

ALTO CHUBUT RIDE

9 days of services
8 nights
7 days on horseback

ROUTE FROM / TO

The EL SAPUCAI mountain lodge is located southeast of San Carlos de Bariloche. We depart by private transfer from Bariloche, heading south along the famous Route 40. Our transfer takes us through the mountainous lake region of Nahuel Huapi National Park, and after about 3 ½ hours we finally reach the EL SAPUCAI mountain lodge, situated on the bank of the Chubut River. In this setting between the Precordillera and the Cordillera of Argentine Patagonia, we will travel on horseback. We will discover and explore the high peaks and deep valleys with their native forests.

During the first three days we prepare and explore El Sapucaí and its surroundings, and in the second part we begin crossing the mountain range to finish near Bariloche.



DIFFICULTY LEVEL

The trails offer a striking variety and give riders the chance to experience different horses and terrain. The terrain is not highly technical, but we will cross passes reaching 1,800 meters above sea level and trails that run along rivers. Fording rivers on horseback will let our riders experience new adventures.



ANDESLUNA

Horses & Glamping
PATAGONIA ARGENTINA

Given the diversity of terrain during the ride, we will travel at a trekking pace. Some days require covering more distance than others, though at this time of year the days are long (light until 10 pm).

In the event of rain, the trails may become more difficult, which may require us to walk on certain stretches. On occasion, due to weather conditions, timing and routes may change. Our guides will decide and advise you every step of the way.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Bariloche



Briefing

Arrival at Bariloche international airport, where a private transfer will take you to your hotel, located in the center of this beautiful city surrounded by lakes and mountains. Depending on your arrival time, you will have time to visit the city and do any last-minute shopping for the ride. In the afternoon your guide will meet the group at the hotel to give a brief overview of what lies ahead over the coming days. Dinner at a traditional steakhouse.

Dinner; overnight at Hotel

Day 2: Bariloche – El Sapucaí



Transfer, 1st day on horseback (1-2 h)

At around 10 am we begin our journey by private transfer along Route 40, the famous road running along the foot of the mountain range that links the north and south of the country. We cross the lake region of North Patagonia and, after about 3-4 hours, finally arrive at "El Sapucaí," our lodge in the Cordillera. We stay in our cozy glamping accommodations. We are assigned the horses we will spend the coming days with. We meet our helpers and enjoy the beauty of the afternoon. Before dinner, we will go for a short horseback ride.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner; overnight at El Sapucaí, Glamping

Day 3: El Sapucaí – Lagoons – El Sapucaí



2nd day on horseback (6-8 h)

We will climb the mountain range to take in the panoramic view of the surrounding Andes. We are fascinated by the skill of our horses as they cross different types of terrain: wetland meadows, lenga forests, and rocky ground. At the top of this climb we reach a 360-degree viewpoint, where we can admire the lagoons and have lunch facing the Cordillera with its eternal snow. We will return along a different trail through stunted ñire and lenga forests until we reach our lodge.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner; overnight at El Sapucaí, Glamping

Day 4: El Sapucaí – La Angostura – El Sapucaí



3rd day on horseback (4-5 h)

We head downriver to visit La Angostura, an old trail along the bank of the Chubut River that was once used to transport timber brought down from the mountains to the loading docks along the railway. Lunch on the riverbank. Afterward we return to El Sapucaí by another trail.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner; overnight at El Sapucaí, Glamping

Day 5: El Sapucaí – Veranada Miranda



4th day on horseback (5-6 h)

Today we begin our crossing of the Cordillera, which we will complete in four days' time in Bariloche. The landscape becomes increasingly dramatic as we head deeper into the rocky mountains. We ride up along the Chubut River, passing an abandoned gold, silver, and lead mine, and the local settlers, the Miranda family, will likely share some stories of the past as well as their current way of life. We continue riding upriver to a summer pasture (veranada). On the banks of the Cerrucho stream we set up camp, sheltered within a stunted ñire forest. There is a chance to visit the only waterfall along the Chubut River's entire 850 km course.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner; overnight camping

Day 6: Veranada Miranda – Pichileufu River



5th day on horseback (5-6 h)

This morning we continue up along the Chubut River until we reach a giant amphitheater where the river is born. In the afternoon we cross the Cerro Carreras massif, the watershed between the Pacific and the Atlantic, and now riding downhill, first over rocky terrain and then into a native lenga forest, we continue about 2 more hours to reach the source of the Pichileufu River. We camp on the riverbank.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner; overnight camping

Day 7: Pichileufu – Domes – Las Buitreras

6th day on horseback (4-5 h)



At first the valley is still enclosed by lenga and ñire forests. The Pichileufu River is calm and meandering. Summer pastures with good grazing begin to appear and the valley gradually opens up. We stop on the bank of the Pichileufu River, near the old Pacheco summer pasture, and enjoy these peaceful moments. In the afternoon we will reach the domes, our luxury accommodations in this remote spot facing Cerro La Buitrera, a rock formation shaped by wind and water erosion. A landscape straight out of another planet.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner; overnight at Domes

Day 8: Domes – Ñirihuau – Bariloche

7th day on horseback (2-3 h)

We leave the domes, riding along the side of the Las Buitreras hill. Descending and nearing the town of Ñirihuau, we cross the La Mina stream, where an old oil field is located, and if you look closely you can still see (and smell) oil seeping from the ground. In the Ñirihuau area, about 25 km from Bariloche, we find a variety of small family-run farms. These settlers are mainly engaged in raising sheep, cattle, and horses, as well as forestry. At the end of our horseback journey, a private transfer awaits us to return to Bariloche, leaving our faithful horses behind.

