

# Travel Newsletter

## Argentina Summer 2011



May 12, 2011

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### Last-Minute Reminders

Before you get on a plane, make sure you have your **passport**. If you don't have it with you, immigration will turn you away at the airport in Buenos Aires. Also be sure to have enough cash to pay the reciprocity fee, which is \$131 for U.S. citizens, when you arrive in Buenos Aires.

Make sure you have paid your program fee and/or taken care of your financial aid. If your program fee isn't paid, you will not be able to participate in the program. Remember, we must also have your signed program contract.

E-mail your travel plans to [dpraul@ifsa-butler.org](mailto:dpraul@ifsa-butler.org) as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. We need to know when to expect you so that we have a way to track you down if you don't turn up on time. If you miss a flight or change your plans, call IFSA-Butler at 800-858-0229 and **let us know**.

### Checking In for Your Flight

You should plan to arrive at the airport three hours before your international flight. That allows you enough time to get checked in, get a boarding pass and make it to your gate.

You must check in for your flight. Otherwise, the airline can give your seat to someone else.

Ask if your domestic carrier has an agreement with your international carrier. If so, the domestic airline may be able to check your bags all the way through to your final destination. If your bags can't be checked to your final destination, you'll have to leave the gate area and claim your luggage, then recheck your luggage at the check-in desk of your international airline carrier. They will issue you a boarding pass for this leg of your journey. Once you have rechecked your luggage and received your new boarding pass, you will have to proceed through security in order to re-enter the gate area.

Get to the gate in plenty of time so you don't miss your flight.

### Running Late?

If you are running more than an hour late and it looks like you might miss a flight, you'll need to make alternate travel arrangements and then call IFSA-Butler to let us know.

Students on the **group flight** should contact Advantage Travel at 800-788-1980 and let them know about the flight delay or missed connection. Advantage can help get you on a new flight if necessary. Leave a message if no one picks up; Advantage checks the messages regularly and returns calls.

Please note that if you booked the same flight as the group flight (LAN Argentina #4521) without going through Advantage Travel, you are considered an independent traveler. Students who are traveling **independently** who miss a flight should contact the airline to get on a new flight.

Whether you are taking the group flight or traveling independently, **you must call us at 800-858-0229 to let us know about your change in plans**. We will then inform our Buenos Aires office of any delays on your behalf.

Be sure to leave your name, location, airline, old flight numbers, new flight numbers, departure and arrival times, and the name, number and room of the hotel (if you have to stay in a hotel).

We monitor messages on flight days, so if no one answers the phone, be sure to leave a message with the above information. **Be sure to call IFSA-Butler on our general line at 800-858-0229 to ensure that the correct person gets the message.**

**Please do not leave a message about travel problems on your program advisor's voicemail or e-mail.**

### Baggage and Backpacks

Most airlines allow two pieces of checked luggage and one carry-on bag. Contact both your domestic and international carriers for more information on baggage limits.

If you exceed baggage limits, the airline can require you to buy new luggage and repack in the airport. Do not over-pack. You may be required to pay a fee for extra or oversized luggage.

If you lock your luggage, make sure the lock is Transportation Security Administration-approved in order to lessen damages to your luggage. If your bag is searched, officers may cut the lock off, damaging your bag in the process.

Please do not bring sporting equipment, such as skis and bikes. If you feel you must bring your own, call your domestic and international carriers for information about packing and excess baggage fees.

### Packing Your Carry-on Bag

Did you pack:

- Your passport\*
- Your tickets or e-ticket confirmations\*
- *Preparing to Study Abroad* (sent with your welcome packet)
- Your newsletters
- Insurance coverage details
- Cash, traveler's checks and credit cards\*
- Your telephone calling card and instructions for calling home from Argentina
- List of contact names, addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers and e-mail for:
  - Academic advisor at your home college
  - Study abroad advisor at your home college
  - Parents and relatives
- Academic documents
  - Updated transcript
  - Course descriptions from your home college (only if you must take an equivalent course abroad)
  - Rules of transfer credit from your home college

You might also want to bring:

- Travel-size toiletries that meet airline specifications/restrictions (i.e., liquids in containers no larger than 3.3 ounces, all sealed in a clear, quart-size plastic bag).
- Something to read
- Something to listen to
- Spare clothes in case your luggage is lost or delayed
- Any medications and prescriptions
- Camera

According to FAA regulations, you are not allowed to bring the following items in your carry-on:

- Knives (including pocket knives)
- Cutting instruments of any kind

- Metal knitting needles (plastic needles are acceptable)
- Lighters
- Metal scissors (plastic scissors are acceptable)

\*Keep these items and other valuables with you at all times!

