



Glacier Trail

Maximum weight: 95 kg

Nearest airport: Reykjavik

Duration: 6 days / 5 nights / 5 days riding



This unique ride explores the legendary Þórsmörk Valley, framed by glaciers, volcanic ridges and braided rivers, following ancient trails once travelled by Icelandic riders. Along the way, you'll ride with a free-running herd of Icelandic horses. The horses here are sure-footed, charismatic companions and you'll ride several each day.

The grand finale? A coastal ride along soft black lava sands where the river Ölfusá meets the sea - giving you breathtaking views, wide-open horizons and unforgettable beach gallops that showcase Iceland's rugged contrasts like nowhere else.

This ride takes you through some of South Iceland's most varied and striking landscapes, from the lush, sheltered valley of Þórsmörk to wide coastal plains and black sand beaches. Riding days are full but well paced, with a mix of steady trail riding, river crossings and open stretches where you can enjoy long, flowing tölts and canters. The route follows historic riding paths through volcanic terrain, glacial rivers and farmland, before finishing with a

memorable ride along the coast where land, river and sea meet. Ride one of the friendly and willing Icelandic horses in its natural environment. Every rider gets the chance to try 2 or 3 different horses each day. You'll be covering almost 100 km over the course of the 4 days with between 4-6 hours riding per day.

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The Riding

This tour includes riding with a herd of free-running horses, offering a truly authentic experience.

Discover the Icelandic horse in its natural environment, far from civilization, and experience how Icelanders once travelled with multiple horses. Each rider has the opportunity to ride 2 to 3 different horses per day, helping to develop riding skills.

In Iceland, you will mainly ride in **tölt**, a smooth and extremely comfortable gait, somewhere between a trot and a canter.

Riders must be able to mount independently (on relatively small horses), and wearing a riding helmet is mandatory.

Level & Fitness

This tour requires basic riding experience, a secure and balanced seat, and a good level of fitness.

You may ride up to **45 km per day**, often at a steady pace, especially when accompanying the free-running herd.

Guides & Group

You will be accompanied by professional guides who will teach you how to ride Icelandic horses and help you get used to their unique gait, the tölt.

Groups can include up to **20 riders**

The Horses

During this trip, you will ride **Icelandic horses**, a breed known for its strength, endurance, and courage—perfectly suited to Iceland's challenging terrain and changing weather conditions.

The horses are locally bred and live naturally in herds across vast open landscapes.

They are ridden in traditional Icelandic tack. Saddles are similar to dressage saddles, with a relatively flat seat. The riding style is close to English riding, though with slightly longer stirrups.

Accommodation & Meals

Accommodation is in a mix of comfortable countryside hotels, guesthouses and mountain lodges along the route, chosen for their location and practicality rather than luxury. In the Thórsmörk area, you stay in a simple but atmospheric mountain lodge surrounded by glaciers and rugged highland scenery. Further along the route, accommodation is in welcoming rural guesthouses and hotels with proper beds, heating and shared or private bathrooms depending on the night. While standards vary, all accommodation is clean, warm and well suited to riders, offering a relaxed, social atmosphere and the chance to experience Iceland's countryside away from tourist centres.

Meals are hearty and well adapted to long days on horseback. Breakfasts are served at your accommodation and typically include bread, cereals, dairy products and hot drinks to set you up for the day. Lunches are provided en route and may be packed lunches or simple meals taken at lodges or designated stopping points along the trail. Evening meals are hot, filling and enjoyed at the accommodation, often featuring Icelandic staples such as lamb, fish, potatoes and seasonal vegetables. Vegetarian options are available when requested in advance. Portions are generous, and the focus is on comfort, warmth and refuelling rather than fine dining — exactly what riders appreciate after full days in the saddle.

Full board is included starting with dinner on arrival day and ending with lunch on the last riding day. Dinner is traditional Icelandic home cooking, stews and casseroles are common and ingredients are locally sourced with an emphasis on fresh produce. Lunch is either a picnic packed in your saddle bags or the cook meets the group. Allergies or special dietary requirements can be catered for with advance notice.

Itinerary

Day 1

Your adventure begins this evening in Reykjavík. Riders arriving today should take the Flybus from Keflavík Airport to the BSÍ bus station in Reykjavík. Between 17:30–18:00, Eldhestar will meet you either at the bus station or your hotel/guesthouse and transfer you to the farm at Vellir near Hveragerði. Settling into your guesthouse, you'll enjoy a welcome dinner together and receive a detailed briefing about the days ahead — a great chance to meet your guides and fellow riders before tomorrow's first day in the saddle.

