



**RIDE ANDES ARGENTINA**  
**ANDEAN MAGIC EXPLORATION**  
Season: November to April

*Argentina - romance of the gauchos!*



## **Introduction**

Ride amongst the azure lakes and snowy peaks of the pristine Nahuel Huapi National Park in northern Patagonia, Argentina. Through native beech forests, across the crystal-clear rivers onto the meadows beneath the glacier-covered mountains in this untouched wilderness – then, leaving the gauchos, we head to Buenos Aires to tango with the locals!

## **Andean Magic Exploration**

Six nights spent in two unique locations with stunning views of the lakes and mountains of northern Patagonia; final night in Buenos Aires.

## **What You Need To Know?**

- 8-day itinerary in the heart of a northern Patagonia National Park
- Mainly steady pace due to mountainous terrain
- Riding out daily from two unique lodges in remarkable locations
- Final night in Buenos Aires, excellent tango show
- Some hiking (optional) to reach stunning lookout points
- Fixed date departures/Private groups (tour can be adapted)
- Maximum 10 guests on fixed departures
- Single riders very welcome (single rooms or twin share)
- Season: November to April
- Flexible start day for private groups



**RIDE ANDES**

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## **Andean Magic Exploration**

### **Overview:**

#### **DAY 1: Buenos Aires to Bariloche, Introductory Ride**

*Dinner & Overnight at the Lakeside Hotel*

*T, D (approx 2 hours riding, approx 2½ hours vehicle transfers)*

#### **DAY 2: Laguna Azul**

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at the Lakeside Hotel*

*B, PL, D (approx 5-7 hours riding)*

#### **DAY 3: Ventisquero Negro**

*Dinner & Overnight at the Lodge*

*B, L, D (approx 5 - 6.5 hours riding)*

#### **DAY 4: Cerro Volcanico & The Border**

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at the Lodge*

*B, PL, D (approx 5 - 6.5 hours riding)*

#### **DAY 5: Balcony View & Andean Condors**

*Dinner & 3rd Overnight at the Lodge*

*B, PL, D (approx 7 hours riding)*

#### **DAY 6: Hanging Glacier & Pristine Snows**

*Dinner & Final Overnight at the Lodge*

*B, PL, D; (approx 7 hours riding)*

#### **DAY 7: Return to Buenos Aires, Tango**

*Dinner & Overnight at a Buenos Aires Hotel*

*B, D, (approx 3 hours transfer to Bariloche Airport)*

#### **DAY 8: Breakfast and Farewell**

*B (approx. 40 mins transfer Hotel to Ezeiza Airport)*

### **End of services**



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

Start & end point: Start point is Buenos Aires City Airport and end point is Buenos Aires Ezeiza Airport. We can arrange a host of 'extensions' for you in this vast South American destination, please contact us.

[www.rideandes.com](http://www.rideandes.com)



### **Detailed Itinerary:**

#### **DAY 1: Buenos Aires to Bariloche, introductory ride**

Guests meet up in Buenos Aires in time for the mid-morning flight to Bariloche, situated in the northern Patagonian mountains among the national parks. A short introductory ride close to Lago Gutierrez - a taste of the scenery awaiting us as we head further into the Andes. We then drive southwards to the hotel, nestled on the shores of Lake Mascardi in the heart of pioneer country. The hotel, opened by the family 4 generations ago, was one of the first in Nahuel Huapi National Park. Guests are greeted by pure mountain air and stunning scenery on arrival at this idyllic lakeside spot. Time to settle in and have a walk along the shores of the glacial lake. Dinner and Overnight at the Hotel.

