

Night, Nacht, Nurt, Notte, Ноча, Noche, 夜, Noite, Νύχτα – whatever language you speak, night is the word that defines Buenos Aires

Vintage Rugby players and their partners who come to Buenos Aires will soon realise that this city is not where you can plan on going to bed early – unless you are determined NOT to have a good time !

Whether your interests are in world-class entertainment as provided at *Central Tango* (www.centragtango.com.ar) or *Opera Pampa* (www.operapampa.com.ar), or in the huge range of classic restaurants and bars that are to be found in the central city neighborhoods, Buenos Aires is a city that you'll find, just doesn't stop because it's getting late ! A city where going out at night is a cherished Porteño custom.



But let's start with the basics as quite likely you are going to find things very, very different in Buenos Aires than in your home city.

It's long been said that the quality of a restaurant can be judged by the number of patrons there are and to a point that's correct, but rule number one for eating out in Buenos Aires is that you can forget about dining early, unless you wish to dine alone.

If you visit local restaurants before 9.30 any evening, you'd come away with the impression all restaurants must be terrible as they'd all be practically empty !

However around 10pm that perception changes as the city comes to life with the young and wealthy Porteños starting their evening's entertainment with a meal.

After satisfying their appetite, they'll wile away a few hours in a bar or *confiteria* and most won't even contemplate entering a club until around 2am when the art of socializing and partying really kicks in.

The streets are as busy in the early hours of the morning as they are during the day but the atmosphere is always relaxed & sociable. Clubs don't close before 0500hrs & most close well after dawn, so you can pick-up breakfast before heading home to your hotel. Remember too there's three days of rugby matches during the Carnival week to consider!



What's more, a high profile & presence of police & security in the areas most frequented by society locals & international visitors means that going out at night isn't the least bit unsafe, provided one doesn't do stupid things (like flashing money laden wallets) or get isolated from a group of mates.

Dress is smart, but the extent of the formality depends on the club and particularly the area.

Nightspots are everywhere, but there are pockets of particular interest along the Costanera Norte riverside drive, in Puerto Madero, the Recoleta & Microcentro, Palermo and Belgrano.

Palermo Viejo, which includes areas that locals call Palermo Hollywood and Soho, has a particularly good assortment of places to hang out. You can easily hop from one bar to another without having to walk very far.

Palermo continues to be popular with the fashionable crowd, especially the areas of Las Cañitas & Palermo Hollywood, which are packed with trendy bars, clubs & great value for money restaurants.

Traditionally Buenos Aires has always had its tango music clubs & tango dance halls, but in the last 10 years progressively that sort of 'night out' has been overshadowed by the glitzy buzzing nightclubs and pulsing discos. More recently Irish pubs, cocktail lounges and theme cafes are the latest rage.



Speaking about Irish pubs we want to put in a big plug for *Kilkenny Irish Pub* located on Marcelo T. De Alvear - # 399.

Billed as "The first original Irish pub in Latin America", this is the most happening spot in Buenos Aires. It will remind you of the cantina in Star Wars; you see *all* kinds of people there.

Lots of locals and expats crowd into this great pub for the affordable drinking, loud music (more rock than dance) and the friendly atmosphere. You can get a Guinness here, grab a bite or chat with an Argentine who wants to practice her (or his) English.

The place is pretty much standing room only almost every night of the week until around 3am. If you want to start your Buenos Aires visit off with a bang and meet some classy locals, hit the Kilkenny.

Just across the road and down three doors is the *Druid Inn* – not as crowded as Kilkenny, but just as salubrious and fun-loving.

The streets surrounding La Recoleta Cemetery are also popular and there's also a big Sports Café located here.

The atmosphere hots up after 10pm especially at the weekends when the pavement bars and cafés in Recoleta remain busy way into the wee hours of the new day until the action moves to the nearby clubs.

There are other drinking options, including some English and Irish pubs (such as [Downtown Matias and The Rose](#)) on and around Calle San Martin and Calle Reconquista, while the San Telmo district is a focal point for Bohemian bars and tango shows.

For those content with something a bit less hectic, then Avenidas Corrientes and Santa Fe in the city centre are lined with plenty of cinemas, theatres, casual bars, restaurants and pizzerias most all of which remain open until the early hours.

