



MULLINIX  
VISITS  
MONTENEGRO





COMMANDER SOUTH ATLANTIC FORCE  
UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET  
AND  
COMMANDER TASK FORCE EIGHTY-SIX

Port Briefing  
Montevideo, Uruguay

1. General: Uruguay, the smallest republic in South America, is located between the southernmost region of Brazil and the broad estuary of the Rio de la Plata (Plate River). It has an area of 72,173 square miles, about the same as North Dakota. Although Uruguay has not had a census since 1908, its population was estimated at 2,500,000 in 1952, making it the most densely populated country in South America. The country is known for its beautiful pastoral scenery and its many fine beach resorts. Punta del Este, a resort about 60 miles east of Montevideo, was the site of major Inter-American conferences in 1961 and 1962. The Charter of the Alliance for Progress was signed in Punta del Este 13 August 1961.
2. History: The Uruguayan patriot who led the first struggles for independence from Spain was Jose Gervasio Artigas. In 1811 he led a small army against Spain and routed the Spaniards in several battles, although they retained control over Montevideo. Later the Portuguese replaced the Spaniards in Montevideo and it was not until 1828 that Uruguay attained its complete independence. Its first Constitution was adopted in 1830.
3. Government: The Uruguayan Government is one of the most stable in South America. It is unique in that its Executive Branch consists of a nine-member National Council of Government, rather than a single Chief of State. The Council is elected directly by the people and from within its ranks a chairman is chosen each year. The other two branches of the government, the legislative and the executive are quite similar to that of the United States. They have a Senate and a House of Representatives and a five man Supreme Court appointed to 10 year terms by the legislative branch.
4. Climate: Uruguay is blessed with a benign climate the year around. Its seasons are the reverse of those in the United States, and the coolest month is June, with an average temperature of 50°. The warmest month is January, when the temperature averages 74°. The rainfall is evenly distributed throughout the year.
5. Economy: Uruguay's economic wealth is in her pastoral industry. Cattle provides meats, hides and skins for domestic and foreign markets while sheep are raised in large numbers primarily for their wool, 90% of which is exported.
6. Currency: The peso is the Uruguayan unit of exchange. It is based on the decimal system, with 100 centesimos to the peso. There are coins in two, five and ten centesimo denominations, and bills for one, five, 10, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 pesos. "Cambio" offices are available in downtown Montevideo for money changing. At the present time the rate is approximately eleven pesos to the dollar.



7. Tips: At hotels and restaurants a service charge is added to the check but it is still customary to give the waiter about 10% extra. At bars, cafes and "confiterias" (pastry shops), where there is no service charge, it is customary to tip about 15%.

8. Montevideo: The capital of Uruguay, was estimated to have a population of 800,000 in 1952. It is a modern and clean city, considered to be one of the outstanding resorts of South America. The Plaza Independencia separates the old and modern sections of town. The old part, near the docks, has several interesting buildings including the Cathedral and Cabildo on Plaza Matriz.

9. Beaches: Montevideo has many easily accessible beaches. The best are in the Carrasco area and beyond.

10. Sightseeing: The most effective way of seeing Montevideo is with an organized tour. The "do-it-yourself" tourist can get a good idea of what Montevideo looks like by taking a half-hour ride along the Rambla Costanera, or Riverside Drive, which will take him past the following places:

Ramirez Beach, with the Parque Hotel, which has a Casino, and the Rodo Park in front.

Punta Carreta Golf Club, with an 18 hole course, located inside the city, only five minutes from downtown. The very attractive club is an excellent place for lunch. The course is open daily except Sunday afternoons.

Pocitos Beach, with attractive and modern apartment buildings.

Buceo Beach, with the Yacht Club, a tall white building next to a harbor where many yachts from Buenos Aires and Montevideo are found. The Club has a good restaurant and offers a lovely view of the coast and of the city. There are other beaches such as Malvin and Punta Gorda on the way to Carrasco.

Carrasco and Miramar, lovely residential areas, with the Carrasco Hotel which also has a Casino.

On the way back to town you can come via Avenida Italia, where you'll be able to see the Rivera Park and Parque Batlle y Ordonez, where there is a Stadium and a very famous bronze monument "La Carreta" (covered wagon of old days); the United States Embassy Residence is also located on the fringe of the park, and the British Embassy Residence is across the avenue. In order to have an idea of the western side of the city you can drive up to El Cerro (the hill across the harbor) where you can have a full view of the city and surrounding countryside from an old Spanish fort located on top of the hill. There are several meat plants and packing houses around this area.

