



Country Intelligence Brief

Uruguay

Overall Risk Rating

1.75 - Low

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Ratings Overview

Security

1.75 - Low

Civil Unrest	● 2.00
Crime	● 2.25
Kidnapping	● 2.00
Terrorism	● 1.00
Armed Conflict	● 1.00
Security Services	● 2.00

Infrastructure

2.00 - Low

Ground Transport	● 2.00
Cyber	● 2.00
Maritime Security	● 1.50
Air Travel	● 2.00
Utilities	● 1.25

Environment

2.00 - Low

Man-Made Hazards	● 2.00
Seismic	● 1.50
Storm System	● 2.75
Natural Hazards	● 2.50

Health and Medical

2.75 - Moderate

Disease and Health Threats	● 2.25
Medical Facilities and Services	● 2.50
Mental Health	● 3.50
Food and Water Safety	● 3.25

Political

1.50 - Low

Corruption	● 2.00
Government Stability	● 1.00
Rule of Law	● 1.25
Sanctions	● 1.00

FactBox

Location	Uruguay
Government Type	Presidential Republic
Population	3,431,550 (2015)
Languages	<p>Official languages: Spanish</p> <p>Other languages that are considered official or widely spoken: Portunol; Brazilero</p> <p>Languages that should only be used discreetly: None</p>
International Country Code	+598
Time Zones	UTC-3
Traffic	Drives on the right
Drinking Water	Safe to Drink

Overview
1.75 - Low

Uruguay is one of the smallest and most economically developed countries in Latin America, boasting one of the region's highest per capita incomes. Culturally, it shares much with neighboring Argentina, but it has generally avoided the economic and political turbulence that has plagued its neighbor for decades. Currently, Uruguay's economy depends in large part on primary product exports but also relies on a small but robust service sector underpinned by a well-educated labor force.

The country is in general one of the lower risk destinations within Latin America, but opportunistic crime does exist, particularly in Montevideo and Punta del Este. Severe weather can also be a notable threat in terms of particularly violent thunderstorms which can occur throughout the country.

Security
1.75 - Low

There is no conflict threat in Uruguay, neither internally nor externally. Crime is most common in Montevideo and is primarily opportunistic in nature; Punta del Este also sees notable opportunistic crime during its high season. The country has no internal or external terror threats. Unrest in Uruguay is generally low-level, peaceful, and staged in the capital.

Civil Unrest
 **2.00**

Protests occasionally occur in Uruguay but seldom devolve into violence. Most demonstrations are related to labor disputes, political developments, social issues, or unpopular economic policies. Protests are most common in Montevideo and occasionally cause minor transportation delays.

Crime
 **2.25**

Crime generally poses a moderate threat in Uruguay. Criminal activity is most prevalent in urban areas, especially parts of Montevideo.

Nonviolent Crime

Nonviolent crime poses a moderate threat to foreign nationals, expatriates, and local staff, and is concentrated in the capital Montevideo and tourist areas such as Punta del Este, the beach resort city. Thieves typically target purses, bags, wallets, smartphones, and other electronic devices. Most crime involving foreigners occurs at tourist attractions, shopping centers, public transportation hubs, and areas near hotels. Avoid hanging bags or clothing over chair backs; secure them at your feet or on your lap. Special precautions should be taken to secure personal belongings in Punta del Este, where thefts increase dramatically during the summer months (November-February). Never leave belongings unattended or out of close reach when visiting Punta del Este's popular beaches

Scams

Scams pose a low threat to foreign nationals, expatriates, and local staff in Uruguay.

Violent Crime

Overall, the threat of violent crime in Uruguay is very low compared to other South American countries; foreign nationals are rarely targeted by criminals. However, carjacking, robbery, and assault still sometimes occur in Montevideo, particularly near Ciudad Vieja (Old City), Calle 18 de Julio, Plaza de Independencia, Mercado del Puerto, and the port and beach areas. Avoid carrying large sums of cash or using ATMs on the street; instead, use ATMs located inside a hotel, as people have been attacked after leaving banks. Avoid local bus stations, as these areas are often hotbeds of criminal activity.

