



SUMMARY

Central Andes | Across The Andes.



HORSERIDING ACROSS THE ANDES EXPEDITION CHILE-ARGENTINA (9 days / 8 nights)

Strenuous horseback riding

150 kilometers from Valparaiso and Santiago, into the wild Andes range, in "Los Patos" Spot where this spectacular expedition across the Andes begins.

In an extraordinary journey right out of the history books, we follow the footsteps of the Army of Liberation that freed Chile from the Spanish crown in 1817. During this fantastic nine-day expedition over the roof of America, we glimpse the life-styles of "huasos" (Chilean cowboys) and "gauchos" (Argentinean cowboys).

We travel in the shadow of glacier-capped Andean peaks -such as Mercedario mountain (6.770 mts.) and Aconcagua (6.960 mts.), the Western Hemisphere's highest mountain - fording rivers that rush through the arid lower ranges after tumbling off rocky summits frozen in eternal snows. In the midst of wind and cold to temper our spirits, we are amazed by the variety of native wildlife to these heights, such as guanacos, vizcachas and condors keeping watch on their lofty domains.

Riding from Chile to Argentina, we will go through a close mountain range full of surprises, and delightful places that are an invitation to rest. We will ride among rivers and streams, narrow paths with plentiful vegetation and short bushes surviving to low temperatures, snowfalls and winter winds. As we are climbing, we leave behind the few trees we can see to move on to a wonderful color spectrum that dye the hills. Crossing and descending to Argentina is to open a door to a big show of great mountains, big glaciers and snow in contrast with wide and green valleys. Moving on and climbing again to 4,500 meters high through "El Espinacito" pass by riding loyal horses will make us thank eternally for all the effort made by these powerful native horses. When we reach the top of the slope, we will be able to watch such a magnificent show opening under our feet that will not be hard to understand the silence of the tourists. The excitement, tears and hugs make us become aware and remember that we are in the heart of the Andes surrounded by the main heights where the value and merit of this trip is that we can live a different landscape every day.



ITINERARY

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9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

DAY 1: Santiago - San Felipe - Los Patos

We will depart in the afternoon from your hotel to San Felipe, an area of vineyards in the Aconcagua Valley. Then, we continue to Putaendo, later, we head to Los Patos, and after, an evening of getting to know each other over dinner and refreshments. We camp for the night.

DAY 2: Los Patos – Maitén Bonito

Here the Chilean muleteers are waiting for us to load up the animals beginning this adventure. We will ascend from the Chalaco River to arrive later Maiten Bonito (2200 High meters). We will cross the river several times and go through maitenes forests. The most typical aspect of this landscape is semidesert vegetation, a lot of cactus and scarce vegetation. Camp and dinner around a friendly campfire.

DAY 3: Maiten Bonito - Vegas Del Cienago

After a strong breakfast, we continue following the course of the Chalaco river passing through Colorada pass (3.530 high meters). Here we have to get off our horses and walk since the track is located more than 1000 meters over the river. During the journey, the vegetation is lower and we can appreciate small bushes which are characteristic of the high Andean zone like the goat horn, thorny bushes and the showy "yareta".

Then we will continued the trip passing through "Las Vegas del Ciénago" This place is covered with a large expanse of grass contrasting with the mountains and the beautiful place to camp. (2550 high meters) There we will report with the Chilean frontier guards. Camp and dinner in the same place.

DAY 4: Vegas Del Cienago - Valle Hermoso.

Early in the morning we continue following the course of the Rocín River until the Chile - Argentina frontier (3300 high meters). The animals will ascend slowly through narrow paths. Grass and bushes start to run short, but not small flowers that emerge and surprise us. We will meet the Argentinean "gauchos" in the boundary. It will be inevitable not to compare the Huasos and Gauchos clothes and also the way of loading the mules. It will be surprising to watch the different styles of loading, riding the saddles, and then the change of loading and riding animals to start the descent in Argentinean territory until Valle Hermoso, passing through, volcanoe river . Camp and dinner. But before we must show the documentation in Ingeniero Sardinias lodge (2600 high meters)

DAY 5: Valle Hermoso- Ing. Sardinias

Active, resting day. Today, we can get up later and have breakfast outdoors. We will walk in order to become acclimatized and have a wonderful view of the valley and its surroundings. Trips by surrounding areas and optional fishing. As a way of knowing better the zone, we will make a practical and explicative speech, about: map reading, distance calculation, the use of a compass and emergency signals as a part of the essential knowledges for the high land survival. Camp and dinner.

