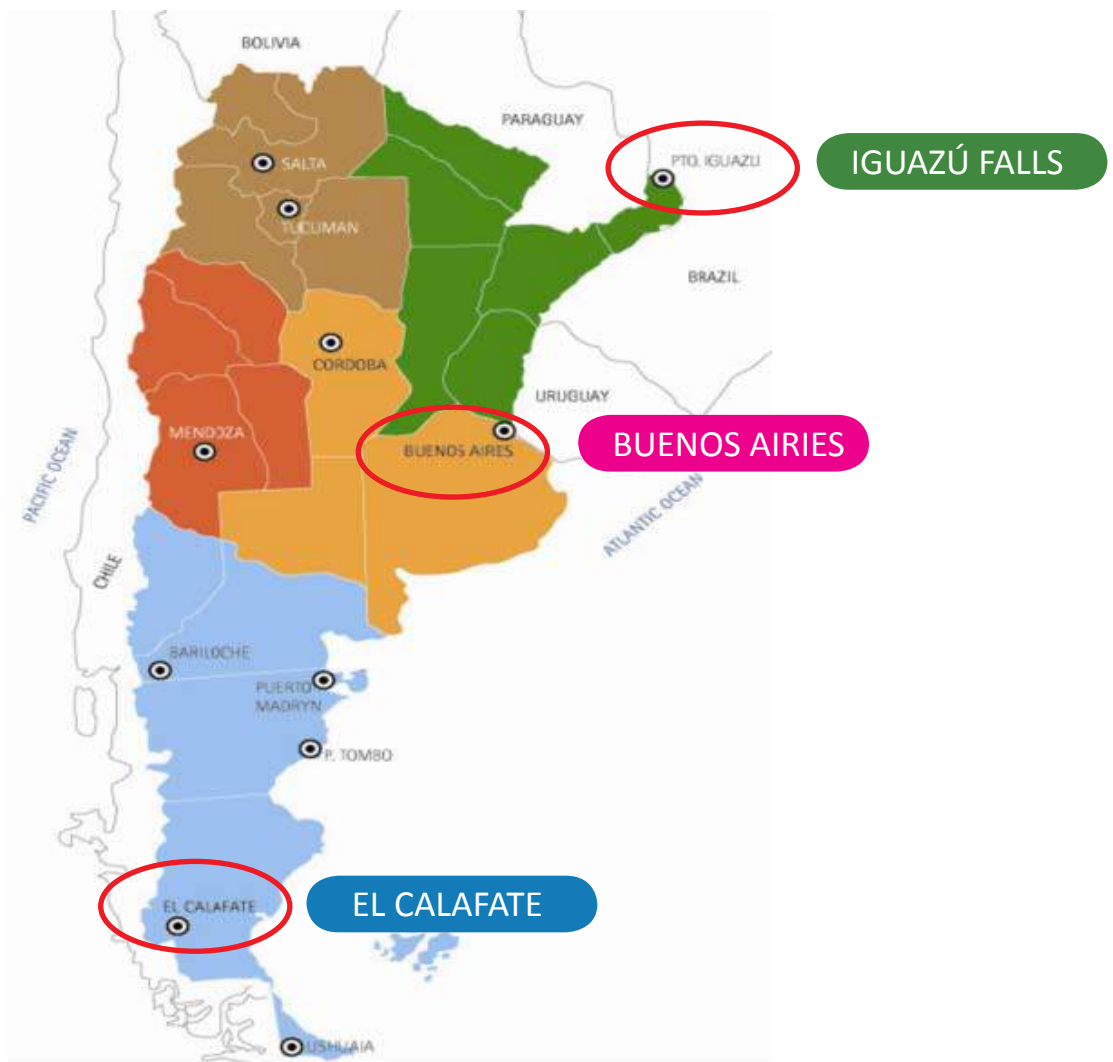


BUENOS AIRES | IGUAZÚ FALLS & | EL CALAFATE



i) BUENOS AIRES

WELCOME TO BUENOS AIRES

Buenos Aires is the capital of Argentina and the first point of entry into the country. The region of Buenos Aires comprises of the Province and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. It is a megalopolis with over 11 million inhabitants and can be described as a wonderful, cosmopolitan city that is a joy to explore. It is often called the “Paris of South America”. The picture perfect old neighborhoods of Buenos Aires are filled with romantic restaurants and the city boasts of a thumping nightlife. The cafes, bars, and nightclubs, make it extremely exciting. Visitors are fascinated by the city’s environment, different personalities of each neighborhood, and the warmth of its people.

GETTING AROUND

Buenos Aires is arranged in blocks or a grid format, so it’s pretty easy to get around. The city has a very large public transport network, with almost 40,000 licensed taxis. The hop-on, hop-off tourist bus is a scenic ride – a good option, if visitors are short on time and keen to see the highlights. Bicycle lanes and pedestrian pathways in the city centre make cycling and walking a great alternative.

- **Bus:** Known locally as ‘colectivos’ or ‘bondis’, buses are the cheapest way to get around the city. Over 180 bus lines run regularly, with reduced frequency at night. Several Metrobus stations also have free Wi-Fi access. The bus service is good and travelers will rarely find themselves more than a block or two away from a bus stop.
- **Subte (Underground train network):** The ‘subte’ may be the oldest, but it is the quickest way to get around the city. Trains operate from 5am to 10.30pm Monday to Saturday, and 8am to 10pm on Sundays and public holidays.
- **Taxis:** Taxis are in abundance and can be flagged on the street. Licensed taxis charge by the meter, fares rise by 20% at night. If travelers want to order a taxi from a fixed place, there are several radio taxi companies through which taxis can be ordered in advance. It would be good to ask your hotel to recommend a taxi service.
