Healthcare in Uruguay

First-World-standard healthcare is nothing new in Uruguay. Most of Uruguay's population are descendants of European immigrants, who brought their hospital traditions with them. For example, the Spanish Hospital was started in Montevideo by Spanish immigrants in 1853; the British Hospital was founded in 1857 in Montevideo's Ciudad Vieja, before moving to its current location near the main bus terminal in 1913; and the Italian Hospital opened its doors in 1890.

There are more than 100 hospitals in Uruguay. The country also has its own reputable labs that produce trustworthy generic medications.

Uruguay is not a medical tourism destination or a place where people come for healthcare alone. But if Uruguay is a place you want to live, the chances are good that you will be able to get quality healthcare at an affordable price.

You'll find a broad choice of medical care options in Uruguay. The most popular with expats is a *mutualista*, a hospital-based healthcare organization that provides medical services to its enrolled members at a low fixed price—often for around $50 per month.

The second most popular option is premium-service hospital plans with shorter waits and more personalized attention, which can cost from $250 to $350 per month. The third most-used option among expats is the public healthcare system, with hospitals and clinics spread across the country at a cost of around $50 per month. Just a few expats use private health insurance companies, such as BlueCross and BlueShield of Uruguay.