



Eye to Eye with the Condor (15 days/10 days Riding) Description of the Journey

Dates (Arrival/Departure Bariloche)

23. December 2026 to 6. January 2027

24. January to 7. February 2027

Pricing (in Swiss Francs):

5-6 Persons: Double Room: CHF 3'950.– / Single Room: CHF 4'070.–

3-4 Persons: Double Room: CHF 4'200.– / Single Room: CHF 4'320.–

Options:

Buenos Aires – to the pulse of Tango: 2 day-stay before the Patagonian part
+ CHF 500.–

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The Horseback–Trekking takes place in the Argentine North Patagonia. Starting point is Rincón de Lobos (1), a small valley of the Andean mountains. To be reached via the "new" route 40, which connects Bariloche with the next major city Esquel. Rincon de Lobos is a fertile valley with microclimate and lively agriculture. Lakes, mountains, rivers and the Patagonian Forest characterize the landscape.

The 10-day journey is divided into two target stages. On the one hand, it leads over various passages to the turquoise Lago Esperanza, which lies on the border with Chile within a private nature reserve. On the other hand, to the Cerro Plataforma, a geological singularity where the seafloor rose up 50 to 30 million years ago by volcanic processes to a huge, fossil-strewn, high plateau (about 1700 meters above sea level).

Program

Day 1: Arrival to San Carlos de Bariloche - Transfer to Rincón de Lobos

Arrival in Bariloche on your own. There, in the early afternoon the English-speaking driver will pick up the guests in the early afternoon. Transfer to Rincón de Lobos by car (one and a half hours). Reception in Rincon de Lobos, accommodation in guestrooms, and welcome-asado (barbecue) on an open fire. Presentation of the team: Marcelino Figueroa (horse guide), Tamisietta Obleitner, and Attila Missura (both guides and camp management).

After breakfast, we receive a short briefing on tent preparation and then head to the pastures where the horses await. It follows the assignment of horses, the introduction to dealing with the local equestrian equipment, the instruction on knots to tie up, and the loading of the packhorses. In the afternoon, we enjoy a relaxed ride through forests and rolling hills towards Lago Epuyén

Day 3: Visit el Bolsón

In the morning, we drive to the nearby small town of El Bolsón. After the joint purchase of provisions utensils, we explore this lively town, which is attraction for hikers in summer. The rest day belongs to the preparations for our trip, the definitive choices of horses and equipment, material check etc.

Day 4 to 13: The Expedition

For the next ten days we enter the wilderness. The Río Turbio basin is one of Patagonia's least explored regions. Protected by mountains and accessible only by horseback, it remains home to a handful of pioneering families and Gauchos who continue to live much as their grandparents did.

We carry everything we need on packhorses and travel through landscapes that few visitors ever see.

Day 4: Rincón de Lobos – Nat. Park L. Puelo (6 hs. riding, 35 km, 1200 m dif. of altitude)

Marcelino and Tamisietta bring the horses to Basecamp (2). There we face the challenge of loading our 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 beautiful Patagonian Myrtles.

Along the left bank of Lago 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.

The next four hours of riding, interrupted by a short lunch break in a clearing, lead through forests and across countless torrents to the southern shore of the lake. In the afternoon, camp will be set up on the lakeshore. Participants will register with the ranger of the Lago Puelo National Park, whose station is nearby. Dinner will be prepared around an open fire with the participants' participation.

Day 5: N.P. Lago Puelo – Lago Esperanza (7 hs. riding, 32 km, 1100 m diff. of alt.)

Wake-up call is between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. After breakfast, the camp is dismantled, the horses are brought in from the pasture and saddled, provisions, luggage, and equipment for the next four days are loaded onto the packhorses. Around 11:00 a.m. the journey begins: The first challenge is crossing the Rio Turbio, which is up to 500 meters wide. Led by Marcelino, who knows the possible passages and hazards of the river, the group makes the crossing.

