

# Introduction To Argentina



## Lesson 1

**Pack Your Suitcase... Don't Forget  
Your Dancing Shoes! We're Going  
to Argentina!**

**Argentina is the second largest country in South America. It is one-third the size of the United States. The word Argentina means silver. When the Spanish explorers first came to the New World, they hoped to find silver here just like in many other areas throughout the Andes Mountains.**



## **Argentina is surrounded by several countries:**

Western neighbor: **Chile**

Northern neighbors: **Bolivia and Paraguay**

Eastern neighbors: **Brazil and Uruguay**



**Argentina is in the southern hemisphere of the world.** Its seasons are exactly the opposite of the United States because the U.S. is located in the northern hemisphere. January and February are the warmest months and make up the summer season (summer vacation for kids).





The **capital** of Argentina is **Buenos Aires**. The name means “**good winds**” because it is located on the banks of Rio de la Plata. **Avenida 9 de Julio** is the widest street in the world and the main road in Buenos Aires.



**The Republic of Argentina has a constitution similar to that of the United States.** The president leads the government and is helped by a council of ministers. Similar to the United States Argentina has a natural congress that passes new laws.



**The Casa Rosada**



**The form of currency that is used in Argentina is called the peso. Each peso has 100 centavos. There are 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 pesos bills.**



**Argentina consists of 6 distinct regions: the Northwest, Northeast, Metropolitan Area, Cuyo, Pampas, and Patagonia.**





**Within the 6 geographical regions of Argentina, there are 24 different provinces.**



In this unit, our focus will be on three folk dances that are extremely popular in the following provinces: Jujuy, Salta, **Santiago del Estero**, Tucuman, Catamarca, **Cordoba**, and **Mendoza**.





El Cerro de los Siete Colores, **Jujuy Province**  
Tafi del Valle, **Tucuman Province**  
Valles Calchaquies, **Salta Province**





## Landmarks of Argentina

The **Iguazu Falls** are horseshoe-shaped waterfalls that are located on the border of Brazil and Argentina. They consist of 275 waterfalls. The Iguazu Falls are taller than Niagara Falls and four times as wide.





The highest mountain peak in North and South America is located in Argentina. It is called **Mount Aconagua** and it is part of the Andes Mountains. It is 22,831 feet high.





The **Pampas** are large flat plains that cover an area of almost 1,000 miles in the center of Argentina.





In this unit, we will embrace the culture of northern Argentina by learning about 3 of its most popular folk dances...

**The Chacarera**



**The Gato**



**The Zamba**

Grab your dancing shoes, enjoy this learning adventure, and get ready to tap and twirl your way into Argentina's heart!