



ExChile - Welcome to the Greatest Playground on Earth!

2017-2018-2019 Season

Last Update: 9/7/2017 Chris

URL Link: <http://exchile.com/HorsebackRidingChileRutaArrieros.htm>

Trip Name: Pioneer Culture Horseback "Trail of the Lakes"

First Name:
Last Name:
Phone Number:
E-mail Address:
Number of People in the Group:
Comments:

Overview:
Horseback Riding in the Andes of Patagonia Chile
Horseback in Futaleufu: Pioneer Culture, "Trail of the Lakes"

[Experience Patagonia!](#) (82 secs) [Map of the Trail of the Lakes](#)

[Pioneer Trail of the Lakes](#) (1 min 46 secs)

Overview:

This Patagonia route of the cowboys along the "Trail of the Lakes" is a 4 day trail trip back in time that few people will ever have a chance to experience. It could be a life altering experience, a full on cultural journey. Experience is not needed but some previous riding is helpful. We will visit small remote working ranches, outposts, and settlements sprinkled across a landscape free of roads and any other traces of modern society in Patagonia, Chile. We will be staying each night at different ranches or cabins, all equipped with bed and linens and home-cooked meals. No wilderness camping on this trip. Our horses will carry your lunch and personal gear, but you can pack light. The accommodations are rustic country but, clean, ordered, and cozy. Our Chilean hosts are selected by Expediciones Chile because we have loved staying with them for over ten years. Our hosts will not speak English. Your guide will be Chilean, with some English knowledge. This ambiance allows for the rich cultural and language immersion that our trips are famous for. Our hosts look forward to the few visitors they receive at the remote homesites. This is a horseback riding vacation like no other. For a young family this is a true education for your kids to see another way of life!

Hearty meals served while sitting around a farmer's wood stove will give you a peak at the rare Patagonian way of life. Here, life is similar to the frontier days of the American west over 120 years ago. The cultural and natural experience cannot be matched anywhere. This vacation is the REAL DEAL. It is an insider's look at Patagonia and its people. This is a very unique horseback riding that can not be found elsewhere.

Day by Day:

Day 1 Friday: Depart your hometown
 Overnight flight to Buenos Aires, Argentina

Day 2 Saturday: Travel to Trevelin, Argentina in Patagonia

Welcome to the warmth of summer in the Southern Hemisphere with an early arrival in Buenos Aires. Change airports with a taxi or shuttle bus and catch another flight to Esquel, Argentina. Taxi 45 minutes to Trevelin, Argentina, a charming mountain village just 45 minutes from the border and from the Futaleufu River in Chile. If you prepay, ExChile can meet all of your transportation needs until we pick you up at the Argentine-Chilean border the following day. Check into the Casa de Piedra hotel and walk to one of several Argentine restaurants with the Chilean Andes in view. Unwind, relax, and get a good night's sleep before the start of your trip the next morning.

Day 3 Sunday: Village of Futaleufu to Remote Lago Las Rosas

After a relaxing night's sleep at a hotel in the quaint Welsh town of Trevelin, deep in Argentinian Patagonia, we begin this exciting trip with a taxi to the Chilean-Argentine border, where an ExChile representative meets you. We are now in the Futaleufu Valley. After you clear customs, your ExChile trip officially starts. A 15-minute drive brings us to the village of Futaleufu. Here we will meet your guides and gear up for an exciting cultural adventure in the remote Patagonian wilderness. We will head out of the village along the Rio Espolon, soon a tributary comes in, the Noreste. Here we start up the Noreste valley as we climb up a steep incline to a high valley with a series of pristine turquoise lakes. You will experience incredible views with the peak of Cerro Teta in the background. We arrive at a small off-the-grid ranch on Lago las Rosas. You will be spending the night in a rustic Patagonia ranch house on the lake. This is a cultural opportunity that could well be a highlight of your trip to Patagonia. Enjoy the Patagonian culture as few ever do.

Day 4 Monday: Lago Las Rosas to the Upper Espolon river

We will depart early in the morning, and begin our day by riding across a pure crystal clear creek coming from the high Andes that defines the border with Argentina. After the stream crossing, we ride uphill through an old growth forest up to a pass that gives us a stunning view of the mountains and lakes. We descend into the upper Espolon valley and continue up the Espolon river to our host Sergio. His ranch on a hill would be a perfect setting for a castle, but it is a humble remote rustic homestead with a regal view.