To reach the turquoise lake Lago Esperanza (7), we have to cross several Andean foothills. We ride along a mountain flank, following the Arroyo Aguja torrent, to the Aguja massif (6). This mountain chain, which is strongly jagged, forms the border with Chile. After a few hours, the path turns left into a small valley, where we meet the Laguna de la Yegua. After a further ascent we reach the pass. Here we have the chance to observe condors. (In summer 2012 seven were flying over us.) After a short rest we ride down to the next wooded valley. Meanwhile we are on the road for 3 hours without traces of civilization and now look down on the valley of Lago Esperanza. It takes

still 3 hours before we arrive at the southern end of the turquoise lake. The only people we meet here are Gauchos, who live here in simple wooden huts as “Puesteros” (housekeeper and cattle driver of secluded properties). Our camp is in the forest, directly on the shore of the lake.

Day 6: Lago Esperanza – Take a Rest and Enjoy

Time to take a break. Even if you do not enjoy fishing, here is the right place where you might taste it. At the latest when a 40 cm rainbow– or salmon–trout has bitten. Not with the fishing rod, but the local utensil: the fishing line is wrapped around a tin can, equipped with a hook and weights at the end and ejected like a lasso. The success is guaranteed. Smaller exploration trail rides are offered also.

Day 7: Salto Juana (6 – 7 hs. riding; 25 km; 400 m diff. of alt.)

Expedition to Salto Juana (9), near by the glaciated origin of the Arroyo Esperanza.

The idyllic landscape around the lake is soon behind us and we ride into an ever-tighter Valley in the mountains. We pass through zones of the so-called Selva Valdiviana, the jungle of Andean Mountains: With his giant rhubarb "Nalca", the forests of local Bamboo, as well as the ancient Alerce trees, it resembles a subtropical rain forest. We reach the remarkable waterfall Salto Juana (9) after 2 - 3 hours where we make the lunch - Stop.

Day 8: Return to the El Turbio-Valley (30 km, 6 – 7 Std. Reiten, 1200 m diff. of alt.)

The Way back possibly leads on an alternative route along the Río Bravo. This fierce mountain river connects the Lago Esperanza with the Río Turbio. Long stretches lead through Patagonian Forest and along relatively steep mule tracks. Magnificent views of the river delta and the region's highest mountains, the Tres Picos await. After crossing the Río Bravo, camp is set up on the shores of Lago Puelo.

Day 9 and 10: Way to the cerro Plataforma (35 km, 4hs and 4 hs riding, 1400 m diff. of alt.)

Ride to the base of Cerro Plataforma (11). Through a relatively gentle terrain, you follow the course of the Río Turbio upstream. Every now and then, you discover small farms of settlers. It is a unique experience being in a zone where people live miles apart from each other. The impression of total human emptiness is unexpectedly broken when you suddenly see a horseman appear on the path, or you discover a house in the green.

After repeated crossing of branches of the Río Turbio and passing several larger forests, you reach after a 4- to five-hour ride the Puesto Moro, on the coast of a small mountain stream. Here you stay. On the next day, a four -hour ride awaits you with two steep ascents, where you have to overcome about 900 meters of altitude before reaching the camp at the foot of Cerro Plataforma on the shore of a little lake.

Day 11: The Ascent (15 – 20 km riding and hiking; 3 hs riding 4 – 5 hs. hiking, 400 m diff. of alt.)

You climb the about 1700 meters high Cerro Plataforma, an exceptional geological phenomenon: a huge, truncated cone, forming a seven-kilometer wide plain. This is surrounded by the mighty, even in summer snow-covered mountains of the region: the Cerro Tres Picos, the Cerro Piramide, and the Cerro Anexo. After about two hours of riding and a 20-minute climb over boulders, you reach the plane of the Plataforma, which resembles a strange planet. Small mountain lakes and cascades contrast with the landscape of a stone desert, which is made up of countless fossils. With some luck, you see condors and even flamingos.

Day 12: Return to Lago Puelo (37 km, 6 to 7 hs riding, 1200 m diff. of. alt)

Return to the camp on the shores of the Lago Puelo, to provide us with food that we have stored in the Station of the Rangers of the National Park.

