



**Argentinian
Explorer**



ARGENTINA TOURS

BOCA VS. RIVER: ARGENTINEAN FOOTBALL

The great passion of the majority of Argentinians is football and we offer in this itinerary a visit to the stadia of the clubs with the major influence in Argentinian football: Boca and River, and to be present at one of their annual derby matches in the local tournament. This spectacular is more than football due to the passion and effervescence shown at these events beating other such European classic such as Real Madrid versus Barcelona. The game between two great historical rivals complements an itinerary that includes getting to know Buenos Aires, its traditions and culture such as tango etc.

7 DAYS - 6 NIGHTS

- Accommodation Double Room with breakfast
- Transfer Private IN OUT APT/HTL/APT
- Regular excursions with guide Spanish English
- Bilingual English Spanish Guide

Day 1 - Arrival to Buenos Aires

Reception and transfer from Ezeiza International Airport to the hotel.

Day 2 - A walking tour of Buenos Aires and a coffee in the Tortoni & Dinner Tango Show

Breakfast in the hotel. We start the walk in the barrio of Recoleta getting to know the Plaza Francia, the colonial church of la Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Pilar, the cemetery where Eva Peron was buried and the La Biela Café, one of the most popular cafes. After, we pass by Retiro with its important train stations and the English Tower and the impressive San Martín plaza where we can see the tomb of the fallen heroes of the Falkland Island war. From the plaza we take the pedestrian Calle Florida, the busiest shopping street, with its beautiful Galerías Pacífico mall, until Avenida Córdoba where we descend to Puerto Madero. The city side of Puerto Madero consists of renovated wharf buildings that have been converted into offices and exclusive restaurants that were part of the booming 90s. The other side, connected by bridges, including the La Mujer bridge which was designed by the talented Spanish architect Calatrava, is a very modern office and hotel development.

We walk a few blocks along the docks until we are nearly level to the Casa Rosada, the Presidential House, where we then divert back towards the City via the Plaza de Mayo with its surrounding buildings such as the colonial Cabildo and the Metropolitan Cathedral. If it is a Sunday we then go along streets cobbled in the Colonial days until San Telmo and its cultural centre, La Plaza Dorrego, to visit its famous fair known especially for its antiques but also for its books and artisanal products. Apart from Sundays we walk from the Plaza de Mayo along the Avenida de Mayo with its art deco and art nouveau buildings until we take a well earned rest and an aperitif in the traditional and old Café Tortoni, a named city cultural site. The Café Tortoni, although with an Italian name, was in fact founded by a Frenchman in 1858. The Avenida de Mayo, at the beginning of the 20th century had very wide walkways and its trees gave it life and also protection from the sun. One of the special features of the avenue is the Palacio Barolo. We then return to the hotel to rest after a very active day.

In the evening we enjoy a dinner and Tango show at one of the best venues of Buenos Aires (Homero Manzi / Complejo Tango / Señor Tango / La Esquina de Carlos Gardel / Madero Tango). The Tango has a special charm outside of its origin: From New York to Sydney, people that have never visited Argentina are left seduced by its mystique and sensuality. Others stay captivated by the music. This original tour traces in parallel the history of the city and that of the tango journeying by its different stages of development from its birth in the slums, to its consummation in the Avenida Corrientes and its later internationalization.

Day 3 - La Bombonera Stadium of Boca Juniors

Breakfast in the hotel. We take a visit to the stadium of one of the most famous clubs of Argentina: The stadium of Boca Juniors known as La Bombonera and found in the barrio of Boca. It is one of the most successful clubs in the world and together with River, San Lorenzo, Racing and Independiente make up the teams with the most local history. Equal with Milan of Italy they have the most international titles. Amongst its installations there is the 'Casa Amarilla' (Yellow house), which is the training place for the first division team and also consists of sporting gymnasiums used by teams of volleyball and basketball, meeting rooms and press facilities, its own university and a museum called 'Museo de la Pasión Boquense'. The famous stadium 'La Bombonera' has inside, murals painted by Benito Quinquela Martín with its blue and yellow that represent its original colours chosen by the first supporters who decided that they would have the colours of the first ship to arrive at the port which happened to be from Switzerland.

Day 4 - Monumental Stadium of River Plate

Breakfast in the hotel. We go to see the Antonio Vespucio Liberti stadium, more commonly known as the Monumental de River Plate, one of the most important and successful clubs of Argentina with many historic trophies to its name including an Intercontinental Cup, Libertadores Cups, Supercup and Interamericana Cup. The club was founded in 1901, and oddly it started in the barrio (district) of La Boca, where exists its arch rival Boca Juniors, before moving to the barrio of Palermo and later to its current stadium in the barrio of Nuñez. 'El Monumental' was constructed in 1938 and River played its first match there against Peñarol from Montevideo. The stadium was finally completed in 1958 thanks to the important sale of Enrique Omar Sivori to Juventus. The maximum capacity of the stadium is 80,000 and it is used for many pop concerts. With the World Cup of 1978 the stadium had its last remodel.

Day 5 - Boca Juniors vs. River Plate: The Classic Argentinean derby match

Breakfast in the hotel. We go to either La Bombonera in the barrio of La Boca or La Monumental in Nuñez depending on where the game is to be held. This game is a spectacular and driven by the passion of their supporters for the colours of their teams. A special moment is when the teams enter the stadium with a crescendo of clapping and encouragement and a torrent of paper floating round the stadium. The combination of this and the explosion of noise and colour make this a spectacle difficult to forget.

Note: We do not only offer the chance to participate in this grand derby match, depending on the local calendar there are other derby matches that attract much local fervor and considered classics of Argentinean football such as: River – San Lorenzo, Racing – Independiente, Boca – Racing, San Lorenzo – Boca, Interpendiente – River, San Lorenzo – Huracán, Independiente – Boca. Also we suggest to include amongst the interesting teams that of Velez Sarfield which has less supporters than the rest but has a rich football history.

Day 6 - A day out at a country Estancia in the province of Buenos Aires

This is a very popular excursion. We take a trip to a large country estancia of more than 2,000 acres that is dedicated principally to agriculture but has become an excellent tourist site showing some of the renown Argentinean country culture. We are received in the general store with empanadas and red wine and then can visit the estancia museum and chapel. At lunch we are treated to a country barbecue. We also have the opportunity to see a Tango Show and gaucho folklore and dance. Amongst the other activities offered are rides in horse and carts observing the landscapes, their crops and the unequalled charm of the wild and rustic. We finish the day with a spectacular exhibition of typical gaucho horsemanship with a troop of horses.

Day 7 - Buenos Aires

Breakfast in the Hotel. Transfer to the International Airport of Ezeiza.

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