



**RIDE ANDES ECUADOR  
VALLEY RETREAT ONE CENTRE RIDE  
Year Round**

*Ecuador - picture postcard views around every corner*



## Introduction

Riding into a verdant valley described by many guests as the most beautiful they have ever seen, we arrive at a small, secluded Hacienda to be met by a charming couple that delight in sharing their slice of heaven with us. This working ranch and part-time country inn has a herd of dairy cows and magnificent Andalusian horses.

## Testimonial

"There was something just so special about this Hacienda. Its charm coupled with the friendly, welcoming people made it an unforgettable experience. My wakeup call was the lovely sound of horses and cows right outside my window! The meals, prepared by the ladies dressed in their beautiful Andean clothing, were all made with delicious fresh ingredients grown on the farm. Walking through the Hacienda was like walking back in time, to a wonderful time – the portraits hung on the walls in the hallway and dining room all told a story." Carla, March 2020

## Valley Retreat One Centre Ride

Nights are spent at a six-bedroomed hacienda full of character. Rooms with private bathrooms. The Ride Andes group will have exclusivity.

## What You Need To Know?

- Two to four days, riding through Andean valleys with unbelievable views
- Not just circuit rides: day 1 ride to the Hacienda, final day ride away
- Private groups - flexibility on routes and length of daily rides
- Wonderful option for families
- Routes for all riding levels; instruction available for inexperienced/beginner riders
- Season: All year long
- Maximum 10 People
- Solo riders welcome.
- Plenty of activity options for non-riders
- Flexible start day



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## Valley Retreat One Centre Ride

### Overview:

#### **DAY 1: Highlands & History, Introductory Ride**

*Overnight at small, family-run working Hacienda  
PL, D, (approx. 2-5 hours riding, 2 hours transfer from  
Quito)*

#### **DAY 2: Adobe Houses, Patchwork Fields, Agave Trails**

*2nd Overnight at small, family-run working Hacienda  
AB, PL, D, (approx. 3-6 hours riding)*

#### **DAY 3: Andean Condors, Forests & Cayambe Volcano**

*AB, PL, (approx. 3-6 hours horse riding, 2 hours transfer to  
Quito)*

***End of services***



#### **Arriving/Departing/Extensions:**

Start & end point: Quito/Quito Airport. We can arrange a host of 'extensions' for you, for example Galapagos Islands, Amazon Rain Forest, Cloud Forest, Cuenca, Natural Thermal Springs – for relaxing retreats or more active adventures, many of which involve very little onward travelling. Please contact us.



### **Detailed Itinerary:**

#### **DAY 1: Highlands & History, Introductory Ride**

Heading north-east from Quito, we cross the equator line and meet the horses. Once everyone is comfortable, we ride to a working ranch. As we ride along grassy tracks into this picturesque valley – meeting ladies in colourful local dress herding their animals along the way – time slows down, and guests are transported back a few decades to farming methods long since lost in many places. Arriving at the Hacienda, guests can leisurely drift into the relaxing Andean life – with a tea or a cold beer in the courtyard or a walk to see the milking or the Andalusian horses in their pastures. Look out for Andean condors soaring overhead, as well as a flyover by the egrets returning to roost.

*Overnight at small, family-run working Hacienda PL, D (approx. 2-5 hours riding, 2 hours transfer from Quito)*

#### **DAY 2: Adobe houses, patchwork fields, agave trails**

We ride out through the valley, encircled by meadows and enjoying canter along the agave-lined tracks. Leaving the valley floor, the views are breathtaking as we gaze out across the valleys to the distant ridges and volcanoes. Passing the Adobe houses, children tumble out to greet us enthusiastically, then turn their attention to keeping the errant pigs and sheep off patchwork fields of quinoa, potatoes, maize corn and lupins. Reaching the sacred Imbabura Volcano – the focus of many pre-Inca legends – we cross the valley with faster-paced riding for those that wish on the flat dirt trails, and then head back to the Hacienda via a different route. Guests can view the collection of Inca and pre-Inca pottery excavated on site and also walk into the nearby village to see the elaborate embroidery that has made this valley famous.

