

ESTANCIAS OF PATAGONIA BY HORSEBACK



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit cute burrowing penguins at the Otway Sound Penguin Colony
- Enjoy great *pisco* sours and fireside dining at the very comfortable Estancia Lazo
- Ride on top of the world in the Sierra del Toro for awesome views of the park below
- Canter your heart out across seemingly never-ending pampas and grassy valleys
- Witness some of the best sunrises in the Park from the hotel Cabanas del Paine at the Serrano River
- Take a glimpse at authentic *estancia* life and 'home stay' accommodation at estancias Tercera Barranca and Tres Pasos
- Enjoy a traditional *mate* tea with your host baqueanos
- Marvel at the miracles of nature as you stand in front of Grey Lake with the huge wall of ice that is Glacier Grey
- Enjoy an optional boat ride up to the face of this immense towering glacier
- Visit the beautiful turquoise waters of Laguna Azul with stunning views to the Towers Mountains
- Enjoy a slice of history in the colonial *estancia* house of Hosteria el Pionero
- Feast on local salmon and organic lamb while enjoying the local hospitality and warmth of the Chilean people
- Ride up to a remote and rarely visited *vega* or pasture to attempt to spot herds of wild *criollo* horses



SOUTHERN PATAGONIA REGION

TYPE Flexible Date Private Departures & Fixed Date Group Departures

VIGOROUS TRIP Activities include horseback riding, wildlife viewing & cultural opportunities. *Optional boat trip to glacier.

LENGTH 11 days

ACCOMMODATIONS 10 nights *estancias* and inns

DEPARTURES Flexible Date Private Trips: Oct - April
Fixed Date Group Trips: 2010 - Nov 1, Nov 23, Dec 7, Dec 23; 2011 - Jan 29, Feb 24, Mar 29

BEGIN | END Punta Arenas, Chile

NOTE Ask about our annual horse herding & 4-day moderate rides.

COST From \$3,950 [single supplement \$800] 100% of meals included

SUMMARY

The rugged natural beauty of the Patagonian landscape goes beyond words and expectations. Granite towers thrust some 6,000 feet from the expansive plains dotted with glacially formed turquoise lakes. Southern beech forests dot the land while enormous glaciers continue carving the landscape. This pristine beauty comes to its height in Chile's Torres (*Towers*) Del Paine National Park, which contains vast networks of trails to access thousands of acres of wilderness and wildlife. Some say it is like Yosemite and the Grand Tetons rolled into one.

Torres Del Paine has long been home to large *estancias* and the culture of the *gaucho* – world-renowned horsemen. On this trip for experienced riders only you will gain an intimate window into this culture while enjoying thrilling rides in an area of unparalleled beauty.

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 Punta Arenas

After the short flight from Santiago to Punta Arenas, Patagonia, transfer from the airport to Hotel Rey Don Felipe (www.hotelreydonfelipe.com). Enjoy a welcome dinner while your trip leader briefs the group.

DAY 2 Torres Del Paine

After breakfast we'll drive across the wide-open pampas and *estancia* (ranch) lands characteristic of the area. We'll make a short stop to visit lakeside Puerto Natales where travelers can explore this outpost town and choose from a variety of restaurants and cafés. Continuing north, we'll see black-necked swans while driving along Last Hope Sound before arriving to Estancia Tres Pasos. This still-working *estancia* is situated at the head of a flower-filled valley and the wooden, chalet-style property consists of a number of *estancia* buildings, pretty gardens and lovely views down the valley. Unpack and relax a bit before meeting our horses for an introductory ride in the vicinity of the *estancia*. Riders will be get a chance to adjust to the style of riding and tack as we run through the gates and enjoy a relaxing afternoon's ride. We'll return to the *estancia* for dinner in the lovely restaurant where most of the ingredients in this delightful family-run inn are produced on the grounds. Hours in the saddle 3-4. (B,D...Estancia Tres Pasos)

