



Salta High Inca Trail

ARGENTINA

On this **horseback trail ride** follow ancient Incan pathways through the high Andes of North-west Argentina. Ride through tropical forests, canter along sandy river beds and cross the Calchaqui desert to the high altitude grasslands at 3,000m where condors circle overhead. On this **horse riding holiday through the Andes**, you will experience local Argentinian culture, archaeology, tango lessons (optional!) and traditional goat's cheese. Explore stunning and varied landscapes as you both camp under the stars and receive a warm welcome in comfortable boutique hotels.

Pack Trip	 14 days / 9 days riding	 From £1,750	
------------------	--	--	---



Riding in the High Andes of Argentina



Gauchos in Salta



An horseback adventure for confident riders

ITINERARY

Highlights

- Wide variety of natural landscapes - Andes mountains, desert valleys, cacti, pampas and rainforest
- Warm welcome in the local villages and immersion in the culture of the gaucho
- Discover Salta - the jewel of colonial architecture in northern Argentina
- Experience an evening of tango in Buenos Aires before the ride begins (optional)

Day 1 — 1: LONDON - BUENOS AIRES

International flight from London to Buenos Aires. It is likely that you will depart in the evening and arrive the following morning. Flights are not included but we can book them for you on request.

Day 2 — 2: BUENOS AIRES - No riding

 Tribeca hotel

On arrival at Buenos Aires airport, you will be transferred to your hotel where you will meet your guide. There is time to explore this modern and eclectic city known as the Paris of South America. In the evening you can opt to have a tango lesson or to attend a dinner and tango show (optional, extra cost)

Please note - if you choose not to take part in Buenos Aires activities, there will be a discount.

Day 3 — 3: BUENOS AIRES - SALTA - No riding

 Del Virrey

You will be transferred to the domestic airport for your flight to Salta (flight not included but we can book it for you on request). On arrival at Salta airport

you will be transferred to your hotel, where you will meet your guide.

In the afternoon you will visit the MAAM (Museum of High Altitude Archaeology) (closed Mondays). Recently opened to show the items found at an Inca human sacrifice site on top of the Lullllaillaco volcano (6730m high), it holds the best preserved mummies worldwide.

Dinner is taken as a group in the evening.

Day 4 — 4: SALTA - PIEDRA DEL MOLINO - PAPACHACRA - 3 hours riding

After breakfast you are transferred to meet your horses. The drive takes you along the Cuesta del Obispo with its breathtaking views and the Cardones National Park where you can usually spot guanacos (Andean camelidae).

You meet your horses and gauchos at Piedra del Molino (3,348m) and have lunch by the corral.

You start riding in a southerly direction and will reach Peñas Blancas (2750m) before sunset to spend the night in a cabin with beds after crossing a small range of hills to your left. On the way there are herds of wild donkeys set free by the Spanish Conquistadors.

Day 5 — 5: PAPACHACRA - ISONZA - 5-6 hours riding

After breakfast, pack up camp and get ready to ride. Today you ride along the river - a lifeline for this valley over the years. On your way you can see, here and there, the small houses made with mud and archeological remains of ancient settlements.

Lunch is taken at Peñas Blancas (2,760m). The riding in the afternoon is along a sandy river bed that is great for cantering and you will take advantage of that! On the way you stop to see the ancient pictographs painted by local Indians centuries ago. You will also visit Isonza which is a working ranch with its ancient way of life still intact and Leuca Burgos who makes goat cheese.

Day 6 — 6: ISONZA - AMBLAYO - 5-6 hours riding

During the morning you will experience the everyday activities of the ranch and its way of life: the way they milk their goats, make cheese and grow their crops hasn't changed since the Incas.

Today's ride takes you west until reaching the very steep Chilo slopes which divide two valleys. The view is magnificent. You then turn south and ride past Yaslaguala. There are many giant cactii on the hillsides.

After lunch, ride to Amblayo town (2,400m) where you spend the night. It has only 150 inhabitants and is renowned for its goats cheese. The town's main means of transportation is on horseback and to arrive on horseback to this tiny town with almost no cars is an unforgettable experience. Your route to Amblayo passes through areas where there are lots of archaeological remains, such as pieces of painted pottery scattered around. You can look at them, but not remove them.

Spend the night in Amblayo, in simple rooms with beds and with bathrooms with hot water.

Day 7 — 7: AMBLAYO - 3 hours riding

After breakfast there is time to enjoy this picturesque town and visit its ancient chapel and 17th century paintings brought from Peru. After lunch you ride to the foothills of the Sierra Pelada - these multicoloured hills are unique. You will also ride along the Río Salado which is a great place for cantering! Spend a second night in Amblayo with a traditional goat barbecue for dinner.

