



**RIDE ANDES CHILE-ARGENTINA**  
**THE GREAT ANDES CROSSING**  
Season: November to January

*Argentina to Chile –Deep into the untouched Andes!*



## Introduction

The horse-riding adventure of your life: traverse 205km from Argentina to Chile. Through the remote Andes from the dry eastern foothills to the exuberant vegetation around the fjords on the Pacific Coast. Distinct sweeping landscapes greet riders around every turn in the trail, atop every ridge - a perfect escape into the wilderness.

## Testimonial

"Thanks very much for this wonderful trip! It has been such a great experience and I met lovely people... With the great help of all of the team it was possible for me to have a great time and feel safe & secure..." Julia, The Great Crossing.

## The Great Andes Crossing

11 days of riding over the backbone of South America, seamlessly joined together by navigating rivers and lakes. Stopping over at diverse locations along the way: yurts, tents, refuges, homesteads and a sojourn on a private island.

## What You Need To Know?

- 14-day itinerary, riding on 11 days, Argentina to Chile
- Incredibly diverse landscapes – steppes to temperate rain forest, with volcanoes and glaciers between
- Season: November to January
- Fixed date departures/Private groups
- Maximum 8 riders on fixed date departures
- Mix of accommodation from camping to cabañas
- Single riders welcome (availability of single room depends on group size)
- Not suitable for those with severe allergic reactions to bee/wasp stings



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## **The Great Andes Crossing**

### **Overview:**

#### **DAY 1: Exploring Bariloche**

*Dinner & overnight in Bariloche hotel.  
D, (airport transfer to hotel)*

#### **DAY 2: Estancias & Steppes**

*Dinner & Overnight at Camp (bathroom and dining area)  
B, PL, T, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding, 45 minutes vehicle transfer)*

#### **DAY 3: Rolling Hills & Vast Valleys**

*Dinner & Overnight at Mountain Refuge  
B, PL, T, D (approx. 6-8 hours riding)*

#### **DAY 4: Deserted River Valley**

*Dinner & Overnight at Camp by the river  
B, L, T, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding)*

#### **DAY 5: Old Gold**

*Dinner & Overnight at El Sapucaí Refuge  
B, L, T, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding)*

#### **DAY 6: Panoramic Plateau**

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at El Sapucaí Refuge  
B, L, T, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding)*

#### **DAY 7: Argentina to Chile Via The Lakes**

*Dinner & Overnight on the private island.  
B, L, T, D, (approx. 2-3 hours riding; 2-hour minibus transfer; 50-minute and 20-minute lake crossings)*

#### **Day 8: Rare Primary Valdivian Forests**

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight on the private island.  
B, L, T, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding; 30 minutes navigation)*

#### **Day 9: Boat River Crossing (horses swimming alongside)**

*Dinner & Overnight at a local home  
B, L, T, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding)*

#### **Day 10: Scarcely Inhabited Secluded Valley**

*Dinner & Overnight at a farmhouse  
B, L, T, D (approx. 6-7 hours riding)*

#### **Day 11: The Glacier, Dense Forest & Afternoon Swim**

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at Ventisqueros.  
B, L, T, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding)*

#### **Day 12: Waterfalls & Traditional Farming**

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at a local home  
B, L, T, D (approx. 6-7 hours riding)*

#### **Day 13: Final Ride & Farewell Dinner**

*Dinner & Overnight at hotel in Puerto Varas  
B, L, D (approx. 1 hour riding, 45 minutes on ferry, 4 hours vehicle transfer)*

#### **Day 14: Breakfast & Airport Transfer**

*Final Day  
B, (approx. 40 minutes transfer to the airport)*

### **End of services**

### **Arriving/Departing/Extensions:**

Start & end point: From San Carlos de Bariloche (Argentina) - airport pick up, to Puerto Varas (Chile) -with drop off at nearby Puerto Montt Airport. We can help you arrange other activities prior to and after the ride, please consult with us.



