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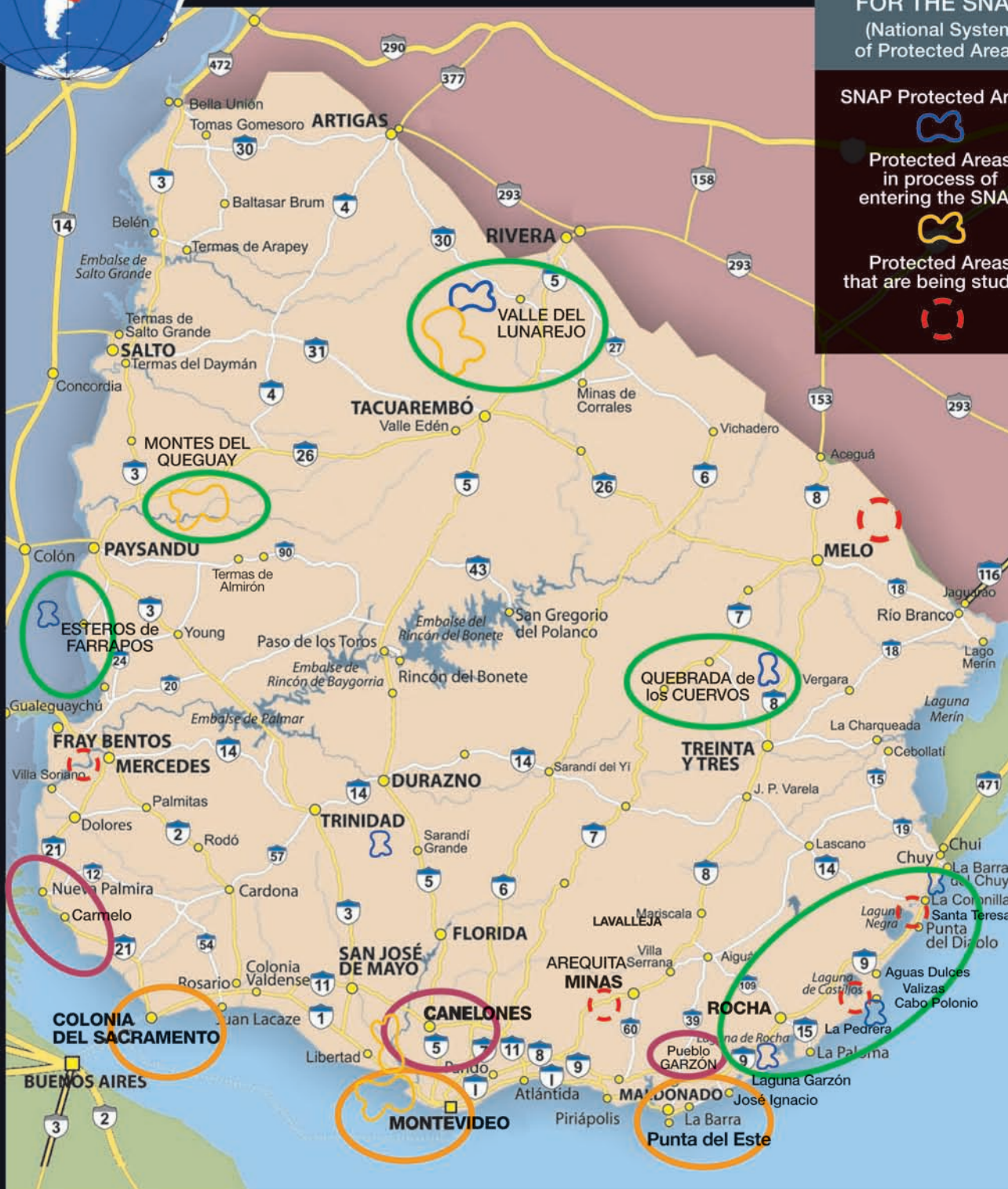




REFERENCES FOR THE SNAP (National System of Protected Areas)

Snap Protected Areas

-  Protected Areas
in process of
entering the SNAP
-  Protected Areas
that are being studied
- 



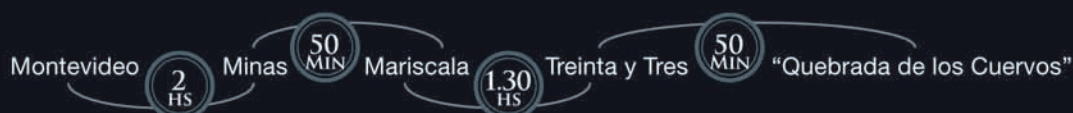
Well-known places in Uruguay:
Colonia, Montevideo
and Punta del Este Area

The region
of the Southern
Vineyards

The most important
Natural Reserves
and National Parks

DISTANCES BETWEEN LOCATIONS

URUGUAY



FERRY BUENOS AIRES (45 MIN) COLONIA

FERRY BUENOS AIRES (3 HS) MONTEVIDEO

inspiringCOLLECTION

uruguay

WESTERN VINEYARDS OF URUGUAY

The birth of Vineyards in Uruguay: a tale of Jesuit Missions, Spanish and Italian immigrants and grapevines brought from France... the TANNAT experience!



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 / COLONIA DEL SACRAMENTO

On arrival to Colonia transfer to Hotel Charco located right next to the city's lighthouse and on the banks of the River Plate. Afternoon walking tour of Colonia del Sacramento. Accommodation at Hotel Charco.



DAY 3 / FINCA NARBONA

Morning at leisure. Picnic lunch in the vineyards and late afternoon wine and cheese pairing tasting in the cellar guided by the winemaker of Finca Narbona (includes three different Narbona wines and seven choices of cheese). Accommodation at Finca Narbona Wine Lodge. B, L.



"TANNAT" IS TO URUGUAY THE SAME AS "MALBEC" IS TO ARGENTINA.

The Tannat is a variety of grape that has grown to be more important in Uruguay than in France, where it originally comes from. Uruguay's wine heritage goes back to the first Spanish and Italian immigrants who brought the grapevine some 250 years ago. In the XVIII century the Jesuits established in the north of the Province of Colonia in Uruguay to continue their mission in the country. They settled within an estancia (name used for an hacienda in Uruguay) called "Belen", where Indians and slaves planted fruit trees, bred cattle and worked in a lime kiln located within the property. In 1741, they built a small and charming chapel, nowadays a national monument known as "La Calera de las Huerfanas" ("The Limekiln of the Orphans", named after an orphanage in Buenos Aires that was supported with the production of the limekiln). After the Jesuits were expelled by the Spanish crown, don Juan de San Martín took the administration of the estancia and found 1500 stocks of grapevine that had been planted by the missionaries: this was the birth of wine in Uruguay.

Only 2 km from where the former Jesuit vineyards used to be, we can still find vineyards owned by the Zubizarreta family and other local wineries. We will discover the western vineyards of Uruguay and learn how this small country developed its passion for fine wines.



DAY 2 / COLONIA - JESUIT RUINS - CARMELO

After breakfast, transfer towards the area of Carmelo. The tour starts with the visit of "La Calera de las Huerfanas" Jesuit Ruins located in the outskirts of Carmelo. It was the Jesuits who first planted vines within this estancia and began with the History of Uruguayan wines in the west of Uruguay.

After the Jesuits were expelled by the Spanish crown, this estancia was given to the father of Gral. San Martín, the national hero of Argentina to be administrated and it was in Uruguay where the eldest brother of Gral. San Martín was born before the family moved back to Buenos Aires. The local legend tells that Gral. San Martín was really born in Uruguay but the secret was kept; this is just another "historic anecdote" that unites the two shores of the River Plate.

After visiting the small visitor's center and the ruins of the old chapel, we will continue onto the city of Carmelo to visit El Legado winery where (depending on the season), guests may be able to see the harvest, bottling or grape manual selection. After a wine tasting, we will continue our tour towards Bodegas Cordano winery to learn about the production processes and history of this family vineyard. We will then continue towards Finca Narbona Wine Lodge where guests will spend the night. B, L.

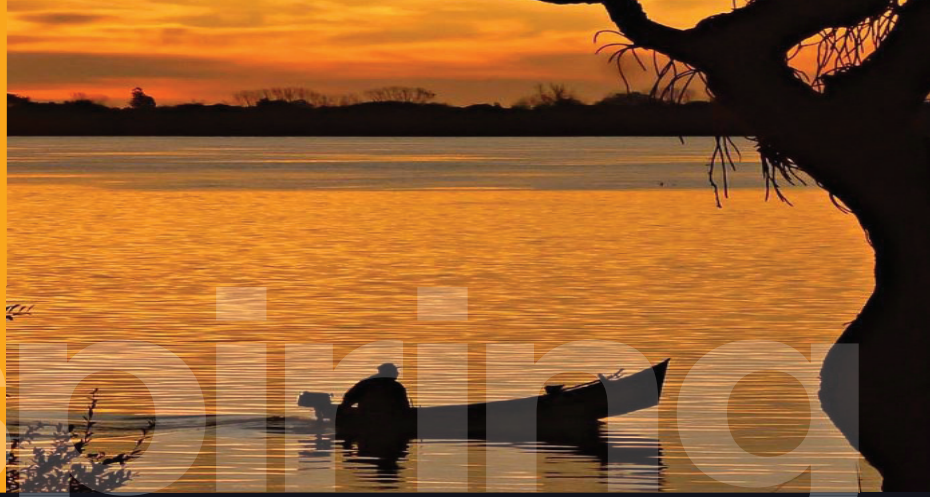


DAY 4 / COLONIA

After breakfast, private transfer (no guide) to Colonia to board the morning ferry.



TOUR OF THE BLACK RIVER & ESTEROS DE FARRAPOS PROTECTED AREA



Discover the unknown west of Uruguay with its natural pearls: the Rio Negro which crosses the whole country from east to west and the Esteros de Farrapos wetlands as part of the Uruguay River.

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 / DOLORES, MERCEDES AND FRAY BENTOS

Arrival to the Hostal del Espinillo in the city of Dolores in the morning (trf not included). In the late morning, departure for a tour discovering the cultural highlights of the area. The first stop is Mercedes, one of the oldest cities in Uruguay where we visit the coastal Rambla of the Rio Negro, the nice squares, the city's cathedral and the Maua Castle, which, located just a few kilometers outside of Mercedes, was built in the midst of the 19th century as an Estancia and nowadays houses a paleontological museum and the Maua winery. Continue to Fray Bentos for a visit of the Museum of the Industrial Revolution, located on the grounds of the slaughterhouse and meat processing plant "El Anglo" which produced the famous Fray Bentos Corned Beef. Accommodation at Hostal del Espinillo.



DAY 2 / BLACK RIVER AND PAYSANDU

Just after breakfast, transfer to Mercedes where we will board our canoes and paddle down the River. We will get the chance to visit the "Austriaco" island and its two internal lagoons, habitat of many local birds and capybaras. The peaceful and lovely landscape of white sand beaches is incredible. We will paddle 5 kms (more or less 2 hours) until we reach "Barrancas Coloradas", a cliff of approximately 20 meters that stands over the river and forms a beautiful beach, where we will enjoy a delicious picnic. In the afternoon, continue to peaceful Estancia La Paz in the province of Paysandu. Dinner and accommodation at Estancia La Paz. B, L, D.

DAY 3 / ESTEROS DE FARRAPOS PROTECTED AREA

Full Day Tour to Esteros de Farrapos, where we will venture into the wetlands and islands of the Uruguay River on a small fishermen boat. This is a little birded site, but may turn out to be one of the most diverse spots for birds in the country. Since it has been recognized under the Ramsar Convention, as a wetland of international significance with 174.96km² including 24 islands known to be the only protected area where the maned wolf has been recorded and the last known refuge for the puma in Uruguay. Picnic lunch and afternoon transfer to the small town of Guichon. Dinner and Accommodation at Estancia Santa Modesta. B, L, D

DAY 4 / ESTANCIA SANTA MODESTA

Morning at the Estancia to relax or enjoy some horseback riding. Lunch and local activity to choose between enjoying an incredible horseback riding tour along the "Cerros Chatos" (flat hills) of Guichon, canoeing along the Queguay River (the Indians who inhabited these lands gave the river its actual name: "place where dreams converge" and once you visit the region, you will understand why: the Queguay river is one of the only ones that remains untouched and part of the area denominated "Montes del Queguay" which is already within the National Protected Ares System), or a spa day at the "Almiron hot-springs", one of the only ones of marine origin, high in mineral salts recommended for rheumatic treatments. Dinner and accommodation at Santa Modesta. B, L, D.



DAY 5 / RETURN

Morning at leisure. Enjoy a lovely farewell lunch before you regular or private transfer to Montevideo. B, L, D.

THE TRAILS OF CULTURE & WINE IN MONTEVIDEO



This tour was designed to show the basis of our culture and traditions exploring our Capital: Montevideo!

Both **culture** and **wine** in Uruguay are a legacy of all those families of immigrants that arrived to these lands more than 250 years ago. The Uruguayan culture is the result of the combination of European “savoir vivre” and conception of family, the music and rhythms of the slaves that came from Africa in Spanish ships, the culture of local Indians and the gaucho way of living; thus Uruguayans in general have a big passion for music, art, literature, gastronomy and family traditions.

Art & Culture – It’s hard to believe that a country like Uruguay, with a small population, has so many musical and visual artists with great deal of creativity. In terms of music, Uruguay is very popular with Tango and Candombe: the two rhythms that define us.

Tango is the expression of an area in the River Plate; a rhythm that combines nostalgia, seduction and the courageous spirit of manhood. Candombe, on the other side, is the ironic sad expression of happiness of a nation which derived in our carnival. The first signs of Carnival can be traced back to 1760, when this celebration was somehow regulated and only in some certain special dates were the slaves allowed to leave their tasks and celebrate with their songs and dances. It does not have the majesty and color of the show performed in Rio de Janeiro’s Sambodromo for it is something else. There is a national saying within Uruguayans: “It’s Carnival all year round!” - this is what Uruguayans say as a way of criticism to the laid back local society & culture. Though this may not actually be true, it is certain that our country holds the **LONGEST CARNIVAL IN THE WORLD**. Nowadays, in Montevideo and other cities around the country, our Carnival generally lasts for approximately 45 days. There are two lines of influence that derive in the Uruguayan Carnival: the Spanish one and the one we received from the African slaves. During our tour, we will visit the carnival Museum and learn about these two forms that constitute the Uruguayan carnival and one of the country’s biggest celebrations.



Wine is another chapter in the Uruguayan gastronomic culture: the mysterious “Tannat”.

Being a nation of immigrants that arrived mostly from Europe and a country moved by passions and feelings, Uruguay is not indifferent to the love for food and wines. Red meats and the typical “asados” are a “must” in the country as well as the opportunity to taste the famous “mate” which is much more than a drink or tea; it’s almost a ceremony that enhances friendship and the attitude to share.

The country’s wine heritage goes back to the first Spanish and Italian immigrants who brought the grapevine some 250 years ago.

In 1874, a French Basque immigrant named Harriague imported grapevine cuttings of the obscure French variety called Tannat (“Tah-naht.”)

This red grape, usually grown only in Madiran, a small wine region in Southwestern France, produces dark, dense red wines of extremely tannic nature (the name “Tannat” is said to stem directly from “tannin”), so harsh and unyielding that they often require years of aging to become drinkable.

Tannat proved an excellent match for the soil and climate in Uruguay, and it has become the country’s leading variety, as closely associated with the place as “Malbec” has become the trademark variety for Argentina.

This is a short adventure into Uruguayan culture that can be tailored to your interests and expanded in whatever you find more intriguing or interesting!



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 / MONTEVIDEO



Arrival and transfer to Alma Historica Hotel located within the old town of Montevideo. After checking in, transfer to the lively port market to enjoy a typical Uruguayan "Parrilla" at El Palenque Restaurant. After lunch, enjoy our suggested walking tour of the old city, which used to be surrounded by a wall to protect the first settlers of the capital. From the port market, we will walk to the Carnival Museum, where you will discover the Spanish tradition and African roots of the Uruguayan Carnival; you will learn about the "murgas" and "candombe" and if you are in Uruguay during Carnival season, you could even participate in one of the "tablados", "candombe rehearsals" or "Llamadas Parade"!



The tour continues onto the museum of pre-Columbian art (www.mapi.uy) and then onto the Constitution Sq. where you will visit the Cathedral and the Cabildo before arriving to the "Torres Garcia Art Museum", one of the most renowned art schools in Uruguay. We will stop at the "Puro Verso" library (one of the oldest buildings in the area) for a quick coffee or fresh drink and then walk along the lovely pedestrian area to the "Solis Theatre". After visiting the theatre, we will enjoy a typical "uvita" drink at "Fun fun", a traditional "tanguería" where the renowned Uruguayan tango singer Carlos Gardel would sing when he was in town.



