



# ..... BUENOS AIRES .....

Domes

## Walk this way

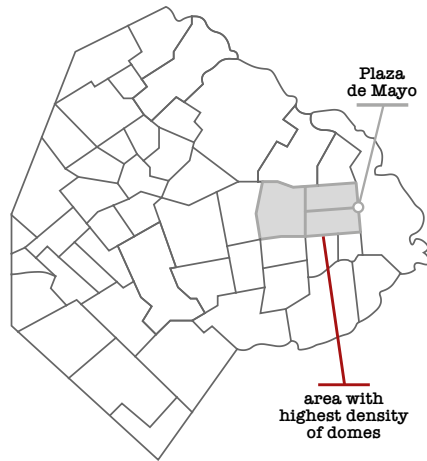
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While this guide does not contain a complete listing of domes in Buenos Aires —a worthy but monumental task— the **75 domes** selected represent a sample of the city's finest. Most listings can be found within the general area often visited by tourists, but a few domes are off the beaten path... too spectacular not to include here. Feeling adventurous? Investigate those neighborhoods further afield for some pleasant surprises.

As with all Endless Mile guides, wandering is encouraged. Even more domes wait to be discovered —just look up— and the maps included can be used to return to our suggestions. Keep in mind that map numbers are *for reference only*. This is **not a guided walk** with ordered stops, & few people will want to see each & every dome. However, these listings represent a unique way to explore the city.

Endless Mile maps are always oriented north, but note that the city's grid shifts as it moves west. A good idea would be to accompany this guide with a **Guía T**, available at any kiosk which sells magazines & newspapers. Besides being a handy, complete map of Buenos Aires, it provides subway & bus information to reach domes that are not near the city center. Thanks for supporting the **Endless Mile** series of guidebooks, & enjoy discovering the architecture of Buenos Aires!



## Basics

Domes are described by their **architectural style**. Specific data for every dome includes: official name or type of building, exact address, architect (if known) & year of construction (if known). Architects often signed their buildings in Buenos Aires, but not always & city records are incomplete. Also, modifications to buildings have taken place over the years, erasing some data forever. Local sources have been consulted to produce the most accurate & complete listing possible.

During weekday business hours, central sections of Buenos Aires are often congested, but it can be fun to mingle with the crowds. Photographers may prefer the calm of **Sunday mornings** when the city center empties out.

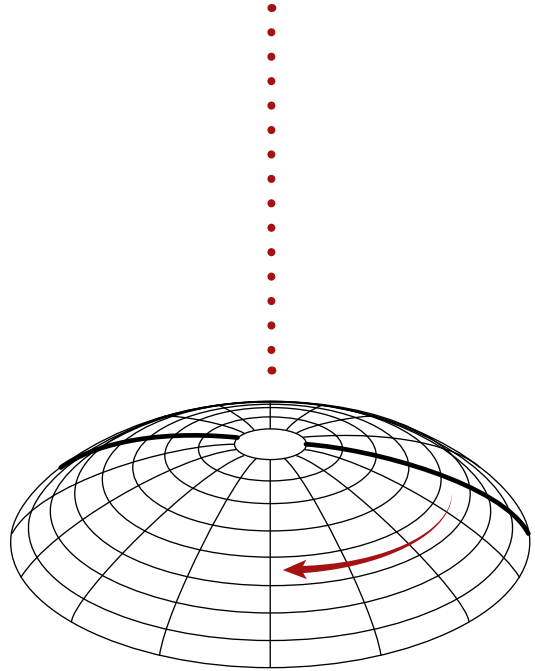
For a good **starting point** with a high density of domes, begin to explore from Plaza de Mayo & gradually wander west.

## Origins Roman innovation



Although some examples have been found from prehistoric times, the earliest dome still standing dates from the Roman era. Romans popularized their use, adding a touch of grandeur to public structures such as monuments or baths. Imagine the awe of looking up while standing inside the **Pantheon** ▲ when it was built in the year 126. Dating from the reign of Trajan, for over one thousand years it held the title of largest dome in the world.

The skill involved in a dome's construction is part of what makes us gaze up in wonder; however, domes have a surprisingly simple origin. Before attempting to construct a dome, techniques for building **arches** had to be perfected first. Romans incorporated arches into many public structures, most notably aqueducts, with measurements so precise that mortar was often unnecessary.



