

Travel Newsletter



Argentina Summer 2008

May 15, 2008

Contents

Last-Minute Reminders	1
Checking In for Your Flight	1
Running Late?	1
Baggage and Backpacks	1
Packing Your Carry-on Bag	2
Host Family Packing	2
Security Check	2
In-flight Comfort	2
Beating Jet Lag	2
Customs Forms	2
Clearing Customs	3
Lost Luggage	3
Currency	3
If You Get Separated from the Group	3
If You Arrive Early	3
Getting to Orientation	3
Phone Home	4
Updated Calendar	4
Last-Minute Tips	4
Contact Us	4
Program Calendar	5

Last-Minute Reminders

Before you get on a plane, make sure you have your **passport**. If you don't have it with you, immigration will turn you away at the airport when you land.

Make sure you have paid your program fee and/or taken care of your financial aid. If your program fee isn't paid, you will not be able to participate in the program. Remember, we must also have your signed program contract.

E-mail your travel plans to dpraul@ifsa-butler.org by May 20. We need to know when to expect you so that we have a way to track you down if you don't turn up on time. If you miss a flight or change your plans, call IFSA-Butler at 800-858-0229 and **let us know**.

Checking In for Your Flight

You should plan to arrive at the airport three hours before your international flight. That allows you enough time to get checked in, get a boarding pass and make it to your gate.

You must check in for your flight. Otherwise, the airline can give your seat to someone else.

Ask if your domestic carrier has an agreement with your international carrier. If so, the domestic airline may be able to check your bags all the way through to your final destination. This way it may be possible to get your international flight boarding pass

at the gate instead of having to leave the gate area to retrieve your luggage and check it back in at the international airline desk in the check-in area.

If your bags can't be checked to your final destination, you'll have to leave the gate area and claim your luggage, then recheck your luggage at the check-in desk of your international airline carrier. They will issue you a boarding pass for this leg of your journey. Once you have rechecked your luggage and received your new boarding pass, you will have to proceed through security in order to re-enter the gate area.

Get to the gate in plenty of time so you don't miss your flight.

Running Late?

If you are running more than an hour late and it looks like you might miss a flight, you'll need to make alternate travel arrangements and then call IFSA-Butler to let us know.

Students on the **group flight** should contact Advantage Travel at 800-788-1980 and let them know about the flight delay or missed connection. Advantage can help get you on a new flight if necessary. Leave a message if no one picks up; Advantage checks the messages regularly and returns calls.

Students who are traveling **independently** who miss a flight should contact the airline to get on a new flight.

Whether you are taking the group flight or traveling independently, **you must call us at 800-858-0229 to let us know about your change in plans**. We will then inform the Buenos Aires office of any delays on your behalf.

Be sure to leave your name, location, airline, old flight numbers, new flight numbers, departure and arrival times, and the name, number and room of the hotel (if you have to stay in a hotel). Then call your parents to let them know about your flight change.

We monitor messages on flight days, so if no one answers the phone, be sure to leave a message with the above information.

Baggage and Backpacks

Most airlines allow two pieces of checked luggage and one carry-on bag. Contact both your domestic and international carriers for more information on baggage limits.

If you exceed baggage limits, the airline can require you to buy new luggage and repack right there in the airport. Do not overpack. You may be required to pay a fee for extra or oversized luggage.

If you lock your luggage, make sure the lock is Transportation Security Administration-approved in order to lessen damages to your luggage. If your bag is searched, officers may cut the lock off, damaging your bag in the process.

Please do not bring sporting equipment such as skis and bikes. If you feel you must bring your own, call your domestic and international carriers for information about packing and excess baggage fees.

Packing Your Carry-on Bag

Did you pack:

- Your passport*
- Your tickets*
- *Preparing to Study Abroad* (sent with your welcome packet)
- Your newsletters and important e-mails
- Insurance coverage details
- Cash, traveler's checks and credit cards*
- Your telephone calling card and instructions for calling home from Argentina
- List of contact names, addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers and e-mail for:
 - Academic advisor at your home college
 - Study abroad advisor at your home college
 - Parents and relatives
- Academic documents
- Updated transcript
- Course descriptions from your home college (only if you must take an equivalent course abroad)
- Rules of transfer credit from your home college

You might also want to bring:

