

## TO / FROM THE AIRPORT

### Airport Bus Service

011-54-11/4315-5115, [tiendaleon.com.ar](http://tiendaleon.com.ar)

Manuel Tienda León buses run between the international airport and the downtown Retiro station. Its kiosk is located inside Arrivals. Buses into the city leave every half hour until 9 P.M. (Call for the night schedule.) The ride takes 40 minutes. \$8.70, one way.

### Remises Taxis

Avoid the cabbies who holler at you, and go straight to a remises booth to book a car. Drivers take up to four people per car and operate on a flat rate. \$20 for a ride to the city center.

“Only in Buenos Aires  
am I completely  
happy and sing well.”

—Singer Carlos Gardel

## GETTING AROUND

### Bus

The bus, or *colectivo*, system is complicated and chaotic, so don't waste your time trying to figure it out if you're only in B.A. for a few days. Newspaper kiosks sell city-bus guides (*Guías T*) for 70¢. Buy your tickets onboard (28¢ per ride).

### Subway

[metrovias.com.ar](http://metrovias.com.ar)

Commonly referred to as the *subte*, this small subway network makes convenient tourist stops, including Plaza Serrano, the Bosques de Palermo, and Plaza Dorrego in San Telmo. It runs 5 A.M.–10:20 P.M., so it's not an option for late-night transportation. Ask for a free map (*mapa*) at any station. 24¢ per ride.

### Taxis

Taxis are cheap and plentiful. To avoid hailing an unlicensed cab, look for a certified 'Radio Taxi' (written on the car doors). Available cars will have the 'Libre' sign lit in their front windows. Four people per taxi. Rides from \$1. (If you need to call: Radio Taxi Ciudad, 011-54-11/4923-7007, [radiotaxiciudad.com.ar](http://radiotaxiciudad.com.ar))

### FUNNY MONEY: HOW TO SPOT FAKE PESOS

Counterfeit bills are common in B.A., so you should always exchange currency at a reputable place. But to detect phonies, hold the bill up to the light. If it's real

- The ink on the denomination number will change colors.
- There will be a metallic thread woven into the border between the picture and white spaces.
- The portrait of the historical figure will be clear, not blurry.
- The paper will have the same feel as a US dollar bill.

## WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND TOWN

At newsstands *Buenos Aires Herald*, [buenosairesherald.com](http://buenosairesherald.com)  
*Time Out Buenos Aires*, [timeout.com/travel/buenosaires](http://timeout.com/travel/buenosaires)

## TOURS

### Buenos Aires Outdoors

011-54-11/4797-1143, [buenosairesoutdoors.com.ar](http://buenosairesoutdoors.com.ar)

Low-impact outdoor tours, including day trips to Tigre, and to traditional ranches (see Escapes box on page 8). \$50 for a half-day tour of the pampas (the provincial grasslands) and local ranches; includes horseback riding.

### Fall in Love With Buenos Aires

011-54-11/4656-5714, [fallinlovewithba.com](http://fallinlovewithba.com)

Run by a couple with extensive experience, these historical walking tours put a refreshing emphasis on the *porteño* perspective. Pedro Porqueras's specialty: Recoleta Cemetery. His five-hour tour by minivan also includes a coffee break at the historic Café Tortoni. \$10–\$15/person for three-hour walking tour, \$30–\$50/person for van tour.

**PORTEÑOS** Residents of Buenos Aires proper, specifically means “those from the port”

### Free city tours

#### Buenos Aires Undersecretary of Tourism,

011-54-11/4114-5791, [bue.gov.ar/recorridos](http://bue.gov.ar/recorridos)

Guided walking and bus tours. Themes are varied and include a good mix of neighborhoods and topics, such as “Notable bars of Recoleta” and “Eva Peron.” English tours take place as indicated on the online schedule. Call the office for more information (in English). Space is limited on bus tours; call Mon.–Fri., 9 A.M.–1 P.M. to reserve. Free.

### La Bicicleta Naranja

Pasaje Giuffra 308 (corner of Balcarce), 011-54-11/4362-1104, [labicicletanaranja.com.ar](http://labicicletanaranja.com.ar)

Tours leave from San Telmo and focus on the southern or northern sections of B.A., or the riverbank and coastal grassy wetland Reserva Ecológica. Rentals include comfortable orange bikes with helmets, locks, storage bags, maps, and a drink. \$19 for four hours with a guide.

## NUMBERS TO KNOW

**Emergency** Police 101, Fire 100, Medical Emergency 107

**Help in English** Tourist Police Station, 0800-999-5000

(or 011-54-11/4346-5748)

**International operator** 000, Directory info 110

**Tourist info** 011-54-11/4312-7276 or 011-54-11/4313-5503

(Mon.–Sat., 10 A.M.–8 P.M.)

**Concert, theater, and sports tickets** Ticketek,

011-54-11/5237-7200, [ticketek.com.ar](http://ticketek.com.ar)

For local calls, drop the international access number (011), the country code (54), and the city code (11). All local numbers have eight digits.

