



**RIDE ANDES ARGENTINA
SOUTHERN GLACIERS EXPEDITION**

Season: November to April

Argentina - romance of the gauchos!



Introduction

Ride through the low native forests, along the valleys and across the grasslands of the undulating hills, then navigate the lakes to arrive at the face of the glaciers. Watch the condors soar overhead, join the gauchos tending the cattle and sheep, then return to sit around the fireplace to hear about the incredible stories of the arrival of the pioneers in this untamed wilderness.

Testimonial

"The immense glaciers, the miles and miles of wilderness and the tales of the first pioneers formed a lasting impression on me." Sally, Ride Andes after her first trip, 2004.

Southern Glaciers Expedition

Nights are spent in a very remote Estancia house, comfortable rooms filled with antiques; situated within the Glaciares National Park.

What You Need To Know?

- 8-day itinerary in the heart of the Patagonian wilderness
- Riding out daily, between the stunning blue glacier lakes
- Cattle work & also visits into the Glaciares National Park
- Spend each night of the ride in a very comfortable Estancia house
- Fixed date departures/Private groups (tour can be adapted)
- Maximum 10 guests on fixed departures
- Single riders very welcome (limited single rooms or twin share)
- Season: November to April
- Flexible start day for private groups



RIDE ANDES

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Southern Glaciers Expedition Overview:

DAY 1: Buenos Aires to Southern Patagonia

*Dinner & Overnight at the Estancia house (ranch)
Tea, D (approx 1 ½ hours transfer in)*

DAY 2: The Frontier

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at the Estancia house (ranch)
B, L, D (approx 6 hours riding)*

DAY 3: The Lowlands, Frías Glacier

*Dinner & 3rd Overnight at the Estancia house (ranch)
B, L, D (approx 5 hours riding)*

DAY 4: Ranch Work

*Dinner & 4th Overnight at the Estancia house (ranch)
B, L, D (approx 4-6 hours riding)*

DAY 5: Glaciares National Park

*Dinner & 5th Overnight at the Estancia house (ranch)
B, L, D (approx 4 hours riding, 6 hours trekking –
14km/8.7miles)*

DAY 6: Perito Moreno Glacier

*Dinner & 6th Overnight at the Estancia house (ranch)
B, L, D (approx 3 hours riding, 40 mins navigation, 1 hour
trekking, 1 hour navigation back to the Estancia)*

DAY 7: Return to Buenos Aires, Tango

*Dinner & Overnight at a Buenos Aires Hotel
B, D (approx 1½ hours transfer to Calafate Airport, ap-
prox 3 hours city tour – optional, Airport to Hotel 25 mins
transfer)*

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.



Detailed Itinerary:

DAY 1: Buenos Aires to Southern Patagonia

Guests meet up in Buenos Aires in time for the afternoon flight to Calafate. Guests will be met on arrival at Calafate and driven along unpaved roads to Estancia Nibepo Aike, a working ranch run by the same family for over 100 years, our Estancia home for the next few nights. Having crossed the Steppes, the scenery abruptly changes: we drive alongside Lago Roca, mountains rising up in front of us. It is no mystery why a huge percentage of this area has been declared protected National Parks and entering the Glaciares National Park, we arrive at the Estancia, set amidst breathtaking scenery. A welcome hot drink in the traditional 'Quincho', along with cakes and pastries, gives guests time to contemplate the magnificent views surrounding us - a chance to settle in and prepare for tomorrow, dinner and the overnight stay.

*Dinner & Overnight at the Estancia house (ranch)
Tea, D (approx 1½ hours transfer in)*

DAY 2: The Frontier

Once riders are comfortable on their horses, we ride out with the main guide and 'baqueano' (the local horseman). We ride to the western edge of the Estancia lands, which is also where Argentina ends - we reach the frontier with Chile, denoted by an international milestone. The feeling of being so far south in these frontier lands is something very special - the expansive landscapes never seem to end. After a short stop, we ride onto La Rosada puesto for lunch. This puesto (outpost) is home to the cattleman - the 'puestero' who oversees this area of the 12,000 hectare (29,650 acres) Estancia. The puestero, carrying on generations of rural tradition, knows every corner like the back of his hand and, no matter the weather, is out checking the cattle. Through experience, a quick glance tells him a cow is missing or that the weather is turning. We ride back to the Estancia main house.

