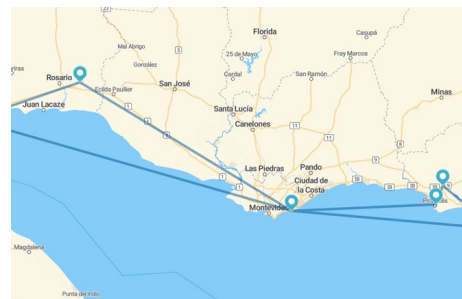


Uruguay, 10 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route from the picturesque Colonia to the ever-vibrant Punta del Este

Nestled between Brazil and Argentina is this pocket-sized country, which boasts endless white beaches reminiscent of the Mediterranean. An enchanting and laid-back country that will captivate you with its welcoming people and stunning nature. Wander through the old town of Montevideo, stroll along the city's lively boulevards and discover places such as the Mercado del Puerto, the Metropolitan Cathedral or the iconic Palacio Salvo. Admire the art found on the streets and in the plazas of this dynamic capital city, where music is always omnipresent as well. Discover the picturesque Colonia del Sacramento, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the scene of historical disputes between Spain and Portugal. Leisurely stroll through the colonial-style old town and fall in love with its winding cobble streets and its famous Calle de los Suspiros (Street of Sighs). Visit Nueva Helvecia, a little piece of Switzerland transported to the southern hemisphere, and explore Punta del Este, one of the most attractive destinations in the whole of South America. Lounge on its famous beaches, stroll around its modern marinas and elegant residential neighbourhoods, and marvel at the spectacular sunsets over the ocean.



EXOTIC

Departure date: Departures from June 2026 till May 2027

From: Dublin

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - MONTEVIDEO

Flight departure from the city of origin to Montevideo.

Night on board.

DAY 2 · MONTEVIDEO

Arrival and rental car pick-up.

Rest of the day at your leisure to explore Montevideo, an ever-vibrant city in the Río de la Plata estuary surrounded by sweeping fine-sand beaches and dotted with attractive landscaped spaces. You can start your visit in the Ciudad Vieja, which is the Spanish name for the old town of Montevideo. Stroll along its narrow streets flanked by old buildings and discover its cute plazas. On Avenida Sarandí, a vibrant and colourful pedestrianised retail strip, you can visit the Torres García Museum and admire the paintings of Montevideo-born artist Joaquín Torres García. In Plaza de la Independencia you'll find the equestrian statue of General José Gervasio Artigas, the father of Uruguayan nationhood. Next to it is his mausoleum, which you can visit. (Admission not included). Make sure you take a photo at the entrance of the Citadel, which was the old gate that protected the city in colonial times. Only some stretches of the wall are preserved today. Also in Plaza de la Independencia is the Palacio Salvo, the most iconic building in Montevideo. Up until 1935, it was the tallest building in South America, towering just over one hundred metres. Another must-see is Plaza Matriz, also known as Plaza de la Constitución, where the neoclassical Metropolitan Cathedral is located. Have you worked up an appetite after so much sightseeing? A great idea is to head to the popular Mercado del Puerto, which in recent years has become a fascinating gastro market with a whole host of restaurants. This is the perfect place to savour a typically Uruguayan beef platter accompanied by a 'medio y medio' (mixture of sweet sparkling wine and dry white wine). And don't forget to try mate!, a very popular drink in the country. (Note: If you're looking for a cinema-worthy experience, head to the Teatro Solís in Plaza de la Independencia, where there are guided tours with actors. Advance booking is recommended. Not included). The Old Town of Montevideo is the financial hub of the city during the day. At night, it's also a great place to have dinner or a drink at the trendy bars and restaurants found here. Uruguayan cuisine is exquisite and will give you an insight into the country's rich history. In addition to more traditional dishes, you can savour creations with Hispanic and Italian influences, although always fused with Creole touches. The result is a delicious cuisine that will surprise even the most discerning palates. Nightlife in Montevideo is very diverse. If you're after some live music, head to the historic "Baar Fun Fun" (Ciudadela 1229). This is the oldest bar in the city and was frequented by tango singer Carlos Gardel. Another of our favourites is "Milongón" (Gaboto 1810), where you can dine while enjoying an amazing tango and folklore show.

Overnight stay in Montevideo.