DAY 3 Cerro Castillo

After a hearty breakfast we'll saddle up for a full day's ride heading northwest to the outpost town of Cerro Castillo. Riding towards the dramatic mountain range of Torres del Paine enables us to fully benefit from the incredible mountain and lake views. We will also have some opportunities for our first long canters on our responsive and comfortable horses. After a leisurely picnic and afternoon ride Hosteria el Pionero will come into view on the horizon. Surrounded by the customary layer of trees, the villa has the look and feel of an English country home and was built by European settlers to Tierra del Fuego at the beginning of the century. Once home to one of the most important and influential *estancieros* in the region, it offers comfortable accommodation and an excellent restaurant serving a variety of typical local foods and international cuisine. The fireside bar is an excellent place to enjoy a *pisco* sour while discussing with new friends the day's incredible ride and the adventures to come. Hours in the saddle: 6-7 (B,L,D...Hosteria el Pionero)

DAY 4 La Cumbre

After a breakfast of home baked bread and cakes served in the bright dining room, we will be saddling up for the long ride northeast towards Estancia Tercera Barranca. This is a classic Patagonian ride with soft, inviting pampas stretched out in front of us as we journey north towards the mountains of Torres del Paine and La Cumbre mountain range, which makes up the natural barrier between Chile and Argentina. We will be crossing the land belonging to various local farmers and with luck may be invited to join a local for *mate* tea.

After a long ride and a picnic lunch along the way we will ride onto the land of Estancia Tercera Barranca. Another still-working *estancia*, we will stay in the cozy and comfortable country house which offers fabulous views of the Towers Mountains from its large, west-facing windows. Wander the grounds, relax by the fire in the living room and appreciate the traditional *quincho* (detached dining room with outdoor BBQ area). Hours in the saddle: 5-7



(B,L,D...Estancia Tercera Barranca)

DAY 5 Laguna Stokes

Today's spectacular ride takes us to the west towards the famous Torres peaks and Lago Paine. Just before Laguna Azul we head north towards Laguna Stokes where a large natural *vega* or pasture exists. This area attracts wild *criollos* from the surrounding hills to graze in the summer and with luck will get to see them. There will be many excellent photo opportunities on this route as we pass through forests, pastures and the lake where Lady Florence Dixie first camped having sighted the Towers. We'll return in the afternoon to Estancia Tercera Barranca. Hours in the saddle: 5-6

(B,L,D...Estancia Tercera Barranca)

DAY 6 Paine Massif – Serrano River

After a wholesome breakfast and packing up we will be starting our ride westwards towards the heart of the park. We will now be riding directly towards the Paine Massif mountain range so the views are dramatic and beautiful. Our trail then skirts the southern edge of the mountains on a rarely trodden path as we pass azure and turquoise lakes with huge granite mountain peaks standing behind. After a picnic lunch taken in one of the pretty valleys we will continue west to the beautiful soft pampas beside the Serrano River. A nice long canter as light fades and shadows lengthen brings us to Cabanas del Paine. This pretty inn situated by the emerald green waters of the Serrano River with river and mountain views will be our base for the next two nights. Hours in the saddle: 5-6

(B,L,D...Cabanas del Paine)

DAY 7 Grey Glacier

We'll have more dramatic views of the peaks of the Paine Massif all day long as we enjoy the fast ride to the Mirador de los Hielos (iceberg lookout), where we'll take in vistas of the iceberg-choked waters of Grey Lake and the massive Grey Glacier (the park's largest). After a long rest, chances for taking photos of this incredible natural wonder, and a picnic from this incredible perch, we'll get back in the saddle for the return ride to Cabanas del Paine. Hours in the saddle: 5-6

(B,L,D...Cabanas del Paine)

*There is an optional excursion available which includes round trip transfers back to Grey Lake and a boat trip out across this iceberg-choked lake towards the face of this spectacular glacier. Note the boat trip is weather reliant and the excursion with transfer costs US\$180