- Travel-size toiletries that meet airline specifications/restrictions (i.e., liquids in containers no larger than three ounces, all sealed in a clear, quart-size plastic bag).
- Something to read
- Something to listen to
- Spare clothes in case your luggage is lost or delayed
- Any medications and prescriptions
- Your spare glasses
- Camera and film or photocard

According to FAA regulations, you are not allowed to bring in your carry-on the following items:

- Knives (including pocket knives)
- Cutting instruments of any kind
- Metal knitting needles (plastic needles are acceptable)
- Lighters
- Metal scissors (plastic scissors are acceptable)
- Baseball or softball bats
- Golf clubs
- Pool cues
- Ski poles
- Hockey sticks

* Keep these items and other valuables with you at all times!

You can get the most up-to-date list of prohibited items from the Transportation Security Administration Web site at www.tsa.gov (click on "Travelers and Consumers" and then on "Air Travel").

Airlines have implemented stringent security measures and any items described above will be confiscated and not returned. Remember that metal objects, even pocket change and pen caps, can set off the airport's security alarms.

Carry-ons are subject to inspections. You may bring an umbrella on board, but only if it has been inspected at the airport. If you need to take a syringe on the airplane, you must have documented proof of medical need.

If you intend to bring a laptop computer, portable CD player or a hand-held electronic game, follow your airline's instructions. Cell phones must never be used while an airplane is in flight.

Host Family Packing

You should pack a small gift for your host family. Past students have found that chocolates, professional sports goods, calendars and products from their home regions all make good gifts. You're likely to meet a lot of children in Argentina (whether in your family or in the neighborhood), so you might want to bring some small toys or games (coloring books, crayons, paddleballs, etc).

Security Check

Security is tight, so you may have to unload your discman batteries or undergo security procedures. Do not joke about having weapons or explosives. Security can arrest you on the spot and send you to jail. Be patient and cooperative with the security personnel.

You may be required to turn on all electronic equipment. Be sure that your equipment is fully charged and include the power cord or battery in your carry-on.

In-flight Comfort

For comfort during the flight, wear loose-fitting clothes and comfortable shoes. Your feet might swell during the flight. Remember to walk around the cabin frequently to keep your blood circulating. You'll probably find that the cabin feels cold, so don't give away your blanket.

Beating Jet Lag

During the flight drink plenty of water and sleep as much as you can. Try to eat something, but avoid drinking alcohol.

If you don't adjust your internal clock right away, jet lag will hit you harder and last longer. Set your watch to local time, and eat and go to bed at normal Argentine times. It may take two or three days for you to feel comfortable.

Customs Forms

As your plane descends into Argentina, your flight attendants will hand out a few forms with customs and agricultural declarations (*declaraciones*). They limit the amount of alcohol and cigarettes that you can bring into the country. Do not bring explosives or flammable fluids. Also, do not take any fruits or vegetables with you on the plane. Remove the price tags and wrappings from any new purchases; you don't want to pay customs charges on new items.

If you have a question about declaring goods, declare them. It's not a problem if you declare something unnecessarily. However,

If you neglect to declare something customs considers dangerous to agriculture or against the law, they may fine, deport or imprison you. If you have nothing to declare, go through the green channel.

Clearing Customs

When you go through customs, the officials will ask the purpose of your visit. Tell them that you are a student and present your **passport** and **declaraciones** (from the airplane). Ask for a tourist visa. You need not apply for a visa ahead of time.

If you are bringing any prescription medicines with you, bring your doctor's prescription and a letter from your doctor explaining your need for the medication. Have both ready to show to the customs officers.

Customs is usually a quick procedure, and our students have never had serious trouble getting through. We recommend you dress casually but conservatively, blend in with the crowd and be as cooperative as possible.

If the official asks for your address, you should give the address of our Buenos Aires office:

Student name
Institute for Study Abroad
Av. Corrientes 880, 8°C
C1043AAV, Buenos Aires
Argentina

Lost Luggage

If your luggage doesn't come out of the carousel, see the airline officials to file a lost luggage claim **before you leave the customs area**. You can give them the program address, listed in "Clearing Customs."

Be certain to save your baggage claim tickets. You may be required to show them in order to claim your luggage. Also notify our Buenos Aires staff. Luggage gets lost all the time, so make sure you pack a change of clothes and other essentials in your carry-on. See "Packing Your Carry-on Bag" earlier in this newsletter.

