



## Sprengisandur

### *Between the Glaciers and Through the High- lands*

Ride with the Herd  
Through the Eastern Highlands  
8 Days with 6 on horseback  
...2012

*This ancient trail across Iceland takes riders through some of the most fascinating and extreme contrasts in this varied land. From the soft green paths of the south, to the sand plains between Vatnajökull and Hofsjökull glaciers, past the geographical center of the country. It's a rough ride, for experienced riders with stamina, but offers a memorable adventure through Europe's last large wilderness. 330 kilometers!*

#### Day 0:

##### Leave the US

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

#### Day 1:

##### Welcome to Iceland!

Riders will arrive at Keflavik International Airport and then take the Flybus shuttle to the BSI bus terminal in Reykjavik. Luggage can be left here, you can get some breakfast, and then set out to explore a bit of Iceland's capital city. Around 5:30 PM, the outfitter will pick up riders at the BSI bus terminal, and take them to their farm in Hveragerdi, about an hour outside of the capital. The tour group meets over dinner and is given details of the tour ahead. Horses North clients are upgraded to a night in the comfortable Hotel Eldhestar.

#### Day 2:

##### Hveragerdi - Fellsmúli – Hólaskógur

From Hveragerdi, in the Ölfus municipality, you'll be driven to the farm Fellsmúli near Mt. Hekla volcano. The riding tour starts there, and you will follow the soft paths through a birch forest to the old farm Skarfanes. On the way to Tröllkonuhlaup you'll pass the waterfall Thjófafoss. From there, ride over sand to the hut Hólaskógur where you spend the night. 50-60 km, 9 hrs.

#### Day 3:

##### Hólaskógur - Hrauneyjarfoss

The ride continues north-east of the Thjórsá River, Iceland's longest river. The landscape changes steadily into wilderness. Spend the night at Hrauneyjar, near a hydroelectric plant. 35 km, 7 hrs.

#### Day 4:

##### Hrauneyjarfoss - Versalir

Today's ride goes from Hrauneyjarfoss

Falls to Versalir, a resting place at the beginning of Sprengisandur, known from the song "Á Sprengisandur" (Ridum, ridum...). On this route, you will see many mountains and the glaciers Vatnajökull and Hofsjökull. 50-60 km, 9 hrs.

#### Day 5:

##### Versalir - Nýi Dalur

This day is also long, about 60 km. The landscape is similar to that of Day 4, but when you get near the glaciers you'll ride between them. Looking towards the East you will see Mt. Arnarfell, a green mountain in the middle of Iceland. Upon entering Sprengisandur you'll pass the dwellings of some of the most famous Icelandic outlaws, for example, that of Fjalla-Eyvindur. Overnight in a big mountain hut in Nýi-Dalur. 60 km, 10 hrs.

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## Day 6:

### Nýi-Dalur - Laugafell

On the way from Nýi Dalur, you'll be riding on big sand dunes. Here there are spectacular views as the landscape of North Iceland begins to open before you, and you'll leave the three biggest glaciers in Iceland behind. Spend the night in the Laugafell mountain hut where you can bathe in a hot pot. 45 km 9 hrs.

## Day 7:

### Laugafell - Halldórsstaðir in Eyjafjörður

Today's ride is from Laugafell in the direction of Eyjafjörður Fjörð, where the green natural surroundings, lush with bushes and some woods, start to dominate the landscape more. You'll get a glimpse of a most beautiful view over Eyjafjörður and Akureyri. The tour ends at the Halldórsstaðir Farm in Eyjafjörður. From there you will be driven to Akureyri Airport and fly back to Reykjavik. The planned arrival there is around 18:00. Horses North clients are upgraded to hotel accommodations. 35 km, 6 hrs.

## Day 8:

### Farewell to Iceland

You'll have a long morning to relax, explore Iceland's capital city, visit geothermal swimming pools, cafes, museums and shops, before taking the bus to Keflavik Airport in time for your flight back home.

Please note that some rides run with a reverse itinerary - that itinerary is available upon request.

## Travel dates 2012:

The Sprengisandur tour runs 2 times during the summer of 2012. 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. The first 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.

Thurs, July 5 to Fri, July 13

Sat, July 14 to Sun, July 22

*The Sprengisandur tour is a very popular wilderness ride for experienced riders. Riders should be in good physical condition, and ready for long days of riding, but prepared for an unforgettable view of Iceland's heartland.*

*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.*

## \*Price:

In 2012 the fully inclusive price for the 8 day Sprengisandur tour is **\$4198\*** per person/double occupancy. (pp/do), **\$4281** w/single supplement. Price includes round trip airfare, including departure taxes and fuel surcharge, from Boston, New York, Minneapolis, and Washington Dulles International Airport (ask about prices from Denver, Seattle, Toronto, Halifax and Europe). Also includes all airport transfers, hotel accommodations with breakfast & private bath pre and post ride nights, and meals on the tour. **\*Not** included in the above price: travel insurance, lunch on your arrival day, lunch and dinner on your departure days, and any additional travel you choose while in Iceland.

While accommodations on this tour are traditionally Icelandic, most of the mountain huts and cabins offer hot tubs or natural-warm water showers, so you can relax in relative comfort at the end of your riding day. These rustic accommodations often have some rooms for 2-4 travelers, as well as one big sleeping room. You'll need to bring a sleeping bag. Your outfitter will provide a good mattress. Huts will have shared bathroom facilities. While not fancy, the accommodations are a bit more comfy than many used on other wilderness tours. You'll stay in the outfitters farm hotel on the night before you start riding, and we've upgraded our riders to a downtown hotel for the last night of the tour back in Reykjavik.

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