RIDE WORLD WIDE
ARGENTINA
ESTANCIA LA ROSITA, CORRIENTES 2027

RIDE INFORMATION

Estancia La Rosita is in Argentine Mesopotamia in the north east of the country, an area rich in history and legend, with terrain that is vividly different from the vast windswept expanses of Patagonia or the rolling hills of the Sierras Chicas. Semi-tropical and ringing with the song of frogs, Corrientes is a landscape of extensive grassland liberally sprinkled with water meadows, domain of the capybara (the giant guinea pig like creatures of the South American wetlands), where cattle and horses can wade up to their bellies. This is still a place where the gaudily-garbed gaucho lives on horseback - and there is a saying “One gaucho Correntino is equal to ten from the rest of the country”. As well as being Jesuit country, Corrientes is steeped in the myths of the indigenous Guarani people. It is also birthplace of rather more tangible legends such as the Argentine hero Jose de San Martín, one of the Liberators of Spanish South America and reputedly, of Gauchito Gil, an Argentine folk hero, a man so famous that not only are there numerous scarlet roadside shrines in his honour, but also a brand of the herbal tea, 'mate', a tradition in itself, named after him. Estancia La Rosita is owned and run by Fernando Landgraf and his family and has been part of his maternal family estate for generations. The estancia was built in the last century in typically Corrientes style with a low roof and wide terrace, surrounded by lush garden. It is set in 7000 acres populated by cattle, horses, wildlife such as capybara and caiman and prolific birdlife. Retaining the authentic flavour of Corretino estancia living, the estancia is simple but comfortable and above all, the hospitality is terrific. Passionate about the land he grew up in, Fernando delights in telling his guests stories of the area and the local 'estancieros', most of whom seem to be extended family.



DATES

Stays at La Rosita can be arranged for anything from 2 nights to 2 weeks pretty much year round (although December to February is often hot and humid in Corrientes) and a minimum of 6 to 7 nights to ensure you get the most from your visit. Progressive ‘Gaucho Rides’ are run from set dates but otherwise stays at the Estancia are organised on request. Please contact us to check availability. If travelling to Argentina directly before your stay, we strongly recommend at least a night in Buenos Aires before taking the overnight bus to Esquina.

HORSES

There are around 120 horses at La Rosita, including breeding mares and youngsters, with about 50 specially selected for guest use. Most are Criollo crosses mixed with quarter horse and thoroughbred of around 15-16hh. The majority are bred for working cattle, but with polo also in mind and they are agile and sensible, yet also extremely responsive, athletic and forward going making them great fun to ride. The horses are ridden western style and are used to neck reining, going best when ridden with a loose, relaxed contact with the mouth.

TACK

The horse are prepared for you by the gauchos and the tack is typically Argentinian, a local variation of the traditional Argentine gaucho 'recardo' saddle topped with a thick sheepskin, designed for comfort for both horse and rider over long distance. Saddle-bags are carried by the gauchos / provided for longer rides.





RIDING

Riding from La Rosita is flexible and arranged to suit but there are generally morning and afternoon rides out to explore the estancia and surrounding area (there are many different routes), informal polo chukkas for those who wish, as well as opportunities to help the gauchos work cattle and horses. Stock work is a central feature and you are encouraged to try your hand at whatever task is to be carried out that day. The colourful gauchos love to show off their skills and are delighted if you join in - however inexpertly! Riding hours are flexible and with the vast flat landscape to ride across, including water meadows, long straight sandy tracks, native woodland and grassland - there is excellent going for fast riding in every direction. A race with a ñandu (or rhea - the South American ostrich) is always huge fun. The progressive 'Gaucho Ride' follows a traditional cattle droving route through southern Corrientes, riding from one working estancia to the next, averaging 20 miles a day, a good proportion of which may be done at the easy loping canter for which the criollo horse is known. To allow for a fresh horse each day, spare horses accompany the group, running loose alongside. Estancia La Rosita sleeps a maximum of 12 guests but groups are often less and when riding on the Estancia, riders can easily be split according to ability. Rides are lead by Fernando, your host, usually with one gaucho helper for every three or so riders.

