

Buenos Aires



The city's reputation as a hotbed for design, combined with a vast cultural heritage, make this Argentine capital one of the world's most exciting places. Swathed in a European cloak, Buenos Aires has emerged as a distinct city of varied barrios. Stylish artists fill the cafes of Palermo, while Recoleta is an enclave for the upper class, with gorgeous Parisian architecture and a storied cemetery. The cobbled streets of San Telmo feature colonial buildings that hum with a history of staggering romance and unbridled charm. Experience the tantalizing taste of a glass of Torrontes wine or the drama of a tango dance on a South American journey.

Memorable Experiences

Walking on Sunshine

Traverse Puente de la Mujer, a footbridge that spans the Puerto Madero.

A Proud Promenade

Stroll past French villas and upscale boutiques in Recoleta.

Hidden Treasures

Explore the streets of San Telmo, one of the city's oldest barrios.

Art Afternoon

Gaze upon Rembrandts and Rubens at the Museo Nacional de Buenos Aires.

Distinctive Details

That seductive art form called tango began to flourish in Buenos Aires in the 1880s. No one knows for certain how, or where it originated, but it has come to symbolize the beauty and mystery of Argentina.

Starwood Preferred Guest Recommends


Among red walkways, ornamental pagodas, and koi ponds, the Jardin Japonés hosts Ikebana demonstrations and Taiko drum performances. Black pines and ginkgos greet visitors as they make their way past the Zen garden to the teahouse.

Destination Information

Country Argentina
Province Buenos Aires
Elevation 11 meters
Population 3,034,161 (2007)
Language Spanish

 **Country Code:** 11
Area Code: 54

 **Ministro Pistarini International Airport (EZE)**

 **Transportation:**
Taxis, Trams, Ferry

 **Argentine Peso**

Nearby Luxury Collection Hotels and Resorts



Park Tower

Avenida Leandro N. Alem 1193
Buenos Aires, 1001
Phone: (54)(11) 4318 9100



Culture

Art mingles with allegory, and life with culture, on this city's stimulating stage.

Family



Museo Nacional de Arte Decorativo

Walls of rose colored satin pair perfectly with a set of Louis XV furnishings in the princely Salon de Madame. Across the way, masculine cherry and crimson tones adorn a study. A historic 20th century mansion filled with treasures made by skilled European artisans, the Museo Nacional de Arte Decorativo was the most extraordinary residence in Buenos Aires. Open to the public as a museum since the 1930s, the grand structure contains a magnificent collection of period art and decorations dating from the Renaissance to the Art Deco periods.

Address: Avenida del Libertador 1902
Phone: (54) (11) 4801 8248

Highly Recommended



Palacio Barolo

A scarlet hue infuses stone strips arranged in geometric patterns on the ground floor. Like flames they attract, beckoning the onlooker with their warm tone. They represent the fires of hell at the beginning of Dante's Divine Comedy, which the impressive Palacio Barolo completed in 1923 was built to mimic. As visitors are guided up winding marble stairways and majestic halls, they traverse a series of floors meant to depict purgatory, before continuing up into the lofty heights of paradise, which culminates in a heavenly rooftop lighthouse with dazzling views.

Address: Avenida de Mayo 1370
Phone: (54) (15) 5027 9035



MALBA

Within a stark, stunningly modern box of a building, lies an unrivaled collection of 20th century Latin American art. Masterworks numbering nearly three hundred, include Diego Rivera's "Retrato de Ramon Gomez," and Frida Kahlo's "Self Portrait With Monkey and Parrot." Natural light filters in from strategically positioned panes of glass, while visitors encounter art from Mexico, Brazil, Cuba, Columbia, Ecuador, Uruguay, Chile, Venezuela, and of course, Argentina. Sponsored by the collector Eduardo Constantini, MALBA opened in 2001, and includes a café and cinema.

Address: Avenida Figueroa Alcorta 3415
Phone: (54) (11) 4808 6500



Shopping

Rich local materials like cowhide and alpaca are transformed into innovative designs.

Neighborhoods



Palermo Soho

Argentina's fashionable citizens stroll this neighborhood, dropping in on the workshops of local designers and refined clothing boutiques like La Martina, Anahi M, and Felix. Romantic silk and lace creations fill Jesus Fernandez' lingerie boutique on Calle Gorriti, while Carolina Guti crafts shawls from fine materials such as alpaca at Harapos Reales. Papelera Palermo carries handmade stationary just down the street from Tikal Chocolates where visitors may sample dulce de leche after lunching at one of Palermo Soho's myriad of sidewalk cafes.

