

Dear friends

As the bright summer nights get longer here in Iceland, we are getting more and more excited to get going with our horses up in the highlands, enjoying the fresh air and the Icelandic wilderness !

With this little letter I want to inform you all that have booked seats with us this summer about the situation in Iceland right now regarding the Covid virus, my thoughts about how things will develop and how we plan to organise and run our tours with the ongoing situation in mind.

Icelandic health authorities have managed to cope extremely well with the Covid virus issue and for the last couple of weeks, no new cases have been detected in Iceland. Life is getting slowly back to normal, most restrictions have been lifted or minimized as much as possible and Icelandic borders will be opened for travellers on June 15th. The plan at the moment is to offer Covid Tests to all travellers upon arrival at the airport in Keflavik with results ready in couple of hours. After a confirmed negative test, travellers will be allowed to go freely anywhere in Iceland. Cost of the test will be covered by Icelandic authorities and visitors will be allowed to wait for the results at their hotels/guesthouses in Reykjavik before travelling further in to the country.

News are posted every day about other countries lifting or planning to lift travel restrictions so hopefully travelling in general will get easier slowly from June 15th onward and followed up with more flights to scheduled destinations around the world. Icelandair has just announced that they plan daily flights to key destinations in Europe from June 15th.

Unfortunately we can not have big influence on airlines schedules but hopefully with countries opening borders, airlines waking up and scheduling flights fitting our tour dates, you will all be able to travel from your homes to Iceland and back with as little extra trouble as possible.

Our plans for the season is to run all our tours as scheduled. We have got several cancellations where our guests have in all cases postponed their seats to 2021 and plan to visit us next year and join the tours they had planned for 2020. Our offer to postpone depositpayments to any other tour available in the next 3 years has been well appreciated by those who already cancelled and we are extremely thankful for super nice communications with those clients and the will to keep the commitments for future use.

At the moment the situation with bookings for each tour is approx. 50-70% of confirmed bookings. Our plan is to operate all tours even though we only have couple of guests left for individual departures 😊 We will not cancel tours due to small size from our end. We hope that all of you who are still waiting for more clear news about travelling issues will keep your plans and join us on the tours you have booked.

Iceland will be an even more extraordinary place to visit this season with almost no tourists around and travelling by horse through the nature will be more amazing than ever as we will have the country, wilderness and fresh air all to ourselves - more or less !

We plan to organise our daily schedule as close to the itinerary of each tour as possible but with all possible general precautions regarding Covid parameters. We expect that all general hygienic rules will be respected by our guests and staff regarding handwashing, disinfections and 1-2 meters distancing as much as possible. During the day out in the fresh air and on horse back, luckily this is no problem at all. During evenings / nights, we will make sure that single travellers will have the chance to get single rooms at our destinations and couples or travelling companions will have double rooms. A few accomodations on our highland tours are planned in mountain huts where separate rooms are not an option. There we will offer tents to those preferring privacy and will spread out

beds throughout the huts to ensure enough distance between people. As the groups will all be smaller than normally (8-12 guests booked right now on most planned tours), this will not be any problem at all for us to organise and we will for sure keep the number of guests per tour limited through the season to make sure we can cope well with every situation and keep our guests and staff safe and well.

Dear fellows !

We very much hope to see you all in the coming weeks and months and spend together great times with our horses and Icelandic nature as good as it gets! Be sure we will do all we can to make you enjoy your holidays. We all need a good time after all the lockdowns and restrictions and there is no place in the world better than Icelandic nature for feeling the freedom and get back the spirit of enjoying life to the limits ! I hope this letter answers some possible questions, but if you have any thoughts to share or need any help in organising your travels please write me back or call 003548924645 for a personal talk.

Best regards from all Riding Iceland / Saltvík team and the family at Saltvík farm

Bjarni