DAY 3 · MONTEVIDEO - COLONIA DEL SACRAMENTO

After enjoying a delicious breakfast and taking a final stroll through Montevideo, you can set off on the road. We recommend heading west along the coast to Colonia del Sacramento, which is one hundred and eighty kilometres away on the toll road Ruta 1 Brigadier General Manuel Oribe. (Note: Remember that tolls are not included). Colonia del Sacramento was declared a World Heritage Site in 1995 thanks to its magnificent architectural legacy, a mixture of Portuguese, Spanish and post-colonial styles. Located next to the entrance of the Paraná and Uruguay Rivers, the city is separated from Buenos Aires by a stretch of water. In addition to its privileged location, the town boasts a fascinating past, as it started out as a Portuguese settlement in present-day Uruguay. Wandering through its streets is like a journey to a bygone era. A moat, a drawbridge and a wall were all added to the original city gate, known as Puerta del Campo, that led into the colony. Calle de los Suspiros (Street of Sighs) retains all the charm of that era. Also eye-catching are the rich colours of the houses and the wedge-shaped paving. The Basilica of the Santísimo Sacramento is the oldest church in Uruguay, dating all the way back to 1680. Other fascinating corners of Colonia del Sacramento are Plaza Mayor, where the troops used to be inspected, the Casa del Virrey and the Casa Nacarello, a rustic eighteenth-century building converted into a museum that showcases furniture and historical objects of interest. From the nineteenth-century lighthouse, which is still in full working order, there's a splendid view over the old town and the mouth of the Río de la Plata. Nearby are the oldest ruins in Uruguay, found at the Convento de San Francisco, which date back to between 1683 and 1704. And make sure you don't miss the sunset over the Río de la Plata next to the bastion of San Pedro! Another must-visit is the Real de San Carlos, a former Spanish military enclave with an image of San Benito and an old bullring today in disuse. Colonia del Sacramento is home to several museums, including the Museo Español, which showcases clothing from the Spanish period, and the Museo Portugués, which exhibits weapons used by the Portuguese forces in the war with the Spaniards. Meanwhile, the Museo de los Azulejos will give you a colourful insight into Spanish, Portuguese and French tiles. (Note: There's a special pass to visit all the museums in Colonia). You'll find dozens of excellent restaurants both in the old town of Colonia and in the surrounding area. You choose whether to round off the day with a haute cuisine meal or with typical dishes such as 'milanesa', which is fried breaded meat accompanied by potatoes.

Bid farewell to the day by taking a stroll through the atmospherically lit streets in town. As you wander around, you'll discover some incredible places oozing with charisma.

Overnight stay in Colonia del Sacramento.

DAY 4 · COLONIA DEL SACRAMENTO - NUEVA HELVECIA - MONTEVIDEO

Before leaving Colonia del Sacramento, you can head to the Aaron Anchorena Park, gifted to the country for its conservation and use as a retreat for the president in office. Here you can enjoy a reserve of fauna and flora and the Torre Panorámica, from where you can see the Argentinian and Uruguayan coasts and a splendid panoramic view of the park. When you're ready, you can set off for your next destination. Leave Colonia del Sacramento in the direction of Montevideo, but turn off on National Route 52 and stop in Nueva Helvecia, about sixty kilometres away. Nueva Helvecia is known as the Swiss Colony, as it was founded in 1862 by Swiss emigrants, in addition to a few French, Austrians and Germans, making these lands the most important agricultural centre of Uruguay. Several dairy-related and metallurgical industries are clustered here now. Nueva Helvecia is a quaint Central European-style city that preserves many of the customs of its ancestors and where fondue and sauerkraut are combined with barbecues and local wines. Don't forget to try the local cheese and homemade jams. It's a laid-back place packed with cute squares and landmarks such as Plaza de los Fundadores, the Evangelical Chapel, the Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Schoenstatt or the Tanque de Ose, which resembles buildings in Basel. Nueva Helvecia also has wonderful beaches and bathing spots that you can enjoy.

Overnight stay in Montevideo.

DAY 5 · MONTEVIDEO

Today, you can take advantage of the day to continue exploring Montevideo. Take a stroll along the Rambla, the long promenade that runs through the city. Or head over to the Pocitos neighbourhood, which has a sandy beach, shop-lined streets and a lively nightlife, with bars, clubs and restaurants. Meanwhile, the Prado neighbourhood is one of the most beautiful districts in Montevideo and is home to the Parque del Prado, the Rosedal and the botanical garden. In this vibrant neighbourhood, you'll also find the Juan Manuel Blanes Municipal Museum of Fine Arts, with paintings by Blanes himself and Pedro Figari, two of the most famous Uruguayan painters; and the Museum of Anthropology, which hosts an important collection of Uruguayan archaeology. There are many other museums to visit in Montevideo such as the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Carnival Museum, the Museum of Pre-Columbian and Indigenous Art and the Museum of Decorative Arts, which is located in the Palacio Taranco, listed as a National Historic Landmark and home to a collection of classical and Muslim archaeology. Shopping lovers are in luck here, too. Montevideo has sweeping avenues and modern shopping centres where you'll find the perfect gift. If you fancy buying some handicrafts or souvenirs, we recommend the Mercado de los Artesanos, in Plaza de Cagancha. And after a busy day, nothing better than popping out for drinks on the nearby Avenida del 18 de Julio, which runs from the obelisk to Plaza de la Independencia, where you'll find shops, bars, restaurants and important historical buildings.

Overnight stay in Montevideo.