The tour finishes at the Independence Square where the Old gate of the Old city is located just in front of the statue of our national hero "Jose Gervasio Artigas", which guards his mausoleum and where the iconic "Palacio Salvo" is located. Accommodation at "Alma Historica Hotel" (or similar). L.

DAY 2 / MODERN MONTEVIDEO

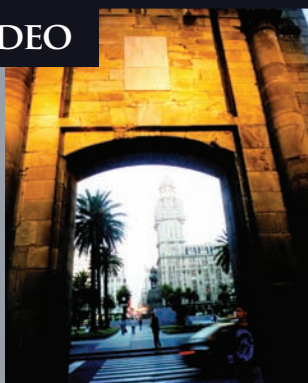
After breakfast, enjoy a tour of the different neighborhoods of Montevideo which started developing after the demolition of the Old City Walls of Montevideo which took place on September 1829. You will visit the residential "Carrasco", former summer area of the first inhabitants, the Virgilio Square from where a panoramic view of the city can be appreciated and then continue onto Pocitos along the beautiful Coastal Rambla built between 1900 and 1910 bordering the River Plate until Punta Carretas, a lovely neighborhood with parks and squares. You will then continue to Downtown Montevideo where you will visit the Centenario Stadium (entrance not included), the Carriage Monument and the Obelisk. The tour will end with a visit to one of the following places (according to interests and date of visit):

- The Legislative Palace, where the parliament operates (day and time needs to be prescheduled).
- The "Mercado Agrícola" where guests will be able to taste a local artisan beer produced in the area and visit the local shops.
- One of the local art museums (day and time needs to be prescheduled).
- The Gaucho Museum (day and time needs to be prescheduled).
- The Botanical Garden.



DAY 3 / MONTEVIDEO

Morning visit to two vineyards of Montevideo including tastings of Tannat fine wines and lunch. Wineries will be selected according to clients' interests and profile to choose between Bouza, Juanico, Los Nadies, Carrau, Marichal, Artesana or H. Stagnari Wineries. Accommodation at Alma Historica Hotel. B, L.



DAY 4 / MONTEVIDEO

Transfer to Montevideo Port or Airport.



EXPERIENCE THE “OLD-TIME CHARMS” OF PUEBLO GARZÓN

3 DAYS

A sleepy town with great chefs, delicious food and a peaceful landscape of green fields, dirt roads, olives and vineyards,..., where you can spend hours watching the horizon and soothe your soul...



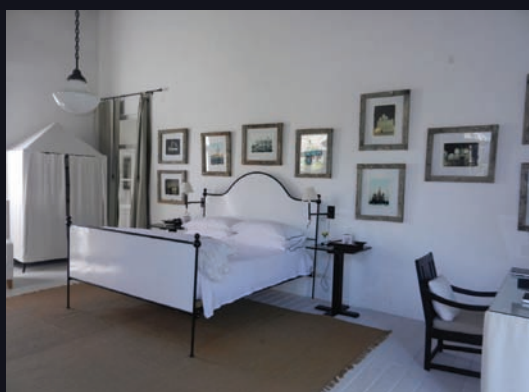
A SLEEPY TOWN THAT ALMOST DISAPPEARED... There are various versions as to when Garzon was founded...around 1890, the first settlers arrived to these lands and established next to the local stream where people would make a stop when travelling towards the province of Rocha, where Governor Vicente Garzon had a “saladero” (salt-cured meat ranch). In 1920, a wheat mill was built and the town quickly grew to a population of approximately 2000 inhabitants, most of who worked in local farms and mines. The train had 4 daily services (2 of them towards Rocha and another 2 towards Montevideo) and a bus service to San Carlos plus various carriages that would transport people around the area. Carnival was celebrated with a big party; the town had a theatre and a local orchestra. Unfortunately, times of economic crisis arrived and the mill was closed, the trains ceased to arrive and most of the inhabitants had to move either to San Carlos or Rocha. Only 200 people who dedicated to rural

activities, stayed in the now quiet and sleepy town.

In 2004, the renowned Argentinean chef Francis Mallmann partnered with the Argentinean winemaker Manuel Mas, and founded the Garzon Restaurant and Hotel which brought a new “hippie chic” spirit to the area. Word began to spread about the town’s old-time charms: gauchos riding on horseback along tidy gravel streets, residents greeting one another by name, and children playing in a flower-filled central plaza. Along with the arrival of travelers in search of epicurean fare came a smattering of new restaurants, boutiques and high-end establishments, including a winery, bringing new life into this quiet corner of the Uruguayan countryside...

DAY 1 / A CANDLE-LIGHT WELCOME DINNER

Arrival to Casa Anna, your “home in town” and the perfect venue for your culinary getaway. Guests will have time to explore the surroundings and enjoy a beautiful candle-light dinner under the stars (summer only) as a welcome. Accommodation at Casa Anna.





DAY 2 / COLINAS DE GARZÓN, A TALE OF VINEYARDS AND OLIVE PLANTATIONS

After breakfast, guests will be transferred to Colinas de Garzon, where the best olive oil of Uruguay is produced.

For those who enjoy the taste of new experiences, spectacular views, top quality wines and olive oils, this will be a wonderful visit. You will be able to learn all the secrets of the extra virgin olive oil and explore the olive plantations and Boutique Production Plant. It is an invitation to discover the origins of this product and its elaboration process. You will then enjoy a tasting of the fine wines and olive oils of Colinas de Garzon, offered with selected home-made cheeses. Between the months of March and June, guests can also take part and learn to harvest by hand. After the visit, you will be enjoying a lovely picnic with regional products.

Transfer back to Pueblo Garzon for some quality time to rest and explore the town where time seems to have stood still for some decades: Villagers peacefully drinking mate without the hurries of modern life while the neighbor next door feeds her horse and the local grocery store sells gas in canisters. During the evening, you will have the opportunity to visit one of the local wonderful restaurants. Accommodation at Casa Anna. B, L.



DAY 3 / WINES OF GARZON, AN HORIZON OF VINEYARDS AND ROCK HILLS

Today we will visit the vineyards of the Garzon hills where you will be able to enjoy a wine tasting and lunch. For bike or horse lovers, we have a lovely and unforgettable surprise ride along the vineyards. In the afternoon, transfer back to Casa Anna where you will enjoy a private evening cooking class! You will be able to experience firsthand the best that our regional products and cuisine have to offer; a lovely evening hands-on instruction by one of our professional local chefs so that you take not only your memories home, but also some great recipes and techniques to add to your own collection. "Home-made dinner" and accommodation at Casa Anna. B, L, D.

DAY 4 / RETURN

After breakfast, check out and continue to your next destination. B.

JOSÉ IGNACIO: A UNIQUE BLEND OF COAST & COUNTRYSIDE

4 DAYS & 3 NIGHTS



José Ignacio, small cozy fishing village on the Atlantic coast and “the place to be” during the summer months for those who look for a more laid-back destination in the area of Punta del Este. Enjoy a selection of excellent restaurants, small boutiques and beautiful beaches, discover the city of Punta del Este and spend a day immerse in the countryside and nature enjoying outdoor activities at the Anastasio Lagoon!

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 / JOSÉ IGNACIO

Arrival to Punta del Este Airport and private transfer to one of the local Posadas (Posada del Faro or La Viuda de José Ignacio) in the small village of José Ignacio. Free time to explore the town.



DAY 3 / ANASTASIO

After breakfast, transfer to Estancia Anastasio, a small secret paradise in the natural Reserve of the Anastasio & Garzon Lagoons. The visit starts with a welcome drink at the charming construction, formerly house to local fishermen, which has been converted into a small cozy restaurant. Your host will lead you to the main wooden lookout at the lagoon to start with your canoeing or stand up paddle experience. You will be fascinated by the landscape that surrounds you! Enjoy a typical Uruguayan barbecue for lunch and a well-deserved “siesta” on one of our hammocks during the afternoon. The day finishes with an unforgettable horseback ride along the fields of the estancia and lagoon and a typical “merienda” including a “mate” tasting, local “bizcochos”, tarts and biscuits. Transfer back to Jose Ignacio. Accommodation at selected Posada. B, L

DAY 2 / PANORAMIC TOUR OF PUNTA DEL ESTE

Panoramic tour of Punta del Este with visit to the lively La Barra where we will cross the famous undulated bridge just before arriving to the Brava Beach of Punta del Este. Visit the most important attractions: “Juan Gorlero Avenue”, the yacht’s port, the residential areas and the lovely Casapueblo, a strange and attractive construction designed by the renowned Uruguayan artist Carlos Páez Vilaró where we will visit his museum. On the way back to José Ignacio visit the Atchugarry Foundation of the Uruguayan sculptor Pablo Atchugarry located in Manantiales. Accommodation at selected Posada. B



DAY 4 / RETURN

After breakfast, private transfer to Punta del Este airport.

PUNTA DEL ESTE'S FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

5 DAYS

"Punta Del Este", in the southern east coast of Uruguay, is famous for its wide Atlantic beaches and glamorous parties. Some of the best chefs in the region have opened restaurants in this beach town, which is fast emerging as a foodie destination.



One of the best foodies' festivals with a grand finale... Punta Del Este Food & Wine Festival is held every year between October/November and is one of the best foodies' festivals in Punta Del Este. The festival brings together the best and most renowned chefs not only from Uruguay, but from other countries as well: Spain, Brazil, Argentina and USA. The festival takes place in various hotels and sites of Punta Del Este and apart from celebrating food and wine with the most delicious and mouthwatering dishes and drinks, the festival also includes various entertainment performances including live music concerts.

A true heaven for even the most demanding gourmands!

Each event highlights Uruguay's local ingredients and each dish is paired with a Uruguayan wine (the country is an up-and-coming wine producer) including a "viognier" from the newly launched Bodega Garzón, which hired the Italian winemaker Alberto Antonini (an influential consultant who has worked with top wineries in Tuscany)

The festival's finale, has always been hosted by the Argentine chef Francis Mallmann in nearby Pueblo Garzón, the tiny rural town where he opened a hotel and restaurant some years ago. Mallmann's fame is built around cooking with fire and this is the perfect place to be a witness of his trademark "SEVEN FIRES" (which includes rescoldo, where he covers ingredients with hot embers, and infiernillo - little hell, literally- where food is placed in cast iron boxes between two levels of fires) burning throughout the streets of Garzon.



DAY 1 / PUNTA DEL ESTE

Arrival to Punta del Este Airport and transfer to your selected hotel. Afternoon city tour visiting Punta del Este's most important attractions: "Juan Gorlero" (the main avenue), the artisans market, the yacht's port, "Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria Church", the lighthouse, the beaches and the residential neighborhoods of "Golf", "San Rafael", "Beverly Hills", "Rincón del Indio" and "Cantegril" as well as the undulated bridge of "La Barra". Finish the tour at Casapueblo, this strange but beautiful construction created by Uruguayan artist Carlos Paez Vilaro, which used to be home to the artist, a hotel, museum and atelier. Accommodation at selected hotel.



DAY 2 / FIRST FESTIVAL DAY

Morning at leisure. Transfer to Colinas de Garzon to participate in the opening event “A tour around the world in Six cuisines”. Combining excellent cuisines with eno-gastronomic tourism, this luxurious lunch will be the perfect excuse to get to know and enjoy Colinas Del Garzón Extra Virgin Olive Oil Boutique Plant. Here is where one of the best olive oils of the world is produced. We will discover the olive plantations, see a short film of the history and production of Extra Virgin Olive Oils and peek into the production facilities. The lunch will be prepared by renowned chefs and can be enjoyed together with a glass of Bodega Garzón fine wine while overlooking the lake.

During the late afternoon, we will continue, enjoying the festival at the “Sunset Chill-out + Food & Dance” held at the incomparable location of Playa VIK in Jose Ignacio overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. This evening event combines a great sunset view with spectacular tastes and live chill out music ambience by the festival’s DJ.

Evening transfer to your hotel. Accommodation at selected hotel. B, L, D.



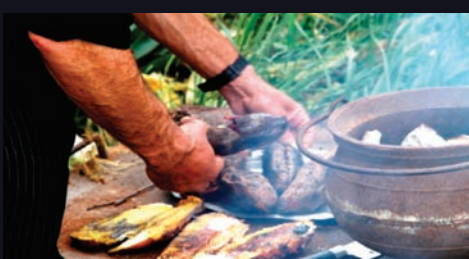
DAY 3 / SECOND FESTIVAL DAY



Transfer to Garzon for the closing and probably most important festival event, the “Seven Fires by Francis. The streets of small Garzon village will be the setup for a unique event hosted by this important ambassador of the “Rio de la Plata” cuisine – Francis Mallmann. He will cook live above seven fires which he lights in the streets of Garzon. Enjoy this unique opportunity to experience his open kitchen! Lunch will be accompanied by selection of first class Uruguayan fine wines. Late afternoon return transfer to hotel. Accommodation at selected hotel. B, L.

DAY 4 / ANASTASIO

After breakfast, transfer to Estancia Anastasio, a charming construction formerly house to local fishermen which has been converted into a cozy small restaurant where we will experience first-hand the good tastes of the area. We have designed a special cooking class to expose you to the best that the local products have to offer. You will spend a lovely day with hands-on instruction by one of our professional local chefs so that you take not only your memories home, but also some great recipes and techniques to add to your own collection. “Home-made lunch” and afternoon enjoying the lagoon with one of the activities offered: canoeing, horseback riding, Stand-up Paddle, Yoga Sup. The visit ends with a typical “afternoon merienda” including mate and typical biscuits or tarts. Transfer back to selected hotel. B, L



DAY 5 / RETURN

After breakfast, private transfer to Punta del Este Airport.

CANOE CROSSING OF THE "ROCHA LAGOON" & CYCLING ADVENTURE TO LA PEDRERA SEASIDE TOWN

A great choice for active nature lovers!



DAY 2 / RETURN

After breakfast, we can coordinate a transfer to your next destination (not included) or add some extra nights at your hotel. B



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 / CROSSING THE "EASTERN BIOSPHERE RESERVE" ON A CANOE



Transfer from José Ignacio to the Rocha Lagoon. This unique protected natural area is part of what we call the wetlands of the "Eastern Biosphere Reserve" internationally recognized within the framework of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) of UNESCO since 1976. A specialized guide will row with you across the Rocha Lagoon, a semi-freshwater lagoon of 72 km² (28 sq mi). This lagoon, located only 25 minutes from Jose Ignacio Village, has an outlet to the sea during winter months and constitutes a bird paradise with 220 species which have been recorded like migratory waders, Flamingos, Swans, Herons and ducks among other. We will be able to see various bird species, local wildlife, native vegetation and once on the other side, our bikes will be waiting for us to ride to the village of La Paloma and continue on to La Pedrera. Accommodation at Pueblo Barrancas Eco Lodge or a hotel in the area.

IMPORTANT NOTE

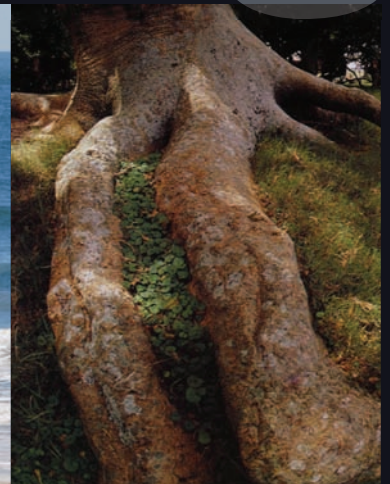
- Please note that in an effort to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, we have arranged your luggage and belongings to be transfer across the lagoon on a canoe specially dedicated to this task. This will help us avoid unnecessary vehicle transfers, saving at least 170 kms of CO₂ emissions. (Tourism, as other sectors too, contributes to global emissions. According to the UNWTO-UNEP study (2008) tourism contributes around 5% to global CO₂ emissions and 75% of the sector's emissions are generated by transportation). If necessary, we can coordinate a transfer for your luggage but we will charge an extra 5% (equal to the 5% contribution of tourism to global CO₂ emissions) to the usual cost of this which will be 100% donated to Karumbe, the local NGO working on marine life conservation. Moreover, Lares, will donate another equal 5% to the same cause.

- This tour can also start with the biking adventure from Jose Ignacio or organized as a day tour without staying at the lodge in Rocha.



