



Horses



North

Fascinating North Iceland

**8 Day Ride through beautiful North Iceland
Ride with a herd of remounts
on the track of Elves and Vikings!
8 Day/6 Riding
2010**

This tour highlights one of our favorite areas - northern Iceland - and goes all the way to Lake Myvatn, an area with so many interesting things going on, it's astounding that you can take it all in! This tour has some real riding, so we recommend it to experienced and fit travelers - but it's worth the effort!

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:

After arriving at Keflavik International Airport the Flybus will take you right to the Reykjavik domestic airport, for a dramatic 45 minute flight to Akureyri, the "capital" of northern Iceland. Here Polar Hestar will pick you up for a short drive to their farmhouse Grytubakki for a hearty dinner and good night's sleep.

Day 2:

The day starts after breakfast with a little tour - a trip to Godafoss, the waterfall of the Gods. In the year 1000, according to the Sagas, Porgeir of Ljósavatn, known as Thorgeir the Lawgiver, made a decision and converted Iceland to Christianity when he threw his statues his Gods over the falls. Then it's just a short drive to Fremstafell farmhouse, where the horses are waiting! Riders will help catch them, and learn about Icelandic

tack as you help saddle up. You'll ride to the Bardardalur valley, following the river Skjálfandafljót to the Hotel Kiðagil, where you'll have dinner tonight. The Skálfandafell field that probably came from Trölladyngja in the valley of Vatnajökull more than 1000 years ago. The first days in the saddle.

Day 3:

After a good Iceland dinner we leave Kiðagil and ride to Stóruvellir to the other side of the valley to the old farmhouse Stóratunga. Here you are very close to the entrance of Óðaðahraun, the enormous lava field, believed to be the home of outlaws, elves and trolls in the old days. Some of the herd will stay at Stóratunga while riders take the rest of the day on to the impressive waterfall Aldeyarfoss, a great spot to appreciate Iceland's unique and lovely landscape. Then it's back to Stóratunga for overnight. Today you'll ride for about 5 hours.

Day 4:

Today's direction is north east, as you ride over Landsmelar at Viðiker to Lake Myvatn. In the 19th century Jón Þorkellsson lived at Viðiker He was a popular foreign travelers' stop. The ride of Óðaðahraun will take you over sandy hills where you're at the edge of an impressive wetland. With luck you'll see the queen of the queen today's destination - Stöng where you'll stay for 5 nights. Better riders after 5

hours in the saddle!



Fascinating North Iceland

Mountain huts and farm guesthouses
Ride with a herd of remounts
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Day 5:

More touring today! After breakfast you'll head out in a small bus, to see the Pearls of the North. You'll visit the pseudocraters of Skutustaðir, the bizarre lava formations of Dimmuborgir and the bubbling mud pools of Námaskarð. Then, back to Stong, where you'll saddle up after lunch and head out to explore the area to the north east. You'll ride on old paths and sheep tracks close to Gautlönd and Baldursheimur, and then head back to Stong for overnight, after 3 to 4 hours in the saddle.

Day 6:

Ride south from Stöng close to the old farmhouse of Hörgadalur and then along Myvatnsheiði to the valley of the smoke - Reykjadalur. You'll have a day of adventurous tracks and smooth trails, over lots of different landscapes, seeing the mountain Kinnarfjöll to the west side and mountain Gaesafjöll in the east, if the weather allows. Spend the night at Breiðimyri, close to the little village Laugar, after 6 hours of riding.

Day 7:

There are wonderful woods to ride along in Vatnshlid and a great view over the valley Reykjadalur and the lake Vestmannsvatn. You'll ride past the hill Fljótsheiði where a lovely trail takes you along the river Skjálfafljót and through the forest Fellskógur, past the waterfalls Ullarfoss and Barnafoss. You'll need to bid the horses goodbye as they stay at Fremstafell farm while riders are driven back to the farmhouse at Grytubakki. This last day will have you in the saddle for about 6 hours.

Day 8:

You'll have one last breakfast to share stories before saying goodbye to your friends and guides. Then you'll be taken back to the airport at Akureyri for your flight south, followed by a bus from the domestic to the international airport. Then you'll be back home before you know it!

Accommodations on this Fascinating North Iceland tour are traditionally Icelandic. You'll need to bring a sleeping bag and towels, soap and shampoo. A mattress will be provided. The farmhouses, mountain huts and cabins where you'll sleep are simple, warm and clean. Typically there are several beds per room, and in huts there may be one big room. Most will have shared bathroom facilities. **Meals** will be family style with lots of typical Icelandic cuisine which features fish, dairy products, lamb, and potatoes. Vegetarians can be accommodated with advance notice. We'll send you a gear list that provides tips for packing, as well as info on converting money and electricity, weather advice (no guarantees, though) and other useful stuff.

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 e-mail or call with questions!

Travel Dates 2010

The Fascinating North Iceland tour runs 4 times in 2010. The first 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.

Wed, July 7 - Thurs, July 15

Fri, Jul 16 - Sat, July 24

Wed, July 28 - Thurs, Aug 5

Fri, Aug 6 - Sat, Aug 14

*Price

The price for this 8 day tour is **\$3822** per person. The price includes round trip airfare, with US taxes and fuel surcharge, from NYC, Boston, Minneapolis (ask for prices from Toronto, Halifax, and Europe). Add \$110 per person from Seattle. The flights to and from northern Iceland are included with most transfers as are accommodations in guest and farm houses with shared baths, all meals, as well as rain gear and safety helmets. You'll need to bring a sleeping bag.

***NOT included are travel insurance, breakfast and lunch on arrival day, lunch on departure day, and any additional travel you choose while in Iceland.**

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