*Dinner & Overnight at the Lakeside Hotel*

*T, D (approx 2 hours riding, approx 2½ hours vehicle transfers)*

#### **DAY 2: Laguna Azul**

A short walk beside the lake to reach the corrals and meet our horses and guides. Once riders are comfortable on their horses, we ride out with the gauchos to Laguna Azul, located between two hills: Cerro Bonete and Cerro Punta Negro. We first ride along a path through forests of the lenga beech – a tree native to Patagonia with beautiful autumnal red foliage. Arriving at the lagoon – a small circular lake of over 100 metres (328 feet) in depth - guests often remark on the incredible, intense blue colour, the reason why it was named 'Blue Lagoon'. After a picnic lunch overlooking the lake and the contrasting colours around, we ride back to the hotel.

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at the Lakeside Hotel*

*B, PL, D (approx 5-7 hours riding)*



### **DAY 3: Ventisquero Negro**

Joining the horses, today we ride to a lodge higher up in the mountains. First riding out across the cattle ranching plains alongside the Manso River in the Vuriloche Valley, we then stop for a gaucho-style lunch at the corrals. The home-produced meat will be cooked on an iron disc over an open fire. In the afternoon, leaving the lake far behind us, we climb towards the source of the Manso River arriving at the 'Hosteria' where we will be spending a few nights. The view across to Ventisquero Negro - one of the 14 glaciers adorning Cerro Tronador - is impressive. In 1907, a pioneer came across this place and was so taken by the landscapes that he built a house here. His descendants have now turned the house into a delightful lodge in this unique location. Guests say goodbye to their horses and gaucho team and settle in.

*Dinner & Overnight at the Lodge  
B, L, D (approx 5 - 6.5 hours riding)*



#### **DAY 4: Cerro Volcanico & the Border**

Riding southwards on our fresh horses, we head out on a trail through woodlands that will take us towards Cerro Tronador. Crossing rivers, streams and wide riverbeds, then skirting Lagoon La Rosada, we climb through changing landscapes – the woods give way to flood meadows and then challenging steep hills as we approach the Cerro. The last section is a remarkable route - through the lenga beech bushes, the footing made up of volcanic scree and slabs of rock. We leave the horses to hike to Cerro Volcanico – a perfect cone of red and black rocks with patches of the winter snow left dotted around the slopes. The climb to the top is tough but the views as we reach the top of the ridge the views are spectacular – we are on the border with Chile, the high Andes stretching away in front of us; to the north the three summits of majestic Cerro Tronador and the Osorno and Puntiaugudo Volcanoes; to the south at the far end of a valley, the mountain flood meadow, Cauquenes and Lake Fonck a little to the east. We rejoin the horses and ride back to the lodge for dinner and overnight.

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at the Lodge  
B, PL, D (approx 5 - 6.5 hours riding)*

#### **DAY 5: Balcony View & Andean Condors**

Firstly, we ride out alongside the River Manso, which we will wade across a few times, then we turn uphill through Coihue woods. The path rises steeply and, quickly gaining altitude, we soon arrive at a clearing, then cross mountain flood plains and Lenga woods. We take a break on the shores of Laguna Ilón, the breath-taking surrounding landscapes reflected in its crystal-clear waters. The view of Cerro Tronador from this angle in all its glory is stunning - magnificent views of the huge ice masses. After lunch we ride on to a natural balcony offering even more amazing vistas. We tie the horses up and walk the last part to the granite rocks to admire the views: Lake Frey, Lake Nahuel Huapi and across to the western wall of Cerro Cathedral. Andean Condors often provide a fly past. We rejoin the horses and ride back to the lodge for dinner and overnight.

*Dinner & 3rd Overnight at the Lodge  
B, PL, D (approx 7 hours riding)*

## **DAY 6: Hanging Glacier & Pristine Snows**

Traversing the woods, sometimes passing climbers heading off to try to summit Cerro Tronador, we ascend steadily all morning, eventually reaching a clearing with a spectacular view of the hanging glacier Castaño Overo and the vertical cliffs below, waterfalls cascading out from under the ice face. Above, the gleaming immaculate white of the Tronador snows is another unforgettable sight. We hike on to the mountain refuge, at 2000 metres (6561 feet) and enjoy the pure white snows of El Tronador before rejoining the horses and riding back to the lodge for dinner and overnight.

