



## Traces in the Wilderness

(9 days / 7 days Horseback-Riding)

### Overview

This ultimate tour takes place in the area of the National Park "Lago Puelo" and Nature Reserve "El Turbio" of the Andes of Patagonia (Argentina). Our way leads us into the huge catchment area of the Rio Turbio - River, which is fed by four glaciers. Along mule paths, on which the Gauchos drive their cattle into the valleys since generations, we cross several high passes of the Andes, traverse the Patagonian jungle and put over mighty rivers. We camp in lonely mountain lakes, cook at campfire and sleep in tents, mountain huts or under the starry stars.

On our trails we can watch Condors, wild Deer's, Foxes, and with a bit of luck even Pumas or Pink Flamingos.



### Specs

- Expedition Spirit
- 7 days trail riding, ø 5 - 8 hours/day
- Small Groups, maximum 6 participants
- intermediate - advanced level
- Weight limit: 90 kg
- Gourmet Cuisine on campfire
- 3 nights accommodation in cabin
- 5 nights camping in tents
- Guided by official guides of National Park
- Languages: English, German, Spanish, Hungarian, Portuguese, French

## Program

### 1. Day: Welcome in Patagonia

Reception in El Bolsón in the afternoon. Transfer to Rincón de Lobos, welcome asado (barbecue), accommodation in the guest rooms. Presentation of the team: Marcelino Figueroa (horse-Guide), Tamisietta Obleitner and Attila Missura (both guides and camp management).

- Accommodation: Cabin

### 2. Day: Rincón de Lobos

After Breakfast we start with a short exposition of the camp- / tent-handling, then we join the horses in the paddock. It follows the assignment of horses and instruction of dealing with the local equipment, the knots to tie up and other relevant information. In the early afternoon we ride through the nearby forests and hills to Lago Epuyen

- Riding time approx.: 4 hours
- Accommodation: Cabin

### 3. Day: El Turbio



Marcelino and Tamisietta bring the horses to Basecamp (2). There, you face the challenge of loading the equipment on the pack horses. Afterwards, we ride to the Rio Epuyén, cross it at a favorable place and follow its course to Desemboque, its mouth to the Lake Lago Puelo (4). After the Estancia El Trebol, we pass through a natural reserve where we get to know the beautiful Patagonian Myrtles. Along the left bank of Lake Puelo, we follow a narrow, rocky path on the flank of Cordón del Derrumbe. The relatively steep ascent is

rewarded by a wonderful view of the Lago Puelo to the right.

After an extended ride, mostly through the unexplored forest we arrive to the opposite lake shore with the mouth of the mighty Rio Turbio (5). Under the leadership of Marcelino, we cross the river and reach the Finca (small farm) where he lives with his wife Gloria. Our hosts are settlers of the third generation and belongs to the few old-established pioneers of the National Park. Here we have the luck to take part on the everyday life of the Gauchos. Overnight is in tents, but we take the dinner in the house and have access to hot shower.

- Riding time approx.: 7 hours
- Accommodation: Camping

### 4. Day: Puesto Moro

The 5-to-6-hour ride leads us through the valley of the Rio Turbio with different points of view. After crossing of branches of the Rio Turbio and the passing several larger forests, we reach the Puesto Moro, on the coast of a small mountain stream.

- Riding time aprox.: 5 to 6 hours
- Accommodation: Camping



### 5. Day: Base Camp "Cerro Plataforma"

In middle of the impressive mountain scenery of the highest peaks of the region we must master with two steep ascents with about 900 m of altitude before entering in a magic forest of native Lenga trees. After 4 to 5 hours-Ride we reach the camp, directly at the foot of Cerro Plataforma at the coast of a little lake.

- Riding time approx.: 4 to 5 hours

- Accommodation: Camping

## 6. Day: Ascent to the Cerro Plataforma



Exploring the 1700 meters high Cerro Plataforma, an exceptional geological phenomenon: a huge, truncated cone, forming a 7 km wide plain, surrounded by the mighty mountains of the region. After about 2 hours of riding and a 20-minute climb over boulders we reach the plane of the Plataforma, which resembles a strange planet: Small mountain lakes and cascades contrast with the landscape of a stone desert, covered with countless fossils. With some luck we see condors and – even flamingos. We explore this monument on a 2 to 3 hours hike.

- Riding time approx.: 4 hours
- Hiking time approx.: 2 to 3 hours
- Accommodation: Camping

## 7. Day: Return to Lago Puelo

This will be the longest ride on the whole tour. We descend from the mountain area to the valley of Rio Turbio and follow its course, returning to the camp on the east shores of the Lago Puelo. Here we camp directly in front of the lake, so we can take a refreshing bath.

- Riding time approx.: 7 to 8 hours
- Accommodation: Camping



## 8. Day: Return to Rincon de Lobos

Following the coast of Lago Puelo we return to our base camp in Rincón de Lobos, where we are expected with benefits of civilization.

- Riding time approx.: 5 to 6 hours
- Accommodation: Cabin

## 9. Day: Departure

We bring you to El Bolsón, where you take the transport of your choice.

## Location

Our base is situated in a small valley of Argentinian North Patagonia, called Rincón de Lobos, 12 km south of El Bolsón. El Bolsón can be reached via the route 40 from Bariloche (120 km) or Esquel (150 km). Rincon de Lobos is a fertile valley with microclimate, lively agriculture and living Gaucho Culture. Lakes, mountains, rivers and the Patagonian Forest characterize the landscape.

## Services

All meals and beverages are included, whereby we place value on the best quality and use as far as possible products from the region. Overnight stay takes place in our Yurt or in Guest Rooms. During the tour we have spacious expedition tents including sleeping mats. The daily Rides take approximately 6 hours.

## Requirements

Riding experience, good physical condition, team spirit and collaboration in camping routines.

## About Us

We are a small family business, working for 25 Years as Organizers and Guides of authentic horseback riding experiences in Patagonia. We work in close cooperation with native Guides and our focus lays on the



transmission of the spirit of Gaucho and Pioneers life, turn Horseback-Riding to become a true experience of human and cultural interchange. Originally from Austria and Switzerland, we live as Residents since 15 Years in Argentina on our small farm with own bread 12 horses. In Europe we are legally represented by our Enterprise Vagamundo GmbH, which is constituted as a Ltd (Limited Company) in Zürich Switzerland with all concerning registers and assurances as a travel agency.

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- 1 Base Camp in Rincón de Lobos (300 m)
- 2 Laguna de los Alerces and Laguna Espejo (840 m)
- 3 Puerto Patriada on the Shore of Lago Epuyén
- 4 Nature Reserve "El Desemboque"
- 5 Camp on the shore of Lago Puelo
- 6 Cerro Aguja ( 2230 m; border with Chile) - alternative route
- 7 Camp on the shore of Lago Esperanza
- 8 Glacier of Cañadon Norte
- 9 Cascade "Salto Juana"
- 10 Glaciers of Rio Turbio - alternative route
- 11 Cerro Plataforma (1600 m)