

August 2018

Esteros del Iberá - Argentinian Mesopotamia



Good afternoon!

The winter is starting to left behind Buenos Aires, the north of Argentina, NOA and Mesopotamia. Spring arrival is imminent.

We propose an Up Date of Ibera for you to keep up with ideas and news.

The Iberá

*'Iberá is **the second largest wetland in the world**, with an extension of 12.000 km² that are refuge to great biodiversity and cultural heritage. It is formed by diverse landscapes: in the lowest areas, the rain deposits its water in the wetlands and ponds that give name to this region; while the higher areas are characterized by small remnants of Paranaense jungles, palmar groves and never-ending grasslands briefly interrupted by small bundles of trees. The Iberá Wetlands are home to more than 4.000 animal and plant species.*

*Because of this constant contact with the water, the **life of the local gauchos** is very particular. They have adapted their lifestyle to this specific landscape, and from this setting emerges the typical way of transportation from the wetlands: on horse and by boat with the help of a four to five-meter-long pole. Depending on the level of the water, the gaucho swims with the horse or combines the help of the pole with the strength of the animal, pulling the boat from the girth when the horse is able to walk and getting on the boat when the horse starts to swim.'*

August 2018

The weather:

*'The region has **subtropical** weather, displaying a long summer and spring season, a short winter season that usually lasts between three to four weeks, and an autumn season that mostly goes unnoticed. Spring and autumn have **mild climate** while summers are much **warmer**, although the nights are fairly cool. During July, the coldest month of the year, the temperature varies between 15/ 20 °C during the day and approaches 0 °C during the night/ dawn. Around mid-august, the blooming of the lapacho trees declares the beginning of spring season, and the days start to warm up, showcasing temperatures that can reach 20 °C or more. During summer the usual temperature is of 29 °C. The **average annual rainfall** is of 1500 mm, while rainfall during the summer season (November until March) is slightly more common. Rainfalls usually occur in the form of isolated, powerful storms that last a few hours, and that in most cases provide for a beautiful spectacle.'*

The Conservation Land Trust (CLT):

*'CLT is dedicated to the creation and/or expansion of provincial and national parks in order to ensure **the continuity and evolution of all ecological processes**. It finances several programs aimed at wildlife protection, reinsertion of extinct species, landscape restoration, and local development, usually related with eco-tourism, agro-ecology and environmental education. In addition, CLT directs funds towards the construction of infrastructure and public access locations with the goal of preparing **the natural areas for their donation to the provincial and national governments**. This is an initiative of Doung and Kris Tompkis.*

Project CLT improvements: we recommend you to take time to see this video in order to have more information that will help you at the time of producing trips at Iberá, placing value on the work of CLT. You can find it in YOUTUBE: **Rewilding Iberá Documentary**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bn4W5Ntoa78> '

Being hosts of these properties is a way to collaborate with their projects

- ✓ Rincon del Socorro
- ✓ Estancia San Alonso
- ✓ Posada Uguay
- ✓ Estancia Iberá

The roads and accesses:

This past year, roads have been improved and new options to get to the different areas of Iberá have been opened.

By rented car to avoid long paths with dirt roads, it can be suggested to explore Iberá from Concepción (Hotel La Alonda I) and/or San Miguel, staying at Posada Mboy Cua. You can get to both towns by paved roads and there arrange 4x4 excursions to Iberá.

August 2018

To get to Pellegrini

- ✓ From the north: gravel has been improved
- ✓ From Mercedes, paved roads are in advance. Rincon del Socorro/ Posada MboyCua offers regular transfers from Mercedes three times a week.

PRIVATE FLIGHTS WITH AIRBERA

We would like to introduce you to a new private air taxi service in the Iberá region, *Airbera*. It is a service that offers private flights from **Posadas, Puerto Iguazú, Corrientes** and **Resistencia** and that allows guests to connect this service with commercial flights easily and quickly. Airbera opens up Iberá to more trips and explorations.

Here they are presented

*'Antoine de Saint-Exupéry once said "Let your life become a dream, and that dream will become a reality"... and with Airbera we can make that dream come true. We leave the city behind and fly over either the Paraná River or the stunning Iguazu Falls, allowing you to take in the **truly fantastic view**. We continue on to the heart of the Corrientes, where, little by little, you start to see the marshes, the forests and beautiful animals.*



*We see from the sky a landscape dominated by green forests, where animals roam naturally and freely, where birds fly along the shorelines. Iberá means '**waters that shine**' in the Guaraní language. Airbera and Rincon del Socorro commemorate Antoine de Saint-Exupéry to start making this dream become true.*

*Airbera allows you to observe the land from a bird's eye view, giving you aerial views of the **ecosystem of wetlands** and miles and miles of land. In one journey you can see both San Alonso and Rincón de Socorro, sites that are important to the recent history of Iberá.*

Airbera have two types of places; **Cessna 182** and **Piper Azteca**. La Cessna can hold 3 people, while the Piper Azteca can hold 5. They both allow for 23kg per passenger.

