

CULTURAL FACTS

- The name Argentina comes from the Latin word for silver, argentum. When the original Spanish conquerors first met the indigenous people in the region, they received silver objects as presents.
- Some 95% of the Argentine population is said to have European ancestry, and out of this, it's estimated that 37% are of Italian descent, making the country the place with most Italians outside of Italy.
- Few countries in the world are as passionate about football as the Argentinians. The most famous player of all time is undoubtedly Diego Armando Maradona, even though Lionel Messi is a strong contender.
- Tango, the sensuous Latin dance, and music, originated in the 1880s in the dance halls of Argentina's capital city, Buenos Aires.
- Argentina has the world's highest number of psychiatrists per capita. In 2012, the number of practicing psychologists surged to 196 per 100,000 people.
- A gaucho is a skilled horseman with a reputation of being brave and having exceptional lasso skills. They are a national symbol of both Argentina and Uruguay, as well as the southernmost region of Brazil. They mostly live in the Pampas, which are fertile lowlands in the Buenos Aires, La Pampa, Santa Fe, Entre Ríos and Córdoba provinces.
- Since 1953, the national sport of Argentina has been Pato, a game played on horseback that fuses elements of polo and basketball. Pato is the Spanish word for 'duck' as early games used a live duck inside a basket instead of a ball.
- Major political parties in Argentina produce their own craft beers and brand them with historic political icons.
- Argentina was the 10th wealthiest nation per capita in 1913.

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- In 1892, Argentina became the first country to use fingerprinting as a form of identification when Francesca Rojas confessed to killing her own children in an attempt to improve her chance of marrying her boyfriend. Her bloody thumbprint was found at the scene of the crime.
- In 1977, Argentina sent a pregnant mother to Antarctica in an effort to claim a portion of the continent. The boy, Emilio Palma, was the first human to be born in Antarctica. He was born in Fortín Sargento Cabral at the Esperanza Base near the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula and weighed 3.4kg (7lb 8oz).
- The remains of the largest dinosaur ever discovered were found in Argentina. Said to be the largest creature to have ever walked the earth, the new species of Titanosaurus was discovered in a desert near La Flecha in 2014, usurping the Argentinosaurus previously discovered in Argentina.
- The world's widest avenue is in Buenos Aires, Avenida 9 de Julio (Avenue 9 July, Argentina's National Day of Independence). It has 14 lanes of traffic and four lanes of parallel streets.
- The highest mountain outside of Asia is in Argentina. Aconcagua is 6,961m (22,837ft) high and is in the Mendoza province. It is also one of the seven summits. The 'Seven Summits' are comprised of the highest mountains on each of the seven continents of the Earth: Everest, Aconcagua, Denali, Kilimanjaro, Elbrus, Mount Vinson, and Carstensz Pyramid.
- Buenos Aires is the capital and most populous city of Argentina. The city is located on the western shore of the estuary of the Río de la Plata, on the South American continent's southeastern coast. "Buenos aires" can be translated as "fair winds" or "good airs".
- Wine production in Argentina dates back to modest beginnings in 1536. Five centuries on, Argentina is now the fifth-largest wine producer worldwide.
- In 2001, during the year of the country's worst financial and political crisis, Argentina had five presidents in just 10 days.