



Horses



North

Beach & Mountain Ride

...2014

Mountains
Lava Fields
Hillsides
Beaches, beaches, beaches
7 days/6 nights

The Snæfellsnes Peninsula stretches out into the west of Iceland. You can find many features of the Icelandic nature in this part of the country. From Stóri-Kálfalækur Farm you ride into the mountains and enjoy the colors of nature in Hítardalur valley. Through lava fields and along hillsides ride down to the shore, continuing along the beach. This traditional trail, only revealed by the tide, offers horses and riders great opportunities to perform the smooth gait “tölt” over long distances. Participants on this tour join the longer Snæfellsnes tour for four days, but return back to Reykjavík on the fifth day while those on the longer ride continue.

Your hosts, Siggí and Ólöf have been training horses and riding on Snæfellsnes for over 20 years, and they convey the sense that the ride goes through their big back yard. Their farmhouse - Stóri-Kálfalækur - will be your base for much of the ride, with a couple of nights in other guesthouses along the trail. Hot pots provide a nice ending to most days rides!!

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

You will arrive at Keflavik International Airport and use your voucher to take the Flybus shuttle to the BSI Bus Terminal in Reykjavik, (about a 40 minute ride). You'll have the day to explore Iceland's capital city. An overnight in Reykjavík is included to give you a chance to catch up after your short overnight flight.

Sunday:

Stóri-Kálfalækur – Grímsstaðir

After breakfast, you'll go north and west to Stóri-Kálfalækur Farm, and meet your guides and horses. You'll get a helmet, raingear and saddle, and have an introduction to the special qualities of the Icelandic horse. You'll put this into action, with a ride through green valleys, and over mountains to Grímsstaðir Farm with its

proud history dating back to medieval times. The horses will stay here, while riders return to Stóri-Kálfalækur where a hot tub beckons! (30 km)

Monday:

Grímsstaðir – Hítarhólmur

You'll ride through multicolored mountains to the geologic paradise Hítardalur. Here you'll go on riding trails through a lunar landscape of vast lava fields, with volcanic ashes which has a lot of saga history in it as well. The horses will spend the night at Hítarhólmur mountain while riders return to Stóri-Kálfalækur, (30 km)

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Beaches & Mountains

Seven day tour with four days of riding

2014

Tuesday:

Hítarhólmur – Kolviðarnes – Laugagerði Schoolhouse

The morning continues through the mystical volcanic valley with a stop at the sheep round up corral Hítardalsrétt - where you may also glimpse Hít, the troll woman who was turned into stone returning late from a date. (it's a long story!) Then you'll cross the Hítará River and through an area known as a shelter for out of Iceland's most famous outlaw, Grettir, before arriving at Kolviðarnes Farm. The horses stay here, and riders have sleeping bag accommodations at Laugagerði Schoolhouse, which has a warm geothermal swimming pool! (45 km)

Optional (available at an extra charge): Drive along the coast towards the romantic fishing villages of Arnastapi and Hellnar. Here we are right underneath magical Mt. Snæfellsjökull. Visit the Information center of the Snæfellsnes National Park and learn about its mysterious powers. View beautiful bird cliffs along the shore, shaped by powerful waves. Meet giant Bárður Snæfellsás and hear about historic celebrities like the far travelled Guðríður Þorbjarnadóttir and mass murderer Axlar Björn!
(Price per person: ISK 4.000) about \$32

Thursday:

Hof - Reykjavik

Today you leave your riding companions behind and drive back to Reykjavik. The arrival time in Reykjavik depends on the tide and whether it is possible to operate the optional tour on Wednesday afternoon or on Thursday morning. Detailed information on the timing for each departure is available upon request. You'll have a last night in a hotel in Reykjavik.

Friday:

Home again..

After breakfast you can continue exploring Iceland and then take the Flybus shuttle out to the airport for return flights. You can also take a bus that will give you a few hours to soak in the Blue Lagoon on your way to the airport.)

Rates and Dates:

The Beaches and Mountains tour has only 1 departure for 2014. The price for this tour is **\$2984 per person double occupancy, \$3142 if you want a single room for pre and post ride nights.** *The 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.*

Travel Dates for 2014

Including travel time from N. America

Tues June 3 - **Mon** June 9

Wednesday:

Laugagerði – Traðir – Hof Farm

Today's the day -- hit the beach! You'll start your ride on Löngufjörur, the famous horse trail on the golden sands of Snæfellsnes peninsula. Under the watchful eye of Snæfellsjökull Glacier, you'll be able to feel the horses' excitement as they carry you swiftly along this extraordinary trail!! The horses spend the night at Traðir Farm while riders stay at Hof Farm with a geothermal hot tub on site. (40 km)

In the evening there's an optional excursion to Arnastapi and Hellnar, which are at the base of Mt Snæfellsjökull. You can learn more about the natural, supernatural and cultural history of this special area at the Visitors Center for Snæfellsnes National Park. Cost per person for this outing is ISK 3500. (About \$30)

***Price** includes round trip airfare, including fuel surcharge and departure tax, from Boston, New York, and Washington Dulles International Airport (ask about prices from Minneapolis, Denver, Anchorage, Seattle, and Toronto.) Not all gateways have daily departures. The price also includes all airport transfers, hotel accommodations in Reykjavik with private bath and breakfast pre and post ride, 2 nights in beds with linens and 2 nights in sleeping bags during the ride, all meals during the ride, as well as safety helmets and rain gear. **Not** included in the price are travel insurance, breakfast and lunch on your arrival day, lunch or dinner on the day of departure and the cost of any additional travel you may choose.

