



BOOJUM EXPEDITIONS

Uruguay Beach Ride Itinerary
8 days Montevideo-Montevideo



Day One:

Arrival at the Carrasco International Airport in Montevideo (generally via Buenos Aires). Please plan to arrive at the airport no later than 2:00 pm. Our local staff will greet you and travel with you (2 hours) to *El Charabón* in Rocha Province. *El Charabón* is a family owned traditional *estancia* (farm or ranch) of 2000 acres which provides comfortable accommodation and first-class homemade meals. A *Charabón* is the young chick of Uruguay's native ostrich, *nandu*.



Depending on the time of our arrival, we will have lunch or tea served on the patio or poolside. We'll meet the owner and his wife, our hosts, and have a chance to talk about horses, cattle and the history and prospects of ranching in Uruguay. Dinner is a delicious traditional *asado* plus local side dishes and desserts.

Day Two:

After breakfast we take a short drive to meet our local *gauchos* and horses. Our route takes us along the coast to Cabo Polonio, the site of a famous lighthouse and now a quaint community of fishermen, artists and *gauchos* who have become enamored of the sea. We'll have lunch at a little restaurant in Cabo Polonio. Besides the seafood, don't forget to try the seaweed fritters. After lunch we walk over to view the lighthouse and sea lion rookery.

Our afternoon ride is right along the beach, heading northeast towards the town of Valizas. From Valizas we meet our van and leave the horses with the *gauchos* for the night while we drive a short way to Hostal del Diablo, our local hotel in Punta del Diablo.

Dinner at the hotel.

Hostal del Diablo, a small and rustic hotel, is just 50 metres from the



ocean and provides very comfortable accommodation, excellent service directly from its owners. All rooms with private bathrooms. We will be three nights at Hostal Del Diablo.

Day Three:

After breakfast at Hostal del Diablo we ride back to Valizas in the van to meet the horses. From Valizas we have a short (1 hour) ride to Aguas Dulces where we meet the van again



for a 20-minute drive to Guardia del Monte, colonial era farm rich in local history, where lunch is served. After lunch, we hop on new horses for a guided ride on the grounds of the farm, including a lagoon with marvelous birdlife and an Oak woodland.

Late afternoon we drive back to Hostal del Diablo for dinner.



Day Four:

After breakfast drive to Aguas Dulces to meet our original horses and *gauchos* and we ride to La Esmeralda along the beach (about 3 hours) where we have lunch in yet another charming local restaurant, set back a ways in the coastal pines. From La Esmeralda we have a longer afternoon, (4 hours) to Punta del Diablo and our old friend, Hostal del Diablo.

Day Five:

This morning we begin riding right from Hostal del Diablo, heading up the coast to the National Park of Santa Teresa. The National Park is a huge arboretum with an astonishing mixture of native and non-native plants. We'll have lunch at the Park headquarters and then visit the colonial castle of Santa Teresa. Santa Teresa was built to control the border with Brazil and changed hands several times between the two countries. Rumor has it that when the local garrison got tired of all the heavy labor of fort building, they "let" the other side win it for a while so they could have a rest.



After visiting the castle, we ride on along the beach to La Coronilla (3 1/2 hours). Our accommodations for the night are an extraordinary hotel in the form of a castle called Fortin de San Miguel.

Day Six:

Today we visit the San Miguel Fortress and National Park by van and return for lunch at Fortin de San Miguel. After lunch we gather our horses again and ride from La Coronilla to Barra del Chuy, about 3 hours along the coast. Barra del Chuy is a town that literally straddles the Uruguay-Brazil border. We bid our horses farewell one last time and van back to Fortin de San Miguel for the night.



Day Seven:

We depart after breakfast to drive back to Montevideo, stopping along the way as needed to poke around in local tack shops for *gaucho* items. After settling into the hotel downtown, you have the option of an afternoon city tour or just wandering on your own. Our last night together is at a lovely downtown restaurant.

Day Eight:

Transport to the airport and depart for home. Impeccable!

Boojum Expeditions: 800-287-0125