WEIGHT LIMIT

There is a rider weight limit of about 95kgs / 15 stone but if your weight is close to this, please contact us to check suitable horses are available (some heavier experienced riders may also be taken by prior arrangement).

PACE

When riding on the Estancia, the pace can be varied to suit. The going is perfectly suited to fast riding with expansive open landscapes and wide sand tracks but the riding can also be leisurely and relaxed for those who prefer. On Gaucho Rides, there are super opportunities to canter every day, though in places the native woodland is fairly dense meaning the pace has to be more measured - you are free to move on where the going allows and there are often energetic canters across open water meadows.



RIDING EXPERIENCE

With a good selection of fun, forward going horses and lots of open, varied going, riding at Estancia La Rosita is a super choice for those who like to move on. It is excellent for intermediate riders and above who are comfortable, relaxed and secure in the saddle at a walk, trot and fast canter - although the choice of horses and flexible riding arrangements mean less experienced riders can also be well catered for. Gaucho Rides follow a set route with some long riding days and to join these you need to be confident and secure at a canter, with a group of horses, and of riding for 5 or 6 hours on consecutive days. The going on and around the estancia includes open grassy plains, broad tracks through eucalypt plantations as well as more sinuous routes through smaller native woodland, with rivers and lagoons to cross so it always helps to be used to riding over varied terrain. If you do not ride regularly at home we strongly recommend you accustom yourself to the time you will spend in the saddle with regular training.

TERRAIN

This is cattle country with sprawling vistas and open skies. While riding from the estancia and on the Gaucho Ride you cover a range of terrain, most of which is flat or rolling. The majority is excellent for fast riding with few natural hazards such as holes or stones. There are extensive water meadows, lagoons to wade across, open pampa, forests and native woodland, and it is mostly sandy underfoot.

NON-RIDERS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

As well as riding, La Rosita is a very welcoming destination for non-riders and whilst there, various optional activities are possible. Boat trips to explore the islands on the Corrientes and Parana rivers and to watch the sunset can be arranged (extra charge) and the Esquina area, at the confluence of 3 rivers, is well known for its fishing, which is possible year round except November (with September, October, part of December and January to April recommended). It is best known for Dorado as well as pirhana-like ‘’Pacu’’ (ray finned catfish) and Surubi (a striking fresh water catfish) but there are various other species that make good sport whether fishing the rivers or casting in the estancia lagoons. Visits to a rural town close by to attend “carreras de cuadreras” (typical country races of 400mts) and regional fiestas are other colourful excursions - or you might want to experience a Correntino cattle auction, take tango or regional cooking classes - all of which can be organized for an extra charge. There is even a casino in nearby Esquina. Due to the sparse population, the lack of intensive agriculture and the lush growing conditions, there is plenty of wildlife such as ñandú, capybaras (the world’s largest rodent), foxes, hares, cayman, otters, turtles and the bird watching is spectacular with the marshes and rivers attracting ducks and waders and the tropical vegetation hosting parrots and numerous colourful birds.





ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation at La Rosita itself is quaint, traditional and comfortable. A family home, the estancia has a cosy, relaxed and enchanting atmosphere, and Fernando, his family and staff will make you feel very welcome. Guest accommodation is in 6 twin guest rooms, each with its own bathroom in 2 traditionally roofed single storey houses surrounded by a lush jungle garden with a seasonal outdoor pool (a simple, over-ground pool, filled naturally so availability depends on water levels; it is usually open from mid-October to March) and sun deck. Guests also have free use of the drawing room in the main house, for example to meet in for drinks before dinner which is waiter-served and eaten family style at a long table by candle light. On Gaucho Rides, you also stay at four other local estancias, each unique and providing comfortable guest accommodation. Standards vary a little and, depending on group size, bathrooms may be shared on one or two nights.

