

# ICELAND - ROUND UP - SHEEP ROUND UP - LANDMANNAAFRÉTTUR

## ITINERARY

### Day 1

The meeting point is Reykjavik BSI central bus station at 10:00 and you will arrive back to Reykjavik city on the last day at about 18:00.

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 22:00 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 may be possible to arrange drop off for some hotels in Reykjavik, except those in the very centre. You will find a map of the bus stop locations and further information at [www.busstop.is](http://www.busstop.is).

It is important to be dressed ready to ride this morning as on arrival at Landmannahellir, you meet the horses.

We ride into the famous Landmannalaugar area with its natural hot pool, surrounded by colorful mountains and black lava fields. This is a short riding day which gives us time to get acquainted with the terrain and to learn about the task which lies ahead. Overnight stay in Landmannalaugar (c. 3 -4 hours.)



## Day 2

Jökulgilið, a long and shallow valley with multiple colours and rock formations, is our destination for today. The valley is surrounded by mountains and glaciers, mostly barren yet covered with grass here and there. This is what attracts the sheep who seek into this remote area far away from any human contact.

A glacier fed river makes it hard to access the valley during the summer time and it is only now that we can ride in and look for the sheep that have been grazing there all summer (c. 8 - 9 hours.)



Overnight Landmannalaugar.

## Day 3

Today we cover the area between Landmannalaugar and Landmannahellir. Even though not too far apart the area is covered with lava fields, craters and lakes and sheep can be found widely. Therefore it is important to keep your place in the human chain to make sure that no sheep stays behind. Another and final night in Landmannalaugar (c. 8 hours.)



Overnight Landmannalaugar.

#### **Day 4**

We leave Landmannalaugar in the morning, pack our belongings into a transport vehicle and ride back to Landmannahellir, driving our spare horses along in a free running herd.

Today we explore the surroundings of Landmannahellir, which has a long tradition as a night rest for those gathering sheep. Originally two caves there were used as a shelter for horses and men (c. 8 hours.)



Overnight Landmannahellir Mountain Cabin. Landmannahellir is located in a peaceful area in Fjallabak and has for many years been one of the main dwelling place for sheep gatherers when they round up the sheep each autumn that have been grassing in this area during the summer.

#### **Day 5**

Green grass turns into black ashes as we approach Mt. Hekla volcano. Mt. Hekla is an active volcano and has erupted regularly, spewing lava, pumice and ash into the sky. Sheep can be found in sheltered valleys and we make sure that they all return home.

While some of us are out in this wilderness looking for sheep others drive the flock to Mt. Valahnjúkar. Overnight in Landmannahellir (c. 10 hours.)



Overnight Landmannahellir Mountain Cabin.

## Day 6

Áfangagil is the final destination for our flock today. Here is the round pen where the sheep will be sorted tomorrow. On our way we search the area to make sure that no sheep stays behind. We spend our last night at Galtalækur Farm, underneath towering Mt. Hekla volcano (c. 8 hours.)



## Day 7



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 owners. Participate in sorting the sheep, pass the flask around and join in the singing and celebrating after a successful ride into the mountains.

Once the sorting is finished, say goodbye to your hosts.

