# General information about our riding tours

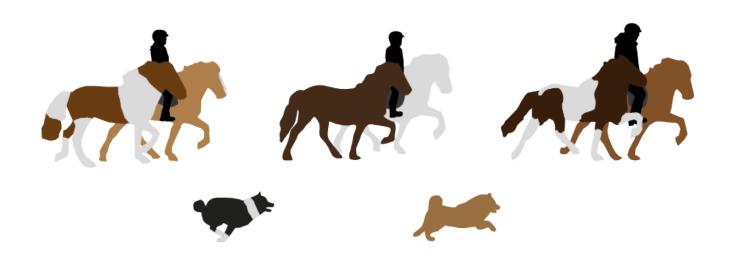




We hope this little booklet helps to prepare yourself before going on a riding tour with Exploring Iceland. You will find some useful information as well as photos and few words about all our horses.

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#### The Icelandic horse

The Icelandic horse is a small breed of horse, but he is strong and tough. The Icelandic horse is not referred to as a pony, although the average height of an Icelandic horse is from 132 to 145 cm high. The Icelandic horse has survived in Iceland for 1100 years without crossbreeding. It is believed that the horses came with the Vikings and were used as work horses and transportation. But since then, the horses have mostly been used as a competition horse and leisure riding. For further information please visit Horses of Iceland.

Disinfection

Icelandic horses are not vaccinated and are therefore susceptible to infectious agents from abroad. Visitors are asked to adopt strict biosecurity measures!

#### Importing the following equipment is strictly prohibited:

- Used riding equipment, such as saddles, bridles, nosebands, pads, rugs, whips, etc.
- Used riding gloves.

#### Cleaning and disinfection:

- Used riding clothes and boots should be washed in a washing machine or dry cleaned prior to entering the country.
- Used riding clothes and boots that cannot be placed in a washing machine or dry cleaned should be washed and disinfected as follows:
- Rinse thoroughly with detergent.
- Dry.
- Spray with 1% VirkonS® (10g per liter of water).
- Store for at least 5 days prior to bringing the clothes into contact with horses in Iceland.

<sup>\*</sup> Not to worry, we provide saddles, helmets, bridles, nosebands, rugs, whips, etc.



## Horses of Iceland

## Together, let us protect Icelandic horses from infectious diseases

Geographical isolation and strict importation rules have protected the Icelandic horse population from serious infectious diseases. As a result, Iceland is in a unique situation where strangles, equine influenza, equine herpes virus type 1, and many other serious diseases have never reached the country.

This situation is most important for the welfare of Icelandic horses.

#### RIDING CLOTHES NEED TO BE WASHED AND DISINFECTED AS FOLLOWS:

Used riding clothes have to be washed in a washing machine or dry cleaned prior to entering the country.

Riding clothes and boots that cannot be cleaned this way should be washed and disinfected as follows:

- Rinse thoroughly with detergent
- Dry
- Spray with 2% Virkon® S (20 g per liter of water)
- Store for at least 5 days prior to bringing the clothes into contact with horses in Iceland

#### **FORBIDDEN ITEMS:**

- Used riding equipment such as saddles, bridles, bits, nosebands, pads, rugs, whips, etc.
- · Used riding gloves









## Safety rules

Before we go riding the guide will go over all equipment and saftey rules. Here are some notes on saftey and good to know points that you can learn before coming on our tour.

Good things to know when on a horse tour.

- You must always wear a helmet.
- You feel comfortable and safe in the saddle in all gaits.
- You feel comfortable to ride in higher speed over rugged terrain.
- You are not afraid of riding uphill and downhill in higher speed.
- You are in good health and fitness.
- You don't mind long hours of outdoors even if the sun isn't shining all day long!
- If you feel unsafe with the horse you have been provided with you must tell the guide at the earliest opportunity.
- If you are taking photographs or filming from horseback, always keep one hand on the reins. Note, the driver and one of the guides will take photos.
- At the beginning of the tour we will go through safety demonstration.
- On our tours we ride in all paces, sometimes fast, sometimes walk and anything in between.

