

ARGENTINA



Argentines have given the world tango, high fashion and more beef than you can shake a cattle prod at. It is the **8th largest country in the world** with a land mass of mountains, swamps and large expanses of never-ending “pampa,” the dry grasslands which have for centuries inspired its famous mate-sipping gaucho (Argentinean cowboy) culture.

A proud people, lovers of good wine, fashion and sports, the Argentines are usually a force to be reckoned with at international sports tournaments and runways.

The charming capital of Buenos Aires – once the hub of European immigration into South America, and dubbed **“the Paris of South America”**-, captivates visitors with its Mediterranean culture, outside cafés and cobblestone streets. The city has given birth to some of the most important Latin American writers of the XX Century, and Argentina’s proud legacy of literary genius is maintained until today.

Once a thriving economic superpower, Argentina’s turbulent political scenario has been the host for several financial crises during the 20th Century, including a military dictatorship, a war with Britain over the Falkland Islands and an economic collapse in 2001.

In spite of its history, Argentines are recovering from the shocks of the past century and quickly rising to become **one of the largest economies in South America**. Its highly educated workforce and huge export potential hold the keys to transforming Argentina into a powerhouse of the world economy.

Argentina offers students a unique opportunity to learn about economic policies and fiscal management.



Population	: 39.9 million (UN, 2008)
Capital	: Buenos Aires
Area	: 2.8 million sq km (1.1 million sq miles)
Major language	: Spanish
Major religion	: Christianity
Life expectancy	: 72 years (men), 79 years (women) (UN)
Monetary unit	: Argentinean Peso
Main exports	: Food and live animals, mineral fuels, cereals, machinery
GDP per capita	: US\$8,214

- ✦ Argentina, one of the ten richest countries in the world at the opening of the 20th century, is a vivid case study in macroeconomic management. Following a disastrous economic crisis in 2001, the Argentine economy has rebounded sharply and has grown at an average rate of 8.5% for the last 8 years.
- ✦ Argentina has shown an amazing entrepreneurial streak since the crash in 2001, after which many mid-level managers that were left jobless after large corporations collapsed, and were pushed into creating innovative new businesses that have experienced resounding success over the last few years: an example being Globant, one of the leading IT providers in Latin America.
- ✦ **Argentina is one of the backbones of the Mercosur free trade block**, with key roles in the integration and development of South American economies.
- ✦ Argentina has a very qualified multilingual workforce (English, French, Portuguese, Italian) and the literacy rate is an impressive 97%.
- ✦ Argentina is an attractive market for U.S. trade due to its size, diversity and proximity to other Mercosur markets. For example, Argentine exports to the U.S. increased 3.7% and U.S. exports to Argentina increased by 20.9%.
- ✦ Argentina offers **abundant natural resources**, infrastructure and human capital.
- ✦ Argentina's agribusiness sector continues to boom, especially in the soy bean industry.