



Traces in the Wilderness (9 days stay / 7 days Riding)

Description of the Journey

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 Turbió - 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 Lengua 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

During the Morning we bring you to El Bolsón, where you take the transport of your choice.

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:

- 7 days horseback trailriding with guide and pack horses, 1 day instruction
- 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 El Bolson
- 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 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".

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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)

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 bread 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 Attila



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