



ExChile Greatest Playground on Earth!

2016-2017 Season

Last Update: 29 June 2016

URL Link: <http://www.exchile.com/HorsebackRidingLodge.html#lite>

Trip Name: Futaleufu Riding Week Lite (4 days)

Group Contact:
Phone:
Email:
Guests:
Comments:

Overview:

This is a series of 4 spectacular one day horseback rides through ,rivers, old growth forests, mountain overlooks of the pristine and remote Futaleufu River Valley. Each day you are exposed to Patagonia nature in its wild splendor, pristine rivers and exotic forests and Condors. Each night you return to your comfortable cabin at eco-camp Tres Monjas or our luxury CondorNest ranch in a mountain meadow in the Andes. Cocktails and meals are prepared. You have the choice of which rides you want to do. You will experience the Chilean equestrian culture in pristine nature without sacrificing comfort. Grab your Spanish phrase book and get ready for the cultural adventure of a lifetime!

This cultural and natural experience can not be matched anywhere. The location of where you are staying is more than part of the fun. This trip is the REAL DEAL a trip back in time. The valley contains lots of exciting history from the days the pioneers settled it and many are still alive. As your horseback riding vacation progresses you will realize that you are getting to understand this remote section of Patagonia and its amazing people.

[Overview Slide Shows and Video Gallery](#)

[Futaleufú Riding Week Video](#)

Day by Day:

Day 1 Friday: Depart your home town:

Fly on an overnight flight to Buenos Aires Argentina. Welcome to the warmth of the Southern Hemisphere in summer.

Day 2 Saturday: Travel to Trevelin, Patagonia Argentina

Early morning arrival in Buenos Aires, change airports and connect with a flight to Esquel, Argentina. Take a taxi (45 minutes) to Trevelin, Argentina, a charming mountain village gateway just 45 minutes from the border and the Futaleufu River in Chile. Check into the hotel Casa de Piedra and walk to one of several superb restaurants. Unwind, relax, and get a good night's sleep.

Day 3 Sunday: Ride to Benedicto's Ranch

After a relaxing night's sleep at a hotel in the quaint Welch town of Trevelin deep in Patagonia Argentina, we begin this exciting trip with a quick shuttle across the Chilean/Argentinean border and into the Futaleufu Valley. Upon arrival in Futaleufu, we will walk to our local ranch for an introduction to the art of horseback riding in Patagonia and the Chilean Corralero horse. We will also introduce you to the Chilean saddles and tack make sure all fits well and that your mount is suitable. We begin the first ride by heading downstream through green rolling hills and ranch land. Within several miles we enter a deep black rock gorge. Our trail is cut into the side of the canyon, giving a bird's eye view of the restless, radiant turquoise Futaleufu River below. Several miles later the gorge opens into the remote Las Escalas Valley. We will ride across this enchanting valley and enter an old growth, temperate forest of Coigüe trees. Coming out of the forest, the ride leads us to a 136-acre working ranch set deep in the forest, overlooking the river valley below. Apart from the spectacular views, this self-sustainable ranch, without road access or electricity is a marvel in its own right. There, you will be greeted by our host at a rustic wood-crafted ranch that functions completely off the grid. You will get the full tour around the ranch, before sitting down to a feast of traditional Chilean cuisine. After dinner you can watch the owner spin his own wool and browse through his hand-made products, before settling into your comfortable sleeping quarters.

Day 4 Monday: Ride to Huemul National Reserve to the Tres Monjas Eco-Camp

After a full breakfast, say goodbye to your Chilean hosts as we ready for the next part of our Futaleufu Valley riding week. This Patagonia riding day takes us upstream to a charming valley that contains the endangered Huemul; a small deer-like animal that resembles the fabled jackelope of the American intermountain west. This animal is rarer than any species will encounter while trekking in Torres del Paine. In order to protect its dwindling numbers, the Republic of Chile has created a National Reserve in this spectacular valley. The Futaleufu National Reserve, managed by CONAF, boasts a surface area of 12,065 hectares (28,956 acres). It was created to protect the Chilean cedar tree species (*Austrocedrus chilensis*) and the Huemul (*Hipocalemus bisulcus*). The reserve is completely undeveloped except for the signs announcing your entry into the protected area. It is a rare treat to spot one of these endangered animals. After a full day of riding we finish at the Tres Monjas Eco-Camp to enjoy a warm night's sleep in comfortable, homemade beds as you look forward to a bountiful breakfast and your ride to camp the following morning.

