

# Hidden Trails

Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS

*Equestrian Vacations  
- on & with Hidden Trails*



## About Hidden Trails



Hidden Trails is owned and operated by nature enthusiasts who love horses and adventure activities. We have been involved with riding and other outdoor vacations for over 20 years.

With our partners Voyage du Cheval (France), Pegasus (Germany) as well as Equitour (Switzerland and France) we have collected the best riding destinations all over the world in some hidden places we would like to share with you.

These rides are about galloping on endless beaches, forging rivers, cantering through forests, trotting along age-old trails, gazing at beautiful vistas and encountering foreign cultures. But most of all, these trips are about getting away from the cycle of too much work and never enough free time.

Escape from the rituals, which long ago froze our nights and days into little more than routine and away from the worries of our new tense times. It is so satisfying when we take the plunge of adventure - it's unfortunate that we invent so many reasons to put aside living our dreams of adventure. It is sometimes a tangled web that we weave through life. Some of the threads reveal a work-a-day world of commitments, duties and obligations. Other threads are of a quiet fabric of hope, responsibility and refreshment.

On our adventures you see the real country, its back country and meet the locals. The love for horses has no boundaries but possesses a common language we all speak and understand. The majority of the overseas rides are from inn to inn, some from castle to castle and a few are camping rides.

You will experience new countries and their customs and make new friends. The Hidden Trails trips are the best you can find.

They have been tested by our staff or associates and received our stamp of approval. If you are considering a special riding vacation anywhere in the world, call us first and let our experienced consultants match the perfect trip with your dream.

We will listen to you and give you objective advice to help you choose the best destination and adventure.

Your vacation is the most precious time of the year and we are committed to making it the most memorable time of your life. Wherever you go, have a great time and bring back some peace of mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

### Hidden Trails

Phone: 604-323-1141

Fax: 604-323-1148

Toll Free: 1-888-9-TRAILS

from within the USA or Canada or

E-mail: [info@hiddentrails.com](mailto:info@hiddentrails.com)

Website: [www.hiddentrails.com](http://www.hiddentrails.com)

Address:

659A Moberly Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or

4406 Tennyson Road, Wilmington, DE 19802 USA

### Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0- 808 189-0420

Fax: 0-808-280-1860

### Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails



# Mountain Spirit Ride - Landmannalaugar - Iceland, Europe

Tour Code: IT-ICRT04

7 days / 6 nights ~\$3,290.00

Dates: June - August

Trip Rating: ●●●●●

Difficulty: ●●●●●

Lodging: ●● BASIC

Tack: Icelandic

Horses: Icelandic Horses

Pace: Riders should be comfortable and in co...

Airport: from Keflavik Airport



## Introduction

East and South, Iceland

Mount Hekla is a highly active volcano often titled the "Queen of Iceland". The mountain towers regally over the region and every day we see evidence of its numerous devastating eruptions throughout the ages. In the old times people actually believed it to be the gateway to hell. Landmannalaugar is a geothermal wonderland in the Southern Highlands. Its natural bathing pools are only one of the highlights which make this area one of Iceland's most popular destinations for nature lovers.

Our ride starts along the river banks of the mighty glacial river Thjórsá, with a magnificent view on glacier Eyjafjallajökull and Volcano Hekla. The beautiful area Landmannahellir is a fitting outpost in the central highlands before going on to enjoy the colourful rhyolite mountains in Landmannalaugar, surrounded by black lava fields.

Our way back to civilization leads us down from the mountains and into black lava and green valleys. The spirited and sure-footed horses make this tour an experience of a lifetime for anyone seeking a challenging highland adventure.

## Accommodation

### Accommodation

This is a progressive ride so you will be staying in different locations each night.

### Description

During this tour, you will sleep in simple accommodations in dormitory style rooms with shared facilities. Please, bring your own sleeping bag!

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1 & 2: Kálfhóll Farm

Night 3: Mountain hut Hólaskógur

Night 4 & 5: Landmannahellir Mountain hut

Night 6: Mountain hut Hólaskógur

### Kálfhóll Farm

The family in Kálfhóll farm is well known for their great hospitality.

