

# Argentina Relocation Guide



By Appointment To  
Her Majesty The Queen  
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

# ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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FS 23942



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ISO 9001 - ISO 14001  
OHSAS 18001

<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	Country code (0054) + Area code.
<b>STANDARD TIME:</b>	GMT – 3 hours.
<b>WEIGHTS &amp; MEASURES:</b>	Metric.
<b>ELECTRICITY:</b>	220 Volts AC, 50Hz.
<b>INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:</b>	Inoculation against malaria and typhoid are recommended.
<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:</b>	1st January – New Years Day, Monday and Tuesday prior to Ash Wednesday – Carnival, 24th March – Truth and Justice Memorial Day, 2nd April – Malvinas Day/Veterans Day, Maundy Thursday – Thursday before Easter – International, Catholic holiday (optional), Good Friday – International Catholic holiday, 1st May – Labour Day. 25th May – May Day Revolution Day, 17th June – Martin Miguel de Guemes Day, 20th June – National Flag Day, 9th July – Independence Day, Third Monday in August – St Martins Day, 2nd or 3rd Monday in October Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity, Monday closest to 20th November – Day of National Sovereignty, 8th December – Immaculate Conception Day, 25th December – Christmas Day.
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Normally based on an 8 hour day, and some areas outside Buenos Aires still have a break in the middle of the day for a Siesta.
<b>BANK HOURS:</b>	Most Banks are open 10.00 hours to 15.00 hours but it does depend on area and season.
<b>EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:</b>	101 – Police 100 – Fire 107 – Ambulance
<b>UK EMBASSY:</b>	Dr Luis Agote 2412 (1425) Buenos Aires Tel +54 11 4808 2200
<b>ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN LONDON:</b>	65 Brook Stree London W1Y 1YE Tel: 020 7318 1300

## **Part 1 – Background information on the Argentine Republic**

### **Background**

In 1816, the United Provinces of the Rio Plata declared their independence from Spain. After Bolivia, Paraguay, and Uruguay went their separate ways, the area that remained became Argentina. The country's population and culture were heavily shaped by immigrants from throughout Europe, with Italy and Spain providing the largest percentage of newcomers from 1860 to 1930. Up until about the mid-20th century, much of Argentina's history was dominated by periods of internal political conflict between Federalists and Unitarians and between civilian and military factions.

After World War II, an era of Peronist populism and direct and indirect military interference in subsequent governments was followed by a military junta that took power in 1976. Democracy returned in 1983 after a failed bid to seize the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) by force, and has persisted despite numerous challenges, the most formidable of which was a severe economic crisis in 2001-02 that led to violent public protests and the successive resignations of several presidents. The years 2003-15 saw Peronist rule by Nestor and Cristina FERNANDEZ de KIRCHNER, whose policies isolated Argentina and caused economic stagnation. With the election of Mauricio MACRI in November 2015, Argentina began a period of reform and international reintegration.

### **Geography**

Argentina is in the Southern part of South America, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean, between Chile and Uruguay.

Argentina has rich plains of Pampas in northern half with flat to rolling plateaus of Patagonia in the south, its rugged along the western border.

Argentina is the second-largest country in South America (after Brazil), its in a strategic location relative to the sea lanes between the South Atlantic and the South Pacific Oceans (Strait of Magellan, Beagle Channel, Drake Passage). Lowest point: Laguna del Carbon -105 m (located between Puerto San Julian and Comandante Luis Piedra Buena in the province of Santa Cruz) Highest point: Cerro Aconcagua 6,962 m (located in the northwestern corner of the province of Mendoza; highest point in South America).

There are environmental problems (urban and rural) typical of an industrializing economy such as deforestation, soil degradation, desertification, air pollution and water pollution. Argentina is a world leader in setting voluntary greenhouse gas targets.

Argentina continues to assert its claim to the UK-administered Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia, and the South Sandwich Islands in its constitution, forcibly occupying the Falklands in 1982, but in 1995 agreed no longer to seek settlement by force.

### **Climate**

Most of Argentina lies within the temperate zone of the Southern Hemisphere. The north-eastern part is heavy humid and sub-tropical.

