

IN SEARCH OF FIRE & ICE

Crossing the Highlands of Iceland

Sept 10-17, 2022

An episode by [Trailseekers.cc](https://www.trailseekers.cc)



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The plan

- Crossing the remote Highlands of Iceland
- Mix of luxury & back-to-basic experience
- See all iconic natural highlights of Iceland by bike; vulcanos, glaciers, geysers, waterfalls and hot-springs
- 7 day from home (5,5 days cycling)
- 4,5 hrs cycling per day
- Fully independent; We carry our own stuff
- Sleep in mountain huts (tent is back-up)
- All-out finish party in Reykjavik
- 8 adventurous participants + 2 guides
- Challenge yourself

Also included:

- Fun briefing dinner in Amsterdam
- Preparation workshop by Bas Rotgans
- All gear & equipment
- Packing list & 24/7 customer service



“Meet & Greet with Mother Nature”



Getting ready

This isn't an ordinary trip. We will traverse one of Europe's most desolate areas with challenging weather conditions. For this reason we will help you getting fully prepared. Besides that we'd like to take the opportunity to have some fun before we leave and get to know each other a bit. We will organize a few things to get into the spirit:

A fun [briefing dinner & drinks](#) in Amsterdam, where we tell about the route, the plan and get to know each other

A [bikepacking survival workshop & stories](#) by bikepacking pioneer Bas Rotgans from Wheelrunner for technical instruction, geartalk and Do's & Don'ts during the trip

Besides a full packlist, [we'll support you](#), on a personal level, getting gear ready. Think bike geometry, clothing, flights, inspiration, tips. Most gear will be rented, but we offer discounts when you choose to buy gear.

The trip

We believe (actually, we know) the best trips are varied and balanced. This trip is designed to have it all. A full mix of landscapes, basic & luxury accommodations, physical & mental states, and expect all weather conditions. We can only plan for 80%, the rest is up to the gods. Of course, we are ready to deal with all.

After an [easy start](#), we will leave the remote northern part of Iceland and go into the [desolate Highlands](#), using the trails between two glaciers, to go [from cabin to cabin](#). We'll be cycling (or pushing) our bikes, up and down, smiling, cursing, seeking shelter, snacking, jump into hot springs, having a rewarding beer. And...if weather is great and we feel like it, we even set up our tent. After 3-4 days, we come down from the Highlands, pass by a some [iconic highlights](#) of Iceland, like waterfalls, geysers and other geothermal activity, before crossing the tectonic plates of Eurasia and America and [return to civilization](#) and [finish in Reykjavik](#). Time to enjoy wellness, food, drinks and nightlife.



“A trip
designed
to have it all”



Accommodation

Actually we don't like the word accommodation. It doesn't reflect the spirit of the trip. But writing down mountain huts, farm B&B's, country hotel, downtown apartment and wild-camping is way too long. And yet we will stay in all of the above. A perfect balanced mix throughout the week.

The trip starts off with little luxury meaning a [decent bed, nice dinner and a natural hot-spring](#). Going into the highlands, we will go [back to basic](#), although we always try to manage that well-deserved beer in the evening. Coming down from the highlands, we will go back to a nice bed again and a good dinner. Some of the places have a hot-spring, some of them have a toilet inside, all of them are [warm, charming and fun](#). In downtown Reykjavik, there is a [big apartment](#) waiting for us with sauna, massage and well-deserved snacks and drinks. A perfect base for our last evening together in Reykjavik.



Gear

We'll make sure everybody has the equipment they need to take up the Highlands and fight the elements, when they come. You will enjoy and appreciate quality gear once we are up there. Tens of years of experience from bikepacking races, ski touring and professional bike repair will do the job.

When we talk about gear, we talk about [gravel bikes](#) with wide tires, a full [sleep-system](#)* (meaning ultralight tent, pad and sleeping bag), waterproof [bikepacking bags](#) and [\(technical\) clothing](#). Then there is also stuff like tools, spares, beacons,, water filters, GPS, cooking stove, lights etc. We got this covered as well. All gear, except clothing, is [included in the package](#). Most gear can also be purchased with partner discount. Bringing your own gear will lower the price.

*For the cabins we only need a sleeping bag, but to remain flexible we will bring tent as well.





“This isn’t an
ordinary trip”

Package

Price inc VAT 3.325 euro*

Included

- All gear & equipment: gravel bike, bags, tent, sleeping bag, pad, beacon*
- All meals & (non-alcoholic) beverages
- All hotels, apartment & cabin bookings
- Fun briefing dinner in A'dam
- Preparation workshop by Bas Rotgans
- All Icelandic transfers
- 2 experienced guides
- Mechanical support
- Photo & video trip documentation
- Packlist and 24/7 customer service
- Carbon footprint compensation
- Really cool gift

* Bringing own qualified gear reduces the price by 600 euro.



Excluded

- Flight to/from Reykjavik

“100% experience. Get your 100% bragging rights”



Jan-Kees Pennings

Marketeer BBB Cycling
Founder Trailseekers.cc
Bikepacking guide
Endurance cyclist

TRIPLEADER & GUIDE

Instagram @jkpenning



Bas Rotgans

Founder Wheelrunner.cc
Founder Powderchase ski touring
Bikepacking pioneer
Bike Mechanic

LEAD GUIDE

Instagram @basrotgans



Paul Bardot

Icelandic specialist (inhabitant)
Endurance cyclist
Bike Mechanic
Photographer

LOCAL CONTACT / ROUTE DESIGNER

Instagram @paulbardot.watercolor

Requirements

In the end, we want to get out, get dirty, see stuff, celebrate and feel alive & kicking. See if you match the criteria and we are happy to take you on-board.

Mentally You should be willing to pick up the gloves and fight one of Europe's most demanding territories. The route is technically okay (smooth roads) , but the biggest challenge will be the (changing) weather conditions. Gear will keep you dry and warm, and if you are able to keep your sense of humour when we need to seek shelter for a storm, you are good to go.

Physically Surprisingly, you DON'T HAVE to be a cyclist when you register. This is not a race and the speed is relatively low. A good level of overall fitness will do the job, and we are sure you will cycle enough when preparing for this. In the end, you need to be able to ride at least 4 hrs a day and pass a sport medical check.

Profile First of all, we are doing this for fun, and less for money. We apply a strict No Asshole Policy (male/female). You don't have to be perfect, but we do ask you to be a kind person with a positive mindset. There will be plenty moments we need to help each other. We expect the majority of the group to be 35-55yrs, entrepreneurs (or a responsible position), who are keen on new experiences

Travelling is never 100% environmentally sustainable. However, we will try to [compensate our impact](#) as much as possible. First, we will follow the principles of 'Leave No Trace'. Second, we will offset our carbon footprint of our flights. Third, we will donate 10% of the profits to a local NGO preserving nature.

Secure your spot

Get in touch with us by sending an email to info@trailseekers.cc. We are also happy to organize a call to answer your questions. Or [book your spot](#) directly by filling out the registration form on the website www.trailseekers.cc and the payment of 30% deposit.

In case of a general travel ban to Iceland [due to COVID](#), you will be 100% refunded. You can find this, and all our other terms and conditions on www.trailseekers.cc

“Upon return, we wish you good luck explaining friends & family what you just have experienced.”

“Go out and
get lost”





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