TREKKING ADVENTURE FROM VALIZAS SEASIDE TOWN TO THE VILLAGE OF CABO POLONIO

Trek across the incredible sand dunes that maintains the village of Cabo Polonio isolated from the other nearby towns



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 / THE MOST AMAZING VIEW OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN FROM THE "CERRO BUENA VISTA" ON TOP OF THE SAND DUNES

A Lares English-speaking local guide, will pick you up from La Paloma, La Pedrera or one of the nearby coastal towns and drive you to the coastal village of Valizas. After a short walk around the town, we will start a marvelous 4-hour trekking across the amazing shifting sand dunes of Cabo Polonio. Once on the top of the "Buena Vista Hill", you will enjoy a breathtaking view of the Atlantic Ocean before descending to the shore for a relaxing coastal hike to the small fishing village. Climb the lighthouse, watch one of the largest colonies of sea lions of South America and enjoy a delicious seafood lunch overlooking the ocean. Afternoon 4-wheel-truck drive out of the natural reserve to Posada Valizas, a small charming Posada in one of the friendliest towns in the coast! L.



The lovely village of Barra de Valizas is the perfect starting point to reach the shifting sand dunes along the Atlantic Ocean. Enjoy trekking across the dunes and along the shore, explore the flora of this special region and learn about the more than 200 species of colorful birds that guide your way to Cabo Polonio. The unique fishing village at the cape will be reached after four hours trekking. Colorfully painted houses, cozy beach restaurants and a stunning lighthouse await you as well as thousands of seals. Head to a charming small posada in the area on 4x4 Jeeps to spend the night before you head to your next adventure!

DAY 2 / RETURN

After breakfast, we can coordinate a transfer to your next destination (not included) or add some extra nights at this beautiful posada. B.



TREKKING TO THE FICUS FOREST & HIKE TO THE GREEN HILL PROTECTED AREA WITH VISIT TO THE GREEN TURTLES PROJECT



Enjoy an amazing view of the incredible palm groves of Rocha from the Virgin hill and hike along the Coast to the Green Hill Protected area to spot the dolphins, whales (August to November) and get involved in the preservation of the Green Turtles carried out by the local NGO Karumbe!

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 / GREEN HILL PROTECTED AREA AND SANTA TERESA NATIONAL PARK

A Lares Guide will pick you up at your hotel and drive you to the Santa Teresa National Park, from where we will start a trek along the coast towards the Green Hill Protected Area. We will be looking for green turtles and dolphins, hoping to be lucky to spot them (November to March). After a picnic lunch, we will walk over the "hanging bridge" of La Coronilla and visit the visitors' centre of the local NGO Karumbé (which means "turtle" in the local Guaraní language), where a specialist will tell us about the different activities they are carrying out in the area. We will then drive to the Santa Teresa National Park to discover the Portuguese fortress and learn about the history of the area. Transfer to Punta del Diablo and accommodation at Posada La Viuda del Diablo.



DAY 2 / THE FICUS FOREST, BLACK LAGOON AND PALM GROVES

A Lares guide will pick you up at the Posada and take you to the starting point of the adventure: "Trail of the Indians", entrance to "Establecimiento Don Bosco" and where we start to hike towards the "Navarro Hill", down the ravine and across the Ficus Forest to the top of "Cerro de la Virgen", from where we will appreciate the most amazing view of the massive Palm Groves of Rocha. There are numerous legends regarding the origins of the palm groves. Some 500 palm trees per hectare can be found in this Palm Grove considered the world's largest and most fascinating one. We will trek down to the shores of the "Black Lagoon" also known as "Laguna de los Difuntos" ("The Lagoon of the dead") due to its location near the indigenous graveyards or "cerritos de indios". After enjoying our picnic lunch next to the lagoon shores, return to the Posada La Viuda del Diablo. B, L



DAY 3 / RETURN

After breakfast, transfer to your next destination (not included). B

WILD WEST OF URUGUAY

GAUCHO OVERNIGHT & TREKKING THE NATIONAL PARK OF "QUEBRA DE LOS CUERVOS"



Experience the daily life of the countryside and immerse yourself in a trekking tour down the unexplored "Vulture's Ravine"

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 / LOS PLATANOS, A TRADITIONAL WORKING RANCH

Transfer to the local bus station to board the regular bus to "Valentines" where someone from Estancia Los Platanos will be waiting for you. Accommodation at Estancia Los Platanos, D.



DAY 3 / TREKKING THE "NATIONAL PARK OF QUEBRADA DE LOS CUERVOS" PROTECTED AREA

The next day you will experience one of the most natural landscapes of Uruguay and encounter a great variety of flora and fauna. The "Yerba Chico" stream created a canyon and formed a fascinating gorge with cliffs up to 120 meters. A narrow footpath leads you down the rocks, accompanied by the sound of the wind and the rustling of vultures flying overhead. The unevenness that comprises the scenic beauty of this place is stunning and it seems like entering different world as you make your way down to the river. After a "traditional lunch", transfer to the local bus station in Treinta y Tres to board the regular bus to Montevideo. B, L.

DAY 2 / THE REAL COUNTRYSIDE LIFE OF A GAUCHO

Discover the Uruguayan countryside and enjoy life on a traditional Ranch. The captivating landscape is the perfect place to experience the authenticity of the Uruguayan countryside and to enter the world of the Gauchos. Explore the land by horse, horse cart or walks and join in the daily ranch chores and activities. After a long day of rustic life, enjoy meals homemade Uruguayan food. B, L, D.



DISCOVER THE UNEXPLORED VALLEYS, GORGES, GOLD MINES AND VINEYARDS OF NORTHERN URUGUAY



We will trek the "Lunarejo Valley Regional Park" (a natural protected area of 30,000 hectares with great biodiversity including deep gorges, numerous streams, 14 species of native mammals, more than 536 different animals and incredible almost unexplored landscape), visit one of the best vineyards in Uruguay and explore the gold mines of Minas de Corrales.



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 / CARRAU WINERY IN CERRO CHAPEU

Arrival to Rivera city and transfer to Carrau winery and vineyards located in Cerro Chapeu, a lovely area with wonderful landscape located only 10kms from the city of Rivera (just on the border with the Brazilian city of Livramento). The route to the estancia will take us along a panoramic route over the Santana Hills which separates Uruguay from Brazil. On arrival, we will visit the vineyards located 300 mts over sea level (the highest ones in the country) where the best and most awarded Carrau wines come from. We will enjoy a premium tasting of their wines and learn about the Amat wine, one of the best Uruguayan Tannats. Dinner and accommodation at Carrau Winery in Cerro Chapeu. D.



DAY 2 / THE LUNAREJO VALLEY, ONE THE LARGEST PROTECTED & UNEXPLORED AREAS

Just after breakfast, a local guide will drive you to the Lunarejo Valley, a national protected area where we will discover several trails. We will trek down to the Valley and across the great gorge towards the Lunarejo stream, where we will enjoy a typical "criollo lunch". During the afternoon, we will start trekking up the "Boqueron Hill" until we reach the top from where we will be able to enjoy an incredible 360 panoramic view of the whole Valley. After a full day of incredible trekking, we will return to the wine lodge. Dinner and accommodation at Carrau Winery in Cerro Chapeu. B, L, D.

Please note we have different trail levels that can be adjusted to clients' needs and interests. A full trekking program of 3 or more days can also be organized in the area.

CANOE JOURNEY ALONG THE QUEGUAY RIVER



The Indians who inhabited these lands gave the river its actual name; in the local Guaraní language, "Queguay" means "place where dreams converge" and the area where our journey takes place is, in fact, where the "Queguay Grande" and "Queguay Chico" rivers converge.

With some 300 km of course, the "Queguay" River is one of the only ones that remain untouched and part of the area denominated "Montes del Queguay" which is already in the National Protected Areas System. Nature lovers prefer it for its rich biodiversity, and because its course is the largest continuous area of native forest to be found in Uruguay!

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 / GUICHÓN, A SMALL QUIET TOWN WHERE THE ADVENTURE STARTS



Arrival to the small town of Guichón, where we will meet our local guides who will drive us to the "Queguay River". The canoes are waiting for us to start the adventure! We will soon discover it is a stream with cliffs on both sides, virtually no sandy shores, with several curves and a unique and exuberant native forest surrounding it. Very tall trees bend over the river and in some areas even block the water course making it difficult but more adventurous for the journey. During the late afternoon and after an exhausting paddling day, we will find a place to camp. The typical "asado" will be cooked and organized by the guides together with a big fire, locally called "fogón", and good tannat wine to celebrate the first expedition day. L, D.

DAY 2 / CANOE ADVENTURE IN THE MIDDLE OF NATURE

After breakfast, we will continue our journey along the river and as we move along, the challenge increases: the river sometimes narrows and winding curves appear increasing speed and making it more demanding to maneuver quickly and efficiently. After a morning full of fun and adventure, we stop for a picnic lunch while appreciating the beauty of the surrounding nature and the crystal clear water that can even be drunk. After some fishing (to assure our dinner), we continue until our next camping spot! B, L, D.



DAY 3 / END OF THE JOURNEY

After breakfast, we continue the last portion of our canoe journey, still with no signs of civilization; we can only hear the birds singing and the river flowing. Canoeing is an experience in which you are in constant contact with nature; the canoe glides over water at an adequate speed to enjoy the river vegetation. And even though at times, adrenaline increases as there are several rapids where the water flows more strongly making you feel the adventure, everything is under control with the company of our experienced local guides. After arriving to our destination, you will be transferred back to the town of Guichón to board the local bus to your next destination. B, L.

Please note we have different canoe adventure levels that can be adjusted to clients' needs and interests.



HIGHLIGHTS & TASTES OF URUGUAY 9 NIGHTS, 10 DAYS

Immigrants introduced both cheese and wine to Uruguay hundreds of years ago and nowadays the country is rich in vineyards, wineries, cheese artisan producers and olive oil plants. Discover the touristic highlights of Uruguay always combined with a culinary highlight. Be ready to be surprised by a variety of exquisite tastes!



DAY 1 / COLONIA DEL SACRAMENTO

Arrival to "Colonia Del Sacramento" and transfer to Hotel Charco (or similar) located in the Old town of the City. Walking city tour along the cobbled streets of the old town of "Colonia Del Sacramento"; visit to the old buildings, old forts and Spanish and Portuguese Museums and the most important tourist spots of this Old Portuguese City form the XVII century that has been declared Patrimony of Mankind by the UNESCO. Afternoon visit to the winery "Los Cerros de San Juan" with tasting. You will be able to taste the Tannat, Uruguay's signature wine (Tannat is to Uruguay what Malbec is to Argentina). The Tannat grapes originated from southwestern France and brought to Uruguay almost 250 years ago by a French Basque immigrant and the varieties of Tannats are characterized by their softer tannins when compared with the "old vines" from France.



DAY 2 / CALERA DE LAS HUÉRFANAS - WINERIES EL LEGADO & CORDANO

After breakfast, transfer towards the area of Carmelo. The tour starts with the visit of "La Calera de las Huerfanas" Jesuit Ruins where the Uruguayan history of wine begins and where we can still see the Zubizarreta vineyards in the same location where the first vines were planted (visit to Bodega Zubizarreta not included in tour). We will then continue to the El Legado winery where; depending on the season, guests may be able to see the harvest, bottling or grape manual selection. After a wine tasting, we will continue our tour towards Bodegas Cordano winery where we will learn about the production processes and history about the vineyard. We will then continue towards Finca Narbona Wine Lodge where guests will enjoy dinner and spend the night. B, L, D.



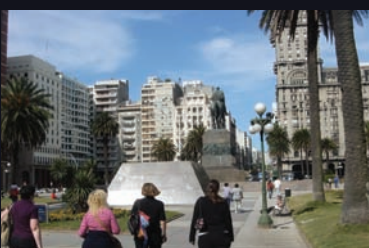
DAY 3 / FINCA NARBONA

Morning at leisure. Picnic lunch in the vineyards and late afternoon wine and cheese pairing tasting in the cellar guided by the winemaker of Finca Narbona (includes three different Narbona wines and seven choices of cheese). Accommodation at Finca Narbona Wine Lodge. B, L



DAY 4 / MONTEVIDEO

After breakfast, you will be picked up and enjoy a private transfer to Montevideo. On arrival, enjoy lunch at the vibrant port market. Take a walking tour of the Ciudad Vieja (the colonial historic neighborhood) and visit several museums and the Solis Theatre (museum selection subject to preferences and opening times). Spend one night in the capital of Uruguay at Hotel Oliva in the lively Punta Carretas neighborhood (or similar). B, L





DAY 5 / WINERY & ESTANCIA CHARABON



Morning pick up for a short panoramic city tour of the rest of the city and visit of one winery in the region of Montevideo. Afterwards, private transfer to Estancia Charabon, where you will enjoy the last hours of the day – relax by the swimming pool with a glass of wine or why not enjoy a ride through the rolling plains! Dinner at the Estancia. B, L, D



DAY 7 / CHARMING VILLAGE GARZON

Private transfer to Colinas de Garzon Extra Virgin Olive Oil Boutique Plant, which awaits you for a visit to their production facilities followed by a tasting of their award-winning olive oil together with a selection of cheeses and Garzon Wines. Afternoon visit of close by Pueblo Garzon, a small, picturesque village just 30 minutes from Jose Ignacio, where time seems to have stood still: buy your fuel in a petrol canister and stroll around the central square, where everyone knows everyone and gathers for a chat. Accommodation at Posada Casa Anna within the town of Garzon. B.



DAY 9 / COOKING CLASS AT ESTANCIA ANASTASIO



After breakfast, transfer to Estancia Anastasio where we will experience firsthand the good tastes of the area. We have designed a special cooking class to expose you to the best that the local products have to offer. You will spend a lovely day with “hands on” instruction by one of our professional local chefs so that you take not only your memories home, but also some great recipes and techniques to add to your own collection. Lunch and afternoon enjoying the lagoon with one of the activities offered: canoeing, horseback riding or stand-up-paddle. Afternoon transfer back to Posada del Faro where you will spend the last night (or similar). B, L

DAY 10 / RETURN

After breakfast, private transfer to Montevideo airport or port.

DAY 6 / TREKKING FROM VALIZAS TO CABO POLONIO, INCREDIBLE SAND DUNES AND SEA LIONS



After breakfast, transfer to small village Barra de Valizas, where a local guide will meet us to start an unforgettable tour to “Cabo Polonio” Village. After a short walk around the town, we will start the trekking along the coastline that will take us towards the incredible shifting sand dunes. We will trek up the “Buena Vista Hill” from where a fantastic view of the ocean can be appreciated, to continue down towards Cabo Polonio (4 hours trek). After a delicious seafood lunch at a local seaside restaurant, we will visit the light house and sea lions reserve (one of the biggest ones in the world!). Afternoon 4x4 truck drive towards the main entrance of Cabo Polonio where a private transfer will drive guests back to the accommodation at Estancia Charabon. B, L, D



DAY 8 / CHEESE & WINE IN PUNTA DEL ESTE REGION

Today you will get to know “Punta del Este Gourmet”. Visit the Altos de la Ballena winery, one of the newest wineries of Uruguay and one of the few in the area of Punta del Este. After a rich wine tasting, we continue on to Nonno Antonio artisan cheese farm, where you can observe the cheese production and enjoy the homemade cheeses during a tasting. Following a drive all along Punta del Este's coastline, you will be transferred to Jose Ignacio, where you will spend the night at Posada del Faro (or similar). B



HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVE URUGUAY

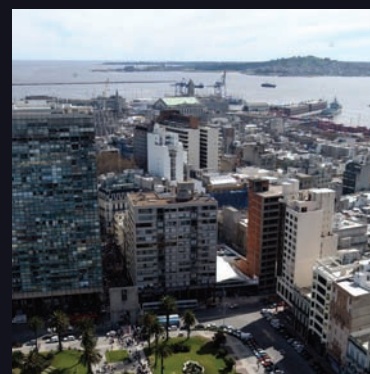
7 NIGHTS, 8 DAYS

Uruguay with its beautiful rolling plains and rich nature is the perfect location for your active holiday. Discover the highlights of the country combined with active elements: biking in Montevideo and Colonia, horseback riding at the Estancias and a sanddune trekking in Rocha.



