

Recoleta & Barrio Norte

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Cementerio de la Recoleta** (p113) Wandering among the tombs in an astonishing necropolis where, in death as in life, generations of the Argentine elite rest in ornate splendor.
- 2 Centro Cultural Recoleta** (p114) Catching a concert, film or theatrical

performance or seeing an exhibition at this excellent cultural center.

- 3 L'Orangerie** (p117) Indulging in afternoon tea at the Alvear Palace Hotel's beautiful, flower-filled Orangerie.
- 4 El Ateneo Grand Splendid** (p119) Browsing the books in one of the

world's most spectacular bookstores, housed in a former theater.

- 5 Feria Artesanal Plaza Francia** (p119) Finding that perfect handmade souvenir in one of the dozens of stalls at the weekend artisan market.



For more detail of this area see Map p244 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Recoleta is an expensive neighborhood. For a cheap lunch, get takeout somewhere – such as *empanadas* from El Sanjuanino (p117) – and find a nice park bench, perhaps in Plaza Intendente Alvear, where you can hang out, eat and watch the world go by.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ L'Orangerie (p117)
- ➔ Elena (p117)
- ➔ Rodi Bar (p117)
- ➔ El Sanjuanino (p117)

For reviews, see p114. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Milión (p117)
- ➔ Gran Bar Danzón (p118)
- ➔ Clásica y Moderna (p118)
- ➔ La Biela (p118)

For reviews, see p117. ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ El Ateneo Grand Splendid (p119)
- ➔ Feria Artesenal Plaza Francia (p119)
- ➔ Comme Il Faut (p119)
- ➔ Fuegoia (p119)

For reviews, see p119. ➔

Explore: Recoleta & Barrio Norte

Recoleta's main attractions are concentrated around the cemetery. This neighborhood was, interestingly enough, first constructed as a result of sickness; many upper-class *porteños* in the 1870s originally lived in southerly San Telmo, but during the yellow-fever epidemic they relocated as far away as they could, which meant clear across town to more rural Recoleta and Barrio Norte. Today, you can best see much of the wealth of this sumptuous quarter on Av Alvear, where many of the old mansions (and newer boutiques) are located.

Behind the cemetery is the impressive Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes and just beyond the museum is the landmark flower sculpture *Floralis Genérica*. From here you can walk to Palermo's fancy MALBA museum and green parks in about 15 to 20 minutes.

Barrio Norte is not an official neighborhood as such but rather a largely residential southern extension of Recoleta. Some people consider it a sub-neighborhood of Recoleta (and parts of it are sometimes lumped in with Retiro or Palermo, too) – it really depends on who you talk to. However, Barrio Norte does have a more accessible feel than its ritzier sibling, especially around busy Av Santa Fe. Here you'll find stores vying for shoppers' attention, all conveniently located on bus and Subte lines.

Local Life

➔ **Ladies who lunch** For Recoleta's upper class *señoras*, classy cafes such as Como en Casa (p117) are popular spots for lunch or afternoon coffee.

➔ **Shopping** Grab your wallet and head to Av Santa Fe, where hundreds of stores cater to *porteños'* (residents of Buenos Aires) every whim.

➔ **Markets** The weekend artisan market at Plaza Francia (p119) attracts a bohemian band of locals.

➔ **Ice Cream** Recoleta has more than its fair share of excellent ice-cream shops, so find one and order up.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** Buses 59 heads from Palermo to San Telmo, stopping along Av Las Heras on the way.

➔ **Subte** Línea D covers the southern section of Recoleta; Línea H Las Heras station is six blocks from Recoleta cemetery.