



ICELAND : HORSE ROUND UP – VÍÐIDALSTUNGURÉTT - 2011

YOUR ITINERARY

Imagine free and spirited horses rushing down from their highland summer pastures to be returned to their owners. Mares and their foals, young horses and geldings make their way through rough territory, not really willing to give up their freedom yet before winter returns once again.

Join the farmers in this great autumn adventure. Ride along when they drive the herd, sort the horses and celebrate the successful return of horses and men. The varied terrain includes the highland moors, green valleys just turning into their autumn colours of burning red and yellow, deep blue lakes and rivers. The locals celebrate the successful round-ups with a ball "réttardansleikur" in the adjacent community hall, where farmers and friends celebrate by singing and dancing the night away.

DAY 1 – TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 27: ARRIVAL IN ICELAND

Transfer from Keflavík Airport to the riding centre. Make sure your flight arrives not later than 16:00 to be able to participate in a short (1,5 – 2 hours) introductory riding tour towards Mt. Helgafell Volcano. (Riders arriving earlier that day are picked up upon arrival, driven to the hotel and picked up again in time for the ride.) After the ride we enjoy a traditional Icelandic soup. Receive details of the following tour before the day ends at your accommodation in a hotel in Reykjavík. (8 km)

WEDNESDAY: REYKJAVÍK – BJARGSHÓLL – GAUKSMÝRI

We drive to the North and meet Eggert with his staff and horses at Bjargshóll Farm. We visit a factory outlet with woollen goods on our way. Our ride takes us alongside the river Miðfjarðará towards the ocean and from there underneath Mt. Vatnsnesfjall to Gauksmýri Farm. Here we stay overnight in a cosy country hotel. (35 km)

THURSDAY: GAUKSMÝRI – DÆLI

This exciting riding day takes us into the friendly countryside of Vestur-Hóp, past a lake and into the beautiful valley Víðidalur. We follow Víðidalsá River to Dæli Holiday Farm, close to Kolugil canyon. This farm is beautifully located in Víðidalur Valley and we will enjoy the hospitality of Sigrún and Víglundur, who have been working with us for many years. The outdoor hot tubs are waiting, as well as a hearty dinner. (32 km)

FRIDAY: DÆLI - KOLUGIL – VÍÐIDALSTUNGHEIÐI – DÆLI

Today we ascend towards the highland plateau Víðidalstunguheiði and meet the horses coming down from their pastures in the highlands. We enjoy a warm lunch in the mountains, before we join other guests and locals following the farmers driving the herd down from the highland. Before ending our ride at Dæli Farm we stop at Kolugili Farm for refreshments. Following dinner that day, we spend time with the farmers and other guests in Dæli and join in their singing, dancing and celebrating of this great event of the fall. (30 km, 7-8 hours including lunch and coffee breaks)



SATURDAY: VÍÐIDALSTUNGURÉTT – BJARGSHÓLL - DÆLI

Our day starts at the round up place Víðidalstungurétt where horses are sorted out. An auction is held right on the spot and we can join the farmers in their joyful singing, celebrating the return of their horses. In the afternoon we ride to Bjargshóll Farm and return our horses to their meadows, before driving back to Dæli for a hearty dinner. (30 km)

Optional (not included in the tour price):

"Stóðréttardansleikur" dance at Víðihlíð, where everybody relaxes after the excitement of the day and celebrates yet another successful round up.

SUNDAY: RETURN TO THE SOUTH – REYKJAVÍK

Departure from the North and return to Reykjavík. Approx. arrival at the hotel at 14:00.

MONDAY OCTOBER 03: DEPARTURE FROM ICELAND

Transfer to Reykjavik Airport in time for the return flight home.

ENJOY YOUR TRAIL !