JOURNEY
LATIN AMERICA



PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN

SIGNATURE URUGUAY: LAND OF VINTAGE CHARM

14 days from **£4,100pp**

ARGENTINA / URUGUAY / BUENOS AIRES / COLONIA AND CARMELO / MONTEVIDEO / PUNTA DEL ESTE BEACHES AND COASTLINE



WITH OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE, NO-ONE KNOWS LATIN AMERICA LIKE WE DO

EXPERIENCE SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

WHY US

We are the UK's No.1 specialist in travel to Latin America and have been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for over four decades; we pride ourselves on being the most knowledgeable people there are when it comes to travel to Central and South America and passionate about it too.

OUR JOURNEY

As our name suggests, we are single-minded about Latin America. This is what sets us apart from other travel companies – and what allows us to offer you not just a holiday but the opportunity to experience something extraordinary on inspiring journeys throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

WE LOVE LATIN AMERICA

- A passion for the region runs through all we do
- All our Consultants have lived or travelled extensively in Latin America
- Up-to-the-minute knowledge underpinned by 40 years' experience

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

- Fully bonded and licensed
- ATOL-protected
- On your side when it matters
- Book with confidence, knowing every penny is secure

THE REAL LATIN AMERICA

- Our insider knowledge helps you go beyond the guidebooks
- We hand-pick hotels with character and the most rewarding excursions
- Let us show you the Latin America we know and love

OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ITINERARY

Uruguay is a friendly little republic wedged between two giants, Brazil and Argentina. Mostly rural with ubiquitous cattle pasture, it's a bit bigger than England with a population of just 3.5 million. Unwind in countryside and coastal settings. Good bird watching, innovative hotels, great food.

DAY 1	**Arrive in Buenos Aires. Transfer to your hotel in San Telmo district.**
DAY 2	**City tour with a visit to Teatro Colón.**
DAY 3	**At leisure in Buenos Aires; night time guided culinary tour.**
DAY 4	**By hydrofoil to Colonia, Uruguay.**
DAY 5	**At leisure in historic Colonia.**
DAY 6	**By road to Montevideo; guided tour of the capital and market lunch.**
DAY 7	**Tasting Tannat experience with optional dinner.**
DAY 8	**Drive to a rural estancia.**
DAYS 9-10	**Activities at the countryside ranch.**
DAY 11	**By road to Punta del Este on the coast.**
DAYS 12-13	**At leisure on the beach.**
DAY 14	**Transfer to Montevideo airport for international flight home.**

ITINERARY

Amiable little Uruguay, wedged between its giant neighbours Brazil and Argentina, is a fine place to unwind in both rural and coastal settings, enjoy good food and wine and the freedom to self-drive between some very inviting places to stay. Seasoned visitors to South America particularly appreciate the relaxing and authentic experiences Uruguay can offer.

On this diverse holiday we give you a few days in Argentina's grand capital, Buenos Aires, one of Latin America's highlights in itself, before taking you on the short sailing over the River Plate to Uruguay. This is a Latin country which has a history of social strife but is now politically stable and the people particularly cultured and friendly. Never cutting edge contemporary neither is it pretentious: style and pace of life have a vintage appeal; mid-20th century cars line the streets, fashions are homely and parts of Montevideo are an art-deco time warp; but there's an increasingly imaginative range of upmarket places to stay. It's easy to get around and there is a surprisingly wide range of things to do.

DAY 1

Arrive in Buenos Aires. Transfer to your hotel in San Telmo district.



Arrive in Buenos Aires, an elegant, cultured and cosmopolitan city famed for its interesting museums and the fascinating port district of La Boca, with its cobbled streets and brightly painted houses – it's where the tango was born. The centre of town is home to the colonial heart, government buildings and churches as well as chic shopping and residential districts which have a nostalgic Parisian feel.

The bohemian quarter of San Telmo is full of quaint old houses interspersed with antiques shops, tango bars and classy restaurants. Slightly further out of the centre is the Recoleta district (your hotel is here), even more evocative of the French influence, where Evita Perón was laid to rest.

DAY 2

City tour with a visit to Teatro Colón.



Your guided city tour takes you along Avenida 9 de Julio, one of the widest boulevards in the world and studded by the Obelisk, an emblematic symbol of the city. Along this majestic highway is the 19th century Teatro Colón (guided tour included) which, in terms of its architecture and design, as well as its excellent acoustics, is considered one of world's best.

On to the Plaza de Mayo, enclosed on 3 sides by the metropolitan cathedral, the town hall and the Casa Rosada, the presidential palace. The tour continues to bohemian, arty La Boca, which was settled and built by Italian immigrants and has streets lined with brightly painted corrugated iron-clad houses. You also visit the district of Recoleta, where Eva Peron is biried in the famous cemetery.