Day 2

After breakfast, the group transfers by bus to the farm Torfastaðir in Fljótshlíð, where the riding officially begins. Today's ride takes you from the farm across wide plains along the ancient riverbanks of the Markarfljót with expansive views of hills, mountains and distant

glaciers. You'll pass the striking rock Dímon — steeped in saga history — and cross the old river bridge before arriving at the farm Stóra-Mörk / Ásgarður for your first night on the trail. Today's ride covers approximately 22-25 km over about 4 hours in the saddle.

Day 3

Today you ride deeper into the wild heart of Iceland. Following the Markarfljót River toward the legendary Thórsmörk Valley, you ride across soft ash-covered ground shaped by the famous Eyjafjallajökull eruption of 2010. Expect multiple river crossings and varied terrain as you continue along the banks of the glacial Krossá River. Surrounded on three sides by glaciers — Eyjafjallajökull, Tindafjallajökull and Mýrdalsjökull — Thórsmörk's dramatic landscape and rich vegetation welcome you for the night at the mountain hut Básar, tucked within the valley's majestic setting. Riding today is approximately 25 km and 5–6 hours.

Day 4

This morning begins with a short ride to see the “Elves Church”, a unique volcanic formation, followed by a visit to the magnificent Stakkholtsgjá canyon — one of the region's unmissable sights. From there you retrace part of yesterday's trail back out of the valley, cross heathland at Hamragarðaheiði, and return to the familiar riverside trails toward Stóra-Mörk / Ásgarður. This is one of the longer days of riding at around 30 km and about 6 hours in the saddle.

Day 5

Today's ride takes you away from the high country and toward farmland, following pleasant trails along the Markarfljót and through rolling green hills of Fljótshlíð. You pass the historic farm Hlíðarendi, home of the saga hero Gunnar of Hlíðarendi, before arriving back at Torfastaðir. After about 25 km of riding (4-5 hours), you're driven back to Vellir for your final night on the farm and a chance to unwind.

Day 6

On the final riding day, you set out toward the south coast, following a scenic stretch of soft black lava sand beach where the mighty glacial river Ölfusá meets the North Atlantic Ocean. You ride along the beach, across shallow river channels, and over grassy river banks and meadows toward the farmland near Vellir. Along the way you'll have ample opportunity to enjoy the distinctive tölt on open, beautiful trails with views of volcanic peaks in the distance. Riding covers roughly 25 km over 5-6 hours. After a stop at the farm, you're transferred back to Reykjavík, arriving in the early evening (around 17:30) and marking the end of the tour.

Flights & Transfers

Do not book flights until you have received the Booking confirmation email from saddletravel.com

- Arrival airport: Reykjavik (RKV)
- Arrival time: By 15h30

- Departure time: After 19h30 or add an extra night in Reykjavik
- Transfer arrangements: You will be collected from the meeting point in Reykjavik at 17.30 on day 1

Included

- 5 days riding
- Accommodation in Guesthouse Eldhestar (2-4 beds per shared room with shared facilities) and in sleeping-bag accommodation (cottages and simple mountain huts with bunk beds shared rooms).
- Meals from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 6
- Tea, coffee, water
- Luggage transport
- Return transfer from Reykjavik at set times

Not Included

- Airport transfers
- International flights
- Alcoholic drinks
- Icelandic Lodging Tax of 666,-ISK per room per night which is approximately £5 per night.

Health & Travel Info

Consult your doctor at least 8 weeks before departure.

Practical Information

- Currency: Icelandic Krona (ISK)
- No tips expected
- No cash needed during the ride

Booking Conditions

- 20% non-refundable deposit
- Balance due 56 days before departure

Cancellation policy:

- 42+ days: 50% refund
- 30+ days: 30% refund
- Less than 30 days: no refund

Insurance

Travel insurance covering horse riding and trip cancellation is **mandatory**.

Rider's declaration

'I declare that I am an experienced rider, able to mount and dismount without assistance. I have a good seat and am confident and in control at all gaits (including collected trot, balanced canter and fast canter), and am physically fit to ride. I do not suffer from any disability or illness that could affect my safety or the safety of others.'

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