## **Detailed Itinerary:**

### **DAY 1: Exploring Bariloche**

On your arrival at the airport of Bariloche, a driver will take you to your hotel. The city of Bariloche, surrounded by lakes and mountains, is located in the very heart of the Patagonian Andes. We recommend that you arrive as early as possible to enjoy the city. At 6pm, you will meet up with the guide and fellow riders for a presentation of the following days' activities. You will receive some advice and the guide will gladly answer any questions you may still have. Dinner will be served at a local traditional restaurant.

*Dinner & overnight in Bariloche hotel.  
D (airport transfer to hotel)*

### **DAY 2: Estancias & Steppes**

We will head east towards the Pichileufu River area, 35 km out of Bariloche, where we will arrive to a ranching area. The family owned Estancias here have spent generations raising cattle and sheep, as well as forestry. We will meet the horses and our local guides and, once everyone is comfortable, ride out across the open pastures of the breath-taking Estancia. Our ride will lead us off the plains and into the lower foothills of the Andes - infinite steppes behind us and magnificent mountain ranges in front. After lunch at one of the many 'puestos' dotted across the Estancias lands, we will ride on through wide open landscapes to another puesto where we will camp. Overnight surrounded by nature, without any noise or light pollution that most of us associate with modern life.

*Dinner & Overnight at Camp (bathroom and dining area)  
B, PL, T, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding, 45 minutes vehicle transfer)*

### **DAY 3: Rolling Hills & Vast Valleys**

Continuing our journey southwards, after some hours riding over gently undulating hills and across wide valleys, we will start ascending on a path mainly used by cattle drovers until we reach Paso Sin Nombre (Unnamed Pass) at 1.700 metres (5577ft) above sea level. Soon, the view opens up to reveal an immense valley in the middle of the mountains, called the "Alto Chubut". The journey continues one more hour, to arrive at our overnight spot situated in an idyllic place surrounded by an old native beech forest. The mountain refuge has a sleeping area with a bathroom outside.

*Dinner & Overnight at Mountain Refuge  
B, PL, T, D (approx. 6-8 hours riding)*



#### **DAY 4: Deserted River Valley**

This morning we descend through forests into the valley that we spied in the distance yesterday, eventually arriving at the wide river that first appeared as a pencil thin line. Following a stream from close to its source, watching it widen and gain force, we ride down to the impressive main Chubut River. The magnificent, rugged landscape is untamed, and guests will be camping by the river with the whole of this pristine panorama to themselves.

*Dinner & Overnight at Camp by the river  
B, L, T, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding)*

#### **DAY 5: Old Gold**

*As we descend, leaving the forested areas behind us, our first stop is at an old, abandoned gold mine and here we will meet the inhabitants that have stayed on. We will hear about the past, the gold and their way of life now living in this area. The mineral wealth of this province is incredibly important to Argentina. A couple more hours riding to arrive at a mountain refuge for the night - a hot shower awaits and a delicious dinner. Guests will be sleeping in bedrooms and yurts.*

*Dinner & Overnight at El Sapucaí Refuge  
B, L, T, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding)*



### **DAY 6: Panoramic Plateau**

Today's ride takes us to the top of a stunning plateau. The skills of the Criollo horses really show today – their sure-footedness and temperament ideally suited to this sort of riding is highlighted as they adeptly cross marshlands and rocky terrain. Arriving at the top of the plateau, we will be treated to a breath-taking panoramic view of the Andes, mountain summits with permanent snow forming the backdrop. Lunch is served here, at 1800 metres (5905 feet) above sea level then we descend back down through lenga beech forests for a second night at the refuge.

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at El Sapucaí Refuge  
B, L, T, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding)*

### **DAY 7: Argentina To Chile Via The Lakes**

This will be our last day with the Argentinian horses. We will follow the Chubut up to Puesto Viejo. Then we will cross small cattle ranches in the Alto Chubut area where people live year-round. These inhabitants are mostly descendants of the regional native people: the Mapuche. We will leave the horses here and, also part with the Argentinian baqueanos. After a two-hour minibus trip, we will arrive at the small village of Lago Puelo. The area is surrounded by cypress (*Austrocedrus Chilensis*) and "maitenes" (*Maytenus Boaria*) woods with a micro-climate that is ideal for berry cultivation such as raspberries and cherries, as well as hops for craft beer. We leave Argentina for Chile by boat and thus also leave the dry steppes for a complete change of scenery. Two lakes later, after the customs procedure, we will take another motorboat to a private island on Las Rocas Lake.