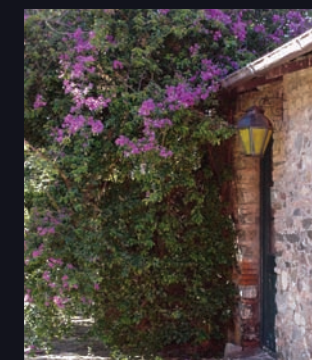
DAY 1 / COLONIA DEL SACRAMENTO

Arrival to "Colonia Del Sacramento" and transfer to Plaza Mayor Hotel (or similar) located in the Old town of the City. Bike tour along the cobbled streets of the old town of Colonia and the riverside boulevard to the Casa de los Limoneros, where you will enjoy some nice drinks in their beautiful garden. Afternoon ride back to Colonia, where you can discover its cobbled streets full of small bars, excellent restaurants, art and craft shops, museums and a yacht harbor.



DAY 2 / MONTEVIDEO

After a transfer with regular bus to Montevideo, enjoy lunch at the vibrant port market. Take a walking tour of the Ciudad Vieja (the colonial historic neighborhood) and visit different neighborhoods during a cycling tour along the riverside boulevard. Spend one night in the capital of Uruguay at Hotel Plaza Fuerte (or similar). B, L



DAY 3 / WINERY & ESTANCIA GUARDIA DEL MONTE

Morning pick up for a short panoramic city tour of the rest of the city and visit of one winery in the region of Montevideo. Afterwards, bus ride to Castillos, where you will be picked up and taken to Estancia Guardia del Monte, where you will enjoy the last hours of the day on the Castillos Lagoon. Dinner at the Estancia. B, L, D





DAY 4 / A TRADITIONAL ESTANCIA

We wake up in Guardia Del Monte, a traditional estancia with outstanding landscape beauty and important ecosystems containing a great variety of birds and native scrublands. We will enjoy some quality birdwatching along the large area of marshlands and wetlands both of which are teeming with bird life (more than 400 species in this area), otters, coypus and capybaras. We will be able to spot the graceful black-necked swan (largest populations in the world found here), the rare white goose, the pink flamingo (a species of flamingo with very bright pink pigment and quite common in Uruguay) and many ducks and other birds such as the largest bird in South America - the 'ostrich-like' "ñandú" (American rhea). After a typical "asado lunch" we will enjoy some horseback riding to explore the estancia surroundings. Dinner and accommodation at Guardia del Monte (Please note that depending on the season, we might stay at Guardia del Monte or Charabon Estancia and the available activities will be adapted to the area). B, L, D

DAY 5 / TREKKING FROM VALIZAS TO CABO POLONIO, INCREDIBLE SAND DUNES AND SEA LIONS



After breakfast, transfer to small village Barra de Valizas, where a local guide will meet us to start an unforgettable tour to "Cabo Polonio" Village. After a short walk around the town, we will start the trekking along the coastline that will take us towards the incredible shifting sand dunes. We will trek up the "Buena Vista Hill" from where a fantastic view of the ocean can be appreciated, to continue down towards Cabo Polonio (4 hours trek). After a delicious seafood lunch at a local seaside restaurant, we will visit the light house and sea lions reserve (one of the biggest ones in the world!). Afternoon 4x4 truck drive towards the main entrance of Cabo Polonio where a private transfer will drive guests back to the accommodation at charming little Posada Valizas where you will enjoy dinner and spend the night. B, L, D



DAY 8 / RETURN

After breakfast, transfer to the bus station of Punta del Este and regular bus to Montevideo bus station. From there, a private transfer will take you either to the port or to the airport.

DAY 6 / PUNTA DEL ESTE

Take a regular bus from Valizas to Punta del Este where you will have time in the afternoon to discover the neighborhood La Barra where your hotel is located. Accommodation at Hostal de la Barra (or similar). B



DAY 7 / PUNTA DEL ESTE

Enjoy an afternoon city tour of Punta del Este. We will visit the most important attractions: "Juan Gorlero Avenue", the yacht's port, the residential areas, the lively La Barra where we will cross the famous undulated bridge just before arriving to the Brava Beach of Punta del Este. We will finish at the lovely Casapueblo, a strange and attractive construction designed by the renowned Uruguayan artist Carlos Páez Vilaró where we will visit his museum. Accommodation at Hostal de la Barra or similar. B





inspiring

SELF DRIVE PROGRAM: “TWO LOOPS OF URUGUAY WITH NÉIKE!”

Self-driving in Uruguay is very easy and safe! However, signals and indications along our routes are not the best ones, so we have designed a complete navigational and tour guide system onboard that acts as your guide...

Néike! (which means “Let’s go!” in the local Guaraní language), our unique GPS System will be your “local guide” showing you the way along wonderful and panoramic routes you would never have accessed alone! It delivers location based content on demand leading you on your adventure every step of the way!

Neike has personally driven all the suggested routes to offer you the following ideas to explore our country... choose your route and off you go!



EASTERN LOOP OF URUGUAY 12 DAYS, 11 NIGHTS

Explore the off-the beaten path wonders of the East Region of Uruguay as an independent traveler guided by Néike! Drive along the Panoramic Route 109, discover the secrets and charms of Pueblo Garzon, feel a local at unexplored places such as Cabo Polonio or Valizas and relax at Jose Ignacio with the peace of mind that Neike! knows all that "needs to be known" in the area!



DAY 1 / MONTEVIDEO

Arrival and transfer to "Alma Histórica" Hotel located within the old town of Montevideo. After checking in, transfer to the lively port market to enjoy a typical Uruguayan "Parrilla" at El Palenque Restaurant. After lunch, enjoy our suggested walking tour of the old city, which used to be surrounded by a wall to protect the first settlers of the capital. From the port market, we will walk to the Carnival Museum, discover the Spanish tradition and African roots of the Uruguayan Carnival, learn about the "murgas" & "candombe" and if you are in Uruguay during Carnival season, you could even participate in one of the "tablados", "candombe rehearsals" or "Llamadas Parade"!

The tour continues to the museum of pre-Columbian art (www.mapi.uy) and Constitution Sq. to visit the Cathedral and Cabildo before arriving to the "Torres Garcia Art Museum", one of the most renowned art schools in Uruguay. After a stop at "Puro Verso" library (one of the oldest buildings in the area) for a quick drink, walk along the pedestrian area to the "Solis Theatre" for a visit. The tour continues to "Fun fun" traditional "tanguería" to enjoy a typical "uvita" drink where the renowned Uruguayan tango singer Carlos Gardel would sing when he was in town. The tour ends at the Independence Square where the Gate of the Old city is located. Just in front of it, the statue of our national hero "Jose Gervasio Artigas", guards his mausoleum next to the iconic "Palacio Salvo". Accommodation at "Alma Histórica" Hotel (or similar). L.



DAY 2 / MONTEVIDEO - CASAPUEBLO & PANORAMIC ROUTE 12 - BALCON DEL ABRA

After breakfast, your car will be delivered to your hotel in order to start your driving adventure with Neike! A LARES representative will assist you and carefully explain how Neike works and give you your driving kit.

Drive to the intriguing Casapueblo, a spectacularly-designed property by Uruguayan artist Carlos Paez Vilaró, facing the South on the hillside over the Atlantic Ocean. After a visit to the museum, continue along Panoramic Route 12 to "Altos de la Ballena Winery", a small, family-run winery owned by Alvaro Lorenzo and his wife, Paula Pivel who decided to turn their love of wine into a business in 1998. After your first tasting of Uruguayan "Tannat", continue driving along route 12 to Pueblo Eden for a delicious traditional lunch at "La Posta de Vaimaca" owned by Hugo and Ines Herrero Nuñez, where you will enjoy homemade pasta or local lamb under the house's old fig. After lunch continue towards the Province of Lavalleja. Dinner and Accommodation at Estancia Balcon del Abra. B, L, D.



DAY 3 / BALCON DEL ABRA

Spend a full day at this estancia dedicated to the breeding of horses and which is surrounded by the rolling hills of the Lavalleja Province. Participate in one of the amazing activities the place has to offer: trekking to the nearby hills, a riding tour in the area or just relax at the natural BIOTOP natural pool. Lunch, dinner and accommodation at "Balcon del Abra". B, L, D



DAY 4 / BALCON DEL ABRA - PANORAMIC ROUTE 109 - PUNTA DEL DIABLO

After breakfast, drive south-east along the winding and panoramic Route 109 towards the Province of Rocha. Arrival to the coast of Laguna de Rocha to enjoy a delicious picnic lunch and canoeing along the lagoon. Enjoy some hiking or biking towards La Paloma and La Pedrera and then continue your drive towards Punta del Diablo. Accommodation at Posada La Viuda del Diablo. B, L.



DAY 5 / GREEN HILL PROTECTED AREA AND SANTA TERESA NATIONAL PARK

Drive to the Santa Teresa National Park guided by Neike!, and meet your local guide at the specified meeting point from where you will start a trek along the coast towards the Green Hill Protected Area. We will be looking for green turtles and dolphins, hoping to be lucky to spot them (November to March). After a picnic lunch, we will walk over the “hanging bridge” of La Coronilla and visit the visitors’ centre of the local NGO Karumbé (which means “turtle” in the local Guaraní language), where a specialist will tell us about the different activities they are carrying out in the area. We will then drive you back to the Santa Teresa National Park to discover the Portuguese fortress and learn about the history of the area. Drive back to Punta del Diablo and accommodation at Posada La Viuda del Diablo. B, L.



DAY 6 / THE FICUS FOREST, BLACK LAGOON AND PALM GROVES

Drive to Route 14 where you will take the “Trail of the Indians”, guided by Neik!. You will meet your guide at the entrance to “Establecimiento Don Bosco” where you will hike towards the “Navarro Hill”, down the ravine and across the Ficus Forest to the top of “Cerro de la Virgen”. Enjoy the amazing view of the massive Palm Groves of Rocha; there are numerous legends regarding the origins of the palm groves. Some 500 palm trees per hectare can be found in this Palm Grove considered the world’s largest and most fascinating one. Trek down to the shores of the “Black Lagoon” also known as “Laguna de los Difuntos” (“The Lagoon of the dead”) due to its location near the indigenous graveyards or “cerritos de indios”. After enjoying a fresh picnic lunch next to the lagoon shores, drive to Estancia Guardia del Monte where you will enjoy dinner and stay overnight. B, L, D.

DAY 7 / TRADITIONAL ESTANCIA

Wake up in Guardia Del Monte, a traditional estancia with outstanding landscape beauty and important ecosystems containing a great variety of birds and native scrublands. We will enjoy some quality birdwatching along the large area of marshlands and wetlands both of which are teeming with bird life (more than 400 species in this area), otters, coypus and capybaras. You will be able to spot the graceful black-necked swan (largest populations in the world found here), the rare white goose, the pink flamingo (a species of flamingo with very bright pink pigment and quite common in Uruguay) and many ducks and other birds such as the largest bird in South America - the ‘ostrich-like’ “ñandú” (American rhea). After a typical “asado lunch” enjoy some horseback riding to explore the estancia surroundings. Dinner and accommodation at Guardia del Monte. B, L, D



DAY 8 / TREKKING FROM VALIZAS TO CABO POLONIO, INCREDIBLE SAND DUNES AND SEA LIONS



After breakfast, drive to the entrance of “Cabo Polonio” where Neike! will guide you to the meeting point with your local guide. After parking the car in the visitor’s centre, your guide will drive you to the small village of Barra de Valizas to start the trek along the coastline and across the incredible shifting sand dunes. Trek up the “Buena Vista Hill” from where a fantastic view of the ocean can be appreciated and continue down towards Cabo Polonio (4 hours trek). After a delicious seafood lunch at a local seaside restaurant, visit the light house and sea lions reserve (one of the biggest ones in the world!). Afternoon 4x4 truck-drive to the main entrance of Cabo Polonio where your car is waiting for you! Continue your drive to the small secret town of Garzon. Dinner and accommodation at Casa Anna. B, L, D

DAY 9 / COLINAS DE GARZON, A TALE OF OLIVES AND VINEYARDS, THE “URUGUAYAN TUSCANY”

After breakfast, drive to Colinas de Garzon, where the best olive oil of Uruguay is produced. For those who enjoy the taste of new experiences, spectacular views, top quality wines and olive oils, this will be a wonderful visit. You will be able to learn all the secrets of the extra virgin olive oil and explore the olive plantations and Boutique Production Plant. It is an invitation to discover the origins of this product and its elaboration process. You will then continue your drive to the vineyards area to enjoy a tasting of the fine wines and olive oils of Colinas de Garzon, offered with selected home-made cheeses. Drive back to Pueblo Garzon for some quality time to rest and explore the town where time seems to have stood still for some decades: Villagers peacefully drinking mate without the hurries of modern life while the neighbor next door feeds her horse and the local grocery store sells gas in canisters. During the evening, you will have the opportunity to visit one of the local wonderful restaurants. Accommodation at Casa Anna. B, L.



DAY 10 / THE ATCHUGARRY FOUNDATION AND AGUAVERDE WINERY AND SPA

Early in the morning, Neike! will guide you to the Atchugarry Foundation of the Uruguayan sculptor Pablo Atchugarry located in Manantiales, a nonprofit institution created in 2007, by the sculptor Pablo Atchugarry with the intention of promoting art and to create a meeting place for artists of all disciplines, a place that blends nature & art. After the visit, continue driving onto Aguaverde Winery, where the Vineyards flow out from the main house and pool. Surrounded by the natural beauty of the landscape, between streams and hills of different shades, grapes are maintained by craftsmen and harvested 100% by hand during the evening in order to assure coolness and freshness to the process. Enjoy a unique farm to table style brunch under the trees and overlooking the vineyards. The chef will create the perfect meal using the freshest locally farmed ingredients. The pleasure of using free range and organic produce allows one to experience what these products are really meant to taste like. After a tasting of their fine wines, continue your drive towards the towns of La Barra and Manantiales, two charming jewels of the Uruguayan coast. Neike! will guide you around if you wish to visit small stores and boutiques or enjoy a coffee at one of the local bakeries and bars. Continue your drive onto the town of Jose Ignacio. Accommodation at Posada del Faro. B, L.



DAY 11 / JOSE IGNACIO

Enjoy a day at leisure to relax at this amazing small town. Neike! will give you all the tips on the area! Accommodation at Posada del Faro. B.



DAY 12 / RETURN

After breakfast, drive back to Montevideo to drop off your car at the port or airport.



WESTERN LOOP OF URUGUAY! 8 DAYS, 7 NIGHTS

Explore the beautiful and traditional West of Uruguay which blends the traditions of the countryside, the history of the battles of the river plate and the western vineyards. Néike! will guide you around this unexplored region and tell you all the secrets of the area!



DAY 1 / MONTEVIDEO

Arrival and transfer to "Alma Histórica" Hotel located within the old town of Montevideo (No other services are including supposing you might have booked the "Eastern Loop" first. Walking tour and lunch at the port market could be easily added to this day!). Accommodation at "Alma Histórica" Hotel (or similar).

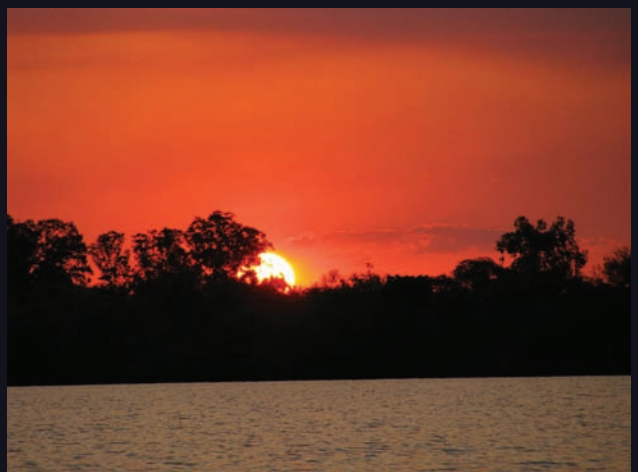


DAY 2 / MONTEVIDEO - ESTANCIA SANTA MODESTA

After breakfast, your car will be delivered to your hotel in order to start your driving adventure with Neike! A LARES representative will assist you and carefully explain how Neike works and give you your driving kit. Drive to the Province of Paysandú, next to the region of Guichon to visit the traditional Estancia of Santa Modesta. Lunch at the estancia and afternoon at leisure to relax, go horseback riding or learn about the daily tasks of the countryside life. Dinner and accommodation at the estancia. B, L, D.

DAY 3 / ENJOY GUICHON!

Enjoy your day in the area by joining a place to place horseback riding tour across the "Cerros Chatos" (Flat Hills), a canoeing journey along the Queguay River or a full day of relax at the Almiron Salt Hot Springs with massages included. Dinner and accommodation included at Santa Modesta. B, D.



