



Estancia La Bandada

120 km from Buenos Aires City and 90 km from Ezeiza Airport

The Pampa. A green lung that seems to extend to infinity. The gauchos used to gallop their horses through it, from end to end. Their silhouettes vanished on the horizon, behind a large dust cloud. Only a river or a stream could stop them in this ideal land for livestock and crops. The fences, the *estancias* (ranches), the agriculture and the tree planting started in 1846. The infinite landscape was transformed with agricultural production, but the traditions of rural life still remain. Those first trees planted in the early 1900s – today part of the landscape – offer their exquisite shade in the summer afternoons.

La Bandada proposes to enjoy the Argentine countryside with the enhancement of its uses and customs. Right after crossing the gate, guests begin to enjoy the rural air. Flocks of ducks fly cross the sky in their characteristic V-shaped formations, from lagoon to lagoon. After walking through the agricultural pastures, guests arrive at the main house, framed by a magnificent grove of trees: immense banana trees, poplars, pines, as well as ginkgo bilobas that stand out in autumn with their intense yellow leaves.

The variety of birds in the area inspired the name of the *estancia* – La Bandada means “the flock” in Spanish – and also the rooms. The house is colonial style, with unostentatious elegance. Its pleasant and spacious rooms are an invitation to rest and read. Wide galleries keep the house cool: a perfect place to hang out in the afternoon or, instead, challenge to play a traditional game: the *sapo*. Further, quite discreet in the large park, the pool offers the ideal treat for swimming and cooling off. Besides, there are special areas for massage, among other treatments to feel renewed. The pastures and the hacienda can be explored on horseback. It is also possible to participate in a polo clinic or just enjoy being a spectator. The service is customized, with caring attention.

Dishes bring traditional recipes, very tasty, cooked with fresh ingredients from the vegetable garden. Together with the cook, the guests can pick up their choice for the daily special. It is impossible to miss the ever present homemade *dulce de leche* – fudge – and the juicy *empanadas*: everybody wants the recipe to take away!

La Bandada is the ideal place to experience the Argentine countryside. Its proximity to Buenos Aires City allows to enjoy it through diverse alternatives:

- ✓ **One to four nights stay:** full board and activities (up to 14 guests). As there are a few rooms, it is an ideal place to enjoy privately.
- ✓ **Field Day:** typical *asado* – barbecue – for lunch, with activities from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For up to 20 guests).
- ✓ **Events:** La Bandada is perfect for all types of events, whether family or corporate ones.

ROOMS

La Bandada has five rooms in all. Two of them are apartments with two rooms each. All rooms are named after birds that are frequently seen in the *estancia*.

Accommodation capacity: 14 guests.



- **Standard Cardenal:** Double room (20 m²) with private bathroom.
- **Suites:**
 - **Picaflor:** Double room (56 m²) with private bathroom and fireplace. It can be accessed from the house or from the garden and it has a private gallery. It used to be the owner's room.
 - **Hornero:** Double room (68 m²) with private bathroom, fireplace and separate entrance.
- **Apartments: Las Garzas and Las Tijeretas**

Each apartment has two double rooms (20 m² each), a living room (28 m²) and a bathroom. The beds can be matrimonial or twin. The ideal option for families and for groups of friends.

SERVICES

- Electric power supply (220 v), 24/7.
- Wi-Fi in certain areas of the house.
- Weak cell signal.
- Heating: fireplace / radiators.
- Ceiling fans. Air conditioning only in Hornero suite.

LOCATION

La Bandada is located 120 km from Buenos Aires City, 90 km from Ezeiza International Airport and 10 km from San Miguel del Monte. It is easy to access since nearly the whole drive is along the highway. The entrance is on a paved road, after a compact dirt road of 1.5 km.

How to get to La Bandada: From Buenos Aires City, take the Riccheri Highway towards Ezeiza. Just before arriving at Ezeiza Airport, take route 205 towards Cañuelas (the exit is just after passing under the bridge, turning right). Continue on the highway towards Cañuelas. After the crossroad with provincial route RP 6, there is a roundabout; there, take the third exit towards San Miguel del Monte (national route RN 3). A few hundred meters ahead, the route turns 90 degrees to the left, a closer angle to the right, and then straight ahead towards San Miguel del Monte. At km 109 of RN 3, at the roundabout, take the third exit (route 41 towards General Belgrano), go through the entrance to San Miguel del Monte, and continue along route 41. At 14 km from the crossroad with RN 3 (10 minutes), watch for the sign "La Bandada" on the left. As a reference, then the route turns a deep curve to the right. Once at the sign, the entrance gate to the *estancia* can be viewed ahead.

