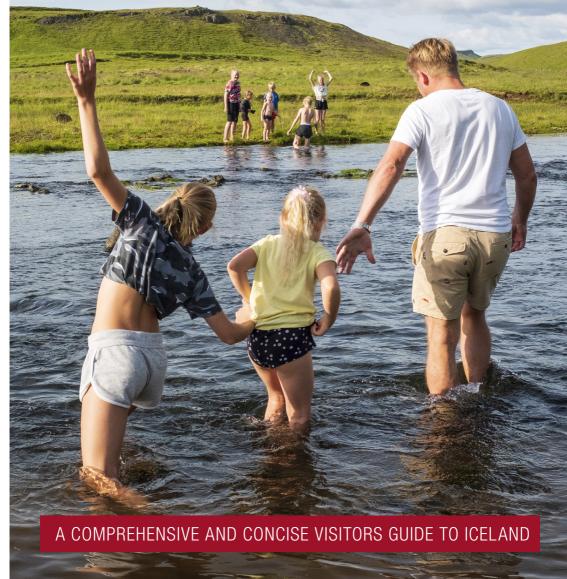
AROUND ICELAND

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CenterHotels is a family run hotel chain offering 6 hotels that are all located in the city center of Reykjavík. The hotels are rated 3 to 4 stars and are renowned for their friendly staff and excellent customer service. Quality accommodation, various choices of restaurants, bars and spa makes CenterHotels the ideal choice whether visiting Reykjavik for business of pleasure.









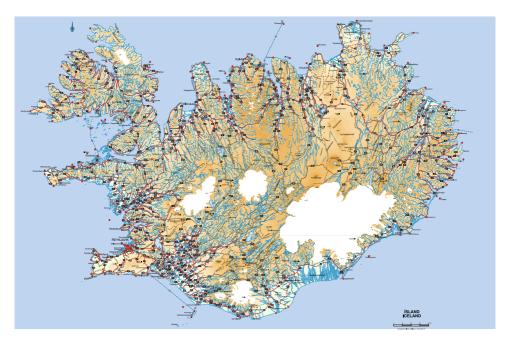


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MD REYKJAVIK EHF.

Laugavegur 5, 101 Reykjavík | +354 551 3600 | upplysingar@mdr.is

To order free copies of Around Iceland, contact upplysingar@mdr.is.

Authors have taken all reasonable care in preparing this handbook, information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but make no guarantee about the accuracy or completeness of its content.

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Reykjavík City Museum, engaging journeys through culture, heritage and history.



Dear traveller,



It is my unique privilege to live in a country as beautiful as Iceland. Its unparalleled beauty is preserved by a constant process of change. From a geological perspective, one might say that Iceland has discovered the secret of eternal youth; new land cleaves from the ledges of the old. This course of events creates distinct landforms that, in their multiplicity, are largely unique to our country.

But young land is also especially susceptible and vulnerable. Bearing that in mind, we must all treat the land with particular respect and consideration in our travels.

This country's magnificent natural landscape can also be dangerous, and those wishing to travel should be both cautious and prepared. We at the Ministry of Tourism, Industry, and Innovation will continue to emphasise safety-awareness for travellers and to offer facilities, information centres, and other

offices that increase the safety of travelling in Iceland. This is becoming increasingly important with the rising popularity of adventure tours and the growing number of travellers that visit us in the winter months.

In this message, I want to encourage all travellers to appraise themselves of the wonderful services that are provided on the website www.safetravel.is.

We are very fortunate that there are so many pearls of nature across our country, and one of our major projects is to better publicise the areas that are still little known. Many travellers wish to avoid places in the country that are already frequently visited by tourists, and there are ample opportunities to do so in our wide and lush countryside.

Travelling around Iceland can be a very unique experience. I hope that your time in Iceland will be both enjoyable and unforgettable.

Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir Ministry of Tourism. Industry, and Innovation



WHALE ... HELLO THERE

WHALE WATCHING WITH THE PROS FROM REYKJAVÍK & AKUREYRI





MEANING OF SYMBOLS ON STREETS AND REGIONAL MAPS



Filling Station



Hotel/



Swimming Pool



Post Office



Police Station



Restaurant/ Snack Bar



Savings Bank



Church



Pharmacy



Hospital/Health Care Centre



Tourist Information



Museum



Airport



Boat

Ferry



Guesthouse Sports Field



Golf Course



Library



Camping Site



Place of Interest



Garage





Apartments

KEY TO SYMBOLS



Open all year.



Off-licence.



Snowmobiles for hire



Camping huts.



Hot water.



Only open in summer.



No Smokina.



Boating trips.



Icelandic farm holidavs.



Electricity for campers.



Made-up beds/ Number



Access for the disabled



Hiking paths.



Holiday cottage.



Waste disposal.



Sleeping bag places/Number.



Dogs allowed.



Bird watching



Youth hostel



Playground.



Rooms with shower/Number.



Cafe.



Jeep tours.





Outdoor bar-

beaue.



Rooms with telephone.



Washing machine/ Facilities



Helicopter tours. Interesting sites.



Guest house/ Private home

Apartments.



Swimming pool/ Distance km



Rooms with television.



Angling procured. Golf Course/



Petrol/Gasoline.



School.



Hot tub.

Indoor swim-



Facilities for meetings. Warm meals/

Refreshments.



Horse rental near-bv.

Distance km



Internet.



Community

Campsite.



Waterslide.

Steambath.

ming pool.



Breakfast



Bicycles for hire.



Wireless



Cold water.



Gym.



Cooking facilities



Boats for hire.







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Practical Information

Population

Total population	356.900
Capital Area	228.200
Suðurnes	27.100
West Iceland	16.500
Western Fjords	7.100
Northwest Iceland	7.200
Northeast Iceland	30.400
East Iceland	13.000
South Iceland	27.400

Sunrise and sunset

Reykjavík	Sunrise	Sunset	Day length
1 January	11:19	15:44	04:24.
1 February	10:08	17:16	07:08.
1 March	08:35	18:47	10:12
1 April	06:45	20:20	13:35
1 May	05:00	21:52	16:52
1 June	03:23	23:31	20:09
21 June	02:55	00:04	21:09.
1 July	03:06	23:56	20:50
1 August	04:35	22:31	17:56
1 September	06:11	20:43	14:32
1 October	07:37	18:56	11:19
1 November	09:12	17:10	07:58
1 December	10:46	15:47	05:01
21 December	11:32	15:30	04:07

Akureyri	Sunrise	Sunset	Day length
1 January	11:32	15:00	03:28.
1 February	10:05	16:48	06:43.
1 March	08:24	18:27	10:03.
1 April	06:27	20:08	13:41.
1 May	04:32	21:50	17:18.
1 June	02:33	23:51	21:18.
21 June	01:29	00:59	23:30.
1 July	01:59	00:33	22:31.
1 August	04:03	22:32	18:29.
1 September	05:49	20:33	14:44.
1 October	07:23	18:39	11:16.
1 November			
1 December	10:54	15:08	04:14.
21 December	11:39	14:42	03:03

Iceland by the numbers

The land	km².
Iceland1	03,000.
The Greater	
Reykjavík area	1,000.
Cultivated	23,805.
Lakes	2,757.
Glaciers	11,922.
Wasteland	64,538.
Coastline4	,970 km
Longest rivers	km
Þjórsá	230.
Jökulsá á Fjöllum	206.
Sortatsa a i jottarrii	
Ölfusá/Hvítá	
	185.
Ölfusá/Hvítá	185. 178.
Ölfusá/HvítáSkjálfandafljót Jökulsá á Dal	185. 178. 150.
Ölfusá/HvítáSkjálfandafljót Jökulsá á Dal Highest waterfalls	185. 178. 150. m
Ölfusá/HvítáSkjálfandafljót Jökulsá á Dal	185. 178. 150. m
Ölfusá/HvítáSkjálfandafljót Jökulsá á Dal Highest waterfalls	185. 178. 150. m 190.
Ölfusá/Hvítá	185. 178. 150. m 190.
Ölfusá/Hvítá	185. 178. 150. m 190. 122. 110.
Ölfusá/Hvítá	185. 178. 150. m 190. 122. 110.
Ölfusá/Hvítá	185 178 150. m 190 122 110 65 62.
Ölfusá/Hvítá	185 178 150 190 122 110 65 62 44.
Ölfusá/Hvítá	185178150. m1901221106564232.

Largest lakes km².
Þórisvatn83-88.
Þingvallavatn82.
Lögurinn 53.
Mývatn 37.
Hvítárvatn30.
Highest mountains m
Hvannadalshnjúkur 2,110.
Bárðarbunga2,000.
Kverkfjöll1,920.
Snæfell1,833.
Hofsjökull1,765.
Herðubreið 1,682.
Eiríksjökull1,675.
Eyjafjallajökull1,666.
Tungnafellsjökull 1,540.
Kerling 1,538.
Þorvaldsfell in Askja 1,510.
Hekla1,491.
Largest glaciers km².
Vatnajökull8,300.
Langjökull953.
Hofsjökull925.
Mýrdalsjökull596.
Drangajökull160

Weights and measures

1 inch (UK and US) = 2.54 cm

1 foot (UK and US) = 12 inches = 30.48 cm

1 acre (UK and US) = $4,047 \text{ m}^2$.

1 mile (UK and US) = 1,609 km.

1 knot (International) = 1.852 m

1 pint (UK) = 0.473 cm³.

1 pint (US) = 0.568 cm^3 .

1 pound (lce.) = 0.500 kg

1 pound (lb UK and US) = 0.45359237 kg

1 ounce (oz UK and US) = 28.35 g

Practical Information

Phone numbers

Emergencies - 112.

In case of emergency, dial 112 for police, fire department, ambulance or any other distress situation.

Dental help

Information on dentists on duty tel.: 575-0505.

Embassies

Canada, Túngata 14, tel. 575-6500.

China, Bríetartún 1, tel. 552-6751.

Denmark, Hverfisgata 29, tel. 575-0300.

Finland, Túngata 30, tel. 510-0100.

France, Túngata 22, tel. 575-9600.

Germany, Laufásvegur 31, tel. 530-1100.

