

3. PUNTA DEL ESTE



Punta del Este, located 130 km (81 mi) away from Montevideo or only an hour and half by car, is called the St. Tropez of Uruguay for its miles of beautiful, pristine beaches, its upscale and exclusive resort tradition, glittery nightlife and also an upscale summer population. Here one can also enjoy different sport practices such as golf, horseback riding, and specially water sports. Its best-known main avenue is called „la Gorlero” and it turns into a glamorous catwalk where thousands of visitors parade without missing any

detail, both during the day and at night. At Artigas Square, another emblematic site for afternoon gatherings, numerous stands display beautiful handicrafts made with rock, glass, wood and other materials. In the surroundings of Southern Punta del Este locations such as Portezuelo, Solanas and Punta Ballena (Whale Point) can be visited. There it is also the location of “Casapueblo”, a majestic masterpiece made by Uruguayan sculpture Carlos Páez Vilaró. Apart from housing a hotel, this venue is a museum and atelier where paintings, ceramics and sculptures are presented in numerous shows. Another site to visit, this time towards the North, is Isla de Lobos (Sea-lions Island), located off the shores of Playa Brava. In addition to a big lighthouse, the largest colony of sea lions in South America may be observed right on this spot. Punta del Este has everything. No wonder it is known as “the Pearl of Uruguay”.

Punta del Este - Excursions

Punta del Este & Ralli Museum (approx. 3 hours)

Begin your tour with a scenic drive through Punta del Este’s most fashionable and impressive neighbourhoods. Pass through the residential areas of Cantegril, San Rafael, Parque Golf and La Barra de Maldonado, known for its unique hanging bridges. You’ll stop at the Ralli Museum of Contemporary Art with its fine collection of paintings and sculptures by noted Latin American artists, and several pieces by Salvador Dalí on permanent display. The attractive modern building is located in the Beverly Hills district. Your drive will next take you past Punta del Este’s natural wonders--its glorious beaches. Then take advantage of a photo stop at Punta Ballena for sweeping views up and down the coast, including a wonderful view of Casapueblo--the home and workshop of internationally-renowned artist Carlos Paez Vilaró. Return to the hotel.

Remarks: Ralli museum closed on Mondays.

During visit at Ralli Museum few steps to arrive and walking in the Museum to see the exhibition.

Punta del Este Highlights & Lunch at Siglo XX (approx. 6,5 hours)

Begin your tour with an hour-long sightseeing tour through this upscale resort. Pass through the residential areas of Cantegril, San Rafael, Parque Golf and Beverly Hills. After the city tour the drive goes through beautiful countryside to Siglo XX located 20 minutes from downtown. It is itself a museum of the first decades of the last century (any objects or ornaments in the ranch were manufactured before 1930) and it is today an Alpaca raising ranch which mostly deals with Huacaya Alpacas and “Corriedale” lamb breed and also houses horses and various exotic animals. The main house was once a stage coach stop

when Uruguay was a colony of Spain allowing carriages to exchange horses and allowed people to rest.

We'll be warmly greeted by the ranch people and enjoy a welcome of empanadas (meat pies) and wine and taken to the Antiques Museum. This museum offers a sample of radios, phones, typewriters, cameras and cars dating from the turn of the last century. We'll also enjoy a visit to the Alpaca farm. The Estancia also has many beautiful amenities such as a pool, a soccer field and several Uruguayan farm games (taba, tejo, sapo, croquet) or one can also choose to horseback ride on one of the Estancias beautiful horses. The guests will enjoy the typical Uruguayan barbeque for lunch ("asado") where the meats are grilled very slowly in our asador over natural wood to ensure exceptional meat taste (Siglo XX do not use charcoal), along with excellent Uruguayan wine bottled by the best Uruguayan vineyard. Shopping of Uruguayan handcrafted, leather and domestic art will be available at the Estancia.