Currency

We suggest that you rely on a combination of traveler's checks, cash, credit cards and a U.S. ATM card while in Argentina. Traveler's checks are the safest and most reliable method for carrying a large amount of money to Argentina; however, past students have found it more convenient to withdraw money from an ATM machine. Check with your U.S. bank and/or credit card company to confirm whether or not you will have access to those accounts while you are in Argentina and if you will need a special international code.

When you arrive in Argentina, please do not exchange money in the airport. The exchange rate is low there, especially at the booth before you go through immigration. Our program staff will tell you the best place to exchange money. However, they cannot meet you until you have already passed through immigration and customs.

If You Get Separated from the Group...

If you get separated from the group after you land in Argentina, contact our resident directors. In Buenos Aires, students should call any of the following numbers:

IFSA-Butler Buenos Aires office: 11-4394-1666
Daniel Peiró: 15-4072-0029
Patricio O'Dwyer: 15-4409-8938
Mario Cantarini: 15-4418-0026

If You Arrive Early

If you arrive before May 30, you'll need to make hotel or hostel arrangements. Check your *Lonely Planet* or *Rough Guide* travel guide for information about hotels and hostels in Buenos Aires and the surrounding area.

We recommend that you avoid hotels near the Constitución, Retiro and Once rail stations, as well as the stations themselves and the areas near them. While there are inexpensive hotels (about \$25), they are not safe. Consult your guidebook for hotels in a safer area, and expect to pay about \$35 per night.

Luggage Storage

IFSA-Butler does not have luggage storage facilities. You might be able to store your luggage at your hotel in Buenos Aires. Please contact your host family in order to make arrangements to leave your luggage at their home on May 30 before going to the program office for orientation.

Getting to Orientation

Orientation begins with the arrival of the group flight (American Airlines #943 arriving at 8:55 a.m. on May 30). Our office staff will meet the group flight at the airport. Look for IFSA-Butler staff members holding yellow signs that read "IFSA-Butler, COPA." They will take you (and your luggage!) to your host family's home. You'll have time to eat, rest and call your parents before meeting the group for orientation at 3 p.m. at Circolo Italiano (located at Libertad 1264).

Independent travelers (those not on the group flight) must arrive in Buenos Aires by **3 p.m. on May 30**. If you arrive before 3 p.m., you should have time to go to your host family home. If you arrive after 3 p.m., you should take one of the following transportation options and go straight to Circolo Italiano.

Shuttle: You can take a shuttle to the orientation site, but be sure it is a Manuel Tienda Leon shuttle. It's the safest shuttle service available. You'll share the shuttle with other passengers.

Taxi/Remise: You can take a remise instead, which is like a taxi, through Manuel Tienda Leon. Do not take any other kind of taxi. Manuel Tienda Leon taxis are the safest.

Circolo Italiano is located at:

Libertad 1264
Buenos Aires

Our program staff can give you additional information or directions if necessary. Call them at one of the phone numbers listed above once you arrive in Argentina. **Remember that the first mandatory meeting of orientation begins at 3 p.m. on May 30.** At that time, you'll take your Spanish placement test, meet the staff and get to know each other at the welcome dinner.

Phone Home

Please call home as soon as you get to Argentina. Your family will be worrying about you. Check with your long-distance carrier for instructions on calling home from Argentina (and anywhere else you plan to travel) **before** you leave. You can also purchase an international phone card at a *kiosko* when you arrive. They are available in increments of \$A5 or A\$6 and can be used to call within the country or abroad. Almost all public telephones operate with a phone card.

Let your parents know that you'll be very busy during orientation and the first week of classes, and you may not be able to call during that time. It's likely that you won't have time to call after you make your original call to let them know you arrived safely. We will contact them if any emergencies arise.

Updated Calendar

We've included an updated calendar. Please check to see if any of the dates associated with your program have changed.

Last-Minute Tips

- Sign up for frequent flyer miles.
- Reread the housing and health insurance sections of *Preparing to Study Abroad*.
- Photocopy your passport and tickets and give a copy to your parents.
- Give your parents the numbers of your credit cards and traveler's checks in case they are lost or stolen.
- Double-check your budget.
- Buy a travel guide or rent a video of Argentina.
- Plan to try new things, taste new foods and go where you never expected to go!