#### Insurance

Individual travel insurance is not included. We urge you to purchase relevant travel insurance before visiting Iceland. Guests from Europe should bring their European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). If you would like to purchase extra coverage: <u>Link here</u>.

#### Handhorses and loose herd

In our tours we usually ride with a hand-horse or also known as ponying. If you have never ridden with a handhorse before we will teach you how to manage and help you in any way we can.

If your handhorse is bugging your riding horse please let the staff know and he will either take him or he will run along.



Some roads can be narrow and then it is best to have a long rein on the hand horse and make him go behind you, but if you find it difficult just put the reins over his head and let him loose.

We pair our horses together so the riding horse and the hand horse know each other and have no problem being side by side.

The staff usually have more than on hand horse.

Please note: If you are having trouble with your hand horse, try to let the staff know as soon as possible. In all cases it is better to drop the hand horse (he will not go anywhere) if you have any problems. Do not try to hold on the hand horse as you might loose your balance.

We always try to have a loose herd once on every tour, just to get the feeling. But that means we need your help with the herd! Some riders will be in the front, some in the back and then the loose herd in the middle. For those in the front it is very important to never let a loose horse get passed you. And for those in the back do not push on the loose horses. But no worries, we will explain it better on the tour.

#### **Crossing Rivers**

On most of the tours we do cross some unbrigded rivers. When we cross rivers it's important to:

- Follow and be close to the staff in the front.
- Never look into the river, keep your eyes where you are heading.
- Keep the reins rather loose on your riding horse, usually they find the best way through the river.



#### Riding Icelandic style / English style

We ride our Icelandic horses the English style and have english style saddles.

Any experience with other horse breeds is, of course, very valuable and useful when riding Icelandic horses. In short, the main riding technique consists of a straight, balanced seat, light cues and steady, light hands often with very light rein contact.

The voice is commonly used along with seat, leg and reins. Icelandic horses are supposed to keep moving until told otherwise, to keep the tempo and beat until otherwise suggested. Most riders prefer the horse to keep offering more energy and forwardness, rather than the rider having to ask for more all the time.

But not to worry we will go over all the riding before we start and after a while you will get the feel of the Icelandic horse and ride with ease.

#### The Icelandic weather

The weather in Iceland is notoriously variable and often very windy. On our tours you can expect any kind of weather and good preparation is a key to a successful journey.

When the sun is shining you need to apply strong sun protection. Good layers of thermal underwear and ideally woolen sweaters in combination with a windproof jacket will keep you warm and snug even in colder temperatures. Good gloves and socks are important as well and it might be a good idea to have spare ones in the saddle bag or in the car.

If you feel cold there is always room in the car and we always have woolen sweaters (knitted by Steina) and rain gear.

During the tour we constantly monitor the weather. Although our tours are during the summer season in Iceland we might experience heavy wind and heavy rain/snow/hails (and yellow warnings).

Please be prepared for changed schedule due to severe weather -both for you and our horses sake being flexible is the key element!.

Emergency number: +354-898-8903 or 112





Here is a suggestion on what to pack.

- Warm jacket or overcoat.
- Warm (woolen or fleece) sweater. Pls note we always bring extra Icelandic woolen sweaters on tours in case riders get cold.
- Warm socks and gloves, at least two pairs, scarf and a cap or hat.
- Warm underwear, long if possible (protects also from chafing).
- For the ladies sports bra.
- Riding trousers.
- Swim suits
- Insect repellent, gnat net head cover. Pls note we also always bring some extra ones
- Sun lotion for face and lips (with high sun factor).
- Your own water bottle Icelandic water is one of the best in the world.

Remeber to follow the Disinfection list thats on page: 4-5

We provide apart from horses and tacks

- Rain gear
- Safety helmet.
- Saddle bags when needed
- Wool sweaters



## Our Tack equipment

#### **Our Saddles**

We are very proud to inform that for 2023 we bought five brand new saddles from Heklu hnakkar for your comfort.