### Landmannahellir Mountain Hut

Landmannahellir is located in a peaceful area in Fjallabak and has for many years been one of the main dwelling place for sheep gatherers when they round up the sheep each autumn that have been grassing in this area during the summer.

- Number of rooms: 1
- Number of beds: 24
- Made up beds: No
- Outdoor jacuzzi: No
- Number of showers: 2
- Number of WC: 1
- GSM connection: No
- WiFi: No

### Hólaskógur Mountain Hut

This is a big mountain cabin in Þjórsárdalur, close to the glacier river Þjórsá. This cozy cabin offers simple accommodation with electricity and heating. It is used in the autumn for the sheep herders but is open for travelers during the summer.

- Number of rooms: 1
- Number of beds: 30
- Made up beds: No
- Outdoor jacuzzi: No
- Number of showers: 2
- Number of WC: 2
- GSM connection: yes
- WiFi: No

### Room Occupancy

Single rooms are not available on this trip.







#### Meals

During the ride full board is provided.

The menu consists of a large breakfast and traditional Icelandic meals (fish or lamb). All riders make their own packed lunch from the breakfast table.

Alcoholic beverages are not included in the tour price and are hard to get in the highlands. They can be bought at a reasonable price in the Duty Free Store at Keflavik Airport upon arrival.

#### Dietary restrictions

Vegetarian meals are available if requested in advance.

### Riding



#### Riding Experience

This tour is a great riding experience that is suitable for advanced riders. You need to be comfortable and in control at all paces, have a firm seat, and feel comfortable riding for up to 7 hours per day. Riders are expected to ride regularly and be capable of handling horses in an open country. Riding days can be as long as up to 35 km in the saddle so you should be in good physical condition and have a basic knowledge of horsemanship. You will get a thorough introduction into the gaits of the Icelandic horse and feel the Tölt, the extremely soft traveling gait of the Icelandic horse.

#### Riding Gear – Disinfect!

Riding gear (riding trousers, jackets, etc.) needs to be washed (40°C) or dry cleaned. Items which cannot be washed or dry cleaned (riding boots, riding hats) need to be disinfected at least 5 days prior to arriving in Iceland. The Icelandic Veterinary Authority recommends the broad-spectrum disinfectant Virkon S for disinfection. Used riding gloves, whips, saddles, bridles, chaps and other used leather gear may not be brought into the country. Please understand that these precautions are necessary because there are no contagious animal diseases in Iceland. Horses are not vaccinated and are therefore susceptible to infectious agents from abroad. Please help us to protect Iceland's fragile nature!

We provide saddle bags, rain wear and safety helmet.

#### Tack & Riding Style

The tack used for Icelandic horses is slightly different than the tack ordinarily used for other breeds.

The saddle is built close to a dressage saddle and has a relatively flat seat. Saddles come with plain or quilted seats. On longer rides, a crupper helps keeping the saddle in place. Riding style used on Icelandic horses is close to English riding style, but stirrups are worn long.

Bits used are mostly simple snaffles. Bridles have a detachable noseband and clip on reins.

#### The Farmers

The real connoisseurs of the local terrain and history. We make sure that each tour has its own charm and is organized by the local expert, the farmer, and his family. They use their own horses and ride through the part of the country they know so well.

Our farmers have over 30 years of experience in leading riding groups through Iceland.

#### Herd of Horses

On this ride, you will be riding several days (except for two days) with a free running herd of horses. Herding along free running horses is the traditional way of travelling in Iceland, since horses are changed at least once a day on longer tours. You get to ride a variety of horses.

#### Horses

The Icelandic horse is best known for its four-beat smooth gait, the "tölt", which is very comfortable for the rider, especially on a longer tour. Riding an Icelandic horse in its native habitat land is an authentic riding experience. The horses are especially chosen for this trip and are suited even for riders who have not had much riding experience.