India. Túngata 7. tel. 534-9955.

Japan, Laugavegur 182, tel. 510-8600.

Norway, Fjólugata 17, tel. 520-0700.

The Russian Federation, Garðastræti 33.

Tel.: 551-5156.

Sweden, Lágmúli 7, tel. 520-1230.

United Kingdom, Laufásvegur 31, tel. 550-5100.

United States of America, Laufásvegur 21. Tel.: 595-2200.

For further information contact the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Rauðarárstígur 25 - 105 Reykjavik, tel. 545-9900.

Icelandic currency

The Icelandic monetary unit is the Króna (ISK). The coins in use are 1, 5, 10, 50 and 100 krónur. The notes are 500, 1000, 2000, 5000 and 10000 krónur. Foreign exchange is available at all bank branches around the country. Exchange outside regular banking hours is open 24 hours at Arion bank at Keflavík Airport.

Information

Credit cards/debit cards

All major debit- and credit card brands are commonly accepted in Iceland. This includes American Express, MasterCard, Maestro, Cirrus, Visa, Visa Electron, Union Pay, JCB and Diners/Discovery cards. Cash is generally available to all these brands in ATMs and some banks and savings banks offer cash-advance services for most of these brands as well.

Electricity

The voltage is 220, 50 Hz AC. Please note that prongs on equipment you bring with you from home may be different from Icelandic standards. Adaptors are available in all major hotels and guesthouses and electronic stores.

International calls

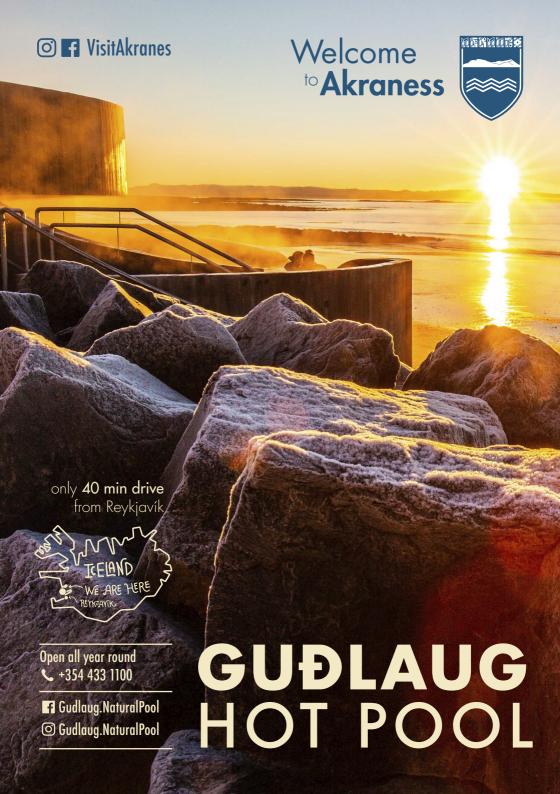
When calling outside Iceland, dial without interruption the international code (00), then the country code, the area code, and finally the number. If you need help to reach the number, you can call 1818 and 1819 for assistance. If you need help in finding a phone number abroad, you can call 1818 and 1819 for information.

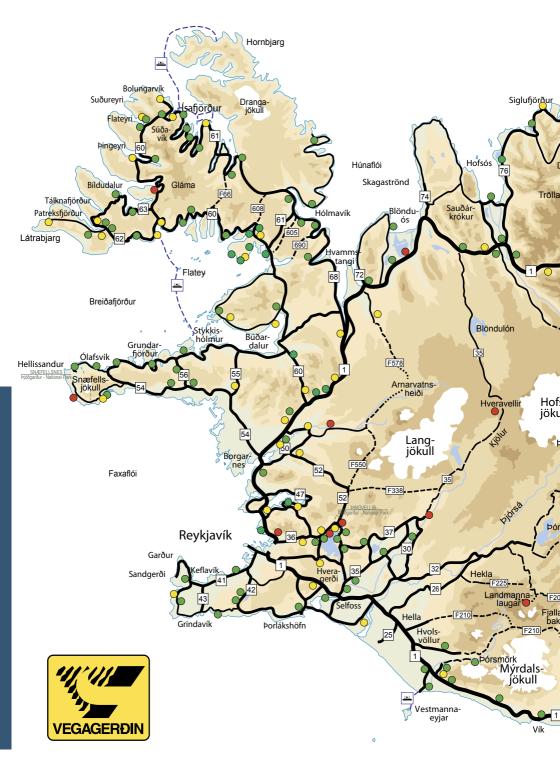
Domestic calls

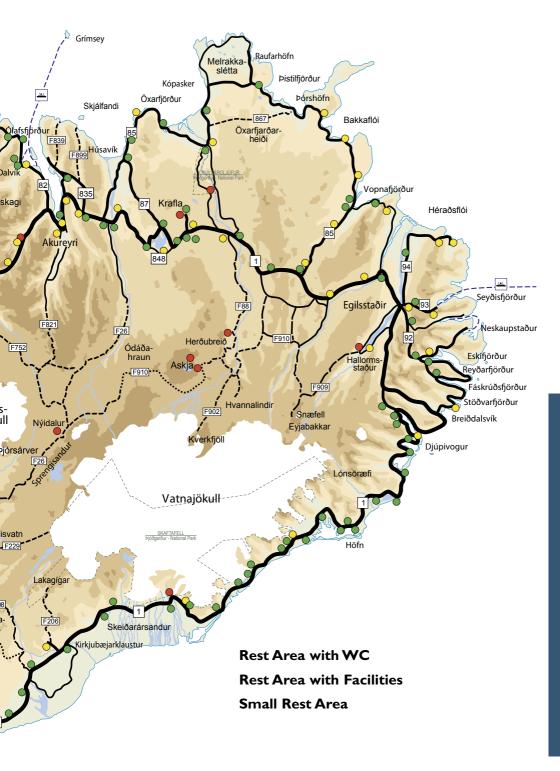
Phone numbers in Iceland are seven-digit numbers. No area codes are necessary, you dial the number directly. The Icelandic phone book, lists names alphabetically by Christian names, not family names.

Business contacts

Promote Iceland, Sundagarðar 2, tel.: 511-4000. Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Lindargata, 101 Reykjavík, tel. 545-9200. Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Rauðarárstígur 25, Reykjavík, tel.: 545-9900. Federation of Icelandic Trade, Kringlan 7, 103 Reykjavík, tel.: 588-8910.







Scheduled Public Buses

STRÆTÓ (All vear)

This is the main public bus system Tel. 540 2700 - www.bus.is



SVAUST Bus System of the Eastfiords (All year) Tourist Info in Egilsstaðir: Tel. 471 2320 - www.svaust.is Tourist Info in Seyðisfjörður: Tel. 472 1551 - www.visitseydisfjordur.com

Local bus lines in West Iceland (All year)

Bolungarvík - Ísafjörður (Airport): Tel. 893 8355 - www.bolungarvík.is Ísafiörður - Suðurevri - Flatevri - Þingevri: Tel. 893 6356 - www.isafiordur.is Patreksfjörður - Bíldudalur: Tel. 456 5006 & 848 9614 - www.vesturbyggd.is Patreksfjörður - Bíldudalur Airport: Tel. 893 0809 & 893 2636 - vesturbyggd.is Hellissandur - Rif - Ólafsvík: Tel. 433 6900 & 892 4327 - www.snb.is Westfjords Tourist Information: Tel. 450 8060 - www.westfjords.is

Scheduled Tourist Buses

Summer only, with pre-booking

 Main lines in the Westfjords (Operation 2019 uncertain) Ísafiörður - Hólmavík: Tel. 450 8060 - www.westfiords.is Patreksfjörður - Brjánslækur - Ísafjörður: Tel. 456 5006 - www.wa.is Brjánslækur - Patreksfjörður - Látrabjarg: Tel. 456 5006 - www.wa.is

ICELAND ON YOUR OWN

Operated by Reykjavik Excursions To Landmannalaugar, Þórsmörk and Skógar Tel. 580 5400 - www.ioyo.is



VOLCANO HUTS

To Þórsmörk (in cooperation with Reykjavik Excursions) Tel. 419 4000 - www.volcanohuts.com



ICELAND BY BUS - Sterna Travel

To Landmannalaugar, Þórsmörk and South Coast Tel. 551 1166 - www.icelandbybus.is



TREX - to Landmannalaugar and Þórsmörk Tel. 587 6000 - www.trex.is

THULE TRAVEL



To Landmannalaugar and Þórsmörk

Tel. 519 3399 - www.thuletravel.is



SBA - NORĐURLEIÐ Reykjavík - KJÖLUR - Akureyri

Tel. 550 0700 - www.sba.is



MÝVATN TOURS

Mývatn - Herðubreiðarlindir - Askja Tel. 464 1920 - www.myvatntours.is



Passenger Ferries (Summer only)

Ísafjörður - Hornstrandir & Vigur

B@REA

BOREA: Tel. 456 3322 - www.borea.is

VESTURFERÐIR (also to Vigur): Tel. 456 5111 - www.vesturferdir.is

Norðurfjörður - Reykjarfjörður - Hornvík Tel. 849 4079, 669 1039 & 859 9570 - www.strandferdir.is Strandferðir



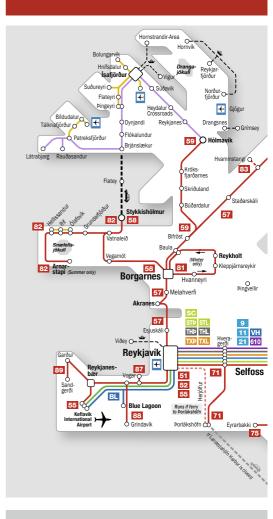
Drangsnes - Grímsey (Steingrímsfjörður) Malarhorn - Tel. 461 4345 & 547 1010 - www.malarhorn.is



Húsavík - Flatey (Skjálfandi) Gentle Giants - Tel. 464 1500 - www.gentlegiants.is



2019



Scheduled Ferries (All year round)

