

San Telmo



For more detail of this area see Map p240 ➔

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Feria de San Telmo** (p88) Jostling with fellow shoppers at the Sunday fair, where vendors sell all manner of goods, and buskers and tango dancers compete for your spare change.
- 2 Plaza Dorrego** (p87) Taking a break at this atmospheric and historic square – when it's not Sunday.
- 3 El Zanjón de Granados** (p88) Exploring the re-constructed tunnels at this unique site.
- 4 Museo Histórico Nacional** (p88) Getting up to speed on the history of Argentina's fight for independence at this museum in Parque Lezama.
- 5 Pasaje de la Defensa** (p90) Strolling cobbled streets and taking in the old-time atmosphere at places such as this former *conventillo* (tenement house).

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

On Sundays the *feria* (street market) is full-on, which means tonnes of people are visiting and you'll need to watch for pickpockets. On the other hand, it's the liveliest time to be in the neighborhood and the museums and most stores are all open. For more peace, visit San Telmo from Tuesday to Saturday (many places close on Monday), especially to sit at one of Plaza Dorrego's outdoor tables.



Best Museums

- ➔ Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires (p88)
- ➔ Museo Histórico Nacional (p88)
- ➔ Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (p88)

For reviews, see p88. ➔



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Café San Juan (p92)
- ➔ El Refuerzo Bar Almacen (p91)
- ➔ Cafe Rivas (p92)
- ➔ Hierbabuena (p92)

For reviews, see p91. ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Bar Plaza Dorrego (p93)
- ➔ Doppelgänger (p93)
- ➔ Bar Británico (p93)

For reviews, see p93. ➔

Explore: San Telmo

Everyone is drawn to Plaza Dorrego, the heart and soul of San Telmo. It's a nice leafy place to snag an outdoor table under an umbrella and have a coffee or full meal (though on Sundays the *feria* takes over and tables disappear). Sometimes tango dancers provide entertainment for a few pesos. Keep a good hold of your bag, just in case.

Generally everything of interest is reachable by walking in this neighborhood; keep a look out for street art as you go. From Plaza Dorrego you can stroll up or down the main drag of Defensa, window-shopping for pricey antiques or trendy new trinkets along the way. Several museums are also on or just off this street. If you head south, you'll hit Parque Lezama, a local park where families hang out at the playground and lovers smooch on benches. Be sure to take a stroll down elegant Av Caseros to admire the architecture of the buildings lining the block between Defensa and Bolívar; you could stop here for a meal or a drink.

Heading north, you can be in the Plaza de Mayo area in 15 minutes, or take a bus south down busy Av Almirante Brown to La Boca.

Local Life

➔ **Markets** Explore the Mercado de San Telmo (p88) to get a dose of history and a feel for how the locals buy their meats and vegetables.

➔ **Hangouts** Classic cafes such as Bar Plaza Dorrego (p93), Bar El Federal (p91) and La Poesia (p91) drip with traditional atmosphere and old-time locals taking in their morning *medialunas* (croissants) or afternoon coffee breaks.

➔ **Games** Like chess? Then head to Parque Lezama (p90) and find the cluster of chess tables there – and, if you dare, make a challenge.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** Take bus 59 from Recoleta and Palermo; bus 29 from La Boca, Plaza de Mayo and Palermo.

➔ **Subte** Línea C connects the western edge of San Telmo with the Center, Congreso and Retiro.