

Riding in Iceland with **Eldhestar**



RIDING TOURS

2023

Greatest Variety of Horse Riding Tours just outside Reykjavik



The Icelandic horse – the key to Icelandic nature, culture and history

The Icelandic horse arrived with the first settlers from Scandinavia in the 9th century and has played a vital role in Icelandic history and culture for centuries. This horse breed can master five gaits rather than just the usual three and is best known for the tölt, a special gait which is very smooth and comfortable for the rider.

Its lively temperament and friendly personality are amazing, and it is incredibly strong and sure-footed, allowing even beginners to feel safe and experience the soft tölt.



WELCOME TO ELDHESTAR - VOLCANO HORSES

This is Eldhestar's farm Vellir, where we have developed our activities since 1986 to combine pleasure, comfort and adventure in a way respecting nature.

Our farm is situated in the heart of Iceland's south-western countryside along Road No. 1, only 30 minutes' drive from Reykjavik. The unique location between volcanic mountains, rivers and the ocean enables our guests to experience diverse and fascinating nature. The area around the volcano Hengill with its beautiful valleys, hot springs and the chance to bath in natural warm water is the origin of our name: Volcano horses – Eldhestar in Icelandic.

Our guests can relax in a beautiful and peaceful environment, get to know fascinating nature with the Icelandic horses during the day and enjoy fine accommodations, food and drink in a cosy atmosphere in the evenings.

We emphasize personal service, safety and an environmentally friendly operation. Eldhestar is participant in VAKINN, Iceland tourism's official quality and safety label.

ELDHESTAR RIDING TOURS

We offer a variety of riding tours for inexperienced as well as experienced riders, for individuals and groups, all year round. We have up to 350 horses at our farm in the summer and 60-100 in the winter. We do our best to find the ideal horse for everyone. Most of our **half day tours, day tours and combo tours** are suited for all levels.

The **shorter tours** (2-5 days riding) provide further insight into the history and landscape of Iceland and take our guests to the most beautiful places in southwest Iceland.

On Eldhestar's **longer and wilderness tours** (5-7 days riding) participants experience the diversity of the Icelandic horse and try many different horses during the tour, which develops riding skills. We ride with a herd of free running horses just as Icelanders have travelled for centuries, an unforgettable experience!

Eldhestar provides helmets, rain gear and warm winter overalls, we recommend wearing sturdy shoes and gloves. The riding tours are subject to weather conditions and can be changed.

Our show- and competition horses are available for experienced riders wishing to enjoy a tour with a spirited tölter, please contact us.



In 2011 Hotel Eldhestar won both the environmental award issued by the Tourist Board of Iceland and the Municipality of Ölfus.



Welcome to Hotel Eldhestar

Hotel Eldhestar is a cozy countryside hotel with a luxurious atmosphere. It features 37 spacious rooms, a warm, light-filled restaurant and traditional hot tubs to relax in at the end of the day. The hotel's interior is inspired by the colors and materials found in Icelandic nature, genuine craftsmanship and age-old traditions. It was built in accordance with ecological guidelines and is the first lodging in Iceland to be awarded the Nordic Swan Ecolabel.

Our hotel is situated in the heart of Iceland's south-western countryside along Road No. 1, about a 30 minutes' drive from Reykjavik. The unique location between volcanic mountains, rivers and the ocean enables our guests to experience diverse nature and gorgeous scenery. The area around the volcano Hengill with its beautiful valleys and hot springs inspired our name: Eldhestar = Volcano Horses.

NORTHERN LIGHTS AT HOTEL ELDESTAR

Since Hotel Eldhestar is a small countryside hotel, it is the ideal destination for those who want to experience the Northern Lights. Light pollution is minimal, and guests can often see this natural phenomenon on the site. All rooms have a door to the garden, so it is just to open the door and enjoy the moment, without much effort. We offer a Northern-Light wake-up service if hotel staff observes the Northern Lights.

HOTEL ELDESTAR AS AN ATTRACTIVE CONFERENCE LOCATION

Hotel Eldhestar is suitable for all who want to experience relaxation, tranquillity and recreation in a beautiful environment. Our calm and scenic location, close to Reykjavik and the international airport, is ideally suited to host your meetings, seminars and conferences. Surrounded by inspiring, peaceful nature, you will find the privacy and isolation required for the concentration and creativity.



Restaurant and Hot Tubs on place!

www.hoteleldhestar.is

Groups / Activities

We organise tailor-made tours for your group – please contact us with your ideas!

