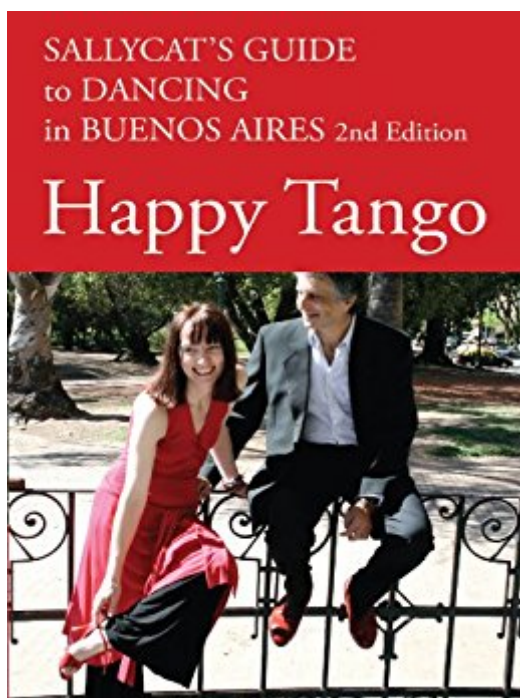


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Happy Tango: Sallycat's Guide To Dancing In Buenos Aires 2nd Edition



Synopsis

Every tango dancer longs to go to Buenos Aires, but negotiating the complexities, traditions and practicalities of the world centre of tango can be daunting. This essential guide lets you in on everything you need to know, including: 11 rules for discovering the best of Buenos Aires tango; an A to Z of indispensable advice to help you fit in fast; and a simple method for choosing where to dance first. Sallycat followed her own tango heart to Buenos Aires in 2007 and stayed to dance on; Happy Tango distils all her adventures on the city's dance floors into an honest and inspirational book-shaped friend. If you're dreaming of tango heaven in Argentina, why go it alone? Travel with Sallycat, and take the journey that's right for you. Happy Tango: Sallycat's Guide to Dancing in Buenos Aires was first published in paperback in the summer of 2010. It received excellent reviews and has helped tango dancers from all over the world to more confidently and successfully tackle their Buenos Aires tango travels. Be in the know before you travel with this 2nd edition of Happy Tango, first published in paperback 30 November 2012.

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Customer Reviews

I am so happy I found this book before my trip to Buenos Aires. It is full of enormously helpful advice that no tango traveler should be without, but only an insider would know. Sally Blake made a trip to Bs. As. after only having danced for 5 months in her native England and ended up staying to learn and dance tango in the city of it's birth. She has navigated it's many milongas and made all the mistakes for you. Her advice and rules are designed to maximize your chances of getting dances and finding tango bliss (hence the name Happy Tango). In the first section she gives you 11 rules to follow, ones that she has followed (and broken) with quick explanations of why you should follow them. The 2nd section is an A to Z of dancing tango in Bs. As., all things tango you might encounter or need to know, with very helpful definitions and advice. In this section under the definition of "codigos" she outlines the code of conduct you should follow at the milongas to avoid looking like a newcomer or committing an embarrassing gaffe. In the 3rd Section she gives you advice on where you might be happiest dancing and descriptions of 20 milongas to try neatly sorted into three categories (tourist circuit, traditional and informal) with notes on how to get there and what you NEED TO KNOW to enjoy yourself at each milonga or practica. There's even a final section with practical advice on where to stay, what to eat, money matters, learning Castellano (Argentine Spanish), getting around, safety, staying connected and even what to see on your time off from tango (if you take any). There are also a few appendices which include tango schools, shoe stores and people she has met in her time there who might be helpful to know about. I feel like I now have a much more realistic set of expectations and am armed with great advice. I also feel like I'm traveling with a friend who can help me avoid some pitfalls. This is a book that will go in my carry-on and be re-read on the plane ride.-----Having now been in Bs As for two weeks I want to also add that not a day has gone by where I have not consulted this book for advice. BUY THIS BOOK! The one caveat: as do all things hip and cultural there are some changes in milonga location from year to year, so if you buy this edition make sure you check websites (they are helpfully provided) for locations and hours so you don't dress for an informal practica and end up crashing a very traditional milonga. Yes, I did that. :)

A friend of mine once said, "When I read news stories about things I know about, I'm often astonished about how wrong the journalist is about even the most fundamental concepts - which makes me wonder why I should believe anything I read from that publication about things I *don't* know about". On the other hand, we have Sally Blake's wonderful little book. In a relaxed, witty and non-judgmental style, she shares her hard-won lessons about her quest to find her own brand of

tango happiness in the the intense Buenos Aires tango social scene. She pragmatically separates the available social tango opportunities into three broad (and somewhat overlapping) categories: "tourist-circuit", "traditional", and "informal", with seven recommended "try-here-first" venues in each category, and thorough information about each recommended venue. For a "tango immigrant" Britisher, her descriptions are refreshingly lacking in tango-fundamentalist dogma, and are nuanced enough to allow you to gauge your best bet for the evening along the lines of the practical, important distinctions: age of attendees, prevalent style of dancing, pace of crowding through the evening, etc. Advice on the logistics of visiting Buenos Aires, the behavior codes in the milongas, any many other aspects of city life critically important to the tango visitor, appears very up-to-date. I know some of the vendors she recommends personally, and can vouch for many of her value judgments. Sally and I would probably see each other sometimes, and not every night, because our tastes and social circles are not exactly a perfect overlap - but her attitudes about aspects of the scene that are not always her preference are well-written and useful. After just returning from my eighteenth trip to Buenos Aires, I can say that Sally's book passes the above "credibility test" with flying colors - her accuracy in describing parts of the scene I know about gives me great confidence in relying on her information about parts that are unfamiliar to me.

I read Happy Tango three weeks into my Buenos Aires adventure. I was packing my bags, to leave early, when I found Sally Blake's guide. It transformed my holiday from Tango Terrible to Tango Terrific. All of Sally's advice is 'spot-on'. As a baby beginner dancer and first time traveler to BsAs I made some of the same 'mistakes' as did Sally when I arrived. Reading Sally's story reassured me that her hard earned wisdom could and would work for me to learn and enjoy Tango in Buenos Aires. My pages of my first edition of Happy Tango are dog-eared and filled with underlining. And now I have the second edition as an E-book. I can't believe I read the E-book on my iPhone, but listening to Tango music at the same time at the gym, certainly helped. But there are safer and better ways to read this E-book. Sit down with your new friend Sallycat as she guides you through the ins and outs of the world of Buenos Aires Tango; surf away to the links she provides in Happy Tango and know you can easily find your way back to parts of the book you want to re-explore. If you visit Buenos Aires to dance or to discover the possibilities of Tango, read this book first, pack it first, and refer to it often. And Sally, for the third edition, it would be so cool if you would add DiSarli, D'Arienzo, Tanturi and Pugliese [maybe even Otres Aires :)] as a soundtrack to make reading Happy Tango even happier. I'm getting my 'Bliss'-on by planning for my return trip to BsAs. Thanks to Sallycat I know I have so much more to experience, learn and dance in Buenos Aires.

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