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# ARGENTINA

A SELECTION OF THE BEST  
PLACES TO VISIT IN THE  
COUNTRY



# ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR ARGENTINIAN ADVENTURE?

The immensity of the Pampas...  
The highlights of Patagonia...  
The Andes, Gaucho lands and the noble art of playing polo...  
This is Argentina, with all its facets of sports, romantic cowboy life and harsh reality.  
Ours is a fantastic journey into the very heart of the country, where you will feel the pulse of one of South America's greatest horse nations.  
**Argentina.**  
**The Argentinian way.**



Come along on a riding adventure in some of the finest places in Argentina! Ride criollo horses and learn how to play polo on Argentinian polo ponies, ride with the gauchos, and walk on the glaciers...

## SMALL GROUPS, CARING GUIDES

My groups are hardly ever bigger than eight people, making it possible for each guest to feel not just like any other guest. Here in Argentina we are cared for by the polo-playing, fabulous horseman Jose Jimenez del Toro. He speaks fluent English and is quick to laughter, loving horses more than life itself. José will travel with us all over the country, to make sure we get only the best experiences.

**Jose is a polo player and a friend of the gauchos we visit. He is personally leading the tours.**

Twelve days around some of the finest places in Argentina, riding the fabulous criollo horses. The style of riding is mostly working style, with long stirrups and laid-back reining in what is probably one of the most comfortable saddles in the world...



## A SPECIAL TOUR

Our adventure will take us on rides in three different areas of Argentina. We visit some of the highlights of Patagonia, see the footlands of the Andes and the El Calafate Glaciers National Park. We will also ride over the immensity of the Pampas and the gaucho lands, always with the focus on the local horse and horsemanship.

For 2006 we are planning rides departing on February 25th, April 8th and December 2nd. Twelve day rides over some of the most stunning sceneries in all Argentina.

## RIDES OFFERED IN 2006:

February 25 – March 9

April 8 –20

December 2 –14

**With Jose we will get an introduction into the noble art of polo playing, on the horses that are the best in the world for this sport, the Argentinian polo pony.**



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# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM:

## Day 1: Buenos Aires

Welcome at Ezeiza International Airport, from where we will go to our centrally located hotel in the area of San Martin Square, about 40 minutes from the airport. After a rest, we will meet the local tour leader Jose Jimenez del Toro, who will do a short introductory talk about the activities of the trip. A specialized local guide will show us the highlights of this beautiful city, the so called "Paris of South America". We will also have the chance to visit a saddlery, where Jose will advise us about how to complete our riding gear, but do not hurry, tomorrow we will visit yet another one where to get gear! After this, we all go together for a welcome dinner in a local steak house.

## Day 2: Estancia in the Pampas in San Antonio de Areco

After breakfast, a 1,5 hour drive will bring us to Estancia El Ombu de Areco. San Antonio de Areco is located north of Buenos Aires and is home of the gaucho traditions. In the garden of the main house that dates back to the XIX Century, we will enjoy a typical Argentinean "Asado" (barbecue) and our first horseback trek around the grounds of this estancia, this short riding will give us the chance to try the criollo horses and get the feeling of things. After lunch and a time for relaxing in the parks of the house, we will drive to a polo club located next to the estancia on the way to Buenos Aires, where we will live a polo experience. Argentina is home to the best polo players and polo ponies in the world, and this is a good opportunity for us to try this exciting sport. Jose and "Pampa", the polo instructor, will help us in our experience and we will have the chance to ride polo ponies that are quite different than the criollo horses. Don't worry, they are also very nice and easy to ride. After the polo lesson, we will have the chance to try our first "mate", with delicious typical pastries. When we are driving back to Buenos Aires, we will make a quick stop in a local saddlery, and there Jose will give us some advice about what gear to get, also you can find polo gear and all related to horses. After all this long day, we will drive back to the hotel, for a well earned rest. Dinner.

## Day 3: Buenos Aires – El Calafate Glaciers National Park

After an early breakfast, transfer to the domestic airport, close to the hotel. Flying time round 3 hours. Arrival in Calafate airport, gateway to "Los Glaciares" National Park. From the airport, we will drive to Estancia Nibepo Aike, an hour out of Calafate, surrounded by the mighty Andes, and near the shores of the lake. The estancia is in a beautiful corner of the National Park and the territory around it can be explored only by the very few guests that stay on the estancia. After lunch, we will go on a short horseback trek, to get the feeling of things and get to know the horses that we will be riding in the next days. We will reach the sector known as La Angostura, where the southern arm of Lago Argentino is joined by the waters of Lago Roca. The difference in colour is noticeable, due to the latter's origins in rain and surface water, in contrast to the milky turquoise colour of the glacial waters of Lago Argentino. Dinner.



