**Exploring Iceland on Horseback**

**Landmannalaugar Expedition**

**Behind the mountains**

**Dates 2017**

**Tour C August 21 – 26 (6 days / 5 riding days)**

Please note that this tour can also be booked as a longer version!

Tour A August 15 – 26 (12 days / 11 riding days)

Join us and our new partner, the well known horse breeders and trainers Kiddi and Birna on a 6 days tour to the fabulous area of Landmannalaugar and Fjallabak. We travel in the traditional style with a large herd of free running horses and stay overnight in rustic mountain huts. We ride into the stunning Fjallabak (“behind the mountains“) area. We couldn´t possibly think of a more wonderful area for riding than the wonderful tracks through huge lavafields and colourful rhyolite mountains with breathtaking views. We will spend the whole day hiking and bathing in the famous Landmannalaugar valley with its colourful liparit (rhyolite) mountains and naturally hot bathing spring. Let´s discover the new black lavafields of Laugahraun and the blue Peak of Mt. Bláhnjúkur with terrific views of this incredible mountain reserve.

This tour is only recommended for experienced riders that are capable and happy to ride for 6-9 hours/20 - 55 km a day. You should feel comfortable riding in all gaits over rough terrain and be willing to follow the speed of the free running herd. Join us on this thrilling ride on wonderfull soft tölting horses. Probably a little bit of heaven for every horse mad person to be able to travel on horseback through this stunning area with fellow Icelandic and international riders!

**Type:**   Multi days tour with a free running herd
**Duration:**  6 days/5 riding days – please note that this tour can also be booked as a longer 12 day version.
**Level of expertise required:** ONLY experienced riders in good physical shape.
**Area:**  South Iceland
**Accommodation:**  Mostly sleepingbag accommodation in rustic mountain huts. 1 night in hotel room with private facilities. The accommodation in Reykjavik is not included but can be arranged.

**Meals:** Full board during the ride starting/ending with lunch/picnic lunch on the first and last day.

**Max:** 14 guests (Min. 6 guests)

**Guide:** English speaking. Other languages may be on offer upon request.

**Group:** International

**Maximum Weight:** 110 kg

**Detailed itinerary**

**Group C: 6 days/5 riding days: August 21 – 26**

**Day 1: 21.08 – Monday: Spending the whole day at Landmannalaugar! Hiking & Relaxing!**

Departure at 7:30 am from the BSI bus terminal in Reykjavík. Pick up at your acccommodation in Reykajvík can be arranged between 7:00 and 7:30. Please be ready at the earliest pick up time. By bus we will go to the famous Landmannalaugar area to meet your fellow riders. We will spend the whole day to explore this magnificient area without any time rush. Enjoy walking through the narrow black lava field – to remote mountain sites places where only our feet will take us! The multicouloured mountains around us set a magical background. Afterwards we will enjoy a sumptous lunch on site and enjoy the bath in the hot river - truly an once- in – a – lifetime experience. In the early evening we drive to our hut for a wonderful dinner and overnight in Landmannahellir.

**Accommodation: Landmannahellir mountain hut. Sleepingbag accommodation. Shower on site.**

**Day 2: 22.08 – Tuesday: Landmannahellir – Hungurfit**

Today we set off into the mountains again, to the beautiful Reykjadalur valley with lots of geothermal activity such as hot springs, small geysirs and colourful mountains. We will ride past Lake Álftavatn and Laufafell Mountain. This mystical trail ends tonight at Hungurfit hut where we will spend the night in a cozy mountain cottage (riding distance ca. 40 km).

**Accommodation: Hungurfit mountain cabin for 2 nights. Sleepingbag accommodation in rustic mountain hut.**

**Day 3: 23.08. – Wednesday: Around Lake Álftavatn**

Álftavatn lake is a popular stop on the Laugavegur Hiking Route. The deep lake is nestled into a deep mountain valley. As the name says, the lake is famous for its whooper swan population. In the past, whooper swans were hunted there, but after the tragic drowning accident of the farmer in 1838, the hunt was abandoned. Today the swan population has grown to new heights and we will surely enjoy the view of these graceful birds! We will be riding on narrow tracks around the lake and along Mt. Torfatindur to the narrow gorge Torfahlaup. Legend has it that a lad named Torfi, jumped over it carrying his sweetheart on his back, to escape from her furious family, who wanted him killed. Love overcomes all obstacles!

**Day 4: 24.08. – Thursday: Hungurfit – Foss**

Enjoy the black lava fields and the great riding tracks allowing for a fast tölt as the horses start to smell their home! It is a mystical scenery which eludes of elves, trolls and outlaw - yet again so different from the rhyolite mountains and barren moonlike nature of the previous days. Overnight at cozy mountain hut Foss underneath the slopes of beautiful sharp ridged mountain Þríhyrningur.

**Accommodation: Foss farm. Sleepingbag accommodation in 4-8 bedded rooms**

**Day 5: 25.08. – Friday: Foss - Goðaland**

Today will be another great riding day and prepare to ride fast today as we come down from the mountains into the lowlands of Landeyjar area. We have a wonderfull views of the huge glaciers Eyjafjallajökull and Tindfjallajökull. Fantastic riding trails as we pass one of the oldest „forest“ in Iceland, Tumastaðaskógur in Fljóthslíð. We leave our horses at Goðaland communtiy center, the riders take a short drive to Hótel Fljótshlíð for their last night.

**Accommodation at Hotel in Fljótshlíð: Made up beds in double rooms with private facilities**.

**Day 6: 26.08. - Saturday:  Goðaland – Seljalandsfoss -Bjarkarland - Rkv**

Today is our last day. We ride in the beautiful Fljótshlíð farming area and over the old brigde across Markarfljót glacial river and towards the famous walk – behind Seljalandsfoss waterfall. From the waterfall we ride to the farm, Bjarkarland where we say good bye to our horses and fellow riders and drive by bus back to Reykjavik. We are more than happy to arrange your stay in Reykjavík before and after the tour!

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.

**Please make sure you also read our Useful information!**

<http://www.exploringiceland.is/useful-information-about-riding-tours.html>

**Included Tour C: August 21 – 26 (6 days / 5 riding days)**

* Transfer from/to Reykjavík on first day and last day. All transfers during the tour.
* 1 night in double rooms with private facilities.
* 4 nights in sleeping bag accommodation in mountain huts during the tour.
* Full pension during the tour starting with picnic lunch on the first day and ending with picnic lunch on the last day.
* 5 x riding days according to programme.
* Landmannalaugar fee.
* English speaking guide. Other languages may be on offer upon request.

**Price per person: Please see separate pricelist!**

**Horseback Riding in Iceland is a thrilling adventure not be beaten by anything!**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU IN THE SADDLE!**

Your Exploring Iceland Team

