

ESCORTED TOUR  
**RIDING IN ARGENTINA**  
WITH  
**SIMON LAWRENCE**  
21 MARCH – 2 APRIL 2020  
**PATAGONIA EXTENSION**  
31 MARCH – 5 APRIL 2020



Gauchos riding in Argentina

Escorted Tour  
**Argentina Riding**



# RIDING IN ARGENTINA WITH SIMON LAWRANCE

21 MARCH – 2 APRIL 2020

## PATAGONIA EXTENSION

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<b>CONTACT</b>	Louisa Thompson – Escorted Tours Consultant
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### SIMON LAWRANCE

Simon has been based in the Chipping Norton area of Oxfordshire for 25 years. He has produced and evented horses up to CCI 4-star level, having completed Badminton and Burghley on several occasions. He is a very well-established name in Eventing and hunting circles. Simon has trained with Emile Faurie, Lars Sederholm, Yogi Breisner and Ginny Elliot, and is a member of the British Eventing Coach Programme. He has trained all levels of riders for many years and is a British Eventing accredited UKCC level 3 (eventing specific) trainer, and under 18 Coach for the Central Region. Simon has been fieldmaster for the Heythrop Hunt since 2002, and Joint Master of Hounds since 2006.

### QUALITY OF SERVICE

We like to think that our success has been built on a simple formula - to deliver a high standard of service before, during and after each holiday, a duty of care and commitment to you, and value for money. We aim to be totally flexible in our approach, as this allows us to create the holiday that you want and one that is easy and enjoyable to plan.

However, if you feel that there are areas in which we could improve our service to you, please do not hesitate to contact either our Managing Director Nick Van Gruisen, or Executive Director Rowan Paterson, on 020 7386 4646. You can also email them:

[nick@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk](mailto:nick@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk)  
[rowan@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk](mailto:rowan@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk)

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## DETAILED ITINERARY

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Join Simon Lawrance on a wonderful adventure to Argentina. Begin with a couple of days in and around Buenos Aires, known as the 'Queen of the River Plate Basin' or the 'Paris of South America', a city full of contrasts where the architecture reflects a time of splendour and abundance and cultural influences from immigrants including the Spanish, Italians, English, French, Dutch, Jews, Arabs, Greeks and Japanese.

Then spend seven days on Estancia Huechahue in Argentine Patagonia, a land which is unfeasibly beautiful, rugged and wild. Four generations of the Wood family have worked on the 15,000 acres of Patagonian Steppe to produce a self-sufficient oasis and thriving cattle operation. Today Jane Wood Williams runs the estancia and has been welcoming guests since 1990. Life here is always an adventure, whether you are out on the hills on horseback or on the river with fly rod in hand. Huechahue maintains traditional values and customs whilst welcoming visitors into a unique world where horses and cattle still roam free and food is home grown. Enjoy a riding programme which will be adapted to the experience of the group and to how long you wish to ride each day. There will be opportunities to catch sight of condors, swim and to work with the cattle on horseback.

There is also an optional extension to Southern Patagonia where one of the most beautiful landscapes in the Western Hemisphere can be found in the Patagonian Andes. Numerous turquoise lakes fed by melt-water from the glacias reflect the majesty of the snow-capped peaks. The mountainsides are covered by primeval forests of sub-Antarctic beech trees. Surrounded by this magnificent vegetation are the immense glaciers, the highlight of any trip to this region. Travel to the small and picturesque tourist town of El Calafate, known as the National Capital City of de Glaciers and enjoy excursions into the awesome Los Glaciares National Park and to see its famous Perito Moreno Glacier.



The Recoleta Cemetery



La Boca Neighbourhood, Buenos Aires

## **DAY 1: SATURDAY, 21 MARCH**

## **LONDON / BUENOS AIRES**

Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) Norwegian Air DI 7505 departing London Gatwick at 21.10 hrs.

## **DAY 2: SUNDAY, 22 MARCH**

## **BUENOS AIRES**

Arrive in Buenos Aires at 08.15 hrs. Transfer to the centrally located 4\* Pulitzer hotel for a two night stay.

