



Buenos Aires

Includes →

Sights	56
Activities	77
Courses	78
Tours	79
Festivals & Events	79
Sleeping	82
Eating	88
Drinking & Nightlife	94
Entertainment	99
Shopping	107
Getting There & Away	111
Getting Around	112

Best Places to Eat

- Hernán Gipponi Restaurant (p94)
- Las Pizarras (p93)
- Oviedo (p92)
- Sarkis (p93)
- Malvón (p93)

Best Places to Stay

- Poetry Building (p86)
- Miravida Soho (p88)
- The 5th Floor (p87)
- Casa Calma (p85)

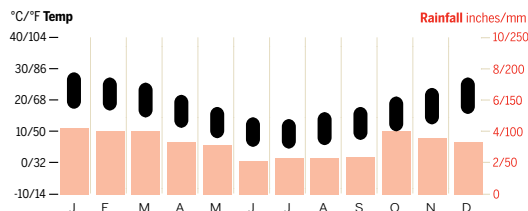
Why Go?

Whip together a beautiful metropolis with gourmet cuisine, awesome shopping and frenzied nightlife – and you get Buenos Aires. It's a rough-hewn mix of Paris' architecture, Rome's traffic and Madrid's late-night hours, all spiked with Latin American flavor. BA is cosmopolitan, seductive, emotional, frustrating and chock-full of attitude, and there's no other place like it in the world. Seek out classic BA: the old-world cafes, colonial architecture, curious markets and diverse communities. Rub shoulders with Evita at Recoleta's famous cemetery, fill your belly with luscious steaks, dance the sultry tango and take in a crazy *fútbol* (soccer) match. Unforgettable adventures? You'd better believe it.

Everyone knows someone who has been here and raved about it. You've put it off long enough. Come to BA and you'll understand why so many people have fallen in love with this amazing city. There's a good chance you'll be one of them.

When to Go

Buenos Aires



Oct–Dec Spring means warm days to drink cocktails outdoors and admire blooming jacarandas.

Aug Winter's peak brings BA's tango festival; or visit museums, art galleries and cultural centers.

Mar–May Explore BA in fall and catch the city's Independent Film Festival in April.

Supper Clubs

A hot BA trend continues to be *puertas cerradas* (closed-door restaurants). These prix fixe restaurants are sometimes only open on weekends and are great for meeting fellow diners, since the limited tables are often communal and the atmosphere is intimate. Most restaurants won't tell you the address until you make reservations (mandatory, of course). But if you want that feeling of being somewhere 'secret' – and eating special food – these places are highly appealing.

BUENOS AIRES 101

BA is a huge metropolis, but most places of interest are in just a few, easily accessible neighborhoods.

The heart of the city is **Microcentro**; it's small enough to walk around fairly easily. Just east is **Puerto Madero**, with scenic docklands and a large ecological park. Further south is **San Telmo**, known for its lovely colonial architecture and Sunday fair. South of here is **La Boca**, famed for colorful houses clad in corrugated metal.

West of the Microcentro sits **Congreso**, BA's seat of politics, boasting some stately buildings. To the north is upscale **Retiro**, home to the city's main train station and bus terminal. And just northwest lie **Recoleta** and **Barrio Norte**, boasting some of BA's most expensive real estate and dotted with art museums, fancy shops and luxurious mansions.

Further north is **Palermo**, an upper-middle-class suburb with spacious parks, plenty of shopping and heaps of restaurants; it's subdivided into the trendy neighborhoods of Palermo Soho, Palermo Hollywood and Las Cañitas, among others. And edging Palermo's borders are **Belgrano** and **Once**, both home to concentrations of ethnic Chinese, Korean, Peruvian and Jewish people.

BA's Ezeiza airport is about 35km south of the city center.

PESKY INFLATION

Be warned: while accurate at time of research, prices quoted here are likely to rise rapidly. Unofficial inflation rates hover around 25% (officially it's 10%). Check before booking.

Because of Argentina's high inflation, hotels and certain other businesses sometimes quote in US dollars. We've chosen to publish prices in the currency quoted to us during research, so keep an attentive eye for AR\$ and US\$ as you look through the listings!

Fast Facts

- Population: 2.9 million
- Area: 203 sq km
- Telephone area code: 011
- Annual per capita meat consumption: 58kg (129lb)

Must-try Foods

- *Bife de chorizo*: sirloin steak
- *Empanadas*: baked, savory turnovers
- *Helado*: arguably the best ice cream in the world

Resources

- Argentina Independent: www.argentinaindependent.com
- Pick up the Fork: www.pickupthefork.com

Top Five Buenos Aires Splurges

- Hit the lovely spa at the five-star Four Seasons (p86) hotel
- Reserve a seat or two at the closed-door restaurant iLatina (p90)
- Find that perfect Victrola in a San Telmo antiques shop
- Set aside a day, head to the countryside and go horseback riding
- Head to the airport in a luxury car from Silver Star Transport (p112)