Vestmannaeyjar - Landeyjahöfn

Car ferry Herjólfur - Tel. 481 2800 - www.herjolfur.is



HERJÓLFUR

Revkiavík - Viðey (no cars) Tel. 519 5000 & 533 5055 - www.elding.is



Stykkishólmur - Flatey - Brjánslækur Car ferry Baldur - Tel. 433 2254 - www.seatours.is



Árskógssandur - Hrísev

Ferry Sævar - Tel. 695 5544 - www.hrisey.is



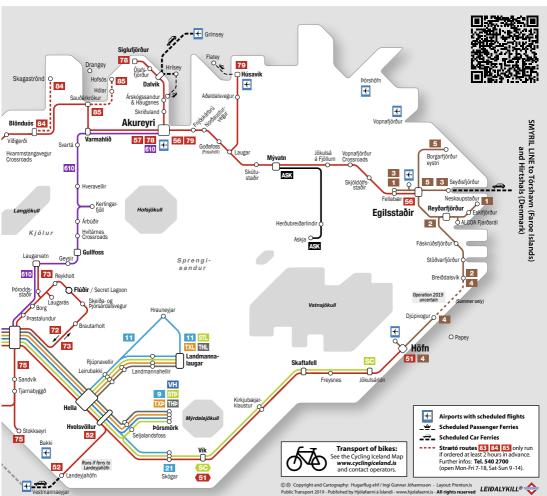
Dalvík - Grímsey & Dalvík - Hrísey Car ferry Sæfari - Tel. 458 8970 - www.saefari.is

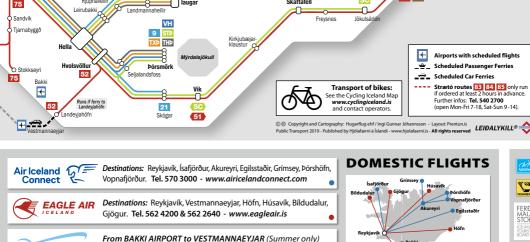
Samskip

Seyðisfjörður (IS) - Tórshavn (FO) - Hirtshals (DK) Car ferry Norröna - Tel. +298 34 5900 - www.smyrilline.com



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www.mountainguides.is. info@mountainguides



REYKJANESVITI





The Southwest

Southwest Iceland extends south from Herdísarvík across the whole Reykjanes peninsula, and ends at the Botnsá river in Hvalfjörður. The largest concentration of the population lives in this area of Iceland.

The southern coast of the Reykjanes peninsula has few natural harbours. However, there are impressive cliffs where birds make their nests in the crags. Eldey, a small volcanic island, is eight nautical miles southwest of Reykjanes and is home to the third-largest gannet colony in the world. Rosmhvalanes, often called Miðnes, is the peninsula that extends northward on the western coast of Stakksfiörður fjord, with Garðskagi at its northernmost point. The beach of Faxaflói bay is flat, but there are several places where soaring cliffs rise up from the sea. such as at Vogastapi. The mountain range of Reykjanes runs the full length of the peninsula and is characterised by volcanic tuff rock formations, or palagonite, and gray basalt can be found at Miðnes and Vogastapi. The land cannot retain surface rivers or streams: as soon as rainwater falls, it trickles down into the lava, which allows for little vegetation or land for cultivation. Kleifarvatn is the only major lake on the peninsula and it has no visible surface drainage. The Reykjanes peninsula has numerous volcanoes and a great deal of geothermal heat. There are three high-temperature areas in the region - Reykjanes, Eldvörp and Svartsengi - which are unique because there, subterranean seawater is heated when it contacts cooling magma. The heated seawater is used by the Revkianes Geothermal Power Plant to heat cold water, which provides hot water to all the residential areas of Revkianes. The hot water of the Blue Lagoon, one of the most popular tourist spots in Iceland, also originates there.

The landscape changes once you leave Reykjanes; the vegetation is more visible, becoming especially abundant as you travel north towards the Kjalarnes and Kjós area. The low-lying, indented coastline around Faxaflói bay is characterised by natural harbours. The residential promontories of Álftanes, Seltjarnarnes and Kjalarnes stretch out into the ocean, and between them are natural bays and inlets. Hafnarfjörður, Skerjafjörður, Kollafjörður, and Hvalfjörður are the main fjords along this coast, with Hvalfjörður measuring the deepest and longest at 30km. This area is widely characterised by lowlands, except for

Hvalfjörður. South of Mt. Esja, Reykjavík's signature mountain, is an extensive lowland area with soft, smooth, low hills, while to the north, Kjós is surrounded by rugged mountains scattered with grassy, fertile farmland. The Kjalarnes community has grown in recent years and is now one of the municipalities of the Greater Reykjavík area. The main coastal islands are Akurey, Engey, Viðey, and Þerney.

The Kjós district has several volcanoes, the oldest of which was active in the Kjalarnes area around 2.5 million years ago. The southern district is characterised by volcanic tuff rock formations, while Mt. Esja and the surrounding mountains are formed from basalt and rhyolite. Gray basalt rock can be found in areas surrounding Reykjavík and on Mosfellsheiði heath. Geothermal heat is extensive in this area, with the greatest concentration at Reykir in Mosfellsbær and certain areas in Reykjavík. This area has harnessed thermal water to heat greenhouses and residential neighbourhoods for many years.

The rivers are relatively few in number and small, the main ones being the Elliðaár and Laxá rivers in the Kjós district. Salmon swim in these rivers, as well as the Úlfarsá, Leirvogsá, Bugða, Brynjudalsá, and Botnsá rivers.

For the inhabitants of Reykjanes, fisheries and fish-related industries have been their mainstay since ancient times, while agriculture was the primary industry in Mosfellssveit, Kjalarnes and Kjós. With the increase in urban living, numerous new industries have flourished and the Capital Area functions as the centre for trade and services. On the southwest peninsula, Reykjanesbær is the main municipality, with of course Reykjavík being the largest on its northern side. The town of Álftanes is home to Bessastaðir, an ancient manor house and church owned by Snorri Sturluson (1178-1241), according to ancient sources. It's now the residence of the President of Iceland.

FVFNTS

REYKJANESBÆR

- · Annual 'thirteenth night' celebration on Jan. 6 each year.
- Numerous free events to celebrate during the Museum Weekend in March.
- The Children's Cultural Festival in Reykjanesbær, held in the first week of May each year.
- First weekend in Sept.: Ljósanótt (Night of the Lights), a family festival

SANDGERÐI

- · Courses offered by The Suðurnes Learning Centre.
- · Sandgerðisdagar, Sandgerði Festival.

GARĐUR

 Sólseturshátíð, Sunset Festival at Garðskagi, a variety of entertainment and shows.

VOGAR

• Fjölskyldudagar - Family Days in Vogar.

GRINDAVÍK

- · Grindavík Cultural Week.
- The second day of easter: The Blue Lagoon Walk.
- · The Merry Sailor.
- Midsummer Walk

KEFLAVÍK AIRPORT

Keflavík Airport is most travellers' gateway into Iceland. The airport has won multiple awards for excellent and efficient services and places a great deal of emphasis on continually improving and expanding. A good selection of restaurants, duty-free shops, and specialty boutiques with a wide selection of Icelandic design, food, and souvenirs are offered within the terminal. All the stores are VAT-exempt, which means that brands such as 66°North, Blue Lagoon, and more are less expensive at the airport than in the rest of Iceland. Free Wi-Fi is available at the airport.

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

• tel. 425-0777/505-0500. kefairport.is

REFRESHMENTS:

CHECK-IN AREA:

Joe and the Juice, tel, 431-3849.

ARRIVAL HALL:

- 10-11, tel. 431-1110.
- · Ginger, tel. 444-1550.

DEPARTURE HALL:

- Joe and the Juice, tel, 431-1015.
- Mathús, tel. 421-5800.
- Segafredo, tel. 421-5800.
- Nord, tel. 421-5800.
- Loksins Bar, tel. 421-5800.

SOUTH BUILDING, UPSTAIRS:

Kvikk Café, tel. 783-3332.

SOUTH BUILDING. DOWNSTAIRS:

Mathús, tel. 783-3332.

SHOPPING:

• Duty Free, dutyfree@dutyfree.is. Main office, tel. 425-0410.

DEPARTURES HALL RETAIL. NORTH BUILDING:

- · Cosmetics, skin care, and sweets department, tel. 425-0403.
- · Pharmacy and sweet shop, tel. 425-0404.

DEPARTURES HALL RETAIL. SOUTH BUILDING:

- · Iceland Duty Free, tel. 425-0430.
- · Non-Schengen retail, tel, 425-0424.
- Arrival Hall Retail, tel. 425-0401.
- Pure Food, tel. 693-9901.
- Elko, electronics and entertainment, tel. 425-0720.
- Evmundsson, bookstore, tel. 540-2310.
- Optical Studio, tel. 425-0500.
- Blue Lagoon, specialty cosmetics and skin care products from the Blue Lagoon, tel. 420-8859.
- · 66°North, Icelandic outdoor apparel, tel. 535-6651,
- · Rammagerðin, gift items and souvenirs, tel. 535-6651.
- · Airport Fashion, tel. 511-0101.

BANKING SERVICES:

- Service in the arrival hall, tel. 410-4943.
- · ATMs throughout the airport.
- Currency exchange and services in the departure hall, tel. 410-9026.
- Tax refund office in the departure hall, tel. 410-9041.
- Shopping centre contact, tel. 410-4942.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Scheduled trips between Reykjavík and Keflavík Airport, coordinated with all scheduled flights:
- Reykjavik Excursions, tel. 580-5400/420-6000.
- Gray Line, tel. 540-1313.
- · Airport Direct, tel. 497-8000.

CAR RENTALS:

- Avis Car Rental, tel. 591-4000.
- Europcar/National, tel. 425-0300.
- · Hertz Car Rental, tel. 522-4400.

TAXI:

- Aðalstöðin, tel. 420-1212.
- BSR, tel. 561-0000.
- City Taxi, tel. 422-2222.
- Hreyfill Bæjarleiðir, tel. 421-4141/588-5522.
- Borgarbílastöðin, tel. 552-2440.
- Taxi Service, tel. 588-5500.

PARKING FACILITIES:

- Kef Car Park, tel. 588-9999.
- · Isavia Parking, tel. 424-4000.
- Base Parking, tel. 854-2000.