## Day 4: Estancia Nibepo Aike

A full day riding trek to the Chilean border. The main estancia buildings are situated just 8 kms from the border. We begin climbing the ridge of the Cordón de los Cristales mountain range, with an unequalled view of the main body of water of Lago Argentino. After passing through the woodland we look out over the Valle de la Rosada. Here normally we have the chance to spot herds of Guanacos (a kind of Llama) and Rheas, called here choiques. From a view point, the mountain range of the Andes is dazzlingly framed by the southern arm of Lago Argentino. Sometimes the Torres del Paine range can be seen in the far distance, over the border in Chile. Return to the estancia. Dinner.

## Day 5: Estancia Nibepo Aike – Perito Moreno Glacier

Full day excursion to the Perito Moreno Glacier. Today we will not be riding, but be prepared for a unique site and experience! A private van will drive us to the front of this magnificent glacier declared by the UNESCO World Heritage. Perito Moreno Glacier, is for sure one of the most important highlights of Argentina. Pic-nic lunch on the spot. Return to Nibepo Aike. On the way back we will stop for birdwatching in the lagoons as this area shows a host of the Patagonian birds (ducks, coots, wild geese, flamingos, etc). Dinner. Lodging. Those who want to add some more adventure to this day, can take the so called optional excursion "minitrekking", that is a walking trek over the glacier. Crampons are provided. After dinner we may sit by the fireplace, savoring a glass of the unique Argentine Malbec wine, while sharing the impressions of this exciting day and planning the exploration of the next day.

## Day 6: Estancia Nibepo Aike

After a huge breakfast, we will start with our horseback trek to Rio Cachorro, to the heart of the mountains, where only very few people have been. We start climbing the foothills of the Cordón de los Cristales mountain range, and half-way up the foothills we go through a pass into a wooded plain which gradually leads us into an even more imposing landscape: the "Frías" glacier, the mountains "Stokes" and "Agudo" (border points with Chile) and the mountains "Adriana", "Dedo del César" and "Castillo", which all have curious shapes; all framed by the Brazo Sur of Lago Argentino and Laguna Tres de Abril. We find ourselves in the domain of the majestic condor. With the mountains behind us, we arrive at the corrals, situated on the banks of the river "Cachorro", where the usual estancia work is done, and we will have the chance to observe the herd of cattle bred at this establishment. Return to the estancia. Dinner.

# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM: cont.

## Day 7: El Calafate – Buenos Aires –Corrientes

After breakfast, transfer to El Calafate airport for the morning flight to Buenos Aires. Transfer to hotel. Here we will have day use rooms at a centrally located hotel for us to rest, take a bath and leave things during the afternoon. There are no programmed activities for the afternoon. Jose can organize shopping tours or visits to some of the museums around the hotel, depending on the desires of the group. We then suggest you leave all winter clothes behind and only pack clothes for subtropical weather. After dinner we transfer to the Retiro bus Terminal, where we board a comfort class night bus to Esquina. The seats are very comfortable and recline into beds. W/C on board. The journey is of around 8 hours. Snacks and coffee are available on board.



## Day 8: Estancia Buena Vista

Arrival very early in the morning to the old city of Esquina, that was in the early XIX century a very important trading port on the Paraná River. We are met by Klaus, the owner of Buena Vista and our host in Corrientes, and transfer to the estancia. Klaus is a German married to Sara, a member of the very traditional family from Corrientes. Klaus and his son, Klausito, will be our guides and show us all the secrets and places reserved only for the locals. We will meet our horses and the Gauchos in charge of them, and start out with a short ride around the area to get used to the criollo saddle. After this first experience we get back for lunch. Once we finish our lunch and relax a little bit, by the pool or taking a traditional “siesta”, we start with our first exploration ride of the estancia. All the food in the estancia is home

made and we will have the chance to visit the orchards, where all the vegetables are produced with organic methods. Also, we will be able to visit the places where exotic animals are bred such as ducks, pheasants, turkeys, etc, which of course will be included our meals. Dinner.

## Day 9: Estancia Buena Vista

Today the gauchos will organize several activities for us to choose from, like: Horseback exploration of the marshlands, photo safari, birding, participate with them in their daily activities of the estancia, etc. This area is a wildlife paradise. You will have the chance to see the famous capybaras, caimans, buffalos, and hundreds of subtropical bird species. Dinner. Tonight, we will enjoy an open air “parrillada” BBQ, organized by the gauchos. We can also visit a local school supported by Klaus’s and Sara’s family, to meet the gaucho children. This is a rural school and we can only get there on horseback.

