

A wonderful retreat and outdoor paradise in Breiðdalur

STORY: KRISTJÁN ÞORVALDSSON PHOTO: XXXXXXXXXXXX

Excellent taste” is the first thought that comes to mind when the reporter knocks on the door at the home of Jón B. Stefánsson and Guðrún Sveinsdóttir at Þorgrímsstaðir in Breiðdalur. Þorgrímsstaðir is located 45 minutes drive south of Egilsstaðir on highway no. 1.

Both Jón and Guðrún are born and bred in the city, although Jón has always been a bit of a country boy at heart. Jón is a civil engineer and ran his own company in Reykjavík for 30 years. Guðrún is a lawyer and worked at a bank. Guðrún had been interested in buying real estate outside the greater-Reykjavík area. In the beginning they weren't looking to stray too far away from the capital. But then their son in law, who has roots in Eastern-Iceland, told them about the farm and beautiful land at Þorgrímsstaðir.

THE LAST FARM IN THE VALLEY

In 2003 when Jón and Guðrún bought the farm, there had been truly excellent farming taking place. Inspired by the previous

the first lambing, Guðrún resigned at the bank and became a country lass,” he adds smiling.

Now they spend most of the year at Þorgrímsstaðir, the last farm at highway no. 1 before you start driving the mountain road over the heath Breiðdalsheiði.

For the last few years they've been developing ideas how to use the facilities and surrounding land for tourism.

ENDLESS IDEAS

It is clear that their interest has developed into a great adventure. “Yes, we have already accomplished a lot,” says Guðrún. “We have three daughters. Before we started developing the retreat we discussed things with them, and they and their families have participated in the adventure with great enthusiasm.”

There has neither been a lack of interest, nor ideas, and Jón has enjoyed designing and supervising the construction with considerable help from Guðrún. They have rebuilt and transformed the old barn house into an outstanding facility for tourists. At the same time they have found an ideal way to use the charm of the farmhouse, the outhouse and the environment.

Even though the couple is firmly committed to creating a wonderful retreat for tourists, they have continued to rear sheep. Their herd, at the end of the lambing period, is around 75. At one point the farm had over 400 sheep.

Guðrún and Jón enjoy hiking and they know many excellent hiking routes in the surrounding area. Their daughters have also put forth their own ideas. They are very interested in things related to health, exercise and healthy living.

The plan is to have week long health retreats a few times each year where guests can practice



yoga, pilates, hike in the spectacular surrounding mountains while enjoying healthy meals, relaxing and rejuvenating at the resort, which has a spacious hall for exercising, a couple of warm water spas and a sauna.

THE OUTDOORS, HUNTING AND RELAXING.

It is not an exaggeration to say that Þorgrímsstaðir is a health- and outdoors paradise. The pictures show the facilities but they cannot fully represent the experience of being there and breathing in the fresh country air. There are numerous hiking routes, the surrounding landscape is unique with its towering mountains and extensive plains.

The couple envisages individuals and groups coming to stay with them for shorter or longer periods



Guðrún with a lamb in the sheep house and Jón with a trout from Heiðarvatn.



farmers Jón and Guðrún decided to continue rearing sheep for a few more years.

“I suppose you say that we fell in love with the land and the countryside,” says Jón. “And after



of time. Breiðdalur is an ideal location for hunting and guests at Þorgrímsstaðir can enjoy the good raw materials that nature offers. Jón and Guðrún expect to be ready to welcome guests in June.

This area is known for an excellent place for ptarmigan and reindeer shooting. The lakes and rivers are teeming with trout. It is also a great place to gather berries in the autumn. Nearby there are great opportunities to go horseback riding on the Icelandic horse, with one rental just a 5 minutes drive down the road from Þorgrímsstaðir.

A wonderful place to rest and relax in a quiet and beautiful location with the power of Iceland all around. 🌿

silfurberg.com
 silfurberg@silfurberg.com
 Phone: +354 475 1515.
 Þorgrímsstaðir, 760 Breiðdalsvík.