Lunch under own arrangements. In the afternoon, enjoy a city tour of the main areas of Buenos Aires, including La Boca, the birthplace of tango and the blue-collar neighbourhood. Continue to see San Telmo, the oldest barrio of Buenos Aires where you will learn about the slave market, the arrival of European Immigrants, literature and the British Invasion of the city in 1806-1807. Also visit Plaza de Mayo where the Casa Rosada, the Metropolitan Cathedral and the central parts of the city are situated. You will also visit the Recoleta, the most aristocratic area of the city. The neighbourhood is known for its French architecture and wide parks. The Recoleta Cemetery is a very important spot in this area, impressive not only for its unique architecture but also for its historical value. It was founded in 1822 and important historical figures are buried here, including Eva Peron. Return to the hotel. Dinner under own arrangements.

## **DAY 3: MONDAY, 23 MARCH**

## **BUENOS AIRES**

Morning full day excursion in the northern areas of the city. You will visit San Isidro and Tigre, located on the Río de la Plata, and the complex streams and rivers that form the Delta del Río Paraná. San Isidro is where the families from the porteña elite built their summer villas early in the 20th century. From here continue to Tigre and discover life in the Delta, the fruit port and landscapes from the river. Take a walk along the riverbanks before boarding the old island flatboat, Afrodita, originally used to transport barrels for a distillery.

Lunch on board the boat on the Parana River sailing towards the Rio de la Plata (route depending on the weather and water levels). This is a wonderful chance to get great views of the villas, Victorians docks and English gardens. Transfer back to the hotel. Dinner under own arrangements.



Estancia Huechahue



Riding at Estancia Huechahue

## **DAY 4: TUESDAY, 24 MARCH**

## **BUENOS AIRES / SAN MARTIN DE LOS ANDES**

This morning, transfer to Jorge Newbery airport for a domestic flight to San Martin de Los Andes arriving in the mid-afternoon. On arrival, transfer to Estancia Huechuahue, a working cattle ranch in Argentine Patagonia, where seven nights are spent.

Late lunch at the lodge before enjoying a short afternoon ride to familiarise yourself with the horses and the way the Argentinians ride. Return to the lodge. Dinner at the lodge.

## **DAY 5: WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH**

## **HUECHAHUE**

A full day's ride on Estancia Huechahue following the Huechahue stream through its basalt canyons, riding as fast as you want across the water-meadows sending the plovers and ibis screeching.

Enjoy a traditional 'asado' lunch (barbeque), before returning over the top of Chenque Hill, where the Andes rise behind you and the vastness of Patagonia stretches out before you. Dinner at the lodge.

## **DAY 6: THURSDAY, 26 MARCH**

## **HUECHAHUE**

A day spent working cattle with the gauchos.

Traditional Gaucho style lunch of beef ribs threaded onto a stick and cooked over the open fire. This afternoon relax in the shade before getting the chance to separate the cows on horseback or trying your hand with a lasso. Dinner at the lodge.



Riding at Huechahue



Lanin Volcano

## **DAY 7: FRIDAY, 27 MARCH**

## **HUECHAHUE**

Today is a full day's ride on Estancia Huechahue, visiting the Indian burial caves. The caves were formed when the glaciers carved the valley, opening an entrance to the lava flow tunnels formed during previous eras of volcanic activity. The Tehuelche Indians laid out their dead, surrounded by their weapons and always

somewhere where they could see their enemies coming. They decorated the walls with designs. The remains have disappeared, but the petroglyphs and the views are still there. Lunch at the lodge. Dinner at the lodge.

## **DAY 8: SATURDAY, 28 MARCH**

## **HUECHAHUE**

A morning's ride to see Huechahue's stallion with the mares and new foals, and a chance to herd horses.

After a late lunch there will be an evening ride to the cliffs where the condors and eagles roost. Drink cocktails as the sun goes down. Watch as the condors return, they soar above and below us before settling for the night. Return to the lodge. Dinner at the lodge.

## **DAY 9: SUNDAY, 29 MARCH**

## **HUECHAHUE**

A full day's ride to Estancia Huechahue's Indian neighbour up the river. Riding up over the top, there may be a chance to see guanaco, deer, wild boar and 'peludos' (baby armadillo) before taking a swim to cool off in the river.

Lunch on the river. Return to Huechahue, riding back down the river spotting different types of birdlife on the way. Dinner at the lodge.



Gauchos riding in Argentina



An Armadillo

## **DAY 10: MONDAY, 30 MARCH**

## **HUECHAHUE**

A day's ride over the picturesque ridge, with beautiful views either side. Ride into town for a look at the shops.

