



SURF & TURF, URUGUAY



9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS ITINERARY

Introduction

From riding in the Atlantic surf to crossing the Estancias' turf, skirting lagoons, traversing enchanted forests and palm tree covered plains, passing through a vineyard and olive groves, from fishing village to historic fort to beachside hotel this is the way to get to know one of South America's best riding destinations.

Riders enjoy grassland gallops, wetland wades, shady woodland trails and pristine sandy beaches pausing along the way to quaff wine, sample the famous 'asado' and to learn about the historical battles for these coveted lands.

This tour begins and ends in the very pleasant Montevideo and, in between, riders canter across pastures and firm sand then the pace slows for trickier terrain; the opportunity of work with cattle alongside the famous gauchos is also on the agenda.

The diverse bird life is fascinating as we continually change ecosystem and wildlife such as delightful armadillos often put in an appearance as well as capybara.

Out on the trail, nights are spent at a restored traditional estancia, a beachside hotel, a new lodge, a charming 'posada'... guests also enjoy a night under the stars.

Head to Ride Andes **You Tube channel** to view some of the incredible and varied landscapes you will be riding through: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jS6KHsIhJMg>



What you need to know?

- 9 day itinerary (riding on 7 days) plus wine tasting, winery & olive press visits
- Participating in cattle work plus progressive ride through varied ecosystems
- Locally bred horses, ideally suited to the task in hand
- Fixed date departures: intermediate & advanced riders (max. 8 riders)
- Fixed date rides: single riders welcome
- Private groups: families & novice riders welcome (children minimum age 10)
- Plenty of opportunities for canters
- Season: October to April

Surf & Turf, a brief overview:

DAY 1: Arrive in Montevideo, met at airport/port, transfer to hotel for overnight

DAY 2: AM winery & olive oil press visit, PM introductory ride

Dinner & overnight at a 1890s recently restored Estancia

B, L, D ((approx 2.5 hrs drive, 3-4 hours riding)

DAY 3: Gauchos, cattle work & 'asado'

Overnight at two 'cabins' or at small Posada in nearby village

B, L, D (approx 6 hours riding, 2 hrs drive to coast)

DAY 4: Across the Estuary, Dunes & Beaches, remote fishing village

Dinner & 2nd Overnight at the delightful cabins or Posada.

B, L, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding)

DAY 5: Ombues, lagoons, native forests & wetlands. Birds galore!

Dinner & overnight at a 'rancho' (permanent structure with veranda, tables, shower...)

Night under the stars or in tents (thick mattresses)

B, L, T, D (approx 5-6 hours riding)

DAY 6: Palm trees & pastures, 'mate', tack shop, to coastal village

Dinner & overnight at charming Posada

B, L, T, D (approx 3 hours riding, gaucho shop visit, 45mins driving)

DAY 7: Beautiful beaches, dolphins, forests & historic fort

Dinner & overnight at beachside hotel with swimming pools & hot tubs

B, L, T, D (approx 6 hours riding)

DAY 8: Long canters & bareback riding on empty beaches

Shower & lunch back at the hotel. Drive to Montevideo.

B, L (approx 3 hours riding, approx. 3½ hours drive)

DAY 9: Departure. Transfer to Montevideo Airport/port – or start an 'extension'. B.

Arriving/ Departing/ Extensions

Start & end point: Montevideo, Uruguay -with its beautiful coastlines, historic Colonia de Sacramento and closeness to Argentina & Brazil, many outstanding places to add on to your ride, please contact us for help with arranging other trips.

www.rideandes.com



Surf & Turf, a fuller description:

DAY 1: Arrive in Montevideo, met at airport/port, transfer to hotel for overnight

Guests are met at the Montevideo International Airport (Carrasco) upon arrival and driven to their well-located city hotel. Enjoy a stroll through the old city or along the sandy beaches of the famous 'Rambla' combined with fine dining in this cosmopolitan capital city.

