



Argentina

Advertisement

Encyclopedia Article
[Find](#) | [Print](#) | [E-mail](#) | [Blog It](#)

Multimedia Dynamic Map



75 items



Map of Argentina

Article Outline

[Introduction](#); [Land and Resources](#); [People](#); [Education and Culture](#); [Economy](#); [Government](#); [History](#)

I INTRODUCTION

[Print this section](#)

Argentina or **Argentine Republic**, country in [South America](#), occupying most of the southern half of the continent east of the [Andes Mountains](#). It is the second largest country in area in South America, after [Brazil](#), and the eighth largest country in the world. Argentina's capital and largest city is [Buenos Aires](#).

Argentina consists of diverse landscapes, stretching from the tropics in the north to the subpolar region in the south. Within it are the rugged Andes and the highest peak in the Western Hemisphere, [Aconcagua](#). But most of the people live in cities on the [Pampas](#), the vast fertile prairies that cover

Editors' Picks
Great books about your topic, [Argentina](#), selected by Encarta editors

Related Items
• [Andes, mountain chain in western Argentina](#)
• [capital, Buenos Aires](#)
[more...](#)

Facts and Figures
Quick information and statistics for Argentina

Encarta Search
[Search Encarta about Argentina](#)

[Give us feedback](#)
[View recently updated articles](#)

Windows Live® Search Results

[Argentina - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

Argentina, officially the Argentine Republic (Spanish: República Argentina, Spanish pronunciation: [re puβlika a xen tina]), is a country in South America, constituted as a ...

[Argentina Travel Information and Travel Guide - Lonely Planet](#)

Argentina tourism and travel information including facts, maps, history, culture, transport and weather in Argentina. Find popular places to visit in Argentina - Lonely Planet

[Argentina national football team - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

The Argentina national football team is the national football team of Argentina and is controlled by the Asociación del Fútbol Argentino (AFA). Argentina has the world record for ...

[See all search results in Windows Live® Search Results](#)

Also on Encarta

- [Important Notice: MSN Encarta to be discontinued. Learn more.](#)
- [Presidential Myths Quiz](#)

the middle of the country. The Pampas traditionally produced much of the country's agricultural wealth and became famous as the home of the [gaucho](#), the South American cowboy.

From the late 19th century on, Argentina exported large amounts of agricultural goods, including meat, wool, and wheat. It also became the first South American country to industrialize and was long the wealthiest country on the continent, enjoying a living standard equivalent to that of European countries. From the 1940s on, however, Argentina has experienced recurring economic difficulties, including severe inflation, high unemployment, and a large national debt.

Argentina has had a volatile political history. Its most famous president, [Juan D. Perón](#), was very popular with working-class and poor Argentines. However, he ruled as a dictator and suppressed all opposition. The country's economic decline eventually led to Peron's ouster in 1955. An infamous military dictatorship that ruled from 1976 to 1983 tortured and executed many Argentines without trial. After the military stepped down in 1983, Argentina recommitted itself to democratic government but struggled with economic problems. In the early 2000s Argentina was still trying to revitalize its economy.

More from Encarta

College degrees and career training

Explore online and on-campus programs.
[Learn how to get that degree!](#)

Recharge your brain

We serve up a heady brew of Encarta's best.
[Check out Coffee Break.](#)

Are you a somniphobe?

Fear of sleep keeps some people awake.
[Check out our list of 20 things you didn't know about sleep.](#)

II LAND AND RESOURCES

[Print this section](#)

Argentina covers an area of 2,780,400 sq km (1,073,518 sq mi). It is bounded on the north by [Bolivia](#) and [Paraguay](#); on the northeast by [Brazil](#) and [Uruguay](#); on the east by the [Atlantic Ocean](#); on the south by the Atlantic Ocean and [Chile](#); and on the west by Chile. The length of Argentina from north to south is about 3,330 km (about 2,070 mi); its greatest width is about 1,384 km (about 860 mi). The country includes the province of [Tierra del Fuego](#), which comprises the eastern half of the Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego and a number of adjacent islands to the east, including Isla de los Estados. The

Argentine coastline measures about 4,989 km (about 3,100 mi) long.

Argentina also claims a total of 2,808,602 sq km (1,084,407 sq mi) of disputed territory. Since the 1950s, Argentina has claimed a pie-shaped section of Antarctica between longitude 25° west and longitude 74° west. Argentina also claims several sparsely settled southern Atlantic islands, including the [Falkland Islands](#), or *Islas Malvinas*, currently controlled by Britain. The two nations fought a brief war in 1982 over control of the islands, and sporadic discussions about the political fate of the islands continue. A number of nations, including the United States, do not recognize Argentine claims to Antarctica and these South Atlantic islands.

A Natural Regions

Argentina is divided into four major natural regions: the [Andes](#), the northern plains and Andes foothills, the [Pampas](#), and [Patagonia](#).

A1 The Andes

The Andes, the great mountain system of South America, rise in crumpled blocks along Argentina's western border. In Patagonia, they form a natural boundary between Argentina and Chile. The mountains are highest and widest in the north, where a number of peaks rise above 6,400 m (21,000 ft). [Aconcagua](#) (6,960 m/22,834 ft), the highest of these peaks, is the highest mountain in the Western Hemisphere.

Other noteworthy peaks are Ojos del Salado (6,880 m/22,572 ft) and Tupungato (6,635 m/21,768 ft), on the border between Argentina and Chile, and Mercedario (6,770 m/22,211 ft). Argentina's lake district is in the southern Andes. The resort town of Bariloche, along Lake Nahuel Huapi, is the tourist center of the lake district. Despite their lower elevations, the southern Andes are extremely rugged.

Several parallel ranges and spurs of the Andes project deeply into northwestern Argentina. Here, rivers with sources in the snowfields atop the peaks have cut through the eastern face of the mountains and carved deep valleys. Salt lakes occupy many of the basins between mountains. The country's only other highland of consequence is the Sierra de Córdoba, in central Argentina. Its highest peak is Cerro Champaquí (2,880 m/9,449 ft).



 Find	 Print	 E-mail	 Blog It	Rate this article ☆☆☆☆ (low) (high)
--	---	--	--	--

[How to cite this article](#)

© 1993-2009 Microsoft Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

More from Encarta

- [Important Notice: MSN Encarta to be discontinued. Learn more.](#)
- [Presidential Myths Quiz](#)
- [Coffee break: Recharge your brain](#)

Feedback

At Encarta, we welcome feedback from our customers. You can send general comments in the box below.