

TEMPERATE SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina is the world's eighth largest country. Its name means 'silvery' in Spanish: some of the early settlers came here to mine silver. But today, Argentina's most important product is cattle. Cool grasslands called the Pampas (see map below) are ideal for cattle-grazing.

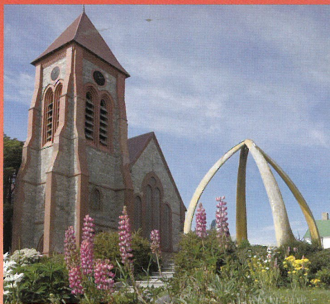
Argentina is a varied country: the north-west is hot and dry, and the south is cold and dry. The frontier with Chile runs high along the top of the Andes.

Buenos Aires, the capital city, is the biggest city in South America; it has 13 million people. The name means 'good air', but petrol fumes have now polluted the air.

Paraguay and **Uruguay** are two countries with small populations: you can find the details near the flags on page 86. Nearly half the population of Uruguay lives in the capital city, Montevideo, which is on the coast. It is an important South American port. In contrast Paraguay is a landlocked country. Find its capital on the map. Animal farming is the most important occupation in both these countries.

All these four countries – Chile, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay – have Spanish as their official language. Most of the people have European ancestors, except in Paraguay where there are a lot of South American Indians.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS



Port Stanley, capital of the Falkland Islands. The monument by the cathedral is a reminder of the whaling industry in the past. Today, fishing and sheep farming are important. These islands are a British colony in the South Atlantic with about 3000 people living there. They are about 480 km east of Argentina, which claims them as the Islas Malvinas.



▲ **Santiago, capital of Chile**, has a beautiful setting between the Andes and the coastal mountains. A third of Chile's people live in Santiago. Its name means 'St James' – the patron saint of Spain, which once ruled Chile.