- **Car hire & driving in the city:** All major car hire companies operate in Buenos Aires. The driver has to be 21 years old to rent a car and hold an international driver’s license. Standard rental regulations apply.
- **Explore on foot:** There’s so much to see and enjoy in barrios (neighborhoods) like San Telmo, Palermo Viejo, Soho, Recoleta, Balvanera and the Microcentro (the central downtown area), that are often best explored on foot. Increasingly, central streets are being converted into walking zones, with better facilities for pedestrians. There are several guided walking tours that can be done as a part of the tourist itinerary.

ACCOMMODATION:

There are over 480 hotels holding 56,400 beds. There are a variety of categories, ranging from B&Bs to super luxurious hotels. Visitors shouldn’t have trouble finding the place of their choice.

TOURS:

There are plenty of organized tours, from the large tourist buses to guided bike rides to walking tours. Most travel agencies also offer their own city tours.

THE AREAS OF BUENOS AIRES EXPLAINED:

This huge capital is recognized by its wide cultural and recreational offerings. The Colón Theatre and small experimental theatres (most of them located on Corrientes Avenue); old bookstores and new cultural centers; more than 100 museums and art galleries; big handicraft fairs and modern shopping centers; historical coffee houses; bars featuring tango and milonga shows; discos and pubs with international music; restaurants of different kinds, styles and cuisines; casinos and the most passionate football games. Visitors may tour the city on their own to enjoy what this diverse city has to offer.

The center of the city is **Microcentro** and one can walk around and find their way quite easily.

Puerto Madero, the waterfront area and scenic docklands - This area is famous for its dining options on the waterfront, along with its modern infrastructure.

San Telmo is famous for its bohemian neighborhood and the Sunday fair.

La Boca is known for the colorful houses clad in corrugated metal.

Congreso is another area that boasts of stately colonial buildings.

Retiro is the city’s main train and bus station.

Recoleta and Barrio Norte are the aristocratic areas - The city’s most expensive real estate dotted with art museums, fancy shops and luxurious mansions.