Breakfast, lunch, overnight at Hotel.

Day 9: Bariloche – Departure

Breakfast at the hotel. Depending on your flight schedule, a private transfer will take you from the hotel to the airport.

End of our services.



INCLUDED

All private transfers IN / OUT

All meals detailed in the itinerary, dinner at a restaurant on the first night

Bilingual guides, local trail guides (baqueanos), satellite communication for emergencies

Saddle horses, pack horses, and spare horses

GROUPS

Minimum: 2 pax

Maximum: 8 pax

RIDING HOURS

A full day of riding is approximately 4 – 7 hours on horseback

ACCOMMODATION

8 nights of accommodation:

3 nights at El Sapucaí (double / triple / quadruple base yurts)

2 nights camping (one tent per two PAX, sleeping pad provided)

If a sleeping bag is needed, please inquire about pricing

1 night at 4-star Domes

2 nights at a Hotel, double occupancy base; single supplement, please inquire about price per night.



ANDESLUNA

Horses & Glamping
PATAGONIA ARGENTINA

EL SAPUCAI Mountain Lodge and Yurts



The Patagonian lodge is located on the banks of the Chubut River, in a secluded spot within the Precordillera. The house has a warm kitchen-dining area where delicious meals are prepared over a wood fire. It includes a full bathroom with a wood-fired water heater, a dining room, and a living room with a fireplace. Everything is designed to make this a unique experience. Outside, a small stream separates the house from the 3 yurts, located facing the Chubut River. Each yurt has a wooden floor, wood-fired heating, a private bathroom, and beds for 2 to 4 people. Its solid construction and warm interior atmosphere make for a truly restful stay.

SAFETY AND COMMUNICATION

Our qualified staff is equipped with safety gear. Because of the remote areas we travel through along the route, we have satellite communication available in case of an emergency.

As a company we carry adventure tourism insurance, though it is mandatory that you bring your own travel medical insurance. We always carry a first-aid kit, and our guides, who know the area well, will be able to assist you in an emergency if necessary. Internet and phone service are available only in Bariloche.

CHARGING DEVICES

During the ride there is NO possibility of charging your devices.

FLIGHT CONNECTIONS AND COORDINATES

Daily flights from Buenos Aires (BUE) to San Carlos de Bariloche (BRC)

HEALTH AND VACCINATIONS

No vaccinations are required for this region of South America. Please bring a sufficient supply of your personal medications. On the personal information form, please note if you



ANDESLUNA

Horses & Glamping
PATAGONIA ARGENTINA

have any heart condition, take medication for diabetes, have any blood disorder, have any allergies, etc.

GUIDES

ANDESLUNA believes that guides/hosts are the key to a successful and memorable trip. We use qualified staff with training in Wilderness First Responder (WFR) rescue courses and first aid. We only work with experienced guides who have extensive knowledge of the area. Our guides are people who are deeply passionate about the region we ride through. They will always stay a step ahead and provide help and assistance in any unforeseen situation. Our guides are bilingual and knowledgeable about the region, its people, and its culture. The gauchos will always be there to help you saddle up, prepare the horses, adjust tack, and generally look after your safety.

LUGGAGE AND CLOTHING

Weather in the Andes mountain range can be unpredictable and highly variable, so you should be prepared for anything.

While the steppe areas are semi-arid and prone to strong winds, within the Cordillera there is more vegetation and native forest. During our horseback trip, we must be prepared to withstand heat, cold, wind, and rain.

Temperatures throughout the ride can range from -3 to +30 degrees Celsius.

During the day

We provide saddlebags (not waterproof). At times, retrieving personal belongings from the saddlebags can be a bit awkward, so we recommend keeping sunscreen, sunglasses, a small camera, etc. within easy reach.

Water comes from mountain springs or streams, so it is very clean and safe to drink. If, despite this, you still feel unsure about drinking it, you may bring water purification tablets.

Essential

- Riding helmet (highly recommended)
- Riding pants (jeans, etc.)
- Boots or ankle boots (with a sole suitable for riding — not too thick, so you can quickly free your foot in case of a fall — and for walking, not a leather or smooth sole). Waterproof your boots before traveling! Rubber boots are not recommended
- Hat (with a chin strap for the wind), or cap
- Sunglasses with a strap
- High-factor sunscreen (the ozone layer is very thin in the south)



ANDESLUNA

Horses & Glamping
PATAGONIA ARGENTINA

- Lip protection against wind and sun
- Waterproof jacket and pants
- Long-sleeved shirts (protection against harsh weather such as strong sun, wind, and cold)
- Water bottle

Recommended

- Full-leg or half-leg leather chaps for protection against thorny vegetation and extreme weather
- Short-sleeved shirt (useful when it is very hot or as a base layer when temperatures vary a lot)
- Riding gloves
- Small bags for personal items. (These can be the kind used as security pouches for money and passports. There is also a sleeveless cotton vest, often used by photographers, that has many pockets.)
- Scarf/bandana (there can occasionally be dust)
- Insect repellent
- Camera and/or video camera, spare battery and memory card

At the end of the riding day

You will be given a dry bag to protect your belongings in case of heavy rain, carried by the pack horses and handed to you each day upon arrival at camp.

