

Mendoza Travel Hacks

Getting there

- **Airport:** [Mendoza's international airport, Francisco Gabrielli- El Plumerillo \(MDZ\)](#):
 - Only 20 mins away from the city and you can call an uber to pick you up
 - [LATAM airlines](#) or [Aerolineas Argentinas](#) are your best options to find flights.
 - You will most likely connect through Santiago Chile or Buenos Aires
- Train: [Rail Ninjo](#) is the best place to look for trains
- You need a valid passport that doesn't expire before 6 months of entry plus 2 blank pages.
- You can visit for 90 days
- Always Check your embassy in the country you are traveling to.

Weather

- Mendoza summers are brutal from December through March, if you want a lot of outdoor activities then it's best to go in autumn or spring.
- They do not get a lot of rain

Culture

- Be aware, Mendoza is lively, fun and a beautiful place. It is pretty safe most places however do not leave your phone on the table while eating out or have your bag opened or out of your possession.
- The language is Spanish and some can speak English but not everyone. It is always good to learn enough to get your point across in restaurants because some people won't speak English to you at all but using the translator app helped a lot.
- Tipping is reserved for outliers in service; it isn't required or expected. Sometimes there is a tipping option total but you can decline.

Transportation

- Uber's are a great resource because they are VERY cheap. In rural areas sometimes uber is not the best option, oftentimes they don't want to drive a long way. Also ubers don't like accepting short trips.
- Taxis are black and yellow and clearly marked. They are everywhere and another great option. Just look out if you are in more rural areas because you might want to get someone to call one for you

General living

- Debit cards are accepted most places here but not all credit cards (Amex). If you pay by card choose to pay in AR pesos because your bank will charge a conversion fee if you pay in your currency.
- Most restaurants and businesses close in the afternoon between 2-5 ish so always check open hours.
- They have the Australian plugs and some european availability
- Flushing toilet paper is not allowed everywhere
- Carrefour is the main supermarket used in Argentina.
- There are many gyms, sports clubs, and parks in each city. Most of the tennis clubs are members only so you can't use the courts but there are some public paddle tennis places and gyms that let you pay by the day.

Money Exchange

It is better to bring money to Argentina to be exchanged at a Money Exchange but it is tricky, first know the exchange rate because the Argentinian Peso is VERY unstable. (They have to use QR codes at most restaurants because they would have to reprint menus weekly)

DO NOT take cash from an ATM or Cajero. If you have to get pesos out. They charge crazy amounts in fees and the exchange rate is horrible, plus most are not legit ones. Also because of the instability of the peso using your debit card means you will be paying tons of fees and not the blue rate exchange for your money. But don't fear... You have a couple of options when it comes to money exchange.

- Exchange cash at a Cash Beouro or Cambio. This can be confusing and take time because places run out of money quickly. But just remember if you find one that will exchange your cash it is illegal for them to charge an interest/exchange fee. The US dollar will always get you the best exchange rate so if you can bring USD.
- Another way in Mendoza is to go on el calle 9 de julio and you will hear people yelling out "cambio" they will exchange money for you but MAKE SURE you know the exchange rate and are willing to do negotiating. I haven't done this but I saw others doing it as we walked to an exchange office.
- If you don't want to bring cash with you, the best way of exchanging money in Argentina for foreigners is to use Western Union (which works with [PagoFacil](#)) and XOOM (which works with [Cobroexpress](#)) to send yourself some money to pick up locally, and this will be at the blue rate.
 - a. The Blue rate is the exchange rate.
 - b. All you have to do is set up a western union account and download the app.
 - c. You can transfer money to this account and withdraw at a western union and you will need your passport to get the money out
 - d. This can take a few days so do ahead of time.

- Please. Please don't make it too obvious though you are looking to exchange money. Do not make yourself a target by flashing dollars around and asking people openly where to get money exchanged.