Through trial & error, Roman architects discovered that pressure from the keystone at the top holds an arch in place. Then they **put a spin on it** ▲ Visualize an arch rotated 360° around its top stone & it becomes a dome. Both the barrel vault —used extensively in early Christian churches— and the dome are natural derivatives of the arch.

Early domes were often incorporated into places of worship; an attempt by mankind to capture a bit of the heavens & bring them down to earth. Small domes are often just decorative elements designed to be appreciated from the exterior while larger domes are best viewed from the interior.

Engineers love domes because they give a maximum amount of enclosed space for a minimum of surface area. But for most of us, regardless of placement or size, one thing is certain: domes are **built to impress**.



**Buenos Aires riverfront,**  
**early 1800's.** Etching by  
unknown artist.



After the second foundation of Buenos Aires in 1580, the city remained a surprisingly humble place over the next 300 years... a far cry from the grandiose capital it is today. Many unpaved streets, few public services & lack of stone for construction failed to impress foreign visitors. However, early depictions of Buenos Aires ◀ show one remarkable feature —**church domes**.

Buenos Aires began to grow, taking on its present character, only after independence from Spain & resolution of conflicts with neighbors. Internal struggles also postponed development until Buenos Aires was at last named the national capital in 1880.

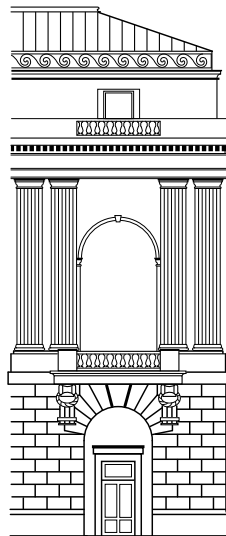
During that time, President Nicolás Avellaneda backed an 1876 law that **avored European immigration**. Millions of new arrivals came until the early 1920's & brought with them the best designs from Europe. As Buenos Aires grew upward & outward, domes began to appear everywhere in the city center. No longer reserved for churches or civic buildings, domes gave the new capital a distinctively European character.

Popular for their visual impact, domes have since formed a part of every major architectural movement since their invention. The following page describes architectural styles that thrived in Argentina, & most listed domes are grouped into the following **five categories**...

## Architecture Popular styles

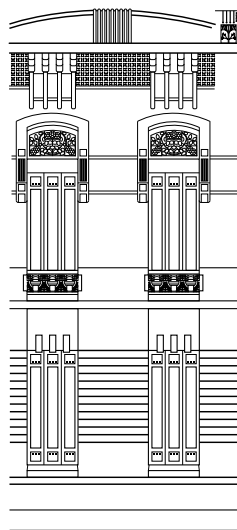
### Beaux-Arts

Classic, orderly style dominated by the Parisian *École des Beaux-Arts* from the mid- to late 1800's. Architects trained in France to build grand, open interiors with much attention to exterior detail. Think large sculpture groups & a tripartite façade: slanted rooftops with slate tiles on top + big windows & archways flanked by false columns (pilasters) in the middle + ground floor entrances marked with horizontal lines. Often called French Academic in Argentina.

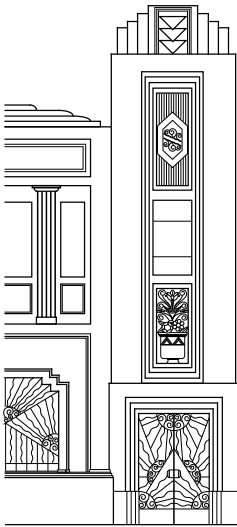


### Art Nouveau

Early reaction against the machine age where mass-produced goods were thought to lack creative & artistic merit. The solution? Make everything as sensual as possible. Popular at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, identifiers are organic & free-flowing forms, images from nature, colorful tilework, & voluptuous women as decorative motifs. World War I ended the style in Europe, but Art Nouveau managed to hang on in Buenos Aires until the early 1920's.







## Art Deco

Industrial, geometric designs replaced the fluid shapes of Art Nouveau during the Interwar period. Embracing & glorifying the machine—the opposite of Art Nouveau—severe lines & fonts took over with only minimal use of decoration. Offshoots took the movement in different directions; massive, blocky elements used in the extreme resulted in Monumentalism & the 1922 discovery of King Tutankhamun's tomb added Egyptian motifs to the style.

