

ESTANCIARITT

7 nätter

**Start och avslut San Martin De Los Andes flygplats
Hör med oss om passande datum!**

Riding Programs 2012

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 the summer.

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

Day 1: On arrival there will be a late lunch followed by 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 Estancia with an "asado" lunch. Follow the stream through its basalt canyons, riding as fast as you want across the water-meadows 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 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 roost. 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 farm 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 Estancia 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 Huechahue. 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 to Day 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 Estancia Huechahue for baths, dinner and good beds!

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

Please note that although the dates of arrival and departure at Huechahue are flexible the dates of the pack trips are fixed

INCLUDED

There is a 25% single supplement; however anyone willing to share a room obviously does not have to pay the supplement.

The rate includes all accommodation, food, beverages (including wine, beer and spirits), transport and activities from meeting guests at Airport, San Martin de los Andes to returning them to the airport after their stay. We can arrange transfers to and from Bariloche, please ask for the current rates.

Access to all the fishing on the Estancia is included in this rate. The cost of a professional fishing guide is US\$265 per person per day sharing a guide between 2 fishermen or US\$350 for a single fisherman. This can include floating and wading.

PACKING

In the summer months the weather is generally hot and dry during the day with a maximum temperature between 22 and 35 deg. C. As we are at 700m, and on treks considerably higher, it always cools down at night, generally to between 5 and 10 deg. C., on treks it can be colder. It rarely rains - however it is necessary to be prepared with adequate raingear.

The best way to dress is in layers - a T-shirt, shirt, pullover (or fleece which is light and dries quickly), and a jacket to give protection against wind and rain.

Trousers should be comfortable for riding - jodhpurs, jeans etc

Footwear that is SAFE for riding, we can provide half-chaps.

Swimwear.

Protection against the sun, which is very strong. Sun block, lip balm and if you do not intend wearing a hard hat, a hat with a wide brim (also good if it happens to rain).

Dress is always casual. There is a laundry service at the estancia (charges).

Pack Trips The pack trips are very strenuous for the horses and packing space is limited. All the camping gear including sleeping bags, tents and food are carried on the pack horses. Each guest is provided with a set of saddle bags for their personal possessions - change of clothes, toiletries, camera etc. Jackets and pullovers can be tied to the back of the saddle.

It is suggested that you take :

A change of clothes in case you get wet.

A light pair of shoes, e.g. plimsolls - for when you want to take your boots off.

A set of thermal underwear - a light way of carrying extra warmth, hopefully unnecessary.

Waterproof trousers and top.

Swimwear.

Wash bag.

Travel towel

A small torch.

Good quality sleeping bags and ponchos (which are both warm and waterproof) are provided.

Fishing Gear 4 - 5 weight rods with floating line. Chest waders. A selection of flies suitable for fishing in Montana works well - woolly worm, woolly bugger, pancora, matuka, adams, hare's ear, prince nymphs etc. On pack trips it is best to take a smuggler type rod - it is very difficult to transport long rods through dense forests without damaging them.

There are some rods available for borrowing.