



# RIDE WORLD WIDE

## ARGENTINA, PATAGONIA ADVENTURE WITH JAKOB VON PLESSSEN 2025-2026

### RIDE INFORMATION

Inspired by the traditional gaucho culture he witnessed growing up in Argentina, Jakob set up this ride in 2004 to showcase one of the most scenically beautiful parts of rural Argentina, its incredible horses and people. Fine-tuned and tailored over the years, we think the ride is one of the best possible ways to explore northern Patagonia's stunning landscape of lakes, rivers, mountains and volcanos whilst also giving an insight into the traditional gaucho lifestyle. Jakob spent his 20s working as a riding guide in Kenya and those years of experience have helped him understand what it is that makes a riding trip special: escape, exhilaration, excitement; great horses, stunning scenery and a sense of style - these rides offer it all!



### DATES

7 night rides are run from set dates between November and late February. For the 2025-26 season the primary date we offer is 17th to 24th February 2006 but other dates, or tailor-made rides for private groups of 8 to 10 riders, can sometimes be arranged on request. Please contact us to discuss dates and availability.

### HORSES

The horses used are owned by the Jakotango team and are locally bred Argentine Criollos and Criollos crossed with Quarter Horse, Thoroughbred or Percheron. A few years ago, as part of a new breeding programme, Jakob imported a Noriker stallion from Austria to cross with some of his Criollo mares - an exciting project that has created a new line of ideal mountain safari horses. The horses used average about 15.2-16hh, are of a 'chunky' build and strong and sensible. They are of a calm temperament, very sure footed and at ease on rough or steep mountain terrain but are also energetic, responsive and forward going to ride making riding hours in the mountains a real pleasure. There is an excellent choice for riders of different abilities. The horses are ridden in the local style, similar to western riding, and are used to neck reining with a light contact and relaxed seat.

## TACK

Argentine tack is used, with saddles similar to westerns but without the big pommel, topped with a comfortable sheepskin. Bridles are also local style, made from raw-hide and with shanked bits so that only a loose contact with the mouth is required. Saddle-bags are provided.

## RIDING

The 7 night Patagonia Adventure, includes riding on 7 days, usually a short ride into camp on the first day, a great chance to try the horses, and then 4 to 8 hours in the saddle on the next 6 days. On some days, riding is from camp to camp stopping for a long lunch and siesta on the way; on others you ride out from the night's base, stopping for lunch and refreshments and perhaps also to fish or swim. Rides are either lead by Jakob himself - bi-lingual, charming and thoughtful with more than 25 years' experience leading adventurous and personally tailored riding trips - by Daisy Soames who has been working with the Jakotango team for nearly 10 years and also leads rides in Kenya, or by other experienced English speaking guides, always assisted by a team of experienced local gauchos who look after the horses and provide support and back-up. Groups are limited to a maximum of 10 guests.

## WEIGHT LIMIT

95kgs / 15 stone (with a lower 90kgs limit for less experienced riders). Please contact us if your weight is close to the limit so we can check suitable horses are available (some heavier experienced riders may be taken by prior arrangement).



## PACE

Varies with the going but routes cross rugged, narrow and steep terrain where the vegetation is often thick so it is predominantly slow. You are always free to move on where the ground allows and in the grassy river valleys there are good places for occasional energetic canters.

## RIDING EXPERIENCE

Rides are suitable for intermediate riders and above, who are comfortable, relaxed and secure in the saddle at a walk, trot and fast canter and are looking for good quality, fun riding. Some less experienced, but confident, riders can be taken and there are plenty of calm and good-natured horses who are adept at covering steep and rough terrain - however with several tricky passes and some river crossings to negotiate, you need to be relaxed and confident in the saddle with a reasonable amount of experience of this type of riding. **You should also be comfortable with heights** - one day in particular is on a narrow, high pass and although the horses cope with ease, those with vertigo can find it alarming! There will be times when you need to get off and lead your horse up or down steep hills, so as well as riding experience and fitness, you should be happy handling a horse from the ground, of mounting unassisted and generally fit to walk up and down hills on uneven ground. If you don't ride regularly at home, we strongly recommend plenty of practice before you go to get used to the hours in the saddle.

