





History continued

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.

#### POINTS OF INTEREST

**1** 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 Argentina'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.

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

**3** **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.

**4** **Palermo's Parque Tres de Febrero** is like an oasis in the middle of the city. The 965-acre park has a large, picturesque lake surrounded by several bridges, as well as a planetarium with hundreds of roses and flowering plants.

**5** **Parque Tres de Febrero** is a short walk away from the **Zoological Gardens**, another urban refuge filled with polar bears, camels, elephants, and roaming peacocks.

**6** A trip to Buenos Aires is incomplete without a visit to **Plaza Dorrego**, the heart of the barrio of San Telmo and the second oldest plaza in the city. The Sunday antique market attracts locals and tourists alike who search for everything from old tango records to Evita memorabilia.

**7** Located in Palermo Chico, the **Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires** – MALBA for short – features one of the world's best collections of Latin American art. Permanent exhibitions include works by Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera.

#### Beyond Buenos Aires

Located in the northern part of Greater Buenos Aires, **San Isidro** is a city especially famous for its designation as the Rugby National Capital. The Mitre Plaza has two levels, including a 1910 monument dedicated to former President Bartolomé Mitre.

Follow the lead of many porteños who travel outside the city to the rural refuge of nearby **estancias** (ranches). Visitors are welcome at several estancias that provide traditional gaucho (Argentine cowboy) horse shows, as well as the opportunity to enjoy an Argentine asado (barbeque).

A UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site since 1984, **Iguazú Falls** is one of the most breathtaking spots in South America. The Iguazú River starts in Brazil and then flows over 270 waterfalls along the Argentine-Brazilian border, the most spectacular and largest being Devil's Throat.

Famed for its wineries and history, **Mendoza** is the capital of the province of the same name in western Argentina. General José de San Martín, Argentina's liberator, spent time in Mendoza while planning his independence plans. Mendoza's vineyards have produced some of Argentina's most famous wines.

**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.

**Local Cuisine:** Argentine cuisine boldly features its grass-fed cattle as its starring role. In Buenos Aires, steakhouses abound where you can try a traditional *parrillada* of grilled meats, including *bife de lomo* (filet mignon), *bife de chorizo* (bone-in sirloin), *chorizos* (spicy sausages), *morcillas* (blood sausage), and *chinchulines* (chitterlings). Be sure to also order *provolta* (thick cuts of grilled provolone cheese) and buttery *mollejas* (sweetbreads).

Many Italian dishes have been adapted to the Argentine palate. Pizzas, fresh pastas, and *milanesas* (thin breaded meat often served with ketchup) dominate local menus. Porteños even have a tradition of eating *ñoquis* (gnocchi) on the 29th day of the month for good luck.

Porteños take their sweets seriously. *Dulce de leche* (caramelized condensed milk) fills everything from *medialunas* (croissants) to *alfajores* (cookie sandwiches), dozens of ice cream flavors, and cakes (like milhojas).

**Drink Specialties:** Argentina's signature red wine, *Malbec*, is "the" wine to pair with beef, cheese, and heavy pastas, thanks to its full-bodied character. *Torrontés* is the signature white wine grown only in Argentina. Fruity and fragrant, *Torrontés* goes best with spicy foods, as well as light cheeses and seafood.

*Yerba Mate* is not just Argentina's national drink. It is a national custom. Traditionally brewed in a *mate* (gourd) and drunk through a *bombilla* (a silver sieved straw), *mate* is meant to be shared among a group of friends.

**SHOPPING FACILITIES** Buenos Aires' best souvenirs include leather and silver products. For the best stores, visit the central shopping area along Calle Florida and Avenida Santa Fe, which stretches from the west side of Plaza San Martin. Fashionistas will love Buenos Aires' Palermo Soho and Palermo Hollywood for its boutiques featuring local designers and European clothing brands. Visit one of the many shopping complexes, including Galerias Pacífico, Alto Palermo, and Patio Bullrich.

**LOCAL CURRENCY** Argentina's currency is the peso (ARS). Several banks have ATMs and will accept traveler's checks for a fee. A few shops accept U.S. dollars and euros. Major credit cards are widely accepted but traveler's checks rarely are.

**POST OFFICE & 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

Sprint: 0800.555.1003