Nightlife is at its peak Thursday through Saturday but there's always something happening throughout the week. Most bars and clubs offer a range of music and entertainment options to meet all tastes - tango shows to techno nightclubs.

Night Club admission charges range from \$10 to \$45 Argentine Pesos. Some clubs allow women free entry on certain nights or offer a 'free' drink as part of the admission charge.

Bars:

Many bars offer food and live music so sometimes it is difficult to make a distinction between a place offering straight forward drinks and those offering meals or live music.

A European-style pub can be found in *El Verde*, Calle Reconquista #878, which offers a wide selection of beers, whiskeys and Spanish tapas.

[The Empire Bar](#) on Calle Tres Sargentos #427 in Retiro, is a smart bar with Thai food. Then if you want to be seen at a place to be seen, head for the [Voodoo Bar](#), Calle Baez #340, to dance or just relax in the armchairs.

Another fashionable and stylish place is [Unico](#), found on Calle Honduras # 5604, in Palermo Hollywood.

Casinos:

The *Casino Buenos Aires*, Darsena Sur, Puerto Madero, is located on a Mississippi style boat and offers black jack, roulette, poker and slot machines. As with most all nightlife spots, the dress code stated as being 'smart-casual'.

Featured Night Clubs:

[Club 69 @ Niceto](#) located on Niceto Vega #5510 in Palermo.

Here you can still smell the underground perfume in a magical environment while DJ Zuker plays good electronic music. Doors open every Thursday at 1.30am (yes 1.30am).

+160 @ *El Dorado* can be found at Hipolito Irigoyen # 947 in the El Centro district.

Buenos Aires News, on Paseo de la Infantana Isabel and the *New York City*, on Calle Alvarez Thomas (both in Palermo) are just two of the established clubs where you can dance to mainstream dance music amid a smartly dressed, wealthy set.

Buenos Aires News is a fancier club with different styles for each day. Optional dinner is available and on Thursday and Saturdays it serves up commercial hits, shows and exciting performances of dance music in the main floor and Latin music in a smaller one.

Expect soul, funk, hip-hop and live cabaret at *Nave Jungla*, on Calle Nicaragua # 4346 in Palermo.

El Living located on Calle Marcelo T de Alvear #1540, in the Recoleta combines dancing, dinner and live shows.

For the super-club experience and the very best in national and international dance music DJs, head to *Pacha*, on the corner of Costanera Norte and La Pampa. Doors open at various times but things don't really get going until 2am.

Live music:

A great option includes the *Café Tortoni*, found on Avenida De Mayo #829. The most famous café in the city, it offers live tango and jazz in *La Bodega* downstairs.

Visitors in search of live blues and rock should make a beeline for *El Samovar de Rasputin* or *Del Valle Iberlucca* – both are in the Caminito, La Boca district

Jazz fans should try the *Lonius Bar* on Calle Salguero #1884. It's small and exotic - the perfect place to dance and listen to the best drums and base in Buenos Aires. This club gathers a quite young, alternative crowd and is open Tuesdays – Sunday from 10pm to 3am.

Featured Pubs and 'happening' Bars:

MaxXximo Bar on Honduras # 5551 in trendy Palermo.

Opens Wed. to Sun. at 1900hrs

This is a small but attractive place to have a drink or eat with friends. Definitely one of the best bars in Palermo to go for the 'before club' warm-up drink.

Beckett on El Salvador #4960 in Palermo.

A nice and comfortable bar for all kinds. Paintings, jazz music and very good food to round out the ambience. Opens every day from 11.00am to 1.00am (later closing on weekends) and features live shows.

La Cigale on Aveniada 25 de Mayo #722 in El Centro.

Modern, charming and very friendly, this is a special place in Buenos Aires. Tuesdays are "French nights". Locals & visitors alike go there to drink, meet new people and dance.

Voodoo on Baez #340 in the Las Canitas district.

A more expensive pub (about \$15 Pesos for a drink), full of fancy people and stylish objects.

Tymothy O'Toole found on Calle Tucuman #400 in El Centro.

This Irish pub has very good prices and is frequented by local executives and a bevy of ever present ladies. Monday to Friday they offer an 'Extended Happy Hour' (2 drinks for the price of 1) from 6pm until 11pm. On Saturdays there's live music from midnight.

An extensive listing of trendy bars and clubs can also be found listed online

www.callesbuenosaires.com