

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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Fax: 604-323-1148

Toll Free: 1-888-9-TRAILS

from within the USA or Canada or

E-mail: info@hiddentrails.com

Website: 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

Pearls of the North - Iceland, Europe

Tour Code: IT-ICRT-E16

7 days / 6 nights ~\$3,025.00

Dates: July

Trip Rating : ●●●●●

Difficulty : ●●●●●

Lodging : ●● BASIC

Tack: Icelandic

Horses: Icelandic Horses

Pace: Daily rides are between 4-9 hours (25-...

Airport: Keflavik Airport



Introduction

Highland Tours, Iceland

This tour takes us in the area between the two highland deserts Kjölur and Sprengisandur, exploring in detail the landscape south of Hofsjökull, the third largest glacier in Iceland. We start the tour along the glacial river Hvítá and visit the famous Gullfoss waterfall before heading north into the wilderness towards the glacier. At the Kerlingarfjöll, the colorful mountain of the "old ladies", we experience the stunning contrast of glacier ice and hot springs. The Kerlingarfjöll area is one of the most beautiful and interesting area in Iceland. The tour continues east towards Sprengisandur, down the beautiful cleft Laxárgljúfur to the green hills Hrunamannahreppur, and end at the farm Kaldbak.

Accommodation



Accommodation

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

Description

Accommodation during the tour is at farms, guesthouses, community centers and simple mountain huts (sometimes dormitory style accommodation). Please, bring your own sleeping bag and pillow. Bathrooms are shared everywhere except while staying at the accommodations in Vellir.

Wi-Fi access is only available at the accommodations in Vellir. There are no laundry facilities available during this trip.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1: Guesthouse in Vellir

Night 2: Mountain Hut Fremstaver

Night 3: Accommodation in Árbúdir

Night 4: Mountain Hut in Kerlingarfjöll

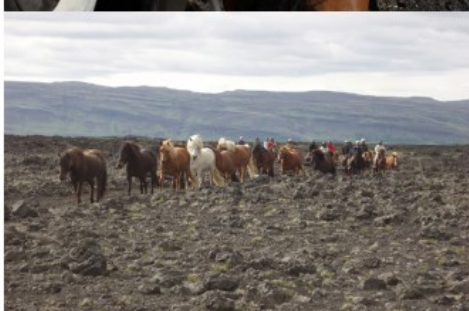
Night 5: Svinárnes Mountain Hut

Night 6: Helgaskáli Mountain Hut



Guesthouse in Vellir

You will sleep in made-up beds at the riding farm's guesthouse (2-4 bed rooms, shared facilities - no double



beds). The guesthouse offers a comfortable living room, shared bathroom facilities, tea kettle that can also be used to make instant coffee, and small refrigerator. Guests that stay at the guesthouse are welcome to use all facilities and services of our Hotel, including the hot tub. An upgrade to our hotel is possible for a supplement (if rooms available).

Room Occupancy

If we are unable to find another rider to share the room with you, a single supplement fee applied. Single room accommodations are subject to availability.



Meals

All meals are included from dinner on Day 1 to lunch on the last day.

The chefs try and provide a nice variety of foods. Specialties include fish, kjötsúpa (an Icelandic soup, with meat, vegetable and rice) and BBQ.

Alcohol is not included in the price. However, we do bring wine, beer and soda on tour for those who would like to buy it at a discounted price.

We do not allow the consumption of alcohol while people are riding – for instance at lunchtime.

Dietary Restrictions

We are able to cater to most dietary needs with prior notice. However, we are unable to meet the needs of those who have food allergies which cause anaphylaxis.

Riding



Riding Experience

This ride is suitable for intermediate riders, with a secure, balanced seat and a good physical condition. We ride up to 45 km per day mostly in the gait tölt and take a herd of free-running horses with us part of the tour, which requires a certain speed.

Pace

We cover about 220km total over 6 riding days. On average, we ride between 4-9 hours every day, covering approx. 25 - 55 km.

Tack and Riding Style

The riding style in Iceland is similar to English riding. We use simple snaffle bits, bridles with detachable nosebands and clips on the end of the reins so they can be easily removed when grazing. Our saddles are comfortable with soft, rather flat seat, it is not necessary to bring saddle seat pads.

Riding Gear – Disinfect!

Used boots, riding wear, helmets, saddlebags etc. must be disinfected before arrival in Iceland. Chaps, bridles and other used leather gear must not be brought to Iceland. That is because infectious, contagious diseases can easily be brought into the country, which poses a great threat for the horses, as they are not vaccinated. Riding wear is normally washed and shoes are washed and cleaned with VirkonS, Iodine or some other fluid disinfectant.

We can lend you a riding helmet for the length of the tour.

Backpacks, large cameras, selfie sticks and other bulky items cannot be taken on horseback tours. Small waist bags are allowed.

