



**RIDE ANDES ECUADOR**  
**HISTORIC HACIENDAS RIDE**  
**Year Round**

*Ecuador - picture postcard views around every corner*





RIDE ANDES

rideandes@rideandes.com  
www.rideandes.com  
@ride\_andes  
facebook.com/RideAndes

WhatsApp, Tel. 24/7:  
+593 999 738 221

## Introduction

Staying at secluded colonial country houses, set amid beautiful gardens in idyllic locations. Riding through the valleys and along grand avenues into the cobbled courtyards, guests are transported back in time to the arrival of the first Spaniards on horseback in the 1500s and to the early 1800s, when Simon Bolivar was undertaking epic rides during the independence era – both events that reshaped the South American continent.

## Testimonials

"Our holiday with Ride Andes was without doubt the most memorable that we have ever had. All our needs were catered for. My husband was unable to ride so a 4x4 was organised which met us for lunch and in the evening. The scenery was amazing ... Sally's organisation was faultless: great food and interesting and comfortable places to stay. I would do it all over again at the drop of a hat!" Juliana G, Historic Haciendas.

## Historic Haciendas Ride

Nights are spent peacefully in front of log fires, in antique-filled rooms at exclusive historic Haciendas. Comfortable suites each have their own unique appeal, with the rambling manicured gardens a delight to wander through.

## What You Need To Know?

- Flexible number of days
- Adaptable amount of horse riding -in length, pace and content, to meet each group's wishes
- All riding levels catered for
- Wealth of alternative activities to horse riding on offer, guided by experts (botanical walks, bird watching, mountain biking...)
- One of or combination of the top locations in the Andes
- Private groups
- Flexible start day
- Superior options for the Galapagos Islands, Amazon Forest, Cloud Forest and other areas of this incredibly diverse destination.

## Historic Haciendas Ride Overview:

### **DAY 1: Paradise Found; an Idyllic Pastoral Andean Valley**

*Dinner & Overnight at a Historic Hacienda  
PL, D (approx. 3-5hrs riding)*

### **DAY 2: Agave Avenues & a Patchwork Of Fields**

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at a Historic Hacienda  
AB, PL, D (approx. 4-6hrs horse riding)*

### **DAY 3: Sacred Imbabura Volcano & Andean Condors**

*Dinner & 3rd Overnight at a Historic Hacienda  
B, L, D (approx. 4-6hrs horse riding)*

### **DAY 4: Andean Bears Then A Remarkable Change Of Scenery**

*Dinner & Overnight at old Jesuit Hacienda.  
B, PL, D (1 + 2.5 hrs vehicle transfers)*

### **DAY 5: Cotopaxi National Park & The Wild Horses**

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at old Jesuit Hacienda.  
AB, L, D (approx. 4-6hrs horse riding)*

### **DAY 6: Stunning Secret Valley, On Top Of The World**

*BB, PL (approx. 4-6hrs horse riding)*

### **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: Paradise Found; an Idyllic Pastoral Andean Valley**

A morning departure from Quito sees us heading northwards through a dry valley filled with acacia and cactus as well as avocado groves. Passing the snow-capped Cayambe volcano straddling the equator line, we meet the horses and – once guests are comfortable – ride into the beautiful, meadow-filled Andean Valley. This fertile glacial valley was chosen centuries ago by early settlers and riders can inspect the earthworks the pre-Inca groups left behind in the meadows of the Hacienda we are riding to. This Jesuit-founded Hacienda, with its courtyards, manicured gardens and elegant rooms, has been developed into the leading country house in the highlands, and its hospitality is second-to-none.

*Dinner & Overnight at a Historic Hacienda  
PL, D (approx. 3-5hrs riding)*

### **DAY 2: Agave Avenues & A Patchwork Of Fields**

After breakfast, we ride out into the picturesque valley. Along agave-lined tracks, we pass fields of lupins, quinoa and beans. A chance of some canters along the way for those that wish – the length and pace of the ride depends on the group. After a delicious al fresco lunch in the shade of eucalyptus trees, we head back to the Hacienda arriving along an impressive driveway, imagining seeing all those figures so important in shaping Ecuador, who passed by this avenue centuries before us. Steeped in history and playing a huge role in Ecuador's development since the 1500s, over pre-dinner drinks the owners will gladly chat to you about the Hacienda and its past. The Hacienda boasts a fine kitchen garden and most dishes on the menu involve the fresh produce grown here and the delicious milk and cheeses produced in their dairy. Tonight's dinner will be no exception.

