

# Brochures on farmhouses



Every year an increasing number of tourists choose working farms as accommodation for their holidays. **Farm stays** have been growing since the 1990s because they are a fascinating way of discovering farm life, of seeing picturesque corners of natural beauty, of getting in touch with nature and of tasting naturally organic food. Farms may be divided into **non-working farms**, which offer accommodation in restored buildings where no rural activities take place, and **working farms**, which offer interactive stays in rustic operating farms where guests are invited to watch or participate in the traditional daily duties like feeding animals, milking cows and gathering hay. Staying on a farm is a growing trend in Europe, the activities offered vary according to the countries. For example in central Italy pottery and cuisine classes are very popular, alpine farms usually offer horseback riding and cheese making workshops, in Scandinavia visitors can take part in deer safaris and dog sled excursions. Accommodation is offered in rooms or small apartments located in the main farmhouse or in separate buildings like converted barns or stables, cabins and cottages.

## Type of farm / Location

*Working farm located on a hillside in one of ...'s most beautiful regions.  
Elegant farmhouse situated in ..., away from the hustle and bustle of modern life.  
Make your way to this undisturbed and picturesque corner overlooking ...  
Located ... km away from the main road, it is within easy reach for visitors.  
The position makes it an ideal base to explore the surrounding area.  
Beautiful working farm boasting comfortable accommodation in the unspoilt area of ...  
The location is excellent: in a few minutes' drive visitors can enjoy breathtaking views of ...*

## Building / A bit of history

*Descendants of the same family have been living and farming here for the last ... years.  
It is a listed 17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse run by descendants of the same family for centuries.*

## Accommodation and Facilities

*You can choose from among a selection of cottages, apartments and rooms.  
Accommodation is offered in 8 ensuite rooms in the main farmhouse and ...  
We are adjacent to ... acres of woodland offering wonderful walks and superb views.  
Accommodation is available in a separate building on the farm. Guests can choose from ...  
Guests share ... bathrooms and a hot tub and also have access to a kitchen and ...*

## What to do and see

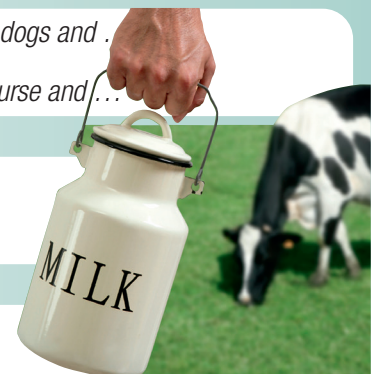
*The farm's domestic animals include cows, sheep, horses, dogs and ...  
Activities at the farm include: ...  
A popular leisure spot is slightly farther away with a golf course and ...*

## Hosts

*A welcoming community will help to create the atmosphere for an exceptional farm holiday experience.  
The hostess makes you feel part of an extended family.*

## Prices

*Prices range from ... to ... per week per room (double occupancy). From ... breakfast included.*



## 1 Read the text, then answer the questions.

### Steindórsstaðir

Attractive bed and breakfast on a working farm located on a hillside in one of Iceland's most beautiful regions. A crystal clear river leisurely flows through the valley and the surrounding countryside offers a warm welcome to visitors keen on exploring nearby natural wonders. Open all year.

#### Farming for over 1,100 years

Steindórsstaðir has been a working farm since the Settlement Period. Descendants of the same family have been living and farming here for the last 200 years. The farm's domestic animals include cows, sheep, horses, dogs and cats are enjoyed by children and adults alike. The farmers also practise forestry and cultivate grain for their dairy cows.

#### Accommodation, cooking facilities

Accommodation is available in a separate building on the farm. Guests can choose from 6 neat and tidy single, double or triple rooms. Each room comes with a hand basin. Guests share three bathrooms and a hot tub and also have access to a kitchen; the washing machine is on the veranda. Free Wi-Fi.

#### In the footsteps of a chieftain

Reykholt, an important cultural centre in the Middle Ages, is only a short distance away from Steindórsstaðir (2 km). Snorri Sturluson, Iceland's most famous scholar, lived in Reykholt during the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Today there is a special exhibition dedicated to his life and work. Outside one can see the remains of a hot spring pool named after Snorri, who was slain in Reykholt in 1241.

#### In the area:

Reykholt (2 km) - Glanni golf course (8 km) - Deildartunguhver (hot spring - 9 km) - Swimming pool (9 km) - Kleppjárnsreykir - Hraunfossar falls (15 km) - Borgarnes (44 km)

Reykholt also has a good geothermal swimming pool, also the village of Kleppjárnsreykir has a geothermal swimming pool (9 km).

#### Wonders of nature

Europe's largest hot spring (volume of water per sec.), Deildartunguhver, is located nearby at the bottom of Reykholtsdalur valley (9 km). A short drive across the hills to the north brings one to the beautiful Hraunfossar falls (15 km). There is another popular leisure spot slightly farther away: Húsafell, with a geothermal swimming pool, golf course and ideal terrain for walks. To the east, mountains, glaciers and the tranquil interior beckon.

#### Hiking trails and longer excursions

Rauðsgil, a small canyon with a few wonderful waterfalls is almost at the doorstep. Walks up and along the canyon are quite popular. A short drive leads into the next valley, Norðurárdalur, where nature has created a remarkable setting around one of Iceland's best salmon rivers. The nearest town is Borgarnes (44 km) with shops, all the usual services, a geothermal swimming pool and a heritage museum. The Settlement Centre in Borgarnes offers the opportunity to learn about the settlement of the Norsemen more than 1,100 years ago.



Hosts: Guðfinna and Pórarinn  
Prices: From ISK 13300 (€ 90) per room breakfast included. Major credit cards accepted.

1. What is Steindórsstaðir and where is it?
2. What sort of tourists could be interested in a stay at Steindórsstaðir?
3. What farm activities are practiced at Steindórsstaðir?
4. What sort of accommodation is offered?
5. Explain the expression: "one can see the remains of a hot spring pool named after Snorri".
6. Explain the meaning of the expression "Rauðsgil, a small canyon with a few wonderful waterfalls is almost at the doorstep".
7. How can tourists spend their time?
8. Who are Guðfinna and Pórarinn?

## 2 Listen to these two customer reviews and complete the tables.

Customer reviews	A	B
Nights they/he stayed at Steindórsstaðir	1.	5.
Guests' opinion about the hosts/hospitality	2.	6.
Guests' opinion about the location of the farmhouse	3.	
Guests' opinion about the accommodation offered	4.	
Guest's opinion about the food served		7.
Places he visited		8.