



The crowd going wild at one of the Bubamara fiestas that move around the city

## VENUES

### Teatro Colón

Buenos Aires' showpiece venue and a testament to the nation's glory days when it ranked among the richest countries in the world. The gilded interior is more accustomed to housing classical orchestras and operas but there are tango and folk concerts too.

**Cerrito 628, +54 (0)11 4378 7100**

**Nearest subte (underground)**

**station: Tribunales (Line D)**

**www.teatrocolon.org.ar**

### Luna Park

One of the most popular places to see international bands and big-name local acts, this former indoor amusement park is located near Puerto Madero. Luna Park also attracts decent world music acts and recent concerts have included Ivory Coast's reggae legend Alpha Blondy and local superstars Los Auténticos Decadentes.

**Av Madero 420,**

**+54 (0)11 5279 5279**

**Nearest subte: LN Alem (Line B)**

**www.lunapark.com.ar**

### Ciudad Cultural Konex

One of the great venues in town. Konex is housed in a former factory, and puts on theatre and film alongside music. But it's the outdoor stage in the central courtyard that is the biggest draw.

Not to be missed is house band La Bomba de Tiempo, a bang-on-the-money percussion outfit. Konex is popular with the local hippy set but has also been discovered by backpackers. Make sure you pick up flyers when you leave – it's a good way to keep informed about alternative music nights.

**Sarmiento 3131,**

**+54 (0)11 4864 3200**

**Nearest subte: Carlos Gardel (Line B)**

**www.ciudadculturalkonex.org**

### Gran Rex

Another classic venue, this concert hall – a massive concrete slab dating from the 1930s – is in the heart of town. The cavernous main hall is not dissimilar to the Barbican (although the crowd tends to be a bit more boisterous) and Gotan Project played here on their last trip to town. Don't forget to have a slice of pizza and a *chopp* (glass of beer) post-concert at one of the old school, strip-lit pizzerias nearby.

**Av Corrientes 857, +54 (0)11 4332**

**8000. Nearest subte: Carlos**

**Pellegrini (Line B)**

### ND/Ateneo

A theatre and cultural centre that opened in 2002, during the height of Argentina's economic crisis. A decade on and Ateneo is going from strength to strength, programming the best of Argentinian music

alongside a carefully selected roster of international names.

**Paraguay 918, +54 (0)11 4328 2888**

**Nearest subte: Carlos Pellegrini**

**(Line B), www.ndateneo.com.ar**

### NoAvestruz

An independent cultural space with a school attached (where seminars and short courses take place). This is another venue that emerged following the 2001/2 meltdown. Located in trendy Palermo – packed full of bars and hotel/hostel options – the centre recently showcased a series of Brazilian musicians.

**Humboldt 1587,**

**+54 (0)11 4777 1857**

**Nearest subte: Dorrego (Line B) or**

**Honduras (Metrobús)**

**www.noavestruz.com.ar**

## BARS AND CLUBS

### Jamming

A must for reggae lovers, this restaurant, bar and live music joint gets packed at weekends (but make sure you come late). The bar is located in a beautiful Parisian-style building in the Villa Crespo neighbourhood that has been painted in bright shades of pink and green.

**Loyola 788,**

**+54 (0)11 4772 8741**

**Nearest subte: Malabia (Line B) or**

**Aguirre (Metrobús)**

**www.jamming.com.ar**

### Palermo Groove

Big, modern club that caters to a wide range of musical tastes and generally attracts a young crowd. Located on one of the city's main thoroughfares, the club is famous for hosting the highly entertaining Fiesta Clandestina nights (see Fiestas section).

**Av Santa Fe 3485. Nearest subte:**

**Plaza Italia (Line B)**

**www.palermogroove.com**

### Niceto Club

Niceto is a BA institution – a place that brings together world-savvy *porteños*, tourists and expats who throng to the club to sample its diverse musical line-up. Balkan Beat Box played here when they were last in town and Niceto also hosts regular Club Zizek nights – Buenos Aires' take on *cumbia* music (with a wicked techno twist). Niceto is a must on your nocturnal tick-list.

**Niceto Vega 5510, +54 (0)11 4779**

**9396. Nearest subte: Dorrego (Line**

**B) or Honduras (Metrobús)**

**www.nicetoclub.com**

### Le Bar

One of the best options for going out in the downtown area. Le Bar has a cocktail bar look to it and is famous for its happy hour. There's also a great musical line-up – watch out for regular nights from *cumbia electronica* legend Villa Diamante and Saturday's Soulfood club night (a mixture of jazz, funk, dub and Afro-Latin groove).

**Tucumán 422, +54 (0)11 5219 0858**

**Nearest subte: Florida (Line B)**

**lebarbuenosaires.blogspot.com**

### Maluco Beleza

A must-go club for those after a bit of tropical heat to spice up the Buenos Aires nights. This Brazilian nightspot is frequented by its large expat community and is a good spot to snack on some rice and beans (they do dinner and music show packages) and take in everything from *axé* to *capoeira*. Fancy a dance? There are *zouk* nights on Friday and Sunday and it's not too shabby for watching football matches either (especially if Argentina and Brazil are playing).

