

THREE MEMORABLE SOJOURNS



Experience the sophisticated ambiance of Buenos Aires, Argentina, the French flavor in Québec City, Canada and the plentiful, outdoor activities in Aspen, Colorado.

BUENOS AIRES: Cosmopolitan Style with Latin Spirit

Where can you go to see fabulous architecture, hear incredible music and eat a juicy steak? Buenos Aires, one of Latin America's cultural capitals, has a remarkably European feel. With its Paris-style buildings, broad, tree-lined boulevards, parks and plazas, this cosmopolitan metropolis offers interesting sights, marvelous shopping, provocative entertainment and excellent cuisine.

This city—the Argentine capital—spreads along the shores of the Río de la Plata. It's a medley of different neighborhoods, each with its own special flair: **La Boca** is one of the most picturesque with its colorful, brightly painted, pressed-tin houses. This lively, old waterfront district, settled by Italian immigrants, has great Italian and seafood restaurants and an up-and-coming local arts scene.

La Recoleta is an upscale neighborhood with elegant charm, distinctive homes, lovely outdoor cafés and sophisticated shops along Calle Posadas and Avenida Alvear. Every weekend, in the Plaza Francia, there's a famous crafts fair with free entertainment, tarot-card readers and fortune tellers. An added note: visitors still flock to the memorial to Eva "Evita" Peron here.

In **San Telmo's** main square, the Plaza Dorrego, there's another, not-to-be-missed, weekend fair—the Sunday antiques market, along with

impromptu, outdoor tango performances. This area, with its cobblestone streets and its decoratively-detailed, 19th-century buildings, is known for an abundance of tempting antique shops and *tanguerías*, café-bars where you can learn to dance the tango.

Books, silver and all kinds of antiques are good buys here. Also, leather goods—coats, handbags and shoes to match. Check out the fashionable shops on Calle Florida and along Avenida Santa Fé.

The delicious cuisine in Buenos Aires is a mix of Spanish and Italian specialties, along with the country's national dishes such as *parrillada* (barbecued meats), *empanadas* (meat, chicken or spinach-filled pies) and *puchero* (a meat stew).

In addition to the traditional restaurants located downtown, new establishments have opened up in **Puerto Madero**, where the old port piers now house a great selection of restaurants serving a variety of international dishes. The city is also known for its fabulous pizzerias and cozy cafés. Try some *medias lunas* (croissants) or *facturas* (pastries) at the historic Café Tortoni, founded in 1858.

As well as the entertainment at discotheques, nightclubs and tango bars, the cultural scene comes to life at night in the city's many theaters. The internationally-renown Teatro Colon houses its own opera and ballet companies as well as the National Symphony Orchestra.

Besides its legendary nightlife, equestrian sports are an important part of the Argentinean tradition, even in the city. In November, you can watch the thrilling National Polo Championships. This is a lovely time of year to visit Buenos Aires. Since it's in the Southern Hemisphere, the end of November, beginning of December, is their springtime when the trees along the boulevards are all in bloom! Come discover all this fascinating city has to offer! ■

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