1a COUNTRYSIDE CHARM

This tour in the Icelandic countryside takes one hour and gives a small taste of the Icelandic horse's qualities. The tour is ideal for guests travelling by car or groups. We follow gentle riding paths along the meadows around our farm Vellir. Children under the age of 7 can be led by one of Eldhestar's guides. Available at 13:30 & 14:45. **Other times on request.**
Free pick-up from Reykjavik for 8 persons or more!

1c PHOTO TOUR

30 min riding / All year round / Only for groups.

Here, you tour in the vicinity of our farm as well as ride to Varmá River. We emphasise good photo opportunities for the riders and getting nice pictures of them and the group as a whole. **Offered on request.**



Eldhestar's Horse Show and Barn Visit are offered for groups all year round - reservation is required.

HORSE SHOW

Every breed of horse is the direct result of the needs and desires of the culture that has created it! Over the last millenium, the Icelandic horse has been a mainstay of Iceland – as both a work and transportation asset. Eldhestar's horse show presents the Icelandic horse's historic role as well as its unique qualities as a riding horse for everyone. **Refreshments are also available.**

BARN VISIT

Eldhestar offers a short live presentation on the Icelandic horse. One rider describes all the basic information about the Icelandic horse, while riding and demonstrating its unique qualities as a riding horse and a family horse. Afterwards, you are welcome to look around our newly built stable. **Refreshments are also available.**





Half-Day Tours

Most of our half-day tours are operated with daily departures and are suited for all skill.

More detailed information online at www.eldhestar.is/half-day-tours

INCLUDED IN ALL OUR HALF-DAY TOURS



Riding Time: 1 - 3 hours.
Pick-up: In Reykjavik Tour **2a-3c** every day at 8:00-8:30. Tour **2a & 2b** also pick up at 13:00-13:20. Pick up in Hafnarfjörður, Mosfellsbær, Kópavogur and Seltjarnarnes starts at 7:45.
Meeting time at Eldhestar: At 9:00, Tour 2a & 2b also at 13:45.
Return to Reykjavik: Around 13:00, afternoon tours around 17:15.

2a THE HERITAGE TOUR

BEST SELLER!

Explore Icelandic farmland. This tour takes us through meadows, across a lava field and a small river. On our way we pass several farms and have a good opportunity to try the special gait "tölt" on nice riding trails. At the end of the tour you are invited for coffee and home-baked cake.

Riding Time: 1.5 - 2 hours.

2b THE SIGGI TOUR

On this tour we offer the best riding routes available each time. Depending on weather and wind, we ride in the scenic surroundings of our farm, the river Varmá and through a lava field area, ending by riding on good riding paths in the meadows south of our farm.

Riding Time: 1.5 - 2 hours.

2c SPECIALITY OF THE SEASON

Thorablót: January - February (Traditional exotic Icelandic food).

Autumn Leaves: October - December & March - April. (Icelandic smoked lamb).

Riding Time: 1.5 - 2 hours.



2d MIDWINTER WARMTH

October - April

After one hour on horseback, riders can soften up and relax in Hveragerði's swimming pool and steam sauna. Light lunch included.

Riding Time: 1 hour.

2e ELFIN TOUR

Elves are important creatures in Iceland. On this tour we see some places populated by these hidden people. Light lunch included.

Riding Time: 1.5 - 2 hours.

2g ICELANDIC DIVERSITY

Fish soup all year round

Get in touch with Icelandic nature on horseback and taste the treasures of the nearby sea.

Riding Time: 1.5 - 2 hours.

3a MEADOWS & MOUNTAINS

We start in soft meadows. Then we follow an old Viking route along the slopes of Mountain Reykjafjall with nice views of the landscape between the ocean and the volcanic mountains surrounding the village Hveragerði.

Riding Time: 2.5 - 3 hours.

3b SOFT RIVER BANKS

This is a tour for experienced riders who would like to ride in an extraordinary environment and enjoy a brisk ride on one of our spirited horses. We tölt along Gljúfurá River to an old cemetery along the Ölfusá River banks.

Riding Time: 2.5 - 3 hours.

3c HORSES & HOT SPRINGS

BEST SELLER!

Experience a variety of scenery and excellent riding trails! We ride along mountain slopes and through a forest to a colourful geothermal area with many hot springs. We continue above the village of Hveragerði and learn more about the Icelandic horse.

Riding Time: 2.5 - 3 hours.

