



RIDE WORLD WIDE

ARGENTINA

ESTANCIA HUECHAHUE 2022-2023

RIDE INFORMATION

Estancia Huechahue is in the Northern Patagonian Lake District of Argentina, about 1000 miles south west of Buenos Aires, in the foothills of the Andes. It is about 45 miles from the small town of San Martin de Los Andes and 125 miles north of San Carlos de Bariloche and is a working Estancia owned by Jane Williams and her family. The Estancia covers approximately 15,000 acres in all and is home to about 80 horses (including breeding mares, youngsters and riding horses). It also supports around 400 head of Hereford cattle, produces fruit, some vegetables and alfalfa. Huechahue is open to guests from September to early April (Argentina's spring, summer and autumn).



DATES

Dates are arranged on request and stays at Huechahue can be arranged between September and April for anything from 3 nights to 2 or 3 weeks although a minimum of 6 or 7 nights is generally recommended to ensure you get the most from your visit. Please contact us to check availability.

HORSES

The horses at Huechahue are mainly home or locally bred Criollo (the local Argentine breed) and Anglo-Normand crosses of between about 15hh and 17hh. They are bred for working cattle, are strong and sensible, yet are also extremely responsive, athletic and forward going making them a real pleasure to ride.

TACK

Tack is Argentine style - saddles are similar to a Maclellan style army saddle (western without the big pommel) - with an extremely comfortable sheepskin on top and saddle-bags are provided for longer rides. Argentine horses are ridden western style and are used to neck reining. They go best when ridden with a loose, relaxed contact with the mouth.



RIDING

Riding is one of the main features of a stay at Huechahue but riding hours are flexible. There are generally morning, afternoon and full day picnic rides to explore the Estancia and surrounding area (there are many routes to choose from) as well as opportunities to help the gauchos work cattle, perhaps rounding them up for branding and checking, and also to round up horses. Rides are generally limited to a maximum of 12 guests (often smaller groups when riding out on the Estancia when riders can easily be split according to ability) and are lead by Jane your host, or another English speaking guide, usually with a gaucho acting as back up rider. At certain times during these months, 3 day pack trips, starting at Lake Huchulaufquen and riding through pristine forests, may be arranged for 2 to 6 riders. This takes you into Lanin National Park, the World Heritage Wilderness Area that surrounds the spectacular Lanin volcano. These trips generally include about 6 hours riding a day, although again this can vary with the route, time of year and ability of the group, and are guided by Marcos Corsetti, using his lovely criollo horses.

WEIGHT LIMIT

The weight limit is about 95kgs / 15 stone but please contact us to check suitable horses are available if your weight is close to this (some heavier riders may also be taken by prior arrangement).

PACE

When riding on the Estancia, the pace can be varied to suit. There are lots of places where the going is good and open so plenty of opportunities for long, fast canters but the riding can also be leisurely and relaxed for those who prefer. Some routes are rugged, narrow or quite steep and in these places the pace has to be slow - but there can also be energetic canters across open water meadows and grassy valleys.

RIDING EXPERIENCE

With a good selection of fun, forward going horses and lots of open, varied going, Estancia Huechahue is a super choice for those who want good quality riding. It is an excellent choice for intermediate riders and above who are comfortable, relaxed and secure in the saddle at a walk, trot and fast canter - although, when based at the estancia, the choice of horses and flexible riding arrangements mean confident but less experienced riders can also be catered for. The going on and around the Estancia includes open grassy plains, steep and rugged hills and also rivers and streams to cross so it helps to be used to riding over varied terrain and you will also enjoy your riding much more if you are fairly riding fit.

TERRAIN

Northern Patagonia is a beautiful and remote area where barren rolling hills meet picturesque lakes and thick forests. The terrain varies from the rough open grassland plains that surround Huechahue to the dense beech forests of the Lanin National Park. Around the Estancia you will see the flat 'table topped' hills that are typical of Patagonia and that afford marvellous views. Rocky canyons and clear streams also wind up and down valleys and towering rock formations hide gorges, crevices and caves that have traditionally been used by the local Indians as burial caves.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation at Huechahue, which is modern and comfortable, is of a good standard. The atmosphere is relaxed and informal and Jane, her family and staff will make you feel very welcome. Guest accommodation is in ten twin bedded guest rooms (although the maximum of numbers of guests is usually limited to 12) in three lodges in the garden of the main house, each with private tiled bathroom and some with verandas overlooking the lush gardens and river. Guests also have free use of the drawing room in the main house, for example to meet in for drinks before dinner which is eaten in the “quincho” at a long table in the out door dining area, or in in the dining room.