Day 5 Tuesday: Riding - To the Terminator Rapid

Today you can choose how far you want to ride. You will ride downstream through open meadows looking down on the Futaleufu River. Our destination is the Terminator Rapid where we can enjoy lunch on spot made smooth rapids by the river. Here you will get to see one of the best waves for surfing on the river, and perhaps even have a demonstration from a passing kayaker. The power and beauty of this river will awaken your primal energies and put you in the mood for more adventures. After a relaxing picnic, we will head back to Campo Tres Monjas another fantastic meal.

Day 6 Wednesday: Ride to Lago Lonconao/Border to Trevelin, Argentina

Awake this morning and enjoy the last breakfast in Futaleufu! Today we'll get all of our luggage packed up before the trip's last ride. We horseback ride toward the backside of Lago Lonconao through the spectacular glacier-ringed Rio Azul Valley, arguably the climax of beauty in the valley. Here we will ride down along the Rio Azul towards the backside of Lago Lonconao. This ride is spectacular; beautiful vistas, all but no inhabitants...everything you imagine when picturing Patagonia! Our vehicles will be waiting at the end of today's trek. Our luggage will join us as we make our way toward the border on our way to Trevelin. Check into your hotel, take a shower and change clothes before enjoying your last night in Patagonia. There are a handful of outstanding and reasonably priced restaurants in Trevelin that we can recommend. Relax, recover and look back on the exciting week of horseback riding before heading back the following morning.

Day 7 Thursday: Return to Capital City

You wake up in Argentina, there is plenty of time for breakfast and relaxation before you take taxi from your hotel to the airport in Esquel. Back to Buenos Aires and connect on to an international flight to your home country. If you are departing to Bariloche you can pick up a morning bus from Esquel or arrange a private transfer direct from your hotel.

Day 8 Friday: Return home

Accommodations:

[Remote Ranches](#)

[Eco Camp Campo Tres Monjas](#)

Scheduled Departure Dates:

Price per Person : \$1530.00 USD Eco-Campo Tres Monjas

Price per Person : \$2299.00 USD Private CondorNest Ranch/Private Chef

[Activity Calendars](#)

Special Flexibilities: Exchile will be flexible to make your trip a total success. The actual program for your custom trip may vary according to the desires and skill level of your group, weather, or other factors. Patagonia has constantly changing weather patterns that might affect what day is best for a certain activity. If a certain part of your trip is not possible due to danger risks and weather extremes, our experienced guide staff will work with you to figure out the best possible option to substitute for the weather complications. If you have any concerns, please feel free to ask us more about the situations and what is guaranteed on the trip.

Included: Your described trip, guiding, instruction, activity equipment, local transportation, shuttles, all meals, wine with dinner, accommodations at our eco-camps, cabins, ranches or lodges, from your trip pick up point to your trip drop off point.

See the packing list of your activity, for the specific clothing that is required.

Not Included: En-route transportation, lodging, and food from your home town to the border with Chile and Argentina or other trip pick-up point. Laundry services, massage, additional alcohol are available but not included. You can reserve on our web page a pre-trip and post-trip hotel in Trevelin that includes the shared transfer to and from the border.

You can also ask our travel agent to prepay private ground transports between airport and from the airport to Trevelin, for an additional charge. Expediciones Chile is not financially responsible for your travel complications getting to your trip pick up point and from the drop off point, HOWEVER, we will be relentless allies in offering our services to help solve any issues that you may encounter.

Trip Summary:

Season: November to May

Experience Needed: None Familiarity helpful

Physical Challenge: Moderate High

Cultural Experience: Maximum

Nature Experience: Maximum

Comfort Rating: High

Max Trip Size: 6

Min Trip Size: 2

Regions visited: Remote Patagonia Chile and Argentina

Lakes, rivers and sites: Futaleufu river, Rio Azul, Rio Espolon, Lago Lonconao, Lago Esplon, Secret Lagoon, Campo Tres Monjas, Futaleufu Chile, Trevelin Argentina.

Recommended Travel Route:

We recommend:

Fly in: Buenos Aires - Esquel Argentina.

Fly out of: Esquel - Buenos Argentina

[Your Travel Route details](#)

Lets GO!

[Hold your spot Now!](#)

Thank you,

Trip Designer: Adam Odoski & Chris Spelius

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