



Information on horseback riding programs 2024-2025

Riding to deep Nibepo

From 1st November 2024 to the 31st of March 2025

4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS PROGRAM

FIXED DEPARTURES:
December: 8, 15 and 22
January: 5, 10 and 19
February: 2, 9 and 16
March: 13, 20 and 27

Puesto la Rosada + Hito internacional + Puesto Cachorro + Puesto Laguna 3 de abril
It is suggested to reserve a night in the main house after the ride.

3 DAYS / 2 NIGHTS PROGRAM

FIXED DEPARTURES ONLY NOVEMBER 1st, 8th, 15th.
Puesto Cachorro + Puesto Laguna 3 de abril

2 DAYS / 1 NIGHT

PRIVATE DEPARTURES – November to March
Puesto Cachorro + Puesto Laguna 3 de abril

*Be part of landscape: woods, lakes, glaciers, refuges
Be part of deep patagonic life: a riding from outpost to outpost*

“Riding to deep Nibepo” program invites to explore on horseback the remotest corners of Estancia Nibepo Aike and Los Glaciares National Park. Places where nature is discovered in its maximum expression. A combination of Andean woodland, crystal clear lakes, high mountains, impressive skies, and glaciers. The idea is to get to where vehicles cannot reach, leaving the main buildings of the estancia behind, then climb high up and enter another world after crossing the clearing.

Get away from civilization and allow yourself to become a part of the landscape and of patagonic life. A riding experience surrounded by immensity. Meet the “puesteros”, who are in charge of each outpost. A very old job which is still very important in estancias like Nibepo Aike. Far away and long ago, when there were no roads, when the tracks and paths were only recently being marked, they had to spend nights far away from civilization to take care of cattle. Nowadays, their occupation is very similar to the “puesteros” from back then. They know the lands as no one else do.

Lodging during the ride program will be provided at typical outposts where the rangers stay in order work with the livestock. They are also a refuge for mountain climbers making a stop along the way to a peak, or a glacier.

Magnificent views of the Hidden Glaciers Frías, Gorra, Grande and Dickson will be obtained during the trip. A combination of horse-riding, hiking, and rural life that may, on certain dates, coincide with big cattle or sheep drive or work in the corrals, thus adding another ingredient to the mix.

4 days / 3 nights PROGRAM

Day 1 **Puesto La Rosada** (Only from December to March)

Early in the morning (9:00 a.m.) riders meet with the guide. After a brief explanatory talk, each rider packs their personal items for the next few days. Once everything is ready, horses are assigned and mounted. The ride begins towards the Cordón de los Cristales, which is located behind the Hostería. The higher we go, the more clearly the Argentino and Roca Lakes stand out. Once we reach the clearing, the track plunges into the Patagonian Andean woods. We pass between lenga trees and guindos [Magellan beeches], riding along old tracks where the great sheep drives used to pass. We reach a little clear land, where cows graze. There, La Rosada outpost is the home of the “puestero”, who oversees cattle and carries on the legacy of traditional rural production. He knows every single corner of this part of the land and he can count the cows with just a glance. If one had escaped, he would bring her back within a couple of minutes.

There, we have a picnic lunch. By the afternoon, we reach an historical point: the International landmark (‘32) that indicates the end the estancia and the end of Argentina. The sensation to be at the very frontiers of Patagonia is unique. It is the south of the south: wind blows and the flag waves. The landscape and its calmness never end.

Free time to explore the surroundings while dinner is being cooked over the fire. Dinner and night at La Rosada outpost.

Day 2 **Puesto Cachorro y Laguna 3 de Abril**

On coming out of the dense woodland the way opens out into the Valley of the Río Cachorro. Notros [Chilean firebush] and calafate bushes here are unusually tall. We start descending towards the lower land until we come to the riverbed. Surprise views of the Frías glacier starts to appear. Riding between rocks and pasturelands and avoiding the marshlands, we reach the corrals of the Río Cachorro outpost where the rangers might be working with the livestock.

