

Puelo Ride (ending Puerto Varas), Chile

Itinerary

This 8 day ride starts and ends in Puerto Varas. If your time is tight, then you may wish to consider the alternative Andean Crossing Ride which omits the riding on days 2 and 3 of this itinerary.

Day One – Arrival

Please note that the following itinerary may change depending on local weather conditions and the riding ability of your group, but always with your best interests in mind.

You are collected from your hotel in Puerto Varas at 9am.

Load the minibus and from Puerto Varas drive for around 4 hours towards the Andes. Along the way you can admire the Llanquihue Lake and the volcanoes of Calbuco and Osorno that are part of the Vicente Perez Rosales National Park.

On arrival at the edge of the Reloncavi estuary, there will be a short stop to appreciate the local gastronomy of the village of Cochamó, well known for its agricultural and fishing industries.

Arriving at Tagua Tagua Lake, there is time to have lunch before crossing the lake by ferry.

On the other side, after a journey of around 30 minutes by vehicle, meet the baqueanos and horses. At the river's edge you cross by boat and the horses swim alongside.



Pack all the bags and off you go. Ride along the banks of the Puelo River and cross farmland. Late in the afternoon, arrive at your overnight stop which is close to the Puelo River.

Dinner and overnight at a local farm.

Hours in the saddle: c. 2 hours

Day Two – El Traidor to Santo Domingo

After a good breakfast, set off on horseback. You will have the chance to get to know your mount on the Traidor's trails.



Ride along the Puelo River, retracing the footsteps of the pioneers who first came to this area. This route features pristine cordillera, narrow trails and majestic forests.



Stop for lunch in a scenic spot and continue your ride in the afternoon.

Your hosts this evening enjoy sharing with guests their love of this special region.

Dinner and overnight in a local house.

Hours in the saddle: c. 5 hours.

Day Three – Santo Domingo to Las Rosas

Today will be a long day riding, encountering some varied terrain. Follow rural trails across the plains and through forests, down to pebbled beaches on the shores of the river.



There will be several occasions when you have to cross tributaries of the Puelo River today.

In the afternoon, say goodbye to the first team of baqueanos and horses.

Set off on fresh horses, accompanied by a new team of baqueanos. Continue riding in this fantastic landscape. A little later, there will be another river crossing, with the horses swimming alongside.



Continue riding a bit further, in order to reach a cosy cottage with wonderful views of the river and mountains.

Dinner and overnight in a local house.

Hours in the saddle: c. 6 hours.

Day Four – Las Rosas to Ventisqueros

After breakfast the baqueanos will prepare the packhorses. Set off today riding into the Ventisqueros Valley - a remote and green landscape.



Cross wonderful forests and small farms before stopping for a picnic lunch next to the Ventisqueros River.

This afternoon you cross the Ventisqueros River and ride along the valley to a remote farm where you stay for 2 nights.

Dinner and overnight at a local farm.

Hours in the saddle: c. 6 hours.

Day 5 - Day ride to El Toro

After breakfast set off on a gentle ride, crossing the river once more to join the other valley and approach its glacier. This little valley turns wild and remote, with incredible flora. You ride close to the Alerces forest.



Enjoy a saddle bag lunch near El Toro River before riding back to the farmhouse.

Later there is a chance to go for a walk around the area or simply relax.

Dinner and overnight at a local farm.

Hours in the saddle: c. 4 hours.

Day Six - Ventisqueros to Bandurrias Island

After breakfast set off on a full-day ride featuring forests, river crossings, mountains and waterfalls. Lunch will be a picnic near the Ventisqueros River.

In the afternoon, make your way across the Puelo River using an important hanging bridge, crucial for communication between the local inhabitants and the outside world. This area is particularly spectacular due to its huge waterfalls and rapids.

Continue riding across the wild ancient forest until reaching Las Rocas Lake. Leave the horses on the shore and take a 10 minute boat trip to Bandurrias Island where you spend two nights.



Dinner and overnight on Bandurrias Island.

Hours in the saddle: c. 7 hours.

Day Seven - Day ride from Bandurrias Island

Today's ride is to the Blue Lake "Lago Azul" with its crystal clear waters and abundant fish life, surrounded by majestic peaks and a stunning landscape. After about two hours in the saddle, enjoy a picnic lunch relaxing on the shores of the lake.



After lunch, continue riding towards Las Rocas Lake. Pass through typical cold jungle or Valdivian-type rainforest with its very diverse vegetation. You should see ancient trees and majestic mountains.

Leave the horses and transfer by boat back to the Island.



Dinner and overnight on Bandurrias Island.

Riding time c. 5 to 6 hours.

Day Eight – Leaving Bandurrias Island

After breakfast, leave the island and head up to the frontier. This short trip will take you to Inferior Lake, the source of the Puelo River, a major river that flows into the Pacific.



Say goodbye to your horses and guides who have helped you along the way.

Have a short lunch break before the transfer to Puerto Varas, with an expected time of arrival of around 18.00.

Riding time c. 2 hours.

In case of any delays you are advised to plan to overnight in Puerto Varas rather than to have an onward flight booked. We can book this accommodation for you if you wish.