rosario, Salta, Mendoza** and **Buenos Aires**.

Beware of your surroundings, do not leave your belongings unattended and exercise general personal safety for travel. Only carry what is needed, do not flash expensive valuables or large sums of money, and keep cash, identification and mobile phones in front pockets, or in a zipped or concealed pocket or pouch rather than in a bag. Secure belongings when using public transport or when frequenting markets and other crowded public areas; secure bags diagonally across the body against the chest, keep bags within sight and away from the street. Refrain from using mobile phones or laptops in congested public places; avoid putting bags containing valuables on the ground. Avoid walking in poorly lit and isolated areas. Stay in groups. Reject rides or drinks from strangers and never leave drinks unattended. Exercise extreme caution when purchasing and consuming alcohol in public venues. Do not accept pamphlets in the street or shopping centres; these could be impregnated with potent and disorienting drugs, which permeate the skin. If you start to feel unwell, tell staff or close friends and do not leave the venue alone or with strangers. Shout to attract attention, if needed.

Violent Crime: Violent crime mainly affects low-income areas of **Buenos Aires, Rosario** and **Mendoza**. Attacks targeting travellers departing airports to these cities have also increased in recent years. Narco traffickers operate in border areas with Paraguay and Brazil in **Misiones province** and should be avoided after dark.

Commonsense measures are best kept to ensure against becoming the victim of a violent crime. Travellers are advised to remain vigilant at all times and exercise general personal safety for travel: avoid walking alone at night, do not venture down roads with poor lighting and few access points. Be careful when using taxis and public transport and plot route bypasses around rowdy crowds. Seek local advice for areas to avoid. If you are held-up by an armed robber do not become confrontational as any resistive behaviour may cause more violence by the attackers.

Property Crime: Physical assaults in houses are increasing in Argentina with **Buenos**

Aires the hub for such attacks. Cities such as **Rosario** and **Córdoba** are also popular targets. Beach resorts, such as **Mar del Plata**, **Pinamar**, **Mar de las Pampas** and **Cariló**, are particularly prone to residential break-ins during the summer.

Travellers are advised against leaving valuables in hotel rooms. Deposit important items in the safe. Be sure to lock hotel/house doors, even when you are present. Home invaders often conduct thorough investigations of their victims' routines and whereabouts prior to an attack. Avoid visible displays of wealth and check for signs of being followed when returning to one's place of residence. If you do happen to be burgled, remain cooperative as perpetrators are likely to be armed and any resistive behaviour may cause more violence by the attackers.

Organised Crime and Gangs: The threat of organised crime and gang activity is linked to the trafficking of cocaine from other South American countries. **Salta** near the country's border with Bolivia and **Posadas** on the Paraguayan border as well as the **tri-border region** between Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay serve as the main entry points for the illicit trade before they continue inward to **Rosario**, the drug capital of Argentina. Drug-trafficking activities have also grown in **Córdoba**, **Mendoza** as well as parts of **Buenos Aires** where Peruvian or Paraguayan migrants reside. The threat of robbery is higher in areas known to be drug-trafficking routes

Violence is often contained within inter-gang rivalries, though bystanders may be caught up in drive-by shootings, street shootings and armed or arson attacks. Avoid the epicentres of criminal activities, which are often located on the outskirts of urban areas. Seek local advice on specific areas to avoid. Restrict travel in unfamiliar areas to daylight hours. Visitors should avoid association with members of any groups or individuals they suspect of being involved in such activities.

Vehicle Crime: Theft from unattended vehicles, especially rental cars, is common, particularly in **Bariloche** and **Mendoza**. Immobile vehicles are also targeted in city traffic for smash-and-grabs, while highway robbery largely affects commercial vehicles.

Break-ins: Expensive-looking vehicles, especially 4x4s, or vehicles with visible valuables are commonly targeted. Visitors should park cars in well-lit areas, preferably in private parking lots with security and ensure that all valuables, including vehicle's papers/insurance, are removed from the vehicle. Lock car doors at all times and make sure windows are rolled up. If renting a vehicle, ensure that it is fitted with a secure car alarm.

Fraud and Scams: In **Buenos Aires** thieves will spray a substance on the victim and

while offering assistance will have an accomplice rob the target. Credit card fraud is a common problem in Argentina and travellers should only use official ATMs and never let a merchant leave the immediate area with their card. Taxi drivers and some merchants are known to pass illegal currency to tourists in the form of change. Foreign travellers should use smaller bills or exact change to avoid this scam.

Counterfeit Currency: Travellers should only exchange currency at reputable banks and avoid doing so in the streets.

ATM fraud: Always refuse unsolicited assistance while at an ATM, and avoid ATMs other than at malls and banks. Keep a 24-hour emergency number for ATM cards on hand to prevent illegal withdrawals from the account if such incidences occur.

Credit Card fraud: Visitors should only use credit cards when an electronic transaction is possible and when the transaction can be completed directly in front of them. Never let a clerk, sales assistant or waiter take a card to another location for the transaction to be processed. If this cannot be avoided, visitors should insist upon going with the individual to the point of sale to witness the transaction. Keep an eye on the card at all times. Always ensure that you receive a receipt and check the amount to be correct.

Hate Crime: Isolated incidents of hate crimes have occurred in Argentina, including a homophobic attack in **Buenos Aires** in 2018 and the murder of an Argentine of Paraguayan descent in **Villa Gesell, Buenos Aires province**, in January 2020. LGBT rights organisations in Argentina have stated that attacks are increasing with 129 reported in 2022.

Travellers are advised to exercise general caution, particularly in the vicinity of places of worship and sexual and other minority, refugee and community centres and during large public gatherings; keep a low profile. If possible, avoid any demonstrations over minority rights, police violence, foreign military intervention and religious controversies – such as abortion and same-sex marriage, dietary laws and religious dress codes – as these issues may trigger confrontations among protesters and may involve confrontation with security forces.

Kidnapping: Although not common, express kidnappings and home invasions and hostage incidents involving travellers have occurred in Argentina, predominantly in **Buenos Aires** and its suburbs, in recent years. Any such target would be someone perceived to be wealthy. Response of law enforcement officials, in the event of a kidnapping, is likely to be adequate.

Travellers should remain aware of their surroundings and follow the latest advisories

for their destination. Maintain communications and your itinerary with local contacts, authorities or embassy staff, especially in locations with a higher risk of kidnapping. Consider a local guide or security escort for the highest risk locations.

Recent incidents

15 November 2023 - 16 November 2023

● **Low risk: Shooting causes casualties in Rosario, Santa Fe province - Closed**

Updated reports indicated that police continued to search for four suspected hitmen in Rosario, Santa Fe province, as of morning hours local time after a security guard was killed and a nurse injured in a shooting at Provincial Hospital on 400 Zeballos Street late on 14 November. The hitmen were reportedly looking for a hospitalised inmate. The affected area reopened to traffic.

14 November 2023 - 15 November 2023

● **High risk: Shooting causes casualties in Rosario, Santa Fe province**

Local sources reported that at least two people, including a security guard, were shot and killed while another person was injured at a hospital on 400 Zeballos in Rosario, Santa Fe province, around 22:00 local time (01:00 GMT, 15 November) by two unidentified gunmen. The affected area was closed to traffic.

31 October 2023 - 01 November 2023

● **Medium risk: Gang clashes erupt in Paraná, Entre Ríos province**

Local media reported that at least two people were wounded, while seven people were arrested after clashes erupted between rival gangs in the Consejo neighbourhood of Paraná, Entre Ríos province, during morning hours local time. Further details were not immediately available.

