



RIDE ANDES COLOMBIA
COFFEE REGION AND SIERRAS
Season: December to September

Colombia – the exuberant green 'jungle' of the coffee region to the elegant rugged Andes makes for an exciting horseback journey



Introduction

Another Ride Andes custom-made tour: 10 days in 2 distinct regions of Colombia. The opportunity to explore the famous coffee region and majestic sierras whilst also experiencing the great Colombian hospitality. Guided by an expert but fun local team, this trip is packed with natural and cultural interest – and fuelled by Colombian coffee.

Testimonial

“What an amazing experience with Ride Andes, to see parts of Colombia by horseback... The riding was very varied: we rode through beautiful coffee plantations, chopped our way through dense jungle, climbing quite steeply at times and were rewarded with views of beautiful hidden waterfalls. On some days there were nice long canters ... What made it even better was how we got to mix with local people in their everyday lives. Overall very well organised, authentic and adventurous trip and one I would highly recommend.” Anne

Colombia Coffee Region and Sierras

5 days in the coffee region; 5 in the Andes. In comfortable and fascinating lodgings, with twin/double rooms and private bathrooms.

What You Need To Know?

- Ten day, two region itinerary, starting and ending in Bogota
- Private groups/fixed date departures (please request dates)
- Maximum 8 guests on fixed date departures
- Single riders welcome. Routes for solo riders
- Flexible itinerary and start day for private groups
- Excellent option for families (back up vehicle; adapt routes)
- Coffee plantation visit, Cocora Valley & Villa De Leyva included
- Excellent horses and also mules to ride, plus the chance to try champion Colombian Paso horses at a stud farm
- Season: December to September

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RIDE ANDES

Colombia Coffee Region & Sierra itinerary Overview:

DAY 1: Arrival, coffee plantation visit & an introductory ride.

*Dinner & Overnight at a secluded cloud forest lodge
B, L, D (approx. 3 hours riding, 50 minutes flight and 45 minutes by vehicle)*

DAY 2: A tropical day: plantations of coffee, banana and avocado.

*Dinner & Overnight at traditional Hacienda with pool & large gardens
B, L, D (approx. 6 hours horse riding)*

DAY 3: Gaining elevation into mountain forests with babbling brooks

*Dinner & Overnight at beautiful, brightly painted Hacienda with hot tub
B, L, D (approx. 6 hours horse riding)*

DAY 4: Enchanting rural scenery, picturesque Salento, handicrafts

*Dinner & Overnight at Salento Hotel
B, L, D (approx. 5-6 hours horse riding)*

DAY 5: Cocora Valley, giant wax palms, and a return to Bogota

*Dinner & Overnight at an attractively restored Hacienda
B, L, D (approx. 2-3 hours horse riding, 50 min flight, 3 hour vehicle transfer)*

DAY 6: A scenic ride into the hills, rock art & a stunning vista

*Dinner & Overnight back at a traditional Hacienda
B, L, D (approx. 5 hours horse riding)*

DAY 7: The centuries-old Hacienda and 'Carranguero' folk music.

*Dinner and overnight at the historic Hacienda
B, L, D (approx. 4 hours horse riding (optional 1 hour more))*

DAY 8: A change of province, a stark scenery change and 'Tejo'

*Dinner and overnight at Adobe and wood cabañas, full of character
B, L, D (approx. 6-7 hours horse riding)*

DAY 9: Arid hills, panoramic views, cacti & historical Villa de Leyva

*Dinner and overnight at Hotel in Villa de Leyva
B, L, D (approx. 5 hours horse riding)*

DAY 10: Colombian Paso stud farm demonstration & to the Airport

B, L Trying smooth-gaited Colombian Pasos at the stud farm (optional)

End of services



Arriving/Departing/Extensions:

Start & end point: Bogota Airport (day 1 normally meet at 7am, for flight to coffee region. Final day arrive back Bogota airport late PM). Guests should arrive in Bogota at least one day prior to start date. We can help with airport pickups, hotels near airport and hotels in the historic centre, city tours and 'add-ons' such as Cartagena or diving. Contact us for information.



Detailed Itinerary:

DAY 1: Arrival, coffee plantation visit & an introductory ride.

