

MICROCENTRO | MONTSERRAT

1 Plaza de Mayo (p58)

2 Centro Cultural

3 Manzana de las Luces

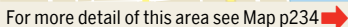
dance tango at the atmospheric *milonga*.

4 Galerías Pacífico

(p61) Shopping at a beautiful shopping mall with a gorgeous painted ceiling.

5 Centro Cultural

Borges (p66) Watching a tango show (that won't break the bank) and seeing the latest exhibitions.



Explore: The Center

During the day, the Center is a heaving mass of humanity moving hastily along narrow streets. The 2015 pedestrianization of 80 blocks of the neighborhood has helped, though a substantial amount of 'local traffic' continues to use the roads here, so watch out behind you. Come evening, the neighborhood can feel deserted.

Stretching from Retiro to San Telmo (and flanked by Congreso and Puerto Madero), this area is the heart and brain of the city. It's made up of the Microcentro and Montserrat sub-neighborhoods.

Plaza de Mayo is a good place to start. Here you'll see the Casa Rosada presidential palace, with the Museo Casa Rosada right behind it. The Catedral Metropolitana is nearby – stop by for a Pope Francis souvenir – and the Cabildo offers great views of the square. If you want to see the Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, time your visit for Thursday afternoon.

From here you can head south just one block, crossing over into Montserrat, and visit the Manzana de las Lucés, a city block full of historic buildings. There are also a couple of small but interesting museums to visit around here. Further south a few more blocks is San Telmo.

If you're going north, walk along Calle San Martín, where there are a number of interesting little museums. Head east via Calle Sarmiento to reach the Centro Cultural Kirchner. Ideally you'll have secured tickets to a concert here, but even if you haven't, be sure to take a look inside this impressive cultural center.

Local Life

➔ **Hangouts** Join office workers for lunch on the hoof at 180 Burger Bar (p64) or Latino Sandwich (p63).

➔ **The Square** Enjoy Plaza de Mayo as the locals do by sitting on a bench and chatting to the people around you. Topics of conversation might include tutting at the traffic chaos caused by the latest roadblock or complaining about the price of meat.

➔ **Shopping** Mingle among the throngs of street vendors, business people, buskers and hustlers on Calle Florida.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** Take bus 29 from San Telmo; 29, 64 and 152 from La Boca; 59 from Recoleta; 29, 59, 64 and 152 from Palermo's Plaza Italia.

➔ **Subte** Líneas A (Plaza de Mayo station), D (Catedral station) and E (Bolívar station) all terminate at Plaza de Mayo. Línea C stops Lavalle and Diagonal Norte are also in this neighborhood.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

As there are so many businesspeople in the Center, many restaurants offer *menús ejecutivos* – or lunch specials – to attract this valuable clientele. These set lunches are offered weekdays and usually consist of a main course with dessert and a drink, all for a reasonable fixed price. It's a good way to try out otherwise pricey restaurants.

Best Museums

- ➔ Museo Casa Rosada (p59)
- ➔ Cabildo (p61)
- ➔ Museo Histórico y Numismático José Evaristo Uriburu (p61)
- ➔ Museo Etnográfico Juan B Ambrosetti (p62)

For reviews, see p59. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ La Puerto Rico (p65)
- ➔ La Cigale (p66)
- ➔ Café Tortoni (p65)

For reviews, see p65. ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Galerías Pacífico (p61)
- ➔ Arte y Esperanza (p67)
- ➔ El Coleccionista (p67)

For reviews, see p67. ➔