30 August 2023 - 31 August 2023

● **Medium risk:** Shooting reported near school in Rosario, Santa Fe province

Local media reported that at least one person was injured after an armed assailant opened fire on a group of youths outside a school near the intersection of Boulevard Oroño and Ameghino in Rosario, Santa Fe province, at around 12:00 local time (15:00 GMT). No arrests were made after the assailant was able to escape on foot.

Law

Law: The country's judicial system is considered inadequate at best. Given that some 30 percent of all crimes are reported, less than one percent lead to the imprisonment of the perpetrator.

Corruption

Corruption: All political and administrative levels are considered susceptible to corrupt practices and political influence. Political parties and parliament are ranked as the most corrupt institutions in Argentina, these being closely followed by the police and judiciary sectors typically associated with high levels of corruption in other countries.

Travellers may be subjected to extortive and corrupt practices by various low-level government officials. Traffic police and customs administration officials are considered the most likely candidates to solicit bribes or other informal payments from foreign nationals. The most common abuses include extortion for bribes and the threat of planting evidence to charge individuals for crimes. If you are involved in an accident or other encounter that attracts the attention of local police officers, contact your consulate or a trusted local before heading to the station. Both the soliciting and payment of a bribe is considered a criminal offense according to Argentine law and perpetrators may be punished accordingly.

Argentine citizens reportedly encounter corrupt and illicit practices on a daily basis, while both domestic and foreign businesses report that bribes and/or other informal payments are often expected when bidding on public tenders, when applying for various licenses and permits, and when interacting with tax inspectors. When tendering for contracts in a foreign country, businesses should adhere to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) conventions to avoid prosecution by their home country.

Security Services

Security Services: National police forces in Argentina, since the military dictatorship, fall under the System of Internal Security, including the Federal Police and the National Gendarmerie. Special Tourist Police Units can be found in **Buenos Aires** and **Mendoza**. Police response time is generally slow, ranging from 15 to 30 minutes, but investigations into criminal incidents are considered effective and timely, if there is political will to do so. Despite efforts to improve the reputation of Argentina's public security forces, they remain corrupt and continue to participate in criminal schemes from kidnapping to drug dealing and money laundering.

Natural Risks : ● Moderate Risk

Argentina faces the highest flood risk in Latin America. Most rainfall occurs in the northeast, in the **Humid Pampas, Mesopotamia** and the east of **Chaco province**, especially during the summer, when stationary fronts bring long rainy periods. Flooding most often occurs in the low-lying areas along the **Paraná** and **Uruguay rivers** between March and May. During the spring, **Salta province** is occasionally plagued by severe, week-long dust storms. **San Miguel de Tucumán** and **Mendoza** in the **Andes** are the most prone to rare earthquakes.

Flooding

A flood is an overflow of water that submerges land that is usually dry. It is normally triggered by an extended period of heavy rainfall and can be exacerbated by poor drainage systems in the affected area.

With a third of its territory as floodplains, Argentina faces the highest flood risk in Latin America. Most rainfall occurs in the northeast, in the **Humid Pampas, Mesopotamia** and the **eastern Chaco**, especially during the summer, when stationary fronts bring long rainy periods. Flooding and periods of unusually high streamflow are often associated with El Niño events, with flooding occurring towards the end of the rainy season between March and May. This mainly affects low-lying areas along the **Paraná** and **Uruguay rivers**.

If instructed of the possibility that flash-flooding may affect the area you are in, monitor local updates and move immediately to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks and storm drains. Though flash-flooding is commonly attributable to excess upstream precipitation, be aware that flooding can occur without typical warning signs of rain clouds or heavy rain. This is especially true near streams, drainage channels, canyons and other areas known to flood suddenly. If you happen across a flooded road in your car, turn around and drive in the opposite direction. When trapped on a flooded road, vacate your vehicle immediately and climb to higher ground.

Earthquakes

An earthquake is the sudden, rapid shaking of the earth, caused by the breaking and shifting of subterranean rock as it releases strain that has accumulated over a long period. Initial mild shaking may worsen and become extremely violent within a matter of seconds. Additional earthquakes, called aftershocks, may follow the initial earthquake.

Earthquakes are somewhat rare in Argentina, but the areas of **San Miguel de Tucumán** and **Mendoza** in the Andes are the most likely to experience this phenomenon, which usually register below 6.0 on the Richter scale. This is considered moderate yet can cause major damage to poorly constructed buildings over limited areas and slight damage to even well-designed buildings.

When shaking begins, drop to the ground and take cover under, and hold on to, a sturdy piece of furniture, such as a heavy desk or table that can provide you with air space if the building collapses. If you're not near a strong piece of furniture, crouch down and protect your head and face in an inner corner of a building; only stand in a doorway if you know it is strongly supported. Stay away from windows or glass panels. Most deaths and injuries in an earthquake are caused by collapsing building materials and heavy falling objects. Stay indoors until the tremors stop and you are sure it is safe to exit. Avoid all areas in the vicinity of outer walls and doorways, as these are most prone to falling debris. In a high-rise building, the electricity may go out and the sprinkler systems may come on. Do not use the elevators. If the lights go out, avoid using candles, matches or lighters during or after the earthquake; if there is a gas leak, an explosion could result. If outdoors, move to an open space away from buildings, electric poles and street lights which are prone to collapse. Do not travel on roads and bridges which may have been damaged by the earthquake. Be prepared for secondary earth movements that follow the initial earthquake; some of these may be large enough to cause additional damage or bring down weakened structures.

Tsunami

Tsunamis are commonly generated by an earthquake-induced movement of the ocean floor. A strong earthquake lasting 20 seconds or more near the coast is likely to generate a tsunami and imminent coastal impact, possibly before warnings can be issued. However, all offshore or coastal earthquakes carry the potential of generating tsunamis. Warning signs of a tsunami include a sudden rise and fall in coastal sea

levels.

Strong and shallow offshore and coastal earthquakes have the potential to trigger tsunamis in coastal areas of Argentina. While warnings are normally issued by the US Tsunami Warning Centre, the territory has not been hit by any hazardous tsunamis in recent years.

In areas at risk of tsunamis, know the height of your street above sea level and the distance of your street from the coast or other at-risk waters. Areas which are less than 7.5 metres (25 feet) above sea level and/or within 1.5 kilometres (one mile) of the coastline are perceived to be the most at risk. Evacuation orders may be based on these numbers. Immediately move inland or to higher ground in the event of a tsunami alert/warning; stay away from the beach. In the absence of an official warning, if you are on the coast and feel an earthquake, or if there is a noticeable recession in water away from the shoreline this is a natural warning of a possible tsunami and should be heeded; move away immediately. Remain out of the tsunami hazard zone until local officials advise otherwise.

Volcanic Eruptions

A volcanic eruption occurs when lava, rocks and gas are discharged from a volcanic vent. Eruptions can also trigger volcanic ash clouds and landslides called lahar.

Dozens of both active and extinct volcanoes are present in Argentina; however, the ones that remain active pose little risk. The most significant risk of volcanic eruption comes from those on the border with Chile, and, during an eruptive phase, have the potential to disrupt air travel due to ash plumes.

In the event of a volcanic eruption, listen to your radio or television until you are told all is safe or you receive instructions to evacuate. Local authorities may elect to vacate specific areas at greater risk. If instructed to remain indoors, stay inside with windows and doors closed and all heating and air conditioning systems turned off. Move to a ground level interior room without windows. If you are caught in an outdoor rock fall, roll into a ball to protect your head. Immediately evacuate an area when volcanic fumes and gases begin to cause an irritation to your sensory or respiratory organs. Your symptoms should dissipate when you are no longer in contact with the gases or

fumes. Keep your vehicle engine switched off. Avoid driving in heavy ashfall. Ash and debris may clog a car's engine, causing the vehicle to stall. If driving is unavoidable, ensure that all windows are rolled up and that the air conditioning system is turned off. In the event of volcanic activity, avoid travel within the radius of the danger zone established by authorities. Volcanic ash clouds may also impact air travel if the volcano is located within range of an airport; confirm updated itineraries with airline representatives if this occurs.

