EQUUS JOURNEYS
HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

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The Golden Circle

ICELAND

Ride through the magnificent countryside of south Iceland and experience its must see sites in a unique way. **From the saddle of your Icelandic Horse**, discover the hot springs at Geysir and the cascading waters of Gullfoss. **Ride off the beaten track** to explore highland moors, weird and wonderful rock formations formed by crystalline waters and mountains carpeted by blooming wild flowers and with majestic glacier views.

Centre based holidays	**6 days / 5 days riding**	**From £2,280**		Family holidays from 8 y.o


Explore the Golden Circle, in Iceland, on horseback


Embark on a relaxed riding holiday in Iceland


Explore Iceland on a horseback trail ride

ITINERARY

Highlights

- This tour was nominated by CNNgo as one of the greatest horse treks in the world
- Discover Iceland's famous Golden Circle - Gullfoss waterfall and the hot springs at Geysir.
- Enjoy a ride that's accessible to all riders from 12 years and upwards. The pacing and terrain is well-suited to young riders
- Experience the brisk and freeing tölt, a pace unique to the small and energetic Icelandic horses
- Unwind in the Secret Lagoon's thermal baths after a good day spent in the saddle
- Part of this tour can be booked as a 5-day tour (4 riding days), or as a 2-day tour (2 riding days)

Day 1 — 1: Reykjavik - Kálfhóll - No riding

Kálfhóll

Fly to Keflavik airport. Flights are not included but can be arranged upon request.

Please make sure to book a flight landing before 3:30pm.
From the airport you will need to make your way to the Reykjavik BSI Bus Terminal. You will be picked up from here at 6pm and driven to your accommodation.

At the farm, you will be introduced to the Icelandic horses and learn more about their unique gaits, the tölt and the flying pace.

Please note that depending on the departure date this itinerary can run in the opposite direction.

Day 2 — 2: Kálfhóll - Sandlækjamýri - 15km ride

Kálfhóll

You will start your ride on a pleasant trail along a river fed by Thjórsá glacier. Your first day's ride is a perfect way to start getting to know your horse and the Icelandic trail riding technique; you will be surrounded by beautiful countryside and an easy-going atmosphere.

The horses will be left in a filed in Sandlækjarmýri and riders will drive back to Kálfhóll.

Dinner and overnight at the Kálfhóll farm.

Day 3 — 3 : Sandlækjarmýri – Sólheimar - 20km ride

Kálfhóll

After rejoining your horses, you will head out to explore the surrounding countryside.
If conditions allow. you will cross the Stóra-Laxá River, known for its salmon fishing.
You will continue to ride towards Sólheimar Farm, where to horses will stay for the night.

After the ride, guests will visit the Secret Lagoon for some relaxing time.

Dinner and overnight at Kálfhóll farm.

Day 4 — 4 : Sólheimar – Brúarhlöð - 20 km ride

Kálfhóll

Today you'll meet the horses at Sólheimar Farm. From there, you'll ride through peaceful countryside and pass Hruni, an old church site.

As you ride deeper into the countryside, you'll spot traditional sheep pens made from basalt columns. Eventually you'll reach Brúarhlöð - known for its unique rock formations in the famous Hvítá River.

Drive back to the Kálfhóll farm for dinner and overnight.

Day 5 — 5 : Skjól – Gullfoss – Skjól - 20km ride

Kálfhóll

Today's ride will start from Skjól and head towards Gulfoss, one of Iceland's most famous waterfalls.
Along the way, you will ride through green meadows and beautiful countryside tracks.

You will stop at Gulfoss for about one and a half hours, before riding back to Skjól.

Drive back to the Kálfhóll farm for dinner and overnight.

Day 6 — 6: Skjól – Geysir – Skjól - 20km ride

Today's route starts from Skjól and will lead you to the famous Geysir geothermal area.
The trail will take you through Haukadalsskógur, a beautiful forest that provides wonderful scenery overlooking the Geysir area.
The horses will be kept in a paddock near Geysir while you explore the area on foot.

After about one hour and a half, you'll get back on the horses and ride towards Skjól. From here guests will be driven back to the BSI (approximate time of arrival 6pm).

We recommend you book a flight departing the next day.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
22/05/2027	27/05/2027	£2,280	Full
27/05/2027	01/06/2027	£2,280	Guaranteed departure

18/08/2027	23/08/2027	£2,280	Last seats
23/08/2027	28/08/2027	£2,280	Guaranteed departure

Price details

- Flights to your destination (international/domestic) are not included, but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.

- Rates are per person, based on sharing two or four-bedded rooms. There is no single supplement for the riding days as you should be prepared to share.

- Groups are made up of a maximum of 20 international riders and an English speaking guide. All departures are confirmed regardless of the number of riders on the tour.

- Transfers to and from Reykjavik airport are not included in the price for the trip. See here for more info on how to get from the airport to the city centre.

- The last night in Reykjavik is not included in the cost of your holiday. Please contact us and we will recommend a good hotel in downtown Reykjavik.

