

Breath of the Highlands, Iceland

Itinerary

Day One

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.

Overnight at the Hestasport cottages.



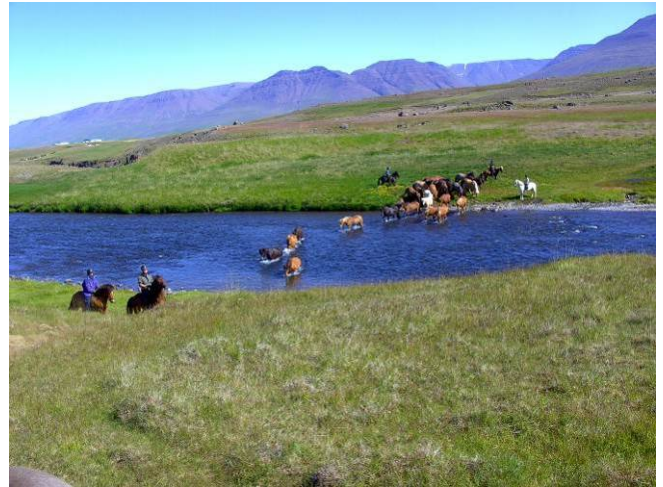
Please note that the itinerary may change depending on the weather at the time and other local conditions.

Day Two

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.



Day Three

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.



Day Four

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.



Day Five

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.



Day Six

After breakfast meet the horses at Vindheimamelar and have a go at the 'flying pace'.



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 morning 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 continue riding to Vindheimamelar, where it is finally time to say goodbye to your horses as they are released into the meadows.

Afterwards, ride for the last time through the valley before saying farewell to the horses.

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

Overnight at the Hestasport cottages.

Day Seven

After breakfast, pack your luggage and say your goodbyes.

Accommodation

Apart from one night you stay in comfortable Hestasport Cottages in Varmahlíð.

Each cottage has a number of bedrooms and each room may have 2 to 4 beds. Beds are made-up for you. Bathrooms are shared.



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.



On all trails a support vehicle goes ahead carrying personal gear, cooking equipment and food.

All meals are included from lunch on the first day to breakfast on the last day. You should get to taste

traditional Icelandic specialities such as fresh and smoked lamb, trout, salmon, and a variety of cheese and other dairy products.

You will make your own lunch from the ingredients available at breakfast. Days can be long and you may ride late into the evening. So you may wish to make extra sandwiches so that you have something to eat during one of the shorter breaks.



Most diets including vegetarian, vegan and gluten free can be provided for with prior notice. When you meet your guide for the ride briefing on the first day, please remind them of your dietary requests.

For more information contact in the saddle. Tel: 01256 851 665, Fax: 01256 851 667, Email: rides@inthesaddle.com, Internet: www.inthesaddle.com