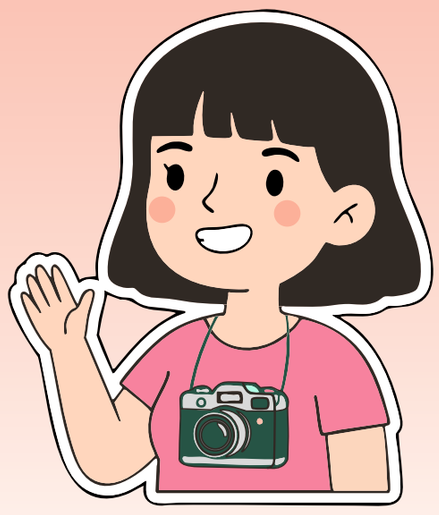
BUENOS AIRES IN YOUR POCKET: *SAFETY TIPS, PLACES, EXPERIENCES WITH LOCAL FRIENDS AND MORE.*



wanderportraits.com

WELCOME TO OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY



A Taste of the City:

Hi, I'm Gissel, your local friend and professional photographer. I've put together a list of unique activities, safety tips, places, and recommendations so you can discover Buenos Aires in a completely different way. Hands down, I only share what I've tried myself, and I don't settle for average!

Buenos Aires pulses with a unique energy. European elegance meeting Latin American passion, that's BA! We'll dance tango in sultry milongas, wander through colorful neighborhoods, and savor delicious food.

Get ready to fall in love with this unforgettable city. 🤩

Essential Info at a Glance:

Currency:

We use the Argentine Peso (ARS). You can exchange money at casas de cambio or at the bank. Since April 2025, the dollar in Argentina only has one official value.

You can also pay with your credit card or contactless method at the official dollar rate. If you opt to exchange at a casa de cambio, choose a trustworthy one like Western Union.

For updated information, please check: bcra.gob.ar.

Pay like a local and skip the cash

I use **WanderWallet** in Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, and Bolivia. It's especially handy for QR payments, including Mercado Pago, and local bank transfers.

Some places in Argentina may not accept foreign-issued cards, while others might charge an extra 10–20%. And sometimes, you just want to tip a street performer or tour guide without carrying cash!

With **WanderWallet**, you can make QR payments and local transfers using just your passport to sign up.

Set it up before your trip and join through my invitation link to get USD $5 after verifying your account and completing five qualifying payments.

A few phrases:

- Hola (Hello) OH-lah
- Gracias (Thank you) GRAH-syahs
- Por favor (Please) por fah-VOR
- ¿Cuánto cuesta? (How much does it cost?) KWAHN-toh KWEH-stah
- ¡Salud! (Cheers!) sah-LOOD



- ¿Dónde queda esto? (Where is this?) DON-deh KEH-dah ES-toh
- ¿Puedes ayudarme? (Can you help me?) PWEH-dehs ah-yoo-DAR-meh
- Bondi (Slang for bus) BON-dee
- Birra (Slang for beer) BEER-rah
- Dale (Ok, hurry up) DAH-leh
- Canchero / Canchera (Slang for someone cool, o: for male, a: for female) kahn-CHEH-roh / kahn-CHEH-rah

Useful & Emergency Numbers:

- Emergencies: 911.
- SAME (Medical Emergencies): 107
- Fire Department: 100
- Civil Defense and Public Space Emergencies: 103

Getting Around:

- **Subte:** The Subte (subway) is a great choice for a more local experience. It's quick, cheap, and gets you to most central spots. Pro-tip: Avoid rush hour if you can (it's intense). Grab a SUBE card to ride or tap on with your credit / debit card, also works using Apple Pay or any NFC method.

- **Buses:** They go everywhere and work 24/7. You'll have to check the map to navigate them and use a SUBE card or tap on with your credit / debit card, also works using Apple Pay or any NFC method within Buenos Aires city.

