

# ICELAND - HIGHLAND TRAILS - KJÖLUR - SOUTH TO NORTH

## 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 14:00.

There is a regular Flybus service (<http://www.re.is/flybus>) between Keflavik airport and Reykjavik BSI central bus station.

Depending on the time of your return flight, you may 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](http://www.busstop.is).

Arrive at Myrkholt Guesthouse, where horses and staff are waiting. After a lovely introductory meal where you can get to know each other, relax and rest so you are well prepared for the adventure ahead. The first evening meal is usually a light supper of soup.

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

Please note that there are limited ablutions shared among the whole group.



## Day 2

The ride starts off towards the majestic glacier Langjökull and the first stop is the beautiful Gullfoss waterfall and the hot spring area Geysir.

The ride today leads us to a mountain called Bláfell. There you spend the night and rest the horses at Fremstaver Mountain Cabin (Approx. 25 km)



Overnight Fremstaver Mountain Cabin. Fremstaver is a cozy hut on the south slopes of the mountain Bláfell. The cabin is situated in beautiful surroundings that offer many sight-seeing possibilities. Climbing the mountain Bláfell is a long but rewarding walk. The top offers views wide and far on a good day.

## Day 3

The ride continues along the slopes of Mt. Bláfell. This area was roamed by outlaws in the old days.

Cross River Hvítá and enjoy the view to the glacier-fed lake Hvítárvatn. Tonight you will stay at Árbúðir, situated right on the banks of river Svartá. (Approx. 35 km)



Overnight Árbúðir Mountain Cabin. Arbudir is a mountain cabin right beside the Kjölur route on the banks of the river Svartá. The cabin has sleeping-bag accommodation for 30 overnight guests.

## Day 4

Ride along the glacier-fed river Fúlakvísl through huge rugged lava fields of Kjalhraun where you can hear a tragic story about two brothers who froze to death in October 1780 on their way to Skagafjörður with a flock of sheep. During the ride, enjoy magnificent views of the glacier Langjökull. As you continue you head into the world of Thjófadalur, or Valley of Thieves, a grassy valley surrounded by high mountains, a true oasis in the wilderness.

The destination of today's ride is Hveravellir, a very unique geothermal area between Hofsjökull and Langjökull glaciers. Here in this rough but extremely beautiful nature the most famous outlaw Fjalla Eyvindur survived for years. (Approx. 50 km)



Overnight Hveravellir Mountain Hut. Hveravellir is a beautiful geothermal hot spot located in the western highlands of Iceland. Íshestar groups stay in the

“Old hut” next to the geothermal area and the geothermal pool. Please note the stables/horses are in 15 min walking distance from the hut.

## Day 5

Today's route leads you further to the north over the beautiful river Seyðisá. Further, the horses run free on the soft paths of this mystical highland area. Pass the mountains Sandkúlufell and Sauðafell before reaching the destination. It should be easy to see that you follow a historical route. All the way back to the early settlement of Iceland, people traveled on horseback on exactly the same trails as today.

The cabin tonight is named after the hill Áfangafell which offers great views of the big glaciers behind us and towards the high mountains of the North. Up to mid-July the sun hardly sets in this part of the country. (Approx. 35 km)



Overnight Áfangi Mountain Cabin. A well equipped basic cabin.

## Day 6

Continue the ride over the Auðkúluheiði Moor. The valleys with the farms in the north are getting closer as the horses run freely over the soft riding paths of the northern highland. It is impressive to see the fertile valley Vatnsdalur with all its fields and vegetation. As you ride down to the valley the canyon of the Vatnsdalsá river appears with some of its many beautiful waterfalls.

The horses stay at Forsæludalur Farm which is the first farm to reach in this area when you come from the highlands. Stay overnight at Hvammur Guesthouse. (Approx. 35 km)





Overnight Hvammur Farm. 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 7

Great riding tracks along the banks of Vatnsdalsá river give us the opportunity to enjoy a fast ride in the soft tölt! Vatnsdalur is one of the most beautiful valleys in Iceland and the setting of one of the ancient sagas, Vatnsdælasaga. On the ride to Hvammur, hear tales from Iceland's heroic past of bloody conflict, revenge, and love.

Say good-bye to the horses as they get to rest in the green fields of the valley. Later, celebrate a successful tour with a great Farwell dinner, storytelling and singing. (Approx. 20 km)



Overnight Hvammur Farm.