You can get the most up-to-date list of prohibited items from the Transportation Security Administration website at [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) (click on "Travelers and Consumers" and then on "Air Travel").

Airlines have stringent security measures and any prohibited items will be confiscated and not returned. Remember that metal objects, even pocket change and pen caps, can set off the airport's security alarms.

Carry-ons are subject to inspections. If you need to take a syringe on the airplane, you must have documented proof of medical need.

If you intend to bring a laptop computer, video camera or a hand-held electronic game, follow your airline's instructions. Cell phones must never be used while an airplane is in flight.

### Host Family Packing

You should pack a small gift for your host family. Past students have found that chocolates, professional sports goods, calendars and products from their home regions all make good gifts.

### Security Check

Security is likely to be tight at all airports. Do not joke about hijacking, weapons or explosives—you can be arrested on the spot and sent to jail. Be patient and cooperative with all airport personnel.

You may be required to turn on electronic equipment to prove that it works. Be sure that your equipment is fully charged and include the power cord and/or batteries in your carry-on.

### In-flight Comfort

For comfort during the flight, wear loose-fitting clothes and comfortable shoes. Your feet might swell during the flight. Remember to walk around the cabin frequently to keep your blood circulating. You'll probably find that the cabin feels cold, so don't give away your blanket.

### Beating Jet Lag

During the flight drink plenty of water and sleep as much as you can. Try to eat something, but avoid drinking alcohol.

If you don't adjust your internal clock right away, jet lag will hit you harder and last longer. Set your watch to local time, and eat and go to bed at normal Argentine times. It may take two or three days for you to feel comfortable.

## Customs Forms

As your plane descends into Argentina, your flight attendants will hand out a few forms with customs and agricultural declarations (*declaraciones*). They limit the amount of alcohol and cigarettes that you can bring into the country. Do not bring explosives or flammable fluids. Also, do not take any fruits or vegetables with you on the plane. Remove the price tags and wrappings from any new purchases; you don't want to pay customs charges on new items.

If you have a question about declaring goods, declare them. It's not a problem if you declare something unnecessarily. However, if you neglect to declare something customs considers dangerous to agriculture or against the law, they may fine, deport or imprison you. If you have nothing to declare, go through the green channel.

## Clearing Customs

When you go through customs, the officials will ask the purpose of your visit. Tell them that you are a student and present your **passport** and **declaraciones** (from the airplane). U.S. citizens do not need not apply for a visa ahead of time.

If you are bringing any prescription medicines with you, bring your doctor's prescription and a letter from your doctor explaining your need for the medication. Have both ready to show to the customs officers.

Customs is usually a quick procedure, and our students have never had serious trouble getting through. Be as cooperative as possible. If the official asks for your address, you should give the address of our Buenos Aires office:

Student name  
Institute for Study Abroad  
Av. Corrientes 880, 8°C  
C1043AAV, Buenos Aires  
Argentina

## Lost Luggage

If your luggage doesn't come out of the carousel, see the airline officials to file a lost luggage claim **before you leave the customs area**. You can give them the program address, listed in "Clearing Customs."

Be certain to save your baggage claim tickets. You may be required to show them in order to claim your luggage. Luggage gets lost all the time, so make sure you pack a change of clothes and other essentials in your carry-on. See "Packing Your Carry-on Bag" earlier in this newsletter.

## Currency

We suggest that you rely on a combination of cash, credit cards and a U.S. ATM card while in Argentina. Check with your U.S. bank and/or credit card company to confirm whether or not you will have access to those accounts while you are in Argentina and if you will need a special international code.

When you arrive in Argentina, do not exchange money until you meet our program staff. Our program staff will tell you the best place to exchange money. However, they cannot meet you until you have passed through immigration and customs.

If you arrive late at night or on a weekend (and not as part of the group flight), you should exchange your currency at the airport. Banks give a better rate of exchange, but they are not open on weekends or holidays. See *Preparing to Study Abroad Argentina* for more information.

