



THE PATAGONIA TRAIL

SUMMARY

- Dates:** 17 to 24 Dec; 26 Dec to 2 Jan; 3 to 10 Jan; 11 to 18 Jan; 19 to 26 Jan; 27 Jan to 3 Feb; 4 to 11 Feb; 13 to 20 Feb; 21 to 28 Feb. (March & April tailored stalking trips & end of April autumn ride)
- Location:** Patagonia, Argentina
- Duration:** 7 nights, 7 days (with suggested additional stopover days in Buenos Aires)
- Level:** Competent and confident in the saddle and mountain environment
- Size:** Join a group or book out a date privately with minimum of 6 riders
- Cost:** U\$800 per person per day for 2017 /18 Season

DESCRIPTION

'The Patagonia Trail' is nestled deep in the middle of Patagonia. This particular area where we ride is a hidden gem, in pristine wilderness. Hat off to Jakob, this is such a good safari. Doesn't really get much better than this. A super combination of staying in a very comfy base camp in great little log cab cabins combined with fine African safari tents, super attention to detail on the sheets textiles and so on. Bagual ponchos and garb on sale! Log fires in the cabins, bathrooms with hot water, verandahs on which to relax and take in the stunning views and desks to write up your journals or read your book. Set on the banks of the river. It is a forested valley known as Fila Hua Hum (in the Mapuche Indian tongue). A good days ride from here into the mountains lie 2 perfect little camps and 2 days away lies another base camp which one either starts at or ends at depending on the week you travel - which is different but has another completely unique charm of its own. So very cleverly there is a lovely mix and balance of experiences.

It is of course an authentic experience with a mix of good round the fire, camping high up in the mountains. Good quality, good everything - horses, kit, ponchos, wine and food - and most importantly good gang looking after you in Charlie, Felipe, Federico, Cristobal, Balky, Rosa and Gabriela.

A super job has been done at all the camps - great attention to detail. Charming characteristics that only come with experience and genuine passion for horseback journeys, of which we are genuinely very experienced. Base camp lies at 947m. Fly camps at just under the tree line at 1670m. Highest trail runs up to approximately 1900m.

Building a lovely quincho (dining cabin) at the principal camp and renovating an old wooden quincho structure at another demonstrates extraordinary good innovation in giving clients a real taste of fabulous living in a Patagonian environment. All makes for a lovely atmosphere. Food is important to us. You will experience quality dining at the principal home base with a mixture of dishes, which centre around great local produce - vegetables from the garden, trout from the lakes and rivers and meat from the farm. Vegetarian options included. On the camping nights pack lunches, suppers and breakfasts will be simple but wholesome. Of course there will be a traditional Argentine barbecue prepared on at least one of the days as well.

We are passionate about horses - so the breed herd has quality horses, well trained for your enjoyment. This passion for the horse also extends to giving special attention to using wonderful tack, saddle blankets, saddlebags and ponchos. It is important to Bagual and Jakob that we support the artisan traditions of Patagonia. We believe in supporting this artisan tradition and in the Mapuche region of Patagonia the attire for both the horse and rider are second to none in both practicality and aesthetics. Hence we also have some Bagual ponchos and bombacha trousers on sale for you to take away.

ITINERARY

Arrival Day

Buenos Aires (Bs. As.) international airport - depending on whether you are using us to organize logistics in the city - you will be transferred to excellent unique boutique hotel in Palermo Soho district of the city. We have a close relationship with a small, nicely decorated little hotel. The staff are extraordinarily helpful and knowledgeable which makes a huge difference to the enjoyment of your stay.

City Tour Day

Acclimatize and enjoy an authentic insight into the culture of Bs As eating out at interesting and excellent restaurants away from the norm, visiting specific places such as equine artisan shops, equine tailors, ethnographical museums and markets - much of which is completely unique to our discoveries over the years.