Address: Palermo Viejo around Plaza Serrano, just south of Palermo Hollywood.

Shops & Boutiques



Un'Altra Volta

Aromas of rich cocoa greet patrons as they enter the sleek interior of Un'Altra Volta, Buenos Aires' most extraordinary chocolate shop. Modern décor provides a fitting frame for the decadent desserts that lie within the temperature controlled glass case. Classic confections like the bite-sized "Lamponi," a mound of bittersweet chocolate filled with raspberry fondant, join more unorthodox creations such as the sumptuously textured truffle known as "Petra." Made of almonds and caju chestnut cream, it is covered with the lavender-hued seeds of the poppy flower.

Address: Avenida del Libertador 3060

Phone: (54) (81) 0888 6582

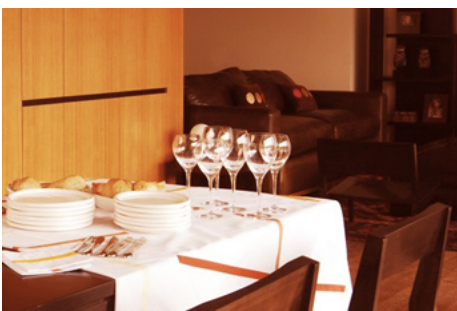


Calma Chica

The satiny sheen of a cowhide butterfly chair adds a sumptuous touch to a display of bold, brightly hued household goods at this unparalleled San Telmo boutique. While upholding the traditions of Argentine life such as springtime picnics and summers at the villa, Calma Chica offers designs of the utmost caliber. The shop's loft-like space is filled with a dazzling array of items such as egg shaped handbags, zebra skin rugs, vibrant wooden toys, cotton clothes for baby, pillows, placemats, and high-gloss plastic chairs based on a classic Eames design.

Address: Defensa 856

Phone: (54) (11) 4361 0489



Buenos Aires Design Center

A historic yellow façade adorned with arches and statues gives way to two spacious floors of high-end furniture and housewares at this distinctive Recoleta shopping center. Devoted to interior design, dozens of boutiques with exquisite displays feature items by local and international designers. Tienda Puro Diseño Argentino offers goods created by over one hundred Argentine designers using only local materials. On the second level near the breathtaking outdoor terrace, shoppers pause to enjoy midday refreshments in this stylish setting.

Address: Avenida Pueyrredon 2501

Phone: (54) (11) 5777 6000



Cuisine

Locally raised cattle and freshly churned ice cream are stars of the Argentine table.

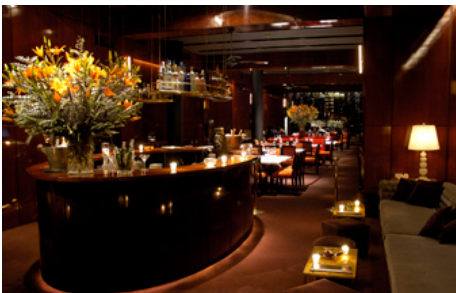
Acclaimed



Persicco

Fresh milk from local dairies combines with succulent strawberries, fragrant lemons and the richest cacao to create outstanding ice cream. Widely regarded as having the most exquisite product in a city full of ice cream connoisseurs, Persicco has been crafting their thick, tantalizing concoction since 1931. Several branches can be found throughout the city, but the location in La Redonda, with its comfortable open-air terrace and spacious umbrella-shaded patio is recommended. Enjoy a creamy scoop of dulce de leche and witness the vibrant Buenos Aires scenery.

Address: Vuelta de Obligado 2092, La Redonda
Phone: (54) (81) 0333 7377

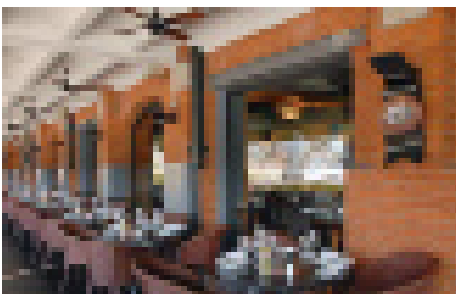


Casa Cruz

Cloaked in mahogany walls and scarlet upholstery, Casa Cruz is a den of sumptuous indulgence. Guests enter the majestic interior through a pair of mammoth brass doors that set a glistening tone for an evening of fine wines and sophisticated cuisine. Around an immense floral centerpiece, intimate, candle-lit tables are gathered. Artfully arranged by chef Germán Martitegui, specialties include rabbit medallions with raisin puree and grilled octopus with passion fruit. Dessert ranges from fresh figs with rosemary ice cream to lemongrass crème brûlée.