Combo Tours

Experience a great combination of horseback riding and exciting activities. Eldhestar will pick you up for a half-day tour, suited for all levels. You spend the morning or afternoon with the activity of your choice, offered by our partner agencies. More detailed information online at www.eldhestar.is/combo-tours

INCLUDED IN COMBO TOURS



Riding Time: 1.5 - 2 hours.
Pick-up: In Reykjavik Tour **4b-4f** at 8:00-8:30, Tour **4a** at 13:00. Pick up in Hafnarfjörður, Mosfellsbær, Kópavogur and Seltjarnarnes starts at 7:45.
Meeting time at Eldhestar: At 9:00.
Light Lunch at Hotel Eldhestar (soup and bread etc.), not incl. in tour 4a.

4a BIKE & RIDE



May 15 - October 15

Enjoy an active day, starting at the harbor in Reykjavik with a guided bike tour to the most popular sights. Eldhestar then picks you up for an afternoon riding tour, followed by coffee and cake.

Meeting point: Reykjavik Bike Tours, Ægisgarður 7, at 9.45 am.

Biking Time 2.5 hours (ca. 7 km), lunch not incl.

Return to Reykjavik around 17.15.

4c RIDING & RAFTING



May 15 - September 15

This tour offers an adventurous day that combines riding and rafting in the Hvítá river. Return to Reykjavik around 20:00. Minimum age 11 years.



4f HORSES & PUFFINS

May 1 - August 20

Enjoy a day with Iceland's most charismatic animals, starting with horse riding to places populated by elves in the morning and puffin watching on a 1 hour boat tour in the afternoon.

Return to Reykjavik around 16:00.

4b THE SEA HORSE



All year round

On this tour you have the chance to meet two big beautiful animals on the same day, the horse and the whale!

Return to Reykjavik around 17:00.



4d RIDING & GULLFOSS, GEYSIR & THINGVELLIR

All year round

Combine riding with the most famous attractions in South Iceland - Gullfoss waterfall, Geysir and the Thingvellir National Park.

Return to Reykjavik around 18:00.





The Valley Reykjadalur – A Hidden Paradise!



Day Tours

We offer day tours suited for all levels, all year round. During the winter season we warm up with lunch at our hotel.

More detailed information online at www.eldhestar.is/day-tours

5a THE HOT SPRINGS TOUR TO REYKJADALUR VALLEY

May 20 – September 15

Views and Volcanoes
BEST SELLER

This tour gives a unique opportunity to experience the variety of magnificent Icelandic nature and offers spectacular views. The horses take us on a scenic mountain trail into Reykjadalur valley, where we will see hot springs and also take a relaxing bath in a warm stream. On our way back we can enjoy spectacular panoramas all the way down to the coastline, weather permitting.

Riding Time: 5 - 6 hours.
Bring swimsuit and towel.

5b BELOW THE MOUNTAINS

All year round

Discover the beautiful landscape opening up between the mountains and the sea in southern Iceland. We ride along rivers and down to the soft black banks of the mighty river Ölfusá. After the lunchbreak we continue towards the mountains and along an old Viking trail back to our farm.

Riding Time: 5 - 6 hours.

INCLUDED IN ALL OUR DAY TOURS

Riding Time: 1.5 - 6 hours with stops. **Pick-up:** In Reykjavík every day at 8:00-8:30.

Pick up in Hafnarfjörður, Mosfellsbær, Kópavogur and Seltjarnarnes starts at 7:45.

Meeting time at Eldhestar: At 9:00. **Return to Reykjavík:** Around 17:15.

Light lunch or lunch box, refreshments.

Note: Day tours 5a-6a are for everyone, but participants should be in good physical condition and be able to mount a horse with little assistance.



5c RIDING & RELAXATION

All year round

Spend a relaxed day in the countryside. We ride half a day on nice trails through meadows and along mountain slopes. After lunch you relax in Hveragerði's excellent swimming pool and steam sauna.

Riding Time: 2.5 - 3 hours.
Bring swimsuit and towel.

5d RIDING & HIKING IN THE REYKJADALUR VALLEY

All year round

Enjoy a morning ride in the meadows around our farm followed by a hiking tour in the beautiful Reykjadalur geothermal valley offering bathing in a warm river. Easy hike in amazing nature, about 2 hours.

Riding Time: 1.5 - 2 hours.
Bring swimsuit and towel.

6a THE BEACH RIDE

May 15 – September 15. **Min. 4 pers.**

Experience the extraordinary, the volcanic beach, the river banks and islands of the Ölfusá delta. We ride on soft black lava sand and in the beautiful area where the glacial river meets the sea in a large delta, through shallow water and on grassy river banks along wetlands and meadows with many birds.

Riding Time: 4.5 - 5.5 hours.

