



The Volcano Hekla Riding Tour

Between the Glaciers and Through the Highlands

Ride with the Herd
Remarkable wilderness
8 Days, 6 on horseback
2010

Explore the area between the volcano Hekla and Tindafjallajökull Glacier. An area known for its soft and nice riding paths and very unusual and beautiful nature. Riding on green-grass-covered, sandy ground, passing different formations of lava from the many eruptions of Hekla through the centuries. Some of the eruptions destroyed the habitation in certain areas, for example at the farm Keldur, to which we pay a visit. We can feel the presence of the natural force and the mystique that surrounds the volcano Hekla, together with elements from the old sagas. Our riding path follows the road that the Viking Gunnar in Njál's saga was riding when he ended up in one of his many battles. The combination of beautiful nature, very nice horses, fantastic riding paths and pleasant accommodation make this new tour a memory for life!

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!

The tour members arrive at Keflavik Airport, Iceland. They take the bus from Keflavik to Reykjavik (BSÍ Bus Terminal). Later in the day they will be greeted by representatives of Eldhestar at 17.30 - 18.00, who will arrange further transportation to the farm Vellir in the neighborhood of Hveragerði. The first evening everyone has dinner together and Eldhestar provides details about the next few days.

Day 2:

A bus trip to the farm Fellsmúli in the beautiful area Landssveit. From there you'll first ride northwards to the farm Leirubakki, and then eastwards to the Vestri-Rangá River. The tour continues southward along the river to the farm Hrólfstaðahelli, where the horses will stay overnight. The night is spent in the old parish house Brúarlundur. 20 km, 4 hrs.

Day 3:

Hrólfstaðahelli - Foss(Ásgarður)

The day begins with a crossing of the Vestri-Rangá River and continues over the lava field Botnahraun, which was created many hundreds of years ago in one of Hekla's many eruptions. The riding path goes over the lava field to the farm Kot, and later on in the day you'll cross another lava field, called Axarhraun, to the farm Foss. Today's ride is in the area south of Hekla. The horses stay overnight at the farm Foss, the riders stay in a cosy cottage in Ásgarður, just outside the village Hvolsvöllur, with the opportunity to visit the swimming pool in the village in the evening. 35 km, 7 hrs.

Day 4:

Foss - Foss

From the farm Foss you'll ride northwards towards an area west of the torfajallajökull Glacier, southeast of the volcano Hekla on nice riding paths in a very special area of nature. The loose horses will be left in a pasture and the group will continue on the best tölters to experience beautiful valleys with special formations of clefts. Passing the abandoned farms, Þorleifsstaði and Reynistaði, the group ends up at the farm Foss and the night is spent at Ásgarður. 37 km. 7 hrs.



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Day 5:

Foss - Rjúpnaveilir

Another lava field Axarhraun is traversed today to see the area west of the volcano Hekla, on the way passing the so-called farms of Hekla. Crossing the Vestri-Rangá River, before and continuing to Rjúpnaveilir - a new cottage situated close to Hekla. These areas have landscapes imprinted by the natural forces of hard wind and volcanic eruptions. 40 km and 8 hrs .

Day 6:

Rjúpnaveilir - Áfangagil - Rjúpnaveilir

Today's ride is shorter, which offers the opportunity to enjoy the extraordinarily beautiful nature west of Hekla. You'll ride towards Áfangagil, a place the farmers use as an overnight stop during the sheep round-up in the autumn. From Áfangagil the route starts in the direction of Landmannalaugar, later on turn southwards back to the house Rjúpnaveilir. There are many nice riding roads in this area. 33 km, 7 hrs .

Day 7:

Rjúpnaveilir - Þjófafoss - Fellsmúli

Riding on towards the glacial river Þjórsá on to the Waterfall of the Thieves, Þjófafoss. Riding easily on soft sandy paths through a low forest of birch to the old farm Skarfanen. The horses are on their way home now, and it usually gets fast on these paths. The tour comes to an end where it started, at the farm Fellsmúli. In the afternoon you will be driven back to Reykjavik, where the group may choose to spend the evening together. You'll have a last night in a comfortable hotel room (another upgrade for Horses North clients). Often riders all go out for dinner together, but it's not included in the price. 45 km, 7 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.

Travel dates 2010:

The Volcano Hekla tour runs 4 times during the summer of 2010. 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.

June 25 to July 3

July 4 to 11

August 1 to 9

August 10 to 19

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

Riders should be in good physical condition, and ready for long days of riding, but prepared for an unforgettable view of Iceland's heartland.

*Price:

In 2010 the fully inclusive price for the 8 day Volcano Hekla tour is **\$3344*** per person/double occupancy. (pp/do), **\$3455** w/single supplement. Price includes round trip airfare, including departure taxes and fuel surcharge, from Boston, New York, Minneapolis (ask about prices from Toronto, Halifax and Europe). Add \$110 per person from Seattle. Also included- all airport transfers, hotel accommodations with breakfast and private bath pre and post ride nights, and meals on the tour. ***Not** included in the above price: travel insurance, lunch on your arrival and 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.

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.

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