



Arrival in Puerto Iguazu

By Matthieu

We've arrived in Iguazu. We're about to take our first steps in Argentina, and the sight of the plane made us want to.

Exit without a hitch, but it takes us a while to find the information point. A very friendly lady explained that to get to Puerto Iguazu from the Brazilian airport, all we had to do was take the 120 bus towards the center and stop in front of the Carima hotel, walk to the border (100m which turned out to be 800m), do all our checks and wait for the bus. 6.40 Reals later, we arrived at the border, which was very simple and inexpensive (around €1.50 for two).

Crossing the border into Brazil was easy, as we hadn't lost our exit papers. Then we wait for the bus to Argentina, which arrives after a few minutes' wait (a bus about every 20 minutes). We pay the 8Reals (€2) we have left and off we go. We went to all the banks in town (3), one of which was closed, one that wouldn't let us withdraw more than 500 pesos (30€) and one that would charge us 2000 pesos (note also that only one ATM out of 4 accepted our card).

In the end, the driver asks us to get off with all our stuff, we understand that we have to cross the border and that he'll pick us up afterwards, but we have to hurry because we'd read in the backpacker's guide that he could leave without us. We pass through customs almost unhindered. In our haste, we almost missed the X-ray check of our bags. Fortunately, the customs officers called us to order.:) In the end, it took us 5 minutes to get back on the bus.

We're finally in Argentina, we stop at the terminus so there's no stress and our hostel is right next door. We take a break at the hostel, and do a quick Internet search to find nearby banks. We need to change money or withdraw cash, as we don't have a single Argentine peso...

The tour of the town is quick and disappointing - after all, you're here for the falls, not for the architecture. The bank is full of people and the info point is closed until 4pm. We fall back on a little guide restaurant with wifi and air conditioning (yes, it's super hot outside). When it's time to pay: "ah no, we only take the visa" Flo, forced to go to the bank while I waited in the restaurant. After waiting at least 45 minutes, she returns with the money needed to pay for the meal. It was our first contact with the Argentine banking system, and certainly not our last.

We went to all the banks in town (3), one was closed, the other wouldn't allow us to withdraw more than 500 pesos (€30) and the other 2000 with charges (note also that only one ATM out of 4 accepted our card). You couldn't withdraw more than 2,000 at a time, but you could take a total of 10,000. It's a good way to charge 5 times the fee. It was our first contact with the Argentine banking system, and certainly not our last. We took off the minimum to last until Buenos Aires, hoping to find something better.

Before heading home, we stop off at the bus terminal to buy our tickets for Buenos Aires (20 hours by bus) and Iguazu Falls. We try our first negotiations, but it's not easy to find the best price.

Finally, we headed back to the hostel to rest and prepare for tomorrow.

Donnez une note à cet article :
0 avis (0/5)

Merci de partager notre article :

- [Share on X \(Opens in new window\) X](#)
- [Share on Facebook \(Opens in new window\) Facebook](#)
- [Share on Pinterest \(Opens in new window\) Pinterest](#)
- [Share on WhatsApp \(Opens in new window\) WhatsApp](#)
- [More](#)