Patagonia Trail Day 1

Transfer to Palermo domestic Airport. Internal flight to Patagonia (either San Martin de Los Andes or Bariloche). (This element is client's responsibility if not utilizing Bagual organization in Buenos Aires). Meet the guides and drive 2 hours into mountains and lakes of this region. Board boat for lake crossing. 2 hours. Meet the horses and 1 hour ride into camp. This region is called Fila Hua Hum. It is a privately owned estancia within a national park - 15.000 hectares. A super team awaits you. Drinks on the verandah of the dining cabin (Quincho) next to the river. Freshen up, have a swim this is your comfy charismatic home base. Elevation 947 metres.

Day 2

You are staying in an elegant camp, which has been constructed here especially for The Patagonia Trail ride. The cabins are a unique mixture of local wood and African canvas and have wood burning stoves, bathroom, and verandah.

All meals in the Quincho.

We will do an exploratory morning and afternoon ride in the reaches of this beautiful valley. Opportunities to swim the horses at camp and on the ride.

Special attention to delicious food and quality local produce such as trout, lamb and vegetarian cuisine - the garden is abundant with fresh produce.

Carefully selected wines, including Malbec of course, and selection of other drinks at the bar.

Day 3

Today we embark on an 8-hour ride. A pack horse(s) will take extra kit for the camp. Essentially we will travel light.

We travel self sufficient for 2 days one night. Pack lunch and rest stop, for lunch, en route.

We wind up into the mountains and ride a very beautiful trail with an incredible variety of scenery. Simply breathtaking.

Overnight in beautiful fly camp just below the tree line in the beech forest. Meals served around the fire. Sleeping in tents.

Camp elevation is approx. 1670 metres. Just below the tree line. Maximum elevation during the day is approx. 1850 metres and distance travelled is 20 kms.

Day 4

Today is a shorter ride, essentially descending the mountain to the river below - meeting a surprise picnic with the team from Base camp. Beautiful spot to swim the horses across a narrow but deep river channel gently flowing out of the lake.

A short ride back to base camp and to your comfy cabins and supper at the Quincho.

Overnight basecamp.

Day 5

Morning and afternoon rides will be guided in valley - this might include rounding up the herd of horses, training of a young horse, or any number of estancia activities. Otherwise it will be lovely trail rides exploring the vast estancia and national park wilderness land.

Day 6

Today is another moving day. On this trip we head up the other side of the valley from basecamp, not to return! Onward to 2 more overnight camps.

It is another big riding day with wonderful mountain scenery.

We descend into a beautiful forested overnight camp. Excellent spot. Great campfire.

Camp elevation is 1670 metres. Distance covered is 21 kilometres and maximum elevation this day is 1951 metres.

Very good chance of seeing condors in close proximity as they regularly survey this part of the trail.

Day 7

Today is shorter 4 to 5 hour ride down the mountains. We descend down a beautiful valley called arroyo Filcun which is a small river running into Lago Triful.

We briefly rest in a huge forest clearing. Essentially we are aiming for mid afternoon arrival at our last camp - as Felipe, our gaucho guide as left early morning at first light to meet his wife and have a traditional 'asado' lunch awaiting our arrival.

This camp is an authentic old estancia home. It is the home of Felipe Chandeá's family, where he lives running the farm with his elderly mother. Our stay is in African canvas tents surrounding an old renovated Quincho barn. It is a very unique experience. We are located 10 minutes from Lake Triful, which has some lovely beaches from which to swim.

Day 8

We do a short morning ride along the lake followed by an early lunch. Then back to the lake in the afternoon to meet a boat, which will take everyone across the valley to meet your transport to the airport.

Meet your late afternoon flight to Bs As

Overnight at Boutique Hotel in Palermo Soho.

Buenos Aires optional Day 9 (recommended)

You will have seen lots of ponchos, weavings, leatherwork, riding kit in Patagonia which will have caught your eye - thus planning in a day to rest in Bs As and combine with a guided visit to one or two places to make purchases, eat out at a great restaurant, all of which is probably what you will feel like doing. In combination with our hotel we can ensure you have a good day and evening tailored to your interests.

Buenos Aires optional Day 10

Departure for your international flight.

Day 9 (recommended)

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Day 10

Departure for your international flight.

BOOKING ENQUIRY

For more information or to discuss a booking please contact James Mahon at Bagual:

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