## If You Get Separated from the Group...

If you get separated from the group after you land in Argentina, contact our resident directors. In Buenos Aires, students should call any of the following numbers:

IFSA-Butler Buenos Aires office: 11-4394-1666  
Daniel Peiró: 15-4072-0029  
Patricio O'Dwyer: 15-4409-8938

## If You Arrive Early

If you arrive before May 27, you'll need to make hotel or hostel arrangements. Check your *Lonely Planet* or *Rough Guide* travel guide for information about hotels and hostels in Buenos Aires and the surrounding area.

We recommend that you avoid hotels near the Constitución, Retiro and Once rail stations, as well as the stations themselves and the areas near them. While there are inexpensive hotels (about \$25), they are not safe. Consult your guidebook for hotels in a safer area, and expect to pay about \$35 per night.

## Luggage Storage

IFSA-Butler does not have luggage storage facilities. You might be able to store your luggage at your hotel in Buenos Aires if you are arriving before May 27.

## Getting to Orientation

Orientation begins with the arrival of the group flight (LAN Argentina #4521 arriving at 7 a.m. on May 27). Our office staff will meet the group flight at the airport. Look for IFSA-Butler staff members holding yellow IFSA-Butler signs. They will take you (and your luggage!) to your host family's home. **You'll have time to eat, rest and call your parents before meeting the group for orientation at 4 p.m. at the following address: Lavalleja 1256, located between Av. Córdoba and Cabrera.**

Independent travelers (those not on the group flight) who arrive before the group flight should wait at the airport and travel with group flight travelers to their host families. If you arrive between 12 p.m. and 2 p.m., IFSA-Butler staff will meet you at the airport and take you to orientation.

**Please plan to arrive before 2 p.m. on May 27!** If your plane is delayed and you do not see anyone from IFSA-Butler, call one of our staff members at the numbers above. If you need to take a taxi to the orientation site, take a remise, which is like a taxi, through Manuel Tienda Leon. Do not take any other kind of taxi and never hail a taxi from the street!

Orientation is located at the following address:

Lavalleja 1256, located between Av. Córdoba and  
Cabrera  
Buenos Aires

**Remember that the first mandatory meeting of orientation begins at 4 p.m. on May 27.** At that time, you'll take your Spanish placement test, meet the staff and get to know each other at the welcome dinner.

### Phone Home

**Please call home as soon as you get to Argentina.** Your family will be worrying about you. Check with your long-distance carrier for instructions on calling home from Argentina (and anywhere else you plan to travel) **before** you leave. You can also purchase an international phone card at a *kiosko* when you arrive. They are available in increments of \$A5 or A\$6 and can be used to call within the country or abroad. Almost all public telephones operate with a phone card.

Let your parents know that you'll be very busy during orientation and the first week of classes, and you may not be able to call much during that time. It's likely that you won't have time to call after you make your original call to let them know you arrived safely. We will contact them if any emergencies arise.

### Updated Calendar

We've included an updated calendar. Please check to see if any of the dates associated with your program have changed.

### Last-Minute Tips

- Sign up for frequent flyer miles.
- Reread the housing and health insurance sections of *Preparing to Study Abroad*.
- Photocopy your passport and tickets and give a copy to your parents.
- Give your parents the numbers of your credit cards and traveler's checks in case they are lost or stolen.
- Double-check your budget.
- Buy a travel guide or rent a video of Argentina.
- Plan to try new things, taste new foods and go where you never expected to go!

**Questions? Call us at 800-858-0229 or check our website: [www.ifsabutler.org](http://www.ifsabutler.org).**

# Program Calendar

## Argentina Summer 2011



### Summer Language and Culture Program

Group Flight Departs	May 26
Arrive in Buenos Aires	May 27
Program Starts	May 27
Move into Housing	May 27
IFSA-Butler Orientation	May 28-June 1
Classes Begin	June 1
Classes End	TBA
Last Day of Paid Housing	July 10
Program Ends	July 10

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**These dates are correct as of February 10, 2010, but must be regarded as provisional given the mutability of host university calendars.**

Upon arrival at in Buenos Aires, check the program end dates for changes before confirming your return travel plans. You must complete all course obligations prior to departure. In addition, you should not make plans to travel on the final day of class, as there may be exams on that day.

All students must move out of program housing on the program end date.