**Sarmiento 1728,**

**+54 (0)11 4372 1737**

**Nearest subte: Callao (Line B)**

**www.malucobeleza.com.ar**

## FOLK AND TANGO

Tango is everywhere in Buenos Aires and you're likely to see dancers swirling away outside if you go to either San Telmo market on Sunday or the Caminito in Boca (designed for tourists). Head down Florida street in town, too, and you'll be bombarded with *cena-show* (dinner and tango show) flyers. But there are more authentic places – mostly to dance rather than watch – that are worth seeking out.

### Los Cordones

If you want a real taste of folk music you need to travel outside of Buenos Aires to the province or up into Salta and Corrientes (where Chango Spasiuk hails from). But Los Cordones, a folk *peña* in Palermo, comes pretty damn close. Tuck into a fine cut of beef, red wine in hand, and sample some of the best traditional music in the city. Music from Wednesday to Saturday (from 9pm until 6am; sometimes with an entrance fee).

**Borges 2180, +54 (0)11 4777 1112. Nearest subte: Plaza Italia (Line D)**

### Lo de Roberto

Small, intimate and authentic, 'Robert's place' is one of Buenos Aires *bares notables* (historic bars). Also known as El Boliche de Roberto, this is where tango singers perform every Thursday and Saturday evening, normally accompanied by a lone guitarist, while people pack around a handful of tables drinking bottles of beer and snacking on *mani* (peanuts).

**Bulnes 331. Nearest subte: Medrano (Line B)**

### Café Tortoni

Beautiful café dating back 150 years that was frequented by all the greats, including writer Jorge Luis Borges and 'Carlitos' Gardel himself. Worth the trip, but be warned, it's a serious tourist trap and you're likely to be surrounded by camera-happy tourists. It has a stage where regular tango concerts are held.

**Av de Mayo 825-829, +54 (0)11 4342 4328. Nearest subte: Catedral (Line D)**

**www.cafetortoni.com.ar**

### La Catedral

Tango with an ever-so-cool twist to it. This underground venue is good for both watching and dancing tango and there's an anything goes acceptance here. La Catedral is open every night (entrance costs AR\$30) and there are normally shows after midnight. Tuesday is the main tango night – and it can get very busy – while Sunday caters to *música folklórica*. There's also a decent restaurant that serves vegetarian dishes.

**Sarmiento 4006, +54 (0)11 15 5325 1630. Nearest subte: Medrano (Line B)**



Tango singer in San Telmo



La Murguera performs at the Tango Festival y Mundial

## FIESTAS

Several fiestas move around the city and are normally great fun. They include electro *cumbia* night Zizek ([zzkrecords.com/zizek/](http://zzkrecords.com/zizek/)), dub and reggae party Fiesta Clandestina ([www.fiestaclandestina.com.ar](http://www.fiestaclandestina.com.ar)) and Balkan mash-up Fiesta Bubamara ([www.fiestas-bubamara.com.ar](http://www.fiestas-bubamara.com.ar)).

## FESTIVALS

### Festival de Otoño: Músicas del Mundo

Probably Buenos Aires' finest festival for music from around the world, held in the swanky confines of the Buenos Aires Lawn Tennis club. The autumn festival – held in March – premiered in 2010. This year's edition (March 13-18) included shows from local boy Kevin Johansen, the ever-excellent Peruvian fusionists Novalima and Portland, Oregon's big band Pink Martini. **www.festivaldeotonobue.com**

### Tango Festival y Mundial

This has to be the biggest celebration of the city's most famous music, accorded 'patrimony of humanity' status by UNESCO in 2009. As well as a festival uniting top groups, there's a *mundial* (a sort of tango world cup) in which the best dancers are elected. This year's event runs August 14-28. **www.tangobuenosaires.gob.ar**

### Pepsi Music Festival

One of the larger festivals that the Argentinian capital puts on – it's big, bold and heavily publicised due to its sponsor. OK, there are going to be plenty of people you won't want to see (Katy Perry played last year) but with scores of bands playing over five days there really is something for everyone, from Calle 13 to Las Pelotas. Held around September/October. **www.pepsimusic.com.ar**

## LISTINGS

The main three newspapers carry entertainment listings for the weekend: *Página 12* on Thursday, and *La Nación* (a pull-out called *Espectáculos*) and *Clarín* on Fridays. The English language *Buenos Aires Herald* runs a section called *Get Out!*, published between Tuesday and Saturday. Online, *Wipe Buenos Aires* gives a good daily roundup of cultural events ([www.wipe.com.ar](http://www.wipe.com.ar); in Spanish but easy to navigate) or there's the American-run *What's Up Buenos Aires* ([www.whatsupbuenosaires.com](http://www.whatsupbuenosaires.com)). You can buy tickets for major concerts from [www.ticketek.com.ar](http://www.ticketek.com.ar), a good resource for keeping in-the-know. **N**