The North-west is tropical but has a mild winter. The pampas are temperate. The southern part of the country has colder temperatures and rain most of the year. The rainfall varies in the Humid Pampa (which comprises of the province of Buenos Aires and some of the Cordoba and La Pampa provinces) from 39 inches in the eastern parts to about 20 inches in the areas near the Andes. Summer months in Buenos Aires are indeed very hot and the majority of the people leave soon after Christmas to the beaches and mountain resorts. The city is almost empty during the months of January and February when the heat and humidity can be overpowering. Wintertime is pleasant, although rather damp.

### **Population**

As at November 2017 the population of Argentina is about 44,450,000.

### **Language**

Argentina's official language is Spanish, there are also many other languages spoken in Argentina.

## Currency

The legal currency in Argentina is the “Argentine Peso”.

Coins: 5, 10, 25, 50 centavos.

Banknotes 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 pesos and a 1,000 pesos note should be in circulation soon.

## Economy

Although one of the world’s wealthiest countries 100 years ago, Argentina suffered during most of the 20th century from recurring economic crises, persistent fiscal and current account deficits, high inflation, mounting external debt, and capital flight. In 2016, the World Bank downgraded Argentina from a high-income to upper-middle-income economy, on par with Columbia.

A severe depression, growing public and external indebtedness, and an unprecedented bank run culminated in 2001 in the most serious economic, social, and political crisis in the country’s turbulent history. Interim President Adolfo Rodríguez declared a default - the largest ever - on the government’s foreign debt in December that year, and abruptly resigned a few days after taking office. His successor, Eduardo Duhalde, announced an end to the peso’s decade-long 1-to-1 peg to the US dollar in 2002. The economy bottomed out that year, with real GDP 18% smaller than in 1998 and almost 60% of Argentines below the poverty line. Real GDP rebounded to grow by an average 8.5% annually over the subsequent six years, taking advantage of previously idled industrial capacity and labor, and expansionary monetary and fiscal policies. Inflation increased, during the administration of President Néstor Kirchner, which responded with price restraints on businesses, as well as export taxes and restraints, understating inflation data.

Cristina Fernández de Kirchner succeeded her husband as president in late 2007, and the rapid economic growth of previous years began to slow sharply as government policies held back exports and the world economy fell into recession. In 2010 the economy rebounded strongly from the 2009 recession, but slowed late 2011 even as the government continued to rely on expansionary fiscal and monetary policies, which kept inflation in the double digits.

In order to deal with these problems, the government expanded state intervention in the economy: it nationalised the oil company YPF expanded measures to restrict imports, tightened currency controls in an effort to bolster foreign reserves and stem capital flight. Between 2011 and 2013, Central Bank foreign reserves dropped \$21.3 billion from a high of \$52.7 billion. In July 2014, Argentina and China agreed an \$11 billion currency swap; the Central Bank has received the equivalent of \$3.2 billion in Chinese yuan, which it counts as international reserves.

With the election of President Mauricio Macri in November 2015, Argentina began a historic political and economic transformation, as his administration took steps to liberalise the Argentine economy, lifting capital controls, floating the peso, removing export controls on some commodities, cutting some energy subsidies, and reforming the country’s official statistics. Argentina negotiated debt payments with holdout bond creditors and returned to international capital markets in April 2016. In September 2016, Argentina completed its first IMF Article IV Consultation since 2006.

After years of international isolation, Argentina has taken on several international leadership roles in 2017, hosting the World Economic Forum on Latin America, the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, and is set to assume the presidency of the G-20 in 2018.

## Religion

Historically, the Catholic religion played a very important part in politics and law. Before changes were made to the Constitution in 1994, the two top leaders of Argentina had to be Roman Catholic. Today, although officially 90% of Argentinians are Roman Catholic, fewer than 20% attend church regularly.

Argentina’s Jewish population is the largest in Latin America, and the third-largest in the Americas (after that of the United States and Canada).

## Healthcare

Public healthcare in Argentina is used by around half the population and provides free care for all in-patients and out-patients, although the latter group usually pays for medication. The medical staff are generally well trained, but

nursing and aftercare services can be severely lacking. Emergency attention is free for all (including foreigners), as are doctor call-outs. In-patient care is variable, as public hospitals are frequently underfunded and staff overworked.

There is no universal GP system in Argentina and general doctors are usually found in the public hospitals. Otherwise, patients need to make appointments with specialists in the private clinics.