Day 8 — 8: AMBLAYO - EL CHURQUI - 5-6 hours riding

Today's ride will provide a day full of contrasts.

Start by riding east and crossing the Dead Lion range. The desert gradually gives way to high altitude grasslands - this is the land of the condor and once you have reached c. 3,000m you should have the chance to see some.

Descend through dense forest into the Lerma Valley. At sunset, arrive at El Churqui mountain camp (1,960m) where dinner will be waiting for you. Overnight in a basic cabin (sleeping bags required). Toilets are available and there is running (cold) water.

Day 9 — 9: EL CHURQUI - AYUZO - 5-6 hours riding

Riding west you will again cross the Dead Lion range but this time you ride through the narrow trails of the Enchanted valley until reaching Ayuso (2,500m). Ayuso, overlooking the Calchaqui valley is home to a local family and the ancient mud bricks that have been used to build their small house will feel a world away from what you are used to.

Overnight in tents, toilet and cold running water available.

Day 10 — 10: AYUSO - 5-6 hours riding

Today you ride a circuit around the Cerro Bola (Ball mountain). As you will be leaving all your belongings in Ayuso, it is a perfect opportunity for canter along the dry river beds of the Salado river. Have lunch under the shade of the huge, ancient algarrobo trees before returning to your camp at Ayuso.

Day 11 — 11: AYUSO - RASTROJITOS - 5-6 hours riding

Leave Ayuso behind and ride through narrow creeks into the Calchaquí Valley and on towards your next stop at Rastrojitos (1,900m). Cafayate Creek has rock formations that resemble the Grand Canyon, only smaller and these are iconic of the region. Camp near a small mountain shelter at Rastrojitos where a typical meal of goat cooked in the mud oven will be waiting for you.

Day 12 — 12: RASTROJITOS - PUENTE MORALES - SALTA - 3 hours riding

 Del Virrey

Ride downhill towards the Las Conchas River - some parts of the trail will be very slow as it is very steep but fun. Today you have the chance to see one of the best views in Salta. You end the ride at Las Conchas river at Puente Morales (1,300m) and say farewell to your horses and their gauchos.

You will be transferred back to Salta and to your hotel. A farewell dinner with the group is taken in town.

Day 13 — 13: SALTA - BUENOS AIRES - LONDON

After breakfast you will be transferred to Salta airport for your flight back to Buenos Aires and connecting flight back to London. Flights are not included but we can book them for you on request.

Additional excursions can be organised upon request: Salta city tour, Quebrada de Humahuaca, winery tours...

Day 14 — 14: LONDON

Arrival back into London.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	PRICE INCLUDING FLIGHTS	STATUS
22/05/2021	04/06/2021	£1,750		Open
03/07/2021	16/07/2021	£1,750		Open
07/08/2021	20/08/2021	£1,750		Open
18/09/2021	01/10/2021	£1,750		Open
30/10/2021	12/11/2021	£1,750		Open
19/03/2022	01/04/2022	£1,750		Open
21/05/2022	03/06/2022	£1,750		Open
02/07/2022	15/07/2022	£1,750		Open
06/08/2022	19/08/2022	£1,750		Open
17/09/2022	30/09/2022	£1,750		Open
12/11/2022	25/11/2022	£1,750		Open

Price details

- Flights are not included but can be booked for you on request

- Transfers in Buenos Aires are not included but can be booked upon request.
- There is a small group supplement payable if the group size is less than 6 riders.
If the group size is 4-5 riders then the supplement is c. £190 per person
If the group size is 2-3 riders then the supplement is c. £380 per person
- There is a single supplement of c. £150 if you end up in a single room/tent. This supplement will be added to your invoice and refunded if a sharer is found for you. Some rooms during the trail offer no single room option and will be shared.
- The usual group size is 2 - 10 riders plus guides
- If you have previously completed this ride and are re-booking within 12 months then there is a 5% discount on the ride price.
- There is a rider weight limit of 100kg
- Please note - if you choose not to take part in Buenos Aires activities, there will be a discount.

Please Note

The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.

