



Horses



North

Hot Springs Ride

A full day of riding through amazing geothermal country

Makes a great Add- On adventure!

Magnificent views of the valley and out to sea to the Westmann Islands, off the coast, this tour offers riders a wide cross-section of Iceland's history and landscapes. It is between 20 and 22 km long, lasts 5-7 hours, and is good for those with some riding experience and/or good physical conditioning and a taste for adventure!

You will be picked up at your Reykjavik hotel at 8:30 AM by Eldhestar, and taken to their farm in Hveragerdi, about 40 minutes from the capital. Riding starts at 9:30 AM. Wear sturdy footwear and remember to bring your bathing suit!

Following the old route to Hellisheidi, riding across the moor to the volcano Hengill and over the lava field Kristnitokuhraun, the agility and comfortable gaits of the Icelandic Horse is at its best. You'll ride over lava which came from the eruption of Hengill during the year 1000; the same year Iceland officially became Christian. Legend calls these eruptions the revenge of the old gods Thor, Odin and Freya.

After several crossings of the river Hengladalsa the trail ascends to hillsides with views of lake Thingvallavatn and its surrounding hills. The world's first parliament was held on the shore of Thingvallavatn and the plates of continental Europe and North America expose their edges here.

Descending into the valley Reykjadalur the group takes a break and has a chance to soak in its hot stream. (You'll need to go behind a hillock to get into your bathing suit) Even in a land of hot springs this is a treat - and quite pleasant to sit in. You control the temperature by moving up or down the stream!

You'll finish the riding day by passing stone caldrons of steaming hot water and a beautiful waterfall. Then your back to Hveragerdi which marks the end of the ride.

You'll be back in Reykjavik about 5 PM. ! Helmets, rain gear, and a box lunch is provided. This tour costs **\$130** per person.

**Horses
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Horses



North

Volcano Contrasts

Three day tour with two days of riding

A short time with a lot to experience! You'll stay in a comfortable Eco-Hotel at the horse farm and experience pleasant riding through scenery formed from past volcanic activity and today's bubbling hot springs. This 55 km tour departs every day, and riders can join on any day. It's a good introduction to horse touring - most travelers use this as a part of a longer stay in Iceland for other activities and explorations - and we can set up a variety of other things to do and see. 2010

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:

Welcome to Iceland!

After your arrival at Keflavik International Airport you'll take the Flybus shuttle to a comfortable hotel in Reykjavik, and have the day free for exploring. We'll provide a list of interesting things to see and do, and some restaurant ideas.

Day 2:

Hveragerdi - Kolvidarholl

You will be picked up at your Reykjavik hotel at 8:30 AM by Eldhestar, and taken to their farm in Hveragerdi, about 40 minutes from the capital. Riding starts at 9:30 AM. Following the old route to Hellisheidi, riding across the moor to the volcano Hengill and over the lava field Kristnitokuhraun, the agility and comfortable gaits of the Icelandic Horse is at its best. You'll ride over lava which came from the eruption of Hengill during the year 1000; the same year Iceland officially became Christian. Legend calls these eruptions the revenge of the old gods Thor, Odin and Freya. Riding along the many paths that crisscross Hengill, you'll ride to a steep path of lava

down to the valley Reykjadalur - or Valley of Steam. Your reward for all this riding is a dip in the warm stream running through this valley - you control the temperature by moving up or down the stream! A nice soak in this warm rivulet is quite unforgettable! Then it's back to the Hotel for a nice dinner and good nights sleep! 5 - 6 hours on horseback.

Day 3:

The Mountain Ingolfsfjall and the river Olfusa

Leaving the farm, an old route is taken along Ingolfsfjall, the mountain named after the first Norwegian Viking who settled in Iceland. The Olfusa river is followed to the old Arnarboeli Cemetery over fields and meadows. From there we have a view over the river and to the famous volcano Hekla. The Olfusforir Bird Sanctuary is visited before the return to Vellir with a total of 20 km riding for the day.

Riders are returned to Reykjavik around 5:30 PM and dropped at their hotel.

Day 4:

Home again..or???

After breakfast you can continue exploring Iceland or, if your trip is over you can take the Flybus shuttle out to the airport for return flights. (You could take a bus that will give you a few hours visit to the Blue Lagoon on the trip to the airport.)

Dates:

The Volcano Contrasts tour runs all year round, starting every day. This is an ideal tour to combine with some other exploration of this fascinating country. During the winter - when snow or mud may keep horses out of high valleys, more riding may be done in the delta around the farm. Or one day may be used for a riding course at farm. A talk about the Icelandic horse - in history and contemporary life - will be presented.

Dates

Price*

per person/ double occupancy

April to May & Sept/Oct

\$1624

June, July, August

1835

Jan to March & Nov/Dec

1566

*Price

Price includes round trip airfare, including fuel surcharge and departure tax, from Boston, New York, Minneapolis (ask about prices from Toronto, Halifax and Europe). Add \$110 per person from Seattle. Also includes all airport transfers, hotel accommodations in Reykjavik with private bath and breakfast pre & post ride, a comfortable hotel room on the outfitters farm during the ride with private bath, 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 on the day of departure and the cost of any additional travel you may choose.