REYKJANESBÆR

Population: > 10,000

Reykjanesbær is a municipality on the outer Reykjanes peninsula and it's the fifth-most populated municipality in Iceland. It was formed from a merger between the towns of Keflavík, Njarðvík, and Hafnir in 1994. The town has thrived since then and now includes a fourth district, Ásbrú, which was incorporated with the former American military base following the departure of American defense forces in 2001.

The Hafnaberg cliffs, at the westernmost point of Reykjanes, are one of the best birdwatching sites in the region. This is where the tectonic plates of America and Eurasia are slowly spreading apart, producing strong volcanic features and intense geothermal activity. Valahnúkar was the site of the first lighthouse in Iceland, built in 1878, and replaced in 1907 by the present lighthouse at Bæjarfell. The Reykjavegur trail, an old pathway leading to Þingvellir National Park, starts at the new lighthouse.



Just offshore stands a 51m tall volcanic rock pillar, called Karl, where whales are often seen swimming. Eldey lies about 8 nautical miles offshore. The island is 77m high and is home to the third-largest gannet colony in the world. First climbed in 1894, the island was visited by bird-catchers and egg-gatherers until it became protected in 1940. All access is now forbidden. A submarine volcano created the island, and at least ten others like it have been recorded.

KEFLAVÍK

Keflavík is the largest community in the municipality, situated around a cove with the same name. It was first mentioned in 13th-century historical records. The town became an important fishing centre, especially during the 19th century, and the community flourished following improvements to the harbour. In didition, Keflavík Airport plays an important role in the community. The town boasts a regional folk museum, as well as the Duus Art and Cultural Centre, and many enjoyable walking routes in the surrounding area, such as to the Hólmsberg cliffs, with an excellent view over Faxaflói bay.

NJARĐVÍK

The community of Njarðvík is divided into Innri-Njarðvík and Ytri-Njarðvík, but the latter has practically merged with Keflavík. From early on, fisheries have been Njarðvík's main economic activity. In recent times, industry and services for Keflavík Airport have grown in importance. Stekkjarkot, an old fishing workers' lodge that has been renovated, is located at Fitjar, between Innri- and Ytri-Njarðvík. It provides a good insight into the living conditions of working people in the first half of the 19th century. The Icelandic Museum of Rock 'n' Roll, which features exhibitions and artefacts connected to the history of Icelandic rock 'n' roll, can also be found in Niarðvík.



GUNNUHVER

The Viking ship Íslendingur is located inside the Viking World museum, along with an exhibition about the life and travels of the Vikings between the 9th and 11th centuries. Islendingur is a replica of the famous ship from Gauksstaðir, discovered during an archaeological excavation in Sandefjord, Norway in 1882. Íslendingur was built from 1994 to 1996 and sailed to New York in the summer of 2000, with stopovers in Greenland and Newfoundland. The voyage took about three months.

HAFNIR

Hafnir, situated on the western part of Reykjanes peninsula, south of Miðnes, is the smallest community in the municipality. In former times, it was a populous and flourishing fishing centre, with recent archaeological research suggesting it was inhabited in the settlement period.

ÁSBRÚ

The community of Ásbrú is the newest addition to the Reykjanesbær municipality. Once part of the American military base, it was handed over to residents at the time of the American military's departure. Ásbrú now boasts a robust community and has undergone a great deal of development. The Ásbrú Enterprise Park and Heklan Business Incubator are located there, as is the educational institution Keilir, which has the largest university campus in Iceland. Keilir offers programmes focused on green energy, aviation, creative studies, and health studies. By and large, the former military facilities have found new purposes, such as one of the largest cinemas in the country and the Andrews Theatre, which has been a great addition to the Reykjanesbær music scene.

FACILITIES IN REYKJANESBÆR TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Reykjanes Tourist Information, Duus Museum, Duusgata 2-8, tel. 420-3246/860-7881. visitreykjanes.is

SERVICES:

- Police, Hringbraut 130, tel. 112/444-1000.
- ATM Íslandsbanki, Hafnargata 91, tel. 440-3100.
- ATM Landsbankinn, Krossmóa 4a, tel. 410-4000.
- · Post office, Hafnargata 89, tel. 421-5000.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Healthcare centre, Skólavegur 8, tel. 422-0500.
- Pharmacy Lyf og heilsa, Suðurgata 2, tel. 421-3200.
- Pharmacy Lyfja, Krossmói 4, tel. 421-6565.
- Pharmacy Apótek Suðurnesja, Hringbraut 99, tel. 577-1150.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Park Inn by Radisson, Hafnargata 57, tel. 421-5222.
- Hótel Keflavík, Vatnsnesvegur 12, tel. 420-7000.
- Diamond Suites, Vatnsnesvegur 12, tel. 420-7000/421-5222.
- Hótel Keilir, Hafnargata 37, tel. 420-9800. hotelkeilir.is
- Guesthouse Keflavík, Vatnsnesvegur 9, tel. 420-7000. kef.is
- Guesthouse B & B, Hringbraut 92, tel. 421-8989/867-4434.
- Alex Guesthouse, Aðalgata 60, tel. 421-2800.
- Bed and Breakfast, Valhallarbraut 761, tel. 426-5000.
- Svítan, apartments, Túngata 10, tel. 663-1269.
- · Hótel Berg, Bakkavegur 17, tel. 422-7922.
- Guesthouse 1x6, Vesturbraut 3, tel. 857-1589.
- Gistiheimili A10, Aðalgata 10, tel. 568-0210.
- Eldey Airport Hotel, Lindarbraut 634, tel. 512-8040.
- Airport Hotel Smári, Keflavíkurflugvellur, tel. 595-1900.

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- Raven's B&B. Siávargata 28. tel. 777-4478.
- START Hostel, Lindarbraut 637, tel. 420-6050.
- Home Guesthouse, Þórsvellir 2, tel. 897-1827.
- Litli Hvíti Kastalinn, Aðalgata 17, tel. 861-6811.
- · Hótel Grásteinn, Bolafótur 11, tel. 421-5200.
- A. Bernhard Bed & Breakfast, Vallargata 6, tel. 421-2399.

EATING OUT:

- Vocal Restaurant, Hafnargata 57, tel. 421-5222.
- Ráin, Hafnargata 19a, tel. 421-4601.
- Langbest, Keilisbraut 771, tel. 421-4777.
- Panda, Hafnargata 30, tel. 421-8060.
- Olsen-Olsen og ég, Hafnargata 62, tel. 421-4457.
- · Subway, Hafnargata 32 and at Fitjar, tel. 517-7747.
- Bitinn, Iðavellir 14b, tel. 421-4000.
- Ungó, Hafnargata 6, tel. 421-1544.
- Thai Keflavík, Hafnargata 39, tel. 421-8666.
- Dominos Pizza, Hafnargata 86, tel. 581-2345.
- Kef Restaurant, Vatnsnesvegur 12, tel. 420-7011.
- Pulsuvagninn, Tjarnargata 9, tel. 421-1680.
- Duus-kaffi, Duusgata 10, tel. 421-7080.
- · Kaffitár, Stapabraut 7, tel. 420-2700.
- Biðskýlið Njarðvík, Hólagata 20, tel. 421-2563.
- · Rétturinn, Hafnargata 51, tel. 421-8100.
- Bakaríð Kornið, Fitjar 3, tel. 564-1846.
- Fernandoz Pizza, Hafnargata 36, tel. 557-1007.
- KFC, Krossmóa 2, tel. 423-7200.
- Ship-O-Hoj, Hólagata 15, tel. 421-6070.
- · Tjarnagrill, Tjarnabraut 24, tel. 421-7676.
- Soul Food, Hafnargata 28, tel. 557-1313.
- Ráðhúskaffi, Tjarnargata 21, tel. 774-3007.
- Cafe Petit, Framnesvegur 23, tel. 583-5889.
- Malai-Thai, Krossmóa, tel. 421-4450.
- Sigurjónsbakarí, Hólmgarður 2, tel. 421-5255.
- Valgeirsbakarí, Hólagata 17, tel. 421-2630.
- Bakaríð Kornið, Fitjar 3, tel. 564-1846.

GROCERIES:

- · Supermarket Krónan, Fitjar 2.
- · Supermarket Bónus, Fitjar.
- · Supermarket Bónus, Túngata 1.
- · Supermarket Nettó, Krossmói 4.
- · Supermarket Nettó, Iðavellir 14b.
- Vínbúðin liguor store, Krossmói 4, tel. 421-5699.

SHOPPING:

- Íslenskt handverk, Guðný, Iðavellir 11b, tel. 897-1827.
- Raven design, HH handverk, Breiðbraut 672, tel. 661-7999.
- · Hjördís Hafnfjörð, glass work, Freyjuvellir 5, tel. 421-2405/861-2405.
- Gallerí átta, Hafnargata 26, tel. 892-2686/868-9863/868-8826.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Iceland Rock Museum, Hljómahöll, Hjallavegur 2, tel. 420-1030.
- Duushús, Reykjanesbær Culture and Art Centre, Duusgata 2-8, tel. 420-3245.
- · Grímur Karlsson's Maritime Museum and Reykjanesbær Art Museum, Duushús, Duusgata 2-8, tel. 420-3245. reykjaneshaer is/listasafn

- Revkianesbær Folk Museum, tel. 420-3240, revkianesbaer,is/ bvaadasafn
- Revkianes Geopark Visitor Centre, visitrevkianes.is
- Stekkjarkot, turf house folk museum at Fitjar, tel. 421-6700.
- Innri-Njarðvík, old chieftain's residence, Njarðvíkurbraut 42.
- Njarðvík Church, tel. 897-8391.
- · Völlurinn (The Airport), Aviation and War Relics Museum, Duusgata 2-8.
- The Ogre in the Mountain lives in Svarta hellir (Black Cave) near the marina in Grófin, Keflavík, tel. 420-3245, skessan, is
- Settlement Zoo at Vikingaheimar, domestic animals.
- · Viking World museum, Icelandic Viking Ship, Vikingabraut 1, tel. 422-2000.
- Orkuverið Jörð, at the Reykjanes Power Plant, tel. 436-1000.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- · Waterworld, Sunnubraut, tel. 421-1500.
- Swimming pool, Nordurstigur 2, tel. 421-2744.
- Hólmsvöllur, 18-hole golf course, Leira, tel. 421-4103.