Horses

Since 2007, our breeding program has followed two fundamental ideas. First, we strive to breed well-behaved and well-taught riding horses that ought to suit most of our guests. Second, we breed horses with experienced



riders in mind, suitable for riding classes and the company's horse shows. As our greatest challenge has always been combining well-behaved and reliable horses with soft and simple gaits, we invested in mares that are likely to produce the expected results. Another important factor in achieving the desired outcome is choosing the right stallion for those mares.

Free running herd of horses

Experience the diversity of the Icelandic horse in its natural environment, far from civilization. On this trip, we travel with herd of free-running horses, as Icelanders used to travel in the old days. You may switch horses from time to time.

Itinerary



Sample itinerary - subject to changes

Day 1: Arrival

The tour starts in the evening. Tour members who arrive the same day to Iceland should take the flight bus from the airport to the ending bus station BSI in Reykjavik. We will greet you at the bus station or at your hotel/ guesthouse in Reykjavik for 17:30 and drive you to our farm Vellir near Hveragerði. There you will be lodged at our guesthouse. We will get to know each other during the dinner. The day will end with a detailed description of the tour.

Meals included: Dinner
Overnight at the Guesthouse

Day 2: Myrkholt – Fremstaver

We start the riding from Myrkholt and along Hvítá to our first stop will be at Gullfoss. From Gullfoss we ride into the wilderness, in a black desert of stones and sand until we come to the Mt. Bláfell, 1160 m above sea level, which gives us a beautiful view over Kjölur. We see the glaciers Eyjafjallajökull and Hofsjökull and the volcano Hekla and, on the right, Mt. Hlódufell and the Langjökull Glacier. We spend the night south of Bláfell in the mountain hut Fremstaver.

Riding 25 km (approx. 6-7 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Fremstaver mountain hut

Day 3: Fremstaver – Árbúdir

We ride east along Bláfell. We cross the Hvítá River over a bridge and follow the best riding roads on Kjölur, which is the oldest road between South and North Iceland. It is mostly even and is about 700 m above sea level. We have a view over the Langjökull and Hofsjökull glaciers and the Kerlingafjöll mountains – Kjölur's flagship. We follow the Svartá River to Árbúdir, where we spend the night.

Riding 30 km (approx. 7-8 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in Árbúdir

Day 4: Árbúdir – Kerlingafjöll

We continue riding along Svartá North towards Hofsjökull, the third biggest glacier in Iceland. The tour ends in "Kerlingafjöll", the "ladies" Mountains. Here, where the rivers Hvítá and Thjórsá part, you will meet the glaciers as well as hot springs. At Kerlingafjöll you have the possibility to take a bath in nice hot pots, while enjoying the view in the wilderness.

Riding 30 km, 6-7 hrs.

Day 5: Kerlingafjöll – Svinárnes

Today we are heading South from Kerlingafjöll. We are riding along the river Hvítá and see the mountain Bláfjöll on our right side. We will enjoy a great view over the entire area below us until we reach Svinaness, our hut for the night. Svinanes is a primitive but cosy hut which has been used as an overnight place on the sheep round up for many years.

Riding 36 km (approx. 6-7 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Svinanes mountain hut

Day 6: Svinárnes – Helgaskáli

The tour continues South along Hvítá. Here on our way we have nice scenery in all directions. Later on the day we will turn left and ride over the highlands towards Helgaskáli, our hut for the night.

Riding 30 km (approx. 7-8 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Helgaskáli mountain hut

Day 7: Helgaskáli – Kaldbak

We ride through the highland down the beautiful cleft Laxárgljúfur to the green hills of Hrunamannahreppur, and end at the farm Kaldbak. The bus will pick us up at Kaldbak. With a short stop at Vellir, we will drive to Reykjavik, where the tour will end.

Riding 25 km (approx. 6-7 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch

Other Info

Meeting: Reykjavik
Airport: Keflavik Airport

Transfer: Reykjavik BSI central bus station on Day 1 at 5:30PM or hotels/guesthouse
Transfers are only included from the Central Bus Station (BSI). Our representatives will greet you at 17:30 (5:30pm) at the BSI station!

Tack: Icelandic

Horses: Icelandic Horses

Pace: Daily rides are between 4-9 hours (25-55 km). Approx. 220km total.

Level: 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 (3 to 3 out of 5) Intermediate

Weight: 265 lbs / 120 kg

Riders: Min 6 riders

Max 16 riders

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-ICRT-E16

Rates include: Accommodations in guesthouses/farmhouses, All meals, transfers from/to Reykjavik city center & 6 riding days
Helmets & rain gear is provided

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	7 day trip	€2750	\$3025

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

Transfer Option

Description

2024	Transfer from Reykjavik BSI bus station is included		
2024	Upgrade to hotel accommodations for first night, dbl, pp	€50	\$55
2024	Upgrade to hotel accommodations for first night, single	€120	\$130
2024	Children discount (14 and younger) - 20% off		

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	07/26/2024 - 08/01/2024	7 d / 6n	7 day trip

Min/Max: 6/16

Rates do not include: Airport transfer (take the Flybus), Alcoholic Drinks & Gratuities
Please, bring your own sleeping bag and pillow.



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 Inter.	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 _____

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