Dust/Sand Storms

Dust storms occur when a gust front or other strong wind system blows loose sand and dirt from a dry surface. As such, dust storms normally only occur in arid and semi-arid regions.

The pamperos, which are windstorms with thunder, lightning and hail, are common in the pampas and northeast of the country. During the spring, the province of Salta is occasionally plagued by severe, week-long dust storms. The Zonda wind, a dry wind that often comes off the eastern slope of the Andes, is common in the so-called Cuyo region, which includes **Mendoza, San Juan, La Rioja** and **San Luis provinces**. The wind, which often carries dust, is warm and raises temperatures to unusual levels during the Southern Hemisphere winter, but it is usually followed by snow.

Because meteorologists can commonly predict the likely onset of a storm, the most effective way to mitigate physical risk is to monitor local weather updates and consider deferring travel in the event of a storm alert. If you see a dust storm from some distance and you are in a vehicle you may be able to outrun or detour around it. Some dust storms can travel at more than 120 kph (75 mph), but they frequently travel much slower. Those in transit when a storm catches up to them are advised to roll up windows and turn off vents before pulling off the road, setting the parking brake and turning on headlights, brake lights and turn signals. If stuck outside, seek out a large rock or other landform offering at least partial protection. Avoid breaking rank with your group to mitigate the risk of becoming lost in zero visibility conditions. Carry a mask designed to filter small particulates and a pair of airtight goggles to protect your eyes. As an alternative, wrap a wet bandana or strip of cloth around your nose and mouth. Store loose fitting clothing for use as a protective layer against the effects of sandblasting. In addition, air travel may also likely be disrupted during sand storms.

Recent incidents

18 December 2023 - 19 December 2023

- **Medium risk: Storm disruptions continue in Buenos Aires, other areas - Update**

Miter, San Martín, Urquiza and Costa train lines in Buenos Aires metropolitan area were disrupted as of afternoon hours local time, due to flooding and fallen trees following a storm on 17 December. Flights resumed at Jorge Newbery Airpark (AEP/SABE), while public transport was suspended in Bahía Blanca after at least 13 people were killed, with power supply expected to gradually be restored. Multiple streets were also flooded in Concepción del Uruguay, Entre Ríos.

17 December 2023 - 18 December 2023

- **Medium risk: Storm causes disruptions at Jorge Newbery Airpark in Buenos Aires - Update**

Updated sources reported that many flights were delayed and cancelled at Buenos Aires's Jorge Newbery Airpark (AEP/SABE) as of early morning hours local time, after the terminal building and several aircraft were damaged due to strong winds amid a deadly storm. Power outages and further damage were also reported across Buenos Aires, where an orange storm warning was issued.

16 December 2023 - 17 December 2023

- **Medium risk: Strong winds cause fatalities in Bahía Blanca, Buenos Aires province**

Local media reported that at least 13 people were killed and several others were injured at Bahiense del Norte sports club in Bahía Blanca, Buenos Aires province, during evening hours local time due to a collapsed roof caused by strong winds amid a storm. Rescue efforts for people stuck under the rubble remained ongoing; officials urged the public to avoid the area.

08 December 2023 - 09 December 2023

● **Moderate risk:** Officials issue warnings for adverse weather in Chubut, other provinces

Weather officials issued an orange warning for thunderstorms in eastern parts of Chubut province, including Rawson, and yellow warnings in central Chubut and parts of Santa Cruz and Río Negro, while yellow wind warnings were in place in parts of La Pampa, San Luis, Córdoba, Mendoza, La Rioja and Catamarca, throughout the day.

Health and Medical: ● Moderate Risk

Overview

The quality of services is generally high, especially in **Buenos Aires** and other major cities, where several staff are likely proficient in English. Outside major urban hubs, the quality can vary though hospitals generally are equipped to handle emergency situations. There is a slight risk of contracting mosquito-borne viruses in the more remote regions of the country, including **Jujuy** and **Salta provinces**.

Before you travel

Consult your doctor or a healthcare provider who specialises in travel medicine at least six weeks before your departure. If you have a medical condition, you should also share your travel plans with your doctor.

Outbreaks and Other Diseases

Malaria

There is no risk of malaria transmission.

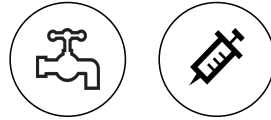
Yellow Fever

There is a risk of Yellow Fever in some areas.

Vaccinations, Medicines and Documentation

Note: Requirements and recommendations for vaccines and other medicines as well as Yellow Fever vaccine are based on guidelines from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Yellow Book 2024. All other entry requirements are based on Riskline research.

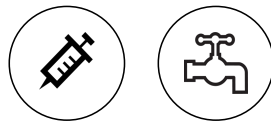
Routine vaccines



Make sure you are up-to-date on all routine vaccines before every trip. Some of these vaccines include

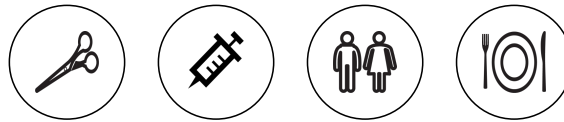
- Chickenpox (Varicella)
- Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis
- Flu (influenza)
- Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR)
- Polio
- Shingles

COVID-19



All eligible travellers should be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

Hepatitis A



Recommended for unvaccinated travellers one year old or older going to Argentina.

Infants 6 to 11 months old should also be vaccinated against Hepatitis A. The dose does not count toward the routine 2-dose series.

Travellers allergic to a vaccine component or who are younger than 6 months should receive a single dose of immune globulin, which provides effective protection for up to 2 months depending on dosage given.

Unvaccinated travellers who are over 40 years old, immunocompromised, or have chronic medical conditions planning to depart to a risk area in less than 2 weeks should get the initial dose of vaccine and at the same appointment receive immune globulin.

Hepatitis B



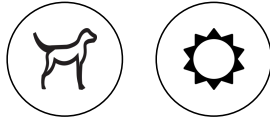
Recommended for unvaccinated travellers younger than 60 years old traveling to Argentina. Unvaccinated travellers 60 years and older may get vaccinated before traveling to Argentina.

Measles



Infants 6 to 11 months old traveling internationally should get 1 dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine before travel. This dose does not count as part of the routine childhood vaccination series.

Rabies



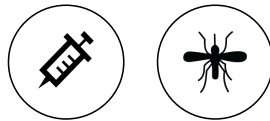
Argentina is free of dog rabies. However, rabies may still be present in wildlife species, particularly bats. CDC recommends rabies vaccination before travel only for people working directly with wildlife. These people may include veterinarians, animal handlers, field biologists, or laboratory workers working with specimens from mammalian species.

Typhoid



Recommended for most travellers, especially those staying with friends or relatives or visiting smaller cities or rural areas.

Yellow Fever



Recommended for travellers ≥ 9 months old going to Corrientes and Misiones Provinces. **Generally not recommended** for travel to Formosa Province or to designated areas of Chaco, Jujuy, and Salta Provinces. **Not recommended** for travel limited to provinces and areas not listed above.

Required documentation

Yellow Fever entry requirement (Source: USA CDC):

None

Other entry requirements:

None

Note: Documentation requirements are subject to change. Consult your destination embassy or consulate prior to departure for confirmation.

While you are there

Emergency Numbers

Medical	107; 911	
---------	----------	--

Emergency services

For a public ambulance in Argentina, call 107 or 911. If you opt for a private hospital, have the number on hand at all times. Emergency units are adequately trained to handle medical cases, but ambulance response time may lag.

