



Rolf's Buenos Aires Tips

Buenos Aires is a vibrant and culturally rich city with a rich history and a thriving arts scene.

One of the best ways to experience Buenos Aires is to spend some time walking around the city and soaking up the local culture.

There are plenty of things to see and do in Buenos Aires, from visiting its iconic landmarks like the Obelisco and the Teatro Colon to exploring the colorful neighborhoods of San Telmo and La Boca. The city is also known for its delicious cuisine, including Argentina's famous steak and empanadas, as well as its tango music and dance.

One of the must-see attractions in Buenos Aires is the historic neighborhood of San Telmo, known for its cobblestone streets, antique shops, and tango clubs. The neighborhood is also home to the weekly San Telmo market, where visitors can browse for souvenirs and try Argentine specialties like empanadas and asado.

If you're interested in art and architecture, be sure to check out the Recoleta neighborhood, home to the famous Recoleta Cemetery, where many of Argentina's most famous figures are buried.

Buenos Aires is a city with something for everyone, and there is always something new and exciting to discover. Whether you're interested in history, art, food, or just soaking up the local culture, there is no shortage of things to see and do in this vibrant and dynamic city.

Here are my recommendations for you while in Buenos Aires.

Enjoy!!

Before you go:

Visas:

You generally do not need a visa to visit Argentina for tourism purposes. but your passport has to be valid for at least 6 months from arrival date.

You can get an extra 90 days stay by going to Uruguay for a day.

When to go:

Buenos Aires is a city with a temperate climate, making it a good destination to visit at any time of year. However, the best time to visit will depend on your personal preferences and the type of activities you are interested in. Here are some factors to consider when deciding when to visit Buenos Aires:

- **Weather:** The city has a temperate climate, with hot and humid summers and cool, dry winters. The hottest months are January and February, while the coldest months are June through August.
- **Crowds:** Buenos Aires is a popular destination year-round, but the city can be especially crowded during peak tourist season, which runs from November to March. If you want to avoid the crowds, consider visiting during the shoulder season (April to October).
- **Festivals and events:** Buenos Aires is home to a range of festivals and events throughout the year, including the Tango Festival in August, the Buenos Aires International Film Festival in April, and the Buenos Aires Book Fair in April. If you're interested in attending a specific event, it's a good idea to plan your trip around it.

Getting there:

Buenos Aires is served by a number of international airlines, with flights departing from cities around the world. Some of the major airlines that fly to Buenos Aires include:

- Aerolineas Argentinas: The national airline of Argentina, Aerolineas Argentinas operates flights to Buenos Aires from a range of destinations in South America, North America, Europe, and Australia.
- American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines operate flights to Buenos Aires from various cities in the United States and Canada.
- KLM, Lufthansa and Iberia operate flights to Buenos Aires from various cities in Europe.
- LAN and LATAM operate flights to Buenos Aires from several cities in South America, including Santiago, Lima, and Quito.

There are two airports serving Buenos Aires; Ezeiza International Airport EZE and Jorge Newbery Domestic Airport

There are several options for getting from Buenos Aires' airport (Ezeiza International Airport) to the city center. The most convenient and popular option is to take a taxi or ride-hailing service, such as Uber or Cabify. The journey from EZE to the city center typically takes around 45 minutes to an hour, depending on traffic. It's worth noting that taxi fares in Buenos Aires can be expensive, especially during peak hours or when taking a trip to the airport.

From Jorge Newberry which is just north of Palermo it takes about 15 to 20 min by taxi.

Another option for getting from the airport to the city is to take the shuttle bus service offered by Manuel Tienda León. This service operates from both EZE and Jorge Newbery Domestic Airport, and takes you to various points in the city center, including major hotels and landmarks. Tickets can be purchased at the airport or online in advance.

Money - ATM:

The currency is the Argentine peso (ARS). It's a good idea to exchange some money before arriving in the city, as it can be difficult to find places to exchange foreign currency once you are there. You can exchange money at the airport, at a bank, or at a cambio (currency exchange office). It's important to note that many businesses in Buenos Aires do not accept foreign credit cards, so it's a good idea to have some cash on hand.

