

## On my way to Buenos Aires

**D**aniel's flight was scheduled to leave at 7 p.m., so he got to the airport at 3 p.m. just in case. Countless bags rolled in the halls of the airport and the people shared hugs with their loved ones, kisses and even shed some tears. Since it was Daniel's first time taking a plane, he wasn't really sure where to go or what to do. Luckily, though, the guards were kind and guided him at every moment. They weighted his luggage and after checking that everything was in order, Daniel went through customs. He passed through the metal detector and then went to the area where he'd wait for his respective flight.

Minutes before the time scheduled, they called the passengers to board the plane to Argentina. The flight attendants kindly welcomed Daniel and ushered him to his window seat. He could see other planes, scattered around the airport. And the people in the distance looked so small, as if he were seeing them from a tall building. The flight attendants explained in detail what everyone should do in case of an emergency, and then the pilot proceeded to take off.

The following hours went by slowly while Daniel watched on the screen in front of him the plane approaching its destination. There was little turbulence and they arrived to Argentina before the estimated time. On their way out of the plane, the passengers congratulated the cabin crew for a job well done. Daniel breathed in the foreign air, wrapping up because of the early morning cold. They put a stamp on his passport and welcomed him to Argentina. He followed some passengers to the luggage claim area and then changed his money to Argentine pesos to manage these days he'd be in the city. He decided to take an Uber since taxis were quite pricey around the airport. Just like every other tourist, Daniel looked around, mesmerized by the city's beauty and diversity. Its architecture gave off the feeling of being in Latin America and Europe all at once.

The manager of the hostel where he rented a room helped him with his luggage and ushered him to his room. He slept a couple of hours and got ready to meet his friends in the morning. The moment they saw him, they hugged him and told him how much they had missed him. They had Argentine facturas for breakfast, typical pastries to have in the morning. Once they decided they had had enough facturas, they headed to Microcentro, where Daniel took several pictures of the iconic Obelisco de Buenos Aires. Though it was the beginning of spring, the cold from winter still lingered and the citizens were wearing dark coats and some even scarves and gloves. Compared to Daniel's hometown, where it was perpetually sunny, the weather here felt like being in Antarctica.

The rest of the day they visited some of the most common tourist spots, like San Telmo, where they saw the statue of Mafalda and walked down the oldest streets of the city; Palermo, where they took pictures of the beautiful and green parks, watching the flowers slowly blossom; Puerto Madero, where they had

delicious asado accompanied by wine from the province of Mendoza. When the night fell, they were all exhausted from walking around. They took the subte, the fastest transportation method to their different destinations. Every other station Daniel said goodbye to one of his friends, until he was alone in the train. He had listened to his friends' instructions on how to get to his station so he was not nervous. Besides there were colored indications in every line of the subway. It was nearly impossible to get lost here.

Compared to Microcentro, Palermo was much quieter. Instead of tall buildings, there was a lot of green wherever you looked. Daniel could swear every other block he found another park. Perhaps that was why the air felt so good around here. There were also lots of things he couldn't help photographing, from street art, colorful houses, or just the architecture itself. He had taken so many pictures that by this point he just carried his phone on his hands to accelerate the process. Unfortunately, when he was about to take a picture, his phone screen went black. He tried turning it on. It wouldn't work. He tried to remember when he had last charged his phone but couldn't. He started panicking, not because he couldn't take more pictures; he simply had no idea how to get to his hostel. He vaguely remembered the street number, so without the map on his phone he had no chance of getting there any time soon. He took a deep breath, trying to calm down. Sure, it was late. He was alone and lost in a city completely strange to him. Still there were a decent amount of people on the street. The bars were crowded and the smell of all kinds of food emanated from the restaurants in his surroundings. Things were fine. So before he could change his mind, he worked up the courage, and approached a group of strangers, asking for directions. They all spoke Spanish and Daniel was glad he remembered most of his Spanish from high school. He picked up all kinds of accents, from Mexican, Venezuelan, Argentine, to Puerto Rican. There was a bit of every Latin American country in this group of friends.