Remark: *For the farm visit we recommend wearing comfortable clothing and sturdy shoes.*

Punta del Este Orientation Tour incl. visit to Jose Ignacio & Lunch (approx. 6 hours)

You will begin your tour with an hour-long sightseeing promenade through this upscale resort. Pass through the residential areas of Cantegril, San Rafael, Parque Golf and Beverly Hills. Make a stop at Ralli Museum of Contemporary Art with its fine collection of paintings and sculptures by noted Latin American artists, and several pieces by Salvador Dali on permanent display. The attractive modern building is located in the Beverly Hills district. Note: Mondays closed. Carry on to La Barra de Maldonado, known for its unique hanging bridges and to stop for lunch at Narbona Farm. Your drive will next take you past some of Punta's natural wonders – its beaches, through the most sophisticated like Montoya and Bikini, Manantiales up to the very upscale, exclusive José Ignacio. Once a quiet and small picturesque town of local people, fishermen and divers and cut off from civilization by two wonderful lagoons without a bridge. Today it is known as the "Hamptons of South America" due to the jet set who live and vacation here. In this charming and relaxing part of Uruguay, there is a sign as you enter - Max Speed 35 Km "Here, only the wind runs". This describes the type of life preservation in José Ignacio. Return to the hotel along the picturesque coastal road.

Depending on the day of the visit and number of participants, Restaurant Options to be reconfirmed.

City Tour incl. internal visit to Ralli Museum and Casapueblo (approx. 3,5 hours)

After tendering ashore, enjoy a scenic drive through Punta del Este's most fashionable and impressive neighbourhoods. Pass through the residential areas of Cantegril, San Rafael, Parque Golf and La Barra de Maldonado, known for its unique hanging bridges. Make a stop at Ralli Museum of Contemporary Art with its fine collection of paintings and sculptures by noted Latin American artists, and several pieces by Salvador Dali on permanent display. The attractive modern building is located in the Beverly Hills district. Your drive will next take you past some of Punta's natural wonders – its beaches. Stop at Punta Ballena for sweeping views up and down the coast, before ending your drive at Casapueblo, the home and atelier of internationally renowned artist, Carlos Paez Vilaró. The dazzling white complex, resembling Spanish-Moroccan architecture, is situated on a rocky bluff overlooking the ocean. Vilaró built it in 1958 with his own hands, using only traditional tools. Narrow steps lead to a maze of rooms scattered on different levels and filled with the artist's works. Return to the hotel along the picturesque coastal road.

Remarks:

During visit at Ralli Museum few steps to arrive and walking in the Museum to see the exhibition.

During visit at Casapueblo: The atelier and exhibition is made on different levels. There are a few steps up and down between the levels.

Punta del Este – Maldonado History and Art (approx. 3,5 hours)

Maldonado, the capital of the province by the same name, is one of the oldest cities in Uruguay, dating back to 1755. On our tour you will visit historical sites and museums. The first stop is at the former Customs House built in 1790; today it is used as House of Culture: Art School, Public and Braille Library and Museum. You continue to walk and visit the Dragons' Military House which was part of Maldonado's fortifications built in 1771; nowadays it is the Museum dedicated to National Hero General Jose Gervasio Artigas. From the Colonial period you go on to more recent times visiting an old public school and the Nicolas Garcia Uriburu Collection Museum, with paintings and sculptures (from 1880-1945) by Uruguayan artists. You walk to the Main Square to observe landmark buildings such as Maldonado's Cathedral which can tell interesting stories about its altar and images rescued from a sunken ship. Visit San Fernando Stroll: old military barracks and prison, today are used by a Music and Dance Public School; you visit the Puppet Museum which has a complete collection of puppet-player Maese Pedro and other manifestations of puppetry art. On the last part of the walking tour you visit the Museum of American Art of Maldonado (MAAM). Its unique collection provides a thorough overview from 5.000 years ago up to the present time, including pre-Columbian art, Colonial, Popular & Folk art, complemented with excellent pieces from Africa and the Pacific Islands. MAAM also exhibits a great number of paintings and sculptures by important contemporary Latin American artists. Return to the hotel.

