

RUTA 10, URUGUAY

## SOUTH AMERICAN SURF SAFARI



**CALIFORNIA HAS** Highway 1. In Uruguay, the classic beach road trip is along Ruta 10. The 100-mile, two-lane stretch of blacktop begins



in Punta del Este, the notorious playground for Latin America's rich and beautiful, and then winds through the golden beaches and vast pampas along the country's southern coast. Every few miles there's a dirt-road spur that leads to a different stretch of beach or funky fishing village. You can camp almost anywhere, and every little town has a range of accommodations, from cheap hostels to luxury hotels; the restaurants serve fresh fish and pasture-fed beef. The locals are friendly, the water is warm, and the waves are mellow and fun. My friend Yancy Caldwell and I rented a Toyota Corolla, crammed our surfboards in the backseat, and hit the road. —KITT DOUCETTE



### SUNSET SESSION

Late afternoon on the beach at José Ignacio, a very mellow surf town just east of Punta del Este. Uruguay's surf isn't world-class, but

you'll find plenty of good waves along the southern coast. Around sunset, fishermen sell the day's catch directly from their boats. (You can build a bonfire on the beach to

cook your dinner.) Stay at the Playa VIK José Ignacio or Miradores de Laguna Garzón — a pair of elegant boutique hotels where rooms start at about \$180 per night.