



# Trail of Hope

*Lake Hóp and the rich and varied landscapes of the North*

**Accommodations in made up beds  
4 Days of riding in the North  
Returning South by coach through the highland desert  
...2016**

**A comfortable ride in different types of landscapes. You'll travel to the north of Iceland and then ride through beautiful valleys and on a water trail on your way across Iceland's fifth largest lake and over to Borgarvirki, an impressive Viking fortress made out of basalt strata. You'll ride through untouched nature in Northern Iceland and visit places and hear stories from the Saga ages. Then, after riding, you'll make a trip back over Kjölur highland route when you'll be driven between two glaciers, enjoy the hot springs in Hveravellir and visit Geysir and the mighty Gullfoss waterfall.**

## **Friday :**

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

## **Saturday:**

### **Welcome to Iceland**

From Keflavik International Airport, a convenient shuttle bus will drop you at your hotel. Then you'll have the day to explore Iceland's capital city of Reykjavik and overnight in a comfortable hotel. There's lots to do and see, and plenty of interesting places to eat. Then get a good night's sleep, as tomorrow you ride!

## **Sunday:**

### **Reykjavik - Hvammur - Vatnsdalur - Sveinsstaðir**

You'll have a pretty bus ride from Reykjavik to Hvammur Farm in the north where you'll meet your horses and guides. You'll get helmets and rain gear and then set off through the beautiful Vatnsdalur valley, the setting of the Vatnsdæla-Saga. You'll cross the Vatnsdalsá river, and then

ride up the western side of the valley to Sveinsstaðir Farm, where the horses will spend the night. Riders return to Hvammur . (25 km)

## **Monday:**

### **Hvammur - Sveinsstaðir - Hóp - Borgarvirki**

You'll start from Sveinsstaðir Farm and ride alongside the Hóp lagoon. The black sand at the beach is ideal for riding tölt, the special gait of the Icelandic horse. This trail along the shore gives you an idea of the beautiful lagoon you are going to cross tomorrow. You continue the ride along the banks of Viðidalsá river and cross over it. Before leaving the horses at Stóra-Borg you will ride past Borgarvirki, a fascinating fortress from the Viking ages. The night is spent at Hvammur Farm. (30 km)

## **Tuesday:**

### **Hvammur - Hvítserkur - North Atlantic - Thingeyrar**

This is a day for discovering the beauty of the Vatnsnes peninsula, as you follow black dunes on

Sigríðarstaðasandur towards the North. Just off the shore you'll see the basalt rock formation, Hvítserkur, a nesting place to many seabirds. With a little luck you may see some of the many seals who often rest and play on the beach. Then you'll cross Lake Hóp by a different route, as the horses find their way back to Thingeyrar Farm, once the site of a monastery founded in the 12th century. For sure today is one of the highlights of this ride. Relax in the outdoor hot tub at Hvammur Farm before enjoying a hearty dinner. (40 km)

## **Wednesday:**

### **Hvammur - Thingeyrar - Húnavatn - Hvammur**

The day starts with a tour of the lovely old church at Thingeyrar. This is your last day of riding and you'll bring the horses back to Hvammur Farm. You'll ride across Lake Húnavatn, emerging on the black sand of the east side of the Lake. The ride continues on the eastern side of Vatnsdalur valley, past Hvammsfoss waterfall, surrounded by impressive basalt columns. The ride ends with a celebratory barbecue back at the farm - "Icelandic style"! (25 km)

# Trail of Hope

## Riding Tour

**4 Days of riding, (including through a lake!)  
Accommodation in made up beds in farm guesthouse  
Return South through the highland desert  
2015**

### Thursday:

#### Hvammur - Kjölur Highland Route - Reykjavik

After you say good bye to the guides and horses, you'll board the scheduled bus for the Kjölur Highland Route back to Reykjavik. You'll travel through the rugged wilderness of the Icelandic highland, with the majestic glaciers Hofsjökull and Langjökull, and the green oasis of Hveravellir, where you can soak in the natural hot water pools. There will be stops at the mighty Gullfoss waterfall, before reaching the geothermal field at Geysir. You'll be back in Reykjavik about 6:30 PM and spend your last night in hotel accommodations.

### Friday:

#### Home again!.. Or...

For those returning home, the Flybus will take you back to Keflavik Airport. Or you can start further explorations of Iceland - we'll be happy to help plan those travel.



### Travel Dates and Per Person Prices

The Trail of Hope runs 6 times in the summer of **2015**. Below are travel dates--and it's easy to add a couple days on either end, if you want to see a bit more Iceland. Your 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. For the last night in Iceland we upgrade accommodations to a nice hotel near Reykjavik center..

The price for this tour is **\$3285 p/p, d/o, and \$3599 for a single.**

### Travel Dates for 2015

**Fri Jun 24 to Fri July 1**  
**Fri Jul 8 to Fri Jul 15**  
**Fri Jul 15 to Fri Jul 22**  
**Fri Jul 22 to Fri July 29**  
**Fri Aug 5 to Fri Aug 12**  
**Fri Aug 12 to Fri Aug 19**  
**Fri Aug 19 to Fri Aug 26**

**Finer Print: Price includes** international airfare from the US east coast\*, airport transfers and any pre and post ride accommodations needed. The ride itself includes 4 nights and 4 riding days, helmet, rain gear and transfers to and from the ride sight in the north.

**Accommodations and meals:** during the ride you'll stay in made up beds in the outfitters guesthouse with shared baths. Nights before and after the ride you'll be in a hotel in Reykjavik with private bath and breakfast. Meals will be traditionally Icelandic - with a breakfast buffet, packed lunch on the trail and a hearty home cooked dinner featuring fish and lamb.

**\*Flights includes** round trip airfare, including fuel surcharge and US departure taxes to Iceland, from Icelandair's east coast gateways - Boston, New York, Newark and Washington Dulles International. 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, meals on pre-and post-tour days and any additional expenses or travel you may choose.

**Finest print.** Please note that our tour prices are subject to revision until you book your tour by making a deposit. Our contract rates for air aren't always available as we get close to travel dates. We welcome phone calls or email about prices and any other details.

**Horses  
North, LLC**

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