DAY 4 / ESTEROS DE FARRAPAS NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA

After breakfast, Neike! will guide you to the town of San Javier from where you will take a small local boat to visit the Protected Islands of Esteros de Farrapos. This is a little-birded site but may turn out to be one of the most diverse spots for birds in the country since it has been recognized under the Ramsar Convention as a Wetland of International Significance with 174.96 km² including 24 islands. It is known to be the only protected area where Maned Wolf has been recorded and the last known refuge for the Puma in Uruguay; over 200 species of birds have been recorded in the park. After the visit, continue driving to the town of Dolores. Accommodation at Hostal del Espinillo. B, L.

DAY 5 / FRAY BENTOS

After breakfast, follow Neike!’s directions in the area to discover the cultural highlights of the area. The first stop is Mercedes, one of the oldest cities in Uruguay where you can visit the coastal Rambla of the Rio Negro, the nice squares, the city’s cathedral and the Maua Castle, which, located just a few kilometers outside of Mercedes, was built in the midst of the 19th century as an Estancia and nowadays houses a paleontological museum and the Maua winery. Continue driving to Fray Bentos for a visit to the Museum of the Industrial Revolution, located on the grounds of the slaughterhouse and meat processing plant “El Anglo” which produced the famous Fray Bentos Corned Beef. After visiting the area, follow Neike!’s directions to Carmelo. Accommodation at Finca Narbona Wine Lodge. B.



DAY 7 / COLONIA DEL SACRAMENTO

After a picnic brunch in the vineyards, follow Neike!’s directions to Colonia del Sacramento where you will meet your local guide to enjoy a walking city tour along the cobbled streets of the old town of “Colonia Del Sacramento” including the old buildings, old forts, Spanish and Portuguese Museums and the most important tourist spots of this Old Portuguese City from the XVII century that has been declared Patrimony of Mankind by the UNESCO. Accommodation at Charco Hotel. B.



DAY 6 / CARMELO WINERIES & VINEYARDS

Discover the region of the wines guided by Neike! Visit “Calera de las Huerfanos” Jesuit Ruins where the Uruguayan history of wine begins and where we can still see vineyards in the same location where the first vines were planted. Continue driving to El Legado winery, for a visit and tasting and then to Cordano family ran winery to enjoy lunch and tasting. Accommodation at Finca Narbona Wine Lodge. B, L.



DAY 8 / RETURN

After breakfast, follow Neike!’s directions back to Montevideo to drop off your car at the port or airport.

"ESTANCIAS SELF DRIVE" ITINERARY

This trip is ideal for those wishing to explore Uruguay in their own vehicle, with most of it being self driven. Start the trip in Colonia Del Sacramento, visit the vineyards in Montevideo, the National Park of Quebrada de los Cuervos (Vultures' Ravine), stay at a typical estancia, trek to the Natural Reserve of Cabo Polonio to visit one of the biggest reserves of sea lions in the world and combine the whole trip with character accommodations!



DAY 1 / BS. AS. - COLONIA (FINCA PIEDRA)



Arrival to "Colonia Del Sacramento" where a LARES guide will assist you with the car rental pick-up (Cat E - Hyundai Accent or similar); a complete map of Uruguay will be provided together with the necessary directions to arrive to each one of the estancias/ haciendas included in the itinerary. Self-drive to Finca Piedra Farm located in the region of San José (80 min. drive) where guests will be expected with a delicious lunch and will spend a first day in the Uruguayan countryside. The Estancia invites to hike, discover the own vineyards, take a bike ride across the fields, relax at the pool or enjoy an afternoon riding. Dinner and accommodation at Estancia Finca Piedra. L, D



DAY 3 / MONTEVIDEO - PROVINCE OF TREINTA Y TRES



Drive to the Province of Treinta y Tres where guests will stay at "Estancia Pinos de la Quebrada" or "Estancia Los Platanos". Lunch and afternoon rural activities; guests will be able to participate in the daily activities of the rural life and learn about the gaucho culture, the countryside style of life and its traditions. Dinner and accommodation at the estancia with full board included. B, L, D.



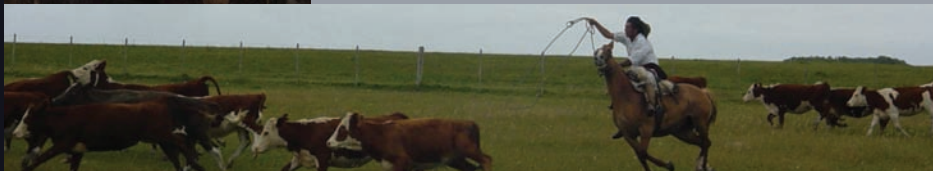
DAY 2 / FINCA PIEDRA - MVDEO.

Continue trip to Montevideo (1.5hs drive) where you will be expected for lunch at the lively Port Market. During an afternoon walking city tour, you can discover the highlights of the ancient city center of Montevideo. Moreover, you will visit several art museums and the famous Solis theatre. Accommodation at My Suites Hotel w/ breakfast included. B,L



DAY 4 / THE LIFE OF A WORKING ESTANCIA

Enjoy the simple things of the everyday rural life by participating in the daily activities of the estancia working alongside the gauchos and their trusty. The work varies depending on the time of the year, but the wonderful, friendly gauchos with their berets, 'bombachas' (riding trousers) and with their knives tucked into their colorful belts, always welcome a bit of help checking and moving the stock or putting animals in the corrals; they all seem to have been born on a horse and it is a delight to be riding with them! Full board included. Accommodation at the estancia. B, L, D.



DAY 5 / QUEBRADA DE LOS CUERVOS NATIONAL PARK



Early drive to the National Park of Quebrada de los Cuervos where guests will spend the day trekking down the fantastic gorge that is formed at the junctions of the "Yerbal Stream" and "Olimar River" (a local guide can be coordinated with anticipation and extra cost). A lot of wildlife can be seen in the area which is also great for bird watching! The estancia will prepare a nice picnic for guests so they can spend the day exploring. Afternoon drive down Route 8 towards Mariscal, where guests will enjoy dinner and relax at Posada de Campo Balcon del Abra. B, L, D.



DAY 6 / ESTANCIA BALCÓN DEL ABRA

Today, guests will spend a full day at this estancia dedicated to the breeding of horses and which is surrounded by the rolling hills of the Lavalleja Province. Guests can organize some trekking to the nearby hills, a riding tour to the nearby estancia (extra cost) or just relax at the natural BIOTOP pool. Dinner and accommodation at "Balcon del Abra". B, L, D.



DAY 7 / ESTANCIA BALCÓN DEL ABRA - ESTANCIA GUARDIA DEL MONTE

After breakfast, drive south-east along the winding and panoramic Route 109 towards the Province of Rocha. Guests will enjoy wonderful landscape! Arrival to Estancia Guardia del Monte where a delicious lunch will be waiting! Guardia del Monte is a traditional estancia with outstanding landscape beauty and important ecosystems containing a great variety of birds and native scrublands. We will enjoy some quality bird watching along the large area of marshlands and wetlands both of which are teeming with bird life (more than 400 species in this area), otters, coypus and capybaras. We will be able to spot the graceful black-necked swan (largest populations in the world found here), the rare white goose, the pink flamingo (a species of flamingo with very bright pink pigment and quite common in Uruguay) and many ducks and other birds such as the largest bird in South America - the 'ostrich-like' "ñandú" (American rhea). Dinner and accommodation at Estancia Guardia del Monte. B, L, D.



DAY 9 / RETURN

After breakfast, drive back to Montevideo Airport.

DAY 8 / TREKKING EXPEDITION FROM VALIZAS TO CABO POLONIO ACROSS SHIFTING SAND DUNES



After breakfast, drive to Valizas town where a local guide will be waiting to start an unforgettable tour to "Cabo Polonio" Village. After a short walk around the town, we will start the trekking along the coastline that will take us towards the incredible shifting sand dunes (one of the biggest ones in the world). We will trek up the "Buena Vista Hill" from where a fantastic view of the ocean can be appreciated, to continue down towards Cabo Polonio (4 hours trek). After a delicious seafood lunch at a local seaside restaurant, we will visit the light house and sea lions reserve. Afternoon 4x4 truck- drive towards the main entrance of Cabo Polonio where a private transfer will drive guests back to Valizas to pick up their car. Drive back to Estancia Guardia del Monte for dinner and accommodation. B, L, D.

BIKE & RIDE THE COAST & EASTERN VINEYARDS OF PUNTA DEL ESTE 7 DAYS

A very special tour that will take you to the heart of Uruguay ... Eat, Drink, Ride & Live is the proposal of this amazing tour that will take you to the hilly landscape of Colinas de Garzon, the amazing coast of the Atlantic ocean, unforgettable sunsets blended with some of the best fine wines, art galleries, amazing cycling routes and the company of some of the best horses you will ever meet



DAY 1 / AGUAVERDE

Arrival and transfer to "Aguaverde Luxury Wine Lodge". Start your holidays by relaxing at the Wine Spa with a massage or yoga class. Visit the vineyards and participate in a blind wine tasting before an unforgettable farm to table "Secret Menu Dinner". Accommodation at Aguaverde. D.



DAY 2 / INTRODUCTORY RIDE TO THE ATCHUGARRY FOUNDATION

Start your horseback riding adventure by choosing your horse! Ride along the vineyards and through internal trails towards Finca Narona to enjoy lunch overlooking the vineyards of this vintage special winery. Continue onto the Atchugarry Foundation founded by Alejandro Atchugarry, renowned Uruguayan artist and visit the permanent exhibition and "Sculpture Park". Ride your horse to "La Linda" Bakery and taste some local pastries, tea and coffee. Ride back to Aguaverde and enjoy an unforgettable "Wagyu Asado Dinner". Accommodation at Aguaverde. D.

DAY 3 / RIDING TREK TO JOSE IGNACIO

After breakfast, begin your day riding your horse along the charming streets of La Barra and Manantiales and down to the beach towards the east. Experience the freedom of cantering along the coast before arriving to the town of Jose Ignacio for a delicious lunch at the famous "La Huella" beach restaurant. Relax at the beach before continuing onto Estancia VIK. Dinner and accommodation at Estancia VIK. B, L, D.



DAY 4 / SWIMMING WITH THE HORSES

After an early breakfast, ride cross country along private trails of local private estancias towards the beach, where the Garzon Lagoon reaches the ocean! For the adventurous ones, we offer the possibility to swim with the horses at the lagoon before continuing onto La Caracola exclusive Private Beach Club to enjoy lunch and spend the rest of the day at this pristine virgin beach! Transfer back to Estancia Vik. Free Dinner to visit one of the wonderful local restaurants. Accommodation at Estancia VIK. B, L.

DAY 5 / DAY AT LEISURE

Today, you will have a complete day at leisure to enjoy the area or spend a full day use at Bahia Vik enjoying the beach. Free Dinner and accommodation. B.



DAY 6 / BIKE TO GARZON

After breakfast, begin your biking experience in Uruguay! Morning bike to the area of Colinas de Garzon to visit the olive oil plantations; this area is currently known as the Uruguayan Tuscany where more than 4000 hectares of olive trees and vineyards grow under the peaceful sun of the Uruguayan hills. After an olive oil and wine tasting, continue onto the small town of Garzon, a sleepy small town where time seems to have stood still for decades. Feel the laid back atmosphere of the place with the villagers peacefully drinking mate without the hurries of modern life while the neighbor next door feeds her horse and the local grocery store sells gas in canisters. During the evening, participate in a private cooking class that will introduce you to the best that our regional products have to offer. Spend a lovely evening with hands-on instruction by one of our professional local chefs and take not only your memories home, but also some great recipes and techniques to add to your own collection. "Home-made dinner" and accommodation at Casa Anna. B, L, D.



DAY 7 / GARZON

Morning at leisure and free lunch to enjoy the local restaurant of your choice (not included). During the afternoon, participate in a bike tour to the Garzon vineyards and winery to enjoy a wine tasting and the incredible landscape of the surroundings. During the evening, enjoy an intimate farewell dinner under the stars at Casa Anna. B, L, D.



DAY 8 / RETURN

After breakfast, transfer towards the Peninsula of Punta del Este. After a short visit to the port and surroundings, continue to the intriguing "Casapueblo", a spectacularly-designed property by Uruguayan artist Carlos Paez Vilaró located on the hillside over the water. Enjoy a drink while overlooking the beautiful panoramic view of the Atlantic Ocean. Continue onto "Altos de la Ballena Winery" for a farewell wine tasting while enjoying a last amazing view of the area. Afternoon transfer to Punta del Este Airport.

THE PAINTED BIRDS TOUR

7 NIGHTS, 8 DAYS

"Uruguay" means "River of the painted birds" in the traditional Guaraní local language; this tour will take you to traditional estancias, the biosphere reserve of the eastern wetlands and the oceanic coast!



DAY 1 / MONTEVIDEO - TOUR OF THE CAPITAL CITY & PORT MARKET



Today is set aside to relax and explore the coastal city of Montevideo. Transfer along the wonderful coastline called "Rambla" to the downtown hotel. Enjoy lunch at the lively Port Market and a short walking tour of the "Old City" of Montevideo. Accommodation at Don Boutique Hotel. L.



DAY 3 / BARRA DEL CHUY BEACH - BRAZILIAN BORDER & A RIDE ALONG A PRISTINE BEACH



After breakfast, we will be drive to 'Chuy', a very curious town straddling the border where guests can step into Brazil and hear the locals speak a strange language made of a mix of Spanish and Portuguese. Continue onto our horses to start a nice 3-4 hours ride towards the coast!

After a special picnic lunch, riders may have a pleasant "siesta" discovering that gauchos' saddles are so comfortable to ride as to sleep! In the afternoon, we will enjoy a fast-paced ride along the wonderful, isolated ocean beach of 'Barra Chuy'. Visitors seldom reach this beach so we can enjoy a long, exhilarating canter with no signs of habitation as we ride across the pure white sands alongside the Atlantic Ocean. We arrive 22km (12 miles) further south to "La Coronilla" and stay at small beachside hotel. AB, L, D.



DAY 2 / 18 TH CENTURY FORTIN DE SAN MIGUEL

After breakfast, we will be driven to the Brazilian border and into Rocha, arguably the most beautiful province in Uruguay with pristine beaches, emerald shores and a great network of lagoons. We will arrive to Estancia "La Rosada" located next to the small town of La Coronilla. After lunch, enjoy a wonderful ride along the estancia in order to get to know our horses. After a typical "merienda", continue onto Fortin de San Miguel, built in the same stone as the nearby Portuguese fortress. We can admire the views out across an enormous stretch of fresh water - one of the largest fresh water reserves of South America, the "Merín Lagoon"; we are right on the Brazilian border. This area is home to a wide variety of birds and we will see many different native trees and bushes. Dinner and accommodation at "Fortín de San Miguel" Hotel. AB, L, D.



DAY 4 / SANTA TERESA NATIONAL PARK, DOLPHINS & SHIPWRECKS

Today we will ride south alternating beaches, sand dunes, pine forests and coastal hills where we might see dolphins feeding before getting to the immense Santa Teresa National Park. The center piece of the park is a fort started in 1762 by the Portuguese to defend the edge of their territories then completed by the Spaniards who took it by assault just a year later. This was just the start of a succession of conquering, losing and reconquering the fort; it was not until 1825 that the newly forming 'Uruguay' finally captured and held the fort. The fort is surrounded by 3000 hectares of forest containing over 2 million trees, most from other parts of the world. After a picnic lunch we will enjoy riding along the forest trails and down to the beach and we will pass a shipwreck buried in the sand, one of many along this treacherous coast; indeed, Cabo Polonio (where we ride later) is named after a Spanish galleon that went down just off the point. Luckily 'Beagle' with Charles Darwin aboard did not succumb to this fate and Darwin spent quite some time in Uruguay collecting species and most likely starting to formulate his theories of evolution. After a traditional picnic close to the fortress or on the beach, depending on the weather, we will continue along the coast towards the lovely town of Punta del Diablo. Dinner and accommodation at Posada Terrazas de la Viuda. AB, L, D.

DAY 5 / CABO POLONIO - SHIFTING SANDS & SEA LIONS



The day starts with a drive to the ocean coast. We will meet our horses and ride into the desert! We ride through the area which has been declared a natural animal reserve and a Biosphere Natural Reserve by UNESCO. We will ride to Cabo Polonio, a charming fishing town which can only be reached by horse or four wheeled drive. The fascinating part of the area is the huge area of shifting sand dunes, as we ride through it is possible to imagine that we are right in the middle of the Sahara. After lunch at a typical restaurant on the beach we will see seals and sea lions that populate the small islands and make up one of the largest populations of seals in the world; very occasionally we spot a migrating whale. Riders can swim in one of the most beautiful beaches of the country. Continue ride onto the town of Valizas. Dinner at Masa madre Restaurant, a typical local "rancho valicero" where the chef will cook specially for the group. Accommodation at Posada Valizas AB, L, D.

