

## Los Potreros October Half Term Break ~ 20th to 27th October 2018 ~

Estancia Los Potreros in northern Argentina's Cordoba province is a wonderful family destination. Retaining all the history of an authentic working estancia, privately owned and hidden in fantastic riding country, a stay here is the perfect chance for your family to experience South America's gaucho culture whilst enjoying the best of rural Argentine hospitality.

This week in October, which co-incides with UK half term, has been blocked privately for a family stay (dates 21st to 28th October would also be possible). The itinerary below is an outline of what the week might look like, although activities each day are not 'fixed' and your hosts, Kevin and Louisa Begg, will do their best to tailor arrangements to suit the group.

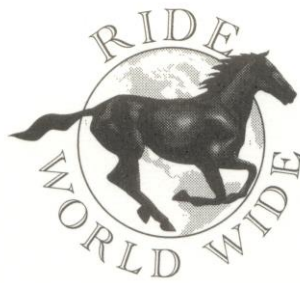
We've included flight suggestions but there are various flight options and travel days to and from Argentina are flexible. You might like to add a day or two exploring the city of Buenos Aires before or after the Estancia stay - we would be happy to assist, quote for and book flights and / or suggest hotels if you wish.



### ~ Example itinerary planned ~

**[Friday 19th October - Own arrangements for flight to Buenos Aires e.g. British Airways flight BA0245, departing London Heathrow 22:25 and landing Buenos Aires Ezeiza International Airport 08:15 Saturday 20th October.]**

**Saturday 20th October - In Buenos Aires, connect with onward flight to Cordoba e.g. Aerolineas Argentinas flight AR2524, departing Ezeiza International Airport 11:55 and arriving Cordoba Pajas Blancas Airport 13:25].** You will be met at Cordoba airport and driven about an hour to Estancia Los Potreros. Meet your hosts over a cup of tea before being introduced to the gauchos and horses. Then mount up and, once comfortable, a late afternoon ride for your first taste of the stunning landscapes you'll explore over the next week. There's a surprising variety of terrain on and around the 6500 acre estancia, with rocky outcrops looking out to open rolling hills, woods and grassy valleys that lead to hidden waterfalls. Ride back to base as the sun sets for a delicious candle-lit dinner - a tradition every evening - and opportunity to discuss plans for the rest of your stay. Overnight Los Potreros. (D)



**Sunday 21st October** - A hearty cooked breakfast, with bacon, eggs and fresh bread, to set you up for your first morning ride with the gauchos. Riding across tussock-grass ('paja-brava') plains and climbing to the high points of the ranch there are good chances to try the horses at all paces whilst you admire the incredible views. Return to base for a leisurely lunch, a typical Argentine 'asado' (barbecue) - a real feast, prepared with much care and with several different cuts of home-reared meat to try. The horses and gauchos have Sunday afternoons off, so after lunch and a siesta, you can enjoy a relaxing afternoon by the pool - or those who are feeling active can take an afternoon walk, looking out for hummingbirds and mocking-birds. Later, if the moonlight allows, a drive to a high point on the ranch is a chance to get your bearings, looking out to the lights of Cordoba in the distance. Dinner and night at Estancia Los Potreros. (B,L,D)

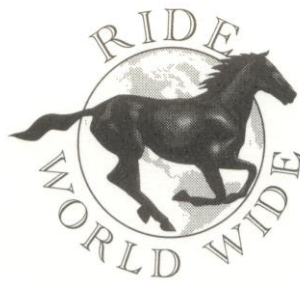


**Monday 22nd October** - After breakfast, mount up and head out with the gauchos for a taste of working estancia life. You might ride to where the herd of pure Aberdeen Angus cattle graze, taking salt out, rounding up strays or moving the herd into corrals for vaccinations or a head count - it's wonderful to see the gauchos' skilful horsemanship in their home environment and great fun attempting to help them! An informal 'asado' lunch at the cattle station and in the afternoon, there may be a chance to try your hand at lassoing - it's harder than it looks - before riding back to the estancia passing 'the top of the world'. Dinner and night at Los Potreros. (B,L,D)

**Tuesday 23rd October** - Breakfast and get your overnight bags ready - you're going on an adventure! Set off on a day ride north across the estancia, stopping on the way to see the pretty Dominican church, the small local school and enjoying the flora and fauna, from wildflowers and herbs underfoot, to the prolific bird life - eagles, Peregrine falcons, kestrels and the wonderful burrowing owl. A picnic lunch en-route, then continue to your final destination, one of the estancia's farmsteads to the north where you'll have dinner and stay the night (there are two separate cottages, one with bunk beds is ideal for children and one, a little more comfortable, for adults in the group). (B,L,D)