Picnic lunch watched over by the Lanin Volcano. Cross the River Chimehuin, known for its two introduced species of Salmonidae, the brown trout and the rainbow trout. Pass through the town of Junín de los Andes before returning to the lodge. Dinner at the lodge.

Escorted Tour  
**Argentina Riding**



**DAY 11: TUESDAY, 31 MARCH**

**HUECHAHUE / BUENOS AIRES**

A final last ride before transferring San Martin de Los Andes for a domestic flight back to Buenos Aires. On arrival, transfer to the Pultizer Hotel. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner under own arrangements.

**DAY 12: WEDNESDAY, 1 APRIL**

**BUENOS AIRES / LONDON**

Transfer to Buenos Aires airport. Suggested flights (not included) Norwegian Air DI 7506 departing Buenos Aires at 11.30 hrs.

**DAY 13: THURSDAY, 2 APRIL**

**LONDON**

Arrive London Gatwick at 03.30 hrs.

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## OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO PATAGONIA

### DAY 11: TUESDAY, 31 MARCH

### HUECHAHUE / BARILOCHE / CALAFATE

Early morning transfer to Bariloche Airport. Domestic flight to El Calafate arriving in the afternoon. On arrival, transfer to the 4\* Kau Yatun Hotel where three nights are spent. The hotel is situated only 600 metres from El Calafate centre and is surrounded by beautiful countryside.

Lunch under own arrangements. Afternoon at leisure. You may like to visit Glaciarium, a glacier interpretation centre, to gain an idea of what you have in store for the next few days. You can also visit the GlacioBar, the first ice bar in the world made from glacial ice. Visitors to the bar receive futuristic-looking capes, gloves and boots for warmth. The maximum visiting time is 20 minutes, just enough time to try the house cocktail, Fernet con Coca, a bitter, aromatic digestive served with Coca-Cola.

In the evening meet your guide and depart for a Nativo Experience, an excursion in 4x4s along the coast of Lake Argentino. Travelling through the cliffs with views of the Andes Mountains, the excursion focuses on the first contacts with the natives made by those who undertook the first expeditions to these lands. Then enter the world of those natives, the Tehuelche, with a visit to the caves on the shores of the lake. Here thousands of years ago the Tehuelche left their marks on the rock, from which today we can only begin to understand their culture. The tour ends in with dinner in one of the caves. Return to the hotel.



Perito Moreno Glacier



Nibepo Aike

### DAY 12: WEDNESDAY, 1 APRIL

### CALAFATE

Morning transfer to Puerto Bandera. Board a ferry for a trip on Lago Argentino to Estancia Cristina, located in a unique corner of Los Glaciares National Park. Founded in 1941 by Joseph P. Masters and his wife, this

stunning place still maintains its essence, keeping alive the history of the Master's family, who with hard work and perseverance, converted this lonely and inhospitable place into a small piece of paradise and a home. On arrival at the Estancia, there will be the opportunity to visit its museum, before hopping into a 4x4 and driving up into the mountains to gain excellent views of the Upsala Glacier, Guillermo Lake and the Andean Range. There is the option to hike back down to the Estancia.

Lunch at Estancia Cristina. Return to the hotel. Dinner under own arrangements.

### **DAY 13: THURSDAY, 2 APRIL**

### **CALAFATE**

This morning drive along the rubble road from El Calafate deeper into the Andes Mountains to Nibepo Aike, a 103-year-old working ranch, covering an area of over 12,000 hectares, bounded by the southern arm of Lago Argentino and the border with Chile, set in the Andes mountain range.

Lunch of grilled lamb at the ranch. After lunch board a small boat to navigate through the Brazo Rico and the South of the Lago Argentino. Disembark on Monedas beach for a walk through the surrounding area of national park which remains exactly as it was left by the pioneers with Baguales (wild cows) roaming unhindered, having been allowed to breed freely since area was declared a national park. The path passes through the Lengas woods at the end of which you will catch your first sight of the awesome Perito Moreno glacier through the trees. The path then descends to the beach where you can spend some time taking in this amazing landscape. Return to the boat and sail in front of the glacier to observe the ice slides and the front of the glacier as it pushes forward onto the Magallanes peninsula forming a natural dam. Disembark at Bajo las Sombras pier and transfer to the walkways where there will be a chance to take pictures from different angles of the Perito Moreno glacier wall before returning to El Calafate. Return to the hotel. Dinner under own arrangements.

