

RESERVA INTEGRAL LAGUNA DE LOS PADRES – SIERRA DE LOS PADRES – PAISAJES SERRANOS

Mar del Plata is settled on the hill ranges of the Tandilia orogenic system originated in the Paleozoic Era. They stretch over the west central area of the General Pueyrredon District before disappearing into the sea. Several hill ranges - del Acha, de Valdez, de los Padres, de los Difuntos and de la Peregrina (the highest one with 230 metres) rise amid

agricultural fields and scattered wooded areas.

The Ruta 226 (route) boasts magnificent landscapes, lakes, streams and hills and invite visitors to reach areas beyond the limits of the General Pueyrredon District.

By car: 3-hour tour (basic tour). Full-day tour when recreational and gastronomic options are included.

By bus: For further information about transport and schedules visitors should get the monthly edition of the activity guide in one of the tourist information offices of the Tourism Board.

Pedro Luro Ave turns into Ruta 226 (route). Km 0 is the roundabout located at the intersection of Champagnat Ave.

From the city centre, Luro Ave (named after Pedro Luro, an important figure involved in the development of the city) represents an important artery which is constantly growing. In 2600 Luro Ave, the **Plaza Dardo Rocha and Plaza Eva Perón** (squares) boast different attractions such as the Fuente de las Nereidas (fountain), the **Feria Verde Agroecológica** (agro-ecological fair) and the **Mercado de Pulgas** (flea market).

A little farther ahead, at the intersection of Luro Ave and San Juan St, the new **Estación Ferro-Automotora de Mar del Plata** (train and coach station), still boasts the old building of the **Estación Norte del Ferrocarril**, (English architecture with Picturesque-style features), where the first locomotive which arrived in Mar del Plata in 1886 is exhibited.

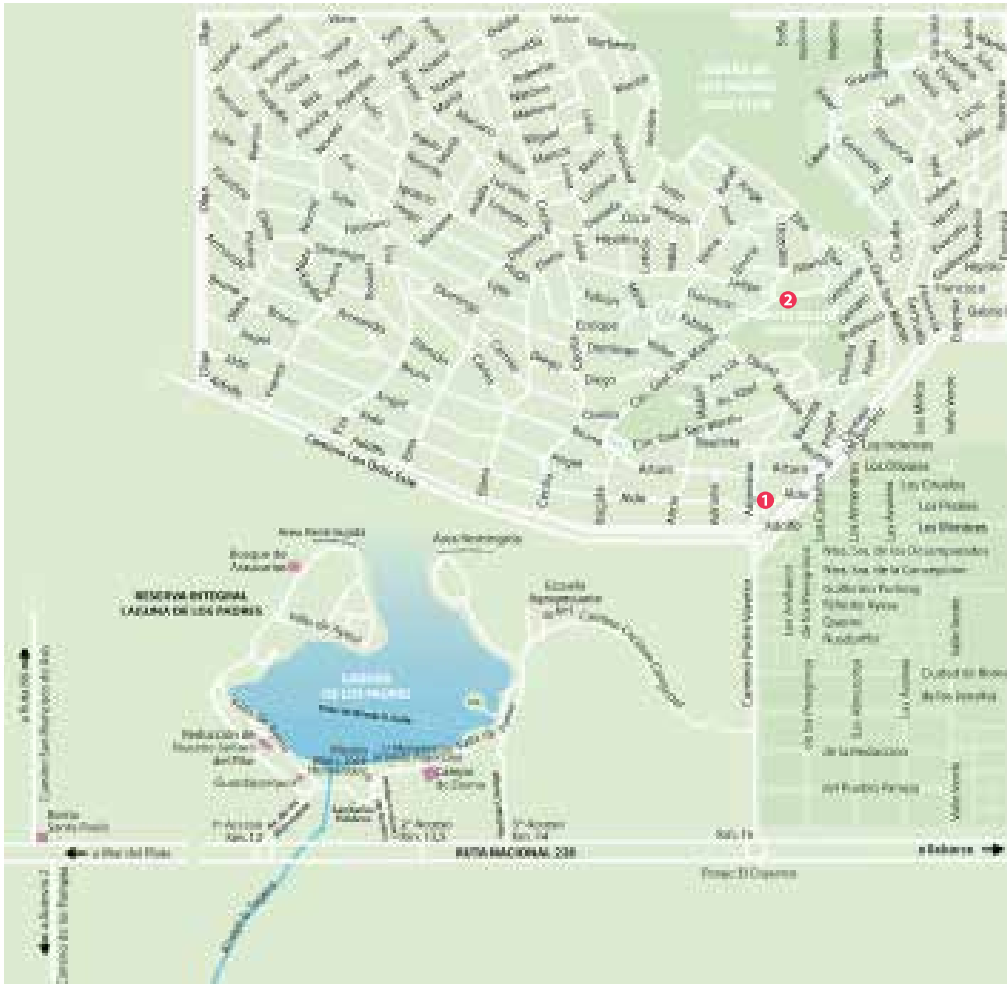
The urban area ends in the second roundabout. The **Mercado Concentrador Frutihortícola Procosud** (fruit and vegetable market) is located at Km 7 and the **Paraje Santa Paula** (neighbourhood) at Km 9.