Evacuation

It is very unlikely medical evacuation would be required for injury or illness. In remote regions emergency medical facilities can be limited; air-lift evacuation to a nearby city will be required. Note some rural hospitals may be unable to treat major medical complications and in such cases, evacuation to hospitals in major urban centres will be required.

Routine care

Public hospitals provide emergency and non-emergency services without cost, regardless of nationality. However, the quality of non-emergency care in public hospitals is not comparable to that in private hospitals. Most doctors speak English

and are trained to an international standard.

Medicine

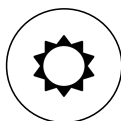
Access to high-quality prescription medication may be limited and travellers should bring their own sufficient quantity of prescription medication. While travellers are unlikely to experience any difficulties in entering the country with their own prescription medicine, it is advisable that all prescription drugs are kept in their original container noting the prescribed patient's name.

Payment

Serious medical problems requiring hospitalisation in private facilities can be very expensive, and doctors may expect upfront payment prior to the rendering of services. It is recommended that all visitors to Argentina have full medical insurance coverage, including air-lift evacuation, during the duration of their stay in the country.

Ailments

Altitude Sickness



Altitude sickness is a pathological effect on humans caused by low partial pressure of oxygen at altitudes above 2,400 metres (8,000 feet). Typical symptoms resemble those caused by influenza, including headache, fatigue and dizziness; severe symptoms can include fever, persisting shortness of breath, loss of consciousness or haemorrhages. While preventative treatment and acclimatisation can prevent or lessen symptoms, the only effective treatment is to descend to lower altitudes.

Chagas Disease



Chagas disease is most common in the provinces of **Santiago del Estero** and **Chaco**.

Chagas disease is a parasitic infection transmitted by insects, usually the triatomine bug, and is most prevalent in rural areas. Symptoms include fever and swelling at the site of the insect bite. If left untreated, the disease can cause serious chronic conditions, including damage to the heart and gastrointestinal system. Chagas disease can be treated with a course of antiparasitics.

Chikungunya Fever



A Chikungunya fever outbreak of imported and locally-acquired cases was reported in the country with 1,278 cases reported in **Buenos Aires City (CABA), Buenos Aires province, Corrientes, Córdoba,** and **Formosa**, as of April 2023; some 484 cases were reported in **Buenos Aires province** alone. The last major outbreak occurred in 2016.

Chikungunya fever is a viral infection, transmitted via mosquito bite. Generally non-fatal, the symptoms of Chikungunya fever include a high fever, joint pain and headaches. In most cases those infected recover after seven to ten days. There are no vaccines or treatments for chikungunya.

Cholera



The risk of contracting cholera is considered low. Some outbreaks of this illness have appeared in northern Argentina near the border with Paraguay.

Cholera is a bacterial infection transmitted through contact with infected food or water – usually by infected faeces – and is most prevalent in areas with poor sanitary standards. Symptoms include heavy, watery diarrhoea, vomiting and muscle cramps. If left untreated, cholera can rapidly become fatal. Cholera can be treated with a course of rehydration and antibiotics.

Dengue Fever



Over 99,456 cases of Dengue Fever were registered nationwide, with the most cases in **Santa Fe, Buenos Aires** and **Tucumán provinces**, from January to May 2023; some 8,485 cases were reported in **Buenos Aires province** alone. These represents 147 times more cases then during the same period in 2022.

Dengue fever is a viral infection, transmitted by the bite of the Aedes mosquito, which is most active during early morning and late afternoon hours and is commonly found in urban areas. Symptoms include a high fever, joint pain and headaches, although severe cases may cause significant falls in blood pressure and/or haemorrhaging, which can be fatal. There are no vaccines or treatments for dengue fever.

Hepatitis (A, B, C, D and E)



The overall hepatitis B (HBsAg) carrier rate in the general population is estimated at less than two percent. Hepatitis C is endemic at a low level with a prevalence of 0.6 percent in the general population, and while Hepatitis E is endemic, levels are unclear.

Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver. The three main variations (A, B and C) are caused by infections from parasites, bacteria or viruses, but are transmitted by different means.

HIV/AIDS



According to the United Nations (UN) Programme on HIV/AIDS, Argentina has a prevalence rate of 0.05 percent among adults aged 15 to 49, with approximately

120,000 Argentines currently living with HIV. The highest incidence rates are found in the capital, **Buenos Aires**.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a retrovirus that induces Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and is transmitted through contact with the blood, sexual and rectal fluids of an infected person, usually via sexual intercourse. AIDS weakens the body's immune system, making the body susceptible to numerous other diseases and ailments. There is no cure for AIDS or HIV.

Leishmaniasis



Leishmaniasis (both cutaneous and mucocutaneous) is endemic in northern Argentina, and there have been reports of the disease in **Tucumán, Catamarca** and **Corrientes**.

Leishmaniasis is a parasitic infection transmitted by the bite of sand flies, which are most active during early morning and late evening hours. Symptoms of cutaneous leishmaniasis include swollen glands and sores; symptoms of visceral leishmaniasis include fever, swelling of the liver or spleen and weight loss. Leishmaniasis can be treated with a course of Amphotericin B, an antifungal.

Leptospirosis

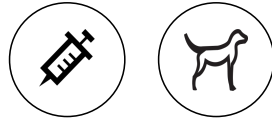


At least two cases of Leptospirosis were registered in **Berazategui, Buenos Aires province**, in early 2023. All patients had a recent history of eating meat and meat products such as offal. Over 46 cases were reported in **Buenos Aires, Santa Fe, Entre Ríos** and **La Pampa provinces** in 2022.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection transmitted through contact with (or consumption of) soil, water or food contaminated by infected animal urine. Symptoms can occur in two phases: first stage symptoms include fever, diarrhoea,

vomiting, jaundice, headaches and muscle and stomach aches; second stage – also known as Weil's disease – symptoms are more severe and may include meningitis and kidney or liver failure. Leptospirosis can be treated with a course of antibiotics.

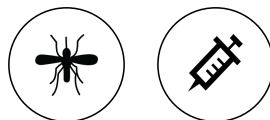
Rabies



Rabies is endemic in the country, with the majority of cases reported in the regions of **Jujuy** and **Salta**, as well as **Chaco**, **Formosa** and **Misiones**.

Rabies is a serious viral infection, transmitted through close contact with saliva from infected animals (i.e. bites, scratches or licks on broken skin and mucous membranes). Travellers who suspect they may have come into contact with a rabies-infected animal should seek immediate emergency attention: post-exposure treatment has a high success rate if administered early. Late-stage rabies (when symptoms begin to occur) is untreatable and fatal.

Yellow Fever



Yellow fever is a serious viral infection, transmitted by the bite of the Aedes mosquito, which is most active during early morning and late afternoon hours and commonly found in urban areas. Initial symptoms include a high fever, chills, vomiting nausea and backaches/muscle pain; in some cases those infected may develop potentially fatal complications, including jaundice, severe haemorrhaging and kidney failure. There is no post-infection treatment for yellow fever.

Hantavirus

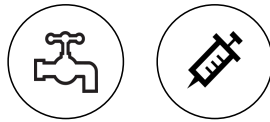


At least five fatalities amid 32 infections of hantavirus were reported in

Autonomous City of Buenos Aires and the provinces of **Buenos Aires, Chubut, Entre Ríos, Jujuy, Salta** and **Tucumán**, on January-July 2022.

Hantavirus is a viral infection carried by rodents, which can cause Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) in persons exposed to the urine or faeces of infected rodents, usually through the inhalation of droplets of the virus in the air. Early symptoms include fever, muscle aches and fatigue and may include diarrhoea, vomiting and nausea; later symptoms include fluid in the lungs and shortness of breath. HPS has a 38 percent fatality rate, and there is no known treatment beyond supportive hospital care.

