

Sheep Round Up - Melrakkaslétta, Iceland

Itinerary

Thursday

Transfer to Reykjavík domestic airport for the morning flight to Húsavík.

Please note that the following itinerary may be subject to change due to local conditions. There will be some walking on foot involved in this tour.

You are met on arrival in Húsavík and transferred to Bjarnastaðir Farm, stopping at Dettifoss, Europe's largest waterfall and Ásbyrgi National Park. Ásbyrgi is one of the wonders of nature, a wide, horseshoe-shaped canyon with sheer cliff faces up to 100 m high. According to legend, Sleipnir, the Norse god Odin's eight-legged horse, put one of his hooves down as the god rode by.

Meet your guides and horses at Bjarnastaðir Farm and after a late lunch set out on your first ride through Kerlingaskógur's low bushy area with great views over the Fjord Öxarfjörður and Lake Skjálftavatn.

Overnight at Bjarnastaðir. (c.30km)



Friday

An early start as each rider joins a local farmer (and his dog!), who will be their mentor and guide during the Round Up.

This area is rich with vegetation, green valleys and small lakes. You ride late into the afternoon before leaving the horses and sheep at a remote old hut and return to the farm for a hearty dinner and a good night's sleep.

Overnight at Bjarnastaðir .(c. 35km)



Saturday

The Peninsula of Melrakkaslétta, which stretches almost to the Arctic Circle, is a paradise for birdwatchers and people with geological interest. Here you are right on top of the Mid Atlantic Ridge where the North-American and Eurasian plates drift apart. The vegetation is ideal for the sheep and the local farmers are very proud of their stock.

You return to the horses and continue driving the sheep down to Katastaðarétt communal fold, where they are kept for the night together with the horses.

Overnight at Bjarnastaðir. (Approx. 30km)



Sunday

This is the final and well celebrated day of the round-up. In the morning the sorting of the sheep starts and lasts until each sheep has been returned to its owners. Participate in sorting the sheep and join in the singing

and celebrating after a successful ride into the mountains.

Once the sorting is finished you join the farmers from Daðastaðir Farm and Presthólar Farm and help them drive the sheep home.

Overnight at Bjarnastaðir. (c. 35km)



Monday

Say good bye to horses and staff and transfer to Húsavík airport to catch the morning flight to Reykjavík.

You arrive in Reykjavík mid-morning and are transferred to the bus station.

Accommodation

Bjarnastaðir farm is situated in the low bushy area of Kerlingaskógur, close to the glacial river Jökulsá á Fjöllum and Dettifoss Waterfall.



The farmhouse sleeps up to 18 guests in sleeping bag, dorm style accommodation. There are two showers and two toilets, and an outdoor hot tub.