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at the Estancia house (ranch)
B, L, D (approx 6 hours riding)*



DAY 3: The Lowlands, Frías Glacier

Riding through the dense subantarctic beech forests, we emerge into the Valley of the Cachorro River. We descend through 'Notros' (Chilean Firebush) and Calafate bushes to arrive at the riverbed, as views of the Frías Glacier start to appear. Hugging the rocky terrain to avoid the marshlands, we ride to the corrals in this part of the Estancia. Once again, riding through such wilderness is an exhilarating feeling – we may meet the gauchos, otherwise no one else is around. After lunch at the corrals, we ride back to the Estancia main house. Guests can relax in the comfortable house and hear about the original European settlers – true pioneers that set up home in this remote corner of southern South America.

*Dinner & 3rd Overnight at the Estancia house (ranch)
B, L, D (approx 5 hours riding)*



DAY 4: Ranch Work

The Estancia was once devoted to sheep rearing and exporting the wool they produced was their main income – hard to imagine the logistics involved in, each year, hauling hundreds of bales of wool out to the Atlantic ports. Up to the 1950s wagon trains – 18 horses and mules pulling several wagons- were the only option: a 20 day journey! Now the Estancia maintains only a small flock and guests can have a look in the shearing sheds to see sheep being shorn and understand the shearing, packing and transporting of the wool from 1000s of sheep. Today, the Estancia has made a name for itself breeding cows – becoming the most prestigious Hereford breeding stations in these latitudes. After a ride out, we will join the gauchos in whatever cattle work they have planned for today and, in the late afternoon, herding the sheep back into the barn safe from the pumas.

*Dinner & 4th Overnight at the Estancia house (ranch)
B, L, D (approx 4-6 hours riding)*

DAY 5: Glaciares National Park

Today, we start out by boat - through Brazo Sur (the southern arm) of Lago Argentino, to its southernmost point. Arriving within Los Glaciares National Park, we trek up a gentle slope through the forest, arriving at a natural panoramic viewpoint of Frias Lake. We continue on the lake shore and jump aboard another boat to navigate the Frias lake and arrive at the opposite bank for a 7km (4½mile) trek to the point where the ice breaks off of all three glaciers: Grande, Cubo and Frias Glaciers, to form a lagoon. Being in front of this group of glaciers is a unique sight, and an unforgettable lunch spot. We retrace the path, but now, arriving back at the Brazo Sur, we meet the horses and ride back to the Estancia.

*Dinner & 5th Overnight at the Estancia house (ranch)
B, L, D (approx 4 hours riding, 6 hours trekking –
14km/8.7miles)*

