

The Argentine Mesopotamia

"Let your life become a dream, and that dream will become a reality."
--Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Second Largest Wetland in the World

Whether it's ancient history, natural beauty, or flamboyant festivals you seek, Argentina's hot and humid Mesopotamia region is the place for your next South America vacation. The Argentinian Mesopotamia is a four-season destiny. So much to see and experience: visiting Iberá, the forest of Misiones, Mocona, the Jesuitical Missions, and Iguazu Falls are just a sampling of the wonder of this region.

The Iberá, meaning "waters that shine," is the second largest wetland in the world, with refuge to great biodiversity and cultural heritage. In the lowest areas, the rain deposits 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.

Local Gaucho Life - The Local Folk Hero

The life of the local gauchos is very unique here due to constant contact with the water. Gauchos are nomadic, colorful horsemen and cowhands of the Argentine and Uruguayan Pampas (grasslands), who flourished in the mid-18th to mid-19th century. Like the cowboy of the American West, the gaucho have remained a folk hero.

Gauchos have adapted their lifestyle to this specific landscape, with typical transportation on horse and boat. 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.

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 a mild climate, while summers are much warmer with fairly cool nights. In July, the coldest month of the year, the temperature varies between 59-68°F during the day and near freezing at night.

Around mid-august, the blooming of the lapacho trees declares the beginning of the spring season, and the days start to warm up, showcasing temperatures that can reach 68°F or more. Summer's usual temperature is a comfortable 68°F. The average annual rainfall is 59 inches, while rainfall during the summer season (November until March) is slightly more common.

Rainfalls usually occur in the form of isolated, powerful, yet beautiful storms that last a few hours.

Improved Roads to Explore Iberá

This past year, roads have been improved and new options of travel to the different areas of Iberá have been opened. Go by car to avoid long paths with dirt roads. We suggest exploring Iberá from Concepción (Hotel La Alondal) and/or San Miguel, staying at Posada Mboy Cua. You can get to both towns on paved roads, which we are happy to arrange transportation for you. Once there, we'll plan a four-wheel drive excursion on to Iberá.

En Route to Pellegrini

Pellegrini is a town on the western border of Buenos Aires Province of Argentina. From the north, gravel roads have been improved. From Mercedes, roads have been paved.

By Air Taxi with Airbera

Airbera is a new private air tax service serving the Ibera region. With this air taxi service, wonderful views await. You will leave the city behind and fly over either the Paraná River or the stunning Iguazu Falls, allowing you to take in a truly fantastic "bird's eye" view. This service that we arrange for you offers private flights from Posadas, Puerto Iguazu, Corrientes, and Resistencia that allow you to connect readily with commercial flights.

We continue on to the heart of the Corrientes, where little by little you start to see the marshes, the forests, and beautiful animals. From the sky, you will see a landscape dominated by green forests, where animals roam naturally and freely, and birds fly along the shorelines.

Iberá means "waters that shine" in the Guaraní language. Airbera allows you to experience from a bird's eye perspective, 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---significant sites in Iberá's recent history.

Two types of air taxi planes are available from Airbera: The Cessna 182, which holds three people, and the Piper Azteca, which holds five people:

TIMES & ROUTES -- Cessna 182 or Piper 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

San Alonso

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

The island's captivating beauty allows travelers 360 degree views of nature, including the water of the Paraná lagoon.

First Jaguar Reintroduced After Extinction

The Ubication is home to the Centro Experimental de Cría de yaguaraté (CECY), the [LINK HERE](#) reintroduced 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 bulk of the work done by The Conservation Land Trust or CLT.

Accommodations:

Hotel: The hotel has one private bedroom with an ensuite bathroom, and another two buildings further away that each include two bedrooms and one bathroom. San Alonso's maximum capacity is 10 people.

- o Yaguareté: large bedroom with double bed and en suite bathroom.

- o Lobo Gargantilla: (building 1) one room with one double bed, other room with two twin beds.

- o 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 decorated up to the most minute details. The ample veranda receives the shade of the pink lapachos and timbo trees, ensuring 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. 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 quincho or barbecue area.

Delicious Cuisine Using Local Ingredients

Cuisine: The most delicious dishes of Corrientes' 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, there is a predominance of organic fruits, which are mostly grown on the vegetable garden at Rincón del Socorro Lodge or purchased from local entrepreneurs.

