

**Background**

The second largest country in South America it was colonised by the Spanish in the 16th century becoming independent in1816. Its economy was based on the beef market run by the British and was stable till the mid 1930's. After the war Colonel Peron was elected president and who along with his wife Evita revitalised the country with sweeping social reforms. She was adored by the people (and still is today) until her death from cancer aged 33 in1952. Peron lost the next election and was exiled returning to become president again in 1973. After his death in 1974 series of military junta ruled with disastrous effects on the economy. They also abducted and killed political opponents and anyone suspected of having radical views. These were known as the Disappeared as nobody knew what became of them, their mothers held a vigil outside the Casa Rosada (Madres de Plaza de Mayo) in the forlorn hope of finding answers it still continues to this day. The military were finally ousted after the disastrous Falklands War in 1982 (still a touchy subject). Although politically stable the country is plagued by hyper inflation and a volatile economy.

The country has much to offer the visitor from the stunning mountains and glaciers of Patagonia, the vast Pampas with huge cattle herds tended by the ubiquitous Gauchos, rainforest surrounding the magnificent Iguaçu Falls, the ancient Indian ruins of Quilmes and the high Chaco adorned with rainbow hills.

The capital Buenos Aries is culturally diverse and famous for its Tango clubs and many historic buildings.

Vegetarians beware Argentineans only seem to eat beef the parrillada is a barbeque where you will be offered every part of the cow usually well done and washed down with the local Quilmes beer and quality wines from the Mendoza province. Due to an influx of foreign visitors the culinary experience has much improved.

There is also a wide variety of wildlife the Guanacos and Puma of Patagonia, jaguar in the rainforest to the wild coastline with whales, dolphins and sea lions.

I was fortunate enough (years ago) to spend 6 months travelling there from Ushuia in the south 3500 miles to Villazon in the north and would recommend it to anyone.

The country remained a bit of a backwater till the musical Evita and hosting the 1978 World Cup (some Scotland fans are still there) brought international attention. Tourism is now a big part of the economy and brings much needed jobs to remote parts.

**The players**

**Pope Francis** C:\Users\raven\Documents\Aapolyani\My  Links Golfers Folders\Argentina\Pope_Francis.bmp

The first Argentine Pope form 2013 till his death in 2025 well known for his reforming policies giving woman status in the hierarchy and recognising same sex marriages.

**Eva Peron (Evita)** C:\Users\raven\Documents\Aapolyani\My  Links Golfers Folders\Argentina\Evita.bmp

From humble beginnings she became a popular actress and met and married Colonel Peron becoming his Vice-President. Seen by many as the power behind the throne and the instigator of populist policies. In a bid to raise Argentine's profile she embarked on a grand European tour widely publicized projecting her onto the world stage. When she died of cancer aged 33 in 1952 millions turned out for her funeral she is still idolised to this day.

**Colonel Peron**  C:\Users\raven\Documents\Aapolyani\My  Links Golfers Folders\Argentina\Colonel Peron.bmp

Became president in 1946 with his policies of labour reform, overshadowed by Evita. After her death his star waned and he lost the election in 1955 and was exiled to Spain. He returned and was elected again in 1973 before his death in 1974 his Peronist party still play an important role in Argentine politics today.

**Che Guvera** C:\Users\raven\Documents\Aapolyani\My  Links Golfers Folders\Argentina\Che guvera.bmp

Marxist revolutionary, physician, author, guerrilla leader, diplomat, politician and military theorist Rose to prominence in the guerrilla campaign in Guatemala before joining Castro in the successful revolution in Cuba. He left in 1965 to try to bring revolution to the Congo then Bolivia where he was captured and shot in 1967. His stylized visage has become a countercultural symbol of rebellion and global insignia in popular culture.

**Hugo Porta** C:\Users\raven\Documents\Aapolyani\My  Links Golfers Folders\Argiesport\Hugo porta.bmp;

Rugby standoff (No10) played 58 times for his country culminating in captaining them in their first world cup. Regarded as a second tier nation his team laid the foundations for future success with Argentina rising to world No 5 and reaching the semi-finals of the world cup.

**Guillermo Vilas** C:\Users\raven\Documents\Aapolyani\My  Links Golfers Folders\Argiesport\Guillermo villas.bmp

Argentina's greatest tennis player rose to world No1 in 1974,5 & 7 culminating in victories at the U.S. and French opens in1977. he won 62 singles and 16 doubles titles before retiring in 1989.

**Diego Maradona** C:\Users\raven\Documents\Aapolyani\My  Links Golfers Folders\Argiesport\Diego Maradona.bmp

At his peak the world's best player leading Argentina to victory in Mexico 86 world cup including his "hand of god" goal against England and scoring two of the best solo goal of all time. His life off the pitch was beset by financial difficulties causing him to transfer from Barcelona to Napoli where he won 2 Seria A titles. His troubles continued and he fell into cocaine addiction leading him to be banned after the world cup final in 1990, a sad end to his playing career. He returned to manage Argentina at the 2010 world cup in South Africa and died in 2020 aged 60.

**Lionel Messi** C:\Users\raven\Documents\Aapolyani\My  Links Golfers Folders\Argiesport\Lionel Messi.bmp

The Greatest of All Time the only footballer to win all the titles available to him World Cup, Copa America and the Olympics with Argentina and all 6 club titles with Barcelona ( Copa del Rey, La Liga, Spanish Super Cup, Champions league, European Super Cup, World Club Cup). He moved to Paris St Germain winning the French league then to Inter Miami, winning the MLS cup and continues playing with them to this day. He has received numerous awards including 8 Ballon'dor and broken just about every record in the game.

**Footnote**

Argentina has produced two major golf winners Roberto de Vincenzo won the Open at Hoylake in 1967 and Angel Cabrera won the U.S. 0pen in 2007 and The Masters in 2009.