*Dinner & Final Overnight at the Lodge  
B, PL, D (approx 7 hours riding)*

## **DAY 7: Return to Buenos Aires, Tango**

A transfer to Bariloche Airport for a late morning flight back to Buenos Aires. On arrival at the Buenos Aires city airport, a quick tour of the city on our way to the well-placed hotel. Lunch can be enjoyed in the San Telmo market, close to the hotel – a lot of delicious options for guests to choose from. Time to relax and some shopping in the afternoon then off to an excellent, 'low key' Tango show a very short walk from the hotel. The show is in a traditional renovated building, with a lovely intimate atmosphere; the excellent musicians and dancers taking guests through the history of Tango, over an à la carte menu.

*Dinner & Overnight at a Buenos Aires Hotel  
B, D (approx 3 hours transfer to Bariloche Airport)*





### **DAY 8: Breakfast and Farewell**

After breakfast guests depart for Ezeiza International Airport or continue on other adventures in Argentina\* (do let us know if we can help).

*BB (approx 40 mins transfer Hotel to Ezeiza Airport)*

### **End of services**

*\*There is an option to CONTINUE ON RIDING with us amongst the glaciers of Southern Patagonia. Fly from Bariloche to Calafate on day 7 instead of back to Buenos Aires. Please consult with us for details.*

**2021/2022 Prices from:**

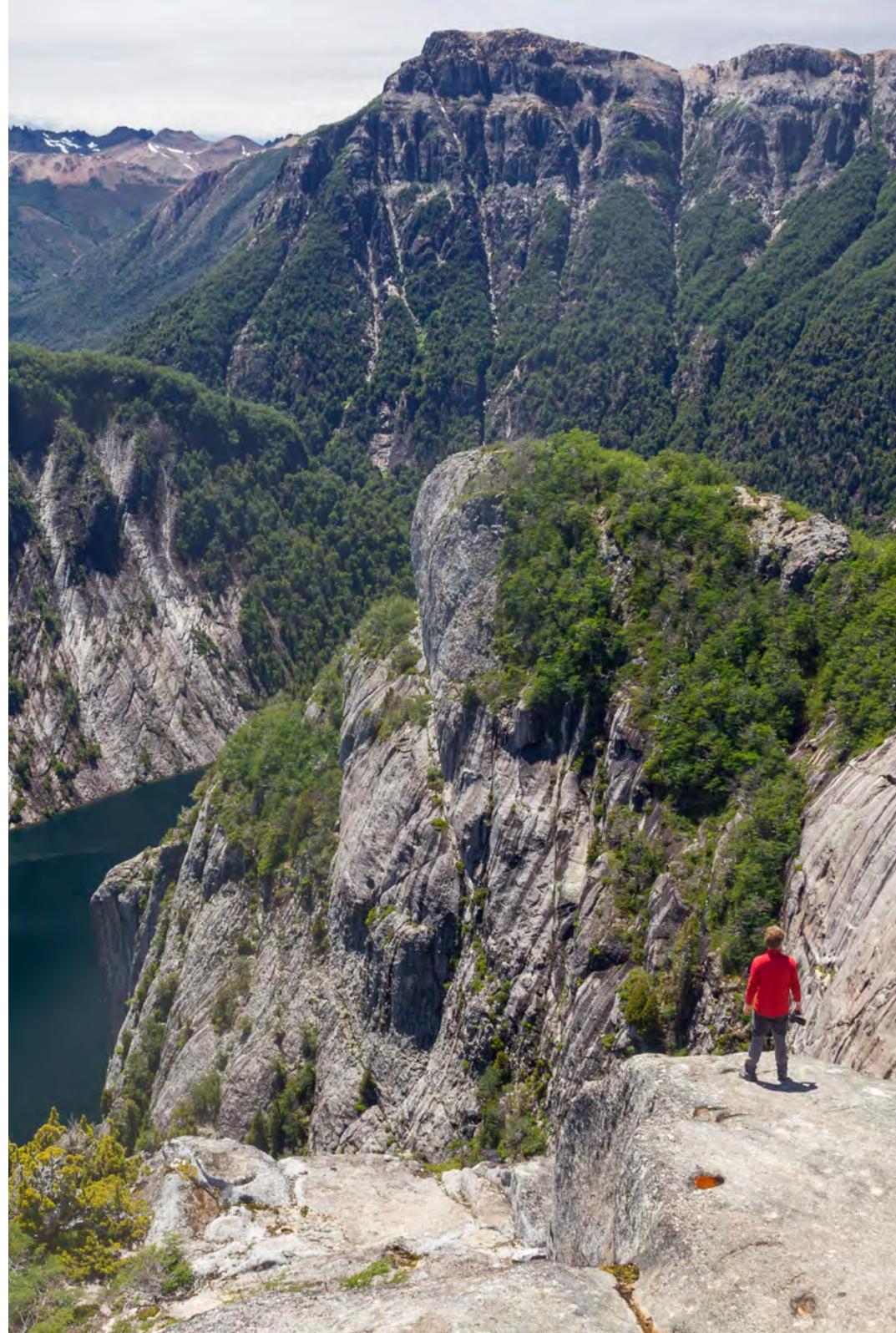
<b>Length</b>	<b>double/twin per person</b>	<b>Single Supplement</b>	<b>Rider Maximum Weight 95 kg/210lbs</b>
(8D/7N)	from USD 1945	Please consult	