ATMs (called cajeros automáticos in Spanish) are widely available in Buenos Aires and are a convenient way to access cash. Keep in mind that ATMs may charge a fee for each transaction and have very low withdrawal limits (under \$200 in most cases.), and it's a good idea to notify your bank in advance of your trip to avoid any issues with your account. It's also a good idea to be aware of your surroundings when using an ATM, as crime can be a problem in some areas.

It's worth noting that the exchange rate for the Argentine peso can be very volatile, so it's a good idea to check the current rate before exchanging money or making a large purchase. You can find the current exchange rate by checking online or at a bank or currency exchange office.

The black market for currency exchange, also known as the "parallel market," refers to the illegal exchange of currency at rates that differ from the official exchange rate set by the government. In Buenos Aires, the black market for currency exchange has historically been a way for people to access foreign currency, especially during times of economic instability or when the government has imposed strict controls on the exchange of foreign currency.

Large bills such as US \$100 and 100 Euro are preferred by the exchangers. Beware of fake ARS notes as they are widespread!!! There is a risk of being scammed or cheated.

Don't exchange on Calle Florida! Find someone at the hotel or restaurant to exchange.

Black Market Money Exchange Kiosk - (Safe Place to exchange - Looks Like a Kiosk but you go in and they will exchange your money)

<https://goo.gl/maps/bsbX28WCEa72>

Getting Around:

There are several options for getting around Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina. The city has an extensive public transportation system, including buses, subways, and trains, which can be a convenient and economical way to get around. Tickets for the public transportation system SUBTE can be purchased at kiosks or on board the bus or train.

Taxis are also a popular way to get around the city. Taxis can be hailed on the street or called in advance. It's worth noting that taxi fares in Buenos Aires can be expensive, especially during peak hours or when taking a trip to the airport.

Ride-hailing services, such as Uber and Cabify, are also available in Buenos Aires. These services can be a convenient and affordable way to get around, especially if you are familiar with using ride-hailing apps.

If you prefer to travel on your own, Buenos Aires has an extensive network of bike lanes and is a bike-friendly city. You can rent a bike at various locations throughout the city, or join a guided bike tour to explore the city's landmarks and neighborhoods.

Taxis:

Good and inexpensive. More expensive than Uber from the Airport

Bus:

The Subte Card for the Metro and Bus

Metro - SUBTE:

Buy a Subte Card at the Metro Station.

Bicycle - EcoBici:

Free but you have to sign up online.

eScooters: Movo, Grin, Glovo Go

Safety:

Buenos Aires is generally a safe city, but, as with any large city, it's important to take precautions to protect yourself and your belongings. It's worth noting that crime rates in Buenos Aires have been on the rise in recent years, and it's important to take extra precautions to protect yourself and your belongings.

Petty crime is pretty common. Snatch & grab's and pickpockets are common in Buenos Aires. Also, beware of peso bills given to you by anyone as there are a lot of fake bills in circulation. Taxi drivers and money exchangers are known to give you fake notes.

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times and avoid walking alone in poorly lit or deserted areas.
- Keep your valuables secure and out of sight. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash or wearing expensive jewelry.
- Use caution when using ATMs, as crime can be a problem in some areas. Avoid using ATMs at night or in isolated locations.
- Avoid hailing taxis off the street and opt for a licensed taxi service or ride-hailing service instead.
- Be aware of pickpockets and keep your bag or purse close to you at all time

By following these simple safety tips, you can help ensure a safe and enjoyable trip to Buenos Aires.

Phone - SIM Cards:

Movistar or Claro have cheap Sim Cards with decent coverage and good data plans.

Stay:

Buenos Aires is a vibrant and lively city with a wide range of accommodation options to suit every budget and preference. From luxurious 5-star hotels to budget-friendly hostels and guesthouses, the city has something to offer every type of traveler.

