

Kat's Great Adventures

Uruguay - Active Uruguay Bicycle and Hiking Tour 2022 Guided Tour 8 Days / 7 Nights



Uruguay is one of South America's best kept secrets! Counting 600 kilometers of coastline with beautiful untouched sandy beaches as well as stunning landscapes in the interior of the country along with Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and British influences make Uruguay a small country with a lot to offer. While the people in the bigger cities on the coast of the River Plate mostly live a modern life style you can still find real "gauchos", the South American "cowboys", leading a more traditional country life in the interior of Uruguay. Uruguayans are a kind and welcoming people with a great love for "mate", a traditional South American caffeine-rich infused drink, "asado" (BBQ), carnival and of course football. When you first arrive in Uruguay you will be surprised to see people walking in the streets or waiting on the bus with their "mate" in their hand and thermos flask tightly tucked under their arm.

Itinerary Day to Day

Day 1: Arrival in Montevideo

Montevideo – Uruguay's capital is a city of contrasts with its well conserved historical buildings on the one side and a lot of modern buildings on the other. The capital's Rambla (waterfront promenade), providing access to over 30 kilometers of coastline, is one of the main attributes of Montevideo and an unforgettable stroll for its inhabitants who frequently go there to drink 'mate'. You will be picked up at the airport or at the pier in Montevideo and taken to your hotel in the very green and lively Punta Carretas neighborhood. Rest of the day at leisure.



Day 2: Montevideo City Tour by bike 3 hours

A fun and unique way to explore the historical city of Montevideo. Board your bike at the hotel. After receiving a short safety briefing and a bottle of water, your guide will lead you into the city of Montevideo. As you cycle towards the downtown area, stop en route for photos at Punta Carretas Lighthouse. Continue cycling towards the Palermo district and along the coast to Pittamiglio House, the former home of Humberto Pittamiglio. Pause to photograph the exterior of this unconventional building. Continue your tour to Independence Square, where you'll see the old City Gate, the bronze statue of José Gervasio Aretigas and the Salvo Palace. Afterwards, cycle to Plaza Zabala where you'll see the statue of Bruno Mauricio de Zabala, founder of the city. As you cycle through the maze of

shadowed streets, you'll find yourself at Constitution Square, the oldest plaza in Montevideo and home to the beautiful Metropolitan Cathedral. Pause briefly to soak up the history and admire the beautiful architecture. Cycle back to the hotel.

Day 3: Tour to Estancia Finca Piedra 8 hours

After breakfast transfer to the Estancia Finca Piedra located in the Province of San Jose at the foot of the Sierras of Mahoma. This wonderful Estancia is an ideal place to combine relaxation and several activities like biking, horseback riding through the mountains and hiking. After arrival you will have a short tour of the estancia and then get ready for a tour on a mountain bike through the area. Later on visit the ñandus and carpinchos that live at the Estancia, get to know the surroundings. After lunch activities such as hiking, horseback riding, fishing, can be undertaken. Transfer back to Montevideo in the afternoon.





Day 4: Montevideo - Punta del Este

Today you will be picked up at the hotel and taken to the bus terminal of Montevideo. Public bus ride to Punta del Este, approximately a two hour drive. Pick-up at the bus terminal of Punta del Este and transfer to your hotel.

Punta del Este, located 130 kilometers away from Montevideo or only an hour and half by car, is called the St. Tropez of Uruguay for its miles of beautiful, pristine beaches, its upscale and exclusive resort tradition, glittery nightlife and also an upscale summer population. Hop on a bike for this enjoyable and scenic ride, showcasing the highlights of the resort city of Punta del Este. Stop for photos at the

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

Day 5: Punta del Este Day free at disposal for own activities

Optional: Visit of the Ralli Museum and Casapueblo three hours including English speaking guide. Enjoy a scenic drive through Punta del Estes most fashionable and impressive neighborhoods. Pass through the residential areas of Cantegril, San Rafael, Parque Golf and La Barra de Maldonado, known for its unique undulating bridges. Make a stop at Ralli Museum of Contemporary Art with its fine collection of paintings and sculptures by noted Latin American artists, and several pieces by Salvador Dali on permanent display. The attractive modern building is located in the Beverly Hills district. Your drive will next take you past some of Punta's natural wonders – its



beaches. Stop at Punta Ballena for sweeping views up and down the coast, before ending your drive at Casapueblo, the home and atelier of internationally renowned artist, Carlos Paez Vilaró. The dazzling white complex, resembling Spanish-Moroccan architecture, is situated on a rocky bluff overlooking the ocean. Vilaró built it in 1958 with his own hands, using only traditional tools. Narrow steps lead to a maze of rooms scattered on different levels and filled with the artist's works. Return to the port along the picturesque coastal road.



Day 6: Punta del Este Visit Valizas and Cabo Polonio with Trekking 12 hours

Early morning drive to the small Village of Valizas where your trekking to Cabo Polonio will start! Trek across the amazing sand dunes, to this small village where one of the largest colonies of sea lions of South America can be found. Completely isolated from the nearby towns by a big strip of Sand dunes, Cabo Polonio remains loyal to its charm and spirit! This marvelous four hour trekking will take you from the middle of the dessert to experience breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean. Time for relax and for lunch. After lunch, you will be taken to the lighthouse from where you will make a short ride in 4WD vehicles. Return to Punta del Este.

Day 7: Punta del Este – Montevideo

At the given time, you will be brought to the bus terminal in Punta del Este, where you will board the public bus to Montevideo. Upon arrival in Montevideo, transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to enjoy Montevideo before taking your flight back home on the next day.

Day 8: Departure from Montevideo

Transfer to the airport for your flight back home.



Route



Technical Characteristics:

Route Profile: Easy. Bicycle tours are not technically challenging but riders must have previous cycling experience for the undulation of the terrain. Hiking tours are set to the pace of the group with some slight terrain challenges.

Distance: Biking: 6 hours
Hiking: 12 hours

Travel Season: Departures on request January 2 to December 20, 2022



Price per Person

Double Occupancy January and February	\$ 1950.00 USD
Double Occupancy March, November and December	\$ 1825.00 USD
Double Occupancy April, September and October	\$ 1775.00 USD
Double Occupancy May, June, July and August	\$ 1745.00 USD
Single Occupancy January and February	\$ 2500.00 USD
Single Occupancy March, November and December	\$ 2225.00 USD
Single Occupancy April, September and October	\$ 2150.00 USD
Single Occupancy May, June, July and August	\$ 2075.00 USD
Optional Visit of the Ralli Museum and Casapueblo (3 hours)	\$ 167.50 USD

*Group rates available for this tour. As this is a guided tour, the pricing improves with more people participating. Please ask us for details.

Accommodation:

Variety of 3* and 4* hotels all with private facilities

Included:

- 7 nights' accommodation
- Meals according to program (7 x breakfast and 2 x lunch)
- All services
- Taxes
- Entrance fees
- Tax and service charge at the hotels as well as the mandatory luggage handling fees

Not Included:

- Optional tours
- Airport taxes
- Personal expenses
- Extras at the hotels
- Drinks during meals if not otherwise mentioned