



MICROCENTRO - LOMA SANTA CECILIA - PUNTA IGLESIA - RAMBLA CASINO - HOTEL PROVINCIAL - PASEO HERMITAGE

This tour links the past, the present and the future of Mar del Plata. The heart of the city beats around Plaza San Martín (square), the civic, financial and commercial centre of the city. The salted meat factory which originated the primitive Puerto de Laguna de los Padres near Punta Iglesia was located nearby. Aware of its potential, visionary Patricio Peralta Ramos provided for the foundation of

Mar del Plata (10th February, 1874). Pedro Luro was also an important figure involved in the development of the city.

The arrival of the first train in 1886, the Bristol Hotel and Playa Bristol (the beach named after the hotel) fostered the tourism industry. Mar del Plata's fishing industry also started in Playa Bristol.

Walking Tour - Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes: Due to the characteristics of this tour visitors should wear comfortable shoes. All the bus lines reach the city centre.

The tour begins on the corner of Peatonal San Martín (pedestrianized) and San Luis Streets.

Peatonal San Martín, Rivadavia and the nearby streets comprise the shopping core of the city. The area gathers shopping malls, cinemas, theatres, cafés, restaurants and banks.



Visitors who like architecture should not miss three buildings: **Correo Central** in 2460 Luro Ave. (Central Post Office designed by architects Rossi, Malter and Villamil influenced by Le Corbusier), **Palacio Árabe** in 1681 Córdoba St. (designed by architect V. Brodsky) and **Galería Rivadavia** on the corner of Rivadavia and San Luis Streets (designed by architect Antonio Bonnet). Plaza San Martín, the city's main square, boasts important sculptures, many of them centenarian. The monument to General José de San Martín in the last years of his life is located in the central roundabout.

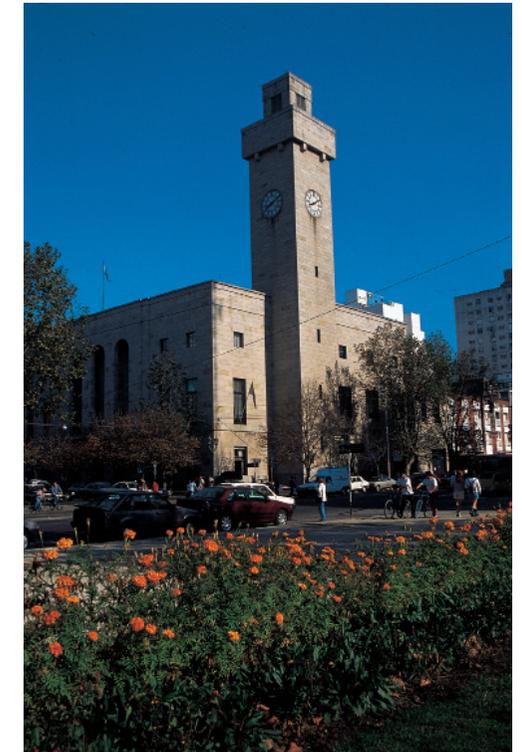
Facing the cathedral, in Peatonal San Martín St., a picturesque calendar depicts the date every day.

The Catedral de los Santos Pedro y Cecilia (cathedral) is located in 2776 Peatonal San Martín St. It was projected by Pedro Benoit and it was built between 1892 and 1905 with donations from families who used to spend their summer holidays in the city.

This neo-Gothic basilica, seat of the Mar del Plata diocese, boasts large French vitreaux, a magnificent Baccarat crystal and a bronze chandelier which belonged to the Bristol Hotel, an Italian organ and an exquisite replica of Michelangelo's Pietà. The crypt under the high altar keeps relics of the Holy Cross, the remains of several holy martyrs and the first city bishop.

Diagonal Pueyrredon St. starts in Peatonal San Martín and Mitre Streets.

It is also known as Diagonal de los Tilos (Lime tree Diagonal). Under these trees, different craftsmen and artists work in the fair known as Diagonal de los Artesanos. Two shopping malls are the classic meeting point of locals and visitors. The old **Almacén Buenos Aires** (Rivadavia and Hipólito Yrigoyen Streets) contrasts with the surrounding





- 1 Catedral de los Santos Pedro y Cecilia.
- 2 Palacio Municipal - Teatro Colón.
- 3 Escuela N° 1 Pascuala Mugaburu - Sede Administrativa Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata.
- 4 Capilla Santa Cecilia.
- 5 Plazoleta Capitolina.
- 6 Muelle Club de Pescadores
- 7 Plaza del Milenio - Fuente de Aguas Danzantes.
- i CIT Centro de Información Turística, Rambla Edificio Casino Local 51.

in 1873 by the founder of the city to pay posthumous homage to his wife. Since it is located on top of a hill, its tower could be seen from a long distance indicating the proximity to the primitive Puerto de Laguna de los Padres (port). **Punta Iglesia** (Spanish for church top) is named after this. The **Loma Santa Cecilia** (hill) still boasts residences which reflect different moments of the Marplatense architecture.

