

Pre-Departure Considerations

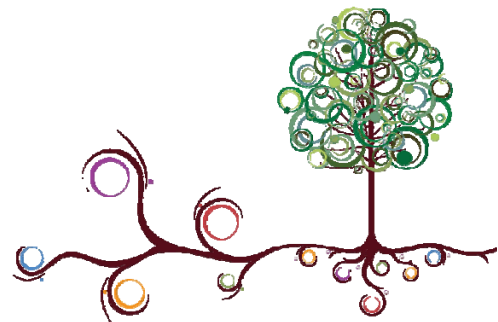
What to Pack

- Passport & Travel Documents
- Formal clothing for Chief's Reception at Ambassador's Residence
- Business-Casual clothing, formal clothing for meetings, speeches
- Bring a sweater and fleece jacket to layer for night when temperatures can still plunge into the low 40s
- Recreation clothes, comfortable shoes and a hat for the field trip
- Electrical converter and adapter for any electronics you want to use (220 volts)
- Sunscreen
- Umbrella
- Hygiene products
- Sunglasses
- Medication
- Photocopy of your credit cards and passport
- Copy of your PIN and account numbers

Money: When you arrive, we recommend that you stop at an ATM and withdraw 800-1000 Argentinean Pesos which is equivalent to around USD\$200-300. Major credit cards are also accepted most places. Please notify your credit card companies that you will be traveling to Argentina during the week of October 18th. Make sure to have your pin and account number on hand.

Weather: The seasons in Argentina are the reverse of those in the northern Hemisphere, therefore spring begins in October. Buenos Aires has a temperate climate and there is usually a fair amount of rain in October. Its average precipitation is 4.69 inches. The high and low averages are 71° F to 50° F.

Time: If you arrive on or after October 18th, the time in Buenos Aires will be three hours ahead of Washington D.C. time. Daylight savings time in Argentina begins at midnight on October 17th.



UPON ARRIVAL...

Customs: Returning U.S. citizens who have been away for at least 48 hours are allowed to bring back, once every 30 days, \$800 worth of merchandise duty-free. You'll be charged a flat rate of duty on the next \$1,000 worth of purchases. Be sure to have your receipts or purchases handy to expedite the declaration process. If you owe duty, you are required to pay on your arrival in the United States, by cash, personal check, or money order. You cannot bring fresh fruits or vegetables back to the United States.

Note: As soon as you claim your baggage and exit the customs area of the airport, you will notice that many people will approach you and offer car services to the city. It is strongly recommended that you DO NOT take any of these people's cars, since they are not authorized to carry passengers and usually take advantage of tourists.

Recommended transport from the airport to the hotel:

- Taxi: \$15/\$50. Taxis have reservation booths inside the airport. Confirm the price before making the reservation (www.taxiezeiza.com). Do not take a taxi from a person who verbally offers the service inside the airport hall

Other options for transportation from the airport to the hotel:

1. Minibus: \$26 The Manuel Tienda León Bus Company (11/4314-3636) provides transportation to the center of the city and has reservation booths in the arrival hall. The minibuses depart every hour, are inexpensive and make several stops along the way. Confirm with the operator if your destination is close to their stop. The Manuel Tienda León Bus Company also provides transportation from the city center **TO** the airport. Go to their main offices at Av. Santa Fe 790 for schedules and routes.
2. Remise (car service): \$15-45. These are hired drivers, it is recommended that you use this option only if you already have a reservation and the driver is waiting for you.
3. Public Transportation: \$1.35. If you are not carrying large or heavy luggage and want to spend very little money on transportation, it takes about 1½ hours to get to downtown Buenos Aires. The fare is paid on the bus with coins **ONLY**, so make sure to have at least \$2 in coins. Go to the information booth inside the arrivals hall and ask for the exact location of the bus stop for bus number **86**. When getting on the bus you must tell the driver your destination (e.g. Centro or Plaza de Mayo) and put the coins in the ticket machine;

wait a few seconds for the machine to print a receipt and to give your change back. Keep the receipt handy because it may be requested during the trip.