DAY 3

At leisure in Buenos Aires; night time guided culinary tour.



The daylight hours leave you at leisure to explore Buenos Aires further: you might stroll around one or two of the lovely parks, such as the delightful Japanese Gardens, and maybe have an al fresco snack or lunch in trendy Puerto Madero, the sensitively restored Buenos Aires' docklands, which has promenades festooned with industrial architecture, bars and cafés and a pretty little marina crammed with sailing boats.

In the evening you embark on a culinary-themed private guided walking tour. Shunning smart restaurants and tourist spots, you'll dine out local-style, tasting authentic Argentine dishes in a variety of settings and experience the excitement of an authentic tango or peña venue. The evening usually takes place in the smart neighbourhood of Palermo, not far from your hotel.

After dinner, visit a milonga – a traditional tango hall – or a peña, also popular among locals but specialising in traditional music from the Andean north-west of Argentina.

DAY 4

By hydrofoil to Colonia, Uruguay.



Take the hydrofoil ferry across the River Plate to Colonia in Uruguay. Travel along a forest-fringed estuary, dotted with upmarket residences, to this peaceful little port, and its UNESCO-protected historic centre where you can wander among cobbled streets lined with colonial houses. Founded in the 17th century by the Portuguese, the fortressed town was prinicipally a centre for contraband activities for many years. It's a peaceful place now, retaining its distinctive Portuguese colonial style and with a villagey feel. Its evocative colonial grid of peaceful lanes is a photographer's delight and you can view the whole place from the top of the lighthouse.

You'll be taken on a guided exploration on foot of the quaint, historic town and port of Colonia, which was declared an UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995.

DAY 5

At leisure in historic Colonia.



Colonia brims with inviting cafes and restaurants and there's plenty of time for you to explore and enjoy them at your own pace.

If you'd like to strike out further afield, we can pre-arrange a visit to a local winery or to the pretty small town of Carmelo, further upstream and a regional centre of wine production. Even a long day trip to Fray Bentos can be organised from Colonia with prior notice.

DAY 6

By road to Montevideo; guided tour of the capital and market lunch.



By road to the capital of Uruguay, Montevideo, a journey of under three hours. In the lively waterfront city modern skyscrapers jostle with art deco façades and grand, monumental colonial buildings.

Born of the competing interests of colonial powers, the city, on the shores of a fine natural harbour on the River Plate, grew to be a prosperous port devoted to overseas trade. It attracted immigrants from all of Europe, resulting in an eclectic cultural mix which survives to this day.

Upon arrival you'll have a guided walking tour of the historic centre. Stop for lunch at the atmospheric port market, its wrought iron structure designed by a British engineer in the 1860s and nowadays famous for its traditional *parrilla* restaurants serving grilled meats.

DAY 7

Tasting Tannat experience with optional dinner.



Uruguay's signature Tannat red wine is becoming internationally renowned and many of the country's wineries welcome the opportunity to receive visitors. Your guided excursion will take you to one of several wineries in the vicinity of Montevideo. You will explore the vineyard and the bodega (cellars), have the opportunity to savour three different wines and take lunch before returning to the city. Transfers are private, and the winery tour is usually done as part of a group. The winery of choice varies, but throughout Uruguay these tend to be small-scale, family owned and run establishments using a blend of traditional and innovative techniques to produce a variety of high quality and award-winning wines.

DAY 8

Drive to a rural estancia.

Travel by road into the countryside to reach the Estancia (4hrs), tucked away in the countryside north-west of Montevideo.

This tranquil farm has been in the same family for 6 generations. Now also a small, rustic guesthouse it is surrounded by the meadows and pastures and bucolic rolling countryside. The atmosphere is welcoming, sociable and informal. It's especially popular with guests who enjoy horse riding but there is something here for everyone.



DAYS 9-10

Activities at the countryside ranch.

At leisure. A stay on a Uruguayan estancia is often a highly personalised experience where you are likely to feel part of the family as well as a guest. Estancia Los Platanos is a fitting place for relaxation but you can also help out with activities on the farm and observe the gauchos at work. Alternatively, head out on a walk in the countryside, join an informal cooking demonstration or swim at La Salamanca, a natural pool in the vicinity.



DAY 11

By road to Punta del Este on the coast.

Drive to Punta del Este, a glamorous and sophisticated beach resort on a lovely stretch of Atlantic coast, particularly popular amongst Argentines. It dominates a narrow peninsular with a calm bay side, the rougher Atlantic waters on the other, and forests of pine and eucalyptus further up inland. Other than its excellent bathing, 'Punta' has a top class yacht marina, and offers premier fishing.



