

# Argentina



## Introduction

Argentina has a population of 33 Million with an ethnic composition of 85 percent European descent, primarily Spanish or Italian. Indians, mestizos (people of mixed Indian and Spanish ancestry), and blacks together make up the remaining 15 percent. The Republic of Argentina is a democracy for now, but has had a long history of military power.

Spanish is the official language, although many people speak English, Italian, or other languages. Argentine Spanish is heavily influenced by Italian and is unlike Spanish spoken anywhere in Latin America. Church and state are officially separate, but about 90 percent of the population considers itself Roman Catholic. Jews and Protestants account for 2 percent each.

## Fun Fact

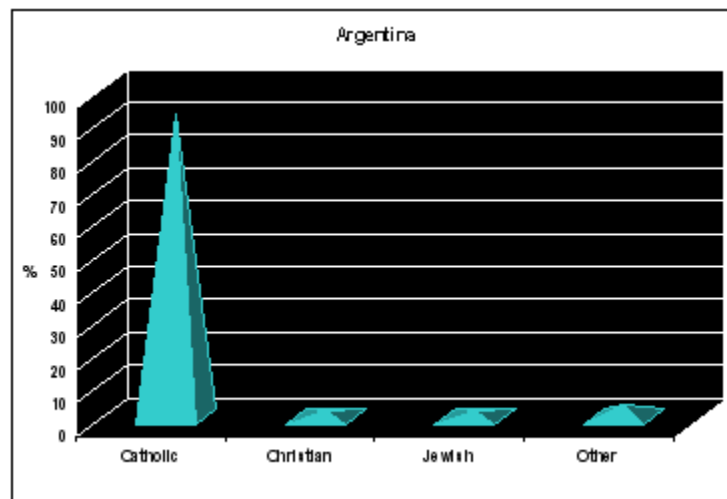
Argentina is a country of wide-open pampas and ancient forests, in addition to very sophisticated cities, such as its capital, Buenos Aires. Buenos Aires, has the largest number of Jews in Latin America; they are commonly referred to as *los rusos* (the Russians) because most of the early Jewish settlers emigrated from Czarist Russia. Argentina was the first Latin American country to send a contingent to the Middle East during the Persian Gulf War

# Geert Hofstede Analysis Argentina

[Click Here for Geert Hofstede country scores](#)

The Geert Hofstede analysis for Argentina is similar to it's Latin American neighbors. Uncertainty avoidance ranks highest which indicates a high concern for rules, regulations, controls and issues with career security – typically, a society that does not readily accept change and is risk adverse. Individualism ranks lowest which signifies a society of a more collectivist nature and strong relationships where everyone takes responsibility for fellow members of their group. [Geert Hofstede Information Website](#)

## Religion in Argentina



\* WORLD FACTBOOK 2002

## Appearance

- Dress is very important for making a good impression in Argentina; your entire wardrobe will be scrutinized. Business dress is conservative: dark suits and ties for men; white blouses and dark suits or skirts for women. Indian clothing is for Indians -- don't adopt any native costumes!
- Maintaining eye contact is very important
- A pat on the shoulder is a sign of friendship

- A sweeping gesture beginning under the chin and continuing up over the top of the head is used to mean "I don't know" or "I don't care"
- With thumb and finger touching (as if holding a pinch of salt), one taps them with the index finger to indicate "hurry up" or "a lot"
- Make sure to cover your mouth when yawning or coughing
- Don't put your feet up on any furniture
- Eating in the street or on public transportation is considered rude

## Behavior

- Prior appointments are necessary
- Argentine executives may put in a very long day, often lasting until 10:00 p.m.. An 8:00 p.m. business meeting is not unusual
- Business dinners are popular and are usually held in restaurants; business lunches are uncommon outside of Buenos Aires, since most people go home to eat lunch
- Tender beef and red wine virtual national symbols. American beef and red wine compare poorly to theirs
- Long meals and conversation is the norm. Crossing the knife and fork signal "I am finished". Never pour wine back-handed; it's considered impolite. When dining, keep your hands on the table, not in your lap
- Gifts to be avoided include personal items such as ties and shirts, leather, and knives. High taxes on imported liquor make this a highly appreciated gift; the most popular are scotch and French champagne
- If the visitor is entertained in the Argentine home, he/she should arrange to send flowers or candy to his hostess. Bird-of-paradise flowers are highly prized
- A guest should always wait for the host to sit down before sitting, and to open the door for him before leaving

# Communications

- Handshaking common when meeting for the first time
- Titles, especially among the elderly, are very important. Address a person directly by using his or her title only. A Ph.D or a physician is called *Doctor*. Teachers prefer the title *Profesor*, engineers go by *Ingeniero*, architects are *Arquitecto*, and lawyers are *Abogado*. Persons who do not have professional titles should be addressed as Mr., Mrs., or Miss, plus their surnames. In Spanish these are:
  - Mr. = *Senor*
  - Mrs. = *Senora*
  - Miss = *Senorita*
- Most Hispanics have two surnames: one from their father, which is listed first, followed by one from their mother. Only the father's surname is used when addressing someone
- Italian and German second and third languages
- Good conversation topics: soccer, history, culture, home and children, opera
- Bad conversation topics: the Peron years, religion, Falkland Islands conflict