economical option to travel. The Buenos Aires "Subte" subway system is clean, easy to use, and inexpensive. If you can get directions from locals, this is also a cheap, efficient way to get around the city.

TOURIST INFORMATION The Tourist Information Center is located at 223 Julio A. Roca Avenue.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES Argentine Spanish (called Rioplatanese or castellano by locals) is very unique, as it uses the "vosotros" "vos" subject form in the place of "tu," and its musical style sounds a lot like Italian. Porteños also use a lot of lunfardo (slang), which may sound a little confusing to foreigners.

- Che an informal way to call someone's attention; equivalent to "Hey".
- Chau saying "good bye" that is reminiscent of the Italian farewell ciao.
- Chorro an informal to say thief.
- Guita an informal way to say money.
- Bancame un toque- saying "wait one minute".
- Birra an informal way to say beer that is reminiscent of the Italian language.
- Bondi an informal way to say bus.
- Tacho an informal way to say taxi.

NOTES

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GENERAL INFORMATION Buenos Aires is like a love that one can never forget... From the tango music echoing down the cobblestone streets of San Telmo to the delicious smells and tastes of Argentine beef asados and Malbec wines, there is something undeniably seductive about Buenos Aires. Located on the Río de la Plata on the South American east coast of Argentina, Buenos Aires is the country's largest metropolitan area with over thirteen million porteños (people of the port). The port's history is marked by an influx of millions of immigrants during the 19th and 20th centuries, making Buenos Aires a city of mixed, colorful cultures. The fused cultural traditions and European colonial architecture have led many to refer to Buenos Aires as the Paris of South America.

Comparisons with Europe are not enough to describe Buenos Aires. The past participates in a suggestive dance with the present throughout the 48 barrios of the city. Just as La Boca, the colorful buildings are memories of an era as the capital's first port, Puerto Madero's promenades display the modern face of the Port of Buenos Aires. Palermo Viejo exudes decades-old charm while the chic boutiques and restaurants of Palermo Soho and Hollywood manifest the talents of fashion-conscious designers. Past icons of Buenos Aires, like Diego Armando Maradona, Evita Peron, Ernesto "Che" Guevara, and Jorge Luis Borges, live on today as new generations both glorify and vilify these sons and daughters of the city. A tango of generations, tradition and passion makes Buenos Aires an alluring place that you feel, not just visit. With one taste, the smell, the sights and sounds of Buenos Aires, it is all too easy to begin a lifelong love affair with this city.

HISTORY Argentine poet Jorge Luis Borges once wrote, "I find it hard to believe Buenos Aires ever had a beginning". It did have a historical start with the Querendí nomadic tribes who lived in the Buenos Aires area for thousands of years before the Spanish arrived. It took two attempts to successfully establish Buenos Aires as a Spanish colonial city. In 1580, the Spanish sent Juan de Garay to establish a fort on the foundation of Pedro de Mendoza's failed settlement from 1536. What began as a backwater fort in an estuary grew into a strong trading port for silver and slaves in the 1600s. The Spanish attempted to control its trade by forcing all exports to go through the Viceroyalty capital of Lima. Local traders indignantly ignored the rules until 1776, when the Spanish Crown finally granted the port legal status as the capital of the Viceroyalty of Rio de la Plata. On May 25, 1810, the Buenos Aires government ousted the Viceroyalty and began Argentina's revolutionary movement, culminating in the 1816 formation of the United Provinces of the Rio Plata, formally separating them from Spain. From the 1860s onwards, Buenos Aires attracted millions of European immigrants, especially from Italy, Spain, England, France, and Germany, giving the city's culture and architecture a distinctly European flair. By the end of the 1800s, several changes transformed Buenos Aires. In 1879, a bloody military campaign against Argentina's native tribes, called the "Conquista del Desierto" tragically cleared farmland that boosted the nation's agricultural economy. In 1880, the city became a federal district, making Buenos Aires the political and economic capital of Argentina.





## Buenos Aires





By the early 1900s, the city's infrastructure had the functional and aesthetic characteristics of a modern metropolis. Political unrest spawned by the disparities between the Argentine rich and poor turned Buenos Aires into a city of extreme parties, protests, and military coups. In the 1940s, the city was a political stage for General Juan Peron and his wife, Evita Duarte Peron, who captivated the working class with the promise of the "third position" between capitalism and communism. A series of military coups and failed regimes, including the infamous "Dirty Wars" of the 1970s, rocked Buenos Aires, before finally returning to democracy in 1983. Argentina's liberalized capitalist policies of the 1990s spurred prosperity in Buenos Aires until the economy and political system finally imploded in 2001. Despite rough times, the lure of the city's sights and culture has made Buenos Aires one of the top tourist destinations in the world.

## **BUENOS AIRES PLACES OF INTEREST**

The political heart of Buenos Aires is the Plaza de Mayo in El Centro along the Avenida de Mayo, which is touted as one of the world's widest avenues. It is named for the start of Ar-

gentina's independence movement on May 25, 1810. The plaza is intimately connected to the nation's history, as it has been the scene of countless political events. The plaza is surrounded by many capital landmarks, namely the Casa Rosada, the presidential palace; the **Cabildo**, the colonial city headquarters; the Metropolitan Cathedral, with the adjacent Mausoleum of San Martin, the tomb of the national independence patriot; the current City Hall, and the oldest monument in Buenos Aires, and the May Pyramid, built in 1811.