Hotel Information

The Panamericano is a large hotel, facing both the Obelisco and the Teatro Colon and is located in the Microcentro, downtown area of Buenos Aires. All rooms in both of the hotel's two towers come with desks, extra side chairs and ample closet space. The hotel's health club, spa and sauna are located on the top of North Tower. The health club's restaurant, Kasuga, becomes a sushi bar at night. The two other restaurants, Luciernaga, where breakfast is served and Tomo I, which offers international, Argentine and Italian cuisine, are located in the lobby.

Amenities: 3 restaurants, large health club w/indoor-outdoor pool, spa and sauna, concierge, business center, salon, room service, massage service, babysitting, laundry service, dry cleaning.

In room amenities: A/C, TV, dataport, minibar, coffeemaker, hair dryer, safe

Shuttle Service from Hotel Panamericano to La Rural conference center:

Morning: Shuttles depart Hotel Panamericano at 7:30 and 8 am

Evening: Shuttles depart La Rural at 7 and 9 pm

these times are subject to change and will be updated daily at the delegation meetings

If you cannot make these shuttles, please see "Getting around Buenos Aires."

Money:

Current Exchange Rate: 1 US Dollar = 3.84 Argentine Peso Argentine Pesos (can fluctuate)

The official Argentine currency is the peso, made up of 100 centavos. Money is denominated in notes of 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 pesos and coins of 1, 2, and 5 pesos. It is a good idea to exchange at least some money before your departure—just enough to cover airport incidentals and transportation to your hotel—so you can avoid lines at airport ATMs. One can purchase Argentinian pesos at a currency exchange place (e.g. Travelex, American Express), but it may be necessary to call and reserve pesos in advance.

ATMs/Cash Machines: There are plenty of ATMs around Buenos Aires. Many of these machines are linked to international networks such as a Cirrus, Plus, MasterCard, Visa, Maestro, Citibank and others. You will receive your cash in pesos.

Credit Cards: Most businesses, stores, restaurants and bars accept credit cards, though there may be a 15 to 20% surcharge for credit cards payments.

Money Exchange: One can exchange dollars at currency exchange bureaus, banks or possibly at the hotel. In certain areas of the city it is common to see people on the streets offering money exchange at better rates, but even if it seems tempting, DO NOT ACCEPT--money may be counterfeit.

Taxes: Argentina's value added tax (VAT), which is abbreviated locally as IVA, is 21%. You can recover this 21% at the airport if you have purchased local products totaling more than 70 pesos (per invoice) from stores participating in tax free shopping. Forms are available at the airport.

Gratuities:

It is not uncommon to tip in Argentina, though amounts are generally less than those commonly left in the United States. 10% is a very generous tip in Argentina.

Delegation/Business Room:

A US Delegation/Business Room will be set up at the Hotel Panamericano, where most of the US delegation will be staying. The meeting room is called the *Guaquiraro*.

Breakfast: Your stay at the Panamericano includes a free breakfast. Breakfast is served in the restaurant near the lobby. It will also be served in the meeting room.

Hours of Operation: The meeting room will be open every morning from 6-9am and again from 4-7pm. If you need to use the meeting room in between those sets of times, please let Pat Lucas or Liza Paqueo know.

Delegation Meeting: Every morning at 7am, there will be a planning committee meeting. At 7:15, there will be a delegation meeting to discuss relevant items to the US Delegation for the day.

Business Needs: The meeting room serves as the business center for the US Delegation. Wireless connectivity is available in this room as well as in the rest of the hotel, once you've established an account. There will also be two desktop computers, both of which will have access to the printer. Skype will be available on the computers for long-distance calls. Each person is responsible for his or her own long-distance charges. Also in the room are a fax machine and a photocopy machine. Please see Paolo Paqueo for any questions on business center needs or services.

Communication:

Before you leave, check with your phone company to see if your mobile phone will work internationally. Sometimes activation fees apply.

