

URUGUAY

Special activities



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Activities from Montevideo

Old Town and Mate Tasting Tour (approx. 4h)

Min: 1 pax – Max: 15 pax

You will be guided on a tour through Montevideo's old town with a taste of Uruguay's famous Mate drink which is a drink made by infusing "yerba mate" (dehydrated and shredded leaves of the *Illex Paraguensis* shrub) and is one of the most emblematic and common traditions of Uruguayan society. Your adventure will take you past Montevideo's famous squares, monuments, and down its beautiful pedestrian streets. You will see the Independence Square, Matriz Square, and Zabala Square. Visit a local restaurant where you'll enjoy a Mate Tasting paired with local homemade pastries. Continue your tour along the Perez Castellano Pedestrian Street to the famous Port Market for some free time to visit local vendors and shops. Try some local food on your own or search for a great souvenir.



****Remarks:** *The course and order of the visits may change. When the cathedral is open, it can be visited from inside.*

The opening hours of the cathedral are Monday to Saturday from 9:00-18:00 o'clock and Sunday from 10:00-12:30 o'clock.

It is possible to visit museums located in the old town, but entrance fees are not included.

We recommend wearing comfortable shoes for this walk of about 3 km. Maximum number of participants is 15.

Tango Dancing in Montevideo (approx. 1h 45min)

Min: 1 pax – Max: 20 pax



In 2009, Tango was declared Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. Originally a genre that emerged from the outskirts of Montevideo and Buenos Aires at the end of 19th century. Nowadays, Tango is danced all over the world as well as in international competitions.

Tango is an urban musical expression and a unique development in the musical tradition of the River Plate.

You will enjoy a tango class (it can be on a regular or a private basis. Regular classes are subject to availability and they are usually once a week. There you will be able to dance with your teachers, with some regulars, or with your own partner.

Visit to drum Atelier "El Power" by Lobo Nuñez (approx. 1h 45min)

Min: 1 pax – Max: 20 pax

Carnival in Uruguay is a mix of European and African traditions. There five categories in which local carnival groups compete each year. Drummers and dancers play and dance to a drum-based rhythm known as Candombe, which originally comes from Angola and the Congo. The African slaves that were brought to South America in the 17th and 18th century used Candombe as a means to express their culture and united their history, culture and religion in

the music and the dance moves. After Uruguay's Declaration of Independence in 1825, slavery was abolished. Candombe, however, remained present in Uruguay's culture and has become not only very popular but also an important link for the different ethnicities.

Visit to the Studio of "Lobo Nunez", an Afro-Uruguayan, renowned drums luthier who started as a drum maker in 1974, with Don Juan Piemonte, in a workshop that was in La Cumparsita Street and Santiago de Chile. In 1984 he established his own workshop called "El Power" in his house located at 1017 Carlos Gardel Street.

Due to his tradition and respect for the work he does in the workshop "El Power" is the most important drum maker in Uruguay and consequently in the world. His drums have arrived to different countries like; Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Chile, Venezuela, United States, Mexico, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Australia, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Japan, Korea, and more.



Dare to enter the magical world of the Uruguayan drums!

Birdwatching in the Wetlands of Montevideo (approx. 4h)

Min 2 pax – Max: 30 pax



Spend the day immersed in Uruguay's stunning natural beauty and wildlife on this exciting guided bird watching tour. A scenic drive across the city will bring you to the West of Montevideo, where your unique adventure will unfold. Your birding specialist guide will give you detailed information about the areas to be visited and what species will be seen. You will then venture into the native bush. Explore various bird watching viewpoints, which represent different ecosystems (native coastal forest, wetlands, and the beach).

****Remarks:** This tour is not appropriate for guests with limited mobility or those in the use of a wheelchair.

Visit of Wiebe dairy farm (approx. 2h)

Min 1 pax



Visit the **Wiebe Dairy Farm**, a family business with German ancestors. Here German customs such as dedication and striving for perfection are written in capital letters.

The farm produces milk for the production of cheese. The factory is designed to produce 20,000 litres of milk per day, which is the maximum production that can be achieved on the dairy farm. The cheeses that the farm produces are Colonia, Dambo, Parmesano and Reggianito. You will make a short tour of the dairy farm. At the end of the visit you will enjoy a cheese tasting.