Questions? Call us at 800-858-0229 or check our Web site: www.ifsabutler.org.

England

Group Flight Departs
Arrive in London
Program Starts
IFSA-Butler Orientation
Move into Housing
University Orientation
Classes Begin
Classes End
Program Ends

LSE
Session I
July 3
July 4
July 4
July 5–6
July 6
July 6
July 7
July 24
July 25

LSE
Session II
N/A
July 25
July 25
July 26–27
July 27
July 27
July 28
August 14
August 15

Middlesex
University
June 24
June 25
June 25
June 26–27
June 27
June 28–29
June 30
August 6
August 7

Pembroke and King's
Colleges, Cambridge
June 26
June 27
June 27
June 28–29
June 29
June 30
June 30
August 22
August 23

Group Flight Departs
Arrive in London
Program Starts
IFSA-Butler Orientation
Move into Housing
University Orientation
Classes Begin
Classes End
Program Ends

St. Peter's College,
Oxford University
June 26
June 27
June 27
June 28–29
June 29 (2 p.m.)
June 30
June 30
August 8
August 9 (morning)

University of Sussex
Session I
June 19
June 20
June 20
June 20–22
June 22
June 23
June 23
July 18
July 19 (10 a.m.)

University of Sussex
Session II
N/A
July 18
July 18
July 19–20
July 20
July 21
July 21
August 15
August 16

University of the Arts
London
June 19
June 20
June 20
June 20–22
June 22
June 23–24
June 25
August 15
August 17

Group Flight Departs
Arrive in London
Program Starts
IFSA-Butler Orientation
Move into Housing
University Orientation
Classes Begin
Classes End
Program Ends

U. Westminster Session I:
Media, Arts and Design
June 19
June 20
June 20
June 20–22
June 22 (2 p.m.)
June 23
June 23
July 11
July 12 (10 a.m.)

U. Westminster Session
II: Liberal Arts
July 10
July 11
July 11
July 12–13
July 13 (2 p.m.)
July 14
July 14
August 1
August 2 (10 a.m.)

Ireland

Arrive in Ireland
Program Starts
IFSA-Butler Orientation
Move into Housing
Classes Begin
Program Ends

National University of
Ireland, Galway
June 23 (in Limerick)
June 23
June 23
June 24
June 25
July 24

Queen's University
Belfast
July 19 (in Belfast)
July 19
July 20
July 20
July 21
August 9

University College
Cork
June 28 (in Limerick)
June 28
June 28
June 29
June 30
July 26

University College
Dublin Internship
June 7 (in Dublin)
June 7
June 7
June 7
June 9
August 2

Arrive in Ireland
Program Starts
IFSA-Butler Orientation
Move into Housing
Classes Begin
Program Ends

University of
Limerick
May 27 (in Limerick)
May 27
May 27
May 28
May 29
June 18

Mexico

Arrive in Mérida
Program Starts
Move into Housing
IFSA-Butler Orientation
Classes Begin
Classes End
Last Day of Paid Housing
Program Ends

Mexico Culture and
Language at UADY
June 3
June 3
June 3
June 4–8
June 9–17
July 18
July 20
July 20

Scotland

Arrive in Edinburgh
Program Starts
IFSA-Butler Orientation
Move into Housing
Classes Begin
Classes End
Program Ends

University of Stirling Session I

June 12
June 12
June 13
June 13
June 16
July 11
July 12

University of Stirling Session II

N/A
N/A
N/A
N/A
July 14
August 8
August 9

Spain

Arrive in Málaga
Program Starts
IFSA-Butler Orientation
Classes Begin
Excursion to Sevilla
Excursion to Ronda
Classes End
Last Day of Paid Housing
Program Ends

Summer Literature and Contemporary Spain

June 13
June 13
June 14–15
June 16
June 28
July 12–13
July 25
July 26
July 26

These dates are correct as of May 5, 2008, but must be regarded as provisional given the mutability of host university calendars.

Upon arrival at your host university, check the program ending dates for changes before confirming your return travel plans. Ending dates vary from department to department, and you must complete all course obligations prior to departure. In addition, you should not make plans to travel on the final day of exams, as there may be exams on that day.

Your program housing is available only until the day after your last final exam.