

Ride Chile Argentina Cross the Andes



ride through the Andes – world class horses - discover remote Patagonia – open grasslands – high peaks - ancient forests – volcanic hot springs – snow capped volcanoes – small groups – fully supported – expert local guides – ride both Chilean and Argentinian horses

Cross the Andes on horseback from the Patagonian steppe of Argentina to the peaks, lakes and valleys of Chile.

Ride beautiful criollo-cross horses in the company of expert local guides and a dedicated support team.

Enjoy spectacular and varied scenery – from dry grasslands to volcanoes, forests and lakes.

Travel in the company of other experienced riders – this is a holiday suitable for strong riders only.

Get to know the equine culture of the region as you ride with gauchos and huasos in support.



Looking out over the Chilean Lakes.

"The most inspiring, exciting and well organised experience we have ever had." Marianne S.

Holiday Itinerary

Day 01 | San Martín | **travel to Patagonia**

Fly to the town of San Martín, in the northernmost part of Argentine Patagonia.

Please note that flights for this holiday are quoted separately.

You will be met at the airport and driven the 30 minutes to *Estancia Huechahue* or ranch.

The estancia is a 15,000 hectare working cattle ranch near the border with Chile, some 1,000 miles south west of Buenos Aires.



Enjoying a drink before dinner in the gardens of Huechahue.

The estancia is owned and managed by Jane Williams, an English woman who married into an Argentine family.

Jane has been living over here for decades and is therefore the perfect guide and translator.

After a late lunch there will be an evening ride to the cliffs where the condors and eagles nest.

This is a chance to familiarize yourself with the horses, tack and riding style.

Horses are criollo crosses – part anglo-normand. Around 16 hh, all are bred and trained on the estancia. The horses are sure footed and generally very well behaved.

Horses are neck reined, riding style is western. Saddles are 'montura de monte' which is basically an old English army saddle with a sheepskin on top.

It is normal here for locals to ride without helmets – you must therefore bring and use your own.

For the next two nights you stay in one of the cottages on the farm. Comfortable twin bedded en suite rooms look out over the pretty gardens. (l,d)

Day 02 | San Martín | **explore the estancia**

Today you ride all day on the Estancia.

Questions? Ready to book? Call us on **01273 676 712**

info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.

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Riding out in the plains of Argentine Patagonia



Travel with experienced riders to get the most from your trip.



Ride with Lanin Volcano always in your sights.



Camp out under the stars but enjoy hospitality nonetheless.

Stop for a traditional "asado" (lamb roast over an open fire) lunch.

Follow the Huechahue stream through basalt canyons, gallop across water-meadows, sending plovers and ibis screeching into the air.

Return over the top of Chenque Hill with views of the Andes behind you and the vast plains of Patagonia in front of you. (b,l,d)

Day 03 | Argentina | ride the Andean steppe

Set out from the Estancia towards Chile.

The next eight days are spent riding.

Over the course of your trip you cross from the wide open spaces of Argentine Patagonia, over the Andes to the thickly forested slopes of the Chilean Lake District.

The riding in the first section of the trip is the most physically demanding and distances are the longest.

The landscape is dry and dramatic: you are riding across the Andean Steppes.

Terrain is semi-desert, receiving an average of just 300mm of rain annually.

You need to ride significant distances to get to the next watering point.

Expect to spend up to eight hours a day in the saddle.

At night you camp by streams in two person tents.

All equipment is provided for you but facilities are basic – you wash in the streams and eat together sitting around the campfire. (b,l,d)

Day 04 | Argentina | ride across rivers

Gallop across water meadows and along sandy tracks.

Ride across rivers, through Indian reservations, over ridges and through magnificent gorges as you head towards the high mountains and the Chilean border.

At night you camp by trout-filled rivers under the spectacular stars of the Southern hemisphere.

For this holiday you really need to be a confident and practiced rider. (b,l,d)

Day 05 | Argentina | ride up towards forests

Continue through the beautiful Patagonian landscape.

As you approach the border the landscape begins to change quite dramatically.

The weather gets warmer as the landscape changes from arid scrub and grassland to forests and lakes.

On the Chilean side rainfall averages 3,000mm a year so things are much greener! (b,l,d)

Day 06 | Argentina | ride to the border

Enjoy your last full day in Argentina.

The towering snow-capped peak of Lanin Volcano serves as a beacon on this ride.

The Argentine/Chile border runs along the very peaks of the Andes.

The countries are defined by these mountains – where waters melt and run to the Pacific is considered Chile, where they run to the Atlantic is Argentina.

Lanin is half in Chile and half in Argentina and it is here that you cross the border. (b,l,d)

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Day 07 | Chile | **cross the border**

At around lunchtime, at the base of Lanin Volcano in a forest of monkey-puzzle trees, you reach the Argentine/Chilean border.

Here you are met by your Chilean hosts.