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at a Historic Hacienda  
AB, PL, D (approx. 4-6hrs horse riding)*





### **DAY 3: Sacred Imbabura Volcano & Andean Condors**

After breakfast, we ride out through another part of this scenic valley – frequently described by guests as the most beautiful they have ever seen. Passing thatched Adobe cottages, with children chasing the pigs and ladies in their traditional dress peacefully embroidering while watching their sheep graze, we gain height to fully appreciate this landscape, sculpted at the end of the Ice Age by retreating glaciers. A common sight is the mighty Andean Condor soaring overhead, with its 3.2metre (10 ½ feet) wingspan meaning that guests give up following the bird long before they put in a single wingbeat! Arriving back at the Hacienda, guests can visit the condor project, the pre-Inca earthworks, ladies making exquisite embroideries and a whole host of other activities before settling in front of the open log fire for a relaxing evening.

*Dinner & 3rd Overnight at a Historic Hacienda  
B, L, D (approx. 4-6hrs horse riding)*





#### **DAY 4: Andean Bears Then A Remarkable Change Of Scenery**

After breakfast, including a variety of fresh fruits from the coast, we are going on a bear hunt! The Andean Spectacled bear inhabits the Hacienda native scrublands and is sighted more and more frequently. Usually the first sign that we are getting close to this timid omnivore is a destroyed puya plant – the bear's favourite food. Often an Andean Condor circles overhead and, closer to us, a hummingbird zooms past – the largest and smallest of the bird species in the space of a few minutes! A visit to the cheese factory follows, or a shopping opportunity at the Hacienda store of embroideries and handicrafts. Alternatively, you may wish to simply or relax on the verandas and soak in this tranquil Andean life. We drive to a Hacienda packed with roses; following lunch, guests can tour the rose plantation and showroom. An equator line visit for those that wish, and then a complete change of landscapes as we approach Cotopaxi National Park. Overnight is at another long-established Hacienda sitting on the edge of Humboldt's "Avenue of Volcanoes".

*Dinner & Overnight at an old Jesuit Hacienda.  
B, PL, D (1 + 2.5 hours vehicle transfers)*

#### **DAY 5: Cotopaxi National Park & the Wild Horses**

A complete change of riding scenery as we meet the horses again and ride onto the plains of Cotopaxi National Park. Surrounded by four magnificent peaks: Rumiñahui, Pasachoa, Sincholagua and the dominating iconic snow-capped Cotopaxi, we follow the main Cusco-Quito Inca route, then pass an old Inca fort as we turn eastwards towards the Amazon. Enjoying some faster-paced riding across the open grasslands as we speed through the rolling hills, we are sure to come across several herds of the wild horses that roam the park – the bold colts often running alongside us, long manes and tails flowing. Turning for home, we cross volcanic features such as old lahars and lava. Errant llamas often appear and, back at the hacienda, alpacas are busy mowing the lawns. Fresh local trout will be one of the local ingredients on tonight's menu, along with ceviches and soups.

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at an old Jesuit Hacienda  
AB, L, D (approx. 4-6hrs horse riding)*