MEALS

Food is an important part of a stay at La Rosita, where meals combine European and traditional Correntino dishes. Breakfast is generally fairly light, bread with ham, cheese or jam, scrambled eggs and coffee and tea as well as juices. When staying at the estancia, lunch is generally served on the veranda and on Gaucho Rides, you will stop during the riding day for a picnic or barbecue, brought by a back-up vehicle, or at a local ‘pulperia’. Dinner is traditionally a large meal in Argentina and generally eaten late - never before 9pm and sometimes **cont.**

MEALS cont.

not until 11pm. Argentinean beef is justly known for its excellence and always popular, often served as part of a traditional 'asado' (barbecue) along with chorizo or lamb, accompanied by fresh salads, bread and cheeses, washed down with Argentinean wine. Other traditional dishes include Chicharron, (a plait of beef or lamb), guizo (a thick soup cooked with maize or pasta usually with meat as well), torreja (leek and rice patties) and chipa (hot fresh baked tapioca and cheese balls, light and fluffy and perfect with a cold beer before dinner). Pudding generally pays homage to the Argentine sweet tooth, with such favourites as pastelitos (sweet pastries) and dulce de maní (fudge with peanuts). Argentinean wine, included with lunch and dinner, is excellent. Vegetarians will be catered for as far as possible but please give us prior notice of any special dietary requirements.





WEATHER

Temperate subtropical weather makes La Rosita a good place to visit year round, with average winter day-time temperatures around 16°C. However heat and humidity in midsummer (December, January and February) combine to make for uncomfortable riding and we suggest avoiding these months. Rain is possible at any time, although showers are generally short-lived.

WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a list when you book.





ITINERARIES

Gaucho Ride Itinerary - The following is an example itinerary including overnight sleeper bus transfers. Please note that it is just an example and the day by day arrangements, route ridden and estancias (or order in which you visit them) may be altered by your guide. We are happy to book extra nights in Buenos Aires or at La Rosita before or after the ride:

[Travel to Buenos Aires]
Day 1 - In the early evening, make your way to Retiro central bus station in Buenos Aires for the overnight bus (with flat bed sleeper seats) to Esquina in Corrientes province, usually departing about 20.00.

Day 2 - Arrive in the town of Esquina at about 05.30. You will be met on arrival and transferred by car to Estancia la Rosita (about 30 mins). A chance to rest and then breakfast before meeting the horses and gauchos and heading off on an introductory ride to try them and the local riding style. Return to the estancia for a leisurely lunch and siesta. Then you might spend the afternoon riding alongside the gauchos as they gather up cattle and drive them back to the yards. Perhaps, a lasso demonstration and watch or to try your hand at close quarter cattle work which could include vaccinating, drenching, branding and general husbandry. Then return the cattle to their grazing grounds before riding back to the estancia for a drink on the veranda. Later, a candlelit dinner in the dining room of the 19th century part of the estancia. (B,L,D)

GAUCHO RIDE ITINERARY cont.

Day 3 - Breakfast and spend the morning working cattle, returning to the estancia for lunch and a siesta. In the afternoon you set off riding to another estancia, Laguna Limpia (meaning “clear lake”), which used to be one of the Bovril farms. About 2 ½ to 3 hours ride t reach the estancia in time for tea. Then time for showers, drinks and dinner. Night at Estancia Laguna Limpia. (B,L,D)

Day 4 - Breakfast before heading off for a longer day in the saddle, with plenty of time to adjust to the local way of riding. Lunch may be a typical Argentine asado (barbecue) on the shores of a lagoon, followed by an equally traditional siesta in a hammock in the shade. The afternoon’s ride finishes at the end of a tree lined drive at estancia La Amistad, a charming family cattle breeding ranch. On arrival at La Amistad a welcome cold drink before enjoying a massage should you wish! Dinner and the night at La Amistad. (Approx. 5 ½ hours riding). (B,L,D)





Day 5 - Breakfast and mount up on new horses, after running loose alongside you yesterday these are fresh and perfect for another energetic day’s riding. Yesterday’s horses enjoy their rest as they lope along with the group as you pass through and between lagoons inhabited by alligators and capybara. Perhaps have lunch and siesta at an old cattle station before continuing on to the next estancia, the aptly named Buena Vista, a splendid colonial house of late XIX century and built on the only hillock for miles. It has a delightful garden filled with lush tropical plants and an enticing swimming pool. Time for a swim (if warm enough) before drinks on the veranda and a good dinner. (Approx. 5 hours riding). (B,L,D)