*Dinner & Overnight on the private island.  
B, L, T, D (approx. 2-3 hours riding; 2 hour minibus transfer; 50 minute and 20 minute lake crossings)*

### **Day 8: Rare Primary Valdivian Forests**

Today we will leave the island to meet the Chilean Criollo horses and the team of baqueanos that will be riding with us on the lake shore. A quick stop at La Colina farm gives us a glimpse of the Chilean countryside in the heart of the cordillera. The journey continues to Lago Azul where we will stop to have lunch on a beach. After the picnic, we will follow narrow paths through an ancient Valdivian type forest. This rare temperate woodland is home to a remarkably diverse vegetation, found in very few regions of the world. Surrounded by majestic mountains, we arrive back at the Las Rocas water's edge and return to the island for a second overnight.

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight on the private island.  
B, L, T, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding; 30 minutes navigation)*

### **Day 9: Boat River Crossing (horses swimming alongside)**

We will ride one hour up to the source of the Puelo River. The river is deep and wide so a boatman will help us cross. The horses swim alongside us, guided by the baqueanos. The pathway goes on through the woods passing a remote mountain settlement. We ride up into a small mountain range to reach a special picnic spot facing the Las Mellizas lagoons. In the afternoon, we will descend to the Ventisqueros River and ford the river on horseback to arrive at Las Rosas, to spend the night in a local home.

*Dinner & Overnight at a local home  
B, L, T, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding)*

### **Day 10: Scarcely Inhabited Secluded Valley.**

Today, we will continue our ride deep into the Río Ventisqueros Valley. We will cross the river several times on horseback in the middle of a stunning, barely touched landscape. In this sparsely populated place, the few inhabitants that have made this land their home subsist on livestock breeding. We will enjoy lunch on the river shore and later continue our route up towards the end of the valley, arriving at a small self-sufficient farm where we will spend two nights with the delightful owner.

*Dinner & Overnight at a farmhouse  
B, L, T, D (approx. 6-7 hours horse-riding)*

### **Day 11: The Glacier, Dense Forest & Afternoon Swim**

Today, we venture even further up the valley, with beautiful views of the Ventisqueros Glacier – a hanging Glacier high above us. Our route takes us across the property of the very first settler of the valley. The trail then leads us through a huge expanse of forest alongside the bubbling river and after crisscrossing the river, we will ride through a forest of larch (*Fitzroya Cupresoyde*). These tall conifers are native to the area and known for their longevity. No one lives in this remote and virgin region; it is exhilarating to know few people ride into this barely touched valley. We have lunch near the Raquelita River and return to Bernadita's house in time for a mid-afternoon swim in the clear blue river.

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at Ventisqueros.  
B, L, T, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding)*





### **Day 12: Waterfalls & Traditional Farming**

Today we will leave the glacial valley behind us and depart towards the Puelo River. Traversing ancient woods and clearings, crossing rivers, passing waterfalls - a long day encircled by the mountains. After lunch at the Ventisqueros River's edge, we ride out of the dense wooded, sparsely populated valley and enter into an area of farmland. The locals still use the same techniques on their small holdings as their ancestors - the first settlers - to cultivate the land. Arriving at Las Rosas for a second overnight in the local home.

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at a local home  
B, L, T, D approx. 6-7 hours horse riding*

### **Day 13: Final Ride & Farewell Dinner**

A relaxing final morning at Las Rosas, soaking up the tranquillity of this area. We ride a short distance and have one last river crossing by boat -while the horses again swim alongside. Time to say goodbye to the baqueanos and enjoy lunch in the valley. A vehicle will then take us to Lake Tagua-Tagua, where we will board the ferry; across the other side of the lake - reconnecting with 'civilisation' - we continue feasting on the beautiful scenery: the Reloncaví Fjörd, the Vicente Perez Rosales National Park and the Calbuco and Osorno Volcanoes. By late afternoon we will arrive at the charming small town of Puerto Varas, on the shores of Llanquihue Lake for a farewell dinner and overnight.

