

## 5 days – Horse Round up

Join the farmers in this great autumn adventure. Ride along when they drive the herd, sort the horses and celebrate the safe return of horses and herders. The varied terrain includes the highland moors, green valley's just putting on their autumn coat of burning red and yellow, deep blue lakes and rivers and Kolugljúfur gorge where a troll woman is reputed to have lived in the old days.

From Bjargshóll Farm in the North we follow good riding tracks until we team up with the Icelanders who have already been rounding up horses for some days. Together we drive the herd down to the Víðidalstungurétt communal corral.

When this task is complete the locals celebrate with a special round-up dance or "réttardansleikur". We are of course more than welcome to join in the fun. The next day the horses get sorted. Experience the excitement of horses and men when the horses and foals are selected from the herd and returned to their rightful owners.

When you participate in the Round Ups you are experiencing the Real Thing! You will be one of the group to herd and sort the animals. Of course that means long hours outside in sometimes cold weather. Iceland in autumn has many colors and types of weather. Anticipate to be in golden sunshine one moment and to ride in rain and even sleet during the next.

We therefore recommend to dress well during these tours, to bring long woolen underwear and lots of woolen socks and gloves. It is also good to bring some „quick energy supplier“ like chocolate. A warm rider is a happy rider!



### 1. Day: Arrival at Keflavik – Overnight stay in Bed and Breakfast Keflavík Airport

After individual arrival there is the possibility to stay overnight in Bed and Breakfast in Keflavik. The costs for the overnightstay are included in the travel award. A free Shuttlebus from the airport is also available.

### 2. Day: Keflavik – Bjargshóll – Dæli

We will meet for breakfast in the BB in Keflavik and begin our journey to our first destination from there. It is (approx. 3.5 hours) trip to the farm Bjargsholl in the Northwest of Iceland. On our way we visit a factory outlet with woolen goods.

Our first ride will take us alongside the river Miðfjarðará to the ocean Miðfjöður, riding underneath Vatnsnesfjall Mountain to the Riding Farm Gauksmýri where we leave the horses and drive to Dæli Holiday Farm, where we will stay overnight. (approx. 25 km)

This farm is beautifully located in Víðidalur Valley and we will enjoy the hospitality of Kiddi and Hallfríður, Víglundur and Sigrún, who have been working with us for many years. The outdoor hot tubs are waiting, as well as a hearty dinner.

### **3. Day: Gauksmýri – Dæli**

This long and exciting riding day we start at Gauksýri, riding underneath Vatnsnesfjall Mountain and takes us into the friendly countryside of Vestur-Hóp, past a lake and into the beautiful valley Víðidalur. We ride by Víðidalsá River to Dæli Holiday Farm, close to Kolugil canyon. (approx. 37 km)

### **4. Day: Dæli – Kolugil – Víðidalstunguheiði – Dæli**

Today we ascend towards the highland plateau Víðidalstunguheiði and meet the horses coming down from their pastures in the highlands. We enjoy a warm lunch in the mountains, before we join other guests and locals following the farmers driving the herd down from the highland. Before ending our ride at Dæli Farm we stop at Kolugili Farm for refreshments. Following dinner that day, we spend time with the farmers and other guests in Dæli and join in their singing, dancing and celebrating of this great event of the fall. (approx. 30 km, 7-8 hours including lunch and coffee breaks)

### **5. Day: Víðidalstungurétt – Dæli – Bjargshóll**

Our day starts at the round up place Víðidalstungurétt where horses are sorted out. An auction is held right on the spot and we can join the farmers in celebrating the return of their horses. In the afternoon we ride to Bjargshóll Farm and return our horses to their meadows, before driving back to Dæli for a dinner. (approx. 30 km)

**(Optional (not included in the tour price):**

“Stóðréttardansleikur” dance at Víðihlíð, where everybody relaxes after the excitement of the day and celebrates yet another successful round up.

### **6. Day: Return to – Reykjavík**

Departure from the North after breakfast (ca 11:00) and return to Reykjavík. Approx. arrival at 14:00.

*Dates for 2020: 29.09 - 04.10*

*Price: 1710 €*

*Max. 12 persons*

### **ATTENTION**

- Individual travel insurance is not included in the tour price. We encourage clients to obtain relevant travel insurance before visiting Iceland.
- Flight to and from Iceland is not included.