



## A U S T R A L I A   A N D

# Uruguay



**Friendly relations, shared international perspectives and people-to-people ties.**

### Key engagement

In addition to our long history of advancing global reforms of agricultural trade through the Cairns Group, there are growing business and academic ties.

### Outlook

Export and investment opportunities exist, including agriculture, infrastructure and mining.

## Bilateral relations

Australia and Uruguay established diplomatic relations in 1948.

Since 17 July 1968, Australia's Ambassador to Buenos Aires holds non-resident accreditation to Uruguay. Australia has an Honorary Consulate in Montevideo.

Uruguay opened a Consulate-General in Sydney in July 1954 and an Embassy in Canberra in May 1958. Honorary Consuls are in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

## Foreign relations

Australia and Uruguay are members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Cairns Group, Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) United Nations (UN), the Antarctic Treaty and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

Uruguay is a member of Mercosur, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Organization of American States (OAS), which seek to advance a variety of regional political and economic interests.

Uruguay is an observer of the Pacific Alliance.



Foreign Policy White Paper:  
<https://www.fpwhitepaper.gov.au>

## FAST FACTS



Uruguayan visitors to Australia ([2020 Dept of Home Affairs](#)) # 1,100



Australian visitors to Uruguay (primary destination ([2020 Dept of Home Affairs](#)) # \* 600



Resident Australian population born in Uruguay ([2016 Census](#)) 8,994



Australian residents of Uruguayan descent ([2016 Census](#)) 7,836



Uruguayan Working Holiday Makers ([2020 Dept of Home Affairs](#)) 237



Uruguayan students in Australia ([2020 Dept of Education](#)) 153

## Australian Embassy in Argentina

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Buenos Aires C1426BMJ

Argentina

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[Australia en Argentina, Uruguay y Paraguay](#)



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# This data is owned by Home Affairs. It provides quarterly updates to this data on its website.

\*Uruguay reports the number of Australian visitors as 1,864 in 2020 ([Uruguay Migraciones])

## High level engagement

2017	June - President of the Senate, Senator the Hon Stephen Parry visited Uruguay.
2017	August - Australian Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove visited Montevideo.

## Public diplomacy

The [Council on Australia-Latin America Relations \(COALAR\)](#) provides grants to enhance Australia's economic, political and social relations with Latin America. In 2019-20, it supported a University of Tasmania project in Uruguay to workshop crop-livestock adaptation to climate change based on modelling and remote-sensing. In 2021 it supported a Deakin University project in Uruguay to understand Hydrogen dairy industry opportunities.

An exhibition of Australian Aboriginal art in the MAPI (Pre-Colombian and Indigenous Art Museum), supported by the Australian Government, has had a significant community impact.

## Economic diplomacy

Uruguay is a strong supporter of an international rules-based trading system. Uruguay and Australia have been at the forefront of global efforts to adopt policies to discourage the use of tobacco products in the interests of public health.

The Australian Government assists Australian investors in Uruguay by providing support and advice on political, economic and regulatory environments.

Further economic and trade information can be found in our [Economic Factsheet](#) for Uruguay.

## Business

In 2011, the [Uruguay-Australia Chamber](#) was established. The Chamber, based in Uruguay, operates as a non-profit civil association. It focuses on promoting and developing bilateral economic relations.

Though trade and investment ties are modest, Uruguay is an open economy which encourages foreign investment and trade. There remains strong interest in both directions to strengthen this aspect of the relationship further.

As an internationally competitive exporter of primary products, Uruguay presents opportunities for the export of Australian agriculture-related technology and services, including animal genetic material. Uruguay has largely adopted Australian traceability systems for livestock. A number of Australian companies are already present in the market and highly respected.



## Agreements with Uruguay

2019	<a href="#">Bilateral Investment Treaty</a>
2014	<a href="#">Tax Information Exchange Agreement</a>
2012	<a href="#">Work and Holiday Maker visa program</a>
2012	<a href="#">MoU on Air Services</a>
2010	<a href="#">MoU on Strengthening Bilateral Trade and Investment</a>

New opportunities for Australian investment are opening in the fields of education, agriculture, mining and infrastructure. Public-private partnerships present additional opportunities for Australian companies to invest in Uruguay through infrastructure projects, such as deep-water ports, roads, rail, river transport, energy (oil, gas and wind farms), irrigation dams, tourism infrastructure, recreational ports and marinas, hospitals and jails.

Uruguay has some of the region's highest levels of education and per capita income, good governance and low corruption. It is a regional early adopter of new technologies. It represents a potential new market of technology companies, including Ag-Tech, Fin-Tech and a range of other areas.

Uruguay is a base for Australian companies operating in the region, with a particular focus on Mercosur markets. Montevideo in particular is a safe, modern regional capital with strong rule of law and good infrastructure. Uruguay has a number of free-trade zones which offer significant tax benefits to Australian companies. This has made it an attractive place to establish logistics hubs to service other markets in the region.

The Austrade office in Argentina, also responsible for Uruguay, is focused on: promoting the Australian education sector; increasing trade outcomes in sectors linked to the agricultural strengths and needs of Uruguay; and promoting Australia's capabilities in digital technology such as block chain, Fin-Tech and Med-Tech.

Austrade aims to attract foreign direct investment into Australia. It also identifies market opportunities and promotes the capabilities of Australian exporters and education providers.

### Austrade

<https://www.austrade.gov.au/contact/offices/country-index>



Travel

See Smartraveller for Information on travelling :  
[smartraveller.gov.au](https://www.smartraveller.gov.au)