The design of the saddle is based on an old Icelandic tradition mixed with the modern style and needs of saddles. It can be said that since the 1970s, Icelandic horsemanship has taken a leap into modernity and has been and is still in constant development. The same applies to saddles and other riding equipment.

This saddle, which has received the name Hekla Royal, is the latest example of this development, but it has already gained good experience with Icelandic riders and riders of Icelandic horses on the Europeancontinent.

The saddle provides a unique and good seat, which simultaneously ensures a safe seat and the possibility to control the horse with the rider's seat.

The saddle has a latex filling that molds the saddle extremely comfortably to the horse's back. The material is selected by experts in the production line of the Hekla saddles and can withstand Icelandic weather conditions and the strength that Icelandic saddles have to have.

#### Reins, headstall, bit and noseband.

Icelandic horses are usually ridden with tack designed specially for the breed.

The most common tack consists of a simple bridle with a regular snaffle bit and a dropped noseband.

We offer diffrent types of reins. We have fabric ones and rubber ones. They usually come in one size and some of them have guides on them.

The headstalls are very simple and we don't have a specific headtall for each horse. We just adjust the size for each horse altough some horses prefer a certain type of a bit. In our tours we don't really need a noseband but the more difficult horses might need to wear one. We have them not on to tight and always have about 3 finger length above the nose.

If you want to buy some Horse tack or want to find out more you can visit <u>Lífland</u>. We are happy to visit a tack store on day one in case you need anything or if you forgot something at home.

#### Saftey vests

For your own safety we are proud to offer saftey vests from <a href="brokk.is">brokk.is</a> for rent. All you need to do is to fill out this <a href="form">form</a> and we bring the vests to you

on the tour. The price for renting a safety vest during tour is ISK 15.000.- per vest.

The HELITE safety vests provide some of the best protection against injury available to equestrians. The vest has a built-in airbag and weighs only 600 grams. The rider feels little or nothing about the vest and it has no effect on the relationship between

rider and horse. The vests are waterproof and stretchy, they give well but retain their shape after the vest has been inflated. The vest can be worn on its own as an outer garment or slipped into approved Helite clothing. The vest is not suitable for other clothing.

#### Food on our tours

Breakfast buffet is included at your hotel. A typical buffet will include items like muffins, croissants, toast and other baked goods; hot items such as scrambled eggs and bacon; fruit, yoghurt, and cereals. A buffet-style breakfast allows guests to choose their favourite items and to eat as much as they like.

It's always smart to eat a good breakfast before going riding. We like to take our time and enjoy the ride so somtimes the lunch might be later then you are used to.

Lunch is prepared by us, It can be anything from sandwiches to BBQ but everything is homemade with local ingredients. We strive to let you taste some Icelandic delicacies and our motto is that no one should be hungry on our tours! Pls make sure to inform us before arrival if you have any dietary requirements or allergies.

Afternoon snack: Homemade cakes, Icelandic cheese assortments, pancakes and snacks.

Dinner: Is not included but is available at your hotel or nearby restaurant. We are happy to have at least one dinner all together if you like.

Would you be keen on listening to our Exploring Iceland playlist on Spotify? A mix of horse related (and not) Icelandic and foreign music. Enjoy! Spotify Playlist <a href="here">here</a>.



## The guides

We, in the Exploring Iceland horse riding team, have been riding together for many years. We are all in the same riding club in Álftanes and we all love horses and especially going on a riding tour. We also compete a little bit in our club but our favourite is the summer riding tours.

We are all born and raised in Iceland and have been riding since we were children/teenagers.

We want you to feel being a part of us during the tour i.e. we are not the guides, you the tourist. We are all in this tour together and hopefully you become an Icelander for few days. Both by getting to know our wonderful Icelandic horses and the tölt, to taste some Icelandic food and being out in the beautiful nature.

We hope you will enjoy the tour as much as we do and share the love of our horses who are definately the stars of the tour and our best friends. (along with our dogs).





## Steinunn Gubjörnsdóttir

Born: 1964
Tour Operator
Guide / Driver / photographer

Steinunn or Steina bought her first horse at the age of 16 and has been smitten by the "horse bug" ever since. By now she owns 14 horses and some of her younger horses come from her own breeding lines.