MEALS

Estancia Huechahue is virtually self-sufficient and with an emphasis on fresh, home-grown produce, the food is generally excellent. Bread is baked daily and there is always fresh milk and home-made cheese as well as plenty of delicious home grown fruit and vegetables - depending on the season, sweet tomatoes, corn on the cob, nectarines, apricots, apples, plums, peaches...Lunch and dinner are traditionally large meals in Argentina and dinner is generally eaten late - never before 9pm and sometimes not until 11pm. Argentinean beef is renown for its excellence and is a very popular item, often served as part of a traditional 'asado' (barbeque) along with chorizo or lamb, accompanied by fresh salads, home-made bread and cheeses, washed down with Argentinean wine. Home cured hams, venison, wild boar or other game may also be on the menu for dinner. Argentinean wine, which is included with lunch and dinner, is excellent. Vegetarians will be catered for as far as possible but please give us prior notice of any special dietary requirements.



WEATHER

The best time to visit this part of Argentina is during the summer, from November to March, with January usually the hottest month. Days in summer months are generally mild to hot with temperatures averaging 22 to 35 degrees C, and nights generally cool, 5 to 10 C. Being in the rain shadow of the Andes it rarely rains on the Estancia in summer, but the weather in the mountains can be changeable and rain storms are possible at any time so you should go well prepared!

WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a suggested clothing list when your booking is confirmed.

ITINERARY

Estancia based itineraries are flexible and can be adapted to suit. We usually recommend a visit of 7 days or more to get the best out of it. The following is an example itinerary of a 6 night stay at Huechahue. Please note that this is just an example and the order of proceedings and routes may change:

ITINERARY

Day 1 - You will be collected from Bariloche airport and driven about 2 hours or so to Estancia Huechahue. Lunch when you arrive and after settling in and a rest, there will be time to meet the horses and for an afternoon ride to try them. Return to the Estancia for a cup of tea before joining Jane, your host, and other guests for a drink in the drawing room and a delicious three course dinner. The night at the Estancia. (L,D)

Day 2 - A full cooked breakfast sets you up for the day and then set off on a day ride to explore the typically Patagonian scenery around the Estancia. Follow the Huechahue stream as it winds its way across grassy plains and through spectacular basalt canyons, then ride out onto open plains which provide plenty of chances to canter and to try the horses at all paces. Stop in the shade by the river where a delicious picnic lunch is waiting. A siesta after lunch and then start the ride home, climbing to the top of Chenque Hill, with wonderful views of the Andes rising up behind you and the vastness of Patagonia stretching out in front. A cup of tea when you arrive back at the Estancia and then a rest before dinner - or anyone who wishes can try fishing the Estancia's private stretch of river in the late afternoon. Drinks, dinner and overnight at the Estancia. (B,L,D)



Day 3 - Breakfast, then spend the day with the gauchos helping round up cattle into the corrals. Lunch is a typical 'asado' with strips of beef ribs threaded onto a stick and cooked over the open fire - you cut off the chunk you fancy and eat it sandwich style with bread, washed down with 'mate' - the traditional gaucho diet! After a siesta in the shade, a chance for further cattle work, helping separate the cows or trying your hand with a lasso. Dinner and night at Huechahue. (B,L,D)

Day 4 - Breakfast and then a morning's ride across the Estancia, following a route to some Indian burial caves. The caves were formed when glaciers carved the valley opening an entrance to the lava flow tunnels formed during previous eras of volcanic activity. The Tehuelche Indians used the caves as burial chambers, laying out the dead surrounded by their weapons and always somewhere where they could see their enemies approaching. They also decorated the walls with designs and although the remains have disappeared, the petroglyphs and views are still there. Dinner and overnight Huechahue. (B,L,D)



ITINERARY cont.