11. Buses, streetcars and taxis: Most buses have the port for a starting point; so if you get lost, you just take one marked "ADUANA", and it will take you to the port. The fare is twenty centesimos except for the outlying districts. At the end of each block, on the main street (18 de Julio), there is an indicator sign which shows the numbers of the buses that stop at the end of each block. NOTE: "sissing" noises made with the mouth is the accepted form of advising conductors that you want to get off. It is also used to call waiters in restaurants and cafes.



Due to the recent increase in the price of gasoline, taxis were forced to increase their rates. The meters have not been calibrated to support the new rates and therefore taxi drivers have to make referral to a fixed scale which they carry with them.

12. Hotels and Restaurants: Rooms with private bath in first class hotels run from 60 to 80 pesos per day per person without meals. Shared rooms are a lower price. There are many first class restaurants and hotel dining rooms. A good tender steak (entrecot or fillet de lomo) with a salad and dessert will cost approximately 15 pesos. Noon meals are served from 1200 to 1400. Dinner is not served until 2000 or 2030, and most restaurants are open until 0100. For between meal snacks there are excellent pastry shops, or "confiterias."

Some of the better restaurants:

EL GALEON, Juan Benito Blanco and Carace, for barbecued chicken, pepper steak etc.

VICTORIA PLAZA HOTEL, Plaza Independencia 759, American-style food.

EL AGUILA, Buenos Aires 694, its steaks are world famous.

GRUTA SUR, San Jose 800, Sea Food.

FORTI DI MAKALE, Rambla Wilson in Parque Rodó, excellent entrecots, fillets, asado, parillada (grilled meat).

CATARI, Colonia 973, Excellent Italian food.

13. Shopping: The outstanding bargain in Montevideo is the nutria fur. Nutria is similar to beaver, but of a lighter weight. Uruguayan nutria is said to be the finest you can buy. Coats and stoles are made from this fur. Styling and tanning are very well done, and prices are less than half of those you pay elsewhere.

Leather goods can be bought here at reasonable prices. Purses and belts made of alligator, calfskin, unborn calfskin, and suede are good buys.

Uruguay has amethyst and topaz of the most beautiful shades. Lovely rings pins and earrings set in gold can be purchased. Also large chunks of unground, unpolished amethyst, topaz or quartz make very nice paperweights.

For souvenirs and gifts, do not miss the silver "Bombillas" (sippers). The long ones can be used for iced tea or tall drinks, and the smaller ones for oldfashioneds. The silver mate cups and Gaucho knives with silver handles are also very lovely. Silver buckles of the type used by the gauchos are very interesting and typical.

The following stores are open from 0930 to 1900 weekdays. On Saturday they are open only from 0830 to 1230.

JEWELRY: WILD - 25 de Mayo Street 667.

FABRICA Nacional de Alhajas - Rincon St. 650.

NUTRIA FUR: METRO - Cuareim 1315

ORIENTAL - Rio Negro St. 1312

CITY - Ibicuy 1229

LEATHER GOODS: EXPRESS LEATHER FACTORY - Rincon 569

PLAZA LEATHER FACTORY - Plaza Independencia 707



MATES (Bombillas, Silver Buckles, Typical Gaucho Items)

CASA SCHIAUO - Uruguay St. 1050

VICTORIA PLAZA GIFT SHOP - Victoria Plaza Hotel

MARTINEZ HNUS - Colonia St. 1311

14. Jockey Club Racetrack: The racetrack, called "Hipodromo de Maronas" is located 3 miles north of the city and is opened Sundays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The officers will be admitted free of charge to the official box if in uniform or upon presentation of the I.D. card, while enlisted men in uniform will be admitted to the racetrack.

15. Casinos: The two gambling casinos in Montevideo are operated by the Government and are open every day throughout the year from 1800 to 0200.

Officers and enlisted personnel will be admitted free of charge if in uniform or upon presentation of an I.D. card.

16. U.S. Embassy: The Embassy is located at Agraciada 1458, Phone 8-97-46. The Office of the Naval Attache is located in the third floor of the Artigas Building, Rincon 487, Phone 9-08-22.

17. Mail: There are daily flights to the United States.

18. Visit: Task Force 86 will visit Montevideo from 18 to 23 September 1962.

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PLACE

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