

## // RIDE & HIKE CHALLENGE – INFORMATION

We are introducing a new tour for summer 2019, a combination of riding and hiking. The focus is still on the riding part but there are so many places in Skagafjörður to be discovered while hiking that we could no longer resist. Many of our guests have been asking if it is possible to climb the mountain Mælifellshnjúkur rising in front of our farm. Yes it is possible, so join us!

There are also breathtaking canyons and pretty waterfalls that can be found in the fjord.

Of course you need to be in a good physical condition to take part in the program but the hikes are easy enough for normal conditioned outdoor lovers! We would like to have fun together and look forward to ride and hike with you through our beautiful Skagafjörður!

Are you ready for the challenge?

### INCLUDED

- 5 x Accommodation on Lýtingsstaðir, 1x accommodation in mountain cabin
- Ride & Hike as outlined in the program
- Full board (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- Transfers from/to the nearest bus station (Varmahlíð) to Lýtingsstaðir

Unforeseen things and extremely bad weather conditions force us every now and then to change itineraries. We reserve the right to do this for your safety and maximum enjoyment of your holiday.

### PLEASE BRING

- Riding helmet, riding-/walking boots, small backpack for the hiking tours
- Windbreaker and rainwear, cap or ear band, gloves
- Slippers, bathing suit, energy bars

### PLEASE NOTE

- It is advisable to have your own personal insurance when joining the tour. This tour is undertaken at the participant's own risk.
- Riders must wear riding helmets.
- Your riding clothes and boots must be new or disinfected before you arrive.
- For this tour it is necessary to have good riding experience and to be in a good physical condition
- This tour requires a minimum of 4 participants.

## // RIDE & HIKE CHALLENGE – PROGRAM

### MONDAY:

We pick up guests around 02:30 pm at the bus station in Varmahlíð. Followed by a first meeting, a cup of coffee and a short ride where the guides introduce you to the Icelandic way of riding. Dinner and accommodation at Lýtingsstaðir.

### TUESDAY:

We saddle up after breakfast and go for an approximately 4 hour riding tour. We ride to a small forrest and have a picnic next to an old, decayed turf house. We ride along the river Svartá, enjoying the horses fast tölt back to the farm. We leave for our first and most demanding hike in the afternoon. We hike up the mountain Mælifellshnjúkur (1138m). It will take us about 2 hours to reach the top. It is said that the peak can be seen from ten different districts so you can just imagine the view that awaits us from up there. In clear weather we will see the glaciers dominating the interiors. Our farm will just be a tiny spot right at the tips of our toes. Maybe we can see our horses? Those who do not want to hike this day can stay back at the farm, enjoying a dip in our hot tube or take an easier hike in the valley Mælifellsdalur. Dinner and accommodation at Lýtingsstaðir.



### WEDNESDAY:

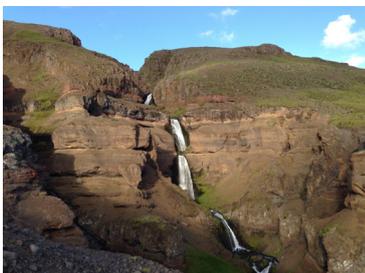
We leave for a two-day ride into the highlands. We ride up the mountain Goðdalafjall. It is like entering the top of the world when the view over the glacier opens just in front of us. We cross a various landscape with rocks, stones, lava and heather (ca. 6 hours). We arrive at the cozy mountain cabin Hraunlækur where we spend the evening with a tasty dinner and a walk down to the canyon of the glacial river Vestari Jökulsá. On our way back to the cabin we will follow a clear spring river with pretty small waterfalls where the water streams down moss covered cascades. We might end the evening with some singing or story telling and will have a good sleep.

**THURSDAY:**

After a rich breakfast we pack our luggage, saddle the horses and ride back to Lýtingsstaðir (ca. 6 hours). We will have a marvelous view over Skagafjörður when we ride down from the “top of the world” into our valley. The horses head home in a fast tölt. We can relax in the hot tube back at the farm. Dinner and accommodation at Lýtingsstaðir.

**FRIDAY:**

Today's motto will be “Canyons of Skagafjörður”. We will hike into three of them, every canyon with its own charm. We will first go into the deep and breathtaking canyon of Merkgil in Austurdalur, a demanding 1,5 hour hike. Next we discover geological features in the gorge Kolagil while we walk along the riverbed (about 1h easy hike), framed by huge rock walls. The third and last hike (ca. 30 min, easy) will be to the ravine Bolugil with its amazing waterfall and colorful layers of lava. We then drive back to the farm for dinner. Those still full of power can join a short evening ride. Accommodation at Lýtingsstaðir.

**SATURDAY:**

After breakfast we ride to our highland pastures and visit our young horses, who will look at us curiously. We enjoy the time amongst them and with the impressive mountain panorama around us. After a light picnic lunch, we ride back to the farm, get treated with a home made cake and start for our last hike (about 3 hours), which leads us along the headland Reykjatunga back to our farm, where a delicious farewell dinner is waiting for us.

**SUNDAY:**

It's time to say good bye after a challenging week full of riding and hiking adventures. We drive all guests back to the bus station in Varmahlíð after breakfast.