

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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Address:

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4406 Tennyson Road, Wilmington, DE 19802 USA

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Ph: 0- 808 189-0420

Fax: 0-808-280-1860

Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails



Trail of Hope - North West Explorer Autumn - Iceland, Europe

Tour Code: IT-ICRT18
5 days / 4 nights ~\$2,145.00
Dates: June to August

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

Tack: Icelandic
Horses: Icelandic Horses
Pace: Daily rides are between 5 - 9 hours (2...

Airport: Keflavik Airport



Introduction

Iceland Shorts, Iceland

This tour is an ideal opportunity for anyone wanting to enjoy a comfortable ride in a variety of landscapes. As we ride through unspoiled nature our guide introduces us to Iceland's heroic past with tales of bloody conflict, revenge and love from the ancient Sagas.

Cantering along seemingly endless sandy stretches with the sea air in one's face is an exhilarating experience for both rider and mount. There's plenty of time to try the horse's unique gait known as "tölt" while enjoying nature and learning something of the rich history of this beautiful and remote area.

We start the ride at Hvammur Farm in Vatnsdalur valley. Sense the adrenaline kick as we ride across the waters of Lake Hóp, driving a herd of free-running horses ahead of us. A visit to a seal colony on the North-Atlantic coast is something you don't want to miss.

Accommodation

Accommodations

This is a stationary ride so all nights are spent at the same location.

Description

You will be accommodated at Hvammur Farm, in the beautiful Vatnsdalur Valley. The farmhouse was renovated 4 years ago and has a hot tub in the garden with a view over the river. There are 6 dormitory style bedrooms (2-4 beds per room) that can accommodate up to 20 guests. Facilities are shared and include 3 washrooms and 3 showers. There is no Wi-Fi connection but cellphone coverage is usually available.

Room Occupancy

Single room 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.

Dietary Restrictions

Vegetarian meals are available if requested in advance.

Riding



Riding Experience

This tour is a great riding experience that is suitable for strong intermediate-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: Arrival & Introductory Ride

Pick up at 08:30 in the morning from the BSI Bus Station. Please be ready at the earliest pick up time and be dressed in your riding clothes. Transfer by bus from Reykjavik to Hvammur Farm, where we meet horses and guides.

We start our ride through Vatnsdalur Valley. This beautiful valley is the setting of the Vatnsdæla-Saga. We ride along the banks of River Vatnsdalsá before crossing over to the western side of the valley. Our ride ends at Sveinsstaðir Farm (the horses stay there overnight) and we return to Hvammur Farm for our overnight stay.

Riding approx. 14 km

Meals included: Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hvammur Farm

Day 2: Sveinsstaðir to Þverárétt

We leave Sveinsstaðir Farm and ride alongside the lagoon Hóp. The black sand at the beach is ideal for the special gait of the Icelandic horse. This trail along the shore gives us an idea of the beautiful lagoon we are going to cross tomorrow. We ride along the banks of Víðidalsá River and cross over it. We take a break at Stóra-Borg where our lunch break is and drive to Borgarvirki, a fascinating fortress from the Viking ages. Then we continue our ride to the sheep pen Þverárétt. It is used by local farmers to sort the sheep in the autumn.

Before returning to the guesthouse, we take another excursion to the shore where we see Hvítserkur, a basalt rock formation, nesting place to many seabirds. This area is home to large numbers of seals and hopefully we see many of them resting and playing on the beach.

Riding approx. 30 km

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hvammur Farm



Day 3: Ride to Thingeyrar Farm

Today, we explore the beauty of the Vatnsnes peninsula and follow black dunes on Sigríðarstaðasandur towards the North-Atlantic. We have our lunch brake on top of the ridge Nesbjörg where we enjoy the great view. Today we cross the lagoon Lake Hóp and follow a safe trail through the water on our way to Thingeyrar Farm, once the site of a monastery founded in the 12th century. For sure this day is one of the highlights of this ride. Relax in the outdoor hot tub at Hvammur Farm before a hearty dinner.

Riding approx. 40 km

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hvammur Farm

Day 4: Thingeyrar Farm to Hvammur Farm

We start the day with a visit to historic Thingeyrar Church. This is our last day of riding and we bring the horses back to Hvammur Farm. We cross Lake Húnavatn on a safe trail in the water and enjoy the excitement of the horses once they have returned to the black sand on dry land. We ride on the eastern side of Vatnsdalur valley, past Hvammsfoss waterfall, surrounded by impressive basalt columns. Celebrate the successful return in the evening with a farewell dinner.

Riding approx. 25 km

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hvammur Farm

Day 5: Departure

It is time to say good bye to our guides and we drive on the scheduled bus over Kjölur Highland Road back to Reykjavík. Return to Reykjavík at approx. 12:30pm.

Meals included: Breakfast



Other Info

Meeting: Reykjavík

Airport: Keflavík Airport

Transfer: Reykjavík

Pick up from BSI Bus station in Reykjavík at 8:30am on Day 1.

Tack: Icelandic

Horses: Icelandic Horses

Pace: Daily rides are between 5 - 9 hours (20 - 50 km). Approx. 120km total. 4 riding days

Level: 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 (3.5 to 5 out of 5) Strong Intermediate

Weight: 242 lbs / 110 kg

Riders: Min 6 riders

Max 16 riders

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-ICRT18

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals, Transfers from/to Reykjavik city center & 4 riding days
Rain wear, Water bottle, Saddle bag & Riding helmet can be provide

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	5 day trip (High)	€1950	\$2145
B 2024	5 day trip (Low)	€1810	\$1990

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

Transfer Option

Description

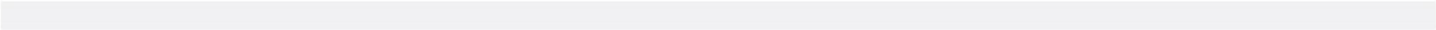
2024	Pick up at BSÍ Bus station for 8:30am on Day 1
2024	Children's discount (under 12) - 25% off

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
B 2024	06/08/2024 - 06/12/2024	5d / 4n	5 day trip (Low)
B 2024	06/15/2024 - 06/19/2024	5d / 4n	5 day trip (Low)
B 2024	06/23/2024 - 06/27/2024	5d / 4n	5 day trip (Low)
A 2024	06/30/2024 - 07/04/2024	5d / 4n	5 day trip (High)
A 2024	07/29/2024 - 08/02/2024	5d / 4n	5 day trip (High)
B 2024	08/04/2024 - 08/08/2024	5d / 4n	5 day trip (Low)
B 2024	08/25/2024 - 08/29/2024	5d / 4n	5 day trip (Low)

Min/Max: 6/16
Sunday-Thursday

Rates do not include:Alcoholic beverages (can be bought at Duty Free ahead of time) & Gratuities



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	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"/>
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"/>
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"/>
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"/>

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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