**CONGRESO** Casa Montserrat

Calle Salta 1074, 011-54-11/4304-8798, [casa-monserrat.com](http://casa-monserrat.com)  
Dating from the 1870s, this house has a beautiful courtyard garden; interiors highlight the building's colonial grandeur—antique tile work, fresco paintings, and a stone fireplace. All five bedrooms have en suite bathrooms. Doubles from \$52, includes breakfast and airport pickup.

**MICROCENTRO** Hotel Castelar

Avenida de Mayo 1152, 011-54-11/4383-5000, [castelarahotel.com.ar](http://castelarahotel.com.ar)  
Located on the historic Avenida de Mayo, Castelar's claim to fame is that Spanish poet Federico García Lorca lived there in 1933. The charm of the exterior and public lounges eclipses the rooms, which are comfortable, with heavy drapes and charming, light-filled en suite bathrooms, but otherwise basic. Rates include breakfast and access to the on-site spa's sauna and steam baths. A half-hour massage is just \$11. Doubles from \$68, triples from \$85.

**MICROCENTRO** NH Jousten Hotel

Avenida Corrientes 280, 011-54-11/4321-6750, [nh-hotels.com](http://nh-hotels.com)  
A 1920s-style hotel with art deco detailing that enjoys an ultra-central location. Large, ornate headboards, unusual four-legged room lamps, and a soft sandy color scheme contrast with the overall minimalist motif. Ask for a window-filled corner room for the most—and best—views. Doubles from \$111, includes continental buffet breakfast.

**PALERMO** 1555 Malabia House

Calle Malabia 1555, 011-54-11/4833-2410, [malabiahouse.com.ar](http://malabiahouse.com.ar)  
An upscale, self-described “design bed-and-breakfast” that combines hotel comfort with neighborhood authenticity. Most of the 15 bright, spacious rooms come with A/C and en suite bathrooms, and display a modern decorator's touch—neutral colors, animal-skin throw rugs, and whimsical wall frescoes. Its reading rooms and communal greenery-filled patio make calming city oases. Doubles from \$105.

**PALERMO** Bo Bo Hotel

Calle Guatemala 4882, 011-54-11/4774-0505, [bobohotel.com](http://bobohotel.com)  
Six of the seven rooms in this 1920 mansion are themed to modern art movements. The Minimalist Room has ecru walls and white bedspreads; the Pop Room references the 1960s with a plastic orange chair and a photo of a Ford Falcon. Each morning, a free breakfast of croissants, yogurt, and *café con leche* is served in the on-site restaurant. Free Wi-Fi throughout hotel. Doubles from \$80.

**SHORT-TERM APARTMENT RENTALS****Alojargentino Lodging & Services**

011-54-11/5219-0606, [alojargentina.com.ar](http://alojargentina.com.ar)

Staying for a week or longer? This reputable agency has fully equipped modern apartments in desirable neighborhoods that range from basic to luxurious. One-bedroom apartment rental rates start at \$250/week. Also try: [bytargentina.com](http://bytargentina.com), [apartmentsrental.com.ar](http://apartmentsrental.com.ar)

**PALERMO** Posada Palermo Bed-and-Breakfast

Calle Salguero 1655, 011-54-11/4826-8792, [posadapalermo.com](http://posadapalermo.com)  
In one of Palermo's rapidly disappearing old stone houses. Run by an architect, this cozy, cultured home has mismatched rugs, multi-colored walls, loads of artwork, and three resident cats. There is A/C, cable TV, Internet access, and en suite baths in each of the four rooms. Doubles from \$60, includes breakfast.

**PALERMO** Solar Soler Bed-and-Breakfast

Calle Soler 5676, 011-54-11/4776-3065, [solarsoler.com.ar](http://solarsoler.com.ar)  
A recently remodeled home with spare, modern accommodations featuring hardwood floors and white bedcovers accented by colorful regional woven pillows and blankets. Each of the seven rooms has cable TV, A/C, and a bathroom en suite. Cozy up by the fireplace in the living room, or eat your breakfast on the sunny patio. Doubles from \$47.

**RECOLETA** Hotel Bel Air

Calle Arenales 1462, 011-54-11/4021-4000, [hotelbelair.com.ar](http://hotelbelair.com.ar)  
The elegant white facade of this small hotel suggests five-star glamour, but on the inside the comfortable rooms are relatively basic. However, the amenities give it an edge: A/C, cable TV, minibar, and gym. Doubles from \$110, includes breakfast.

**RECOLETA** Hotel Lion D'or

José A. Pacheco de Melo 2019, 011-54-11/4803-8992, [hotel-liondor.com.ar](http://hotel-liondor.com.ar)

Rooms are no-frills, but have old-world character—bulky armoires, moldings, and old-fashioned high-arched windows—which gives this small hotel some charm. While there's no A/C, there are ceiling fans to cool you off in summer months. Every room comes with cable TV and central heating. Doubles from \$38.

**RECOLETA** Recoleta Guesthouse

Calle Laprida 1821, 011-54-11/4803-5474, [recoletaguesthouse.com](http://recoletaguesthouse.com)

A gracious Tudor-style brick guesthouse in a historically ritzy neighborhood. Its defining attribute is the personal attention given by the chatty and informative Cossovich family, who make you feel right at home. Rooms are simple, with whitewashed walls, colorful woven blankets, and oak floors. All have en suite bathrooms. Doubles from \$40, includes breakfast.

