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SWITZERLAND GLOBAL ENTERPRISE

Argentina

Business Travel Guide

Compiled by:

Swiss Argentine Chamber of Commerce

Buenos Aires, February 2025

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Swiss nationals travelling to Argentina with a valid passport do not require an entry visa. A tourist visa allows them to stay for 90 days, which can be extended to 180 days.

Transfer from the airport to the city center:

- **Transfer service**: You can hire a vehicle for 3 people at USD23.00, in a door-to-door service
- **Taxis**: Fare to center: USD30.00-38.00
- **Estimated travel time**: around 45 minutes. Uber and Cabify (USD15.00-18.00) in the parking lots.
- **Bus Service**: Shuttle Manuel Tienda León: 50 minutes to Terminal Madero and 80 min. to Aeroparque Jorge Newbery. Ticket offices in the public arrivals sector and the baggage claim hall. USD 8/10 ride from Ezeiza to Buenos Aires city center. Neo Transfers is another company that offers a similar service.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

No vaccination requirements for international travelers.

See World Health Organization website: http://www.who.int/countries/arg/en

PUBLIC SECURITY / RECOMMENDED PRECAUTIONS

Argentina is generally a safe destination for travelers and foreign residents, but as anywhere, it is important to take precautions to ensure your safety. The following are specific recommendations:

Street safety: Keep your personal belongings at sight at all times, especially in crowded areas such as public transport, markets and tourist sites. Avoid displaying valuables such as jewelry, expensive watches, cell phones or electronic devices in public.

Use of transport: Use official taxis (yellow and black) or reliable app-based transport services (such as Uber or Cabify). Avoid boarding unlicensed taxis on the street. On public transport, watch out for pickpockets, especially during rush hour.

Areas to avoid: Some outlying areas of large cities, such as certain areas in the Buenos Aires suburbs, may be less safe, especially at night. Check with local residents or tourist guides to identify safe areas.

Protests and demonstrations: Demonstrations sometimes happen in Argentina, especially in central areas of Buenos Aires and other large cities. Although generally peaceful, they can disrupt traffic and occasionally generate tension. Avoid getting involved and stay informed about possible street closures.

Money and transactions: Prefer the use of credit cards in well-known businesses. If you need to withdraw cash, use ATMs in safe places such as banks or shopping centers.

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) travel advice: For up-to-date information on safety, health and other important aspects of your stay in Argentina, consult the official travel advice page of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA): https://www.fdfa.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/representations-and-travel-advice/argentina.html.

TIME ZONE

Time difference between Switzerland and

Buenos Aires	Central European Time 4 hours ahead (UTC -3 ART)

BUSINESS HOURS

	Weekdays	Saturdays	Sundays and Nationals Holidays
Government Offices	9:00am – 3:00pm	Closed	Closed
Banks	10:00am – 3:00pm	Closed	Closed
Shops	8:00am – 8:00pm	8:00am – 9:00pm	9:00am – 9:00pm Reduced hours (normally 10:00am – 6:00pm, depending on location)

Additional Notes

Government Offices: Closed on weekends and public holidays.

Banks: ATMs are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in-person services are only available on weekdays. Banks operate from 10 am to 3 pm.

Shops: Opening hours may vary depending on the city and type of establishment. In large shopping centers, closing hours may extend into the evening.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

New Year's Day	January 25
Carnival	February 25
National Day of Truth and Justice	March 25
Easter Thursday	April 25
Commemoration of the Malvinas Islands War and Good Friday	April 25
Labor Day	May 25
Anniversary of the May Revolution	May 25
Anniversary of the death of General Manuel Belgrano	June 25
Anniversary of the death of General Martín Miguel de Güemes	June 25
Independence Day	July 25
Anniversary of the death of General José de San Martin	August 25
Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity	October 25
National Sovereignty Day	November 25
Virgin Mary´s Day	December 25
Christmas	December 25

Some are mobile holidays. Please check: Feriados 2025 | Argentina.gob.ar

NATIONAL TRADE FAIR CALENDAR

The dates of the main trade fairs can be obtained from: Fiestas Populares Nacionales | Argentina.gob.ar

COMMUNICATION: TELEPHONE AND INTERNET

The country code for Argentina is +54 (city code + telephone number).

The country code for Switzerland is +41 (city code + telephone number).

Local SIM card can be bought at: Mobile carrier stores, electronic and tech stores, kiosks or convenience stores, airports and online.

