

SAMPLE ITINERARY

BUENOS AIRES · ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires in 3 Days

The historic center, Recoleta and Palermo, San Telmo and La Boca, planned day by day with times, where to stay and what to book before you fly.

DURATION	ROUTE	STYLE	BEST TIME
3 days / 3 nights	Center → Recoleta & Palermo → San Telmo	On foot + subway + ride apps	Sep–Nov and Mar–May

This is a **sample of the PDF I build for each traveler**. Every personalized itinerary is made for your dates, your budget, your pace and the rest of your Argentina trip. Here you will find the route day by day, where to stay, what things cost, when to go and how to move around the city like a local.

I was born in Buenos Aires and lived in Argentina for 53 years. This is the city I would show a friend on a first visit.

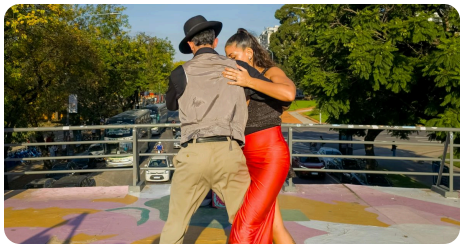
> **How to use it:** save it on your phone before you leave. It works offline, so you can check it on the subway or when your data runs out.

THE ROUTE AT A GLANCE

Three days, three sides of the city

Day 1 is the Buenos Aires of history and politics, day 2 is the elegant north with its parks, and day 3 is the old south where tango was born. Each day stays in one area, so you walk more and ride less.


Palermo at sunset


Tango


The Teatro Colón

DAY 1

The historic center

Plaza de Mayo, Avenida de Mayo, the Teatro Colón and a tango night.

DAY 2

Recoleta & Palermo

The Recoleta Cemetery, a bookstore in an old theater, parks and a parrilla dinner.

DAY 3

San Telmo & La Boca

Cobblestones and antiques, the colors of Caminito and sunset in Puerto Madero.

Plan day 3 for a Sunday if you can: that is when the San Telmo fair fills Defensa street with antiques, music and street food.

BEFORE YOU GO

- ✓ **Book the Teatro Colón tour ahead** on the official site, teatrocolon.org.ar. English tours sell out first.
- ✓ **Book your tango show** a few days ahead, especially on weekends.
- ✓ **Get a SUBE card** when you arrive: you need it for the subway (subte) and city buses.
- ✓ **Install a ride app** (Uber or Cabify) and set up an eSIM or local SIM before you land.
- ✓ **Pay in pesos by card** and carry a little cash for tips. If a terminal offers to charge you in dollars, say no: the rate is worse.
- ✓ **Bring your passport to check-in:** foreign tourists paying with a foreign card may not be charged the 21% VAT on the room.

About the times: they follow the city's rhythm. Lunch is around 1 to 3 pm and dinner after 9 pm. In your personalized itinerary I adjust them to your pace, your group and your flight times.

Flying on from Buenos Aires? Most domestic flights leave from Aeroparque (AEP), in the city. International flights use Ezeiza (EZE), about 30 km away. If you land at one and fly out of the other on the same day, leave a long margin.

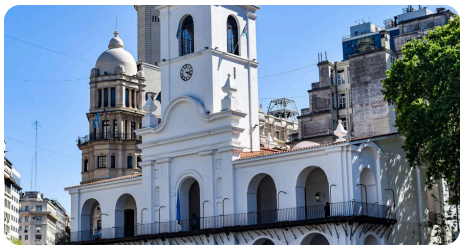


DAY 01

The Historic Center

Where Argentina's history happened

Start where the country started. Around Plaza de Mayo you have the Casa Rosada, the Cathedral and the Cabildo within a few steps, and from there Avenida de Mayo takes you toward the Congress and the great theater of the city.



The Cabildo



Café Tortoni



Inside the Teatro Colón

Key moment: the main hall of the Teatro Colón, one of the great opera houses of the world.

09:30 — **Plaza de Mayo and the Casa Rosada** — 1 h

The political heart of the country. Walk around the square and see the pink government house from the front.

10:30 — **Metropolitan Cathedral and the Cabildo** — 1 h

Inside the Cathedral is the mausoleum of General San Martín. The Cabildo, across the square, is the old colonial town hall.

11:45 — **Avenida de Mayo and Café Tortoni** — 1 h 15

Walk the avenue and stop for coffee and medialunas at Tortoni, open since 1858. Expect a short line at the door.

13:30 — **Lunch in the center** — 1 h 30

A classic bodegón or a café: milanesa, pasta or empanadas. Ask for the menú del día for a good-value lunch.