DAY 8 Sierra del Toro – Laguna Verde

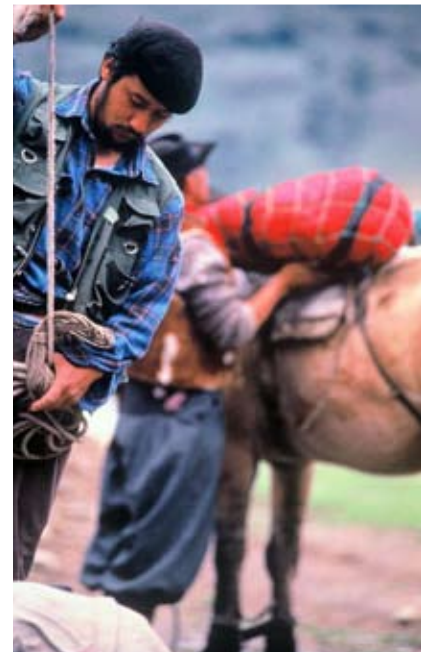
The colorful *baqueanos* (cowboys), who will have by now become friends, will have the horses ready and we'll set out heading southeast to the Mirado del Toro and Laguna Verde. We start out with our final ride across the wide-open pampas before crossing the Laguna on the idyllic Weber Bridge. After stopping to tighten girths and check our tack, we will make a steep ascent of the Sierra del Toro Mountains climbing high above the national park and arrive to the Mirador del Toro lookout with far-reaching views of the lakes, mountains and glaciers below.

Depending on the weather, we will take a picnic lunch in this beautiful setting before continuing on through southern beech forests passing myriad pristine lakes and valleys as we approach the land belonging to Estancia Lazo. Our base for 2 nights, this very comfortable converted *estancia* situated beside this tranquil green waters of Laguna Verde offers splendid views, great food and comfortable accommodation. The lake shore is a great place to stroll spotting the wild geese and ducks bobbing in the water. The restaurant offers an excellent variety of local dishes and has an extensive wine collection. Hours in the saddle: 4-5

(B,L,D...Estancia Lazo)

DAY 9 Sierra del Toro

After breakfast, we will pack our saddle bags with cameras, waterproofs and our picnic lunch and set off around the shores of this beautiful lake through ancient southern beech forests behind the *estancia* for our



climb up and over the Sierra del Toro. We will be making another steep ascent through forests to climb right up on top of this mountain. The last section of the ride will often be through snow as we stop to marvel at the views of the entire Park below us. We will then wind down to a pretty authentic *puesto* (*gaucho* or horsemen post) manned by one of the cattle ranchers from Estancia Lazo to take our lunch. After lunch, we will be riding back to our comfortable accommodation at Estancia Lazo where sadly we will be bidding our horses and *baqueanos* goodbye. Hours in the saddle 4-5. (B,L,D...Estancia Lazo)

DAY 10 Puerto Natales – Punta Arenas

After a leisurely breakfast of coffee and homemade cakes and breads we will transfer to Punta Arenas via Puerto Natales. We will have time in Puerto Natales to shop for souvenirs or postcards before continuing on to the Magellanic penguin colony situated outside Punta Arenas. Late afternoon is a great time to visit these adorable penguins before they return to their burrows. We will spend some time taking photos and wandering the trails that extend down to the beach where you can witness the penguins waterside. Arrive to Hotel Don Rey Felipe in Punta Arenas at around 6 p.m depending on time spent with the penguins. (B...Hotel Don Rey Felipe)

DAY Departure

Transfer to the airport for onward flight.

2010-2011 SEASON COSTS

\$3,950 per person (4 or more travelers)

\$4,500 per person (for 2 or 3 travelers)

Internal airfare is not included in the trip price. If you would like Knowmad Adventures to book your internal airfare (Santiago/Punta Arenas, Punta Arenas/Santiago). Fares range between \$200 and \$400 USD. **If arranging domestic airfare independently, please consult us prior** so we can verify the departure and arrival times.

\$800 single supplement – if you request single accommodations you are required to pay the single supplement. If you are a single traveler and would like to be paired with a traveler of the same gender, Knowmad Adventures will try to accommodate this and, if we are able, will refund the single supplement following the trip.

