

Uruguay Independence Day Special

Building a sustainable future together

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AMBASSADOR OF URUGUAY



In 2025, Uruguay proudly celebrates 200 years of independence. Over these two centuries, Uruguay has grown into one of Latin America's most-trusted and forward-thinking countries, known

not only for its strong institutions, but also for the warmth and openness of its people.

This year is also special because it marks 104 years of friendship with Japan. Our two countries share values that go beyond politics — those of respect, trust and a shared vision for building a sustainable future.

Uruguay consistently ranks high in Latin America for its rule of law, freedom of the press and active citizen participation. Our sound economy, careful management of public finances and clear rules for investors create an environment where businesses can thrive — backed by a skilled and adapt-

able workforce eager to innovate.

Our economic ties with Japan rest on solid foundations. Agreements on investment protection, tax avoidance and customs cooperation make trade and investment straightforward and secure. The Bilateral Commission for Economic and Trade Relations, which first met in 2023 and will meet again in 2025, keeps the dialogue alive, finding new ways for our public and private sectors to collaborate and grow together.

Being in the Mercosur trade bloc gives us preferential access to over 300 million consumers. Thanks to our modern logistics, political stability, talented workforce and clear legal framework, Uruguay is a gateway for companies wanting to reach all of the Americas. This mix of factors makes our country an ideal hub for regional expansion.

Sustainability is at the heart of what we do. More than 90% of Uruguay's electricity comes from renewable sources such as wind, solar, hydro and biomass — thanks to a strong partnership between government and business. We're now leading the way in green hydrogen, with a road map that brings together public and private efforts to

develop clean energy solutions. Our participation at the Osaka Expo allows us to share this commitment with the world.

When it comes to food, Uruguay is proud to offer premium products. Our beef is carefully produced with strict controls and full traceability, meeting the highest standards globally. Uruguay progressively gained the trust of Japanese consumers and, within a couple of years of opening its market to Uruguayan beef, became the sixth-largest foreign supplier. Other products, including olive oil, caviar, dairy and fine wines, also enjoy recognition here. Beyond food, we're excited about artisanal products like beautiful garments made from premium natural wool, combining tradition with modern design. Our jewelry and decorative pieces made from local agates and amethysts are also making their mark with Japanese customers who appreciate unique craftsmanship.

Tourism is another exciting part of our relationship. Uruguay offers stunning Atlantic beaches, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, soothing thermal springs and vibrant cultural scenes — all in a safe, welcoming setting. With sustainable tourism policies



Punta Ballena is a popular tourist destination in the summer.

ALEXIS NOQUET

and growing international hotel investments, more and more Japanese visitors and investors are discovering the many charms Uruguay has to offer.

As we celebrate 200 years of independence, Uruguay looks to the future with optimism. We're eager to deepen our cooperation with Japan in renewable energy, agriculture, science and technology and sustainable infrastructure. Our friendship is a model of respect and shared values, and together we're ready to build a future of innovation, resilience and sustainable growth for both our peoples.

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This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

**Congratulations
to the People of
Uruguay on
the Anniversary of
Their Independence**

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