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Issue 16

HORSE RIDING IN LATIN AMERICA (courtesy of Journey Latin America)

Five of the most rewarding destinations in which to jump in the saddle, from a country with an equestrian soul to an alternative Inca Trail on horseback.

TORRES DEL PAINE, CHILE Patagonia is a staggeringly beautiful, ethereal place to be under any circumstances, but when you traverse its horizon-bending plains on the back of a magnificent criollo horse, the wind in your hair and the cares of everyday life far behind you, this glacial dreamscape seems to surrender up yet more of its treasures. Covering greater distances than you could on foot, gallop across Torres del Paine National Park, stopping for viewpoints, wildlife sightings or an al fresco picnic. This is a brand-new offering from the superlative Explora Patagonia, and as can be expected from the Chilean pioneers of experiential travel, it's a richly satisfying fusion of the untamed natural world and personalised service of the highest quality. What's more, the fixed monthly riding departures come at no extra cost to the standard hotel rate – contact us for available dates.

AT AN ARGENTINA ESTANCIA A love of horses and the great outdoors is as fiercely entwined in the Argentine soul as tango or steak, and the country's rural heartland is an ideal destination for anyone whose passion for riding runs equally deep. The countryside estancias that provide character-laden lodgings are often still working ranches and there is nothing put-on about the gaucho lifestyle of those who live and work at them – hardy herdsmen, practically raised in the saddle, who wear distinctive cowboy garb and will prepare delicious asados of barbecued beef for you to savour at the fireside. For keen riders, we particularly recommend Estancia Huechahue with its ruggedly authentic atmosphere, steeped in the gaucho tradition, and British-owned Estancia Los Potreros, which though more refined is equally notable for its strong emphasis on riding and stable of 50 superbly trained horses.

ON THE 'ALTERNATIVE INCA TRAIL' Perhaps you've already heard about the alternative Inca Trails offering a less restricted and usually quieter route to Machu Picchu, among them the Salkantay Trek ('Machu Picchu through the back door'). But you may not know that it's also possible to ride to the ruins, staying each night at one of the comfortable mountain lodges that punctuate the Salkantay route for some well-deserved respite and relaxation after long days in the saddle. Along the way, you will also pass time-resistant villages and homesteads adrift in the remote Andean countryside, where life continues largely unchanged by the centuries. The extraordinarily scenic trail first clings to the mountainside, leading across high-altitude grasslands indented with glassy lakes before dipping down to steamy cloud-forest. Finally, it's a short hop onwards to Machu Picchu via the local train.

ATACAMA DESERT, CHILE Special 5-day riding departures (as above) are also offered at the Explora Atacama, where one of the most extreme environments on the planet can be yours to explore at a trot or a full free-spirited gallop. Here in the highest, driest desert in the world, life flourishes unexpectedly in oases born of Andean mountain streams. You'll be based in San Pedro de Atacama, the site of one such oasis, from where you can ride out into the Valley of the Moon with its otherworldly rock formations: eccentric monuments etched by the wind over millennia. The riding ranges from moderate to demanding, covering up to 18 miles a day along desert trails, grassy river valleys and dunes.

ECUADOR'S AVENUE OF THE VOLCANOES Ecuador isn't closely associated with horsemanship like Argentina, but our Horse Riding in the Ecuadorian Highlands adventure is reason enough to put this small Andean country on the map for serious riders. The immersive riding programmes (of two, five or eight days' duration) are paced to allow time for adjustment to life in the saddle, working up from an introductory ride through idyllic, volcano-backed pastures on the outskirts of Cotopaxi National Park to a maximum of around 7 hours a day spent on horseback in increasingly dramatic terrain. The bewitching scenery, blending from wild grasslands flanked by craggy peaks to forested valleys of Andean wildflowers, provides an ever-changing backdrop to the journey – and as the name of the area suggests, towering volcanoes stand watch from all sides. Accommodation is in a different rustic hacienda or cosy farmhouse each night, further adding to the authenticity of this one-of-a-kind riding experience.



