

# Argentina Travel Advice

from an Argentine (and a gringa!)

V2 updated 7/27/13

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# Flights

(updated 7/27/13)

# Flights

## Summary

- Ezeiza (EZE) is the local hub for all international flights. The official name of the international airport is *Ministro Pistarini*. It is 30 minutes out of Buenos Aires.
- Aeroparque Jorge Newbury (AEP) is the hub for domestic flights, and is located in the middle of Buenos Aires.
- DO NOT plan to connect international/domestic flights via BA, either inbound or outbound. Transferring EZE-AEP is not simple (~2 hours commute through a private transportation company, “Manuel Tienda Leon”). Always try to plan a night in BA after arrival/before departure OR select your arrival time so you can connect with the few domestic flights leaving from EZE (e.g.: there are two early morning flights from EZE to Calafate, etc.).
- For local traveling, January will always be more expensive in terms of both flights and accommodation since it is the peak of the holiday season for Argentines.
- There probably is an ideal window of time to buy tickets, but it’s hard to tell when that is. December is the most expensive month of the year (10-30% more than other months), but also the best one to visit most areas in the country. You’ll get the best rates during the month (10-20% lower prices) if you fly:
  - Inbound before 12/15 or on 12/25.
  - Outbound on 12/31 or after 1/6.
- If you find tickets for under \$1,400 including taxes and fees, buy them. They won’t get much better. Anything above \$1,600 until July can probably get better. After July it’s hard to tell.
- Try to avoid Aerolineas Argentinas. American, Delta and LAN are the best options in terms of connections and reliability from the US. See the airlines list in the next pages for more details.
- Two good sites to find the best deals (besides the airlines’ own websites):
  - <http://www.cheapoair.com>
  - <http://www.kayak.com>

Note: Reference prices are per person for a round trip between 12/26 – 1/4, either direct or with 1 stop

# Flights

## Airlines

### **Aerolineas Argentinas**

The Argentine National Airline. Only flies Miami-BA (they are adding NYC-BA soon, but I don't know when). Generally cheaper than other airlines, has recently renovated most of its fleet (not sure about US-ARG routes). Very high safety records (top 10 worldwide). BUT there are random employee strikes that happen about 3-4 times per year. A positive thing is that if you buy your international ticket + 3 domestic legs through them, you get a very good price for the whole package (reference price: around \$1,700 for Miami-BA-Calafate-Bariloche-BA-Miami).

Reference price MIA-BA (direct): \$1,409

### **American Airlines**

Flies direct from NYC, Miami and Dallas. More expensive than Aerolineas Argentinas, but is a good option from those airports. They recently renovated the airplanes flying from NYC and Miami, and improved the service. They do move prices up and down throughout the year, so hard to predict what would be a good price.

Reference price MIA-BA (direct): \$1,555

Reference price NYC-BA (direct): \$1,559

Reference price DFW-BA (direct): 1,692

Note: Reference prices are per person for a round trip between 12/26 – 1/4,  
either direct or with 1 stop

# Flights

## Airlines (continued)

### **Delta**

Flies direct from Atlanta. Around mid-April flights were a bit expensive, around \$1,600. But I think they should go down a bit at some point.

Reference price MIA-BA (direct): \$1,681

### **LAN, LAN Argentina**

10-30% more expensive than Aerolineas and American. Very good service, reliable, and nice airplanes. Flies direct from MIA and Dallas.

Reference price MIA-BA (direct): \$1,520

### **COPA, TACA, AVIANCA, Aeromexico**

They don't have direct flights to BA from the US, but via their respective hubs (Panama, Lima, Bogota, Mexico City). They have good rates.

Reference price MIA-BA (with 1 stop): \$1,326

### **TAM**

They don't have direct flights to BA from the US, but all are via Brazil (Sao Paulo). Sometimes they can have good prices, but you will always be adding a stop to the trip. They fly from MIA, NY, Dallas, LA and San Francisco.

Reference price MIA-BA (via SAO): \$1,581

# Buenos Aires

(updated 7/27/13)

# Buenos Aires

## Disclosures

- These might not be the by-the-guide places to go, they simply are our personal preferences. So, we would strongly recommend to complement it with an updated tourist guide. Not all these places are available all the time due to seasonal changes or updates since our last visit, so you should also check that so that your trip goes smoothly—we've walked up to businesses that were closed due to changes and been really disappointed, so learn from our mistakes!
- Please don't hesitate to ask Fernando if there's anything unclear—email him at [fkondayen\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:fkondayen(at)gmail.com). We'll be posting questions and answers on the website as well, so look through that section.
- You'll see that a lot of my recommendations include food suggestions. That's because of two reasons: a) BA is a great, cheap city to eat out; b) that's the way we personally enjoy travel most.
- A tourist bus service was recently opened. We suggest researching that as a way to move around, especially if the visit is going to be very brief (under 2 days).
- Finally, while we're recommending you places to go and stuff to do, you'll still need to check websites and maps to plan better, get the addresses, daily schedules, etc. We grouped activities in 4 days, but this may be too much, or include things that are not must-see. We are also not including opening hours. Make sure you do some extra planning in advance.