****Remarks:** *Wiebe dairy farm is located 1.30 hs from Montevideo and 1 hr from Colonia del Sacramento. We recommend to do this visit to passengers that have a transfer from Montevideo to Colonia del Sacramento. The 2 hs it is the time passengers spend on the dairy farm, it does not include the time of the transfers.*

Full day excursion to Florida including visit of a local dairy farm, the town of Cardal, and two local plant projects including lunch (approx. 8h)

Min 1 pax

Depart from Montevideo and drive approximately 1,5h to the small town of **Veinticinco de Agosto**. More than 70 giant paintings on the walls and on the houses, are part of the charm of this town. They were painted by Leo Art, a French artist who fell in love with the surroundings of the town and did not stop painting. Her atelier is also situated at the same place.

Leo (as the artist's signature), was born in Paris and started with plastic arts in her childhood, exhibiting her work for the first time in Provence, before starting a journey that took her to capture various sceneries around the world, including the small village of Veinticinco de Agosto, where she has been living now for several years.

In love with the town, she began to paint diverse and colorful murals in 2012, the paintings being always related to characters and inhabitants of the surroundings, with themes chosen by the inhabitants of the houses where they were painted. The works range from naturalism to expressionism and even include mystical compositions.

In September 2015, the "Vagon Atelier" (atelier wagon) was inaugurated, where the artist exhibited several of her creations and even began to plan tourist routes, so that visitors of the village could better interpret the artists' creations and enjoy this new tourist and heritage attraction.



After the visit, continue 15 minutes heading North to the "**Tambo La Oportunidad**" (dairy farm 'The Opportunity') located at the 1.300 souls town of Cardal. This town has been called "capital of the dairy basin" for some time, due to the fact that it accounts for 30% of the whole milk production in Uruguay. Also its whole population is involved in the milk production sector.

The owners of the farm have lived there for over 20 years and have begun dedicating themselves exclusively to the milk industry a few time ago. They also open their doors to tourists, which makes it possible to learn about their daily life and work at the farm.

When taking a tour around the grounds with Andrea Baracco, the owener, you learn that the calves and cows are divided into different stages: "próximas" (next), "guacheras" (young), "primera" (first) and "segunda" (second). The farm has a cold tank of 4.000 liters for the milk to be stored at 4°C. The farm produces around 60.000 liters of

milk a month.

The establishment also offers a small kiosk, where typical local products are offered, such as red wine, "dulce de leche" (milk caramel), different types of local cheese, honey and an array of home-made jams. Enjoy a tasting of local wine and cheese here.

Proceed to **lunch** at the "Asociación de Pasivos de Cardal" (Association of pensioners) where menus are prepared with typical products of the area. Enjoy a typical 3-course meal (drinks not included) prepared with local ingredients that culminates in a milk-based dessert, such as milk rice, or flan (pudding) with "dulce de leche" (milk caramel).

After lunch, you will be taken to a small tour around the town of **Cardal**, visiting the principal plaza, where you find a quaint collection of old agricultural machines, the old train station and the park "Parque Centenario".

A nice attraction of the town is also the "**Capilla Fenocchi**", a small chapel dating back to 1891. Pedro Fehocchi was an Italian immigrant who arrived in Uruguay in the second half of the 19th century and settled in Florida. He also brought his wife Teresa Marioni and their three daughters with him. Later, the family grew with the birth of five more daughters.

Due to a diphtheria epidemic that hit the region in 1889, four of their daughters died under tragic circumstances, since for sanitary reasons it was not allowed to bury the bodies in the cemetery, allowing the disease to spread.

Therefore the four girls were buried one kilometer away from the house, where the chapel was built later in their honor.

The chapel has four trees around it and a cross with four hands decorating its front, symbolizing the four deceased daughters. The access to the chapel is by crossing a small wooden bridge and lush vegetation, a place of peace and tranquility.

Afterwards, you will drive to the "**Vivero plantas nativas Cardal**" (Native plants nursery Cardal). The project consists of the installation and commissioning of a Native Plant Nursery where material will be generated from native species of the area. The goal of the project is to capacitate staff, to raise and obtain native plants to contribute to the restoration of the ecosystems on the shores of Lake Paso Severino and to raise environmental awareness among the local population. You will be taken around and discover more about this important effort. This is carried out through training talks open to all public. In addition, the project works with schools, high schools and producer groups in the area as a way to raise environmental awareness and of the importance of native forests in biodiversity and in the recovery of watersheds.

To finalize the tour, you will be taken to a **native herbs production project**, located at the town of 25 de Mayo and brought to life by 9 local women, one of them an agronomy engineer.