*2nd Overnight at small, family-run working Hacienda AB, PL, D (approx. 3-6 hours riding)*



### **DAY 3: Andean Condors, Forests & Cayambe Volcano**

After breakfast – complete with the Hacienda’s own milk, cream, cheese and jam – we bid farewell and ride off to another part of the farm to see the fighting bulls, then leave the valley by a different route. Climbing into the hills alongside gorges, there are dramatic views of the hanging valleys and rocky ridges produced at the end of the Ice Age. Cantering along the forest tracks, we emerge onto a plain and look back to see some of the pre-Inca earthworks dotted around the valley – one of the first highland areas ever settled. It is rare not to spot a mighty Andean condor overhead, the 3.2 metres (10 ½ feet) wingspan leaving visitors awestruck. Riding on towards the snow-capped Cayambe Volcano that dominates the skyline, guests say goodbye to the horses and are driven back to Quito.

*AB, PL (approx. 3-6 hours horse riding, 2 hours transfer to Quito)*

***End of services***

**2021/2023 Prices from:**

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

Length	double/twin per person	Single Supplement	Rider Weight supplement (85- 95 kg. 185-210lbs)
(3D/2N)	from USD 695	Please consult	USD 120

**Included:**

Accommodation (private bathrooms); all meals and water (from day 1 lunch to final day lunch), wine with lunch; English speaking guide & 2nd local guide; 2-4 riding days; horses & spare horses; grooms services; all necessary transfers/transport as per itinerary; all necessary local taxes, private reserve & national park entrance fees.

**Not included:**

Appropriate medical insurance (mandatory), visa (as necessary), international or national airport taxes, laundry service, soft and alcoholic drinks (evenings/dinner), personal expenditure, tips, and all services not mentioned in the detailed description.



## **F.A.Q's**

**Horses & Tack:** During this ride, riders usually stay with one horse (as long as the rider is happy; beginner riders often 'upgrade' as the ride progresses). Our intention is that riders build a bond with their horse and enjoy not only the landscape and ride but also the company of their horse – but some riders like the idea of trying as many horses as possible – let us know. As always, one or more spare horses will accompany us in case a change is needed. The horses are the local Ecuadorian Andean Criollo breed crossed with numerous other breeds (English, Spanish, Peruvian, Arab...) producing a steed ideally suited to the terrain and with a wonderful temperament. Criollo breeds have developed from horses that were first brought from Spain in the 17th century, developing very different characteristics in each region, depending on terrain and the needs of the local horsemen. We use McClellan saddles, a Western' type saddle with low rounded pommel (no horn) and a thick sheepskin atop. It is easy to ride 'English style' on these saddles, as well as Western. Each saddle has saddlebags & a poncho. 'English style' (two hand direct reining) & neck reining (Western 'one-hand' indirect rein riding) are both used. People adapt very quickly but the guide and 'chagras' are on hand to give some advice. This tack is very suitable for long days in the saddle.

**Accommodation:** The accommodation in this itinerary is a working Hacienda (ranch) and 'part time' country hotel; private bathrooms in all six rooms, two sitting rooms, courtyard and gardens including kitchen garden. The Hacienda is comfortable and full of character; the owners host our groups personally. If you are sharing your room, please let us know in advance if you prefer twin or double beds.

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

**Meals:** After a full day riding, as well as an excellent lunch (most days a picnic, but quite a menu, never just a sandwich), a great variety of delicious home cooked dinners that reflect the diverse Ecuadorian cuisine are served. All menus are prepared with excellent Ecuadorian produce -from the highlands, the coast and the Amazon. The dishes are not spicy but a local hot sauce is never far away! We can easily cater for vegetarians or any other dietary requirements as long as we are warned in advance.

**Climate:** The weather in Ecuador – as with all over the world – has become quite variable, but you can expect days of warm sunshine for ideal riding temperature, and cool nights. November-April is officially the rainy season, on some days we expect late afternoon rain – but by no means 24/7 'monsoon type downpours'. More detailed information is given in the travel notes.

**Clothes and Equipment:** Travel notes will be sent with useful information including a suggested packing list and guide contact details etc.

**Emergencies:** In case of accident, our guides carry a mobile phone so that they can contact assistance (local emergency services/back up vehicle/our Doctor in Quito) – the mobile phone coverage is generally excellent.

**Health Services:** The private health care sector in Ecuador is very good. In the event of illness or accident during your stay, you should be prepared to pay for assistance. Upon return home you can submit a claim for reimbursement according to the specifications of your insurance policy.

**Safety:** As with all over the world, in major cities (for example, Quito & Guayaquil) theft can be an issue hence we prefer that guests take city tours with our guides and we ask guests to use safe deposit boxes and follow the basic common sense rules while out and about. Outside these major cities (Quito & Guayaquil) it is very safe. Risk of disease is minimal in the areas we ride.