Palermo is new trendy area, with spacious parks, plenty of shopping, many restaurants, bars and nightclubs.



Puerto Madero

ATTRACTIONS & THE UNMISSIBLE

- **Teatro Colón (Opera House):** It is one of Buenos Aires famous landmarks. Teatro Colón is home for performing arts - a world-class forum for opera, ballet and classical music. With unparalleled acoustics, it is considered to be one of best in the world with gorgeous décor. It is worth a peek inside, even if visitors don't have time for a show or guided tour.



Teatro Colón



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- **Tango:** Often known as the most sensual dance bustling with excited energy, Argentina is the birthplace of tango. It is in the air and enjoyed by everyone. Visitors can start the evening with a tango lesson, followed by a grand dinner and end with a tango show, paired with some fine Malbec wine. When the evening falls on the city, tango awakens with all its sensuality and charm at the tanguerías (tango houses), tango shows or high-level theater shows. It's a chance to learn the tango. A trip to Buenos Aires isn't complete without a taste of tango.

- **Recoleta Cemetery:** Wander for hours in this amazing cemetery where 'streets' are lined with impressive statues and lose oneself for hours in this labyrinth of gorgeous mausoleums. In 2011, the BBC hailed The Recoleta Cemetery, one of the world's best cemeteries. Visitors from all over the world visit the Recoleta Cemetery expecting to pop in and see a few famous tombs, take in the gorgeous architecture, and then check it off their list before moving onto their next spot. Many are smitten by this great place which is a true delight for the visitor and the photographer. Guided tours are also available.



Knack

Argentina

MODULE 2 THE ESSENTIALS TRAVELLING IN ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES

- **San Telmo Market:** Sundays should be reserved for the San Telmo Market, a sprawling antique and flea market, where the entire city comes alive. The market boasts of shopping opportunities, street performances and exciting eateries.



SanTelmo

Martin Acosta

La Boca

Stockphotos



- **The 'Caminito' of La Boca:** No trip to Buenos Aires is complete without taking a short stroll through the open-air 'museum' of the 'Caminito', which is famous for its brightly-colored houses and tango. The city's tourist bus stops off at the entrance to the Caminito, and several private companies organize walking tours as well. It is nice to visit in the day and have lunch here.

- **Theatres:** Buenos Aires has over 280 theatres, more than any other city in the world. Head along Av. Corrientes between Av. Callao and Av. 9 de Julio and you're in Buenos Aires' very own Broadway. The city's theatres show everything from musicals to ballet, comedy to circuses.
- **Av. 9 de Julio (Avenue 9th of July) :** It is the widest avenue that runs through the heart of the city.
- **El Ateno: (Bookstore)** The city's most spectacular bookstore with a cafe, El Ateneo, is a converted opera house into a bookstore.
- **La Bombonera (Football Stadium):** For football fans, no trip is complete without visiting La Bombonera. The stadium is owned by Boca Juniors, one of Argentina's most famous football clubs. It is famous for its unusual 'D' shape and steep sides, giving it fantastic acoustics.



Franco Cappellari

- **Witness a football game:** In a land where Messi is a legend and Maradona is God, seeing a football game can be a religious experience. The clash between the Boca Juniors and River Plate has been called the number one sporting event. Going to the game is not too difficult either, just be alert on the clubs' websites which provide details on ticket sales - very often they are even available at the stadium before the game.

MONUMENTS:

- **La Casa Rosada:** La Casa Rosada (The Pink House) is the executive mansion and office of the President of Argentina - unmistakably famous for its history and the Presidential balcony. It is from the balcony of the north wing of this building that Eva Perón addressed adoring crowds.
- **Catedral Metropolitana:** (Buenos Aires Metropolitan Cathedral) Buenos Aires' baroque cathedral is a significant religious and architectural landmark.
- **Palacio del Congreso:** (Argentine National Congress) The Palace of the Argentine National Congress is a monumental building, seat of the Argentine National Congress. The palace is built in a neoclassical style, largely made of white marble with elaborately furnished interiors. It is crowned by a bronze plated dome, weathered to green color.
- **Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes:** The excellent National Fine Arts Museum houses the nation's largest and most important collection of Argentine art, plus a number of European works.
- **City parks:** Buenos Aires has over 250 parks and green spaces, the largest concentration of which are on the city's eastern side in the Puerto Madero, Recoleta, Palermo and Belgrano neighborhoods.