Gender-Related Violence and/or Discrimination

Gender-based violence and/or discrimination poses a low threat to foreign nationals, expatriates, and local staff in Uruguay. Verbal and sexual harassment affect locals more than foreigners and expatriates. Women walking alone are sometimes verbally harassed; the threat of a physical attack is much lower than a verbal one, but assault cannot be ruled out, especially at night and in isolated areas. Anti-LGBT violence does not systemically occur in Uruguay; same-sex couples are widely accepted, especially in larger cities.

Organized Crime

Organized crime does not usually affect foreign nationals or expatriates in Uruguay. Street gangs are present in Montevideo and are sometimes used by drug-trafficking organizations to facilitate the movement of drugs at Uruguayan ports. A significant problem is the use of explosives by criminal organizations to destroy ATMs and steal the cash inside; the number of such attacks that have occurred is equal to more than 10 percent of all ATMs in the country, and some banks have moved their ATMs to locations near police stations in response to the threat. Despite this, however, organized crime presents less of a threat in Uruguay than to almost all other South American countries.

Highway Robbery

Highway robbery and banditry pose a low threat in Uruguay. The threat is highest in urban areas, along intercity highways, and near the Brazilian border. Criminals may target cargo trucks and private vehicles. These incidents can occur at any hour of the day; however, most robberies take place at night.

Kidnapping

● 2.00

For most foreign nationals and local residents, the threat of kidnapping in Uruguay is low. The most common type of kidnapping in Uruguay is express kidnapping, though kidnapping-for-ransom poses a threat to wealthy individuals traveling in Punta del Este. Uruguayan authorities have launched several anti-kidnapping police units to combat these crimes, and rates have fallen significantly as a result. In general, kidnapping victims are unharmed and released quickly.

Terrorism

● 1.00

The threat of terrorism is low in Uruguay. Foreign governments have not issued warnings regarding terror threats in the country. No specific threats exist, and Uruguay is not currently considered a potential target.

Armed Conflict

● 1.00

Though minor border disputes with Brazil continue, they are generally not a priority for either country and exist strictly within a diplomatic context. Tensions with Argentina, which increased during that country's Kirchnerist years and particularly during the Uruguay River paper mill conflict, have long since eased.

Security Services

● 2.00

The capabilities and responsiveness of security services in Uruguay are generally good. Although Uruguay has a number of different security forces, the tourist police are likely the most relevant to foreign nationals, while the Uruguayan National Police (PNU) is likely more relevant to local staff. Police generally respond to calls but wait times can vary. Officers often only speak Spanish. Corruption is not a widespread issue, but some officers could solicit bribes in exchange for assistance.

Infrastructure

2 - Low

International carriers are considered safe for travel to and from Uruguay, despite the country itself having in the past received a subpar rating from the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Uruguay is considered a minor target for cyberattacks. Its defenses against such an attack are likely moderate, at best. Because of Uruguay's small size, the country's road network is comprehensive and in generally adequate shape. Basic services such as water, electricity, and fuel availability are highly reliable in urban and rural areas both.

Ground Transport

 2.00

Road travel is by far the most common way of moving within the country, given how small it is. As such, the road network facilitates travel to essentially any city or town as well as to most rural areas with any notable population. Highways and most secondary roads are adequate, though roads in more rural areas are prone to potholes and can sometimes be dirt-based and thus vulnerable to inclement weather.

Local Buses

 Unrated

Intercity bus travel is available between most major cities. Intercity buses in Uruguay have a good safety record. Petty theft and other criminal activities pose a low threat to travelers. Terrorists have not attacked buses in Uruguay in the past decade. Terror warnings are rare on Uruguay's intercity bus network.

City buses are available in most urban centers. City buses in Uruguay have a good safety record. Petty theft and other criminal activities pose a low threat to travelers. Terrorists have not attacked city buses in Uruguay in the past decade. Terror warnings are rare on Uruguay's city bus networks.

