



PATAGONIA – THE PIONEER TRAIL (12D/11N) (ETTPT)

11N Estancias / Hotels

Start/End Punta Arenas

*During this holiday we stay in and visit **working estancias** and converted houses that were lived in by the first pioneers. In most of the estancia we have the opportunity to meet the owners and talk to them about the area, farming in the region and their family history.*

*Accompanied by a local Baqueano we travel through pristine wilderness areas that eventually take us to the world renowned **Torres Del Paine National Park**.*

Day 1 Transfer Punta Arena's airport - Hotel

On arrival at Punta Arenas airport you will be met by your guide who will escort you and the rest of the group to your hotel in the town centre. In the evening we will dine in a local restaurant and give you a brief on the ride.

(20 minutes in private transfer) (D) (Night in Hotel Rey Don Felipe)

Day 2 Transfer to Puerto Natales – Ride to Estancia Puerto Consuelo

After breakfast we will set off to Puerto Natales a small fishing town on the banks of the Ultima Esperanza sound. During our transfer you will have time to observe the vast open plains typical to the region. As we come close to Puerto Natales the landscape will change and the mountains and fjords are a welcoming sight after the 3 hours journey. Lunch will be taken in a restaurant in Puerto Natales. After lunch we take a 5 minutes transfer to Bories House a small boutique hotel nestled on the banks of the Ultima Esperanza. After a welcome drink and a chance to settle into your room we will meet our horses. Today we will take a 2 hours ride to the Estancia Puerto Consuelo a



beautiful estancia on the Eberhard fiord. This farm was the first to be founded in the Ultima Esperanza Province by Captain Hermann Eberhard whom sailed in a dingy to this breathtakingly beautiful corner of Patagonia in 1893 and subsequently settled here. This ride will give us an opportunity for you to adapt to your horse and the Chilean saddles. We will share an evening meal at the estancia before returning to the guesthouse, Bories House.

(3 hours by private transfer, 2 hours ride) (B-L-D) (Night at Bories House)

Day 3

Ride from Estancia Consuelo to Villa Luisa

We take an early transfer back to the Estancia Puerto Consuelo and today we shall take a wonderful ride to the park Villa Luisa which was where Eberhard built his splendid mansion. Today the remains are a reminder of what great vision and achievement Eberhard had made during the early years of settlement. We shall stop for a barbecue lunch at the “quincho” that now stands there and relax and enjoy the scenery. For the evening we will be staying in the beautiful hamlet Puerto Bories on the shores of the Ultima Esperanza sound.



(5 hours slow riding, trotting and cantering) (B-BBQ-D) (Night at Bories House)

Day 4

Ride from Estancia Consuelo to Laguna Sofia

Early morning transfer again to Estancia Puerto Consuelo. Today we set off across the pampas to the Milodon cave which Captain Eberhard discovered in 1895. The name “Milodon” was given after the remains of a giant sloth dating back 10,000 years ago where found there by Eberhard. We continue the ride to Laguna Sofia, through ancient Lenga forests and open valleys until we reach a Condor lookout point on the cliffs of Laguna Sofia. After lunch we take a transfer to our stay for the night at the traveler’s inn Tres Pasos which used to be frequented by the Noble prize poet Gabriela Mistral.



(7 hours slow riding, trotting and cantering, 20 minutes in private transfer) (B-BL-D) (Night at Tres Pasos)

Day 5

Ride from Tres Pasos to Cerro Castillo

Today we set off from the travelers inn Tres Pasos and ride through beautiful countryside until we arrive at a small farming settlement Cerro Castillo. This ride will take us around lagoons, through woodland valleys and up to a lookout point to see the Torres del Paine National Park. Tonight we stay at Hotel El Pionero. This house used to be the home of an English gentleman Mr. Saunders whom was one of the managers who worked for the company “Sociedad Explotadora Tierra del Fuego 1893 – 1943”.



(5 hours slow riding, trotting and cantering, 20 minutes in private transfer) (B-BL-D) (Night at Hotel El Pionero)

Day 6

Ride from Cerro Castillo to Estancia Cerro Guido

From the farming settlement Cerro Castillo we set off on a challenging days ride across the pampas to estancia Cerro Guido on the Eastern border of the Torres del Paine National Park. This is a long, but rewarding day’s ride. The evening is spent at Cerro Guido at this beautifully restored farm house that offers privileged views of the Towers of Paine.



This Estancia is one of the last remaining establishments still retaining many of the typical characteristics of the period when The Sociedad Explotadora of Tierra del Fuego was functioning. The Estancia has 128.000 hectares and about 50.000 sheep. The village has a beautiful view of the Paine Massif and has preserved all the typical buildings including the lodge, main house, administration office, workers' houses, kitchen, bakery, school, carpentry workshop, forge, dairy, stables and sheep-shearing shed.



We enjoy a Patagonian Lamb BBQ as a welcome dinner!

(7 hours slow riding, trotting and cantering) (B-BL-BBQ) (Night at Estancia Cerro Guido)

Day 7

Round trip ride to Puesto Las Flores

Today we have a wonderful ride around the estancia and take lunch in a puesto. We will ride through mountain passes and along high ridges that will enable us to have spectacular views of the towers, Sarmiento Lake and the impressive Baguales mountain range. The evening will be spent again at Estancia Cerro Guido.

