



HORSEBACK RIDING PROGRAM : 6 days / 5 nights

DAY 1 BARILOCHE – MT. TRONADOR

Arrival in Bariloche. Meeting at the airport and transfer to 3*Pampa Linda Mountain Lodge, 49 miles SW from downtown Bariloche and 5 miles from the base of Mt.Tronador (highest peak in the area, bordering Chile and an extinct volcano of 11,722 feet). This beautiful scenic drive parallels the entire length of Gutierrez and Mascardi lakes and follows the north fork of the Rio Manso to its source, with wonderful views over Mt. Catedral, Mt. Bonete and Mt. Cresta de Gallo.

After lunch we will start the first ride: Ventisquero Negro. This is a retreating glacier fed with the constant and rumbling ice falls from a 700 mts wall. The ice cap on Mt Tronador is between 60 and 90 mts thick, we will see it all the time as we ride along the Manso River and its rocky beaches.

DAY 2 LAGUNA ILON

This is a dream lagoon, which mirrors the elegant silhouette of Mount Tronador, beautiful sandy beach and a remote location. On this full day horseback ride to Laguna Ilón (a 3 hour ride) we will twice cross Rio Manso and badlands, then we will climb a narrow trail through a dense coihue forest and once we reach the right altitude, we will ride across green and wet pampas to arrive at a small and shallow lagoon (the warmest water body in the area) After lunch we will go on for an hour to Mirada del Doctor. We will follow a narrow and treacherous ridge with spectacular views over unbelievable valleys and lakes (Lago Frey, Brazo Tristeza in the Nahuel Huapi and Laguna Ilón. From here we can usually see Condors flying over the area, either in pairs or alone. We will return to the Lodge by the same way.

DAY 3 CASTAÑO OVERO GLACIER

After breakfast we will start the ride to Castaño Overo glacier. Following the old road, after 1.8 miles we will cross the Castaño Overo river with a dense lenga and coihue and colihue cane forest (some species dating from more than one thousand years – some 3 m. in diameter and about 25 m high).

The ride amid the forest hides this amazing bright white and blue ice wall and a 500m cascade crawling down this hanging glacier. Behind, we will see the summits of Mt. Tronador.

As the glacier advances, some seracs are pushed into the void. These ice falls rumble in the walls of the valley, therefore, the mountain is called “Tronador”, which stands for “rumbler”. If we are patient, we may witness the fall of these massive chunks of ice.

We will return to the Lodge at around 2 PM. We will have the rest of the afternoon to relax or hike in the nearby area. We suggest a short hike to “Saltillo de las Nalcas” cascade, a magnificent cirque ringed with a score of waterfalls. The resulting humidity has created true hanging gardens on the terraced wall of the cirque. Yellow fairy slippers, daisies, chickweed, red and yellow monkey flower, red fuchsias, and wild strawberries are among the species to be recognized.

DAY 4 CERRO VOLCANICO

Ride to cerro Volcánico. This is a very long ride crossing forests and up ridges. We will start a demanding but highly rewarding day! We will climb –on horseback- riding through coihue woods up to the Laguna La Rosada (an open area where we will take a short rest) After that, we will start finding lengas, in the Fall, the color of these trees will be amazing. The lenga is a tree that loses its leaves in the winter while the coihue remains green all the year round. We will ride across some pampas until we get to the base of the rocky red cone of Cerro Volcánico. We leave behind our horses and start a hike to the summit with an incredible lookout point. The landscape is spectacular with views over the whole Andean range such as the Osorno volcano, the Puntiagudo Mount (both in Chile), Lake Fonck and Mallin Chileno and the spikes in Cerro Catedral. After having a picnic, we will return to the lodge along the same way.

DAY 5 VALLE DEL ALERCE

Morning at leisure to rest and enjoy reading. Lunch at the Hostería. Afternoon ride to Alerce Glacier Waterfall (Alerce Valley).

The name has its origin in a tree species. These trees are 30 or 40 mts tall and have a pointy shape. They have a unique spongy, reddish and thick bark. There are only a few alerces in the area it mainly grows on the other side of the Andes. In Chile its wood is used for building houses and wooden roof tiles.

The ride continues along the Alerce River, which we will cross several times. This river has calm waters and emerald green color. The valley is narrow and well protected from the wind and hosts several types of birds such as woodpeckers and kingfishers. The humidity is right for bright green mosses and a variety of wild mushrooms. Guided by its sound, we will find a magnificent waterfall, part of this beautiful Andean landscape.

DAY 6 PAMPA LINDA- BARILOCHE

We can leave Pampa Linda either before 9 AM or after 4 PM as the road is used in one-way direction at certain times according to the National Park regulations.

Optional: If departure is in the morning, we can organize an activity on that extra day, such as rafting on the Manso Inferior River (grade II and III) or a day at the beautiful spot at Los Baqueanos, where you can enjoy a horseback ride and/or a kayaking excursion and a delicious barbecue in front of Lago Gutierrez.

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