They joined efforts and their love for plants with the aim of promoting the consumption of native fruits, the use of natural salad dressings and the cultivation of medicinal plants.

With their project, they became part of the "Fondos de Iniciativas Locales de Florida Sustentable" (Local Sustainable Florida Initiatives Foundation) and began to change the landscape of 25 de Mayo and the surrounding area with native grass and tree plantations.

"Pata de vaca", "Mburucuyá", "Milenrama" and "Cola de Lagarto" are just some of the herbs that these women harvest, dry, pack and sell to a renowned Montevideo herbalist that distributes them throughout the country.

Apart from the herbs, there are also grown local fruit at the project, which are used to make jam or even licors. Enjoy a tasting of these local products. You can also support the project by buying some of their home-made products or with a small contribution.

****Remarks:** Visits are subject to availability.



Activities from Montevideo or Punta del Este

Cooking class at Viñedo de los Vientos Winery (approx. 6h)

Min: 4 pax – Max: 10 pax

Departure to Atlántida located 55 km east from Montevideo.

If you are hungry and thirsty of authentic uruguayan cooking experience this is the right tour for you! At the winery the staff will welcome you with a glass of white wine to present you the program of the day: You will start with a short tour of our vineyard and winery. Then you will move to kitchen for the cooking class and to prepare lunch with the hosts. Afterwards you will enjoy a homemade lunch paired with Viñedo de los Vientos wine. What is provided?



- Welcome appetizers
- The lunch cooked together and accompanied by Viñedo de los Vientos Wines (one white, one red and one great reserve wine)
- Kitchen notebook with the recipes (Empanadas with salsa criolla, Meat and vegetable barbacue and chimichurri, alfajor de maicena)
- Viñedo de los Vientos apron
- Mineral water and coffee

Stay at a traditional Estancia (Guardia del Monte) – overnight stay required

Located 254 km from Montevideo and 145 km from Punta del Este



Guardia del Monte is a small working estancia on the shores of Laguna de Castillos, covered in beautiful bougainvillea. There is a very large Ombu tree in the garden and a forest of ancient Ombu trees nearby (which are protected and Unesco World Heritage Site). This forest, with its more than 500-year-old trees and deeply entwined above-ground roots, is reminiscent of a fairy tale world. There is an open kitchen and lovely family dining room, and traditional “asados” are prepared in the restaurant of Guardia del Monte. The activities in the Estancia are riding, walking in the forest and bird-watching in

the wetlands. The Ombu forest is one of the only ones in the world; some of the trees are over 500 years old and have a diameter of 2 meters. The lagoon is nearby for fishing and exploring. The live-in owners at the estancia provide personalized attention to all their guests and will make you feel right at home, while the nearby old town combines charming rural comfort with a wide array of outdoor activities.

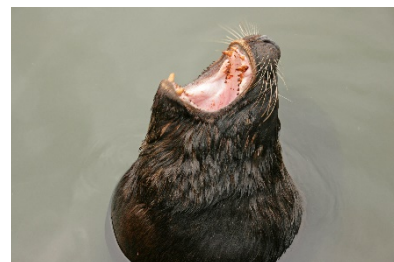
Activities from Punta del Este

Visit of the Sea Lions' Island (approx. 2.5h)

Min 2 pax – Max: 30 pax

This excursion is especially suitable for animal lovers and leads to a unique colony of sea lions. The nature reserve is located only 10 km before Punta del Este on the so-called “Isla de Lobos”. From a local boat you can observe the colony on the small island. After about 45 minutes you will return to the hotel.

This is the largest non-migrating sea lion colony in the world.
****Remarks:** *The boat is on shared basis. Transfers are with private English speaking guide.*



Panoramic flight over Punta del Este (approx. 2.5h)

Min 1 pax – Max: 3 pax



Welcome aboard!

Take a flight over one of the most famous beach resorts in South America. Experience how the Rio de la Plata merges with the Atlantic Ocean, enjoy the magnificent view of Punta del Este (translated "eastern tip") and learn to understand the meaning of the name.

You will be lied to: Manantiales, La Barra, Playa Brava, Peninsula, Bay, Gorriti Island, Punta Ballena, Maldonado.

Departures: Every day from El Jaguel airport, depending on weather conditions. We will pick you up from the hotel 15 minutes before. Flight duration:

about 30 min

****Remarks:** *The plain is on shared basis. Transfers are with private English speaking guide.*

Full day excursion to Cabo Polonio (approx. 8h)

Min 1 pax

The "**Cabo-Polonio**" **National Park** is an area of scenic beauty that still preserves typical features of the original Uruguayan Atlantic coast.

