

Clubs

Clubbing in BA: a survival guide

Rosie Hilder teaches you how to party like the locals. Illustration by Gustavo Guevara



Adapting to Buenos Aires's clubbing scene requires a little readjustment – mainly of your body clock. Follow these five rules to go BA's clubbing distance.

1. BE FASHIONABLY LATE

Start the evening too early, and you're destined to end up asleep on the dancefloor, so do like the locals and take a disco nap before beginning your *previa* (pre-party drinks) at around 11pm. Head to **Magdalena's Party** (see p80) for drinks deals and revelry or have a cocktail in the open air at **Festival** (see p78), but wherever you start the night don't even consider hitting the *boliche* until 1am. Note that most Argentinians aren't big drinkers by American or European standards – which is probably why they can keep going until sunrise – so unless you think pulling and puking go hand in hand, lay off the shots and master the art of sipping.

2. LOOK THE PART

Like it or lump it, you'll have to look your best to get past BA's bouncers. Men, leave your flip flops and shorts at home or forget it, and while ladies have a lot more leeway when it comes to the dress code, a pair of shiny leggings or a short skirt

certainly won't go amiss. Other ways to get past the bouncers involve accentuating your poor Spanish, having two X chromosomes, or getting on the guest list by sending your name to the promoter – look for a contact and the word *lista* on the club's Facebook page. You can get in free to Thursday night's hip hop fest at **M.O.D Variete Club** (see p90) by picking up a wristband beforehand at Magdalena's party.

3. FOLLOW THE CROWD

So you've made it to the bar, but there are still two whole queues between you and your drink. This system is designed to make things easier, but of course has the opposite effect, and is likely another reason the locals aren't off their faces. First, go to the *caja* (a bored looking person manning a till) and exchange your pesos for a receipt, then shimmy along the bar and wave your ticket in the face of anyone who looks like they're making drinks. Like anywhere else in the world, pretty girls and aggressive blokes get priority. Unlike anywhere else in the world, fernet and Coke is the order of the night.

4. TALK THE TALK

Everyone knows the language of love speaks volumes, but if you

want to impress with your knowledge of the local lingo, try 'sos hermoso/a' (you're beautiful), the more practical '¿bailemos?' (shall we dance?), or go all out with 'deberías caminar a la sombra porque los bombones derriten al sol' – which suggests the object of your desire is so hot they'll melt in the sun. You could also try 'el mundo es un pañuelo, y vos sos mi moco preferido' (the world is a handkerchief and you are my favourite piece of snot), but we can't guarantee you won't get a few strange looks.

5. SEIZE THE DAY

Soak up all that booze post-boogie with a *choripán* from a stand on the Costanera, or a kebab from Palermo's **Siniór Shawarma** (Honduras 5328). If the next day still brings a world of pain (whoever said fernet doesn't give you a hangover was lying), get a full English breakfast at **Full City Coffee House** (see p23) or **Gibraltar** (see p74), a fruity burst of energy at juice bar **The Factory** (see p22), or head to **Home Hotel** (see 143) for brunch, booze and a massage, not necessarily in that order. You'll be ready to get back out there before you can say siesta.

The scene

Now that you know how to survive a night of clubbing in BA (see left), all that remains is to decide which club to hit. Those after an outlandish extravaganza might enjoy **Niceto Club's** (see p90) Club 69, while if you're looking for a more sophisticated evening, head to **Jet** (see p88). For everything in-between, see our listings.

Undecided clubgoers can hang around Avenida Juan B Justo and calle Honduras in Palermo, where you'll find megaclubs like **Liv** (see p88) and **Rosebar** (Honduras 5445).

If you want to catch an electronic music festival while you're in Argentina, check out our round up of BA's best summer festivals (see p90).

Venues

★ Alsina

The cathedral-like Alsina is the talk of electro partyland these days, thanks to the hi-fi sound and consistently strong line-up of international names (Gui Boratto, Richie Hawtin, Fedde Legrande, Gareth Emery and Calvin Harris to name a few), which ensures that the 1,500-head capacity is often reached early on in the night. Electro party State takes place once a month on a Friday – check the website to find out when the next one will be. Sunday's Club One attracts an experienced party-hard crowd and is pumping by 10pm. The second level balcony offers a nice vantage point for spying on (and momentarily escaping from) the pulsing mob below.

Adolfo Alsina 940, entre Bernardo de Irigoyen y Tacuari, Monserrat (4331 3231/www.statebsas.com.ar). Subte A, Piedras/bus 10, 17, 59, 70, 86, 91, 98, 129. Open midnight-7am monthly on Fri; 8pm-3am Sun. Map C4.

Bahrein

Swish Bahrein is party central for electro-heads, with the basement of this grand former bank pumping out all manner of house, techno and electronic beats at the weekends. Saturdays usually play host to an international DJ and see attendees flit between the glam Funky Room and the basement, where the party-hungry energy is concentrated. Admission is free before 1am (AR\$100 after).

Lavalle 345, entre Reconquista y 25 de Mayo, Microcentro (4314 8886/www.bahreimba.com). Subte B, LN Alem/bus 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 17, 28, 93. Open from 12.30am Fri, Sat. Map C5.

La Capilla

This spectacular former church in Microcentro hosts some of the liveliest parties in the city. Friday's Fiesta de la Flor combines local reggae bands with dancehall and ska beats, while Saturdays vary between *rock nacional* and acid house nights from the Psyrockers Crew. Arrive before 1am on Friday nights for free entry to Fiesta de la Flor.

Suipacha 842, entre Avenida Córdoba y Paraguay, Microcentro (mobile 15