Most expats in Argentina use private services.

### Education

Education in Argentina is free and compulsory from the age of 5 to 16. Although free schooling is provided for all children resources can be stretched.

Expats can take advantage of free education in Argentina, but children attending local schools will be taught in Spanish.

There are private, fee-paying schools in Argentina; these are usually Catholic church-funded institutions. Private schools still follow the Argentina curriculum, although they do have more flexibility and a number of them offer a bilingual curriculum, teaching in Spanish and English.

There are also a number of international schools in Argentina, particularly in larger cities such as Cordoba and Buenos Aires. These follow an international curriculum, mostly the British, American or International Baccalaureate (IB), but there are also schools that follow German, Japanese and French curricula, among others.

## Part 2 – Argentine Import Customs Regulations

**To the best of our knowledge, the following is required to import household and personal effects into Argentina.**

### General Requirement

All Importers must be in Argentina prior to the arrival of their effects. The effects must be shipped from the last place of residence of the Importer, to they must arrive within 6 months of Importers stamped date of entry.

Effects cannot be shipped until we receive approval of all documentation from Argentina.

All shipments are subject to physical inspection (except for Diplomats) and Customs may require you to be present at the physical inspection. Physical inspection handling charges will apply, and at present (November 2017) are estimated between US\$600 and US\$ 1200 according to size of consignment.

Inspections for drugs are also mandatory, and depend upon availability of dog brigades, which if non available can cause delays in clearance.

Argentine and Foreign Citizens holding a Permanent Visa who have lived abroad for more than 1 year, and have not re-entered Argentina for more than 60 accumulative days during the 12 months prior to re-entry, can import their effects duty free. The Importer can only have one duty free entry every three years.

If you have lived abroad for more than 2 years, customs do not take into consideration the number of days accumulated during the 12 months prior to re-entry, and you can import one consignment duty free every 7 years.

Importers (except for Diplomats) must declare to Customs officers upon entry into the Country that a shipment of effects is expected, and a note must be stamped to this effect in their passport.

Effects cannot be imported if the Importer only has a Tourist Visa.

All documentation must be in Spanish, and **owner packed** effects are not accepted.

### Argentine citizens returning:

Documents Required:

- Original Passport with the Customs Stamp showing that a shipment of effects is expected. If Passport has been issued within 1 year, the previous passport will also be required.
- Original National Identity Document (DNI).

- Certificate of Migratory Movements (must indicate the entries and departures of the shipper for the previous 24 months).
- Clave Única de Identificación Laboral (CUIL) Certificate.
- Residence Certificate Issued by the Argentine Consulate at origin, certified in Argentina by the MFA.
- Typed packing list in Spanish. Manuscript not accepted.
- Letter authorising our destination agent to act on your behalf with regard to import clearance with signature authorised and legalised (a draft will be supplied).

#### **Foreigners holding temporary Visa (except tourist Visa):**

##### **Documents Required:**

- Original Passport with the Customs Stamp showing that a shipment of effects is expected. If Passport has been issued within 1 year, the previous passport will also be required.
- Original National Identity Document (DNI) or Visa or Residencia Precaria (temporary visa) copy (if DNI unavailable).
- Certificate of Migratory Movements (must indicate the entries and departures of the Importer for the previous 24 months).
- Clave Única de Identificación Laboral (CUIL) Certificate.
- Caution Policy issued by a local insurance company.
- Typed packing list in Spanish – manuscript not accepted.
- Letter authorising our destination agent to act on your behalf with regard to import clearance with signature authorised and legalised (a draft will be supplied).

Effects for foreigners holding Temporary Resident Visa must be imported under temporary, and the items must be guaranteed (bonded) for the duration of the visa or a period determined by Customs when the shipment is released. The Bond and the temporary admission can only be renewed before the expiration date. If at the expiration date of the Guarantee your visa has not been renewed, the effects must be re-exported **before** the expiration date. If a Permanent Residence Visa has been obtained, the effects must be nationalised. The Guarantee will be cancelled and taxes and duties will not have to be paid.

The effects must be guaranteed by a local insurance company through a Poliza de Caucion.

For small airshipments, Customs will allow the importation of effects on paying taxes and duties, being about 50% on Customs appraisal.

