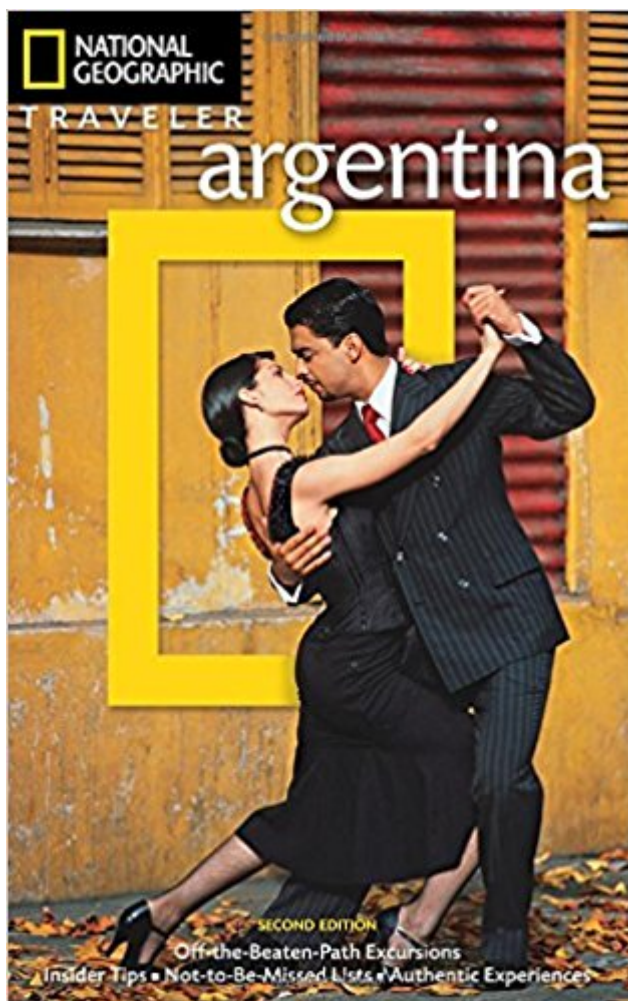


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National Geographic Traveler: Argentina, 2nd Edition



Synopsis

Aimed at active travelers who want authentic, enriching, cultural experiences and expert advice from a trustworthy source, National Geographic Travelers provide ways for people to experience a place rather than just visit, and give the true feel of each destination not easily found online. Argentina travel writer Wayne Bernhardson shares his insider knowledge in this completely updated and revised guidebook on the world's eighth largest country. Beginning in the exciting capital city of Buenos Aires, the book travels to every province, from the ice-chilled tip of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego in the south to the Incan-influenced realm of the north, taking you to the country's most famous sites, and lesser known ones as well. The book is peppered with ideas for getting behind the scenes to study the Argentine language, celebrate the tango, wine-taste in some of the world's most famous wineries, and more. Insider Tips from National Geographic and local experts show you where the locals go. Mapped walks include a self-guided ramble through BA's colonial core; drives range from the amazing landscapes of the Cafayete-Cachi Loop in Salta Province to the spectacular Sierras del Cordoba. The book is rounded out with a hefty Travelwise section, including special hotels and restaurants, shopping, activities, and entertainment.

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Customer Reviews

Currently residing in Oakland, California, WAYNE BERNHARDSON was born in North Dakota, grew up in Washington state, and holds a PhD in Geography from the University of California, Berkeley. He has taught at Berkeley, George Washington University, the University of California at Santa

Cruz, and California State University at Hayward, and has done research in Peru, Chile, Argentina and the Falkland Islands, where he spent a year as a Fulbright scholar. ELISEO MICIU was born in Montevideo, Uruguay, but grew up in Córdoba and Patagonia, Argentina. His grandfather was an artist, as was his father, a well-known painter (Georg Miciu Nicolaevici). Miciu began his career as a photographer when he arrived in Patagonia at the age of 15; at 18, he started traveling and working for national magazines and agencies. He has since traveled through Europe and the United States learning the art of photography in museums and galleries, and continues to work as a freelance photographer in Argentina. Following his first published book about north Argentina, he is working on two others.