BRAZILIAN E-VISAS ARE NOW AVAILABLE



From 25th January 2018 Brazil started issuing electronic visas for citizens of the United States, Australia, Canada, and Japan. This is a huge step in the right direction, given that previously getting a visa to Brazil was both costly and time consuming. The cost to apply is US\$40, plus a US\$4.24 service fee, which is a huge reduction over the previous fees. To apply you will need to register on the site <http://www.vfsglobal.com/brazil-evisa/> complete the visa application form, upload mandatory documents, answer a set of questions, and then make the online payment.

AWASI OPENS IN IGUAZU, MISIONES, ARGENTINA

Located just 20 minutes from the world's largest waterfalls, Awasi's new 14-room lodge is situated on the banks of the River Iguazú, surrounded by the Atlantic Rainforest.

Each villa is assigned with a private guide and 4WD, allowing guests to explore at their own pace, visiting where they want, in their own time. Awasi Iguazú is the perfect spot to enjoy the world famous National Park and its surroundings, while also enjoying especially crafted excursions that go beyond the falls.

After days spent exploring the impressive natural scenery in and around the Iguazú Falls, return to Awasi for a swim in your own private plunge pool, a drink at the bar in the main lodge and long evening meals in our restaurant



WHERE TO GO WHEN to make the most of Latin America's diverse weather

JANUARY

Patagonia While the weather is always unpredictable in Patagonia, there is a better chance of bright, clear days during the southern summer.

Iguazú Falls The falls are particularly impressive at this time of year: following the heavy rains they are at their fullest.

Uyuni Salt Flats, Bolivia Although it is the wet season which means tours can't always travel as far into the salt flats, a mirror effect created by the shallow water makes for fantastic photo opportunities.



FEBRUARY

Iguazú Falls The falls are still very full following the rains.

Patagonia, Chile An annular solar eclipse will take place in South America and the best place to witness the event is in Coyhaique in Chilean Patagonia.



MARCH

Lake District, Chile Quieter than in the peak months of January and February, March still enjoys pleasant temperatures with bright days.

Uruguay Festival lovers will enjoy the Carnival in Feb-Mar. There are 5 days of fun and frivolity, especially in Montevideo with live bands and costume parades. The beaches around Punta del Este are also less crowded and services are more economical.



APRIL

Galápagos Islands While the islands are a year-round destination, the waters are at their warmest and calmest at this time of year.

Rio's beaches, Brazil The warm weather and sunshine makes this the perfect time to enjoy Rio and its beaches.

Cuba April is a great time to visit Cuba: it's dry, sunny and humidity isn't as high as in other months.

Patagonia Autumn in Patagonia is a beautiful time to be in the mountains as the landscape transforms into a sea of golden brown.



MAY

Pantanal, Brazil The dry season begins and runs until October meaning mammals are more visible.

Andes, Peru; Bolivia; Ecuador This is the start of the dry season in the Andes and one of the best times to visit Machu Picchu and trek the Inca trail. There also tend to be fewer people than in the summer months (July/August) and the mountains are green and lush.

JUNE

Amazon The dry season begins and, like the Pantanal, runs until October increasing the chances of seeing mammals on the riverbanks.

Atacama Desert, Chile Dry and cool, this is a great time to make the most of the outdoor activities on offer. Clear nights also make it a good time for stargazing.

Angel Falls, Venezuela The rivers are full enough for boats to take visitors to the base of the waterfall.

Southern Brazil's beaches The warm weather and sunshine makes this the perfect time to enjoy the beaches of southern Brazil.

JULY

Andes, Peru; Bolivia; Ecuador The dry season in the Andes brings bright, sunny days that show the mountains at their best.

August

Uyuni Salt Flats, Bolivia The peak of the dry season, August is a good time for ensuring full exploration of the salt flats.

SEPTEMBER

Buenos Aires, Argentina Comfortable daytime temperatures make this a great time to explore the city on foot.

OCTOBER

Northwest Argentina and the Puna With winter coming to an end, days are dry and bright, but the high altitude, especially in the Puna, means it is still cold at night.