After a picnic lunch we continue horseback riding to the 3 de Abril lagoon, a habitat of flamingos and black-necked swans, kaiken [upland goose] and steamer ducks. Passing the lake, we come to the outpost, and after unsaddling, there will be time to enjoy the surroundings and the coziness of the refuge. A wood-fired stove and a brick clay oven, with the gentle light of the lantern, passing the mate round, the evening meal will be prepared while tales of adventures are shared.

Evening meal and overnight at the Puesto Laguna 3 de Abril.

Hidden glaciers

Day 3

After breakfast at the refuge, we hike to the lake shore to meet **Glaciar Sur**. This excursion departs from Nibepo Aike’s pier and navigates the Lago Argentino down south to the Hidden Glaciers. The expedition is a combination of navigations and trekking to reach a unique spot between mountains and glaciers, where only few people arrive.

Once the group gets on board, the boat sails through the Brazo Sur to its southernmost point. After a short walk through the native forest, the first lookout point to the glaciers is reached. At the bottom we can see the Lago Frías which will be sailed on a motor boat a few minutes later. It is 3 km navigation to the other shore where a new trekking begins. It goes along an old river course to reach an amphitheater facing the glaciers Gorra, Frías and Grande. The group eats lunch near Laguna de los Témpanos overlooking not only the 3 glaciers but also the icebergs that decorate the milky waters of the lagoon. This area of Parque Nacional Los Glaciares is almost unexplored, only a few gauchos and cows from Nibepo Aike know the place’s hidden spots and secrets. After

spending a good amount of time resting and taking pictures at the feet of the glaciers the group returns back to the outpost. The rest of Glaciar Sur's group keep navigating to the Estancia and then by car to El Calafate.

Evening meal and overnight at the Puesto Laguna 3 de Abril.

Additional information: This activity will be provided by Glaciar Sur (Argos Patagonia S.A.). It doesn't have any additional cost. The activity is combined with the regular service from Glaciar Sur; this means the excursion and bilingual guide services will be shared with other passengers doing the complete tour from El Calafate. The program as previously described will be confirmed in situ. It is subject to cancelations due to weather-related situations, navigability, or terrain conditions.

The hike involves a 6 hours hike (14 km), with little gradient and medium technical requirement. More information: www.glaciarsur.com

If this activity cannot be done, the adventure will continue foot and on horseback!

We leave after breakfast, riding south to the Balcony of the Glaciers. The track runs parallel to the Southern Arm of Lago Argentino. A little before arriving at the head of the lake, we leave the horses grazing to go up on foot to a viewing point even higher up. From there we will have a panoramic view of the Southern Arm, Laguna Corazón and of the Lago Frías, with glimpses of the Hidden Glaciers Gorra, Frías, Grande and Dickson in the distance.

We walk to the beach at the head of the Southern Arm. From there we cross a large pasture, a pristine area. An erratic stone of more than 20 meters in height will be the next goal. It is impressive to stand in front of such a huge rock, marked by the force of the glaciers advancing and receding. The footpath starts to run alongside the lower Frías River. Here we will find traces of the area's livestock rearing past, a hanging bridge over 100 years old, destroyed by the great flooding of Lago Argentino in 1937. The way passes through dense woodland getting as far as discovering Corazón Lagoon, with crystal clear waters where the deep blue contrasts with the green reflection of the woods. The water is so crystal clear that it is possible to watch the trout swimming between the rocks. We pause for lunch. A place sheltered from the world.

Whoever wants to will be able to carry on a bit further climbing over some stones that prove fairly awkward for crossing, in order to get to the southern end of Frías Lake, the natural border protecting the glaciers hidden in the mountains further south. In the afternoon we return to where the horses were left in order to ride back to the Puesto Laguna 3 de Abril, where the night will be spent.

Day 4 Lake Argentino's southern arm

The return journey begins riding along the shore of the lake until we reach the main buildings of the estancia, about 18km from the refuge. We will arrive in time for lunch with a typical Patagonian lamb roasted at the stake over charcoal embers, which will be ready just as the riders arrive. After lunch, a shuttle services will take you to El Calafate, arriving town about 4:15 PM.

