



## ICELAND : SHEEP ROUND UP – LANDMANNAFRÉTTUR - 2011

### YOUR ITINERARY

*On this unique tour we join the farmers in South Iceland as they gather thousands of sheep from the mountains. We start our journey in the uninhabited interior of Iceland and follow the sheep all the way back to the farm lands. This adventure has been privileged to farmers and their friends until now.*

*All participants join an annual tradition and not a customized riding tour. Therefore an open mind, good physical health and the ability to work hand in hand with others is required.*

*This tour is limited to 8 guests and offer a 6 days riding in a unique area from Sept 15 to 23.*

#### **DAY 1 - THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15 : ARRIVAL TO REYKJAVIK**

Free transfer from the guesthouse. Free meals. Night in a guesthouse.

#### **DAY 2 - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 16 : TRANSFER TO LANDMANNAHELLIR – LANDMANNALAUGAR**

Transfer from Reykjavik in the morning to Landmannahellir where we meet the horses and fellow riders. We ride into the famous Landmannalaugar area with its natural hot pool, surrounded by colourful mountains and black lava fields. This is a short riding day which gives us time to get acquainted with the terrain and to learn about the task which lies ahead. Overnight stay in Landmannalaugar. (3 – 4 hours riding)

#### **DAY 3 - SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17 : JÖKULGILIÐ – LANDMANNALAUGAR**

Jökulgilið, a long and shallow valley with multiple colours and rock formations, is our destination for today. The valley is surrounded by mountains and glaciers, mostly barren yet covered with grass here and there. This is what attracts the sheep who seek into this remote area far away from any human contact. A glacier fed river makes it hard to access the valley during the summer time and it is only now that we can

ride in and look for the sheep that have been grazing there all summer. (8 – 9 hours riding)

#### **DAY 4 - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18 : LANDMANNALAUGAR – LANDMANNAHELLIR**

Today we cover the area between Landmannalaugar and Landmannahellir. Even though not too far apart the area is covered with lava fields, craters and lakes and sheep can be found widely. Therefore it is important to keep your place in the human chain to make sure that no sheep stays behind. Another and final night in Landmannalaugar. (8 hours riding)

#### **DAY 5 - MONDAY SEPTEMBER 19 : LANDMANNAHELLIR AND SURROUNDINGS**

We leave Landmannalaugar in the morning, pack our belongings into a transport vehicle and ride back to Landmannahellir, driving our spare horses along in a free running herd. Today we explore the surroundings of Landmannahellir, which has a long tradition as a night rest for those gathering sheep. Originally two caves there were used as a shelter for horses and men. (8 hours riding)



#### **DAY 6 - TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 20 : MT.HEKLA VOLCANO**

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Green grass turns into black ashes as we approach Mt. Hekla volcano. Mt. Hekla is an active volcano and has erupted regularly, spewing lava, pumice and ash into the sky. Sheep can be found in sheltered valleys and we make sure that they all return home. While some of us are out in this wilderness looking for sheep others drive the flock to Mt.Valahnjúkar. Overnight in Landmannahellir. (10 hours riding)

#### **DAY 7 - WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21 : ÁFANGAGIL**

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Áfangagil is the final destination for our flock today. Here is the round pen where the sheep will be sorted tomorrow. On our way we search the area to make sure that no sheep stays behind. We spend our last night in the mountains in Áfangagil, in a small but cosy mountain cabin. (8 hours riding)

#### **DAY 8 - THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22 : DAY OF THE ROUND-UP**

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This is the final and well celebrated day of the round-up. At noon the sorting of the sheep starts and last until each sheep has been returned to its owners. Participate in sorting the sheep, pass the flask around and join in the singing and celebrating after a successful ride into the mountains. Once the sorting is finished we drive back to Reykjavik where this great tour ends. Night in a guesthouse in Reykjavik.

#### **DAY 9 : FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23 : DEPARTURE FROM ICELAND**

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Free transfert to the airport depending your flight schedule.

**ENJOY YOUR TRAIL !**