



Horses



North

The Lava Desert

**6 day ride at the largest lava field in Iceland
Ride with a herd of remounts
mysterious, vast, remote!
2009**

This ride takes you through one of the least known spots in northern Iceland- Odadahraun - “ill deeds field” Iceland’s largest lava field which stretches from Rt 1, south to Vatnajokull Glacier. This vast area is filled with beauty and challenge, and it’s isolation has given rise to tales of outlaws and elves -- but you can see for your self! Recommended for experienced and fit riders - 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:

You’ll be driven to Fremstafell farmhouse where you’ll catch the horses and saddle up. You’ll ride to Bardardalur valley, following the river Skjalfandafljot along pleasant tracks through fertile farmland and overnight at Hotel Kidagil. On the right side of the valley there are

700m high mountains and in many places you see bizarre lava formations which came from volcano Trolladyngja north of Vatnajokull. The lava is about 7,000 years old. Today you’ll spend 5-6 hours in the saddle.

Day 3:

After leaving Kidagil you’ll ride over the bridge at Storuvellir to the other side of the valley. Along the river Skjalfandafljot you’ll come to the farmhouse at Storatunga in the early afternoon. Here you are very close to the entrance of Odadahraun, the enormous lava field, believed to be the home of outlaws, elves and trolls in the old days. The horses will stay at Storatunga while riders walk to the impressive waterfall Aldeyjarfoss, where you’ll enjoy the contrast between the black basalt columns and the white waters of the fall. 5 hours of riding. Overnight at Storatunga.

Day 4:

Today you’ll spend the day riding through this mysterious area along the river Skjafandafljot to the waterfalls of Hrafnarbjorg and to the lava field of Sudurarhraun. You’ll continue eastward toward the queen of the Icelandic mountains, Herdubreid. You’ll cross the river Sudura and turn North to the farmhouse at Svartarkot. This is the last farm in the valley of Bardardalur and stands at the entrance of the huge lava field of Odadahraun. The horses stay overnight and you’ll be driven back to Storatunga. 5 hours of riding.

Day 5:

You’ll have a morning that’s a bit different - you’ll give the herd the morning off, and set off with one horse per person as you ride alongside river Sudura to Storuflesja, where the river comes out of the lava. From there you’ll have a beautiful view over Herdubreid and the volcano Dyingjufjoll. Then back to Svartakot, change horses and ride in the afternoon, heading north east. To the right you’ll see the desert and to the left, Sprengisandur.



The Lava Desert

You can see how the desert of Odadahraun -the biggest lava field in Iceland, spreads south, nearly to the edge of the glacier Vatnajokull. You leave the herd and drive back to Storatunga after 4 hours in the saddle.

Day 6:

Drive to Svartarkot, and ride towards Baldursheimsheidi heath over moorland, along old sheep tracks and sandy paths to the farmhouse Baldursheimur where you leave the horses. Here you'll see one of the most important burial places of Iceland - a grave of a man with his horse, his weapons, and other goods. Today you'll take a light sightseeing tour by bus to the Pearls of the North, like Dimmurborgir, the bizarre lava formations, Hverarond, the bubbling mud pools and Skutustadir, the pseudocraters around Lake Myvatn. 5 hours in the saddle. Dinner and overnight close to Myvatn.

Day 7:

As you head out from Myvatn you'll ride from Baldursheimur over sandy hills and nice riding tracks towards Engidalur. From there you have tremendous views south to the highland and the table mountains Selljandafjall and Blafjall, both formed during volcanic eruptions under a glacier. By late afternoon you'll reach Storatunga where you'll say goodbye to the horses and drive back to Grytubakki for dinner and overnight, with a stop along the way at the historic waterfall of Godafoss. 6 hours in the saddle.

Day 8:

You'll have one last breakfast together before saying goodbye to your friends and guides. Then you'll be taken back to Akureyri for your flight south as the first step to your trip home. Then you'll be back home before you know it!

Accommodations

on the Lava Desert 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.

Note - that tour itinerary is reversed on some departures.

*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 PDF's up to the minute. We welcome phone inquiries about latest prices and any other details.*

Decisions, Decisions!

Trying to pick out a tour?
Click on 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!

Mountain huts and farm guesthouses
Ride with a herd of remounts
mysterious, vast, remote!

Tour Dates 2009

2009

The Lava Desert tour runs 3 times in **2009**. The dates below are when the ride starts in Iceland - you'll need to leave the US no later than the night before the tour starts in Iceland. 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.

Dates, 2009

July 3 - July 10
July 12 -July 19
July 20 - July 27

* Price

The price for this 8 day tour is **\$3970** per person. The price includes round trip airfare, with US taxes and fuel surcharge, from NYC, Boston, Minneapolis, and Orlando (ask for prices from Toronto, Halifax, and Europe). The flights to and from northern Iceland are included as are 7 nights 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, cab from the domestic airport to bus terminal after the ride, and any additional travel you choose while in Iceland.**

**Horses
North,LLC**

P.O. Box 475
Millerton, NY 12546 USA
Toll Free **888 686-6784**
From Europe **01 518 789-4890**
Email: hn@IcelandAdventure.com

www.IcelandAdventure.com
www.HorsesNorth.com