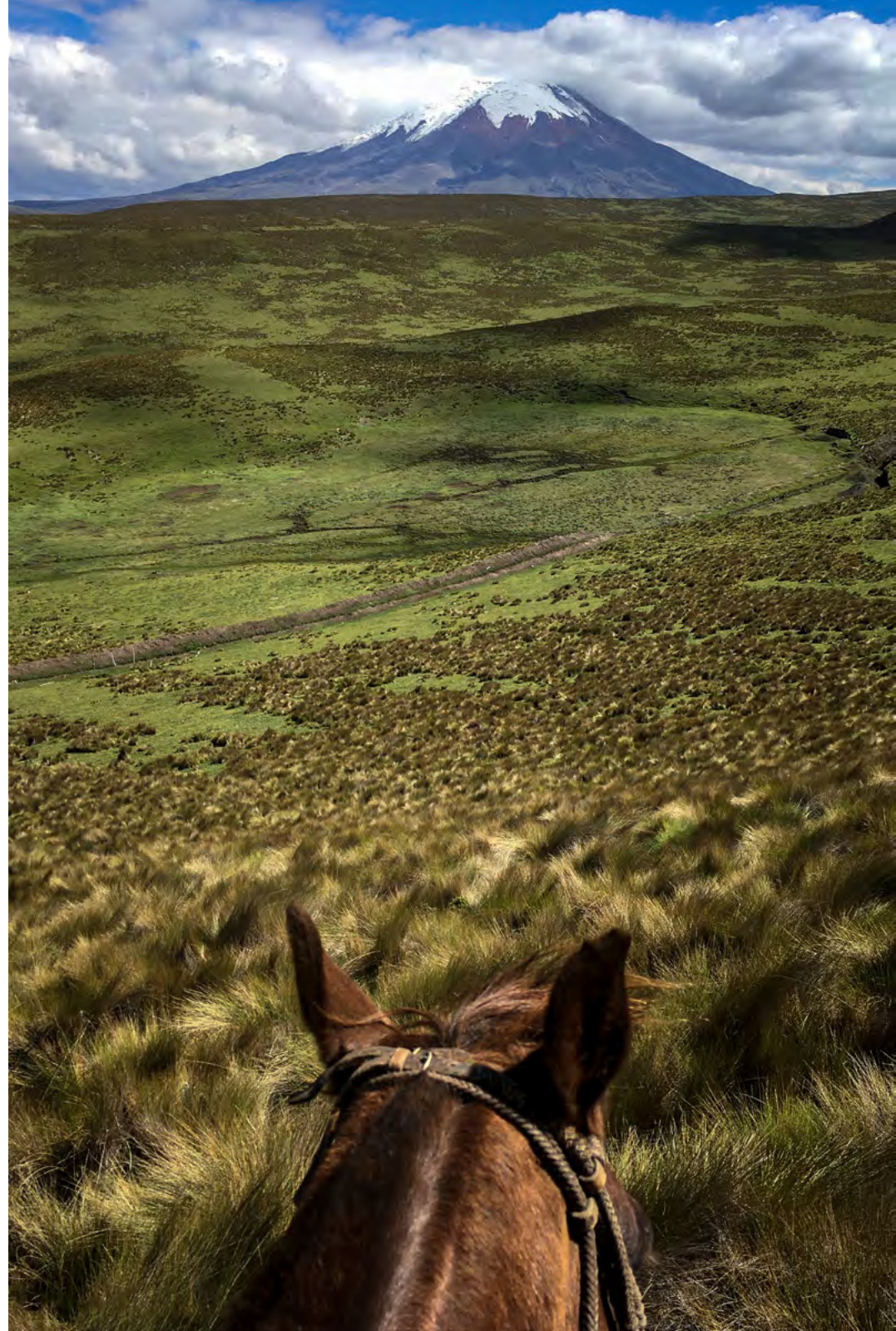
## **DAY 6: Stunning Secret Valley, On Top Of The World**

On our last day, we ride into the wilds of Rumiñahui Volcano, another excellent location to spot condors, deer, and foxes and the Ecuadorian Hillstar – a high-altitude hummingbird. We start with some invigorating canters across the flatlands close to Cotopaxi Volcano, then the pace steadies as we climb above 4,000 metres (13,123 feet) through the high 'paramo' grasslands to ride into a valley at the base of Rumiñahui peak. This route remains a firm favourite among guests and, along with a delicious picnic spread on a colourful Andean cloth, being hidden in this peaceful valley encircled by high peaks creates a magical way to round off the riding tour.

As we ride back down via a different route, the highest canter in the world is an exhilarating experience, forming an indelible memory as we cross the undulating hills following narrow tracks mapped out by the 'chagras' (local horsemen) and known by few. Guests leave the horses and are taken to Quito/Quito Airport, to fly home or embark on another adventure in this amazing little South American gem.

*BB, PL, (approx. 4-6hrs horse riding)*

***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 (85- 95 kg. 185-210lbs)
(6D/5N)	from USD 4960	Please consult	USD 240

**Included:**

All accommodation - mainly suites with private bathrooms; all meals and water (from day 1 lunch to lunch on final day); English speaking guide & 2nd local guide; horses & spare horses; ponchos & saddlebags; groom 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 two horses over the seven days riding (as long as the rider is happy!). Our intention is that riders can actually 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 provided in this itinerary are of a very high standard with charming interior designs. You will be able to enjoy a good night's sleep in pleasant, tranquil surroundings. 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](mailto:rideandes@rideandes.com)**  
**[www.rideandes.com](http://www.rideandes.com)**