Mass Transit

 Unrated

Uruguay does not have a metro system.

Taxis

 Unrated

Taxis are readily available in most major cities in Uruguay. Traffic accidents involving taxis are rare, and crime on taxis poses a low threat to travelers. Taxis arranged in advance by upscale hotels or trusted business associates are generally safer than those hailed on the street.

Ride-sharing services or vehicles ordered through online apps are available in Uruguay, but only in Montevideo.

Train Travel

 Unrated

Train Safety

Trains in Uruguay have an average recent safety record. Derailments and rail accidents involving passenger trains rarely occur.

Reliability and Availability

Uruguay has a small intercity passenger rail network. Rail travel is available between Montevideo and Santa Lucia. Trains in Uruguay generally run on time.

International Rail Travel

Uruguay does not have any international rail connections.

Vehicles and Roads

● Unrated

Road safety conditions in Uruguay are generally good. Traffic in Uruguay drives on the right. Road sin cities are generally well-maintained. Drivers generally obey traffic laws. Serious traffic accidents are rare. Heavy traffic congestion is common in major cities, particularly Montevideo. Criminals sometimes steal from parked and moving vehicles. Foreigners planning to drive in Uruguay must have a valid driver's license. Car rentals are available in most major cities.

International Road Travel

Uruguay has international road connections with Argentina and Brazil. Connections between Uruguay and countries are subject to border controls, and passengers may be required to pass through customs before crossing.

Cyber

● 2.00

Uruguay is not generally considered a state sponsor of cyberattacks, but such attacks are growing within Uruguay by the year; most have been via email-based viruses. The country is one of the few in Latin America with an articulated policy on tackling cybercrime. Though the strength of its specific defenses remains unclear, they are likely intermediate, at best.

Maritime Security

● 1.50

There are no maritime concerns in Uruguay.

Air Travel

● 2.00

There are no major concerns regarding air travel to or from Uruguay, and the country's aviation safety record is considered on par with international standards; it is in compliance with all relevant EU guidelines. Concerning ICAO guidelines, the US FAA had in the past classified Uruguay's civil aviation authority as "Category 2", meaning it did not meet all relevant guidelines. The country attempted to improve its assessment but was thwarted by the liquidation of the state-owned airline, PLUNA, which effectively prevented the FAA from completing its assessment. The country has since dropped off the FAA's list of assessed countries entirely, though this is not an indication of a poor safety record but rather of a lack of direct flights to/from the US by Uruguayan flag carriers.

Utilities

● 1.25

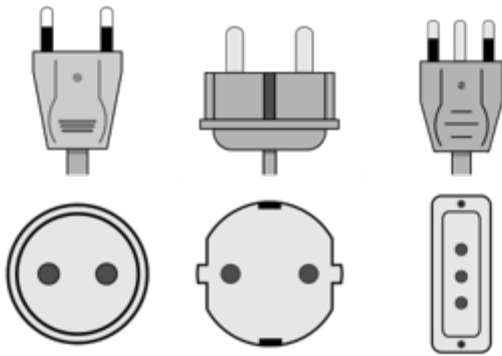
Utilities throughout the country are generally reliable, from urban to rural areas. Blackouts in 2016 and 2019, which made national headlines, are considered to have been exceptional events and not indicative of the quality of the country's electric grid. Internet and telecommunications are of generally modern standards, and reception is good throughout the country.

Electricity

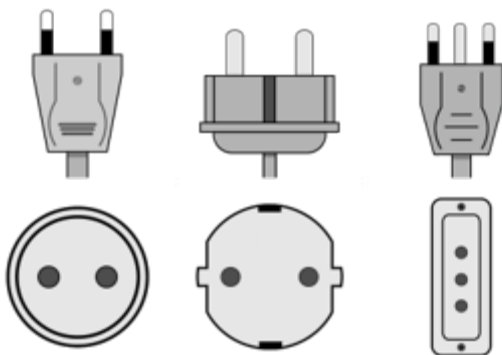
● Unrated

Electricity is supplied in Uruguay at 230 V, 50 Hz. Uruguay uses Type C, F, and L plugs.

