

## DAG FÖR DAG BESKRIVNING & PROGRAM

### ESTANCIA RIDES

During October and April we have daily rides based on the Estancia. The Condors are particularly spectacular during these months and there are more interesting, varied and fun horse and cattle work to be done than in this time.

Whilst our programs depend very much on our guests, below is a sample of a weeks' riding with us:

**Day 1:** We will meet you at Chapelco airport, San Martin de los Andes and drive you to the Estancia (approx. 30 mins). After lunch there will be an afternoon ride. A chance to familiarize yourself with the horses and tack and the way we ride.

**Day 2:** A full days ride on the Estancia with an "asado" lunch. Follow the Huechahue stream through its basalt canyons, riding as fast as you want across the watermeadows sending the plovers and ibis screeching, before returning over the top of Chenque Hill, where the Andes rise up behind you and the vastness of Patagonia stretches out before you.

**Day 3:** A day spent working cattle with the gauchos. Lunch with the gauchos is strips of beef ribs threaded onto a stick and cooked over the open fire. A siesta in the shade and a chance to separate the cows on horseback or try your hand with a lasso.

**Day 4:** A full days ride on the Estancia to visit the Indian burial caves. The caves were formed when the glaciers carved the valley opening an entrance to the lava flow tunnels formed during previous eras of volcanic activity. The Tehuelche Indians laid out their dead, surrounded by their weapons and always somewhere where they could see their enemies coming. They decorated the walls with designs. The remains have disappeared, but the petroglyphs and the view are still there.

**Day 5:** A morning's ride to see our stallion with the mares and new foals, and a chance to herd horses. After a late lunch there will be an evening ride to the cliffs where the condors and eagles nest. While we have a cocktail and the sun goes down, the condors return, they soar above and below us before settling for the night.

**Day 6:** A days ride through the neighbouring Indian reservation. Our saddle rugs and saddle bags are woven by some of the Indian women and the skins from the cows we butcher are worked into rawhide and then bridles and halters by the men. We will pass by to see what progress is being made and to share a "mate" on our way through.

**Day 7:** A full days ride to a different part of the Estancia. There are 15,000 acres in all so there is still plenty left to explore. Lunch will be on the river. On the way home a chance to see guanaco, deer, wild boar and "peludos" - the baby armadillo.

**Day 8:** A farewell ride on the Estancia before transferring to the airport

#### Pack Trips.

From November to March we have programs which include a 3 day pack trip. Arrival and departure days are flexible but a sample program would be as follows. (Please note that if there is still a lot of snow in November the pack trips might be 2 day / 1 night camping.)

**Day 1:** We will meet you at Chapelco airport, San Martin de los Andes and drive you to our Huechahue (approx. 30 mins.). After lunch there will be an afternoon ride. A chance to familiarize yourself with the horses and tack and the way we ride.

**Day 2 - 5:** Day rides based on the Estancia. Whilst riding across barren rolling hills, through narrow rocky gorges, galloping across water meadows you will visit Indian burial caves, see petroglyphs, work cattle and herd horses with the gauchos, lunch on "asados" by the river, surprise guanacos, deer,



armadillos. You will climb to the tops of the mesas where the mighty Andes rise up behind you and the vastness of Patagonia stretches out before you, whilst eagles and condors float high above.

**Day 6 - 8:** A 3 day pack trip in the Andes mountains. The exact itinerary will depend on the time of year and weather / snow conditions. You may depart from the estancia itself or you may go into the mountains by vehicle. You will ride through the spectacular scenery of the southern Andes with its snow capped volcanoes, crystal clear lakes and pristine forests. Nights are spent camping in carefully chosen, picturesque campsites by a lake shore or at a stream's edge. These are rides into the wilderness. Everything is carried on pack horses and the camping is simple. The terrain itself generally dictates a slow pace. At the end return transport will be waiting to bring you back to the Estancia for baths, dinner and good beds!

**Day 9:** A farewell ride on the Estancia before transferring to the airport.

#### Datum för 3-dagars "pack trips" med övernattning i tält

##### 2008:

10-12/11, 20-22/11, 27-29/11, 5-7/12, 12-14/12, 20-22/12, 27-29/12/12.

##### 2009:

8-10/1, 15-17/1, 20-22/1, 27-29/1, 1-3/2, 8-10/2, 13-5/2, 23-25/2, 2-4/3.