**Wednesday 24th October** - Mount up after breakfast and, leaving the farmstead, start riding back south across country until you reach a beautiful waterfall where you'll have a picnic lunch and can relax for a couple of hours, swimming in the pools or sunbathing on the rocks. Then head back home on a route that might take you past the 'Canada de los Condores' (Canyon of the Condors) where these impressive birds are sometimes seen. Arrive back at the Estancia in time to watch the sun go down with an evening drink on the 'Patio Verde' before dinner. Night at Los Potreros. (B,L,D)



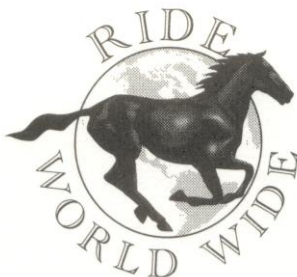


**Thursday 25th October** - This morning, a chance to try your hand at polo; a little low key stick-and-ball is the perfect introduction to this exciting game, there are kind ponies to look after younger riders and the gauchos are patient teachers. Or you might like to make the most of some of the other activities available - there are options for mountain biking, Pato, the estancia cook is always willing to offer a cooking lesson, showing you how to make traditional favourites such as empanadas, and paragliding or a game of golf can be arranged locally. After lunch, challenge the gauchos at the “destrezas de gaucho” (gaucho games), racing for the ‘sortija’, barrel racing and other competitions - great fun for all! Then a relaxing evening and delicious dinner. Night Los Potreros. (B,L,D)



**Friday 26th October** - Your last day at Los Potreros, so make the most of it! Perhaps an exhilarating morning ride across the rolling hills to ‘Las Tazas’ a natural swimming hole, then a refreshing swim and lazy picnic lunch before a final ride home. In the evening, a final celebratory “asado” showcasing the excellent home-reared beef, and plenty of delicious Argentinian Malbec for those who are allowed! (B,L,D)

**Saturday 27th October** - An early breakfast and farewell to your hosts and the horses before transferring about an hour back to Cordoba airport for your flight to Buenos Aires. [e.g. *Aerolineas Argentinas* flight AR2501, departing Cordoba 09:10 arriving Ezeiza International Airport 10:25; then *British Airways* flight BA0244, departing Ezeiza International 13:20 arriving London Heathrow 05:35 on Sunday 28th October]. (B)



### Special Family Week Rate 2018 (7 nights)

\$2,625 US per adult;

\$2,100 US per child under 16yrs (minimum age 10yrs);

Rates above are based on private use of the Estancia for a minimum group of 6 adults (or 4 adults & 4) children for 7 nights. If there are less, bookings will still be confirmed but the estancia may be opened to other short-stay guests. Maximum capacity is 12 guests in all.

Rates **INCLUDE** 7 nights twin estancia accommodation, all meals (dinner first day to breakfast last), riding as indicated with guiding and equipment, other on-site activities / outings as indicated, house drinks and also group transfers from / to Cordoba airport on the first and last day (note - if an early transfer is required separate from others in the group, there may be an extra charge - please check with us).

Rates **EXCLUDE** International flights to Cordoba and taxes, personal medical / travel insurance (which you must have with cover to ride), any extra non-included activities or excursions you may wish to organise (such as golf, para-gliding etc), premium wines and spirits, any visa fees and any tips you may wish to leave staff.

### Flights and travel information:

*International flights:* British Airways have daily flight departures London Heathrow to Buenos Aires, leaving London at about 22:25 and arriving Buenos Aires at about 08:15 the next day. Iberia and the Argentinean airline, Aerolineas Argentinas also have daily flights from London via Madrid to Buenos Aires. Other options are via the continent (eg Air France or Lufthansa) or via the USA.

*Internal flights:* The closest airport to Estancia Los Potreros is Cordoba Pajas Blancas Airport (COR). Flights from Buenos Aires to Cordoba are with Aerolineas Argentinas or Latam Airlines. There are several every day, but do be aware that only some of these (with Aerolineas) depart Buenos Aires Ezeiza International Airport; most depart from the Jorge Newbery domestic airport (Aeroparque) which is a taxi ride of at least 45 minutes across town and you need to allow 4 hours connection time due to potential traffic congestion.

Please call us for more flight information and / or if you would like a fare quote - we would be happy to book flights for you (our ATOL number for flight sales is 6213).

Transfers to and from Cordoba airport are usually included between the hours of 08.00 and 20.00. Outside these times (so if you book an early return flight with Latam) a special transfer may be required. Please check with us. The trip from the airport to the estancia is about an hour on both tarmac and unmaded roads.