

# Retiro

## Neighborhood Top Five

- ➊ Wandering around **Plaza San Martín** (p109) and getting an eyeful of the impressive surrounding buildings.
- ➋ Touring the opulent mansion **Palacio Paz** (p108), once Argentina's largest private residence at 12,000 sq meters.
- ➌ Splurging on dinner at one of Retiro's five-star hotel restaurants like **Elena** (p111) and **Le Sud** (p112).
- ➍ Checking out the amazing silverwork at **Museo de Arte Hispanoamericano Isaac Fernández Blanco** (p110).
- ➎ Being astounded by the quantity of lethal weapons at **Museo de Armas** (p109).



For more detail of this area see Map p248 ➔

## Explore: Retiro

Retiro is a small, compact neighborhood most easily seen on foot. Wander around the Plaza San Martín area, perhaps touring a mansion or two – just double-check the visiting times as they're very limited. The museums around here also tend to be open just in the afternoon and closed on Mondays, so plan ahead if you want to visit them. Join the crowds on pedestrian Calle Florida and follow it down into the Center; Reconquista is another pedestrian street that isn't quite as crowded and better for taking a lunch or coffee break, as there are many restaurants with sidewalk tables there.

For any tips on Buenos Aires or Argentina, stop by the Secretaría de Turismo de la Nación, at Av Santa Fe 883 – it's located at the end of a hallway entrance and has good information and plenty of pamphlets. If you're heading north, walk on Esmeralda or Suipacha to Arroyo. The Museo de Arte Hispanoamericano Isaac Fernández Blanco is not far from here and has a leafy garden if you need a green break. Continue west, crossing Av 9 de Julio into Recoleta; you're now on upscale Av Alvear. As you follow this route you'll see plenty of gorgeous art deco buildings built by European immigrants decades ago.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Hanging Out** Sip a coffee or down a drink at one of the neighborhood's many cafes or bars catering to thirsty businesspeople.
- ➔ **Picnic** On a sunny day, grab a to-go lunch and head to Plaza San Martín's grassy lawns to join the locals out for some fresh air.
- ➔ **Shopping** Feel the bustle (and hustle!) of porteño crowds on Calle Florida, which starts near Plaza San Martín and heads south.

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Bus** Take bus 59 from Recoleta and Palermo, buses 22, 45 and 126 from San Telmo, bus 150 from Congreso.
- ➔ **Subte** Línea C connects Retiro with the Congreso and western edge of San Telmo.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Calle Florida heaves with people of all kinds doing all sorts of things – businesspeople power-walking, tourists shopping, vendors selling, buskers busking. It's also dotted every few meters with *arbolitos* – 'little trees,' or street money changers. With the US dollar being in such high demand, these shady figures are trying to bring in as much revenue as possible. While some have used them successfully, be aware that fake bills and scams do exist.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Elena (p111)
- ➔ Le Sud (p112)
- ➔ Dill & Drinks (p111)

For reviews, see p111 ➔

## Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Florería Atlántico (p112)
- ➔ Milión (p112)
- ➔ Florida Garden (p112)

For reviews, see p112 ➔

## Best Buildings

- ➔ Palacio Paz (p108)
- ➔ Edificio Kavanagh (p109)
- ➔ Palacio San Martín (p109)

For reviews, see p109 ➔