



Los Potreros

Weight limit: 95kg

Nearest airport: Cordoba

8 days / 7 nights / 7 riding days



Los Potreros is an Argentine, family owned and run, working estancia which offers first class hospitality, traditional stylish rooms and a personalized programme for each of their guests. Meals are always hosted by one of the family and they delight in regaling riders with stories of local culture and history whilst enjoying together excellent local produce and top-notch wines. With characteristic Argentine style and warmth guests have a glimpse into estancia life.

The Riding

Riding at Los Potreros is an experience not to be missed, whatever your ability. The horses are ridden 'gaucho style', in a relaxed manner with loose reins, which is very intuitive and easy to pick up. Each with their own charming personality, the horses take on the task of ensuring each guest has a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable experience. Trail riding is tailored to suit ability and the hills provide a surprising variety of landscapes and terrain. Rocky outcrops give way to open hillsides. Hidden valleys lead to tumbling waterfalls and wooded paths. Trails take you to swimming holes and spectacular viewpoints, or further afield to neighbouring lands that offer a glimpse of rural life, past homesteads, churches and remote schools. There are between 4-6 hours of riding a day. The itinerary is flexible, and subject to weather, particularly in the case of polo. On Sundays there is only a morning ride, but there are plenty of other activities to enjoy in the afternoon.

Guides & Group sizes

There is a maximum number of 12 guests at any one time. Due to the flexible itinerary the group size varies, but it is normally 4-6 riders plus 2 guides.



Horses and Tack

There are over 80 riding horses, with the herd being a mixture of Criollos, Peruvian Pasos and polo ponies, which are forward-going, responsive and sure-footed. Your hosts tend to change horses during a guest's stay, giving guests the opportunity to try several different horses.

There is a strict riding weight limit of 95kgs and 85kgs for polo and the Peruvian Paso breed.

Level of riding and fitness

All levels of rider are catered for, from beginner to experienced. Rides and horses tailored to suit. The pace is dependent on ability, from walking, 'pacing' and plenty of opportunities to canter.

Accommodation & Dining

The estancia has comfortable but simple rooms, traditionally furnished with plenty of antiques, all individual and with private bathrooms. Rooms are heated with wood-burning stoves or fireplaces. You can expect top quality beds, linen, dressing gowns and amenities, with a maid service 3 times per day.

Meals are held together in the main dining room or on the veranda, with lunch and dinner hosted by the Begg family. Breakfast includes bacon and eggs, toast, cereals, yoghurt, fruit and porridge. Lunch and supper consist of two courses with coffee and a combination of international and traditional Argentine cuisine. Afternoon tea is tea and homemade cake or biscuits. There are regular picnics and 'asados' (barbecues).

Meal times are one of the highlights of a stay at the estancia as they are highly sociable and the hosts are always keen to share their insights into Argentine life.

There is a swimming pool which is open mid-Oct-April.

Itinerary

Day 1

Your transfer will meet you at the international airport of Córdoba. Just under an hour from your pick-up you will arrive at Estancia Los Potreros in time for a late lunch. An introductory ride to get used to the 'gaucho' style of riding – long legs, deep seats and neck reining, whilst enjoying the comfortable sheepskins on the saddles. After your ride, the Begg family invite you to dinner in what has been the family home for over 100 years.

Day 2

Ride to the 'Top of the World', the highest point on the estancia, to appreciate the spectacular

views out over the Sierras Chicas. The trail along the ridge is perfect for condor and eagle spotting, before returning to the estancia in time for lunch on the veranda.

Demonstration and introduction to the very special Peruvian Paso horse. Learn more about this amazing 5- gaited horse, before trying out their super smooth paces yourself. All of these horses are home-bred on the estancia and are forward-going and extremely comfortable.

Day 3

A long morning's ride to the far south of the farm, dropping into the local village to visit a unique and unusual chapel and museum that was built as a memorial to his wife and daughter by Guido Buffo, an art and science lover. Enjoy a traditional Argentine 'asado', sampling several different cuts of the estancia's home-reared beef, washed down with plenty of Malbec.

