



Sheep Round-Up

ICELAND

On this unique **horse-riding tour**, join farmers in Iceland as they gather thousands of sheep from the mountains where they have spent the summer on grazing grounds. Riding Icelandic horses, you take part in this unique adventure and practice your team work skills! You will drive sheep across the black sands of Mt Hekla, the rhyolite mountains of Landmannalaugar or along mighty glacier rivers, depending on your selected date. Wherever you go, you are guaranteed a warm welcome and an experience riding holiday with a purpose.

Cattle Drive	 6, 7 or 9 days	 From £1,015	
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ITINERARY

Highlights

- Join an annual tradition with real sheep farmers and be involved in their daily life, bringing sheep down from their summer grazing to their winter pastures
- Ride with a maximum of 8 guests (plus a number of local farmers and guides)
- Enjoy the stunning Icelandic countryside

Day 1 — 1: LONDON - REYKJAVIK - No riding

Fly from Europe to Reykjavik. Spend a night at a hotel in Reykjavik - not included, but easily booked upon request. Please contact us. Dinner to your own account.

Your tour will begin the following morning.

Day 2 — 2: REYKJAVIK TO LOCAL FARM

Pick up between 09:00 – 10:00 from your hotel in the morning. Please be ready at the earliest pick up time. Your accommodation might be the first one for pick up and dress already in riding clothes. Transfer to the farm before meeting your guides and horses. Today is your first ride in Iceland, and will be kept short and sweet for you to get used to the land and your horses' paces.

Depending on your chosen dates, the duration and location of the round-up will vary. Landscapes are also different.

With this sheep round-up, plunge into the life of the Iceland farmers. Please note that you need to have a good level of fitness to cope with long hours in the saddle, under sometimes unpredictable weather conditions. As participants, you are joining an annual tradition and not a customized riding tour. Therefore an open mind, good physical health and the ability to work as a team are essential. Expect to be treated as one of the crowd, be prepared to pull your weight each day and enjoy the camaraderie of all those participating.

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR DETAILED ITINERARIES

> Melrakkaslétta - 4 riding days

There is a lot of diversity on this tour starting with beautiful mountain views from the wide Öxarfjörður Fjord. The Peninsula of Melrakkaslétta, which stretches almost to the Arctic Circle, is a paradise for birdwatchers and people with geological interest. Gather the sheep from Núpasveitafreittur and Melrakkaslétta peninsula and drive them into Katastaða communal sheepfold so the farmers can sort out their flock and take them to their farms.

> Rangarvallaafrettur - 6 days riding

Ride across Mælifellssandur, a large area of sand and stones north of Mýrdalsjökull Glacier, between the mountains Einstigsfjall and Brattháls. Gather the sheep at beautiful Lake Álftavatn before riding through the area of Sultarfit and Rangárbotnar, through Reiðskarð Mountainpass and Laufahraun Lavafields.

> Reykjarettir - 3 riding days

From Kálfhóll Farm we head off through fertile farmland and enter the beautiful trail along mighty glacier river Thjórsá. The ride continues towards the herd of sheep that are herded down from the highlands in tenth of thousands. When we meet the herd we will herd them for the rest of the way to Reykjarettir (Reykja Coral) where all the sheep farmers come together to collect their sheep from the herd.

> Landmannaafrettur - 6 days riding

On this special tour you join the farmers in South Iceland as they round up thousands of sheep from the mountains. Help gather the sheep into the Landmannaafreittur communal sheepfold close to the famous Landmannalaugar geothermal area. The yellow, reddish and greenish hue of the rhyolite mountains give this area a magical touch.

Day 3 — 3 TO DAY 4 OR 6

You ride out on your first round-up. This is a day filled with emotions and a real immersion into the Iceland culture. Riders and farmers work together to make sure that no sheep is left behind.

Day 4 — 5 OR 7

Today is your last ride in the beautiful and wild Icelandic countryside. You are transferred to Reykjavik at the end of the day. You settle into your hotel (not included) where you are free to make your own plans for the night or take your flight home.

Day 5 — 6 OR 8 - HOME

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	PRICE INCLUDING FLIGHTS	STATUS
09/09/2020	14/09/2020	£1,015		Open
09/09/2020	15/09/2020	£1,615		Open
12/09/2020	20/09/2020	£2,070		Open
17/09/2020	25/09/2020	£2,200		Guaranteed departure

Price details

- Flights to your destination are not included, but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.
- Rates are per person, based on riders sharing communal rooms. There is no single supplement and you must be willing to share.
- Groups are comprised of 5-12 international riding guests plus guides depending on your chosen dates.