ACTIVITIES:

- Sightseeing tours, tel. 421-7777.
- Elding Whale Watching Reykjavík, tel. 519-5000. elding.is
- Special Tours Reykjavík, tel. 560-8800. specialtours.is
- · Harpa yachts, Snekkjan, Hraunsvegur 2, tel. 779-7779. harpayachts.is
- Leiðsögumenn Reykjaness, tel. 897-9260. reykjanesguide.is

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- The 100 Crater Park in Reykjanes.
- The Bridge Between Continents, located at Stóra Sandvík on the Reykjanes Peninsula.
- · Hólmsberg, birdwatching, short hiking trails.
- · Hafnarberg, birdwatching, 40 min. hike both ways.
- · Fitjar, birdwatching, by the main road, parking.
- · Skessan, a cave near the marina in Grófin.
- A coastal walking path along the shores of Reykjanesbær.
- · Gunnuhver, hot spring in Reykjanes.
- · Landnámsskálinn in Hafnir, archaeological research.
- · Reykjanes lighthouse, on Mt. Bæjarfell, interesting habitat for
- · Valahnúkur cliff, site of the first lighthouse in Iceland.

TRANSPORTATION:

- · Keflanding Hópferðir, tours to the Blue Lagoon from Revkianes, tel. 586-1310.
- · SBK, scheduled coach services between Reykjanesbær and Reykjavík, tel. 420-6000.
- · Hópferðir Sævars, coach hire, Reykjanesvegur 14, tel. 840-1540. info@bus4u.is
- Taxi Aðalbílar, tel. 421-1515.
- Taxi Hreyfill Bæjarleiðir, tel. 421-4141.
- Taxi A-stöðin, tel. 420-1212.
- · Car Rental SS, Iðjustígur 1a, tel. 421-2220.
- · Geysir Car Rental, Holtsgata 56, tel. 893-4455.
- 11.is, car rental, Kirkjuvegur 37, tel. 777-6611. 11.is
- Bílar og Hjól, Njarðarbraut 11d, tel. 421-1118.
- Blue Car Rental, Hafnargata 24, tel. 773-7070.
- · Camper Iceland, Grófin 14c, tel. 480-0040.
- JS Camper Rentals, Klettatröð 6, tel. 849-2220.

- Adventure Car Rental, Niarðarbraut 11a, tel. 786-0900.
- SADcars, Borgartröð 2, tel. 577-6300.
- Ellefu, Kirkiuveaur 37, tel. 777-6611.
- Alt Car rental, Iðavöllum 8, tel. 421-6277/895-6423.
- Euro-car Bílaleiga, Básvegur 8, tel. 546-1020.
- · Road Travel, Stapabraut 21, tel. 778-2100.
- SBK Bílaleiga, Grófin 2-4, tel. 420-6000.
- · Keflanding Iceland, coach rental, Klettatröð 2314, tel. 586-1310. keflandig.com

SANDGERÐI

Population: 1,000-2,500

Sandgerði is a fishing village located on the western coast of the Rosmhvalanes peninsula. Together with Garður, it forms the municipality Suðurnesjabær. The coastline is generally flat, sandy, and craggy, and it experiences significant erosion. In recent years, major improvements have been made to the harbour. Sandgerði is home to the Suðurnes Science and Learning Centre, which focuses on natural history research and cooperates with various industries in Southwest Iceland. The Southwest Iceland Nature Research Institute and the University of Iceland's Research Centre in Suðurnes are also part of the centre. The Learning Centre has two exhibitions that are open to the public. Recently, a new road was opened between Sandgerði and Hafnir, providing a scenic, circular road around the westernmost tip of the Revkianes peninsula. Sandgerði is part of the Reykjanes Geopark, which is a UNESCO-recognised area of international geological significance.

FACILITIES

SERVICES:

- Post office, Suðurgata 2-4, tel. 423-7800.
- · Bank Landsbankinn, Suðurgata 2-4, tel. 423-8190.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Þóroddsstaðir, tel. 423-7748/893-7523. farmholidays.is
- I-stay, summerhouses, Byggðavegur, tel. 854-8424. istay.is

CAMPING.

· I-stay, Byggðavegur, tel. 854-8424. istay.is

EATING OUT:

- · Vitinn, Vitatorg 7, tel. 423-7755. vitinn.is
- Orkan, Strandgata 11, tel. 423-7560.

SHOPPING:

· Listatorg, art and culture house of Sandgerði, Vitatorg, tel. 423-7960. listatorg.is

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

• Þekkingarsetur Suðurnes, two exhibitions: a natural history exhibition: and The Attraction of the Poles, about the life and achievements of the French polar explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot, Garðvegur 1, tel. 423-7550/423-755. thekkingarsetur.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- · Sandgerði swimming pool, tel. 420-7570.
- Kirkjubólsvöllur, 18-hole golf course, tel. 423-7802.

ACTIVITIES:

- · Leiðsögumenn Reykjaness, tel. 897-9260.
- AT-Skoðunarfeðir, mountain tours, tel. 899-6312, daytrips,is



ÍÞRÓTTAMIÐSTÖÐIN GARÐI

Garðabraut 94 - 250 Garður - +354 422-7300



Summer Mon-Fri 6:00-21:00 Sat-Sun 10:00-16:00. Mon-Fri 6:00-08:15/15:00-20:30 Sat-Sun 10:00-18:00











SANDGERÐI SWIMMING POOL

Skólastræti 2, 245 Sandgerði - +354 425 3140



Mon-Fri 6:30-21:00 Sat-Sun 9:00-17:00. Mon-Fri 6:30-20:30 Sat-Sun 10:00-16:00 Winter









SANDGERÐI.

TRANSPORTATION:

 SBK and Hópferðir Sævars, scheduled services between Reykjanesbær, Garður, Sandgerði and Reykjavík, tel. tel. 420-6000/840-1540.

GAS STATIONS:

- Orkan, Skeljungur, Strandgata 15, tel. 423-7560.
- N1, garage, Vitatorg 5, tel. 421-2005.

GARĐUR

Population: 1,000-2,500

Garður is a community situated on the northernmost tip of Reykjanes peninsula. At one time, it was an important fisheries centre, due to its proximity to rich fishing grounds, and it served as a temporary home to migrant fishermen. The local Folk and Maritime Museum displays equipment used for fishing and shows how the fishing community developed. Garðskagaflös lighthouse has a map showing vessels that have been stranded at Flös.

Garður, which means embankment, draws its name from an ancient protective bank that farmers are believed to have constructed to protect their fields from grazing sheep, as corn cultivation was common on Reykjanes peninsula during the age of settlement. The embankment was later used to guide travellers on the route between Garður and Sandgerði. Part of the bank is still discernible opposite Útskálakirkja church.

FACILITIES

ACCOMMODATION:

- Guesthouse Garður, Skagabraut 62, tel. 660-7894. questhousegardur.is
- Guesthouse Seaside, Rafnkelsstaðavegur 11, tel. 898-8242.
- · GSE Hotel, Norðurljósavegur 2.

CAMPING:

Garðskagi, tel. 422-7220.

EATING OUT:

- · Röstin Veitingastaður, Skagabraut 100, tel. 422-7220.
- N1 Station, tel. 422-7265.

SHOPPING:

• Gallery Ársól, Kothúsavegur 12, tel. 896-7935.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

• Folk and Maritime Museum, by Garðskagi lighthouse with excellent sea views, tel. 422-7220/894-2135.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool, sport hall, gym, solarium, Garðbraut 94, tel. 422-7300.
- Hólmsvöllur, 18-hole golf course, Leira, tel. 421-4100.

ACTIVITIES:

 Leiðsögumenn Reykjaness, tel. 897-9260. reykjanesguide.is

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- · Birdwatching by Garðskagi lighthouse.
- A coastal walking path from Garðskagi to Gerðabryggja pier.

OTHER SERVICES:

• Garage and tire repair workshop, Garðabraut 35, tel. 422-7272.

VOGAR

Population: 1,000-2,500

Vogar is situated on Vogavík, on the westernmost tip of Vatnsleysuströnd. A 450kg memorial boulder, dedicated to Jón Daníelsson the Strong (1771-1855), is located at Stóra-Vogaskóli school. Jón, who had enormous power, was said to have carried the boulder to its present site. Kálfatjarnarkirkja church, built in 1893, is one of the largest rural churches in Iceland and is located on Vatnsleysuströnd.

Mt. Keilir is a 379m tuff mountain and landmark found on Reykjanes peninsula. Hiking up is relatively easy with a wonderful view in all directions from the top. The Suðurnes Tourist Association has placed an observation platform on Keilir. It's only a 15-minute drive from Vogar.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

Town Hall, Iðndalur 2, tel, 440-6200, vogar.is

SERVICES:

- ATM, inside N1 gas station, Iðndalur 2.
- Bank Landsbankinn, tel. 410-4000.
- Post office, N1 gas station, Iðndalur 2, tel. 424-6631.

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Hótel Vogar, Stapavegur 7, tel. 866-4664.
- Minna-Knarrarnes Travel Service, tel. 898-6760.

CAMPING:

• Free camping at the swimming pool, tel. 440-6200.

EATING OUT:

- Jón Sterki, Iðndalur 2. tel. 771-7900.
- Gamla Pósthúsið, Tjarnargata 26, tel. 424-6800.

GROCERIES:

• General store inside N1 gas station, Iðndalur 2, tel. 424-6631.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- · Swimming pool, Hafnargata, tel. 440-6220.
- Kálfatjörnsvöllur, nine-hole golf course, tel. 424-6529.



ACTIVITIES:

· Leiðsögumenn Reykjaness, tel. 897-9260. reykjanesguide.is, leidsogumenn.is

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- · Mt. Keilir, viewing dial.
- · Kálfatjarnarkirkja church, Vogastapi, Staðarborg.

GAS STATIONS:

N1 station, Iðndalur 2, tel, 424-6529.