She celebrated her 50th birthday by riding across Iceland, 715 km in 19 days, with Ari and Lóa. She is also a keen horse photographer and plays an accordion.

Steina decided to use the COVID time to go to the Icelandic guiding school so now she is a certificate driver/guide. She likes horses with a character, with good tölt and good temperament. Her horses are usually the easy ones. She has 3 grown up children and Lóa is her youngest and only one in the family who is riding with her.



## Margrét Lóa Björnsdóttir

Born: 1999
Horse trainer
Guide / Driver
Instagram photographer

Lóa is Steinunn's daughter. She started riding when she was 5 years old and has been riding ever since.

She bought her own horse when she was only 11 years old, a 5 year old Palomino mare, Klassik, which is now her breeding mare. She is the competition rider in the team but also loves to go on horseriding trips which she has been doing since the age of 10.

Lóa has been on numerous riding classes and has finished Knapamerki no 4 which is a special course for riders. She has also competed many times at Landsmót on the horses, Hljómur, Íslands-Blesi and Breki.

Lóa was only 15 years old when she rode with Steina and Ari across Iceland! Durning the winter time she is training horses that are in the stables and tries to go riding everyday. Her favorite horses are the ones that can pace fast!



## Ari Sigurðsson

Born: 1954
Tour operator
guide
Driver

Ari started riding at a young age with his father. Horse riding is his favourite thing to do after work and he is the main guy to come to for a coffee in his riding club.

He is very helpful and is always there for the riders. Ari is hardworking and likes to have things in order. You will often see him in the front of the line because he always knows the right way. Steinunn and Lóa would totally be lost without him. He might be rough on the outside but he has a heart of gold.

He has 2 grown up children (no grand children yet) but they are not riding with him so one can say that Steina and Lóa are his "horse-family". His favorite horses are those who are cooperative to run after the loose herd.

## Our horses

On the next pages you will see all of our horses that we own. We use most of them on our riding tours but some of them are either too old or too young to join us and please note we do not take them all on every tour. Please note it is not possible to pre-order a special horse - we will do our best to find the perfect match for you.

These are all our own horses which we know by heart. Some are in our tables during winter time (riding season is from December to end of May) but some are kept outside all year long. During the winter season we feed them with hay, make sure they have water and good shelter.

We take horse and animal welfare very seriously. We love all our horses and we want to take good care of them. If you like to read more about our animal welfare please see here <u>Animal welfare policy - Exploring Iceland.</u>

You might think why we do not have just one horse per persons since we usually ride not more than 15-25 km per day? We want our horses to last and have a happy life during the tours and when they get older. So therefore we change horses more often than others meaning we try not to ride more than 5-7 km before we change to the other one.

Most of our horses have tölt as their natural gait. But in some terrain they prefer to trot or gallop. Please allow them to do so, we know the tölt is the comfortable gait but it is also good for the horse to use other gait occasionally. Our trail horses range from age 8-23 as we think this is their prime age. We sometimes take younger horses along for their training.

We hope you will fall in love with our horses, maybe some more than others. It is all about the chemistry between horse and the rider just like with us humans!

Steina names all her breeding horses after birds (she is a keen bird watcher) so you will find Arctic tern, Raven, Falcon, Golder Plover, Oyestercatcher and Redshank in the group.



## Eldey frá Þóreyjarnúpi

Born: 2008

Color: Palomino

Gaits: 5

Owner: Steinunn

Steinunn bought Eldey on one of her photographing trip to Skagafjörður in North Iceland. She is great on a trail ride and has a very comfortable gaits altough her trot can be a bit harsh.

#### Note

She does not like to be pulled on the reins so you need to be gentle with her. If you are relaxed, play with her bits and talk to her she will become your best friend.



## Breki frá Brúarreykjum

Born: 2003

Color: Silver dapple

Gaits: 5

Owner: Lóa

Breki is Lóa's former competition horse. He was already 11 years old and fully trained when he came to us. He is a former first price stallion and thinks he still is. He is forward going, clever, likes jumping and is a great riding horse. He is sometimes a bit on the pace side and can be fast.