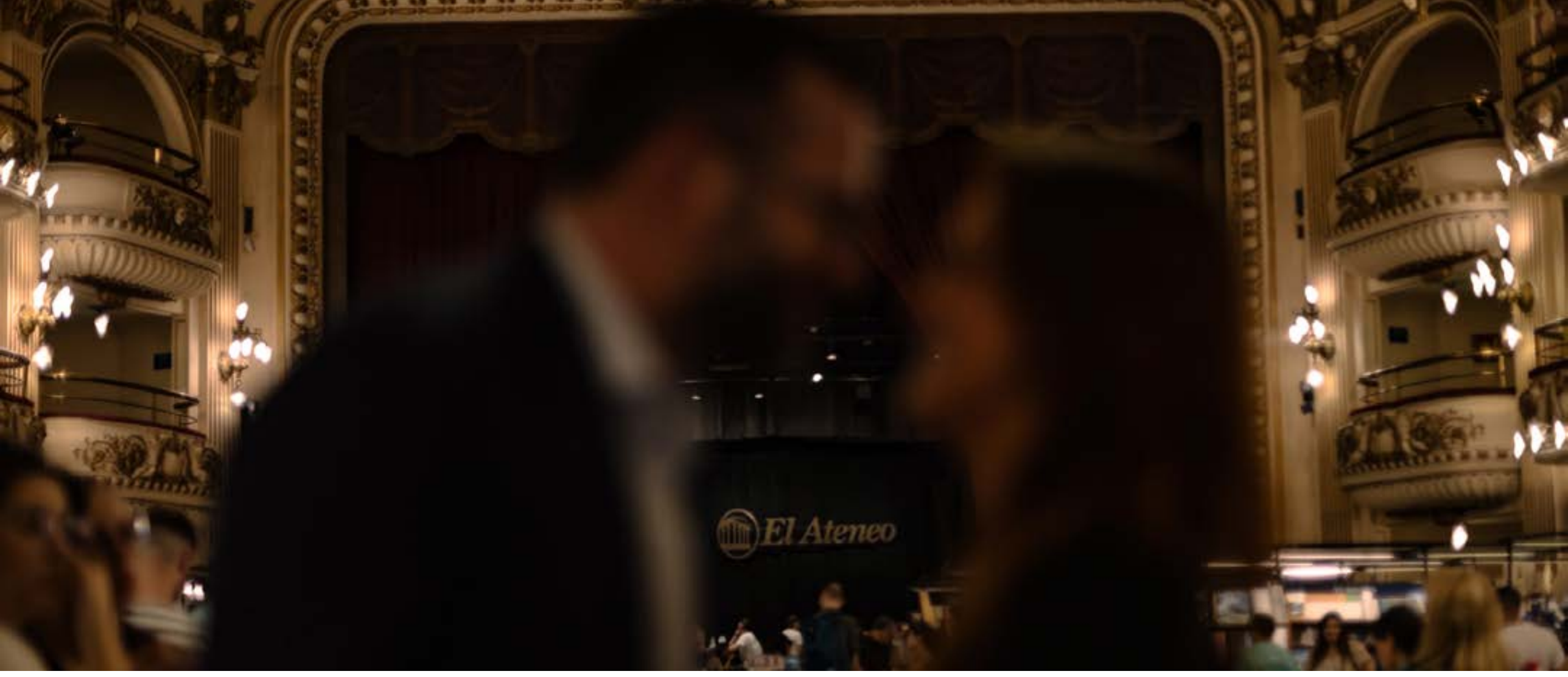
- **Taxis:** Easy to hail, taxis operate using a taximeter; the starting fare during the day is around USD $1.5, and at night around USD $2. After that, each additional minute is approximately USD $0.5. Check your cash to avoid any inconveniences with the final fare.

- **Apps:** You can use apps like Cabify, Uber, or DiDi, it's safe and we use them everyday.

Connectivity & Phone Service

The best option for traveling these days is an eSIM. You can visit a store from Claro, Personal, or Movistar in the city to get one in person.

But if you're short on time, I recommend using Airalo, my favorite eSIM service. For a $3 USD discount, you can use my referral code: **GISSEL6471**



Safety Tips:

Pickpockets:

Keep your bag close, especially in crowded areas. You can get pickpocketed if you are unaware of your belongings, like in any other big city.

Scams:

- Watch out for the “mustard scam”: When someone “accidentally” spills something on you.

- Fake money when exchange at untrusted agencies.

- Taxis can also be tricky sometimes, as some drivers may try to charge far more than the actual fare or manipulate the taximeter so it runs faster than it should, be careful, as they may try to charge as much as possible. If you want to be 100% sure of what you’ll pay, it’s better to use Uber, DiDi, or Cabify instead.

Or be prepared to stand your ground and pay in cash. Of course, not all taxis are like this, but unfortunately, it can happen.

Night time:

Stick to well-lit areas. If you’re heading out late, maybe take a Cabify/Uber. If you are staying in Buenos Aires for over one month and want the full local experience, you can also ride the bus after going out. It is safe, but I only advise this if you are confident or with a group of friends.