ROUTE	CESSNA 182	AZTECA
Posadas – Pista de Rincón de Socorro	60 mins	50 mins
Posadas – Pista de San Alonso	55 mins	45 mins
Pista de Rincón de Socorro - Corrientes	60 mins	50 mins
Pista de San Alonso - Corrientes	50 mins	40 mins
Pista de Rincón de Socorro - Iguazú	130 mins	110 mins
Pisa de San Alonso - Iguazú	120 mins	110 mins

August 2018

Update of CLT accommodation San Alonso

Ubication: an island in the heart of the Iberá Wetlands, accessed by air or by water.

History:

- This islands permits travellers to enjoy **360 degree views of nature**, including the water of the Paraná lagoon. It is the home to the **Centro Experimental de Cría de yaguarés** (CECY), the reintroduced the first female jaguar into Iberá in 2015, balancing the ecosystem after 60 years of extinction.
- The reintroduction of native animals to Iberá Wetlands is a main part of the work done by **The Conservation Land Trust (CLT)**. Successful projects in the past include the reintroduction of the ant-eater in 2007, the pampas deer in 2009 and the collared pecary in 2016.
- **San Alonso** comprises 10,000 hectares between islands and wetlands. Historically, it was used as an extensive cattle farm until 1996, year in which it was acquired by CLT with the sole purpose of protecting its environments.



Hotel:

- The hotel has one private bedroom with an ensuite bathroom and then a further two buildings that each come with two bedrooms and one bathroom. San Alonso's maximum capacity is 10 people.
 - **Yagareté:** large bedroom with double bed and en suite bathroom.
 - **Lobo Gargantilla:** (building 1) one room with one double bed, other room with two twin beds.
 - **Oso Hormiguero:** (building 2) one room with one double bed conjoined with a second room with two twin beds.
- The house's style stands out in its uniqueness due to its **elegant simplicity**. The lodgings are lined with wood and have been decorated up to its most minute details. The ample veranda receives the shade of the pink lapachos and timbo trees, and so it ensures that the house remains cool even during the hottest summer days. From this privileged spot, one is able to look through the foliage and spot the edge of the Paraná Lagoon. Each room has direct access to the veranda.



August 2018

- The **common areas** are divided between a comfortable living room equipped with a hearth, a dining room, a library, a veranda, a porch enclosed by mosquito net, and a barbecue area ("quincho").
- **Cuisine:** The most delicious dishes of Corrientes's cuisine are offered here, a menu that displays different options that aim to shed light on the value of cooking with local ingredients and recipes. On the menu, a predominance of organic fruits and vegetables can be seen, most of them grown at our own vegetable garden at Rincón del Socorro Lodge, and products purchased to local entrepreneurs. Dietary requirements can be catered to with previous notice.

Activities:

- During the stay, all the **different corners of the island can be discovered**. It can be enjoyed on **foot, on horse, by boat, or with a kayak**, always staying close to the coast in order to enjoy all the potential animal watching. Visiting San Alonso allows you to bear witness to all of CLT's work, its successes and failures, and getting to know all the steps necessary in the wildlife reintroduction programs. Each project contains its own unique history which also entails a large social component in connection with the local developments.
- Staying at San Alonso means **being a part of the largest conservation project** in South America.

How to get here:

- The access **by water** starts in San Nicolás, future Iberá National Park, to where you have to arrive by land. The experience of immersing yourself in nature starts there by a sand road, and continues on the boat, where you are able to enjoy breathtaking environments peppered with a variety of wildlife. When arriving at the island, everything feels like a luxury, be it finding deer resting at the shade of the trees, being lucky enough to have an anteater walking by you, or waking up to the sounds of a family of howler monkeys that have made their home in the nearby trees.
- **by air.** Beside shortening the distances, the flight allows you to admire the landscape as if it were a great artist's masterpiece. Circles of bright blue water emerge from the reservoirs that display every possible shade of green. At a low altitude, it is easy to observe the marsh deer and flocks of birds perched in the high branches of a tree. A magnificent show!

*To see it all, not bad idea to arrive by land/navigation and leave by air
to have a good overview*

Posada Uguay

New! Good rates, pure nature!

Location:

- The posada is located in a private area of the Iberá Wetlands, near the water and with private access to the **Fernández Lagoon**, that forms part of the complex ecosystem making up the 12,000km² of Iberá.
- In the past, this area was isolated thanks to the Ipané River on one side and the Iberá coast on the other. In guaraní, Uguay means '**bottom of the water**' or '**small corner**', depending on who you ask. Both meanings describe the area.