Plug Types



Types de prises



Internet and Telecommunications

● Unrated

Internet service in Uruguay is readily available in most public and private accommodations in major urban areas and towns, but may be sporadically available in rural areas. Internet activity is considered private and secure in most areas; see Information Security advice sheet.

Environment

2 - Low

Uruguay's climate is generally mild and corresponds to the traditional quadri-seasonal pattern. Limited industrial activities have raised concerns over water pollution, and Montevideo is sometimes affected by smog. Earthquakes are extremely rare in the country as well as in the greater Rio de la Plata region in general. The country experiences no tropical systems but does see significant thunderstorms and flooding.

Man-Made Hazards

● 2.00

Although Uruguay is not known for its high level of industry, there have been concerns over industrial by-products affecting the water quality near plants and factories. This issue came to a head during the Argentina/Uruguay paper mill dispute, which was eventually settled but turned alleged industrial pollution along a river boundary into an issue that set off a marked deterioration in bilateral relations. Montevideo also has somewhat of a problem with air pollution, though it is modest in nature.

Seismic

● 1.50

Uruguay does not generally experience any seismic activity. Although records do exist of rare earthquakes in the past, the handful that are known to have occurred were relatively modest in intensity. However, the country's coastline is vulnerable to tsunamis should a strong earthquake strike offshore, such as near the Falkland Islands, where seismic activity is more common.

Storm System

● 2.75

Storm systems in Uruguay are non-tropical in nature but can be among the most deadly in South America. Due to weather patterns, a tornado alley extends from northeastern Argentina through Uruguay into southern Brazil. Storms that spawn these destructive wind events can be quite common. Even thunderstorms that do not produce tornadoes can induce severe flooding throughout the country due to Uruguay's relatively flat topography. Importantly, tornadoes and flooding both can devastate local infrastructure, including road networks.

Natural Hazards

● 2.50

The country's weather is pleasant year-round, with higher temperatures occurring during the summer months (November - February) and colder temperatures during the winter months (June - August). However, summer temperatures are rarely scorching, and winter temperatures on average do not drop below freezing. Additionally, there are no distinct "wet" and "dry" seasons, and precipitation can occur year-round. Flooding can become a serious issue after multiple days of storms.

Air Quality

● Unrated

Air Quality

Air pollution routinely exceeds recommended thresholds in urban areas. Individuals with asthma or chronic cardiorespiratory conditions should consult with a healthcare provider and carry necessary medications. On days when air quality is particularly poor, affected individuals should take personal precautions to reduce respiratory stress ([map](#)).

Health and Medical

2.75 - Moderate

Mosquito-borne diseases are the major non-routine epidemiological concern in the country. Decent quality medical facilities can be found in Montevideo and Punta del Este. Elsewhere, facilities will likely be most adequate for routine-to-minor concerns. All major medications can be obtained in urban centers. The availability of medicines in less populated areas will vary. Tap water is not considered safe for drinking unless otherwise directed.

Disease and Health Threats

● 2.25

Major Health Threats

- *Chagas Disease:* Transmitted through the reduviid beetle or contaminated blood products. Rarely through contaminated food products. Reduviid beetles are mostly found in buildings constructed of mud, adobe brick, or thatch. The acute stage generally occurs immediately after being infected. Most individuals do not have symptoms or experience only mild symptoms. Individuals who do develop symptoms generally show nonspecific symptoms such as fever, headaches, vomiting, and diarrhea. Most infected individuals will never progress to the chronic stage. However, in up to 30 percent of patients, chronic Chagas disease can cause extensive heart and central nervous system damage leading to death. Signs of chronic Chagas disease include an enlarged heart, dilated esophagus, and/or dilated colon. Risk in Uruguay is nationwide; however, risk is extremely low.

