

Uruguay & Paraguay



Montevideo – Colonia del
Sacramento – Asuncion –
Fos do Iguazu

February 2019



Montevideo...

I arrived to Montevideo at 09:00 in the morning and wanted to save time and hazel, so I had pre-arranged a taxi from my hotel to come and pick-me-up at the airport (30\$). Having reviewed a number of different hotels, I finally went with Hotel Palacio (40\$/night), which had gotten great reviews for a budget alternative. I had not intended to spend much time at the hotel anyway. This turned out to be a very good choice. The hotel was also located in the "old town", which meant I had walking distance to many of the old sights around this part of town. Taxis are safe and are running by the meter. The fairs around the city is usually not more than 5-8 \$.

Tried out Café 25 de Mayo for lunch and later one of the best meat restaurants in in the old meat-market near the port area - The Vabana Veronica. Tried to get ticket for the evening Festival/Carnival show at Teatro Verano, but it was sold out. I managed to get a ticket on my return on the 25th instead. The other option for some Carnival show was at the Velodroma Municipal. I managed to get there and a ticket as well.

I had three nights in total at this place. One upon arrival and two coming back from Colonia del Sacramento. I found many interesting old churches, ruins and other sights from the colonial days. Montevideo, however, gave a feel of urgent need for restoration. As soon as you ventured outside of the main sights, the state of the houses quickly deteriorated. The port and the "Mercado del Puerto" – the port market – was my favourite as it held many excellent meat restaurants.





...Carnival time In Montevideo

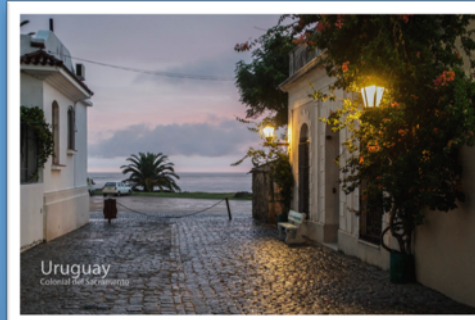


Some of the sights I managed to cover included: Plaza Independencia, Museo Torres Garcia, Plaza de la Constitucion, Catedral Metropolitana and much more.

I had just come to Montevideo as they were wrapping up this year's carnival festivities. So, it was not easy to find a place where this could still be viewed. All the street performances had just ended, so I was confined to only two places to watch what was still on. Estadio Centenario had a performance going on. So, I went for this on the first evening. On the evening coming back from Sacramento I managed to get a ticket to the festivities at Teatro de Verano. Half way through the sky opened up and it vertically poured down. So, I decided to cut this short, as did many others as well. Nice performances however.

To get from Montevideo to Colonia del Sacramento, and any other cities for that matter, its easiest to take a coach from Terminal Tres Cruces. Very comfortable coaches, good roads and many departure times to choose from. Got a ticket on a 1-class coach to Colonial del Sacramento up at Rio de la Plato. Cot or Turil are the main operators. The cost from Montevideo – Colonia del Sacramento is about 12 \$ one way



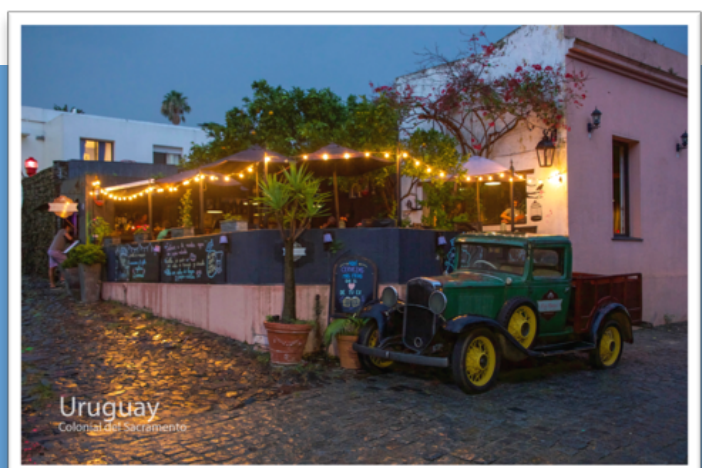


Colonia del Sacramento

An airconditioned coach took only a little over 2 hours to Colonia del Sacramento. Here I had selected carefully and finally decided upon Hotel Palacio, not cheap, but very good. An old converted private house (estancia) made into a beautiful boutique hotel, located smack in the centre of things. The restaurants which I tried included; Casa Grande, Pulperia de los faroles and Colonia Sandwich (lunch-place).

