

Landmannalaugar, Iceland

Itinerary

Tuesday

You are transferred to Blesastaðir Guesthouse. Settle into your room and then an introductory meal with your fellow riders.



Wednesday

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

This morning you start your ride on pleasant trails along the mighty glacial river Þjórsá with views of Eyjafjallajökull glacier and Hekla volcano. Leave the horses at Sandlækjarmýri field and drive to Blesastaðir Guesthouse for the night, where you can relax in the outdoor hot tub before a hearty dinner. (c.20 km)



Thursday

Today the ride takes you along river Sandá through the National Forest Skriðufellskógur into the beautiful and famous valley of Thjórsárdalur. The mountain Dímon towers over the vast lupin fields. You stop for a while at Stöng, the ruins of a medieval farmhouse excavated in 1939. In 1104, Mt Hekla erupted for the first time in the recorded history of Iceland, destroying at least twenty farms in the valley, Stöng Farm among them. After another short stop at Gjáin, a mystical canyon with lots of small waterfalls and a famous setting for "Games of Thrones", you head for mountain hut Hólaskógur, with prime views of Hekla volcano. (c.30 km)



Friday

Riding over narrow tracks through black lava north of Valafell mountain, your surefooted horses carry you through rough terrain through the Lambaskarð mountain pass. Continue on sandy paths close to lake Sauðleysuvatn and through the moonlike desert towards mountain hut Landmannahellir, where you will spend two nights. (c.30 km)

For more information contact in the saddle. Tel: 01256 338 669, Fax: 01256 338641, Email: rides@inthesaddle.com, Internet: www.inthesaddle.com



Saturday

Today you ride to the famous Landmannalaugar, with its natural hot pool, surrounded by colourful mountains and lava dating back to 1480. The horses rest in a paddock and you have a good part of the day to relax in the hot pools or visit the numerous sights, before returning to Landmannahellir. (c.40 km)



Sunday

Leave the beautiful area of Landmannahellir and ride on towards Herbjarnfell mountain. Today's route takes you over varying landscape; across sand, sharp lava, huge pumice fields in many colours and over grazing fields where the farmers drive their sheep during summer. Overnight in the solitary mountain hut Hólaskógur, with a perfect view of Hekla volcano; you will feel like you are on top of the world. (c.40 km).



Monday

The last ride sees you riding over the rich green mountain fields over Seljamýri to Fögruskógar and Prenglasandur, back towards Réttarholt Guesthouse. Here you have to say goodbye to horses and staff. You drive to Kálfhóll farm for coffee and cake before returning to Reykjavík. (c.20 km)



Arrive in Reykjavik at about 18:00.

Accommodation

The sleeping bag accommodation on the trail is 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. On some nights there may only be cold water available. Ablutions are shared.

A support vehicle goes ahead carrying your personal gear, cooking equipment and food.

At **Blesastaðir guesthouse** you stay in two to four person rooms, with made up beds. Bathrooms are shared; there are three showers and three toilets. There is a hot tub at this guesthouse and WiFi is available.



Hólaskógur is a large mountain cabin in Þjórsárdalur, close to the glacier river Þjórsá. Used in the autumn by the farmers during the round up, it is open for travellers through the highlands during the summer. There are 50 beds in one large room, two toilets and two showers. There is no WiFi at this cabin.

Landmannahellir mountain cabin, located in a peaceful area in Fjallabak, is also one of the main cabins used by farmers during the round up. There are 24 beds in one large room, two toilets and two showers. There is no WiFi at this cabin.



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