

# Autumn Adventure – Pearls of the Northwest, Iceland

## Itinerary

### Thursday

Please note that the following itinerary may be subject to change due to local conditions.

Transfer to Hvammur farm, arriving around noon in time for lunch.

Meet your guides and horses and start your ride through the beautiful Vatnsdalur valley. The valley is the setting of the Vatnsdælir Saga and your guide, Haukur, knows this Saga well. The route runs along the banks of river Vatnsdalsá, crossing it several times.



The ride ends deep in the valley where the horses stay whilst you transfer back to Hvammur for dinner and a relaxing dip in the hot tub. (c.3 - 4 hours)

### Friday

Returning to the horses after breakfast you ride from Kárdalstunga into the Highlands with a stunning view of the glaciers.



Meet the sheep farmers on their way back to civilisation after many days in the saddle, herding a huge flock of sheep. There could be up to 14,000 sheep in the flock, followed by over 30 shepherds with 100 horses!



The joy and the excitement is evident as this is their last day and everyone is on their way back home. The day ends in the Auðkúlurétt corral where you leave the sheep and horses and return to Hvammur farm. (c.8 - 9 hours)

### Saturday

Transfer from Hvammur farm to Auðkúlurétt Corral where a number of people have showed up to help the farmers sorting the sheep. This is a great time to get involved helping Haukur's grandfather, who is 86 years old and a sheep/horse farmer at Röðull farm.



Auðkúluvétt is the largest sheep corral in Iceland (and possibly in the world) with up to 14,000 sheep. This is also where you can get really deep into the Icelandic culture, and it does not get more authentic than this!

When the sheep are sorted you ride from Reykir farm across lake Húnavatn, stopping to visit the remarkable stone church at Þingeyrar, which was built in 1877. Later continue your ride on lowland countryside to Sveinsstaðir farm where the horses spend the night as you return to Hvammur. (c.6 - 7 hours)



This evening you may wish to join the local farmers at the "Réttardansleikur" dance at a nearby community centre, where everybody relaxes after the excitement of the day (payable locally).

### Sunday

Today is the last riding day. You ride from Sveinsstaðir towards Lake Hóp (one of the biggest lakes in Iceland).

On the way you pass Þrístapar, where the last execution in Iceland took place in 1830. Haukur will tell you the dramatic story before you ride alongside Lake Hóp. The black sand at the beach is ideal for riding tölt. The lake is a reservoir (lagoon) because it is connected with the sea. The view and the movement of the horses give you a great sense of freedom.



Spend the last evening at Hvammur farm, perhaps singing and telling tales long into the night. (c.6 - 7 hours)

### Monday

After breakfast, say goodbye to your guides.

## Accommodation

Hvammur farm is situated in the beautiful Vatnsdalur Valley which is full of the old Sagas and has the famous salmon fishing river Vatnsdalsá running down the middle.



The farmhouse was renovated a few years ago and has a hot tub in the garden with a view over the river.



The farmhouse accommodation has six rooms (two to four beds per room) sleeping up to 19 guests. There

are two showers and two toilets, and an outdoor hot tub.



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For more information contact in the saddle. Tel: 01299 272 997, Email: [rides@inthesaddle.com](mailto:rides@inthesaddle.com), Internet: [www.inthesaddle.com](http://www.inthesaddle.com)