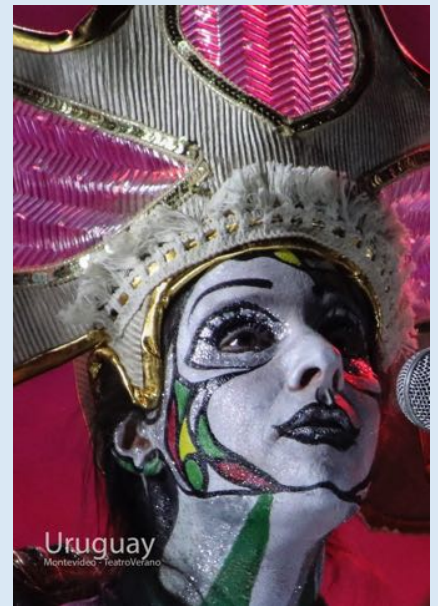
Many of the most important sights were within walking distance such as; Casa del Virrey, Casa Nacarello, Convento de San Francisco, De los Suspiros, Casa del Gobernador, Basilica del Santisimo Sacramento and many more.

This indeed a very picturesque town/village. Very, very touristic place this is. Souvenir shops and restaurants in every corner and filled with tourists. That said, the old stone clad streets and old stone buildings are still very charming. Difficult though to find a "slot" for picture taking with all the tourists rooming about. There is an old lighthouse which can be entered. You get a good view from up top, but you need to climb all the stairs to get up first. I tried the Colonia Sandwich for lunch which was very good and later the Tasca del Sur restaurant on one of the pretty side streets. You get a 1 litre beer bottle here for only 6 \$. After a couple of relaxing days walking around and seeing the village,





Carnival at Teatro Verano - Montevideo

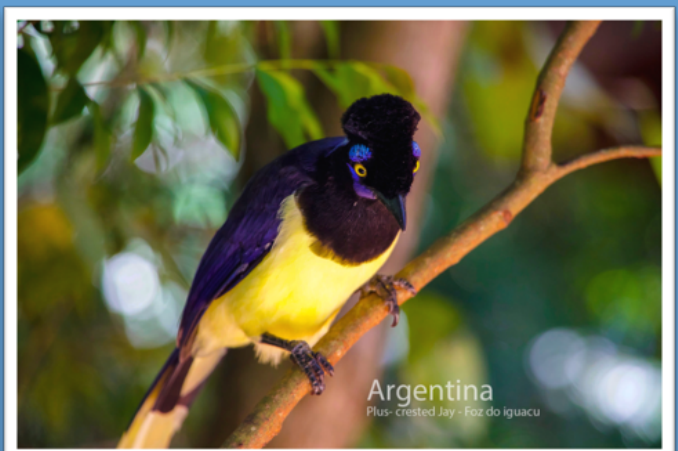
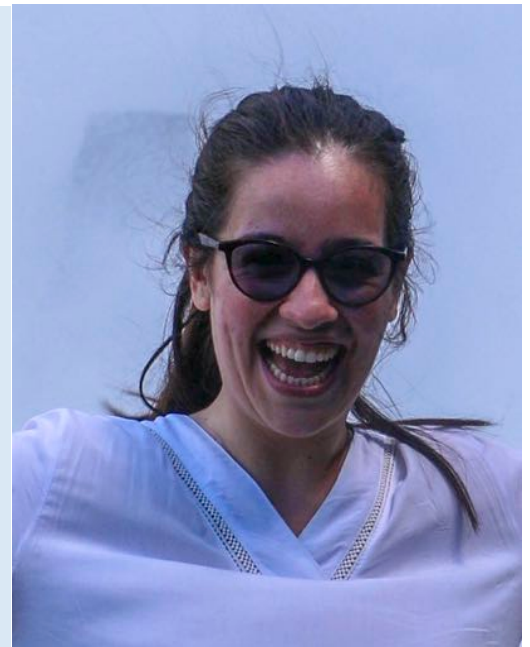


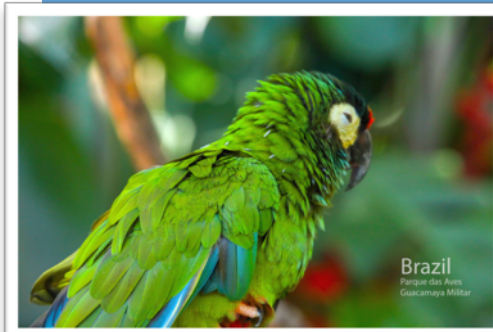


Foz do Iguacu - Argentine

Time to move on. I took a flight from Montevideo to Asuncion (1:50h). Upon arrival I made a transfer over to the bus-terminal (not that easy to find), and managed to catch a coach directly upon arrival to Ciudad del Este. This is an almost 6-hour drive. Again, the coaches were super nice (and inexpensive), airconditioned with tv-screens. Upon arrival, be careful where you change your money into local currency. The exchange rates vary considerably from 4500 to ca 5900 to the USD. I arranged a taxi to the Terminal Omnibus Asunción. You pay a fixed rate for this 17-20 \$. Apart from a few smaller villages along the way, there was not much to see during the trip to Ciudad del Este.