Overnight at a Montevideo hotel.
No meals included.

DAY 2: AM winery & olive oil press visit, PM introductory ride

After breakfast, a drive eastwards towards the Atlantic coast. Guests will meet their horses at a traditional, recently renovated Estancia.





Once everyone is comfortable we will ride out to a nearby vineyard and also through olive groves where delicious olive oil is produced for a tour and lunch then we will continue our ride on through the cattle ranching 'gaucho country' and back to the estancia for a glass of wine on the veranda at sunset and a delicious dinner awaits. Lunch at a vineyard; Dinner & overnight at an 1890s recently restored Estancia
B, L, D (approx 2.5 hrs drive, 3-4 hours riding)

DAY 3: Gauchos, cattle work & 'asado'

We ride out along dirt lanes to another Estancia where we join the gauchos (skilled local horsemen) to help out with the cattle work at a ranch. An authentic experience, riders helping out with the daily tasks. The day will depend on what work needs doing but often we have to count the cows (not as easy as it looks!), move herds to the corrals or different pastures and treat any injured animals.

Once the work is over we ride on to our lunch spot for a delicious traditional 'asado'.



The vehicle will then meet us and we will head to a stunning coastal area for overnight at a horse farm where we will meet new trusty steeds and begin another leg of our journey. Overnight at individual 'cabins' on the property or at small Posada in nearby beachside village.

B, L, D (approx 5-6 hours riding, 2 hrs drive to coast)

DAY 4: Across the Estuary, Dunes & Beaches, remote fishing village



Once riders are settled, we will ride to the beach where the tide will determine how we cross an estuary – normally riders in a boat and horses swimming! On reaching the opposite bank, we arrive in a large system of sand dunes. Lunch awaits the other side of the sand dunes in a restaurant on the beach of an isolated village.

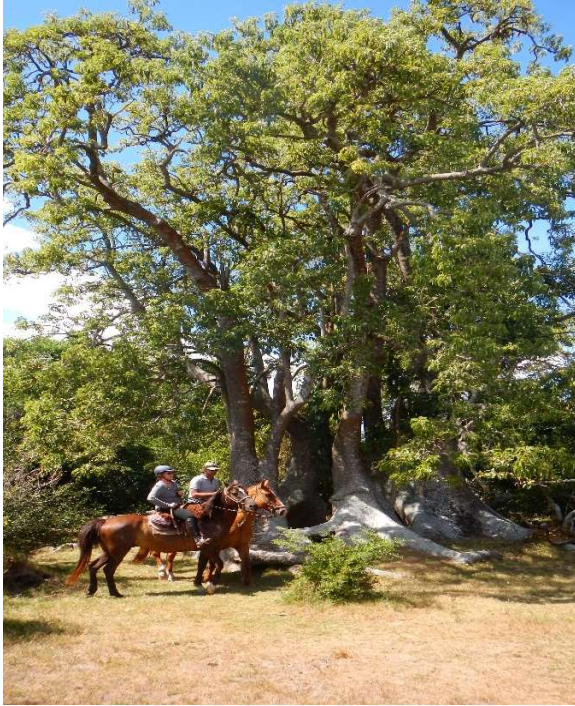
During the afternoon we ride back to the horse farm through pine trees, often spotting burrowing owls and possibly armadillos!

Stunning sunsets are common, enhanced by a glass of Uruguayan wine. Another delicious dinner is served.

Dinner & 2nd Overnight at the delightful cabins or cozy Posada.

B, L, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding)





DAY 5: Ombues, lagoons, native forests & wetlands. Birds galore!