Lake District, Argentina Springtime around Bariloche sees wild flowers blossoming and, while there is slightly more rainfall than other times of the year, it is a great time for a range of outdoor activities.

NOVEMBER

Antarctica The Antarctic summer has begun and expedition cruises can begin to navigate through the melting icescape.

Falkland Islands Visitors benefit from long hours of daylight Oct-Mar, when migratory birds and mammals arrive. November is the breeding time for penguins.

Pantanal, Brazil The wet season begins in November and lasts until April, flooding the landscape and bringing with it an abundance of birdlife.

DECEMBER

Northeast Brazil's beaches Brazil's north-eastern coast enjoys warm weather and sunshine making it a perfect 'winter beach' destination.

Mexico Generally warm and dry across the country, December is a prime time to visit Mexico.





WINTER WELCOMES

The nights are drawing in and the temperature has noticeably changed but that doesn't mean the holidays and island escapes must stop.

Why not travel to one of our warm and friendly lodges or cottages for a wintry weekend break?

Throughout the winter season many of our popular guesthouses and self-catering cottages are still open for business, so make sure you have something to look forward to this cold and windy season with a mini break.

Darwin Lodge: A comfy lounge area with views over the bay & homely cooking will certainly cheer up any winter blues.

Bleaker Island: Why not travel to your own remote island and lock yourself away in the cozy self-catering cottage named Cobbs Cottage. Spend the day exploring the coastline before heading back to the warm cottage and watch the stormy seas from the conservatory area.

Fox Bay: Either a ferry journey or a flight will take you to the large settlement of Fox Bay and tucked away you will find coast ridge cottage. With the option of self-catering or home cooked farm meals from your hosts, you will certainly have something to keep you busy this winter with a visit to Fox Bay.

If you would like to book any of these destinations, please contact our Falklands Desk (falklandsdesk.itt@horizon.co.fk) who would be more than happy to arrange your stay.

WINTER WILDLIFE

Volunteer Point gives access to the largest colony of King Penguins on the island, and with a King Penguin breeding cycle being between 13-16 months, there will always be wildlife here! A full day excursion will take you to the white sandy beach and turquoise waters of Volunteer Point – but be prepared for the elements as the winter season will bring strong winds and cold, fresh air.

It is certainly an experience to see the King Penguins cycle outside of 'tourist season' and get a real feel for the next stage of the process. Teenage penguins will continue to moult and by April the majority of chicks are fully grown, fasting over the winter months but gaining weight again from September onwards. Although the weather may be slightly cooler, plenty of wildlife, white sands and photography shots are certainly still available for those eager to make the journey!

Please contact the Falklands Desk if you would like to arrange a day excursion to Volunteer Point throughout the winter months

(*please note the track to Volunteer Point is only open to a select group of drivers during the winter period*)



EXPLORING THE WORLD HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER!

If you are planning to travel to multiple destinations, it may be more cost effective for you to get a round-the-world ticket. With access to almost 1000 destinations in more than 150 countries, our round-the-world fares enable you to travel the world with ease.

RTW fares allow you to visit multiple continents and entitle you to up to 4 flights in each continent. Contact any of our specialists for more information. RTW fares start from £2460 (3 continent) & £3113 (4 continent), excluding airport taxes.



PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR *SPACES AVAILABLE*

New for the 2018/19 Season ITT are pleased to offer Photography tours through our partner 'Design in Nature'.

These tours will be led by local photographer, Georgina Strange, who grew up on one of the small outer islands and has developed her interest in conservation activities and the diverse range of wildlife who choose to call the Falkland Island's their home.

We have spaces available for her two-week tour which will take place from 03-17th November 2018 where you will have the opportunity to visit some of the most wildlife rich destinations you could ever imagine!

To have a taste of the itinerary your experience will include a visit to Carcass Island will include a trip to the remote island of West Point, where hundreds of black browed albatross nest in the towering sea cliffs surrounding the island.

Sea Lion Island will introduce you to many breeding elephant seals which fill the beaches, just a 10-minute walk from your accommodation. At this time of the season the seals will have pups and the males will be actively defending their harems.