GRINDAVÍK

Population: 2.500-5.000

Grindavík is the largest and only community on the southside of Reykjanes peninsula. In 1627, Turkish pirates raided the community and took many of the locals into captivity. In the lava fields surrounding the town, there are still relics to be found of "Turkish bunkers" that were raised to protect residents from further attacks

Fishing has always been the foundation of its economy and Grindavík has become one of Iceland's most active fishing towns, with well-established fish production companies. A memorial by sculptor Ragnar Kjartansson is dedicated to seamen from Grindavík who have drowned and stands just north of Restaurant Vör. Tourism has grown steadily in recent years and the town is popular with visitors, as the Blue Lagoon is on its doorstep. Grindavík offers numerous restaurants and accommodations. It also provides visitors with diverse recreational options.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

- Town Hall, Víkurbraut 62, tel. 420-1100. visitgrindavik.is,
- · Kvikan/Magma Resources and Culture House, Hafnargata 12a, tel 420-1190

SERVICES:

- Police, Víkurbraut 25, tel. 112/444-1000.
- · Post office. Víkurbraut 56. tel. 410-4143.
- ATM Landsbankinn, Víkurbraut 56, tel. 410-4143.

HEALTHCARE:

- Healthcare centre, Víkurbraut 62. tel. 422-0750.
- Pharmacy Lyfja, Víkurbraut 62, tel. 426-8770.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Geo Hotel, Víkurbraut 58, tel. 421-4000. geohotel.is
- Northern Light Inn. Grindavíkurvegur 1. tel. 426-8650. nli.is
- Steinar Guesthouse, tel. 421-2900, steinarquesthouse, is
- Lágafell Guesthouse, Víkurbraut 34, tel. 774-7477.
- Aníta's Guesthouse, Ásabraut 15, tel. 864-2365.

CAMPING:

• On Austurvegur, tel. 660-7323. visitgrindavik.is

EATING OUT:

- Café Bryggjan, by the harbour, tel. 426-7100.
- Salthúsið, specialty saltfish dishes, Stamphólsvegur 2, tel. 426-9700, salthusid.is
- Siómannastofan Vör. Hafnargata 9. tel. 426-8570.
- · Papa's Pizza, Hafnargata 7a, tel. 426-9955.
- Fish House bar and grill, Hafnargata 6, tel. 426-9999.
- · Aðal-Braut, Víkurbraut 31, tel. 426-7222.
- Max's Restaurant, close to the Blue Lagoon, tel. 426-8650.
- · Hjá Höllu, Víkurbraut 62, tel. 896-5316. hjahollu.is
- · Lava Restaurant, at the Blue Lagoon, tel. 420-8800. bluelagoon.com
- · Veitingahúsið Brúin, Hafnargata 26, tel. 426-7080.
- · Hérastubbur, Gerðavellir 17. tel. 426-8111.

GROCERIES.

- Nettó Víkurbraut 60 netto is
- Vínbúðin liguor store. Víkurbraut 62. tel. 426-8787.

SHOPPING:

Anna Sigga Art Gallery, Þórkötlustaðir 3, tel. 866-4567.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Kvikan/Magma Resources and Culture House, two exhibitions: The Icelandic Saltfish Museum and Earth Power, and Porbiörn's relics and art exhibition. Hafnargata 12, tel. 420-1190/420-4400.
- · Stakkavík, fish processing exhibition, Bakkalág 5, tel. 420-8000 stakkavik is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool, Austurvegur, tel. 426-7555.
- Húsatóftavöllur, 18-hole golf course, tel. 426-8720.
- · Blue Lagoon, tel. 420-8800. bluelagoon.is

ACTIVITIES:

- ATV/guad bike adventures, tel. 857-3001, lavatours, is
- · Arctic Horses, Hestabrekka 2, tel. 848-0143.
- Volcano tours. Víkurbraut 2. tel. 426-8822.

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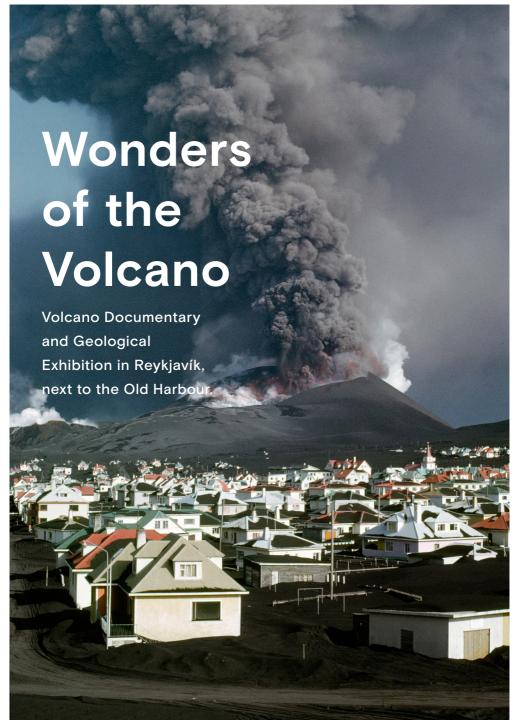
















REYKJAVÍK

THE CAPITAL AREA

Reykjavík and the six surrounding municipalities — Hafnarfjörður, Kjósarhreppur, Garðabær, Kópavogur, Seltjarnarnes, and Mosfellsbær — form what is often called Greater Reykjavík. Greater Reykjavík is home to more than half of the nation. Of Iceland's total population of 356,991 at the beginning of 2019, more than 60% lives in Greater Reykjavík. With the increasing population and relocation to the southwestern region towards the end of the 20th century, the inhabited areas spread beyond Reykjavík and Hafnarfjörður. Kópavogur and Seltjarnarnes expanded rapidly. The Garðahreppur district spread out in record time and became the town of Garðabær. The youngest municipality in Greater Reykjavík is Mosfellsbær, which grew out of the small community of Mosfellsbær, which grew out of the

Industry and commerce are extremely diverse in Greater Reykjavík. Fishing and fish processing industries still operate, in addition to a wide variety of industry, trade, business,

and services that have taken more prominence in the economy. In recent times, there has been significant growth in the local software, high-tech, and science enterprises.



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FVFNTS

REYKJAVÍK

- · February. Reykjavík Winter Lights Festival
- · September-October. Reykjavík International Film Festival
- · March. DesignMarch
- October. Illumination of the Imagine Peace Tower on Viðey Island
- · April. Reykjavík Children's Culture Festival
- · June. June 17 National Day
- · August. Reykjavík Pride
- · August. Reykjavík Culture Night
- November, Iceland Airwayes
- For information about events in Reykjavík, visit whatson.is

HAFNARFJÖRÐUR

- Museum Night, when many of the city's museums are open late with free entry.
- Swimming Night, or Sundlauganótt, an evening when many swimming pools offer free admission.
- Bío og bókahátíð, or Children's Literature and Film festival, which emphasises books, movies, and creative and fun projects connected with both in Hafnarfjörður.
- Bjartir dagar, of Bright Days, a cultural festival with a diverse calendar of events that aims to encourage the active participation of the whole community.
- The first day of summer. Parade and entertainment all around the village.
- Seaman's Day. Festival programme at the harbour, with concerts and plenty of fun for attendees.
- Viking Festival. Yearly festival held at Fjörukráin (Hótel Viking), in which Viking warriors, archers, wrestlers, wood carvers, sorceresses, and others gather for demonstrations and events.

CENTER HOTELS ÞINGHOLT

Þingholtsstræti 3-5, 101 Reykjavík - www.centerhotels.is +354 595-8530 - thingholt@centerhotels.is





MOSFELLSBÆR

- · February.: Kærleiksvika, Caring and Wellness Week.
- August: Mousey-Mos Festival, Seven Peaks Run and Women's Charity Run.
- August 26-28: Home in the Hayfield, Family festival.
- June 17: Icelandic National Day. Celebrations in downtown Hafnarfjörður and various locations around the village.
 Festivities include a parade, music, playground fun for kids, street art, and more.
- July 1: Triathlon Day
- · July 1-4, The Sister City Tournament
- · August 12: The Happiness Parade
- · Every weekend during Advent: Christmas village.

RFYK JAVÍK

Population: 222,776

The world's smallest capital

Greater Reykjavík, or the Capital Area, is comprised of Reykjavík and its surrounding municipalities. The boundaries of the Capital Area stretch from Kapelluhraun in the south to the Kjalarnes district in the north

Icelanders sometimes say Reykjavík is the world's smallest capital. Reykjavík might be small, but because it's the capital and the biggest city in Iceland, it's a hub of entertainment, technology, and creativity. It's the place where everybody meets.

Reykjavík reflects a broad spectrum of activities. It's the seat of government, the heart of artistic and cultural life, and, in a historical sense, the root of the nation and the country. Anything that is of any importance to modern-day Iceland begins and ends in Reykjavík.



CENTER HOTELS SKJALDBREIÐ

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The urban density of Greater Reykjavík is increasing. Around 60% of the country's population lives in a comparatively small area, though with 103,000km2, there's still plenty of space for everyone.

Reykjavík was long viewed as a lacklustre country village, and for as long as it was a rural community entirely dependent on agriculture and fishing, it's true that there wasn't much going on in the city. It wasn't until Skúli Magnússon, a government official who started up wool workshops and with that established the first industry of any kind in the country, chose to locate his operations in Reykjavík in the middle of the 18th century, that urbanisation began in earnest.

Administrative power had begun to concentrate around Tjörnin, the pond in downtown Reykjavík. When mechanised fishing boats became the norm at the end of the 19th century and Icelanders

established a genuine fishing industry with trawler operations, a rapid migration of workers from the countryside to the city began, a migration which is still underway today. Subsequently, the city took a great leap forward during World War II, which arrived in Iceland with modernity in tow. Of this time, it's sometimes said that Icelanders instantaneously jumped from being a medieval society to a modern one, unsaddling their horses and leaping into automobiles, and exchanging vellum manuscripts for telephones in the blink of an eye.

Today, Reykjavík shows many signs of a rapidly developing urban society. The stream of tourists coming to the country has led to a substantial increase of restaurants and hotels, as well as a greater diversity of entertainment than many older Reykjavík residents grew up with. Reykjavík becomes more colourful and enjoyable

with each passing season, and a more interesting travel destination to boost.

