

Iceland



Adventure

- Between the Deserts

Ride through some of southern Iceland's most interesting and dramatic landscapes

**Ride with the Herd
Wilderness**

**9 Day tour w 7 days of riding
2009**

Lots of riding on some great trails, even a little bit of the thousand year old wilderness track called "Kjölur". A ride deep into Iceland's interior for some unique scenery, and riding experiences

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!

Riders will arrive at Keflavik International Airport and take 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 the outfitter will pick up riders at the BSI bus terminal and take them to their farm, Vellir, in Hveragerdi, about an hour outside of the capital, where they can check into the comfortable country hotel. 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 Eldhestar Hotel.

Day 2:

Hveragerdi - Fellsmúli - Hólaskógur

After breakfast it's a short drive from Vellir to the farm Fellsmúli near Mt. Hekla volcano. The riding tour starts there, and follows the soft paths through a birch forest to the old farm Skarfanæs. On the way to Tröllkonuhlaup the trail passes the waterfall Thjófafoss. From there it's a ride over the sand to the hut Hólaskógur for the night. 50-60 km, 9 hrs.

Day 3:

Hólaskógur - Svínárnes

The day starts with a ride from Hólaskógu north in the direction of the glaciers Hofsjökull and Langjökull. Instead of riding east of Thjórsá as the riding trail Sprengisandur, you'll now ride west of the river. Great expanses of scenery in all directions, but here the glaciers and the mountain Arnarfell are very demanding of attention. The night's stay is at Bjarnalaekjabotnar, which is a primitive mountain hut, but cozy at the same time. Distance: 40 km. 7 - 8 hrs.

Day 4:

Svínárnes - Kerlingafjöll

A very nice riding trail leads further north in the direction of Kerlingafjöll. These mountains are Icelanders largest skiing paradise in Iceland. Here you meet the glaciers - And hot springs. At Kerlingafjöll you have the possibility to take a bath in nice hot pots, while enjoying the view in the wilderness. 40 km and 6- 7 hrs.

Day 5:

Kerlingafjöll - Árbúdir

Today you'll ride west and have the glacier Hofsjökull on the right side and the glacier Langjökull in front. For a while you are riding the old route Kjölur between the south and north, 37 km, 6-7 hrs.



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Day 6:

Árbúdir - Fremstaver

Rivers and mountains are the guides to the next destination; following Svartá River with the mountain Bláfell in sight. Passing the waterfall Ábóta, and crossing the Hvítá River (over a bridge). Between Bláfell and Hvítá the road continues to the mountain hut, Fremstaver. 40 km, 8 hrs.

Day 7:

Fremstaver - Geysir

Riding down into the valley of the river Hvítá and following Hvítá south into a desert of stones and black sand. The Hvítá drops over cliffs and forms the waterfalls Gullfoss, and this marks your emergence from the wilderness into civilization. Upon reaching the hot springs and geyser at Geysir you'll have the luxury to soak in one of the hot pots of Geysir. 35km, 7hrs.

Day 8:

Laugarvatn - Vellir - Reykjavik

The day starts with sight seeing; a visit to Geysir and the impressive waterfall Gullfoss. This last day starts at Laugarvatn and rides towards Kringlumýri a hut between Laugarvatn and Thingvellir. From Kringlumýri it leads into the smooth and soft riding paths called Driftin. There's a nice view over Lake Thingvallavatn. The tour ends close to the water power station Ljósafossvirkjun built in 1937, one of the first water power stations in Iceland. From Ljósafossvirkjun it's goodbye to the horses and late in the afternoon, everyone will be taken back to Reykjavik where you'll be dropped at your hotel. (Horses North upgrades you to a three star hotel.)

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!). 30km, 6-7hrs.

Day 9:

Farewell, perhaps ...

Travelers returning home will have a few hours to shop, visit museums, or tack shops before the bus returns to Keflavik airport for flights back home. Those lucky enough to be exploring more of Iceland can get underway.

Accommodations during the Between the Deserts riding tour are traditionally Icelandic. On your first night you are lodged in the Eldhestar Hotel in comfort. On the tour you'll need a sleeping bag and you'll stay in farm guesthouses, mountain huts and cabins, which are all warm and clean. Typically there are several beds per room, and in huts there may be one big sleeping room. Most will have shared bathroom facilities. What they lack in creature comforts they make up for in impressive scenery. On your last night in Reykjavik you'll be upgraded to a hotel for a bit of post-ride comfort.

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.

Ride with the Herd Wilderness 9 Days/7 riding days 2009

Dates:

The Between the Desert Tour runs 1 time in 2009. 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. American travelers will have to leave the US on the night prior to the start of the ride.

Dates

Sun, July 26-Mon, Aug 3

2009 PRICES*

The price for this tour is **\$3656** p/p,d/o. **\$3788** single supplement. Price includes round trip airfare, including US departure taxes, fuel surcharge, from Boston, New York, Minneapolis, or Orlando (ask about prices from Toronto, Halifax and Europe) all airport transfers, hotel accommodations for your first and last night with private bath and breakfast for pre- and post-ride nights, sleeping bag accommodations during the ride in mountain huts and guest houses with shared facilities, all meals during the ride, as well as safety helmets and rain gear. **Not** included is 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.

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