Essential

- Important: 2 complete changes of clothing are usually enough
- Socks and underwear
- A windbreaker and a fleece jacket and/or a sweater are ideal for evenings around the campfire
- Flashlight (a headlamp is ideal)
- Toiletry kit (biodegradable soap and shampoo — during camping we wash in the rivers)
- Personal medication (enough for the whole trip), contact lenses
- Tissues/wet wipes or travel wipes

Recommended

- Shorts or cotton pants
- Warm fleece/sweater
- Comfortable shoes or sneakers for resting
- Waterproof bags for organizing/packing your clothes
- Books/reading material/pencil and paper
- Basic personal first-aid kit
- Earplugs (to block out disruptive noises such as wind, people talking, or dogs barking)

LUGGAGE SEPARATION

It is very important that you keep the following in mind regarding your luggage: On the day you arrive at the hotel in Bariloche (the day before the ride begins), you will have an afternoon briefing with your guide at the hotel. The guide will give you a dry bag so that, before setting out the next day, you can choose and set aside no more than 10 kg of your belongings. This bag will travel with you and will be carried by the pack horses during the ride. The rest of your luggage will stay at your hotel in Bariloche, and you will get all of your luggage back on the day our transfer brings you back to Bariloche at the end of the ride.

SADDLES

The saddle we use is an adaptation of an endurance saddle, fitted with cushioned pads for long rides and straps/cords for tying down the various things we need during the day. It is practical to saddle and unsaddle and comfortable for long days in the saddle.

WEATHER

Temperatures in the mountain range are highly variable. Early mornings or nightfall can become very cold (close to freezing) at 0 degrees, and it can reach 30 degrees Celsius during the middle of the day. It is also likely to rain at some point, although the rainy season normally begins at the end of autumn! Also remember that luggage space is limited, so we suggest bringing only the essentials for the trip.

To deal with these temperature changes, it is a good idea to dress in layers, which you can remove as the sun starts to warm things up. Remember that several thin layers of clothing are more comfortable than one thick layer. Silk or thin thermal underwear (or a turtleneck sweater/long-sleeved shirt and leggings) is a good idea if you tend to feel the cold, and they also make a great option for sleeping. Part of the equipment you will be given is a poncho to protect against rain.

From mid-December to the end of January, an annoying but harmless insect known as the "horsefly" (tábano) appears in our south. They are strongly attracted to dark-colored clothing such as blue or black, and less so to light colors such as white or yellow. Please keep this in mind when choosing your clothing for the trip.

Once the horseflies disappear, yellow jackets appear (to a lesser extent).

If you are allergic to wasp stings, we suggest you bring your medication and also let us know, so that we can be prepared to act in case of an emergency and bring preventive medicine.

DELICATESSEN

The cuisine on this trip will be a special blend of flavors and ingredients drawn from the ethnic variety of Patagonian criollo cooking. A traditional wood-fired stove at our El Sapucaí lodge gives the dishes a special flavor. Criollo-style asado (barbecue) may be served at several meals. It consists of delicious lamb or beef grilled over embers and wood. As the main traditional dish, it is cooked in different ways, generally accompanied by salad, potatoes, and, of course, red wine. Vegetarian dishes are a delicious option — we just need to know if you prefer that option at the time of booking.

HORSES

Local criollo horses. Not strictly a breed, but these animals show extraordinary hardiness, endurance, and adaptability to their environment, along with great patience, agility, and gentleness. It is an animal especially suited to fieldwork in the mountains. Its build corresponds to that of a saddle horse, balanced and well-proportioned. Muscular and sturdily built, with a low center of gravity. Sure-footed and loose-moving, agile and quick in its movements. Active, energetic, and gentle in temperament, it is defined by its hardiness, longevity, endurance, courage, ability to recover, and aptitude for ranch work.

TIPPING

In South America it is customary to tip if you are satisfied with the service. This is common in restaurants, for hotel and airport porters, and also for the ANDESLUNA team.

A tip is not the wages of service providers — it is a way of recognizing the service they provided. We offer our clients suggestions on this topic during the trip briefing. Consider bringing local currency. As a reference, we suggest approximately US\$5-10 per day per client, to be shared among the team of baqueanos, assistants, and guides. It will be distributed at each farewell. All of these amounts are only estimates, depending on each traveler's discretion.

Please keep in mind that once the ride begins and until it ends, you will not have access to any currency exchange office.

We deeply love the still-untouched nature of these remote areas, and that is why we try to minimize the environmental impact of our trips as much as possible. We would be grateful if you would show the same care while visiting us.

We look forward to having you!