GPS coordinates: Latitude: 35°28'46.9"S Longitude: -58°41'56".O

Itinerary in Google Maps from Ezeiza.

SAN MIGUEL DEL MONTE

San Miguel del Monte – just as San Antonio de Areco and Chascomús – was part of one of the first border lines established around the end of the 18th century between Buenos Aires and the Malones (raids of Mapuche bands). It is one of the oldest cities in the province of Buenos Aires. The town preserves some old facades, houses from the colonial times, the ranch that belonged to Juan Manuel de Rosas, and a mangrove that allowed to scanning the horizon and anticipating the arrival of Malones.

Rosas, a prominent Argentine military officer and politician, was governor and leader of the Argentine Confederation between 1835 and 1861. He promoted, among other things, a militia of gauchos and field laborers known as "*los colorados de Monte*", with the main objective of fighting the cattle rustlers in the Pampas area, but they also played a crucial role in the most important battles of Argentine history until 1852, overthrown together with its promoter in the battle of Caseros.



The layout of San Miguel del Monte is very similar to most Argentine cities, with a main square facing the colonial church built in 1892. On Sundays, the parishioners from the different *estancias* nearby attend the Mass. The church’s atrium becomes the meeting place for the neighbors. The town borders a large lagoon, typical of the Pampas plain, the habitat of a vast diversity of birds. Scattered in the few blocks of the town, there are typical countryside clothes and shoes, such as espadrilles (*alpargatas*) and baggy *bombacha* pants.

Monte is one of the areas of Argentina where polo is most practiced, with many polo fields around. There are also renowned polo horses’ breeders (*haras*), as well as facilities to learn this sport (polo schools). Renowned Argentine players have trained and played here.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES

Activity	Included
Polo classes	Transfer to a polo field (10 minutes). One-hour class: evaluation of the student’s experience, driving range from the ground (200 balls), on a wooden horse (200 balls) and final practice riding a “real” horse. Full equipment.
Birdwatching	Walking tour through the <i>estancia</i> or in the surroundings. Two hours. Check list of birds at La Bandada. Bilingual guide.
Visit to San Miguel del Monte	Transfer (15 minutes). Walking tour of the civic center, the historical museum, Rosas’ ranch and the church. Bilingual guide. Entrance fees to sites of interest.
Massages	Professional masseuse. One hour.
Live folklore music (*)	Argentine folklore songs with guitar and <i>bombo</i> (bass drum). 30 minutes.
Live folklore dances (*)	Folklore dancing (<i>chacarera, zamba, malambo</i>) and <i>boleadoras</i> show. Three dancing couples. Guests are invited to participate. 30 minutes.

FIELD DAY

Visitors who do not stay as guests in La Bandada may enjoy a full day experience in the Argentine countryside. The group is limited to up to 20 guests to ensure the exclusivity and comfort of all visitors. Recommended schedule from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Upon arrival, there is a reception with *empanadas* and beverages (a glass of wine, soda or lemonade). During the preparation of the *asado* for lunch, there is enough time to go for a walk or on horseback through the *estancia* (up to 10 horses simultaneously). Upon return, the Argentine *asado* is ready: different varieties of



meat, vegetables and salads. In the afternoon, it is time to enjoy the traditional gaucho skills. To close the field day, a typical teatime including tea, coffee and mate with pastry.

LA BANDADA – PRIVATE OPTION

Events: La Bandada is available to organize:

- Weddings. There is a beautiful church just 10 km away.
- Anniversaries, birthdays, end-of-year celebrations.
- Business meetings.

Please ask for specific quotes according to requirements.

Accommodation in exclusive use. La Bandada can be entirely reserved for one group. As there are just five rooms, it is ideal for families, groups or companies that do not want to share their stay with other guests.