DAY 6: Perito Moreno Glacier

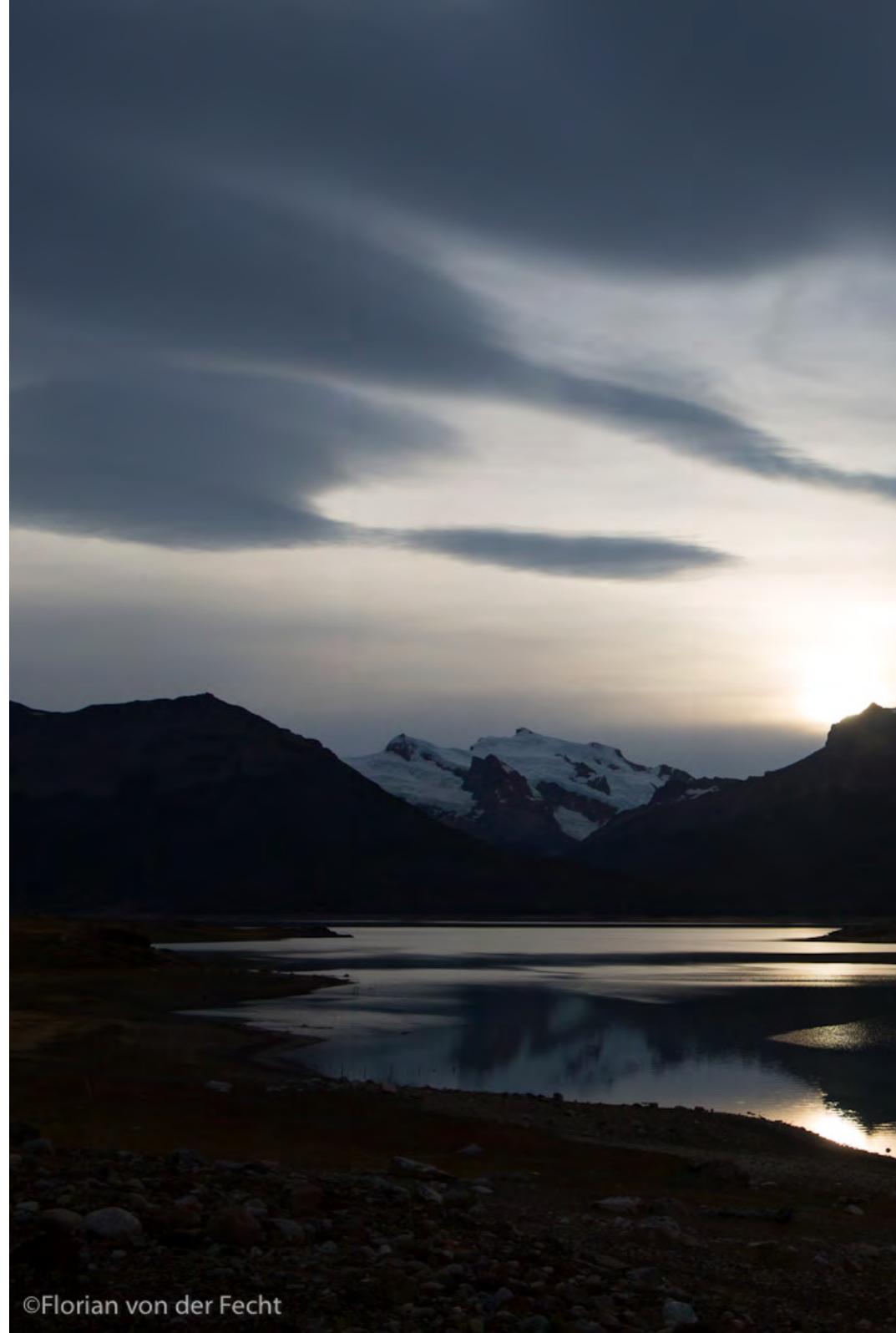
Today we ride out behind the Estancia, climbing the Cordon de los Cristales mountain range, and with each step, the 'arms' of Lago Argentino stand out more clearly. The path then plunges into the native 'Lenga' and 'Guindos' (Magellan beech) forests before opening out onto pastures, cattle grazing peacefully. Delicious grilled lamb for lunch, Patagonia style, after which we take to the water to navigate the southern part of Lago Argentino, disembarking at Monedas beach in order to walk through the woodlands until the most amazing sight greets us: Perito Moreno Glacier. Stopping to admire this stunning view, we then walk down to the beach and, back on the boat, head closer to the glacier snout. Taking to the walkways we investigate the glacier, eventually returning to the Estancia by boat.

*Dinner & 6th Overnight at the Estancia house (ranch)
B, L, D (approx 3 hours riding, 40 mins navigation, 1 hour trekking, 1 hour navigation back to the Estancia)*

DAY 7: Return to Buenos Aires, Tango

A relaxing start to the day, with a morning transfer to Calafate Airport for our flight back to Buenos Aires. On arrival at the Buenos Aires city airport, a tour of the city (for those that wish) on our way to the well-placed hotel. Time to relax then off to an excellent, 'low key' Tango show a very short walk from the hotel. The show is in a traditionally 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 1½ hours transfer to Calafate Airport;
approx. 3 hours city tour – optional, Airport to Hotel 25 mins transfer)*



grantes
y Arrabal"
os inicios del tango.
(fines de s. XIX - 1910)



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 ride with us in a stunning northern Patagonia national park, amongst the lakes and volcanoes BEFORE this ride then fly from Bariloche to Calafate instead of back to Buenos Aires to join this Southern Glaciers Expedition. Please consult with us for details.*

2021/2022 Prices from:

Length	double/twin per person	Single Supplement	Rider Maximum Weight 95 kg/210lbs
(8D/7N)	from USD 2575	Please consult	

Included:

All accommodation (private bathrooms); all meals and water (from day 1 dinner to day 8 breakfast except lunch day 7 - options at Airport); English speaking guide & 2nd local guide; riding on 5 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-Calafate return flight (currently USD170, to be confirmed at the time of inquiry), international or national airport taxes; lunch day 7 - options at Airport; soft and alcoholic drinks; personal expenditure; tips; all services not mentioned in the detailed description.



Photo by @jpverdesoto

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 -in charming double/twin/single rooms at the beautifully furnished Estancia (private bathrooms); 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 at the Estancia, including fresh produce from the kitchen garden. We can cater for vegetarians/other dietary requirements as long as we are warned in advance.