Great guide, gives detailed information about places to visit and see.

I wish I liked this guide to Argentina more. It is not the fault of the writing, nor of the information....which is pretty good and logically organized. Quite frankly, the design of the book significantly, negatively interferes with its usefulness. Although the graphic design is stylish and contemporary in look, it defies the act of reading. I ask why the editor of this series would allow such a terrible, reader adverse design? After 10 minutes my eyes felt like they had gone 10 rounds in a boxing ring....and this was after I put on my emergency reading glasses with a 2.0 magnification. Perhaps this guide is designed to be read only when magnified on a tablet? Perhaps printed on paper books are now so obsolete that the requirement to be able to read the printed words is now totally unimportant? Small, delicate typeface printed on decent weight and quality but reflective paper, three dense page columns of text, some pages with reflective blue or green backgrounds..... I had to put the guide down every 10 minutes to rest my eyes. I would never take this with me on a trip as I would never be able to refer to it outside in bright light, or inside in low light or anywhere a traveler might need to check a guide book. Too bad, as this is exactly the type of travel guide I like: informative, factual, with background on the history, culture, geography, and politics of the region. The guide opens with an exhortation: "Traveling With Eyes Open", "Alert travelers go with a purpose and leave with a benefit." This, after all, is National Geographic. The introductory chapter is a brief "Charting Your Trip" which could have gone into more depth. This is followed by a decent length chapter on "History and Culture." Seven chapters follow, each on a specific region of Argentina. The last chapter is "Travelwise" which lists a small selection of hotels, restaurants, shopping, entertainment, and various activities. Lately, I've been a fan of the Lonely Planet guides. Sure the pictures are not as pretty, but at least they publish guide books for

travelers.....and readers.

This book was written by a geographer and a photographer, both very familiar with the country. The pictures in the book were excellent, though to me, there wasn't enough of them, and it seemed like the geographer 'led the way' a bit too much perhaps. It had tons of local maps - the maps were great. However, I really wanted to see one of Argentina with its place on the globe. I just like- when I look at a bunch of maps, to see a global placement map too. It wasn't there. There are, however, lots of little local maps, so I think it would be a good book for someone that plans on traveling to Argentina to do a bit of exploring past the big cities. Every section of the country was covered, with a lot of the highlights explored in one or two page detail. That said, the book is rather boring. The travel books I like best often include more political and cultural background, and I LOVE it when they add in folklore. Often that is what will really grab me about a place - a bit of unusual history, or mystery, or folklore. This book really left that out. Even when reading about the archaeological wonders, I never felt pulled in. There was one really good picture of an old abandoned hot springs that stood out to me. A good travel book will have me pulling up Google Earth and exploring further. I never felt the desire to do that reading this book. I read travel books for the inspiration, to learn about places, and to maybe use locales in settings for stories I write. Even then, I love to also hear about little restaurants and spots that are very popular with the locals. This travel book didn't have a lot of that. It was very heavy on the geography, but it seemed to lack the spice of life. I feel asleep reading it more than once. Usually I like to take the travel books with me when I know I'll have a wait, since they are always a series of short write ups about places. This book though- I took it with me, I got it out, I looked at it, but I always just put it up quickly. It's rather boring to me.

I know so little about Argentina, except for Buenos Aires, and the occasional writer or tango, that everything in this book seemed new and amazing. I had no idea how sparsely populated Argentina nor really even its size. It is about the same size as India but has a population of 40 million? It is a gorgeous and complicated place. I was mostly interested in the history and the politics of this country. But every time I open the book I learn more, not just history and politics, but about the South, the driving tours, dinosaurs, and yes, much cultural information about religion and economics. My husband and I have often talked about sailing around the world, and of course, around Cape Horn. I can see now, how it would be amazing to sail up or down the coastline. This book is an incredible resource of information. I am amazed every time I open it to learn more. I was torn by how small the book is. I wanted it to be a giant coffee table book, or even like a giant book of

maps, to be able to see more of it. But then that would defeat the purpose of being a guide. Maybe guide books should be bigger.

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