15:30 — **Teatro Colón guided tour** — 1 h

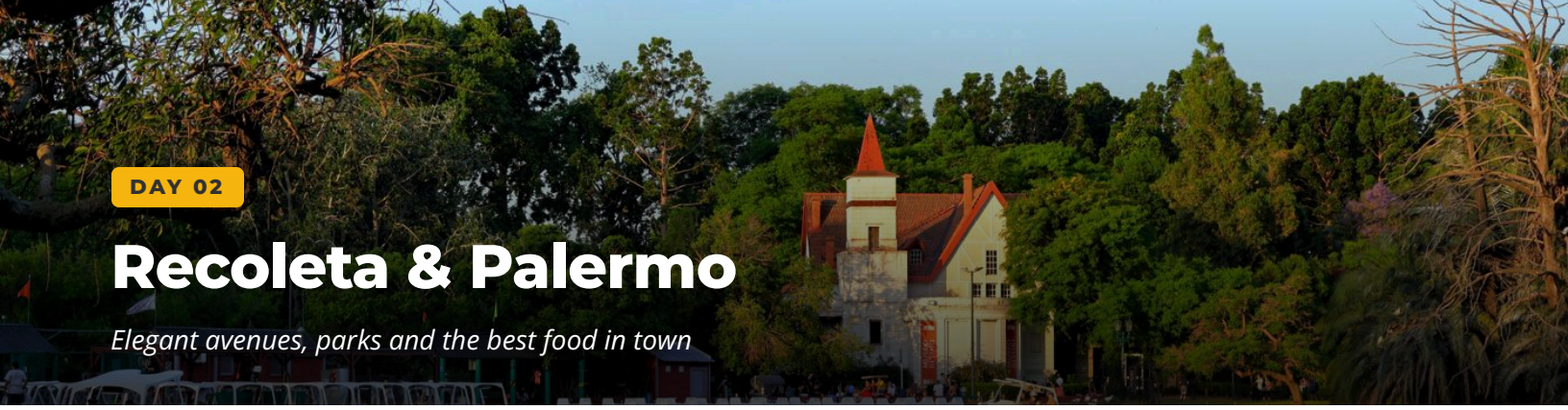
About 50 minutes through the foyers, the Golden Hall and the main auditorium. The tour entrance is at Tucumán 1171.

17:00 — **The Obelisco and Avenida Corrientes** — 2 h

The Obelisco stands on 9 de Julio, one of the widest avenues in the world. Corrientes is the street of theaters, bookstores and pizza by the slice.

21:30 — **Tango show** — 2 h 30

A show with dinner is the easy option. For something more local, ask me for a milonga where people dance after midnight.



DAY 02

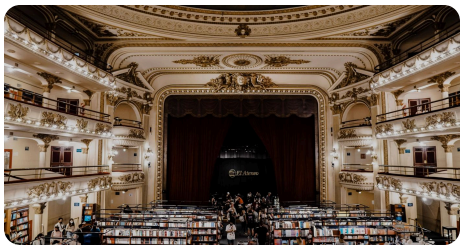
Recoleta & Palermo

Elegant avenues, parks and the best food in town

The north of the city is greener and calmer. You start among marble and bronze in Recoleta and end the day in Palermo, the neighborhood where porteños go out to eat.



Recoleta Cemetery



El Ateneo Grand Splendid



A parrilla

Key moment: getting lost in the alleys of the Recoleta Cemetery, a city of mausoleums where Eva Perón is buried.

10:00	**Recoleta Cemetery** Foreign visitors pay an entrance ticket by card only (about ARS 24,000, around USD 16, in November 2026). A guided walk makes the stories come alive.	1 h 30
11:45	**Plaza Francia and the Recoleta cafés** On weekends a craft fair fills the square next to the cemetery. A good spot for a coffee in the sun.	45 min
12:45	**El Ateneo Grand Splendid** One of the largest bookstores in the world, inside an old theater on Avenida Santa Fe. Look up at the painted ceiling.	45 min
13:45	**Lunch in Recoleta or Barrio Norte** Try a lomito sandwich or a plate of fresh pasta, and leave room for dinner.	1 h 15
15:30	**Bosques de Palermo and the Rosedal** The city's big park, with lakes and a rose garden. Rent a bike or just walk.	1 h 30
17:30	**Palermo Soho** Cobbled streets with design shops, bookstores and cafés around Plaza Serrano. Stay for a drink before dinner.	2 h
21:00	**Parrilla dinner** The Argentine steakhouse. Order provoleta to start, then bife de chorizo or entraña, and a Malbec.	2 h



DAY 03

San Telmo & La Boca

The old south, where tango was born

The last day takes you to the oldest part of the city. San Telmo keeps its cobblestones and colonial houses, La Boca its painted tin facades, and you finish by the river in the newest neighborhood of all.



San Telmo



The San Telmo fair



Puente de la Mujer

Key moment: the San Telmo Sunday fair, from Plaza de Mayo down Defensa street to Plaza Dorrego.

