





## PLACES OF INTEREST

### MONTEVIDEO PLACES OF INTEREST

**1 The Old City** is the soul of Montevideo. A comfortable walk will take visitors to **Plaza Constitucion**, the heart of the city. There is the beautiful Cathedral, the Town Hall, Stock Exchange and Customs House. The graceful European style 19th century architecture and the narrow winding streets will take you back to the colonial period. At the Plaza de la Independencia, a handsome arch is a vivid reminder of the city's defensive fortifications. The statue in the plaza is dedicated to the nation's hero, Jose Gervasio Artigas.

**2 La Museo Historico Nacional** (The National History Museum) is housed in and around the former residences of the country's first president, Fructuoso Rivera and other distinguished national heroes. The museum traces the history of Uruguay from the earliest indigenous tribes, through colonization and up the present.

**3 Museo del Gaucho y de la Moneda** is located in the heart of the Old City. The Museum is dedicated to the Uruguayan cowboys known as "gauchos". Famous, beloved and respected as much as those hardy men in the old west in the United States, the museum

displays many authentic artifacts and articles used in the every day life of those who rode the ranges of Uruguay's cattle lands.

**4 Plaza Virgilio** and its impressive monument are dedicated to those members of Uruguay's Navy who have heroically given their lives in service to the country. The plaza provides wonderful panoramic views of the city.

**5 The Solis Theatre** began construction in 1857. It is and has always been the heart of the city's performing arts. For over 150 years the theater has played host to stage productions, symphonic and popular music concerts, ballets and operas. The beautiful theatre is the oldest still in use in South America. The facility was restored to its former glory in 2004.

**6 Joaquin Torres Garcia Museum** houses many of the works of one of Uruguay's most famous artists. The museum is located near the Plaza Independencia.

### Beyond Montevideo

**Colonia del Sacramento** is a small town about 2 ½ hours west of Montevideo. The Old Town area is a beautiful example of colonial architecture with its church, homes and cobblestone streets. The town was one of the first to be founded in Uruguay and dates back to 1680. The town overlooks the Rio de la Plata and has been a point of contention between the Portuguese and Spanish many times over the centuries.

**SHORE EXCURSIONS** To make the most of your visit to Montevideo and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure, Shore Excursion TV Channel or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

**LOCAL CUSTOMS** Bargaining: Prices are generally fixed.

Tipping: A 10% tip is customary at restaurants.

**LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES** Uruguay's cuisine has been directly influenced by the European immigrants that have come to the country bringing their favorite recipes with them. Mediterranean Spanish and Italian dishes are among some of the most popular. *Pascualina* is a spinach pie made with a filling of vegetables, cheese, milk and eggs, covered with dough and baked till golden brown. *Asado* is the way the Uruguayans BBQ, on a grill over an open flame or skewered and slow roasted close to hot coals. *Choripan* is a tasty, convenient and popular sandwich made with grilled sausage (chorizo) and covered with a mixture of oregano, parsley, garlic, red and black pepper, balsamic vinegar and olive oil...all served on a fresh baguette. *Caruso Sauce* is made with onions, ham, cream, nuts and mushrooms then poured hot over fresh pasta.

*Grappa miel* is Uruguay's national drink. A honey and alcohol concoction, it was introduced to the country by Italian immigrants. *Mate*, a hot herbal tea, is also very popular.

**SHOPPING FACILITIES** One of the main shopping areas in Montevideo is along Avenida 18 de Julio. Plaza Matriz has an interesting flea-market. Mercado de los Artesanos (the Artisans Market) has some exceptional handmade crafts. Many stores and vendors will offer a discount if the purchase is made with cash rather than a credit card.

**LOCAL CURRENCY** The national currency is the Peso Uruguayo (Ur\$). Most banks have ATMs.

**POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES** A Post Office, Internet Café, Western Union and phones for international calls are all available at the pier.

Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card:

AT&T: 000.410

MCI: 000.412

Sprint: 000.41.877

**TRANSPORTATION** Many major car rentals companies have offices in Montevideo. Taxis are reasonably priced and have a good reputation. Buses are reliable and run frequently.

**TOURIST INFORMATION** The city has a good reputation for being one of the safest in South America. But still take precaution with your valuables as you should wherever you go. The downtown and areas frequented by visitors have "Tourist Police". These special officers are easily recognizable, extremely helpful and speak many languages. The Ministry of Tourism has an office at the port entrance.

### USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Yes - Si

No - No

Good Day - Buenos Dias

Good Bye - Adios

Thank-you - Gracias

You're welcome - De Nada