



Wild Patagonia

ARGENTINA

On this **riding holiday in Argentina**, you will experience some of the most beautiful landscapes of **Patagonia**. With a local team of Gauchos and Criollo horses you will explore the remote mountains of Chilean Patagonia, on a real **off-the-beaten track horseback adventure**. Below the dramatic peaks of the Andes, discover the Patagonian steppe with its crystal clear streams and hardwood forests that are home to a unique fauna. This holiday is ideal for riders with **a zest for adventure** looking for a unique and immersive experience.

Pack Trip	 10 days (6 days riding)	 From £2,050	
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ITINERARY

Highlights

- Experience a variety of landscapes from rugged peaks to rolling steppe, crystal-clear rivers and verdant forests.
- Explore the heart of the Andes on a real horseback expedition, whilst staying in the (relative!) comfort of refuges most nights.
- Ride the local Argentine Criollos alongside a team of local Gauchos.

Day 1 — 1: Home – Buenos Aires

Overnight flight to Buenos Aires, arriving the following day (day 2). Flights are not included but can be arranged upon request.

Day 2 — 2: Buenos Aires – San Carlos de Bariloche

 B&B Bariloche

Arrival to Buenos Aires and connecting flight to San Carlos de Bariloche. Note: International and domestic flights are not operated by the same airports. The connection between airports is possible through shuttle or taxi (check the “Dates and Prices” tab to know more).

On arrival, a private transfer will be waiting for you and you will be taken to your hotel, located in the centre of this beautiful city surrounded by lakes and mountains, in the heart of the Patagonian Andes.

Depending on your arrival time, you may have time for some sightseeing and some last-minute shopping. In the afternoon the guide will meet the group at the hotel to brief you on the days to come. He will give you a special expedition bag so that you can prepare your gear- remember you are only allowed 10 kg of equipment!. The rest of your belongings will be stored at the hotel until your return.

Dinner will take place at a local restaurant.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 3 — 3: San Carlos de Bariloche - Cerro David - 5 - 6 hours riding

After breakfast you will be transferred to the Pichileufu river area, located 35 km from Bariloche, where you will meet your guide, his assistant and the horses you will spend the next few days with.

To get to Pichileufu, you will cross one of the most important estancias of the region, "El Condor".

The horses are allocated and prepared for departure after a short briefing on safety and how to ride "like a gaucho"!

Your ride starts into the heart of the "Pre-Cordillera" between lower mountains and the Patagonian steppe. After lunch at a refuge, you continue your journey through this yet untouched environment.

Arrive at your overnight location in time for dinner.

Day 4 — 4: Cerro David - Foyel Arriba - 6h - 8h riding

Today, you leave behind the hills and deep valleys and start to climb through an old transhumance path used by local herders.

You will arrive at the "Paso Sin Nombre" which is 1700 meters above sea level. When leaving this area, you will find a landscape that opens up to the immensity of the valley in the middle of the mountain range. This is the Alto Chubut region.

The ride will continue until you reach an idyllic location surrounded by an old Lengua forest where you will spend the night in a local refuge.

Day 5 — 5: Foyel Arriba - Veranada Miranda - 5 - 6 hours riding

After breakfast you will follow the valley along the Pantanos stream, leaving behind the wooded area of Foyel. Eventually you will find the Chubut River, which you would have already glimpsed the day before from the hills.

Set up camp on the banks of the river and enjoy the beautiful landscape.

Day 6 — 6 – Veranada Miranda - El Sapucaí - 5 - 6 hours riding

Today you continue the ride downhill, leaving the Alto Chubut area. You will pass by an old abandoned gold, silver and lead mine. You may have the opportunity to meet a local family that will tell many stories about this region.

In the afternoon you will be headed towards your next overnight location, "El Sapucaí", where dinner awaits you.

Day 7 — 7 – El Sapucaí - Las Lagunas - El Sapucaí - 6 - 8 hours riding

Your day starts a climb of the mountain range that borders the accommodation so you can enjoy the panoramic view of the Andes. At the top, the 360 degree view makes the perfect backdrop for a picnic lunch.

Return to camp through ñire and ancient lengua forests.

Dinner and overnight at "El Sapucaí".

Day 8 — 8 – El Sapucaí - Escuela Vieja - San Carlos De Bariloche - 4 - 5 hours riding

 B&B Bariloche

Today is your last day on horseback. You will start by following the course of the Chubut River to Escuela Vieja. This is a quiet farewell ride with some unique landscapes before you slowly return to civilization.

For lunch you will share a picnic with the Gauchos who have been accompanying you on this ride before you hop on the transfer back to Bariloche (around 4h).

Last dinner at a restaurant (to your own account) and overnight at the hotel.

Day 9 — 9 – San Carlos De Bariloche - Buenos Aires

After breakfast you will be transferred to San Carlos de Bariloche airport depending on your departure time. From Buenos Aires airport take your overnight flight back home.