**Meals:** After a full day riding, as well as an excellent lunch/picnic (a varied menu, with lots of options), a great variety of delicious home cooked dinners that reflect the very 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 sunshine with cool nights, and occasionally late-afternoon rain (November-May). Most days we ride valley to valley, each valley/plain with its own microclimate. 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 at least a day 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:

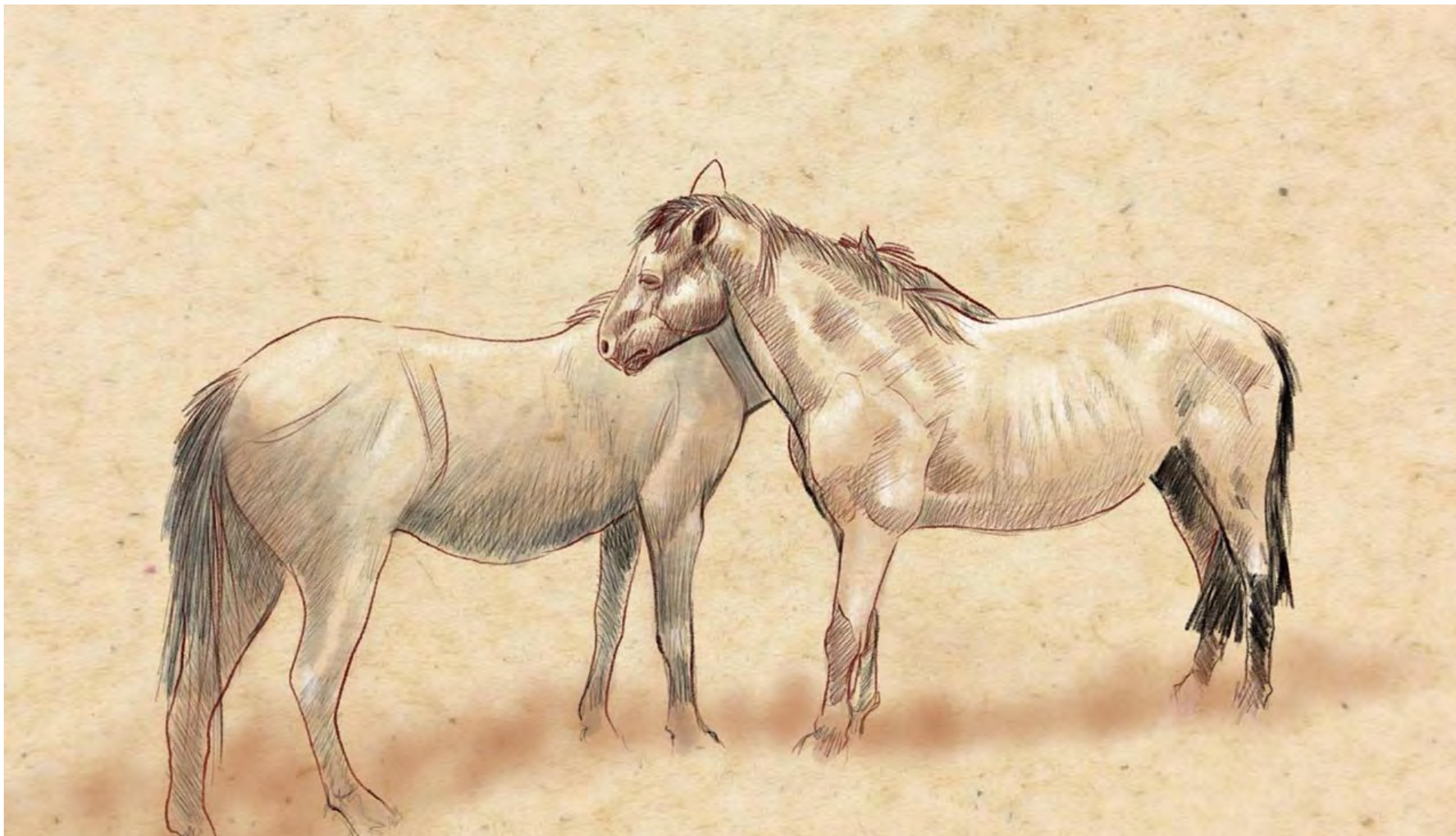
Sally Vergette, an English rider, moved out to Ecuador in 1996 and shortly afterwards founded Ride Andes, specializing in tours 'journeying on' through magnificent parts of South America. In 2003, using her knowledge acquired in Ecuador and with a local business partner, she was the first to set up estancia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

**For further information please contact:**  
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