For those who want to learn more about its history, the city has a wealth of museums. The Arbær Open Air Museum shows the public the living conditions and activities of Reykjavík in earlier times. The Settlement Exhibition, based on the archaeological excavation of a ruin of one of the first houses in Iceland, gives tons of facts on the settlement of Reykjavík. Head to the Maritime Museum for information about Iceland's fishing industry and its importance for the nation. The Reykjavík Museum of Photography showcases a selection of its wide collection of portraits, industrial, advertising, press, landscape, and family photographs. Finally, Viðey is worth a visit, a small island just off the coast of Reykjavík, which was inhabited soon after the settlement of Iceland around 900 AD until the 1950s.

Thirty years ago, beer was illegal in Iceland, all bars were closed on Wednesdays, city residents were not allowed to own dogs, and the country's only TV station didn't broadcast on Thursdays and for the entire month of July. Today, Reykjavík is home to crowded music festivals, as well as a vibrant and diverse blend of people, characterised by tolerance and freedom. Reykjavík is one of those cities that never sleeps, and many visitors come to take part in its electrifying nightlife. Reykjavík is big enough to allow all kinds of life to thrive and has lots to offer for travellers.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 What's On Tourist Information Centre, Laugavegur 5, tel. 551-3600. booking@whatson.is. whatson.is

SERVICES:

Police, Hverfisgata 113, tel. 112/444-1000.

HEALTHCARE:

- · After-hours medical care, Háaleitisbraut 68.
- · Dentists on duty, tel. 575-0505.

CAMPING:

· Laugardalur, Reykjavík, tel. 568-6944.

GROCERIES:

Bónus honus is

- Hagkaup, hagkaup, is
- · Nettó netto is
- · Krónan, kronan, is
- · Vínbúðin liquor store. atvr.is

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS

- Árbær Open Air Museum, Kistuhvlur, tel. 411-6300.
- The Settlement Exhibition, Aðalstræti 16, tel. 411-6370.
- Reykjavík Museum of Photography, Tryggvagata 15, tel. 411-6390
- Revkiavík Maritime Museum, Grandagarður 8. tel. 411-6300.
- Viðey Island, Viðey, tel. 411-6360/533-5055.

KÓPAVOGUR

Population: > 10,000

Kópavogur is the second-largest town in Iceland. There was no settlement in the area until 1936, when the authorities began allocating new building plots on the peninsula between Kópavogur and Fossvogur. Initially, the residents of Reykjavík used the land to build summer cottages, but gradually they became year-round residences. During World War II and around the middle of the 20th century, a large number of people settled in Kópavogur, many of them coming from rural areas of Iceland. This was when city planning began and new residential areas were designed. In 1950, the town counted 1,650 inhabitants, and only 15 years later the number had risen to 9,000. The number of residents has increased dramatically in recent years. At the beginning of 2019. the population reached almost 37,000. Commerce and services are the main industries. The biggest shopping mall of Iceland. Smáralind, is located in Kópavogur, as well as numerous other shops, restaurants, museums, and swimming pools.

FACILITIES

HEALTHCARE:

- Pharmacy Lyfja, Smáratorg 1, tel. 564-5600.
- Pharmacy Apótekarinn, Hamraborg 8, tel. 554-0102.
- Pharmacy Lyf og Heilsa, Auðbrekka 3-5, tel. 544-2323.



ACCOMMODATION:

- Hótel Heiðmörk, Ögurhvarf 4, tel. 564-6600.
- Gunnarshólmi Guesthouse, Gunnarshólmi, tel. 567-6886.
- Kríunes Guesthouse, Kríunes Vatnsendi, tel. 567-2245.
- Hótel Smári, Hlíðarsmári 13. tel. 588-1900.

GROCERIES:

- · Bónus, bonus, is
- Hagkaup, hagkaup, is
- · Nettó, netto.is
- · Krónan, kronan, is
- · Vínbúðin liguor store, inside Smáralind, Hagasmára 1, tel.
- · Vínbúðin liguor store, Dalvegur 2, tel. 564-5070.

SHOPPING:

- Smáralind, shopping mall, Hagasmári 1, tel. 528-8000.
- Miódd, shopping mall, Þönglabakki 1-16.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- · Kópavogur Art Museum Gerðarsafn, Hamraborg 4, tel.
- · Kópavogur Natural History Museum, Hamraborg 6a, tel. 441-7200.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Kópavogur swimming pool, Borgarholtsbraut 17, tel. 570-0470.
- Versalir swimming pool, Versalir 3, tel. 570-0480.



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kopavogur.is





HAFNARF IÖRÐI IR

HAFNARFJÖRÐUR

Population: > 10,000

Hafnarfjörður is one of the oldest towns in Iceland and it thrived because of its excellent natural harbour. Merchants from Germany and England began commercial activities there in the 15th century, but the settlement did not grow until the fishing industry expanded in the 19th century. Fishing, industry, commerce, and services have been the town's main activities, but in recent decades an artistic culture has emerged and there are many interesting art and history museums in Hafnarfjörður. One of the oldest buildings in town, Vesturgata 6, was the home of merchant Bjarni Sívertsen (1763–1833), one of the pioneers settling there. At the beginning of 2019, the population reached almost 30,000.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

• Information centre, Strandgata 6, tel. 585-5500.

SERVICES:

- Police, Flatahraun 11, tel. 112/444-1000.
- · Post office, Fjarðargata 13-15, tel. 580-1200.
- Bank Arion Bank, Fjarðargata 13-15.
- · Bank Landsbankinn, Fjarðargata 9.
- · Bank Íslandsbanki. Hólshraun 1b.

HEALTHCARE:

- Healthcare centre, Fjarðargata 13-15, tel. 513-5400.
- Pharmacy Apótekarinn, Hólshraun 1, tel. 555-6800
- Pharmacy Apótek Hafnarfjarðar, Tjarnavellir 11, tel. 555-6650.
- Pharmacy Apótekið, Staðarberg 2-4, tel. 555-2306.
- Pharmacy Lyf og Heilsa, Fjarðargata 13-15, tel. 555-4789.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hótel Hafnarfjörður, Reykjavíkurvegur 72, tel. 540-9700.
- Hótel Viking Village, Strandgata 55, tel. 565-1213.
- Guesthouse Arahús, Strandgata 21, tel. 555-1770.
- Harbourfront Guesthouse, Vesturgata 8, tel. 555-3311.
- Helguhús, Lækjarkinn 8, tel. 555-2842.
- T10 Hotel, Trönuhraun 10, tel. 899-8996.
- Lava hostel, Hjallabraut 51, tel. 565-0900.
- Hotel Vellir, Tjarnavellir 3, tel. 420-0080.
- Mávur Apartments, Hraunbrún 36, tel. 845-1780.
- Hafnarfjörður Guesthouse, Hjallabraut 51, tel. 565-0900.

CAMPING:

• Víðistaðatún, Hjallabraut 51, Hafnarfjörður, 565-0900.

EATING OUT:

- Von Mathús, Strandgata 75, tel. 583-6000.
- Tommi's Burger Joint, Reykjavíkurvegur 62, tel. 555-1430.
- · American Style, Dalshraun 13, tel. 555-6610.
- Domino's Pizza, Fiardagata 11, tel. 581-2345.
- · Gamla Vínhúsið, Vesturgata 4, tel. 565-1130.
- Kentucky Fried Chicken, Hjallahraun 15, tel. 554-7029.
- Kænan Diner, Óseyrarbraut 2, tel. 565-1550.
- Saffran, Bæjarhraun 16, tel. 578-7874.
- Serrano, Dalshraun 11, tel. 519-6914.
- Silfur Restaurant and Bar, Fjarðagata 13, tel. 555-6996.
- Tilveran, Linnetsstígur 1, tel. 565-5250.
- Súfistinn, Strandgata 9, tel. 565-3740.

GROCERIES:

- Nettó, Miðvangur 41, tel. 555-0292.
- · Bónus, Tjarnavellir 15.

- · Bónus. Helluhraun 18.
- Krónan, Flatahraun 13, tel. 585-7000.
- Krónan, Hvaleyrarbraut 3, tel. 585-7000.
- Vínbúðin liguor store, Helluhraun 16-18, tel. 565-2222.

SHOPPING:

• Fjörður shopping centre, Fjarðargata 13-15, tel. 898-5866.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- · Hafnarfjörður Museum, Strandgata 4, tel. 585-5780.
- · Hafnarborg Art Centre, Strandgata 34, tel. 585-5790.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Hafnarfjörður swimming pool, Herjólfsgata 10, tel. 555-0088.
- Ásvallalaug swimming pool, Ásvelllir 2, tel. 512-4050.
- Asvallatady swifffiling pool, Asvellit 2, let. 512-4050.
 Suðurbæjarlaug swimming pool. Hringbraut 77. tel. 565-3080.
- Keilir, 12-hole golf course, Steinholt 1, Hvaleyri, tel. 565-3360.
- Setberg, nine-hole golf course, Setberg, tel. 565-5690.



HAFNARFJÖRÐUR CAMPING

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GI IÚFRASTFINN

MOSFELLSBÆR

Population: > 10,000

Mosfellsbær is a growing municipality in the Greater Reykjavík area. The residential area extends from Leirvogur into the nearby valleys and skirts around the mountains. Mosfellsbær offers a diverse community and cultural life, with numerous possibilities for outdoor activities. It's also a family-friendly environment, while only being a 15-minute drive from downtown Reykjavík. The town's waterfront is the inlet of Leirvogur, where three rivers run to the sea, Leirvogsá, Kaldakvísl, and Varmá.

Increased interest in all types of sports and outdoor activities has resulted in the development of outdoor recreation areas for the benefit of town residents, visitors, and tourists. The area next to the sports complex at Varmá has one of the best outdoor playing fields in Iceland, as well as a swimming pool and sports facilities for both adults and children

Walking for health and recreational reasons is possible throughout Mosfellsbær. The town has a number of footpaths, as well as designated "information paths," where signs provide interesting information about the surroundings.