The Orcas which usually reside around the coast of Sea Lion Island, are often seen hunting for the seals and you may be lucky enough to observe 'Puma', the female Orca, teaching her calves how to sneak into a shallow rock pool just meters away from the viewing point.

To end your unique experience, you will be driven off road to an incredible stretch of white sands and turquoise waters which is home to a large colony of majestic king penguins. Amazing photo opportunities and a chance to have some special encounters with these beautiful birds is certainly not one to be missed!

For more information, prices and to ensure your space is booked please call 22041 or email falklandsdesk.itt@horizon.co.fk



LONDON THEATRE Tickets + Hotel Offers

Chicago the Musical

The long-running musical returns to London and tells the story of fame-hungry show girl Roxie Hart, who finds herself in jail for her husband's murder

From £94 per person, based on double occupancy (inc hotel + theatre tickets)

DREAMGIRLS

Set in 1960's America, during the revolutionary era of R&B, DreamGirls tells the tale of a girl group from Chicago called 'The Dreams'.

From £72 per person, based on double occupancy (inc hotel + theatre tickets)

WICKED

This unforgettable tale lifts the lid on one of the most popular stories ever told, with an alternative perspective on 'The Wizard of Oz' that challenges our preconceptions for what we consider to be 'good' and what we consider to be 'wicked'...

From £75 per person, based on double occupancy (inc hotel + theatre tickets)

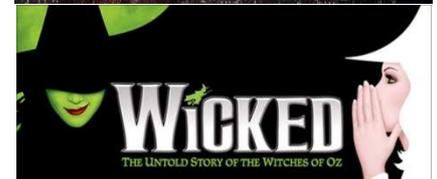
THE LION KING

Be transported to the Serengeti plains with a Lion King theatre break to see the wonderful music and magic of the famous Disney Musical.

From £101 per person, based on double occupancy (inc hotel + theatre tickets)

For more information, including dates and show times, please contact any of our agents.

Package prices may vary depending on choice of hotel and occupancy.



AIRFARE UPDATE!

Your update on airfares to some of your most requested destinations.

Falklands – Punta Arenas – Falklands	from £501
Falklands – Santiago – Falklands	from £852
Falklands – Auckland – Falklands	from £1664
Falklands – Sydney – Falklands	from £1862
Falklands – London – Falklands	from £1601
London – Falklands – London	from £1199
Falklands – Buenos Aires – Falklands	from £920
Falklands – Miami – Falklands	from £1290
Falklands – Orlando- Falklands	from £1264
Falklands – Los Angeles – Falklands	from £1312
Falklands – Easter Island – Falklands	from £873
Falklands – Cuzco – Falklands	from £1013
Falklands – Rio de Janeiro – Falklands	from £956
Falklands – Sao Paulo – Falklands	from £928
London – Falklands – London (business)	from £2730
Falklands – London – Falklands (business)	from £3424



- Airfares are per person, from the Falkland Islands (unless stated) in gbp £ and including airport taxes (which may vary depending on route).
- Subject to availability at the time of booking and actual travel dates.
- Fare & payment restrictions apply.

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Please note:

- Prices are subject to change without notice.
- Subject to availability at the time of booking and actual travel dates.
- All information expressed in this newsletter is quoted at the current rate of exchange USD/GBP which is subject to change.

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- Grandstand Ticket

From £822 per person, based on double occupancy excluding flights.
 For more information, contact any of our agents.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 31May – **Bryan Adams** - UK
- 02Jun – **Super Festival** – Santiago
- 22 & 23Jun – **Taylor Swift** – UK
- 11Jun – **Shakira** – UK
- 04Jul – **Niall Horan** – Santiago
- 9 & 11Jul – **Justin Timberlake** – UK
- 04Aug – **Disney on Ice** – Santiago
- 10 & 11Aug – **Iron Maiden** – UK
- 10, 12 & 13Sep – **Arctic Monkeys** – UK
- 07 & 17Nov – **Chayanne** – Santiago
- 14Nov – **Demi Lovatto** – Santiago

We can assist with flights, hotel and concert tickets. For more information contact, any of our agents.



International Tours & Travel Ltd