Measles



At least two cases were confirmed nationwide in 2022. In 2019 and 2020, a total of 199 cases of measles were confirmed in the country, representing the largest outbreak since 2000.

Measles is a highly contagious viral infection transmitted via coughing and sneezing from infected persons. Cold-like symptoms as well as fever are initially presented before a skin rash develops three to five days later. The measles vaccine is effective at preventing the disease. There is no treatment once infected beyond rehydration and bed rest.

Recent incidents

31 October 2023 - 02 November 2023

- **Moderate risk:** Healthcare workers launch strike in Santa Fe province through 1 November

Healthcare workers represented by the Sipur union launched a 48-hour strike in public hospitals and health centres in Santa Fe province from morning hours local time through 1 November, to demand higher salaries, among other issues. A related march is planned from Plaza Pringles to the local Health Ministry building in Rosario from 09:30 local time (12:30 GMT).

17 July 2023 - 19 July 2023

- **Moderate risk:** Healthcare workers plan to strike in Mendoza province on 17-18 July

Healthcare workers represented by the Mendoza Association of Health Professionals (AMProS) plan to strike across Mendoza province on 17-18 July, to demand higher salaries.

07 July 2023 - 08 July 2023

- **Low risk:** Healthcare workers call off strike planned in Mendoza province - Closed

Updated reports indicated that healthcare workers represented by the Mendoza Association of Health Professionals (AMProS) have called off a strike and a march planned across Mendoza province today. However, negotiations over pay will continue with the authorities.

07 July 2023 - 08 July 2023

- **Moderate risk:** Healthcare workers to strike, march in Mendoza province on 7 July

Healthcare workers represented by the Mendoza Association of Health Professionals (AMProS) will strike across Mendoza province on 7 July, after they rejected the government's salary proposal. A related march will be held from Nudo Vial Costanera and Jose Vicente Zapata at 11:00 local time (14:00 GMT).

Covid-19: ● Low Risk

Summary

Nationwide lockdown measures were lifted, with eased restrictions in place through the end of the year. International travel has resumed.

Social distancing measures and a health emergency were extended countrywide through at least 31 December.

What is the current nationwide Policy?: Open

Policy starts: 01 October 2021

Policy ends: 31 December 2023

Policy explanation:

Policy source: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/por-las-consecuencias-d-e-la-pandemia-el-gobierno-extendio-la-emergencia-sanitaria-por-un>

Last update: 25 October 2023

Infection

Infection Level: Low

Infection rate: 0.0 cases per 100k in the last 14 days

As of date: 09 November 2023

Hotspots: -

International Travel

International Flights

Is there a ban on international commercial flights? No

Through what date? indef

Flight Ban Explanation:

Caps on the capacity of international flights were lifted on 1 November 2021. Buenos Aires's Jorge Newbery Airport (AEP/SABE) has reopened.

Since 20 October 2021, international flights have resumed at Malvinas Argentinas Ushuaia International Airport (USH/SAWH) in Tierra del Fuego province.

Most direct flights from Africa remain suspended.

Last Update: 27 November 2023

Entry and Borders

Is there a ban on entry for any travellers? No

Through what date? indef

Travellers from where are banned?

Land border: Open

Maritime border: Open

Entry Rules Explanation:

Borders reopened to all foreign nationals from 7 April 2022.

Cross-border passenger transport is enabled to and from Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia and Brazil through all border crossings; "safe corridors" are no longer in effect.

Entry Rules: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/las-medidas-de-control-y-prevencion-de-covid-19-para-el-ingreso-al-pais-seran-las-mismas>

Exemptions: -

Last

Update:

Testing

Do travellers need to take a COVID-19 test No

When?

Is it mandatory or optional?

Test Type:

Minimum age requirement:

Pre-travel test validity, in hours:

After arrival test days:

Testing Explanation:

Testing Rules: -

Last Update: 27 November 2023

Health and Travel Documentations

Do arriving travellers need any health and/or travel documentation? No

Documentation Explanation:

Last Update: 25 October 2023

Tracing App

Do travellers need to use a contact tracing app after arriving? No

Tracing App Explanation:

There is no mandatory national contact tracing app at this time.

Last Update: 25 October 2023

Quarantine on Arrival

Who needs to quarantine on arrival None

Travellers from where need to quarantine?

How many days is quarantine?

Is it self-quarantine or operated by the government?

Quarantine Explanation:

From 7 April 2022, quarantine is generally not required for any travellers.

Quarantine Rules: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/migraciones/ddjj-migraciones>

Last Update: 2023-11-27

Exit

Is there a ban on exit for any travellers? No

Are there special requirements to exit? No

Exit Requirements Explanation:

There are no special requirements to exit the country for travellers.

Exit Requirements

(URL): -

Last Update: 27 November 2023

Vaccination

Percent vaccinated with at least one dose: 91.434 as of 07 Oct 2022

Percent fully vaccinated: 76.68 as of 14 Nov 2023

Is vaccination mandatory for entry? No

Fully vaccinated are exempt from: -

Minimum age for vaccine requirements for travel:

Exemptions for vaccine requirements for travel:

"Fully vaccinated" is defined by the destination as:

Accepted vaccines, validity and special age restrictions:

Is mixing of vaccine doses authorised? N/A

Are specific combinations of mixed doses required?

"Boosted" is defined by the destination as:

Accepted boosters:

"Recently recovered" is defined by the destination as:

Recovery status is valid from days until 3 months after .

Vaccination certificates accepted:

Vaccination certificates accepted in the following languages:

Recent recovery document required:

Recent recovery document accepted in the following languages:

Explanation:

Vaccination is no longer required for entry from 7 April 2022.

Health authorities have the right to determine whether a traveller has a complete vaccination schedule.

Sources: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/las-medidas-de-control-y-prevencion-de-covid-19-para-el-ingreso-al-pais-seran-las-mismas>

Last change to vaccination policy: 19 April 2022

Last Update: 28 November 2023

Other International Travel Restrictions

Exit Requirements Explanation:

Last Update:



Domestic Situation

Areas on Lockdown

Last Update:

Areas under Curfew

Last Update:

Domestic Travel

Domestic Travel Explanation:

Travellers who board ferries to Antarctica and Bioceanic Cruises in national territory must present a negative PCR test no older than 72 hours; the PCR used to enter the country in the last 72 hours is accepted. It is unclear whether this measure is still in place. Consult with the cruise and ferry lines.

Last Update: 28 November 2023

Other Domestic Restrictions

Last Update: 25 October 2023

Resources

Government COVID Site: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/salud/coronavirus-COVID-19>

There are no recent incidents

Local Travel : ● Moderate Risk

Travel Safety

Air Travel: Most travellers arrive in **Buenos Aires' Ministro Pistarini de Ezeiza International Airport**, commonly referred to as simply **Ezeiza**. Serving as a hub for Aerolíneas Argentinas and Flybondi, the airport connects the capital with dozens of regional, international and domestic destinations.

Ezeiza is located approximately 33km (21 miles) from **central Buenos Aires**, and has three main terminals: the international terminal, the national terminal and one for Aerolíneas Argentinas. There are frequent reports of stolen or tampered luggage, so it is recommended to carry valuables (electronic equipment and jewellery) within hand luggage. Argentinean officials have publicly acknowledged the systematic theft of valuables from checked baggage at **Buenos Aires airports**, and are working to resolve the problem, but travellers should exercise continued care and plan ahead.

