

ICELAND - BREATH OF THE HIGHLANDS

ITINERARY

Day 1

Return transfers are included from Reykjavik city at set times.

You will be collected from your hotel in Reykjavik between 09:00 and 10:00 on day one of the ride. If your hotel is in the city centre, where buses aren't permitted, the collection will be from the nearest designated bus stop.

You will return to Reykjavik between 14:00 and 16:00 on the last day and be dropped off at your hotel or the nearest designated bus stop. Onward flights should depart after 20:00 but you may prefer to overnight in Reykjavik so that you can relax on this last day.

You will need to arrange accommodation in Reykjavik for the night before the ride and depending on the time of your flights, you may also need a night after the ride. Please ask if you are uncertain about the timings.

Arrive at the Hestasport cottages. After settling into your cottage meet for lunch and a short briefing.

Later meet the horses and set out on your first short ride of about 2 hours. For those who have never ridden an Icelandic Horse before, your guides will instruct you in riding the different gaits.



Afterwards enjoy a dip in the natural hot tub before dinner.

Please note that the itinerary may change depending on the weather at the time and other local conditions.

Overnight Hestasport Cottages. Hestasport's comfortable cottages are about 1km from Varmahlíð. There are several cottages and each cottage has a number of bedrooms. Each room may have 2 to 4 beds.



Beds are made-up for you and bathrooms are shared.



Day 2

After breakfast you head out on the trail to the highlands through the stunning river delta towards the pen at Mælifellsrétt. The herd of free-running horses will also start their journey towards the pen and you will meet the herd around noon. From this time you ride with the herd of horses deeper into the valley along a low-traffic road.

The ride ends at Gilhagi Farm, where the horses will stay for the night. You return to the Hestasport cottages, where dinner awaits you. Overnight at the Hestasport cottages.



Overnight Hestasport Cottages.

Day 3

This morning, you need to pack your bags for the night in the highlands (everything you don't need can be left at the cottages).

The horses are waiting for you at Gilhagi Farm and soon you are on the trail again through the scenic valley Gilhagadalur into the highlands and up to the mountain hut Galtará, located not far from lake Blöndulón on Eyvindarstaðaheiði moor.

The horses stay at Galtará with you. If you are lucky, you may be able to see the Hofsjökull and Langjökull glaciers shimmering in the distance. Overnight at Galtará cabin.



Overnight Galtará Hut. The accommodation for one night is in a mountain cabin in bedrooms with four beds. Sleeping bags are provided for this night. There are shared toilets and hot showers.

Day 4

Time to pack up your bags as you leave Galtará and the stillness of the highlands. On the ride back you follow wide riding trails on which you can tolt endlessly.

Descending from Eyvindarstaðaheiði into Svartárdalur valley, you will see the corral Stafnsrétt where every year the sheep are gathered. This is your destination for today and you leave the horses here for the night and drive back to the cottages.

Overnight at the Hestasport cottages.



Overnight Hestasport Cottages.

Day 5

Nice tolt trails today alternate with more challenging terrain and, as you cross the mountain pass Kiðaskarð, perhaps pause and look back over the wide highlands and the majestic glaciers.

From the pass the trail takes you down towards the meadows. Here you leave the horses and return to the cottages for a relaxing bathe in the hot tub.



Overnight Hestasport Cottages.

Day 6

After breakfast meet the horses at Vindheimamelar and head out on a fun morning ride.

In the afternoon, have a go at the 'flying pace' before continuing back to Vindheimamelar, where it is finally time to say goodbye to your horses as they are released into the meadows.

The Icelandic horse is one of the few breeds in the world capable of five gaits. During the past few days you will have tried four of the five gaits and this afternoon you will have the opportunity to experience the Flying Pace. You will be aided by Hestasport's experienced riding instructor and her well trained pace horses.

You return to the cottages for a final dip in the hot tub after a long day riding, and a farewell dinner.



Overnight Hestasport Cottages.

Day 7

You will be transferred to Reykjavik to the bus stop nearest to your hotel. The transfer will arrive in Reykjavik between 14:00 and 16:00. The bus stop is just a short walk from your accommodation. You will find a map of the bus stop locations and further information at www.busstop.is.