

Religion

There is no official religion in Uruguay, although Roman Catholicism is the most popular of the largest Christian group.

Education

Uruguay has the highest literacy rate in Latin America at 94 per cent. Education is free from the primary level, which is compulsory, through secondary school and university. Several private schools at the primary and secondary levels emphasize foreign languages (English in particular), as does the private university. The academic year begins in March and ends in mid-December for the summer break.

Currency

On July 1, 1975, a new Uruguay peso was issued, equivalent to 1 000 old pesos. Designated by N\$ within Uruguay, the new peso has been allowed to float since 1982.

Banknotes are in denominations of 50, 100, 500, 1 000, 5 000 and 10 000. Coins are available in 1, 2, 5 or 10 new pesos and 10, 20 and 50 centésimos. One N\$ = 100 centésimos.

Local Time

Uruguay official time is three hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and two hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Clocks move forward one hour on the second Sunday in November and back one hour on the second Sunday in March.

Business Hours

Offices are generally open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Banks in Montevideo are open between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. during the winter months, and 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. in the summer. In the interior of the country, the banking hours are between 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. In Punta del Este, the tourist area, the hours are from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.