Climate: The weather in these latitudes can be very variable and change very quickly. Riders must be prepared for cold winds and rain – but we also 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 any incidents, at the Estancia there is a VHF radio also, at the Estancia puesto (Laguna) there is a radio and repeaters with the national park guards – communication by network of VHF radios.

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: On the rides, a bilingual guide and local horseman ('baqueano') accompany guests. 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, particularly adverse weather conditions.
- 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

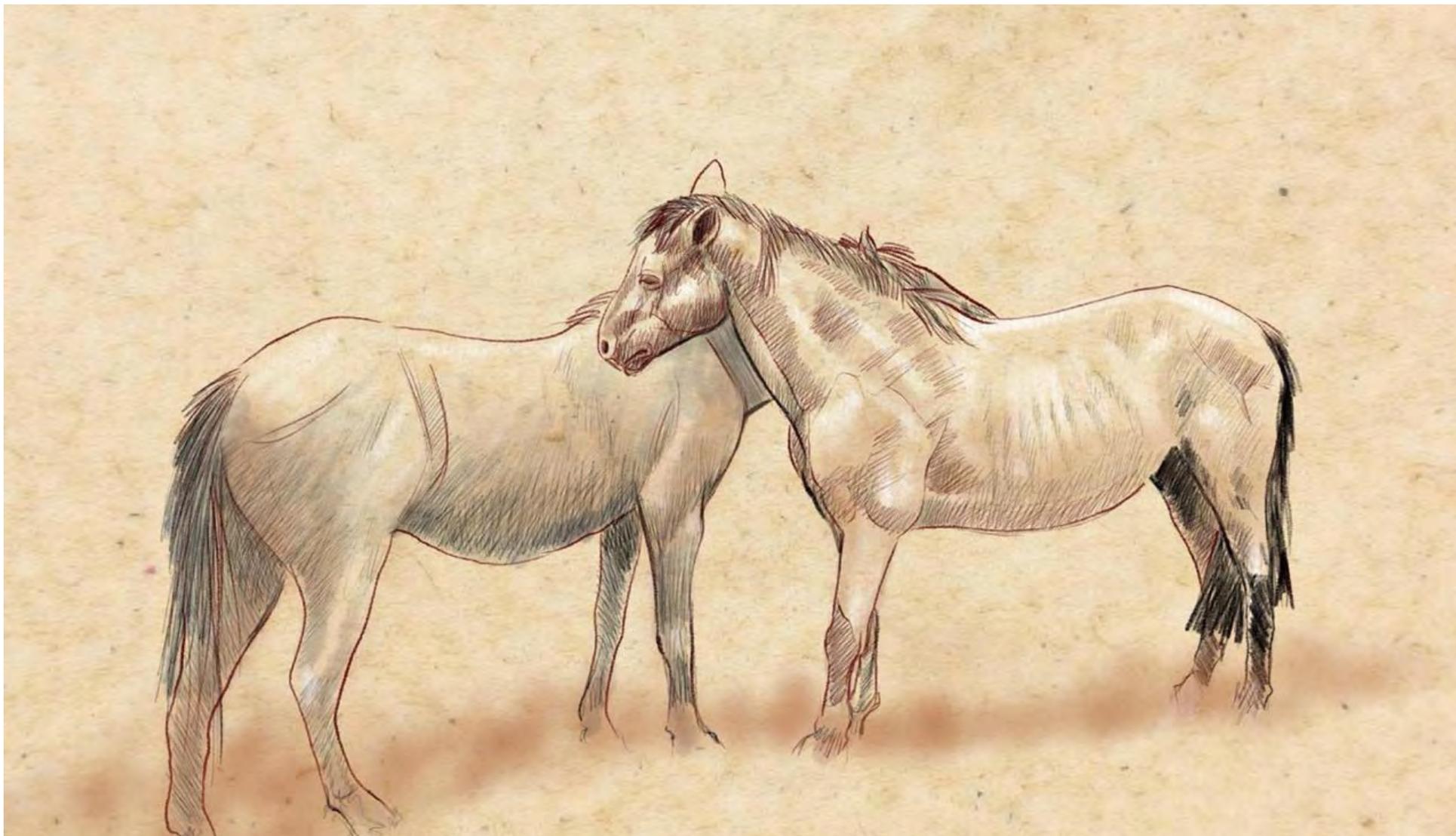
About Ride Andes:

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.

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