DAY 6: Ing. Sardinias - Rancho De Latas

Very early in the morning we begin the crossroad again. Here, the herb's green will admire us with grass fields surrounded with puddles and a great variety of birds. We will discover an intensive subaquatic and aquatic life in this valley which makes contrast with the imposing mountain range of Cerro La Mesa (6.280 mt). The crossroad continues rising by Los Patos river to later arrive to Los Patillos river, which will approach us to the last mountain range that is left to rise: The large fertile plain of La Honda pass, Camp at the base of Rancho de Latas.

DAY 7: Rancho de Latas – Manantiales

This day, the journey will be very hard for the animals because we must rise Espinacito range going through sinuous hillsides by la Honda pass, at 4.500 mt. The ascent is sometimes dramatic when we see the big effort the animals make. Rest and then continue again the trip to reach the top of the mountain.. From this point, we will have a spectacular view of the Andes mountain range. Afterwards,. We begin to descend until Las Leñas river and reach at last El Peñón, where we will camp.

DAY 8: Manantiales – Las Hornillas - Uspallatas

Today will be the last journey in terrain. After leaving our camp we will continue by Las Leñas river arriving in Manantiales. Beautiful fertile plains are placed at this altitude. Here we can see one of the most amazing rocky formations in the entire journey. It's really like being in the far west. Afterwards we will descend to Hornillas, through the black pampa where a vehicle waits to take us to Barreal pequeño oasis in medio de áridas montañas hacen sobresalir esta area. Continuing the journey by minibus to Uspallata. Arrival to the Uspallatas hotel.

DAY 9: Uspallata - Los Libertadores - Santiago Hotel.

After breakfast, we shall prepare to return from Uspallata to Santiago, crossing the frontier through the Los Libertadores. This track is a work of art built in the middle of the mountains. In the Argentinian side, it ascends right to the pass. In the Chilean side, it is made of big curves to get to Los Libertadores Customs where we will have to show our passports once more and do the migration procedures. Descent through the Andes Mountain Range in the Chilean side which has more vegetation but it is at the same time steeper. End of our services.



INCLUDES

- One night in Uspallata Hotel (Argentina)
- Transfers in/out airport based on flight arrival times.
- Land transportation.
- All accommodation quoted per person based on sharing a double room or tent (single supplement rates in tent US 210).
- All meals in camp.
- Guides and camp staff.
- Full camping gear, except for personal sleeping bag and mattress.
- Pack mules for the camping equipment and backpack
- Satelital phone in emergency case.

NOT INCLUDED

- Alcoholic or Soft drinks and/or special foods, laundry, extras in hotels, other items of personal nature, additional expenses of a trip due to the weather, sickness, failure of transportation or other causes beyond our reasonable control.
- Any type of insurance and medical costs.
- Personal clothing and equipment.
- Tips.

PRE OR POST TOURS OPTIONS

- 1-2 NIGHTS IN VALPARAISO.
- VALPARAISO CITY TOURS.
- CASABLANCA VALLEY-WINE AND HORSES.
- ISLA NEGRA- HOME OF PABLO NERUDA.
- BIRDWATCHING TOURS.
- HORSE RIDING IN COASTAL MOUNTAIN RANGE OR IN THE DUNES AND THE BEACH.
- HIKKING & TREKKING TOURS.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT SUGGESTED

- Sleeping gear: (baggage tags and identification inside each piece).
- Comfortable sleeping bag to use in freezing conditions, foam pad or air mattress (we recommend "Therma Rest").
- Small daypack.
- Flashlight or head lamp and extra batteries.
- Wind breaker and polar.
- Warm over coat clothes, thermic underwear, wool hat and gloves.
- Light clothes, jeans, shorts, T shirts, long sleeve shirts, sun hat, bandana.
- Sun glasses with retaining stap and sun lotion (lips and face).
- Water bottle, two quart.
- 2 pairs of shoes. Trekking shoes and/or High sneakers.
- This type of circuit doesn't present technical difficulties, nevertheless a good physical condition is required, that means, people who normally practice some outdoor activities.
- The minimum age is 18 years and the maximum age will depend on your physical condition or health.
- The altitude, the wind and your bad physical condition, are the principal difficulties you can find.

IMPORTANT

- For this circuit each participant has to do the necessary arrangements to enter in Argentina or Chile (visa and permits).



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