

# VERTO HOUSING IN BUENOS AIRES

Welcome to your home away from home! Read on for information about what to expect in your accommodations.

## HOMESTAYS

### Why choose a homestay?

You will have the unique experience of living with a local family. Homestays are a fantastic opportunity to gain insight into the authentic porteño lifestyle.

Some of the benefits of a Verto Buenos Aires homestay include:

- **Cultural immersion**, by getting out of your comfort zone and learning about another way of life.
- **Daily breakfast and dinner**, helping you spend less on groceries and meals.
- **Independence**, since many host families will be busy with their day-to-day life.
- **A guaranteed single room**, which offers a bit more privacy and space.
- **A more mature environment**, which could be a good fit for students who feel their religious beliefs or cultural background might clash with typical aspects of university dorm culture.
- **An easier transition** for students who haven't traveled or lived independently before, since you will have food prepared for you and be surrounded by friendly hosts who know the area well.

Every participant's experience will be unique and depends on the effort of both the hosts and the student. Many students become good friends with their host families and stay in touch with them afterward. Argentine homestay families are friendly and eager to share about themselves and learn about you. But like anything, you will get out what you put in!

### What can you expect at your homestay?

**A safe and comfortable home:** All hosts are vetted by our homestay provider for the highest health and safety standards. You can expect to be provided with basics including a bedroom, a bathroom (likely shared), Wi-Fi throughout the house, bed linens, towels, and weekly cleaning of the bedroom.

**An adjustment period:** Sharing a house with new people can seem daunting at first, and you must be flexible to ensure you get along. Please remember that communication is the key to a successful homestay experience. Be sure to discuss the rules of the house with your family and keep them informed of your plans when you will be away, etc. If you are unsure of anything, just ask.

**Diverse host families:** Many students expect to live with a young couple that has no children. Though this is sometimes the case, Verto accepts families of all forms and from all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexuality, origin, or religion. Your host family could be a single mother or an older couple with two dogs. They could have children, pets, or even other international, including U.S., students in the house. Whatever the makeup of your host family, we are confident that all students and families chosen will be able to respect one another's differences and learn from each other.

**Different meal cultures:** Breakfast and dinner are included in your homestay, though it may look different depending on the host. Many regularly have breakfast and dinner together as a way to share space, while other hosts prefer to eat independently.

**Different accommodations:** Homestay houses vary widely. Students will have a single room, but will likely share a bathroom. Many families live in a one-floor or duplex apartment that may or may not have a small terrace, balcony, or backyard. Buenos Aires is a populous city and your dwellings might be smaller in size than the ones you are accustomed to back home.

## Where are the homestays located?

Homestay locations will depend on the number of students in your cohort, as well as what is available from the homestay provider. Hosts tend to live in urban areas close to the city center, typically throughout the Palermo, Barrio Norte, and Recoleta areas, but could be in other neighborhoods. This means that your commute into Verto Study Center shouldn't take more than 40 minutes.

## Is my housing location safe?

Verto works with the homestay provider to choose residences based on the highest standards of health and safety.

Homestay neighborhoods are known to be generally safe and student-friendly. There may be aspects that surprise students though, depending on their hometown. For example, Buenos Aires' homeless population is seen in many areas – including around student homestays – and may beg passers-by for money or food. The homeless population's presence does not mean that the area is unsafe or unpleasant.

Throughout your experience, you are expected to follow basic safety best practices both while you are out on the streets of Buenos Aires, and also within your homestay. It is your responsibility to ensure that you lock the doors and windows of your homestay and that no one can gain access to your home without a key. Never leave doors propped open. If anyone asks to gain access to your home, ask them for identification. Do not let people in under the assumption that they are maintenance workers or housekeeping staff - be sure to check with your host family first.

## What if something in my room/home breaks?

Don't worry! Please inform your homestay family. The homestay provider has an amazing maintenance team that will help out with whatever needs to be fixed.

If you accidentally caused the damage, it's no problem, however, you will be expected to cover the expense and will be provided a receipt after the contractor fixes the damage. If you didn't cause the problem, there will be no charge to you.

## What to look forward to:

You will be taking in your surroundings not as a tourist, but as a local, fully immersing yourself in the *porteño* lifestyle. With locals for neighbors, commuting to and from class, grocery shopping at local grocery stores, and walking more than you've walked in a while, you will soon see exactly what it means to be living in the beautiful, multicultural, historical, and modern metropolis of Buenos Aires.

The best advice we can give is to come with an open mind.