Day 6 - A delicious breakfast then set off riding across the plains, there are small clumps of trees and shallow lakes, a natural parkland. Stop for lunch and then a further 2 hour ride in the afternoon. Your next accommodation, Estancia La Pelada, comes into view, situated in a beautiful spot on the banks of Corrientes River. The high sand banks here provide an elevation unusual to Corrientes and the view, with natural forest on the far side of the river, and parrots and ibis flying to and fro, is memorable. There should be time for a boat trip on the river before dinner and night at La Pelada. (Approx. 4 hours riding). (B,L,D)



GAUCHO RIDE ITINERARY cont.

Day 7 - Breakfast on the veranda, watching the beautiful 'cardinals' and other birds, while the horses are tacked up and brought from the stables. Then set off on a morning Wildlife ride, looking out for capybyras, deer and alligators. You may also see storks and herons as well as a multitude of smaller birds. Lunch at one of La Pelada's cattle corrals, then, after a siesta an afternoon ride of 1 ½ hours, ending at a cattle loading ramp. Here the horses will be loaded onto a truck while riders take the minibus, both heading back to La Rosita. A hot shower before a special dinner followed by musical entertainment with renditions of the 'chamame', the typical Corrientes. Night at La Rosita (Approx. 3-4 hours riding). (B,L,D)







Day 8 - A last morning with a choice of activities, or you can just relax at the estancia. In the afternoon there will be a final ride. Return to the estancia for drinks and a farewell dinner. In the late evening transfer to Esquina for the overnight bus back to Buenos Aires. (B,L,D)

Day 9 - Arrive Buenos Aires at about 08.00. Own arrangements for a taxi to Ezeiza International airport for your flight home (or onward travel).

Estancia Based Itinerary - Stays based at La Rosita are flexible and tailored to suit. Below is an example itinerary including overnight bus transfers and 7 full days at the estancia:

[Travel to Buenos Aires]
Day 1 - In the early evening, make your way to Retiro central bus station in Buenos Aires for the overnight bus (with flat bed sleeper seats) to Esquina in Corrientes province, usually departing about 20.00.

Day 2 - Arrive in the town of Esquina at about 05.30. You will be collected from the bus station in Esquina and driven half an hour or so to Estancia La Rosita. A chance to rest and settle in then breakfast before heading off on your first morning ride. Lunch and a siesta before an afternoon ride, perhaps watch the sunset from the shores of a lagoon. Return to the estancia with time to relax before a pre-dinner drink on the veranda and a delicious three course dinner. The night at the estancia. (B,L,D)



ESTANCIA BASED RIDE cont.

Day 3 - Breakfast and the morning spent riding alongside the gauchos as they gather up cattle and drive them back to the yards around the estancia in preparation for the afternoon's work. Lunch and a siesta, then there may be a lasso demonstration and the opportunity to try your hand at close quarter cattle work which could include vaccinating, drenching, branding and general husbandry. Then return the cattle to their grazing grounds before riding back to the estancia. Dinner and the night at La Rosita. (B,L,D)

Day 4, 5, 6 & 7 - Four full days based at La Rosita with the option to ride out morning and afternoon, and join the gauchos with any cattle work. Perhaps try one the best known gaucho games "carrera de sortijas", a rigorous test of eye hand co-ordination and one done on a galloping horse. You may want to take a break from riding; perhaps take a boat trip to explore the islands on the Paraná and Corrientes Rivers (additional cost or try some fishing for the wonderful Dorado (additional cost). Local fiestas, races and rodeo are regular occurrences so there might well be opportunities to visit these events - and there is always time to relax in the garden. Nights at Estancia La Rosita (B,L,D)



Day 8 - A good breakfast to fuel you for a morning of stick and ball polo followed by a match. In the afternoon perhaps help the gauchos with cattle work for the last time and enjoy a final splash in a lagoon before returning to the Estancia at sunset. After dinner transfer to Esquina for the overnight bus back to Buenos Aires. (B,L,D)

Day 9 - Arrive Buenos Aires at about 08.00. Own arrangements for a taxi to Ezeiza International airport for your flight home (or onward travel).







