

# SOUTHERN HIGHLIGHTS

## **DAY 1 - ARRIVAL - THINGVELLIR / RIDE TO FLÚÐIR VILLAGE / SECRET LAGOON**

Pick up at 9 am at your accommodation in Reykjavík by a member of our *Exploring Iceland Team* and drive to the fascinating UNESCO Heritage site *Thingvellir*, situated right on top of the Mid-atlantic Ridge. This place is heaven for everybody who is interested in Geology and History. We can clearly see the land drop caused by the plates drifting apart. At *Thingvellir*, the ancient parliament was founded in 930 AD and our guide will take you to major points of interest and tell you about the amazing legal system of the past. We continue to *Hotel Fludir* for check in and a light lunch before meeting up with the horses.

After a good introduction into the Icelandic tack and the special gait „tölt“ we head off for our first gentle riding tour along good riding tracks through lovely green countryside with its numerous little farms, sheep, horses and cattle. Our ride ends at *Flúðir* village and tonight we will invite you to the natural bathing springs of the *Secret Lagoon*. The Lagoon's natural settings and steam rising into the air gives the place a magical feeling. The warm water holds 38–40 Celsius all year. In the lagoon's surrounding there are several geothermal springs and a little Geysir which erupts every 5 minutes, showing off for the guests relaxing in the hot spring.

We recommend a dinner at the lovely hotel restaurant which uses mainly locally sourced, mainly organic produce and meats.

**Approximate Riding distance: 12–15 km.**

**Optional tour: Have a look at our optional tour recommendations below!**

## **DAY 2 - FLÚÐIR / HRUNARÉTTIR / BRÚARHLÖÐ CANYON / HOTEL GULLFOSS**

After breakfast and check out at the hotel we start off to our first long riding day. Equipped with a good pick nick lunch we leave the lovely *Flúðir* village and take our first stop at the *Hrunaréttir* Sheep corral, used for separating the sheep when they return from their summer stay in the high-land. We continue on country lanes perfect for tölting through the green and hilly countryside. Be prepared for some thrilling views of the *Hvítá river* as it runs through the mighty *Brúarhlöð canyon*. We follow along the narrow paths of the steep canyon ridge with perfect sight of the *Langjökull glacier* and the volcano *Bláfell*. Overnight at *Hotel Brattholt* right by the Hvítá Canyon. After dinner at the hotel we recommend a relaxing bath in the hotel's outside hot tub followed by a walk in this amazing scenery.

**Approximate Riding distance: 25 km.**

## **DAY 3 - GULLFOSS / HAUKADALUR FOREST / GEYSIR HOT SPRINGS**

Today is going to be a day full of attractions. After breakfast and check-out at the hotel we continue along the canyon for a couple of km until we reach the majestic *Gullfoss waterfall*. Plenty of time to explore the waterfall from above at the viewing platform and close by on the waterfall walk. Lunch and coffee at the *Gullfoss café*. We continue our ride through the lovely *Haukadalur* forest with its cute little parish church and romantic churchyard and hear the story of Bergþór the Giant! We finish our ride around the *Geysir area* with its boiling hot springs and the famous Geysir Strokkur erupting on a 6-10 minutes interval with a 30 m fontaine! Tonight you spend the night at the „*Little Geysir Hotel*“ in easy walking distance to the *Geysir site*. So you will have plenty of time to explore the geothermal field, the local exhibition and of course enjoy the indoor jacuzzi! Plenty of dinner options on site.

**Approximate Riding distance: 20 km.**



#### **DAY 4 - GEYSIR HOTEL / WATERFALL FAXI / FLÚÐIR VILLAGE**

By now you are an expert in the saddle and the next long riding day will be a piece of Icelandic cake! From *Geysir* we ride on lonely country lanes on super good tölting tracks towards the *Faxi waterfall*, where we will leave the horse at another sheep corral while enjoying lunch at the *Faxi Café* with perfect view of the surrounding *Tungufljót river*! We return over the *Hvítábridge* to our lovely *Icelandair Hotel Flúðir* for two more nights. Evening at your own disposal – you might want to check out the local pool with jacuzzi and sauna, revisit the *Secret Lagoon* or simple relax in the hotel's hot tub in the beautiful garden.