**Included:**

All accommodation (private bathrooms); all meals and water (from day 1 tea to day 8 breakfast except lunch day 7); English speaking guide & 2nd local guide; riding on 6 days; horses & spare horses; saddlebags; grooms services; Tango show & dinner; all necessary transfers/transport as per itinerary; all necessary local taxes, private reserve & national park entrance fees.

**Not included:**

Appropriate medical insurance (mandatory), visa (as necessary), Buenos Aires-Bariloche return flight (currently USD130), to be confirmed at the time of inquiry), international or national airport taxes, lunch day 1 & 7, soft and alcoholic drinks, personal expenditure, tips, and all services not mentioned in the detailed description.



## **F.A.Q's**

**Horses & Tack:** During this ride, we will be riding Argentine Criollo horses, ideally suited to the area. Criollo breeds have developed from horses that were first brought from Spain in the 17th century, developing very different characteristics in each region, depending on terrain and the needs of the local horsemen. We use local south American saddles – low pommel and thick sheepskins atop. Neck reining (western 'one-hand' indirect rein riding) is used. People adapt very quickly but the guide is on hand to give some advice. This tack is very suitable for long days in the saddle.

**Accommodation:** The accommodation on the ride is comfortable double/twin/single rooms at two lodgings (private bathrooms) in idyllic locations; the last night in a hotel in Buenos Aires (private bathrooms; excellent location). If you are sharing your room, please let us know in advance if you prefer twin or double beds.

**Meals:** As well as an excellent picnic/lunch, after a full day riding, a delicious home cooked dinner is served, including home produced ingredients. We can cater for vegetarians or any other dietary requirements as long as we are warned in advance.

**Climate:** The weather in these mountains can be very variable and change very quickly. Riders must be prepared for cold and rain – but we expect days of glorious sunshine. More detailed information is given in the travel notes.

**Clothes and 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, the guides will communicate with the lodge and/or national park wardens using radios – there is a VHF radio network. The lodges have internet and use 'WhatsApp' for communication.

**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 on 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 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:** As with all over the world, in major cities (for example, Buenos Aires) guests need to be careful with their belongings and we ask guests to use safe deposit boxes and follow the basic common sense rules while out and about.

**For further information please contact:  
rideandes@rideandes.com  
www.rideandes.com**

## Important Notes

- Booking will be confirmed upon receipt of the corresponding deposit (A 30% 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.