- *Dengue Fever*: Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, mostly during the day. Bite prevention is essential. Symptoms of dengue fever include a sudden onset of fever and at least one of the following: severe headache, severe pain behind the eyes, muscle and/or joint pain, rash, easy bruising, and/or nose or gum bleeding. Fever and other symptoms generally appear abruptly four to seven days after being bitten. Some people have reported experiencing no symptoms. Risk of infection exists year-round, nationwide.
- *Hepatitis A*: Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Hepatitis A does not always cause symptoms. If they occur, symptoms appear two to six weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice. Intermediate risk in Uruguay.
- *Hepatitis B*: Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids, and effectively prevented with vaccination. An unexpected medical or dental emergency may place the unvaccinated traveler at risk. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Symptoms include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice. Intermediate risk in Uruguay.
- *Hepatitis E*: Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Symptoms appear two to eight weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, joint pain, and jaundice.
- *HIV/AIDS*: Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Within two to four weeks of HIV infection, many people, but not all, experience influenza-like illness including fever, swollen glands, sore throat, rash, fatigue, muscle and joint pains, and headache. These symptoms, also called acute retroviral syndrome (ARS), can last from days to weeks. The infection later progresses to a clinical latency stage, and in the late stage, to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).
- *Rabies*: Transmitted through the saliva of infected wild or domesticated mammals, usually by a bite or scratch. Do not approach unfamiliar animals. Wild and domestic animals pose a threat.
- *Traveler's Diarrhea*: Transmitted by contaminated food and water. This is the most common illness in travelers. People who become ill by an infectious agent that causes traveler's diarrhea most often experience nausea, vomiting, fever, bloody stools, and/or the urge to constantly pass stools despite an empty gastrointestinal tract. High risk in Uruguay.
- *Tuberculosis*: Transmitted through respiratory droplets released by coughing or sneezing. Individuals planning an extended stay should consider obtaining a PPD skin test to reference against future suspected infections. Symptoms commonly include chest pain, bad cough lasting three weeks or longer, and coughing up blood and/or sputum. Some people also experience chills, weight loss, fever, weakness, night sweats, and loss of appetite. Intermediate risk in Uruguay.
- *Typhoid Fever*: Transmitted by contaminated milk, water, and food. Raw fish and shellfish from contaminated waters are likely to be infected. Symptoms of typhoid fever usually include fever, abdominal pain or discomfort, chills and body aches, weakness, and loss of appetite.

Health Requirements

● Unrated

Yellow Fever: Vaccination Not Required

There are no recommendations or requirements for yellow fever vaccination in Uruguay. There is no risk of yellow fever.

HIV Testing

No known restrictions.

Health Recommendations

● Unrated

Recommended Immunizations for Travel to Uruguay

Travelers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. You should visit a health care professional at least four to six weeks prior to the trip. Travelers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. Routine vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and annual flu vaccine. Travelers should consider obtaining COVID vaccination where available, even if the destination country does not require it.

- **Hepatitis A:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Two doses are recommended administered six months apart, are required for long-lasting protection. If full series is six to 12 months apart; there is no need for booster. One dose usually provides enough protection to a healthy adult for international travel. Vaccination will provide some protection within days but should ideally be administered at least two weeks before travel.
- **Hepatitis B:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Widely used formulations require three doses administered over the course of six to 18 months, depending on the recipient's age and vaccination history. Booster doses after complete series are usually not required to maintain immunity. If exposed before finalizing full series, individuals may receive a special booster within 24 hours to receive short-term protection.
- **Rabies:** Unless contraindicated, recommended for individuals whose activities bring them into direct contact with dogs, bats, and other mammals; long-term travelers and expatriates; and children. Pre-exposure vaccination requires three doses administered over the course of 28 days. Post-exposure vaccination is still required in the event of potential rabies exposure, but a full-course of pre-exposure vaccination reduces the course of post-exposure treatment and eliminates need for Rabies Immune Globulin, which can be in short supply in many areas. Uruguay has reported rabies in domestic animals, thus most travelers are at risk. Bats are likely to carry bat rabies.
- **Typhoid Fever:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated, including those visiting friends and family in endemic areas, those in contact with an infected person, young children, extended-stay travelers, and individuals visiting areas of poor sanitation. Available in both injectable and oral formulations. Widely used formulations require between two and four doses, depending on the formulation and the recipient's vaccination history. Booster vaccination is required every two or five years, depending on the formulation. The last dose should be taken at least one week before travel.

