



Digital Nomads Guides



BUENOS AIRES

**Bonus
Material
Online!**

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Buenos Aires

Free Sample

Digital Nomads Guides

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Writing this ebook was heaps of work. Please respect that by not copying it or passing it onto other people.

Everything in this book has been researched thoughtfully and with great care. However, things can change at anytime. We can't rule out mistakes 100%. We are not liable for any damage created by the information in this book. This book is not a substitute for thinking for yourself ;)

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Why Buenos Aires?

Argentina's capital city has been compared to some of the most famous European cities, but its true value lies in the differences to other metropolises. Buenos Aires is one of the most visited cities on the South American continent as part of the backpacker's gringo-trail and a safe choice among recent retirees willing to travel to Latin America. There's plenty of culture and history to fill your days sightseeing and listening to tour guides. This guide is not about *any* of that; other guides do that a lot better.

Digital Nomads Guides chose Buenos Aires as its first city guide because of the city's high development, international crowd, big expat scene and ease of living. There's a good chance of people speaking English, otherwise it's a good place to pick up some basic Spanish for the other Latin American countries. If body language is more your thing, try dancing the locally invented tango at one of the *milongas*. For a humongous city, it's relatively safe. There is fast internet, many cafés and coworking spaces and a lot of activity going on in the expat scene. Every neighborhood has green spaces to relax and their own festivals or *ferias* organized around different themes. Apartment owners have discovered sites like Airbnb and turned hosting into an art, giving you abundant options for places to sleep.

Digital nomads, officeless expats and long-term travelers needing a break can all find a new (temporary) home in this city. Unlike other Latin American cities, Buenos Aires will never serve you an instant coffee, sold as *espresso* in the menus.



About this Guide

Part One of this guide has all the tools you need to get set up in Argentina, in order of importance. We believe you should just book a flight to Buenos Aires and not worry about being underprepared. If you read this book at the airport or on your flight, you'll be as prepared as can be in **just 25 minutes**. Important Spanish words are introduced if they're necessary vocabulary. They follow directly after the English. All prices are in United States Dollar (US\$) as it is widely understood, and the Argentinian Peso is quite notorious for its instability.

Part Two of this book has specific information about the neighborhoods (*barrios*) in Buenos Aires. The neighborhoods aren't ordered according to historical centrality like in other guides, but rather to lifestyle compatibility in terms of coworking spaces and laptop-friendly cafés. All cafés have been tried out by our writers and vouched for by expats living in Buenos Aires at the time of writing. All cafés included mention the internet speed in Megabit (Mbit), a PowerScore and ZenScore. PowerScore is a rating of the number of wall sockets out of five, in which five is the best and one is the worst. People with great laptop batteries can go to a café with a low PowerScore, but energetically challenged people should skip over these. ZenScore is about how workable a café is in terms of noise, again with a rating out of five - five being very quiet and one being very busy. It's not just decibels, it's also how many people are walking by your table causing distraction. This is of course a little more variable as it's dependent on the time of day and day of the week. Our writers visited all the cafés during a weekday before 17:00.



Part One: How to Get Set Up in Buenos Aires

Money, ATMs & Prices

The currency in Argentina is the Argentinian Peso, just called peso here. They usually use the \$ symbol, which can be confusing, when you are associating that with the US Dollar. The price of a cup of coffee indicated as \$50 is quite normal. The currency code is ARS.

The peso is very volatile and has a high inflation rate. Don't trust any website or guidebook which states prices in pesos and is older than three months. As of March 2018:
100 ARS = 5.00 USD = 4.00 EUR

The government used to restrict the ability for normal Argentinians to buy US\$, which resulted in a black market ("blue dollar") with much better exchange rates. This restriction was removed in December 2015 and now you get the same exchange rate everywhere. If you read about the "blue dollar" on websites and guidebooks, it's outdated. Just get your money at ATMs like anywhere else.

ATMs accepting VISA and MasterCard are widely available. That being said, there are often problems with ATMs not working at all, only working with certain cards or limiting the amount you can withdraw per transaction. Usually you can't get out more than about US\$130 per transaction. Make sure to bring as many credit cards as possible, preferably at least one VISA and one MasterCard to cover all bases.

There are two main ATM networks and most banks are connected to one of them. They are called Link and Banelco. Usually, there is a sign outside the bank, indicating the network. Try both networks to find out what works best with your cards. Both networks charge about US\$5 per transaction, which is on top of any charges from your own bank.



Make sure to check out Citibank. There is one in every neighborhood. Search them via Google Maps if you can't find one. Usually, some of their ATMs are connected to Banelco and some of them are independent. Try the independent ones, since they might not charge an additional fee.



