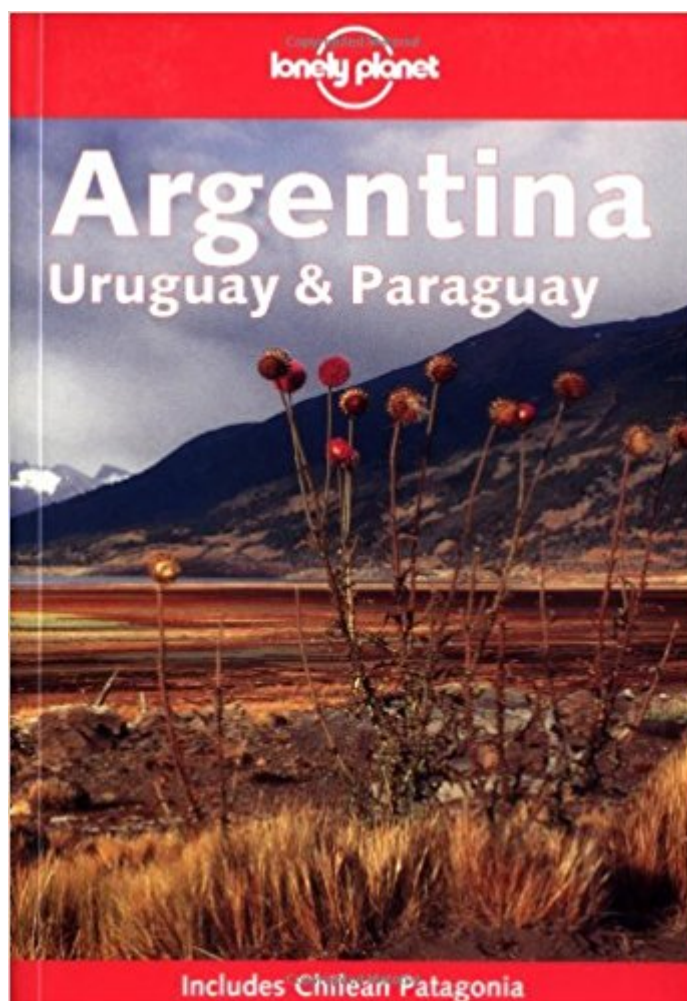




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Lonely Planet Argentina, Uruguay And Paraguay (Includes Chilean Patagonia)



Synopsis

Venture from the streets of lively Buenos Aires to the beaches of Punta del Este, and the rainforest of Parque Nacional Ybycui without missing a step. This guide includes 96 detailed maps, including Buenos Aires city, lodgings and dining to cover all budgets, as well as a handy Spanish language guide.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

So you're going to the Southern Cone? Or perhaps only thinking about it? Well, think about it some more, and place these images of Argentina in your mind: the Western hemisphere's highest peaks, rising to almost 7000m and blanketed in virgin snow; the painted deserts of the northern Andes, high and dry with colonial cities and lanky cacti; legendary Iguazu Falls, a massive rush of water falling nearly 20 stories and extending as far as the eye can see; shimmering blue-green lakes stretching out between lush mountain forests in the Lake District; astounding southern glaciers actively calving huge slivers of ice; and the magnificent desolation of Patagonia, instilling a romantic tingle and wanderlust. Then there's Tierra del Fuego, the tip of the southern world, encompassing beautiful scenery and the southernmost city in the world, Ushuaia. Or how about a cruise to (relatively) nearby Antarctica? Everywhere in Argentina, from the northern subtropical lowlands to the Patagonian shores, you will glimpse wildlife ranging from strange guanacos, rheas and capybaras to the more familiar flamingoes, whales and penguins. Also, let's not forget the probable start of your adventure: The urban frenzy that is Buenos Aires. This sophisticated capital city circulates through bustling streets and grand avenues lined with historic edifices born of European

architects. All around are beautiful portenos (inhabitants of Buenos Aires), elegantly coiffed and forever fashionable, passionately expressing their Spanish and Italian roots through energetic personalities and expansive body language. Old-time cafes, tango bars, fine restaurants (think succulent steaks!), late-night dancing and charming colonial neighborhoods complete this picture, and all this is just a start. If you want to get away from the tourist beat, you can see backroads of grassland or lush forests and meet some of the friendliest folks in South America. Outside Argentina, you can even have some fun at the raucous summer beach resorts in Uruguay or explore the region's indigenous roots in Paraguay. These two under-appreciated countries are brimming with colonial architecture and Jesuit ruins, generations-old traditions, subtropical lowlands and an astounding range of wildlife - and you won't have to share it with many other tourists!