Medical Facilities and Services

● 2.50

Medical care facilities in Uruguay, specifically private ones in Montevideo and Punta del Este, are considered to be adequate for most medical needs, but may be limited in rural regions. Those in smaller towns or more rural areas will find facilities to be more lacking, though they still may be adequate for routine-to-minor healthcare needs. In the most extreme cases, medical evacuation may be required to a major city in Argentina or Brazil for more comprehensive facilities with better technological expertise. Some facilities in Uruguay may accept international health insurance, but a more likely scenario involves upfront payment by the patient and subsequent reimbursement by the carrier.

Mental Health

● 3.50

Mental health service availability is limited and conditions are moderately managed.

Food and Water Safety

● 3.25

Drinking water may be unsafe in Uruguay, especially in rural areas. Use only bottled, boiled, or otherwise purified water for drinking and cooking. Do not use ice cubes made from unpurified water sources. Eat only thoroughly cooked food served hot, or fruits and vegetables that you have cleaned and peeled; avoid salads. Consume only pasteurized milk and dairy products, or use powdered or canned milk and cured cheeses. Avoid street vendors and unregulated food establishments.

Political

1.5 - Low

Uruguay is considered the least corrupt of all Latin American nations and also compares quite favorably on a global scale. Reflective of strong governance and low corruption, rule of law is robust in the country. Uruguay has a strong and stable system of governance. Sanctions are not a concern.

Corruption

2.00

Uruguay generally scores quite well on corruption indicators as measured by Transparency International and other organizations. Transparency International ranked Uruguay 14 out of 180 countries surveyed worldwide in the latest iteration of its Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). The country's high score of 74 is the highest score of all countries in Latin America.

Thus, in general, Uruguay is thought to be the least corrupt nation in Latin America and also one of the least corrupt nations in the world. Any corruption encountered, from low-level bribery to high-profile graft, is considered the exception rather than the rule, and business interests, as well as foreign governments, generally praise the country's level of transparency.

Government Stability

1.00

Uruguay operates using a presidential representative democracy in which a directly elected president, currently Luis Lacalle Pou of the center-right National Party (PN), is both head of government and head of state. The legislative branch, a directly elected bicameral General Assembly, is charged with passing legislation, and an independent judiciary interprets legislation and the constitution; the center-left Frente Amplio (FA) holds the largest pluralities in both the lower Chamber of Deputies and upper Senate, but the PN actually controls both chambers through a broader coalition in support of the Lacalle Pou government. Elections are peaceful as well as free and fair, and transfers of power occur relatively seamlessly. In general, the country is held up as a model of governance for the rest of the region.

Rule of Law

1.25

Similar to how it scores on corruption, Uruguay is considered to have the strongest rule of law within Latin America. The judiciary is generally independent and competent, and corruption in government quite low. The recent rise in certain types of crime has caused minor worries over criminal impunity, but criminals that are caught are generally guaranteed fair treatment and proceedings.

Sanctions

1.00

Uruguay is viewed as a highly cooperative country throughout the international community, and multilateral sanctions are a non-issue. Unilateral sanctions are also not currently thought to be a threat from any country, neighboring or otherwise.

Legal

Unrated

Visitors to Uruguay are subject to local laws, which may not mirror, either in whole or in part, those of their home country. Those deemed to be in violation, even unknowingly, may be fined, detained, imprisoned, temporarily or permanently expelled, or tried *in absentia* depending on the nature of the offense. Homecountry consular officers are typically systematically informed of a detention when requested by the detained citizen and are permitted to provide support services to their detained citizens. When there is no treaty in force, notification and access depend on whether the two countries have direct or indirect diplomatic relations. Consular officers cannot interfere with local judicial proceedings, nor provide legal advice or representation at trial, and are unable to pay legal fees or fines with government funds. The status of dual nationals will be determined by local officials, with all attendant ramifications for access and support.