Pan Americano Hotel	(54-11) 4348-5000
General WFC Questions	(54-11) -4349-2104/2204/2195
La Rural Convention Center	(54-11) 4777 5500
Tourist Police	(54-11) 4346-5748
Medical Emergency	107
Fire Department	100
Information	110
National Operator	19
International Operator	000
US Embassy	(54-11) 5777-4533/34

Dialing from outside Buenos Aires: + 54-9-11+cell phone number

Dialing from within Buenos Aires: 15+cell phone number

Jerilyn Levi	Local Cell: 5064-2940 US Cell: 202-413-3126
Shelley Gardner	Local Cell: 3581-1026 US Cell: 202-378-8051
Liza Paqueo	Local Cell: 3196-1329
Paolo Paqueo	Local Cell: 3181-3693
Jen Peterson	Local Cell: 4027-1050 US Cell: 202-468-6772
Liz Mayhew	Local Cell: 3210-3689 US Cell: 202-294-9685
Pat Lucas	Local Cell: 3209-1739 US Cell: 202-569-1968
Chief Tom Tidwell	Local Cell: 4029-5002

Public Telephones:

In the center of the city there are public phones on almost every block, as well as in restaurants, bars, shopping malls and in kiosks (small corner shops). The minimum charge is 0.20 cents and they accept coins of 0.05, 0.10, 0.25, 0.50 and \$1, as well as cards that are sold in kiosks and telephone companies offices located throughout the city. There also are telecommunication offices called "locutorios" with private telephone booths (usually open 24 hours) where all types of calls can be made including local, long distance and international calls.

Otherwise you can buy a calling card and use the hotel phone to make calls as well. To dial you must dial 00+1+area code+phone number.

Fax:

In Hotel Panamericano the US delegation will have a control room with desktop computers, a fax machine, photocopier, printer and wireless connectivity.

Faxes can be sent from locutorios and telecommunications offices located throughout the city. Also, most hotels provide fax services.

Internet:

There is wireless connectivity at the hotel. One must set up an account before accessing the Internet.

There are internet-by-the-hour businesses around the city, mainly on avenues and commercial areas. Most locutorios also provide internet services. Prices are within \$1 and \$2 per hour.

Post Office:

The official Post Office Service in Argentina is handled by *Correo Argentino*. They have offices all over the city and are open Monday through Friday from 10am to 6pm. There are a number of private companies that deliver correspondence and packages both local and international: Federal Express, DHL, UPS, Andreani and Oca.

Language:

Spanish words are pronounced much differently in Buenos Aires than in the rest of the world. The double l's sound like sh's instead of y's or j's. Most of "Porteños" (inhabitants of Buenos Aires City) speak *a little* English but it is very easy to find people who are very fluent, especially if you stay near the tourist areas.

Health and Safety:

- The public water supply is reliable.
- Public hospitals are available for tourists, and offer 24-hour emergency service, without charge.

For 24-hour access to a clinic, visit:

- **Hospital de Clínicas José de San Martín**, Av. Córdoba 2351, Recoleta (11/5950 8000; www.hospitaldeclinicas.uba.ar). Facultad de Medicina. Open 24hr. The information desk (11/5950 8558 or 11/5950 8617) is on the ground floor. Open daily 7am-8pm.
- Crime has generally risen since late 2008 due to increased tourism and the economic downturn. Please be very discreet with cameras or other electronics or valuables. In the neighborhoods of San Telmo and La Boca pick-pockets are especially prevalent. While violence is not often used, there have been numerous tourist muggings' and robberies during the day and in crowded places. If possible, only use cameras and other valuables in areas with a high police presence or around tour guides or groups.
- Watch out for counterfeit money.
- Public transportation is generally reliable and safe but tourists on buses, trains, and the subway should be alert.

About the Conference Center

Located on Avenida Las Heras, at the intersection of Av. Santa Fe overlooking Plaza Italia.

