

BUENOS AIRES

ENCOUNTER

BRIDGET GLEESON

Buenos Aires Encounter

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Colour-Coding & Maps

Colour-coding is used for symbols on maps and in the text that they relate to (eg all eating venues on the maps and in the text are given a green knife and fork symbol). Each neighborhood also gets its own color, and this is used down the edge of the page and throughout that neighborhood section.

Shaded yellow areas on the maps denote 'areas of interest' – for their historical significance, their attractive architecture or their great bars and restaurants. We encourage you to head to these areas and just start exploring!

Prices

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BRIDGET GLEESON

Though born and raised in the US, Bridget hasn't lived in her native country in years. She studied in Rome, taught English in Prague, worked with children in an impoverished community in Nicaragua, and listened to countless stories of her mother's solo adventures through South America in the '70s, before arriving in Argentina at the start of 2007. While working on her Spanish and taste-testing Malbec, she's contributed travel writing to *Budget Travel*, *Mr & Mrs Smith*, *Tablet Hotels*, *Delta Sky* and *Afar*. She's also co-authored several Lonely Planet titles, including *Brazil 8*, *Argentina 7*, *Buenos Aires 6*, and *New York, New Jersey & Pennsylvania 3*. Bridget photographed many of the images in this book. Follow her travel adventures in real time at www.bridgetgleeson.com.



BRIDGET'S THANKS

Many thanks to the editors and journalists in Buenos Aires who support me and the porteños who educate me. A special thank you to my family members near and far – especially the one who teaches me how to look at the world through an artistic lens, the one who gives up Saturdays to help me research, and the ones who encouraged me to write and travel in the first place.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Terry Carter has photographed several guidebooks for Lonely Planet, including *Buenos Aires*. He loves shooting the architectural mishmash of the city despite being constantly told his camera will get stolen.

Cover photograph A couple tango dancing to accordian music in a Buenos Aires cafe, Chad Ehlers. **Internal photographs** p126 by Bridget Gleeson; p143 Marc van der Aa; p114 by Emily Anne Epstein. All other photographs by Lonely Planet Images and by Terry Carter p4, p6, p8, p12, p13, p17, p21, p24, p27, p28, p32, p49, p55, p78, p105, p107, p113, p119, p134, p139, p148; Michael Coyne p15, p20, p140; Michael Taylor p31; Krzysztof Dydzinski p23, p28, p67, p87, p96, p145, p149, p150; Bridget Gleeson p10, p11, p14, p16, p18, p19, p22, p39, p42, p50, p59, p65, p69, p75, p81, p92, p100, p110, p123, p125, p131, p142, p151; Corey Wise p28.

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A house in Abasto painted in traditional *filete* (p72) style

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THIS IS BUENOS AIRES

Buenos Aires runs on nostalgia and cosmopolitan ambition. For every group of trendsetters laughing over cocktails, there's a cluster of old-timers gathered around a radio, a tear rolling down someone's cheek as Carlos Gardel sings of the glowing street lamps of his beloved city.

The dichotomy is rooted in Argentina's stormy past. The capital city, once a prosperous European-style metropolis teeming with glamorous tango halls and grand cafes, has suffered through a military government, inflation and several economic collapses. But somehow Buenos Aires is livelier than ever. A talented generation of designers, soccer players, musicians and restaurateurs have reinvigorated the beleaguered capital, transforming it into one of the most talked-about travel destinations on the planet.

The hype, after all, is warranted – the steak really is the best in the world, dance halls fill with tango students every night of the week, the soccer matches are intense and passionate, and the wine is affordable and delicious. But Buenos Aires' magnetism, as any porteño (BA local) will tell you, extends well beyond such clichés. Architecturally speaking, the city is a fascinating microcosm of styles from colonial to belle époque to modernist. The Parisian-style cafe circuit, backed by an intriguing literary history, is paradise for bookish types and coffee lovers, and the edgy local fashion scene seduces design-minded travelers.

Gorge yourself on red meat at a rustic *parrilla* (grill restaurant), nurse a bottle of Malbec at an old-fashioned *milonga* (social dance) as local tango dancers embrace dramatically on the wooden dance floor, pull an all-nighter at a thumping electronic venue along the Costanera, revel in gaucho culture at a *peña* (folk music club). Give Buenos Aires some time. Soon you'll begin to understand the bittersweet charm – the poignant collision of old-fashioned sensibility and contemporary revolution – that simultaneously thrills visitors and makes old men shed a tear or two.

Left *Hola* from a junior *fútbolista* (soccer player) and friends above the Caminito, La Boca (p86)