## Important Notes

- We strongly advise guests to arrive 2 nights prior to the ride start date in order to acclimatize – riders do find that in this way they do appreciate more the first day or two of the ride. We are able to help with hotel/hacienda options and activities prior to (and after) the ride.
- 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 are in place, 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.

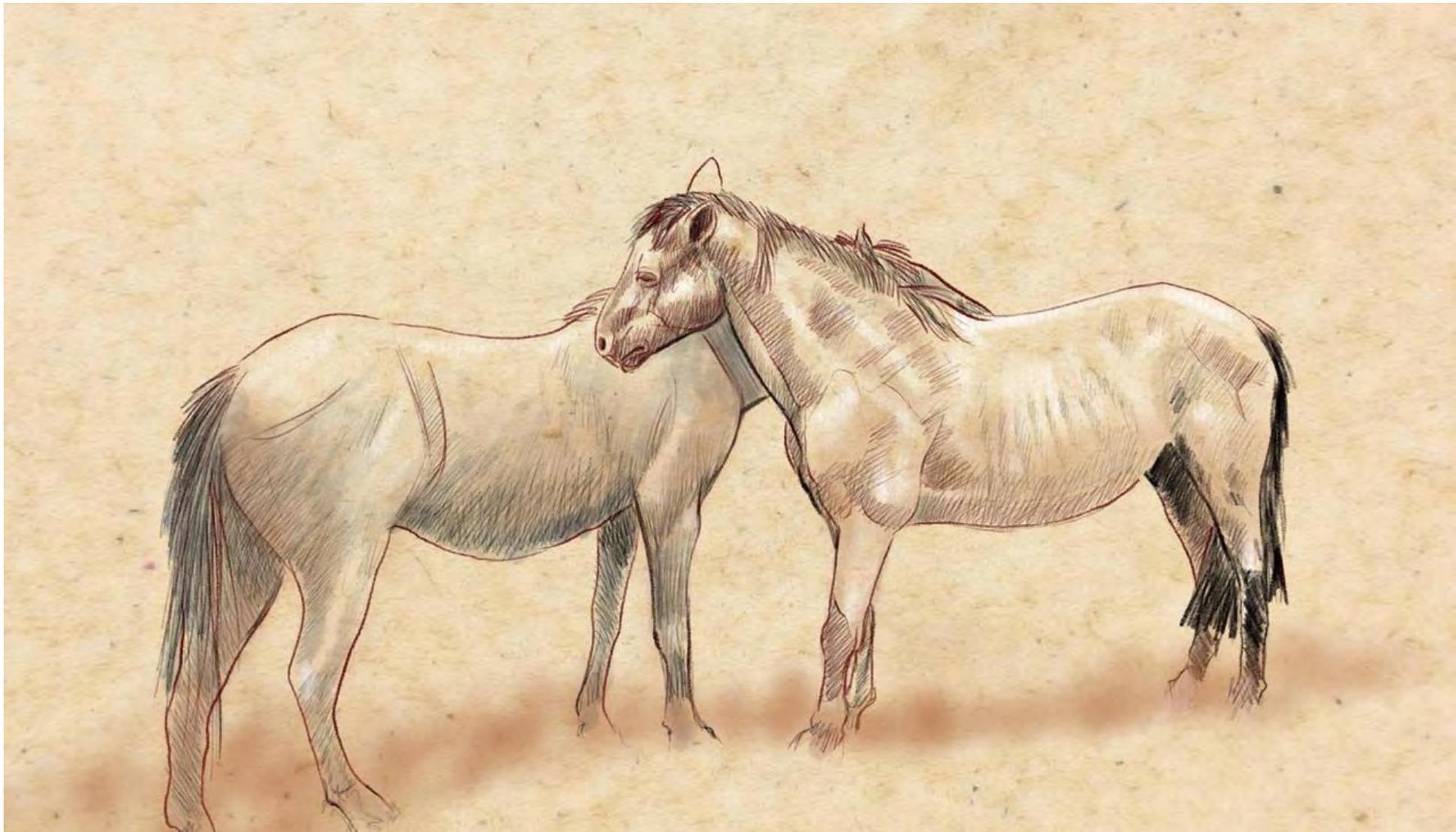
## About Ride Andes:

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 & with a local business partner, she was the first to set up estancia to estancia riding tours in Uruguay



Ecuador is still our 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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[www.rideandes.com](http://www.rideandes.com)



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