

# National Profile

*Volunteering in Argentina - 2019*



**Subir al Sur**  
- un programa de fundación SES

San Martín 575, 6º piso (C1085ABO)  
Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires  
Tel: 0054- 11- 53688370  
[www.subiralsur.org.ar](http://www.subiralsur.org.ar)  
[subiralsur@fundses.org.ar](mailto:subiralsur@fundses.org.ar)



## General Presentation

The Argentine Republic is a federal republic of 24 provinces in southern South America. Argentina borders the countries of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. Of the 24 provinces, only Tierra del Fuego is not contiguous with any other state. Argentina has claims on a part of Antarctica, as well as, overlapping claims made by Chile and the United Kingdom that are suspended by the Antarctic Treaty of 1961. Argentina also claims the Falkland Islands (Spanish: Islas Malvinas), the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands. Argentina traces its national origin to the May Revolution in Buenos Aires in 1810, the starting point of the Argentine War of Independence. After facing an economic crisis from 1999 to 2002, the country has recently experienced an economic recovery. Argentine culture has significant European influences. Buenos Aires, its cultural capital, is largely characterized by both the prevalence of people with European descent, and conscious imitation of European styles in architecture. The gauchos and their traditional country lifestyle of self-reliance are another big influence in the country. Finally, indigenous American traditions (like yerba mate infusions) have been absorbed into the general cultural milieu.



*Map of Argentina and provinces*

### History

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 these challenges was a severe economic crisis in 2001-02 that led to violent public protests and the successive resignations of several presidents.

### Education

Our education system is organized in "Jardín de Infantes" (Kinder Garden 4-5 years), primary school (6-12 years), secondary school (13-18), tertiary education and University level. All of them are free and open to anyone, although the private educational institutions are growing. Educative period is from March to December and winter holiday is in July.

### Argentine currency:

The peso (originally established as the peso convertible) is the currency of Argentina, identified by the symbol \$ preceding the amount. This is shown in the same way as in the many countries that use dollar currencies. The exchange rate hovered around 3 pesos per United States dollar from 2002 to 2008,

and was around 4 pesos from 2009 to 2011. Since the start of 2012 to 2015, the exchange rate has been around 5 to 9 pesos to one US dollar. The country's current account surplus has required periodic dollar purchases by the Central Bank to keep the value of the peso relatively undervalued for export competitiveness. Nowadays, one dollar is 38 pesos but it keeps changing all the time so before exchanging your currency to pesos check the exchange rate online.



**Religion**

Nominally Roman Catholic  
92% (less than 20%  
practicing), Protestant 2%,  
Jewish 2%, other 4%

**Inhabitants**

44,906,000

**Language**

Spanish

**Recommended movies:**

- Elefante Blanco (White elephant) by Pablo Trapero
- Nacionalidad Villera by Julio Zarza
- Infancia Clandestina (Clandestine childhood) by Benjamin Ávila
- El Secreto de sus ojos (The secret in their eyes) by Juan José Campanella
- La Patagonia Rebelde (Rebeld Patagonia) by Hector Olivera
- La historia oficial (The oficial history) by Luis Puenzo
- o La Misión (The mission) by Roland Joffe

**Recommended literature:**

- Jorge Luis Borges: Ficciones
- Julio Cortázar: Short stories
- Horacio Quiroga: "Cuentos de la Selva"
- José Hernández: "El Martín Fierro"
- Oliverio Girondo (Poems)
- Nunca Más (Conadep)



## Visa

To check if you need a visa, go to: <http://www.migraciones.gov.ar/accesibleingles/?visas>

A tourist visa is valid for three months, but there are two ways of obtaining it for another three months. You can either go to another country (for example Uruguay) or you can go to the national office to renew your visa. This process can be done more than once; in that case, volunteers must provide proof of volunteer activity and that they are not paid workers. <http://www.migraciones.gov.ar/accesibleingles/?categorias>

## Holidays (non-working days only) 2019

Date	Weekday	Holiday Name	Holiday Type
1 Jan	Tuesday	New Year's Day	National holiday
4 Mar	Monday	Carnival	National holiday
5 Mar	Tuesday	Carnival/Shrove Tuesday	National holiday
24 Mar	Sunday	Memorial Day	National holiday
2 Apr	Tuesday	Day of the Veterans	National holiday
18 Apr	Thursday	Maundy Thursday	National holiday, Christian
19 Apr	Friday	Good Friday	National holiday, Christian
1 May	Wednesday	Labor Day / May Day	National holiday
25 May	Saturday	National Day/May 1810 Revolution	National holiday
17 Jun	Monday	Commemoration of General Don Martín Miguel de Güemes	National holiday
20 Jun	Thursday	Flag Day	National holiday
9 Jul	Tuesday	Independence day	National holiday
19 Aug	Monday	San Martín Day	National holiday
14 Oct	Monday	Day of respect for cultural diversity	National holiday
25 Nov	Monday	National Sovereignty Day	National holiday
8 Dec	Sunday	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	National holiday
25 Dec	Wednesday	Christmas Day	National holiday, Christian

## Fundación SES and Subir al Sur program

### About us

Subir al Sur is a program that is part of the youth leading role area of the SES Foundation. The program promotes education for peace and intercultural education by means of intercultural volunteer service at local, regional and international levels. The SES Foundation is a social organization dedicated to the promotion and development of different strategies for the inclusion of teenagers and young people, from a perspective that promotes youth rights. The SES Foundation consists of three different areas: education, work and youth leadership. Each area has its own programs.

### The office and members

Our office is located in Buenos Aires in Calle San Martín, one of the main streets in the city center. Many people work in the office, organizing and developing different activities. Our structure is organized by:

- 2 directors
- 1 administrative council
- 1 coordinator per area
- 1 responsible per program
- 1 communication area with 2 staff members
- 1 administrative area with 5 staff members

Subir al Sur works within this structure and has one coordinator who works half time in the office. Subir al Sur has a large number of people who help the program. Depending on the project, the program has groups of local volunteers who give their time to collaborate in different areas:

- Communication volunteer group
- Facilitators
- Mentors
- Volunteers helping in the office with daily activities
- Spanish teachers

Subir al Sur also has an Advisory council made up of experts and social activists around the world. The purpose of this Council is to give advice to the Executive Team of the SES Foundation and coordinate Subir al Sur's activities.

### Mission

Our mission is to promote processes of intercultural education and education for peace by facilitating the gathering of people of different regions across the world for solidarity purposes.

### Goals

- Make intercultural volunteer service a tool for changing our discriminatory views about ourselves and other people.
- Develop a methodology of "intercultural meetings for cooperation" – at a national as well as at a regional level, in alliance with local and international organizations-- as the main strategy to promote education involving values of peace, non-discrimination, cooperation, non-violence, justice and understanding of diversity.
- Use and evaluate social service travel as a pedagogical tool, this contributes to education in values and for peace, at individual and community level.