*Dinner & Overnight at hotel in Puerto Varas  
B, L, D (approx. 1 hour riding, 45 minutes on ferry, 4 hours vehicle transfer)*

### **Day 14: Breakfast & Airport Transfer**

Breakfast at the hotel. A transfer will take you to the airport in time for your flight out - or we can help with arranging further activities in the Chilean Lake District.

*Final Day  
B (approx. 40 minutes transfer to the airport)*

**End of services**

**2021/2022 Prices from:**

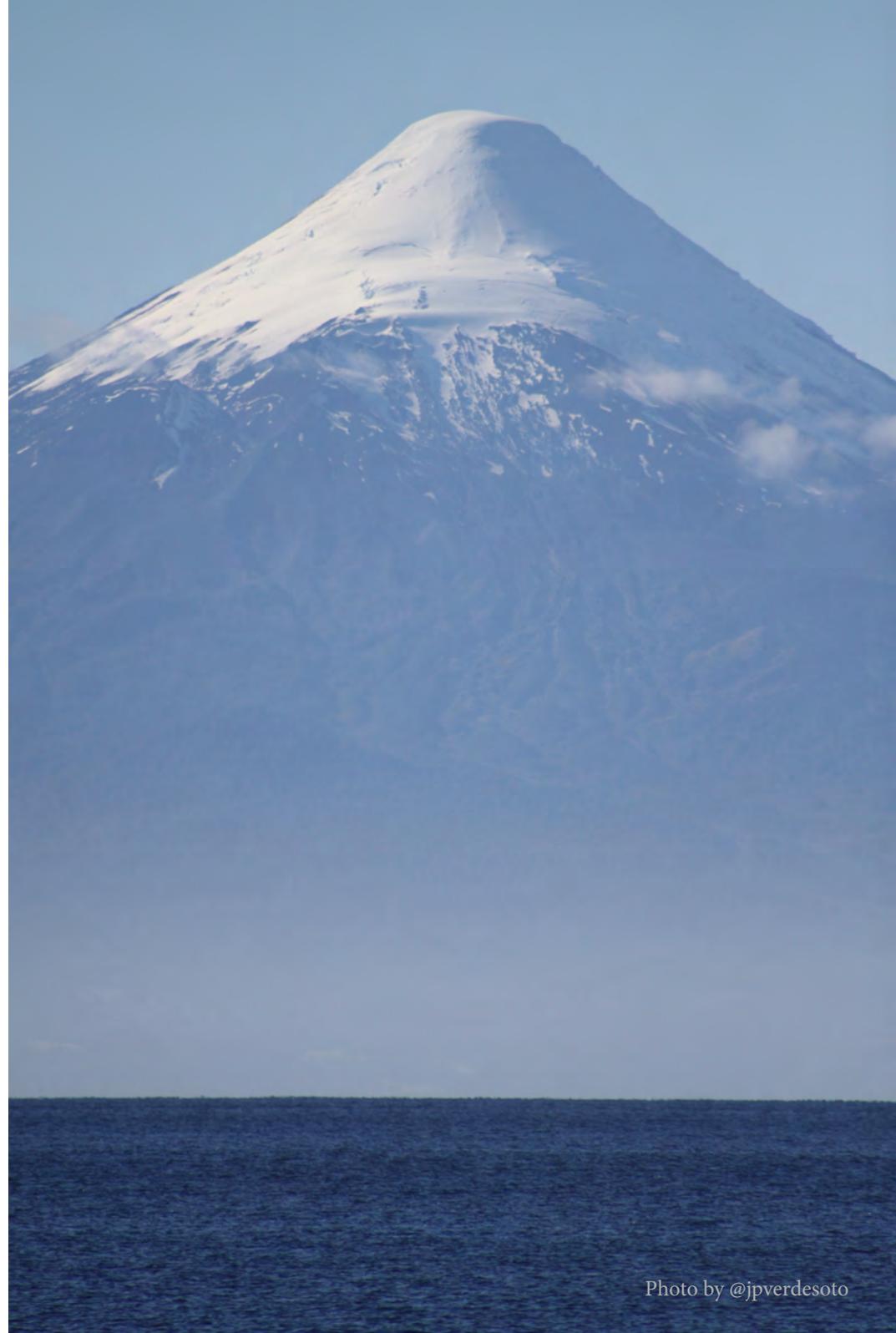
<b>Length</b>	<b>double/twin per person</b>	<b>Single Supplement</b>	<b>Rider Weight supplement (89- 98 kg. 196-215lbs)</b>
(14D/13N)	from USD 7300	Please consult	USD 290

**Included:**

All terrestrial/water transfers as specified; all meals described in the itinerary (from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on final day); a half bottle of wine per person for dinner time on the riding days; bilingual guides, local guides ("Baqueanos"), VHF communication radio in Chile. Riding horses; pack horses and additional horses according to the number of riders in the group. See accommodation notes below.