Emergency Contacts

● Unrated

Emergency Contacts

Ambulance 105

Fire 104

Police 911

Embassies and Consulates

● Unrated

French Embassy

Address 853 Avenida Uruguay, 11100 Montevideo

Fax [\(598-2\) 1705 0110](tel:(598-2)17050110)

Web Site www.ambafranceuruguay.org

Canadian Embassy

Address Plaza Independencia 749, office 102, 11100, Montevideo

Fax [\(598\) 2902 2029](tel:(598)29022029)

Email mvdeo@international.gc.ca

Web Site <http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/uruguay>

US Embassy

Address Lauro Muller 1776, Montevideo 11200

Fax [\(598-2\) 1770 2128](tel:(598-2)17702128)

Web Site <http://montevideo.usembassy.gov/>

Australian Embassy

Address Villanueva 1400, Buenos Aires

Fax [\(54-11\) 4779 3581](tel:(54-11)47793581)

Web Site <http://www.argentina.embassy.gov.au>

British Embassy

Address Calle Marco Bruto 1073, 11300 Montevideo

Fax [\(598-2\) 622 7815](tel:(598-2)6227815)
Email ukinuruguay@adinet.com.uy
Web Site <http://www.ukinuruguay.fco.gov.uk>

Australian Consulate

Address Cerro Largo 1000, Montevideo
Fax [\(598-2\) 901 0743](tel:(598-2)9010743)
Web Site <http://www.argentina.embassy.gov.au>

Austrian Embassy

Address 3671 Calle French, 1425, Buenos Aires
Fax [\(54 11\) 4805 4016](tel:(5411)48054016)
Web Site <http://www.bmeia.gv.at/botschaft/buenos-aires.html>

German Embassy

Address La Cumparsita 1435, Plaza Alemania, 11200 Montevideo.
Fax [+598 29 02 34 22](tel:+59829023422)
Email info@montevideo.diplo.de
Web Site <http://www.montevideo.diplo.de>

Entry/Exit

Unrated

Travelers can obtain specific information about visas and other entry-exit requirements at <https://entry-exit.crisis24horizon.com>.

HIV Testing Requirement : Not required.

Pre-Departure

Unrated

- Travelers should have adequate travel insurance in place to enable rapid medical treatment or emergency extraction from Uruguay.
- Travelers should provide friends and family with a copy of the travel itinerary and make a copy of important travel and identification documents.

On Arrival

Unrated

- The main airport is Carrasco International Airport on the outskirts of Montevideo. There are no significant measures to undertake on arrival.

In Transit

Unrated

- Public transport is generally safe, and self-driving may be conducted.

At Your Hotel

Unrated

- There are no special measures to observe in your hotel.

In the Street

● Unrated

- Travelers should avoid overt displays of wealth and dress discreetly and appropriately to the environment. Do not display money, jewelry, or valuables, and keep a low profile.
- Travelers should use only small denominations of the local currency and keep large amounts of cash and cards in a separate place on their person. Reduce the contents of wallets or purses, particularly cards which may denote affiliations, memberships, and accounts. Do not use credit or debit cards unless absolutely necessary and then only at respected, well-known retail and service establishments.
- Travelers should ensure that their mobile phone is carried with sufficient battery life and programmed with appropriate emergency numbers. Travelers should also carry an ID card or passport and emergency medical information.
- Travelers should be aware of their location and surroundings. Avoid high-crime areas and walking through dimly lit streets after dark. Travelers should know routes and carry a map if necessary, but keep it concealed.
- In crowded situations, travelers should be aware of jostling, as this may be a ploy for pick-pockets. Travelers should also be aware of people loitering and that attackers may first pass their victims to attack from behind.
- Travelers should ignore verbal 'bait' from passers-by. Do not get into an argument, and avoid eye contact with strangers.
- Travelers should avoid any demonstrations, protests and rallies which may attract security forces and law enforcement officers and present a dynamic and volatile environment.
- Uruguay is among the most advanced nations in Latin America and, arguably, the world in terms of legal protections concerning sexual orientation and gender identity. Still, rural areas will trend more conservatively, and same-sex displays of affection there may risk a certain amount of harassment. LGBT+ events in the capital are well known and generally occur without incident.