**1** Italian immigrants to **La Boca** made the barrio into the col-Z orful area it is today. El Caminito is the neighborhood's most famous street, as tango dancers perform and local artists sell their latest works.

**7** The Recoleta Cemetery is no ordinary eternal resting place. A visit to the high-walled enclave of mausoleums that enshrine Argentina's most wealthy and notorious names is a step back in time. Mourners still flock to Evita Peron's grave, as well as those of politicians, writers, and other notable Argentines.

Palermo's Parque Tres de Febrero is like an oasis in the Local Cuisine: Argentine cuisine boldly features its grass-fed middle of the city. The 965-acre park has a large, picturcattle as its starring role. In Buenos Aires, steakhouses abound esque lake surrounded by several bridges, as well as a planetarwhere you can try a traditional parrillada of grilled meats, inium with hundreds of roses and flowering plants. cluding bife de lomo (filet mignon), bife de chorizo (bone-in sirloin), chorizos (spicy sausages), morcillas (blood sausage), Parque Tres de Febrero is a short walk away from the and chinchulines (chitterlings). Be sure to also order provolta Zoological Gardens, another urban refuge filled with po-(thick cuts of grilled provolone cheese) and buttery mollejas lar bears, camels, elephants, and roaming peacocks. (sweetbreads).

A trip to Buenos Aires is incomplete without a visit to Pla-**O** za Dorrego, the heart of the barrio of San Telmo and the Many Italian dishes have been adapted to the Argentine palate. Pizzas, fresh pastas, and milanesas (thin breaded meat ofsecond oldest plaza in the city. The Sunday antique market atten served with ketchup) dominate local menus. Porteños even tracts locals and tourists alike who search for everything from have a tradition of eating ñoquis (gnocchi) on the 29th day of old tango records to Evita memorabilia. the month for good luck.

- Located in Palermo Chico, the Museo de Arte Latino-Porteños take their sweets seriously. Dulce de leche (caramelamericano de Buenos Aires - MALBA for short - feaized condensed milk) fills everything from medialunas (croistures one of the world's best collections of Latin American art sants) to alfajores (cookie sandwiches), dozens of ice cream Permanent exhibitions include works by Frida Kahlo and Diego flavors, and cakes (like milhojas). Rivera.

Drink Specialties: Argentina's signature red wine, Malbec, is **Beyond Buenos Aires** "the" wine to pair with beef, cheese, and heavy pastas, thanks to Located in the northern part of Greater Buenos Aires, San Isidro its full-bodied character. Torrontés is the signature white wine is a city especially famous for its designation as the Rugby Nagrown only in Argentina. Fruity and fragrant, Torrontés goes tional Capital. The Mitre Plaza has two levels, including a 1910 best with spicy foods, as well as light cheeses and seafood. monument dedicated to former President Bartolomé Mitre.

Yerba Mate is not just Argentina's national drink. It is a nation-Follow the lead of many porteños who travel outside the city al custom. Traditionally brewed in a mate (gourd) and drunk to the rural refuge of nearby estancias (ranches). Visitors are through a bombilla (a silver sieved straw), mate is meant to be welcome at several estancias that provide traditional gaucho shared among a group of friends. (Argentine cowboy) horse shows, as well as the opportunity to enjoy an Argentine asado (barbeque).

SHOPPING FACILITIES Buenos Aires' best souvenirs include leather and silver products. For the best stores, visit the central A UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site since 1984, Iguazú shopping area along Calle Florida and Avenida Santa Fe, which Falls is one of the most breathtaking spots in South America stretches from the west side of Plaza San Martin. Fashionistas The Iguazú River starts in Brazil and then flows over 270 waterwill love Buenos Aires' Palermo Soho and Palermo Hollywood falls along the Argentine-Brazilian border, the most spectacular for its boutiques featuring local designers and European clothand largest being Devil's Throat. ing brands. Visit one of the many shopping complexes, including Galerias Pacífico, Alto Palermo, and Patio Bullrich.

Famed for its wineries and history, Mendoza is the capital of the province of the same name in western Argentina. General LOCAL CURRENCY Argentina's currency is the peso (ARS). José de San Martín, Argentina's liberator, spent time in Men-Several banks have ATMs and will accept traveler's checks for doza while planning his independence plans. Mendoza's vinea fee. A few shops accept U.S. dollars and euros. Major credit yards have produced some of Argentina's most famous wines. cards are widely accepted but traveler's checks rarely are.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Buenos Aires and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure, Shore Excursion TV Channel or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Feel free to bargain at markets, but prices are fixed in stores and restaurants.

Tipping: Expect to tip 10% in restaurants.

- POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES The Correo Argentina (Argentine Post Office) is located at 132 Libertador Ave. close to the Plaza San Martín.
- Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card:
- AT&T: 0800.555.4288 MCI: 0800.555.1002
- TRANSPORTATION Metered taxis are the best way for visitors to navigate Buenos Aires. Beware of unregulated taxis who may overcharge. The buses, known as colectivos, are another