

# Hidden Trails

Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS

*Equestrian Vacations  
- on & with Hidden Trails*



## About Hidden Trails



Hidden Trails is owned and operated by nature enthusiasts who love horses and adventure activities. We have been involved with riding and other outdoor vacations for over 20 years.

With our partners Voyage du Cheval (France), Pegasus (Germany) as well as Equitour (Switzerland and France) we have collected the best riding destinations all over the world in some hidden places we would like to share with you.

These rides are about galloping on endless beaches, forging rivers, cantering through forests, trotting along age-old trails, gazing at beautiful vistas and encountering foreign cultures. But most of all, these trips are about getting away from the cycle of too much work and never enough free time.

Escape from the rituals, which long ago froze our nights and days into little more than routine and away from the worries of our new tense times. It is so satisfying when we take the plunge of adventure - it's unfortunate that we invent so many reasons to put aside living our dreams of adventure. It is sometimes a tangled web that we weave through life. Some of the threads reveal a work-a-day world of commitments, duties and obligations. Other threads are of a quiet fabric of hope, responsibility and refreshment.

On our adventures you see the real country, its back country and meet the locals. The love for horses has no boundaries but possesses a common language we all speak and understand. The majority of the overseas rides are from inn to inn, some from castle to castle and a few are camping rides.

You will experience new countries and their customs and make new friends. The Hidden Trails trips are the best you can find.

They have been tested by our staff or associates and received our stamp of approval. If you are considering a special riding vacation anywhere in the world, call us first and let our experienced consultants match the perfect trip with your dream.

We will listen to you and give you objective advice to help you choose the best destination and adventure.

Your vacation is the most precious time of the year and we are committed to making it the most memorable time of your life. Wherever you go, have a great time and bring back some peace of mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

### Hidden Trails

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from within the USA or Canada or

E-mail: [info@hiddentrails.com](mailto:info@hiddentrails.com)

Website: [www.hiddentrails.com](http://www.hiddentrails.com)

Address:

659A Moberly Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or

4406 Tennyson Road, Wilmington, DE 19802 USA

### Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0- 808 189-0420

Fax: 0-808-280-1860

### Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails



# Northern Exposure Lake Myvatn - Iceland, Europe

Tour Code: IT-ICRT03  
6 days / 5 nights ~\$2,850.00  
Dates: June - August

Trip Rating: ●●●●●  
Difficulty: ●●●●●  
Lodging: ●● BASIC

Tack: Icelandic  
Horses: Icelandic Horses  
Pace: Riders should be comfortable and in co...

Airport: Keflavik International Airport



## Introduction

Northern Tours, Iceland

*This tour was nominated by the Sunday Times as one of the 10 best trails in the world!*

The North of Iceland is known for its spectacular natural sights and diverse landscape. Our tour goes from Bjarnastaðir Farm near Húsavík to the Lake Mývatn area, famous for its volcanic features and rich birdlife. Ásbyrgi Canyon, Dettifoss, Europe's largest waterfall, and the strange rock formations at Hljóðaklettur are just some of the gems of nature we'll be seeing on this amazing tour.

An optional whale watching tour completes the selection of natural attractions on and off shore.

We ride along soft riding tracks ideal for "tölting", the unique extra gait of the Icelandic Horse. The first day we spend in Jökulsárgljúfur National Park and visit both Dettifoss Waterfall and Ásbyrgi Canyon. From rich green pastureland we head towards the Gæsafjöll Mountains and spend a night in a mountain cabin at Theistareykir. Through an area scarred with cracks and fissures from earthquakes and volcanic activity the route takes us to Lake Mývatn where bubbling mud pools and eerie lava formations are a reminder of the powerful energy right beneath our feet. We have the opportunity to bathe in the warm geothermal water of the outdoor pool at the Mývatn Nature Baths. The next two days take us through Laxárdalur Valley to Heiðabær for an overnight stay and relaxation in the swimming pool on site. From there we continue across Reykjaheiði heath towards the coast and back to Bjarnastaðir Farm.

After this amazing tour in an ever-changing landscape we can let our cares float away in the hot tub at Lundur Swimming Pool before sitting down to a hearty farewell dinner at the farm.

## Accommodation

### Accommodation

This is a progressive ride so you will be staying in different locations each night.