# Buenos Aires

## Safety

- Buenos Aires is medium-safe for a large city (13 million people). If you follow our advice, you will make the best out of your trip:
  - You'll move around in touristic areas, so always be very mindful your purse/backpack/camera, especially in public transportation (subway/train/bus). We suggest women carry purses with a cross-body strap and zippers, and men use their front pockets for their wallets. Pickpockets can clean you out and you won't even notice!
  - Use the hotel's safe. Be careful with what you leave out of it (leave cash, documents and electronics in a safe or at least locked in a bag).
  - To mitigate risks, do not carry more than a few hundred dollars (or equivalent in pesos) in cash, especially when taking public transportation. You can take your credit card with you, but always leave one behind in the hotel.
  - Be very careful with large, expensive cameras (DSLRs). It's probably best to just use a point-and-shoot in BA and save your big camera for other parts of Argentina.
- Always try to plan your day in advance, and confirm with your hotel's front desk that it's safe. Unless you get creative, there are almost no areas where you could walk that are dangerous, but why risk it?

# Buenos Aires

## Transportation

- Public transportation is extremely cheap and medium safe, but mind your pockets and bags. You can take cabs in the street, and they are totally safe and cheap (even if they take you for a ride). The best thing to do is:
  - Ask for a cab service number (at the hotel, otherwise just ask us). It is not so easy to find ones that speak English though.
  - When you call, ask for an estimated price for the trip first to avoid going for a long ride.
  - Keep their card with you so you can ask people at restaurants to call for you.
  - NO CAB SHOULD COST YOU MORE THAN AR\$60-100 (US\$7.5-8.50) TO GO TO THE PLACES I RECOMMENDED IN THE CITY, though if you take a cab out of BA it might cost more.
  - No tip is expected from cab drivers.
- We will take care of transportation from the church to the venue, and will arrange for transportation from the venue to hotels. More information will follow closer to the wedding date.

# Buenos Aires

## Places to Visit Within the City

### Areas to walk around and visit during the day:

Day 1 (weekday):

- Visit the **Obelisco** (an icon of the city) and walk down **Avenida 9 de Julio**.
- **Colon Theatre** – strongly recommend. One of the best theatres in the world, which was reopened recently after 3 years of restoration works; if you enjoy ballet, opera or classic music, you can easily get a ticket the same day or the day before. We also recommend a tour during the day (tours are run in English) as hearing the history of the building includes some background on the history of the city and country, and you see areas that otherwise only ticketholders can see.
- **Avenida de Mayo** - sit down at a café, and try the typical Argentine *expreso* and *medialunas* (sweet croissants) or *tostado de jamon y queso* (toasted ham and cheese sandwiches on special thin bread, best with freshly squeezed OJ).
- **Plaza de Mayo**. Some interesting buildings are the Cathedral (where Pope Francis used to lead a lot of services), Banco Nación, Cabildo, Casa Rosada and the Edificio de la Legislatura (check times for visits for all these buildings) – in any case, visiting the plaza is a MUST, the buildings are not.
- Walk down **Calle Florida** and shop (try to go on a weekday so you appreciate the city's rhythm... but avoid lunch hours! and mind pickpockets). There is a nice up-scale mall on this street called Galerias Pacifico.

# Buenos Aires

## Places to Visit Within the City

Day 2 (weekday, this should be intense – if seems hard to do, just break it down and merge with Day 3):

- **Cementerio de la Recoleta.** Yeah, I'm sending you to the graveyard... but you will want to use a guidebook or go on a guided tour to appreciate what's nice in there (e.g. Evita's tomb).
- Walk from there across **Plaza Francia to Av. Alvear**, and from there to the French Embassy... nice European style neighborhood and very exclusive shops, nice ice-cream and coffee shops. THIS IS THE CORE OF RECOLETA. There is a nice fair next to the cemetery every Saturday from noon until around 5 pm.
- Same day: take a cab from the French Embassy to **Av. Santa Fe w/Callao**, and visit the bookstore "El Ateneo", then walk down Av. Santa Fe to Plaza San Martín (about 20 blocks) and do some shopping on the way; drink a coffee at "Café de París", right across the street from the Plaza San Martín (if you want to buy dress shirts, I highly recommend a store named "HALSEY", they have a store on Calle Florida, and on Av. Santa Fe, half a block from Av. 9 de Julio.). Once at Plaza San Martín, also visit (from outside) the "Círculo Militar," and the "Palacio de Asuntos Exteriores," (also called "La Cancillería"). You can also access the Plaza San Martín area from calle Florida, it's 2 blocks away (see day 1).
- You can finish the day with **drinks at Puerto Madero** (6-7 blocks from Plaza San Martín), or even better with a beer at Irish pubs "The Kilkeny" (3 blocks) or "Down Town Matías" (5 blocks), also close to "Galerías Pacifico".

# Buenos Aires

## Places to Visit Within the City

Day 3 (weekday/weekend day, but start in the morning):

- Four places relatively close to each other: **Museo Nacional de Arte Decorativo** (a few blocks away from the U.S. Embassy), **National Library** (only if you are interested, it's cool but most books are in Spanish), **Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes** (excellent art museum, if you are interested in art), **MALBA** (same, but nicer building), **Buenos Aires Design** (only if interested in furniture design) These places are all very close to the Cementerio de la Recoleta (see day 2). None are a must, unless you are a fan of museums.