10:00 — **Defensa street and Plaza Dorrego** — 2 h

Antique shops, old cafés and, on Sundays, the fair. On weekdays the street is quieter and better for photos.

12:00 — **San Telmo Market** — 1 h 30

A 19th-century iron market with food stalls, vintage shops and good coffee. Have lunch here.

14:00 — **La Boca and Caminito** — 1 h 30

Take a ride app there. Stay on the main tourist streets and go in daylight: the colorful houses, the street painters and the tango dancers are all here.

16:30 — **Puerto Madero** — 1 h 30

The old docks turned into a waterfront of brick warehouses and restaurants. Cross the Puente de la Mujer, the white footbridge.

18:00 — **Sunset walk by the river** — 1 h

Walk the Costanera Sur promenade at the edge of the ecological reserve. Have a choripán from one of the food carts.

21:00 — **Farewell dinner** — 2 h

Back in San Telmo or Palermo. End with a dulce de leche dessert, or an ice cream: porteños eat it at any hour.

Getting around: the subte (subway) is the fastest way across the center, and you pay with your SUBE card. At night, or to and from La Boca, use a ride app or an official radio taxi.

DATA TO PLAN YOUR TRIP

What it costs and when to go

Prices in Argentina change often. These are reference prices checked in November 2026: confirm them before you book.

TICKETS AND TRANSPORT

Recoleta Cemetery
About ARS 24,000 (around USD 16)

For foreign visitors, paid by card only at the entrance. Argentine residents pay less.

Teatro Colón guided tour
About USD 40 to 50

What foreigners usually pay through resellers. Check the price on teatrocolon.org.ar first.

Subway and buses
SUBE card

One rechargeable card for the subte and city buses. Buy it at kiosks, stations or SUBE points.

Tips
Around 10% in restaurants

Ideally in cash. The "cubierto" on your bill is a cover charge, not a tip.

WHERE TO STAY

Palermo
Lively and leafy

The best base for food and nightlife. Good for first-timers who like to go out.

Recoleta
Elegant and central

Quiet at night, close to everything and easy to walk. Good for comfort.

San Telmo
Historic and bohemian

Old buildings and tango bars. Good for atmosphere; take a ride at night.

PRICE RANGES PER NIGHT

Hostels
From about USD 15 to 25

A bed in a shared room. Palermo and San Telmo have the most options.

Mid-range hotels
About USD 80 to 150

A double room, usually with breakfast. The sweet spot for most travelers.

Boutique and luxury
From about USD 200

Design hotels in Palermo and grand hotels in Recoleta.

WHEN TO GO

Spring
Sep–Nov

The best season: mild days, jacarandas in bloom and the city at its liveliest.

Summer
Dec–Feb

Hot and humid. Many porteños leave in January, so some small places close.

Autumn
Mar–May

Warm days, cooler nights and fewer crowds. Also excellent.

Winter
Jun–Aug

Cool and short, rarely freezing, with days around 11 to 15 °C (52 to 59 °F). Great for theater and cafés.

Money in one line: pay by card in pesos, or with a multi-currency account like Wise, and carry a little cash for tips. The blue dollar no longer gives you a better rate. My **money guide** at argentinaplanner.com/money-in-argentina has the details.

BEFORE YOU PACK

Stay safe and pack light

SAFETY: QUICK RULES

Your phone	Don't walk with it in your hand near the curb. Step into a shop or café to check maps.
At night	Use a ride app or an official radio taxi when streets are empty, even for short distances.
La Boca	Go in daylight and stay on the main tourist route around Caminito.
Money	Carry only what you need for the day. Leave your passport in the hotel safe and keep a photo on your phone.
Emergencies	Call 911 for the police. Travel insurance is worth having: see my guide on argentinaplanner.com.

WHAT TO PACK

Clothes
Comfortable walking shoes for cobblestones, a light jacket for the evenings, and one smarter outfit for dinner and the theater.

Tech
An eSIM or local SIM, a power bank for long days out, and a plug adapter: Argentina uses 220 V with type C and type I plugs.

Money
A no-fee card or Wise, a backup card kept apart, and a few clean US dollar notes for emergencies.

Papers
Your passport, travel insurance details and your bookings saved offline.

The day before: confirm your Teatro Colón and tango bookings, top up your SUBE card and check the weather. Spring and summer storms can be heavy but short.



The Obelisco



Avenida Corrientes


The Costanera at night

Want yours, made for you?

With your dates, your budget and the rest of your Argentina trip: Patagonia, Iguazú, Mendoza or the north. PDF itinerary for USD 79, or a web app with up to 3 revisions for USD 129.

argentinaplanner.com/plan-your-argentina-trip