

TRANSPORTATION

Argentina is a big country, and most people fly into Buenos Aires to get there. You can bus into the capital from neighboring countries, but this nearly always involves overnight trips. Uruguay is the exception, as it's just across the Río de la Plata (a huge river estuary) and a relatively short boat or plane ride away.

BA is a large, modern city with good public transportation options, but walking is really the best way to see the sights. The main downtown area is small enough that you could walk from one end to the other in about a half-hour. For longer distances, most people get around by bus, Subte (BA's subway system) or taxi. Driving is recommended for the suicidal only.

Tickets for flights, tours and rail can be booked online at www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services.

AIR

BA is Argentina's international gateway and easily accessible from North America, Europe and Australasia, as well as most other capital cities in South America. Aerolíneas Argentinas and Lan are the main regional airlines at the moment, but Argentine airlines are in constant flux and come and go very frequently. Even airline offices will often move. Always check current travel information during your tenure here.

THINGS CHANGE...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

Airlines

Aerolíneas Argentinas (Map p62; ☎ 0810-222-86527; www.aerolineas.com; Perú 2).

Air Canada (Map p62; ☎ 4327-3640; www.aircanada.ca; Av Córdoba 656)

Air France (Map p62; ☎ 4317-4700; www.airfrance.com.ar; San Martín 344, 23rd fl)

Alitalia (Map p62; ☎ 0810-777-2548; www.alitalia.com; San Martín 344, 23rd fl)

American Airlines (Map p84; www.aa.com; ☎ 4318-1111; Av Santa Fe 881)

British Airways (Map p84; ☎ 0800-222-0075; www.britishairways.com; Av del Libertador 498, 13th fl)

Continental (Map p62; ☎ 0800-333-0425; www.continental.com; Carlos Pellegrini 529)

CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor transport generates CO₂ (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow travelers to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: www.lonelyplanet.com.

Delta (Map p84; www.delta.com; ☎ 0800-666-0133; Santa Fe 887)

KLM (Map p62; ☎ 4317-4711; www.klm.com; San Martín 344, 23d fl)

Lan (Map p84; ☎ 4378-2222; www.lan.com; Cerrito 866)

Líneas Aéreas del Estado (LADE; Map p76; ☎ 0810-810-5233; www.lade.com.ar; Perú 714)

Swissair (Map p84; ☎ 4319-0000; www.swiss.com; Av Santa Fe 846, 1st fl)

Transportes Aéreos de Mercosur (TAM; Map p84; ☎ 0810-333-3333; www.tam.com.py, in Spanish; Cerrito 1026)

United Airlines (☎ 0810-777-8648; www.united.com.ar)
Located only at airport.

AIRPORTS

Ezeiza

Almost all international flights arrive at Buenos Aires' Ezeiza airport (EZE; officially *Aeropuerto Internacional Ministro Pistarini*), about 35km south of the center. Ezeiza is a modern airport with decent services like ATMs, restaurants, bookstore, pharmacy, duty-free shops and a small **post office** (☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat, mailbox open 24hr). There's also an overpriced *locutorio* (open 24 hours) with telephone cabins and internet access. Wi-fi is only available at La Pausa Restaurant, upstairs. For more on arriving in Ezeiza, see the boxed text, p218.

Flight information, in English and Spanish, is available by calling ☎ 5480-6111 or accessing www.aa2000.com.ar.

If you're alone, the best way to and from Ezeiza is taking a **shuttle** with transfer companies such as **Manuel Tienda León** (MTL; Map p84; ☎ 4315-5115; www.tiendaleon.com.ar; Av Eduardo Madero 1299). You'll see its stand immediately as you exit customs, in the transport 'lobby' area. Shuttles cost AR\$50 per person to the city center, run all day and night and take 40 to 60 minutes, depending on traffic. They'll deposit you either at the MTL office (from where you can take a taxi) or at some limited central addresses. Tickets are reservable online.

Another shuttle service, directed at independent travelers, is **Hostel Shuttle** (☎ 4511-8723; www.hostelshuttle.com.ar). Cost is AR\$55 per person. Check the website for a schedule and drop-off destinations (only certain hostels), and try to book ahead. You can also try www.minibusezeiza.com.ar.

If taking a **taxi**, avoid MTL's taxi service – overpriced at AR\$186. Instead, go past the transport 'lobby' area outside customs, walk past the taxi touts, and you'll see the free-standing city taxi stand (blue sign saying 'Taxi Ezeiza'; ☎ 5480-889; www.taxiezeiza.com.ar). It charges AR\$150 to the center. To save even more pesos, head a few feet outside the building and look for the yellow taxi stand, which charges AR\$138.

For a special treat, reserve a luxury car from **Silver Star Car** (☎ 15-6826-8876; www.silverstarcar.com);

EZEIZA ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE TIPS

When arriving at Ezeiza, citizens from several countries have to pay a 'reciprocity fee' (*tasa de reciprocidad*). This is equal to what Argentines are charged for visas to visit those countries. These fees are US\$100 for Australians (good for one year), US\$140 for Americans (good for 10 years) and US\$75 for Canadians (per entry – sucks, eh?). Aeroparque also requires this fee, but there is no fee if entering Argentina via other airports or borders. This situation is likely to change, however.

To change money at Ezeiza, don't use a *cambio* (exchange house) unless you know the current exchange rates. Better rates are generally found at the local bank branch; after exiting customs, pass the rows of transport booths, go outside the doors into the reception hall and veer sharply to the right to find Banco de la Nación's small office. Its rates are identical to downtown offices, there's an ATM and it's open 24 hours, though long lines are common. There's another ATM nearby, next to Farmacia, and yet another way beyond, at the airline counters.

If you want to take a taxi into town, head outside this same transport booth area (taxis are a bit overpriced here), past the folks at reception and – avoiding any taxi tout – find the city's official taxi stand (a blue sign that says 'Taxi Ezeiza'). In late 2010 it charged AR\$150 to the center, including tolls. For shuttle or bus information, see under 'Airports, Ezeiza.'

There's a **tourist information booth** (☎ 24hr) just beyond the city's taxi stand.

When leaving Buenos Aires, get to Ezeiza at least two hours (or more) before your international flight out; security and immigration lines can be very long (and be aware that traffic can be bad even *getting* to Ezeiza). Also, even when you get past main security there may be bag checks at the gate, and neither food nor liquids may be allowed onto airplanes. Eat and drink up before boarding.