**\$ SPLURGE** Park Château Kempinski Hotel

Calle Talcahuano 1253, 011-54-11/6777-0400, [parkplazahotels.com/chateau](http://parkplazahotels.com/chateau)

This gorgeous boutique hotel has antique furniture from various eras, and Persian rugs span the hallways. The ample, regal rooms have large, inviting beds framed by brass headboards. Reasonably priced decadence. Doubles from \$127.

# Budget Travel Buenos Aires / Microcentro

## SNAP GUIDE

The business and banking center of the city, with a bustling downtown atmosphere. Because it's also the national nexus for demonstrators from around the country, protests are common.

### SEE Centro Cultural Borges

Calle Viamonte and Calle San Martin, 011-54-11/5555-5359, [ccborges.org.ar](http://ccborges.org.ar)

Art exhibitions, independent films, and musical shows featuring everything from rock to flamenco fill the calendar at this eight-year-old center. It's located in the same 1896 building as the Galerías Pacífico, an upscale mall. (See listing below.) Mon.–Sat. 10 A.M.–9 P.M.; Sun. 12 P.M.–9 P.M. Entrance to exhibits \$1.

### SEE Manzana de las Luces (Block of Enlightenment)

Calle Perú 272, 011-54-11/4342-6973, [manzanadelasluces.gov.ar](http://manzanadelasluces.gov.ar)

A block of buildings that form what was historically the intellectual center of Buenos Aires. A network of tunnels connects different sites, including the Jesuit Iglesia de San Ignacio (built in 1675), an elite high school, and a reconstruction of the original Sala de Representantes, Argentina's first legislature.

### EAT Café Tortoni

Avenida de Mayo 829, 011-54-11/4342-4328, [cafetortoni.com.ar](http://cafetortoni.com.ar)

A *porteño* institution. If you can ignore the outlandish prices and throngs of tourists, you can almost imagine yourself sipping coffee with literati at the dawn of the 1900s. Founded in 1858, it's Parisian to the core with marble tabletops, wood paneling, pillars, and brusque male waiters. A visit is well worth the price of a *café con leche*, \$1.50.

### EAT El Claustro

Calle San Martin 705, 011-54-11/4312-0235, [santacatalina.org.ar/Restaurant.htm](http://santacatalina.org.ar/Restaurant.htm)

The menu features enormous, ridiculously cheap portions of basic *porteño* fare such as grilled meat and chicken. Ask for the traditional *chimichurri* sauce—made from olive oil, garlic, basil, thyme, oregano, and chili—to accompany your meats. The real draw here is the outdoor seating, on the patio of the Santa Catalina Convent (built in 1745), with its white colonial arches and lush palm trees. Service can be slow. Open for lunch only.

### EAT Sabot

Calle 25 de Mayo 756, 011-54-11/4313-6587

Excellent well-priced *porteño* food in an upscale B.A. dining hall with austere dark wood-paneled walls and white tablecloths. Its specialty is the tender *cabrito al horno* (roast baby goat). It's popular with the business crowd, so make a reservation. Closed Sat. and Sun.

### EAT Vasco Frances

Calle Moreno 1370, 011-54-11/4381-5415

Seafood specialties have been flying out of the kitchen at this classic salon-style restaurant tucked into the Basque French Center for 110 years. Try the *arroz negro* Vasco Frances—black rice (tinted with squid ink), lobster, and mussels. A full meal runs \$15.

### DRINK La Cigale

Calle 25 de Mayo 722, 011-54-11/4312-8275

A French-owned favorite with B.A.'s young after-work crowd. The très dark bar features DJs and/or live music on weeknights. Tuesdays are dedicated to French-accented house and dance tunes. Ask about the daily drink specials. No cover.

### SHOP Calle Florida

There's a Hong Kong-meets-Lima feeling on this chaotic pedestrian shopping street/outdoor mall, where the main focus is footwear (all styles). Clothing, book, and music stores are interspersed among the plentiful shoe shops. Warning: Don't get lured by the aggressive people selling leather jackets; save your pennies for cheaper "leather alley," as Calle Murillo is known. (See listing on page 6.)

### SHOP La Librería de Avila

Calle Adolfo Alsina 500, 011-54-11/4331-8989, [libreriadeavila.servisur.com](http://libreriadeavila.servisur.com)

B.A.'s oldest bookstore, dating from 1785. A vast collection of new and used titles, in Spanish and other languages, specializes in Argentinean history. Its jumbled, dusty veneer gives it character, and its many chairs invite lingering.

### SHOP Winery

Avenida Corrientes 302, 011-54-11/4394-2200, [winery.com.ar](http://winery.com.ar)

A high-end chain of wine stores. The knowledgeable staff will even pack your bottles for travel. The best part: You don't have to spend more than 30 pesos (\$10) for a fine Argentinean wine—try a malbec or a torrontes.