Meet at Bogota Airport and a flight to Armenia (50 mins) in the heart of Colombia's coffee region. On arrival, we will be met by our Colombian guide. After introductions, a very short drive to a hearty local breakfast, then continuing through a landscape bursting with exotic flora – coffee trees, bananas, plantains and avocados abound. The first stop is a coffee plantation; the very informative visit includes a walk through the trees, seeing the coffee making process, including the roasting, and of course, a great cup of Colombian coffee!

A drive into a verdant valley to the lodge, winds through the surrounding jungle-like vegetation, which is packed with birdlife. After lunch, meet the horses and take an introductory ride into the jungle, with towering bamboo bordering the tracks.

*Dinner & Overnight at a secluded cloud forest lodge.
B, L, D (approx. 2 hours riding, approx. 50 min flight and 45 min by vehicle)*

DAY 2: A tropical day: Coffee, banana and avocado plantations

Today we ride to a picturesque Hacienda through decidedly tropical scenery with a mountainous backdrop. Hugging the hillsides on dirt tracks we pass by coffee and banana plantations, as well as displays of bougainvillea and a host of other exuberant flowers that are constantly trying to take over the tracks – wild, native plants that we only usually see struggling in pots in our houses! Breaks in the jungle afford magnificent views across the valleys and, rounding one bend, we meet the vehicle and a table spread with a wonderful lunch. Reaching the flatter pasturelands and a few canters later we arrive at the Hacienda, with wide verandas, hammocks & swimming pool.

*Dinner & Overnight at traditional Hacienda with pool & large gardens
B, L, D, (approx. 6 hours horse riding)*



DAY 3: Gaining elevation into mountain forests with babbling brooks

Today's ride is to another charming, traditional Hacienda which is also a coffee farm and complete with swimming pool and hot tub. As we ride past the brightly painted wood houses we are greeted enthusiastically by the warm and friendly locals, often spotting birds such as parrots.

The terrain varies greatly from yesterday's – leaving the coffee plantations behind us, passing avocado orchards, we soon ride up steeply into the hills passing close to a peak known as 'the pencil', with many springs bubbling out of the hillsides. We journey on through tropical mountain forest and across pastures – the zebu cattle thrive here – and down to the Hacienda to be greeted by our gracious hostess.

*Dinner & Overnight at beautiful, brightly painted Hacienda with hot tub
B, L, D (approx. 6 hours horse riding)*



DAY 4: Enchanting rural scenery, picturesque Salento, handicrafts.

Today's ride ends at Salento – the famous, quaint town of the region and the oldest established settlement in the beautiful province of Quindio. Again, today is a varied ride, a chance of fast-paced riding starting with a short stretch on surfaced roads, followed by a ride along country lanes bordered by native vegetation. Passing streams and rivers with opportunities of seeing a host of birds, we ride on to Salento, for an overnight in the small town and a chance to wander the beautiful streets, lined with the famous colourful wood houses. Excellent shopping opportunities await – there's a chance to buy a range of local handicrafts including ponchos, hats, and of course excellent coffee. Our hotel is very well placed, as it is close to the main square and the shopping street. A chance to head out and enjoy the lively Colombian nightlife.

*Dinner & Overnight at Salento Hotel
B, L, D (approx. 5-6 hours horse riding)*

DAY 5: Cocora Valley, giant wax palms, and a return to Bogota.

The nearby Cocora Valley is not to be missed. It is where we will see the Wax Palm – the tallest palm in the world, which reaches over 60 metres in height and is Colombia's national tree. We leave the Salento hotel in Willys Jeeps, which no Salento visit is complete without a ride in (many of them arrived in the 1940s!) We meet a group of local horses for a two hour ride in among the giant palms in the Cocora Valley. The height of the palm trees is impressive and the whole valley so striking; riders take home yet more outstanding memories of the Colombian coffee region. After a traditional lunch, including 'patacones', riders are driven to Armenia for our return flight to Bogota. On landing at Bogota airport guests are driven out of the city to another charming Hacienda, with a cobbled courtyard, for dinner and overnight.