# Buenos Aires

## Places to Visit Within the City

Day 4 – (weekend day, best Sunday; all are a MUST; may seem like a short day but it's not):

- **San Telmo** (HIGHLY PREFERABLE TO GO ON SUNDAY, when there are nice fairs from approximately 10 a.m. until about 5 p.m)
- **La Boca and El Caminito** (best on Sunday although Saturday is ok, go between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., can be done before or after San Telmo)
- **Puerto Madero** (this is one of the most modern areas of the city, old renovated docks... nice for lunch or hanging out at night, excellent restaurants, ice cream shops and awesome nightlife)

# Buenos Aires

## Places to Visit Within the City

### **Other buildings to see or visit:**

- Edificio del Congreso (The Congress building, it's not next to anything I've mentioned before and it is not a nice neighborhood... if you go, you **MUST** go during daylight hours as it could be a dangerous area at night.) – fantastic building to visit, though very isolated from other interesting areas
- Palacio de las Aguas (Av. Córdoba w/ Azcuénaga St., relatively close to Callao w/ Av. Santa Fe) - just a nice building, not a must but check it out if you are in the area
- City Zoo and Botanical garden (They're not next to anything either, skip them if you are staying for less than a week)
- La Bombonera (Boca Juniors soccer stadium), in La Boca, close to Caminito

# Buenos Aires

## Places to Visit Within the City

### **Areas to go shopping:**

- Palermo: visit Plaza Serrano and surroundings (good area to go shopping, there are plenty of independent shops... not close to anything but I think it's a MUST... going on Saturday afternoon might be the best option. \*Kate's editing note: I think a later weekday afternoon is great because it's so quiet, but everything is open.\*)
- Malls: Patio Bullrich (6 blocks from Plaza San Martín and Retiro), Galerías Pacífico (on Calle Florida) or Alto Palermo (relatively close to Plaza Serrano, about 20 blocks).
- Belgrano's handicraft markets (Kate's favorite). Located in Vuelta de Obligado Street #2000 (between Echeverria and Juramento). Subway green line Juramento Station.

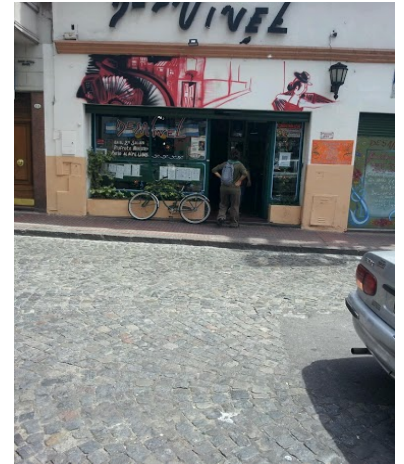


# Buenos Aires

## Places to Visit Within the City

### **At night:**

- Beer at "The Kilkeny" and "Down Town Matias" (Irish pubs)
- Plaza Serrano in Palermo (already mentioned above for shopping)
- Puerto Madero area (already mentioned above on the "Day 4" itinerary)
- Dance Clubs: Mint (Puerto Madero) or Pachá (20 minutes by car)... there's plenty of other good ones, but since I've been living abroad for a while, I'm kind of out-of-date... but I can ask friends if necessary
- Go to a "tanguería" in San Telmo to see a tango show... can't really give any advice. (\*Kate's editing note: see if your accommodations can help you find a real, not touristy milonga, a late night dance session. If a woman wears high heels to a milonga, she is expected to be able to dance tango. If you only want to watch, wear flats and pants.\*)
- Las Cañitas for good bars, restaurants



# Buenos Aires

## Where to eat

### Best for lunch

- Typical bodegon in the La Boca Area (must make reservations):  
<http://www.bodegonelobrero.com.ar>
- YOU MUST GO HAVE PIZZA AT "LAS CUARTETAS" on Av. Corrientes, one block from the Obelisco and close to the Colon theatre. Estimated cost per person: USD 10-12.
- Other good pizza places: "El cuartito," "Guerrín," or "La Continental." Same cost.
- If you want to try some typical Buenos Aires meals (not healthy at all) go to "La Flota" close to Corrientes w/ Leandro N. Alem Av., and ask for a "milanesa a la napolitana con fritas"... and say your prayers (just in case, one milanesa is enough for 3 people). Estimated cost: USD 10-12 per person.
- Gelatto (or "helado" in spanish): Volta, Persicco, Munchi's and Freddo are good examples of the typical argentine ice cream. Try Dulce de Leche flavour (argentine caramel).
- La Farola: Great milanesas (order the "grande", 3-4 people can eat one). Located in Avenida Santa Fe 1857.
- In San Telmo (best lunch if you go on a Sunday to the fair): Kate's favorite empanadas from a steakhouse called "El Desnivel", on Defensa Street, between Independencia Avenue and Estados Unidos Street. Get the beef ones. Chicken ones are good too.  
<https://plus.google.com/101533273558207570360/about?gl=us&hl=en>

# Buenos Aires

## Where to eat



*Bodegon Obrero, in La Boca*

### Best for dinner

- Pasta/Italian: There are a lot of places in Buenos Aires if you want to have good Italian food, but I specially recommend two: "Bella Italia" (Kate's favourite) and "La Parolaccia" (there's one in Puerto Madero, and at least 3 more in other areas of the city). Cost per person: about USD 25.
- If you want to try great Armenian food, go to "Sarkis" (address: Thames w/ Jufré, in Palermo, price: USD 25 pp). I can help you with what to order if you go. While it is best on a Thursday/Friday/Saturday, you must book in advance or will have to wait 2+ hours in line.
- Typical bodegon in the La Boca Area (must make reservations and if you go for dinner make sure you take a cab, do not walk in the area at night):  
<http://www.bodegonelobrero.com.ar>
- Gelatto (or "helado" in spanish): chains like "Volta", "Persicco", "Munchi's" and "Freddo" are good examples of the typical argentine ice cream. Try Dulce de Leche flavour (argentine caramel).