### \$\$\$ SPLURGE Galerías Pacífico

Calle Florida at Avenida Córdoba, 011-54-11/5555-5110, [galeriaspacifico.com.ar](http://galeriaspacifico.com.ar)

The Sistine Chapel of shopping malls. Murals by artists such as Antonio Berni adorn the cupola of this majestic 1896 building. You'll find brand names such from Levi Strauss & Co. to Yves Saint Laurent, but it's more interesting to see which local brands catch your eye. Check out Akiabara for sophisticated, hip women's wear, or Portsaid for an ultra-feminine look.

### PLAY Cinemas on Calle Lavalle

Step into the past at one of these cinemas, just west of Calle Florida. Modern movie complexes are now a dime a dozen in B.A., but the older cinemas have quaint fold-down seats and concession vendors who hawk popcorn and chocolate from trays slung around their necks. You'll also see high, rounded ceilings and grand balconies from the bygone days. Hollywood movies have Spanish subtitles. \$2.40.

# Budget Travel Buenos Aires / Retiro & Congreso

## SNAP GUIDE

Retiro is north of Microcentro and known for its office buildings and the hilly Plaza San Martín. It flows into stately Congreso, named for its government and national court buildings (*tribunales*).

### SEE Plaza San Martín

North end of Calle Florida

A great place to take a breather and people-watch on the rolling lawn. A statue of Argentinean independence hero General San Martín provides the centerpiece for the green-fringed colonial town square (or, in this case, circle).

### EAT Pizzería Guerrín

Avenida Corrientes 1368, 011-54-11/4371-8141, [pizzeriaguerrin.com.ar](http://pizzeriaguerrin.com.ar)

The B.A. pizza joint since 1932. Start with a few slices of the *fugazza* (cheeseless pizza), before moving on to any one of the savory cheesy varieties. \$3.80 for a large mozzarella pie; \$3.10 if you eat it standing up.

“Porteño nights, in  
your domain joy and  
crying tightly together  
go; laughs and kisses,  
endless revelry...”

—Tango lyrics by Manuel Romero

### PLAY Corrientes Theaters

A mini Spanish-language Broadway that spans 10 blocks of Avenida Corrientes, from Calle Maipú to Avenida Callao. Check out the state-owned Teatro San Martín (Av. Corrientes 1530, 0800-333-5254, [teatrosanmartin.com.ar](http://teatrosanmartin.com.ar)) for affordable, high-quality theater, dance, and concerts. Buy tickets online, or just walk up to the box office. \$10.

### PLAY Teatro Colón

Calle Cerrito 618, 011-54-11/4378-7100, [teatrocolon.org.ar](http://teatrocolon.org.ar)  
B.A.’s version of the Paris opera house. Founded in 1908, it hosts orchestra, opera, and ballet performances in its gold and red velvet salons. \$5–\$15 for symphony tickets. Tours from 11 A.M., 1 P.M., and 3 P.M. daily. Reserve at least a day in advance. \$4.20, kids under 17 \$1.

### THE DIRTY WAR

Argentina was under military dictatorship between 1976 and 1983 after a junta led by General Jorge Rafael Videla seized power from then-president Isabel Perón (the widow of famed former president Juan Perón). Initially, the regime drew broad popular support for its efforts to fight left-wing terrorism. But its heavy-handed tactics soon became violent and were ultimately aimed at innocent civilians. Human-rights groups estimate that nearly 30,000 Argentine civilians disappeared during this time. Mothers and grandmothers of “the disappeared” still meet every Thursday at 3 P.M. in the Plaza de Mayo to demand justice for their relatives.

### ESCAPES

#### Gaicho Country

[welcomeargentina.com/sanantoniodoareco](http://welcomeargentina.com/sanantoniodoareco)

San Antonio de Areco: The historic town and the surrounding pampas (grasslands) give a glimpse into Argentina’s romantic gaucho past. The gaucho was Argentina’s equivalent of the cowboy; his signature garb included baggy pants, a knife at his waist, and a beret. The gaucho way of life is long gone but today men come out in traditional gear for horse shows and dances. San Antonio’s highlights include a pedestrian bridge, once the toll crossing between the capital and the unknown interior, and the Gaucho Museum (Museo Gauchesco Ricardo Güiraldes). Getting there: The first-class Nueva Chevallier bus line at the Retiro bus terminal (Terminal de Omnibus de Retiro, Av. Antártida Argentina at the corner of Calle 10) has more than 20 buses to San Antonio de Areco per day. To reserve, call 011-54-11/4000-5255, or show up, buy your ticket, and board. \$8.30 for a two-hour round-trip ride.

Estancias: Gaucho Country is full of charming traditional Argentine ranches, or *estancias*. Many of these are luxurious guesthouses, where you can spend a “day in the country” (*día de campo*). Activities include horseback riding and eating *asado criollo* (Argentine open-pit barbeque). Prices often include meals, but activities are separate. It’s \$240 for a double room (continental breakfast, lunch, tea, dinner for two, and all nonalcoholic beverages included) at the Estancia La Bamba ([la-bamba.com.ar](http://la-bamba.com.ar), 011-54-11/4732-1269), \$50 for a *día de campo*. Contact Estancias Argentinas (Avenida Diagonal Presidente, Roque Saenz Peña 616, 011-54-11/4343-2366, [estanciasargentinas.com](http://estanciasargentinas.com)) for a complete listing of ranches and prices. If you’re willing to explore farther into the province you can find cheaper rates.