Exchanging money is easy everywhere, especially in the center. As usual, don't exchange your money at the airport because the exchange rates are better in the city. If possible, go to official exchange (*cambio*) offices all the time. In the pedestrian zone of Florida street there are many individuals who target *gringos* for their dollars. Even if you're not sketched out by them, these people are only a last resort in case the offices are closed.

Only upper class restaurants and big supermarkets accept credit card payments. As with ATMs, payment via credit card is not very reliable. Make sure to have multiple cards and some backup cash. You often need your national ID or passport to pay by card. After typing in your PIN, you additionally have to sign and write your passport number on the receipt.

Sometimes when you pay by card, people will get confused and ask where the number on your passport is. That's because they have to enter your ID number into their system. The systems usually only accept eight digits, which is the format of the Argentinian ID numbers (DNI). Just point them to any eight numbers on your passport or tell them to put in 12345678, or something like that. There is no actual check to see if it's valid.

Argentina is one of the more developed and therefore more expensive countries in South America. Some pricing examples:

Can of Coca Cola - US\$1.50
Cappuccino - US\$3
Pack of cheese - US\$3
1 liter of milk - US\$1.50
Empanada - US\$1.30
Pizza for two people - US\$9
Restaurant meal - from US\$7
Beer in a bar - US\$3
Bottle of wine - from US\$2
Hostel bed - US\$13
Airbnb room - from US\$20
Airbnb apartment - from US\$35
City bus fare - US\$0.40
5 km by taxi - US\$6

So, how expensive is it to live in Buenos Aires for a week? Let's say you are on a budget. You stay in a hostel dorm and cook for yourself or eat *empanadas*. You have two beers per week and visit the city by bus once per week. That sums up to a weekly budget of US\$150 or US\$600 per month.

If money is not that tight, you might opt for your own apartment, go to a restaurant every day and have a proper night out twice per week. You explore the city by taxi, since you can't be bothered to figure out the buses. That comes to US\$410 per week or US\$1640 per month. This is about the range you can expect. The biggest factor is obviously your choice of accommodation. Interesting side note: Opting for restaurants every day only makes a difference of US\$30 per week. More about that in the Food section below.



Part Two: Barrio Guides

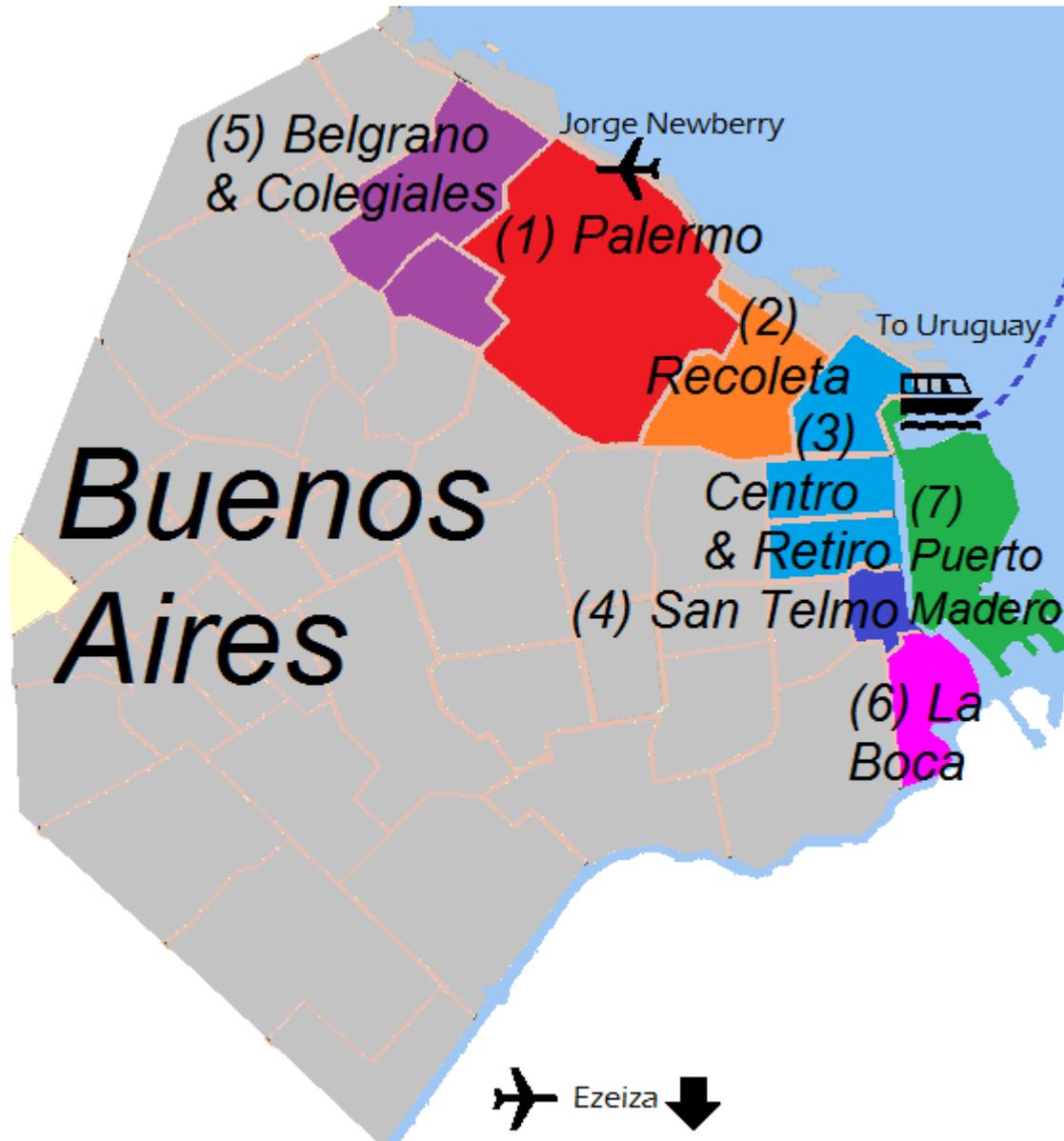
Bonus material unlocked! In the full version of the guide, you'll find the access to the online area here, to find an interactive map and more goodies to use in the city!