The two best transport options from the airport to **Buenos Aires** is the bus or taxi service. The bus company Tienda Leon offers service to **Plaza San Martín** and **Terminal Madero** from **Ezeiza**; the service is also available from **Aeroparque Jorge Newbery**. At the first bus stop in **Buenos Aires**, mini-vans redistribute passengers at no extra cost within an extended area (always near downtown). Similar services can be found in all major Argentine cities. Although the minivan is a cheap means of transportation, its several stops made along the way can result in a two-hour delay to reach **downtown Buenos Aires**. If opting for a taxi, the journey time is approximately 45 minutes. It is not recommended to hail a taxi from the curb, since passengers have been robbed by drivers in the past. Companies including Transfer-Express and Manuel Tienda León operate a chauffeur service between **Ezeiza** and **Buenos Aires**, and luxury transport is available from VIP Car, available outside the Arrivals area on both terminals.

Internal flights are recommended for long-distance travel within Argentina. This reduces travelling time from **Buenos Aires** to **Ushuaia** to less than four and a half hours, compared with several days on the quickest bus route. Located in the capital, the main domestic airport is called **Aeroparque Jorge Newbery**, most commonly referred to as Aeroparque by locals. Most provincial cities have airports, but very few have direct flights linking the cities. Some exceptions include direct flights linking the cities of **Trelew (Península Valdés)** and **Puerto Madryn**, **El Calafate (Southern**

Patagonia), Bariloche (Lake Region), and Ushuaia (Tierra del Fuego).

Airspace: Caps on the capacity of international flights were lifted on 1 November 2021. Buenos Aires's Jorge Newbery Airport (AEP/SABE) has reopened.

Since 20 October 2021, international flights have resumed at Malvinas Argentinas Ushuaia International Airport (USH/SAWH) in Tierra del Fuego province.

Most direct flights from Africa remain suspended.

Borders and Entry: Borders reopened to all foreign nationals from 7 April 2022.

Cross-border passenger transport is enabled to and from Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia and Brazil through all border crossings; "safe corridors" are no longer in effect.

Exit: There are no special requirements to exit the country for travellers.

Road Travel: Traffic in Argentina moves on the right. Argentineans frequently drive aggressively and are haphazard in observing speed limits and traffic signs. Accidents at unmarked junctions are common in urban areas. On roads, most accidents take place during the weekend after dark. Renting a car is simple to do (although an international driver's licence is required), but first-time drivers in Argentina would be wise to avoid busy areas until they are more accustomed to the Argentine style of driving.

In urban centres, roads are generally well-maintained, but traffic is usually congested. Driving is not recommended in Buenos Aires, where locals drive aggressively and often ignore traffic lanes or lights. If driving, visitors should be especially alert for pedestrians who often jaywalk and disregard traffic lights. In the capital, the bustling commercial district **Microcentro** - bound by **Carlos Pellegrini, Avenida Córdoba, Avenida Leandro Alem, and Avenida de Mayo** - is off limits from Monday through Friday to all but public transit vehicles.

Outside of large cities, road conditions vary from good to poor. Poor-quality roads are often found in areas of **Patagonia**, such as between **El Calafate** and **El Chalten, Chaco province**, and the Andean north west of the country. Major privatisation programmes have resulted in many trunk roads being upgraded, but many other roads remain in poor condition. Because of Argentina's vast distances, overland travel is not recommended for those with time constraints. Roads may be winding and narrow, and often lack protective crash barriers and adequate shoulders; this is the case in the **Andean provinces** of **Jujuy** and **Salta**, which are often used by large transport vehicles that frequently travel too fast. If travelling by car, it is not recommended to do so after dark, as livestock roam the roads and many drivers do

not use their headlights. Rural roads, made of packed dirt, can become impassable after rain. It is wise to fill one's petrol tank before setting out on rural roads, since petrol stations are harder to find in isolated areas. In case of emergencies, the Automóvil Club Argentino - ACA (tel: 0800 777 2894) offers breakdown cover and reciprocal benefits for members of motoring organisations in other countries.

All main roads have tolls. Unless otherwise indicated, the speed limits are 40kph (24mph) on city streets, 60kph (37mph) on city avenues, 80kph (49mph) on rural roads, and 120kph (74mph) on highways. On *autopistas*, the maximum speed permitted is 130kph (80 mph), while the speed limit is 80 kph (50 mph) on one-lane rutas. All passengers and driver are required to wear a seatbelt. It is unlikely that foreign travellers will be stopped for traffic violations or speeding, as such laws are generally not upheld or rigorously enforced. However, if pulled over, be prepared to show identification and proof of ownership or rental agreements for the car. It is possible that the officer will invent a violation in an attempt to extort a small amount of money.

It is necessary to have an International Driving Permit to drive in the country. If the permit is not brought along already, it can be obtained at the National Transit Authority (*Dirección Nacional de Tránsito*).

Rail Travel: Most of Argentina's rail network is now unused; rail services are limited and most of the country is unreachable by train. Travel on trains can be rather uncomfortable, but rates tend to be economical when compared to long-distance buses. Since the service is not well maintained, delays are very common and the risk of accidents is considerable.

The main routes out of the capital's three main stations (**Retiro, Plaza Constitución,** and **Once de Septiembre**) run to **Rosario, Rojas, Santa Rosa, Mar del Plata, Quequen Necochea** (via **Las Flores**), and **Bahía Blanca**. From **Rosario**, trains can be taken to **Tucuman** and **Jujuy** via **Cordoba** or via **La Banda**. Currently, the most used routes are the ones linking **Buenos Aires** to **Bariloche**, in the **Andes**, and **Mar del Plata**. If travelling during the summer, it is recommended to buy tickets over 10 days in advance; during other seasons, three days in advance is fine.

Public Transport

Ferries and Boats: International ferry services link **Buenos Aires** with Colonia del Sacramento and Montevideo in Uruguay. These services are safe and run efficiently.

Buses: One of the most popular methods of transportation in Argentina is *colectivos* or micro buses. Bus lines are differentiated by their distinct colour. The fare is paid

directly to the driver or deposited in the automated machines located in the front of the bus. Prepare ahead with exact change to avoid delays. Routes are posted at bus stops along main stretches. As in other major cities, beware of pick-pockets and petty thieves, who usually operate during rush hours. Nonetheless, the bus system can be considered safe.

There is a bus (*colectivo*) service in **Buenos Aires** called *diferencial* (differential) where seats are more comfortable and always available. They follow direct routes and only stop to let passengers off or when there are available seats. *Diferencial* buses are indicated by a sign on the front of the vehicle. They run less frequently than *colectivos*, but are more expensive. Stops are every other block, and are marked by small signs noting the number of the bus line. The buses are generally safe and run 24 hours a day. However, the service is irregular at night and should be avoided after 22:00 due to safety concerns.

Over one hundred bus companies run intercity routes in Argentina, so you can reach almost anywhere in the country by bus. However, the standard of the services can vary dramatically, from flat-bed, air-conditioned buses with hostess services, to cramped services without air-conditioning. The better services run on frequently used routes between major cities, especially services departing from **Buenos Aires**. Inferior services tend to run across the north and in **Patagonia**. Despite some discomfort, Argentine intercity buses are the best in South America, and are a cheap, safe, if not always rapid, way of travelling.

Metro: Buenos Aires is the only city in the country with an underground system. The metro, or *subte* as it is commonly called, extends through a good portion of **Buenos Aires**, with five metro lines specified by a different letter. Although quite fast and efficient for moving within the city, the metro may not be very comfortable and tends to be very hot in the summer. Trains run between 05:30 to 23:30 with variation depending on the day. The metro is quicker and cheaper than *colectivos*, and is generally safe. However, pickpockets roam the metro.

Taxis: Taxi service is readily available in Argentinean cities: in **Buenos Aires** alone there are over 32,000 registered taxis. Taxis in **Buenos Aires** are all clearly marked, and the 'official taxis' or 'radio taxi' have a metered service and the taxi firm's name and telephone number visible. Always check that the taxi licence is visibly posted inside the cab, there is a CB radio aerial on the bonnet/hood, and a working meter in the taxi before getting in. These are the most reliable ones, and can be called from any restaurant, hotel or public facility. Ride-share apps such as Uber and Cabify are also a

safe alternative.