### Description

During this tour, you will sleep in simple accommodations in dormitory style rooms. Please, bring your own sleeping bag!

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1: Bjarnastaðir Farm

Night 2: Theistareykir Mountain Cabin

Night 3, 4 & 5: Bjarnastaðir Farm

### Bjarnastaðir Farm

It is the home of Halldór Olgeirsson and Elín Mariusdóttir and is situated in the low bushy area of Kerlingaskógur, close to the glacial river Jökulsá á Fjöllum and Dettifoss Waterfall. You will enjoy great view over the Fjord Óxarfjörður and the famous Lake Skjálftavatn which suddenly appeared over night after a strong earthquake 28 years ago. Halldór and Elín, breeders of both horses and sheep will welcome you with open arms and their warmth and hospitality is indeed second to none.

- Number of beds: 23
- Made up beds: Yes
- Outdoor jacuzzi: Yes
- Number of showers: 4
- GSM connection: Yes
- WiFi: Yes

### Theistareykir Mountain Hut

Theistareykir is known as a geothermal area, with colorful mud pits, tabletop mountains, hills and lava fields, you will find the earth constantly at work. The mountain hut stays warm all year round due to the geothermal activity of the area.

- Number of beds: 30
- Made up beds: No
- Outdoor jacuzzi: No
- Number of showers: 0
- Number of WC: 1
- GSM connection: No
- WiFi: No

### Room Occupancy

Single rooms are not available on this trip.

### Meals

During the ride full board is provided.

The menu consists of a large breakfast and traditional Icelandic meals (fish or lamb). All riders make their own packed lunch from the breakfast table.

Alcoholic beverages are not included in the tour price and are hard to get in the highlands. They can be bought at a reasonable price in the Duty Free Store at Keflavik Airport upon arrival.

### Dietary restrictions

Vegetarian meals are available if requested in advance.

## Riding







#### Riding Experience

This tour is a great riding experience that is suitable for advanced riders. You need to be comfortable and in control at all paces, have a firm seat, and feel comfortable riding for up to 7 hours per day. Riders are expected to ride regularly and be capable of handling horses in an open country. Riding days can be as long as up to 35 km in the saddle so you should be in good physical condition and have a basic knowledge of horsemanship. You will get a thorough introduction into the gaits of the Icelandic horse and feel the Tölt, the extremely soft traveling gait of the Icelandic horse.

#### Riding Gear – Disinfect!

Riding gear (riding trousers, jackets, etc.) needs to be washed (40°C) or dry cleaned. Items which cannot be washed or dry cleaned (riding boots, riding hats) need to be disinfected at least 5 days prior to arriving in Iceland. The Icelandic Veterinary Authority recommends the broad-spectrum disinfectant Virkon S for disinfection. Used riding gloves, whips, saddles, bridles, chaps and other used leather gear may not be brought into the country. Please understand that these precautions are necessary because there are no contagious animal diseases in Iceland. Horses are not vaccinated and are therefore susceptible to infectious agents from abroad. Please help us to protect Iceland's fragile nature!

We provide saddle bags, rain wear and safety helmet.

#### Tack & Riding Style

The tack used for Icelandic horses is slightly different than the tack ordinarily used for other breeds.

The saddle is built close to a dressage saddle and has a relatively flat seat. Saddles come with plain or quilted seats. On longer rides, a crupper helps keeping the saddle in place. Riding style used on Icelandic horses is close to English riding style, but stirrups are worn long.

Bits used are mostly simple snaffles. Bridles have a detachable noseband and clip on reins.

#### The Farmers

The real connoisseurs of the local terrain and history. We make sure that each tour has its own charm and is organized by the local expert, the farmer, and his family. They use their own horses and ride through the part of the country they know so well.

Our farmers have over 30 years of experience in leading riding groups through Iceland.

#### Herd of Horses

On this ride, you will be riding several days (except for two days) with a free running herd of horses. Herding along free running horses is the traditional way of travelling in Iceland, since horses are changed at least once a day on longer tours. You get to ride a variety of horses.