#### Tigre

Only 20 miles from downtown Buenos Aires, Tigre marks the beginning of the lush Delta del Paraná and is a popular weekend getaway. Its amazing fruit market, craft shops, and channels lined with stilt houses are not to be missed. Getting there: Take the tourist Tren de la Costa (coastal train) from the Maipú station (Avenida Maipú 2300, between Calle Ramseyer and Calle Marconi). Taxi rides to the Maipú station from downtown run \$7–\$9. When at the Tren de la Costa, ask for a direct ticket to Delta, \$4.20 for a round-trip tourist-class ticket (*boleto turístico*); you can hop on and off at any of the nine stations along the way.

#### Colonia, Uruguay

This pleasant colonial town lies across the river from B.A. and, because it’s in another country, you’ll need your passport. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Colonia was founded by the Portuguese in the late 1600s. Getting there: Buquebus ferries (Avenida Antártida Argentina 821) leave from Puerto Madero at 9 A.M. and 11 A.M., and return at 5:30 P.M. and 6:45 P.M. \$35 for a three-hour round-trip ferry ride; \$62 for a one-hour ride on a smaller, faster boat. (Buquebus Ticket Office, Avenida Córdoba 879, 011-54-11/4316-6500, [buquebus.com](http://buquebus.com))

# Budget Travel Buenos Aires / Barrio Norte

## SNAP GUIDE

Adjacent to the ritzy Recoleta neighborhood, only quieter and more residential, with countless charming places to eat, drink, and while away an afternoon.

### EAT Cumaná

Calle Rodríguez Peña 1149, 011-54-11/4813-9207

The main draws are the meat and vegetable *cazuelas* (casseroles) baked in a stone oven. Those made with *lentejas* (lentils) are especially hearty and delicious. Warning: Vegetarians should beware of “unadvertised” pork in the seemingly all-veggie dishes. Expect crowds and slow service, but you can doodle with crayons while you wait.

### EAT La Cholita

Calle Rodríguez Peña 1165, 011-54-11/4815-4506

The Argentinean yuppie’s version of the neighborhood *parilla* (or grill). It’s fun, but can get crowded and loud. Try *maté*, the traditional bitter herbal drink, here in the afternoon. It’s even served with a *bombilla*, an ornate silver straw.

“I walked all the neighborhoods of the big city. And now I know the multitude of hearts that beat below the ground of my country.”

—Eva Perón

### DRINK Clásica y Moderna

Avenida Callao 892, 011-54-11/4811-3670, [clasicaymoderna.com](http://clasicaymoderna.com)

A bookstore that originally opened in 1938 is now a café, bar, restaurant, and art gallery rolled into one. On weekends, the cozy bohemian venue features live jazz or tango performances. From \$7 per performance.

### DRINK The Shamrock

Calle Rodríguez Peña 1220, 011-54-11/4812-3584, [theshamrockbar.com](http://theshamrockbar.com)

An Irish pub with few Celtic reminders besides beer paraphernalia. Tourists and locals love it. The lure? A daily happy hour that lasts until midnight. Thursday nights are especially hopping.

### SHOP A&G

Avenida Santa Fe 1725, 011-54-11/4811-8567, [aygstore.com.ar](http://aygstore.com.ar)

Custom-cut bikinis that tend to offer more coverage than the more common floss-like variety. For pool and beach emergencies, A&G can have your new suit ready and delivered to your hotel in four hours. \$14 for bikini and delivery.

### SHOP Galería Quinta (Fifth) Avenida

Avenida Santa Fe 1270, 011-54-11/4816-0451

If you’re lucky, you can find a leather jacket for less than \$35 in this vintage clothing mall, which also has boutiques that sell funky shoes and clothes with psychedelic prints.

### \$ SPLURGE Aqua Vita Medical Spa

Calle Arenales 1965, 011-54-11/4812-5989, [aquavitamedicalspa.com](http://aquavitamedicalspa.com)

Get pampered for five straight hours with this luxurious water-themed spa’s Anti-Stress Day package, which includes full-body exfoliation, algae body wrap, aroma hydrotherapy, deep-tissue massage, shiatsu facial, reflexology, and much more. A ridiculous value for \$134. If all you want is a steam bath and a one-hour massage, it costs \$38.

### SOCCER

*El fútbol* in Argentina is world-class. Not only is the country home to soccer legend Diego Maradona, but it also has won two World Cups. Argentina has 20 teams in its premier division (many of which are concentrated in greater B.A.) that compete at both national and international levels. The most famous and the most heated matches are between the two main opposing teams from the capital, the Boca Juniors and River Plate. The season is divided into two parts, the *apertura* (opening) from August to December and the *clausura* (closing) from February to July. Most matches are on Sundays. It’s also possible to tour the city’s main stadium.

