



# Around the Volcano



*A short riding tour in the volcanic south  
and past hot springs*

**5 Days - 3 Days riding**  
**Classic South Iceland landscape**  
**Hotel Accommodations**  
**...2017**

*You'll travel over mountains, into lush hidden valleys, through glacial streams with marvelous vistas. It's a great way to see how Iceland's horse is well suited to it's homeland. Evenings, off the horse, you'll enjoy outfitter's comfortable farm hotel with a last night in Reykjavik, too!*

## **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. Spending the next 3 nights in the comfortable Hotel Eldhestar.

## **Day 2:**

### **Hveragerdi-Kolvidarholl**

You'll start the day by getting to know the horses in the paddock. After an early lunch you'll follow 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 these 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-**

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 Dyrfjall (Door-Mountains) and at the top be rewarded with a great view over Lake Thingvallavatn. From a geological perspective this area it's 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*

## Day 4:

### Villingavatn - Reykjadalur - Vellir

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 two shimmering volcanic lakes at Kattatjarnir. Then it's up a hill to reach first the lake, Álfavatn- the Swan Lake and then on to the green land of Ökuelduháls with all its hot springs, after a while reaching Klambagl, the steep lava path leading down into Reykjadalur, a geothermal valley with many hot springs. You'll ride to a steep path of lava down to the valley Reykjadalur - or The 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 down to Hveragerði where the tour ends. After saying good-bye to the horses, riders head back to Reykjavik where you'll be dropped at your hotel (an 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!

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 Around the Volcano Tour runs 8 times in 2017. The 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.

### Travel Dates & Prices

*These are travel dates for the tour - We can also arrange for earlier or later travel.*

**Price includes international airfare from the US east coast\***

**\$2403** per person double occ,

**\$2785** single occupancy

*Leave US - Return US*  
Wed May 17 - Tues May 23  
Wed May 24 - Tues May 30  
Tues June 13 - Mon June 19  
Wed July 5 - Tues July 11  
Wed Aug 2 - Tues Aug 8  
Wed Aug 30 - Tues Sept 5  
Fri Sept 8 - Thu Sept 14

**Finer Print: Price includes** round trip airfare from the US east coast \* airport transfers and any pre and post ride accommodations. The ride itself includes 4 days, 3 nights and 3 riding days, with safety helmet and rain gear. Accommodations and Meals: all nights during the ride will be in comfortable rooms at the Hotel Eldhestar with private bath, TV, wifi and access to a hot tub. For your Reykjavik night you will be in a 3 star hotel, with private bath. Most meals are included -an Icelandic breakfast buffet, a packed lunch on the trail and dinner with a starter, entree and lots of vegetables. Desert and drinks can be purchased at the hotel.

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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.

**\*Not included** are Travel Insurance, breakfast on your arrival day, dinner on your last night back in Reykjavik, lunch on your arrival and departure day, and any additional travel or services needed.

**Finest print.** Please note that our tour prices are subject to revision until you book your tour by making a deposit. The prices listed on print material may not be the latest available price.

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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