

~ WELCOME to ENGLISH ZONE ROCKS ~

INFORMATION ABOUT EPECUEN, BA, ARGENTINA

NOUNS	ADJECTIVES	VERBS
DRAUGHTS	FLOODED	FLOOD/ED
FLOOD	RUINED	EVACUATE/D
EMBANKMENT = terraplen	DRY	BREAK/BROKE/BROKEN
HEAVY RAINS	DEAD	CARRY/CARRIED
CHAINED LAKES	WHITE	ACCOMMODATE/D
LAKE	SALTY	LIVE/D
PROPERTIES	HEALING = curative	DIE/D
MINERALS	TOURIST VILLAGE	REMAIN/ED
SALT	EASTERN	RISE/ROSE/RISEN
TOURISTS	COVERED	CAUSE/D
VILLAGE	NEVER REBUILT	RETURN/ED
SHORE	RUSTY	COME BACK/CAME/COME
RAILWAY LINE	UNINHABITABLE /ʌnɪn'habɪtəb(ə)l/	RECEDE/D
RAILWAY STATION	SAD	COVER/ED
WATER	MELANCHOLIC	BUILD/BUILT/BUILT
RUINS	DEPRESSING	REBUILD/REBUILT/
BUSINESSES	THE LOWEST	LOSE/LOST/LOST
ACCOMODATION	CHAINED LAKES	DESTROY/ED
LODGES	HEAVY RAINS	FLOAT/ED
GUESTHOUSES	WEALTHY	CURE/D
HOTELS	RICH	LEAVE/LEFT
POPULATION	THERMAL WATERS	
INHABITANTS		
LOCAL PEOPLE		
RESIDENTS		
PEAK		
HEYDAY		
TRAGEDY		
TREES		
ROOTS		
HOST CITY		
SLAUGHTERHOUSE = matadero		
COFFINS		
CEMETERY		
SUCCESS		
SETTING IN PLACE		
ESTUARY /'estjuəri/		
SALITRE		

## Argentina's underwater town that was submerged for 30 years

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The town of Epecuen in Argentina was once a busy lakeside tourist resort.

But in November 1985, after a succession of wet winters, the lake overflowed, breaking through the lake wall and into the town.

Residents evacuated safely, but the town remained underwater for almost 30 years until the water evaporated.

Now the ruins of the town have emerged and residents can walk around their former home again.

This is Villa Epecuen, an old tourist town south of Buenos Aires that spent a quarter of a century underwater. Established in the 1920s on the banks of a salt lake, the town was home to over 5,000 residents and a holiday destination to thousands more vacationers from the Argentinian capital.

#### The Town That Spent 25 Years Underwater



This is Villa Epecuen, an old tourist town south of Buenos Aires that spent a quarter of a century underwater. Established in the 1920s on the banks of a salt lake, the town was home to over 5,000 residents and a holiday destination to thousands more vacationers from the Argentinian capital.



In 1985, a dam burst and buried the town in 33 feet of salt water, rendering it a modern-day Atlantis. Initially, people waited on their roofs, hoping for the water to recede. It didn't, and within two days, the place was a devastated ghost town.



In 2009, the waters began to recede and what emerged resembles an apocalyptic world.





Evenly-spaced dead trees still line what used to be streets, rusty bed frames poke out from concrete rubble and sign posts point to nowhere.





Amazingly, one resident remained in this desolate place. Pablo Novak was the only person not to leave his hometown when the water swallowed it up in 1985. He lives in a stone hut with a fridge and a basic cooker. I guess there's no place like home...





**Villa Epecuén** was a tourist village in [Buenos Aires Province](#), Argentina, on the eastern shore of Laguna Epecuén, about 7 kilometres (4.3 mi) north of the city of [Carhué](#). Developed in the early 1920s, Epecuén was accessible from [Buenos Aires](#) by train. The [Sarmiento Railway](#) line served Villa Epecuén station, while the [Midland Railway](#) and the [Buenos Aires Great Southern Railway](#) carried passengers to nearby Carhué station.<sup>[2]</sup> Tourism was developed by an Englishman after taking the land on lease. He marketed the lake as having healing properties, hiring Italian scientists to bolster the claim.<sup>[3]</sup> At its height, Villa Epecuén could accommodate at least 5,000 visitors.<sup>[4]</sup>

On 6 November 1985, a [seiche](#), caused by a rare weather pattern, broke a nearby dam, and then the dike protecting the village; the water rose progressively, reaching a peak of 10 metres (33 ft). The village became uninhabitable and was never rebuilt. Many of the ruins are covered by a layer of white and grey [salt](#). At the time, there were up to 280 businesses in Epecuén, including lodges, guesthouses, hotels, and businesses that 25,000 tourists visited between November and March, from the 1950s to the 1970s.

The town reached a population of 1,500 inhabitants at its peak. As of 2011 it had one resident, Pablo Novak, born in 1930, who returned to his home in 2009 when the waters receded after covering the town for 25 years.<sup>[5]</sup> *Pablo's Villa*, a 2013 documentary, chronicles the life of the town and of Novak.<sup>[6]</sup>

The town has been featured in the TV shows *Abandoned Engineering* (season 4, episode 1), and *Mysteries of the Abandoned* (season 4, episode 1). It was used as a location in the 2010 film [And Soon the Darkness](#), starring [Amber Heard](#) and [Karl Urban](#). The city features as the backdrop to one of [Danny MacAskill's street trials cycling videos](#).<sup>[7]</sup>