Fancy

Faena Hotel - *****

<https://goo.gl/maps/2AA42k7ZgFk>

Located in an old grain silo in Puerto Madero designed by Philip Stark.

Palacio Dohau - *****

<https://goo.gl/maps/F83h3ETjeu52>

Park Hyatt in Recoleta ***** very elegant

buenosaires.park.hyatt.com/

Algodon Mansion - *****

<https://goo.gl/maps/rbt3huZ7BnD2>

In Recoleta ***** Boutique hotel with a great restaurant and bar that belongs to a vineyard.

<http://www.algodonmansion.com/>



Mid Range

Babel San Telmo ***

<https://goo.gl/maps/h1KmVD82RQq>

Decent little hotel on an great street in San Telmo

<http://www.hotelbabel.com.ar/es/index.php>

Babel Suites***

<https://goo.gl/maps/gMq8VwdXMgw>

Nicer rooms, but area is not as nice... but close to transportation.

<http://www.babelsuites.com.ar/en/index.php>



Eat:

Buenos Aires does not have the best restaurants in the world, but it does have the best meat and some very good pasta, and very attentive waiters!

Buenos Aires is a food lover's paradise, with a diverse and delicious culinary scene that reflects the city's rich cultural heritage. From classic Argentine dishes like empanadas and asado (grilled meat) to international cuisines like Italian, Spanish, and French, the city has something to offer every type of foodie.

One of the must-try dishes in Buenos Aires is the empanada, a savory pastry filled with meat, vegetables, or cheese. Empanadas can be found at most restaurants and are a popular snack or appetizer. Another Argentine specialty is asado, grilled meat typically served with sides like potatoes, salad, and chimichurri sauce.

In addition to traditional Argentine cuisine, Buenos Aires is home to a range of international restaurants, including Italian, Spanish, and French. The city is also known for its wide selection of street food, including choripan (grilled sausage sandwiches) and churros (deep-fried doughnuts).

Fancy

Patagonia del Sur

<https://goo.gl/maps/tDna2Mo8yYN2>

Francis Maleman is considered one of the best chefs in South America, his restaurant Patagonia del Sur is in a very strange area of town (Bocas), but is spectacular.

You need to Reserve and pay in advance!

<http://www.restaurantepatagoniasur.com>

Algodon

<https://goo.gl/maps/rbt3huZ7BnD2>

<http://www.algodonmansion.com/>



Steak

Chila & Cabaña Las Lilas Both are great places for good meat in the **Puerto Madero Area**. I prefer Las Lilas as it has a nice outside sitting space overlooking the port area.

Chila

www.chilaweb.com.ar/

<https://goo.gl/maps/sJXVazFwDMv>



Cabaña Las Lilas

www.restaurantlaslilas.com.ar/

<https://goo.gl/maps/4vJMewnSpeo>

No need to Reserve!

Sagardi

<https://goo.gl/maps/7YJ3FhHXhDo>

The **best steak in Buenos Aires!** the “Xuleton” it’s expensive but worth it.

One Xuleton is big enough for two people, and the house wine, UCO is amazing for the money.

It’s my local place for pinchos (tapas on bread) and wine.

It’s in San Telmo, just south of the Plaza Dorrego.

How to Order your Steak :

A punto = Well done

Un poco jugoso = medium rare

Jugoso = rare /red

Usually all you get is the meat, so you need to order all the sides.

Pasta

Cantina de San Juan - San Telmo

<https://goo.gl/maps/2RzCQ2dXDyC2>

Very good pasta made by a famous TV chef

You need to Reserve! As it gets busy specially on Sunday when the San Telmo flea market is on.

Calle Chile - San Telmo

Cash Only!!



Nápoles - San Telmo - Ave Caseros

<https://goo.gl/maps/8Wtqhj798cQ2>

A must see! Probably the most unique setting and best decorated restaurant in South America, basic but good pasta and pizza. The street it’s on Avenida Caseros, is very nice up and coming dining and shopping area. Reserve ahead.

