

URUGUAY

Uruguay is a quiet, modern country of endless plains, ideal for farming, cattlebreeding and a great place to experience the horse riding culture of the Gauchos. Sophisticated cities such as Montevideo and Punta del Este contrast with rugged Atlantic beaches, vineyards producing excellent wine, and the colonial town of Colonia del Sacramento. The pace of life is slow, ideal to enjoy the surroundings at a relaxed pace.

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COLONIA & CARMELO



Colonia de Sacramento lies across the estuary from Buenos Aires, linked by a regular ferry service. The charming historic town was built by Portuguese settlers in the 17th Century and is now a UNESCO World Heritage site, a maze of cobbled streets with the original fortifications. Nearby Carmelo is one of the prime wine producing regions of Uruguay, specialising in a rare red grape called Tannat. There are excellent wineries to visit and taste the wines, and charming boutique hotels for overnight stays.

Posada Plaza Mayor

Tourist

Located in the heart of historic Colonia del Sacramento, Posada Plaza Mayor is a converted house dating from 1860. Full of character, the hotel has many of the original features, including tiled floors and exposed brickwork. The 15 rooms all have air-conditioning and there is a charming interior garden with a small fountain.

Campotinto

First

Posada Campotino is a small homely guesthouse set among the vines of a working winery in Carmelo. There are 4 spacious bedrooms, all with air-conditioning, and there is an outdoor pool for relaxing. The restaurant serves locally produced food, and guests can taste wines, or explore the surrounding area on bicycles or on horseback.

Mercado del Puerto grill, Montevideo



MONTEVIDEO

Montevideo is Uruguay's capital, has wide avenues, grand buildings and European architecture ranging from Colonial to Art Deco. The city is calm and sophisticated, its people friendly, with a rich cultural life including art galleries, theatre and dance. The city also has many thriving markets which sell art, leather goods, and local handicrafts. The Mercado del Puerto has grills serving local food in an informal setting, an excellent place for lunch.

Excursions available:

- Bicycle tour of Montevideo
- Full day visit to Colonia
- Montevideo Art Tour
- Tour of nearby wineries



Alma Historica

First

Located in the heart of the old city, Alma Historica exudes classic style. Its 15 elegant guestrooms are based on figures from Uruguay's history and culture, individually designed and furnished. There is a roof terrace with beautiful views over the square, as well as a library and lounge-bar for breakfast, but no restaurant.

Don Boutique

Tourist

Don Boutique Hotel is small in size but big in style. The art deco exterior gives way to modernist interiors, and its 21 rooms have all modern amenities. There is a rooftop terrace with bar and plunge pool for cooling off and relaxing. Located in the heart of the historic quarter near the port, it is the perfect base to explore the city.

COUNTRY ESTANCIAS

Finca Piedra *Tourist*

Finca Piedra offers a taste of traditional Uruguayan country life, within easy reach of Colonia and Montevideo. With over 1000 hectares of land, guests can ride horses, walk, cycle to explore the surrounding hills and also watch for bird life. There are extensive vineyards accessible to guests, and a working winery open for tastings. The 13 guestrooms are distributed across several small, characterful buildings, all with private bathroom. There are a wide range of excursions available, including horse riding, carriage rides, and bird watching.



Estancia Vik *Deluxe*

A cross between a luxury hotel and a private home, Estancia Vik brings the best of world-class hospitality, service and interior design to the Estancia setting of Eastern Uruguay. The colonial-style building has numerous interior patios and gardens, and modern art lines the walls throughout. The Estancia has its own stables for horse riding and polo, swimming pool and extensive wine cellar. The rooms are stylish, sophisticated and characterful, and all meals and activities are included. The small beachfront town of Jose Ignacio is a short drive away.

PUNTA DEL ESTE & JOSÉ IGNACIO

Trendy, monied and fashionable, Punta del Este is a small city and beach resort - a magnet for wealthy South Americans with holiday villas hidden in the pine forest along the coast. There are beautiful resorts and deluxe hotels, large and small. The many restaurants and cafes are ideal for socialising. Along the coast, Jose Ignacio is a small town resort, with windswept sand dunes, frequented by the trendy regulars, and with rugged Atlantic beaches and authentic local restaurants.



L'Auberge *Deluxe*

Located in an upmarket residential area of Punta del Este, L'Auberge is a luxury oasis in the style of a country cottage, surrounded by gardens. The rooms are homely, decorated with art and antiques. The hotel has a pool and a restaurant, and the beach is a ten minute walk along quiet streets.

Posada del Faro *Tourist*

Located in central Jose Ignacio, Posada del Faro is a charming and homely guesthouse a stone's throw from the beach. There is a small pool in the garden, they operate their own beachclub with a bar and restaurant, and there are bicycles free to borrow.

PRICES FROM 4 days • 3 nights

COLONIA & CARMELO	
Campotinto	£561
Pousada Plaza Mayor	£284
MONTEVIDEO	
Alma Historica	£300
Don Boutique	£231
PUNTA DEL ESTE	
L'Auberge	£438
JOSÉ IGNACIO	
Estancia Vik	£840
Finca Piedra	£690
Posada del Faro	£543

Prices are per person in a Standard Room for double occupancy including accommodation and Breakfast, tax, service charge and transfers. *Prices for Triple room, Single Room on request. Estancia Vik is on all-inclusive basis

NATURALLY URUGUAY

Carmelo Tour

6 night itinerary:

Colonia - 2 night

Montevideo - 2 nights

Punta del Este - 2 nights

Cross the River Plate leading to Colonia with ancient cobbled streets, picturesque vineyards, the modern and artistic cities, the trendy beach resort of Punta del Este and wild Atlantic Beaches.

Day 1 Departure in the morning from your hotel in Buenos Aires to the pier, to take the fast ferry across the River Plate to Colonia del Sacramento in Uruguay. On arrival, we have a tour of the town, walking the cobbled streets and leafy squares with colonial architecture. Colonia was founded by the Portuguese in 1680, alternating ownership with Spain numerous times, until it was the southern most reach of Brasil from 1817 to Independence in 1828; it is now a UNESCO World Heritage Colonial town. Overnight at a traditional hotel. (B)

Day 2 Set off north for a day trip to the Carmelo. Visit to the Finca Narbona Wine Lodge, for a tour of the vineyards, and a tasting of the wine and cheese that they make on the property, and lunch in the restaurant. Overnight in Colonia. (B,L)

Days 3-4 Journey along picturesque

countryside on the banks of the River Plate to Montevideo, Uruguay's capital, a vibrant city with wide squares connected by tree-lined avenues, with many grand neoclassical buildings and art museums. Stay for two nights. Full day tour of the city centre and fashionable districts, including a walk along Rambla, the colourful street markets, and the Mercado del Puerto, at the heart of local lifestyle, with bars, restaurants and outdoor tables serving the country's excellent wines and a great variety of grilled meats. (B)

Days 5-6 Transport to Punta del Este, the trendy beach resort where South America's wealthy and celebrities take their Summer holidays. We stay for two nights at a hotel by the beach with time at leisure to enjoy the seaside setting and the cafes and restaurants of this wealthy city. **Day 7**, return to Montevideo for the ferry back to Buenos Aires. (B)



PRICES FROM 7 days • 6 nights

CARMELO TOUR	£1,600
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Prices are per person based on two sharing a standard room, with transport, transfers, guided excursions with English-speaking guide, and meals as specified in the itinerary.

*Prices for Triple room, Single Room on request.

