



Iceland



Adventure

# The Best of Eldhestar

*A short ride over mountains, through valleys and past hot springs*

6 days/5 nights

4 riding days

Hotel Accommodations during ride

...2018

*On this tour you'll experience the best from Eldhestar's different shorter and longer tours in South Iceland. Visit the Valley of the Horses - Maradalur, the Kattatjarnir ponds and Reykjadalur Valley, the Beach Ride, and the National Park Thingvellir, one of two places in Iceland on UNESCO's World Heritage List. You'll have a few days of great riding and we've included a last night in Reykjavik!*

## Day 0:

Iceland here we come! Travelers from North America leave for Iceland on an overnight flight with an early morning arrival at Keflavik Airport in Iceland.

## Day 1:

### Welcome to Iceland!

Riders will arrive at Keflavik International Airport and then take the Flybus shuttle to the BSI bus terminal in Reykjavik. You can check your bags, grab some breakfast, and then set out explore a bit of Iceland's capital city. Around 5:30 PM the outfitter will pick you up at the BSI bus terminal and take you to their farm, about an hour outside of the capital. The tour group meets over dinner and is given details of the tour ahead. You'll spend all tour nights at the comfortable Hotel Eldhestar.

## Day 2:

### Vellir - Þorlákshöfn

After a warmup in the paddock at Vellir, you'll head to the mighty Ölfusá River. Ride through Ölfusforir, where you should see birds of various kinds. Far to the east, is the Eyjafjallajökull volcano, as well as Mt. Hekla. You'll gradually make your way along the western banks of the Ölfusá, riding very nice trails. You'll finally reach the south beach of Iceland and turn west along the coast. The day ends near the town of Þorlákshöfn and you'll be driven back to Vellir. 24 km, 5-6 hrs.

## Day 3:

### Kolviðarhóll - Jórúkleif

Today and tomorrow, you'll ride with a herd of horses. Your day starts at Kolviðarhóll where you'll ride north

along the Húsmúli and Hengill mountains. Upon reaching Engidalur valley, continue along a narrow path. Here you'll dismount and lead the horses through a narrow cleft to the beautiful Marardalur (Valley of Horses). Follow along Hengill and then west of the Sköflungur ridge on nice trails. North of Sköflungur you will eventually have a nice view over Lake Thingvallavatn. The lake is by the cleft where Icelanders had their democratic meetings called Althing for hundreds of years. The track continues down to Jórúkleif, where the days ride ends. Finish the day with refreshments and sightseeing at the famous Thingvellir national park before returning to the farm. Ca. 25 km, 5-6 hrs

## Day 4:

### Skógarhólar- Kringlumýri

Today you'll ride across the Thingvellir National Park, passing the abandoned farms Hrauntún and Skógarkot. From

# Best of Eldhestar

the top you can see Lake Thingvallavatn, the largest lake in Iceland, where the where plates meet. Continue along an old path to Kringlumýri for a good break and then ride a very nice trail called Drift. Your day ends near Kaldárhöfði, where the River Sogið flows out of Lake Thingvallavatn. 29.2 km, 6-7 hrs.

## Day 5: Villingavatn - Reykjadalur - Hveragerði

Today's ride goes into the mountains on the east side of the Hengill volcano where you'll ride along a mountain called Súlufell which has a beautiful view over Lake Thingvallavatn. You'll come to two crater lakes, the big and the small Kattatjörn after riding alongside Kattatjarnahryggir. Soon you'll reach the lake Álfvatn- the Swanlake- and then the green land of Ökuelduháls with all its Hotsprings. After awhile you'll see Klambragí, the steep lava path leading down into Reykjadalur Valley, with its hot springs. You can soak in the valley's warm rivulet and you'll have a magnificent view over the sea and the Westman Islands. You'll return to the farm on the new riding trail between Hveragerði and Reykjafjall with its woods and valleys. After saying good-bye to the horses riders will be taken back to Reykjavik around 4:30 PM where you'll be dropped at your hotel. Often riders all go out to one of Reykjavik's many good restaurants for a last dinner together, (but it's not included in the price!) 23.3 km, 5 -6 hrs.

## Day 6: Home again!

The tour officially ends this morning after breakfast. You can continue exploring Iceland or, if your trip is over you can take the Flybus shuttle out to the airport later in the day.

The Best of Eldhestar Tour runs 9 times in 2018. The arrival day in Iceland is always a transfer day, which allows you to rest from the short night of sleep on the flight, before you start riding on the second day. Most tours end back in Reykjavik for the last night, and you depart after breakfast

## Travel Dates & Prices

*These are travel dates for the tour - we can also arrange for earlier or later travel.*

## Best of Eldhestar 2018 price per person

**\$3,403** DBL

**\$3,879** SNG

<i>Leave US</i>	<i>Return US</i>
Mon May 28	Sun June 3
Wed June 6	Tues June 12
Sun June 17	Sat June 23
Tues July 3	Mon July 9
Mon, July 9	Sun July 15
Sun July 22	Sat July 28
Sun Aug 5	Sat Aug 11
Fri Aug 24	Thu Aug 30
Mon Sept 10	Sun Sept 16

## 2018

**Finer Print: Price includes** international airfare from the US east coast, airport transfers and any pre and post ride accommodations needed. The ride itself includes 4 nights and 4 days of riding, with rain gear and helmets.

**Accommodations and Meals:** all nights during the ride will be in comfortable rooms at the Hotel Eldhestar with private bath, TV, wifi and access to a hot tub. For your Reykjavik night you will be in a 3 star hotel with private bath. Most meals are included -an Icelandic breakfast buffet, a packed lunch on the trail and dinner with a starter, entree and lots of vegetables. Desert and drinks can be purchased at the hotel.

**\*Flights Price includes** round trip airfare, including fuel surcharge and US departure taxes to Iceland, from Icelandair's east coast gateways - BOS, JFK, Newark PHL, Washington Dulles International and Orlando. We can also book flights from Icelandair's other gateways: which may add to the price. Not all gateways have daily departures but we can arrange additional accommodations before or after your tour.

**\*Not included** in the price are travel insurance, breakfast and lunch on your arrival day, dinner on your last riding day back in Reykjavik, lunch and dinner on the day of departure and the cost of any additional travel. **Finest print.**

Please note that our tour prices are subject to revision until you book your tour by making a deposit. The prices listed on print material may not be the latest available price.

Our contract rates for air aren't always available as we get close to travel dates. While we make every effort to keep prices on our webpages and their PDFs up to the minute, things can change quickly. We welcome phone calls or email about prices and any other details.

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