### La Bombonera Stadium & Museum

Calle Brandsen 805, 011-54-11/4515-0651 (stadium), 011-54-11/4362-1100 (museum), [museoboquense.com](http://museoboquense.com)

Home to the Boca Juniors. Maradona has long left the team, but Boca spirit lives on. Open daily 10 A.M.–6 P.M., \$4.40 for stadium tour. Tickets for all premier matches start at around \$10 and can be purchased at the stadium, but it’s easier to go through a tour agency.

### Tangol Tours

Calle Florida 971, No. 59 (1st Floor), 011-54-11/4312-7276, [tangol.com](http://tangol.com)

Organized match tours remove the stress of finding the stadiums and seating, while also providing local soccer lore. \$31 for transportation to/from your hotel, game tickets, an English-speaking guide, and a lesson in *fútbol* etiquette.

# Budget Travel Buenos Aires / San Telmo & La Boca

## SNAP GUIDE

B.A.'s most old-fashioned and touristy neighborhoods. Artists, intellectuals and antique vendors still flock to San Telmo. Nestled by the city's southern port, La Boca was founded by Italian immigrants.

### SEE Caminito

Docks from Avenida Don Pedro de Mendoza to Calle Olavarría. Evoking bygone days in La Boca, this alleyway lined with rickety primary-colored houses, artists selling canvases, and tango performers is the stuff of postcards. It's best to visit in the daytime only; the street's after-dark reputation is dicey.

### EAT El Federal

Calle Carlos Calvo 599, 011-54-11/4300-4313

Fabulous *porteño* bistro with loads of old-world features, such as a recessed floor behind the bar—the bartender peers up at you as he pours. A great place to sample a traditional B.A. grill menu, or to sip *gancia con limón* (a popular lemony Italian aperitif). Alcoholic drinks come with free munchies, like olives, and *palitos*—salty chip-like snacks made from wheat and corn.

“It seems like fiction to me that Buenos Aires had a beginning: I judge it as eternal as water and air.”

—Jorge Luis Borges

### DRINK Calle Chile

Blocks between Calle Defensa and Avenida Paseo Colón

On summer evenings especially, locals and tourists alike cram the many sidewalk patios along this street. Its simple cafés and restaurants are known for their generous pitchers of beer. Ignore the slow service and soak up the scene.

### DRINK Gibraltar

Calle Perú 895, 011-54-11/4362-5310

A hip pub with excellent beers on tap, which are two for one 6 P.M.–10 P.M. And while you will always find a Brit somewhere on the premises, Argentines also enjoy this small slice of England. Great pub grub such as fish-and-chips, too.

### DRINK Plaza Dorrego

Prices at the cafés lining this historic square are marked up thanks to tourism. But as you sip your drink, watch tango, or listen to buskers, it's not hard to see why. European-style apartment buildings with wrought-iron balconies overlook the dramatic public space, and on summer nights the plaza erupts into one giant party.

### SHOP Paseo del 900

Calle Defensa 834

An indoor market that's a clutter of antique and jewelry vendors. Old Argentine posters and photos of icons like Che Guevara and Brigitte Bardot fill this veritable museum of memorabilia.

### SHOP San Telmo Sunday Fair

The antiques fair crowds Plaza Dorrego with nostalgia and romance. People come in search of old plates, costume jewelry, and knickknack collectibles. Strains of live tango provide the perfect soundtrack. Merchandise is almost always marked up at this tourist hub on Sundays; bartering recommended.

### PLAY Centro Cultural Torquato Tasso

Calle Defensa 1575, 011-54-11/4307-6506

A good bet for cheaper, less touristy tango performances. The cultural center has a varied schedule of music and dance performances. It also hosts *milongas*, or social events open to the public where *tangueros* of all levels come to practice their moves. Closed Mon.–Wed. \$1.75–\$6.25.

### PLAY Club Museum

Calle Perú 535, 011-54-11/4618-1670

A large, popular nightclub in a national historical monument. Finished in 1916, the former factory was constructed under the direction of Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, of Eiffel Tower fame. The metal beams and balconies will remind you of his most well-known work. \$7 for women, \$8.70 for men, dinner included for \$10 more.

### SPURGE Michelangelo Catedral del Tango

Calle Balcarce 433, 011-54-11/4342-7007, [michelangelotango.com](http://michelangelotango.com)

Fine Argentine cuisine and elaborate tango shows performed by top-notch dancers. The renovated stone warehouse evokes a pseudo-illicit theme. Step into the large cellar-like basement and you enter a romanticized version of tango's history in the *bordellos*, slums, and streets of B.A. Slightly touristy, but good fun. Thurs.–Sun., 8 P.M.–12 A.M. Dinner and show from \$63/person.

### PUERTO MADERO

This trendy walkway of restaurants in Buenos Aires's port is the place to be for *porteños* with thick wallets and fine palettes. The once rough-and-tumble dock has achieved full gentrification; it's now modernized, and brick buildings have been converted into restaurants and apartments. But there's still a budget find:

#### Siga La Vaca

Puerto Madero, Alicia Moreau de Justo 1714, 011-54-11/4315-6801

(Also in Recoleta: Avenida Costanera Rafael Obligado 6340, 011-54-11/4781-4704)

This chainlet has become an institution in Buenos Aires, and it's no wonder, with such plentiful quantities of good food and drink for next to nothing. Stuff yourself silly on all the salad and grilled meat you can eat (beef, pork, chicken), plus get a dessert and your choice of a bottle of wine or a pitcher of soda or beer for \$8.30.

