

WALKING TOURS AROUND BUENOS AIRES

HISTORICAL WALK AROUND MONTSERRAT AND SAN TELMO: THE COLONIAL ERA



This exciting walk will allow us to trace back to the Colonial origins of Buenos Aires, when nobody could have imagined the city would later develop into the global metropolis it is right now.

Our journey starts at **Plaza de Mayo**, the city's foundational site chosen by Juan de Garay in 1580. There, we visit the buildings surrounding the square: the Pink House, our Presidential Palace, the Cabildo, primitive town hall, and the Metropolitan Cathedral, the city's most important temple.

We then walk to the so-called **Manzana de las Luces** (Block of Lights), nicknamed in 1822 after the 'enlightening' educational institutions located inside its perimeter. In this ancient block (occupied by Jesuits since 1633) we find the San Ignacio church, the oldest in town, and the very traditional Colegio Nacional de Buenos Aires, founded by the Jesuits during the Colonial era.

Ending our visit, we walk to **San Telmo**, primitive residential district for the upper class that was abandoned in the late 20th century, due to a yellow fever epidemics and the territorial advance of immigration. After almost a century of marginalization, since 1970 it has started a renovation process, and nowadays it's one of the most sought-after spots in town. But before we get there, in Montserrat we visit La Estrella Pharmacy, established in 1834, and the San Francisco Church, opened in 1754. Once in the heart of San Telmo, we stop at the Ezeiza family house, to see how the Porteño aristocracy lived in the 19th century. We then walk across the traditional Plaza Dorrego, the oldest in town after Plaza de Mayo, and the Café Dorrego. After visiting the famous antiquarians in the area, we see the old San Telmo Marketplace, where literally anything can be found.

HISTORICAL WALK AROUND LA BOCA: LA PICCOLA ITALIA

La Boca is arguably one of Buenos Aires' most authentic neighborhoods. Away from the modernizing and internationalizing waves that have been shaking the city since the 1990s, this working class port district has been jealously guarding its identity, of which soccer and Tango are very important parts. The first that strikes the visitors about La Boca is its peculiar architecture. On one side, we find the typical houses made out of tin and scrape metal, painted with a wide array of colors. They were erected by immigrants, who used leftover materials and paint from the docks and nearby shipyards. On the other side, we see the famous tenement houses, where many families from the working class lived tightly crammed together.



One of the neighborhood's most recognizable icons is the Alberto J. Armando Stadium, nicknamed La Bombonera (The Chocolate Box), which is Boca Junior's stadium, the country's largest soccer team, and the one favored by Diego Maradona, probably one of the most famous people in the world. We also visit the emblematic Caminito Street, a true outdoor museum, dedicated to soccer and Tango. Finally, we enter the Quinquela Martín Museum, located in a building decorated and donated by the artist in 1933, to house an elementary school, an Argentine art museum and his own home and workshop. Here, we learn about his intense life and his strong social commitment

HISTORICAL WALK AROUND THE RECOLETA CEMETERY



The exclusive Recoleta Cemetery, comparable to Paris' own Père Lachaise, had a nevertheless humble origin: it was the city's first public cemetery, inaugurated in 1822. However, from 1870, as the most traditional families abandoned the historical quarters for Recoleta, it became the final resting place of the Buenos Aires élite.

A walk around this majestic necropolis, which houses 47.000 ornate mausoleums, vaults, tombs and funeral monuments in around five hectares, will force us to discredit the popular notion that everybody is equal in death.

Before we enter the actual Cemetery, we'll visit the nearby Nuestra Señora del Pilar Basilica. It's the second oldest Colonial temple in town, built in 1732; it's been flawlessly restored and preserved, and hosts important artwork.

In the Cemetery, we'll first admire the Neoclassical portico, with its tall pillars guarding the entrance to the necropolis. Once inside we'll walk across its wide, tree-lined avenues, stopping by some of the most illustrious tombs and vaults, and allowing us to trace back the history of our country with the personal aid of the important figures resting there: Remedios Escalada de San Martín, Mariquita Sánchez de Thompson, Juan Manuel de Rosas, Domingo Faustino Sarmiento and most especially, Eva Perón, whose mausoleum attracts pilgrims and visitors from all over the world, and witnesses her posthumous triumph over the aristocracy, who had hated and fought her in life

Included services:

2 Hours tour

Private Bilingual guide specializing in Buenos Aires's History, Arts and Architecture

Brochure with extended information of the tour and neighborhood postcard.

Optional:

Transfer Hotel - Meeting point - Hotel

PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON:

02 PAXS: USD 30.00

03 PAXS: USD 25.00

04/05 PAXS: USD 22.00

*** CONSULT FOR OTHER WALKING TOURS SUCH AS PALERMO, RECOLETA, AVENIDA DE MAYO, PUERTO MADERO ***