SHOPPING:

Whether its quality leather goods, bargain antiques or souvenir football shirts, there is no shortage of shopping options in Buenos Aires. San Telmo is the best for antiques, souvenirs and vintage clothing; Palermo Soho for the latest trends in fashion and furniture design; Retiro for the quality leather products; Recoleta for up market boutiques malls – where one can find all the well known brands. The other main shopping areas are: Florida Street and Santa Fe Avenue among others. There are nine malls in the city.

VAT REFUNDS: At the international airport, it is possible to get a VAT refund if travelers have bought national products for more than \$70 (per invoice) at the shops included within the “Global Refund” system.



RESTAURANTS AND EATING OUT

Eating out in Buenos Aires is a gastronomical highlight. The city offers award-winning international cuisine - Buenos Aires is one of the most renowned capitals in the world offering a variety of culinary flavors. Although steak is the delicacy, one can find plenty of vegetarian options. There are a few Indian restaurants in Buenos Aires too. Restaurants vary from simple, stand up bars to sophisticated luxury. In most cases one can always find a restaurant that will appeal to them. Palermo is fast becoming the city's trendiest gastronomic centre, but one can find the more traditional cafes and eateries in the central neighborhoods and San Telmo, with more up-market and contemporary options in Recoleta and Puerto Madero. The city is also known for its closed-door restaurants which provide superb imaginative menus and along with an intimate atmosphere. Don't forget to indulge in the desserts, which provide a special touch to the meals.

CAFÉ CULTURE:

Buenos Aires has a long-standing café culture, with its many historic cafes. Today the city has 73 listed historic cafes, where the interiors and traditions are well preserved, with a relaxed atmosphere. The famous cafes are Café Tortoni, El Faro or Confeiteria las Violetas for a typical cortado (espresso with a dash of hot milk), but there are many others to explore throughout the city, some with tango shows to add that extra touch to the experience.

NIGHTLIFE:

Buenos Aires, the distinguished cosmopolitan city that stays up late, is often referred to the city that never sleeps and keeps one swinging through the night. In Buenos Aires, dinner is late and so is bedtime. After dinner (often ending after midnight) people head out for a drink, and then hit the nightclubs around 3am.

DAY TRIPS – QUICK GETAWAYS (Near Buenos Aires):

- Visitors normally like to experience the countryside. They like to visit the “estancias” (large cattle ranches) to see the “gauchos”. Gauchos are the workers/cowboys on the estancias. A famous town for such a visit is ‘San Antonio de Arco’. It is around 120 kilometers from Buenos Aires and can be reached by road within 2 hours.
- Outside Buenos Aires is **Tigre**, a laid-back weekend escape on an island in the Paraná River Delta. The city of Tigre (35km north of Buenos Aires) and the surrounding delta region is a popular weekend getaway and can be easily reached by bus and train services. The town sits on an island created by several small streams and rivers. All along the shorelines are signs of water-related activity, from kayaking to wakeboarding, canoeing to sculling. People could visit the naval museum, which has a collection of model ships, dine by the riverside, or rent a boat and cruise the private canals.



Gauchos

Inprotrur



Tigre

Vanda Biffani



ii) IGUAZÚ FALLS – The Powerful Waterfalls

Iguazú National Park - A World Heritage Site - is located in the northwest of the province of Misiones. It is a preserved ecosystem that belongs to the Paraná Jungle (sub tropical rainforest). The natural treasures are the Iguazú Waterfalls. They were declared one of the New Seven Wonders of Nature.