*Datum för ankomst till och från Estancian är flexibla, men datum för "Pack Trips" är fasta enligt ovan.*

## ESTANCIA TO ESTANCIA RIDE

**Fasta datum 2008:** 11-19/10, 25-02/11, 10-18/11, 20-28/11.

**OBS!** För grupper om ca 4 deltagare kan denna långritt arrangeras på önskat datum från oktober- februari (när vädret är lämpligt)! Hör med oss om platser och datum!

**Great riding, hospitality and the chance to understand the history of the region and the people who settled it.**

Junin and San Martin de los Andes were difficult to get to even by Patagonian standards – to the west were the high Andes and to the east a large desert. The first European arrived in 1883, peace was made with the Indians in 1903 and the first settlers arrived in the early 1900's. They were well-educated, well traveled and worldly in their outlook – pioneers and adventurers who came from Europe looking for space to create new homes and enterprises for their families. We visit 3 estancias where today some of their children, grand children and great grand children live protected by the trees their ancestor planted. All are living, working estancias, the herds of sheep have been replaced with herds of Hereford cattle and now they are all beginning to take guests on their family estates; which are a tribute to the success of those pioneers who came to create homes for their families.

Despite these gentle words – remember that in many ways this is still the Last Frontier – the riding is fast, the distances long, the rivers are large, the views are vast and days can be as adventurous as they were in the early 1900's – but at the end of the day a hot bath will be waiting and the accommodation will be really comfortable.

**Day 1:** We will meet you at Chapelco airport, San Martin de los Andes and drive you to our Estancia (approx. 30 mins) the home of the Woods. After lunch there will be an afternoon ride. A chance to familiarize yourself with the horses and tack and the way we ride. 1 Night at our Estancia.

**Day 2:** A full days ride on our Huechahue with an "asado" lunch. Follow the Huechahue stream through its basalt canyons, riding as fast as you want across the watermeadows sending the plovers and ibis screeching, before returning over the top of Chenque Hill, where the Andes rise up behind you and the vastness of Patagonia stretches out before you. Night at Huechahue.

**Day 3:** After breakfast we set out for Estancia Cerro de los Pinos, the house is 20 km away, but the riding is fast. We cross the ridge on the Mendana Estancia in front of Lanin Volcano before dropping down and crossing the Chimehuin River. The settlement is close to the river – enclosed by pines – the French Laminats planted more trees than even the Woods! Night at Cerro de los Pinos.

**Day 4:** Giving our horses a well earned rest we will try the horses at Cerro de los Pinos. Our hosts will take us to see the 50,000 acre estancia where besides huge numbers of red deer, there are large herds of Guanaco and many South American Rhea. Lunch will be an "asado" out on the estancia. Night at Cerro de los Pinos.



**Day 5:** Time to leave Cerro de los Pinos and ride on to Estancia Collon Co, the home of the Fachts who came from Germany in 1900. Another 20 km ride across to the Quilquihue river and racing up the valleys to the settlement on the Collon Co stream to get there in time for dinner.

**Day 6:** A day exploring Estancia Collon Co – a vast area of water meadows and rolling hills running right up to the Andes mountains. Their gauchos will be keen to show us their Hereford cattle. Night at Estancia Collon Co.

**Day 7:** It's too far to return to Huechahue in a day, so we will head for the town of Junin de los Andes and the Rio Dorado lodge. A long morning arriving in time for a late lunch thus giving the chance for exploring the town (which does not take long!) before dinner at "Fat Buamscha's". The Buamschas came to Junin at the same time as those pioneers came to their estancias, since then it has been a meeting place for fishermen, hunters and locals. It is known throughout the Argentine for it's trout, "poached" venison and beef. Where did it come from? Cerro de los Pinos. Collon Co or Huechahue?

**Day 8:** Our last day's riding as we make our way back to our Estancia, this time we cross the River Chimehuin just outside Junin de los Andes and climb back up Mendana ridge, before racing along the ridge, huge views on either side. Possibly the longest day of all but the horses will be keen to get home. Night at our Estancia.

**Day 9:** A farewell ride on our Estancia before transferring to the airport.

The program includes 9 day / 8 night program.

The price includes all accommodation and meals and transfers to and from the airport at San Martin de los Andes.

It does not include insurance (essential), telephone calls, gratuities or massages and saunas at Cerro de los Pinos.

