

South of Palermo

Neighborhood Top Five

1 Museo Casa Carlos Gardel (p150) Learning about tango's most famous singer via his old recordings, news clippings and personal items at this small museum located at the very house he used to live in.

2 La Bomba de Tiempo (p153) Dancing it up at Monday night's drumming parties at the Ciudad Cultural Konex.

3 La Catedral (p153) Dancing tango at BA's most bohemian *milonga* (dance hall), after taking a class at DNI Tango nearby.

4 Mercado de Abasto (p150) Visiting this impressive, gorgeously remodeled shopping center.

5 Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales (p150) Wandering among old skeletons, taxidermy rooms and natural-science exhibits.



For more detail of this area see Map p254 →

Explore: South of Palermo

There are just a few interesting sights dotting the map in these refreshingly local neighborhoods. Start in Villa Crespo, a good area for outlet shopping that's also home to several casual but excellent restaurants. A short walk south is Caballito, a pleasant neighborhood that's home to the circular Parque Centenario. The main sight here is the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, a good natural-science museum that's worth a peek for its musty taxidermy and cool skeleton room.

East of Villa Crespo are the Abasto and Once (pronounced 'ohh-seh') neighborhoods, both melting-pot destinations that have attracted sizable populations of Jews, Peruvians and Koreans – and their respective ethnic cuisines as well. The main attraction in Abasto is the Mercado de Abasto, one of the city's most attractive shopping malls. On a side street just east of the mall, look for a small statue of Carlos Gardel, the famous tango singer who lived in this neighborhood; four blocks northeast is the Museo Casa Carlos Gardel, a museum in his former home. Many alternative theaters can also be found in this area.

East of Abasto is Once and its bustling train station, surrounded by hundreds of street vendors selling all manner of garments and cheap electronic devices. There's a colorful feel to this gritty, commercial pocket. Nearby Once are the bohemian neighborhoods of Almagro and Boedo. The intersection of Av San Juan and Boedo is especially historic and right on the Subte line.

Local Life

- ➔ **Parklife** For a condensed dose of local life head to Parque Centenario, the circular park at the geographical center of the city. It's always busy here; you'll see families out with their dogs, people jogging and doing yoga, and plenty of guitars.
- ➔ **Hangouts** Local *señoras* take a break at Las Violetas (p152), quite possibly the most beautiful traditional cafe in Buenos Aires.
- ➔ **Eating** Classic neighborhood eateries such as Café Margot (p151) will take you back in time.
- ➔ **Theater** Artsy *porteños* (residents of Buenos Aires) head to one of the many alternative theater productions going on in Almagro.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Bus** From Plaza de Mayo take bus 140 to Villa Crespo and Almagro, bus 26 to Once, bus 132 to Caballito and bus 126 to Boedo.
- ➔ **Subte** Líneas A, B and E are the fastest way to these neighborhoods.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Consider finding a place to stay in Villa Crespo or Almagro, the neighborhoods just south of Palermo. New restaurants, bars and guesthouses are opening here as rents become too expensive for many businesses in Palermo, but the nightlife and sights of the better-known neighborhood are often within walking distance.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ i Latina (p152)
- ➔ Guarda la Vieja (p151)
- ➔ Sarkis (p151)
- ➔ Café Crespin (p151)

For reviews, see p151. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Las Violetas (p152)
- ➔ 878 (p152)
- ➔ El Bandarán (p152)

For reviews, see p152. ➔

Best Entertainment

- ➔ La Catedral (p153)
- ➔ La Bomba de Tiempo (p153)
- ➔ Complejo Tango (p153)

For reviews, see p153. ➔