



RIDE ANDES URUGUAY
ONE CENTRE BASED RIDING TOUR
Season: mid- October to end April

Uruguay -tranquil, unpopulated and with the long-established gaucho culture and pristine coastline, is made for riding!



Introduction

Discover South America's lesser-known riding paradise astride an excellent local criollo horse. Traversing a surprisingly diverse amount of landscapes packed with natural & cultural interest just as the gauchos have been doing for centuries...

Testimonial

"The guide is the friendliest, most positive and patient person I have come across, with wonderful horses and super friendly animals everywhere. The cabañas are fantastic, very functional, great design and decor..."
RS, March 2020. One Centre, five-day tour, URUGUAY.

One Centre Based Ride

Two individual 'cabañas' set in pastures next to wetlands just behind the pristine beaches.

What You Need To Know?

- 2 - 5 day itineraries (easy to add on more riding/'non' riding options at another location)
- Private groups (request scheduled tour options)
- Maximum 6 guests in 2 individual cabins
- Solo riders made very welcome by the delightful hosts
- Routes & pace adapted to suit all riding levels
- Excellent option for families
- Riding in stunning & varied landscapes (including UNESCO Natural Biosphere Reserve)
- Season: mid October-to end April
- Flexible start day.
- Non Riders Welcome!



RIDE ANDES

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One Centre Itinerary Overview:

DAY 1: Arrival & Afternoon Ride

*Dinner & Overnight at the Cabañas.
L, D (approx. 3 hours riding)*

DAY 2: Wetlands & Ombu Forest

*Dinner & Overnight back at the Cabañas.
B, L, D (approx. 4-5 hours horse riding)*

DAY 3: Cabo Polonio Fishing Village & Sand Dunes

*Dinner & Overnight back at the Cabañas.
B, L, D (approx. 4-5 hours horse riding)*

DAY 4: Hidden Lagoon & Unbeatable Viewpoint

*Dinner & Overnight at the Cabañas.
B, L, D (approx. 4-5 hours horse riding)*

DAY 5: Cattlework Gaucho Style & Swimmig with Horses

*After lunch, departure.
B, L (approx. 3 hours horse riding)*

End of services



Arriving/Departing/Extensions:

Start & end point: The Cabañas on the Rocha province coast. Assistance given regarding options of how to get there and arranging the transport. We can arrange 'extensions', for example one night in Montevideo at the start for you and this ride can be followed by a stay in another location -more riding or simply relaxing, a trip to Buenos Aires and much more, please request details depending on your time and interests.



Detailed Itinerary:

DAY 1: Arrival & Afternoon Ride

Morning departure from Montevideo, arriving in time for lunch at the ranch. Meet the charming couple who will host you. While the horses graze around you, settle into your accommodation. Time now to get to know your horse and, once comfortable, we head out to the forest then onto the beach.

This gentle introductory ride allows guests to get used to both the Uruguayan tack and also the horses -their amiability making them excellent partners for the diverse rides on the days ahead.

*Dinner & Overnight at the Cabañas.
L, D (approx. 3 hours riding)*

DAY 2: Wetlands & Ombu Forest

An early start - after a delicious breakfast, we visit the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Crossing wetlands and pasturelands of working Estancias (farms) bordering the meandering Valizas River, we reach the second biggest coastal lagoon in Uruguay and where this river starts its life: Castillos Lagoon. After a gaucho style lunch under the great canopy of an Ombu tree - an ancient and unique botanical formation, guests can enjoy a siesta in a hammock or on the sheepskins off your saddle. In the afternoon, a different route takes us back to the Cabañas. These eastern Wetlands that we cross are home of hundreds of different birds, amphibians, fish and wild animals. Birds such as the large, flightless Rhea, the stunning pink Roseate Spoonbill and the South American screamer are frequently sighted. Capybaras (largest rodent in the world) and Armadillos can be spotted dashing back to their holes as we pass by. The graceful black-necked swan is often seen gliding across the lagoon.

*Dinner & Overnight back at the Cabañas.
B, L, D (approx. 4-5 hours riding)*



DAY 3: Cabo Polonio Fishing Village & Sand Dunes.

The ride today starts with crossing the mouth of the Valizas River estuary at the point where the same river we followed to its source yesterday empties into the Atlantic Ocean. The tides will determine whether the horses are ridden across or towed by boat; an exciting start to a ride that takes us through a fascinating dune system of unexpected height (and now a national park) to Cabo Polonio -a fishing village turned 'low key' beach resort. The village is only accessible through these shifting sand dunes making it an intriguing outpost. A chance of a swim then lunch at a typical local beachfront restaurant with unbeatable views and fresh fish, seaweed and paella on the menu. Afternoon ride back to the Cabañas through pine forests, often observed by burrowing owls on their sand mounds; then along the riverbank watching the Cormorants fishing.

*Dinner & Overnight back at the Cabañas.
B, L, D (approx. 4-5 hours horse riding)*



DAY 4: Hidden Lagoon & Unbeatable Viewpoint

For early risers, another chance of seeing the horses following the guide to the corral through the wetland just in front of your cabaña. In the morning we ride through a pine forest, a very enjoyable shady trail, until we reach a hidden lagoon. After a refreshing swim here, we continue to the beach for a long canter back home. Lunch at the Cabañas.

In the afternoon we cross the Valizas River on horseback to once again enter the dune system, this time heading for the Buena Vista sand dune, the highest dune with an incredible 360° view. Coming back across the sand dunes, we reach the Cabañas just on time for dinner and a chance to relax and watch the wildlife.

*Dinner & Overnight at the Cabañas.
B, L, D (approx. 4-5 hours horse riding)*

DAY 5: Cattlework Gaucho Style & Swimming with Horses.