6c THE VALLEY OF HORSES - MARARDALUR

NEW!

June 1 – September 15

Only for experienced riders!

The Valley of Horses – Marardalur has been one of our most popular stops on our trip around the Volcano Hengill Area. The valley is surrounded by special formed cliff walls, but the bottom is flat and grassy. Previously, the Valley of Horses was used as a storage site for cattle. A unique place to visit, beautiful views and very good riding trails. This tour is for the experience rider. Minimum number of participants are 3 people.

Riding Time: 5 - 6 hours incl. stops.



Shorter Tours

Our shorter tours (2-5 days) are ideal for guests wishing to combine horse trekking with other activities in Iceland.

More detailed information online at www.eldhestar.is/shorter-tours



INCLUDED IN SHORTER TOURS

Pick-up in Reykjavík: 17:30 - 18:00

Riding Time: 4 - 6 hours per day with stops.

Tour 7, 8, 9: Hotel accommodations (double room) or guesthouse accommodations (2-4 bed rooms).

Tour 10, 11, 12: Accommodations in guesthouses and mountain huts (sleeping bag).

7 VOLCANO CONTRASTS – Hot Springs, Rivers and Broad Meadows

All year round

This is a two-day tour in the diverse area around our farm. We overnight at Hótel Eldhestar, a nearby hotel or at Guesthouse Eldhestar and discover the striking contrasts of Icelandic nature on horseback. It gives you a taste of both the magnificent landscape and good riding terrain. We also have an opportunity to bathe in geothermal water. In the wintertime the tour is adjusted so we can enjoy a warm lunch at our hotel, i.e. we are offering two half-day tours during on the riding days.

Duration: 2 nights – 2 days riding - 38 km.

Departures: Every day.

*Hotel Accommodations (tour 7H) or Guesthouse Accommodations (tour 7 G).
Bring swimsuit and towel.*

8a NATURES TREASURES & RIDER'S PLEASURES – Horses and Comfort

8b *All year round*

This tour offers many experiences on 3 or 4 days. You stay at Hótel Eldhestar and/or a nearby hotel. We ride in the area around the volcano Hengill, where we discover the amazing contrasts of Icelandic nature in exciting day tours – from the fast-flowing, glacial waters of Ölfusá-river to the hot, geothermal streams of Reykjadalur. At the end of each day, you can enjoy a soak in the hot pot, a good dinner and comfortable accommodations.

In the wintertime we offer this tour with hotel- or guesthouse accommodations. The winter program includes various half-day riding tours and 1-2 half-day sightseeing tours.
Bring swimsuit and towel.

SUMMER

Duration: Tour 8aH: 3 nights – 3 days riding - 55 km.
Tour 8bH: 4 nights – 4 days riding - 75 km.
Hotel Accommodations (H).

Departures: May 14 – September 10 every Thursday and Sunday.

WINTER

Duration: Tour 8aH & 8aG: 3 nights – 3 days riding & activities - 34 km.
Tour 8bH & 8bG: 4 nights – 4 days riding & activities - 40 km.
Hotel Accommodations (H) or Guesthouse Accommodations (G).

Departures: January 2 – May 14 and September 16 – December 31 every day.



INCLUDED IN SHORTER TOURS

Pick-up in Reykjavík:

17:30 - 18:00

Riding Time:

4 - 6 hours per day with stops.

Tour 7, 8, 9:

Hotel accommodations (double room) or guesthouse accommodation (2-4 bed rooms).

Tour 10, 11, 12:

Accommodations in guesthouses and mountain huts (sleeping bag).

Tour 9G, 10, 11, 12:

Accommodations in Reykjavík is not included.

More detailed information online at www.eldhestar.is/shorter-tours

8c THE BEST OF ELDHESTAR – Fine Selection of Southwest Iceland

Summer Tour

On this tour our guests enjoy the best day-long parts from Eldhestar's shorter and longer tours in the South-west of Iceland. We visit the Valley of the Horses "Marardalur" from „The Golden Highlights of the South“. We will also experience the Reykjadalur Valley from „ Around the Volcano“. Furthermore we also enjoy "The Beach Ride" and we ride through Thingvellir the National Park, a fascinating place on UNESCO's World Heritage List, from "Thingvellir".

Duration: 4 nights – 4 days riding – 100 km.

Departures: May 28, June 7, 14 and 28, July 13 and 20, August 4 and 22, September 10.

Hotel Accommodations. Bring your swimsuit.