The conference will be hosted at *La Rural: Predio Ferial de Buenos Aires* located in Palermo district. The conference center has a rich 130 year cultural, entrepreneurial and social tradition. Originally the center was the grand Belle Époque stadium and served as the Parade grounds for the Sociedad Rural Argentina, an association of wealthy landowners from all over the country. By promoting Argentina's agricultural resources, this association contributed to Argentina's transformation into an important world economic force by the end of the 1800s.



Getting around Buenos Aires:

Remises (Car Service)

Remises are similar to taxis but they are private cars, (no specific colors or signs) and you do not flag them on the streets. Request a remise by telephone or in person at the "Remiserias". The price of the trip is pre arranged, so you know exactly how much you will pay when you tell the operator your destination. This transportation is very safe, it is cheaper than taxis and they will always take the fastest route, unlike many taxis that prefer to drive you around in order to charge you more. The "remiserias" or "agencias de remise" are small offices or store fronts located throughout the city. The hotel will arrange a Remise for you or you can hire one yourself. Two reliable services are: Remis del Rosario 4788-8877 and Remis Posadas 4811-1334/4812-5383.

Taxis

This is probably the easiest way to navigate the city. You can either flag them on the streets or call them for a pick up. A taxi is available if a small red flag-light in the inside is on and says LIBRE. The initial meter rate is \$3.80, and it increases 0.38 cents every 200 meters.

Buses or Colectivos

For the more adventurous travelers who want a taste of what it means to be Argentine, Buenos Aires has a large network of buses, locally called "Colectivos." The ticket is paid on the bus with coins ONLY. The minimum fare is \$0.80. Once you get on the bus you must tell the driver your destination and he will enter the amount on the ticket machine, after which you insert the money. The machine prints a receipt as proof of payment--do not throw away the receipt until you get off the bus. If you don't have the exact fare, wait until the machine gives you the change. Once you are ready to get off, go towards the back of the bus, ring the bell that is on top of the back door and wait for the bus to stop.

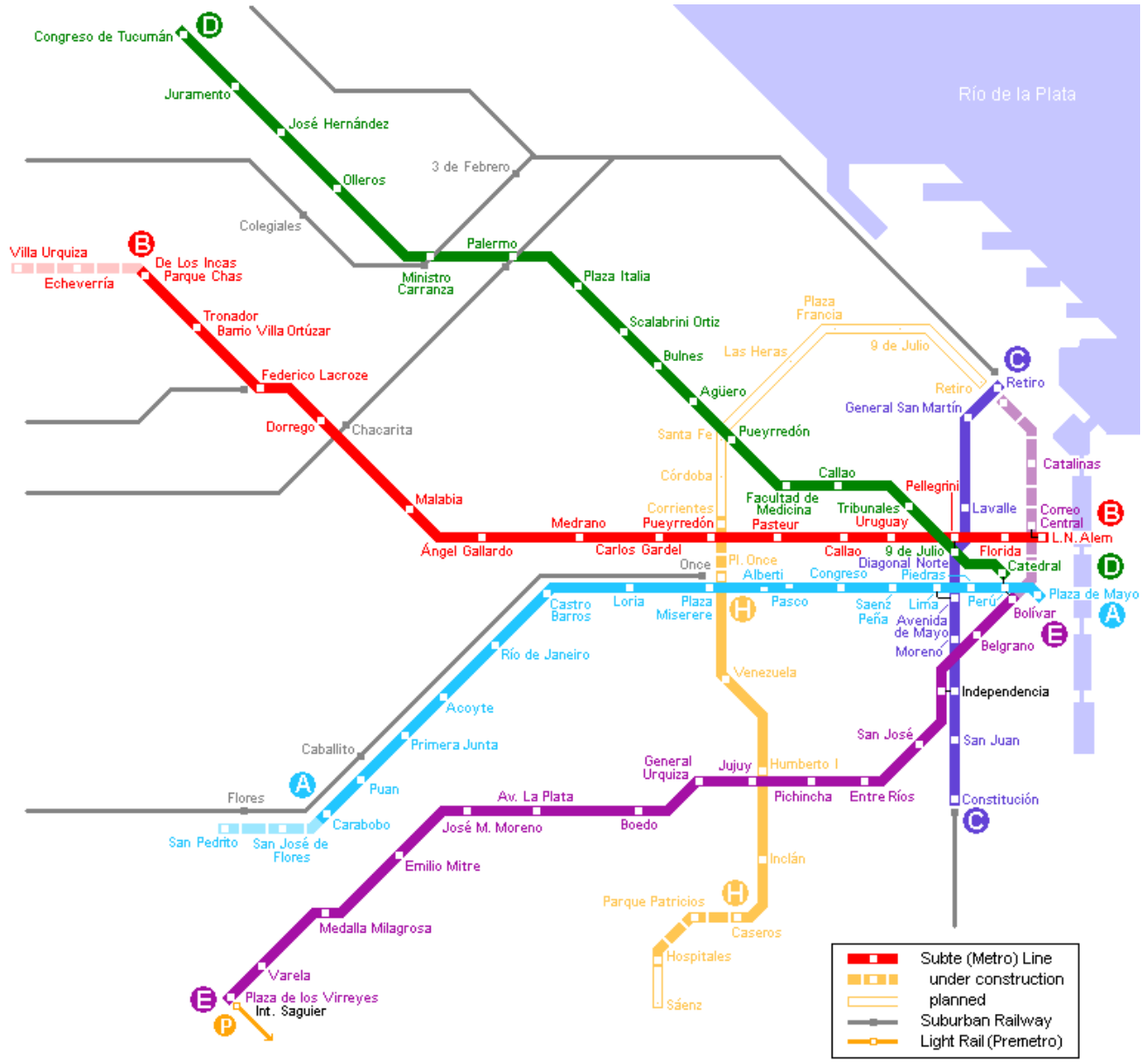
The bus service called "Diferencial" is basically the same as the regular; same route, same color, same number. The DIFERENCIAL busses, however, have less stops (like an express bus) and cost almost double.