Address: Uriarte 1658
Phone: (54) (11) 4833 1112

Indigenous Flavors

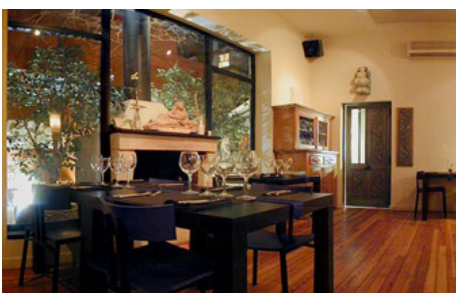


Cabana Las Lilas

A warm Argentine sun illuminates the red brick façade of Cabana Las Lilas. Housed within a historic, waterfront warehouse, this fine restaurant takes the Argentine tradition of parrilla to gourmet heights. A refined, industrial setting surrounds a clientele who dine on rib eye, T-bone, and tenderloin. Prime cuts come from grass-fed cows raised on the restaurant's own ranch. From mashed pumpkin to broccoli aioli, the menu includes a long list of side dishes, and the wine list offers a vast collection of Argentine malbecs and merlots from regional vineyards.

Address: Avenida Alicia Moreau de Justo 516
Phone: (54) (11) 4313 1336

Local Specialty



Thymus

Beyond a small garden in Palermo, stone sculptures and sleek, dark wood tables contribute to a soothing dining atmosphere at this distinguished restaurant whose rooftop terrace houses an art gallery. Carefully prepared dishes infused with French inspiration take form under the eye of skilled Argentine chef Fernando Mayoral. Guests indulge in dishes like duck breast with Szechwan peppers, sweet potato puree and molasses and Mayoral's specialty: sautéed shrimp with peanut sauce and boiled bacon in a soy sauce broth.

Address: Lerma 525
Phone: (54) (11) 4772 1936



Noteworthy

Dancers and musicians seduce in city squares while farther afield, nature allures.

Further Afield



Patios de Cafayate Wine Country

Golden-green grapes hang in succulent clusters from the beautifully gnarled branches of the vine. Once harvested, pressed and aged, they become the sweet, fruit-tinged white wine called Torronte. This tranquil region of sandy pink terrain in the Calchaquies Valleys, lies 725 miles northwest of Buenos Aires. Cafayate is an enriching region with alluring wine spas, matchless vineyards, and intriguing museums of art and archaeology. The Patios de Cafayate Hotel & Spa is a private Eden that lies within this heavenly Argentine oasis.

Address: Patios de Cafayate Hotel & Spa, Ruta Nacional 40 and Ruta Nacional 68, Cafayate
Phone: (54) (38) 6842 2229



Iguazu Falls

The thunderous roar of nearly three hundred waterfalls fills the tropical South American air, 650 miles north of Buenos Aires. At the northeastern tip of Argentina, Iguazu Falls, one of the world's most extraordinary natural wonders, forms a border with Brazil. From heights of up to 269 feet, they plunge over the edge of a two and a half mile long crescent-shaped cliff. Wooden walkways and rainforest footpaths offer excellent views of the breathtaking panorama, while excursion boats immerse visitors in the powerful waters.

Address: Accessible via Puerto Iguazú in the province of Misiones.

Local Charms



Café De Los Angelitos

Curved brass handles of mahogany doors hint at glamour, drama, and history. The Argentine orchestras and tango dancers who take the stage each evening maintain the legacy of those pictured in the black and white photographs hung proudly upon the walls. As they did in 1890 when the space opened as Bar Rivadavia, writers, poets, actors, and artists gather for the enjoyment of food, drink, entertainment, and conversation. The original structure was torn down in 2000, but the newly built café retains its 1930s elegance with dark wood and crystal.

Address: Avenida Rivadavia 2100
Phone: (54) (91) 1650 2731

Local Specialty



Plaza Dorrego

The poignant sounds of a Spanish guitar drift into the sprightly rhythm of a belly dancer's castanets at Plaza Dorrego in San Telmo. Every Sunday, street musicians, stilt walkers, and puppeteers provide entertainment as intrigued visitors peruse the flea market stalls. Overflowing with antique gramophones, bohemian jewelry, vintage dresses and classic records, they brim with treasures from Argentina's past. As the shadows grow long and the vendors pack up, tango dancers emerge, filling the square with their seductive steps while onlookers gaze at their moves.

Address: Plaza Dorrego, at the end of Calle Defensa, San Telmo