## Revival

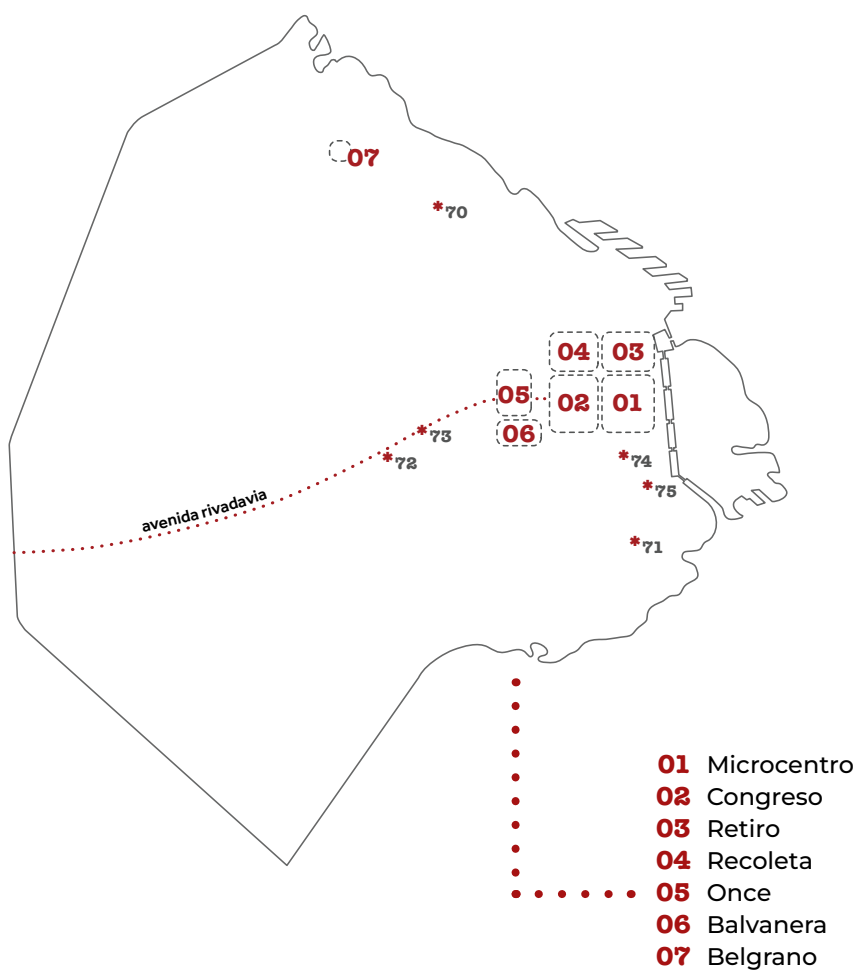
Coexisting with the above trends was a desire to bring back previously popular styles. Often updated rather than copied directly, the prefix “neo” was added to the original name & a “new” style was born. Neoclassical & Neotudor were very popular in Argentina during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



## Eclectic

When influences come from a variety of sources & styles, classification can be difficult. If a building can fit in several categories—as is often the case in Argentina given its multicultural heritage—local architects use this term to describe unique, one-of-a-kind buildings.

Overview



Although 75 may seem like a large number of domes to list, consider that Buenos Aires has an area of 200 km<sup>2</sup> (over 78 mi<sup>2</sup>). That's a lot of available space to build domes! ◀ Don't worry... most listings are located in the central section of the city, & the variety represented in this reduced area is remarkable.

Several maps on the following pages contain listings **01** through **69**. Visitors to Buenos Aires will likely walk through these sections of the city. Pages 26 & 27 have six mini-maps that show domes in areas further from the city center, marked with an asterisk (\*) at left. **74** & **75** are easy to find since they are located in San Telmo.

The author has walked approximately 70% of Buenos Aires & catalogued at least 250 domes. Hundreds more remain to be documented. An accurate total is impossible to determine with demolitions & collapses occurring all too frequently. In addition, the city government has never performed an inventory specifically for domes.

Keep in mind that more domes exist in mapped areas, but this guide highlights the very best. Also, domes need distance to be appreciated. For the best photos, stand as far back as possible & zoom in. Narrow streets downtown can make photography tricky... fortunately wide avenues often have the most remarkable domes.

Names listed for buildings denote their original use. Fortunes have come & gone since many of these domes were first constructed, so buildings —especially in the city center— have now been repurposed. Some of these former names remain visible but most are not.

### Navigation tip

Avenida Rivadavia conveniently divides the city into north & south. Locals say that streets are “born” there since numbering begins at 0 on both sides. Official names naturally change north & south of Avenida Rivadavia, but traffic flow does not.