Important phone numbers:

Police	911
Fire department	100
Medical emergency	107

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Electricity plug and socket: Plug & socket types around the world. The voltage in Argentina is 220 V with a frequency of 50 Hz.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

National currency in Argentina is the Peso (ARS, $). Although the peso is the official currency, US dollars (USD) are widely accepted for high-value transactions, particularly in real estate, tourist services and private rentals. However, for regular transactions in shops, restaurants or transportation, payments are usually made in pesos.

Exchange rate as of February 1, 2025: CHF 1 = ARS $ 1.164,81

When entering or leaving the country with USD 10,000 (or its equivalent in other currencies) or more in cash or monetary instruments, travelers must declare the amount in writing to customs upon arrival or departure.

Tipping is usual in Argentina. Restaurants: It is customary to tip 10% of the total bill. Taxis: Passengers often round up the fare to the nearest peso as a tip. Hotels: Doormen and housekeeping staff may be tipped at your discretion, usually between ARS $1000 and $5000 depending on the service

Acceptance of different payment methods

	everywhere	almost everywhere	limited	not accepted
Cash (national currency)	☒	☐	☐	☐
Cash (foreign currency)	☐	☐	☒	☐
MasterCard	☐	☒	☐	☐
Visa	☐	☒	☐	☐
American Express	☐	☒	☐	☐

Additional notes

Cash (ARS): Cash is widely accepted and preferred in small businesses and rural areas.

Credit cards: Visa, MasterCard and American Express are commonly accepted, especially in cities and tourist areas. Some establishments may charge a surcharge for card payments or set a minimum purchase amount.

Foreign Currency (USD): US dollars are accepted at hotels, tourist agencies or high-value private transactions. Always confirm in advance.

Mobile payments: Digital wallets such as Mercado Pago are commonly used among locals, but may not be accessible to foreign visitors

DOMESTIC TRAVEL, LOCAL TRANSPORT

The most commonly used kind of public transport are buses, trains and subways. The system works relatively well for daily commutes, but travelers should expect occasional delays and overcrowding.

Taxi fare for a 15 minute journey: Taxi fares include a base fare and a charge per kilometer or time. The base fare in Buenos Aires starts at ARS $1920 (during the day) or ARS $2300 (during the night, from 10 pm to 6 am). Ridesharing services such as Uber or Cabify are also available and can offer more competitive prices. Main apps: Cabify and UBER.

The mainain method of payment for taxis is cash. Subways, trains and buses the SUBE card is used. SUBE card is a prepaid card from which you can pay for the fare on different forms of public transport. The easiest way to buy it is through the official website, www.argentina.gob.ar/sube, at a cost of $1500 (Argentine pesos). To obtain it, you must first complete the form with your personal information on the website. Then, choose where to receive it, you can choose free shipping to a SUBE Service Center, or have it sent at your home. Once you have selected the delivery method, make the payment electronically. Afterwards, you will receive an email with the purchase confirmation and the electronic invoice. Finally, pick up your card at the agreed location or receive it at your home. If you use SUBE Digital, you can easily pay for your ticket. Just tell the driver your travel destination, activate the NFC on your cell phone and bring it close to the validator with the screen on. Wait a few seconds for the payment to be processed.

Car rental with/without a driver can be arranged at numerous companies:

- Ai Rent a Car International (Av. Santa Fe 5376, Tel. 4777-4487 / +5411 4776-8518)
- Alamo Rent a Car - National (Tel. 4811-9993)
- Avis Rent a Car (Tel. 0810 9991 2847)
- Budget Rent a Car (Tel. 0810 999 2834)
- Dollar Rent a Car (M.T. de Alvear 449, Tel. 4315-8800 / 1669)
- Hertz - Annie Millet Rent a Car (Paraguay 1138, Tel. 4816-8001)
- Localiza Rent a Car (Av. Alicia Moreau de Justo 1180, 2°, Of. 205 "C", Tel. 4121-5600).

Traffic conditions and waiting times may increase the fare.

ACCOMMODATION, TEMPORARY OFFICE SPACE

Accommodation

Argentina offers a wide range of accommodation options suitable for short and long stays, catering to different budgets and preferences:

Hotels: Budget accommodations range from USD 30-50 per night, while luxury hotels range from USD from USD300 to USD900 or more per night,

Alvear Palace Hotel/Palacio Duhau/Casa Lucía/ Four Seasons: Well-known luxury hotels. Rates start at USD 500 per night.

Short-term rentals: Platforms such as Airbnb and local agencies offer furnished flats and houses for short stays. Prices vary according to location, size and amenities, with costs ranging from USD 50 to USD 120 per night for a centrally located flat in Buenos Aires.