I was met by my pre-booked guide upon arrival in Ciudad del Este – Adriana Lomaquis Sosa Whats up +595 983 622 238. Checked in to Marambaia Hotel (350 \$). Nice and well-equipped place to start out the tour at. In the following days we went back and forth between Paraguay, Argentine and Brazil in order to see the falls from the best angles. We stopped and had lunch at Rafain Churrascaria. I would however avoid this, as it was very touristic. On the first day we stopped at the Iguacu falls on the Argentinian side. It has to be said that it is magnificent and well worth to see. However, it has become overdeveloped with mass-tourists coming in. A real Disneyworld arrangement these days.

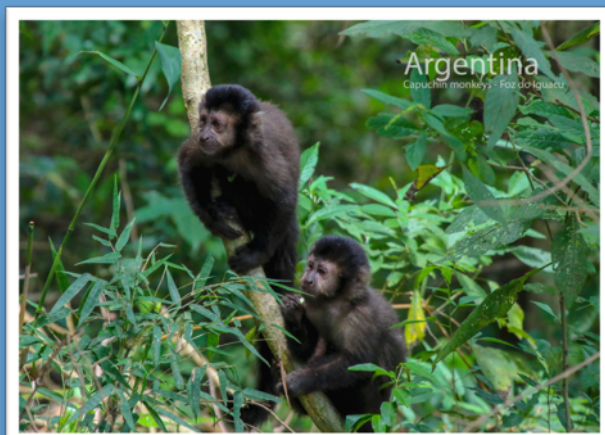
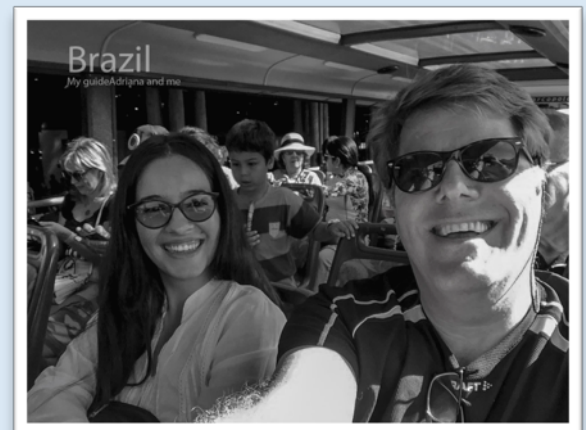


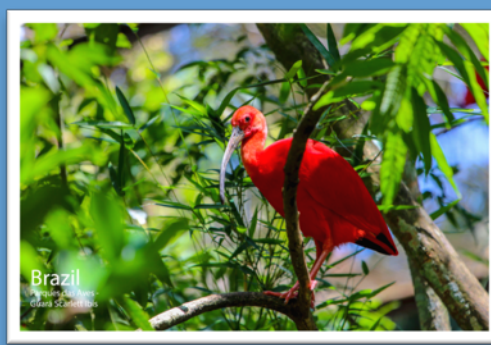
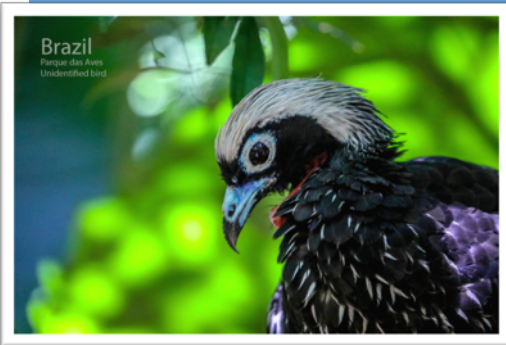


Foz do Iguacu - Brazil

In the late afternoon upon having finished the viewing of the falls, we went and checked in to my hotel – *Petit Hotel Si Mi Capitain*. Nice, and inexpensive backpackers place with a small pool. Also, walking distance to all the major restaurants in town – *Puerto Iguazu (Argentine)*. I tried the *recommended restaurant A Piacere for meat*. Also worthwhile is *Saint George and La Rueda*.

On the third day Adriana picked-me-up and this time we had to cross into Brazil to see the falls from this side as well. *Mirante Foz do Iguacu – Rio Parana* – Spectacular also from this side. We spent half-a-day here and then moved on to *visit Parque das Aves – a rainforest park* with plants and animals over various kind. This was really nice and highly recommend as well. Having done this, we stopped for lunch on the way back to Ciudad del Este. Time to catch a coach back to Asuncion and stay overnight before catching my flight back home to Sweden. Stayed at *Hotel Portal del Sol on recommendations*. Good choice. They can also assist with guides/drivers etc..





Parque das Aves - Brazil