# Budget Travel Buenos Aires / Palermo & Chacarita

## SNAP GUIDE

Palermo is the ‘it’ neighborhood. In recent years it transformed from a family-oriented barrio to the hive of bohemian and fashion activity in B.A. To the west lies the residential area of Chacarita.

### SEE **Bosques de Palermo**

One of the many parks in the northeast section of the neighborhood. In one swath of greenery you’ll find botanical and Japanese gardens, a zoo, and a hippodrome. A terrific place to spend an afternoon.

### SEE **Plaza Armenia**

A favorite weekend hangout that’s unknowingly skipped by tourists but packed with young professionals who fill the artsy cafés and restaurants that border it. Sidewalk terraces are crammed with people and with vendors selling their wares (mainly cheap, trendy jewelry).

“What’s new Buenos Aires? I’m new, I wanna say I’m just a little stuck on you. You’ll be on me too.”

—*Madonna, from the single “Buenos Aires” featured in the movie Evita*

### EAT **Lelé de Troya**

Calle Costa Rica 4901, 011-54-11/4832-2726

There’s a room to suit your every mood in this fun, super-inexpensive Argentine/Mediterranean restaurant—red, green, yellow, and blue to be exact. Feeling amorous? Sit on couches in the boudoir-style red room and savor the house specialty, *lomo croquante*—crispy tenderloin wrapped in phyllo with mushroom mousse and spinach.

### EAT **Pizza Que?**

Calle Charcas 4037, 011-54-11/4833-3165

Rich, stone oven-baked pizzas. Rough wooden tables and candlelight add to the bohemian ambience. Perfect on a cold night; grab a beer with your pie and stay into the wee hours.

### \$ **SPLURGE Cabernet**

Calle Jorge Luis Borges 1757, 011-54-11/4831-3071

Sophisticated Argentine-Mediterranean food that’s earned a local following. The chef’s specialties are a rich lobster-asparagus risotto and an unusually delicious *lomo cabernet*, medallions of beef wrapped in cured ham with a mushroom and wine reduction. Sit on the stone-paved patio amid lush greenery in summer, or in wood-paneled elegance next to a fireplace in the colder months. A fine four-course meal with wine, coffee, and impeccable service runs \$35 per person.

### DRINK **Carnal**

Calle Niceto Vega 5511, 011-54-11/4772-7582

Go early (10 P.M.) to get a table, otherwise you’ll stand the whole night. There’s a stellar rooftop patio, with rattan recliners. Afterward, head across the street to continue the party at Club 69 (see Niceto Vega, below).

### DRINK **Plaza Serrano**

Officially named Plaza Julio Cortazar, the square is lined with some of the city’s best bars, cafés, and cocktail lounges. In good weather, the patio chairs come out and the party sprawls onto the street.

### SHOP **Calle Gurruchaga**

Between Calle Costa Rica and Calle Honduras

Over a dozen funky menswear boutiques line this strip, with everything from vintage garb to edgy designer suits. There are also some excellent women’s stores along the way, as well as stores selling stylish Argentine brands like Airborn and Felix.

### SHOP **Calle Murillo**

Between Calle Malabia and Calle Acevedo

A street outside of the city center that’s the best place to get a leather jacket made to measure. The easiest way to get there is to take a cab. Just say “Calle Murillo,” and they’ll know what you mean. The best deals are at Murillo 666 (Calle Murillo 666, 011-54-11/4855-2024).

### PLAY **Los Cardones**

Calle Jorge Luis Borges 2180, 011-54-11/4777-1112

At this traditional open mic (*peña*), the clientele is likely to burst into song or dance as the night goes on. Listen to live folk music while you dine on regional treats like tamales or *humitas* (cornhusks filled with spicy ground beef or mashed corn). Good food, wine, and entertainment for around \$7. The more the merrier! Reservations recommended.

### PLAY **Niceto Vega**

Calle Niceto Vega 5510, 011-54-11/4779-9396

Hip-hop dancers and a burlesque cabaret troupe (together called Club 69) get the party revved up at this hot club on Thursday nights. It oozes coolness and is loads of fun. Don’t get there before 1 A.M., and plan to stay all night. \$7–\$9.

### MATÉ

Maté refers to the cup in which an herbal brew called *yerba* is shared. The *yerba* leaves come from a shrub and when covered with hot water, they produce a bitter, earthy-tasting drink. In a group, the *cebador* is the person who serves the maté to everyone else. Drink it plain (*amargo*) or with sugar (*dulce*) any time of day.

# Budget Travel Buenos Aires / Recoleta

## SNAP GUIDE

B.A.'s most sophisticated and traditionally upper-class neighborhood. Apart from being the resting place of Evita Perón, Recoleta is also full of chic apartment buildings, boutiques, cafes and restaurants.

