

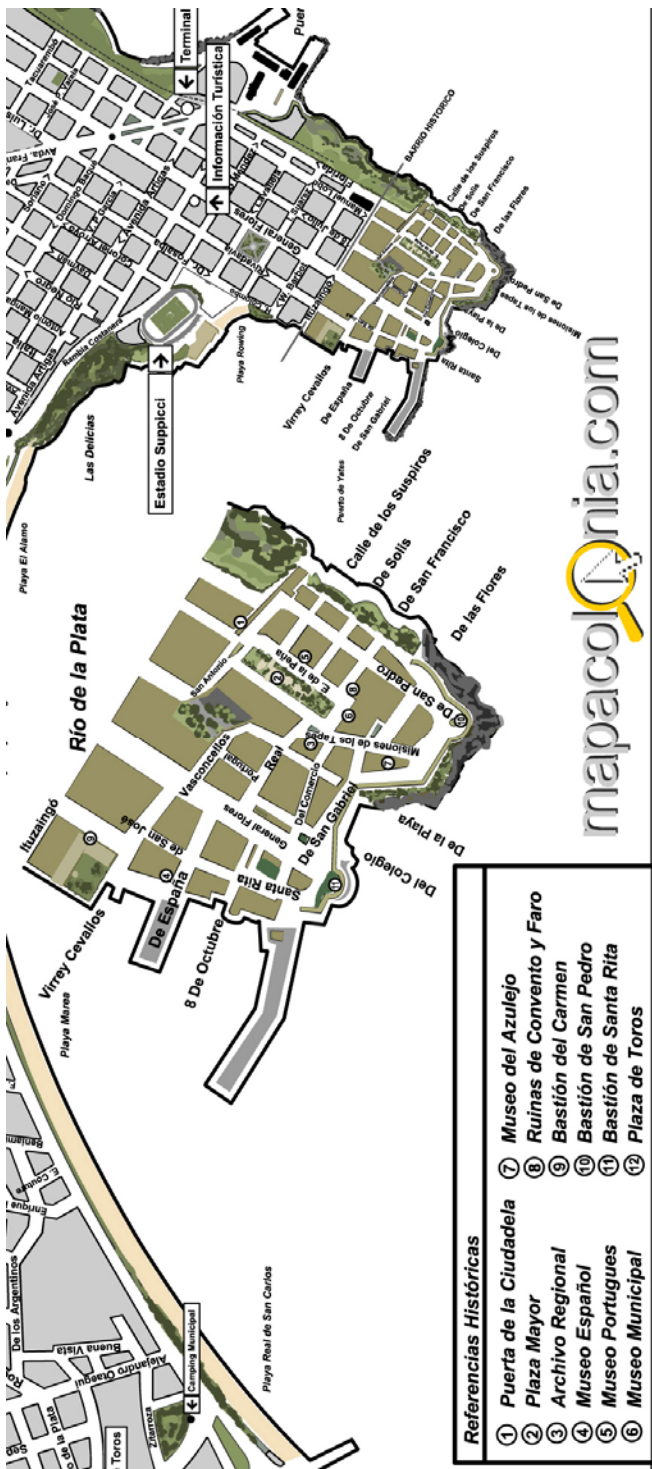
Colonia

Your visit to Colonia will be concentrated in the **Barrio Histórico** (Old Neighborhood), located on the coast at the far southwestern corner of town. The sites, which are all within a few blocks of each other, can easily be visited on foot within a few hours. Museums and tourist sites are open daily (**except Tues-Wed**) from 11:30am to 5:45pm. **For less than \$1, you can buy a pass at the Portuguese or Municipal museums that will get you into all the sites.**

Start your tour at **Plaza Mayor**, the principal square that served as the center of the colonial establishment. To explore Colonia's Portuguese history, cross the Calle Manuel Lobo on the southeastern side of the plaza and enter the **Museo Portugues** (Portuguese Museum), which exhibits European customs and traditions that influenced the town's beginnings. Upon exiting the museum, turn left and walk to the **Iglesia Matriz**, among the oldest churches in the country and an excellent example of 17th-century architecture and design.

Next, exit the church and turn left to the **Ruinas Convento San Francisco** (San Francisco Convent ruins). Dating from 1696, the San Francisco convent was once inhabited by Jesuit and Franciscan monks, two brotherhoods dedicated to preaching the gospel to indigenous people. Continue up Calle San Francisco to the **Casa de Brown** (Brown House), which houses the **Museo Municipal** (Municipal Museum). Here, you will find an impressive collection of colonial documents and artifacts, a must-see for history buffs.

For those with a more artistic bent, turn left on Calle Misiones de los Tapes and walk 2 blocks to the **Museo del Azulejo** (Tile Museum), a unique museum of



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- | Referencias Históricas | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| ① | Puerta de la Ciudadela |
| ② | Plaza Mayor |
| ③ | Archivo Regional |
| ④ | Museo Español |
| ⑤ | Museo Portugues |
| ⑥ | Museo Municipal |
| ⑦ | Museo del Azulejo |
| ⑧ | Ruinas de Convento y Faro |
| ⑨ | Bastión del Carmen |
| ⑩ | Bastión de San Pedro |
| ⑪ | Bastión de Santa Rita |
| ⑫ | Plaza de Toros |

You

19th-century European and Uruguayan tiles housed in a gorgeous 300-year-old country house. Then stroll back into the center of town along Calle de la Playa, enjoying the shops and cafes along the way, until you come to the **Ruinias Casa del Gobernador** (House of the viceroy ruins). The House of the Viceroy captures something of the glorious past of the city's 17th- and 18th-century magistrates, when the city's port was used for imports, exports, and smuggling. Complete your walk with a visit to the **UNESCO-Colonia** headquarters, where exhibits on the city's newly acquired Historic Heritage of Humanity status will place your tour in the larger context of South American history.

Also, from the plaza, walk down Calle de los Suspiros, a cobblestone street of one-story homes, galleries and antique stores.

WHERE TO DINE

Meson de la Plaza, Vasconcellos 153, serves quality international and Uruguayan food in a colonial setting

Pulperia de los Faroles, Calle Misiones de los Tapes 101, in front of Plaza Mayor, specializes in beef and bean dishes and homemade pasta.

La Bodeguita Calle del Comercio **Closed Monday**. Hip restaurant with backyard tables overlooking the river serves delicious, crispy pizza.

La Florida (Ivonne) Anita and Carlos are the CUTEST owners in the world and their food is great. Carlos actually made my Uncle fresh pasta while we waited when we went. Try the wine, too. Near the bridge