## Sample pack

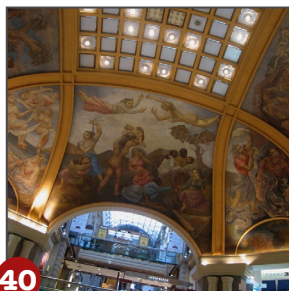
### A few favorites



04



22



40



07



31



43



09

Map 01



33

Map 02

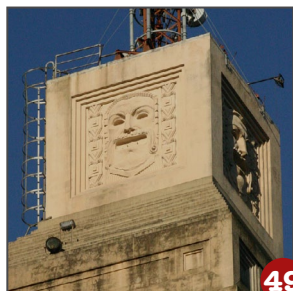


48

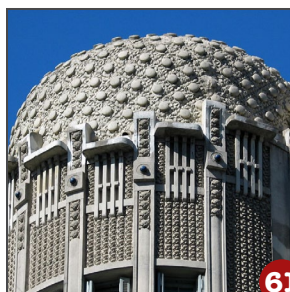
Map 03

Here are just a few examples —three from each mapped group— that show the diversity & beauty of domes in Buenos Aires. Part of this guide's fun is the joy of discovery... tell us which dome you like best & why!

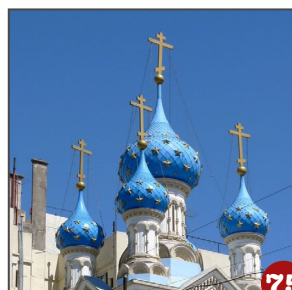
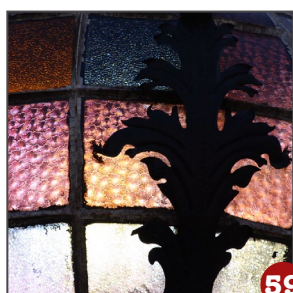
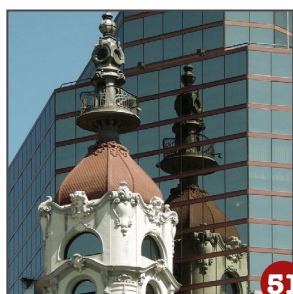
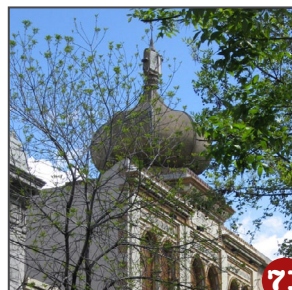
Map 04



Maps 05, 06, 07





Further afield



Map 01  
Microcentro



-  This icon shows a great spot to get a good perspective for viewing domes.
-  Circled letters mark individual stations for each of the six subway (*Subte*) lines.

**01 • Banco de la Nación**

Bartolomé Mitre 326

*Alejandro Bustillo*

1943, Revival

Interior dome. No photos please!