# Buenos Aires

## Where to eat

### Asado (BBQ), either lunch or dinner:

- You must have a good asado if you are in Buenos Aires and try MOLLEJAS and CHORIZOS (with "chimichurri", a spicy sauce) as appetizers and two main courses are key (one per person though): ASADO DE TIRA (beef ribs) and BIFE DE CHORIZO.
- There's thousands of good places to go, some recommendations: "Cabaña Las Lilas" (in Puerto Madero, very expensive), "La Tranquera" (further away, see below), "La Cabrera" (in Palermo, excellent), "Las Cholas" (also in Palermo, good value, best for lunch and area is great for shopping, bars), "La Escondida" (in Palermo, good, about USD 30-35 pp) and finally the much cheaper "Siga la Vaca" (USD ~25 pp).
- My top recommendations are:
  - "La Brigada," where the meat is so tender that they cut it with a spoon, in San Telmo (about same cost as "La Escondida"): <http://www.parrillalabrigada.com.ar>
  - **A very special treat:** Goat (or any other meat) grilled "al asador" (made in a fire pit): [http://www.la\\_tranqueraasador.com/en/](http://www.la_tranqueraasador.com/en/)

Empanada and Bife de Chorizo at "La Brigada"



Vaca, Cordero y Chivito "al Asador" (beef, lamb and goat on the pit) at *La Tranquera*

# Buenos Aires

## Where to stay

Buenos Aires has a great variety of options for all price ranges. From 5 star hotels at premium locations (at lower prices than Europe, on average), to small boutique hotels that are worth every cent but maybe slightly further away (always a 15 minutes, USD 10 cab ride), and cheaper hostels in central areas.

### **Best areas to stay:**

- **Puerto Madero:** Modern, safe area. Very nice, but not "the real" Buenos Aires in my opinion. Only very premium accommodation. Close to downtown and most attractions in the city.
- **Recoleta:** Where I would live, if I were to live in Buenos Aires. This was (still is) the high class neighborhood of Buenos Aires when Argentina was one of the top 10 economies in the world. It's the main reason why Buenos Aires is called "the Paris of Latin America". Also very close to downtown, though it's a larger area and travelling times vary. The rectangle formed by Libertador Avenue, 9th of July avenue, Santa Fe avenue and Callao avenue should be the best. Here you should find from 5 star hotels to boutique accommodation in French-style mansions to cheaper hostels or rental apartments.
- **Palermo:** A more typical middle class neighborhood of Buenos Aires; even though it has become more commercial and touristic in the last 5 years, it still preserves it's charm. Great for nightlife and shopping, though not the best access to public transportation. Accommodation in this area can provide the best value.

# Buenos Aires

## Where not to stay

- DO NOT STAY in **La Boca** (or the San Telmo area closer to La Boca - i.e. close to "Parque Lezama", or past Av. 25 de Mayo). It's not safe to walk at night, don't go unless you know exactly where you are going and how you will get in and out.
- Try not to stay in **San Telmo** area, unless you are coming in a group of 3+. It has been very promoted in the last 10 years because of its preserved architecture and typical Buenos Aires traditions + easy access to fairs and downtown, but I don't think (I may be wrong) it's the safest area at night, specially for a female solo traveller. It's very nice to visit during the day on a Sunday though, or even on a Fri/Sat night. But get in and out by cab.

# Buenos Aires

## Some things you should try/see

- Go to a tango show! Maybe even book 2-3 lessons in advance.
- If you visit from early December, attend a Polo game.
- Visit the “La Bombonera” soccer stadium and museum, or “Monumental” stadium and museum (that’s my team’s stadium but is a bit further away).
- Try an empanada. Beef are the best.
- Go to a typical "café" (not a chain) and order a "café cortado/expresso con medialunas (de grasa y de manteca.)" They rock. And if you are very hungry, order a "tostado de jamón y queso”
- Go to a "Havanna" shop and buy some "alfajores" (chocolate and/or de dulce de leche) and lemon cookies. Trust me, you’ll take some back home.
- Try some plain Dulce de Leche with toasts (I guess they will have that at the hotel, but if you go to an apartment just buy some in the supermarket)
- Try a Jamón Crudo (Argentine Prosciutto) Sandwich. Get it toasted.

# Buenos Aires

## Places to visit outside of BA

- Places Outside the City (just in case you decide to go, don't consider if you stay for less than 5-6 days); only go during weekends
  - Tigre (Puerto de Frutos, 60 minutes from the city, ideal to buy handicrafts).
  - San Isidro (on the way to Tigre, 45 minutes from the city... Visit the church and the plaza, ideal to go on a Saturday... also excellent handicrafts there).
  - If you have time, a one-day trip to Colonia, Uruguay would be nice.
  - Unicenter shopping mall. The largest in Latin America. 25-30 minutes from the city.
  - If you are interested in seeing a small rural town, there are several interesting options out of BA. Just let us know in advance so we look up the best options on your desired dates.