DAYS 12-13

At leisure on the beach.

The upmarket resort Punta del Este is packed with classy hotels, holiday residences, casinos, boutiques, chic bars and restaurants. You have a couple of days at leisure to enjoy your attractive hotel and its grounds, explore the beaches and maybe indulge in some water sports.



DAY 14

Transfer to Montevideo airport for international flight home.

INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

- Buenos Aires: City tour
- Buenos Aires: Night-time guided dining excursion and milonga visit
- Colonia: Guided walking tour including cheese and wine tasting
- Montevideo: Guided tour of the historic centre
- Countryside ranch: Activities on the estancia

ESSENTIALS

1 ferry journey (1hr); 4 road journeys.

We invite you to stay at a variety of accommodation styles, from urban boutique to countryside ranch and traditional resort hotel. They all have beautiful settings and very good facilities.

Breakfast daily, dinner days 3, 8; full board days 9, 10.

We carefully select our local partners, some of whom we have worked with for over 25 years. Their English-speaking guides understand the expectations of our clients very well, and are consistently singled out for praise by the latter on their return.

14 days, 13 nights: Buenos Aires 3; Colonia 2; Montevideo 2; rural estancia 3; Punta del Este 3.

The unit of currency in Argentina is the Argentine peso; in Uruguay it is the Uruguayan peso.

Cash machines are available in all major cities and towns, and so taking a debit or credit card with a PIN number is the most convenient way of withdrawing money while on your trip, and in most shops and restaurants you can also pay by card. However, since cards can get lost, damaged, withheld or blocked, you should not rely exclusively on a card to access funds.

We recommend that additionally you take a reasonable quantity of US dollars cash (no more than is covered by your insurance), which you can exchange into local currency, and possibly some travellers' cheques, though these are gradually falling out of use (American Express are the most widely accepted). Dollar bills should be in good condition, soiled or torn bills may be refused. You can take sterling, but the exchange rate is not always competitive or even available, restricting the number of places where you can change money.

For our latest **currency advice for Argentina** please see our FAQs section.

It is very difficult to give a guideline for essential expenses but a budget of around US$50 per day should cover the cost of meals not included in the holiday itinerary, drinks and the odd souvenir. Eat at the best restaurants and you will pay considerably more.

Tips are expected and local guides often rely on their tip as a significant proportion of their income.

Most service industry workers will expect a tip of some kind and so it is useful to have spare change for hotel porters, taxi drivers and the like. It is common to leave 10 – 12% in restaurants.

Travel insurance is essential.

Details of our recommended policy can be found on our Travel Insurance page.

If you have purchased your flights through Journey Latin America, the international departure tax is usually included in the ticket.

This holiday is suitable for all able reasonably fit visitors, including families. If you are travelling alone or have a disability or other special requirement, please do call us.

Buenos Aires and the pampa plains have similar weather conditions – they are hottest January-March (very humid with tropical showers, occasionally over 40°C during the day). They can be cold and cloudy July-August, so weather conditions are best for a visit in spring and autumn.

Uruguay is an all-year destination, but best enjoyed in summer (November-February). Temperatures range from 10-16°C in the southern hemisphere winter, while in the high summer they can leap into the 30s°. Wet and windy conditions

outside high summer are not unheard of, so we suggest avoiding May to October if you want to go to the beach. Rainfall is moderate and varies little over the year, apart from July-August when there are prolonged wet periods.

The southern hemisphere summer will be hot, therefore bring loose-fitting light clothing for maximum comfort at this time. An umbrella is a good idea in case of a tropical shower. Spring and autumn are milder and less predictable.

South America is in general a relaxed continent and you won't need clothes for formal dining but you may wish to take some smart casual wear for dining at the estancias or at top of the range restaurants.

Preventative vaccinations are recommended against the following: typhoid; polio; tetanus; hepatitis A. You should consult your GP for specific requirements.

You can also find helpful information on the Masta Travel Health website.

Holders of a full British passport do not require a visa, although passports must be valid for at least 6 months after the trip begins. Anyone with a different nationality should enquire with us or check with the relevant consulate.

If flying to the US, or via the US you will need to fill in your online ESTA application.

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GET IN TOUCH WITH US...

Our friendly, knowledgeable team of travel experts are always happy to chat about holiday ideas and share helpful advice. Give us a call today and begin planning your perfect trip to Latin America.

0208 747 8315

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

SEND US AN EMAIL

tours@journeylatinamerica.com