



- Naval Museum -

“History told from the Sea”

The Center for Historical, Naval and Maritime Studies (CEHIS) was created with the main mission of compiling the history of the National Navy from its earliest origins. At the same time, it aims to promote historical research in the maritime and global naval spheres, with the ultimate goal of building true National Maritime Awareness.

The tools CEHIS uses to generate a genuine societal interest in maritime matters include:

- Naval and maritime library.
- Historical archive, which contains regulations, reports, photographs, and documents relevant to the elaboration of the History of the National Navy.
- Museum Educational Program (PEM).
- Permanent exhibition of historical assets related to naval history, particularly that of the National Navy.



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| 1. Chronological Development | 4. Peacekeeping Missions Area | 7. Outdoor Exhibition Space |
| 2. Thematic Space | 5. Temporary Exhibits Area | 8. Bathroom |
| 3. Training Ship “Capitán Miranda” | 6. Reception | |

Uniting universal maritime traditions with those of our country, the visit begins with the exhibition of the indigenous dugout canoe and the ships of Christopher Columbus, representing the contact between civilizations in the Americas.



In the Hispanic Period, special emphasis is placed on Montevideo’s leading role as a Naval Post, acting as the vigilant guardian of Spain’s South Atlantic possessions, including all its islands and the Patagonian coast.

In the Artiguista Period, the strategy of our national hero is highlighted in his multiple confrontations with Portugal, Spain, and Buenos Aires. Several key moments are emphasized, such as the actions of Don Pedro Campbell—first Commander General of the Navy—as well as the importance of the Corsairs, who, under the tricolor flag, struck major blows to enemy maritime traffic. The issuance of the Officer’s Letter of Marque is also underlined, marking the beginning of the National Navy.

As an independent nation, the Guerra Grande (Great War) once again demonstrated the importance of maritime actions, highlighting not only ships and commanders who participated in the conflict but also the birth of our traditional political parties

Toward the end of the 19th century, the first organized Squadron was formed; composed of the gunboat “Rivera” (built in our country), the gunboat “Artigas,” and the gunboat “Suárez,” whose model stands out for its level of detail.

The beginning of the 20th century is marked by the acquisition of the cruiser “Montevideo,” along with other units such as the “18 de Julio,” “Maldonado,” and above all the cruiser “Uruguay,” considered at the time to be a technological benchmark.

New challenges brought a variety of units to the National Navy fleet, fulfilling different roles, such as the coast guard vessels “Salto,” “Paysandú,” and “Río Negro,” the frigate “Montevideo,” the destroyers “Uruguay” and “Artigas,” and the minehunters “Pedro Campbell” (used as the first Antarctic support ship) and the oilers “Manuel Oribe” and “Juan Antonio Lavalleja.” These ships were part of the Auxiliary Vessels Service, which carried out important economic activities to benefit the country.

The 20th century concludes with the acquisition of the “Vigilante” class patrol boat squadron: ROU 05 “15 de Noviembre,” ROU 06 “25 de Agosto,” and ROU 07 “Comodoro Coe,” whose high bridge is displayed at the museum entrance.

Additionally, four “Kondor” class minehunters are featured: ROU 31 “Temerario,” ROU 32 “Valiente,” ROU 33 “Fortuna,” and ROU 34 “Audaz.”

One exhibit presents the theme of shipwrecks in the Río de la Plata and the Atlantic Ocean, highlighting the 24 pounder cannon recovered from the wreck of H.M.S. “Agamemnon” the only one in the world that fired in the famous Battle of Trafalgar.



In an independent section, the history of the sailing ship “Capitán Miranda” is presented. It arrived in our country in December 1930 as a hydrographic vessel, was reconfigured in 1978, and has since served as the National Navy’s Training Ship.

The second exhibition hall presents a diverse theme. It begins with a space commemorating the “Battle of the Río de la Plata,” where original items from the protagonists of this battle marking the beginning of naval confrontations in World War II can be seen.



The tour continues through spaces dedicated to showcasing the functioning of various National Navy units such as the Naval Reserve, the Shipbuilding and Repair Service (DIQUE), the Lighthouse Service, Naval Aviation, and ends with a section dedicated to outstanding actions carried out by National Navy personnel.

In the outdoor area, there is a plaza featuring playground equipment, heritage pieces, and naval ornaments.

Highlighted items include a 150 mm cannon from the Admiral Graf Spee, the high bridge of a Vigilante class patrol boat, and the bow of the yacht “Alférez Cámpora.”



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Summer pening hours: Wednesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 13:00 hrs. and 15:00 a 19:00 hrs.
Winter opening hours: Wednesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 13:00 hrs. and 14:00 a 17:00 hrs.
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