**02 • Compañía Argentina de Navegación**

Perón 300

*José Marcovich*

1912, Eclectic

**03 • Banco Francés**

Reconquista 165

*Jorge Bunge*

1926, Beaux-Arts

**04 • Galería Güemes**

Florida 165

*Francisco Gianotti*

1915, Art Nouveau

Interior pair of identical domes

**05 • Gath y Chaves**

Perón 644

*F.F. Tronquoy*

1914, Beaux-Arts

**06 • Confitería Ideal**

Reconquista 165

*Jorge Bunge*

1926, Beaux-Arts

Elongated, interior dome restored in 2019

**07 • Edificio Bencich**

Diagonal Norte 615

*Eduardo LeMonnier*

1927, Eclectic

**08 • La Equitativa del Plata**

Florida 27

*Alejandro Virasoro*

1929, Art Deco

**09 • Banco Argentino Uruguayo**

Diagonal Norte 501

*Eduardo LeMonnier*

1908, Beaux-Arts



**10 • Gath y Chaves annex**

Avenida de Mayo 599  
*Merry & Mirate*  
 1890-1910, Beaux-Arts

**11 • Ajustes del Ferrocarril**

Paseo Colón 189  
*Eduardo LeMonnier*  
 1914, Beaux-Arts

**12 • Residential**

Bolívar & Moreno  
*Lorenzo Siegerist*  
 1909, Beaux-Arts

**13 • Edificio Otto Wulff**

Avenida Belgrano 601  
*Morten Rönnow*  
 1914, Art Nouveau

**14 • Residential**

Avenida Belgrano 706  
*A.V. Rebagliati*  
 1912, Beaux-Arts



**15 • Residential**

Hipólito Yrigoyen 833  
*Pablo Scolpini*  
 Unknown year, Beaux-Arts

**16 • Residential**

Avenida de Mayo 881  
*A. & A.J. Olivari*  
 1927, Revival

**17 • Luis Gaye & Cía.**

Hipólito Yrigoyen 902  
*Galfrascoli & Vautier*  
 Unknown year, Beaux-Arts

**18 • Club Español**

Bernardo de Irigoyen 172  
*Hendrik (Enrique) Folkers*  
 1912, Art Nouveau



Map 02  
Congreso



**19 • Nuestra Señora de Monserrat**

Avenida Belgrano 1151  
*Manuel Raffo*  
1865, Beaux-Arts

**20 • Residential**

Santiago del Estero 472  
*Huergo & Canale*  
Unknown year, Beaux-Arts

**21 • La Hilandería Danubio**

Moreno 1195  
*Lorenzo Siegerist*  
1922, Beaux-Arts

**22 • Palacio Barolo**

Avenida de Mayo 1370  
*Mario Palanti*  
1923, Eclectic

Don't miss the grand interior dome



**23 • Residential**

Talcahuano 68  
*Architect unknown*  
Unknown year, Beaux-Arts

**24 • Residential**

Talcahuano 90  
*Architect unknown*  
Unknown year, Beaux-Arts

**25 • Pasaje Rivarola**

Bartolomé Mitre 1300  
*Petersen, Thiele & Cruz*  
1925, Beaux-Arts

Four exact copies on each corner

**26 • Residential**

Avenida Corrientes 1250  
*Giuseppe (José) Torrieri*  
Unknown year, Beaux-Arts

**27 • Residential**

Avenida Rivadavia 1523  
*Ángel Bollini*  
1929, Beaux-Arts

**28 • La Inmobiliaria**

Avenida de Mayo 1408

*Luis Broggi*

1910, Revival

**29 • Asociación Argentina  
de Actores**

Alsina 1766

*C.C. Dassen*

Unknown year, Beaux-Arts

**30 • Asociación Española de  
Socorros Mutuos**

Entre Ríos 197

*Architect unknown*

Unknown year, Beaux-Arts

**31 • Congreso Nacional**

Entre Ríos 51

*Victor Meano*

1906, Revival

**32 • Confitería del Molino**

Avenida Rivadavia 1801

*Francisco Gianotti*

1914, Art Nouveau

Under restoration &amp; scheduled to open soon

**33 • Residential**

Avenida Rivadavia 2009

*E. Rodríguez Ortega*

1907, Art Nouveau

**34 • Residential**

Bartolomé Mitre 1699

*Architect unknown*

Unknown year, Eclectic

**35 • Residential**

Avenida Callao 384

*Augusto Plou*

Unknown year, Beaux-Arts



**36 • Solar Mitre**

Lavalle 900

*Arnoldo Albertoli*

Unknown year, Beaux-Arts

**37 • Residential**

Suipacha 585

*Américo Barassi*

Unknown year, Beaux-Arts

**38 • Edificio Argentino**

San Martín 492

*Macchi & Distasio*

1931, Art Deco

**39 • Residential**

Viamonte 454

*Bencich Hermanos*

Unknown year, Beaux-Arts

**40 • Galerías Pacífico**

Florida 750

*Agrelo & LeVacher*

1889, Beaux-Arts

Paintings from 1945, glass domes 1991

**41 • Harrod's**

Córdoba &amp; San Martín

*Chambers, Thomas & Sage*

1920, Beaux-Arts

**42 • Residential**

Reconquista 880

*Architect unknown*

Unknown year, Eclectic

**43 • Basílica del Santísimo Sacramento**

San Martín 1039

*Couloms & Chauvert*

1916, Revival

**44 • Torre de los Ingleses**

Plaza Fuerza Aérea Argentina

*Ambrose Poynter*

1916, Eclectic

**45 • Estación Mitre**

Ramos Mejía 1358

*Conder, Conder & Follett*

1915, Beaux-Arts

**46 • Estación Belgrano**

Ramos Mejía 1400

*Conder, Conder & Follett*

1914, Beaux-Arts

**47 • Residential**

Avenida Córdoba 807

*Eduardo LeMonnier*

1927, Beaux-Arts

**48 • Residential**

Suipacha 940

*Bernardo Milli*

1913, Art Nouveau

## Map 04



**49 • Casa del Teatro**

Avenida Santa Fe 1235  
*Alejandro Virasoro*  
 1927, Art Deco

**50 • Teatro Colón**

Plaza Lavalle  
*Tamburini, Meano & Dormal*  
 1908, Eclectic  
 Interior stained glass dome