# Buenos Aires

## Some non-touristy things to do

- GET A CHORIPAN (sausage sandwich) FOR LUNCH AT THE COSTANERA SUR (behind Puerto Madero)... that's 0% turistic
- Try to go to any soccer match on a Sunday/Saturday
- If you want to see one of the top 10 cathedrals in the world and you don't mind making a 60 km trip, go to the "Basílica de Luján," it's very nice, and the town of Luján is an extremely nice example of a Pampas Argentine town... but since it's far and the whole thing would take you a (long) day, you must really want to see a cathedral and a typical town (with not so much to do really).

# Other regions/areas

(updated 7/27/13)

# ARGENTINA

SALTA (2 hours from BA)

IGUAZU (2 hours from BA)

MENDOZA (1 hour from BA)

BARILOCHE, San Martín de Los Andes, and Parque Nacional Los Alerces (2 hours from BA)

EL CALAFATE (3.5 hours from BA)

USHUAIA (4 hours from BA)



# Iguazu

One of the seven natural wonders

- Flight time from BA: 2 hours
- Tickets in January for \$350-450
- Amazing waterfalls and the point where the borders of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina meet.
- Nice jungle area with lots of vegetation and wildlife.
- Towns in the area don't have much to do. This is typically a 2 days trip (add one day if you want to cross to the Brazilian side, but plan in advance since Brazil requires visas to citizens of many countries e.g. USA, Canada, Australia).
- Tripadvisor reviews:  
[http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g312804-d2037770-Reviews-Iguazu\\_Falls-Iguazu\\_National\\_Park\\_Province\\_of\\_Misiones\\_Litoral.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g312804-d2037770-Reviews-Iguazu_Falls-Iguazu_National_Park_Province_of_Misiones_Litoral.html)



# Salta/Jujuy

## Kate's favorite



- (Kate) This is my favorite region of Argentina. It's in the northwest, and the geography is amazing. You can pass through 5 different climates in a day (not microclimates, CLIMATES!) I really loved the day tours I took when I was here.
- One in particular takes you up green mountains almost vertically until you burst above the cloud line (!) and then you go through a desert with lots of mesas, plateaus, monuments, etc., till you reach a little town full of wineries and a colonial plaza! I can't remember names, but that was just one day. I was so broke in Salta I didn't explore a lot the region has to offer, but it is incredible.
- The city is manageable in size and has great local crafts, food is good (not great) and there's lots of history (colonial, missions, etc.) Purmamarca, or the Hill of Seven Colors, is in a tiny town (2 square blocks) and pretty cool.
- The upscale hotel there has a good restaurant (although I slept in an unheated hostel down the block, so can't say for rooms). It's only worth going if you get up at sunrise though, as light gets stronger the distinctions between layers aren't as strong. There are salt flats in a reachable distance, lots of outdoor sports, etc. I plan on going back as soon as I get the chance. There are some hot springs outside Jujuy but to be honest I can't remember now if I made it to the springs or just the town.
- NOTE (Fer): Two cities I love in Jujuy, close to Bolivia, are Tilcara and Humahuaca. They are SO chilled and great!!! There are good trekking excursions to do from here, but you will need a guide. Also, take into account that it will be hot if you go in January. In Salta, but closer to Chile, there are some of the largest salt fields in Latin America. The visit to San Pedro de Atacama, on the Chilean side, is very nice, though extends the trip quite a bit. Spectacular views at the salt fields. Make sure you try some regional food.
- Flight duration from BA (aprox.): 2 hours, cost in January about \$500 (also 1 hour from Iguazu or Mendoza).



# Mendoza/San Juan

## The wine region

- It would pay to do some research, get a driver, and go to the places you're interested in if you're at all a wine person. If not, getting on a random bus tour that takes you to 3 or 4 is fine and easy to book one day in advance. They will never commit to taking you certain places, and sometimes they are not all great. Sometimes the opposite.
- Flight from BA is less than 1 hour, cost in January \$250-350
- A great thing about this area is that in 95% of wineries they don't charge for tastings AND buying wine from them is cheaper than anywhere else.
- Several boutique wineries have small hotels and restaurants in their facilities. Do the research it will pay off.
- I would ask at your hotel for a driver. They will surely know someone; if not, you could call the bus tour companies and say you want to go to specific places and ask if they have a guide who would do a private tour.
- Touring wineries on bike is very popular, but I've never seen the appeal. After three wineries you want to give up. However, it could be fun. Do plan this according to your abilities and a realistic idea of distances. Sometimes they can get pretty far.
- Look into olive oil places as well. I had out of this world insane good olive oil there, unfiltered. The olive oil place is called Pasrai, I definitely recommend a tasting there (and the unfiltered olive oil! Buy as many liters as you can transport home, it is truly amazing.) NOTE (from Fernando): please bring me a bottle of unfiltered olive oil if you go.