After immigration formalities you jump on new horses and ride down the western slopes of the Andes.

Your hosts will be the gentle Chilean huasos rather than the flamboyant Argentine gauchos.

The horses you will ride for the next couple of days are criollo and criollo-arab crosses.

At 15 - 15.5hh these are slightly smaller than your Argentine horses but incredibly sure-footed and responsive.

Tack and saddles are very similar to that on the previous section of the trip.

Nevertheless, this afternoon is taken at a slow pace as you get used to the changes.

Camp just across the border and enjoy Chilean hospitality for the first time. (b,l,d)

Day 08 | Chile | **lakes, forests & volcanoes**

Ride through magnificent southern beech forests, with spectacular views of lakes and volcanoes both dormant and active. The western slopes of the Andes are much steeper, the terrain very different.

Stay in your final campsite at Puente Barras, where your hosts' families have been farming for generations.

This is a very pretty place to relax and celebrate completing your crossing of the Andes. (b,l,d)

Day 09 | San Martín | **relax and ride**

Enjoy a morning bathe before the three-hour drive back to Argentina and your last night on the estancia.

Ride out on the estancia this afternoon if you have the energy. (b,l,d)

Day 10 | travel | **return home**

Take a morning ride before transferring back to the airport this afternoon. (b)

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Space for your notes and questions for us

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Holiday Information

How active?

This trip is only suitable for experienced riders who are fit enough to canter for extended periods and spend long hours in the saddle.

There are five to eight hours' riding a day over several consecutive days.

There is a 90kg weight limit for participation.

How comfortable?

Fully supported camping, remote lodges and farmhouses, ranch and hotels.

On the Argentine estancia accommodation is in twin bedded guest rooms in three lodges in the garden of the main house, each with private bathroom.

On the route to the Chilean border nights are spent in two-person tents.

On the Chilean side, two-person tents or simple cabins are used. There are no washing facilities in camps - the clear mountain rivers and lakes are used for washing.

Meals when camping are cooked by your guides and gauchos over an open fire and are usually eaten sitting on the ground around the campfire.

You are riding through a genuinely remote wilderness.

Who is it for?

You should be a confident and experienced rider.

You must be comfortable with the idea of long days riding over varied, sometimes tough, terrain. This holiday takes you into some dramatic and remote areas accessible only on foot or by horse.

You must have experience of riding and have a positive attitude in order to enjoy each and every day. The horses are extremely well trained.

How responsible?

Pura Aventura is passionate about the places it visits. To help preserve the integrity of these destinations we:

- Keep groups small to minimise environmental impact.
- Work directly with local businesses and organisations to directly benefit local economies. We use small, locally owned hotels and restaurants. We know the owners except in the large cities.
- Work with local guides so that our holidays are more interesting for clients and more beneficial locally.
- Make payment to suppliers before our clients arrive.

We also administer a carbon offset scheme to compensate for the impact of your flights.

When should I go?

This ride takes place between December and March.

During this period of the year you are likely to experience cool evenings and mornings but warm daytime temperatures.

The proximity of the Andes mean that it gets cold at night.

The lakes on the Western side of the Andes are a region of high precipitation so be prepared for rainfall. Even in summer you may experience high altitude conditions: snow, ice and wind.

Temperatures typically range from 5° - 27°C.

Guides

Your guides are there to help you get the most out of your holiday from the moment you land to the moment you leave.

They are available at all times to answer questions, explain points of interest, and generally act as a 'cultural bridge'.

Primarily, however, they are there to ensure your safety. You must follow the guide's instructions at all times.

Not based in the UK?

We are very happy to discuss your requirements if you are not travelling to and from the UK. Please call us on **+44 1273 676712** between 9am and 6.30pm weekdays.

How do I book?

If you would like to book onto this holiday, please call us on **01273 676 712** with the following information:

- Full names
- Address
- Contact telephone numbers & email
- Deposit of 15%

Deposits can be paid by card, cheque or bank transfer, whichever suits you best. The balance of your holiday is payable 60 days prior to travel.

Once we have the details above we send you a confirmation email detailing all of the services agreed between us.

We ask you to check through all of this carefully and sign off on the holiday at that point.

Note that this small group holiday is subject to a minimum number of four.

Prices & Departures

2012	01 Feb 21 Feb us\$4,750pp
2013	tba us\$4,750pp
Prices include	Accommodation in a mixture of hotels, remote lodges and camping. All camping equipment; All meals as per itinerary; Transfers to/from San Martin airport; Full time guides; Horses & tack;
Not included	Flights; personal expenses; tips. If you wish to pay by credit card an additional fee of 2% is payable. NB you must bring your own riding hat.
Solo riders	If you travel alone and are happy to share accommodation, no supplement is due. If you prefer your own room/tent then a supplement of 20% is payable.

Prices are per person based on two sharing.

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