

Sheep Round Up – Landmannafréttur, Iceland

Itinerary

Friday

Please note that the following itinerary may be subject to change due to local conditions. Unlike some other Round Ups, this is not a 'customised' riding tour. Expect to be treated as one of the crowd, required to fulfil your duty every day and enjoy the camaraderie of all those participating in this great adventure of the fall. There will be some walking on foot involved in this tour.

Transfer to Landmannahellir where you meet the horses and horse guides. Ride into the famous Landmannalaugar area, surrounded by colourful mountains and black lava fields. This is a short riding day, which gives you time to get acquainted with the terrain and to learn about the task which lies ahead. Overnight in Landmannalaugar. (c.3 – 4 hrs)



Saturday

Jökulgilið, a long and shallow valley with multiple colours and rock formations, is your destination today. The valley is surrounded by mountains and glaciers, mostly barren yet covered with grass here and there. A glacier fed river makes it hard to access the valley during the summer time and it is only now that riders can enter and look for the sheep that have been grazing there all summer. Overnight in Landmannalaugar. (c.8 – 9 hrs)



Sunday

Today you cover the area between Landmannalaugar and Landmannahellir. The area is covered with lava fields, craters and lakes and sheep can be found widely spread. Therefore it is important to keep your place in the human chain to make sure that no sheep stays behind. Overnight in Landmannalaugar. (c.8 hrs)



Monday

Leave Landmannalaugar in the morning and ride back to Landmannahellir, driving the spare horses along as a free running herd. Today you explore the surroundings of Landmannahellir, which has a long tradition as a night of rest for those gathering sheep. Overnight in Landmannahellir. (8 hrs.)

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



Tuesday

Green grass turns into black ashes as you approach Mt Hekla, an active volcano which has erupted regularly. While some of you are out in this wilderness looking for sheep others will drive the flock to Mt.Valahnjúkar. Overnight in Landmannahellir. (c.10 hrs)



Wednesday

Áfangajl is the final destination for the flock and the corral where the sheep will be sorted tomorrow. On the way you search the area to make sure that no sheep stay behind. Spend this last night at Hrólfstaðahellir, underneath towering Mt Hekla volcano. (c.8 hrs)



Thursday

This is the final and well celebrated day of the round-up. At noon the sorting of the sheep starts and lasts until each sheep has been returned to its owner.



You participate in sorting the sheep, and join in with the singing and celebrating after a successful ride into the mountains. Once the sorting is finished it is time to say goodbye to the farmers.

Accommodation

The sleeping bag accommodation on the Round Up is in basic mountain cabins with the farmers. In many of the cabins, the accommodation is communal, with everyone sleeping in one large room.

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Showers may be available on certain nights whilst 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.

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