8f ELDHESTAR EXCLUSIVE – Highlights of the South and Southwest

Summer Tour

We have selected the most scenic riding trails in Iceland's south west corner for this new tour where guests enjoy spectacular days on horseback in small groups and the comfort of our hotel. Every morning we take the horses in a trailer to start the tour in a different riding area. You experience the country's most popular riding area and unique "horse villages" on the doorstep of Reykjavík, the soft trails in the beautiful Thjórárdalur Valley, wide open spaces in the highlands and riding on black lava beaches.

Duration: 4 nights – 4 days riding – 85 km.

Departures: May 20, June 10, July 3 and 28, August 15, September 2.

Hotel Accommodations. Bring your swimsuit.

9 AROUND THE VOLCANO – Through Valleys to Hot Springs

Summer Tour

This tour takes you over spectacular lava fields of the volcano Hengill into a fascinating area with amazing volcanic formations, green valleys and hot springs. You will be given information about the unique nature and geology of Iceland, about volcanic eruptions and hot springs, which especially emphasise the landscape you experience during the tour.

Duration: Tour 9H: 3 nights – 3 days riding – 70 km / Tour 9G: 3 nights – 3 days riding – 70 km.

Departures: May 16, 23 and 31, June 30, September 6.

Hotel Accommodations (H) or Guesthouse Accommodations (G).

9a AROUND THE VOLCANO & BEACH RIDE NEW!

Summer Tour

Here we combine our ordinary Around the Volcano Tour and our Beach ride (tour 6a in our program). The last day of riding on this tour will be Beach ride.

Duration: 4 nights – 4 days riding – 90 km.

Departures: May 16, 23 and 31, September 6.

Hotel Accommodations (H) or Guesthouse Accommodations (G).

10 THÓRSMÖRK – The World of Contrasts

Summer Tour

On this tour you experience the variety and beauty of Icelandic nature. We start in the lush district of Fljótshlíð, the setting of one of the Icelandic Sagas. From there we ride into Thórsmörk, one of the most beautiful valleys in Iceland, which is only accessible by crossing glacial rivers. We spend a night surrounded by green forests, volcanic mountains and glaciers before continuing along the foot of Eyjafjallajökull volcano. We also visit the impressive canyon Stakkholtsgjá and stop at Seljalandsfoss waterfall.

Duration: 4 nights – 4 days riding - 90 km.

Departures: May 27, June 6 and 18, July 6, 16 and 24, August 8, 16 and 26, September 3.

Sleeping Bag Accommodations.

10a THÓRSMÖRK & BEACH RIDE

On this tour you experience even more variety and beauty in the Icelandic nature. Here we combine our ordinary Thórsmörk tour and our Beach ride (tour 6a in our program). The last day of riding on this tour will be Beach ride.

Duration: 5 nights – 5 days riding - 112 km.

Departures: May 27, June 6 and 18, July 6, 16 and 24, August 8, 16 and 26, September 3.

Sleeping Bag Accommodations.

11 KRÝSUVÍK & THE BLUE LAGOON

– Beaches, Green Meadows and a Steaming Moonlike Landscape

Summer Tour

This tour offers magnificent views, first over South Iceland and glaciers, then over Reykjanes, Reykjavík, and all the way to Snæfellsnes. We start riding along the delta of the river Ölfusá, visit the mythic Strandarkirkja Church and ride on the beach before continuing to Krýsuvík, a colourful hot spring area which contrasts sharply to the volcanic sand and lava fields. On the tour we visit the Blue Lagoon, where we have the opportunity to relax in the soothing geothermal waters.

Duration: 4 nights – 4 days riding – 100 km.

Departures: June 24, August 11.

Sleeping Bag Accommodations. Bring your swimsuit.

12 THINGVELLIR & LAKE THINGVALLAVATN – A Deep Dip into History

Summer Tour

On the way to the ancient site of Iceland's parliament, Thingvellir, we experience one of the volcano Hengill's most beautiful valleys, "The Valley of the Horses" (Marardalur). At Thingvellir National Park, we take a sightseeing tour and continue riding on scenic trails through lava and forests and along the lake shore, ending at a hut in the volcanic mountains. The tour ends with the ride to Reykjadalur Valley, where we can enjoy a dip in a warm river and a nice view over the Ölfus area.

Duration: 5 nights – 5 days riding – 125 km.

Departures: June 8, July 30.

Sleeping Bag Accommodations.



Longer Tours

Our longer tours (13, 14, 15 & 16) include 5-7 days on horseback and some days riding with a herd of free running horses. These tours are for everyone, but participants should be in good physical condition. Every rider is responsible for evaluating their own riding ability and physical condition. If you are not sure, please contact Eldhestar for booking.

