

Around the Volcano

Iceland



Adventure

*A short ride over mountains, through valleys
and past hot springs*

Four day ride
Hotel Accommodations
2010

*This four-day ride is a fine way to see why
the Icelandic horse is so well suited to its homeland.*

*You'll travel over mountains, into lush hidden valleys,
through glacial streams with marvelous vistas of southern
Iceland. Off the horse, you'll enjoy the pleasures of the
outfitter's very comfortable Hotel.*

Day 0:

Iceland here we come! 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!

Riders will arrive at Keflavik International Airport and then take the Flybus shuttle to the BSI bus terminal in Reykjavik. You can check your bags, grab some breakfast, and then set out explore a bit of Iceland's capital city. Around 5:30 PM the outfitter will pick you up at the BSI bus terminal and take you to their farm, about an hour 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-Kolvidarholl

Following the old route to Hellisheidi, riding across the moor to the volcano Hengill and over the lava field Kristnitokuhraun, the agility and comfortable gaits of the Icelandic Horse is at its best. You'll ride over lava which came from the eruption of Hengill during the year 1000; the same year Iceland officially became Christian. Legend calls this eruption the revenge of the old gods Thor, Odin and Freya. You'll ride on the track between lava and hills ("milli hrauns og hlidar") down to Kolvidarholl, which has been a rest stop on the trail for centuries. The horses will stay there and you'll go back to the hotel, after a 21 km ride, lasting about 4 hours.

Day 3:

Kolvidarholl-Nesjavellir-Villingavatn

The day starts by riding below the mountains Husmuli and Hengill. Soon you'll dismount and lead the horses through the narrow cleft to the lush grasses of Marardalur, the Valley of Horses. Then you'll ride through Dyrifjall (Door-Mountains) and at the top be rewarded with a great view over Lake Thingvallavatn. From a geological perspective this area is quite unique, being where the North American and European continental plates are drifting apart. It's played a major role in Iceland's history, being the site where the ancient government of Iceland met for hundreds of years. Heading off the mountain, riders come down to the geothermal area at Nesjavellir and again leave the horses to rest, as you return to the hotel, after riding 30 km in 6-7 hours.

Around the Volcano

Winding over mountains, through valleys and hot springs

**Four day ride
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Day 4:

Villingavatn-Reykjadalur- Hveragerdi

The day starts with a ride up a mountain, which offers a view of both Thingvallavatn, and also Skjaldbreiður, an extraordinary shaped mountain that is always capped with snow. Then it's down to the shimmering volcanic lakes at Kattatjarnir. Next you'll ride to a steep path of lava down to the valley Reykjadalur - or Valley of Steam.

Your reward for all this riding is a dip in the warm stream running through the valley - you control the temperature by moving up or down the stream! Then it's back e down to Hveragerdi where the tour ends. After saying good-bye to the horses, riders head back to Reykjavik where you'll be dropped at your hotel (another upgrade for Horses North clients). 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!).

Day 5:

Home again!

The tour officially ends this morning after breakfast. You can continue exploring Iceland or, if your trip is over you can take the Flybus shuttle out to the airport later in the day. (You could take a bus that will give you a few hours visit to the Blue Lagoon on the trip to the airport.)

The Volcano Contrast Tour runs 12 times in 2010. The first day 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.

Travel Dates & Prices

Price* for dates below:

\$2048 per person double occ,

\$2196 single supplement.

Wed, May 12-Mon, May 17

Wed, May 19-Mon, May 24

Wed, May 26-Mon, May 31

Price for dates below:

\$2315 per person double occ,

\$2488 single supplement.

Sat, June 12-Thurs, June 17

Sat, June 26-Thurs, July 1

Thurs, July 15-Tues, July 20

Fri, July 23-Wed, July 28

Sun, Aug 8-Fri, Aug 13

Mon, Aug 16-Sat, Aug 21

Sun, Aug 29-Fri, Sep 3

Price* for dates below:

\$2048 per person double occ,

\$2222 single supplement.

Sat, Sep 4-Thurs, Sep 9

Sat, Sep 11-Thurs, Sep 16

Accommodations on the Around the Volcano tour are NOT typically Icelandic. Your riding nights will be at the Hotel Eldhestar, recipient of Iceland's first Eco-hotel award. Designed to complement and sit gently in Iceland's environment, it's dedicated to the Icelandic horse. From a design and materials perspective, like the use of natural hot water in the towel racks, it's built with an ecological perspective - one that's both good for the planet and great for the visitor! Each room is dedicated to a particular horse, too! On the last night, in Reykjavik, you're upgraded to nice hotel.

Please note that the price is subject to revision until you book your tour by making a deposit. The prices listed on print material may not be the latest price. We will make every effort to keep prices on our webpages and their PDFs up to the minute. We welcome phone inquiries about prices and any other details

2010 PRICES

***Price includes round trip airfare, including fuel surcharge and departure taxes**, from Boston, New York, Minneapolis (ask about prices from Toronto, Halifax and Europe). Add \$110 per person from Seattle. Also includes all airport transfers, hotel accommodations in Reykjavik with private bath, tv, internet connection, and breakfast after the ride, a comfortable hotel room on the outfitters farm during the ride with private bath, all meals during the ride, as well as safety helmets and rain gear.

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

**Horses
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