- Transfers from the airport to Reykjavik are not included, but are included from Reykjavik to the farm. See <https://www.re.is/tour/flybus/> for more info on how to get from the airport to the city centre.

- Accommodation in Reykjavik is not included but easily booked upon request.

Please Note

The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.

The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

Price includes

SUPPORT TEAM

1 english speaking horse guide since Reykjavik

2-4 assistants in charge of the free herd.

2 local horse guide, horses owners

LOGISTIC

2-3 horses per rider equipped with saddle and bridle

1 vehicle and driver

1 cook

INLAND TRANSPORTS

Minibus

ACCOMMODATION

Mountain Huts, dormitory style

MEALS

Full board from breakfast on day 2 to lunch on day 8

EXTRA EQUIPMENT

First aid kit

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Beverage and personal extra

2 free dinner in Reykjavik (£28-36 each meal)

TRANSPORTS

Transfers between Keflavik airport to Reykjavik

International flights

EXTRA

Tips to local team

Touristic sites fees not already included on the program

INSURANCE

Cancellation and travel insurance are not included in the above listed price. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked to cover you in case of cancellation

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in Reykjavik

EXTRAS

Trip extensions or additional activities

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

The Icelandic horse is a part of the history and saga of the country and it's Vikings. It is characterised by it's extra pace - the tölt, which is fast and very comfortable. Some are also capable of an additional Flying Pace, which is similar to trot, but much faster and used for racing. Icelandic horses are small, sociable, comfortable and energetic. Icelandic tack consists of simple snaffle bridles, often with drop nosebands and straight cut saddles similar to English style.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

You should be a confident rider, capable of riding over varied terrain at all paces. You should be open to learning a new style of riding - the tölt (fast pace and normally comfortable) and fit enough to maintain this pace for long periods.

Rider weight limit is 110kg/17,3 st/242lb

PACE

The pace on this ride is moderate. The tölt, used most of the time, is a specific pace likened to a very fast walk which you sit to. Over technical terrain the horses will walk or trot. There are also opportunities to canter. There can be long periods of walk or even standing around waiting for the sheep.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

You will be expected to assist with grooming and tacking up your horse (guidance is available) and to help with meal preparations.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

You need to be physically fit for some very long hours in the saddle (8-10 hours). The terrain is varied to include steep ascents/descents, rocks/lava fields and there may be holes to avoid. You should also be prepared for the changeable weather. The climate is temperate (12°C - 16°C during the day) but the temperature can change suddenly with strong winds and rain always possible. As this is Autumn you may also experience early snow flurries.

Having previous experience of riding a trail of several days in Iceland would be an advantage but it is not compulsory. Only guests who ride regularly and are fit are able to join the round-up rides. It is of particular importance to ensure you are comfortable and balanced when riding at speed across rough terrain and open spaces for long hours in the saddle.

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. Expect to be treated as one of the crowd, required to fulfil your duty every day and enjoy the camaraderie of all those participating in this great adventure.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

Saddle bags are provided, as are rain coats.

Hard hats are mandatory. We recommend our riders to wear a helmet to the correct standard and you should bring your own to ensure a proper fit.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

On the ride the accommodation is basic and you stay in mountain cabins which are communal and equipped with bunk beds. Some of the larger cabins may have more than one room, whilst other smaller cabins are dormitory style. It is not possible to request single accommodation and so you must be prepared to share with the other guests and the farmers. There are usually toilets available, but warm showers are not possible at all locations. You will need to bring your own sleeping bag.

On some dates, accommodation is provided in more comfortable lodgings and you will not need a sleeping bag. Please contact us for details.

MEALS

Lunches are simple picnics; dinners are generous and hearty.
You prepare your own picnic lunch at breakfast time.

CLIMATE

Contrary to popular belief, the general climate in Iceland is temperate and cool with extreme cold temperatures only recorded in winter. In summer the average temperatures are 10-12c but can be as low as 5c and as high as 25c. You should be prepared for both sun and rain and dress in layers. The round-ups occur at the end of the season and so you are heading into autumn and the temperatures can be lower.

GUIDE AND LOCAL TEAM

You will be assisting local farmers who know the land very well. You may be split into small groups, and sent in different directions to find sheep all over the mountainsides, but there will always be someone to point you in the right direction.

TIPS

Tips are welcome but not expected. You should tip what you feel is appropriate and you are comfortable with.

PACKING LIST

There are some important packing considerations for a riding holiday in Iceland. The Icelandic horses have had no contact with other equine species and are not vaccinated. They do not have any resistance to diseases which are common elsewhere in the world and so it is important to take precautions to prevent the spread of infections.

- You should NOT take the following products into Iceland: saddles, bridles, halters, saddle pads, whips, brushes or any leather products which have been in contact with a horse.

