



The Icelandic horse adventure
Horseride adventure / Landsmót Experience 2016

Adventure ride through beautiful valleys into the highlands, through lakes and rivers combined with the biggest horse event of the Icelandic horse in the world



Riding tour and Landsmót (The National Icelandic Horse Competition) can be combined or booked separately

Riding Tour: 7 days, 6 riding days / July 3 – July 9

Experience a great ride on Icelandic horses in their homeland during an authentic riding tour in the north of Iceland! You can combine your visit to Iceland with Landsmót, the biggest Icelandic horse event of the world.

Our ride takes us through the countryside into the highlands. We will enjoy our ride through the inspiring landscape of the north on various tracks. We will cross rivers, and lakes close to the ocean. At this time of the year, we have the magical midnight sun.

Every rider gets a horse suitable for their riding experience. We will be travelling with a herd of free running horses, between 60 and 90 altogether; so everyone will be able to find his/her favorite. We change riding horses during the trip. This way we get to know different horses and keep them in a good shape. It is a great experience to learn how to drive the herd. In the evening we enjoy each other's company and take out the guitar to activate our singing talents...

All riding equipment will be provided: Saddles, helmets, bridles, saddle bags and rain clothes if needed. Accommodation is in our guesthouse at the farm Hvammur with an excellent view and a hot tub. We also spend a night at the mountain cabin Öldumóðuskáli and one night at the community center Dalsmynni. In Hvammur we provide made up beds. Only at Öldumóðuskáli and Dalsmynni sleeping bags are needed. Guests can also book the riding tour without taking part in the Landsmót program.

Our Landsmót Experience program: 4 nights, 3 days Landsmót Experience / June 30 – July 4

The National Icelandic Horse Competition, known to Icelanders as the "Landsmót" is the largest outdoor sporting event in Iceland, showcasing Iceland's best horses and riders. Landsmót takes place June 27 – July 3. The main days are Friday July 1, Saturday July 2 and Sunday July 3. ***The weekend ticket costs € 74,- in presale (until end of december 2015)***

See further information on www.landsmot.is We offer accommodation (made up beds and hot tub) at our farm Hvammur (including breakfast), drive to Landsmót in the morning and back in the evening (ca 1 hour and 15 min drive each way), on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Pick up in Reykjavík on Thursday June 30. Departure on Monday July 4.



Tour description 2016:

Day one

Sunday July 3: Pick up in Reykjavík or at Landsmót in Skagafjörður. Drive to our guesthouse at Hvammur. We will have dinner with the crew and discuss the ride of the coming days.

Day two

Monday July 4: Hvammur – Forsæludalur. We get to know our horses and saddle up. The tour starts at our farm Hvammur in the valley Vatnsdalur (the Water valley). The valley is said to be the most beautiful valley in Iceland. We ride to the south end of the valley to a farm called Forsæludalur. The tracks beside the river of Vatnsdalur are great and the horses enjoy every step. The Mountains are shaped of a glacier and volcanic eruptions. On our way we get to know some facts about the Icelandic sagas that took place in the valley over 1000 years ago as the Vikings settled the area.

Day three

Tuesday July 5: Forsæludalur - Öldumóðuskáli . Today we are riding through the mysterious uninhabited highlands. As we come up to the higher areas, the view is fabulous in all directions. The glaciers and the volcano Krákur appear in the south. This is a peaceful and quiet area far away from any human contact; here is no traffic - only sheep, birds and foxes can be found widely. Accommodation at the mountain hut Öldumóðuskáli.

Day four

Wednesday July 6: Öldumóðuskáli – Sléttárdalur - Auðkúlurétt. Today we continue our ride in the mountains and enjoy the great view. We ride downwards the mountains, along the river Strangakvísl and cross the river Vatnsdalsá through the famous tide flat Lestammannaða. After a short break at Friðmundarvatn, we continue on paths that farmers use in autumn as they round up thousands of sheep from the mountains. Soft and varied bridle paths lead us to the valley Sléttárdal that was once inhabited but today only ruins are still recognizable. We end up at the community center Dalsmynni, where we will spend the night.

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Day five

Thursday July 7: Auðkúlurétt – Húnavatn – Þingeyrar. We ride through the valley Svínadalur (the valley of pigs) to a farm called Reykir which is situated close to the local school Húnavellir. Our track goes further beside the canyon of the river Giljá. We have a great view over the ocean and the country side as we ride down to the lake Húnavatn. We cross the lake on a safe trail. The horses like it and it is a great experience to feel them moving through the water. On the other side we have good tracks all the way to the farm Þingeyrar, where a church, built around year 1870, is situated. Back in 1133 the first monastery of Iceland was grounded here so it is an important historical place which is nice to visit.

Day six

*6. Day: Friday July 8: **The lake Hóp.*** Today we enjoy the very special route beside and through lake Hóp, which is one of the biggest lagoons of Iceland. That is always a unique adventure; a true highlight for riders and horses.

We head west towards an area called Vesturhóp. Our ride goes further beside the lake Hóp. There are great riding paths on our way, soft ground and a nice view over the lake. We ride around the lake and cross it on the north side. It is a great experience to cross the lake on horseback. The shallow water splashes all over. The ground is sandy but very tight and the horses love to run in this area. The sandy coastline on the other side leads us back to the farm Þingeyrar.

Tonight is our last evening together. We enjoy a good meal and celebrate a good tour, share our experiences and sing together.

Day seven

Saturday July 9: Ride home. Day of departure. After breakfast we head to our horses and ride the last bit home "the homestretch". We ride on the east side of Vatnsdalur, passing the waterfall Hvammsfoss with its basaltic columns. We can feel the happy tölt of the horses as they reach their home farm Hvammur. After saying goodbye to the horses we get ready and head to Reykjavík with the bus. Approximate time of arrival in Reykjavík will be around 19.

Riding Tour 2016: July 3 – July 9

Duration: 7 days, 6 riding days.

On departure day we bring participants to Reykjavík.

Price of the tour includes a pickup in Reykjavík on Sunday July 3 and a drive back to Reykjavík on Saturday July 9, the riding tour, accommodation and full board during the riding tour. Dinner is included on arrival day. On departure day dinner is not included. Number of participants: Max. 19

Landsmót program 2016: June 30 – July 4 / 4 nights, 3 days Landsmót Experience

(Ticket to Landsmót is not included)

Pickup in Reykjavík on Thursday June 30. *Accommodation (made up beds and hot tub) at our farm Hvammur (Thursday – Monday 4 nights, including breakfast), drive to Landsmót in the morning and back in the evening on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.* Dinner at Sunday evening. Drive to Blönduós bus station Monday morning.

*Participants organize their accommodation before and after the offered programs individually.
The tour operator may have to change the route under sudden unexpected conditions.*

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