

Horses



# Kjolur Riding Tour

*Between the Glaciers  
Through the Highlands - Iceland  
from Top to Bottom*

Ride with the Herd  
Classic Wilderness Ride!  
8 Days  
2016

## First Night

### Overnight flight to Iceland

Americans fly out on the night before the tour begins in Iceland. Travelers from Mainland Europe can leave on the same day.

## Day 1

### Welcome to Iceland!

Saturday: Arrival in Iceland – Keflavik Airport - Reykjavik

**Individual transfer with Flybus from Keflavik Airport to your hotel in Reykjavik. (Included in price). Welcome meeting at Íshestar riding center where you meet your fellow riders. Pick up for the welcome meeting at 18:00 at included hotel.**

## Day 2

### Sunday: Reykjavik – Thingvellir – Geysir – Gullfoss – Kjóstaðir Farmr

Travel by car to a place near the farm Reykholt in the beautiful area Biskupstungur. Ride along soft paths to a lovely river, which you ride across. The days ride ends at the farm Kjarnholt, just south of the hot springs at Geysir. 20 km,

Slip way back in time and ride the ancient Kjolur trail as Icelanders have for centuries. You'll ride with a herd of loose horses as remounts, as you see some of the most beautiful sights in southern Iceland, before ascending to the glacial highlands of the interior, where you'll also ride over grasslands and soak in hot springs. The classic Icelandic riding tour!

## Day 3

### Kjarnholt - Fremstaver

You start riding from Myrkholt and the first stop will be at the magnificent waterfall Gullfoss. From Gullfoss you'll ride into the wilderness, in a black desert of stones and sand, following the river Hvítá west until you get to Mt. Bláfell, 1160 m above sea level, which gives you a beautiful view over Kjölur. You'll see the glaciers Eyjafjallajökull and Hofsjökull and the volcano Hekla and, on the right, Mt. Hlödufell and the Langjökull Glacier. You spend the night south of Bláfell in the mountain hut, Fremstaver. 35 km, 7 hrs.

## Day 4

### Fremstaver - Arbudir

You'll ride further east along Bláfell, crossing the Hvíta River, past the waterfall Abota to the beginning of the Kjolur trail. It's the oldest road between South and North Iceland, quite flat and about 700 meters above sea level. The view over highlands and glaciers is impressive. You'll ride along the Svarta River to the hut Arbudir, where the night will be spent after riding about 40 km. in 8 hours.

## Day 5

### Arbudir - Hveravellir

You'll head off towards Hvitarnes, a grassy area that blossoms with Fifa flowers in the summer's light. Then you'll ride through the lava field Kjalhraun, shaped like the keel of a ship, for which the Kjolur may be named. The trail heads into a narrow cleft into the Valley of Thieves, Thjofadalur, hidden behind the mountains. The grass in this lush field is welcomed by the horses! Then it's up over the mountain named Throskuldur and from there it's an easy ride to Hveravellir. Your reward for getting there will be a dip in the natural hot spring at Hveravellir. 40 km, 8 hrs.

## Day 6

### Hveravellir - Afangi

There will be time to explore the area around Hveravellir in the morning, before saddling up. The vast highlands surround you in all directions. Riding past the ruins of the hut of the outlaw Fjalla-Eyvindur you can understand how the highlands were fit only for criminals! After a ride of 28 km, in 5-6 hours, the night will be spent at a mountain hut north of the Galltara River.



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### Day 7

#### Áfangi – Vatnsdalur

You continue north over the Eyvindarstadaheidi Moor, and are not very far from civilization in North Iceland. Now the mountains are behind you and the glaciers surround you. On your right is the big lake, Blöndulón, which was made by the power plant by the Blanda River. You'll continue on soft riding paths and mountain roads, ending up in the green valley Vatnsdalur. The horses will be left behind, while the riders will head back south to Reykjavik for a last night in hotel accommodations. Typically everyone goes out to a restaurant together, although it's not included in the price!

### Day 8

The tour officially ends this morning after breakfast. You'll have some time to explore Reykjavik, and then take the Flybus shuttle out to the airport for late afternoon flights. Or, you could take a bus that will take you to the Blue Lagoon for a couple hours before heading on to Keflavik airport.

**Accommodations and Meals:** Accommodations during the Kjolur riding tour are traditionally Icelandic. First and last nights (back in Reykjavik after the ride) are in double rooms with private bath. For the ride, you'll need a sleeping bag and the outfitter will provide good mattresses for your stays in farm guesthouses, mountain huts and cabins, which are all warm and clean, and have shared baths. Typically there are several beds per room, and in huts there may be one big sleeping room.

### Travel Dates:

*The Kjolur tur runs 10 times in the summer of 2015* Some departures of this tour have a reversed itinerary. Below are travel dates — we can arrange for an earlier arrival or later departure. *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.*

#### Lv N Amer —Return N Amer

Fri June 17 - Sun June 26

Fri June 24 - Sun July 3

Fri July 1- Sun July 10

Fri July 8- Sun July 18

Fri July 15- Sun July 24

Fri July 22- Sun July 31

Fri July 29 - Sun Aug 7

Fri Aug 5 - Sun Aug 14

Fri Aug 12 - Sun Aug 21

Fri Aug 19 - Sun Aug 28

We can make arrangements with other outfitters who may have other departure dates available for a Kjolur ride if these dates don't work for you.

### Price

The price is **\$4227** p/p, d/o, **\$4438** w/ single supplement on pre and post ride nights.

**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 7 nights and 6 days on horseback in addition to helmets and rain gear

**\*Flights Price 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, breakfast and lunch on the day of arrival in Iceland, dinner on your last riding day back in Reykjavik, lunch and dinner the day of departure and the cost of any extra and additional travels.

**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. While we make every effort to keep prices on our webpages and their PDFs up to the minute, things can change quickly. We welcome phone calls or email about prices and any other details.

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