(6 hours slow riding, trotting and cantering) (B-BL-D) (Night at Estancia Cerro Guido)



Day 8

Ride to Laguna Azul & Estancia Tercera Barranca



One of the most beautiful rides of the trip today we head to Laguna Azul. With the towers of Paine as our constant back drop we ride through diverse terrain of pampas and woodland until we reach the Las Chinas waterfall where we will stop for lunch. By early afternoon we arrive at Laguna Azul. The afternoon ride will take us to Estancia Tercera Barranca which lies to the east of Torres Del Paine. We will spend the nights at an estancia with spectacular views of the Towers.

(7 hours slow riding, trotting and cantering) (B-BL-D) (Night at Estancia Tercera Barranca)

Day 9

Ride from Estancia Tercera Barranca to Rio Serrano in Torres Del Paine Park

Today we have a spectacular ride across the awesome National Park Torres del Paine, navigating winding mountain passes, with incredible views of the turquoise lakes and lagoons and the magnificent Horns of the park, this is one of highlights of the trip.



We begin by going down through a trail all the way to the border of Torres del Paine National park. We get to a look at point of the famous Torres, and the

Laguna Amarga Lake. We journey inside the park, crossing lakes and valleys on an old gaucho path with incredible views of the mountains. We will have lunch on the shores of Lake Sarmiento with its strange calcium formations and then continue on to the administrative area of the park where we will spend the night at hotel Rio Serrano which has breathtaking views of the horns!

(8 hours slow riding, trotting and cantering) (B-BL-D) (Night at Hotel Rio Serrano)

Day 10

Round trip ride to Lake Grey

The morning the ride will take us across flat open pampas with the spectacular horns as our backdrop. We will arrive at glacier Grey by lunch time and will have lunch on the beach. We will make a short, flat walk, through a mature beech forest with possible sightings of Chilean flickers, austral parakeets or torrent ducks. We will cross a stony beach to arrive at a view point on a peninsula from where we can see deep blue icebergs surrounded by forests



The afternoon ride will take us back to Hotel Rio Serrano for the night.

(6 hours slow riding, trotting and cantering, 2 hours walking) (B-BL-D) (Night at Hotel Rio Serrano)

Day 11

Zodiac & Boat ride down the Serrano River and Last Hope Sound

After a good breakfast we start our adventure into the Serrano River, where you will board zodiac boats and cruise down the meandering course of the river. At one point you will reach an impassable waterfall where you must disembark and proceed to a second boat waiting below the falls. You will continue the journey downriver to the Seno de Buena Esperanza (Sound of Good Hope). In the distance you can



observe the beautiful Geike and Tyndall Glaciers that are part of the Southern Ice Field. Continuing downriver, you will disembark at a pier and follow a path that will take you to the foot of the Serrano Glacier's massive ice wall, which calves ice blocks to an inner lagoon surrounded by dense lengas trees. We return along the same path and take a boat navigating via glaciers

and canals on our way down to then stop for a traditional Patagonia barbecue lunch in Estancia Puerto Consuelo. In the afternoon we have the last ride of the trip from Puerto Consuelo over the pampas to Puerto Bories for our farewell evening meal at Bories House. (Option to take a transfer back to Bories House)

(3 hours by zodiac, 2 hours by boat, 2 hours optional ride) (B-BBQ-D) (Night at Bories House)

Day 12

Transfer to Punta Arena's airport

According to your flight schedule you will take a transfer back to Punta Arenas airport. **(2.5 hours by transfer) (B)**

REGARDING THE SCHEDULE

The schedules indicated above are subject to change due to weather conditions or unexpected circumstances beyond our control, but we will try our best to keep them unaltered

<i>PRICE</i>	<i>3 - 4 riders</i>	<i>5 - 7 riders</i>	<i>8 riders</i>	<i>Single supplement</i>
<i>Per person</i>	USD \$ 5.290	USD \$ 5.140	USD \$ 4.225	USD \$ 500

Technical references

Days riding: 10

Horses: Chilean Criollo

Experience needed: Medium to advanced riders. If novices wish to accompany a more experienced rider we can tailor made the trip.

Equipment used: Traditional Chilean saddles and bridles. English and Western saddles are available for those who prefer.

Food: The food is all organically grown. Fresh local meats or fish are offered with most meals. Quality Chilean wine is offered with every meal, along with a welcome aperitif on arrival at each new estancia. Vegetarians should forward dieters requirements.

INCLUDED:

- All the private transportation indicated in the schedule
- All the horses and saddles
- Helmets, leather chaps, leather gloves, saddle bags, dry bags
- All meals indicated in the schedule (B: breakfast, L: lunch, BL: box lunch, D: dinner, BBQ: barbecue) including beverage.
- One night at Hotel Rey Felipe in Punta Arenas (Twin/double std)
- Three nights at Bories House in Puerto Natales (Double/twin)
- One night at Hotel Tres Pasos (Twin/double standard rooms)
- Two nights at Lodge Cerro Guido (Twin/double Superior rooms)
- One night at Estancia Tercera Barranca (Twin/double std rooms)
- Entrance fee to Torres del Paine National Park
- Two nights at Hotel Rio Serrano (Twin/double Superior rooms)
- Zodiac navigation in Serrano River
- Entrance fee to Bernardo O'Higgins National park
- Sail to estancia Puerto Consuelo
- Guide (English-Spanish languages) & Baqueano (Local Cowboy)

NOT INCLUDED:

- Flight to Santiago, Chile
- Internal Flight Santiago - Punta Arenas
- Any additional night
- Medical expenses
- Insurance of any kind
- Personal expenses
- Gratuities for guide, Baqueano and driver.