Today we ride inland, along grassy lanes, across pastures, through native forests and beside a lagoon the shores of which are inhabited by many bird species. The terrain allows for some long canters and then we plunge into the wetlands, sometimes occasionally swimming on horseback as we approach the 'rancho' where we spend the night. Guests will see the very unique, usually solitary Ombu tree and can hear a lot about the local flora and fauna from the guides. There is a night drive to a very rare Ombu forest. Dinner & overnight at a 'rancho' (permanent structure with veranda, tables, shower...) Night under the stars or in comfortable tents (thick mattresses) – a team will have already put your tent up for you and prepared delicious some delicious dishes ready for your arrival. B, L, T, D (approx 5-6 hours riding)

DAY 6: Palm trees & pastures, 'mate', tack shop, to coastal village

A chance to taste the 'mate' green tea that Uruguayans could not live without! Then a morning ride across grasslands with the opportunity of spotting rheas (ostrich like flightless native birds), road runners, caracaras, herons, spoonbills, southern screamers, ... We will pass strangler figs and palm trees along our trail and other native tree species.

In the afternoon we will be driven up the coast to a Posada in a seaside village but, before this drive, there is an opportunity to call into a local gaucho store to buy some souvenirs and see all the local tack and clothing used. Intricate leatherwork and high leather boots are sold here as well as berets – the gauchos' surprising choice of headwear. Dinner & overnight at a small, charming Posada. B, L, D (approx 3 hours riding, gaucho shop visit, 45mins driving)



DAY 7: Beautiful beaches, dolphins, forests & historic fort

As we ride out along the coast, riders enjoy the empty firm-sand beaches as we ride across several bays and points. There is the possibility of seeing dolphins as we splash in the water and canter on the sand. Parts of the ride will be in forest and we pass an historic fort, first built in the 1700s -the guide can once again give you all the details about the battles that took place along these strategic shores and also the many shipwrecks that lie beneath the waves.



Arriving at the beachside hotel, riders spot the outdoor hot tubs; there are also indoor hot tubs and a swimming pool and a whole ocean to swim in, if you wish. Dinner & overnight at beachside hotel with swimming pools & hot tubs.
B, L, T, D (approx 6 hours riding)



DAY 8: Long canters & bareback riding on empty beaches

Our final morning ride takes us onto a seemingly endless beach – that continues on into Brazil. Perhaps we might meet one or two fishermen, otherwise flocks of shore birds are the only other inhabitants of this expansive beach. Having enjoyed some exhilarating canters, if they wish, riders can take the saddles off and ride bareback into the ocean, paddling with the



Tel/WhatsApp: +593 999 738 221 • **E-mail:** rideandes@rideandes.com
Horse riding in South America

horses and crossing an 'arroyo' (small estuary) on our way back to the hotel for lunch and the departure back to Montevideo.

Shower & lunch back at the hotel. Drive to Montevideo.

B, L (approx 3 hours riding, approx. 3½ hrs drive)



DAY 9: Departure

Transfer to Montevideo Airport/port – or start an 'extension'.

B.

End of services



Surf & Turf, pricing

The guide price per person of US Dollars 4895 (six riders) does vary depending on the season (high/low) and group size. Please consult.

Fixed date departures & private tailor-made options.

Single rooms available, unfortunately a single supplement will apply.

Included

Winery & olive press guided tour, 8 nights accommodation (private bathrooms) based on double/twin room basis, single rooms available (supplementary charge applicable). One night camping in good quality, large tents, excellent mattresses, sheets & pillows, permanent 'rancho' structure to relax in, shared bathroom; Montevideo airport transfer in & out; English speaking guide & 2nd guide; riding on 7 days; horses & spare horses; saddlebags; grooms services; all necessary transfers/transport as per itinerary; all necessary local taxes, private reserve & national park entrance fees.

Not included

International flights, appropriate medical insurance (mandatory); visa (as necessary); some meals in Montevideo.



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).
- The deposit is non-refundable (discretion of Ride Andes); please request our postponement/cancellation policy.
- 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. We highly recommend taking out an insurance that includes Covid coverage.
- 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:

Ride Andes has been offering unique itineraries in Uruguay since 2003. 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, Colombia, Ecuador 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 no longer leads all of these tours.