## What will be different in my accommodations that I might not expect?

**HOUSE LAYOUT & SIZE:** Homes are usually smaller and less spacious than in the U.S. The bedrooms, living areas, bathrooms, and kitchens might be different shapes and sizes than you are expecting. You will likely share a bathroom but never with more than five people. Please be aware that not all housing arrangements will allow for individual doors to be locked.

**ELEVATORS:** Elevators in Buenos Aires may not be very new or modern. They are often not automatic. Some homestays may not have an elevator and you'll be expected to use the stairs.

**SPANISH AT HOME:** You can expect to be practicing Spanish 100% of the time as your host family probably won't speak English (though some do). This is a great chance to delve into the culture and customs of the country as well as the nuances of the language that can only be learned through conversations with native Spanish speakers.

**COOKING:** You will have limited access to the kitchen. You will be able to store food in the fridge and the cabinets but may need to ask your host family to use the kitchen for cooking purposes.

**COMMUTING:** Your homestay location will give you easy access to public transportation, but keep in mind that it can take a while to get from one side of the city to another. Most *porteños* commute around an hour to work from their home, which can include a journey on a bus, train, subway, and a walk – all for one journey. Don't worry, we will help you navigate the transportation system so you can get around with ease and you will be given a SUBE card as part of your Verto experience.

**ITEMS NOT INCLUDED:** Lunches or snacks. Laundry is done independently, outside of the home. Expect to budget about USD 4 per week for laundry.

## We look forward to helping you settle in!

*Please see below for example photos of what housing may look like. Note that these photos are general and do not represent the exact homestay or room you will personally be assigned. Additionally, the photos may give the impression of a larger space than reality due to a wide-angle lens.*



# APARTMENTS

## Your Apartment & Neighbors

Apartments typically have:

- 1-2 shared bedrooms - many bedrooms accommodate 1-2 students
- A shared living space
- A kitchen
- Washing machine for common use in the building. (There are also many laundry shops nearby).
- Bed linens & towels are provided

Rest assured that all Verto participants will have the same amenities, with advantages to living in each area and building. Please note that you will likely have less personal and storage space than you may be accustomed to at home.

Your building will likely be in a residential area, so it's important to understand that your neighbors will consist of locals who work every day, have families, and expect the neighborhood to be respected in regards to noise, trash outside, etc. You have to remember to be respectful of those non-students living in buildings around you.

## Where are the apartments located?

Apartments are located in the neighborhood of the Verto Study Center, 15 minutes away.

## Is my housing location safe?

Verto housing is chosen based on the highest standards of health and safety and located in known-to-be safe neighborhoods that are within practical commuting distance to the Verto Study Center.

## What if something in my room/home breaks?

Don't worry! Please report it to the maintenance team/front office staff at the apartment building. If you accidentally caused the damage, it's no problem, though you will be expected to cover the expense and will be provided a receipt after the contractor fixes the damage. If you didn't cause the problem, there will be no charge to you.

## What will be different in my accommodations that I might not expect?

**APARTMENT LAYOUT & SIZE:** Apartments are usually smaller and less spacious than in the U.S. The bedrooms, living areas, bathrooms, and kitchens might be different shapes and sizes than you are

accustomed to. You will share a bathroom with your roommates, but never with more than five people. Please be aware that not all housing arrangements will allow for individual doors to be locked.

**ELEVATORS:** Elevators in Buenos Aires may not be very new or modern. They are often not automatic. Some apartments may not have an elevator and you'll be expected to use the stairs.

**COOKING:** Part of your new experience in Buenos Aires will include learning to prepare meals for yourself in your shared kitchen. Your apartment will have a stovetop, refrigerator, microwave, and basic cookery. Verto staff will show you some local stores in your neighborhood and can share tips on affordable food options in the city.

**COMMUTING:** Your apartment will give you easy access to public transportation, but remember that it can take a while to get from one side of the city to another. Most porteños commute around an hour to work from their home, which can include a journey on a bus, train, subway, and a walk – all for one journey. Don't worry; we will help you navigate the transportation system so you can get around easily and be given a SUBE card as part of your Verto experience.

**ITEMS NOT INCLUDED:** Meals. Laundry is done independently (via the apartment's shared laundry facility or outside services). Expect to budget about \$10 USD per week for laundry.

## More resources

- [Host Mom and Home Tour](#)
- [Dinner with my Host Family](#)

## Although it may take some getting used to, your accommodations will feel like home before you know it!

*Please see below for example photos of what apartments may look like. Note that these photos are general and do not represent the exact apartment room you will personally be assigned. Additionally, the photos may give the impression of a larger space than reality due to a wide-angle lens.*