- Your riding clothes must be thoroughly cleaned at least 5 days before departure (riding breeches, jumpers, coats, gloves) and should be washed in temperatures of at least 40c.

- Items which cannot be washed at 40c, such as riding hats or leather boots must be thoroughly disinfected at least five days before departure:

1. Wash in detergent.
2. Dry thoroughly
3. Spray with a 1% solution of Virkon detergent (10g per litre of water)

For more details please visit the Icelandic veterinary authority website: www.mast.is/english/frontpage/import-export/import/ridingequipment

Head

- A riding helmet is compulsory and we recommend that you take your own to ensure a correct fit.
- Sunhat for when not riding
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding
- Buff or bandana for protecting your neck and face from the sun, wind or rain
- Warm hat for cold evenings/days

Upper body

- Thermals in case of cold weather
- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun or extra warmth
- Down jacket or gilet for cold evenings
- T-shirts
- Lightweight fleece or jumper
- Warm polar fleece or equivalent (plus a spare in case one gets wet)
- Waterproof jacket - rain can be difficult to predict and it's better to be prepared. In the mountains the weather can change quickly

Legs

- Lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub.

Take two pairs

- Waterproof over trousers
- Casual clothes for the evenings (jeans or walking trousers)
- Thermal trousers

Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots with half chaps but you may wish to take long chaps. We don't recommend taking your favourite long leather boots in case they get damaged
- Lightweight shoes or trainers for the evenings
- Sandals/flipflops
- Several pairs of warm socks
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun, wind or rain whilst riding

Nightwear

- Sleeping bag with a minimum comfort rating of minus 5, although you may find minus 10 more comfortable
- Sleeping bag liner (silk/cotton/fleece) to add extra comfort and warmth
- A small camping pillow
- Slippers (you will have to remove your shoes inside the accommodation)
- An eye mask can help with the 24hr daylight

Our Recommendations

- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bumbag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc)
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!

Other useful items

- Swimsuit - for hot tubs
- Camera and high capacity memory card. Spare battery
- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding
- Headtorch or small torch for moving around at night - bring spare batteries and bulbs
- Water bottle (2 litres or 2 x 1 litre)
- Wet Wipes or equivalent (for when washing facilities aren't available)
- Ear plugs (for light sleepers)

In your luggage

- Any liquids, such as shampoo, moisturiser, deodorant unless they are less than 100ml and all bottles can fit in a small, clear, plastic ziplock bag.
- Swiss army knife or equivalent

In your hand luggage

- Any valuables, such as your camera, ipod, ipad etc.
- Your riding hat

Medical kit

- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent
- Any medication you regularly take
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc...
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Eye drops
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhoea medication
- Re-hydration sachets
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

VISA & HEALTH

Formalities

British citizens: other nationalities, please contact us.

Passport validity

Your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay; you don't need any additional period of validity on your passport beyond this.

Visas

If you hold a British Citizen passport, you don't need a visa to enter Iceland

The rules on travel will stay the same until 31 December 2020.

Please visit for the FCO website for up-to-date information - <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/iceland/entry-requirements>

ADDRESSES OF CONSULATES

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Health

There are no vaccinations legally required to travel to Iceland. The country has a very good public health infrastructure with hospitals, good doctors and widely available pharmacies.

The biggest hazard in Iceland is probably the weather, especially when venturing inland along the difficult roads. You need a very sturdy high clearance 4wd vehicle and all supplies like food, water and fuel. Also, watch out for sudden storms and blizzards, even in the middle of summer. Also, after rain, some slow flowing small rivers might all of sudden turn into wide and deep rivers, almost impossible to cross by car. So if you do venture inland and away from the main roads, watch all of these things very closely.

Insurance

It is a condition of your booking with Equus Journeys that you have travel insurance which covers you for the riding activities to be undertaken. Your travel insurance should cover you for medical expenses and repatriation. Your guides will require your travel insurance details before they allow you to ride and may refuse to let you ride if you cannot provide them. You should take your insurance documents with you.

Voltage

220 volts AC, 50Hz. Plugs are two-pin

Budget and money

The Icelandic currency is the króna (Ikr.). Coins come in denominations of five, ten, fifty and one hundred krónur and there are notes of 500, 1000, 2000 and 5000 krónur.

You don't have to bring lots of cash, because Iceland is a country where plastic money seems to have been invented and even small things can usually be bought by credit card. If you don't have one, most banking cards of your own country (Cirrus, Maestro logo) will be fine for taking money from ATM's and these can be found in almost every small town.

Tipping is not necessary in Iceland as taxes (VAT) and service are included in the price.

Telephone and jetlag

The international telephone code is 354

Standard GMT