## Day 10: Estancia Buena Vista – back to Buenos Aires

Today you can choose freely what you want to do – like yesterday, or maybe just relax by the pool? How about playing some gaucho games like carrera de sortijas? Or do a cattle drive? And how about setting up a reining competition with the gauchos? In the evening we drive to Esquina, to board the over-night bus back to Buenos Aires.

## Day 11: Buenos Aires

Arrival in Buenos Aires in the early morning and transfer to a 4\* hotel. Today Jose will help us choose our activities, and he will be at our disposal to accompany us during the day. We can, for example, visit a so called “Milonga” where Tango Dancers meet to dance and it is really exciting and very typical. We can arrange a visit to the famous Colon Opera House. Farewell dinner in the evening

## Day 12: Buenos Aires – Transfer out

Transfer to the International Airport.



Our guide Jose Jimenez del Toro

# GENERAL INFORMATION

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**Meeting Place:** We all meet up at the Ezeiza International Airport of Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina. Flights normally arrive from Europe/USA early in the morning.

**Typical riding day:** We will be riding the criollo horses and using criollo saddles. In general we will use trails that only the gauchos know and except for the Buenos Aires area, and the Perito Moreno Glacier, we will follow trails that tourists never visited, just only very few explorers on horseback and of course the gauchos that know every corner.

**Meals:** Food in Argentina is superb and it has the enough variety for any expectation of a gourmet. We try our hardest not to forget the vegetarians, but Argentina is solidly a beef place... All the estancias we visit produce their own vegetables, fruits and honey.

**Sleeping Arrangements:** double or triple rooms with ensuite WC/shower, in traditional estancias. In Buenos Aires, we stay in double or single rooms in a nice local 4\* hotel. The hotel in Buenos Aires, includes a huge buffet breakfast.

**Non-riding activities:** There is no specific program for non-riders, but at Estancia Nibepo Aike there is an interesting full day excursion to the famous Upsala and Onelli Glaciers (payable in situ). There are also some very interesting trails for bird watching. At Estancia Buena Vista, there is a very nice swimming pool, several walking trails for birding, possibility to do an excursion to the Corrientes River. You can also choose to prolong your holiday to go visit the Iguazu Falls (3 day/2 night package). Ask us for more information!

**Medical Requirements:** All travellers need insurance for accidents, no special shots required. Please advise us about special diets or physical conditions.

**Weather Conditions:** The best season for visiting Argentina is from October to April. In southern Patagonia, you must expect the four seasons in one single day, so appropriate gear is necessary. The temperatures at Glaciers National Park, fluctuate from +5 C (40 F) to +15 C (60 F), but with strong west winds, so sometimes it feels colder. Buenos Aires is temperate in October and April (Min +12 C max +20), while from November to March it is extremely humid and hot, around +30 C. The Corrientes province is subtropical so temperatures are hot and humid, between +20 C and +35 C.

**Equipment:** Please bring your own boots and helmet – we do not provide them. Riding gear can also be bought upon arrival in Argentina. Remember that your riding clothes must handle temperatures from cold in Patagonia to very warm in Corrientes. You can use two bags, and leave one in Buenos Aires. Raining gear is advisable, as well as a swimming suit.

**Bring:** Camera, Swimming suit, riding clothes (several layers to be put on or taken off depending on the weather), sun protection cream, good riding boots that can take a lot of water, helmet recommended by insurance companies, windjacket

**Price:** 2 500 Euro per person

**Single supplement:** 200 Euro (only in Buenos Aires)

**Dates 2005:** February 2 – March 9,  
April 8 –20. December 2 –14

**Riding ability:** Good, general physical condition, master  
the three basic gaits: walk, trot and canter

**Weight limit:** 100 kg/220 lbs

**Age limit:** 18 years (12 years if already a confirmed rider and accompanied by tutor)

**Included in the price:** All riding and activities, Pick-up to and from the Airport in Buenos Aires, where the general meeting point is located, Both local guides and an English speaking guide, Accommodation in shared bedrooms with en suite bathrooms at the estancias, Full board, i.e. breakfast, lunch and dinner at the estancias.

**Not included:** Air fares for domestic flights BUE/FTE-Calafate/BU( – these flights can be arranged for you at a price of approximately 300 USD), airport taxes, drinks with the meals, meals in the city, tips to the gauchos.

**Group size:** Average 6-8 riders, min 6