Extended-stay residences: Serviced flats are ideal for longer visits, offering amenities such as basic cooking and cleaning services.

Temporary office space: Short-term office rentals are available in major cities and business centers: Serviced offices: Business centers and serviced office providers, such as Regus, WeWork, offer private offices with meeting rooms, internet and administrative support. Customized options: Temporary office facilities can also be arranged through real estate agencies or local business networks.

Additional notes:

Location matters: Accommodation and office space in central business districts or tourist areas tend to be expensive.

Booking in advance: It is advisable to book in advance, especially during peak tourist seasons (December-March and July).

Utilities and internet: Both accommodation and office space usually include high-speed internet, although connectivity may not be good in rural areas.

LANGUAGES USED FOR BUSINESS

Spanish or English

BUSINESS PRACTICES

Tips for initiating business contacts:

The best way to find a suitable business contact is through Swiss Argentina Chamber of Commerce

+54 11 4311-7187.

Scheduling Meetings:

The business day usually starts at 9 a.m. Appointments must always be made in advance and punctuality is important.

Business attire:

It is customary to wear a suit and tie, for men. For more informal meetings you may not wear a tie.

Women wear business jackets either with a dress, pants or a skirt.

Introducing yourself: Men greet each other with a handshake and women with a kiss on the cheek.

Meetings usually begin with informal small talk and eye contact is important. Business is generally conducted in a relatively formal manner, although titles have become more relaxed and the use of first names is common. Argentines tend to use the informal "vos" as opposed to the more formal "usted".

Building trust and personal relationships:

Establish personal connections, be polite and respectful, be patient and flexible to local timing, demonstrate your commitment and embrace the local culture is crucial

Offering and accepting gifts and invitations:

Gift-giving in Argentina is a gesture of respect but should remain professional. Accept gifts graciously, expressing thanks. Inviting for meals is common and a good way to build connection. It’s important to extend the invitation politely and with enough notice. When accepting invitations, be punctual, dress appropriately, and show gratitude for the opportunity.

Sensitive topics:

In general, Argentinians are friendly and enjoy open, passionate conversations, but being mindful of sensitive such as: the Military Government, the Malvinas War, current political climate, economic struggles and soccer rivalries. This will help you navigate social and business interactions with respect and understanding.

BUSINESS RISKS

Corruption: Corruption remains a problem in Argentina, particularly in relations with the public administration and procurement processes. According to https://risk-indexes.com/global-corruption-index/, Argentina faces medium to high risks in this area.

Legal certainty: The legal framework in Argentina is complex and regulations change frequently. It is advisable to engage local legal counsel to address contractual and compliance issues.

Taxation and bureaucracy: The tax system is complex, with multiple levels of national, provincial and municipal taxes. Administrative processes can be time-consuming and require proper planning and local expertise. VAT is 21%, refundable for tourists at large shops.

Labor regulations: Labor laws in Argentina are strict and provide protection for employees. Companies should be aware of these regulations and ensure compliance to avoid disputes or sanctions.

CCR risk rating: Argentina's credit risk rating can be consulted on the official SERV website: Risk Rating https://www.serv-ch.com/en.

Recommendations to mitigate risks:

- Conduct thorough background checks on partners and suppliers. Contact Swiss Argentine Chamber of Commerce.
- Establish clear and transparent contracts to mitigate legal uncertainties.
- Use financial instruments such as forward contracts or dollar-linked accounts to reduce foreign exchange risks.
- Leverage local expertise to navigate regulations, taxes and labor laws.

Swiss Export Risk Insurance SERV insures political and *del credere* risks involved in exporting goods and services.

Products for exporters

Product for service providers

Products for financial institutions

The full range of services and products offered by SERV can be obtained at www.serv-ch.com.

Your contact person in Zurich
Verena Utzinger
Vice President, Acquisition
& Representation
Tel.: +41 58 551 5515
Email: verena.utzinger@serv-ch.com

Your contact person in Lausanne
Dominique Aubert
Sinior Vice President, Acquisition
& Representation
Tel.: +41 21 613 35 84
Email: dominique.aubert@serv-ch.com

IMPORT OF SAMPLES AND CATALOGUES

Temporary Importation of Samples and Catalogues

ATA Carnet: Argentina does not participate in the ATA Carnet system, so commercial samples must go through the usual customs formalities, including any duties or bonds refundable upon re-export.

Customs duties on samples: Non-commercial samples (e.g. marked or unusable items) may be imported duty free if labelled as 'samples of no commercial value'. Commercial samples may incur customs duties depending on their declared value.

