

Spotlight on Buenos Aires



HISTORY

The history and origins of Buenos Aires commences with its renown port. "The Port City", as the colonizers called it, allowed commerce into the region, and it spread very quickly throughout the continent.

On February 3, 1536, the conqueror Don Pedro de Mendoza arrived by land to the coast of Buenos Aires. His mission was to populate the lands of the De La Plata River, which were of great interest to the Spanish crown. Mendoza christened the city "Espíritu Santo" and named its port "Nuestra Señora Del Buen Ayre".

Nearly forty years later, Juan de Garay arrived on May 29, 1580. He and his crew began working to organize the city. They selected the highest ground as a defensive point against potential attacks. The much-admired monument, "Palo de la Justicia", was built on what today is the Plaza de Mayo, and a fort was built. In addition, they organized the Cabildo, which was the highest administrative institution, and established a church where the Metropolitan Cathedral now stands. The city was then named "Santísima Trinidad", and its port, "Santa María de los Buenos Aires".

Today, Buenos Aires is working its way to a more modernized community. The centralization of jobs, goods, and services in Buenos Aires has brought prosperity to the city.

DOCKING

Cruise ships dock at the commercial port called el Puerto de Buenos Aires.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

Please check your tour ticket for the correct meeting time and location for your tour. Your Shore Excursions team will direct you to your transportation.

TRANSPORTATION

Taxis, buses, and an efficient underground 24-hour bus system is available to get around town.

HOW TO GET TO TOWN

Buenos Aires is very walkable and most tourist areas are within walking distance from one another.

SHOPPING

Buenos Aires is famous for its European quality goods offered at great prices. Look for the best values in antiques, crystal chandeliers, top-quality suede jackets and leather goods, and much more.

STORE HOURS

Shops are generally open from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm Monday to Friday. Weekend hours vary.

BANK HOURS

Generally, banks are open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

POST OFFICE

The post office is located at Sarmiento 151 and it is open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday to Friday, and Saturday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

EMERGENCY

In case of an emergency, dial 0800-999-2838 for the toll-free tourist assistance line.



BUENOS AIRES

PORT & SHOPPING MAP

English



CAPITAL

The capital of Argentina is Buenos Aires.

LOCATION

Buenos Aires is located on the western bank of the Río de la Plata, inland from the Atlantic Ocean.

SIZE

Buenos Aires is approximately 78.5 square miles in size.

POPULATION

Approximately three million people live in Buenos Aires.

LANGUAGE

Spanish is the official language of Argentina.

CURRENCY

The Peso is the official national currency in Argentina made up of 100 centavos.

TIME ZONE

Buenos Aires is on GMT minus three hours.

PLACES TO SEE

A. BASILICA DE SANTO DOMINGO

The 18th-century Dominican church, also known as the Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Rosario, has a long and colorful history. On its left tower, you'll see the replicated scars of shrapnel launched against British troops who holed up here during the invasion of 1806.

B. CASA ROSADA

This pink presidential palace is where Evita famously energized adoring crowds from the balcony during the 1940s. It takes up the whole east side of the Plaza de Mayo. Around the southern side of the building is Museo de la Casa Rosada, which houses the catacombs of the Fuerte Viejo, an 18th-century colonial ruin.

C. CEMENTERIO DE LA RECOLETA

The Cementerio de la Recoleta sits in the most upscale neighborhood of Recoleta. High walls surround this necropolis where, in death as in life, generations of Argentina's elite rest in peace.

Among marble angels and black granite tombs are the sites of some of Argentina's most famous - and infamous - historical figures including Evita, 19th-century educator and president Domingo Sarmiento, Juan Facundo Quiroga (occupying the cemetery's oldest tomb), twice president Hipólito Yrigoyen, boxing great Angel Firpo, and many more.

D. MONUMENTO A LOS ESPAÑOLES

Inaugurated in 1927, this magnificent white monument on Avenida del Libertador is one of the city's most beautiful, particularly at night when it's spectacularly lit. At its grand base, elegant figures represent four regions of Argentina: the Pampas, the Andes, the Chaco, and Río de La Plata.

GUARANTEE

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Tune in to Shopping Channel 22