DAY 7 / CATTLE AND SHIP WORK WITH THE GAUCHOS ON THE ESTANCIA

The day starts with a lovely breakfast of homemade bread, jams and cakes, admiring the views of the countryside. A wonderful day working alongside the gauchos and their trusty dogs as they tend to the cattle and sheep on this working ranch. The work varies depending on the time of the year, but the gauchos always welcome a bit of help checking and moving the stock or putting animals in the corrals. Sometimes a lame animal has to be caught and tended to. The wonderful, friendly gauchos with their berets, 'bombachas' (riding trousers) and with their knives tucked into their colorful belts all seem to have been born on a horse and it is a delight to be riding with them. Their dogs are very much work animals and it is an amazing sight to see four dogs working in unison moving a herd of cattle. The dogs unfortunately cannot count and that gets very tricky for us, especially with the sheep, a recount often being required! A game of armadillo jumping often inadvertently gets underway as the little armor-plated animals make a dash for their holes as the horses approach. After lunch we will ride to the nearby wetland area hoping to see some herons or other migrating birds. In the evening, we will enjoy a typical "cordero asado", specially cooked for us by one of the gauchos! B, L, D

DAY 8 / RETURN

Depending on the return flights, we will be able to enjoy our last morning ride to say goodbye to our lovely horses and after a quick lunch, we will head back to Montevideo – to the airport, port, the city, or to start an extension tour. AB, L.



DAY 6 / CATTLE AND SHIP WORK WITH THE GAUCHOS ON THE ESTANCIA

After breakfast, we will start our amazing ride along the wetlands towards the countryside. We will ride along the Castillos and across an amazing untouched landscape of Palm groves, Ombu Forests and wetlands. We will enjoy a picnic lunch on the way before reaching the lovely & charming Estancia Guardia del Monte, a traditional working estancia. Accommodation and dinner at Guardia del Monte. B, L, D.



URUGUAY COAST & VINEYARDS BIKE TOUR

7 DAYS

Nestled between Brazil and Argentina, this tiny country in South America is a true traveler's and cyclist's paradise. Join us on a cycling tour in Uruguay and experience the trip of a lifetime!.



OVERVIEW: This cycling tour in Uruguay is simply outstanding. Nestled between Brazil and Argentina, this tiny country in South America is a true traveler's and cyclist's paradise. It is peaceful, quiet and, above all, gorgeous. Our bike tour is true to its name, visiting the vineyards that produce Uruguay's famous tannat wines and cycling along the Atlantic coast, passing through the marvelous Parque Anchorena National Park to relax among the diverse wildlife along the way. Stopping for private cheese and wine tastings throughout the week and visiting historical cities like Colonia Del Sacramento and booming natural destinations like Punta del Este, this bike trip is unlike any other. Join us on a cycling tour in Uruguay and experience the trip of a lifetime.

DAY 1 / COLONIA DEL SACRAMENTO & CARMELO

(13:45) Meet at the Buquebus <<http://www.buquebus.com>> Ferry Boat terminal in Colonia del Sacramento for our transfer to the Charming Finca Narbona Wine Lodge, in Carmelo. During the afternoon, we will enjoy a traditional Mate tasting.

Meals: Dinner.

Optional bike loop around to the area of Punta Gorda, considered to be "km 0" of the River Plate (16 kms)



DAY 2 / CARMELO

After breakfast (10:00 am), we'll bike to downtown Carmelo and Playa Cere before continuing to the boutique winery, El Legado, for a tour of the vineyard and a wine tasting. Here we'll indulge in Uruguay's famous tannat wines. This grape is known for yielding very intense ruby wines, marked by firm, mature and lasting tannins. Lunch in Carmelo. In the afternoon, cycle back to Finca Narbona where we will enjoy a cheese tasting of their specialty cheese made with crude cow's milk combined with a tannat wine tasting - leaving the best for dinner later this evening - delicious homemade pasta, the specialty of the house!

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Total distance: 34 km

DAY 3 / CARMELO & COLONIA DEL SACRAMENTO

After breakfast (9:30 am), we have a short transfer to Parque Anchorena (40 min, approximately), one of Uruguay's private national parks, for a special treat. Exclusive access to the park! Our private cycling tour will take us through the park as we ride among the thousands of deer in their natural habitat. From here, we'll continue on to the historical city of Colonia del Sacramento (1h30min), where we'll meet our local guide for an in-depth history of this picturesque city, then stop for another deliciously prepared lunch at La Florida restaurant. After lunch we'll visit the Portuguese museum, the Spanish museum, the Portuguese Museum of Mosaics, and the city's main church and light house. For those longing for an additional bike ride, it is possible to cycle the rest of the way to our hotel, Casa Limoneros, where we'll enjoy dinner later in the evening.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Total distance: 39 km



DAY 4 / COLONIA DEL SACRAMENTO - PUNTA DEL ESTE

After breakfast, transfer by van to Juanico Vineyard (1h45min approximately). Upon our arrival we'll head out for a quick bike loop around the winery's lake, capped off by a champagne toast. We'll then enjoy a tour of the winery, a wine tasting and lunch. After lunch we'll transfer to the stunning Punta del Este (1h45min approximately). Free night; there will be a shuttle to and from the city center for those who want to head into town. Accommodation at Aguaverde Luxury Wine Lodge. B, L.

Meals: Breakfast and lunch.
Total distance: 6km



DAY 5 / PUNTA DEL ESTE - JOSÉ IGNACIO

After breakfast (09:30), check-out and bike to Casa Pueblo Museum, the workshop of the world-famous Uruguayan artist Carlos Paez Vilaró, who designed and built the studio himself. His place is a masterpiece - without a single straight line. His unique style represents a breaking away from traditional architectural concepts. After our visit, we will continue biking to Manantiales (Bikini beach) where we will have lunch at "Cactus & Pescados" Restaurant. Following lunch, you can either hop in the van or ride the rest of the way to our hotel for the night in Jose Ignacio, Posada del Faro.

Meals: Breakfast and lunch.
Total distance: 36.5 km
Long option: + 19 km



DAY 6 / JOSÉ IGNACIO

This morning (10:30 am) we'll transfer to the village of Garzon (45 min approximately), founded in 1892 by Fermin de León. Here we'll take part in a cooking class and eat lunch at Casa Ana. Afterwards, we'll cycle to Colinas de Garzon, an amazing olive oil plant surrounded by olive trees and vineyards. Our visit here includes an incredible olive oil and wine tasting. Continue the ride to Anastacio lagoon, where a fisherman boat will be waiting to take us to Garzuana for a happy hour. At the end of the Day, return to the Posada by car or continue biking. Dinner in La Huella restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.
Total distance: 32.5km
Long option: + 9 km



DAY 7 / JOSÉ IGNACIO - PUNTA DEL ESTE

After breakfast, say "adios" to Uruguay as we transfer you to the Punta del Este Airport. We suggest you to take a flight from Punta del Este Airport.

Meals: Breakfast.



14 DAYS
13 NIGHTS

WINE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME!



“In order to appreciate a good wine and recognize its value, it is first important to know its history and learn who’s behind each bottle” - This is exactly what we propose with this new tour that combines Uruguay and Chile with magnificent and unique properties and very special wineries reserved and appreciated only by those who will really recognize an authentic wine experience. All of the places and persons included in this tour have been carefully chosen because they are intimately liked to wine. A tour specially designed for wine lovers and foodies!

DAY 1 / BUENOS AIRES

Arrival to Buenos Aires and transfer to the port. Accommodation at Legado Mítico Hotel (if possible, room “Carlos Gardel”, furnished to reflect uruguayan vocalist Carlos Gardel, as a way to start learning a bit about Uruguay)



DAY 3 / BUENOS AIRES - COLONIA

Transfer to the port and fast ferry to Colonia del Sacramento. Arrival and walking tour of the Old town declared human heritage by UNESCO. Accommodation at Charco Boutique Hotel

DAY 2 / BUENOS AIRES

Day at leisure. Accommodation at Legado Mítico Hotel



DAY 4 / COLONIA - CALERA DE LAS HUÉRFANAS - WINERIES EL LEGADO & CORDANO

After breakfast, private to Carmelo. On the way, guests will visit the Calera de las Huérfanas Jesuit Ruins where the first vines of Uruguay were planted more than 250 years ago. After learning about the history of wines, we will then continue onto Finca Narbona Wine Lodge (Relais Chateaux) where guests will enjoy a lovely stay. Accommodation at Finca Narbona.

DAY 5 / CARMELO

Visit of the local wineries Cordano & El Legado with tasting included. Picnic lunch in the vineyards of Finca Narbona with visit to the winery and tasting. Guests will find out about the TANNAT wine of Uruguay and how our fine wines have grown in the past 10 years. Depending on the size of the party we can also participate in the "Enologist for a day" program in which guests will learn about how blends are made and they will actually be able to prepare their own blend with personal brand to take home. Accommodation at Finca Narbona.



DAY 6 / CARMELO - MONTEVIDEO

Private transfer to Montevideo where guests will enjoy lunch at the lively and typical Port Market. Walking tour of the old town visiting the Carnival Museum, the Solis Theatre, the Torres Garcia Art Museum, the Constitution Square with its Cabildo and Cathedral. After enjoying a cup of coffee at the Puro Verso Coffee Shop, they will end at the Independence Square, dedicated to the memory of our national Heroe Jose Gervasio Artigas who fought for the freedom of the colonies of the River Plate. Accommodation at Alma Histórica Boutique Hotel.



DAY 7 / MONTEVIDEO

Full day tour of the Montevideo Vineyards. We will visit the Juanico winery, one of the biggest ones in the country and then enjoy lunch at Bodega "Los Nadies" owned by the former owner of Bodegas Filgueira (also one of the most well-known ones in Uruguay). After a lifetime within the wine industry, Manuel Filgueira, enologist and wine lover, decided to start a new boutique project which he called "Los Nadies", a winery where only 2 wines are produced. Probably two of the best wines you will ever taste. Manuel will share with you his passion for wines and guide you along an unforgettable wine tasting. Accommodation at Alma Histórica Boutique Hotel.



DAY 8 / MONTEVIDEO - JOSÉ IGNACIO

Private transfer to Jose Ignacio, a small and charming town within the East of Uruguay and very famous among worldwide and regional celebrities. Afternoon visit of the surrounding area of Punta del Este, Punta Ballena, La Barra and Manantiales including Casapueblo and the Atchugarry Foundation. Accommodation at Bahia VIK.

DAY 9 / JOSÉ IGNACIO

Day at leisure. Accommodation at Bahia VIK.

DAY 10 / JOSÉ IGNACIO

Full day tour to the wineries of the area. We will start with a visit to the area of Garzón where the landscape changes completely and more than 4000 hectares of olive tree plantations and vineyards have been planted. Guests will enjoy a visit to the Colinas de Garzón Olive oil factory with an olive oil and wine tasting. We will then continue onto Altos de la Ballena Winery, a small family ran winery where we will taste their best wines while enjoying an incredible view of the Sauce lagoon and Punta del Este. The tour finishes at the Aguaverde vineyards, an amazing spot in the area of La Barra where the enologist of the winery will receive us to enjoy lunch, a lovely visit to the vineyards (within harvest season Feb/March, guests will be able to participate in the harvest process together with the local workers) and an unforgettable blind tasting!
Accommodation at Bahía VIK.



DAY 11 / JOSE IGNACIO - SANTIAGO DE CHILE (CACHAPOAL VALLEY)

Morning transfer to Montevideo to board the flight to Santiago de Chile. Arrival and transfer to the Cachapoal Valley to spend three unforgettable nights in the location of Millahue. After doing the check-in with one of the experience concierges of Viña Vik, guests will enjoy a visit to the vineyards and winery with tasting including three different strains plus the iconic Vik Wine.
Accommodation at Viña VIK (all-inclusive regime).



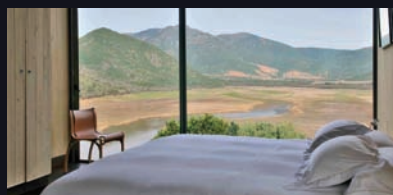
DAY 12 / MILLAHUE

Full day enjoying the activities at Viña Vik. Suggested activities for today would be horseback riding or a bike tour within the vineyards to enjoy the stunning views and landscape. During the afternoon, guests will have time to relax at the Wine Spa and enjoy one of the best treatments with the exclusive Vik products made with the grapes obtained from the vineyards of the valley. During the evening (only available between the months of March and May), guests will enjoy one of the most amazing experiences: the VIK Evening Harvest. At Viña Vik, the harvest takes place during the night in order to preserve the grapes in its best quality. Guests will be part of the harvest process having the opportunity to participate hands on the experience!
Accommodation at Viña VIK (all-inclusive regime).



DAY 13 / MILLAHUE VALLEY

Morning yoga class overlooking the valley and picnic within the vineyards. Afternoon at leisure.
Accommodation at Viña VIK (all-inclusive regime).



DAY 14 / MILLAHUE VALLEY - SANTIAGO DE CHILE

Private transfer to Santiago (2 hours) to board the flight back home.



CHARCO HOTEL

COLONIA DEL SACRAMENTO
PROVINCE OF COLONIA



DESCRIPTION: Situated in a fabulous location on the banks of the Rio de la Plata is small, elegant and beautiful Posada, the Charco Hotel. Guests benefit from sumptuous river views from the well-maintained garden or from some bedrooms. Each of the rooms within this delightful colonial building is spacious and well-furnished, and come with a full range of modern creature comforts, including an iPod docking station. The hotel has only seven rooms, known as "White Rooms" and each has been individually designed. They are relaxing havens of tranquility, idyllic homes from home. For dining, Charco Hotel has a small bistro with wonderful meals that are made only from the freshest ingredients. Guests can dine while enjoying the views of the river. For those who want to get fit or stay fit during their stay, the hotel provides bicycles to get around the city. Overall, the hotel offers a calm and soothing atmosphere in delightful surroundings, and the attention to detail from staff is second to none.



CHARACTERISTICS

4 Star Deluxe Boutique Hotel
7 Rooms (double)
Private Bathroom
TV 32"
Telephone
Security box
King Rooms



ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

Bistró Restaurant
A la carte breakfast
Garden with chairs
Wi-fi
Bicycles



LOCATIONS

San Pedro 116
Colonia del Sacramento
Uruguay
Tel.: (+598) 4523 5000 - 01 - 02
<http://www.charcohotel.com>

POSADA LA CASA DE LOS LIMONEROS

REAL DE SAN CARLOS,
PROVINCE OF COLONIA



DESCRIPTION: Only minutes away from the historical centre of Colonia Del Sacramento, you will find this beautiful charming inn where modern and antique decoration is combined. The name of the Inn was taken from the nearby lemon tree plantations that surround the area of grasslands located only a few meters from the River Plate. The enchanted lake, ample swimming pool and wooden decks constitute the perfect atmosphere to enjoy drinks or the excellent gastronomy that derives from exclusive recipes of the Inn. An incredible romantic inn specially recommended for honeymooners. It is the perfect cozy refuge to rest and enjoy the peaceful sounds of the countryside not far away from the charms of Colonia!



ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

Restaurant
Bar
Maid service
Laundry service
Transfer service
Room service
Swimming pool
Playroom
Horseback riding
Tennis court
Internet



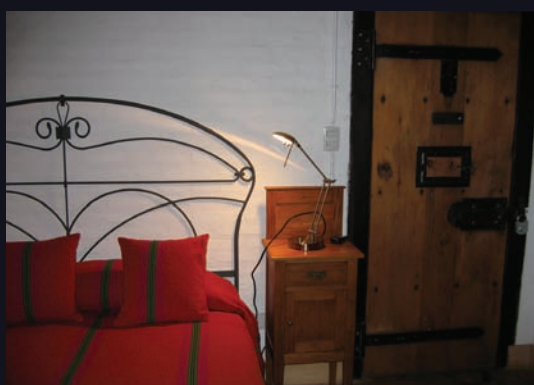
CHARACTERISTICS

4 Star Posada
7 Rooms (double, twin,
triple)
Air conditioning



LOCATIONS

Carretera H Mignone y camino
Tomas Assandri
Real de San Carlos, Colonia,
Uruguay
Tel.: (+598) 4523 1028
www.lacasadeloslimoneros.com



FINCA NARBONA WINE LODGE

CARMELO,
PROVINCE OF COLONIA



DESCRIPTION: "Finca Narbona" is located on Route 21, between Carmelo and Nueva Palmira, two Uruguayan cities situated on the border of Rio de la Plata River. It is one of the most antique places you can stay in Uruguay and offers a great variety of options. The superb Tannat wine is produced on this farm and furthermore delicious cheeses, organic fruits and fresh vegetables are a good reason to enjoy your meal. But "Narbona" is more than that, because it is a place of history. In 1732, Juan de Narbona, one of the creators of "La Recoleta" in Buenos Aires, arrived to this area and fell in love with it. He created a jewel of a product, the estancia, the bodega and the chapel, which are definitely worth a visit for everybody interested in antique original buildings. The restaurant is specialized in pastas, but includes as well a countryside bakery where homemade bread is baked every day, and the small charming inn with two lovely rooms decorated in the traditional antique style of the building complete the image. All these things together, the food, the wine, the atmosphere and the service are great and the vintage cars owned by the winery make you feel as if you had gone 200 years back in time. A great experience you shouldn't miss!



