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> Where to stay in Buenos Aires

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# Guide to Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA

Argentina's hedonistic capital has been reinventing itself since the 19th century, blurring the distinctions

between night and day, past and future, Europe and Latin America. The city has a buzz all of its own, derived from its heady juxtaposition of faded, dusty elegance and edgy, flash modernity. The city and its people keep on dressing up, staying out late and looking good.

# Where To Stay

# 1555 MALABIA HOUSE

### Malabia 1555, Palermo Viejo, Soho, Buenos Aires ( 2 00 54 11 4833 2410 0) Despite the clumsy name, this smartly converted 19th-century

downtown area. The boutique style B&B with simple bedrooms is family-owned, making the atmosphere very familiar and friendly. The breakfasts are big, bountiful and American, but if you want to explore, the hotel is close to Buenos Aires' most happening barrio, characterised by cobbled streets and residents chatting on their doorstops, but also for excellent bars, restaurants and designer clothes shops. (2) (2) Check availablity

convent is pretty slick and is one of very few options if you want to stay in Palermo Viejo instead of the

# ALVEAR PALACE HOTEL

### Avenida Alvear 1891, Recoleta, Buenos Aires ( 5 00 54 11 4808 2100 6)

The fact that this hotel used to be an apartment block for wealthy beef magnates takes nothing away from its grandeur. The 197 palace rooms and suites are each individually decorated with Empire furnishings, fine art and antiques, while the L'Orangerie breakfast bar, lobby and café bar are similarly adorned. The service is impeccable with files opened on VIP guests' requirements three months before arrival, making it the undisputed grande dame of Buenos Aires hotels. The views are incredible - from the upper floors, you can see Recoleta's patchwork of plazas and parks, the river and (just about) Uruguay. 229

# Check availablity

### ART HOTEL

## Azcuenaga 1268, Recoleta, Buenos Aires ( \_\_\_\_ 00 54 11 4821 4744 6)

Ritzy Recoleta, Buenos Aires's equivalent of Mayfair, is hardly a place for bargain-hunting. Yet Art Hotel, set two blocks from stylish Avenida Santa Fé and a short stroll from Evita Peron's last resting place, represents astonishingly good value. The sturdy, six-floor edifice, erected in 1927 for well-to-do immigrant families, reopened in 2004 as a hotel dedicated to modern Argentine art. Displays in the gallery change monthly; a single work (which is available for purchase) hangs in each of the 36 rooms. Much of the original interior has been lost to refurbishment but door frames, mantelpieces and mosaic floors remain. Thirteen rooms are honestly described as 'small and cosy', but exposed-brick ceilings and handsome wicker-and-iron furniture help make up for a shortage of space. Tango lessons are available, and all guests have access to a rooftop terrace with open-air Jacuzzi. Book rooms 12, 22, 32 and 42 for their four-poster beds and street-facing balconies. ££

### Guatemala 4882, Palermo Viejo, Buenos Aires ( \_\_\_\_ 00 54 11 4774 0505 💽 )

BO BO HOTEL & RESTAURANT

Set amid the cobble-stoned streets and ivy-covered houses where Jorge Luis Borges once took his daily constitutional, Bo Bo Hotel & Restaurant is a radiant addition to Palermo Viejo, Buenos Aires's newly gentrified fashion and design district. The former two-storey townhouse, built in the 1920s in Spanish colonial style, sits on a quiet block dappled by sunlight filtered through a magnificent canopy of tipa trees. The current owners added a third floor and lift, dividing the interior into just seven ample rooms, each suffused with natural light and equipped with a queen-sized bird. The hotel aims to be bourgeois yet bohemian: hence the name. In the Pop room the red and white plastic fittings were inspired by Warhol; the barren whites of the Minimalist room are broken only by sparse black bands; the Techno room merges brushed steel and grey tiles with burgundy bed linen. The popular ground-floor restaurant serves contemporary Argentinian dishes in generous proportions. (2) (2)

### COSTA PETIT HOTEL Costa Rica 5141, Palermo Soho, Buenos Aires ( \_\_\_\_ 00 54 11 4776 8296 🚱 )

## Aimed at high-budget, low-profile travellers with impeccable taste, Costa Petit has two bedrooms and

two suites decorated with velvet, restored-wood furniture and rustic wall panelling. The hotel's owners, cabinetmaker Diego Padilla and interior designer Eugenia Choren, salvaged 19th-century lamps, wicker sofas, club chairs and aged pinotea-wood ceilings from architectural demolition sales. Space is too limited for a restaurant, but guests can order take-away sushi or pizza via the front desk, or stroll mere metres to dozens of cutting-edge Palermo restaurants. A sumptuous in-room breakfast is served, and the staff can organise anything from yoga or polo practice to yachting on the Río de la Plata. Additional touches include own-blend Inés Berton tea, a four-option pillow menu and a weather forecast delivered to the room each night. 2 2