This coastal area is characterized by its diverse beauty, including sandy beaches, rocky areas, dunes, coastal forests, small swamps, oceanic environments and islands.

Many of these ecosystems are a priority for the SNAP (National System of National Parks and Protected Areas) due to their limited distribution in the territory of Uruguay. The most outstanding component - because of its uniqueness - is the dune system of Cabo Polonio, which is the largest



remnant of a strip of sand that once stretched along the entire coast. It is one of the few areas with shifting sand dunes in the region, reaching a height of over 20 metres.

The Cabo Polonio National Park is home to several protected species, including endangered or threatened species (such as the Darwin Toad), plant and animal species of limited distribution (such as the "Banana do mato", the four-eyed frog and the pond turtle) and migratory species of regional and global importance (such as terns, southern right whales and green turtles).

It also includes key sites for the annual cycle of crustaceans of commercial interest (such as pink shrimps, marine shrimps and sea prawns) and for the breeding and feeding of more than 47 fish species (catfish, Corvina, forkbeards, Silverside).

Almost half of the populations of two sea lion species are found on the islands near Cabo Polonio, where their rutting and breeding grounds are located. The rocky area of Cabo Polonio is home to the only continental settlement of fur seals in the country and offers a unique opportunity to observe these animals at close range.

The small village is surrounded by shifting dunes, which shape the coast up to Valizas. There are very few inhabitants, as most of the houses have neither electricity nor running water.

****Remarks:** *Lunch is not included.*

From Colonia del Sacramento or Carmelo

Visit and wine tasting at the winery "Viñedos y Olivares del Quintón" (approx. 5h)

Min 1 pax



The establishment is located about one hour from Colonia in El Quintón, in the department of Colonia. Discover the exciting world of wine and olive oil produced here. Marvel at the landscape of rocks, lush vegetation, small lakes, and native flora and fauna that represents a unique ecosystem in the region. Let your senses be seduced by the local wines and olive oils.

You will get to know the oil mill and the winery where excellent oils and wines are produced. Afterwards an olive oil and wine tasting.

****Remarks:** Transfers are organized by the

winery.

The visit includes a short video that explains the activities to be carried out and gives you information about the olive groves, vines and the oil mill.

Full Day tour to Fray Bentos incl. a comprehensive visit to the Anglo Meatpacking plant and the Museum of the Industrial Revolution, declared a Unesco World Heritage site in July 2015_(approx. 8h)

Min 1 pax



You will be picked up from your hotel and will drive approx. 2h to the small Uruguayan town Fray Bentos, once called the "Kitchen of the World".

Initially manufactured for the working classes, the tinned cooked meat became a staple for many people in Britain and continental Europe. "I was brought up on it. I remember eating corned beef until it came out of my ears," said Prince Charles during a visit to Uruguay in 1999. Fray Bentos is the original location of the main factory of the German-British Liebig Extract of Meat Company. Established in 1863, it produced meat extract, tinned beef and by-products. Renamed the

Anglo Meatpacking plant in 1924, the factory fed generations of Europeans and allied troops during World War I and II.

Such was its importance as a food exporter that the town was once known as "The Kitchen of the World". "Not only did our products fill European stomachs, they also got into European hearts and minds," said historian Rene Boretto, director of the "Museum of the Industrial Revolution", which is on the site of the former abattoir.

"In World War I, soldiers would say 'Fray Bentos' to indicate that something was good, the same way we nowadays say OK," Mr Boretto said.

Thousands of people worked in the factory which increased and diversified the use of agricultural products. When it was shut down in the late 70s the opportunity for the creation of a unique museum was presented, where the original machinery and social and cultural artifacts of the technological revolution in Fray Bentos can be shown to the world. It is a great project to preserve the German and British industrial heritage. All this work is also very important for the preservation of the history of the city of Fray Bentos, which grew simultaneously with the factory. The museum shows the machinery used in the meat and extract of meat process, the several buildings, an 1893 Merryweather



water pumping machine, a complete canning plant, an invaluable and extremely interesting plant where the meat was cooked, a laboratory full of chemicals and chemistry jars, flasks and stoves and hundreds of photos and glass negatives with the Liebig's Company working life... Fray Bentos' industrial heritage of buildings and machinery is still intact.

****Remarks:** *In case of rain the factory visit is suspended. Passengers can still visit the museum but not the ex Meatpacking plant.*