Take the rest of the afternoon to relax by the pool, and in the evening you are invited to an informal wine tasting, sampling local wines of the region before sitting down to a candle-lit dinner.



Day 4

Cattle day! Discover your inner gaucho as you help the boys round up our herd of award-winning Aberdeen Angus, collecting them and moving them across the hills to our cattle station. Following lunch 'gaucho style' under a shady tree, see if you can master the art of the

lasso in the corrals, before some lovely long open canters along the top of the hills as you return to the estancia for tea and cake on the veranda.

Day 5

The ride this morning drops down to a hidden waterfall where you can take a dip or just take a few moments to relax in the cool shade. From there a wonderful long canter takes you up to 'Potrero de Niz', the original family home of the Beggs, and a delicious picnic lunch on the porch. Perched on the top of a hill, the house has stunning views over the valleys, and we warn you that once there you will never want to leave! In the afternoon you will ride back via the 'Bellstone' which will have the geologists amongst you scratching your heads. Tonight, the chefs open the farm kitchen doors and invite you to join them in preparing some traditional local dishes whilst sampling some more fabulous Argentine wines.

Day 6

No horse-riding holiday to Argentina would be complete without trying your hand at the 'Sport of Kings' – polo! Ride down to the polo ground where you will be given a short lesson followed by some practice 'stick and ball' and then play a few chukkas of this highly addictive game. After a barbeque lunch, challenge the gauchos to some gaucho games – barrel racing and 'sortija' – a race that involves spearing a small ring with a stick at speed!

Day 7

On your final day, ride through plunging gorges and over soaring mountain tops to reach 'Las Tasas' – a gorgeous natural swimming-hole where you can dive, swim or just take a snooze in the sun. After a shady picnic lunch, help the gauchos round up the mares and foals to protect them from the elusive puma. Tonight, enjoy some live traditional Argentine music with a glass of wine in the garden before sitting down to a fabulous farewell dinner.

Day 8

After breakfast depart for your onward travels.

Price includes

- Transfers to/from Córdoba airport
- All accommodation, food and drink (including alcoholic beverages) on a full board basis
- Riding and all other estancia based activities
- Guides
- Local taxes

Not included

- Flights
- Personal insurance
- Discretionary gratuities
- Activities off the estancia



International flights & Airport transfers

The nearest international airport is Cordoba, transfers can be arranged between 08:00 - 20:00 in accordance with your arrival time. The estancia is a one hour drive from the airport.

What to bring

- Riding clothes
- Riding helmet (compulsory for polo)
- Swimming costume
- Casual wear for the evening

- Comfortable shoes

Climate

During the months of April, May, August, September and October you are most likely to experience good weather with pleasant average temperatures that fall between 20 degrees Celsius and 25 degrees Celsius. On average, the warmest months are January, February and December, but they also have a high chance of rain. August is usually the driest month. The warmest month is January with an average maximum temperature of 29°C.

Health

For health and vaccine recommendations, please consult your healthcare provider at least 8 weeks before your trip.

Country specific information can also be found at National Travel Health Network and Centre website: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>.

Travel documents

For entry requirements to Argentina for UK citizens, please visit the Foreign Travel Advice website:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/argentina>

For any other nationalities, please contact your local embassy to check entry requirements.

Having the correct travel documents is entirely your responsibility.

Currency & Tipping

This is an all-inclusive stay, and you will therefore need minimal money. Tipping is at your discretion, any currency is welcome.

Cancellation policy

Payment & Cancellation Terms

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Holidays are confirmed with a 20% non-refundable deposit. The full balance is due 56 days before the start date.

If you cancel your booking less than 56 days before the start date of your trail we are entitled to receive full payment, less refunds as follows:

42 days or more before booking date - 50%

30 days or more - 30%

less than 30 days - nil

Book with confidence – Covid Guarantee:

If the ride operator is closed or you are unable to travel due to lockdown:

1/ The deposit is reissued as a rebooking voucher to rebook anytime.

2/ Any balance payment will be refunded to you in full within 1 week of departure date.



Insurance

All saddletravel.com customers are required to take out appropriate travel insurance that covers horse riding and holiday cancellation. Proof of insurance details will be required during the booking process.

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