



Golden Highlights of the South

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
2010**

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 then 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 in Hveragerdi, 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

After breakfast, you'll follow the ancient route to the moor on Hellisheiði over to the Hengil volcano along the Kristni-tokulhraun lava field. This lava came from the eruption of Hengil in the year 1000, the same year Iceland officially became Christian. You'll ride on the track between lava and hills ("milli hrauns og hliðar"), and rest at Kolvidarholl, a wayside where people have stopped to rest for hundreds of years. You'll return to the farm hotel for dinner and a good night's sleep. 4 hours, 21 km.

This tour takes you through a dramatic array of Iceland's most impressive landscapes. Your herd of horses will thunder into Thingvellir and one can imagine being a Viking in the year 1000 who has ridden for days to get here and is ready to attend to business and politics. Then there are soft grassy fields, hard lava trails, through river crossings, by towering rock formations and immense waterfalls. It's a real ride!

Day 3:

Kolvidarholl - Thingvellir

The ride continues north below the Husmuli and Hengill Mountains. Soon everyone will dismount and lead the horses through the narrow cleft to Mararflúgur (Valley of Horses). Riding through Dyrfjöll (Door mountains), you will soon reach the mountaintop, with a great view over Lake Thingvallavatn. Here, you will be able to see the old Althing where Iceland's parliament met for hundreds of years. From here, it is not far to the pretty hut at Skogarhólar where the night is spent. 38 km in 6-7 hours.

Day 4:

Thingvellir - Geysir

Today's ride is a grand one across Thingvellir National Park. There is an exceptional view over the park, and Lake Thingvallavatn, the largest lake in Iceland. This is where the North American and European continental plates meet, and then part ways. Crossing the moor Lyngdalsheiði and then making a stop at

the caves Laugarvatnshellir. This day's ride ends outside the village Laugarvatn, named after the lake nearby. The lake is warmed here by underwater hot springs. Then it's a short bus ride to the guesthouse in Haukadalur, near the hot springs of Geysir. Another short bus trip and the group visits Gullfoss, one of the most beautiful waterfalls in Europe. 35 km, 6-7 hours.

Day 5:

Kjarnholt/Reykholt - Helgaskáli

From Reykholt we continue up towards the highlands of Iceland. From Brúarhlöð we have a magnificent view over the white Hvítá River, and we can see how the river, over hundreds of years, has shaped the mountain, flowing deeper and deeper into it. The night is spent in a hut called Helgaskáli beside the Litla-Laxá River. 35 km, 6-7 hrs.

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Day 6:

Helgaskali - Holaskogur

Off into the highland, including a stop at Haifoss, the second highest waterfall in Iceland, 122 meters, ending up at Holaskogur hut in a very pretty area. There will be ghost stories about the old hut, which is located a few hundred meters away from the newer one, and the brave can take a bath in the clean, cold Fossa River. 20 km in 4 hours.

Day 7:

Holaskogur- Fellsmuli

You'll ride along Iceland's longest river, the Thjórsá, passing Mt. Búrfell, which, in the old days, was the home of trolls. Also on the river is a magnificent view over Thjofafoss (the "Waterfall of the Thieves"), about which many stories are told. Iceland's most active volcano, Mt. Hekla, watches over you as you leave the horses at Fellsmuli Farm and then go on to the old community center Brúarlundur. 45 km in 8 hrs.

Accommodations during the Golden Highlights of the South 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.

Day 8:

Fellsmuli

You'll start the last day by riding along the Eystri-Ranga River, with its grassy banks and soft trails. All day long you'll have a view of Mt. Hekla, which was once believed to be the way from earth down to hell. You'll bid farewell to the horses at Laugaland, and late in the afternoon, everyone will be taken 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!). 24 km 4-5 hours

Day 9:

Farewell, perhaps ...

After breakfast the tour officially ends. 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.

Travel Dates:

The Golden Highlights Tour runs 6 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.

Thurs, Jun 17 - Sat, Jun 26
Fri, Jul 4 - Tues, Jul 13
Sun, Jul 18 - Tues, Jul 27
Wed, Jul 28 - Fri, Aug 6
Wed, Aug 18 - Fri, Aug 27
Fri, Aug 27 - Sun, Sep 5

Prices for above dates is **\$3477** p/p,d/o.
\$3526 single

2010 PRICES

Price includes round trip airfare, including fuel surcharge and departure taxes from NYC, Boston, Minneapolis. Add \$110 per person from Seattle. (Ask for prices from Toronto, Halifax, and Europe). Price also includes all transfers while in Iceland, sleeping bag accommodations with shared facilities, all meals, tack and equipment while on the tour, hotel accommodations with private bath, tv, and internet connection pre and post ride nights, and breakfast on departure day. ***NOT** included are travel insurance, breakfast and lunch on the day of arrival in Iceland, dinner on your last riding day back in Reykjavik, lunch the day of departure and the cost of any extra and additional travels.

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