#### **Diplomats and Military Personnel**

- Diplomatic Franchise which must be provided by the Diplomatic Mission or the Official Foreign Organisation where the Importer is officially employed.
- A full copy of Passport stamped by Diplomatic Mission or Official Foreign Organisation where the Importer is officially employed.
- Typed Packing List in Spanish – manuscript not accepted.
- Letter authorising our destination agent to act on your behalf with regard to import clearance, with signature authorised and legalised (a draft will be supplied).

#### **Prohibited Items:**

- All items prohibited from export for reasons of public health, animal and vegetable sanitation (all organic products like soil, firewood, certain wood (which has not been treated for pests) or lumber, animal or animal parts including furs, or dried insects, Narcotics or illegal drugs, plants.
- Alcohol, except for Diplomatic imports, beverages and food of any kind. Drugs, solvents and Medicines.

- Pornographic material of any kind. Dangerous, toxic or flammable items. Stolen or smuggled items.
- Currency (real or false), Jewellery, stamp collections etc.
- Spare parts or parts of any vehicle, internal combustion or outboard engines and Hoverboards, petrol driven lawn movers.
- Items that are not considered by Argentine Customs to be part of a household goods move.
- Firearms, explosives and all inflammables, tear gas, mercury and pepper spray.

#### **Restricted Items:**

- Items which can be considered archeological or paleontological patrimony (fossils, human remains, rock or mineral collections and geological sediment). Once admitted to the Country such items automatically become part of the national heritage and re-export will not be allowed.
- Works of art and monuments of recent antiquity for which exportation from original country has not been authorised.
- Weapons, of any description which we ask you not to include in your shipment. An import licence is required for these items, and it will cause considerable delay and expense if included with your household and personal effects.

#### **Inherited Items**

Subject to payment of customs duties and taxes.

#### **Motor Vehicles**

##### **General Information**

The vehicle title must be registered under the importer's name at least 3 months prior to the departure of the vehicle from the origin country. (does not apply to diplomatic moves).

Vehicles must arrive within 6 months of importers entry date.

New vehicles cannot be imported except for diplomatic moves.

Returning Argentine citizens and Foreigners with permanent resident status may import only one car and one motorcycle for each adult member of the family, and duty will be charged, except in very specific cases, at between 82 and 105% of CIF value, and local taxes could also apply.

Foreigners with a Temporary Visa may import used vehicles under temporary admission, but must keep original plates. Taxes and duties will not be charged, but the vehicle will have to be exported prior to the expiration of the Visa, unless the Visa is renewed.

Argentine Citizens living abroad for more than 2 years (confirmed with a Residence Certificate) can import one car duty free if Customs appraisal is less than US\$15000 CIF. If Customs appraisal is over this then taxes and duties will apply.

#### **Documents Required**

##### **Returning Argentine Citizens (including Argentine Diplomats)**

- Original Passport.
- Residence Certificate issued by the Argentine Consulate at origin.
- Vehicle Title/Documentation which must be in Importers name.
- Original Purchase Invoice, certified by the Argentine Consulate at origin.
- Letter authorising our destination agent to act on your behalf with regard to import clearance, with signature authorised and legalised (a draft will be supplied).

- All documents not written in Spanish must be translated by an official translator and certified by the Colegio Argentino de Traductores.

#### **Foreigners holding temporary Visa**

- All as for Returning Argentine Citizens.

#### **Foreign Diplomats**

- All as for Returning Argentine Citizens plus Diplomatic Franchise (Diplomats and military personnel).

#### **Pets**

Please see further information for relocating your pets to Argentina

<http://cnyor.mrecic.gov.ar/en/node/5401>

#### **Fumigation of Imported and Exported Wooden Crates**

The Argentine Government adopted ISPM-15 (International standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication 15) Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (aka NIFM-15) to standardise the treatment of wood packing materials used for the transport of goods. Please note the official stamp and the certificate is required.

#### **Endangered Species**

A CITES certificate is normally required. There is a worldwide ban on the movement of Ivory without a CITES Certificate. **Please note old pianos usually have ivory keys and a CITES certification will be required.**

For information on obtaining a CITES certificate please visit:-

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/endangered-species-application-for-import-and-export-permit>

*Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.*