

ICELAND - HIGHLAND TRAILS - GOLDEN CIRCLE

ITINERARY

Day 1

Return transfers are included from Reykjavik BSI central bus station at 18:00 on the first day of the ride, dropping off on the last day at about 20:00.

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 flights arrive before 16:00 on the first day.

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

On arrival meet your hosts and enjoy a light evening meal.

Please note that you may be joined on this ride by other guests doing a shorter itinerary.

Overnight Kálfhóll Horse Farm. Accommodation at Kálfhóll farm is two to four person rooms, with made up beds. Bathrooms are shared.



Northern Lights display over Kálfhóll cabin



Bunks in the guest cabin at Kálfhóll

Day 2

After an introduction to the Icelandic horse and its special gaits, we start our ride along the pleasant trail at Thjórsá glacier fed river.

We leave the horses at Sandlækjarmýri field and drive back to Kálfhóll. This day is the perfect start to get to know your horse and the Icelandic way of trail riding in a relaxed atmosphere (approximately 15 km).

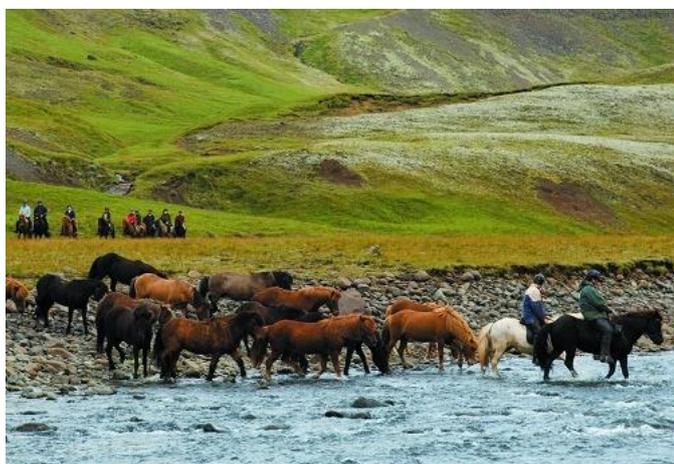


Overnight Kálfhóll Horse Farm.

Day 3

After breakfast, we leave Kálfhóll farm and drive back to the horses. From there we head off to the fertile farmlands of neighboring community Hrunamannahreppur. We drive spare horses along in a free running herd, enabling us to change our mount regularly and traveling at a brisk pace.

We cross the well know Salmon River Stóra-Laxá and stop for our picnic lunch at Hrunaréttir, a corral used for the annual sheep round-up in autumn. Afterwards continue our ride on good trails, towards the majestic canyon Brúarhlöð where milky green water passes through bizarre rock formations. Our ride ends at Brúarhlöð and we drive to the Myrkholt Farm, where we spend the night (approximately 30 km).



Overnight Myrkholt Farm. Myrkholt Farm is a guesthouse located just between Gullfoss waterfall and the hot spring Geysir.



Day 4

We continue our ride on soft trails ideal for tölting, alongside Hvítá River we follow the ever deepening canyon on to the impressive Golden Waterfall Gullfoss. The name "Gullfoss" means "Golden waterfall" in English, and it is named after the golden hue that the waterfall takes on during sunrise and sunset.

Gullfoss is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Iceland and is known for its powerful and dramatic appearance, with water falling a total of 32 meters (105 feet) in two stages. We will have our lunch break at Gullfoss before we ride back to Myrkholt where we spend the night (approximately 20 km).



Overnight Myrkholt Farm.

Day 5

Today our ride takes us through Haukadalur valley with its beautiful birch forest. Cross clear little streams on the way and enjoy the rich vegetation of wild mountain flowers that bloom during high summer. While you ascend to a highland plateau you will notice the changes in nature as you reach higher ground. A breathtaking view of the mountain ranges and glaciers of the highland around awaits you when you reach the top of Haukadalsheiði.

Rest of the day is spent in the Geysir area. You have plenty of time to explore this highly interesting area with its countless bubbling hot springs (approximately 18 km).



Overnight Myrkholt Farm.

Day 6

This morning we leave the Geysir area and ride along green pastures back to the bridge at Brúarhlöð canyon where we cross mighty Hvítá River. Now we head towards the interior and follow beautiful Tungufellsdalur valley onto Hrunaheiðar heath plateau and we experience riding along the edge of civilization.

Our horses spend the night at Kaldbakur Farm, we drive to the Secret Lagoon for relaxing bath in the geothermal pool and then drive to Kálfhóll and spend the night (approximately 30 km).



Overnight Kálfhóll Horse Farm.

Day 7

Our last day of riding includes yet again terrific scenery. Today we follow good riding tracks past Mt. Galtafell. We cross River Laxá before we reach Sandlækjarmýri. We turn towards the banks of Thjórsá River and follow them to Kálfhóll Farm. Here we say goodbye to our guides, staff, and horses.