More detailed information online at [www.eldhestar.is/longer-tours](http://www.eldhestar.is/)



INCLUDED IN LONGER TOURS

Pick-up in Reykjavik:
17:30 - 18:00.

Riding Time:
4 - 7 hours per day with stops. Sleeping bag accommodations. Accommodations in Reykjavik is not included.

13 THE GOLDEN HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SOUTH – Attractions and Wilderness

This tour takes us to the most popular attractions in South Iceland. We follow paths between lava and volcanic hills to the Valley of the Horses and continue through soft grass to beautiful Lake Thingvallavatn. After a visit to the ancient site Thingvellir, we ride across heathland to the hot springs at Geysir. We proceed to the giant waterfall Gullfoss with Langjökull Glacier in the background, cross lava fields to Thjórsár River and ride through a forest. The tour ends with a ride on soft sand alongside the volcano Hekla.

Duration: 7 nights – 7 days riding - 215 km. **Departures:** from the farm Vellir: June 4, July 3, August 14. **Departures:** from the farm Fellsmúli: August 24.

14 SNÆFELLSNES – Magic and Mystery: Black Lava and White Sand

The Snæfellsnes peninsula in West Iceland is often referred to as “Iceland in a nutshell” because of the diversity in landscape and wide range of colours. We ride through green valleys, across black lava fields, along the blue sea and on the golden beach. We begin outside Borgarnes, cross a river on our way to the old farm Grímsstadir and proceed into the wilderness. After hiking up the crater Eldborg we ride on one of the longest beaches in Iceland, Löngufjörur. The view is panoramic, with the ocean on one side, mountains on the other and the magical Snæfellsjökull Glacier before us.

Duration: 6 nights – 6 days riding - 190 km. **Departures:** July 25, August 2. *The second tour goes in the opposite direction.*

15 THE VOLCANO HEKLA – Mystique and fantastic riding paths

This tour takes us to the colourful area between the famous volcano Hekla and Tindafjallajökull Glacier which is known for amazing nature, shaped by the forces of volcanoes and ice. We ride on excellent, soft riding paths on black sandy ground covered by green grass and through lava fields in a mystic scenery of volcanic formations created through the centuries. On our way we pass beautiful hidden valleys, wide green pastures and mighty rivers. The route also follows an old trail known from the great Viking sagas.

Duration: 5 nights - 5 days riding - 160 km. **Departures:** June 13, July 11, August 7.

16 TREASURES OF BORGARFJÖRÐUR

– Mightiest Hotspring, Famous Saga Sites, Breath-taking Peaks

The fertile district Borgarfjörður in south western Iceland is known for some of Iceland’s most beautiful natural sights, an abundance of hot water from geothermal sources and as the setting of many Icelandic sagas. Starting in the town Borgarnes we ride on good trails in diverse landscape, often crossing rivers and riding along soft river banks. We experience riding in Húsafell forest and on mountain paths between green valleys with stunning views of the surrounding countryside, mighty rivers and glaciers. Borgarfjörður offers many top-notch swimming pools, allowing us to go for a swim every evening. We stay at the Community Center Logaland in the picturesque valley Reykholtisdalur during the whole tour.

Duration: 6 nights – 6 days riding - 185 km. **Departures:** June 28.

Wilderness Tours

The wilderness tours (17, 18, 19 & 20) are recommended only for experienced riders. They are physically challenging and require stamina. We ride with a large herd of free running horses.

More detailed information online at www.eldhestar.is/wilderness-tours



INCLUDED IN WILDERNESS TOURS

Pick-up in Reykjavik:
17:30 - 18:00.

Riding Time:
4 - 9 hours per day with stops. Sleeping bag accommodations. Accommodations in Reykjavik is not included.

17 LANDMANNALAUGAR – Colourful mountains and soft lava sand

The tour starts at Fellsmuli farm close to the volcano Hekla and takes us to Landmannalaugar, a valley in the highlands best known for its colourful rhyolite mountains, extensive lava fields and hot springs that gave the valley its name. We ride over highlands alongside Hekla until we reach Landmannahellir, where farmers kept their sheep in a cave during the round-up in the old days. We follow soft trails to Landmannalaugar, where we can bath in a warm river before heading west towards a mountain pass of exceptional beauty, and a large lake. The tour ends at Fellsmúli farm.

Duration: 6 nights – 6 days riding - 210 km. **Departures:** June 20 and 29, August 1.