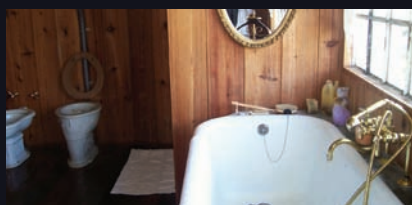
CHARACTERISTICS

3 Star Posada
2 Rooms (double)
Private bathroom



ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

Horse riding (additional cost)
Vineyard Picnics (additional cost)
Cheese & Wine tastings (add. cost)
Transfer services (additional cost)
Massages (additional cost)
Local tours (additional cost)
Laundry (additional cost)
Wifi
Access to El Faro Beach Club
Carmelo Golf Club Green Fee



LOCATIONS

Ruta 21, km 267
Carmelo, Colonia, Uruguay
Tel.: (+598) 4540 4778



CARMELO RESORT, A HYATT HOTEL

CARMELO,
PROVINCE OF COLONIA



DESCRIPTION: Nestling within a scented forest of pine and eucalyptus trees by the Rio de la Plata, Carmelo Resort offers 20 bungalows (including six of which overlook the river) and 24 bi-level suites. Each accommodation exudes a cozy ambience, with polished hand-finished floors, open-beamed ceilings with ceiling fans, and throw rugs that are exquisite examples of the art of local weavers. All have private terraces that are perfect for outdoor living and dining. In this resort, Carmelo Resort creates a unique experience by blending Asian and South American philosophies to promote the art of well-being. A unique selection of massage, relaxation and beauty treatments has been designed to soothe and refresh mind, body and soul. Influenced by the balanced harmony of yin and yang, treatments include an introduction to stress-reducing meditation techniques and skin-care treatments that induce both physical and mental ease.



ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

Restaurant
Laundry service
Maid service
Secretarial service
Swimming pool (indoor / outdoor) Sauna / Spa Services
Fitness facilities
Water Sports / Biking
Tennis course / Golf course (18 holes)
Business center / Meeting Rooms
Baby sitting service
Kids program (for all seasons)

CHARACTERISTICS

5 Star Hotel
20 Bungalows / 24 BI Level Suites
Private bathroom



LOCATIONS

Route 21, km 262. Carmelo,
Colonia, Uruguay
Tel.:(+598) 4542 9000
www.fourseasons.com/carmelo



ALMA HISTÓRICA BOUTIQUE HOTEL

HISTORIC CITY CENTRE
OF MONTEVIDEO



DESCRIPTION: Alma Histórica Boutique Hotel is a charming, small hotel with just 15 rooms located in the Ciudad Vieja, the oldest part of Montevideo. This part of the city evokes European cities, from where Immigrants departed to their new home Uruguay and whose influence on the Uruguayan culture is undoubted. Alma Histórica – Historical Soul – aims to be part of Uruguayan history and involve guests in this history. Each room is unique and decorated as a tribute to poets, sculptors, painters and other important characters of the Uruguayan Culture as for example Carlos Gardel and Juana de Ibarbourou. On the top floor, a rooftop terrace and a Jacuzzi invite to relax after a day of exploring the vibrant capital city Montevideo.

CHARACTERISTICS

4 Star Boutique Hotel
15 Rooms
TV



ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

Breakfast
Natural amenities
Wi Fi
Jacuzzi
Rooftop terrace
Meeting room
Library



LOCATIONS

Plaza Zabala
Solís 1433
Montevideo, Uruguay
www.almahistoricahotel.com

OLIVA LUXURY HOTEL

CITY OF MONTEVIDEO



DESCRIPTION: Situated in one of Montevideo's most prestigious neighborhoods is a hotel in a class of its own, the Oliva Luxury Hotel. There are just 30 rooms here, including eight suites designed by renowned designer Hassen Balut. Their cool and contemporary character is given a local feel and ambience with a selection of fascinating artworks by local artists. Many of the rooms boast large windows that look out onto the hotel's beautiful internal garden. All are comfortable, spacious and well-appointed and come with numerous features and amenities to make guests feel truly at home. Among the many hotel facilities that guests can avail themselves of are the spa, swimming pool, dry sauna and gym. A nice spot to relax in is the comfortable lobby with its bookshelves filled with the work of prominent local writers. When guests want to explore the city, they'll find that the hotel is situated close to some delightful independent boutiques and the large Punta Carretas Shopping Center.



ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

- Breakfast
- Restaurant & Bar
- Laundry and dry cleaning service
- Wi Fi
- Swimming pool
- Sauna and fitness facilities
- Internal garden
- Meeting rooms

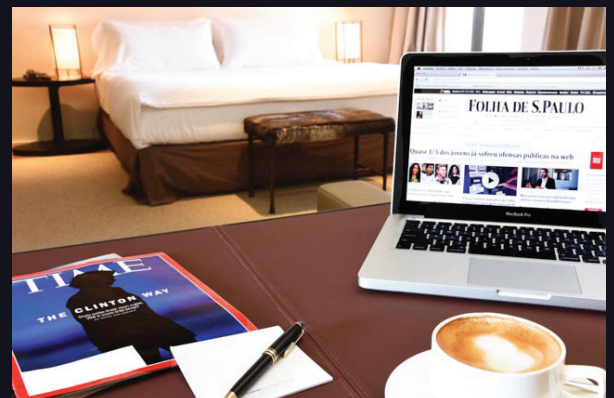
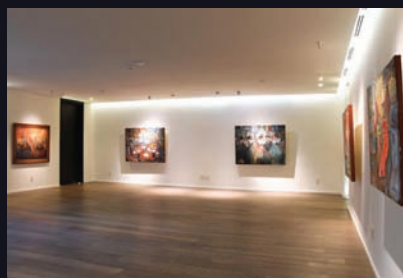


LOCATIONS

Garcia Cortinas 2371
Punta Carretas
Montevideo, Uruguay
www.olivahotel.com

CHARACTERISTICS

4 Star Deluxe Boutique
Hotel
22 Rooms
8 Suites
TV
Safe box



SOFITEL MONTEVIDEO CASINO CARRASCO & SPA

CARRASCO, MONTEVIDEO

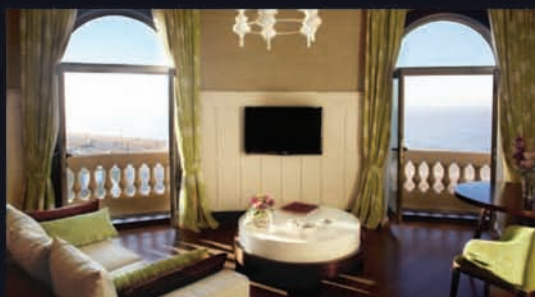


DESCRIPTION: Sofitel has chosen an iconic Montevideo building, located in Carrasco, the most exclusive part of town, surrounded by magnificent houses and vast gardens, with a lobby that opens out onto the beach. The fusion between the French art de vivre and local culture radiates throughout the entire building, which has been declared a National Heritage site and whose meticulous reconstruction process can be admired at every turn. It could be described as a palace on the beach, which resurfaces with nearly a century of luxury on its back. The hotel has 93 rooms and 23 suites that are furnished to offer guests a high level of comfort and privacy. It is also home to the leading So Spa, a large casino, restaurant, bar, library and café. Sofitel revived the soul of a sleeping giant and converted it into the most luxurious hotel in Montevideo combining the French elegance and the nostalgia of Montevideo at the turn of the 20th century making make this luxury hotel an unforgettable destination.



CHARACTERISTICS

Luxury Hotel
116 rooms
Restaurante 1921
Thays Lounge Bar
Tea Gallery
Casino



LOCATION

Costa Rica 1571
Montevideo, Uruguay
Tel. (+598) 2604 6060



ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

Breakfast buffet
Indoor and
outdoor
swimming pool
Fitness Center
Sauna
Hammam
Hair Saloon
Free Wifi



POSADA DE CAMPO EL BALCÓN DEL ABRA

MARISCALA,
PROVINCE OF LAVALLEJA



DESCRIPTION: In between the hills of the Province of Lavalleja, only minutes away from the small town of Mariscala, and 160 km away from the capital city of Montevideo, El Balcon del Abara offers unique landscapes, great comfort and the charm of a small posada with only 5 rooms. Guests will discover wonderful trails on horseback and trekking up the hills, along the countryside and across streams including the fantastic Salamanca Grottoes day trip and visits to nearby estancias. Rediscover nature, the history and rural tourism of Uruguay and let yourself be surprised by the beauty of wildlife. The delicious homemade food with organic products from the orchard and the excellent wines will stimulate your senses and help you relax and enjoy one of the best and unforgettable holidays!



ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

Restaurant
Maid service
Baby sitting service *(additional cost)*
Laundry service *(additional cost)*
Transfer Service *(additional cost)*
Horseback riding
Bird watching
Walking tours
Massages *(additional cost)*
Full day tour to Salamanca Grottoes *(additional cost)*



CHARACTERISTICS

Deluxe Posada
4 Superior Rooms
2 Standard Rooms
1 Deluxe Suite



LOCATIONS

Ruta 8 Km 184 Mariscala,
Lavalleja, Uruguay
Tel.: (+598) 4440 9479
www.elbalcondelabra.com



HOTEL SERENA

PLAYA MANSA, PUNTA DEL ESTE
PROVINCE OF MALDONADO



DESCRIPTION: Serena Hotel is decorated with a minimalist style and over Punta del Este's beach. You can choose between suites or standard rooms, all of them with a view to the sea and a unique decoration. Furthermore the Spa Hotel offers a spa area including massages, sauna and acclimatized SALT water swimming pool, a restaurant with sea view, a well equipped business center and an open pool with decks.

ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

CHARACTERISTICS

4 Star Superior Hotel
Only adults (not allowed under 16 years)
Air conditioning
TV
Safe box
Mini bar

Breakfast buffet
Restaurant
Swimming pools (salt water and sweet water)
Decks on the beach
Spa
Sauna
Massages
Internet
Business centre



LOCATIONS

Rambla Williman, Parada 24, Playa Mansa / Punta del Este, Uruguay
Tel. (+598) 4223 3441
www.serenahoteles.com



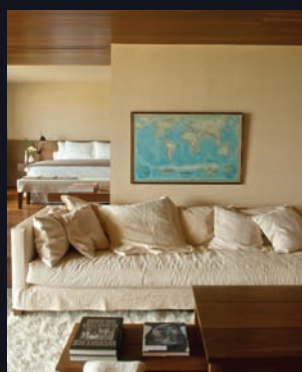
HOTEL FASANO LAS PIEDRAS

PROVINCE OF MALDONADO



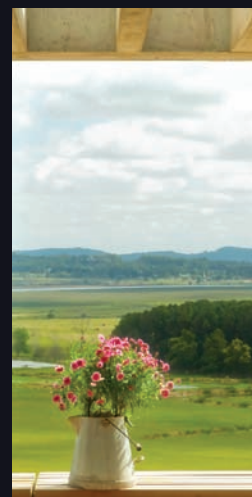
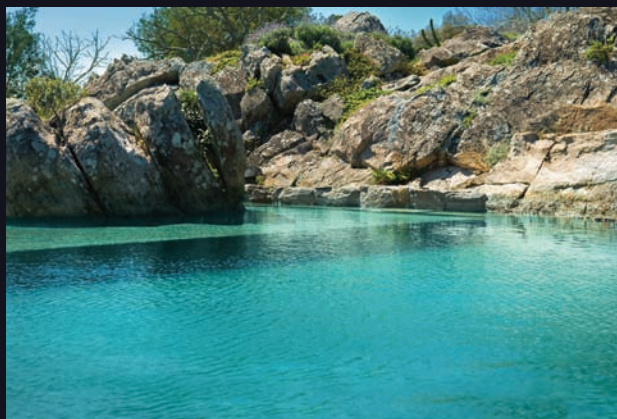
CHARACTERISTICS

5 Star Hotel
20 Deluxe Bungalows
12 Suite Bungalows
TV and DVD
Safety box
Tea set
Mini bar



ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

Concierge service and Butler service
Room service (24 hrs)
Laundry and dry cleaning service
Indoor heated pool
Spa
Wi Fi in the main building
Fitness center
Golf course
Tennis court
Valet parking



DESCRIPTION: Las Piedras and Hotel Fasano is only 9 km away from the exceptional beaches of La Barra Village and Punta Del Este, amid 480 hectares of stunning slopes, pine forests and streams. Hotel Fasano, has been distinguished as one of the 50 best hotels in the world with 29 Villas and chacras (1 to 3 hectares) designed by the renowned architect "Isay Windfield". Only 10 % of the land will be developed preserving large spaces of lush nature that will ensure a sense of privacy. There are breathtaking views that can be enjoyed from every turn. The villas offer 1 to 3 suites (2 and 3 bedrooms with service dependency) and will offer all the amenities of Fasano Hotels (a great spa managed by "Renata Abreu", considered to be the best in Brazil , two restaurants, stone out-pool, pool-bar, room-service, concierge, housekeeping) and services like extensive Polo grounds, an equestrian center for horses, tennis courses, a private beach, a boat house, and a links-type eighteen-hole Golf course designed by Arnold Palmer with his drive range and the exclusive golf club..., an ideal world of relaxation that will most certainly make your dreams come true.

LOCATIONS

Camino Cerro Egusquiza
y Paso del Barranco
La Barra, Punta del Este, Uruguay
Tel.: (+598) 4266 0960
www.laspiedrasfasano.com

AGUAVERDE LUXURY WINE LODGE

LA BARRA, PUNTA DEL ESTE
PROVINCE OF MALDONADO



DESCRIPTION: AguaVerde Luxury Wine Lodge is a magic place that blends history, nature, gastronomy and wines. It was built in 1780 using the local stone and adobe by pirates, as a secret place to hold clandestine meetings in times of war when Uruguay was disputed between the Portuguese and Spanish empires. It was afterwards acquired by the “Eguzquiza brothers” who sold it to a renowned Argentinean couple: Blanca Alvarez de Toledo and Nicolas Garcia Uriburu (architect, visual artist and a pioneer in land-art whose work has been exhibited at major museums and galleries worldwide). They named it “AguaVerde” after a project carried out by Uriburu and other artists like Andy Warhol to preserve water in the world. By means of a biologically

innocuous liquid that sailors around the world use to identify vessels, Uriburu colored the waters of the Canal Grande a fluorescent and electric green. This action in Venice became the springboard for an international coloring campaign: Uriburu’s green was at the four cardinal points, in two continents, coloring the most celebrated waters. After the couple separated, Blanca marries Bartolome Mitre, owner of the Argentinean newspaper “La Nación” who started with a stud farm of Arabian horses in the property which was finally sold to Amalia and Esteban, two art and wine lovers who were inspired by the history of the place and surrounding beauty. At the top of Cerro Eguzquiza, it offers magnificent views of the countryside, lagoons and Atlantic Ocean. It features seven bedrooms (including two separate Villas on the property which add an element of privacy and retreat) all of which have been uniquely styled and designed with an array of collected art pieces and artifacts from around the world. All fabrics, carpets and drapery have been hand-selected from the finest purveyors. The Vineyards at Aguaverde flow out from the main house and pool and merge with the natural beauty of the landscape, between streams and hills of different shades. The 50-meter infinity pool is perfect for laps or sunbathing, the soccer field and tennis courts are available for guests to enjoy matches while the amazing wine spa and gym complete the experience.