Where to Stay?

Choosing Your Vibe:

- **Palermo:** This is the place for trendy bars, cool shops, and street art. It’s where I’d stay if I wanted a fun, vibrant experience, but won’t if I wanted peace and quiet.

- **Recoleta:** Think elegant and sophisticated, with beautiful architecture and fancy cafes. It’s super chic and charming, also more residential.

- **San Telmo:** If you’re into history, antiques, and tango, this is your spot. It’s got a bohemian, old-school charm. It can get lonely during night hours.

- **Microcentro:** Super central and great for seeing the main sights, but it can be a bit hectic. It is also where all the government offices are, so you might run into a strike. Additionally, it gets lonely at night with homeless people around.

- **Puerto Madero:** Fancy and very nice neighborhood. If you are into a more luxurious holiday, this might be the neighborhood for you.

Must-See & Do:

Iconic Landmarks:

- **Teatro Colón:** This opera house is stunning. Try to catch a show or at least take a tour. Book tickets in advance at their official website.

- **Recoleta Cemetery:** A cemetery might sound unusual, but this one is full of history, beautiful architecture, and stories - including Evita Perón's. Bring your ID and a card for payment. I've visited several times with my friend Esteban and highly recommend his guided tour. Book with him here

- **Plaza de Mayo:** This is where Argentina's history happened. It's 100% worth a visit, especially with a tour guide.

- **La Boca:** Go on weekends to enjoy the flea market and absorb the vibrant energy, color, and passion of La Boca. The tourist area is only Caminito; you shouldn't go outside of that area.

You will read and hear comments about La Boca being dangerous. While it is not the safest neighborhood in BA, the tourist area is all right during the day, especially on weekends. Don't let these comments spoil your adventure.

Cultural Immersion: Experiences with local friends

Let's explore Buenos Aires together!

WANT TO BE IN THE PHOTOS?

Let's create natural, spontaneous memories of your time in Buenos Aires. No modeling experience needed - I'll guide you throughout!

LOOK AT THE PACKAGES HERE

PREFER BEING BEHIND THE CAMERA?

Join me for a photo walk to explore the city and practice your photography with your camera or phone. (Kid-friendly)

PHOTO TOUR BUENOS AIRES





BIKE EXPLORER: The city is flat, full of parks and very bike friendly.

- Bike Tours in Buenos Aires - run every day!(Morning - Afternoon – Night)
- E-Bike & Regular Bikes
- Renta a Bike in Palermo or Retiro Bike Shop

BOOK WITH BIKE EXPLORER HERE

LAS ARGIES - Tours + Mate tastings

Join my friends from Las Argies to discover the city with very cool people, practice your Spanish, connect with locals and foreigners, have a mate or a glass of wine, because, why not?

JOIN TO LAS ARGIES HERE

EL VIEJO ALMACEN TANGO SHOW + DINNER

Book any of their regular packages and enjoy a VIP upgrade, just mention you're coming through me: Wanderportraits by Gissel - BOOK THE VIEJO ALMACEN

THE AUTHENTIC BA

- **Sunset Cruise:** Embark on a sunset sail and discover Buenos Aires from the world's widest river.
- **Tasting Sessions:** Taste the most significant varieties that grow in Argentina.
- **Grill to Goal:** Spend a day like a local through Argentina's most beloved rituals and traditions, Asado and Live Football.
- **Sommerlier's Voyage:** Sail into the sunset, taste local wines, and experience Buenos Aires from the world's widest river.
- **Authentic Asado:** Step inside our home, where the doors swing open to host a local ritual, The Asado.

BOOK YOUR AUTHENTIC BA EXPERIENCE HERE

HEADING TO MENDOZA?
DISCOVER ITS UNIQUE BODEGAS WITH WINE LOVERS MENDOZA

Mention you're coming through wanderportraits and get a glass of wine. It's on me!
BOOK YOUR MENDOZA EXPERIENCE HERE

A NIGHT OUT IN THE CITY WITH BA ON MY WAY

In this Airbnb experience you will live the real Buenos Aires nightlife with a local mixologist: visit three bars, enjoy guided tastings of Argentine liqueurs.
BOOK THE BUENOS AIRES BAR CRAWL



DISCOVER THE MATE RITUAL IN A GAUCHO-STYLE BAR

Live the Mate ritual - brew it, taste it, and share this true Argentine tradition. BOOK THE MATE EXPERIENCE HERE