### FIVE COOL ROOMS Honduras 4742, Palermo Soho, Buenos Aires (00 54 111 5235 5555)

### A discreet front door between fashionable clothes shops opens into another Palermo gem, a former labourers' boarding house extensively remodelled in 2005 by owner Adriana Teplixke and her architect

friends. The result resembles a designer's studio, with wooden flooring, irregular shelving and sliding floor-to-ceiling windows. A large internal patio is divided by screens of bamboo, papyrus and a cluster of Lombardy poplars; a second patio has a hammock for napping on sunny afternoons. Five's name is misleading, as the hotel actually has 16 rooms, graded Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large. Unsurprisingly, space is extremely limited in Small, but the lustrous interiors make up for the shortfall in dimensions. Medium rooms have street-facing balconies; Large simply means what it says; Extra Large has a private terrace. Five's best asset is its 44-square-metre roof terrace, with lava tiles to protect bare feet in the summer heat. It has sun loungers, a Jacuzzi and views of ivy-festooned gardens nearby.££ FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

# As well as 138 standard rooms, many of which have views of the Rio de la Plata or city centre, this hotel

## has 27 suites, many in an adjacent early 20th-century chateau. Despite looming over avenida 9 de Julio, which is essentially an inner-city motorway, the hotel filters out any traffic noise, making it ideal for

Posadas 1086-88, Recoleta, Buenos Aires ( 2 00 54 11 4321 1200 )

meetings or private lunches. Le Mistral is one of the city's best Mediterannean-themed restaurants, and Le Dôme bar serves great cocktails. 😉 😉 😉 😉 Check availablity

## HILTON BUENOS AIRES Avenida Macacha Guemes 351, Puerto Madero, Buenos Aires ( \_\_\_\_ 00 54 11 4891 0000 🚱 )

### This functional, glass-and-chrome cube has a bright, airy lobby and the best conference rooms in town. Located within walking distance of the Costanera Sur nature reserve, in the happening, constantly mutating neighbourhood of Madero Este, this 418 room hotel boasts corner deluxe rooms which have

views either of the Rio de la Plata or the low rise dockside with the city beyond. El Faro restaurant specialises in Patagonian lamb and venison, and local fish such as dorado and pejerry. 😉 😉 HOME HOTEL Honduras 5860, Palermo Viejo, Buenos Aires ( \_\_\_\_ 00 54 11 4778 1008 🚱 ) Home is aimed unashamedly at late-night party-goers. Opened in December 2005 by London music

# producer Tom Rixton, the 17-bed property is bathed by night in hallucinogenic shades of apple-green

## and lemon. Its modern, Spartan interior, warmed by touches of 1960s retro, is focused on a bar with an impressive vodka selection and a lush garden surrounding a sizeable pool. The rooms, enlivened with

vintage French wallpaper, are fitted with queen-sized beds (the three suites have king-sized beds plus Jacuzzi and balcony), and great mod-cons. A fern-draped spa in the basement offers treatments to alleviate jet lag, stress or the inevitable hangover. Book the separate Garden Suite for its private roof terrace overlooking the pool and garden. 22 HOTEL NH JOUSTEN Avenida Corrientes 240, San Nicolas, Buenos Aires ( 🔼 🔻 00 54 11 4321 6750 🕟 ) Lovely 1928 building reinvented as a boutique-style hotel; Evita and other greats stayed here before the

# refurbishment. 29

## MORENO HOTEL BUENOS AIRES Moreno 376, Montserrat, Buenos Aires ( 5 00 54 11 6091 2000 6)

In 1920, the Argentine publisher Editorial Kapelusz commissioned Hungarian architect Johannes Kronfuss to design its headquarters. Krofuss's dramatic, Art Deco edifice was declared a listed building but by the late 1990s it had fallen into ruin. In 2006, local developers began to convert the building into

# a 39-room, design-minded hotel. Kronfuss's fluted-stone exterior scales seven floors, its entrance hall is

dramatically tiled in shades of turquoise and sunflower, and a venerable, concertina-gated elevator still clunks delightfully past stained-glass wall panels. Rooms vary greatly in size, but all have soaring, four-metre-high ceilings and abundant natural light from expansive, iron-framed windows. Acrylicand-wood furniture in the Art Deco style, upholstered in sea-green, is set off by white drapes, interior-lit, opaque-glass cupboards, and paintwork in chocolate, burgundy and ultramarine. 😉 😉 Check availablity NUSS BUENOS AIRES SOHO El Salvador 4916, Palermo Soho, Buenos Aires ( 5 00 54 11 4833 6222 6)

