



Golden Highlights of the South

*Ride through some of southern Iceland's
most interesting and dramatic landscapes*

Ride with the Herd
Classic Southern Wilderness
9 Day tour with 7 days of riding
...2018

First Night

Overnight flight to Iceland

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. Luggage can be left here, you can get some breakfast, and it will be very convenient to explore a bit of Iceland's capital city. Around 5:30 PM, the outfitter will pick up riders at the BSI bus terminal, and take them to their farm in Hveragerdi, about an hour outside of the capital. The tour group meets over dinner and is given details of the tour ahead. Horses North clients are upgraded to a night in the comfortable Hotel Eldhestar.

Day 2:

Hveragerdi - Kolvidarholl

After breakfast, you'll follow the ancient route to the moor on Helligshéidi over to the Hengil volcano along the Kristnitokulhraun lava field. This lava came from the eruption of Hengil in the year 1000, the same year Iceland officially became Christian. You'll ride on the track between lava and hills ("milli hrauns og hliðar"), and rest at Kolvidarholl, a wayside where people have stopped to rest for hundreds of years. You'll return to the farm hotel for dinner and a good night's sleep. 4 hours, 21 km.

This tour takes you through a dramatic array of Iceland's most impressive landscapes. Your herd of horses will thunder into Thingvellir and one can imagine being a Viking in the year 1000 who has ridden for days to get here and is ready to attend to business and politics. Then there are soft grassy fields, hard lava trails, through river crossings, by towering rock formations and immense waterfalls. It's a tough ride, but worth every step!

Day 3:

Kolvidarholl - Heiðarbaer

The ride continues north below the Husmuli and Hengill Mountains. Soon everyone will dismount and lead the horses through the narrow cleft to Mararflukur (Valley of Horses). Riding through Dyrfjöll (Door mountains), you will soon reach the mountaintop, with a great view over Lake Thingvallavatn. Here, you will be able to see the old Althing where Iceland's parliament met for hundreds of years. From here, it is not far to the pretty hut at Skogarholar where the night is spent. 38 km in 6-7 hours.

Day 4:

Skógarhólar – Geysir/Myrkholt

Today's ride is a grand one across Thingvellir National Park. There is an exceptional view over the park, and Lake Thingvallavatn, the largest lake in Iceland. This is where the North American and European continental plates meet, and

then part ways. Crossing the moor Lyngdalsheidi and then making a stop at the caves Laugarvatnshellir. This day's ride ends outside the village Laugarvatn, named after the lake nearby. The lake is warmed here by underwater hot springs. Then it's a short bus ride to the guesthouse Myrkholt followed by a visit to the hot springs of Geysir and Gullfoss, one of the most beautiful waterfalls in Europe. 35 km, 6-7 hours.

Day 5:

Geysir/Myrkholt - Helgaskáli

From Myrkholt you'll continue up towards the highlands of Iceland. Riding into desert like landscape, there's a magnificent view over the Hvítá River, and you can see how the river, over hundreds of years, has shaped the mountain, flowing deeper and deeper into it. The night is spent in a hut called Helgaskáli beside the Litla-Laxá River. 35 km, 6-7 hrs.

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Day 6:

Helgaskali - Holaskogur

Off into the highland, including a stop at Haifoss, the second highest waterfall in Iceland, 122 meters, ending up at Holaskogur hut in a very pretty area. There will be ghost stories about the old hut, which is located a few hundred meters away from the newer one, and the brave can take a dip in the clean, cold Fossa River. 20 km in 4 hours.

Day 7:

Holaskogur - Fellsmuli

You'll ride along Iceland's longest river, the Thjórsá, passing Mt. Búrfell, which, in the old days, was the home of trolls. Also on the river is a magnificent view over Thjofafoss (the "Waterfall of the Thieves"), about which many stories are told. Iceland's most active volcano, Mt. Hekla, watches over you as you leave the horses at Fellsmuli Farm and then go on to the old community center Brúarlundur. 45 km in 8 hrs.

Day 8:

Fellsmuli

You'll start the last day riding along the Eystri-Ranga River, with its grassy banks and soft trails. All day long you'll have a view of Mt. Hekla, which was once believed to be the way from earth down to hell. You'll bid farewell to the horses at Laugaland, and late in the afternoon, everyone will be taken back to Reykjavik where you'll be dropped at your hotel (an upgrade for Horses North clients). 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!). 24 km 4 hours

Day 9:

Farewell Iceland

After breakfast the tour officially ends. Travelers returning home may have a few hours to shop, visit museums, or tack shops before the bus returns to Keflavik airport for flights back home. Those lucky enough to be exploring more of Iceland can get underway.

Travel Dates:

The Golden Highlights Tour runs 4 times in 2018. Below are travel dates — we can arrange for an earlier arrival or later departure. Your 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.

LV N America - Return N America

Tue June 5 - Thu June 14

Mon July 2 - Wed July 11

Fri Aug 17 - Sun Aug 26

Sun Aug 26 - Tue Sept 4

first three departures start from Eldbestars farm Vellir, the last one starts from Fellsmuli and has a reversed route.

Golden Highlights of the South *price per person*

\$4,010 Double

\$4,194 Single

Finer Print: Price includes international airfare from the US east coast*, airport transfers and the 8 night/7 day ride, 8 breakfasts, 7 dinners and 7 lunches; riding gear and helmets. Your first and last nights will be in double or single rooms with private baths, while the others will be on sleeping bags with good mattresses, in farm guesthouses, mountain huts and schools.

***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 and Washington Dulles 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 nights accommodations before or after your tour.

***Not included** are Travel Insurance, dinner on your last night back in Reykjavik, lunch on your pre-and post-tour days in Reykjavik, lunch while on the tour, and any additional expenses or travel you may choose.

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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