



Horses



North

New! Along the Island Fjord

Startling landscapes, breath-taking views, as you ride the shores of Eyjafjordur 6 days/4 riding ...2015

Your host family has farmed at Grytubakki for many years, and Stefan knows every wrinkle in the land, which is 30 minutes north of Akureyri. Juliane's organizational skills and cooking come from her Swiss homeland, and both are nicely flavored with Icelandic ingredients! In addition to a lovely group of young Europeans to help with the horses, they're joined by their bright eyed son, Simon, who, not surprisingly, can carry on great conversations in several languages!

Day 0:

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

Day 1:

After arriving at Keflavik International Airport the Flybus will take you right to the Reykjavik domestic airport, for a dramatic 45 minute flight to Akureyri, the "capital" of northern Iceland. Here Polar Hestar will pick you up for a short drive to their farmhouse Grytubakki for a hearty dinner and a good night's sleep.

Day 2: Hofdi

After a copious breakfast riders saddle their horses. A short instruction brings riders into contact with the horses and off we go! Riding around mountain Höfði with the nice view out to the sea and the island of Hrísey, Iceland's second biggest island. It is quite common to see minke whales, harbour

porpoises, northern bottlenose whales as well as Humpback whales and dolphins. You ride close to the hill of the ravens "Hrafnabjörg" and above the valley of the cows. You'll learn about the area's history from the guide and you will be in the saddle for about 4 hours. Coffee and cakes awaits at Grýtubakki. After coffee it's off for a drive to the fishing village of Grenivik and enjoy a warm bath in the swimming pool. Dinner and over-night at Grýtubakki.

Day 3: Látrarströnd

After breakfast you'll saddle up for a day tour. You ride to Grenivik, the little fishing village, close to the farmhouse and from there along the coast Látrarströnd. The North Sea is greeting you! You'll ride above steep cliffs, through luxurious meadows, clear brooks and impressive valleys, then have lunch close to the ruins Svínarnes, a

farm from days gone by. There are many young horses in this area for the summer and they may be curious about youand your sandwiches! Back to the farm after 5 hour-ride.

Day 4: Akureyri and Whales

It's the day off for the horses as you head into Akureyri, where you'll board the whale-watching boat Ambassador. You'll get a panoramic view of the beautiful fjord of the island - Eyjafjörður and possibly see many whales. It is quite common to see minke whales, harbour porpoises, northern bottlenose whales as well as Humpback whales and dolphins.

Day 5: River Gljúfurá - Nes - Leirdalsheiði

Today combines the area around the river Gljúfurá and the rise above Grýtubakki. The ride leads over sandy paths, marshy country and over moorland. Birdwatchers get their money's worth as whimbrel, golden plover, common snipe and a variety of ducks are mostly to be seen. There's a beautiful view over the fjord Eyjafjörður where the river Fnjóská flows into the sea and another view to Helguholl, the holy hill. People in the area say that under the hill there is a ship full of gold from the old vikings. If somebody tries to get the gold, all



Along the Island Fjord

farm guesthouses
riding, sightseeing, whales
6 days/4 riding days

Along the shores of Eyjafjordur - the longest fjord in the land

2015

churches which are visible from the hill will burn down. Nobody has tried to dig, not yet! Over soft sheep tracks and continuously changing landscape and on to the rise above Grýtubakki farmhouse. From here there is a tremendous view in all directions! With a ride close to the idyllic valley of the Elves the trip today comes to an end. You'll be in the saddle for about 4 – 5 hours. Coffee and cakes will be ready for you at Grýtubakki. Dinner and overnight.

Day 6: Farewell Grytubakki

After breakfast, it's time to bid goodbye the horses and your hosts, and head back to Akureyri, where you'll have a short flight back to Reykjavik, and then onto the international airport for flights home- (unless you're lucky enough to be spending more time in Iceland!)

Accommodations on the Riding with the Elves tour are traditionally Icelandic. You'll need to bring towels, soap and shampoo. A sleeping bag & mattress will be provided. The farmhouses, mountain huts and cabins where you'll sleep are simple, warm and clean. Typically there are several beds per room, and in huts there may be one big room. Most will have shared bathroom facilities. The outfitter provides helmets and raingear.

Meals will be family style with lots of typical Icelandic cuisine which features fish, dairy products, lamb, and potatoes. Vegetarians can be accommodated with advance notice. We'll send you a gear list that provides tips for packing, as well as info on converting money and electricity, weather advice (no guarantees, though) and other useful stuff.

Price

The price for this 8 day ride is **\$3120** per person.

Finer Print: Price includes international airfare from the US east coast*, airport transfers, and flights to and from northern Iceland with most transfers. The ride itself includes accommodations in guest and farm houses with shared baths, all meals, as well as rain gear and safety helmets.

***Flights Price includes** round trip airfare, including fuel surcharge and US departure taxes to Iceland, from Icelandair's east coast gateways - Boston, New York, Newark and Washington Dulles International. We can also book flights from Icelandair's other gateways: Minneapolis, Denver, Seattle, Portland, Anchorage, Toronto Edmonton, and Halifax, 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, breakfast and lunch on arrival day, lunch and dinner on departure day, and any additional travel you choose while in Iceland.

Finest print. Please note that our tour prices are subject to revision until you book your tour by making a deposit. 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.

Travel Dates for Along the Island Fjord:

Following are the travel dates for Island Fjord & Valley of the Elves, which runs 4 times in 2015. *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.*

Leave N America -Return N America

Fri, July 3	-	Thurs, July 9
Sun, July 12	-	Sat, July 18
Sat, July 25	-	Fri, July 31
Mon, Aug 3	-	Sun, Aug 9

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