CHARACTERISTICS

2 Suites
2 Villas (1 Master Suite +
1 Suite each one)
1 Deluxe Suite
Outdoors swimming pool
Tennis Court
Soccer Field
Restaurant



LOCATIONS

Camino Eguzquiza, km 267
La Barra, Maldonado, Uruguay



ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

Wi Fi
Babysitting service
Transfer service (extra cost)
Laundry service (extra cost)
Horseback riding
Wine and cheese tasting (extra cost)
Local Tours (extra cost)



BAHÍA VIK

JOSÉ IGNACIO
PROVINCE OF MALDONADO



DESCRIPTION: Bahia Vik José Ignacio benefits from a peaceful and beautiful location next to the beach village of José Ignacio and just 20 kilometers northeast of Punta del Este. The natural setting couldn't be better, with pristine beaches of gorgeous sands, rugged landscapes and sunsets that will bring out the expert photographer in you. The contemporary hotel embraces its natural environment of beachfront and sand dunes and is noted for its avant-garde design. Guests can stay in beautifully furnished bungalows amidst the sand dunes. Just imagine waking up every morning and standing on your terrace amongst the sandy expanse, looking out to the beautiful, calm sea. Alternatively, there are ten large suites in the hotel's main building. The eco conscious traveler will be pleased to know that the hotel employs environmentally friendly practices with solar technologies, water collection and recycling and the use of natural resources to heat, cool and ventilate. One of the highlights of a stay at Bahia Vik José Ignacio is to dine al fresco on one of the main building's lovely outdoor spaces.



ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

- Dining room
- Horseback riding
- Golf
- Tennis
- Surfing
- Polo lessons
- Concierge program
- Four swimming pools
- Spa
- Boutique
- Game room
- Gym

<http://www.bahiavik.com/retreats>

CHARACTERISTICS

- 10 suites with private terraces in the main building
- 9 beach bungalows
- Art in each room
- Private bathroom



ESTANCIA VIK

JOSÉ IGNACIO, PROVINCE OF MALDONADO

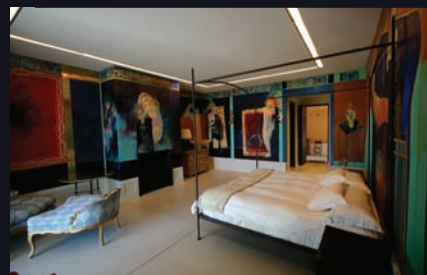
inspiration



DESCRIPTION: Merging exceptional design, flawless personalized service, environmentally minded practices and an unparalleled collection of contemporary Uruguayan and international art, Estancia Vik is a singularly remarkable property set in a magical backdrop where Marlboro country meets a virgin San Tropez. The unique juxtaposition of landscapes, vast rugged countryside and pristine beaches, allow guests to experience the incredible diversity of Uruguay. Estancia Vik is a celebration of this majestic setting, and provides not only a unique sense of place, but gives guests an unparalleled entrée into the culture, art, design and nature of Uruguay. Located 35 kilometers northeast of Punta Del Este, Jose Ignacio is emerging as Uruguay's premier international destination. The pristine beaches, spectacular rolling landscape and relaxed, bohemian setting have long drawn the South American locals and glitterati alike, and with the arrival of Estancia Vik, it is sure to become a coveted destination for the curious and design-forward international traveler. It is a traditional Spanish colonial structure featuring white adobe walls and a red tin roof designed by Uruguayan architect Marcelo Daglio. The Uruguayan artists and artwork represented in the Estancia were specially selected by the retreat's owners and visionaries, along with the collaboration of architect Marcelo Daglio and curator Enrique Badaró Nadal. Large natural Uruguayan semi-precious and crystal stone formations have been hung as paintings on the walls dividing the many doorways and two massive slate rock fireplaces act as bookends to this magnificent room. Each suite has been imagined by an individual Uruguayan artist who has created works of art for and out of these spaces. Estancia Vik was imagined, designed and built with the inspiration of creating an exceptional private residence. The owners spend a portion of the year living at Estancia Vik themselves and hope that others will make it their home as well.

CHARACTERISTICS

12 Unique Suites
Maximum 30 Guests
Living room and dining room
Barbecue Lounge
Wine Cellar



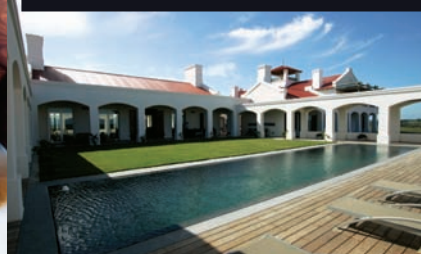
LOCATIONS

Camino Eugenio Saiz Martinez
Km 8, José Ignacio
44 km. away from Punta del Este
29 km La Barra
9 kms Jose Ignacio
184 Kms Montevideo



ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

Horse Riding
Canoeing
Paintball
Farm animals
Rural activities (Cattle breeding)
Polo Course
Gymnasium and Spa
Outside Pool

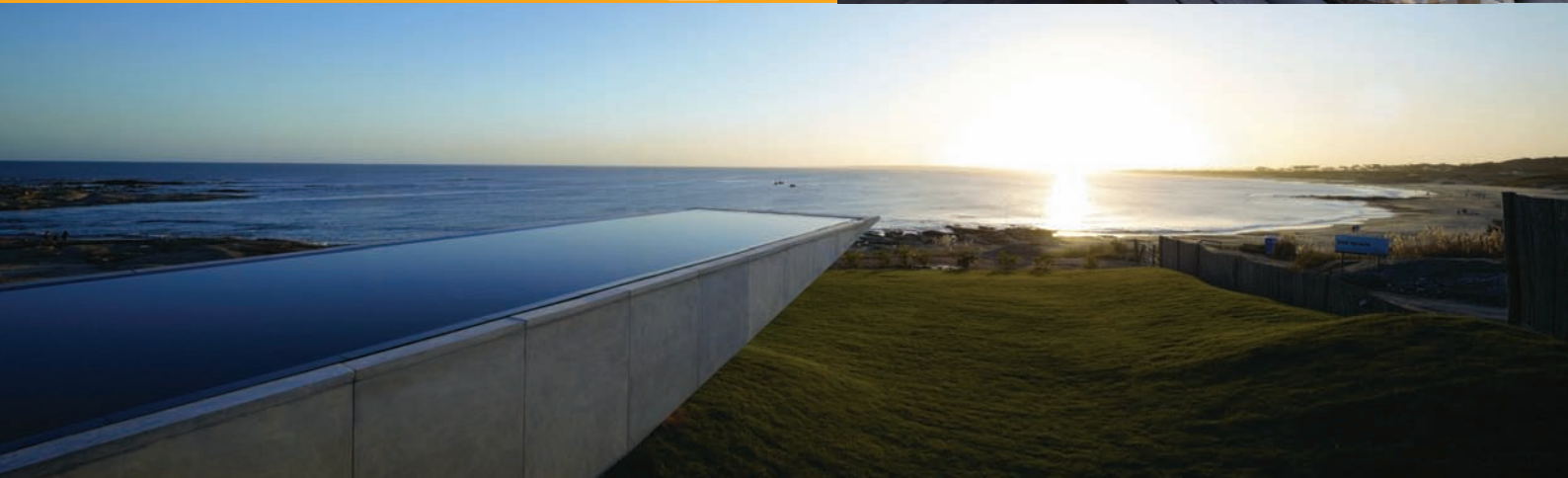


LUXURY & SPECIAL RETREATS

PLAYA VIK

JOSÉ IGNACIO, PROVINCE OF MALDONADO

inspiration



DESCRIPTION: A strikingly contemporary property that incorporates natural elements, Playa Vik José Ignacio is instantly recognizable from a distance, thanks to its so-called “living roof” planted with Uruguayan wild flowers, setting a unique architectural tone created by Uruguayan architect Carlos Ott, who has also worked on the Paris Opera House. Playa Vik sits in the Village of Jose Ignacio, providing a relaxed, small-town ambiance where it’s easy to go for strolls through the neighborhood and along the beach. Contemporary artwork from Uruguay and beyond graces the walls of the central building, which has a dramatic, 55-foot inclined façade, a giant, sculpted bronze door, and wide expanses of glass that maximize the ocean view. Indeed, the architectural style appears to be designed as a work of art in its own right; the central building, which has been dubbed “the Sculpture”, is divided into several public areas, including a living room furnished with sofas, semi-precious stone tables and offbeat sculptural pieces, a formal dining room, and a library furnished with a small selection of books. The property’s six villas are divided into several sizes, ranging from two to three bedrooms, each one of which has a fireplace, original artwork and hand-painted floors. Guests may swim in the ocean at Playa Mansa, a beach with gentle waves that lies just in front of the property, or make use of the 75-foot cantilevered swimming pool, a strikingly minimalist structure made of Uruguayan black granite that juts out toward the ocean, giving you the impression you just might make it all the way to the Atlantic if you make it to the very end of the pool.

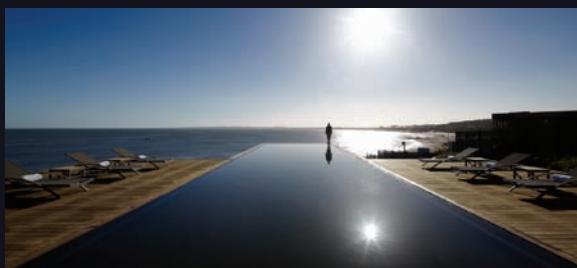
CHARACTERISTICS

06 Amazing Villas and 4 Suites in the Sculpture Building
(Three villas with 3 Bedrooms that accommodate 5 guests and three with 2 Bedrooms that accommodate 4 guests)
Living room and dining room
Library
Restaurant
Bar Lounge and Kitchen
Outside Pool
Pool Terrace



ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

Bicycles
Cooking Classes
Outside Pool
Local visits (extra cost)
Gym
Enjoy the activities at Estancia VIK



LOCATIONS

Calle Los Cisnes y
Los Horneros, Faro José Ignacio
35 km Punta del Este
20 km La Barra
175 Kms Montevideo

LUXURY & SPECIAL RETREATS

POSADA CASA ANNA

PUEBLO GARZÓN
PROVINCE OF MALDONADO



DESCRIPTION: Mr. Summers, owner of Martin Summers Fine Art gallery in London, and his wife, Annie, a former interior designer and magazine editor, were visiting an old friend, the Argentine chef Francis Mallmann, who had just opened a restaurant and five-room hotel here in an abandoned general store. The Summers stayed in the hotel, and “were just in seventh heaven” as Mr. Summers said. “I’d never bought a property outside of England, but I wanted to be in Garzón somehow.” What appealed to him in particular, were the magnificent trees along the town’s gravel streets and in its central plaza - eucalyptus, acacia and palm. From the outside, the 7,000-square-foot home looks like a single brick building. Yet inside, it has separate living areas that can function independently: one has an eat-in kitchen and two bedrooms, another is a living room, a third has a master suite and the fourth has a guest bedroom. Almost everything in the home was made locally, including the wrought-iron beds and the cabinets in the kitchen and living room, which were done by artisans, he said, and the stones on the fireplaces, which come from a nearby quarry. The art is local too, in a way. Mr. Summers’s photography, which he digitally altered to create a watercolor effect, hangs in almost every room, framed in pieces of salvaged lichen-covered fencing, as he learned from his friend Mr. Mallmann, who used similar frames in his hotel. At the far end a pool and an open bungalow with a thatched roof and a vintage-looking wet bar is located, where the couple gave a dinner for 120 last year to inaugurate their home. Mostly though, they have barbecues for a few friends, some of whom have bought property nearby. “It’s a small but growing community of people who love the peace and quiet”.



ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

Breakfast and drinks
Bar / Lounge
Swimming Pool
Terrace
Bicycles
Horseback riding
Cooking classes
Visit to the vineyards and Olive Plantation



LOCATIONS

Ruta 9 KM 1751
Pueblo Garzón, Maldonado
Tel.: (+598) 99949418

CHARACTERISTICS

Charming Bed & Breakfast . 5 Rooms
(4 suites, 1 four bed). Living room / dining room. Kitchen



PUEBLO BARRANCAS ECO LODGE

LA PEDRERA, PROVINCE OF ROCHA



DESCRIPTION: Located in rugged landscape of oceanside hillsides and slopes, "Pueblo Barrancas" was conceived as an eco touristic project created for the appreciation of nature in a virgin state; it was designed to preserve the "carcavas" and avoid negative impacts on the dynamics of the coastal system. The whole construction, built over stilts, was made with "lightweight" natural materials (local wood, straw roofs, among others) which were transported by "blood traction", avoiding the use of heavy machinery. At Pueblo Barrancas, you can find nature in its purest state and this stimulates each visitor's adventurous spirit who can choose between staying at the lovely "Cabins" or the "Suite tents". The cabins were designed to enjoy the sun, the moonlight nights and silence; the tents, on the other hand, bring a completely new concept of camping outdoors with the comfort of a luxury hotel, without giving up glamour and comfort, and not having to pitch a tent.



A new concept of relax, in which you will find that quality and service go hand in hand perfectly while architecture is harmoniously inserted in the natural setting and combined with magnificent views of the slopes and the sea. Wooden decks communicate the cabins and tents with the beach, pool and restaurant which is ran by Chef Jorge Oyenard, whose concept of gastronomy is simply based on high quality and freshness of the vegetables which grow organically in the orchard of the lodge.

CHARACTERISTICS

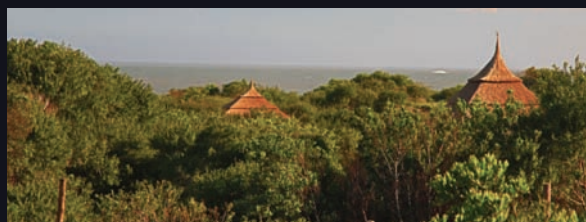
10 Wooden Cabins
Tents and yurts (strategically located over stilts)
Safe box
Minibar



LUXURY & SPECIAL RETREATS

ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

Breakfast
Bar
Restaurant
Laundry Service (optional)
Wi-Fi



LOCATIONS

Ruta 10 - Km 227,5,
San Sebastián de la Pedrera
Rocha, Uruguay

ESTANCIA EL CHARABÓN

PROVINCE OF ROCHA



DESCRIPTION: Estancia el Charabon benefits from a superb rural setting next to the Atlantic coast and surrounded by Sierras de Rocha. Estancia el Charabon lies within 950 hectares that encompass a eucalyptus forest, natural woodland, meadows and ravines. Such a gorgeous location offers unparalleled peace and tranquility. Guests can enjoy a hotel with a full range of amenities including homemade foods and the attentive service of the hosts and members of staff. In addition to enjoying the hotel's relaxing environment, guests can get out and experience the countryside with tours organized and hosted by the hotel. During these excursions there are opportunities to learn about cattle breeding and take part in rural chores such as milking and branding. Experienced horse riders can enjoy the "Charabon Beach Ride", an adventure across the countryside towards the beach and finishing in the village of San Antonio that's nestled between native forests. Among the other activities guests can enjoy are walks to the forests, horse riding through neighboring fields or a gentle swim in the hotel's swimming pool.



CHARACTERISTICS

4 Star Estancia
10 Rooms (double)
(4 standard / 2 deluxe / 4
suites) Private bathroom
TV



ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

Barbecue
Maid service
Transfer service
Laundry service
Baby sitting service
Wi Fi
Swimming pool
Horseback riding
Bird watching
Local tours



LOCATIONS

Ruta 9, km 220
Rocha, Uruguay
Tel.: (+598) 4470 2403
www.elcharabon.com

POSADA LA VIUDA DEL DIABLO

PUNTA DEL DIABLO,
PROVINCE OF ROCHA



DESCRIPTION: Nestled idyllically in the sand dunes of the small fishing village Punta del Diablo on the Atlantic coast is the small Posada La Viuda del Diablo. With just nine suites, all of them overlooking the La Viuda Beach and with a Jacuzzi, it is the perfect place for a few relaxing days on the beach. Just a few minutes walking distance away, the lovely fishing village and the “La Viuda” lighthouse can be found. The restaurant on the ground floor offers a delicious breakfast and is the perfect spot for a romantic candlelight dinner with nice Gourmet touches.



CHARACTERISTICS

4 Star Superior Posada
Air conditioning
Private balcony with chairs and tables
Safe box
Mini bar



ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

Restaurant
Full breakfast with home made bread and marmalade
Courtesy coffee and tea
Jacuzzi
Chairs and beach umbrellas



LOCATIONS

La Viuda Beach
Punta del Diablo, Rocha,
Uruguay
Tel.: (+598) 9864 0792
www.laviudadeldiablo.com

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