



GAUCHO
ARGENTINO

MENDOZA · LAS LOICAS

Andes Crossing

On horseback to the Chilean border · 3,900 masl

5 days / 4 nights

Up to 3,900 masl

All levels

2026 Season · December to March · 13 scheduled departures

THE OLD DROVERS' TRAIL

The Andes Mountains, on a criollo horse

Some journeys aren't chosen out of tourist curiosity: they're chosen because something inside asks for them. The Andes Crossing on horseback is one of these. Five days deep into the world's highest mountain range, following the very passes that drovers used for centuries to move cattle between Argentina and Chile.

We depart from Las Loicas, in southern Mendoza, gaining altitude day by day: green mallines at 1,900 masl, volcanic walls of 4,000 metres, night skies showing the Milky Way unfiltered, and on the third day the summit: Hito Pichi Trolón at 3,900 masl, the border with Chile.



What is hidden comes to light along every trail: this region was seabed before the Cordillera formed. Fossils of oysters and giant snails found along the path tell the story of when the Atlantic and Pacific oceans met here. Riding among these formations is a moment that burns itself into memory.

In the afternoons we cross icy meltwater fords and climb ridges of total silence. As the sun sets we set up camp beside the day's stream: fire, mate, hot dinner. Then, an open sky with no artificial light for hundreds of kilometres in any direction.

More than 200 guided crossings have taught us that the Cordillera never repeats itself.

5 days / 4 nights

Up to 3,900 masl

All levels

Max weight: 95 kg · Min age: 14 years · Valid ID required (customs crossing)



GAUCHO ARGENTINO

Day-by-day itinerary

Season in scheduled departures · small groups of up to 16 riders · December to March

Previous night · Welcome in Las Loicas

You arrive the afternoon before and stay at Hostel Mapicsa. Welcome dinner, group introductions and the initial briefing with the team: itinerary, riding pace and recommendations. A key moment before setting off.

DAY 1

Mallín Camp — 1,900 masl

We meet at 8 am at Hostel Mapicsa. Gear check and saddlebag setup. We ride toward Mallín Camp: 3:30 h through native woodland and the first volcanic formations. Arrival at 1,900 masl · regional dinner under the Andean sky.



DAY 2

Puesto Vilches — 2,700 masl

Camp breakfast and saddle up. A 4-hour ride through trails flanked by vertical walls of 4,000 masl. We cross valleys with marine fossils dating from when the ocean covered this region. Arrival at Puesto Vilches · regional dinner.

DAY 3

Hito Pichi Trolón — 3,900 masl Border with Chile

The summit day. We ride 2 h up to Hito Pichi Trolón: 3,900 masl, the border with Chile. Contemplation of the heart of the Cordillera. Return to camp: another 2 h. The most star-filled night of the whole trip.





GAUCHO ARGENTINO

Day-by-day itinerary



DAY 4

Puesto Los Álamos — Volcanic valleys • 2,633 masl

We cross vast valleys of volcanic sand with craters and unique basalt formations. 3-hour ride. Last night together in the Cordillera — farewell regional dinner at Puesto Los Álamos, at 2,633 masl.

DAY 5

Return to Las Loicas — end of the trip

We pack up camp and ride 3 h back to Las Loicas. Arrival estimated at 4 pm. Handing over the horses, return customs formalities. Group farewell and end of services.



Weather

Season December–March: dry warm days in the valleys and cold nights at altitude (freezing possible). Layered clothing is essential. The itinerary is subject to weather conditions; operational decisions rest with the guides and horsemen of Gaucho Argentino.



GAUCHO ARGENTINO

| What makes this journey unique

01

The summit day

We reach Hito Pichi Trolón at 3,900 masl: the Argentina–Chile border on horseback. A destination you can only reach this way, with real effort.

02

Our own criollo horses

We breed, train and school them ourselves. Sure-footed, tough and used to the terrain. Whatever your riding level, your horse takes you there.

03

More than 200 guided crossings

Darío Gallardo, 3rd-generation gaucho, has led more than 200 crossings on these trails. Every trail decision comes from real, hands-on knowledge.

04

Real high-altitude camping

We sleep in tents deep in the Cordillera between 1,900 and 2,700 masl. High-mountain gear travels on the mules. No fake comfort.

05

Sports insurance included

The fare includes coverage for equestrian and mountain activities. You ride covered, without paperwork on your side.

06

Customs handled by us

We operate on the Chilean border. We take care of customs formalities in and out. All you need is a valid ID or passport.

Small groups · limited spots

A route only we ride.

Trip specs

Duration	5 days / 4 nights
Hours in saddle	Approx. 3 to 4 hours per day
Max altitude	3,900 masl · Hito Pichi Trolón (border with Chile)
Level	All levels · reasonable fitness recommended
Season	December to March
Climate	Warm days in valley · cold nights at altitude
Style	Tent camping deep in the Andes
Max weight	95 kg per rider
Min age	14 years · minors need authorisation from both parents
Safety	Satellite phone throughout the entire trip
Meeting point	Hostel Mapicsa · RN145, Las Loicas, Mendoza · arrival 5 pm
Documentation	Valid ID or passport required (customs crossing)

Scheduled departures · 2026 Season

Small groups of up to 16 riders · limited spots · book in advance

December 4 departures	January 3 departures	February 4 departures	March 2 departures
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Total: 13 departures · 16 spots per departure · Check availability via WhatsApp



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What's included

Included

- Previous night + breakfast (Hostel Mapicsa)
- All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks and regional dinners
- High-mountain tent accommodation in the Cordillera
- Home-bred and home-trained criollo horses and mules
- Specialised guides and horsemen
- Shared equipment: tents, saddlebags, pots and utensils
- Satellite phone for emergencies throughout the trip
- Customs formalities handled
- Equestrian and mountain sports insurance

Not included

- Flights and transfers to the meeting point
- Sleeping bag (−10 °C comfort) – recommended
- Riding helmet – recommended
- Tips for the crew (voluntary)
- Costs from flight cancellations, extreme weather or force majeure
- Anything not stated under "Included"

Our criollo horses — a difference you feel

We breed, train and school them ourselves, and we pick each horse according to the destination and the trip. They're calm, tough and used to the terrain. You don't need previous riding experience: each horse is trained to carry you through every kilometre, whatever your level.



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What to bring

Clothing:

Layers for cold and wind · long-sleeve shirt · thermal top · fleece · waterproof jacket · gloves · hat with cord · beanie.

Sleeping:

Sleeping bag -10 °C · blanket or poncho.

Hygiene:

Personal toiletries · sunscreen and lip balm · basic first-aid kit.

Footwear:

Riding boots or shoes with gaiters.

Accessories:

Torch · category-4 sunglasses · 1-litre bottle.

Documents:

Valid ID or passport. Small backpack max 8 kg.

How to get to Las Loicas

Fly to San Rafael (2.5 h by car) — recommended — or Mendoza (4.5 h). From there by car, transfer or bus to Malargüe + taxi to Las Loicas. Refuel in Malargüe. On arrival we coordinate the meeting via WhatsApp.

Recommended transfer contacts:

- Transfer Guzmán Edgardo: +54 9 260 457-5197
- Transfer Payún: +54 9 11 2718 823

Booking conditions

- 30% deposit to confirm your spot. No deposit, no booking.
- Balance: 60 days before departure. With less than 30 days, full payment is required.
- Deposit is non-refundable but valid for 1 year for any date or other available destination.
- Full payment at booking receives a special discount. Ask when booking.
- Payment methods: bank transfer · WISE · credit card.

Ready to join the next departure?

Small groups and limited spots. Write to us to book your place.

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