Another safe option is the *remis* (call taxi/hire cars) - a type of taxi, which differs from a regular taxi in that the price of the trip is not metered but established in advance. Remis are very common to and from **Ezeiza Airport** in **Buenos Aires**. These cabs cannot be hailed from the street; they must be previously arranged and will pick you up at any location in the city. However, many of them are unmarked, so make sure to call for one from an airport, hotel or restaurant. It is not recommended to hail a cab or remis from the street, since 'regular' taxis have an increasing record of robberies and are likely to take a longer route to your destination or attempt other tactics to increase the fare.

Vehicle Hire: Rental cars are available at airports and in cities. Major international firms, including Hertz, Avis, and Budget, operate out of the international airports and are the best option for rentals. Although other local companies may offer better rates, vehicles for hire may be in a poorer condition. If you plan on driving outside of cities or major highways it is recommended to use a four-wheel drive (4x4) vehicle. Always ensure to check around the vehicle before accepting it, as minor damage caused by the previous renter can go unnoticed. It is necessary to have an International Driving Permit to drive in the country. If the permit is not brought along already, it can be obtained at the National Transit Authority (*Dirección Nacional de Tránsito*).

Recent incidents

12 December 2023 - 13 December 2023

● **Moderate risk:** Firefighters control deadly fire near Ministry of Labour building in Buenos Aires - Update

Updated reports indicated that firefighters controlled the blaze triggered by a short circuit in a 14-story office and residential building next to the Ministry of Labour building at 650 Alem Avenue in Buenos Aires, as of afternoon hours local time. Buildings were evacuated and the electricity supply was cut off preventively, while at least one person was killed and dozens of others injured.

12 December 2023 - 13 December 2023

● **Moderate risk: Fire at Ministry of Labour building disrupts traffic in Buenos Aires**

Local media reported that traffic was suspended in the vicinity of the Ministry of Labour (650 Alem Avenue) in Buenos Aires amid evacuations as firefighters battled a large blaze that erupted after an explosion in the building. At least 10 people were injured.

10 December 2023 - 11 December 2023

● **Medium risk: Presidential inauguration to prompt heightened security, disruptions in Buenos Aires**

Heightened security measures will be deployed across Buenos Aires for the inauguration of President-elect Javier Milei, which will take place at National Congress from 11:00 local time (14:00 GMT), followed by events at Casa Rosada and Buenos Aires Metropolitan Cathedral from 13:00 as well as at Teatro Colón at the end of the day. Road closures will be in place in these areas.

06 December 2023 - 07 December 2023

● **Low risk: Police respond to bomb threat at AMIA in Buenos Aires - Closed**

Updated reports indicated that nothing untoward was found during a police investigation over a bomb threat emailed to the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) at 633 Pasteur Street in Buenos Aires during morning hours local time. A security perimeter was lifted at the scene.

Destination Hotspots

Cities, Towns, Villages: Argentina is a relatively safe country, but petty theft is common in large urban centres like **Buenos Aires**. Within **Buenos Aires**, crime is common in **La Boca** (around **Caminito street**), **San Telmo**, **San Martin** in **Buenos Aires province**, **Villa Crespo**, **Cabalito**, and **Plaza de Mayo**.

Protests and demonstrations are common in **Buenos Aires** in the **Plaza de Mayo** and **Congreso areas**. Protests often cause roadblocks and disrupt traffic, and are usually non-violent. Occasionally, however, clashes with police and property vandalism will occur. It is best to avoid large demonstrations and protests.

Occurring predominately in **Buenos Aires** and its suburbs, express kidnappings - short-term abductions aimed at quickly extracting cash or other valuable from the victim - target people from all levels of society as well as foreign nationals and tourists. Victims often report having been assaulted, though fatalities are rare. Victims are commonly kidnapped outside banks or automated teller machines (ATMs) and forced to withdraw additional money while in the kidnappers' custody. They are often released within hours or on the same day after making one or even multiple payments. Criminals are also known to disguise themselves as police officers by wearing a full uniform or to pose as taxi drivers.

Regions: Some caution should be exercised within the tri-border area between Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil, and around border crossings into Bolivia, especially **La Quiaca** and **Yacuiba**, due to frequency of protests in those areas.

During the South American winter months of June and July, snow usually causes the **Cristo Redentor pass** to close, resulting in a long line of freight trucks waiting for the snows to clear. This pass should be avoided during the winter.

Safety

Emergency Numbers

Fire	100; 911	
Police	101; 911	
Child help-line	102	
Hazards	103	
Medical	107; 911	

Beaches and Public Areas: **Mar de la Plata** is Argentina's oldest beach resort, but finding a spot on the beach is difficult during the summer months. There are no major safety concerns, but visitors should keep a close eye on valuables as petty theft does occur. After dark, visitors to Argentine urban centres should consider using taxis, or remis.

Begging: Begging is common on **Calle Florida**, a busy pedestrian street in **Buenos Aires** known for its shopping and restaurants. Keep your valuables close and exercise caution.

Corruption: All political and administrative levels are considered susceptible to corrupt practices and political influence. Political parties and parliament are ranked as the most corrupt institutions in Argentina, these being closely followed by the police and judiciary sectors typically associated with high levels of corruption in other countries.

Travellers may be subjected to extortive and corrupt practices by various low-level government officials. Traffic police and customs administration officials are considered the most likely candidates to solicit bribes or other informal payments from foreign nationals. The most common abuses include extortion for bribes and the threat of planting evidence to charge individuals for crimes. If you are involved in an accident or other encounter that attracts the attention of local police officers, contact your consulate or a trusted local before heading to the station. Both the soliciting and payment of a bribe is considered a criminal offense according to Argentine law and perpetrators may be punished accordingly.

Argentine citizens reportedly encounter corrupt and illicit practices on a daily basis, while both domestic and foreign businesses report that bribes and/or other informal payments are often expected when bidding on public tenders, when applying for various licenses and permits, and when interacting with tax inspectors. When tendering for contracts in a foreign country, businesses should adhere to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) conventions to avoid prosecution by their home country.

Drugs and Alcohol: You must be 18 years or older to purchase alcohol in Argentina. The legal limit for driving is 0.5 milligrams of alcohol per millilitre of blood for drivers of cars, and 0.2mg/1ml for drivers of motorcycles. Heavy penalties are enforced for those found over the legal limit, including fines, license suspension, and imprisonment.

Argentine drug laws do not specify a difference between the minimum dose for personal use or for commercial means. Sentences and fines can be severe, with minimum prison terms for even small quantities of drugs at four and a half years.

Food and Drink: Do not drink the local tap water unless it has been filtered, boiled, or disinfected. Drink only bottled water and beverages. Any unsealed drinks or drinks made with ice should be avoided. Avoid fruits and vegetables that have not been cooked, peeled, or properly washed. Food from street vendors is best avoided. Any food items that have been made with unpasteurised milk, including ice cream, should not be consumed.

Import and Export: Importing goods into Argentina is governed by a number of complicated laws and statutes. It is prohibited to enter into the country with plants, vegetables, fruits and perishable food items. Domesticated animals can enter as long as they have been certified and their vaccinations up to date. Riskline advises that you contact a local agent for professional support. Exporting logs, specific works of art and endangered species is illegal. All other products may be subject to an export tax of 5 percent to 20 percent.

Law: The country's judicial system is considered inadequate at best. Given that some 30 percent of all crimes are reported, less than one percent lead to the imprisonment of the perpetrator.

