



Iceland 2011





AROUND ICELAND 7 DAYS

July 30- August 06

Riding around Iceland in 7 days we´ll explore and see most of the countries interesting places like glaciers, glacier lagoon, waterfalls, hot springs, blue lagoon, fjords, high mountains and much more

Day 1: Golden Circle and south Iceland:

From Reykjavik we´ll ride to National Park Thingvellir the national shrine of Iceland, the nation´s birthplace and most historical site, is one of the most beautiful areas in the country. Þingvellir is the only place in the world where tectonic plates can be seen above sea level – and they are slowly splitting the country apart! In 930 AD, the Vikings formed the "Alþingi" at Lögberg (Law Rock), the oldest still-existing parliament in the world.

From Thingvellir we ride to Geysir area for lunch break and explore hot springs. The Geysir hot spring area is one of the greatest, natural attractions in Iceland. The Great Geysir is among the most notable in the world. It erupts irregularly these days, but Strokkur erupts every 10 minutes or so and its white column of boiling water can reach heights of 20-30 meters.

Before we head to the south coast we ride to waterfall Gullfoss, "Golden Falls" is just a few kilometres from Geysir. In the midst of lush vegetation, white water thunders down a 32-metre (105-feet) drop into a narrow canyon 70m (192 ft.) deep and 2.5km (1.5 miles) long.

Riding: 205 km

Accommodation: Hvollsvollur village

Dinner: At the hotel





DAY 2: South coast

and waterfalls

From Hvollsvokkur vilage we'll ride the south coast of Iceland with first stop at SELJALAND WATERFALL about 60 m high and it is relatively easy to walk all the way around it. Great scenery along the mountains and glaciers riding to SKOGAR FOLK MUSEUM for lunch stop and explore SKOGAFOSS WATERFALL 50 m high and counted among the most beautiful of the country. Afternoon we drive along the south coast between the glaciers and black beach. Approaching the biggest glacier we arrive at our accommodation.

Riding: 235 km

Accommodation: Skaftafell area

Dinner: At the accommodation



DAY 3:

and east fjord

Glacierlagoon

After breakfast we ride to the famous glacier lagoon, **JOKULSARLON**. Prior to 1950 the 1½ km long course of the glacial river Jokulsa was uninterrupted by any lagoon. Since then the glacier tongue has retreated and a lagoon, gradually increasing in size, was created. The average flow of the river is 250-300 m³/sec. and the edge of the glacier snout floats on the water. It calves into the lagoon and icebergs of different sizes can be seen stranded and melting rather quickly. The lagoon is very deep, at least 190 m. The river gets shorter and shorter, mainly because of the constant sea erosion, which eventually is going to destroy the bridge (built in 1967). The result will be a deep bay, which is going to grow longer the further the glacier snout retreats.





The lagoon's surface has been lowered almost to sea level and sea water comes in with the tides, increasing the water temperature. Salmon, capelin and herring enter the lagoon and the harbour seals follow the food. Eider ducks are very common on the lagoon. It is an unforgettable adventure to take a boat trip between the icebergs to admire the natural ice sculptures and the blue green colour of the ice. Lunch in restaurant at the lagoon. Riding along Vatnajokull to east fjord of Iceland with its magnificent mountains and valleys to village Djupivogur.

Riding: 209 km

Accommodation: Hotel Framtíð

Dinner: At the hotel



DAY 4: East to north Iceland

After breakfast we head to north Iceland with lunch stop at village Egilstadir. Arrive afternoon at lake Myvatn for bathing in the Blue Lagoon of north.

Lake Myvatn the country's fourth largest natural lake. It abounds in lake char and is netted by the farmers the whole year round. The lake area is known world wide for its exceptionally many breeding duck species (15) and the abundance of other avifauna. The lake's surroundings show such variety in landscapes and amazing geological formations, that the visitors have to spend several days there to enjoy them fully. This area is extremely volcanic. Nine eruptions took place there during the period 1975-1984 and the continental drift was measured 4,8 m. This show of nature's immense power gave the scientist the first real opportunity to study the plate tectonics on dry land.



From Myvatn we ride further north to the capital city or north Akureyri.

Riding: 346 km

Accommodation: Guesthouse in Akureyri

Dinner: Down town Akureyri



DAY 5: North Iceland

From Akureyri we ride to valley Öxnarardalur along salmon river Horga. Winding highland road to fishing village Saudarkrokur for natural hot tub and then we ride to our accommodation.



Riding: 214 km

Accommodation: Horse center Gauksmyri

Dinner: Gauksmyri

DAY 6: North to west Iceland

After breakfast we head to west Iceland with short part of good gravel road. At Snafellsnes peninsular we'll ride to shark farm Bjarnarhöfn for Viking test. Riding around Snafellsglacier, know from Jules Vern novel "Journey to the centre of the earth" with its great scenery and stop at Iceland's best coffee hose, Fjoruhusid.



Riding: 251 km

Accommodation: Guesthouse Arnarstapi

Dinner: Restaurant at Arnarstapi



DAY 7: To Reykjavik

Heading back to Reykjavik we'll ride the north side of Snæfellsnes peninsular, along volcanos and stop at horse training centre Hrisdalur. Fuel stop at Borgarnes village and ride under the ledgendary Whalefjord before we arrive at Reykjavik afternoon.



Riding: 196 km

Accommodation: Hotel Leif Eiriksson

Dinner: Centre of Reykjavik



Note: Biking Viking reserves the right to make slight changes in riding distances and announced accommodations