On the coast, past the Plazoleta Capitolina (square) with the memorial to those who fell for Italy, the viewpoint on the Paseo Alfonsina Storni (on top of the Loma Santa Cecilia) offers ocean views up to Mar Chiquita beaches located 30 kilometres north of the city. Three hundred metres ahead south, a huge post card depicts **Punta Iglesia**, the **Plaza de las Américas** with the **memorial to Dr René Favaloro**, the **Puente Peatonal Dr. Arturo Illía** (footbridge), the **downtown beaches**, the **Torreón del Monje** (tower) and **Cabo Corrientes**.

Heading southwards, the **Espigón Punta Iglesia** (pier) and the **Club de Pescadores** (fishermen's club) gather fishing lovers throughout the year.

The stroll continues with a magnificent view of the bay comprised by several beaches: **Popular**, **Bristol**, **de los Pescadores** and **Las Toscas**. The **Playa Bristol** (beach) is named after the Bristol Hotel (1888), the first luxurious hotel which faced the beach and turned the town into a beach destination.

The **Rambla** (promenade) is the traditional attraction of the city. Its wide lanes cover the **Complejo Casino - Hotel Provincial** (complex) and the **Plazoleta de la Armada Argentina**

(square) with the monument to Admiral Guillermo Brown and the stone sea lions. The complex was projected by architect Alejandro Bustillo following the eclectic style guidelines.

The traditional **Casino Central** (casino) hosts a room of vast dimensions with roulettes, card tables, dice tables and slot machines. The **Centro Provincial de Educación Física N° 1** (sports centre) with its indoor swimming pool located in the **Paseo Hermitage and the Teatro Auditorium - Centro Provincial de las Artes** (theatre) are also part of the Casino building. The **Hotel Provincial** is another icon of the Marplatense tourist industry.

On Boulevard Marítimo St., facing the complex, several attractions await visitors: **Plazoleta de las Provincias Argentinas** (square located between Rivadavia and Belgrano Streets); **Plaza del Milenio** (square located between Belgrano and Moreno Streets) with the **Fuente de Aguas Danzantes** (musical fountain); **Plaza Colón** with the monuments to Christopher Columbus and to the founder of Mar del Plata, Patricio Peralta Ramos. There are also notable sculptures such as "Woman Bathing" and "Venus de Milo".

Paseo Hermitage offers beach resorts, and the **Casino del Mar** (casino).



modern buildings.

Two buildings of singular architecture are located in Hipólito Yrigoyen St. between San Martín St. and Luro Ave. The **Teatro Colón** (theatre) with its typical neo-Colonial style facade and its interior Moorish style ornaments offers a rich and varied cultural programme. The Club Español (Spanish Club) and the Spanish Vice Consulate share the same building. The **Palacio Municipal** (Town Hall) is the seat of the Municipality of the General Pueyrredon District. Projected by Architect Alejandro Bustillo, the Italian Renaissance Florentine palace-like building boasts a tower with 4-faced clock.

Pedro Luro Avenue is named after the promoter of the city. This commercial artery joins the National Route 226 with the sea.

25 de mayo St. is where the **Facultad de**

Derecho of the **Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata** (Mar del Plata University Law School) and the **Escuela Provincial N° 1 Pascuala Mogaburu** (one of the first schools of the city) are located.

Diagonal Alberdi St. extends between Plaza San Martín and Punta Iglesia. It is strongly related to Marplatense history like the Diagonal Pueyrredon St. The **Monumento a los Caídos en Malvinas** nacidos en Mar del Plata (memorial to Marplatense soldiers who died in the Malvinas war), the **Paseo de las Esculturas** (Outdoor Sculptures) and the seat of the **Rectorado de la Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata** (National University of Mar del Plata Headquarters) are also located in the area.

Capilla Santa Cecilia (chapel) is located in 1300 Córdoba St. and it belongs to the school named after it. This national listed building was erected