Lóa and Breki have a special connection between them and he is Lóa's favourite horse to be on on riding tours.

#### Note

You need to be gentle on the reins i.e. give and take.



## Flóki frá Vindheimum

Born: 2012 Color: Bay

Gaits: 5

Owner: Steinunn

When Steinunn saw 5 year old Flóki on sale on Facebook she bought him without trying him only beacause he is the brother of Hljómur (one of her old horse). Since then Flóki has improved to be as lovely as his brother but more willing. Flóki has a comfortable tölt and easy on all gaits (pace not trained).

Steinunn has been competing a little bit on Flóki and they both love it!





Born: 2017

Color: Bay

Gaits: 4

Owner: Ari

Frami is one of the youngest horses in the group. Ari is borrowing him from a good friend of his. He is not very independent so it's better to be in the back with him or next to someone. He is curious and has a nice seat.



## Fura frá Hvammi

Born: 2012

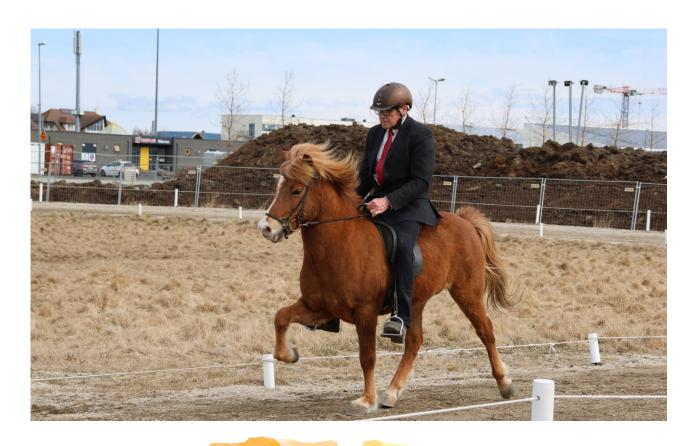
Color: Bay

Gaits: 5

Owner: Ari

Fura is one of Ari's newest horses who he got from a friend who has stopped riding. She is willing but has a nice seat.

You need to hold lightly on the reins and sit in the saddle.



## Glóblesi frá Halakoti

Born: 2013

Color: Chestnut with a blaze

Gaits: 4 Owner: Ari

Glóblesi is one of Ari's new horses which he got from one of the top competition rider in Iceland. Glóblesi is a true gem. He is from a very good breed and f.ex. his brother is a world champion and many of his siblings are competition horses. He has a very fast tölt, although being rather small. Plus he is cute looking and friendly.

Steina's has a plan to take him as a school horse for her second year at Reiðmaðurinn and compete on him in spring 2024. He is forward going but has a nice tölt. He likes to be in the front.

#### Note

He is very forward going and you need to give and take the reins.



## Gorri frá Barkarstöðum

Born: 2011

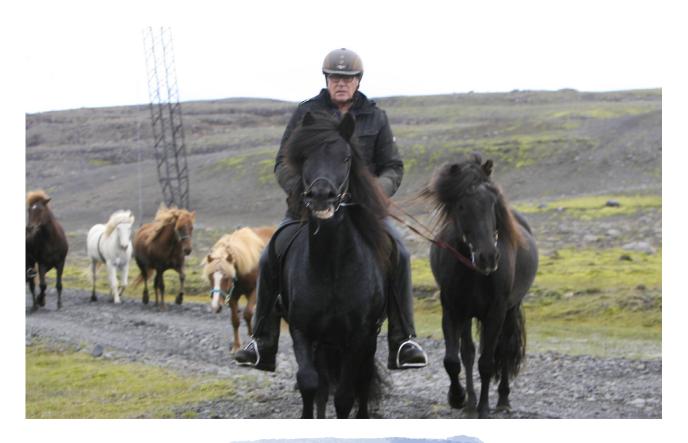
Color: Chestnut with a blaze

Gaits: 4 Owner: Ari

Ari bought this horse from his friend who has many good horses. Gorri likes to be in the front but he is strong and forward going. He has a very comfortable seat. He is madly in love with Eldey but he is very polite and gentle horse.

