

Wilderness Expedition, Iceland

Itinerary

Monday

You are met in Varmahlið in Skagafjörður at the bus station. The public bus from Reykjavík is included in the price of the ride. Alternatively you may wish to self-drive, arriving at around 14:00 so you are in time for the afternoon introductory ride.

Settle into your cottage before an introductory ride to get used to your horses. For those who have never ridden an Icelandic Horse before, your guides will instruct you in riding the different gaits.

After dinner perhaps enjoy a dip in the hot pool to relax after your long day.

Overnight at the Hestasport cottages.



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

Tuesday

After breakfast you ride along the wide river delta Héraðsvötn, where you can see birds nesting and hunting. After lunch the trail leads deeper into the valley ending your day at Breið farm, where the herd stays for the night. Return to the Hestasport cottages for the night.

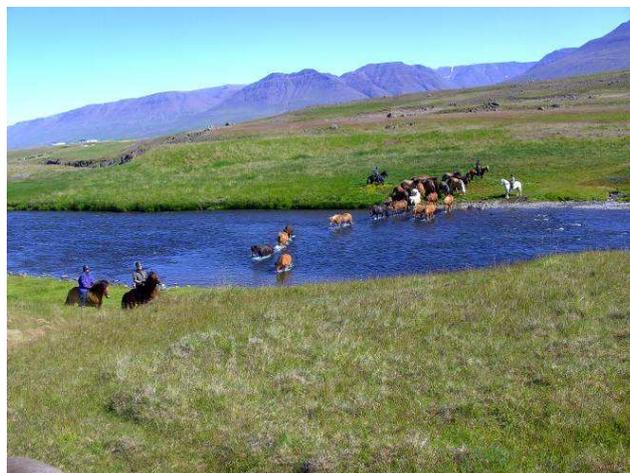
Overnight at the Hestasport cottages.



Wednesday

This morning you pack up your bags for the next few nights as you leave the cottages for the trail. From Breið farm you head south and ahead of you lies the Hofsjökull glacier. Continue higher until the mountain hut Skiptabakkaskáli appears in the wilderness. Running cold water is the luxury of this charming cabin! This night you all sleep together in one room.

Overnight at Skiptabakkaskáli mountain hut.



Thursday

Today the majestic glacier Hofsjökull dominates the horizon as you ride west along the river Vestari Jökulsá. As you cross the highlands, you have to cross

a huge glacial river for the first time; finding a good point so all of the horses get safely to the other side.



In the evening you reach the mountain hut Ingólfsskáli, located in the ancient lava field Lambahraun, only a few kilometres from the glacier.

Overnight at Ingólfsskáli mountain hut.



Friday

From Ingólfsskáli you turn east and ride towards the mountain Illviðrahnjúkur.



New research has shown that the geographical heart of Iceland is situated not far from the east side of this mountain. Here the winters are very harsh and almost no creature can survive, except from the ravens and the arctic fox. Your ride takes you to the cabin Laugafell, an oasis in the centre of the desert. A hot tub awaits to help you relax as you enjoy the midnight sun.

Overnight at Laugafell mountain hut.



Saturday

Ahead of you is one of the longest riding days. After a strengthening breakfast you saddle the horses and begin to descend from a highland plateau down to the riverbanks of the East Glacial River. The trail takes you through small birch and blueberry bushes as you ride along the powerful river. There are wonderful views and ever changing riding trails until you reach the very rustic hut Hildarsel in Austurdalur valley.

Overnight at Hildarsel mountain hut.



Sunday

Today you ride north through the valley to the ruins of the turf farm Ábær and a very tiny church. Many stories can be told about the life of past generations here. After a stop you ride ahead to the magnificent deep gorge Merkgil. Climb down into the gorge with the horses before heading up again and on to your final destination, the farm Kelduland. Here you say goodbye to your horses and return to the Hestasport

Cottages for a farewell dinner and a last bathe in the hot tub.

Overnight at the Hestasport cottages.



Monday

After breakfast an early transfer at c.07:30 to the airport in Akureyri for the flight to Reykjavík (domestic airport).

The internal flight arrives in Reykjavík at about midday. From the airport you will need to take a taxi to the BSI terminal for the Flybus to Keflavik airport for your flight home. Alternatively, if you are staying this night in Reykjavik, take a taxi directly to your hotel.

Accommodation

For three nights you stay in comfortable cottages in Varmahlíð with made up beds. The cottages have twin, four and six-bed rooms and private facilities (one or two bathrooms per cottage). It may be necessary to share. Single/twin cottages are sometimes available at extra cost.



On the trail you stay in basic mountain cabins. In many of the cabins, the accommodation is communal, with everyone sleeping in one large room.

Showers are available on certain nights and on others there may be hot tubs. On some nights there may only be cold water available.



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

All meals are included in your riding holiday and you will get to taste traditional Icelandic specialities such as fresh and smoked lamb, trout, salmon, and a variety of cheese and other dairy products.

Days can be long and you may ride late into the evening. You will make your own lunch from the ingredients available at breakfast. We recommend you make extra sandwiches as the lunch break may not be until late in the afternoon and you may wish to grab a bite during one of the shorter breaks. Some guests have recommended taking your own small sandwich box to stop your lunch getting squashed in your saddle bags.



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