18 BETWEEN THE DESERTS – Cold Glaciers and Hot Springs

On this tour we ride in the area between the two highland deserts Kjölur and Sprengisandur, exploring in detail the landscape south of Hofsjökull, the third largest glacier in Iceland. We start the tour along the Hvítá River and visit the famous Gullfoss waterfall before heading north into the wilderness towards the glacier. At the Kerlingarfjöll, the colourful mountains of the “old ladies”, we experience the stunning contrast of glacial ice and hot springs. The tour continues east towards Sprengisandur, down the beautiful canyon Laxárgljúfur where the tour ends.

Duration: 6 nights – 6 days riding - 220 km. **Departures:** July 26.

19 SPRENGISANDUR – Between Glaciers into the Desert Wilderness

We ride along the ancient Sprengisandur route across Iceland, experiencing the fascinating and extreme contrasts of Icelandic landscape. In the South, we ride on soft green paths along the banks of Thjórsá River. The spectacular, barren wilderness emerges as we follow the sand and rock plains between the glaciers Vatnajökull and Hofsjökull. We stop at a hot spring to relax in geothermal water, a sharp contrast to this scenery, and pass Arnarfell Mountain, Iceland’s geographical centre. The tour takes us until the bottom of Eyjafjörður Fjord in the North Iceland.

Duration: 6 nights – 6 days riding - 260 km. **Departures:** July 9 and 18. *The first tour starts in the south, the second in the north.*

20 KJÖLUR – Varied Wilderness Up Close

The Kjölur route is an ancient riding trail, intimately associated with many dramatic events in Icelandic history. We visit the popular attractions of Gullfoss and Geysir as well as uninhabited tracts of land, glaciers, wilderness and hot springs. We ride north between glaciers and spend a night close to a creeping glacier. Hot springs await us at Hveravellir, like an oasis in the desert. We continue towards Northern Iceland until we reach one of its many green and beautiful valleys, our final destination.

Duration: 6 nights – 6 days riding - 240 km. **Departures:** June 17 and 26, July 13 and 21, August 5 and 13. *Every other tour goes in the opposite direction.*



Shorter Tours – Winter, Spring & Fall

In winter, spring & fall we offer Shorter Tours providing a varied program for riders of all levels and families. You can choose between riding all day both on excellent trails and in the spacious riding hall or combine riding with sightseeing and other activities. After riding, you can warm up and taste traditional Icelandic food, stay in our comfortable country hotel, relax in the hotel's hot tubs and experience the stunning Northern Lights. Winter time is riding season in Iceland, with thousands of horses in the stables and many horse-events going on! Bring your swimsuit.

8d NORTHERN LIGHTS TOUR – Riding, Relaxing and Northern Lights

On this tour you will take part in several of our half-day tours as well as Day Tour 5b – Below the Mountains and enjoy the comfort of our hotel. After the morning ride you warm up at lunch at our hotel and spend the afternoon riding, relaxing in Hveragerði's excellent geothermal swimming pool or sightseeing at Gullfoss waterfall and Geysir hot springs. When the sky is clear and the aurora borealis forecast is promising, you can just walk outside to observe the stunning phenomena, or we drive where the chances to watch the northern lights are the best.

Hotel Accommodation. This tour depends on weather, and sightings are not guaranteed.

Duration: 3 nights – 2.5 days riding & ½ day excursion – 34 km.
Departures: 2023: January 30, February 13 and 27, March 6, 20 and 27, April 3, September 25, October 9 and 23, November 6 and 20.

8e NORTHERN LIGHTS GRAND TOUR

This tour gives you the opportunity to combine riding with excursions to impressive natural sights and other activities such as hiking and whale watching. We ride several half-day tours, enjoy bathing in Hveragerði's excellent geothermal swimming pool, our hotel's hot pots or even a natural warm river and visit Gullfoss waterfall, Geysir and Thingvellir. You stay in the guesthouse at our farm and enjoy our hotel's restaurant and facilities. In the evenings, we go out to observe the Northern Lights above our farm (weather permitting).

Guesthouse Accommodations. This tour depends on weather, and sightings are not guaranteed.

Duration: 5 nights – 3 days riding & 2 day excursion & activities – 50 km.
Departures: 2023: January 30, February 13 and 27, March 6, 20 and 27, April 3, September 25, October 9 and 23, November 6 and 20.

