

DREAMride

Andean adventure

Step off the beaten track on an unforgettable horseback journey through the Andes mountains

5 reasons to ride in PATAGONIA

Explore the Patagonia region on the holiday of a lifetime through the Andes from Argentina to Chile. Here are five reasons to take the road less travelled...

1 The scenery

From rolling pasture to dense forests of monkey puzzle trees, rocky volcanic gorges and the imposing backdrop of Mount Lanin (pictured), there will never be a dull moment. Keep an eye out for local wildlife, such as armadillos, parrots and even pumas.

2 The horses

On the Argentinian side of the ride, the horses are responsive, around 15.2hh, with Criollo X Selle Français breeding. You will change to smaller ponies at the Chilean border. All are exceptionally sure-footed on the steep, rocky slopes.

3 The riding

With five to eight hours in the saddle each day, you should be a fit, experienced rider. Although the weather is generally hot and dry, it gets cold in the mountains at night. Be prepared for rain.

4 The food

Sample the famous Argentinean beef, cooked over an open fire. Try mate – herbal tea – and enjoy long lunches, followed by a siesta.

5 The remoteness

If you want to get away from it all, this is the ideal opportunity. You are unlikely to see anyone other than local farmers. Camp out under the stars in two-man tents.

Available from November to February through Wild and Exotic. Priced from £2,995 per person for nine nights, including food and airport transfers. For more information, tel: (01439) 748 401; visit: www.wildandexotic.co.uk.

Fly to Buenos Aires with British Airways or Aerolíneas Argentinas, and then take a domestic flight to San Carlos De Bariloche Airport.