

# La Boca

## Neighborhood Top Five

### 1 El Caminito (p100)

Strolling the cobblestones and admiring the colorful houses of this little street, where art vendors and buskers vie for your spare change.

### 2 La Bombonera (p103)

Watching Argentina's most famous *fútbol* (soccer) club,

Boca Juniors, play in front of an exuberant crowd.

### 3 Usina del Arte (p102)

Catching a concert at the spectacular former power station turned arts center.

### 4 Fundación Proa (p101)

Checking out the latest contemporary art exhibition at the neighborhood's cutting-edge gallery.

### 5 Museo Benito Quinquela Martín (p101)

Viewing the powerful artwork of Quinquela Martín on display in his former home and taking in the views of the Riachuelo from the roof terrace.



For more detail of this area see Map p242 ➔

## Explore: La Boca

Since some areas of La Boca can be a little sketchy, it's best to visit the neighborhood during the day and take a bus or taxi to the sights. Don't stray too far from the riverside walk, El Caminito and La Bombonera Stadium, especially with expensive cameras. Be discreet, stick close to the busier streets and you should be fine. On your way in, note the **Casa Amarilla** (Map p242; Av Almirante Brown 401; ☎29, 168, 33) on Av Almirante Brown. This is a replica of the country house belonging to Irish-born admiral and founder of Argentina's navy William (Guillermo) Brown, after whom the avenue is named. Three blocks further on (look to your left at the kink in the road), you'll notice the curious Gothic structure called **Torre Fantasma** (Ghost Tower; Map p242; Av Almirante Brown 800; ☎29, 33, 64) local legend has it that the place is haunted.

When you reach the river, take a look at the Puente Nicolás Avellaneda which spans the Riachuelo, linking La Boca to the industrial suburb of Avellaneda; before the bridge's completion in 1940, floods had washed away several others. From here, the road follows the river's edge to El Caminito (p100).

The neighborhood's great pride and joy is Boca Juniors soccer team, whose stadium and excellent museum (p101) is four blocks north of El Caminito.

## Local Life

➔ **Soccer** There's no better way to experience the spirit of La Boca than watching the neighborhood's beloved soccer team Boca Juniors play at La Bombonera (p103).

➔ **Live Music** *Porteños* (residents of Buenos Aires) love to take advantage of the city's packed program of free concerts and other cultural offerings. Join them for a performance at the fantastic Usina del Arte (p102) arts center.

➔ **Hangouts** Just a couple of streets away from the tourist restaurants of El Caminito is the atmospheric neighborhood joint Café Bar Roma (p102), where the local *señoras* have been meeting for a *café con leche* (coffee with milk) and a gossip since 1905.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** Take buses 33, 64 and 29 from Palermo and the Center; they all end up at El Caminito.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The new tourist information booth (p217) runs a free walking tour in English on Wednesdays at 11am (reserve online).

## Best Museums

- ➔ Fundación Proa (p101)
- ➔ Museo Benito Quinquela Martín (p101)

For reviews, see 101. ➔

## Best Places to Eat & Drink

- ➔ Il Matterello (p101)
- ➔ El Obrero (p101)
- ➔ Proa Cafe (p102)
- ➔ Café Bar Roma (p102)

For reviews, see p101. ➔