Carved out of the carcass of a 1930s convent on a leafy street, Nuss is surrounded by some of the finest

bars, restaurants, shops and art galleries in Buenos Aires. The 22 rooms, around a central courtyard, are

decorated in a pleasingly understated way by local interior designer Sofía Camps, all with plasma-screen

# TVs, 'feature' wallpaper, leather-bound desks and amusing contemporary lamps. The ground floor is

### given over to shops (as yet unoccupied on our visit), the hotel reception and the deli, where pastry chef Inès Maciel works her magic at breakfast, and where tea, coffee, wine and snacks are served all day. Palermo Soho is a lively quarter, particularly at weekends, but all the windows are double-glazed; and

there is much to be said for feeling part of the action, best viewed from the roof terrace, where there are loungers, a plunge pool and plans for a guests-only bar. 2 2 PALACIO DUHAU PARK HYATT Avenida Alvear 1661, Recoleta, Buenos Aires ( 5 00 54 11 5171 1234 6) Palacio Duhau makes its closest competitors (including even the beloved Alvear Palace Hotel) look dowdy. The palacio itself, a Beaux Arts mansion, has been converted into a glorious lobby and restaurant (with a few large suites upstairs); the rest of the rooms are in a new limestone tower on the other side of the palacio's spectacular terraced garden. To connect the two buildings without disturbing the garden, the designers created an underground gallery and lined it with a fabulous collection of Latin

American art. The rooms are masterpieces of understated luxury with blond wood and sheer fabrics, as are the three restaurants, where prices (this being Argentina) are low by international standards. The Ahin Spa, also under the garden, contains a 25-metre swimming pool so gorgeous you'll want to float all day. 99999 SOFITEL BUENOS AIRES Arroyo 841-849, Retiro ( \_\_\_\_ 00 54 11 4131 0000 6) This listed Art Deco belle époque hotel was revamped and reopened in 2002 and is situated on one of the city's famous 'half moon' streets, near just about everything worth visiting in Buenos Aires. For

those who prefer to stay inside the hotel, there is a gloriously ornate lobby, a Second Empire bar and a

library, where you can settle in with a book and an unforgettable cocktail. And as well as grand public

spaces, this hotel also houses one of Buenos Aires' finest restaurants, Le Sud, famous for its traditional

## French cuisine combined with the best seasonal Argentinean ingredients. 😉 😉 Check availablity

THE COCKER Juan de Garay 458, San Telmo, Buenos Aires ( 5 00 54 11 4362 8451 6) The Cocker, a five-room guesthouse, is a case study in urban rescue. Britons Ian Spink and Aidan Pass snapped up a grandiose but run-down mansion, restoring its pinotea-wood floors, hand-made, wrought-iron window frames and soaring ceilings with fastidious attention to detail. Renovated antique chairs, sofas, beds and even a Chappell grand piano are displayed with theatrical flourishes in five idiosyncratic rooms: in one, old balustrades now frame a king-size bed, in another a four-poster supports a 'floating' bathroom, and cushions, drapes and metres of muslin transform hidden nooks into intimate dens. The twisting corridors and spiral staircases invite exploration, opening finally to a

honeysuckle-draped terrace garden and a commanding rooftop pergola. Book Room 19-03 for its four-poster bed and jasmine-lined terrace. (2) (2) FAENA HOTEL AND UNIVERSE Martha Salotti 445, San Telmo, Buenos Aires ( 5 00 54 11 4010 9000 €) This 100-room Philippe Starck-designed hotel in a historic, seven-storey building combines a decadent, belle époque aesthetic with modern elegance. The design is astonishing, from the 10-metre-high, stained-glass entrance to etched-glass crystal mirrors via stuffed animal heads mounted on red velvet.

The 'universe' is a multi-functional space with a La Prairie spa, library lounge, two restaurants and a

performance space. 'Experience managers' can arrange everything from tango lessons to tickets for

Slovenian oak parquet and belle époque plasterwork, updated with sumptuous yet understated modern

fittings. Everything exudes a quiet sense of wealth, with discreet technology and hard-to-find imported

furniture, silk curtains and suede walls; the spacious bathrooms are fitted with 80-jet showers and lined

with Calacatta marble, and bathtubs in the larger suites even have underwater speakers. 😉 😉 😉 😉

woods favoured over glitz and gold. The ample rooms are artfully dressed with ebony-and-leather

## polo matches. Faena Hotel & Universe featured in The Gold List 2007 and Gold List 2011. 2 2 2 2 Check availablity

New York-based entrepreneur Scott Mathis already owns Algodon Wine Estates, an elegant country resort in the wine-producing Andean province of Mendoza. His fastidious restoration of the 10-room Algodon Mansion, the first five-star boutique hotel in Buenos Aires, has taken four years. Housed in a 1912 villa in the capital's embassy-studded Recoleta district, it has a painstakingly restored interior of

ALOGODON MANSION

( See - 00 54 11 3530 7777 ( )

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