Although the program does not include nights in the main house, it is suggested to reserve a night in the main house after the horseback ride.

3 days / 2 nights PROGRAM

Day 1 Estancia Nibepo Aike- Puesto Cachorro- Puesto Laguna 3 de abril (Only from December to March)

Early in the morning (9:00 a.m.) riders meet with the guide. After a brief explanatory talk, each rider packs their personal items for the next few days. Once everything is ready, horses are assigned and mounted. The ride starts early in the morning, with the climb up the Cordon de los Cristales (Cristal mountain range), which lies behind the main house. The higher we go, the more clearly the Argentino lake's arms stand out. Once we reach a clearing, the track plunges into the Patagonian Andean woods. We pass between lenga and guindos trees (Magellan beeches), riding along old tracks where the great sheep drives used to pass. On coming out of the dense woodland the way opens out into the Valley of the Río Cachorro. Notros (Chilean firebush) and calafate bushes here are unusually tall. We start descending towards the lower land until we come to the riverbed. Surprise views of the Frías glacier start to appear in the distance. Riding between rocks and pasturelands and avoiding the marshlands, we reach the corrals of the Río Cachorro (Cachorro River) outpost where the rangers might be working with the livestock.

After a picnic lunch we continue horseback riding to the 3 de Abril lagoon, a habitat of flamingos and black-necked swans, Cauquén (upland goose) and steamer ducks. Passing the lake, we arrive to the outpost, and after unsaddling, there will be time to enjoy the surroundings and the coziness of the refuge. A wood-fired stove and a brick clay oven, with the gentle light of the lantern, passing the mate round, the evening meal will be prepared while tales of adventures are shared.

Evening meal and overnight at the outpost

Day 2 Puesto Laguna 3 de Abril

After breakfast at the refuge, we hike to the lake shore to meet **Glaciar Sur**. This excursion departs from Nibepo Aike's pier and navigates the Lago Argentino down south to the Hidden Glaciers. The expedition is a combination of navigations and trekking to reach a unique spot between mountains and glaciers, where only few people arrive.

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Day 3 **Lake Argentino's southern arm**
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Riding to the outpost

2 DAYS/ 1 NIGHT

Private rides. From 1st November 2024 to 31st March 2025.

The itinerary of the Ride to the Post is the same as the departure of the 3 days/2 nights Hidden Glaciers Horseback Riding Program WITHOUT the Glaciar Sur Aventura excursion day.

General notes for all rides

Climate: In Patagonia the weather is very changeable. In summer the temperature can vary from about 15°C to 22°C during the day, occasionally more, and drops to anything from about 5°C to 10°C at night. It must be remembered that the area is very windy, with prevailing westerly and south westerly strong winds, decreasing towards autumn.

What to bring

We store the passenger's luggage at the main house while they go out for the ride through the outposts. Riders only bring with them the essentials they need for the journey. Sleeping bags are carried on a packhorse.

- ✓ Small day backpack for the trekking.
- ✓ Sleeping bag* (-5°C or 23 °F)
- ✓ Waterproof/windproof jacket. It must be quality equipment designed for mountaineering.
- ✓ Over trousers.
- ✓ One change of clothes: Trousers (Comfortable for riding. Avoid removable with zips), long-sleeves shirts, socks.
- ✓ Warm sweater or polar fleece top
- ✓ Hiking boots or strong walking shoes
- ✓ Thermal underwear
- ✓ Gloves / Hat / Scarf or neck tube
- ✓ Sunscreen cream / visor
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Torch

No necessarily but useful

- ✓ Binocular
- ✓ Chaps
- ✓ Camera with enough extra charged batteries since there are no charging facilities in the outposts.
- ✓ Bandana just because it has many uses in the outdoor

(*). In case you do not travel with a sleeping bag, Nibepo Aike has some to lend. Ask in advance.