

# Retiro

## Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Plaza San Martín** (p107) Wandering around this grand square and getting an eyeful of the impressive surrounding buildings.
- 2 Palacio Paz** (p106) Touring this opulent mansion, once Argentina's largest private residence at 12,000 sq meters.
- 3 Museo de Arte Hispanoamericano Isaac Fernández Blanco** (p107) Checking out the amazing silverwork at this under-the-radar museum.
- 4 Museo Nacional Ferroviario** (p108) Viewing the train memorabilia at Argentina's national railway museum.
- 5 Florería Atlántico** (p109) Ending the day with a cocktail at this speakeasy bar.



For more detail of this area see Map p246 →

## 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 is better for taking a lunch or coffee break, as there are many restaurants with sidewalk tables there.

From here you can head over to the pretty street of 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

- ➔ **Hangouts** 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 Center and the western edge of San Telmo.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you're in Retiro at lunchtime, look out for the good-value *menú ejecutivo* option offered by many of the neighborhood's restaurants. Aimed at the local business crowd, the fixed-price menu usually includes a main course, drink and coffee or dessert.

### Best Buildings

- ➔ Palacio Paz (p106)
- ➔ Edificio Kavanagh (p107)
- ➔ Palacio San Martín (p107)

For reviews, see p107. ➔

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ El Federal (p109)
- ➔ Dadá (p109)
- ➔ Le Sud (p109)

For reviews, see p108. ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Florería Atlántico (p109)
- ➔ BASA Basement Bar (p109)
- ➔ Café Porteño (p109)

For reviews, see p109. ➔