



# HIDDEN GLACIERS

## HORSERIDE - EL CALAFATE

The cavalcade to the Hidden Glaciers, is not only to explore on horseback the most hidden corners of the "Estancia Nibepo Aike" and The Glaciers National Park, places where the pristine nature is discovered in its maximum expression, but also to live the experience of knowing the three posts that are the basis of the crossing.

## COMPLETE ITINERARY

### DAY 01 | EL CALAFATE: ESTANCIA NIBEPO AIKE

Arrival in the afternoon to "Estancia Nibepo Aike", with our transfer service departing at 16:30 from the city of El Calafate. After adjusting, the guide will give an explanatory talk about the program. Horses and other equipment will be prepared to leave early the next morning. Rest of the afternoon free to enjoy the stay, explore its surroundings by bicycle or on foot, through the self-guided trails and also participate in the demonstration of shearing scissors in the shed. Dinner and night at the Hosteria.

### DAY 02 | EL CALAFATE: LA ROSADA POST

In the morning, departure by horse from the pens to start climbing the Cord of the Crystals, which is located behind the Inn. As height is gained, the lakes, Brazo Rico and Sur, Roca Lake, Frias Hill, are increasingly delineated, as if it were a model. Once in the open the path goes into the Patagonian Andean forest. Walking through lengas and sour cherries, we advance through old paths where the great sheep harnesses arrived. The cows have a small meadow. There, La Rosada is the home of the "puestero", the person in charge of the cattle of the area. A key trade to continue the legacy of traditional rural production. Knowing how no one of these payments, can count the number of cows just with a quick look out the window and bring in a very short time to one that has escaped beyond the allowed. There, comes the first field lunch: "bifes" to the disc, between the Andes. The historic moment is for the afternoon: Milestone 32, the final point of the stay and also of Argentina. On the other side, Chile is already there. The feeling is unique to be in the suburbs of the homeland and in the heart of the Andes. South of the South, the wind blows and flames the flag. Enough time to explore the surroundings. The serenity of the landscape never ends. The night falls in the post, waiting for everything that comes: the journey to the hidden glaciers. Dinner and night at the La Rosada post. (This day is only operable from December to March, check the destination on another date)

### DAY 03 | EL CALAFATE: CACHORRO AND 3 DE ABRIL LAGOON POST

Leaving the dense forest opens the Cachorro River Valley. They appear notros and calafates, which reach here an unusual size. Begin the descent to the lower fields until you reach the riverbed. Suddenly there are views of the Frias glacier in the background and the granite needle of the "Dedo del Cesa". Between rocks and pastures and dodging the mallines, you get to the corrals of the Cachorro River Post where the "baqueanos" may be working with the hacienda. There, at the Cachorro Post will be lunch. From post to post, we are recreating the path of authentic rural workers. After a picnic we continue on horseback to 3 de Abril Lagoon, habitat of flamingos and black-necked swans, cauquenes and steam ducks, as well as numerous salmonids. When arriving at the post that is passing the lagoon, and then unsaddling, time to enjoy the surroundings and the warmth of the position. Wood stove and clay and brick oven, with the dim light of the lantern, between mate and mate the dinner will be prepared, while the adventures stories go on. Dinner and night at the 3 de Abril Lagoon Post.

## DAY 04 | EL CALAFATE: 3 DE ABRIL LAGOON POST

Departure after breakfast to the south, on horseback to the "Balcón de los Glaciares". The path goes parallel to the South Arm of Argentino Lake. Shortly before arriving at the head of the lake, the horses will be left grazing to climb on foot to an even higher viewpoint. From there you will have a panoramic view of the South Arm, Heart Lagoon and Frias Lake, in the background images of the hidden glaciers Gorra, Frias, Grande and Dickson. On foot you reach the beach at the head of the South Arm. From there one crosses a large pasture, a pristine area. An erratic stone over 20 meters high will be the next target. It impacts being in front of such immense rock, marked by the force of the glaciers between advances and setbacks. The trail begins to border the lower Frias River, where we will find the vestiges of the cattle past of the area, a hanging bridge of more than 100 years, destroyed by the great flood of the Argentino Lake from 1937. The path goes into a dense forest arriving to discover the Heart Lagoon, of crystalline waters where the deep blue contrasts with the green reflection of the forest. The water is so clear that it is possible to watch the trout swim among the rocks. Lunch break. A place sheltered from the world. Anyone who wants to can go a little further by avoiding some uncomfortable stones to travel to reach the southern head of Frias Lake, natural limit that preserves the glaciers that are hidden in the hills to the south. In the afternoon return to where the horses have been to return to the post of the Laguna 3 de Abril, where you will spend the night. Dinner and night at the 3 de Abril Lagoon Post.

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### OPTIONAL: GLACIAR SUR ADVENTURE

On the 4th day we propose to reach a little beyond the balcony of the hidden glaciers and be properly in them. Hand in hand with Glaciar Sur, we approach between navigation and trekking to the last glaciers of the National Park, where very few people arrive daily. This is an additional tour that can be coordinated at the time of booking. Those who opt for this excursion, after breakfast will go to meet Southern Glacier. Excursion that starts from the pier of the ranch and crosses the South Arm of Lake Argentino to the south end to see more closely those already sighted, Glaciers Escondidos. Once embarked in a mooring near the post, sail to the head of the south arm and then take a short walk to Lake Frias. In zodiac the 3 km of the lake are navigated until arriving at the other shore where a walk begins bordering the river until arriving at the amphitheater of the Gorra, Frias and Grande glaciers with its lagoon and icebergs detached from the glaciers. This sector of the Park is practically unexplored, only some Nibepo Aike gauchos and some cows that used to graze these areas know their secrets in depth. Picnic in front of the glaciers. I return to the Post in the afternoon. Dinner and night at the 3 de Abril Lagoon Post.

## DAY 05 | SOUTH ARM OF LAGO ARGENTINO - CITY OF EL CALAFATE

The return is undertaken riding along the south side of the Brazo until reaching the hull of the ranch, 18 km from the post. You will arrive in time for lunch a Patagonian lamb barbecue that will be ready when the riders arrive. After lunch, return to El Calafate with the regular transfer at 2:15 p.m.