Culture

Unrated

Standard Hours of Operation

Business: Monday-Friday, 0900-1900; Saturday, 0900-1200

Government: Monday-Friday, 0830-1630

Banking: Monday-Friday, 1300-1700

Business attire is generally formal. For men, a conservative business suit or buttoned-down shirt and tie is appropriate. For woman, a conservative business suit or dress is appropriate.

Appointments are best scheduled Monday-Friday between 0900-1700. Arriving on time to meetings is common practice. Informal or personal discussions are common. Scheduled meetings will typically run longer than expected. If a meeting includes dining out, the host offers to pay the check. Breakfast, lunch, cocktail, and dinner meetings are common practice in Uruguay. Business deals are often closed during dinner meetings. Taking alcohol during dinner is generally considered appropriate.

Spanish is commonly used for business purposes. Attempts by visitors to use phrases in the native language are well-received but not expected. Business cards are widely used and are presented using one hand. Always use Mr./Ms./Dr. or a local title until the host indicates that using first names is appropriate. Addressing the host according to his or her official title is seen as a sign of respect. When beginning and ending meetings, shake hands. It is important to say goodbye to each individual instead of giving a collective goodbye.

Gestures

● Unrated

Business cards are widely used, and they are presented with the Spanish side of the business card facing the individual the card is intended for.

When beginning the meeting, shake hands with everyone at the meeting. When departing, shake hands again with everyone at the meeting.

Use indirect communication and phrasing when speaking with people from Uruguay. When speaking to someone from Peru at a business meeting you should make direct eye contact.

When addressing someone at a business meeting use their title and last name.

Avoid using the following gestures or habits, as they are deemed offensive or insulting:

- Using your index finger to point at someone.
- Placing your thumb on your index finger to make a circle with those fingers and pointing the other three fingers upwards.
- Placing your feet on a table.
- Using a toothpick in public.
- Spitting in public.
- Burping in public.

Religions

● Unrated

Roman Catholic 47%, non-Catholic Christians 11%, nondenominational 23%, Other or agnostic 19%

Ethnicities

● Unrated

white 88%, mestizo 8%, black 4%

Significant Dates

● Unrated

- January 1 - New Year's Day
- January 6 - Epiphany
- February 20-21 - Carnival
- April 19 - Landing of the 33 Patriots
- May 1 - Labor Day
- May 18 - Battle of Las Piedras Day
- June 19 - Jose Artigas Day
- July 18 - Oath to the Constitution Day
- August 25 - Independence Day
- October 12 - Dia de la Raza
- November 2 - All Souls' Day
- December 25 - Christmas Day

Currency

● Unrated

Currency Name/Code

The official currency of Uruguay is the Uruguayan peso (UYU). One UYU is made up of 100 cents (centesimos).

Currency Convertibility

Banks or legal money changers may offer the best exchange rates. Exiting with local currency in amounts greater than USD 10,000 should be declared.

Credit Card

● Unrated

Major credit cards are widely accepted in shops, restaurants, and hotels.

Taxes and Tipping

● Unrated

It is customary to tip hotel personnel, wait staff in restaurants, and taxi drivers 10 percent; there may be a service charge on the bill.

Bank and ATM

● Unrated

ATM Availability

Automated teller machines are widely available in Uruguay. Always choose a machine located in a secure area, preferably within hotels or other populated, well-lit locations.

Bank Availability

Banking hours are generally Monday through Friday 1300-1800. Cash advances on major credit cards issued by foreign banks are permitted.

Active Alerts

No Alerts

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