## TERRAIN

The rides explore an area between Lago Falkner and Lago Traful in Argentina's Nahuel Huapi National Park, much of which is inaccessible other than by horse or on foot. There are steep climbs into the mountains following narrow winding paths and high mountain passes and ridges to cross above the tree line as well as valleys with open grassy meadows, southern beech forest and broad, clear rivers. It is wild, rugged and unspoilt with some challenging going for horses.

## SAFETY

Rides are lead by a main English speaking guide, who is first aid trained and carries a medical kit and satellite phone for emergencies, and accompanied by at least one back up rider to help with horses and so the group can be split if necessary. There is also a first aid kit and satellite 'phone in all camps. As most of the riding is in a remote mountain area, at times there will be limited or delayed access to professional medical support.



## ACCOMMODATION

Nights are at private camps and a privately owned gaucho farmstead. Usually the first 2 nights, and nights 4 and 5, are at Jakotango's semi-permanent base camp which is in a lovely situation on a private 1200 hectare estancia, Estancia Tres Lagos, that borders the Nahuel Huapi and Lanin National Parks. A very comfortable home in the wilderness, the base camp has 4 large, walk-in twin / double safari-style guest tents, raised on teak decking, each with en-suite shower and loo.



There is also a separate restored shepherd's caravan that can be used as a comfortable extra bedroom if rider numbers require and a cozy log cabin living / dining room or 'quincho' overlooking the river. Guest tents are spacious with proper beds, made up with cotton sheets, pillows and duvets; they are set under a protective roof, are heated by wood burning stoves and lit by solar and rechargeable lanterns (a generator runs during limited hours). Nights 3 and 6 of the ride are usually spent in more basic 'fly' camps where you sleep in small 2-man dome (igloo) tents, with camp beds, mattresses and sleeping bags provided. There are no showers in these fly camps - a little water can be heated for a morning wash or you can have a quick dip in a stream knowing you return to base the next night where you can have a proper hot shower - and there is a shared long drop loo.



The final night is at a local property belonging to Felipe, one of the gauchos who is third generation descendant of a settler family. His traditional cattle-station, with its ancient corrals and barns surrounded by huge beech trees, close to the shores of Lake Traful, is like something out of a fairy tale – and has been restored to provide a comfortable, yet atmospheric and authentic 'gaucho style' home that is only accessible by horse or boat. Here you sleep in reasonable comfort in big walk-in safari tents, with proper beds and sleeping bags provided. There is a shared bathroom block with hot water showers and flush loos and one of the barns has been converted into a stylish, cozy kitchen and dining room, where convivial meals are served with tremendous hospitality by Felipe and his family. Accommodation on the rides is on a twin / double share basis. Occasionally single occupancy in the caravan or a small tent is an option but generally singles are not possible.

## MEALS

All meals are included and a real effort is made with the food, which reflects local Argentine traditions. Full cooked breakfasts keep you going when camping, lunch is either a picnic out riding, carried by pack horse and eaten 'picnic style' along the way or it might be a traditional 'asado', a big part of gaucho culture and much more than simply Spanish for BBQ..... Argentine beef is renowned for its excellence and is often served with chorizo as part of an 'asado' or sometimes there might be a whole lamb asado accompanied by salads, home-made bread, cheeses and plenty of carefully chosen Argentinian wine. Dinners in base camp are three courses, eaten at a long table in the 'quincho' or around the campfire. Although meat is the mainstay of the Argentinean diet, main courses also include fish or perhaps a traditional paella with a selection of salads and vegetables. Vegetarians can be well catered for but please give us prior notice of any special dietary requirements. Drinks are included - the well-known Pisco Sour, especially mixed to fortify mind and body ('courage in a bottle'..) as well as other spirits, beer and good Argentine wines. Dinner is usually eaten quite late, at about 9 or 9.30 pm, in tune with local custom (customarily in Argentina dinner is never before 9pm and sometimes not until 11pm).

## WEATHER

The season starts in November, with the arrival of spring and ends in February, late summer. Day time temperatures in the area between November and March average 20-27C but can vary and nights are generally cool, sometimes down to -2C. January and February are mid- summer and usually the warmest months but in the mountains, anything is possible and you must be prepared for weather that is best described as capricious - unpredictable and changeable, with rain (and snow) possible at any time with little warning.



## WHAT TO BRING

We will send you list when your booking is confirmed.

## ITINERARY

The following is an example itinerary for the 7 night Patagonian Adventure but **please note** it is only an example and day by day arrangements may be varied by your guides in their absolute discretion if riders' ability, the weather or other local conditions require.