# Mendoza/San Juan



## The wine region

- Get ice cream at a place called Soppelsa. Fruits of the forest, or strawberry, or mascarpone. Normally I love coffee but their creamy flavors are incredible. There's also another place on the main peatonal (pedestrian street). It's small, really new and mod and gourmet-looking, and mind-blowing.
- The town is not the most gorgeous, large, or interesting, so don't leave yourself an entire day to explore. A good afternoon might do it. Use the rest of your time for the surrounding countryside, which is really nice.
- There's a really big pretty square that always has a lot of activity. If you're there on a weekend, there should be a crafts fair. It's decent though not as good as the ones I recommended in Buenos Aires. Worth checking out if you have time and haven't gotten your fill of fairs.
- A great alternative is to do hikes outside of the city, away from the vineyards areas. We didn't do this as our trip was short, but worth researching if it's your thing.
- (Fer): Lots of casinos in Mendoza. Not comparable with Vegas, but ok for a fun night.
- (Fer): A nice area to visit is San Rafael, and close by "El Canon del Rio Atuel", the Atuel River Canyon. Great area to do Rock Climbing, Rafting, Trekking. Lots of camping sites.
- Shopping is lackluster; do it all in BA.
- I think another ice cream place is Bianco & Nero but I'm not sure. It's on a peatonal, a pedestrian street.
- Wines I like, and check out if the wineries are good:
  - Trapiche (of the bigger wineries)
  - Casa Montes
  - Carmine Granata. They won Best Malbec from a wine journalist's circle in 2009; the wine sold for 200 euros or US dollars, depending on the place, and we got it for US\$75 from them. It was an incredible wine at an incredible price (and their lower-end stuff is fabulous too!) Enjoy!
  - (Fer) There are other premium vineyards in the area, but you have to pick some. After all, there is a limit to what you can drink (I guess?) and you can't bring 12 bottles back!



# Bariloche

## The lakes area

- Flight time from BA: 2 hours
- Cost in January around \$600-700
- Area with lots of National Parks and perfect biking, hiking and trekking opportunities.
- If you are interested in fly-fishing, this is your place. Junin de Los Andes is supposedly the best location, but I've heard there are great spots everywhere. See next page for some links.
- First thing to bear in mind is that Bariloche is a nice town with great hotels, restaurants and things to do, but also has a ton of outstanding places for 1 or 2 days trips. Here is a short list:
  - *Parque Nacional Los Alerces (3-4 hours south)*. Awesome hikes, beautiful nature. I bet there is great fishing in the area. If you are thinking about a place to stay, this is an awesome alternative (get a room in the hotel, they are better than the cabins): <http://www.hosteriafutalaufquen.com/en/>
  - *El Bolson (2.5 hours south)*. The hippie mecca of Argentina, they a very good crafts market in the main square. Good breweries too, e.g.: <http://www.cervezaselbolson.com>
  - *Seven Lakes Road (full day; stay somewhere close to the end)*: Awesome scenic road connecting Bariloche, Villa la Angostura, Villa Traful and San Martin de Los Andes surrounded by 7 beautiful lakes. Full day trip. Start early. Stop for pics. Roughly 30-40% dirt roads. Use the highway to return to Bariloche (takes 3 hours instead of the whole day).
  - *Villa la Angostura, and Villa Traful*. Two other beautiful little towns worth stopping-by. In Villa la Angostura you can have great "Cordero al Asador" at "Parrilla Loncomilla" <https://plus.google.com/107919369757257309124/about?gl=us&hl=en>
  - *San Martin de Los Andes*. Beautiful little town with breathtaking views. The end of the Seven Lakes Road. Smoked meats at "Los Notros" [www.losnotrosahumadero.com.ar](http://www.losnotrosahumadero.com.ar).
  - *Junin de Los Andes*. Close to San Martin de Los Andes. I've heard it's the best fly-fishing location. Never been.
- MUST-SEE: Hotel Llao-Llao (lunch specials there are great value and a way to visit the hotel); visit "Parque Nacional Los Arrayanes" (close to Villa la Angostura, worth stopping during the "Seven Lakes Road").



# Bariloche

## The lakes area

- Fishing info:

[http://www.interpatagonia.com/pesca/index\\_i.html](http://www.interpatagonia.com/pesca/index_i.html)

<http://www.flyfishingpatagonia.com>

[http://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g316037-r14284218-Junin\\_de\\_los\\_Andes\\_Province\\_of\\_Neuquen\\_Patagonia.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g316037-r14284218-Junin_de_los_Andes_Province_of_Neuquen_Patagonia.html)

<http://www.riomansolodge.com>

<http://www.outfitterspatagonia.com>

- Good restaurants in Bariloche:

- Lamb “al asador” (see Kate’s pic top-right corner): [http://www.elpatacon.com/index\\_en.html](http://www.elpatacon.com/index_en.html)
- Smoked meats/charcuterie is typical of this area. There are good places all over. To visit/take home e.g.: Ahumadero Familia Weiss, Ahumados Andinos, Granjas Patagónicas. For dining: can’t remember but just try out different options, if the place looks good I am sure it will be good.
- Another traditional thing in the area is artisanal chocolate (btw, Bariloche is the most important ski center in Argentina). These are some good, bigger houses: Rapa-Nui, Mamushka, Abuela Goye.
- Patagonian food (fish, wild boar, other + smoked charcuterie are great):  
[http://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant\\_Review-g312848-d1102308-Reviews-Familia\\_Weiss\\_Restaurant-San\\_Carlos\\_de\\_Bariloche\\_Province\\_of\\_Rio\\_Negro\\_Patagonia.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g312848-d1102308-Reviews-Familia_Weiss_Restaurant-San_Carlos_de_Bariloche_Province_of_Rio_Negro_Patagonia.html)
- Pastas (tiny place, home-made like pastas, very local try the filled gnochis):  
[http://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant\\_Review-g312848-d1626670-Reviews-Las\\_Pastas\\_de\\_Gabriel-San\\_Carlos\\_de\\_Bariloche\\_Province\\_of\\_Rio\\_Negro\\_Patagonia.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g312848-d1626670-Reviews-Las_Pastas_de_Gabriel-San_Carlos_de_Bariloche_Province_of_Rio_Negro_Patagonia.html)