Note: International and domestic flights are not operated by the same airports. The connection between airports is possible through shuttle or taxi (check the "Dates and Prices" tab to know more).

Day 10 — 10 – Home

Arrival home.

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
10/12/2023	19/12/2023	£2,050	Guaranteed departure
21/01/2024	30/01/2024	£2,050	Full
20/02/2024	29/02/2024	£2,050	Open
03/03/2024	12/03/2024	£2,050	Open
17/03/2024	26/03/2024	£2,050	Full

Price details

- Flights or transportation to your destination (international/domestic) are not included, but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.

Please note: International and domestic flights are not always operated by the same airports.

Transit is possible between the two airports by shuttle bus for a small fee (approx. \$15 per person) or by taxi (approx. \$20 per car). Depending on traffic conditions, the journey can take up to 1.5 hours. Please allow enough time for the journey and boarding formalities between your two flights.

- Groups are composed of a minimum of 2 international riders and a maximum of 8 riders plus guides.

- Rates are per person, based on two riders sharing a double room/tent.

- The single room supplement in Bariloche has an extra cost of £125/€140/\$135. If you wish to be accommodated in a tent/yurt for the whole trip, the total supplement is £315/€360/\$355

This will not be charged if you are open to share with another rider from the same gender.

- The private transfers from San Carlos de Bariloche to the hotel (and vice versa) are organised according to your flight schedule and are included.

- If you need to rent a sleeping bag at the beginning of the holiday you can do it for an extra \$25. Please let us know your intention in advance.

- To accommodate gluten-free diets, there is an extra supplement of £140/€160/\$160.

- Accompanied minors are welcome from 12 yo, provided they match the riding requirements.

- There is a rider weight limit of 95kg / 210 lbs / 15 st. If you weigh more than this, a second horse will be provided at an additional cost of £175/€210/\$210.

- These rates are not applicable to Argentine nationals.

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

SUPPORT TEAM

1 English-speaking horse guide

INLAND TRANSPORT

Transfers from/to San Carlos de Bariloche airport to B&B Bariloche

ACCOMMODATION

Double room - guesthouse

MEALS

Full board from dinner on day 2 to lunch on day 8

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

Saddle bags

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Personal extras

TRANSPORT

International flights

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 supplement

EXTRAS

Gluten-free diet supplement

LOGISTICS

Sleeping bag and mattress rental

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

Overtime, the Argentine Criollo has acquired resistance and a great ability to adapt to the different environment. Furthermore, they are known for being sure-footed and agile which makes them the ideal companion for this mountain ride.

Their average height is around 14.3hh.

Guide & local team

Your guide is an experienced professional; he will be able to answer all your questions about the area and its inhabitants. A team of baqueanos is also there to take care of the horses, the camp and the safety of the group, as they are very knowledgeable about the natural environment.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

To participate in this holiday, you must be comfortable in all three gaits across varied terrain.

For riders above 100kg/ 220.4 lbs/15.7 stone, an additional horse will be provided for an extra cost (check "Dates&Prices" tab).

PACE

On this riding holiday, there are a few trots and canters but the predominant pace is the walk. There are days where you could be spending up to 8 hours in the saddle, depending on local conditions.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

The team of Baqueanos will help you saddle and groom your horse.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

You might need to dismount and lead your horse on some parts of this ride. The ride is not overly technical but the terrain can be somewhat tricky with river crossings and some elevation. You should be in good physical condition to tolerate the altitude and the long hours in the saddle. Riders who do not ride regularly are requested to get riding fit before they join this horseback holiday. This is best suited to riders with a sense of adventure.

Please note that it is not possible to recharge your electronic devices during the ride. Your belongings will be carried by pack horses in special expedition bags and are limited to 10 kg per person.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

Gaucha tack, comfortable saddles with a sheepskin cover. Saddlebags and expedition bags are provided. Helmets are strongly recommended.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

- 2 nights in a hotel in San Carlos de Bariloche, double or twin room.
- 2 nights in a guesthouse, basic accommodation. Rooms are shared, dormitory-style. No sanitary facilities.
- 2 nights at the El Sapucaí mountain refuge, shared rooms and bathroom.
- 1 night camping (2-man tent). Sleeping bag and mattress rental is possible (check the "Dates & Prices" tab).

Note: Sanitary facilities throughout the ride may vary between the river, mountain huts, and wild camping. Please bring biodegradable products.

MEALS

On this trip, you can expect a special blend of flavours and ingredients from the Patagonian Creole gastronomy. The main dishes vary between traditional "asados", rainbow trout, with salads and potatoes. There are also a variety of fruits and vegetables available.

Lunches are picnic lunch boxes prepared in the morning and carried in your saddlebag: sandwiches, fruit, chocolate or cereal bars.