### Patagonian Adventure (7 nights)

*[Own arrangements to arrive and perhaps overnight in Buenos Aires, making your way to the domestic airport for an internal / domestic flight to San Martin de los Andes (Chapelco airport). Meeting arrangements will be confirmed before you depart - the recommended flight from Buenos Aires to San Martin normally depart Buenos Aires AEP around 11.40/ arrives San Martin 14:00 but please check with us **before** booking any internal flights].*

**Day 1** Own arrangements to fly to San Martin arriving at about 14.00. Met on arrival and driven approximately 1 ½ hours to the shores of Falkner Lake with plenty of snacks to keep you going en-route. Then (weather allowing) cross the lake by boat, meeting gauchos and horses at the other side. Mount up and once everyone is settled, a short ride of about 2 hours to camp, a great chance to try the horses and the traditional Argentine tack and style of riding. Arrive at camp, shown to your tents and time for a welcome hot shower before a first sundowner and dinner in the traditional 'quincho' overlooking the beautiful Filo Huahum River. Night base camp in the Filo Huahum Valley. (D)





## ITINERARY cont.

**Day 2** Wake-up call is at about 08.00 and a hearty cooked breakfast sets you up for the day, whilst horses are tacked-up. Once everyone is settled (it always takes a bit longer on the first day) head off, riding for about 3 hours down the Filo Huahum valley before returning to camp for a delicious Argentine style asado (barbecue) lunch. In the afternoon, ride a different route, testing your horse, tack and riding muscles on some climbs along the way, to get used to mountain riding. Arrive back in camp late evening for showers to shake off the dust before sundowners in camp or on the river bank. Dinner and night base camp. (B,L,D)



**Day 3** This morning, packhorses are loaded with all that is needed for a night in the mountains. You will be given saddle bags, plenty of snacks and a packed lunch, before mounting up to set off on an exciting day riding through Argentina's oldest national park, Nahuel Huapi and high into the montane wilderness. The Park is renowned for its particularly diverse flora and fauna, with species that include the beautiful 'llao llao' fungus, adopted as symbol of the area and of the nearby Hotel Llao Llao, a famous resort landscaped by Hermann Botrich. After a morning making a gradual ascent of the mountain, stop for lunch and a siesta at the edge of the treeline before the challenge really begins! After lunch, mount up again for the ride up to the summit, which will head along the "Pass of Tears" where there are breathtaking views across mountain peaks into Argentina and Chile and terrain you never imagined a horse could cross. This is not for the fainted hearted (or anyone who suffer from vertigo!) but as your adrenalin surges, you'll be amazed at the calm, steadfastness of the horses – and once across, thrilled by your achievement. After crossing the pass, head down to the 'fly' camp, set up by the gauchos in a spectacular spot overlooking the Buque mountain. Well deserved sundowners around the fire whilst the gauchos prepare a delicious supper. Dinner and night "fly" camp. (B,L,D)

**Day 4** Breakfast in camp, then ride back down into the valley, following the ridges of the Buque mountain range and winding your way through the beech forest. After about 3 hours riding, arrive back at base camp for hot showers and a well-deserved lunch or, if the weather is particularly good, you might stop for a swim and perhaps an 'asado' by the river. The afternoon to relax, walk, fish or ride again. Dinner and night base camp. (B,L,D)

**Day 5** A leisurely day to enjoy and explore the area around base camp. You might ride out after breakfast, to check the herd of horses or ride to a local estancia where gauchos make raw hide tack in the traditional way, stopping for lunch by one of the lakes or heading back to base for a long lunch and siesta. After lunch there's plenty of time to ride again or to relax, swim or walk - with 2 long days ahead its good chance for 'R&R' in this gorgeous peaceful setting. Dinner and night at base camp. (B,L,D)

**Day 6** Breakfast whilst packhorses are loaded, then pack saddlebags with all you need for the next two nights and mount up to head into the mountains. The route today includes some spectacular scenery, wonderful views of volcanoes across the border in Chile and perhaps a chance to see some of the area's plentiful, but shy, wildlife - otter, huemul (deer), the rare and tiny pudu deer, guanaco, mara (a sturdy relative of the guinea pig, cont.