### **DAY 14: FRIDAY, 3 APRIL**

### **CALAFATE / BUENOS AIRES**

Transfer to Calafate Airport for a domestic flight to Buenos Aires arriving in the evening. Transfer to the Pulitzer Hotel where a further night is spent. Dinner under own arrangements.

### **DAY 15: SATURDAY, 4 APRIL**

### **BUENOS AIRES / LONDON**

Transfer to Buenos Aires airport. Suggested flights (not included) Norwegian Air DI 7506 departing Buenos Aires at 11.30 hrs.

### **DAY 16: SUNDAY, 5 APRIL**

### **LONDON**

Arrive London Gatwick at 03.30 hrs.

Escorted Tour  
Argentina Riding



## TOUR PRICE

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**MAIN TOUR COST: £4,540**

**EXTENSION COST: £1,440 (dependent on final numbers)**

Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.

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### MAIN TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- accommodation throughout as detailed in the itinerary
- domestic flights
- all entrance fees, visits and excursions as per the itinerary
- all transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- 10 breakfasts, 9 lunches; 7 dinners
- beverages at Huechahue (including wine, beer and spirits)
- trained criollo cross, part Anglo-Norman horses with personal grooms and full saddlery
- at Huechahue activities including riding, rafting, trekking, trips to Junín de los Andes, San Martín de los Andes and the National Park and the use of the sauna
- at Huechahue access to the fishing on the Estancia is included
- local English-speaking guide/s and riding escort
- gratuities to driver/s; gratuities to guide/s; gratuities in restaurants
- portage
- the services of your tour leaders throughout

### MAIN TOUR PRICE EXCLUDES

- International flights
- travel insurance
- excess baggage
- saddle savers and helmets for riding
- at Huechahue the fishing permit is not included – around US\$35 per day.
- at Huechahue the cost of a fishing guide is not included – US\$410 per day. A guide can take 1 or 2 fishermen. This can include floating and / or wading and includes fishing on Huechahue and on other local rivers.
- items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / alcoholic beverages where specified / laundry etc.)

- government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 28/03/19

## EXTENSION PRICE INCLUDES

- domestic flights as detailed in the itinerary
- accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- breakfast daily; 2 lunches; 1 dinner
- all entrance fees, visits and excursions as per the itinerary
- all transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- local English-speaking guide/s

## EXTENSION PRICE EXCLUDES

- travel insurance
- items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- the services of your tour leaders throughout
- gratuities to driver/s; gratuities to guide/s; gratuities in restaurants; portorage
- government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 28/03/19

## AIRLINE TICKETS

As a tour operator we have access to special airfares. While they offer good value, they do carry certain restrictions applied by the airline. Please ask us for details.

**Note:** If you are thinking about using air miles to upgrade to a premium cabin on the flights, please check with us first as fare restrictions might not permit this.

## PEACE OF MIND

You will probably be aware of the difficulties many travellers faced with obtaining refunds when their holidays were disrupted or cancelled as a result of such events as ash cloud, strike, snow and political unrest. By booking both your flights and land arrangements with us, not only are you guaranteed the peace of mind that comes with full financial protection but also all the round the clock assistance we are able to offer, should the need arise.

## CHANGES TO THE ITINERARY

Please note, that certain elements of this itinerary, and/or the order of events, may well be subject to alteration due to circumstances beyond our control.

## FITNESS TO TRAVEL

Whilst we do not impose any age limitations on joining a tour, participants must be reasonably fit. The very nature of the sightseeing involved in our tours (and the difficulties of direct access by coach in various

places) means that a considerable amount of walking and standing is unavoidable on almost all tours. We regret that our tours are not suitable for people who have difficulty in walking, may require wheelchair assistance at any time, or are unable to keep pace with the group. If you are in any doubt as to the suitability of a tour, please make this known to us before you book, and we will advise you accordingly. The Ultimate Travel Company reserves the right to decline a reservation without necessarily giving a reason. Your tour leader may also refuse to take participants on particular excursions if they feel that the rest of the group will be held up.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Hotels are chosen on the basis of category, character and location. The majority will be at least 4 star, otherwise the best available. The projected size of the group will often rule out the use of luxury boutique hotels. Sometimes the style of hotel will mean that not all rooms are of the same size or have the same outlook.

