



Argentina's sensual national dance – the tango

Welcome to Tangopolis

Buenos Aires 9 days – November 6-14 2010 (ex-Buenos Aires)

Astor Piazzolla's song writing sidekick and tango poet par excellence, Horacio Ferrer, has called Buenos Aires 'el tangopolis'. The Argentinian capital lives and breathes tango, from the taxi radios, to the way people walk and talk, to the old streetlamps and cobbled streets of San Telmo and Monserrat. Tango came to prominence in Buenos Aires at the beginning of the 20th century, when the beef exporting economy was booming and the creole middle-classes were finding their cultural identity. As French architects were flown in to give the expanding city its grand parks and *châteaux*, so the first orchestras were catching steamers to Paris to show off the new sound. To understand Buenos Aires and its uniquely Latino-European feel, you have to understand tango.

On a tour of this tangopolis, with Songlines Travel Leader (and regular Songlines contributor) Chris Moss, you will see the diversity: a live *orquesta típica* at the

Torquato Tasso, with virtuoso players performing classic and contemporary tango; at the neighbourhood *milongas* you will see young and old dancers take to the floor and compete for attention; walking through La Boca, Palermo Viejo and El Bajo you will trace the footsteps of tango's ghosts and legends. Tango's origins were on the edge of the city, where country meets city. Out in San Antonio de Areco – the national capital of *gaucho* culture – you will hear the indigenous folk music that informed the early tangos. In November this small rural town celebrates the national Día de la Tradición, an excuse for horsemanship, guitar-strumming and feasting at huge al fresco barbecues.

All Songlines Music Travellers will receive an information sheet about the local music plus recommended recordings and DVDs.

Buenos Aires

Itinerary

Day 1

Sat Some flights from the UK won't arrive until early Sunday morning, but those who arrive Saturday evening will meet our Songlines Travel Leader and get a first taste of the city.

Day 2

Sun The morning is left free for you to either have a lie-in or to take a stroll along the streets of the city. In the afternoon we have arranged an orientation tour to show you what is where in the capital. After dinner we start delving into the music of Buenos Aires.

Day 3

Mon A day in Buenos Aires gives us a chance to mix some sightseeing with an in-depth look at the music of the city. Sightseeing will certainly include a visit to the cemeteries of the capital – the architectural gems which are the last resting places of some of the rich and famous are quite amazing. In the afternoons and evenings we'll catch some of the best tango events in the city.

Day 4

Tues Today we leave the city behind and drive out across the plains – the *pampas* – that stretch for miles to a distant horizon. Our destination is San Antonio de Areco, regarded as the home of Argentinian folk music and home to all things connected to the gaucho life. It is only a short drive to San Antonio but we are now in a world very different to the bustle and sophistication of Buenos Aires. After checking into our accommodation we will visit the Gaucho Museum to learn about this traditional way of life, still a part of the country's musical heritage.

Day 5

Wed A free day to explore San Antonio. We hope to coincide our visit with the Día del Tradición, a festival celebrating all things gaucho. Barbecues, horse-riding events and local music will all contribute to an unforgettable day. (Please note that we are still awaiting the dates of the Día del Tradición so the precise itinerary may be subject to change).

Day 6

Thurs Today we drive back across the pampas to the bustle of Buenos Aires. Checking in again to our hotel we head out for dinner and then resume our visits to the tango clubs of the city.

Days 7 & 8

Fri & Sat A weekend in BA. Friday and Saturday are left free for you to explore the city at our pace, but with some full-on tango activity during the day and the evening.

Days 9

Sun After breakfast, our tour draws to a close. If your flight is not until the evening, today offers the chance to visit the Tigre Delta, with its waterside restaurants a favourite Sunday day out for 'porteno' families, before heading for the airport'

Pricing details

We have designed these tours to give you the option of taking up an all-inclusive package which includes your air seats, or the option of making your own way there and then meeting up with the rest of your party at the first hotel.

9 day tour November 6-14 2010 (ex-Buenos Aires)

Tour price – £1,045

Price includes:

- Price includes 8 nights twin-share accommodation at 3 star hotels on Bed and Breakfast basis
- Entry to music events as detailed
- The services of your Songlines Travel leader
- All sightseeing and transfers as listed.

Single supplement £460 per person.

10 day tour November 6-15 2010 (ex-London)

Flights from London are available from £745 per person in conjunction with this tour. You can book these yourself or we can book them for you. Transfers from and to the airport in Buenos Aires are included with flights booked through Songlines Music Travel.

Items not included: Single room supplement, visas, travel insurance, all meals with the exception of breakfast, gratuities and any items of a personal nature.



To reserve your place

Please read the booking conditions on the website and contact the reservations office on:

+44 (0)20 8505 2582

or email:
songlines@thegroupscompany.com

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