*Dinner & Overnight at a traditional Hacienda
B, L, D (approx. 2-3 hours horse riding, 50 min flight, 3 hour*

DAY 6: A scenic ride into the hills, rock art & a stunning vista

A ride along lanes and grassy tracks between the fields of dairy herds, often meeting horse and carts and admiring the heavy (working) horses in the fields. Opportunities of some canter and then the pace slows as we ride up into the hills above the valley floor. The rock outcrops along the edges of the valley are fascinating and, as we climb steeply above the valley, we pass delicate orchids and a piece of indigenous rock art thought to be over 10,000 years old. After enjoying a spectacular view out over the valleys, we ride back to the Hacienda for a late lunch and relaxing afternoon. A second overnight awaits in this absolutely charming dwelling.

*Dinner and Overnight back at a traditional Hacienda
B, L, D (approx. 5 hours horse riding)*

DAY 7: The centuries-old Hacienda and 'Carranguero' folk music

Today we ride to a Hacienda established centuries ago and still an important working farm, with a large dairy herd and stud farm of heavy (working) horses. Traversing the verdant Ubate Valley, along routes long used by the local horsemen, we pause for a snack before riding on to Hacienda Potosi, to meet our delightful horse-enthusiast hostess and join her for lunch. Riders can choose to stay and enjoy the Hacienda or continue on horseback to leave the horses at their overnight stop. During the evening, riders will be able to listen to a group of local musicians playing traditional 'Carranguero' folk music and watch the dancers.

*Dinner and overnight at the historic Hacienda
B, L, D (approx. 4 hours horse riding (optional 1 hour more))*





DAY 8: A change of province, a stark scenery change and 'Tejo'

After a short drive (20 minutes) to rejoin the horses, we ride along the valley floor between lush pasturelands. It is easy to see why this is such an important dairy valley. As we start our ascent, the scenery changes radically and we ride through oak forests and cross the border between the Cundinamarca and Boyaca provinces, before starting a much more arid descent towards Raquira. This area is famous for clay pots and we pass several kilns long the way; often horses are used to help mix the clay to the right consistency. Arriving at a pleasant wooded property, guests spread out in a variety of individual Adobe cottages, meeting at the main house for dinner. The evening activity will be an initiation into the Colombian game of 'Tejo' – with sticky clay, wrought iron disks and fire crackers, this team game is not to be missed!

*Dinner and overnight at Adobe and wood cabañas, full of character
B, L, D (approx. 6-7 hours horse riding)*

DAY 9: Arid hills, panoramic views, cacti & historical Villa de Leyva

Soon after riding out of this tranquil hotel, we ascend onto flat plateaus. The desert-like conditions mean that we are surrounded by plants adapted to a very dry environment, including acacia and cactuses. The elevation allows excellent views to Villa de Leyva in the distance. We eventually come across a picnic table, seemingly in the middle of nowhere, yet filled with yet another delicious lunch of fresh local ingredients. Dropping down into the valley below and picking up the speed brings us mid-afternoon to the outskirts of Villa de Leyva, founded in 1572 and now a national monument. A vehicle takes us to the magnificent cobble main square and to our nearby hotel. The afternoon is free to relax in the inviting interior courtyard of the small hotel, browse the shops selling Colombian handicrafts such as textiles and jewelry, and sample the local delicacies. Dinner is a special farewell affair.

*Dinner and overnight at Hotel in Villa de Leyva
B, L, D (approx. 5 hours horse riding)*



DAY 10: Colombian Paso stud farm demonstration & to the Airport

A leisurely start; after breakfast and early shopping for those that wish, guests are driven to a Colombian horse stud farm (2.5 hours), where they can see several champion Colombian Paso show horses in action. There are four distinct breeds and the differences in their paces will be explained. The gait is the all important feature and we will see – or rather hear – the horses being ridden 'on the boards' – a technique to enable the judges to hear the gait as the movement is too fast to enable them to judge the leg action. For riders that wish, there is the opportunity to test out one or two of the Pasos. Lunch is at the stud farm, followed by a two hour drive to Bogota Airport; we make a stop at a tack shop (saddlers) on the way if time permits.