Kate stretching before  
having some laa-a-a-amb



# El Calafate

## Glaciers, lamb and trekking

- In Patagonia, going to see the Glaciers is a must. For that you have to fly to El Calafate, 3.5 hours from Buenos Aires (tickets in January for \$500-600). It's fantastic and Dec/Jan is the best time of the year to go, otherwise the rest of the year it's extremely cold (like, almost antarctica level).
- We went there Dec 2009/Jan 2010 and I think that area is one of my favorites in Latam.
- If you do go there, plan to also visit Torres del Paine, in Chile, 5 hours drive from El Calafate, which is great in any case, but fantastic if you want to spend a few days camping (bring well equipment as it is cold at night)
- El Chalten/Cerro Fitz Roy, in Argentina and less than 2 hours drive from El Calafate has some of the best trekking circuits in the country and South America, though I think a guide is recommended to make the most out of it.
- For El Calafate you need 3 days, for Torres del Paine you need 3-7 days (depending on what you want to see) and for El Chalten I am not sure but I would estimate at least 2 full days.
- In El Calafate you will have the best lamb you've ever had. For lamb we recommend a restaurant called "Casimiro Bigua"

<http://www.casimirobigua.com>



# Ushuaia

The most southern city in the world



- Flight time from BA: 4 hours
- Cost in January: \$600-700. It is relatively easy (and much cheaper) if done as part of a trip to the Calafate area. For example, flights would be BA-Ushuaia-Calafate-BA.
- We've never been so we can't make any specific comments or recommendations 😞
- Some things to see in Ushuaia:
  - Cruise through fiords, glaciers meeting the ocean
  - Penguin colonies
  - Beautiful "end of the world" views

# Accommodation in Buenos Aires

(updated 7/27/13)

## The following list includes two types of hotels:

1) Luxury hotels located in different parts of the city.

2) Hotels under US\$ 150 per night located in the Recoleta area, within a 10 minutes walk or drive from the Church (10 minutes drive from the Venue). We recommend you to stay in this area for your convenience, but any of the following Buenos Aires neighborhoods is good:

- **Palermo** (young area; shopping district; great bars and restaurants; boutique hotels). 25 minutes drive to Church, 20 minutes from Venue.
- **Puerto Madero** (modern area; nightlife and restaurants). 20 minutes drive to Church, and where Venue is located.
- **San Telmo** (traditional area; tango shows; restaurants and bars; preferred area for tourists; some safety concerns at night if walking alone – no problem if in a group of 3+). 20 minutes drive to Church, 5 minutes drive (or up to 15 minutes walk) from Venue.

**Note to direct family: please don't book until further instructions.**

# Accommodation examples

## Buenos Aires – luxury hotels (different areas)

Above US\$ 150 per night

- Faena:  
<http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/faena-universe.en-us.html?sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1>
- Park Hyatt:  
[http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/palacio-duhau-park-hyatt-buenos-aires.en-us.html?sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;pr=270,-1;pr\\_currency\\_code=USD;srfid=31778fe54e2ef2871e525d2f7e92047679877c1dX10](http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/palacio-duhau-park-hyatt-buenos-aires.en-us.html?sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;pr=270,-1;pr_currency_code=USD;srfid=31778fe54e2ef2871e525d2f7e92047679877c1dX10)
- Alvear Palace:  
<http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/alvear-palace.en-us.html?sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;srfid=86a03fb064fda38529723252e766e62bd7feb892X8>
- Four Seasons:  
<http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/four-seasons-buenos-aires.en-us.html?sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1>
- Marriot Plaza:  
<http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/marriott-plaza-buenos-aires.en-us.html?sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1>
- Melia Recoleta:  
<http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/melia-recoleta-plaza-boutique.en-us.html?sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;srfid=86a03fb064fda38529723252e766e62bd7feb892X2>