The *barrios* are what makes Buenos Aires remarkable. No one is like the other. Every *barrio* has its own authentic flair. Some areas are perfect for hip cafés, others provide great cheap food from all around the world. Have a look around to find “your” *barrio*.

Not all *barrios* are created equal. They are ordered by attractiveness for digital nomads. We have visited all working friendly cafés in this list personally. We were not alone: in fact, all the cafés we mention had other people working on laptops during our visit. This is important social proof. The WiFi speed is the average result of at least two speed tests. The PowerScore describes how easy it is to find a charging point. The ZenScore tells you how quiet a café is.

At this point, you might be annoyed by us using *barrio* as if it's an English word. While there can be different opinions about Spanglish, this word is so common and characteristic for Buenos Aires, so we will continue using the word.

Even if restaurants are not the focus of Digital Nomads Guides, there are some places which are just too awesome to keep silent about. Therefore, you will find a food section in some, but not all of the *barrios*. Enjoy!



Source: Wikipedia user Bleff - [License](#)



Palermo

Palermo is the center of the expat and digital nomad scene. It's full of hip cafés, art galleries and healthy restaurants. Good vibrations everywhere. It's also very popular with upper-class tourists, having a variety of boutique hotels. It's situated in the north-west of the city and is by far the largest *barrio* in Buenos Aires, but it could be a city of its own. As "Let's meet in Palermo" could mean anything, Palermo itself can be divided into several "sub-*barrios*". We've pieced together the most interesting areas of Palermo for digital nomads, which are in short Soho and Hollywood. Visit the online bonus material to find a useful map with all the good spots.

Work

Our free sample only shows one coworking space and one working friendly café. The full guide has nine places in Palermo and 30 in total.

Eterna Cadencia

Honduras 5574

Mon - Fri 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 11:30 - 20:00

10 Mbit

PowerScore ★★☆☆☆

ZenScore ★★★★★

Eterna Cadencia is a bookshop, which has a nice café in its interior. It's very quiet most of the day, with a few more people coming in after 17:00. The WiFi is very fast. About twelve tables are at your disposal. Only a few of the tables have power points next to them. There is relaxing music in the background and a generally classy atmosphere. A collection of artsy lamps are dangling from the high glass roof, which allows plenty of natural light. Many people use the café to start reading their freshly acquired books with a cup of coffee. Apart from coffee you can also get a couple of snacks.

Urban Station Palermo Soho

El Salvador 4577

Mon - Fri 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 12:00 - 17:00

11 Mbit

The Soho branch was the first Urban Station, founded in 2011. It's bright and colorful, but not too big. The tables are relatively close to each other and it's well visited. It all feels a little crowded. On the flip-side, this makes the atmosphere personal and it's easy to connect with people. There are also some private offices for up to 10 individuals. Urban Station has a kitchen with free coffee and pastries (*facturas*), if they are not finished by your fellow coworkers. A package of 10 hours comes at a price of US\$35, with discounts on larger packages. You can also go for a five hour package for US\$13, which is only valid for one day. Situated in the heart of the digital nomad and expat scene, it's the perfect place to meet people.



Final Words

Did you like this free sample? In the full guide, you'll find so much more, including a total of 30 coworking and café reviews. Head to digitalnomadsguides.com/buenos-aires/ for more information.