Day 5 - A mornings ride to see the stallions with mares and foals, and a chance to herd the horses. After a late lunch at the main house and a siesta, an evening ride takes you to some cliffs where Condors and Eagles nest. Stop for drinks on the cliff top as the sun goes down watching the Condors return to roost, soaring above you before they settle for the night (in January and February the Condors may have gone high into the Andes in which case there will be an evening ride to the river for dinner, returning by moonlight).

Day 6 - A full day's ride up river to visit their Indian neighbour. Riding up over the top of the plateau, there may be chances to see guanaco, red deer, wild boar and "peludos" - the armadillos. Lunch on the river, a great place to swim. In the afternoon return to Huechahue riding down the river with lots of birdlife. Dinner and your final night at the Estancia. (B,L,D)

Day 7 - Breakfast and a farewell ride on the Estancia before your transfer to Bariloche or Chapelco airport. (B)



DATES & RATES 20212-2023

(Valid to May 2023)

Please note that due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, ride rates are now quoted in USD. The sterling price will be the equivalent sterling rate using the USD/sterling exchange rate in force when you book/pay.

Estancia based stays: USD 500 per person per night

Rates **INCLUDE** all riding, accommodation, all meals, drinks, guiding services and equipment, access to fishing on the estancia.

The rate **EXCLUDES** International flights to Buenos Aires and internal flights from there to Bariloche, transfers from Bariloche or San Martin airport to the estancia (see below), personal medical / travel insurance (which you must have), fishing permits, any visa fees, and any tips (see note below).

Single accommodation - Rates quoted above assume twin shared accommodation but if you are booking alone then you will usually be allocated your own room at no extra charge. If you are travelling with friends or family and are **NOT** prepared to share a twin bedded room with them then a single supplement may be charged (please enquire when booking).



DATES & RATES cont.

Fishing / Non riders - Non riders are welcome at Huechahue and there are plenty of other activities, walking, rafting, fishing etc. Huechahue has access to some excellent fishing in the Alumine river. Fishing permits are an extra USD 35 per day.

A Note on Tipping Tips for the staff at the Estancia are entirely at your discretion and are **NOT** compulsory although they will of course be appreciated. If you would like to leave a tip we recommend you leave it with Jane, your host, to distribute amongst local staff. The amount of any tip is entirely up to you but if asked for guidance your host will tell you that something around £5 to £10 a day (to be split between all staff) is probably about average.

FLIGHTS & TRAVEL

Flights and travel information To get to Estancia Huechahue you will need to fly to Buenos Aires and then it is best to take an internal flight either to Bariloche (to which there are more regular flights) or to Chapelco airport at San Martin de Los Andes, the closest local airport. Internal flights to Bariloche and around 4 times a day with Aerolineas Argentinas, and to Chapelco usually three times a week. LAN also flies once or twice a day from Buenos Aires to Bariloche.

British Airways currently have daily flight departures to Buenos Aires, usually leaving London Heathrow at about 21:00 arriving Buenos Aires at about 08:30 the next day. Iberia and Aerolineas Argentinas also have daily flights from London via Madrid to Buenos Aires. Other options are via the continent (eg Air France or Lufthansa) or via the USA. Fares start at about £850, up to around £1200, per person economy return London to Bariloche - this will vary depending on the date required, availability and how long in advance you book. Please call us for more flight information or if you would like a fare quote. We would be happy to book flights for you (our ATOL number for flight sales is 6213).

Transfers Transfers from Bariloche airport (about 2 ½ hours) or from San Martin de los Andes (Chapelco airport - about 40 minutes) can be arranged on request. The price for a car taking up to 3 passengers currently costs around USD 300 one way between Bariloche and Huechahue; or approx. USD 100 between San Martin (Chapelco airport) and Huechahue.

GENERAL VISA & HEALTH INFORMATION

(NB this is a brief outline - further information will be sent to you if you make a confirmed booking)

Visas If you hold a full British Passport and are visiting Argentina for less than 3 months, you do not need to arrange a visa in advance.

Health No jabs are required as a condition of entry from the UK and Europe. The Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London recommends that you ensure you are up to date Tetanus and Hepatitis A. Hepatitis B, Rabies and Typhoid may also be recommended in some circumstances. If you are not up to date with these you should visit your GP or a travel clinic about 4 weeks before departure.

(DRAFT 17/05/2022)