#### Horses

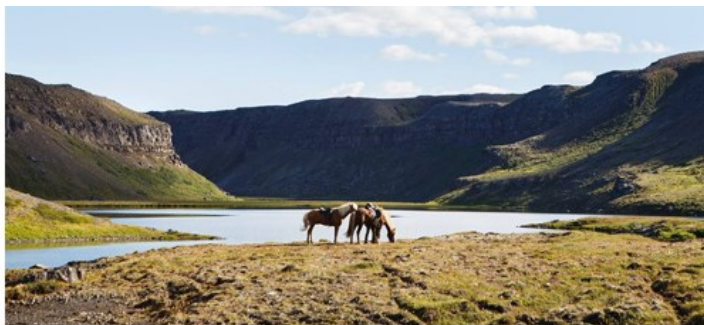
The Icelandic horse is best known for its four-beat smooth gait, the "tölt", which is very comfortable for the rider, especially on a longer tour. Riding an Icelandic horse in its native habitat land is an authentic riding experience. The horses are especially chosen for this trip and are suited even for riders who have not had much riding experience.



#### Itinerary







#### Sample Itinerary - subject to changes

##### Day 1 (Monday): Arrival

Meeting is at Flugfélag Eirnis in Reykjavík airport for 7:30 am! We fly to Húsavík and drive to Bjarnastaðir farm. Please dress already in riding clothes and bring your passport or other identification for your domestic flight. At Bjarnastaðir, we have lunch and start our ride with a short introduction to the Icelandic horse and its special gaits. This is truly a day to remember when we ride on the east side of the National Park Jökulsárgljúfur. After riding, we have a sightseeing tour by bus to Europe's largest waterfall, Dettifoss and the famous Ásbyrgi Canyon, one of the wonders of nature, a wide, horseshoe-shaped canyon with sheer cliff faces up to 100 m high.

Riding approx. 20 km

Meals included: Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Bjarnastaðir Farm

##### Day 2 (Tuesday): Kelduhverfi to Theistareykir Mountain Cabin

After breakfast, we drive to Kelduhverfi and start our ride from there. We ride into the mountains and see a magical landscape over Óxarfjörður Fjord. We ride to the geothermal area of Theistareykir.

Riding approx. 35 km

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Theistareykir Mountain Cabin

##### Day 3 (Wednesday): Theistareykir Mountain Cabin to Laxárdalur

Today's ride goes from the Theistareykir area to Halldórstaðir in Laxárdal. We ride over the rough landscape, going through a geothermal area and lava fields up to the desert area of Hólasandur. Then we ride down to Laxárdalur Valley and over the Laxá River to Halldórstaðir. We then drive to Bjarnastaðir farm, where we stay the night with a hot tub on the premises.

Riding approx. 35 km

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Bjarnastaðir Farm

##### Day 4 (Thursday): Laxárdalur to Skógarhlíð

We saddle up again and head of through a black sand desert along the colorful Laxárdalur valley with the glittering Salmon River Laxá on our side. A true day of contrasts in the ever changing Icelandic nature. We stop at the very special Hraunsrétt – sheep round-up location made of lava rocks. We then ride to Skógarhlíð, where we leave the horses before we head back to Bjarnastaðir farm where we spend the night. We will enjoy a nice hot bath in Jarðböðin, an outdoor lagoon with geothermal water.

Riding approx. 30 km

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Bjarnastaðir Farm

##### Day 5 (Friday): Skógarhlíð to Bjarnastaðir Farm

Today we set out through Geldingadalur Valley and Reykjaheiði heath. At one point, we will practically cross over from one continental plate to another as we ride over the Mid-Atlantic ridge! It is a fascinating area with deep earthquake fissures, multi-colored mountains and geothermal energy. With all this volcanic activity going on here, it is easy to understand that Iceland is still under "natural construction". We ride into Óxarfjörður Fjord to Bjarnastaðir Farm, where the hot outdoor tub is waiting and we spend our last night.

Riding approx. 40 km

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Bjarnastaðir Farm

##### Day 6 (Saturday): Bjarnastaðir to Húsavík (optional: whale watching)

In the morning, return to Húsavík by bus and whale watching cruise for those interested (Price per person EUR 80 - to be paid locally). There is no better way to end a great tour than by sailing into the evening sun with, hopefully, whales swimming alongside.

Others can enjoy the town's swimming pool with its hot tubs or just go for a stroll in this beautiful town. Afternoon flight back to Reykjavík Domestic Airport and a transfer to the city center.

Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch



#### Other Info

Meeting: Reykjavík Domestic Airport





**Airport:** Keflavik International Airport

**Transfer:** Reykjavik Domestic Airport

Meeting is at Flugfélagið Ennir in Reykjavik domestic airport for 07:30 am on Day 1.

**Tack:** Icelandic

**Horses:** Icelandic Horses

**Pace:** Riders should be comfortable and in control at all paces, firm seat, comfortable in the saddle for up to 7 hrs. per day. - Approx. 160km total. 5 riding days

**Level:** 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 (5 out of 5) Advanced

**Weight:** 242 lbs / 110 kg

**Riders:** Min 8 riders

Max 17 riders

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-ICRT03

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals, Flight from Reykjavík to Húsavík and bus drive to the farm & 5 riding days  
Rain wear, Water bottle, Saddle bag & Riding helmet can be provide

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	6 day trip, AP (High)	€2590	\$2850
B 2024	6 day trip, AP (Low)	€2550	\$2805

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 1.1 and subject to currency fluctuation

Transfer Option

Description

2024	Meeting is at Flugfélagið Emir in Reykjavík domestic airport for 07:30 am on Day 1		
2024	Children's discount (under 12) - 25% off		
2024	Extra fee for vegan & gluten-free diet	€100	\$110

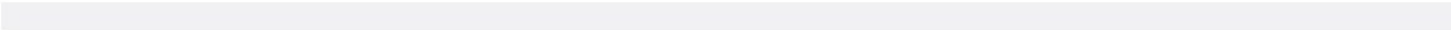
Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	06/24/2024 - 06/29/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip, AP (High)
A 2024	07/29/2024 - 08/03/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip, AP (High)
A 2024	08/05/2024 - 08/10/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip, AP (High)
A 2024	08/12/2024 - 08/17/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip, AP (High)
B 2024	08/19/2024 - 08/24/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip, AP (Low)

Min/Max: 8/17

Monday- Saturday

Rates do not include: Sleeping bag, Alcoholic beverages (can be bought at Duty Free ahead of time), Gratuities & Optional Whale Watching



# Reservation Form

Tour : \_\_\_\_\_ Code #: \_\_\_\_\_ from: \_\_\_\_\_ to : \_\_\_\_\_

The Travelers (Last Name, First Name)	Male Female	Single room / or tent	Birth Date MM/DD/YY	Height	Weight	Special diets													
						Special diets	Beginner	NoVICE	Intermediate	Strong Intern.	Advanced	ride English	ride Western	mostly arena	mostly hacking				
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Special Diets: \_\_\_\_\_

Your fitness level: Excellent ☐ Moderate ☐ Poor ☐ How long have you been riding? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you ride? \_\_\_\_\_ Have you been on other riding tours? No ☐ Yes ☐ last trip when? \_\_\_\_\_

If Hidden Trails offers a transfer from the local airport/station: I would like the transfer to be included: YES ☐ NO ☐

In an emergency, name and phone number of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Attention: Please, if there is more than one participant, all have to sign the reservation form - make copies if needed

With my signature I confirm my reservation of the listed program(s) under the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions. I'm aware, and I made all participants aware of the risk involved with these outdoor adventure activities. All participants have read and agree with the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions and the Hidden Trails Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement in this brochure or as listed on the Internet.

I (we) will sign and forward the Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement at least 10 weeks before trip starting date.

Last Name and First Name (The Traveler) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (wk) \_\_\_\_\_ (hm) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (mandatory) 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Please, charge a 25% deposit (minimum \$ 350 per person) now and full payment 10 weeks before the travel date to my credit card.

For payments by VISA ☐ or Mastercard ☐ (no debit cards)

Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp.Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address for Credit Card (if different than mailing address):  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a check for the deposit ☐

Additional Signatures:

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Travel Cancellation Insurance** Credit Card required

Sign me (us) up ☐ initial \_\_\_\_\_

No, we will provide our own ☐ initial \_\_\_\_\_

Hidden Trails Ltd. 659A Moberly Road Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3 FAX: 604-323-1148 Phone: 604-323-1141



## Hidden Trails

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Pacific Standard Time