As an option for the overnight accommodation perhaps we visit the little farm of our guide Marcelino. There we can learn about the life of a typical family of settlers, who moved from Chile 3 to 4 generations ago. As Pioneers they are the only "legitimated" inhabitants of the national park and live mostly from cattle breeding.

Day 13: Way back to Rincón de Lobos (6 hs. riding, 35 km, 1200 m dif. of altitude)

Return to Rincón de Lobos. Depending on the mood and the weather, we ride off in the afternoon and arrive after nightfall to the civilization.

Day 14: Relax

Is a relaxing day in Rincon de Lobos. If desired, we can drive to El Bolsón and visit for example the craft market, a nice cafe or a Gelateria. Often also there is opportunity to visit horseracing, a typical event of the local folklore, which we cannot miss.

Day 15: Departure: Return Journey

Transfer to Bariloche to the departure flight.

Options

Opening act Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires, the Paris of Latin America – a melting pot of diverse cultures, a port city and gateway to the old world, a vibrant metropolis of tango, where the melancholy of the immigrant, the promise of a new home, decay and reconstruction are omnipresent.

Day 1: Arrival

Arrival in Buenos Aires, transfer to the hotel. In the afternoon, with our guide Bernardo, who is of German origin, we will explore the historic San Telmo district and the old city center around the Government Palace and the new port area on foot.

In the evening, we will have dinner together at a traditional restaurant near the hotel. Overnight stay in a boutique hotel.

Day 2: large city tour

This approximately 5-hour excursion by minibus will take us to the most important sights, such as the immigrant neighborhood of La Boca, the fashionable Plaza Congreso, Avenida de Mayo, etc. With Bernardo, we will also discover some hidden corners of Buenos Aires.

Day 3: Onward Journey to Patagonia (equivalent to day 1 main program)

Transfer to Jorge Newberry National Airport, flight to San Carlos de Bariloche. Meet and greet by our driver (German/English) and transfer to Rincón de Lobos (approx. 2 hours). → Main program.

Services

The following services are included in the package:

- 10 days horse riding with guide and pack horses
- small groups: max. 6 participants
- English/German/Portugues/French- speaking Guide during the entire stay
- Introduction day riding-skills, Equipment etc.
- All transports/transfers up from/to Bariloche
- All entries in nature reserves, national parks and other fees
- Accommodation during the tour in tents (2 pers.) or mountain huts, the other days in our in group rooms, single rooms on demand.
- Use of the infrastructure at the base camp: Stay- and storage space, common kitchen, toilet & bathroom
- All meals and beverages with the involvement of the participants in cooking

Not included:

International travel and domestic flight Buenos Aires – Bariloche, lunch/snacks in Buenos Aires, tips, personal purchases, and participant insurance are not included.

Requirements

Riding experience in terrain and good general condition are prerequisites. Team spirit, self-responsibility and participation in all camp activities are further conditions for participation. Test Rides in the first two days will be used for the correct assignation of horses and the introduction to the local riding habits.

The tour has character of Expedition: we are advancing into deserted regions, riding in the mountains, may be up to the glacier zones. We expose us to the nature and its forces. In addition to the physical demands also the mental capacity of the participants will be challenged. The instability of weather conditions typical of mountain regions is a risk factor that can force us to make short-term decisions and to respect limits against our desires.

Further Information, detailed conditions of participation and the registration form you find in our brochure "Client - Information".

Map



- 1 to 2 days tours
- 5 to 10 days tours

- 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 Río Turbio - alternative route
- 11 Cerro Plataforma (1600 m)

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 our friends and native Guides as Marcelino Figueroa, Bernabé Mayorga and Adrian Mayorga. So, 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. Riding as it meant to be.

Originally from Austria and Switzerland, we live as Residents for 15 Years in Argentina on our small farm with own breed 12 horses. We are certified guides and tour operators in the national park "Lago Puelo". In Europe we are legally represented by our Enterprise Vagamundo GmbH, which is constituted as a Ltd (Limited Company) in Zürich Switzerland.

The Team: Marcelino, Tamisietta and Atila



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