

ICELAND - ROUND UP - AUTUMN ADVENTURE - PEARLS OF THE NORTHWEST

ITINERARY

Day 1

The meeting point is Reykjavik BSI central bus station at 08:30 and you will arrive back to Reykjavik city on the last day at about 14:00.

You will need to make your own accommodation arrangements in Reykjavik for the night before the ride.

There is a regular Flybus service (<http://www.re.is/flybus>) between Keflavik airport and Reykjavik BSI central bus station. To allow sufficient time to transfer by Flybus, we recommend your return flight departs Keflavik after 18:00 on the last day.

Depending on the time of your return flight, you may also need accommodation at the end of the ride. Please check with us if you are unsure of the timings.

It is possible to arrange drop off on the last day for some hotels in Reykjavik, except those in the very centre. For these hotels you will be dropped off at the nearest designated bus stop. You will find a map of the bus stop locations and further information at www.busstop.is.

It is important to be dressed ready in your riding clothes this morning.

You will arrive to Hvammur farm around noon in time for a light lunch. After we have met our horses we start our ride through the beautiful Vatnsdalur valley. The valley is the setting of the Vatnsdælir Saga and our guide, Haukur, knows this Saga well. It will be interesting to listen to him tell stories of the past and present.

Our route runs along the banks of river Vatnsdalsá and we have to cross it several times. We end our ride deep in the valley where our horses rest but we go back to Hvammur (3 - 4 hours).



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



Day 2

We ride from Kárdalstunga and into the Highlands with a stunning view of the glaciers. We will meet sheep farmers on their way back to civilization after many days in the saddle, herd a big flock of sheep. It is for sure a unique sight to witness 14 thousand sheep on their way back home after spending the summer up in the highland followed by over 30 shepherds with 100 horses! You can feel the joy and the excitement as this is their last day and everyone is on their way back home. We end our day in the Auðkúlurétt corral where we leave the sheep and horses and go back to Hvammur farm and continue our singing (c. 8 - 9 hours).



Day 3

We drive from Hvammur farm to Auðkúlurétt Corral where a number of people have shown up to help the farmers sorting out their sheep. We can also give a helping hand to Haukur's grandfather, who is 86 years old and a sheep/horse farmer at Röðull farm.

Auðkúlurétt 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 our job is done at the corral we continue with our riding tour. We ride from the farm, Reykir, across lake Húnavatn. We also look at the remarkable stone church at Þingeyrar built in 1877. After this cultural stop, we continue our ride on lowland countryside to Sveinsstadir farm where the horses rest overnight (c. 6 - 7 hours).

Optional: Tonight there is the opportunity to attend the Réttardansleikur dance at a nearby community center. This is where everybody relaxes after the excitement of the day and celebrates yet another successful roundup. On special occasions like this, our guide and farmer, Haukur, put his best dancing shoes on! Please note that this is optional and the price is not included in the holiday cost.



Day 4

Today is our last riding day and of course, we finish the tour in style! We ride from Sveinsstadir towards Lake Hóp (one of the biggest lake in Iceland). On our way we pass the historical place, Prístapar, where the last execution in Iceland took place in 1830. Haukur will tell us the dramatic story which will leave no one untouched. We then ride alongside the lagoon Hóp. The black sand at the beach is ideal for riding tölt, the special gait of the Icelandic horse as well as feeling the joy in the horses when they are running in the shallow water.

The lake is a reservoir (lagoon) because it is connected with these. The view and the movement of the horses give us an unparalleled sense of freedom. We spend the last evening at Hvammur farm enjoying good food and of course, we sing along and share entertaining stories of men and horses (c. 6 - 7 hours)



Day 5

After breakfast say goodbye to your hosts.