### SEE Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires

Avenida Presidente Figueroa Alcorta 3415, 011-54-11/4808-6500, [malba.org.ar](http://malba.org.ar)

If you go to only one art museum in the city, MALBA should be the one. Opened in 2001, the state-of-the-art building houses 20th-century and contemporary art from all over Latin America. Exhibitions vary, but the permanent collection has more than 270 works, including masterpieces by Diego Rivera, Fernando Botero, and Antonio Berni. Open Thurs.–Mon., noon–8 P.M., \$2.40. Free on Wed. from noon–9 P.M., students always free with ID. Closed Tues.

### SEE Plaza Francia

Avenida del Libertador and Avenida Pueyrredón

More of a grassy slope than a traditional “plaza,” indie rock and reggae musicians congregate here on Sat. and Sun., while vendors hawk regional crafts, such as knives with handmade leather handles and traditional maté cups. Locals like to vegetate on the lawn and sip maté, weather permitting.

### SEE Recoleta Cemetery

Calle Junín 1760, 4803-1594

Eva Perón's surprisingly discreet family tomb has made the graveyard one of the most famous landmarks in B.A. There's a lot more to investigate, from ostentatious mausoleums to unkempt and eerie underground tombs with exposed coffins. Open daily 7 A.M.–5:45 P.M. Free.

### EAT Los Porteños

Avenida General Las Heras 2101, 4809-3548

An old-school, wood-paneled B.A. bistro a block away from the Recoleta Cemetery serving everything from cuts of grilled meat to pizza. It's perfect for dropping in any time of day or night. A good place for a morning coffee and to read up on regional news in the *Buenos Aires Herald*. Window signs feature the classic *porteño* rounded script. Open Mon.–Thurs. until 1:30 A.M., Fri.–Sat. until 7 A.M.

### EAT R.M. Ortiz

Opposite the main entrance to Recoleta Cemetery

The good restaurants that line this short street all have private terrace patios (a rarity in the neighborhood). The area is touristy, but between the great outdoor seating and plentiful grilled Argentine steaks (\$8–10), you won't be sorry you made the trip.

### \$ SPLURGE Au Bec Fin

Calle Vicente López 1827, 011-54-11/4807-3765, [aubecfin.com.ar](http://aubecfin.com.ar)

A 1920s mansion restaurant that has an opulent, belle époque dining room with crimson carpets and walls, and rounded settees. The crab-stuffed trout (*trucha*) or the chateaubriand beef with goat-cheese gratinée from the French-heavy menu are both superb. \$16 for full lunch menu, around \$40 for dinner.

### DRINK Milión

Calle Paraná 1048, 011-54-11/4815-9925, [milion.com.ar](http://milion.com.ar)

Taking up three stories of a converted mansion, this posh bar has high ceilings, high-backed armchairs, and engraved wood finishing. There's a long list of cocktails, and beers are \$2. Seats in the candlelit garden are hard to come by in warm weather. Note: Bring the address with you; there are no signs for Milión on the street.

### SHOP Buenos Aires Design

Avenida Pueyrredón 2501, 011-54-11/5777-6000, [designrecoleta.com.ar](http://designrecoleta.com.ar)

Design aficionados love the mall at the northeast corner of Recoleta Cemetery. Visit and you could end up walking out with a leather folding chair or a tepee-like lamp made of metal rods. If you're not in the market to buy, it's worth going for its gorgeous balconies and cafés overlooking Plaza Francia.

### SHOP El Ateneo Grand Splendid

Avenida Santa Fe 1860, corner Avenida Callao, 011-54-11/4813-6052

Claims to be the largest bookstore in Latin America. For 80 years it was a majestic cinema/theater, aptly named the Grand Splendid. In 2000, it was renovated into a beautiful bookstore; its many titles and gold-gilt balconies make it a worthwhile visit for bookworms and cineastes alike. Most books are in Spanish, but there are some in English, French, and Portuguese.

### SHOP Patio Bullrich

Avenida del Libertador 750, 011-54-11/4814-7400

An elegant, upscale mall with marble floors, tall pillars, and lots of greenery. In addition to international brands like Cacharel and Dolce & Gabbana, you'll also find the best Argentine designers, such as Rapsodia, known for its bohemian chic.

### PLAY Mint Lounge

Avenida Costanera Rafael Obligado and Avenida Sarmiento (Punta Carrasco), 011-54-11/4807-1010

A spacious, sleek club where the best features are the grand windows and the terrace overlooking the Plata River. DJs favor house music and the latest releases. Opens at 1 A.M. on Fri. and Sat. only. Cover from \$5.20.

### PLAY Punta Carrasco

Avenida Costanera Rafael Obligado and Avenida Sarmiento, 011-54-11/4807-1010, [puncacarrasco.com.ar](http://puncacarrasco.com.ar)

Hit the upscale sports club for a dip if you can't take the South American heat. The river's-edge complex has three outdoor pools better suited for posing than swimming laps. Open daily 10 A.M.–8 P.M. Mon.–Fri. \$4.50, Sat. and Sun. \$7.65.