

# ARGENTINA - ESTANCIA LOS POTREROS

## ITINERARY

Los Potreros is an hour's drive north of Cordoba airport. We can arrange transfers from Cordoba airport or Cordoba city for you. Transfers are an extra cost.

If you arrive in the early hours, we recommend booking a room at the Quorum Hotel next to the airport. This will give you the chance to rest a little, before a mid-morning transfer to Los Potreros.

You are welcome to arrive at Los Potreros in time for lunch, which is served at around 13:00. Check-in is from 14:00. If you arrive by 16:00 then you should be in time for the afternoon ride at about 16:30.

If you would like to have a morning ride on the day of your departure plus lunch, your flight will need to depart after 17:00. The latest transfer will be at 19:00. If there are arriving guests, you will need to vacate your room after breakfast.

If you have an evening flight on departure day and have time to ride in the afternoon, then this is subject to availability and carries an additional fee.

You can settle into your room from 14:00.

There is no set itinerary during a holiday at Estancia Los Potreros. There are many different rides to experience and you can decide what you would like to do once you are at the estancia. Whether or not you get to experience everything outlined below will depend on how long you stay, the weather, as well as what else is happening at the time.



Please note that there is no riding on Sunday afternoons.

A ride over the estate may follow streams through valleys to the “top of the world”, the highest point on the estancia, which has spectacular views out over the Sierra Chicas. The trail along the ridge is perfect for condor and eagle spotting.



On one afternoon you may be introduced to the wonderful Peruvian Paso horses, which have been home-bred on the estancia. You will learn about this special five gaited breed and perhaps try out their smooth paces if you are an experienced rider.



Another full day ride takes you to the hidden waterfall, where you can take a refreshing dip or relax in the shade. Later you continue on horseback along a long track which takes you up to Potrero de Niz, the original home of your hosts, the Begg family.

Perhaps have a picnic lunch and admire superb views over the valleys. In the afternoon, head back to the estancia via the 'Bellstone'.

Another scenic ride takes you through gorges and over the mountains to reach 'Las Tasas', a natural swimming hole where you can dive, swim or just relax in the sun. After a picnic lunch, you might help the gauchos round up the mares and foals to protect them from puma.



Under guidance from the gauchos, one day you may have the chance to carry out some tasks with the herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle. Perhaps collect them and move them across the hills to the cattle station or help round them up. Later, you might try lassoing in the corrals or learn about the cattle operation.



The annual cattle branding usually takes place over two weekends in February and/or March. The national rodeo festival is held in a town about an hour from the estancia, usually in the second week of January and it can usually be arranged for you to visit one evening if you would like to.

There may be time for a final morning ride on your last day, depending on your departure time. You will need to check out of your room at 10:00 but you will have somewhere to put your luggage and freshen up or shower before you leave.

Estancia Los Potreros is a 6,500-acre working cattle farm that has remained in the Begg family for four generations.



Estancia Los Potreros

The estancia itself is steeped in family history and locally there is much evidence of the pioneering work of the Jesuits who first organised farming in the area.

Today the farm breeds horses and Aberdeen Angus cattle. In the past, the Potreros (large enclosures) were used for breeding mules that were then used in the silver mines of Bolivia.



From Los Potreros family archives

The estancia first started taking in visitors in the 1940's. The comments from the guest book in the early years, include lyrical definitions of the place - "heaven among the hill tops," "idyllic retreat" - and evoke halcyon days of shooting, riding, fishing, swimming, eating, cow-milking, egg collecting, wild flower picking and looking for mushrooms. Your host today is Kevin Begg, who will ensure your stay will be every bit as memorable.



Sitting room and dining room at the main lodge.

The main lodge has a very comfortable and welcoming sitting room and dining room.



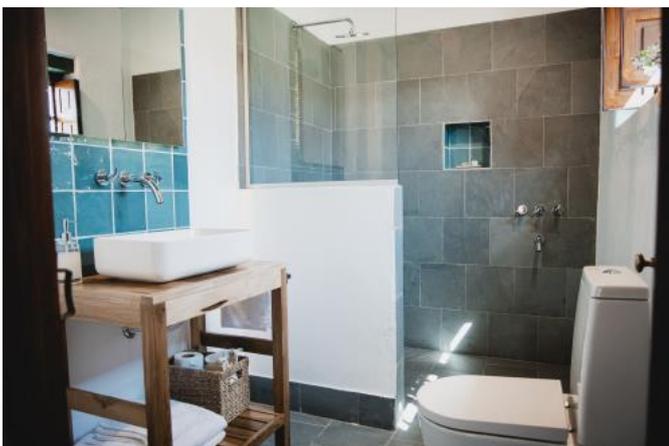
A bedroom at Los Potreros

The estancia's seven guest rooms are traditionally furnished and each has a wood burning stove or fireplace for chilly winter nights.



Doll's House

All the rooms have private bathrooms.



Typical guest bathroom

There is a swimming pool (usually open from early October to the end of April) to dip into at the end of a hot day in summer or just relax on the veranda and enjoy a cup of tea or a gin and tonic.



The swimming pool at Los Potreros

The owners of Los Potreros cherish their natural resources and so most of their energy is generated from renewable resources (such as wind and solar power). All farming is organic and completed without the use of growth hormones, pesticides, insecticides or chemical fertilizers. There is an active tree-planting programme.

You will be transferred to Cordoba airport.