30a WINTER RIDING COURSE

30b In Iceland, winter season is the time for training and education of horses and riders. Our facilities are ideal for a combination of riding instruction in small groups, both theoretical and practical in our riding hall, with riding tours in diverse terrain. Riders who are used to other breeds will learn how to ride an Icelandic horse on well trained tölters. This course is suited for riders of all levels, we put emphasis on riding the different gaits with the rider and the horse in good balance. Participants stay at Hotel or Guesthouse Eldhestar, with access to the hotel's hot tubs and the geothermal swimming pool with steam bath in Hveragerði.

Duration: Tour 30aH & 30aG: 3 nights – 3 days riding program.
 Tour 30bH & 30bG: 5 nights – 5 days riding program.
 Hotel Accommodation (30a/bH) or Guesthouse Accommodation (30a/bG).
Departures: 2023: February 6, March 13, April 10, October 2 and 23, November 13.

Shorter Tours – Winter, Spring & Fall



21 SHEEP ROUND-UP

This tour provides the unique experience of participating in an Icelandic round-up of sheep. This is an adventure that allows the participant to experience Icelandic nature and the Icelandic soul - both guaranteed to leave a lasting impression.

Duration: 5 nights – 5 days riding - 90 km.
Departure: September 12 - 17.
Recommended only for experienced riders! Guesthouse Accommodations.

33a FAMILY VACATION – Riding & more for all seasons

33b We provide an ideal opportunity for families to relax in Iceland with us and our horses during school holidays. You get to know different horses, starting with a lesson in the riding hall and then on nice riding trails in a variety of terrains. In the evenings you enjoy good food and bathing in the hot tubs. Children can take care of their „own“ horse and are welcome to spend some time helping in the stable to learn more about horses. Family members who do not want to ride or only want to join a short ride can book the tour without riding program and take part in individual sightseeing tours to the most popular natural attractions in South Iceland instead. For this tour we offer a child reduction for children 17 years and younger. Suited for riders of all levels.

Duration: Tour 33aH & 33aG: 3 nights – 3 days riding program.
 Tour 33bH & 33bG: 5 nights – 3 days riding program.
 Hotel Accommodation (33a/bH) or Guesthouse Accommodation (33a/bG)
Departures: 2023: February 13, October 6.

35 RIDING & PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE

Enjoy our horses while improving your skills and techniques as a photographer. This special packages combines riding with professional photo shootings, photography theory classes, photoshop tutorials and reviews of your own pictures. Step by step you will improve your photographer skills and become an expert in the "painting with light". Eldhestar provides the perfect surroundings and possibilities to take your horse, action, people and landscape photography to the next level! Imagine 200 horses running in the evening sun towards your lense or a fancy fog shoot setting in the romantic scenery of Iceland! The tour includes an excursion to Gullfoss, Geysir and Thingvellir so you will come back with stunning, extraordinary horse and landscape pictures for your own portfolio.

This course will be held in collaboration with Sandra Fencel and Eva Frischling, both professional photographers and horse trainers.

Duration: 7 nights - 2 1/2 days on horseback, 1 day excursion, 3,5 days photo workshop (also in some of the riding evenings photo classes are held). September.



INCLUDED IN SHORTER WINTER TOURS

Pick-up in Reykjavik:
 17:30 - 18:00.
Riding Time:
 2 – 6 hours per day with stops.

Tour 7 Volcano Contrast and Tour 8a/b Natures Treasures and Riders Pleasures are available all year round.

ELDHESTAR'S BREEDING

Eldhestar First Class Mares.

Photos: Ida Thorborg and Brigitte Baumgartner. The Trainer: Ida Thorborg. The Riders: Jakob Svavar Sigurðsson & Óskar Hróbjartsson.



Sónata from Vellir



Vallarsól from Vellir



Hjör from Vellir



Sinfónía from Vellir



We believe in and have high expectations for the future.



Every spring kindles new hopes.

EXPLORE ICELAND ON HORSEBACK WITH ELDHESTAR



We are located only 30 minutes from Reykjavik, in the midst of countryside with mountain views and meadows.

63°59.17'N, 21°10.17'W



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Photos

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Brigitte Baumgartner
Tanja Persson
Eldhestar Private

Environmental Policy

www.eldhestar.is/environmental

Important information

www.eldhestar.is/important-info

Cancellation Policy

www.eldhestar.is/cancellation-policy

Important Information

Icelandic horses are not vaccinated and are therefore susceptible to infectious agents from abroad! Used riding clothes and boots should be washed in a washing machine or dry cleaned prior to entering the country. Clothes, boots and helmets that can not be placed in a washing machine or dry cleaned should be washed and disinfected. Importing of used riding equipment and riding gloves is strictly prohibited.

www.mast.is/Uploads/document/augl_mast_protectHorse.pdf