Day 5 Tuesday: Ride the forest along the shore of Lago Espolon

Today we ride past the small settlement of Espolon, visiting the off-the-grid school and a small church surrounded by remote ranches. We soon arrive at the Espolon lake, which we will see through the woods occasionally as we ride. At the end of the day we stop at a remote homestead halfway down the lake. The view across the lake is to the high snow capped mountains in a complete wilderness area that is rarely accessed by humans.

Day 6 Wednesday: Ride from the cabins to the end of the Lake and the waterfall

From the homestead on the lake we have a 6 hour ride to the far end of the lake. Here, we can visit the powerful waterfalls that define the exit of the lake. We then ride back to the village of Futaleufu along the Espolon river. We arrive in the late afternoon around 6 pm. You will have a little bit of time to change clothes and to take a small tour of Futaleufu. We make our way toward the border where your taxi awaits to take you to your hotel in Trevelin. Your trip officially ends at the border. 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 riding before heading home the following morning.

Day 7 Thursday: Return to Capital City

You wake up in Argentina, where you can eat breakfast and relax before you take a taxi from your hotel to the airport in Esquel. Return to Buenos Aires, change airports, and board your international flight home.

Day 8 Friday: Return home**Accommodations:**

[Remote Ranches](#)

[Campo Tres Monjas](#)

[CondorNest Ranch](#)

Price and Departure Dates

Length of Trip 4 Active Days:

Price: Based on 4 guests: \$1,995.00 USD

Price: Based on 2 guests: \$2,295.00 USD

Included

Your described itinerary, guiding, instruction, specialized equipment, and all transportation from your trip pick-up point to your trip drop-off point, all accommodations (RiverNest Cabins are double occupancy), all meals, and wine with dinner.

To see the gear that we provide, please check the [packing list](#) of your activity.

Multisport Choices: If you have a scheduled multisport activity, or if the river is too high to run, the group can decide to participate in the following activities: Beginning Kayaking / Inflatable Kayaking (Class II-III) / Trekking / Sea Kayaking / Mountain Biking.

Not Included

All pre and post-trip enroute transportation, food, and hotel(s).

Once you are on an ExChile trip, you should incur no extra expenses unless you'd like laundry services, massages, gifts, or alcohol beyond what is included. If you would like to add multisport activities that are not listed as options on your itinerary, we are happy to cater to your wishes, though these activities may be subject to an additional charge. These activities are Fly Fishing / Horseback Riding / Canyoning.

Contingencies

Weather: ExChile will work to make your trip a total success, though your trip itinerary may vary based on unforeseen circumstances related to weather, river levels, or to other unpredictable variables. Given that the weather in Patagonia can change, some rides may be dangerous at certain points in time. However, our experienced guide staff will work closely with you to determine the optimal substitute option, if relevant. If you have any concerns, please feel free to reach out to ask us more about potential risks and options.

Transportation: Expediciones Chile and G & G Travel and Tours are not financially responsible for travel complications associated with arriving at your trip pick-up point or returning home from the trip drop-off point. However, we will be your relentless ally, 24/7, in offering our influence to help solve any issues that you may encounter en route. This is our part of the world and we are very well connected. Our clients provide significant business for the transportation services that we recommended and they know that we aggressively represent our guests in finding solutions while they are en route to ExChile trips. We also recommend purchasing travel insurance.

Trip Summary:

Experience Needed: Experience is recommended but not necessary. May want to walk a few rougher spots.

Physical Challenge: Moderate High, prepare for 5-6 hours of riding daily.

Season: Nov, 7 to March 31, 2018

Cultural Experience: Extremely high

Nature Experience: Extremely High

Comfort Rating: Rustic Remote Ranches

Max Trip Size: 8

Min Trip Size: 4

Regions Visited: Remote Patagonia - Chile (Futaleufu) and Argentina (Trevelin)

Lakes, rivers, and sites: Rio Futaleufu, Rio Azul, Rio Espolón, Lago Lonconao, Lago Espolón, Secret Lagoon, Campo Tres Monjas

[How to get to and From Patagonia](#) (Interactive)

[Our Recommended Route](#) (Through Esquel, Argentina ; Taxi to Futaleufu)

[Executive Option](#) (Through Puerto Montt, Chile ; Charter direct to Futaleufu)

[Transit through Chile](#) (Through Puerto Montt and Chaiten, Chile ; Public bus to Futaleufu)

How to organize your en route in one step: We recommend contacting Gilda ([G & G Travel and Tours](#)) who can help arrange all en route transportation and pre- and post-trip hotels for your ExChile trip. Give her a call to compare prices, as she often beats internet fares.

Let's GO!

[Hold your spot now!](#)

Thank you,

Trip Designer: Adam Odoski and Chris Spelius

Direct line to my desk: +1.208.629.5032

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