#### Note

You need to give and take the reins.



## Herkúles frá Vatnsleysu

Born: 2005

Color: Brow-roan

Gaits: 5 Owner: Ari

Herkúles is a big horse with a big character. Ari bought him as a young stallion and was hoping he would be a popular one due to his unusual color (Roan changes 4x a year). But Herkúles was castrated at the age of 6 without any offsprings which is a pity. He is powerful and willing and mostly just tölt.

He needs to be in the front and has a leader skills. You need to treat him with a respect.

#### Note

He does not like to be pulled on the reins. Just sit and relax.



## Heiðlóa frá Álftanesi

Born: 2015

Color: Dark bay

Gaits: 5

Owner: Steinunn

Heiðlóa is one of Steinunn's own breeding. Heiðlóa has a bit of character, she can open doors, do some tricks for treat and shakes her head when we wants something to eat.

She chooses only to tölt and has a very comfortable seat. She can be bit stubborn sometimes and can be spooked. She can form very beautifully under the rider.

#### Note

It is good to hold lightly on to her reins although she is a natural tölter. She sometimes like to go fast and sometimes slow.



## Hugur frá Eystri-Hól

Born: 2008

Color: Golden brown

Gaits: 4 Owner: Ari

Hugur is all in one; competition horse, trail horse, riding horse etc. Ari has his biggest smile when riding Hugur. He is easy but willing and poweful. His former owner used him when training young horses and as a competition horse. He has a great tölt and has a comfortable seat.

He is very well trained, polite and gentle.

#### Note

He can be forward going and likes to be in the front. You have to hold the reins and sit well in the saddle.



## Krummi frá Álftanesi

Born: 2012 Color: Brown Gaits: 4

Owner: Steinunn

Krummi is Steinunn's second horse of her own breed and one of the four brothers. He was very big when being born (see our blog) and still is. He is over 1.50 with long mane and quite beautiful. But he is rather lazy.

Krummi is very comfortable to ride with all gaits comfortable. He is very friendly with good temperament.

#### Note

Since he is not very willing you need to ride him with a stick. When you have him as a hand horse it's good to be more in the front since he likes to stop.



## Íslandsblesi frá Dalvík

Born: 2004

Color: Chestnut with a blaze

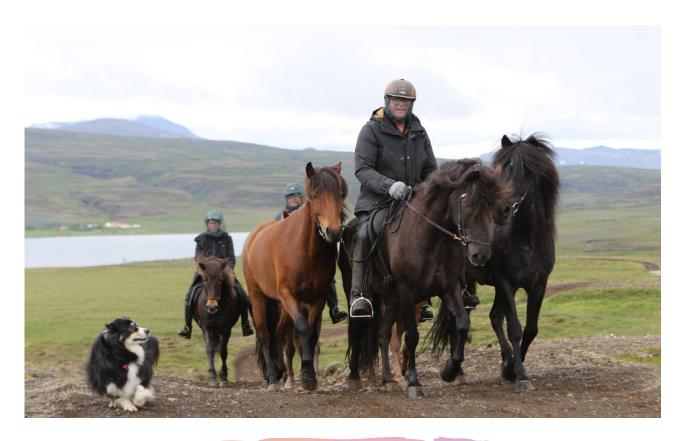
Gaits: 4 Owner: Lóa

Blesi came to us when we were looking for a competition horse for Lóa in children class. We tried many horses when Lóa said her dream horse was a chestnut with a blaze and there was Blesi for sale in North Iceland. They were the perfect match! He is a former stallion and has few offsprings. He was trained by Mette Mannseth, one of the top trainers in Iceland.

Blesi has a good tölt and listens well to the rider.

#### Note

You need to ride him with your seat and legs. He is easy on the tölt but harsh on the trot. Excellent gallop.