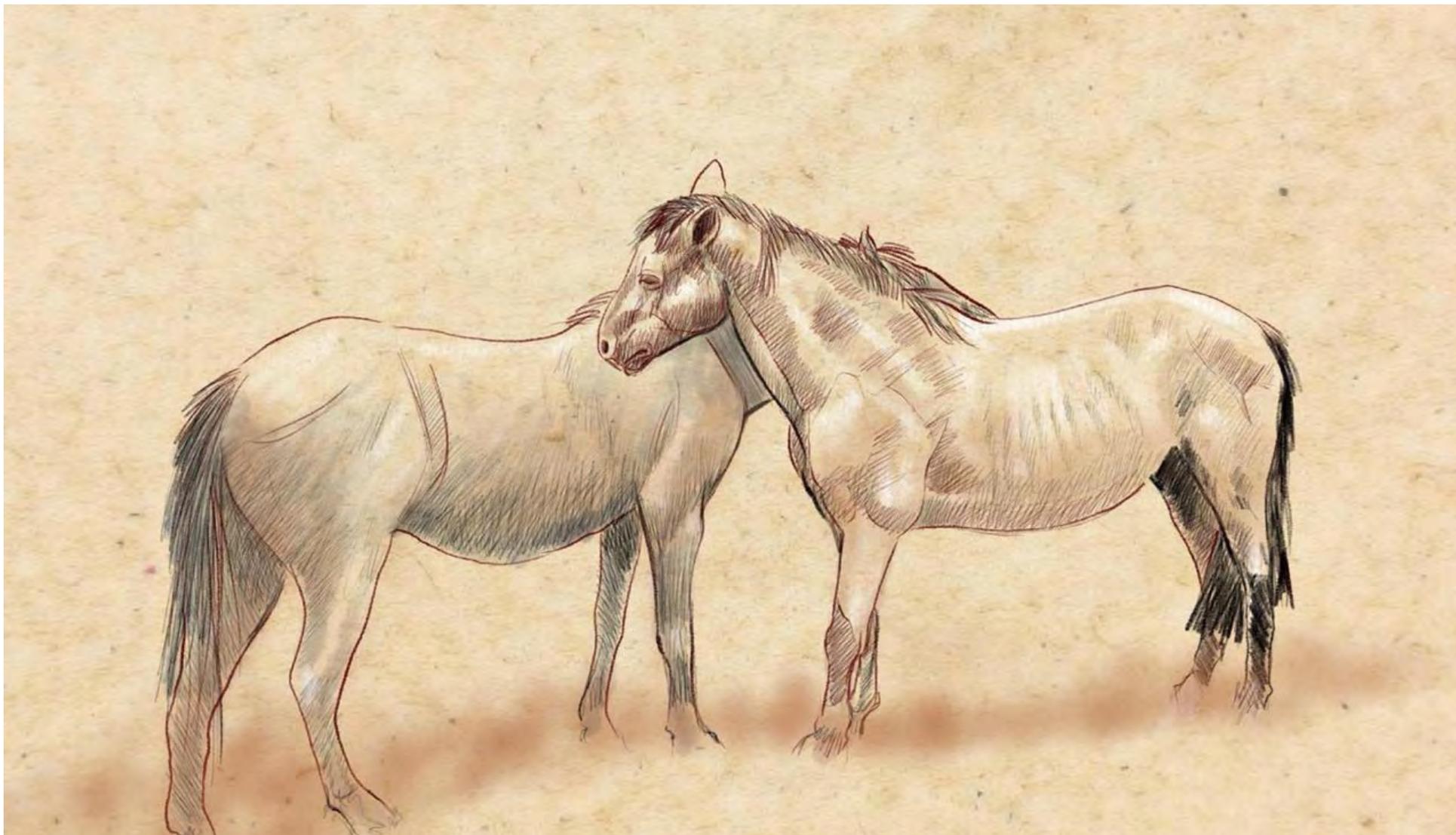
## About Ride Andes:

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 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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