WHAT YOUR TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Pre-trip services
- Expert leadership and guiding
- Accommodations as indicated and based on double occupancy
- Local excursions as indicated
- Airport transfers as indicated
- Backcountry field arrangements as necessary
- All necessary equipment for adventure excursions
- Ground transportation and support vehicles
- Additional guides and porters as needed
- Entrance fees and permits
- Alcohol as indicated on select itineraries
- All meals as indicated (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner).

WHAT YOUR TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International and domestic airfare
- Visa, passport, departure/arrival and excess baggage fees



- Trip insurance
- Activities denoted by an asteriks and listed as optional
- Optional tipping to local guides and staff
- Personal items

AIR TRAVEL

Airfare is not included in the land cost of our trips. For reservations we recommend you contact the airlines directly. Also, web search databases such as www.kayak.com and www.priceline.com can be helpful to do preliminary searches in order to identify which carriers may have the best fares, however we strongly recommend then calling and booking directly with the airline.

WEATHER

Please also note that some of the activities are weather dependent. The weather in Patagonia is wildly unpredictable—we have had many days of sunshine on our trips, but you must be prepared for some windy, rainy South-Atlantic weather. A detailed pack list, as well as other predeparture information, will be sent to you upon reservation.

PUNTA ARENAS, CHILE

Elevation: 121 feet **Latitude:** 53° 00'S **Longitude:** 070° 51'W

Monthly Average Temperature (high & low) and Rainfall (inches)

Jan 51°F 57°F 45°F 1.4	May 39°F 44°F 35°F 1.7	Sep 41°F 46°F 35°F 1.1
Feb 51°F 57°F 45°F 1.1	Jun 36°F 39°F 32°F 1.3	Oct 44°F 50°F 38°F 0.9
Mar 48°F 54°F 42°F 1.6	Jul 35°F 38°F 31°F 1.3	Nov 47°F 53°F 40°F 1.1
Apr 44°F 49°F 38°F 1.6	Aug 37°F 41°F 32°F 1.3	Dec 50°F 56°F 43°F 1.2

Source: www.weatherbase.com



EXTEND YOUR ADVENTURE

TORRES DEL PAINE Spend another day in this incredible natural setting relaxing or enjoying a day sea kayaking or hiking on a glacier.

WINE COUNTRY Bike from vineyard to vineyard on gentle country roads, tour the cellars, taste fine wines, eat gourmet cuisine and stay in charming boutique hotels. With premier wine growing valleys just an hour from Santiago, a few days in wine country is an ideal extension to your adventure and a good example of the diversity of landscapes and lifestyles within Chile. *From 1 day and up, ask about custom trips and prices.*

ATACAMA DESERT Looking for unique? The world's closest thing to Mars, Atacama will not disappoint. Your trip to this surreal landscape offers countless cultural and adventure excursions to choose from during the day, while spending nights in a true oasis, the Tierra Atacama boutique hotel and spa. Return for a dip in the pool and enjoy a local cabernet with gourmet cuisine. Don't forget to take advantage of the world's best moonscape and stargazing. *From 3 days and up, land cost from \$970 (per person, based on double occupancy) + internal airfare.*

EASTER ISLAND A tropical paradise with history, culture and mystery at every beautiful turn, a visit to Easter Island – the world's most isolated speck of land - will captivate any traveler. Meander through the picturesque countryside dotted with volcanoes, and learn about the mysterious Moai statues erected by the original Polynesian tribes who inhabited the island. Still today little is known about the statues or their creators. While circumnavigating the island on visits to the diverse Moai sites, you'll have opportunities to relax on deserted, white-sand beaches, explore volcanic caves with petroglyphs and walk the rim of a seaside volcano. *From 4 days and up, land cost from \$910 (per person, based on double occupancy) + internal airfare.*

Please call us for detailed itineraries for these extensions or visit our website (www.KnowmadAdventures.com).