We start early in the morning, riding out across the pasturelands to meet the gaucho neighbour to 'help' him with his cattle.

This is your chance to find the inner Gaucho in you – combining all the skills polished over the last few days and your gaucho-bred horse will help you all the way. And as if this was not enough adrenaline for you (and the weather conditions allows it), another great adventure awaits: bareback riding and swimming with horses creating a truly memorable morning.

*After lunch, departure.
B, L (approx. 3 hours horse riding)*

End of Services

2020/2021 Prices from:

Per person in US Dollars based on double/twin room share
(valid to April 2021):

Length	double/twin per person	Single Supplement	Rider Weight supplement (90- 100 kg. 198-220lbs)
(5D/4N)	from USD 1200	USD 250	USD 280
(4D/3N)	from USD 950	USD 190	USD 230
(3D/2N)	from USD 690	USD 125	USD 173

Included:

All the horseback riding and activities as described in the itinerary above (depending on number of nights staying); horse and naturalist bilingual local guide; all meals described in the itinerary (from lunch on day 1 to lunch on final day); accommodation at the Cabañas (private double or twin individual cabin with en suite bathroom).

Not included:

Transport to and from the Cabañas (options and assistance given); medical insurance (mandatory); personal articles; alcoholic beverages and soft drinks; discretionary tips.



F.A.Q's

Horses & Tack: During this tour, riders usually stay with the same horse (as long as the rider is happy!). Our intention is for riders to build a bond with their horse and enjoy not only the landscape and ride but also the company of their horse! One or more spare horses will accompany us in case a change is needed. The horses are the local Uruguayan Criollo breed and criollo cross: ideally suited to the terrain. 'Criollo' is the horse breed in Uruguay, Argentina and the south of Brazil. The breed was developed from horses that were brought from Spain in the 17th century and then bred in this region. The Criollo is a strong horse with an excellent temperament (we will ask riders to complete a booking form to help us select horses for them). We use local saddles, a sort of flat 'western' type saddle (no pommel/horn) with a thick sheep skin atop. Neck reining is required (western 'one-hand' indirect rein riding) – people adapt very quickly but the guide and gauchos are on hand to give some advice. This tack is very suitable for long days in the saddle.

Accommodation: The accommodation is at a rural property set back from the beach where the horses are kept. There are currently two individual new 'cabañas' for 2 and 4 people respectively. Breakfast is served in the cabañas, other meals/picnics are enjoyed out and about on the trails or at the main house. You will be able to relax in very pleasant surroundings and enjoy a good night's sleep. We will ask you in advance for your bed preference: double bed, twin beds, single room...

Meals: After a full day riding, as well as a good lunch (most days not a picnic), it is comforting to know that you can return to delicious and varied meals that reflect the local cuisine. All menus are prepared with completely natural and fresh products of the region. Red meat, fish and wine are especially recommended, but we can easily cater for vegetarians or any other dietary requirements as long as we are warned in advance.

Climate: You can expect warm sunny days in the spring and autumn, although we might also get some cooler moments (especially early in the morning or at night) and perhaps a rainy day too. The average temperatures during our main riding seasons (October to mid-December. Mid-February to April) are very pleasant for riding. Mid-December to mid-February, the summer months, can be very hot and the rides (private rides only) are adapted accordingly.

Clothes and Equipment: Travel notes will be sent with useful information including a suggested packing list and guide contact details etc.

Emergencies: In case of accident, our guides will always carry a mobile phone which they will use to contact local assistance. All of the towns along our route count on a medical emergency service.

Health Services: In general, public sanitation and health care in Uruguay are very good. In the event of illness or accident during your stay, you should be prepared to pay for assistance. Upon return home you can submit a claim for reimbursement according to the specifications of your insurance policy. Visa and Master card are credit cards commonly accepted.

Safety: Always ranked at the top in the surveys "most livable and greenest country" in the world, Uruguay is ranked highest in Latin America on the Global Peace Index. Risk of disease is minimal in the areas we visit. Although petty theft can be an issue in the capital, while accompanied by your guide you are in good hands. As with every large city in the world there are a few common-sense rules to follow.

For further information please contact:
rideandes@rideandes.com
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Important Notes

- Booking will be confirmed upon receipt of the corresponding deposit (A 30% non-refundable payment will be required upon confirmation and balance of payment will be required no later than 45 days before beginning of the tour).
- **Exceptional postponement/cancellation** policy in place due to circumstances directly related to Covid-19, please request full details.
- We reserve the right to alter the itinerary due to circumstances beyond our control.
- Prices can alter without prior notice (preceding a confirmed booking)
- Appropriate medical insurance is mandatory and the responsibility of each guest/booking agent.
- It is the responsibility of the individual guest/booking agent to ensure that participants have the necessary riding skills to take part in the chosen tour.
- Rider weight limits are in place, please refer to each itinerary for details
- Guests are strongly advised to bring and wear their riding helmets while riding during the tour.
- Guests will be required to sign a responsibility release before starting a tour.

About Ride Andes:

Sally Vergette, an English rider, moved out to Ecuador in 1996 and shortly afterwards founded Ride Andes specializing in tours 'journeying on' through magnificent parts of South America. In 2003, using her knowledge acquired in Ecuador and with a local business partner, she was the first to set up estancia to estancia riding tours in Uruguay.



Ecuador is still our base but Ride Andes is involved in providing spectacular riding tours – many itineraries designed by Sally – in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Chile-Argentina, Colombia and Uruguay. Sally is still very active in all aspects of the rides in these destinations but is now supported by excellent local guides and only leads a few of these tours.

For further information please contact:
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