## Itinerary



Sample itinerary - subject to changes

### Day 1: Arrival

Pick up at BSÍ Bus station in Reykjavik or at one of Reykjavik's official bus stops near your accommodation (see: [www.busstop.is](http://www.busstop.is)) around 6:00pm. From there, our bus will transfer you and your fellow riders to Kálfhóll farm, where horses and staff are waiting for us. After a lovely introductory meal where we get to know each other we relax and rest so we are well prepared for the adventure ahead of us.

*Meals included: Dinner*

*Overnight at Kálfhóll farm*

### Day 2: Kálfhóll to Réttarholt Field

We ride on fantastic riding paths along the mighty glacial river Þjórsá, with views of the glacier Eyjafjallajökull and the volcano Hekla. We leave the horses at Réttarholt field and drive back to the farm. This day is the perfect start to get to know your horse and the Icelandic way of trail riding in a relaxed atmosphere. We stay at Kálfhóll farm and relax in the hot tub outdoors.

*Riding approximately 20 km*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Kálfhóll farm*

### Day 3: Réttarholt Field to Mountain Hut Hólaskógur

Today, we ride along the lovely river Sandá through the National Forest Skriðufellskógur into the beautiful and famous valley of Thjórsárdalur. The volcano Hekla towers over the vast lavender blue lupine fields along the sandy tracks. We stop at Stöng, the ruins of a medieval farmhouse. In 1104, Mt Hekla erupted for the first time in the recorded history of Iceland. The eruption destroyed at least 20 farms in the valley Thjórsárdalur, among them the farm Stöng.

After a short stop at Gjáin, a mystical canyon with lots of small waterfalls and famous setting for Games of Thrones, we head for the cosy mountain hut Hólaskógur with prime view of Volcano Hekla.

*Riding approximately 35 km*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Mountain Hut Hólaskógur*

### Day 4: Mountain hut Hólaskógur to Landmannahellir Mountain Hut

We ride over narrow tracks through black lava north of Valafell mountain. Our surefooted horses carry us comfortably through rough terrain across the Lambaskarð mountain passage. We continue on sandy paths close to lake Sauðleysvatn and through the moonlike desert towards Mountain Hut Landmannahellir, where we will spend two nights.

*Riding approximately 30 km*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Mountain Hut Landmannahellir*

### Day 5: Ride to Landmannalaugar

Today we ride to the famous Landmannalaugar, with its natural hot pool, surrounded by colorful mountains and lava. Our horses rest in a paddock and we have a good part of the day to relax in the hot pools or visit the numerous sights, before returning to Landmannahellir. This day will be without a doubt, one of the highlights of this tour.

*Riding approximately 40 km*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Mountain Hut Landmannahellir*

### Day 6: Landmannahellir to Mountain Hut Hólaskógur

We leave the beautiful area of Landmannahellir and ride on towards the Herbjarnfell mountain. Today's route takes us over varying landscape. We ride across sand, sharp lava, huge and colorful pumice fields and over green grazing fields where the farmers drive their sheep during summer. We stay overnight in the solitary mountain hut Hólaskógur with great view of the Hekla volcano. Here we get the feeling of being "on top of the world".

*Riding approximately 40 km*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Mountain Hut Hólaskógur*

### Day 7: Mountain Hut Hólaskógur to Réttarholt Guesthouse

Today, we ride over the rich green mountain fields over Seljamýri to Fögruskógar and Þrengslasandur towards Réttarholt Guesthouse. Here we have to say goodbye to horses and staff. The bus will take us back to Kálfhóll farm for coffee & cake. We then drive back to Reykjavík.

*Riding approximately 35 km*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

## Other Info

**Meeting:** Keflavik Airport

**Airport:** from Keflavik Airport

**Transfer:** Keflavik Airport

Pick up at BSÍ Bus station in Reykjavik between 6:00-7:00pm on Day 1.