- Children from 8 years of age can be accommodated provided they are good riders, with parental consent and a good riding level.
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 Icelandic tour leader
2 - 4 poeple in charge of the free running herd
English speaking tour leader from your arrival in Reykjavik

LOGISTICS

1 cook
1 support vehicle and driver
2-3 horses equipped with saddle and bridle per rider

ACCOMMODATION

Double to four-bed rooms in a farm house

MEALS

Full board from dinner on arrival to lunch on departure

EXTRAS

First aid kit
Entrance fee for Secret Lagoon

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Beverages and personal extras
Special diet supplement - please see "Dates&Prices"

TRANSPORT

Return airport transfers (FlyBus shuttle)
International flights

EXTRA

Tips to the local team

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

EXTRAS

Additional night in Reykjavík, ask us for more information

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

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

Guide & local team

For many years now, Gestur, Margrét and their 2 sons, Thordur and Egill, have become known for leading magnificent and thoroughly engaging trail rides throughout Landmannalauger and the hot spring area of Giyser. Their horses are well-trained, good-natured and sure-footed; it's always difficult to say goodbye to them at the end of the trip!

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

Riders should be at ease at all 3 paces across uneven terrain and be able to withstand long stretches ridden at a tölt (a smooth 4-beat gait that allows for a comfortable fast-paced ride) or trot.

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

PACE

A good level of endurance is needed for this ride with its progressive increase in pace. For the ride's beginning stages you will ride without the free running herd to allow for greater flexibility of pace. In the final sections of the ride, you will travel as a single herd with the free running horses dictating the ride's rhythm. You will experience the tölt, which is fast and very comfortable. Over the more difficult terrain, the pace will be either at a walk or trot.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

Everyone assists with grooming, tacking and un-tacking of the horses. The whole group gets involved in meal preparation.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

A good physical condition is needed for the 5 days in the saddle over often riocky and uneven terrain. There are some long hours in the saddle (5-8 hours) and the terrain can be rough. The weather can also be unpredictable.

Experience of riding a trail over several days would be an advantage but is not essential. Riders who do not ride regularly would need to get back into the saddle before joining this ride.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

Comfortable Icelandic saddles with saddle bags.

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.

You will be provided with a raincoat but should still bring your own warm coat to wear underneath.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

On this holiday you will stay in Kálfhóll farm.

There are double to quadruple rooms available. Toilets and showers are available.

While phone coverage at the farm can be limited, Wifi is usually available.

Please understand that accommodation in Iceland is usually basic, with little privacy, small rooms and limited showers.

MEALS

Lunches are simple picnics; dinners are generous and hearty (fish or lamb, usually). You prepare your own picnic lunch at breakfast time.

Alcoholic beverages are not included in the 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 requests can usually be accommodated if mentioned in advance - please inform your travel advisor upon booking.
Please keep in mind that there aren't many products available for vegan/gluten-free diets in Iceland, so you may benefit from bringing your own.

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 temperature is between 10-12°c but can be as low as 5°c and as high as 25°c. Snowfall is rare, but the weather is highly changeable due to the meeting of the polar winds from Greenland and a warmer front of tropical origin. You should therefore prepare for both sun and rain by dressing in layers. In September the nights can become colder with temperatures falling below 0°c.

TIPS

Tips are always welcome, but they are not obligatory. If you are happy with the service provided by the local guides and the support drivers, it is at your discretion to provide a tip in line with the standard of living in Iceland.

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)

Please visit the Icelandic veterinary authority website to learn more.
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Please pack carefully and sensibly: the following guide is here to give you an idea of what to bring. This list must be adapted depending on the season and individual needs. If possible, please opt for a soft bag instead of hard shell suitcase.

Head
- A riding helmet is compulsory and we recommend that you take your own to ensure a correct fit.
- A flyhat to wear over your helmet may be a good idea in the summer months, when flies can be be an issue
- 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 elements
- 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
- Waterproof jacket

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.
- 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. It is recommended your boots are waterproof as you may be crossing rivers and they can get wet.
- Sandals/flip-flops
- Several pairs of warm socks
- Gloves

Nightwear
- Slippers (you will have to remove your shoes inside the accommodation)
- Eye mask

Other useful items
- Towel
- Fly net against bugs
- Swimsuit
- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding
- Wet Wipes or equivalent (for when washing facilities aren't available)
- Ear plugs (for light sleepers)

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

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.
- 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!
- Carry a copy of your passport and insurance documentation with you.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

1. **Travel light.** It's a little known fact, but the lighter you pack, the better for the environment as heavy bags will produce higher emissions (when

flying a plane or driving a car!).

2. **Reduce plastic waste.** Take your favorite reusable bottle with you. Avoid single-use bags, cups, or straws.
3. **Preserve nature.** Always take your rubbish with you during the ride and recycle them. Leave all the flowers or plants as you found them, and never get too close when observing wildlife. Make sure to use eco-friendly products such as body wash or laundry detergent (if camping) to protect both your skin and the environment.
4. **Choose your experiences carefully.** Respect animal life by not participating in any activities that abuse wild animals (shows, elephant rides, etc.).
5. **Support local populations.** Buy local handicrafts, be respectful of customs, and learn about the culture of local communities.
6. **Share!** Raise awareness among your family and friends about sustainable tourism.

For more information please see this page .