Activities:

During the stay, all the different corners of the island are open for discovery. Enjoy on foot, horse, boat, or with a kayak, always staying close to the coast in order to enjoy all the potential animal watching.

South America's Largest Conservation Project

Visiting San Alonso allows you to witness firsthand all of Conservation Land Trust's body of work, successes and failures, and the steps necessary in wildlife reintroduction programs. Each project contains its own unique history, which also entails a large social component in connection with local developments. Staying at San Alonso means being a part of the largest conservation project in South America.

Successful projects in the past include the reintroduction of the ant-eater in 2007, the pampas deer in 2009, and the collared peccary in 2016. San Alonso comprises approx. 250 acres between islands and wetlands. Historically, it was used as an extensive cattle farm until 1996, when it was acquired by the CLT with the sole purpose of environmental protection.

How to get here:

By water. Access by water starts in San Nicolás, future Iberá National Park, where you arrive by land. The experience of immersing yourself in nature starts 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, whether it's finding deer resting at the shade of the trees, seeing an anteater walk by, 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 distance, traveling by air 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's easy to observe the marsh deer and flocks of birds perched in the high branches of a tree. A magnificent show!

LWA Tip: For a great overview, arrive by land and leave by air.

Posada Uguay

Experience this new, nature-inspiring area with favorable rates to suit you.

Location:

The posada is located in a private area of the Iberá Wetlands, near the water, with private access to the Fernández Lagoon, which forms part of the complex ecosystem making up the 7,500 mile 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.

History:

Since March 2017, the Conservation Land Trust obtained the land where Posada Uguay stands today to continue conservation efforts in the area. To be a guest at the Posada is to experience the work of the CLT.

Hotel:

Once at the lodge, the shadow of the huge Tibia tree welcomes guests with its huge, elegant trunks. The lodge, small and cozy, blends into the countryside. It has various shady spots in which to enjoy a maté (or local tea-like drink) at the end of the afternoon. The lodge comes with four rooms, all with private bathrooms. Three rooms include a private entrance from the outside. All are named after local fauna in the native Guaraní language. The lodge maximum capacity is 11.

- o Gazuti: (deer) – comes with four single beds that can be used as a double or a single.
- o Aguara: (fox) – triple standard. Comes with three single beds, two of which can be joined into a double.
- o Teyú: (lizard) – double matrimonial room. This room is inside the house with direct access to the living room.
- o Tuyuyú: (stork) – standard room with two singles. They can be joined to make a double. Every room has its own bathroom and shower (no bathtub).

Common areas: living room with fireplace, barbecue area, large verandas with many sitting places.

Cuisine: Regional and local dishes served. Creole recipes are cooked on the grill in old cast iron pots. Organic fruits and vegetables are mainly used, the majority of which are grown at nearby Rincón de Socorro. Note: 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 1.24 mile wide canal allows access to the lagoon and the nearby floating islands. The isolation of the area offers guests 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 Uguay path, which passes by the trail used many years ago. Along this path, find a small chapel, school, and about ten typical small houses of the Corrientes style dispersed along the path. Families that live here do so from the livestock and money earned by selling artisanal goods. It's a wonderful opportunity for both the locals and the visitors to meet and interact.

By car: We recommend guests arrive in four-wheel drive vehicles with a high chassis, depending on the weather, as some stretches of the road may be impassable by car. We suggest contacting the lodge prior to arrival for an update on current road conditions.

Rincon del Socorro

Since the CLT took control of the property in January 2019, both services and gastronomy have been restored and improved. Guests report positively about the Rincon del Socorro Experience.

Activities have been added and the access to Laguna Fernandez is now permitted.

Estancia Ibera – house rental

For independent travelers who want to stay in Esteros del Iberá, the Conservation Land Trust has a pleasant house that may be rented with three rooms, including a living room and dining room that are fully equipped. The house is near Laguna Iberá, 1.24 miles away from Pellegrini. This may be an option for those who are traveling via rental car.

The Conservation Land Trust (CLT)

The Conservation Land Trust or CLT is an active organization that continues to make this part of the world pristine. CLT is dedicated to the creation and expansion of provincial and national parks to ensure the continuity and evolution of all ecological processes. CLT finances several programs aimed at wildlife protection, reinsertion of extinct species, landscape restoration, and local development, usually related to ecotourism, agroecology, and environmental education. In addition, CLT directs funds toward the construction and/or infrastructure and public access locations with the goal of preparing the natural areas for their donation to the provincial and national governments.