GETTING THERE:

Flight from Buenos Aires takes 1 hour 45 minutes to reach Cataratas del Iguazú International Airport (IGR). To visit the falls, guests can base themselves in the Argentine town of Puerto Iguazú. The falls are approximately 20 kilometers away from town. From Puerto Iguazú's bus terminal, buses leave regularly for the park with return trips. A taxi from town to the park entrance can be another option. Private transfers can be organized with tour operators.

FACILITIES & ACCOMMODATION:

Iguazú National Park provides varied services to tourists. Among them are great accommodation services, restaurant options, fast food and drugstores. If visitors do wish to stay inside the national park there is an option of one five-star hotel, which is located close to the falls.

DESCRIPTION:

It is the peaceful Iguazú river that plunges suddenly over a cliff to create this spectacular display of sound, fury, and the sheer volume of water, leaving a lasting memory and an opportunity to feel the 'Iguazú power'. But it's not just the waterfalls; the jungle backdrop is absolutely stunning, providing options to experience adventure activities, including a powerful boat ride in the falls.

The visit to Iguazú National Park requires, at least, a complete day to enjoy the natural surroundings with the dense lush jungle that surrounds the falls. Walking around is the best way to see the falls. The Argentinean side of the Iguazú falls offers a variety of trails and boat rides, along with many opportunities to see the waterfalls up-close. Visitors can see the falls from various angles while walking the paths, bridges and balconies.

RAINFOREST ECOLOGICAL TRAIN:

The Rainforest Ecological Train was designed and built for transporting tourists within the Iguazú National Park. It is an open train so that its passengers can enjoy the environment, and experience a journey into the forest with its sounds, scents and wetness.

The train starts at Central Train Station and the Cataratas Train Station is the intermediate stop, and finally ends at the Devil's Throat Train Station, where visitors will get a chance to witness a marvelous sight. The estimated time is 10 minutes from Central Train Station to Cataratas Train Station, and 15 minutes from Cataratas Train Station to Devil's Throat Train Station, a 30-minute ride from the starting point to the end. The total rail length is about 3.7 kilometers.



Ecological Train

Emitur

THE HIGHLIGHT - The Devil's Throat:

The itinerary begins about 1,100 meters before the monumental fall, after getting off the train at Devil's Throat Station. Visitors start from the walkway built over the Iguazú River that leads to one of the planet's most awe-inspiring sights, the Garganta del Diablo (Devil's Throat). The balcony is perched right over this amazingly powerful and concentrated torrent of water that flows together and then falls down from a great height. When one is standing at the balcony it feels like all the falls are coming together at this point and are ready to take a huge plunge. The feeling of being on top of the water is amazing. Visitors can literally feel the spray of water and experience the Iguazú power. Travelers are so close to the falls that it feels like they are in them.

FULL MOON WALKS:

A visit to the Iguazú falls is also possible during full moon clear nights, normally for five consecutive nights a month; these guided walks allows visitors access to the Garganta del Diablo (Devils Throat) and enjoy the falls during the night-time. Most hotels in Puerto Iguazú can book this for the guests.



Devil's Throat - Iguazú Falls

Devil Throat Iguazu



Iguazú Falls

Emitur



View of the Glacier

Rossi

iii) EL CALAFATE

El Calafate is a town in Patagonia, Argentina. It is situated in the southern border of Lake Argentino, in the southwest part of the Santa Cruz Province. El Calafate is an important tourist destination – it serves as an important hub to visit different parts of the Los Glaciares National Park.

The flight from Buenos Aires approximately takes 3 hours and 15 minutes. The Airport is Aeropuerto El Calafate (FTE) and is approximately 22 kilometers from the town. At El Calafate, in the province of Santa Cruz, travel agencies organize tours to visit the Perito Moreno Glacier.