There is no direct bus route from the La Rural conference center to the Hotel Pan Americano.

Subway (SUBTE):

A great way to travel efficiently is to use the SUBTE. The subway system was the first built in Latin America and is very reliable covering the center and the outskirts of the city with a combined route of 46 kilometers and 80 stations. There are five lines identified with letters (A, B, C, D and

E). The subway system runs Monday to Friday from 6am to 10pm and Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays from 6am to 8pm. The price is \$ 0.70. You can catch the SUBTE by the Hotel Pan Americano on the green line at 9 de Julio and take it to Palermo stop on the green line to get to La Rural.





Buenos Aires



Attractions, Neighborhoods and Recommended Restaurants

--*MICROCENTRO* (the area around Hotel Pan Americano)

Microcentro is the city's busy downtown core. The Microcentro is home to many hotels, banks, services, etc. The areas defining feature is the pedestrian Calle Florida, which runs from the Avenida de Mayo to Plaza San Martin. At night, check out the sidewalk shows by performance artists. All *subte* lines converge in this region and getting around is easy. Low-cost Internet and telephone centers are everywhere too.

To do in Microcentro (see Map below):

- I. *Obelisco*- The obelisco is one of the defining monuments of Buenos Aires. It was inaugurated in 1936 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the unsuccessful founding of the city by Pedro de Mendoza. The Obelisco is the focal point of the vista between Plaza de Mayo and diagonal Norte, meant to mimic the vistas found in Paris. When Argentines have something to celebrate, they head to the Obelisco.
Av. 9 de Julio, at Corrientes.
- II. *Paseo Obelisco*- This shopping complex and underground pedestrian causeway is worth a short trip. The shops are nothing special-several barber shops, shoe-repair spots, and stores selling cheap clothing and other goods make up the bulk of them. Yet together, with their cohesive old signs, fixtures and furnishings, they look like the setting for a movie in the 1960s.
Subway entrances surrounding the Obelisco, along Av. 9 de Julio.
- III. *Galeria Guemes*- This is a sumptuous building, though its modern entrance on Calle Florida would make you think otherwise. Its back entrance on San Martin, however, still retains all of its original glory from its opening in 1915. This is a shopping gallery with a mix of stores without distinction and several kiosks that obscure the views, but look around at the walls and decorations. The building also houses the Piazzolla tango shows, possibly the most beautiful in the city.
Calle Florida 165, at Peron
- IV. *Centro Cultural de Borges*- There's plenty of shopping and culture at Galerias Pacifico. Named after Jorge Luis Borges, Argentina's most important literary figure, you'll find art galleries, lecture halls, an art cinema and an art bookstore. If you are looking to learn how to tango there's also the Escuela Argentina de Tango.

