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I think it would have been easy to see the smallness of the Swarthmore in Buenos Aires program as a deficit, but my cohort and I viewed it as an asset. I had friends participating in some of the larger study abroad programs in Buenos Aires and while they sat back on pre-planned excursions, led by english-speaking guides, my cohort and I took it upon ourselves to plan our own adventures. My experience was fundamentally better because of it.

We read the guidebooks, asked our professors, program managers, host families, and friends we'd met at restaurants and bars for suggestions. We took weekend trips to Iguazu Falls, Mendoza, Tierra de Fuego, Bariloche, and rented a cabin in Tigre only accessible by boat. During the week we attended lectures, films, theatrical performances, and ate at restaurants throughout the city where we met locals who eventually became a part of our cohort. (A fellow Swattie and I trained for and ran a 10k with Argentine friends we met through the running community, for example.)

We did it all on our own and there was an exhilaration and pride that came from experiencing Buenos Aires and Argentina as a new resident rather than a tourist. That is something I'd like to stress: we identified as new residents of the city which meant to us that we had to be more proactive about learning about and participating in our new community. While there is certainly a learning curve associated with integrating oneself into a new city, I left with a deeper appreciation and admiration

for Buenos Aires than my friends who participated in the larger study abroad programs because of how I learned to live like a *porteño*.