



Iceland Horseback Riding Tour

9 Days

Day 1 | Arrival

Off to the Farm

We gather in the late afternoon for our transfer to the farm, where we meet our energetic Wild Women guides and settle into the cozy ambience of the guesthouse. We swap stories and laughs over dinner, and afterwards gather for a quick meeting to establish individual riding ability, experience and the type of horse preferred (forward and eager or slow and steady). Our expert guides match us up with the most suitable, compatible horse for the following day's ride.

Included Meals

Dinner

Accommodations

Eldhestar Guesthouse

Travel

40 minutes by van shuttle



Day 2 | Learning to Ride Tölt

Meeting Our Horses

This morning, our guides provide detailed information about the uniqueness of the Icelandic horse breed and techniques for Icelandic riding. We watch a live demonstration of tacking, mounting, and maneuvering through the various gaits of the Icelandic horse before getting our saddles and pairing up with our first horse. After a quick practice ride in the outdoor paddock, we head out for a two-and-a-half to three-hour ride, with sandwiches in our saddle bags to enjoy along the way. After a decadent dinner we head off to pack for our next three nights at the huts. Take advantage of a soak in the hot tubs before turning in for the night.

Included Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Accommodations

Eldhestar Guesthouse

Travel

9 miles (15 km), which takes about 3 hours



Day 3 | Valley of Horses

Over Hills and through Valleys

We have an early breakfast before a 20-minute shuttle to Kolviðarhóll, where we begin the day's stunning ride. Lunch is in the vast enclosed valley known as Marardalur ("the Valley of Horses"). From here, we lead the horses up and out of the valley, then ride along the mountainside, crossing a few roads and hills, eventually meeting the trailers for our shuttle to Thingvellir National Park.

Thingvellir is known for being the place where Icelanders had their parliamentary meetings for hundreds of years. This rift valley area is also where the North American and the Eurasian Plates slowly drift apart along the mid-Atlantic Ridge. From here, it's 10 minutes to our mountain hut, Skógarhólar, where we meet our cook, who will have warm drinks and tempting snacks waiting before serving us a traditional Icelandic meal.

Included Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Accommodations

Skógarhólar Hut

Travel

15.5 miles (25 km), which takes about 4–6 hours



Day 4 | Thingvellir National Park Ride

Ride Across Tectonic Plates

Today we ride through the wide paths of Thingvellir National Park and gain an exceptional, uninterrupted view over the park and Lake Thingvallavatn, the largest lake in Iceland. We ride across the moonscape-like area where the North American and European crustal plates meet.

After lunch, we cross the super scenic Lyngdalsheidi moor before finishing the day's ride at Kringlumýri cottage, where we're rewarded for our efforts with another decadent and authentic home-cooked meal.

Included Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Accommodations

Kringlumýri cottage

The Ride

13.5 miles (22 km), which takes about 5–6 hours



Day 5 | Geysir and Gullfoss

Feel Mother Nature's Pulse

This morning, we ride a loop through the Lyngdalsheidi Moor with a stop to poke around the Laugarvatnshellir caves. These caves were inhabited in the early 1920s and have recently been restored by descendants of the family who once lived there.

After returning to Kringlumýri cottage for lunch, we drive to Gullfoss to learn how Sigríður Tómasdóttir, the first female Icelandic conservationist, saved the captivating “Golden Waterfall” from being dammed. Inspired by Tómasdóttir’s efforts to conserve Gullfoss, we visit another precious natural phenomena in the area: Haukadular hot springs, where an active geyser erupts every two to seven minutes. Wowed by Mother Nature’s pulse, we return to Kringlumýri for another incredible meal and solid sleep.

Included Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Accommodations

Kringlumýri cottage

The Ride

9 miles (15 km), which takes 3–4 hours



Day 6 | Riding the Drift

Back to the Farm

From Kringlumýri, we travel along soft riding paths called “drift.” These trails are soft and forgiving under the horses’ hooves, and can be deep in places as they have been worn down by years of horse and sheep travel and water runoff. We have another stellar view over Lake Thingvallavatn before we stop for lunch near Ljósafossvirkjun, one of the first water power stations in Iceland. We continue riding along the south area of the lake to the roadside to meet the trailers and load the horses to head back to our eco-friendly guesthouse by bus.

Included Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Accommodations

Eldhestar Guesthouse

Travel

9 miles (15 km), which takes 3–4 hours



Day 7 | Reykjadalur Hot Springs

Soak in the Warm River

Today's ride winds us around the community of Hveragerði, through the vast lava fields en route to Reykjadalur ("the Smokey Valley"). We stop to rest the horses before leading them on foot into the mountains. At the top, we re-mount and follow a wide, well-graded trail. There are some exposed sections (the downhill side is very steep), but we trust our nimble horse's familiarity with the terrain and take in the amazing views.

After descending into the verdant valley we arrive at a paddock where we untack and leave our horses. A 15-minute walk further up the trail leads us to the warm river! Here, we enjoy a picnic and a dip.

On our way back to the farm, we follow a smooth new riding path, where options to fast tölt or canter are on the table for those who are ready to test their mettle. In the afternoon, we have free time to journal, doodle, chat or cat nap before dinner.

Included Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Accommodations

Eldhestar Guesthouse

Travel

11.8 miles (19 km)



Day 8 | Black Beach Ride

Miles of Pure Black Sand

Today's route depends on the tides. We either ride from our home base at the farm to Thorlákshöfn OR from Thorlákshöfn back to the farm. The goal is to ride the black sand beach next to the small fishing town of Thorlákshöfn at low tide when the sand is firmest: the best tölting conditions! On our way, be prepared for spectacular views and the potential for several bird

sightings. There's time to relax and enjoy one last soak in the hot tubs before we gather for a farewell dinner.

Included Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Accommodations

Eldhestar Guesthouse

Travel

14.3 miles (23 km), which takes 5–6 hours



Day 9 | Departure

Where did the time go?

Today we have the opportunity to sleep in and enjoy extra cups of coffee before we say our last heartrending goodbyes to our lovely horses and plan for a midday transfer back to Reykjavik. Drop off at the BSÍ (Reykjavik Excursions bus terminal) is around 2 p.m. If you are staying at a hotel in Reykjavik, the shuttle can drop you off at the nearest bus stop to your hotel. If you're heading to the airport, jump on the FlyBus at the bus terminal.

Included Meals

Breakfast

Travel

40-minute van shuttle



Trip Details

Know Before You Go

For all of the logistical details you'll need to know prior to departure—including the packing list, arrival and departure details and suggested tipping information, click [HERE](#).

Itinerary version as of April 8, 2024.