Enter through Galerías pacífico or at the corner of Viamonte and San Martín

Dining in Microcentro (these are recommended restaurants, there are many others in the area)

1. *Dora: Argentine/Seafood*-With an inconspicuous exterior, Dora is all about the food. It's loud, noisy, crazy and chaotic, an odd mix of businesspeople and casually dressed older locals who have probably been coming here for decades. The specialty at this expensive restraint is fish, though a few beef, chicken and pasta dishes are thrown in, too. The "Cazuela" Dora is the specialty- a casserole of fish, shellfish, shrimp and just about everything else the sea has to offer. Naturally, with so much fish, Dora has one of the largest white-wine selections in all of Buenos Aires.

Leandro N. Alem 1016, at Paraguay.

#:11/4311-2891

Main courses US\$8-US\$20, accepts V and U.S. dollars

2. *Le Sud: French/Mediterranean*- the simple elegant cooking style here embraces spices and olive oils from Provence to create delicious entrees, such as stewed rabbit with green pepper and tomatoes, polenta with Parmesan and rosemary, and spinach with lemon ravioli. Le Sud's dining room offers the same sophistication as its cuisine, a contemporary design with chandeliers and black marble floors, tables of Brazilian rosewood, and large windows overlooking Calle Arroyo. Following dinner, consider a drink in the adjacent wine bar.

Arroyo 841/849 at Suipacha in the Sofitel Hotel

#: 11/4131-0000, reservations recommended

Main courses US\$10-US\$20, accepted AE, DC, MC, V

3. *Café Retiro: Argentine/Café*- The food is high quality, consistent, and inexpensive. However, the main point of dining here is to enjoy the restored elegance of the original café, which was part of Retiro Station when it was built in 1915. The place had been closed for many years but was restored in 2001 with the help of a government program. An attached art gallery in the hallway outside also has changing exhibitions.

Ramos Mejía 1358, at Libertador

#: 11/4516-0902

Main courses US\$1.50-US\$3, No credit cards

4. *Ligure: French*-Painted mirrors look over the long rectangular dining room, which, since 1933, has drawn ambassadors, artists,

and business leaders by day and a more romantic crowd as night. A nautical theme prevails, with fishnets, dock ropes and masts decorating the room. Portions are large and meticulously prepared- an unusual combination for French-inspired cuisine. Seafood options include the Patagonian tooth fish sautéed with butter, prawns and mushrooms or the trout glazed with an almond sauce. If you're in the mood for beef, the chateaubriand is outstanding and the bife de lomo (filet mignon can be prepared seven different ways).

Juncal 855, at Esmeralda

#: 11/4393-0644, reservations recommended

Main courses US\$4-US\$6

5. *Café Tortoni: Café/Argentine-*It has been said, you cannot come to Buenos Aires and not visit this important Porteno institution. This historic café has served as the artistic and intellectual capital of Buenos Aires since 1858. Its current location opened in the 1890s when Avenida de Mayo was created as the main thoroughfare of a rich and powerful emerging Buenos Aires. Twice nightly tango shows in a cramped side gallery, where performers often walk through the crowd, are worth a visit.

Av. De Mayo 825, at Esmeralda

#11/4342-4328. Main courses US\$2-US\$7, accepted AE, DC, MC, V