Remarks:

Not available on Mondays. Lunch not included. Alternative optional visits: Museums may be changed by a similar alternative, in the event of closing due to strike, repair or traffic problems in the day of the visit

City tour by bike in Punta del Este

Hop on a bike for this enjoyable and scenic ride, showcasing the highlights of the resort city of Punta del Este. This tour gives you the chance to keep physically fit and in good shape while contributing to reducing CO2 emissions.

Stop for photos at the old lighthouse, with crystal panels that radiate light from the top of the lighthouse's 150 stairs. Cicle past Candelaria Church and other highlights of Punta del Este, including the beautiful neighborhood of San Rafael and stunning Brava Beach, where you can pose in front of the city's unique sculpture, La Mano, or The Hand. Sculptor Mario Irarrázabal created these iconic, massive fingertips that look as though they are reaching up through the soft sand. They also mark the division between the end of the La Plata River and the beginning of the Atlantic Ocean, warning swimmers about the choppy waves at that spot. This smooth bike ride past the beaches and sights is an easy way to get a little exercise and tour this gorgeous seaside town.

Places visited: Old Light House, Candelaria Church, San Rafael neighborhood, Brava Beach, Los Ingleses Beach, El Emir Beach, Gorlero Avenue, Calle 20, Sculpture La Mano (the Hand), Golf Park area, Mansa Beach.

****Remark:** *A safety briefing will be given and cycle helmets are compulsory (helmets will be provided on the spot). Passengers must have previous experience riding a bike. The ride includes a slight incline but is mainly downhill or flat with frequent stops. It is recommended to wear clothing suitable for bike riding. Please bring a small bag to store your bottle of water during your tour. The tour is not recommended for passengers with mobility issues, back or heart problems and pregnant women. Open toe shoes and sandals are not permitted. Children must be 8 years old or older to take part. It is necessary that all participants sign a waiver certificate.*

Full Day Montevideo (approx. 8,5 hours)

From the hotel in Punta del Este to Montevideo is an approximately 1,5-hour drive. Upon arrival, your tour of Uruguay's capital city begins with a drive through the residential areas of Carrasco, Pocitos, Batlle y Ordoñez Park. You'll pass the soccer stadium, the obelisk, La Carreta (the covered wagon monument), 18 de Julio Avenue, Independence Square with the Artigas National Hero Monument and the Old Town. Enjoy lunch at the Port Market where an impressive wrought-iron structure shelters a variety of Parrilladas - barbecue restaurants. The market is a lively, colourful place where the city's artists and street musicians create and perform. After lunch, continue past the Congress Building to the Prado area. Relax as you drive along the city's chain of lovely beaches en route back to Punta del Este.

Please note: Wear rubber-soled shoes to facilitate getting in and out of the excursion boat. Tour operates weather dependent. Walking distance to the boat is approximately 500 yards.

Opening Times for Attractions in Punta del Este				
Site	Weekdays		Weekends	
Casapueblo	Mon – Fri	10.00h – sunset	Sat – Sun	10.00h – sunset
Museo Ralli (Ralli Museum)	Tue - Fri	<u>Jan & Feb:</u> 17.00h – 21.00h <u>Easter, Mar & Dec:</u> 14.00h – 18.00h <u>Apr – Nov:</u> closed	Sat – Sun	<u>Jan – Feb:</u> 17.00h – 21.00h <u>Easter, Mar – May & Oct – Dec:</u> 14.00h – 18.00h <u>Jun – Set:</u> closed
Museo Fundación Pablo Atchugarry (Pablo Atchugarry Foundation)	Tue-Fri	<u>Apr – Nov:</u> 10.00h – 18.00h <u>Dec – Mar:</u> 10.00h – 21.00h	Sat Sun	<u>Apr – Nov:</u> 10.00h – 18.00h <u>Dec – Mar:</u> 10.00h – 21.00h closed