



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Argentina - El Calafate

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Buenos Aires
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish (Castellano)
- ✓ **Population:** ± 22000
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 107.5
- ✓ **Currency:** Pesos (\$ARS)
- ✓ **Country code:** +54 (2965)
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some countries, [check here!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 911
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A / Hep-B / Typhoid / Yellow fever / DTP / Rabies.



History Recap Over 1 Drink

16th century: Start Spanish colonization. 1776: Spanish Viceroyalty of River Plate. 1810: Viceroy overthrown → War of Independence: '16. '61: Forming of united country (after Battle of Pavon). '80: Start of liberal ec. & immigration policies: income & population growth. 1916: Yrigoyen pres. → min. wage. '39: Ec. downturn caused by Great Depression, armed forces in power. '43: Nationalist army seizes power. '45: Arg declares war on Japan & Germany. '46: Peron pres., wife Evita: labor relations. '49: New constitution: Jail for government opponents, independent media suppressed. '55: Military coup, Peron into exile. '66: Gen. Ongania power. '73: Peron again pres. → '74: dies, new wife Isabel succeeds him. '76: Armed forces seize power → Guerra Sucia (Dirty War) 1000s of left-wing sympathizers killed, babies abducted from mothers. '82: Start Falklands (Malvinas) War, Arg occupies British island, 2 months later UK re-takes it. '83: Alfonsin pres., Dirty War criminals charged. Inflation over 900%. '89: Menem pres. '90: Diplomatic relations with UK restored, but remains claim Falklands (Falklanders want to remain UK). '92: Peso \$. Bomb Israeli embassy kills 29. '94: Bomb in Jewish center: 86 killed. '99: Rúa pres. 2000-01: Strikes & protests. Banks shut down. '02: ending parity US\$. \$800m debt. '03: Kirchner pres. '03: debt-deal. '07: Kirchner's wife pres. '15: Macri pres.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer	hottest	driest										
Autumn					wettest							
Winter							coldest					
Budget												

Altitude: 196m. Climate: Cold Semi-Arid Climate (Bsk), very strong winds.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Skip the expensive tourist bus fare to Perito Moreno by hitch-hiking (at the intersection just out of town).
- ☺ Trekking: Cerro [Torre](#) / Cristal.
- ☺ Explore Lago Argentina (hiking / biking) and it's wetfields around it swarming with flamingos.

👍 Perito Moreno glacier. [Parque Nacional Los Glaciares](#) has no entrance fee in El Chaltén, but here it does. You can book extra excursions: Mini trekking (ind. boat & ice hike) / Big Ice (ice hike & ice caves).

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 More nature: Upsala / Onelli glacier, [Reserva Laguna Nimez](#), [La Leona Bosque Petrificado](#), Walichu Caves, [Cerro Frias](#), [Reserva Los Huemeles](#).

👍 Sports: Ice skating, kayaking, canoeing, climbing, sailing, skiing ([Hoya del Chingue](#) / [Mountain Park](#)).

👍 Museums: [Glaciarium](#). Excursions to estancias: [Cristina](#), [Alice](#), [25 de Mayo](#), [Nibepo Aike](#), La Usina. Other: 4x4, [Safari Experience](#).



Festivals

- ☼ Fiesta Nacional del Lago: Feb.
- ☼ Ice Festival: Jul-Aug.
- ☼ Fiesta del Pueblo: 12-Oct.

"Budget" Bites

- ⌘ *Everything in the supermarkets is super expensive too:* Anonima is the cheapest supermarket.
- ⌘ Local food: Asado, parilla, chimichurri, empanadas, choripan etc.
- ⌘ Go vegan: Check the [Happy Cow](#) for vegan-friendly options.

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ Don Diego de la Noche, Libertador 1700.
- ◆ La Toldería, Libertador 1177.
- ◆ Shakleton Lounge, Libertador 3287.

Next?

- ➔ In Argentina: El Chaltén, Los Antiguos, Perito Moreno, Ushuaia.
- ➔ International destinations close by: Chile, (Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil).

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Down the road of the La Roca campground you can camp for free.
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#). If you can't find anything: El Calafate has an endless (expensive) hostel supply.

Free-Riding?

- Everything within the centre of El Calafate is easily walkable. The suburbs are further away.
- Biking is a good possibility.
- The terminal can be found in the centre (take stairs up from main street via artisanal market). Buses are unreasonably expensive.
- You can take a taxi or arrange a *remis* (by stepping into a designated remis office). Expect elevated prices.
- Airport: [El Calafate International Airport](#) (20km out of town).
- Hitch-hiking is possible and very common here. Almost all traffic heads to El Chaltén or south via Rio Gallegos. Outside of town, on the intersection heading to Perito Moreno, you can hitch-hike to the glacier.

Tip: Download the Triposo Argentina app for offline maps, landmark descriptions & more, or load Google Maps when you have Wi-Fi and leave it open, you will still be able to use it offline.

Mama Said

- ☠ Tap water is drinkable, but if you just arrived in the country you are better off with filtered water.
- ☠ Before going on long hikes, inform someone about your hiking route and expected return. Bring clothes for all kind of weather conditions, from 30-degrees heat to hail and snow; it can happen all in 1 day.
- ☠ Don't destroy nature, always walk on the indicated paths. Take your trash home. Don't make a fire in the woods or throw cigarettes on the ground (it's really dry here).
- ☠ Is it really necessary to kill, hurt or use animals (fish/horses)? If you love nature, and you do because you're here, act upon it.

The Earth Becomes My Throne