LEARN AND FEEL TANGO

Appreciate the culture of tango through its history and dance.
BOOK YOUR TANGO EXPERIENCE

PACHAMAMA: ARGENTINE COOKING CLASS

Discover the DNA of Argentine cuisine through a step-by-step menu.
BOOK YOUR COOKING CLASS WITH PACHAMAMA

EXPLORE BUENOS AIRES JEWISH HERITAGE WALK & METRO

Discover the largest Jewish community in South America with a local guide.
BOOK YOUR BA JEWISH HERITAGE EXPERIENCE

TIGRE SPEEDBOAT RIDE & SUNSET AT RIO DE LA PLATA

Explore the Paraná River Delta on a modern speedboat, discovering hidden channels.
BOOK YOUR SPEEDBOAT RIDE

WINE AND STEAK: FUN FOODIE EXPERIENCE

Enjoy five wines with five regional dishes at a local favorite Parrilla.
BOOK YOUR WINE AND STEAK

CREATE FILETEADO PORTEÑO WITH AN ACCLAIMED ARTIST

Connect with traditional and colorful Buenos Aires folk art, guided by a top practitioner, and create the type of art that is 100% from here.
BOOK YOUR FILETEADO PAINTING EXPERIENCE

SOCIAL HISTORY AND SECRETS OF LA BOCA

Walk and discover La Boca, its roots, art, and history - with a local expert.
BOOK YOUR LA BOCA WALKING EXPERIENCE

JEWELS OFF THE BEATEN PATH TOUR

Go beyond the usual: Explore unique BA locations on this distinctive walking tour.
BOOK YOUR BA JEWELS TOUR



INSIDE TANGO: A WALKING TOUR AND AFTERNOON MILONGA

Learn about tango history and culture in traditional neighborhoods.
BOOK AND DISCOVER THE SECRETS INSIDE TANGO

MAKE YOUR OWN DULCE DE LECHE

Explore the diversity of Argentinian dulce de leche through an exclusive experience. Discover the history, processes, and tasting of the best dulce de leche and alfajores in the country and the world.

BOOK YOUR DULCE DE LECHE EXPERIENCE

DISCOVER THE FOOTBALL STREET ART OF SAN LORENZO

Wander down alleys in Boedo with Fabio to spot the emotive murals dedicated to a beloved club.

BOOK YOUR FOOTBALL STREET ART EXPERIENCE

A DAY OF POLO AND ASADO

Watch a professional polo match, try a lesson, and enjoy an Argentine barbecue with local wine. A lovely way to spend a day outside the city!

EXPLORE THE POLO DAY TRIP

Useful apps:

- **Google Maps** is the most common way to navigate the world; however, I find **Moovit** more accurate, especially for public transportation in Buenos Aires.

- **WhatsApp:** This might seem obvious, but it is, in fact, the way we communicate here since many people prefer Android to iOS.

- **Waze:** If you drive, I strongly recommend this app. It will tell you about police controls, accidents, and more.

- **To ride:** Uber, DiDi, Cabify.

Extras & Must-Dos

- **Havanna Alfajores**
Take home the large bag with individually wrapped mini alfajores, perfect souvenirs!

- **El Ateneo Grand Splendid** – Av. Santa Fe 1860
Ranked the second most beautiful bookstore in the world. Grab a book, read for free, or enjoy a coffee in their in-store café.

• **Teatro Ciego (Blind Theater)**
Unique shows performed in complete darkness, often by blind actors. If you don't speak Spanish, try their 360° music experiences.
teatrociego.org

• **Monoblock**
An Argentine design store, the perfect spot to pick up unique souvenirs with a local touch.
monoblock.tv

Only know a few words in Spanish?

Keen to learn more than "hola" and "gracias" before coming to Argentina? Or maybe your curiosity kicks in a while you're here? Either way, my friend Nico, aka **Argentutor**, will introduce you to Rioplatense Spanish!

Send him a message in Instagram **and don't forget to tell him you're coming from me!**

Tune into my playlist

Argentina is famous worldwide for its rhythms. Dive into my playlist of the best Argentine songs and fully immerse yourself in the culture.



Tap here

I hope this mini-guide gives you a glimpse of what to expect when you come to Buenos Aires.

If you find this content helpful and decide to try any of these experiences, please remember to book through my links, it helps me keep creating this free content for you!



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