B, L (Trying smooth-gaited Colombian Pasos at the stud farm (optional))

End of services

2021/2022 Prices from:

Per person in US Dollars based on double/twin room share

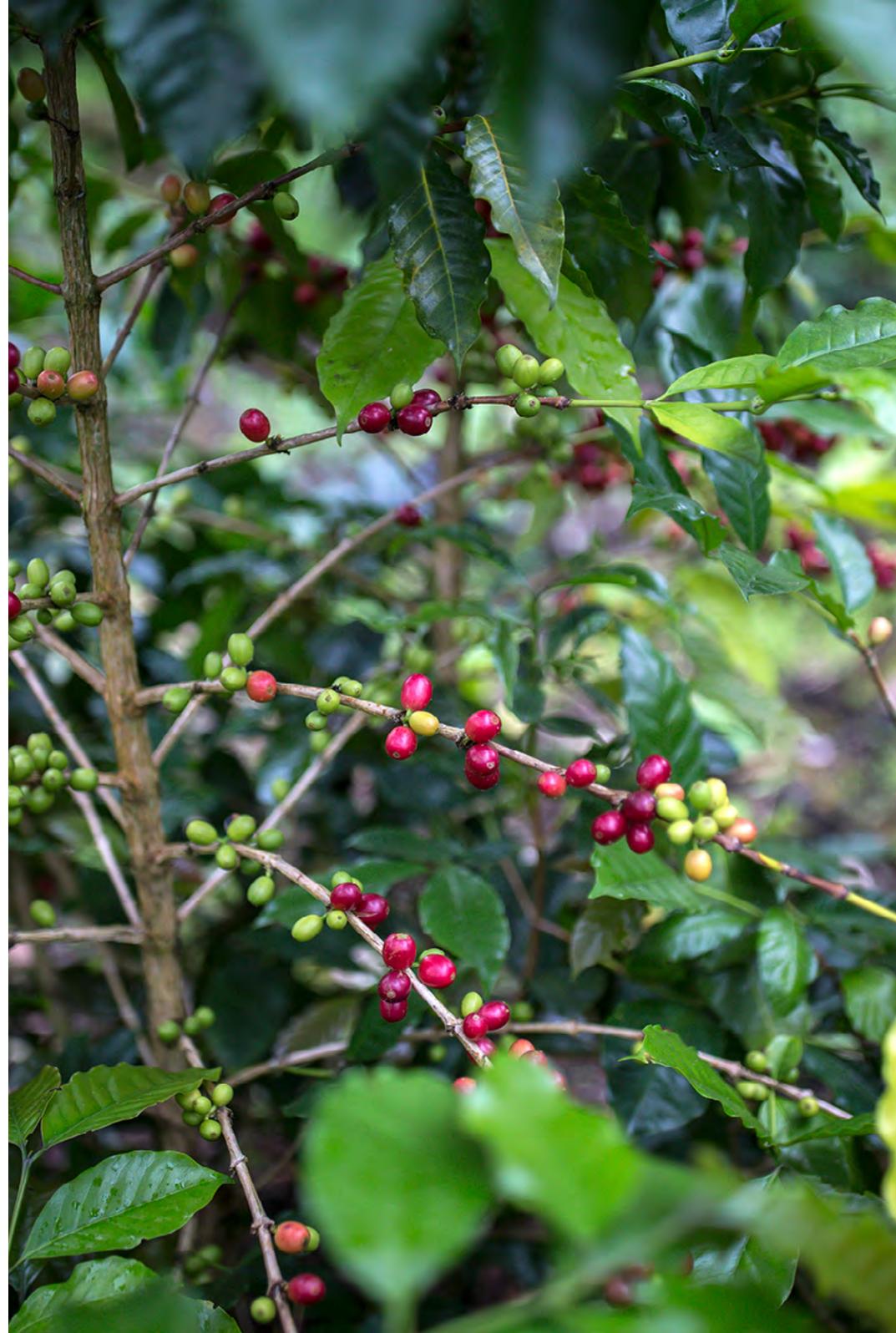
Length	double/twin per person	Single Supplement	Rider Weight supplement (90-100 kg. 198-220lbs)
(10D/9N)	from USD 3950	Please consult	USD 400

Included:

Riding on all 10 days including a visit to the important Colombian Criollo stud farm on the last day with a chance to ride the horses. Nine nights accommodation, bedrooms with private bathrooms. Meals from breakfast day 1 to lunch day 10. Wine and soft drinks with meals, soft drinks and beer along the way on the ride. All necessary road transport. Bilingual guide, 2nd guide & local staff, horses, pack horses and additional horses depending on the number of riders in the group. Ponchos & saddlebags provided.