**51 • Palacio Costaguta**

Tucumán 1301  
*Alfred Massüe*  
 1903, Art Nouveau

**52 • Escuela IADES**

Montevideo 467  
*Architect unknown*  
 Unknown year, Eclectic

**53 • Residential**

Avenida Callao 499  
*Oscar Schoó Lastra*  
 1924, Beaux-Arts

**54 • Iglesia del Salvador**

Avenida Callao 580  
*Architect unknown*  
 1887, Revival

**55 • Palacio de Aguas Corrientes**

Avenida Córdoba 1950  
*Bateman & Nyströmer*  
 1887, Eclectic

**56 • Instituto de Enseñanza Superior**

Avenida Córdoba 2016  
*Architect unknown*  
 Unknown year, Beaux-Arts

**57 • Residential**

Avenida Callao 1103  
*Mario Palanti*  
 1920, Eclectic

**58 • Edificio Camerou**

Riobamba 1175  
*Paul Pater*  
 Unknown year, Art Nouveau

**59 • Cementerio de la Recoleta**

Junín 1760  
*Various architects*  
 1822-present, all styles

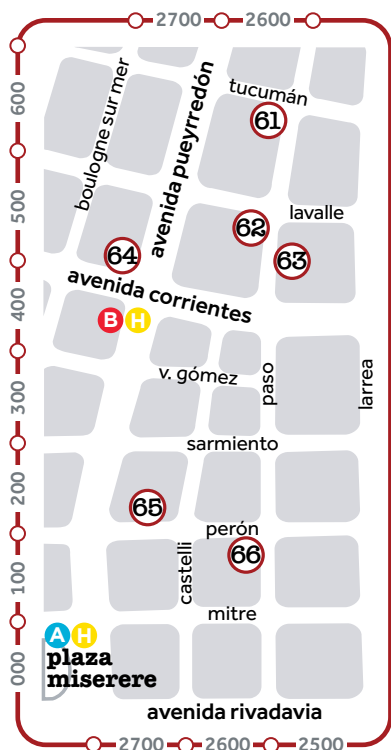
For more detail, see our dedicated guide

**60 • Palais de Glace**

Posadas 1725  
*J.L. Ruíz Basadre*  
 1911, Eclectic  
 Large interior dome upstairs

## Map 05

### Once



#### 61 • Residential

Paso 678

*Julián García Núñez*

1913, Art Nouveau

#### 62 • Residential

Paso 594

*Architect unknown*

Unknown year, Art Deco

#### 63 • Gran Templo Paso

Paso 423

*Architect unknown*

1930, Art Nouveau

#### 64 • Caja Internacional Mutua de Pensiones

Avenida Pueyrredón 510

*Malley & Dunant*

1908, Beaux-Arts

#### 65 • Edificio Concepción

Perón 2759

*Architect unknown*

Unknown year, Revival

#### 66 • Torre Saint

Perón 2630

*Robert Tiphaine*

1932, Art Deco

Most of these domes are also featured in our [Once neighborhood guide](#), with lots of additional information about the *barrio*, its unique vibe & stories behind its surprising architecture.