## **HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**

There are no mandatory health requirements for visitors to Argentina. No inoculations are compulsory except for Yellow Fever but **ONLY** if you have recently visited an infected area. Diphtheria and TB, hepatitis A and B, polio, tetanus and typhoid are all suggested in certain cases. Standards of hygiene in Argentina are very high so you should not have too many problems, but we do suggest taking medicine with you in case of a stomach upset. For further information or advice, you should consult your GP.

## **PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION**

Passengers should hold a full passport. Please ensure that your passport is valid for the proposed duration of your stay. British nationals do not require a visa to visit Argentina.

## **FCO ADVICE**

We recommend that you periodically review the travel advice issued by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, which relates to all aspects of your destination, at [www.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo](http://www.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo).

## WHY CHOOSE US?

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We have been organising bespoke, tailor-made holidays and escorted group tours around the world since the early 1990s. The opportunity that we identified then was for a travel company with the knowledge and enthusiasm of a smaller specialist, but with the range and buying power of a much larger organisation, and we like to think that we have maintained this balance over the years.

More importantly, we try to be an easy and friendly company to deal with, and because most of us have had the good fortune to work abroad, we are able to approach travel in a sensitive and intelligent way.

### WHAT WE OFFER?

First-hand knowledge and personal service is at the core of what we offer. Our consultants travel to all the destinations that we feature on a very regular basis, so that the advice you receive is accurate and up-to-date. They will also look after you from the outset and assume full responsibility for ensuring that your travel plans are designed and delivered as requested.

Planning a holiday should be an enjoyable and effortless experience, and we will do all that we can to ensure that this is the case.

### OUR REPUTATION

We have grown largely through personal recommendation and repeat business, and so we treat our reputation with care. The directors and owners of the company, led by Nick Van Gruisen, are very much 'hands on' so immediate decisions can be taken to ensure the standard of service that our clients have come to expect is maintained.

### LOCAL REPRESENTATION

Equally crucial is the quality of our local associates and suppliers. It is they who look after you on holiday and it is their guides, vehicles and general support service that will determine your enjoyment of it. We therefore take great care to ensure that our ground handlers have the requisite expertise, efficiency and creativity, and also the ability to deal sensitively and swiftly with any situation that might arise. The fact that we have worked together for many years and know each other well is a further bonus.

### RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

As a company with a passion for travel, we understand the vital support that tourism can provide to communities and fragile habitats throughout the world. At the same time, we are aware that tourism can have a negative impact and are committed to doing what we can to minimise this risk.

In 2007, an independent body completed an Environmental Audit on all aspects of The Ultimate Travel Company. This covered not only our own practices but those of our worldwide suppliers, thereby ensuring that we all met the necessary environmental and employment criteria.

The audit also measured the carbon footprint produced by our London office and by our international travel, and we now offset this with an annual donation to Social Change and Development, a small but dynamic tree planting initiative in India.

Further initiatives include a 'charity donation' scheme, whereby we ask clients for a voluntary contribution of £10 which we then match. As a result of this initiative, a handful of small overseas charities, and the healthcare, environmental and educational projects that they run, now share an annual donation of more than \$100,000.

If you want further details of these initiatives, please ring Nick Van Gruisen on 02073864646.

## **EXTRA VALUE**

It can be difficult at times to recognise the extra value promised by travel companies. Generally speaking, we all offer the same flight, the same hotel, the same excursion, the same sunset, and at similar prices....indeed in many ways, the same holiday experience!

Here, at The Ultimate Travel Company, we strive to go further. While we believe that the diversity of destination, intimate product knowledge and personal service we offer already sets us apart, we supply all our clients with detailed information on all aspects of their forthcoming journey, a 10% discount voucher at Daunt Books (described by The Daily Telegraph as 'the most beautiful bookshop in London – designed for travellers who like reading') and a welcome home 'surprise'.

Honeymooners can also look forward to a wedding gift on arrival at their chosen destination.

Moreover, we continually monitor your movements while you are away so that we can offer any assistance that might be required, effectively and without delay. And if genuine problems do arise as a result of any error on our part (few as these may be!), we will not shy away from our own responsibilities and our commitment to you.