Not included:

Accommodations pre or post ride nor transfers from/to airports (except if going to airport on last day of tour), the return flight Bogota-Armenia [prices at moment are approx.. USD150 return/two way] (Full details will be given of which flight to book). Appropriate medical insurance (mandatory), visa (as necessary) international or national airport taxes, portorage, laundry service, other alcoholic drinks (wine with dinner included), personal expenditure, all services not mentioned in the detailed description.



F.A.Q's

Horses & Tack: During this tour, riders usually stay with the same horse (as long as the rider is happy!). The horses are local Colombian breeds crossed with other breeds such as Anglo-Arabs. They have great endurance for long days, a lovely temperament and are sure footed. There are also some wonderful, sturdy, and sweet mules available to ride. We use comfortable trekking saddles, with a deeper seat than an English saddle but no horn/high pommel, which are ideal for long distance riding.

Accommodation: We will be staying at a variety of lodgings on this trip, all very comfortable and with character. Wifi is available most nights. Some of the Haceindas are historically important and, for the first few nights, we have access to hot tubs and swimming pools.

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Meals: After a full day riding, as well as a delicious lunch (not just a sandwich), an excellent dinner with varied menus that reflect the local cuisine is served each evening at our respective lodgings. Catering for specific diets/allergies is not a problem at all as long as we are pre-warned.

Climate: Dry season, in these riding areas:
The dry seasons generally last from early December to late March and from July to early September.
Wet Season, in these riding areas:
The wet season lasts through April to May/June (but normally only light rain) and from October to early December. Boyacá Area, part 2 of the tour: Weather conditions 7°C to 20°C (44.6°F to 68°F). During the day a lovely 14-22°C, ideal for riding.

But always be ready for a rain storm. Boyacá is in the Andean Region in central Colombia

Emergencies: In case of accident, our guides will always carry a mobile phone which they can use to contact local assistance. There is a back up vehicle and all of the towns along our route count on a medical emergency service.

Health Services: No special vaccine is required for this part of South America but guests must check the vaccine situation as the information printed here may change. Also depending where you live/have travelled to recently there may be special entry requirements (yellow fever, etc). Clients with special medication should bring enough for the whole trip since you will not be able to buy medicine during our journey. It is very important that you state on the information sheet if you have suffered from heart disease; if you take diabetes medicine, if you have some kind of blood illness, etc.

Safety: Safety is a priority. We will always have one bilingual guide and one local guide with us. We carry a mobile phone in case of emergencies and the back up vehicle is always somewhere nearby. First aid kits are carried with us in the saddle bags.

**For futher information please contact:
rideandes@rideandes.com
www.rideandes.com**

Important Notes

- Booking will be confirmed upon receipt of the corresponding deposit (a 30% payment will be required upon confirmation and balance of payment will be required no later than 45 days before beginning of the tour).
- **Exceptional postponement/cancellation policy** in place due to circumstances directly related to Covid-19, please request full details.
- We reserve the right to alter the itinerary due to circumstances beyond our control.
- Prices can alter without prior notice (preceding a confirmed booking)
- Appropriate medical insurance is mandatory and the responsibility of each guest/booking agent.
- It is the responsibility of the individual guest/booking agent to ensure that participants have the necessary riding skills to take part in the chosen tour.
- Rider weight limits exist, please refer to each itinerary for details.
- Guests are strongly advised to bring and wear their riding helmets while riding during the tour.
- Guests will be required to sign a responsibility release before starting a tour.

