



Horses



North

Around the Lake

Across Mt Hengill and around Lake Thingvallavatn.

History, Culture & Nature

**Ride with the Herd
Wilderness**

**5 days of riding
2016**

This is a fun ride around Lake Thingvallavatn, the area of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the ancient site of Iceland's parliament. Icelanders have been riding to Thingvallavatn for over 1,000 years.

First Night

Overnight flight to Iceland

Travelers from North America leave for Iceland on an overnight flight with an early morning arrival at Keflavik Airport in Iceland.

Day 1:

Welcome to Iceland

You'll have an early arrival at Keflavik International Airport and use your tickets for the Flybus shuttle to the BSI bus terminal in Reykjavik. Luggage can be left here, you can get some breakfast, and it will be very convenient to explore a bit of Iceland's capital city. Around 5:30 PM, your outfitter will pick you up at BSI and take you to their farm in Hveragerdi, about 45 minutes outside of the capital. The tour group meets over dinner and is given details of the tour ahead. Horses North clients are upgraded to a night in the comfortable Hotel Eldhestar.

Day 2:

Hveragerdi - Kolvidarhöll

From Hveragerdi the tour starts along the old route to Hellsisheidi, and then to volcano Hengill along the Kristnitökuhraun lava field. This lava came from the eruption of Hengill in the year 1000, the same year Iceland officially became Christian. The old folktales say

that the eruption was the revenge of the old gods Thór, Ódinn and Freyr. You'll ride on the track between lava and hills ("milli hrauns og hliðar"), down to Kolvidarhöll, which has been a rest stop for travelers for hundreds of years. The horses will stay here while riders return to the hotel for dinner and a good night's sleep! 21 km, 4 hrs.

Day 3:

Kolvidarhöll - Marardalur- Thingvellir

Morning finds the riders continuing north below the Húsmúli and Hengill mountains, and then you'll dismount and lead the horses through the narrow cleft to Marardalur (Valley of Horses). Riding through Dyrfjöll (Door mountains), and reaching the mountaintop, the vista opens up to reveal Lake Thingvallavatn. The track continues along the lake past Hestvik to the farm Heidarbær. Further on you'll be able to see the old Althing, which was Iceland's Parliament for hundreds of years. From here, it is not far to Skógarhólar where you'll spend the night. Iceland's big national horse competition was held at Skógarhólar until 1978. 38 km, 6-7 hrs.

Day 4:

Thingvellir - Kringlumýri

You'll cross Thingvellir National Park, today, one of Iceland's most important places. From Gjábakki there is an exceptional view over the park, including the largest lake in Iceland, Lake Thingvallavatn. This is also the area where the North American and European crustal plates meet. After riding across the Lyngdalsheidi Moors you'll pay a short visit to the area's historic caves. From Laugardalsvöllum it's back to Lyngdalsheidi Moor, finishing the day's ride at the cottage Kringlumýri. 30 km, 6-7 hrs.

Day 5:

Kringlumýri - Villingarvatn

From Kringlumýri the morning's ride starts along soft riding paths called Drift, and there is another nice view over Lake Thingvallavatn. You'll ride past one of Iceland's first water power stations at Ljósafossvirkjun built in 1937. Your horses will take you easily along the south side of the lake to the farm Villingarvatn, where they will spend the night. Riders will return to continue by bus to Eldhestar's farm, Vellir. 25 km, 5-6 hrs.



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History, Culture, Nature --on a horse!**

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Day 6:

Villingarvatn - Reykjadalur- Hveragerdi

Today's ride starts up the mountains with another beautiful view over Lake Thingvallavatn and then along two volcanic crater lakes, big and small Kattatjorn.. There are many hot springs in the next green area which is soon followed a steep lava path leading down into Reykjadalur Valley, whose hot springs invite you for a dip! There is a magnificent view over the sea and the Westmann Islands as you ride back down into Hveragerdi. You'll say good-bye to the horses at Vellir and then go back to Reykjavik to hotel accommodations. Often riders all go out to one of Reykjavik's many good restaurants for a last dinner together, (but it's not included in the price!). 23 km, 5-6 hrs.

Day 7:

Home again!

The tour officially ends the next morning after breakfast. For those returning home, the Flybus will take riders back to the Keflavik International Airport. Others can start their further explorations of Iceland, and we'll be happy to help plan those travels.



Dates and Prices

The Around the Lake Riding Tour runs 3 times in **2015**. Your arrival day in Iceland is always a transfer day, which allows you to rest from the short night of sleep on the flight, before you start riding on the second day. We can arrange for an earlier arrival or later departure.

Price is **\$3390** per person double occupancy pre and post ride, **\$3557** single for pre and post ride nights.

Leave N America——Return N America

Thurs June 2

Thurs June 9

Tues June 28

Tues July 5

Fri July 29

Fri, Aug 5

Finer Print: Price includes international airfare from the US east coast*, airport transfers and any pre and post ride accommodations needed. The ride itself includes 6 nights accommodations and 5 days of riding, a post ride night back in Reykjavik, as well as helmets and rain gear.

***Flights Price includes** round trip airfare, including fuel surcharge and US departure taxes to Iceland, from Icelandair's east coast gateways - Boston, New York, Newark and Washington Dulles International. We can also book flights from Icelandair's other gateways: Minneapolis, Denver, Seattle, Portland, Anchorage, Toronto Edmonton, and Halifax, which may add to the price. Not all gateways have daily departures but we can arrange additional nights accommodations before or after your tour.

Accommodations and Meals: Your pre and post ride nights are in comfortable hotels with private baths. During the rides, you'll stay in guesthouses and mountain huts in sleeping bags (which you'll need to bring) and on good mattresses, which are provided. Meals are hearty -starting with an Icelandic breakfast buffet, a packed lunch on the trail and an ample home cooked dinner, often featuring lamb and fish.

***Not included** are Travel Insurance, breakfast and lunch on your arrival day, dinner on your last riding day back in Reykjavik, lunch and dinner on the day of departure and the cost of any additional travel.

Finest print. Please note that our tour prices are subject to revision until you book your tour by making a deposit. Our contract rates for air aren't always available as we get close to travel dates. While we make every effort to keep prices on our webpages and their PDFs up to the minute, things can change quickly. We welcome phone calls or email about prices and any other details.

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