Other

Mercado de San Telmo -

<https://goo.gl/maps/2WXsganRmKB2>

Good mini restaurants and wine bars.



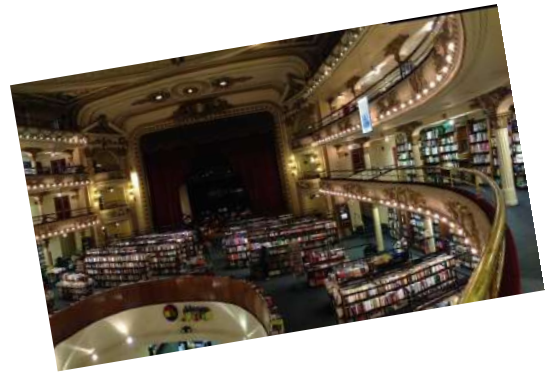
Shopping:

El Ateneo

<https://goo.gl/maps/vSrNp6GW7iD2>

Bookshop in Recoleta (Avenida Santa Fe and Callao) is One of the most spectacular book stores in the world, set located in an old theater.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Ateneo_Grand_Splendid



Galerias del Pacifico

<https://goo.gl/maps/ASqWx4EttZ12>

Located on Calle Florida is a nice fancy mall with all the usual fancy shops.

www.galeriaspacifico.com.ar/

San Telmo Flea Market (on Sunday)

<https://goo.gl/maps/t4UEQ24Hu6L2>

Mercado de San Telmo

<https://goo.gl/maps/2WXsganRmKB2>

Food and Antiques

Palermo Soho has some great small designer boutiques.

See and Do:

Mafalda Paseo de La Historieta - San Telmo

<https://goo.gl/maps/wXn5FNx4ZPQ2>

Recoleta Cemetery

<https://goo.gl/maps/c3pEVThm3Wt>

Spectacular cemetery with great mausoleums.

Casa Rosada Tour (on Sunday)

<https://goo.gl/maps/WmEpRdRpZZ72>

San Telmo - Flea Market

<https://goo.gl/maps/6bdyCQ6qH382>

Only on Sunday...

Good variety of artwork and antiques.

El Zanjón

<https://goo.gl/maps/6bdyCQ6qH382>

A fantastic museum in San Telmo, and amazingly well restored house and tunnels.

Also be sure to check out the Casa Minima which is a few feet away.

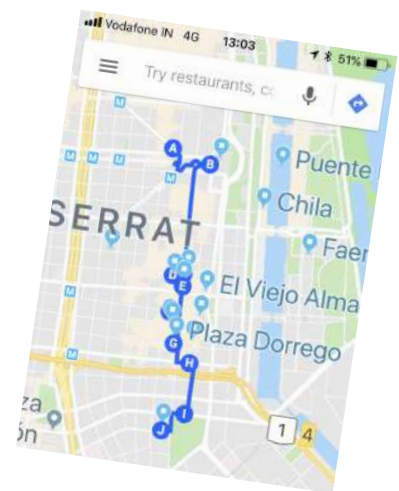
<http://www.elzanjon.com.ar/en>

Walking Tours:

Sunday Market & San Telmo

Walking Tour:

Click Below to Open Tour on Google Maps



<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1COFne5fx0kLLJ29jRtqXHRoOcORk3I91&usp=sharing>

Start: Catedral - Casa Rosada - Mercado

San Telmo - **End:** Napoles Restaurant

2 - 3 hrs

Multi Centro & Puerto Madero

Click Below to Open Goolge Maps Walking Tour

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1PhbxUMclYBuwcktVYjBH01NsmZ8e8MLV&usp=sharing>

Start: Teatro Colon - Galeria del Pacifico - Museo Hotel de Inmigrantes - Puerto Madero - **End:** Faena Hotel
3 to 4 Hrs

Puerto Madero

<https://goo.gl/maps/jkQkeJe11o62>

Nice for a stroll. Good for lunch and dinner - (Bice - Las Lilas - Chila) Ship museums are interesting. Modern Art Museum is good.