The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

Price includes

LOGISTICS

1 horse equipped with saddle and bridle per rider

Logistics: pack mules

1 cook

Gauchos in charge of looking after the horses

INLAND TRANSPORT

Airport transfers in Salta

ACCOMMODATION

Full board accommodation during the ride

Standard Hotel in Buenos Aires (twin or triple room)

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

First aid kit

Satellite phone for emergency calls

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Beverages and personal extras

Meals in Buenos Aires and while travelling

TRANSPORTS

International flights bookable on request

Domestic flights

EXTRA

Small group supplement

EXTRAS

Tips to the local team

INSURANCE

Visas and personal purchase

Cancellation and travel insurance are not included in the above listed price. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked to cover you in case of cancellation

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Single room/tent supplement

TRANSPORT

Airport transfers in Buenos Aires

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

You will ride Argentine Criollo's or Peruvian Paso's which are sure footed, energetic and ideally suited for long hours in the saddle over rough terrain. The saddles are local gaucho saddles which have sheepskin covers to make them comfortable.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

You need to be comfortable riding at all paces across varied terrain.

Rider weight limit 100kg.

PACE

The majority of the ride is at a walk due to the terrain and the pack mules, but there are occasional opportunities to canter, in particular on the days without pack mules.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

You will be asked to groom, tack and untack your horse. A team of gauchos will feed and water the horses, as well as look after the pack mules. You will be asked to participate in camp tasks such as erecting and dismantling tents.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

You need to be fit enough for a trail of many days in a remote and challenging location. The terrain can be rough sometimes and some days can be long.

Previous experience of riding a trail for several days is an advantage but is not required. Riders who do not ride regularly are requested to get riding fit before the holiday.

Visiting a new country offers the opportunity to meet other cultures with different mentalities, therefore it is important to accept these differences and respect the local way of life.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

Saddle bags are provided for you to carry belongings required during the day, and the rest is carried by the pack horses.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

For the nights in Buenos Aires and Salta you stay in renovated boutique hotels or estancias.

Whilst on the trail you camp in three person tents which are shared between two people, or five person tents which are shared between three people. The first two nights are spent near the family ranch at Penas Blancas in cabins (running water but no showers, rooms with bunk beds). Some nights you may stay in a refuge or family home in the mountains.

MEALS

Most meals are prepared over a wood fire. The food is traditional, tasty and plentiful with many fresh and local products. Lunches are usually picnics. Local wine is provided with evening meals.

WATER

You collect your own water from the rivers you pass along the route - the water is clean and pure. Camps are always situated near to fresh water and you cross rivers during the day where you can also re-fill your water bottles. You may wish to take water purification tablets such as Micropur for the water if you are worried.

CLIMATE

Situated at an altitude of 1,000m, Salta has a mild, temperate climate but experiences distinct seasons. Being in the north of Argentina, the seasonal characteristics are different to those further south.

The summer season can experience rains from November/December to March, whilst the winter season experiences very little rain from April to October. Temperatures range from 3 - 29c, but winter can be quite a bit colder, with frosts common during July. The days are usually sunny and nice but the evenings and nights might be cold.

You should pack for extreme weathers as the mountains can be notoriously unkind, but you may be lucky and visit during a beautiful hot and dry period.

GUIDE AND LOCAL TEAM

Your guide speaks both English and Spanish - he will be assisted by a team of cooks and back-up guides/grooms. The transfer driver may only speak Spanish.

TIPS

Tips are welcome but not expected. You should tip what you feel the service is worth and what you feel comfortable with. We would recommend c. USD 10 per day, which can be given to your guide to share amongst the whole team.

PACKING LIST

PLEASE NOTE: You will be carrying your belongings with you in the saddlebags. Please pack carefully and make sure to keep the total weight under 10 kgs for the comfort of all.

Head

- Equus Journeys strongly recommend that you wear a riding helmet and that you take your own to ensure a correct fit.
- Sunhat for when not riding
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding
- Buff or bandana for protecting your neck and face from the sun and dust
- Warm hat

Upper body

- Thermals in case of cold weather (can also be worn at night)
- Down jacket or warm coat for the cold evenings
- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun
- T-shirts
- Lightweight fleece or jumper
- Warm polar fleece or equivalent (plus a spare in case one gets wet)
- Waterproof jacket - rain can be difficult to predict and it's better to be prepared.

Legs

- Lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub
- Waterproof over trousers
- Casual clothes for the evenings (jeans or walking trousers)
- Thermals in case of cold weather

Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots with half chaps but you may wish to take long chaps. We don't recommend taking your favourite long leather boots in case they get damaged
- Lightweight shoes or trainers for the evenings
- Good walking boots (or hybrid walking/riding boots)

- Several pairs of warm socks
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun, wind or rain whilst riding

Nightwear

- Sleeping bag with a comfort rating of at least minus 5c, preferably minus 10c. We also suggest adding a liner, such as silk or fleece for extra warmth
- Thermarest pad or similar insulating mattress

Our Recommendations

- You should use a soft sided suitcase which can easily be transported - we recommend a large backpack or rucksack of c. 60-80 litres. Remember that your luggage is carried by pack horses!
- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bumbag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc)
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!
- Please be aware that internal flights in Argentina may have a lower luggage allowance than your international flight and you should pack according to the lowest limit.

