



**Horses**



**North**

# 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

2010

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

**his tour presents an ideal opportunity to enjoy 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 waterfall Gullfoss.**

Here's an outline of the day to day itinerary. Nature may bring about some variance in it, but usually it is followed pretty closely.

### **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:**

#### **Reykjavík - Hvammur - Vatnsdalur - Sveinsstaðir**

You'll have a pretty bus ride from Reykjavík 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 river - Vatnsdalsá, 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 lagoon Hóp. 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 Víðidalur 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 and the horses find their way back to Thingeyrar Farm, once the site of a monastery founded in the 12th century. For sure this day is one of the highlights of this ride. Relax in the outdoor hot tub at Hvammur Farm before 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



# Trail of Hope

## Riding Tour

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)

### Thursday:

#### Hvammur - Kjölur Highland Route - Reykjavík

You'll say good bye to the guides and horses, you'll board the scheduled bus that travels the Kjölur Highland Route back to Reykjavík. 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 Reykjavík about 6:30 PM. On your last night we upgrade you to a nice hotel so you can experience some of the fabled nightlife, or just get a good meal and relax.

### 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.

**While the riding on this tour is traditionally Icelandic, accommodations** during the Trail of Hope are not! You'll spend comfortable nights in made-up beds in hotels and farm guest houses, in double, triple or quad rooms. An extra bonus will be the chance to travel down Kjölur on your return to Reykjavík, which also includes a stop at Gullfoss and Geysir.

**Accommodation is in made up beds**

**4 Days of riding**

**Return South through the highland desert**

**2010**

### Travel Dates and Per Person Prices

The Trail of Hope runs 7 times in the summer of 2010. Here are the dates for the riding tour in Iceland. For the last night in Iceland we upgrade accommodations to a nice hotel near Reykjavík center.

The price for this tour is **\$2950 p/p d/o, and \$3146 for a single.**

The Trail of Hope runs from Sunday through Thursday in Iceland.

### Travel Dates for 2010

June 18 to 25

July 9 to 16

July 23 to 30

July 29 to August 6

August 6 to 13

August 13 to 20

August 20 to 27

**Finer Print:** Price includes round trip airfare, **including fuel surcharge and departure taxes** from Boston, New York, Minneapolis - ask about prices from Toronto, Halifax and Europe. Add \$110 per person from Seattle. The price also includes all airport transfers, a night before and after the tour in a Reykjavík hotel with private bath, tv, internet connection and breakfast. During the ride, you'll spend all nights in double or quad rooms in guesthouses. All meals are included during the ride, while you'll need to add lunch and dinner on your days before and after the ride.

**\*Not included** are meals on pre-and post-tour days and any additional expenses or travel you may choose.

*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.*

We can arrange your travel dates to give you any extra time you might want, either before or after a riding tour, so that you can explore Iceland. We can even extend your trip to mainland Europe easily and inexpensively. At Horses North, we've traveled all over Iceland, and can advise and book everything you will need to see more of this spectacular island.

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