FACILITIES, ACCOMMODATION & TOURS:

People normally stay in this town and the main strip, or centre of the town, is filled with cute souvenir stores, chocolate shops, cafes, restaurants and tourist offices. Small shops selling fresh bread, fine cheeses, sweets and wine are found on the side streets. The accommodation facilities are in abundance and the town is well equipped to handle tourists. The quality of accommodation is good and guests are rarely disappointed. The high season is December – February. There are many travel agencies that arrange excursions to the glacier and other local attractions, including stays at regional estancias, where visitors can live the countryside experience, hike, ride horses or just relax and enjoy the stunning backdrop of the town.

ATTRACTION:

Glaciarum

This is a unique modern glacier museum and ice bar that provides an opportunity to learn about and celebrate the mysteries of the frozen Patagonia. Various displays, models and film shows, explain the formation of the glaciers among other interesting facts. At its lower level, among frozen walls, the 'GlacioBar' invites to guests to celebrate the adventure and have a drink in the ice bar, where even the glasses are made of ice.



GETTING TO THE GLACIER:

The glacier Perito Moreno, approximately 80 kilometers away from El Calafate in Parque Nacional Los Glaciares, is a must-see. It takes a little over an hour to get there by road and the drive to the glacier is stunning.

GLACIAR PERITO MORENO:

The glacier is huge - approximately 30 kilometers long, 5 kilometers wide and 60 meters high, but what makes it exceptional is its constant advance – every day it moves forward upto 2 meters. Visitors get the first glimpse of the glacier from the parking bay. There is a large network of broad walkways, providing panoramic views, at different heights of the glacier. The experience allows visitors to get close and witness the periodic collapse of ice masses from the glacier - which is one of the most impressive natural spectacles. To explain it in words- a strong noise is heard, like thunder and at the same moment a huge block of ice falls into the water. The glacier looks mute and, suddenly, it starts trembling from the deepest part of its interior. But this time nothing happens. This experience is incredible.

Within the Park, there are a wide variety of gastronomic services - inviting guests to enjoy nice meals and delicious coffees, with breathtaking views of the huge and mysterious glacier.



TREKKING ON THE GLACIER

Trekking on the glacier is a traditional and out-of-world experience. The mini trek is fun and runs from early August to late May. The excursion begins in the embarking pier, located in “Bajo de las Sombras” port, about 6 kilometers from the glacier balconies/walkways- where people can embark on a 20-minute cruise/navigation across the Rico Arm, enjoying breathtaking views of the Perito Moreno glacier’s front wall.

After reaching the opposite shore, one disembarks from the boat, where specialized mountain guides welcome the guests. Groups for the mini trek are formed. Crampons (special metal spikes worn on boots) are provided for better traction. Then the adventure begins with a fascinating 2-hour journey across the glacier. The trek introduces guests to enjoy the fascinating landscape of the glaciers, streams, small lagoons, gullies, crevasses and plenty of ice formations. The intensity of the trekking is moderate.



Trekking on the Glacier

Paolo Pettrignani

SAILING AMONG THE GLACIERS

In addition to walking along its walkways/footbridges, one of the most traditional tours to see the Perito Moreno Glacier is to get on board a catamaran and cruise around the glacier while slowly approaching the great walls of ice across the waters of Lake Argentino.

Not only do passengers catch a good glimpse of this wonder, but they can also listen to the movements generated by the glacier. This is popularly known as the nautical safari which is approximately a 45-minute boat ride just in front of Perito Moreno Glacier

The catamaran gets as close as possible to the point where the glacier meets solid ground and the famous ice bridge is formed. Every now and then, this bridge collapses and this is known as “the rupture”. There is an option for passengers to go up to the deck and enjoy different perspectives of the glacier from various angles and locations. Tickets can be bought at the port.

Tours to other glaciers are also available from El Calafate.



Sailing Among The Glaciers

Inprotrur