DAY 6 · MONTEVIDEO - PIRIÁPOLIS - PAN DE AZÚCAR - PUNTA DEL ESTE

Leave the capital behind and head eastwards along the coast on the Ruta IB/Interbalnearia. After a hundred kilometres you'll arrive in Piriápolis, a spa town founded by the businessman Francisco Piria in 1890. Laid-back and wonderfully welcoming, the town is set between the sea and woodland. You can start off your visit by walking along the popular Rambla de los Argentinos, the hub of the city. The Argentino Hotel is the most iconic landmark in Piriápolis. Built in 1920 in an elegant Belle Époque style, it's the culmination of the town that Francisco Piria designed. Take the chairlift up the Cerro de San Antonio, which is crowned by the Church of San Antonio. And from the Pan de Azúcar hill, topped with a cross, you'll get to see stunning views of Piriápolis. In the foothills of Pan de Azúcar, you can visit a reserve dedicated to the reproduction of Uruguayan animals, which live in semi-captivity or recreated natural habitats. In the port of Piriápolis, frequented by dozens of boats, you can enjoy a pleasant lunch at one of the many restaurants. And then round the day off in Punta del Este, located half an hour away.

Overnight stay in Punta del Este.

DAY 7 · PUNTA DEL ESTE

This is one of the most heavenly places on the Uruguayan coast. Punta del Este enjoys a privileged Mediterranean climate. It's stunningly beautiful, with endless beaches and luxurious summer residences surrounded by forests and mountains. Punta del Este has a wide range of accommodation, services and countless restaurants and shopping centres where you can while away the hours. It's the perfect destination for water sports such as surfing, windsurfing, sailing, fishing and yachting, as well as other land-based sports like polo or golf. The popular Playa Brava beach on the Atlantic is famous for its strong waves, making it perfect for surfing. It's also home to the famous sculpture 'La Mano', by the Chilean Mario Irrazábal. Stroll along Avenida Gorlero, where you'll find commercial galleries and stylish restaurants to savour the local cuisine. Another highlight is Plaza Artigas, site of a craft fair with everything from souvenirs to valuable jewels. Any must-dos once here? From Punta Ballena you'll have magnificent views of sunsets over the Atlantic Ocean. Don't forget your camera!

Overnight stay in Punta del Este.

● DAY 8 · PUNTA DEL ESTE (OPTIONAL EXCURSION TO LA BARRA AND/OR ISLA DE LOBOS)

A brand new day ahead to continue enjoying Punta del Este. A great idea is a trip to Playa Mansa beach, on the Río de la Plata. It's a calm-watered bay where you can rent out jet skis and trampolines. What's more, it's an ideal place to enjoy a spot of fishing. Then head over to La Barra, about a fifteen-minute drive away, to discover a former fishing village with stunning landscapes and a rustic atmosphere, where there are antique shops, art galleries and craft markets. On the way back to Punta del Este, you can visit the Museo del Mar, which will give you an insight into the marine fauna of different continents. Don't miss the spectacular whale skeletons and the impressive shark jaws! If you have time, you can pop over to Isla de Lobos, which is part of the Coastal Islands National Park. This is a forty-hectare rocky outcrop that's home to South America's largest sea lion colony. (Note: If you're thinking about doing the trip to Isla de Lobos, you should park your car near the port. Isla de Lobos is eleven kilometres from Punta del Este and it takes about forty minutes to get there by boat. In the port, you'll find several companies offering trips to the island. The price varies according to the type of boat. Remember that this boat trip is not included and that you have to book in advance. Tours leave daily around 12.00 noon from the port of Punta del Este and last about two hours. You'll sail around the island where more than two hundred thousand sea lions live in total freedom, as do some sea lions and elephant seals. You can't set foot on Isla de Lobos, but you can swim with them in the waters off the island. What an experience!). In the evening, take some time to unwind at an arty cafe or cultural show in town.

Overnight stay in Punta del Este.

● DAY 9 · PUNTA DEL ESTE - MONTEVIDEO - CITY OF ORIGIN

Time to to say adios to Punta del Este today and head back to Montevideo, located about one hundred and thirty-five kilometres away. Depending on the departure time of your flight, you can take advantage of the morning to visit a neighbourhood or landmark that you haven't already seen.

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Night on board.

● DAY 10 · CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Montevideo.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Montevideo.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Colonia Del Sacramento.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Colonia Del Sacramento.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Punta Del Este.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Punta Del Este.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Montevideo



Colonia Del Sacramento



Nueva Helvecia



Piriápolis



Pan de Azucar



Punta Del Este



La Barra



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Uruguay are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far the possible.
- Please check with your international vaccination centre about the recommended healthcare measures in Uruguay.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.
- Driving in Uruguay: 1. The roads in Uruguay are generally in good condition. The minimum age to rent a car is twenty-one and your driving licence must be at least two years old. 1.2.Speed limits: 50 km/h in built-up areas; 90 km/h on dual carriageways; and 110 km/h on motorways. 1.3. You must always drive with your lights on and your seat belts fastened.
- The country's currency is the Uruguayan peso. Credit cards are accepted at almost all hotels and restaurants in major cities and tourist resorts.