**Approximate Riding distance: 30 km.**

#### **DAY 5 - FLÚÐIR / STÓRA-LAXÁ CANYON / BASALT COLUMNS OF HREPPHÓLAR**

Today we close the circle when we ride from *Flúðir* via the romantic parish church *Hruni* along the *Stóra-Laxá* canyon with beautiful views of the famous salmon river. We stop at the local *Samansafn Museum*, taking a step back in time! We continue our ride underneath the majestic basalt columns of *Hrepphólar* and enjoy a good coffee and home made cake at the quirky ceramic studio *Bragginn*. Transfer back to the hotel and evening at own disposal. Check out our optional tours below!

**Approximate Riding distance: 20 km.**

#### **DAY 6 - ÞJÓRSÁRDALUR VALLEY / VIKING SETTLEMENT / HJÁLPARFOSS WATERFALL**

Today we start by taking our riding horses by trailer further up the road into the beautiful *Þjórsárdalur valley*. Here we enjoy a full day's riding in very different scenery! In the backdrop we have the mighty volcano *Hekla* and visit on horseback the beautiful waterfall *Hjálparfoss*, a Viking settlement and the beautiful *Gjáin* canyon with its many waterfalls! A wonderful riding adventure in again completely different surroundings and return to the farm before releasing the horses into their well deserved rest. Private transfer back to *Reykjavik* and arrival there in the evening.

**Approximate Riding distance: 20–25 km.**

**Exploring Iceland** reserves the right to alter routes, itineraries or timetables should the necessity arise. The estimated duration of tours as indicated by km or timing can change according to road or weather conditions.

## **INCLUDED:**

- Transfer to/from Reykjavík to farm on 1./6. day
- 3 nights in double/twin or single rooms with private facilities at ICELANDAIR Hotel Flúðir incl. breakfast.
- 1 night in double/twin or single rooms with private facilities including breakfast at Hotel Gullfoss.
- 1 night in double/twin or single rooms with private facilities including breakfast at Hotel Litli Geysir.
- 6x Lunch (sometimes picknick lunch) during the tour.
- 6x riding days according to programme.
- 1x coffee & cake treat and museum on 5th day.
- 1x visit to Secret Lagoon incl. towel on the 1st day.
- German or English speaking guide. Other languages upon request.

## **OPTIONAL ADD-ONS FOR THE EVENINGS AND EXTRA DAYS AT HÓTEL FLÚÐIR:**

- River Jet Abenteuer [www.icelandriverjet.com](http://www.icelandriverjet.com)
- River Jet Abenteuer [www.icelandriverjet.com](http://www.icelandriverjet.com) & langoustine feast at Restaurant Mika
- Fontana SPA [www.fontana.is](http://www.fontana.is)
- Fontana SPA [www.fontana.is](http://www.fontana.is) & Gourmet dinner at Restaurant Lindin
- Rafting on glacial river Hvítá [www.arcticrafting.com/Iceland/Rafting/RiverFun](http://www.arcticrafting.com/Iceland/Rafting/RiverFun)
- Visit to a Mountain Rescue Team (ICE-SAR)

**Prices upon request - Price depending on group size and service. Please contact us!**

## **OPTIONAL SERVICE IN REYKJAVÍK:**

- We are more than happy to assist you in arranging additional nights in Reykjavík and any further explorations of Iceland.
- Flybus transfer to and from BSÍ/accommodation in Capital area 2.800 ISK.
- Flybus transfer to and from BSÍ/accommodation including Blue Lagoon from 9.500 ISK.
- Double room with private facilities including breakfast in Reykjavík from from 12.000 ISK per person/night.
- Double room with shared facilities including breakfast in Reykjavík from 10.000 ISK per person/night.

***For Bookings or more information please send us email: [rtsi@rtsi.is](mailto:rtsi@rtsi.is) or give us a call +354 7721299***