DATES & RATES 2027

<u>Please note</u> that 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.

Gaucho Rides (8 nights including overnight travel from / to Buenos Aires / La Rosita)
20th to 28th March
8th to 16th April
5th to 13th May
26th September to 4th October
24th October to 1st November
21st to 29th November
Rate - USD 4300 per person (single supplement USD 670)

Estancia Stay (8 nights including overnight travel from / to Buenos Aires / La Rosita)
Dates on request
Rate - USD 2020 per person (single supplement USD 490)

Rates above **INCLUDE** 2 nights overnight sleeper bus travel Buenos Aires to Esquina, transfers between Esquina and Estancia La Rosita, 6 nights twin estancia accommodation, all riding with guiding and equipment, meals from breakfast Day 2 to dinner Day 8 and house /local drinks at the estancias.
Rates above **EXCLUDE** International flights to Buenos Aires and taxes, airport transfers and accommodation in Buenos Aires, dinner on day 1, extra non-included excursions from the estancia (eg boat trips, fishing and visits to local events), personal medical / travel insurance (which you must have), any visa fees and any tips you may wish to leave.
(NOTE: Prices include return bus tickets which may be subject to change due to fuel prices)

Estancia stays (minimum 3 days) - on request.
Rate - USD 270 per person per day based on 2 sharing. Single supplement USD 70 per day.
Travel from Buenos Aires NOT included.

Single accommodation - Rates quoted above assume twin shared accommodation and if you are booking alone, the single supplement is charged to book a single room. If you are booking alone but prepared to share with another same sex guest, we will try and find a sharer for you and if we find someone the supplement will be refunded.



FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INFORMATION

The best International Airport to use is Buenos Aires Ezeiza (EZE). British Airways currently have daily flight departures from London Heathrow, usually leaving Heathrow at about 21:00 arriving Buenos Aires EZE at about 08:30 the next day. Iberia, Aerolineas Argentinas and Air Europa also have daily flights from London via Madrid and there are various other options via Europe (eg Air France or Lufthansa) or the USA. Fares start at around £700 -£800 per person economy return London to Buenos Aires although this varies according to dates, airline and how far in advance you book. Please call us for more flight information or if you would like a fare quote (our ATOL number for flight sales is 6213).

From Buenos Aires you can travel to Estancia La Rosita by the very comfortable overnight sleeper bus which leaves from the Retiro central bus station in Buenos Aires to Esquina (7-8 hours). We will book bus tickets for you (longer itineraries above include the bus fare which is approx. USD150 return although always subject to change; you should confirm when you book).
On arrival in Esquina you will be met at the bus station and driven 30 mins or so to the estancia.

It is also possible to arrange a charter flight from Buenos Aires San Fernando airport (about 40 minutes from the city) to Esquina. The flight takes about 2 ½ hours and cost is approximately USD 1800 each way (based on Cessna 182, taking 3 passengers).

We can suggest / help book hotel nights In Buenos Aires and there are many different options. For the more budget conscious we often suggest the A Hotel - a small, friendly boutique style hotel in the Recoleta district, which is central and safe, with shops and restaurants nearby. Coppola's Jardin Escondida is another good option, a higher standard and in the Palermo district. Top of the range is the Alvear Palace, also in Recoleta, very grand with ornate rooms, considered by many to be Buenos Aires best 5* hotel.

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 for less than 3 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 jabs are required as a condition of entry from the UK and Europe. The TravelHealthPro website (NaTHNaC) recommends most travellers are vaccinated against Tetanus and Hepatitis A. If you are not up to date with these you should visit your GP or a travel clinic about 4 weeks before departure. Though if you are planning to travel on to Iguazu Falls it is recommended that you have a yellow fever inoculation and Malaria is present in some parts of Corrientes on the border with Paraguay & Brazil (though not at Iguazu).

(DRAFT 08/09/2026)

