



Iguazú Falls & the Northeast

Includes →

Rosario	151
Santa Fe.....	161
Corrientes	170
Concepción	180
Posadas	187
Iguazú Falls.....	195
Parque Nacional Iguazú.....	197
Parque Nacional do Iguacu (Brazil).....	200

Best Parks & Reserves

- Parque Nacional Iguazú (p197)
- Parque Nacional do Iguacu (p200)
- Reserva Provincial Esteros del Iberá (p175)
- Parque Nacional El Palmar (p183)

Best Places to Stay

- La Alondra (p171)
- Rancho de los Esteros (p177)
- Boutique Hotel de la Fonte (p204)
- Los Silos (p163)

Why Go?

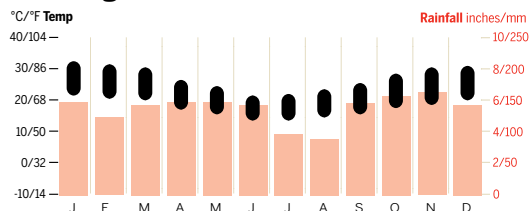
Northeast Argentina is defined by water. Muscular rivers roll through flatlands that they flood at will, while fragile wetlands support myriad birdlife, snapping caimans and cuddly capybaras. The peaceful Río Iguazú, meandering through the jungle between Brazil and Argentina, dissolves in fury and power in the planet's most awe-inspiring waterfalls.

The river then flows into the Paraná, one of the world's mightiest watercourses, which surges southward, eventually forming the Río de la Plata near Buenos Aires. Along it are some of the country's most interesting cities: elegant Corrientes, colonial Santa Fe and booming Rosario, as well as Posadas, gateway to the ruined splendor of the area's Jesuit missions.

Dotted throughout are excellent parks that represent the region's biological diversity. The Esteros del Iberá harbor a particularly astonishing richness of wildlife.

When to Go

Puerto Iguazú



Feb Hot weather and flashy Carnaval celebrations in Gualaguaychú, Corrientes and Posadas.

Aug Cool and dry; spot animals in the Esteros del Iberá gathered around scarce water sources.

Sep–Oct Not too cold, hot or crowded. Iguazú flowing well but flooding and rain less likely.

ALONG THE RÍO PARANÁ

The mighty Paraná, the continent's second-longest river at 4000km (after the Amazon at 6405km), dominates the geography of Northeast Argentina. The cities along it have their town centers a sensible distance above the shorelines of this flood-prone monster, but have a *costanera* (riverbank) that's the focus of much social life. The river is still important for trade, and large oceangoing vessels ply it to and beyond Rosario, the region's top urban destination.

The Paraná is the demesne of enormous river fish – surubí, dorado and pacú, among others – that attract sports fishers from around the world. Their distinctive flavors enliven the menus of the region's restaurants; make sure you try them.

Rosario

📍0341 / POP 1.19 MILLION

Boom times are back for Rosario, birthplace of both the Argentine flag and 'Che' Guevara, and an important river port. The derelict buildings of the long *costanera* have been converted into galleries, restaurants and skate parks, and the river beaches and islands buzz with life in the summer. The center – a curious mishmash of stunning early-20th-century buildings overshadowed by ugly apartments – has a comfortable, lived-in feel, and the down-to-earth *rosarinos* (people from Rosario) are a delight. All are very proud of Rosario-born-and-bred Lionel Messi, golden boy of world *fútbol* (soccer).

History

Rosario's first European inhabitants settled here informally around 1720. After independence Rosario quickly superseded Santa Fe as the province's economic powerhouse, though, to the irritation of *rosarinos*, the provincial capital retained political primacy.

The Central Argentine Land Company, an adjunct of the railroad, was responsible for bringing in agricultural colonists from Europe, for whom Rosario was a port of entry. From 1869 to 1914 the city's population grew nearly tenfold, though a decline of economic and shipping activity during the 1960s led to a drop in Rosario's population and power.

Nationalistic Argentines cherish Rosario, home to a monument to the nation's flag, as Cuna de la Bandera (Cradle of the Flag).

Sights

Though it's a private home and you can't enter, you may want to check out the apartment building at **Entre Ríos 480** (Entre Ríos 480), where the newborn Ernesto 'Che' Guevara had his first home.

Costanera

RIVERBANK

Rosario's most attractive feature is its waterfront, where an area of once derelict warehouses and train tracks has largely been reclaimed for the fun of the people. It stretches some 15km from its southern end at Parque Urquiza to the city's northern edge, just short of the suspension bridge that crosses into Entre Ríos province. It's an appealing place to wander and watch what's going on, from the plentiful birdlife and impromptu *fútbol* games to massive cargo ships surging past on the river.

Costanera Sur

RIVERBANK

The grassy zone below downtown includes plenty of space for jogging and courting, as well as the Estación Fluvial (p154) building, which offers boat trips and eating and drinking options. Heading further north, you pass various cultural venues before reaching the **Parque de España** and its mausoleumlike edifice. Beyond here is a zone of bars and restaurants that gets lively at weekends, and then the city's contemporary art museum.

Costanera Norte

RIVERBANK, BEACH

In summer this strip beginning 5km north of downtown attracts the crowds to its beaches. The mediocre public beach of **Rambla Catalunya** is backed by a promenade and bar-restaurants; beyond, the best beach is **Balneario La Florida** (admission AR\$12; ☀️9am-8pm Oct-Apr), with services and a safe bathing area. Picturesque stalls behind it sell river fish. The 'Linea de la Costa' bus heads here: downtown it runs west along Rioja before turning north up Roca.

★ **Monumento Nacional a la Bandera**

MONUMENT

(www.monumentoalabandera.gob.ar; Santa Fe 581; ☀️9am-6pm Tue-Fri, 9am-noon & 2-6pm Sat & Sun, 2-6pm Mon) Manuel Belgrano, who designed the Argentine flag, rests in a crypt beneath this colossal stone obelisk built where the blue-and-white stripes were first raised. If rampant nationalism isn't your thing, it's nevertheless worth taking the elevator to the top (AR\$5) for the great views over the waterfront, Río Paraná and its islands.