August 2018

History:

- Since **March 2017** the Conservation Land Trust obtained the land where Posada Uguay stands today to continue their conservation efforts in the area. To be a guest at the Posada is to involve yourself in the work of the trust.

Hotel:

- Once at the lodge, the shadow of the huge Tibia tree welcomes guests with its **huge, elegant trunks**. The lodge, small and cosy, blends into the countryside. It has various shady spots to enjoy a maté (local tea-like drink) at the end of the afternoon.
- The lodge comes with 4 rooms, all with private bathrooms. Three rooms comes with a private entrance from the outside. All are named after local fauna in the native guaraní language. The lodge can have 11 people maximum.
 - **Gazuti:** (deer) – comes with 4 single beds that can be used as a double or a single.
 - **Aguara:** (fox) – triple standard. Comes with three single beds, two of which can be joined into a double.
 - **Teyú:** (lizard) – double matrimonial room. This room is inside the house with direct access to the living room.
 - **Tuyuyú:** (stork) – standard room with two singles. They can be joined to make a double.
- Every rooms has their own bathroom with a shower. No rooms have a bath.
- **Common areas:** living room with fire place, barbeque area, large vernadas with many sitting places.
- **Cuisine:** here you are served regional and local dishes. The grill and old cast iron pots are often used as are creole recipes. The food is mainly made from organic fruit and vegetables, the majority of which are grown at nearby Rincón de Socorro. Special diets must be mentioned before arrival.

Activities:

- From the lodge guests have exclusive access to the **Laguna Fernández**, an area that remains largely unexplored due to the fact it's almost impossible to reach with other boats. A 2km wide canal allows for access to the lagoon and to the nearby floating islands. The isolation of the area means that guests have a high chance of seeing a lot of wildlife. The water in the lagoon is typically clear and the view is stunning.

How to get here:

- To reach the lodge guests walk along the path entitled Uguay as well, which passes by the trail used years ago. Along this path you can find an small chapel, school, and about 10 typical small houses of the Corrientes style dispersed along the path. The families that live here do so off the livestock and on the money earned from selling artisanal goods. We think it's a wonderful opportunity for both the locals and the visitors to meet and interact.
- **By car:** We recommend guests arrive in vehicles with a good, high chasis or in a 4x4 because depending on the weather, some stretches of the road are impassable in a normal car. We suggest contacting the lodge prior to arrival to check that guests may arrive in their own car. The alternative is for guests to leave their cars in Mercedes and then use the hotel's private or shared transfer service.
- **By bus:** Take a bus to Mercedes and from there transfer to the hotel. You can combine the bus journey with regular transfers to the lodge.

August 2018

Rincon del Socorro

You have information about this product. If you need more, we could make an update.

Since the CLT took place of the property last January, both services and gastronomy have been restored and improved. Guest are really happy with Rincon del Socorro Experience.

Moreover, activities had been added and the access to Laguna Fernandez is now permitted.

Estancia Ibera – house rental

For independent travellers who want to enjoy their house in Esteros del Iberá, CLT possess a nice house that can be rented with 3 rooms, living room, dining room, fully equipped. It is placed by the Laguna Iberá, 2 km away from Pellegrini. This could be an option for those who travel with rented car.

The **Argentinian Mesopotamia** is a **four season destiny**. A lot to live, to enjoy, visiting Iberá, the forest of Misiones, Mocona, the Jesuitical Missions and Iguazu Falls.

If you have any doubt please do not hesitate in contact us for more information and/or arrange a special program for you to diffuse to your clients. We could also send you more pictures of any of the properties above mentioned, while here below we attach some of San Alonso.

Next what up to come: up date on Route 40 – South from my last road trip from Bariloche to El Calafate

Best regards

LO

Marie-Laure Gall
Director

August 2018

SAN ALONSO IN PICTURES



WHAT'S UP N° 96

IBERÁ

UPDATE



August 2018



*A double room and
two apartments that
can hold up to four
hosts.*



EXPEDICIONES LIHUE SA EVyT Leg.: 10255 Res DNST 457/00
argentina@lihue-expeditions.com.ar

WHAT'S UP Nº 96

IBERÁ

UPDATE



August 2018



*Accommodation
programme with full
pension, and non
alcoholic beverages
included*



August 2018

Se accede desde San Miguel con traslado terrestre y navegación (3 horas en total.)

*O con un vuelo privado de Airberá desde los aeropuertos más cercanos
o Rincón del Socorro.*

WHAT'S UP N° 96

IBERÁ

UPDATE



August 2018

Views from the sky, an Abstract painting.



We are very thankful to Florian von der Fecht's view, in his pictures that inspire people to make trips. www.florian.com.ar

WHAT'S UP N° 96

IBERÁ

UPDATE



August 2018



WHAT'S UP N° 96

IBERÁ

UPDATE



August 2018