# Accommodation examples

## Buenos Aires – Recoleta (recommended area: close to the Church)

US\$100-150 per night

- Ulises Recoleta:  
[http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/ulises-recoleta-suites.en-us.html?  
sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;srfid=86a03fb06  
4fda38529723252e766e62bd7feb892X15](http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/ulises-recoleta-suites.en-us.html?sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;srfid=86a03fb064fda38529723252e766e62bd7feb892X15)
- Trianon Residences:  
[http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/trianon-residence-recoleta.en-us.html?  
sid=c254b8a892441b7fd031c20171a2d86a;dcid=1;type=total;selected\\_currency=USD;track\\_indication=1](http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/trianon-residence-recoleta.en-us.html?sid=c254b8a892441b7fd031c20171a2d86a;dcid=1;type=total;selected_currency=USD;track_indication=1)
- Buenos Aires Grand Hotel:  
[http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/buenos-aires-grand.en-us.html?  
sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;srfid=86a03fb06  
4fda38529723252e766e62bd7feb892X1](http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/buenos-aires-grand.en-us.html?sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;srfid=86a03fb064fda38529723252e766e62bd7feb892X1)
- Hotel Intersur Recoleta:  
[http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/intersur-recoleta.en-us.html?  
sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;srfid=86a03fb06  
4fda38529723252e766e62bd7feb892X7](http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/intersur-recoleta.en-us.html?sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;srfid=86a03fb064fda38529723252e766e62bd7feb892X7)
- Etoile:  
[http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/etoile-ciudad-autonoma-de-buenos-aires.en-us.html?  
sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1](http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/etoile-ciudad-autonoma-de-buenos-aires.en-us.html?sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1)
- Ayres de Recoleta:  
[http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/ayres-de-recoleta.en-us.html?  
sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1](http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/ayres-de-recoleta.en-us.html?sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1)
- Design cE:  
[http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/buenos-aires-ce-diseno.en-us.html?  
sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1](http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/buenos-aires-ce-diseno.en-us.html?sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1)
- Americas Towers:  
[http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/americas-towers.en-us.html?  
sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1](http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/americas-towers.en-us.html?sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1)

# Accommodation examples

## Buenos Aires – Recoleta (recommended area: close to the Church)

US\$50-100 per night

- Marseille des Anges:  
<http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/marseille-des-anges.en-us.html?sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1>
- Leonardo Da Vinci Residence:  
<http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/leonardo-da-vinci-residence.en-us.html?sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1>
- A Hotel: <http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/art.en-us.html?sid=978a033ae3d3fc66361541930c8d2771;dcid=1>
- Hotel Prince:  
[http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/prince.en-us.html?sid=c254b8a892441b7fd031c20171a2d86a;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;pr=0,60;pr\\_cur\\_code=USD;srfid=fd119d21a64dd50db7a4f573bd1031e5a49432aeX2](http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/prince.en-us.html?sid=c254b8a892441b7fd031c20171a2d86a;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;pr=0,60;pr_cur_code=USD;srfid=fd119d21a64dd50db7a4f573bd1031e5a49432aeX2)
- Hotel Lion D'or:  
[http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/lion-d-or.en-us.html?sid=c254b8a892441b7fd031c20171a2d86a;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;pr=0,60;pr\\_cur\\_code=USD;srfid=fd119d21a64dd50db7a4f573bd1031e5a49432aeX3](http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/lion-d-or.en-us.html?sid=c254b8a892441b7fd031c20171a2d86a;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;pr=0,60;pr_cur_code=USD;srfid=fd119d21a64dd50db7a4f573bd1031e5a49432aeX3)
- IQ Callao:  
[http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/iq-callao-by-temporary-apartments.en-us.html?sid=c254b8a892441b7fd031c20171a2d86a;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;pr=0,60;pr\\_cur\\_code=USD;srfid=fd119d21a64dd50db7a4f573bd1031e5a49432aeX8](http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/iq-callao-by-temporary-apartments.en-us.html?sid=c254b8a892441b7fd031c20171a2d86a;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;pr=0,60;pr_cur_code=USD;srfid=fd119d21a64dd50db7a4f573bd1031e5a49432aeX8)

Under US\$50 per night

- Petit Recoleta Hostel:  
[http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/petit-recoleta-hostel.en-us.html?sid=c254b8a892441b7fd031c20171a2d86a;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;pr=0,60;pr\\_cur\\_code=USD;srfid=fd119d21a64dd50db7a4f573bd1031e5a49432aeX4](http://www.booking.com/hotel/ar/petit-recoleta-hostel.en-us.html?sid=c254b8a892441b7fd031c20171a2d86a;dcid=1;checkin=2013-12-22;checkout=2014-01-01;pr=0,60;pr_cur_code=USD;srfid=fd119d21a64dd50db7a4f573bd1031e5a49432aeX4)



# Budget your trip

*(coming soon)*

(updated 5/14/13)

# Example 1

5 nights in BA, 4 in Mendoza

*(coming soon)*

(updated 5/14/13)

# Example 2

5 nights in BA, 7 in El Calafate or Bariloche areas

*(coming soon)*

(updated 5/14/13)

# Example 3

5 nights in BA, 5 in Salta area

*(coming soon)*

(updated 5/14/13)

# Example 4

5 nights in BA, 7 in Calafate area, 3 in Mendoza area

*(coming soon)*

(updated 5/14/13)

Other

*(more coming soon)*

(updated 5/14/13)

# Useful sites

Useful websites, blogs with travel info

<http://www.therealargentina.com>

<http://www.gringoinbuenosaires.com>

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

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/argentina>

<http://www.visitargentina.com>

[http://goargentina.about.com/od/Planning\\_Your\\_Trip/tp/Top-10-Reasons-To-Visit-Argentina.htm](http://goargentina.about.com/od/Planning_Your_Trip/tp/Top-10-Reasons-To-Visit-Argentina.htm)

Flights

<http://www.cheapoair.com> (international and domestic flights)

[www.kayak.com](http://www.kayak.com) (international and domestic flights)

[www.lan.com](http://www.lan.com) and <http://www.aerolineas.com.ar> (domestic flights in Argentina)