**Not included:**

Appropriate medical insurance (mandatory), visa (as necessary), international or national airport taxes, portorage, laundry service, personal expenditure, all services not mentioned in the detailed description.



## 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 Chilean horse is descended from horses brought by Spanish to South America during the colonisation. In every South American country, horses have been developed depending on the topography and uses. The Chilean animal has roots in Arabian and British horses. Like many other Creole breeds across Latin America, the Chilean Creole is medium size but extremely strong. The horses are born and bred in the region so that they are perfectly familiar with the terrain. The saddle is a light South American structure, with no high pommel and thick sheepskins to sit on – ideal for this type of ride.

**Accommodation: Night 1:** Hotel in Bariloche. **Nights 2 & 4:** These are camp nights. **Night 3:** Mountain refuge with one sleeping area. **Nights 5 & 6:** mountain refuge with a traditional wood stove, two bedrooms & a bathroom (hot water) and a living room. Outside, a river separates two 3-bedded yurts, each with a wooden floor. **Night 7 & 8:** On our private island which has a main house and a wood-built cabaña. With terraces, dining room, living rooms and bathrooms. **Nights 9-12:** We will be warmly welcomed into the local's homes, which is an excellent occasion to share in their lifestyle. The houses are very cosy and rustic, with shared bedrooms and bathroom facilities. Mostly in twin or triple rooms. **Night 13:** Hotel in Puerto Varas. Exact bedroom options confirmed at the time of inquiry.

**Meals:** During the trip, Creole cuisine is the typical fare. Delicious meals with organically grown, locally sourced produce are prepared on wood-burning stoves as well as the Asado (BBQ). We can cater for vegetarians and other dietary requirements as long as we are warned in advance. The water is safe to drink and has a crisp, clean taste.

**For further information please contact:**  
[rideandes@rideandes.com](mailto:rideandes@rideandes.com)  
[www.rideandes.com](http://www.rideandes.com)

**Climate:** Please keep in mind that temperatures in the mountains are highly variable. It might be cold (down to freezing) zero degrees or below early in the morning and in the evening, but up to 28 / 32° C at midday. It can also rain at any time!

**Clothes & Equipment:** Travel notes will be sent with useful information including a suggested packing list and guide contact details etc. To cope with changing temperatures, as a good idea 'layering' is advised. Space for luggage during the ride will be strictly limited.

**Emergencies:** In case of accident, for most of the route the communication is via VHF radio at the places we stay at.

**Health Services:** No special vaccine is currently required for this part of South America, but each guest must check the vaccine situation with an appropriate travel clinic. Also depending where you live/have travelled to recently there may be special entry requirements (yellow fever, etc). Clients with special medication should bring enough for the whole trip since you will not be able to buy medicine during our journey. It is very important that you state on the information sheet if you have suffered from heart disease, if you take diabetes medicine, if you have some kind of blood illness, etc. In certain seasons a wasp species called "chaquetas amarillas" (yellow jackets) appears. If you are allergic to wasp stings, we suggest you to take the treatment required with you and warn us so that we can help in the case of an emergency. We do not recommend people who are highly allergic to wasp/bee stings – rather than just a mild allergy, to come on this ride as it is impossible to evacuate people quickly. Each person must evaluate the wasp/'yellow jacket'/bee situation very carefully, please contact us to discuss

**Safety:** We work with qualified staff with safety equipment.

On boat crossings, lifejackets are provided. The outfitter has an international adventure tourism insurance. However, clients must have their own travel insurance that covers them for the activities on the tour. We will always bring a first aid- kit and guides with the necessary safety skills.

