

## BUENOS AIRES

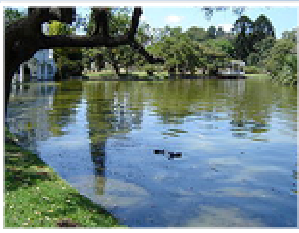
**Buenos Aires** is the **capital**, and largest city, of **Argentina**, currently the second-largest metropolitan area in **South America**, after São Paulo. It is located on the eastern shore of the **Río de la Plata**, on the southeastern coast of the South American continent. The city of Buenos Aires is not part of Buenos Aires Province, nor is it its capital; rather, it is an autonomous federal district. Greater Buenos Aires is the fourth-largest conurbation in Latin America. Buenos Aires is considered as the richest city in South America and the **Southern Hemisphere** and an Alpha World City listed by the Loughborough University group's (GaWC) 2008 inventory.



**La Casa Rosada** is the official seat of the executive branch of the Government of **Argentina**. The Casa Rosada sits at the eastern end of the Plaza de Mayo, a large square which since the 1580 foundation of **Buenos Aires** has been surrounded by many of the most important political institutions of the city and of Argentina. Its balcony, which faces the square, has served as a podium for most Argentine Presidents and a number of other historical figures, including **Eva Perón**, who rallied the descamisados from there, and **Pope John Paul II**, who visited Buenos Aires in 1982 and in 1987.

**The Buenos Aires Metropolitan Cathedral** is the main Catholic church in Buenos Aires. It is located in the city centre, overlooking **Plaza de Mayo**, on the corner of San Martín and Rivadavia streets, in the San Nicolás neighbourhood. It is the mother church of the **Archdiocese of Buenos Aires**. The Cathedral of Buenos Aires was rebuilt several times since its humble origins in the 16th century. The present building is a mix of architectural styles, with a 18th century nave and dome and a severe, 19th century Neoclassical façade without towers. The interior keeps precious 18th century statues and altarpieces, as well as abundant Neo-Renaissance and Neo-Baroque decoration.

**The Teatro Colón** (Columbus Theatre) in Buenos Aires is one of the world's major opera houses. The theatre opened on 25 May 1908, Día de la Patria in **Argentina**, with a performance of Verdi's Aida and it quickly became a world-famous operatic venue rivaling La Scala and the Metropolitan Opera in attracting the best opera singers and conductors.



**Parque Tres de Febrero**, also known as **the Bosques de Palermo** ("Palermo Woods"), is a city park of 25 hectares (62 acres) located in the neighborhood of Palermo in Buenos Aires. Located between Libertador and Figueroa Alcorta Avenues, it is known for its groves, lakes, and rose gardens. Many people use the park everyday, both on foot and bicycle, and this number increases greatly at the weekends. Boat rides are available on the three artificial lakes within the park. Close to the boating lake is

**the Poets' Garden**, with stone and bronze busts of renown poets, including Jorge Luis Borges and William Shakespeare.

**The Plaza de Mayo** (Spanish for May Square) is the main square in downtown **Buenos Aires**. The plaza has, since being the scene of the 25 May 1810 resolution that led to independence, a focal point of political life in Buenos Aires and, arguably, Argentina. Today, Plaza de Mayo continues to be an indispensable tourist attraction for those who visit Buenos Aires. Several of the city's major landmarks are located around the Plaza: the Cabildo (the city council during the colonial era), the **Casa Rosada** (home of the executive branch of the federal government), the Metropolitan Cathedral of Buenos Aires, **the May Pyramid**, the current city hall or municipalidad, and the headquarters of the Nación Bank.



**The Argentine National Historical Museum** (Spanish: Museo Histórico Nacional) is located in Buenos Aires and is a museum dedicated to the **history of Argentina**, exhibiting objects relating to the **May Revolution** and the Argentine War of Independence. The museum, which was first called the "Historical Museum of the Capital" (Museo Histórico de la Capital), was created by mayor Francisco Seeber on May 24, 1889.



**La Recoleta Cemetery** is a famous cemetery located in the exclusive Recoleta neighbourhood of **Buenos Aires**. The Cemetery includes graves of some of the most influential and important argentinians, including several presidents, scientists, and wealthy characters. Internationally, **Eva Perón** is the best-known person buried in this cemetery. The entrance to the cemetery is through neo-classical gates with tall Greek columns. The cemetery contains many elaborate marble mausoleums, decorated with statues, in a wide variety of architectural styles. The entire cemetery is laid out in sections like city blocks, with wide tree-lined main walkways branching into sidewalks filled with mausoleums.

**The Buenos Aires Zoo** covers 18 hectares (44 acres) in the Palermo district in Buenos Aires. The Zoo contains 89 species of mammals, 49 species of reptiles and 175 species of birds, with a total of over 2,500 different animal species. The institution's goals are to conserve species, produce research and to educate the public.



**The Obelisk of Buenos Aires** is a modern monument placed at the heart of Buenos Aires. Porteños refer to it simply as **El Obelisco**. The obelisk was built in May 1936 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first founding of the city. It is located in the center of the Plaza de la República (Republic Square), the spot where the Argentine flag was flown for the first time in **Buenos Aires**, at the intersection of Nueve de Julio and Corrientes avenues. Its total height is 67 meters (220 ft) and its base area is

49 square meters (530 square feet). It was designed by architect **Alberto Prebisch**, and its construction took barely four weeks.



**The Buenos Aires Cabildo** is the public building in Buenos Aires that was used as the government house during the colonial times of the Viceroyalty of the River Plate. Today the building is used as a museum in which paintings, artifacts, clothes and jewellery of the 18th century are on display. The patio of the Cabildo still has its 1835 ornamental water well.

## TO DO

A trip to Buenos Aires is not complete without some sort of experience of the Tango.

## INFORMATION

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