Hmm, missing the pizzaz of other Lonely Plant books

I used the guide in February 2003 to complete a trip in Argentina. The Lonely Planet guide was the best that I found, but none were up to par. I had Rough Guide to Argentina with me as well, and found it superior for the descriptions of points of interest. Lonely Planet, however, provided adequate descriptions and added travel information (75% correct) and local maps from time to time. Particularly unreliable were prices (of course, with the economic situation) and flight information. Pricing in any of the Arg. guides published for early 2003 is only good for comparison between like opportunities. Flights tended to be offered on different days or had been cancelled since publishing. The only notable information flaw I remember was in the El Bolson description, where they placed the cervezeria and associated campground on the opposite side of town. Everyone I met travelling to Uruguay or Paraguay had the Shoestring Guide to S.A. rather than this specialty guide, so I have no information on those sections of the book. All in all, the L.P. guide provided the best overall information, and I wouldn't have had as much time to enjoy my trip without it.

The first 'reviewer' has it wrong--this edition of Lonely Planet's Argentina book is a remarkable improvement over the 3rd edition, which at times is convolutedly wordy beyond belief. The review sounds like it was written by the previous author. Be aware that some competitive guidebooks, such as those put out by Avalon (or Moon) pay their authors based on the royalty system. In other words, on how many books they sell. Avalon may be putting out their own Argentina guide soon. Your best advice: run through the books at a bookstore and decide for yourself which fits your needs best.

Except for most of the Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego chapters, which show evidence of capable research and writing, this is a step backward from the previous edition. The coverage of northwestern Argentina is superficial and even naive, and the coverage of Iguazu falls missed the enormous changes that resulted from privatization of national park services over the past few years. It looks as if only one, perhaps two, of the five authors was really up to the job.

I will only say that if the author of a book about a country (or countries) demonstrates in the "Facts" section not having even looked at a map of the region, showing complete lack of knowledge of the most basic geography of what s/he claims to know and write about, what reliability can you expect from such a book? I'll give you three examples from the "Facts on Argentina" section that reveal lack of knowledge of the region's geography and geopolitics.1. It says: "In most of Argentina and the other Rio de la Plata countries (Uruguay and Paraguay)..." This is the grosser mistake because Paraguay is nowhere near the Rio de la Plata river. And that is easy to see in a map of the area this book writes about. Also from a cultural perspective, this is a gross mistake. Only Uruguay and Argentina are (and always have been) known as "the Rio de la Plata river countries". There is even a culture common to both margins of the Rio de la Plata (River Plate in English). This "rioplatense" culture (from "Rio" and "Plata") is not even shared by all of huge Argentina that is a lot more than just the region around this river that divides it from smaller Uruguay.2. It says that Spaniard "Solís" probed the area now known as Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay". But the region occupied by what today are those three countries is VERY big--and one could not say more than Solís probed the region around the Rio de la Plata river, which covers only a small section of today's Uruguay and Argentina (and not Paraguay).3. It says that "Solís died at the hands of Uruguayan tribes". This sounds almost as a joke if not an insult. Uruguayans did not exist in Solís's times. The author might mean "the tribes *then* inhabiting *today's* Uruguay". Those tribes were not Uruguayan, just as the Apaches were not American (nationals of the U.S.). I leave the conclusions up to you. I'm sure *some* facts must be right in this book, but such a lack of professionalism revealed in the absence of the most basic review of the facts of a book edited by a large, well known publisher does not inspire the least trust in me. I rather not waste my money: I am willing to pay for information--not for mis*information.

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