## Kaffibrúnn frá Dýrfinnustöðum

Born: 2005

Color: Brown

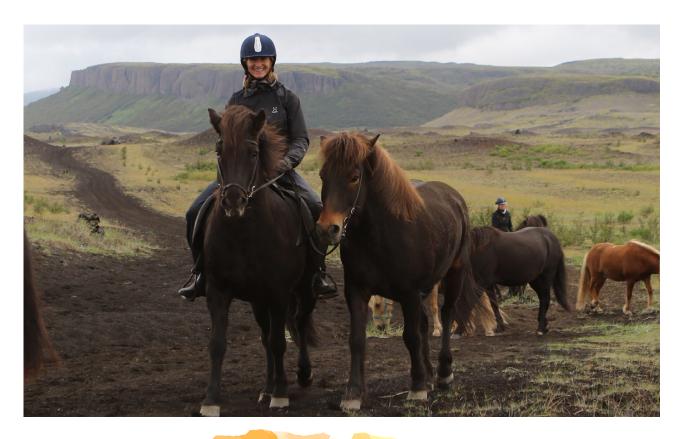
Gaits: 5

Owner: Ari

Kaffibrúnn is one of Ari's favorite horse. He can just tölt forever and is a gem on riding tours. Ari bought him at the age of 5 and has trained him ever since and you can see there is a special bond between the two of them. Kaffibrúnn is quite a character but is always very polite and most of the time very easy.

#### Note

You need to stay alert on him, not taking photos or waving your hands. Be gentle with the reins.



## Myrkvi frá Arnarstaðakoti

Born: 2004

Color: Brown

Gaits: 5

Owner: Ari

Myrkvi was trained by Steinunn. He is rather small but tough guy who loves humans. He is very comfortable to ride, likes to tölt and it is a great follower. He has same father as Örvar and Sebastian. It is easy to fall in love with cute little Myrkvi.

#### Note

He finds it very difficult to stand still with and without rider. He also puts is head up and down (like his brother and father).



## Sebastian frá Kringlumýri

Born: 2008

Color: Red dun

Gaits: 4

Owner: Ari

We recently got Sebastian and Örvar from a friend who decided to sell all his horses and stop riding. We are very pleased with those two full brothers. He has good gaits and a nice tölt. His favourite gait is tölt and has a good willingness. He and Örvar are best friends.

He has to be in the front but he has a very nice tölt. Just have your reins loose and sit in the saddle, he also listens well to voice commands.

#### Note

He likes to put his head up and down. Just ignore it, is just a bad habit he probably took from his father.



## Sölvi frá Eystri-Hól

Born: 2014

Color: Chestnut with a blaze

Gaits: 5

Owner: Ari

Sölvi is a very tall and has a slim figure. Legs like a spider! He is the biggest horse in the herd. He likes to tölt and has a nice seat. A young girl in Ari´s stable fell in love with him and used him as her riding horse for one year. She ended the season by competing on him with good results!

#### Note

When you have him as a handhorse you need to keep him close.



## Skörungur frá Kúskerpi

Born: 2004

Color: Chestnut with a star

Gaits: 4

Owner: Ari

Skörungur came to Ari untrained straight from the wildeness. Steinunn trained him at the beginning and he was a fast learner. He is very strong and could go forever. But he is a 4 gaiter who is not easy on the tölt but in all other aspect easy.

He can be formed very beautifully under the rider but he can be heavy on the body. Skörungur has a soft trot and only tölt on good riding trails.

#### Note

He can be very tricky in falling into trot from tölt.



## Vökull frá Vatni

Born: 2017

Color: Chestnut with a star

Gaits: 4 Owner: Ari

Vökull is quite new to the group. He was given to Ari from a good friend of ours. Vökull has a nice seat and comfortable gaits. When you are riding him you need to be light on the reins and sit well in the saddle.

Vökull is very polite and listens to the rider (so voice commands should work well on him)

Note: He can be spooked and can be difficult to catch in the field.



## Vonarneisti frá Möðrufelli

Born: 2007

Color: Bay dun

Gaits: 5

Owner: Ari

Vonarneisti is one of Ari's newest horses. He is a little bit willing to start and likes to go but after a little bit he will calm down.