Please note that the meat is a very important element in the local cuisine.

Vegetarian and gluten-free diets can be accommodated but can be subject to an extra charge (check "Dates&Prices").

CLIMATE

The climate in Patagonia is quite unpredictable, so you have to be prepared. Very early in the mornings or at nightfall it can get very cold at 0°C, and can reach 30°C in the middle of the day. It is also likely to rain at some point, although the rainy season usually starts in late autumn. To deal with these temperature changes, it is a good idea to wear layers in your clothing, which you can remove as the sun begins to warm up.

From mid-December to the end of January, horse flies are very common in this area. They are very attracted to dark coloured clothes such as blue or black and less attracted to light coloured clothes such as white or yellow. Please keep this in mind when choosing your clothes for the trip.

Nights can be cold and in the mountains temperatures can drop sharply and frosts are not uncommon. Rain is unlikely in June and July, but possible in September.

TIPS

Our suggestion is around \$10/day which will be distributed to the team at the end of your stay.

PACKING LIST

IMPORTANT NOTE: During the month of January, horseflies are present. These are harmless but troublesome and are especially attracted to dark colours. It may be wise to choose your clothes accordingly and dress in light colours.

After the horsefly season, a species of wasp appears. If you are allergic to the stings, it is imperative that you bring appropriate treatment.

LUGGAGE WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS:

On arrival in Bariloche on Day 2, you will be given a bag with up to 10kg of luggage to carry your belongings in. You will be able to leave the excess luggage at the hotel, which you will find on day 8.

2 full riding outfits are sufficient for the whole trip.

Head

- A riding helmet: this is highly recommended.

Manufacturers (GPA, HKM, LAS Helmets, Lamicell, Troxel, Equithème...) now offer ventilated, solid and light riding helmets that are pleasant in all

latitudes. There are also protective shells to put under your hat (Ranch & Rider, Lexington Safety Products) or western helmet hats (Troxel).

- Cap or hat for the sun (essential)
- A bandana, scarf or shawl to protect your neck or face from dust and sun
- A pair of high protection sunglasses
- A warm hat or balaclava

Bust

- Thermal underwear (short or long sleeve shirts).
- Cotton T-shirts + long-sleeved shirts (for protection against the sun) or T-shirts made of fast-drying materials.
- 1 light fleece or equivalent
- 2 warm fleeces or equivalent
- 1 warm Goretex jacket (waterproof, breathable and windproof)

Legs

- 2 riding breeches or long leather chaps
- 1 pair of spare trousers (hiking or jeans or equivalent)
- 1 pair of Goretex trousers (waterproof and breathable)
- 1 pair of tights or equivalent for the nights
- 1 swimming costume, which may be useful (swimming in lakes, washing in rivers)
- Non-irritating cotton or synthetic underwear

Feet and Hands

- 1 pair of light walking shoes with chaps or boots with specific mini chaps for horse riding
- 1 pair of waterproof shoes or boots (much appreciated in case of rain and also in the morning at the camp, dew is often abundant)
- 1 pair of trainers or equivalent light shoes for the evening
- Several pairs of thick socks
- 1 pair of gloves to protect you from the sun, cold and rubbing

Nightwear

- Pyjamas
- Sleeping bag - this can also be rented locally if necessary.

Various

- 1 water bottle of 1.5 litres
- Headlamp
- Toiletries with biodegradable hygiene products
- Earplugs may be useful
- Camera (with spare battery)

Pharmacy

As a precaution, please indicate any allergies to medication in your pharmacy.

- Any medication you take regularly
- Aspirin or ibuprofen
- Anti-diarrhoea medication
- Sunscreen with strong protection for lips and skin
- Eye drops
- Moisturising cream
- A roll of plaster
- Micropur or Hydroclonazone tablets to purify water
- Strong mosquito spray

Our Recommendations

- 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!
- You should also bring a copy of your passport/insurance in case you lose your documents. You can also save a copy into your mobile phone.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

1. **Travel light**. It's a little known fact, but the lighter you pack, the better for the environment as heavy bags will produce higher emissions (when flying a plane or driving a car!).

2. **Reduce plastic waste.** Take your favorite reusable bottle with you. Avoid single-use bags, cups, or straws.
3. **Preserve nature.** Always take your rubbish with you during the ride and recycle them. Leave all the flowers or plants as you found them, and never get too close when observing wildlife. Make sure to use eco-friendly products such as body wash or laundry detergent (if camping) to protect both your skin and the environment.
4. **Choose your experiences carefully.** Respect animal life by not participating in any activities that abuse wild animals (shows, elephant rides, etc.).
5. **Support local populations.** Buy local handicrafts, be respectful of customs, and learn about the culture of local communities.
6. **Share!** Raise awareness among your family and friends about sustainable tourism.

For more information please [see this page](#) .