A third roundabout at Km 12 marks the entrance to the **Reserva Integral Laguna de los Padres** (reserve). There are two other entrances at Km 13.5 and Km 14.

Silverside fishing in **Laguna de los Padres** (lake) ensures a good catch (land-based or boat fishing). The lake has a rowing and canoeing course named Alberto Valle.

Rowing, canoeing and windsurfing can be practised in its calm waters. There are recreational centres, camping facilities and fishing clubs (boat and fishing rod hire) amid wooded areas and undulating countryside including an araucaria forest and the **Reserva Provincial El Curral** (reserve). A wide variety of birds turns the reserve into





an ideal spot for bird-watchers. Camping is only allowed in certified campsites. Hunting, cutting down trees and bathing in the lake is forbidden.

Instances of the history of Mar del Plata are portrayed in the reconstruction of the **Reducción de Nuestra Señora del Pilar** (mid 18th century Jesuit mission) and the **Museo Municipal José Hernández** (local museum) placed in the former manor house of the Estancia Laguna de los Padres (cattle ranch).

The Reducción de Nuestra Señora del Pilar is a reminder of the presence of the Jesuit order in the middle of the 18th century. It was erected in the Laguna de los Padres, formerly named Laguna de Las Cabrillas when the area was frequented by pampas peoples. Three Jesuits started the settlement to convert indigenous people to the Christian faith (1746-1751).

The Museo Municipal José Hernández is set in the main house of the former Estancia Laguna de

- 1) Centro comercial.
- 2) Punto Panorámico - Gruta de los Pañuelos - Centro comercial.

los Padres. Documents, cloths, country daily life tools and also carriages are displayed as the many collections of the museum. Several Marplatense historians say that this is the place where the author of the Martín Fierro (classic Argentine epic poem) gained all the experiences that later shaped his writings. Nearby, you can find the first Monumento al Jinete Argentino (monument) and a rodeo field surrounded by firmly tightened wooden posts.

A fourth roundabout at Km 16 of the Ruta 226 (route) leads to Camino Padre Luis Vareto, access road to Barrio Sierra de los Padres (neighbourhood). Along this 4 km. road visitors enjoy an array of commercial, gastronomic and recreational facilities like **La Casualidad Laberinto y Juegos** and the **Complejo de Agroturismo Los Cachorros**.

The **Barrio Sierra de los Padres** (neighbourhood) is where nature merges with magnificent architecture. After the commercial centre, Don José de San Martín Ave leads to the top of the hill. The Sierra de los Padres Golf Club, the Gruta de los Pañuelos (grotto), the panoramic viewpoint, teahouses, restaurants, regional product shops and amazing views of the undulating green fields are among the attractions.

After leaving the neighbourhood through the entrance arch two options await visitors:

1)Turning left, the **Camino Juan Manuel Bordeu** (trail) offers different alternatives: farmhouses, cattle ranches, the planta de agua mineral Sierra de los Padres (mineral water plant), etc. The trail ends at Km 23 of the Ruta 226 (route).

2)Turning right, the **Camino Los Ortiz Este** (east trail) with farmhouses that produce kiwifruits and strawberries and the arroyo de los Padres (stream) that flows through the trail into the Laguna de los Padres (lake). This trail offers two options: reaching the Ruta 88 (route) and the Zoo Batán (zoo) or taking the **Camino Los Ortiz Oeste** with stud farms, dairy farms, the planta de agua mineral La Copelina (old mineral water plant) and the Laguna La Brava (lake).

On the way back to Ruta 226 (route) along the Camino Padre Vareto (road) visitors have two alternatives:

1)To turn left and enjoy the hilly landscapes along the route with different attractions. The neighbourhoods **La Gloria de la Peregrina** and **Colinas Verdes; La Serranita**, a recreational complex that offers different services: swimming pool, solarium, sports facilities, playgrounds for children, adventure sports, gastronomy and accommodation options; the **Laguna La Brava**, a lake located at Km 38, in the limit of the General Pueyrredon District and Balcarce District; the **Estancia Antiquo Casco La Brava** (cattle ranch), **Balcarce city** (70 kilometres from Mar del Plata) with the **Museo del Automovilismo Juan Manuel Fangio** (museum) and **Tandil city** (170 kilometres from Mar del Plata).

2)To turn right towards Mar del Plata at the **Paraje Santa Paula** (Km 9,8). The **Camino San Francisco de Asís** (trail) links Ruta 226 (route) with the Ruta 88 (route). This trail includes the **Paraje San Francisco**, an extensive area with important economic activities.