**Tack:** Icelandic

**Horses:** Icelandic Horses

**Pace:** Riders should be comfortable and in control at all paces, firm seat, comfortable in the saddle for up to 7 hrs. per day. Approx. 200km total. 6 riding days

**Level:**  (5 out of 5) Advanced

**Weight:** 242 lbs / 110 kg

**Riders:** Min 8 riders

Max 16 riders

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-ICRT04

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals, Transfers from/to Reykjavik city center & 6 riding days  
Rain wear, Water bottle, Saddle bag & Riding helmet can be provide

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	7 day trip (High)	€2990	\$3290
C 2024	7 day trip (Low)	€2900	\$3190

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 1.1 and subject to currency fluctuation

Transfer Option

Description

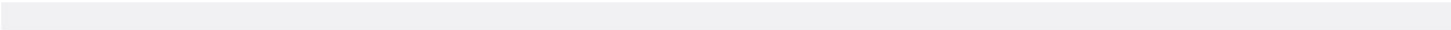
2024	Pick up at BSÍ Bus station or at Reykjavik official bus stops near your accommodation on Day 1 between 18:00-19:00	
2024	Children's discount (under 12) - 25% off	
2024	Extra fee for vegan & gluten-free diet	€100\$110

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	06/24/2024 - 06/30/2024	7d / 6n	7 day trip (High)
A 2024	07/01/2024 - 07/07/2024	7d / 6n	7 day trip (High)
A 2024	08/05/2024 - 08/11/2024	7d / 6n	7 day trip (High)
A 2024	08/12/2024 - 08/18/2024	7d / 6n	7 day trip (High)

Min/Max: 8/16  
Tuesday- Monday

Rates do not include: Sleeping bag, Alcoholic beverages (can be bought at Duty Free ahead of time) & Gratuities





# Reservation Form

Tour : \_\_\_\_\_ Code #: \_\_\_\_\_ from: \_\_\_\_\_ to : \_\_\_\_\_

The Travelers (Last Name, First Name)	Male Female	Single room / or tent	Birth Date MM/DD/YY	Height	Weight	Special diets												
						Special diets	Beginner	Novice	Intermediate	Strong Inter.	Advanced	ride English	ride Western	mostly arena	mostly hacking			
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Special Diets: \_\_\_\_\_

Your fitness level: Excellent ☐ Moderate ☐ Poor ☐ How long have you been riding? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you ride? \_\_\_\_\_ Have you been on other riding tours? No ☐ Yes ☐ last trip when? \_\_\_\_\_

If Hidden Trails offers a transfer from the local airport/station: I would like the transfer to be included: YES ☐ NO ☐

In an emergency, name and phone number of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Attention: Please, if there is more than one participant, all have to sign the reservation form - make copies if needed

With my signature I confirm my reservation of the listed program(s) under the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions. I'm aware, and I made all participants aware of the risk involved with these outdoor adventure activities. All participants have read and agree with the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions and the Hidden Trails Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement in this brochure or as listed on the Internet.

I (we) will sign and forward the Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement at least 10 weeks before trip starting date.

Last Name and First Name (The Traveler) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (wk) \_\_\_\_\_ (hm) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (mandatory) 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Please, charge a 25% deposit (minimum \$ 350 per person) now and full payment 10 weeks before the travel date to my credit card.

For payments by VISA ☐ or Mastercard ☐ (no debit cards)

Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp.Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address for Credit Card (if different than mailing address):  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a check for the deposit ☐

Additional Signatures:

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Travel Cancellation Insurance** Credit Card required

Sign me (us) up ☐ initial \_\_\_\_\_

No, we will provide our own ☐ initial \_\_\_\_\_

Hidden Trails Ltd. 659A Moberly Road Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3 FAX: 604-323-1148 Phone: 604-323-1141



## Hidden Trails

659A Moberly Road  
Vancouver, BC  
Canada V5Z 4B2

Toll Free: 1-888-9 TRAILS  
(1-888-987-2457)

Phone: 604-323-1141

FAX: 604-323-1148

From the U.K.:

Phone 020-323-96201

Fax 0203-004-1200

Skype hiddentrails

E-mail [info@hiddentrails.com](mailto:info@hiddentrails.com)

Website [www.hiddentrails.com](http://www.hiddentrails.com)

Office hours:

Mo-Fr 8:30 am to 6 pm

Pacific Standard Time



