



Eastern Symphony

Deserted inlets, Horses and Puffins

A beautiful, but remote spot
Remarkable hospitality- and real beds!

Puffins, reindeer, elves, too!

2009

In north-eastern Iceland, the “Trails of the Deserted Inlets” extend over an area where coastal mountains plunge abruptly into the sea. This is the home of assorted “Hidden People” with the fortress of the elf queen on the ride! You’ll ride through the deserted inlets of Borgarfjordur, with bird watching, beach bonfires and ancient trails. Nights are in real beds at a farm guesthouse and a cozy little guesthouse in the village of Bakkagerði in Eastern Borgarfjörður Bay, with its 130 inhabitants and thousands of puffins breeding in a sheltered rock just outside the village. There’s some walking, some cultural sights, puffins, reindeer and the occasional elf as well.

The conductor of this “Eastern Symphony” is guide, farmer, and horseman extraordinaire, Stefan Sveinsson, whose home, Útnyrðingsstaðir Farm is your base for your first and last night. Stefan has been running tours in this region for 15 years and knows it better than most.

Saturday:

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

Sunday:

After arrival at Keflavik International Airport you will head to your outfitters Riding Center, where you will get details of your tour and meet your fellow riders, as well have a traditional lunch of Icelandic soup. Then you’ll head to Reykjavik Airport and fly to Egilsstaðir where your hosts will take you to your nights accommodations.

Monday:

Kóreksstaðir Farm - Borgarfjörður

After breakfast you’ll be driven to Kóreksstaðir Farm where you meet horses and staff. After a short introduction the ride starts towards the ocean, and don’t be surprised if you meet a herd of reindeer on the way. You’ll stop in Njarðvík Bay then ride through Njarðvíkurskriður to beautiful Borgarfjörður, where you’ll stay for 4 nights in a new small hotel reserved exclusively for your group. (25 km)

Tuesday:

Borgarfjörður – Höfn - Brúnavík

The day starts by walking through the small fishing village of Bakkagerði where you can visit the well known stonery Álfasteinn, a museum devoted to Iceland’s most famous painter Johannes

Kjarval, and Álfaborg, fortress of the elf queen. You’ll saddle up the horses and ride to the lovely little harbor to visit the 20,000 puffins and other birds that live there. They’re quite friendly and you can get close enough to get some photos.

The ride continues through Hofstrandarskarð Pass to Brúnavík Bay and onto the beaches before heading home through the valleys, Engidalur and Hrafndalur. Weather permitting you’ll help build a bonfire by the ocean and after dinner join in some singing with your hosts. (30 km)

Our Prices include taxes, fuel charges and a number of “extras”. Details inside.



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Wednesday:

Borgarfjörður – Breiðuvík - Hólaland

This will be an adventurous day when you ride over Gagnheiði Highland Trail into the breathtaking area of Breiðuvík Bay with its black sandy beaches. You spend time there before continuing to Hólaland Farm where you'll leave the horses. An overnight stay in Bakkagerði. (35 km)

Thursday:

Hólaland – Hvítserkur - Húsavík

You'll ride across Húsavík Heath to the deserted Húsavík Bay, with endless variations of Icelandic nature. On a clear day you can enjoy views over the eastern part of the country. The trail leads underneath the colorful mountain Hvítserkur. You'll spend a good deal of time at the old church and farmhouses before returning to Hólaland, choosing a different route this time. This will be your last night in Borgarfjörður and your hosts there invite you into their home for dinner and a dip in their hot tub. Stefán will without doubt take out his accordion and lead the singing into the early hours!! (30 km.)

Friday:

Hólaland - Kóreksstaðir - Útnyrðingsstaðir

This is the last day of riding and takes you through the mountains towering above the River Lagarfljót, through green valleys, bushy hills, across glittering rivers and through Sandaskörð Pass into the fertile farmland of Hérað. You'll leave the

horses at Kóreksstaðir Farm and drive to Útnyrðingsstaðir, with a stop for a soak at the Egilsstaðir swimming pool along the way. (35 km)

Saturday:

Útnyrðingsstaðir – Egilsstaðir – Reykjavík-Keflavík.

After breakfast, you'll say goodbye to your hosts and fly back to Reykjavík arriving around 10:30 at Reykjavík Domestic Airport. The outfitter will drop you at the BSI bus terminal, where in the early afternoon, you can catch the Flybus shuttle to take you to Keflavík Airport for in time for the return flight home....Or when you book your tour, we can also arrange for you to spend a couple more days to explore Iceland after the ride.

Dates

The Eastern Symphome Ride runs only 2 times in the summer of **2009**. The dates for the riding tour are July 12 - 18 and July 19-25 . The tour starts on Sundays in Iceland and runs through the following Saturday morning. Departure dates are flexible, but North American riders on this tour must leave home no later than the Saturday before the ride starts in Iceland. We'll be happy to add a few more days on either end of the ride, if you'd like more Iceland!

*Price

The price for the Eastern Symphony Tour is **\$4048** per person. Price includes round trip airfare, **including fuel surcharge and departure taxes** from Boston, New York, Minneapolis, or Orlando - ask about prices from Toronto, Halifax and Europe. The price also includes all airport transfers, flights to and from East Iceland. During the ride, you'll spend all nights in double rooms in guesthouses, and have all meals, from dinner on the first day to breakfast on the last day. Not included are travel insurance, lunch on arrival or departure day, other optional tours

*Please note that **prices** are subject to change until you've booked your tour with 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 latest prices and any other details.

Decisions, Decisions!

Trying to pick out a tour?
Click to our Tour Tree at <http://www.icelandadventure.com/tree.html> to see some of the differences between the various kinds of tours we offer in Iceland. Send us an email or call with questions!

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