They were nice enough to help him, so when they asked them if he wanted to stay with them for a little bit and talk, he couldn't refuse. They sat at a table outside a bar and the time went by. They shared laughs and interesting stories. They took pictures and exchanged phone numbers with the promise they would write to each other. Daniel couldn't believe what time it was when he saw his watch. He guessed time really did fly when you were having fun. The sun would go up any minute now and there were still many people on the street. He hugged his new friends goodbye and walked a few blocks to his hostel. He smiled, thinking about everything that had happened to him in the last 24 hours and wondered what else Buenos Aires had in store for him.

**Answer the following questions:**

1- How many times had Daniel travel by himself before his trip to Argentina?

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2- Were the guards mean to him at the airport?

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3- Was the flight to Argentina delayed?

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4- What was the weather like when he arrived to Argentina?

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5- Did Daniel take a cab to his hostel?

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6- Did Daniel go out with his friends at night?

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7- What were the people in Argentina wearing?

\_\_\_\_\_

8- What places did Daniel and his friends visit?

\_\_\_\_\_

9- In Daniel's opinion, how was Palermo compared to Microcentro?

\_\_\_\_\_

10- What happened to Daniel's phone?

\_\_\_\_\_

11- What helped Daniel calm down?

\_\_\_\_\_

12- Did Daniel's new friends speak different languages?

\_\_\_\_\_

13- Did Daniel go with them to a restaurant?

\_\_\_\_\_

14- Did Daniel spend a few minutes with them?

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**Conjugate the verbs correctly (in simple past or past perfect):**

1- Daniel (**to get**) to the airport at 3 p.m.

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2- Daniel never (**to fly**) on a plane before this trip.

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3- The guards (**to go through**) Daniel's luggage and (**to check**) that everything (**to be**) in order.

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4- Daniel (**to be**) afraid of getting on the plane but (**to calm down**) when he (**to board**) it.

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5- The flight to Buenos Aires (**to last**) about 7 hours.

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6- Since it (**to be**) really cold when he got to Argentina, Daniel (**to put on**) a jacket.

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7- Daniel (**to fall**) asleep in the waiting room. He (**to wake up**) 2 hours later.

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8- Daniel (**to see**) pictures of Argentina but (**to be**) surprised when he got there.

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9- The elevator in the hostel (**to not be**) (**to work**) when Daniel (**to get**) there. They (**to fix**) it later.

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10- Daniel (**to walk**) through El Rosedal de Palermo just 1 hour because it (**to be**) quite late.

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11- The meat in Puerto Madero (**to taste**) amazing but it (**to not be**) cheap at all.

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12- Daniel (**to get**) really nervous when he (**to realize**) he (**to be**) lost.

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13- Daniel (**to be**) glad he (**to study**) Spanish before and now (**to speak**) it so well.

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**Glosario:**

Flight: vuelo

To do (something) just in case: hacer (algo) por si acaso/para estar seguro.

Luckily: afortunadamente/por suerte

To weight the luggage/bags: pesar las maletas

Customs: aduana

To board the plane: abordar el avión

Flight attendants/cabin crew: aeromozas/tripulantes de cabina

To take off: despegar

To take a breath: respirar/tomar un respiro

Foreign lands: tierras foráneas

To wrap up/cover up (against cold weather): abrigar(se) (del frío)

Early morning (1 to 5 am): madrugada

To stamp the passport: sellar el pasaporte

To welcome (someone): dar(le) la bienvenida (a alguien)/recibir a alguien

Baggage claim area: área de reclamo de equipaje

To change/exchange money: cambiar dinero

To manage: manejar(se)/sobrevivir

To give off the feeling of (something): dar la sensación de (algo)

Coat: abrigo

Scarf: bufanda

Gloves: guantes

To blossom: florecer

Nearly: casi

To swear: jurar

(Something) you can't help doing: (algo) que no puedes evitar hacer

Itself: en sí (mismo)

To go black: apagar(se)/poner(se) oscuro

To start panicking: entrar en pánico

A decent amount of (something): un número considerable de (algo)

To calm down: calmar(se)/tranquilizar(se)

To work up the courage to do (something): armar(se) de valor para hacer (algo)

To be crowded: estar a tope/full de personas

To pick up (words or accents): entender una que otra (palabra o acento)

To refuse: rehusar(se)

For the time to go by: pasar las horas

To have in store: tener guardado/deparar