## Map 06 Balvanera



### 67 • Hospital Español

Avenida Belgrano 2975  
*Julián García Núñez*  
 1908 expansion, Art Nouveau

### 68 • Santa Rosa de Lima

Avenida Belgrano 2208  
*Alejandro Christophersen*  
 1934, Revival



## Map 07 Belgrano



### 69 • La Redonda

Vuelta de Obligado 2042  
*Canale & Buschiazso*  
 1878, Beaux-Arts

Don't miss the interior dome as well

Further afield  
West & south of Plaza de Mayo

Palermo



**70 • Planetario**

Parque 3 de Febrero

*Enrique Jan*

1966, Brutalist

Barracas



**71 • Templo Or Torah**

Brandsen 1444

*Valentini*

1930, Eclectic

Caballito



**72 • Residential**

Avenida José M. Moreno 120

*Alejandro Varangot*

1932, Art Deco

**73 • Palacio Raggio**

Avenida Rivadavia 4498

*Gino Aloisi*

1924, Beaux-Arts

**74 • Iglesia Inmaculada Concepción**

Avenida Independencia 910

*Various architects*

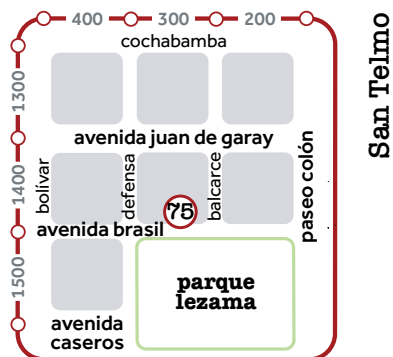
1769 + later reforms, Revival

**75 • Iglesia Ortodoxa Rusa**

Avenida Brasil 315

*Alejandro Christophersen*

1904, Eclectic

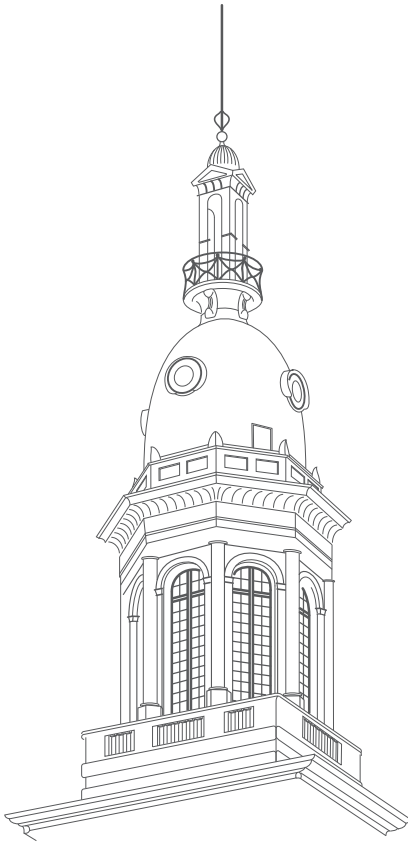


## Last word

At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, **economic concerns & political conflicts** far outweighed those of architectural conservation & Buenos Aires fell into disrepair. Domes are, by their nature, fragile constructions. When funds disappeared, domes collapsed —never to be recovered.

Despite an economic upswing after 2002, local government turned a cold shoulder to the city's preservation. A law prohibits the demolition of any building constructed prior to 1941, but remember this is Argentina. **Corruption & clandestine demolition** are rampant. Citizen watch groups keep a vigilant eye on the city, but even they can miss signs of destruction or decay. Unfortunately, dozens of spectacular domes do not appear in our list because they no longer decorate the skyline. The only record of their existence is a collection of photographs & postcards taken by flâneurs of an earlier era.

With this listing, Endless Mile seeks to call attention to one of the defining characteristics of Buenos Aires... **in the hope that more people will preserve what makes this city so unique.**



## About the author

Raised in Memphis, **Robert Wright** moved to Seattle after university where his southern accent almost disappeared. *Almost*. He worked as a toxicologist thanks to studying biochem, did time at a container shipping company after completing a Master's in International Studies & later ditched everything to move to Spain for a year. That turned out to be one of the best decisions he ever made.

Enchanted by Europe, Robert has spent over 20 years as a tour guide & guidebook writer for Rick Steves. Just as that job began, he moved to Buenos Aires. Not one to sit idle, Robert began guiding visitors there as well & trailblazed the way for other expats to do the same. Positive feedback inspired him to self-publish those walks at **Endless Mile** plus share his knowledge of European destinations. He settled again in Spain after 14 years in Argentina, got married & wonders where the next adventure will take him...



I hope you've enjoyed this guide. All feedback is appreciated, so please be in touch! I strive for thorough yet easy-to-understand explanations as well as clean & uncluttered design. Why shouldn't guides be as beautiful as their subject matter?

*All information is backed by research in academic journals, newspapers & even personal interviews when necessary. Historic photos are in public domain; maps, color photos & diagrams are work of the author unless otherwise stated. This guide may not be redistributed or resold.*

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**Lisbon** • Azulejos, Catholic Heritage & Mosteiro dos Jerónimos

**Alcobaça** • Real Abadia de Santa Maria de Alcobaça

**Sevilla** • Regionalist Architecture