Security Services: National police forces in Argentina, since the military dictatorship, fall under the System of Internal Security, including the Federal Police and the National Gendarmerie. Special Tourist Police Units can be found in **Buenos Aires** and

Mendoza. Police response time is generally slow, ranging from 15 to 30 minutes, but investigations into criminal incidents are considered effective and timely, if there is political will to do so. Despite efforts to improve the reputation of Argentina's public security forces, they remain corrupt and continue to participate in criminal schemes from kidnapping to drug dealing and money laundering.

Smoking: Smoking is prohibited in all public closed areas, including restaurants and bars, in **Buenos Aires**. Local and regional jurisdictions have the authority to establish "public environments 100 percent free of smoke."

Sports: Violence associated with football has always been pronounced in Argentina. At least 300 people have been killed in football-related violence since the league began in the 1930s. In recent seasons, matches have been postponed, the league suspended, and teams banned from their own grounds as a result of violence perpetrated by 'barrabravas' (hooligans, or more literally fierce gangs). These gangs are said to be linked to club officials, politicians, and the police, and may be armed with knives and guns. As a general rule, visitors should avoid matches between major rivals, especially those between the Boca Juniors and River Plate clubs. When attending matches, try seating close to an exit in case violent unrest breaks out.

Wildlife: Rabies is endemic in the country, with cases reported notably in the regions of **Jujuy** and **Salta**, as well as **Chaco**, **Formosa** and **Misiones**. While human rabies is very rare in Argentina, any animal bites should be followed up with immediate medical attention.

Culture

Cultural Sensitivities: Argentina is very protective of its national heroes, such as Juan and Eva Perón, Jose de San Martín, General Manuel Belgrano, Carlos Gardel and Ernesto "Ché" Guevara. Negative comments should be avoided.

For a British person travelling in Argentina an important subject to avoid is the **Falkland Islands (Las Islas Malvinas)**. Although the islands are discussed fairly dispassionately in the United Kingdom, the issue is still sensitive in Argentina. Moreover, strong political polarisation can trigger heated debates. Although personal animosity is unlikely, the subject can lead to flaring tempers and arguments.

Political Sensitivities: Like many South American countries, Argentina suffered under military dictatorship. Argentina is still raking through the legacy of its 'Dirty War' ('Guerra Sucia') between 1976 and 1983. The military leadership Process of National Reorganisation allowed state-sanctioned kidnap, torture, and rape, most notoriously at the Escuela de Mecánica de la Armada (Naval Mechanics School) in Buenos Aires. The issue remains an emotive one for Argentineans of an older generation. Visitors should be respectful of these emotions and show due deference.

Religious Sensitivities: As much as 60 percent of Argentina's population is nominally Catholic and further 15 percent evangelical Christian, but less than 20 percent practice the religion. Some areas of the country, most notably northwestern regions, are deeply conservative. Veneration of the dead and spiritualism are very important to Argentineans. There are no significant religious sensitivities to bear in mind.

Specific Traveller Advice

Female Travellers

Local Customs and Laws: There are no local customs or laws that a female traveller should take into consideration in Argentina. Familiarise yourself with your destination prior to travel, and be respectful and mindful of any possible cultural sensitivities, which may include dress, behaviour and topics of discussions.

Safety: There are some safety concerns that a female traveller should take into consideration in Argentina. There are high rates of harassment, sexual assaults and violence targeting women in Argentina, including the capital **Buenos Aires**; however, visitors to Argentina are not likely to face an additional risk as most perpetrators of assault are known to their victim. Female travellers may, however, receive unwanted attention from men, ranging from open displays of catcalling and staring to physical groping, including during the daytime. It is best to ignore these advances or confrontations and walk away. In the event that harassment escalates, draw attention to what is happening and locals will likely come to your aid. Exercise personal safety awareness if walking alone at night, and refrain from wearing headphones while walking in the evening. Stick to main, well-lit streets and avoid walking through desolate areas or unfamiliar neighbourhoods, including **La Boca** area in **Buenos Aires**. Use only official and registered taxis or reputed radio cabs or ride-hailing services as there have been recent reports of assault onboard taxis, including in **Buenos Aires**. Some cities may have women-only taxis, operated by a female driver; consider using these companies, especially if travelling at night to mitigate risks of assault. Female travellers should exercise caution when reporting crimes to local police as there have been reports of law enforcement undermining incidents of harassment and assault. Consider consulting your home consulate/embassy for legal advice and ensure you receive a copy of the police report. If you need to report a crime in **Buenos Aires** or **Mendoza** do so at the nearest Tourist Police Unit who maintain a high degree of professionalism. When available consider reporting crimes to Female Police Units who maintain a high degree of professionalism, especially related to crimes that are sexual in nature.

Health and Wellness: Women have access to some specialised gynaecological and reproductive health services, medicines and products in Argentina, especially in urban areas. Argentina's Congress legalised abortions up to the 14th week of pregnancy in 2020. Earlier, abortions were only permitted in cases where the life or health of the

woman was in danger and in cases of rape, while access to safe abortion was extremely limited, especially in rural areas. The new law allows health workers in Argentina to abstain from performing abortions, and women still face major obstacles accessing legal abortions. Specialised clinics, prescription emergency contraceptives and prescription contraceptives and a large variety of feminine hygiene products are available in urban areas and to some extent in rural areas. Consider bringing an adequate supply of female-specific OTC drugs, feminine hygiene products and oral contraceptive pills, which may not be available locally. Consult a health professional prior to travel, especially if pregnant or planning to become pregnant, due to a potential risk of Zika virus.

LGBT+

Homosexuality is legal in Argentina. There are many legal protections for LGBT+ persons in the country, including anti-discrimination laws, laws concerning gender identity or expression and adoption by same-sex couples, however some protections vary by region. Same-sex marriage is legal. LGBT+ activity and persons are widely socially accepted. **Buenos Aires** is often described as "Latin America's gay capital". While most LGBT+ travellers are unlikely to face any difficulties or legal issues for travel, infrequent reports of harassment and abuse targeted the LGBT+ community have been made, as social conservatism may be prevalent in some parts of the country. Travellers may prefer to be discreet about sexual orientation and avoid excessive public displays of affection in areas where attitudes towards the LGBT+ community are unknown or generally not accepted. Exercise general safety precautions.

Technology & Communication Risk

Travellers are unlikely to face risks related to information and communication technology (ICT) in Argentina.

Internet access and social media have no restrictions. There are no concerns related to device searches or sensitive technology. Device searches and inspections at the border are unlikely. There are no restrictions in relation to bringing or operating sensitive equipment, which may include photo cameras, satellite phones, drones, and other GPS systems, in the country. State or criminal penetration of private data is unlikely. Authorities implement minimal state surveillance of ICT networks in the country.

Travellers should exercise basic ICT safety precautions. However, travellers should note that ICT laws and practices are subject to change on short notice, and travellers

are recommended to confirm the legality/appropriateness of their specific ICT needs prior to departure.

Legal notice

Any use of this document and its content is subject to the following terms and conditions, which you accept by using the document from Riskline. If you do not accept these terms and conditions, you are not allowed to use the document.

All written and graphic content belong to Riskline. Such content is provided by Riskline to customers, employees, and the general public for lawful purposes only. The document is subject to change at any time at the discretion of Riskline and without prior written notice. You may not modify the document or any Riskline printed matter or images in any way.

No warranty. All information is provided by Riskline on an 'as is' basis only, and does not constitute a warranty of any kind, neither express nor implied. Riskline provides no representations and warranties, express or implied, including the implied warranties of suitability for a particular purpose, merchantability, and no infringement.

Limitation of liability. In no event will Riskline be liable to any party for any direct, indirect, special or other consequential damages for any use of this Document, or on any other hyper linked website, including, without limitation, any lost profits, business interruption, loss of programs or other data on your information handling system or otherwise, even if we are expressly advised of the possibility of such damages.

© Riskline 2023