Other useful items

- Swimsuit - for swimming/bathing in rivers
- Camera and high capacity memory card. Spare battery
- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding
- Headtorch or small torch for moving around camp at night - bring spare batteries and bulbs
- Ear plugs (for light sleepers)
- Water bottle - 2 x 1 litre, or equivalent
- Wet wipes for when washing water isn't available

In your luggage

- Any liquids, such as shampoo, moisturiser, deodorant unless they are less than 100ml and all bottles can fit in a small, clear, plastic ziplock bag.
- Swiss army knife or equivalent
- Lighter for burning toilet paper

In your hand luggage

- Any valuables, such as your camera, ipod, ipad etc.
- Your riding hat

Medical kit

- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent
- Any medication you regularly take
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc...
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Eye drops
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhoea medication
- Micropur or similar water purification tablets
- Re-hydration sachets
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel
- Toilet paper

VISA & HEALTH

Formalities

To enter Argentina, a valid passport and onward ticket is required by all British, Australian, Canadian and American nationals. Nationals not referred to are advised to contact the embassy to check visa requirements.

Visas:

Citizens of the USA, Canada and Australia must pay a reciprocity fee prior to arrival in Argentina. The reciprocity fee must be paid online by credit card and you must print the receipt and take it with you to the airport. You cannot pay the fee at the airport. As of 2014 the fees are: USD 160 for US citizens; USD 100 for Australian citizens and USD 92 for Canadian citizens. For more information, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/argentina/entry-requirements>

ADDRESSES OF CONSULATES

- Ambassade d'Argentine en France
6, rue Cimarosa
75116 Paris
Tél. : 01.44.05.27.00
Fax :
- Ambassade de France en Argentine
Cerrito 1399
C1010ABC Buenos aires
Tél. : 54 11 4515 7030
Fax :
- Embassy of Argentina
65 Brook Street
W1K 4AH London
Tél. : +44 020 7318 1300
Fax :

Health

There are no vaccinations legally required to travel to Argentina, however, it's a good thing to get your vaccinations in order before travelling to Argentina. The general vaccination against Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio (DTP) is recommended as well as a hepatitis A vaccination.

A yellow fever vaccination is recommended when travelling to the central north and northeast of the country, including the area around the Iguazu Falls. Malaria is almost absent, except in remote areas along the border with Bolivia and Paraguay. Occurrences are rare and taking normal anti-mosquito precautions is usually sufficient, so buy mosquito repellent (preferably with 50% DEET), and sleep under a net. Also wear long sleeves and trousers wherever possible.

Argentina's public health system provides free services for emergencies and non-emergencies, regardless of your nationality or immigration status. The level of care does vary, however, particularly outside Buenos Aires.

Insurance

It is a condition of your booking with Equus Journeys that you have travel insurance which covers you for the riding activities to be undertaken. Your travel insurance should cover you for medical expenses and repatriation. Your guides will require your travel insurance details before they allow you to ride and may refuse to let you ride if you cannot provide them. You should take your insurance documents with you.

Voltage

220 volts AC, 50Hz. Plug fittings in older buildings are of the two-pin round type, but most new buildings use the V-shaped twin with earth pin. Travellers should bring a world travel adaptor.

Budget and money

Argentina's currency is the peso (ARS or AR\$). Within Argentina the \$ symbol is used to denote a peso. To avoid confusion, the symbol for the US dollar is often one of several variations including, US\$, U\$, U\$\$ or U\$A.

One peso is divided into 100 centavos. Coins come in denominations of 5, 10, 25 and 50 centavos and of 1 peso. Notes come in denominations of 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 pesos.

Exchange rates vary depending on where you try to exchange your money. Rates at the airport are usually substantially worse than the rate in the city. Be careful where you exchange your money - there are what Argentines call "arbolitos" which are people who exchange AR\$ for US dollars or another foreign currency on the street, and they can take advantage if you don't speak Spanish or if you don't know the exchange rate. Also be aware that there are many fake notes going around. If you get one then you can change them for good notes at Banco National.

Telephone and jetlag

To call Argentina, the following dial code is required:

+54 to dial in (00 54 from UK)

To call from Argentina, the following dial code is required:

00 code to dial out (00 44 for UK)

Standard Time +0400 GMT