## Important Notes

- Booking will be confirmed upon receipt of the corresponding deposit (a 30% prepayment will be required upon confirmation and the balance 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.
- Rider weight limits are in place, please refer to each itinerary for details
- 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.
- 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.

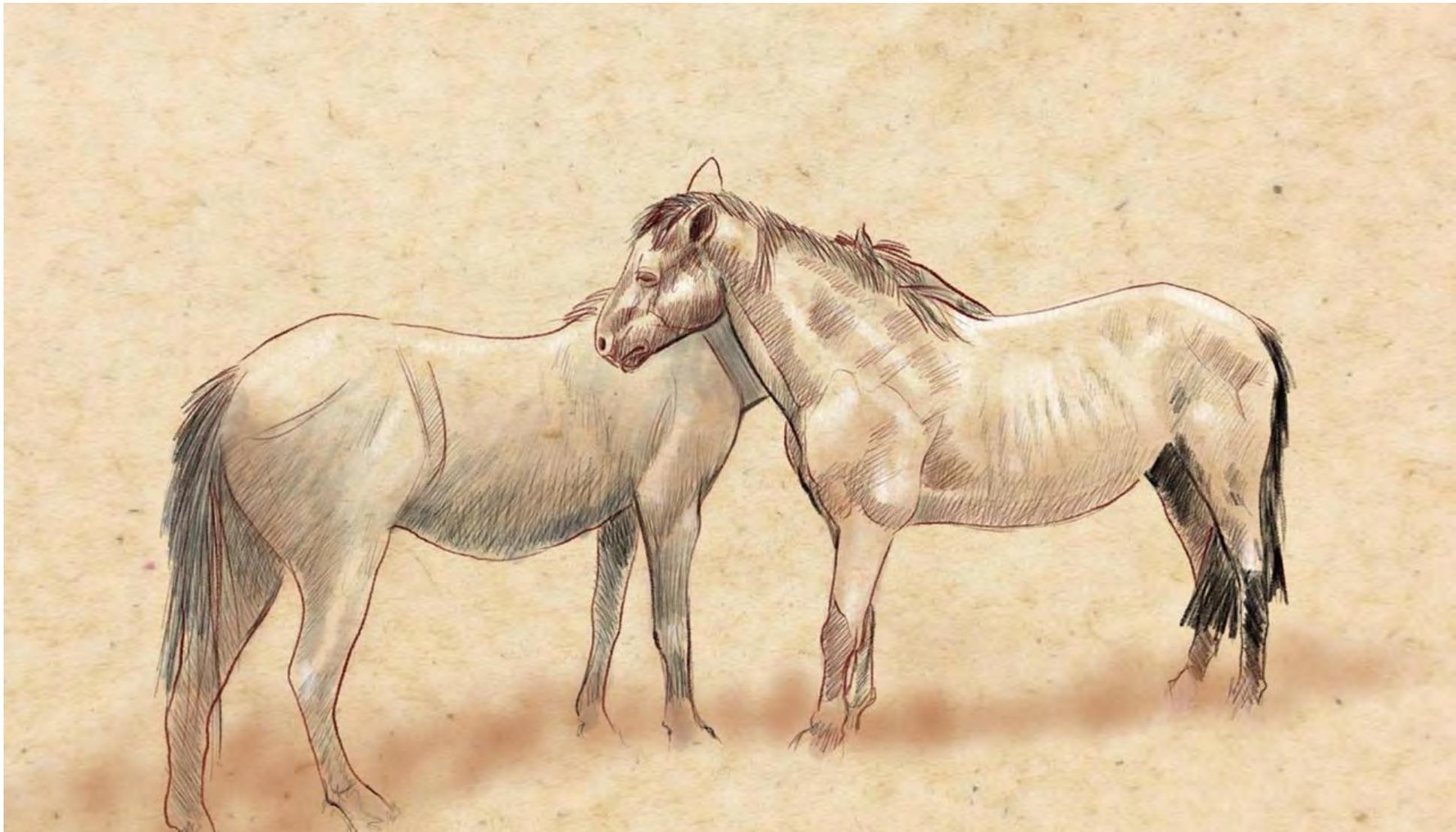
## About Ride Andes:

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 her 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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RIDE ANDES

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