Bocas Area

<https://goo.gl/maps/tDna2Mo8yYN2>

Touristy but interesting area. If you are a soccer fan, you need to go to the Bocas Juniors Stadium.

Music / Opera / Tango:

Centro Cultural Kirchner

<https://goo.gl/maps/dXCxZDBdAfu>

Brand new art center. Free concerts, just show up at 6 pm and get a ticket or you can book ahead online, but you have to pick up before 4 pm the day fo the concert.

Teatro Colon - Buenos Aires Opera House

<https://goo.gl/maps/FmtygJ51CwB2>

Best Opera House in South America. Relatively cheap. They also do guided tours.

Tango

El Viejo Almacén -

<https://goo.gl/maps/XFXUKTbRm2z>

Old tango show restaurant, usually you have to have dinner and then watch the show. Fun if you just want to see a show else I recommend a milonga, or the Open Air tango on the Plaza Dorrego.

Saturday Night Open Air Tango

<https://goo.gl/maps/Fq2EhzMrQgR2>

Plaza Dorrego - San Telmo - Just after sunset on Saturday, locals come and tango on the plaza. Lot's of fun!



Wine:

Vinoteca Tierra Mendocina

<https://goo.gl/maps/wtdh9WVs4NN2>

<https://goo.gl/maps/2WXsganRmKB2>

If you want to bring back some great wine, my local wine guy Flavio, in San Telmo he is awesome! Just tell him what kind of wine you like and he will pick out something great. Flavio @ Vinoteca Tierra Mendocina on Carlos Calvo 451

If you guys go to the San Telmo flea market on a Sunday, he is right there, he will hook you up if you tell him I sent you!

Sagardi

<https://goo.gl/maps/7YJ3FhHXhDo>

The house wine at Sagardi UCO Acero is amazing for the money. Its my local place for tapas and wine. If you buy 6 to go its 110 pesos per bottle!

In San Telmo just south of the Plaza Dorrego.

DAY TRIP

Colonia de Sacramento - Uruguay

Colonia del Sacramento is a small city located on the western coast of Uruguay, just across the river from Buenos Aires, Argentina. With its cobblestone streets, historic landmarks, and laid-back atmosphere, Colonia del Sacramento is a popular day trip destination for travelers visiting Buenos Aires.

Founded in 1680 by the Portuguese, Colonia del Sacramento is a city with a rich history and cultural heritage. The city's historic center, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In addition to its historical attractions, Colonia del Sacramento is known for its picturesque waterfront, with its colorful houses, boats, and restaurants. The city's main street, Calle de los Suspiros (Street of Sighs), is a popular destination for shopping and dining, with a range of boutiques, galleries, and cafes.



I highly recommend you go over to Colonia de Sacramento in Uruguay for a 1 or 2 day trip, as it is really different from Buenos Aires. It is only 1 hr from downtown Buenos Aires, via ferry from Puerto Madero. Just hop on the ferry and then stroll the streets for a few hrs. No tour or guide needed.

<https://www.buquebus.com>

Colonia is especially nice in the afternoon, once all the tourists have gone. I definitely recommend staying a night.

Stay:

Charco

<https://goo.gl/maps/tuBFa5hfbuD2>

A great little boutique hotel and restaurant on the Rio Plata river.

<http://charcohotel.com>



Eat:

El Buen Suspiro

<https://goo.gl/maps/QTqfUw7rTcR2>

It's a nice place for wine and snacks. They have a cozy patio. (Drink or buy : Tannat- KM 0 wine... it's amazing - Local cheese plate goes very well with it!

La Bodeguita - Pizza

<https://goo.gl/maps/QLCSusvdAmt>

Fantastic Pizza overlooking the Rio de la Plata. You can see Buenos Aires in the distance. Nice for sunset.

I hope you have an AWESOME time in Buenos Aires... If you have any questions or suggestions email me rolf@magener.com

