

# Congreso & Tribunales



## Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Teatro Colón** (p78)  
Peeking behind the scenes on a backstage tour or catching a performance at this historical venue.
- 2 Palacio Barolo** (p79)  
Learning about the symbolic architecture of this unique Dante-inspired building and taking in the views from the rooftop lighthouse.
- 3 Palacio del Congreso** (p79)  
Exploring the building that houses Argentina's legislative branch on a guided Senate tour.
- 4 Pizzería Güerrín** (p80)  
Stopping for a late-night slice of thick doughy pizza and *faíná*, eaten standing at the counter.
- 5 Palacio de las Aguas Corrientes** (p79)  
Admiring the stunning tiled exterior of the building that once housed the city's water tanks before viewing the range of toilets and bidets displayed in the bizarre little museum on the 1st floor.

For more detail of this area see Map p238 ➔

## Explore: Congreso & Tribunales

Plaza del Congreso is at the heart of this neighborhood and an easy walk from Plaza de Mayo (in the Center) along the important thoroughfare Av de Mayo. This avenue connects the city's executive and legislative houses and is itself lined with beautiful buildings, so be sure to take a stroll along it.

To do this, however, you'll have to experience crossing Av 9 de Julio, which is 16 lanes at its widest; the parallel streets Cerrito and Carlos Pellegrini make it look even broader. Fortunately, traffic islands provide raised breaks for the thousands of pedestrians who cross it every day, but it's still an intimidating barrier (and can't be done in one green light without breaking into a run – trust us).

Once you've explored the Plaza de Congreso area, head along Callao to Av Corrientes – it's the city's traditional theater district, and there's still plenty going on. Further north is Plaza Lavalle, home to its own important cluster of buildings, including one of the city's most important sights, the Teatro Colón. Just a couple blocks from here is the Obelisco, Buenos Aires' key landmark, with a small plaza near the base.

## Local Life

➔ **Parklife** Join office workers on their lunch break and buy a takeaway sandwich or *empanada* (a pastry turnover filled with a variety of savoury ingredients and baked or fried) to eat in Plaza Lavalle (p79).

➔ **Hangouts** Break for afternoon tea at local favorite El Gato Negro (p83) or grab a slice of pizza at Pizzería Güerrín (p80).

➔ **Cinema** Catch an Argentinian film (and practice your Spanish listening skills) at the Espacio INCAA Gaumont (p84).

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** Take bus 29 from Palermo or San Telmo and bus 64 (among others) from the Microcentro.

➔ **Subte** Línea A runs along Av de Mayo and Rivadavia, linking Congreso with the Microcentro. Línea B runs along Av Corrientes to the Microcentro and Línea D links Tribunales (at Plaza Lavalle) with Palermo and the Microcentro.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The big theaters, including Teatro San Martín and Teatro Colón, occasionally put on inexpensive or even free events, while cultural centers (such as Centro Cultural San Martín) are also good sources of free or affordable entertainment.

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Chan Chan (p82)
- ➔ Pizzería Güerrín (p80)
- ➔ Parrilla Peña (p82)
- ➔ Cadore (p82)

For reviews, see p80. ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Los Galgos (p83)
- ➔ El Gato Negro (p83)
- ➔ Los 36 Billares (p83)

For reviews, see p83. ➔

### Best Entertainment

- ➔ Teatro Colón (p78)
- ➔ El Beso (p84)
- ➔ Café de los Angelitos (p83)

For reviews, see p83. ➔