

ICELAND - HIGHLAND TRAILS - LANDMANNALAUGAR

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 18:30.

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 may be 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.

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

We ride on fantastic riding paths along the mighty glacial river Þjórsá, with views of the glacier Eyjafjallajökull and the volcano Hekla. We leave the horses at Sandlækjarmýri field and drive to Réttarholt. This day is the perfect start to get to know your horse and the Icelandic way of trail riding in a relaxed atmosphere (approximately 20 km).

Overnight at Kálfhóll Farm.



Overnight Kálfhóll Horse Farm.

Day 3

Today we ride along the lovely river Sandá through the National Forest Skriðufellskógur into the beautiful and famous valley of Thjórsárdalur. The volcano Hekla towers over the vast lavender-blue lupine fields along the sandy tracks. We stop at Stöng, the ruins of a medieval farmhouse excavated in 1939.

In 1104, Mt Hekla erupted for the first time in the recorded history of Iceland. The eruption destroyed at least 20 farms in the valley Thjórsárdalur, among them the farm Stöng. After a short stop at Gjáin, a mystical canyon with lots of small waterfalls and famous setting for Games of Thrones, we head for the cozy mountain hut Hólaskógur with a prime view of Volcano Hekla (approximately 35 km).

Overnight at Hólaskógur Mountain Hut



Day 4

We ride over narrow tracks through black lava north of Valafell mountain. Our surefooted horses carry us comfortably through rough terrain through the Lambaskarð mountain passage.

We continue on sandy paths close by lake Sauðleysuvatn and through the moonlike desert towards Mountain hut Landmannahellir, where we will spend two nights (approximately 30 km).



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

Today we ride to the famous Landmannalaugar, with its natural hot pool, surrounded by colorful mountains and lava from 1480. Our horses rest in a paddock and we have a good part of the day to relax in the hot pools or visit the numerous sights, before returning to Landmannahellir (approximately 40 km).



Overnight Landmannahellir Mountain Cabin.

Day 6

We leave the beautiful area of Landmannahellir and ride on towards the Herbjarnfell mountain. Today's route takes us over the varying landscape. We ride across sanders, sharp lava, huge pumice fields in many colors and over green grazing fields where the farmers drive their sheep during summer.

We stay overnight in the solitary mountain hut Hólaskógur with a perfect view of the Hekla volcano. Here we get the feeling of being 'on top of the world' (approximately 40 km).



Overnight Hólaskógur Mountain Hut.

Day 7

Today we ride over the rich green mountain fields over Seljamýri to Fögruskógar and Þrengslasandur towards Réttarholt Guesthouse. Here we have

to say goodbye to horses and staff. The bus will take us back to Kálfhóll farm for coffee & cake as we say farwell to our guides (approximately 35 km).