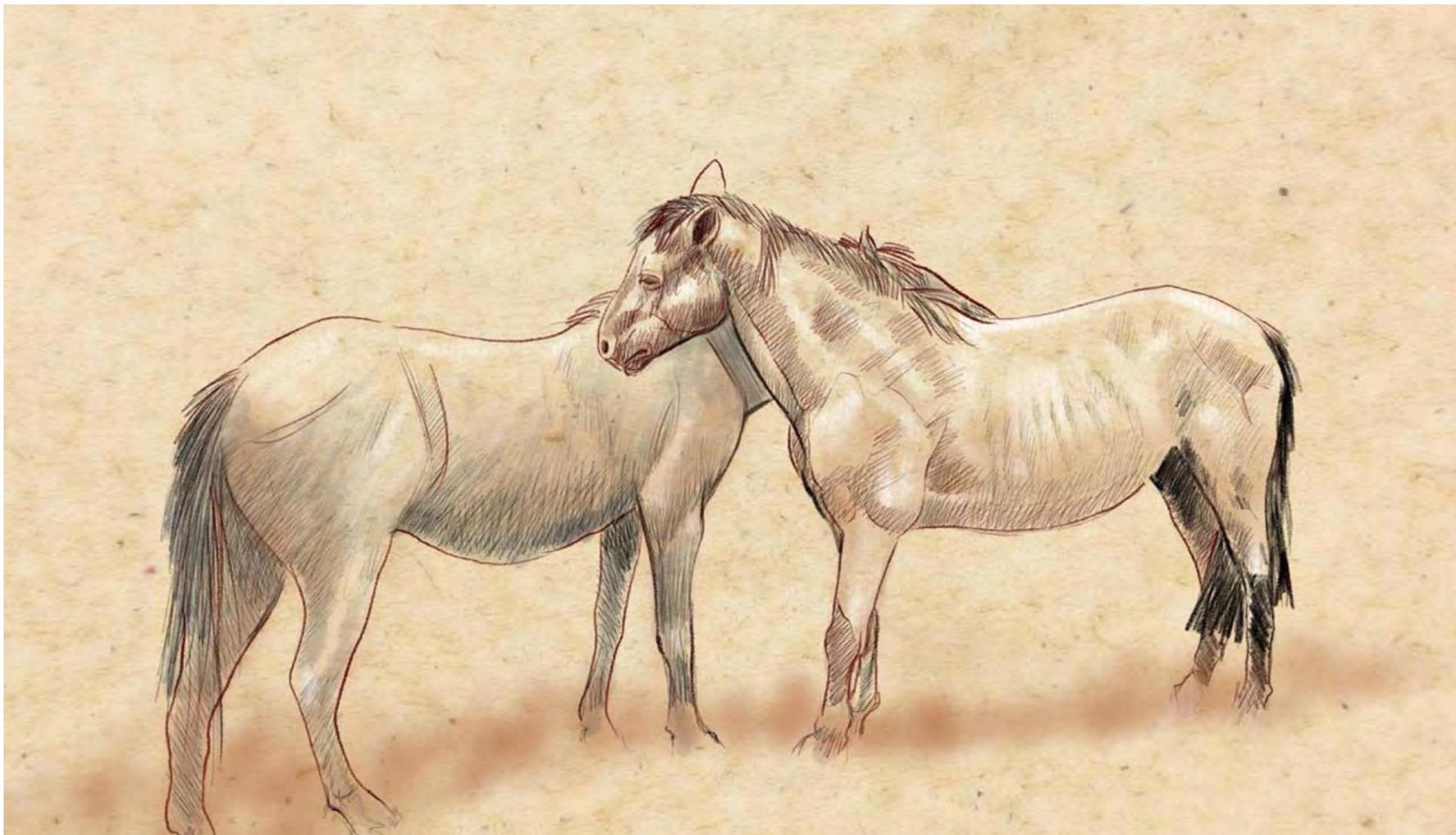
About Ride Andes:

Sally Vergette, an English rider, moved out to Ecuador in 1996 and shortly afterwards founded Ride Andes specializing in tours 'journeying on' through magnificent parts of South America. In 2003, using her knowledge acquired in Ecuador and with a local business partner, she was the first to set up estancia to estancia riding tours in Uruguay.



Ecuador is still her base but Ride Andes is involved in providing spectacular riding tours – many itineraries designed by Sally - in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Chile-Argentina, Colombia and Uruguay. Sally is still very active in all aspects of the rides in these destinations but is now supported by excellent local guides and only leads a few of these tours.

For further information please contact:
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