He has a very comfortable seat and is very trusting. He listens well to voice commands. Hold lightly on the reins and be calm in the saddles (no sudden movements)



## Þröstur frá Laugardal

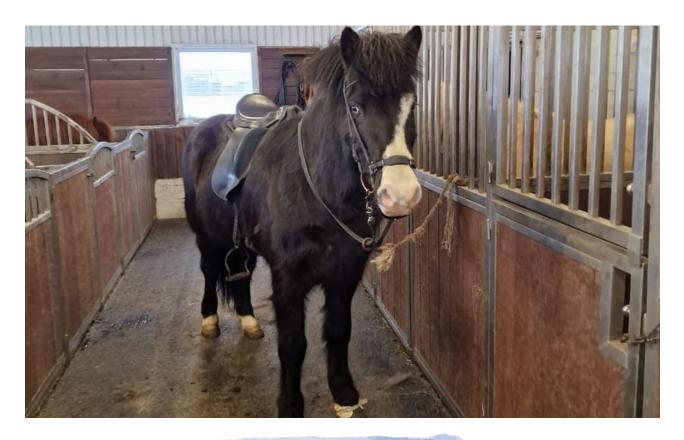
Born: 2006 Color: Bay Gaits: 4

Owner: Steinunn

Steinunn started training Þröstur for Ari when Þröstur was 5 years old. At that time he was not keen on the tölt. But Steinunn likes challenges and after 2 years with a lot of patiance Þröstur became one of Steinunn's favorite. Þröstur is easy in every aspect but he is still a typical 4 gaiter and likes to trot if you give him the reins.

#### Note

He needs to be focused on the tölt, both with seat and reins. If you have loose reins—he will just trot.



## Þytur frá Eystri-Hól

Born: 2012

Color: Brown with a blaze

Gaits: 4

Owner: Ari

Pytur is one of Ari's newest horses. He is from the same breeding farm as Hugur & Sölvi. He is willing & can be sensitive but he listens to the rider. He has a very comfortable seat and a very nice tölt.

Note

He can be spooked.



## Örvar frá Álftanesi

Born: 2004

Color: Chestnut with a star

Gaits: 4

Owner: Ari

We recently got Sebastian and Örvar from a friend who decided to sell all his horses and stop riding. We are very pleased with those two full brothers. They are best friends and always have to be together. He is tall and big and just likes to tölt. He is comfortable to ride and has a nice seat.

#### Note

He likes to put is head up and down (not as bad as Sebastian) so its good to have loose reins.



## Örn frá Efri-Hömrum

Born: 2008

Color: Black

Gaits: 5

Owner: Ari

Örn is one of Ari's newest horses. He is willing but has a comfortable seat. He responds well to voice commands.

Note

He can be spooked







Týri is Lóa's and her boyfriends dog. He is an Icelandic sheepdog born in 2020. He is rather small but that makes him extra cute. He likes to bark at the horses but is very nice and energetic. He loves when people give him attention and pet him. He knows all kinds of tricks and is very smart. Týri has not yet run along with the horses but might do it one day.



### Snotra

Snotra is the newest one in the group born in 2022. She is an Icelandic sheepdog with a lot of energy. She and Týri are good friends and they play for hours when he comes to visit. She likes to bark at the horses and is quite good at rounding them up. She likes bellyrubs and to be pet.

## The old and the young horses

We are very happy to say that we let our older horses retire with dignity and pleasure. We keep them with the younger horses and mares as they make super babysitters. They stay on a big field with enough to eat, drink and good shelter. We make sure to check up on 2-3 times a week to see if their health is okay. We love and appreciate our older horses and they have absolutely earned happy and joyful retirement years. Once they become fragile and it is not in their best interest anymore to stay on, we have them put down humanely by a vet. None of our Exploring Iceland tour horses will ever go to slaughter!

The young horses will join us eventually after they have had training and get to run along on one sevreal tours.

Here you can find a little blog about our retired horses.



# We look forward to ride with you