Customs duties on catalogues: Small quantities of catalogues for non-commercial use may be duty free, but larger consignments for distribution may be subject to import duties.

Additional considerations

Documentation requirements: A detailed invoice or declaration specifying the purpose, value and nature of the goods is essential to facilitate customs clearance.

Inspection: Customs may inspect shipments to ensure compliance and verify eligibility for duty exemptions.

Time limits: Temporary imports must be re-exported within the time limit set by Customs, depending on the destination and nature of the goods.

Recommendations

Consult with Argentine customs or a local agent for specific regulations and to ensure proper labelling and documentation to avoid delays.

USEFUL LOCAL WEBSITES

La Nacion
Website https://www.lanacion.com.ar/el-mundo Political and economic information

Ámbito Financiero

Website: www .ambito .com Economic and financial information

El Cronista
Website: www .cronista .com Economic and financial information

Business news
Forbes Argentina: Website: www .forbesargentina .com Economic and financial information

El Economista:

Website: www .eleconomista .com .ar Economic and financial information
www .eleconomista .com .ar

Ministerio de Economia Ministry of Economy
Website**://www.argentina.gob.ar/economia**
Secretaría de Industria y Comercio (Secretariat of Industry and Trade)
Website**:** https://www.argentina.gob.ar/economia/industria-y-comercio www .argentina .gob .ar /economia /comercio
ARCA former **AFIP -** Revenue and Customs Control Agency

Website **www.afip.gob.ar**
Banco Central de la República Argentina (BCRA) -
Website www.bcra.gob.ar

Additional notes

Banks opening hours: Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

ADDRESSES OF EMBASSY AND CONSULATES OF SWITZERLAND

Embassy of Switzerland
Av. Santa Fe 846, 12º
C1059ABP Buenos Aires
Tel. +54 11 4311 6491
Fax: +54 11 4313 2998
E-mail: buenosaires@eda.admin.ch
bue.vertretung@eda.admin.ch
Web: http://www.eda.admin.ch/buenosaires

Consulate General in Cordoba
Simon Bolívar 387, Barrio Centro
X5000JZG Córdoba
Tel. +54 351 428 0671
E-Mail: cordoba@honrep.ch

Consulate in Mendoza
9 de Julio 1140, 3° 1
5500 Mendoza / Mendoza
Tel.: +54 261 252 7783
E-mail: mendoza@honrep.ch

Consulate in Rosario
Balcarce 225 1er piso
2000 Rosario / Santa Fe Argentine
Tel.: +54 341 4250193
E-Mail: rosario@honrep.ch

l Consulate in Ushuaia
Gobernador Godoy 186 – 3° C
9410 Ushuaia / Tierra del Fuego
Phone +54 (0) 2901 15 518075
Ushuaia@honrep.ch
www.eda.admin.ch/ccrsudamerica

Consulate in Ruiz de Montoya
Instituto Línea Cuchilla
3334 Ruiz de Montoya / Misiones
Tel.: +54 3743 495 015
Fax: +54 3743 495 076
E-mail: misiones@honrep.ch

ADDRESSES BILATERAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Cámara de Comercio Argentino-Británica:
Dirección: Av. Córdoba 1855, CABA
Teléfono: +54 11 4114-4700
Correo Electrónico: info @ccab .com .ar
Sitio Web: www .ccab .com .ar

Cámara de Comercio Argentino Alemana:
Dirección: Av. Corrientes 327, Piso 23, CABA
Teléfono: +54 11 5219-4000
Correo Electrónico: info @ahkargentina .com .ar
Sitio Web: www .ahkargentina .com .ar

Cámara de Comercio Argentino-Americana:
Dirección: Reconquista 1133, Piso 4, CABA
Teléfono: +54 11 4371-4500
Correo Electrónico: info @amcham .com .ar
Sitio Web: www .amcham .com .ar

Cámara Argentina de Comercio y Servicios:
Dirección: Av. Leandro N. Alem 36, CABA
Teléfono: +54 11 4342-7788
Correo Electrónico: info @cac .com .ar
Sitio Web: www .cac .com .ar

Unión Industrial Argentina (UIA):
Dirección: Av. de Mayo 1147, CABA
Teléfono: +54 11 4124-2300
Correo Electrónico: info @uia .org .ar
Sitio Web: www .uia .org .ar

Cámara de Comercio e Industria de CABA:
Dirección: Florida 15, CABA
Teléfono: +54 11 5556-6600
Correo Electrónico: info @camara -caba .org .ar
Sitio Web: www .camara -caba .org .ar

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