## ITINERARY cont.

**Day 6 cont** also known as the Patagonian hare), parakeets and condors. There will be a stop for a picnic lunch before riding on in the afternoon to the second fly camp, set up ahead at a remote spot on land owned by Felipe Chandia, a local gaucho whose family have farmed here in a way that hasn't changed for generations. Dinner and night Felipe's fly camp. (B,L,D)



**Day 7** Scrambled eggs and bacon for breakfast in camp before riding on to Felipe's homestead, at the edge of the forest and close to the shores of Lake Traful. After about 4 hours riding arrive at the homestead where Felipe's wife Marta is preparing a delicious lunch. In terms of the 'gaucho experience' this day, amongst the barns and corrals of the old farmstead, is about as authentic and immersive as it gets. The afternoon to relax, walk or ride along the lake and swim before a delicious asado dinner, a traditional "al asador" (Argentine Lamb). Night at Felipe's. (B,L,D)

**Day 8** Breakfast and then a 20 minute walk to the beach, where you say farewell to the team and meet the boat which will take you across the lake to Villa Traful where your luggage and a mini-bus are waiting. A drive of about 1 ½ hours to Bariloche airport to meet flights back to Buenos Aires (not included) departing around 14.00-15.00 and onward journey (B)





Please note Ride rates are quoted in USD. The sterling price will be the equivalent sterling rate using the USD/sterling exchange rate in force when you book/pay. (Rates valid to March 2026)

### Patagonia Adventure: 7 nights - USD 7000 per person

Rate **INCLUDES 7 nights** twin / double camping accommodation, all riding, guiding and back up, meals (lunch first day to breakfast last day), local drinks (pisco sours, beer, spirits, wine and some soft drinks), tea, coffee, camping equipment (including sleeping bags where required), laundry service and all road / boat transfers within itinerary.

Note - A service charge of USD 175 per week will be added to your invoice to cover staff tips.

Rate **EXCLUDES** International and domestic flights and taxes, any accommodation in Buenos Aires or outside ride itinerary, personal medical / travel insurance (which **you must** have with cover to ride), any visa fees, optional activities such as fishing and fishing licences and personal items such as telephone calls.

**Single Supplement** Accommodation is limited and rates assume twin / double share. Single tents are occasionally possible for single travellers at a supplement but this depends on group numbers as space is very limited. Please note there is no supplement if you book alone but you must be willing to share with another guest of the same sex if necessary.

### 2025-2026 Dates

17th to 24th February 2026

Other dates sometimes available on request for private groups



## FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INFORMATION

British Airways currently have daily flights from London to Buenos Aires (touching down in Rio de Janeiro), usually leaving London Heathrow at about 22.00 arriving Buenos Aires at about 11.00 the next day. Iberia and Aerolineas Argentinas also have daily flights from London to Buenos Aires with a change in Madrid. Other options include LATAM, Air France and Lufthansa, or via the USA. Fares start at about £900 per person economy return London to Buenos Aires although this will vary depending on the carrier, date required, availability and how long in advance you book. Please call us for more flight information 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).

Domestic flights are best booked in conjunction with international tickets. For the domestic flights Buenos Aires to San Martin & Bariloche to Buenos Aires budget around \$600 USD return although you always need to confirm on booking. Meeting and transfers in San Martin / to Bariloche are usually arranged to combine with the following Aerolineas Argentinas flights:

IN: departs Buenos Aires AEP 11:50 / arrives San Martin de los Andes CPC 14:10

OUT: Departs Bariloche BRC 14:30 / arrives Buenos Aires AEP 16:40

NB Aerolineas change timings quite regularly

***IMPORTANT Please check with us before booking domestic flights as we try to co-ordinate so that everyone is on the same flight.***

## GENERAL VISA & HEALTH INFORMATION

NB this is a brief outline - further information will be sent to you if you make a confirmed booking)

**Visas** If you hold a full British Passport and are visiting Argentina as a tourist for less than 90 months, you do not need to arrange a visa in advance although visa requirements are always subject to change and you should always check up to date requirements before you travel

**Health** No inoculations are required as a condition of entry into Argentina from the UK and Europe. The TravelHealthPro website (NaTHNaC) recommends you ensure you are up to date with Tetanus. For some travelers (normally if traveling around or longer stay), inoculation against Typhoid, Hepatitis A and B and perhaps Rabies may be suggested. You should visit your GP or a travel clinic for qualified medical advice about 4 weeks before departure.

(DRAFT 25/07/2025)