An enjoyable walking and cycling path runs from the border of Reykjavík and Mosfellsbær, along the coastline, to the sports complex at Varmá. There is also a beautiful walking route along the information path that runs from the Álafosskvos river to Reykir.

Hiking up Mt. Úlfarsfell on a clear day offers good views over the capital and the islands in the channel. Landmarks and local names are available on a viewing dial at the peak. Some of the sites include Snæfellsjökull glacier, which is visible across Faxaflói bay, and Mt. Esja, which can be seen on the north side of Kollafjörður fjord. There is an informational sign in the churchyard at Lágafell.

Hús skáldsins - hús tímans (The House of the Poet - the House of Time), is a wonderful sculpture by Magnús Tómasson. It's located at Stekkjarflöt, on the west side of the Álafosskvos river. It was an inspiration for the town's symbol and references the works of Halldór Laxness, Iceland's only Nobel Laureate. A large-scale wool industry was built up around the Álafoss waterfalls on the Varmá river between 1919 and 1955, and workers lived in the nearby neighbourhood. Today, the old factory buildings have a new role: artists have converted them into residences, workshops, and galleries. The Álafoss factory outlet has items from the old factories, as well as photographs that depict the history of wool production in Mosfellsbær.

Halldór Laxness was born in Reykjavík, but his parents moved to Mosfellsbær when he was three years old. He received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955 for "reviving the art of Icelandic storytelling." He was an incredibly prolific writer; he wrote 62 books over a 68-year period. Over 500 editions of his works have been published, and they have been translated into 43 languages. Halldór's books are an important part of Icelandic culture and most Icelanders have read some of his works. Mosfellskirkja, a historical church, is located in the Mosfellsdalur



GLJÚFRASTEINN

Hús skáldsins

Gljúfrasteinn was the home and workplace of Halldór Laxness (winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955) and his family for more than half a century. It has now been opened to the public as a museum, unchanged from when Laxness lived there.

Tours of the house are available in Icelandic, English, German, Swedish and Danish, and an illustrated guide in French.



MOSFELLSDALUR

valley, where Halldór grew up on the farm Laxnes. Later, Halldór built a house for himself and his family by Kaldakvísl river and named it Gljúfrasteinn. The house is now a museum. In his later years, Halldór wrote the book *f túninu heima (Home in the Hayfield)*, in which he describes his childhood experiences at his home in Mosfellsdalur vallev.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Municipal Library, Everholt 2, Kjarni, 1st fl., tel. 525-6700/566-6822.

SERVICES:

- Post office, Háholt 14, tel. 580-1200.
- ATM Arion Bank, Everholt 1, tel. 444-7000.
- ATM Íslandsbanki, Þverholt 2, tel. 440-4000.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Healthcare centre. Everholt 2. tel. 510-0700.
- Pharmacy Apótekarinn, Þverholt 2, tel. 566-7123.

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Hótel Laxnes, Háholt 7, tel. 566-8822.
- · Eyrarkot Cottage, Kiðafell 2, tel. 692-3025.
- Guesthouse Minna-Mosfell, Minna-Mosfell, tel. 669-0366,
- Jónstótt, Jónstóttarvegur, Mosfellsdalur, tel. 566-7820.
- Hjalli Travel Service, Kjós, Mosfellsdalur, tel. 566-7019.
- Laxá in Kjós Guesthouse, Ásgarður, tel. 898-2230.
- Kiðafell, Kjós, tel. 566-6096.

CAMPING:

- Skólabraut, tel. 566-6058.
- Mosskógar campsite, Mosfellsdalur, tel. 566-8121.

EATING OUT:

- The White Knight, Háholt 13, tel. 566-6222.
 - Áslákur, Country inn, Háholt 7, tel. 566-6657/866-6684.
- Dominos pizza, Háholt 14, tel. 581-2345.
- Mosfellsbakarí, Háholt 13-15, tel. 566-6145.
- Kentucky Fried Chicken, Háholt 9, tel. 586-8222.
- Subway, Háholt 11, tel. 586-8077.

GROCERIES:

- · Bónus, Þverholt 2.
- Krónan, Háholt 13-15.
- Vínbúðin liguor store, Þverholt 2, tel. 586-8150.

SHOPPING:

- Páll Kristjánsson, knife maker, Álafosskvos, tel. 899-6903.
- Ásgarður handverkstæði, sheltered workshop, Álafossvegur 22, tel. 567-1734.
- Ístex, Völuteig 6, tel. 566-6300.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Mosfellsbær Library and Art Gallery, Kjarni, Þverholt 2, 1st fl., tel. 566-6822.
- Gljúfrasteinn Laxness Museum, tel. 586-8066.
- Old Álafoss Factory Building, Álafossvegur 23, tel. 566-6303.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Varmárlaug swimming pool, by the sports field, tel. 566-6754.
- Lágafell Sports Centre, swimming pool, Lækjahlíð 1a, tel. 517-6080.
- Hlíðavöllur, 14-hole golf course, tel. 566-6999.
- Bakkakotsvöllur, 9-hole golf course, Mosfellsdalur, tel. 566-8480.

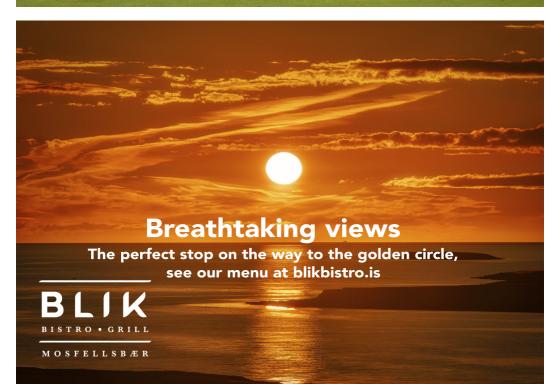


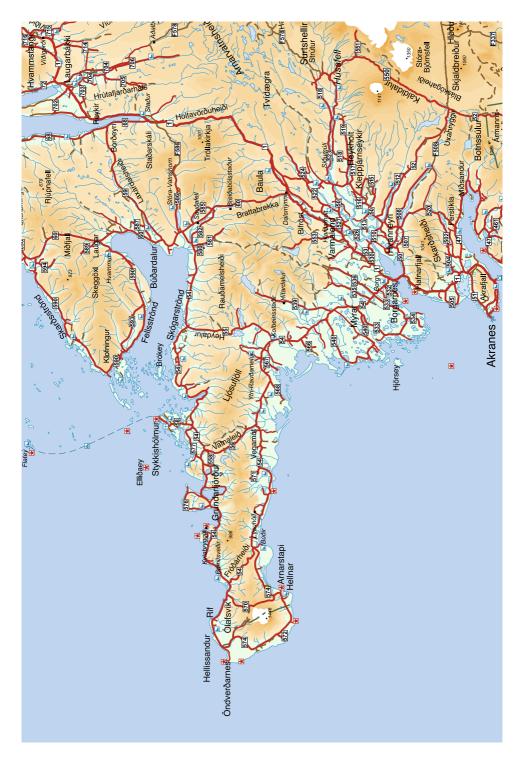
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The West

West Iceland stretches from the Botnsá river in Hvalfjörður to Gilsfjörður fjord. Watersheds, Þórisjökull glacier, and Langjökull glacier border it. The region is varied in both population and landscape. It's densely populated in some areas and sparsely populated in others, and the landscape ranges from vegetation to lava fields to glaciers. The southern part is flat, but as far north as Snæfellsnes peninsula, the border between mountain and shore becomes very narrow. West Iceland contains many historical sites.

The region can be divided into four main areas: Akranes and Hvalfjörður, Borgarfjörður, Snæfellsnes and Hnappadalur, and Dalir. The Borgarfjörður region boasts the second-lowest altitude area in the country. While there are tall peaks such as Mt. Akrafiall and Mt. Skarðsheiði, the shore is flat and contains many skerries and shallows, in particular those near Mýrar, the area west of Borgarfjörður. Marshes cover a large part of the area and grassy valleys extend from the lowlands to the expansive heaths above, Holtavörðuheiði, Tvídægra, and Arnarvatnsheiði. The largest valleys are Skorradalur, Lundarreykjadalur, Revkholtsdalur, and Norðurárdalur. The area contains several low-growing forests. The best-known forests in the area are Vatnaskógur in Svínadalur and Húsafellsskógur in Hálsasveit. Revkholtsdalur valley has the most geothermal activity in the district. In 1908, Sturlureykir farm in Borgarfjörður became the first geothermally-heated residence in Iceland. Deildartunguhver in Reykholtsdalur is the most powerful hot spring in the country, if not the world, and it provides central heating for the towns of Akranes and Borgarnes. A very rare and preserved species of fern, called Skollakambur, grows in the area around Deildartunguhver, Snorri Sturluson, one of Iceland's bestknown historians and writers, lived in Reykholt in the early 13th century.

The largest rivers in the area include Hvítá, Norðlingafljót, Þverá, Grímsá, Norðurá, and Botnsá. Glymur, Iceland's second tallest waterfall, is located along the Botnsá river. The region also contains several lakes: Skorradalsvatn and Hreðavatn are located close to populated areas, and Langavatn and Hítarvatn are situated in the highlands above Mýrar. Arnarvatnsheiði heath is strewn with lakes, the largest of which is Arnarvatn-Stóra (Greater-Arnarvatn). Hallmundarhraun lava field is home to Surtshellir and Víðælmir. two famous lava caves.

The region of Snæfellsnes and Hnappadalur covers the area of Snæfellsnes peninsula, bordered by the Hítará and Gljúfurá rivers on the east, and reaches to bottom of Álftafjörður in the north. A jagged ridge of mountains runs along the length of the peninsula and is capped at the western end by Snæfellsjökull glacier, a 1,446m high, majestic, and shapely volcano, Farther inland, Hnappadalur valley all but divides the mountain ridge in two. Faxaflói bay is low-lying and the shoreline is slightly jagged, which, combined with low tides, has resulted in the formation of lagoons. Lava fields dominate the western lowlands of Snæfellsnes peninsula. The area around the glacier used to be an important fishing centre, as evidenced by the fishing culture relics in Dritvík, Diúpalónssandur, and Gufuskálar, as well as by several museums on Snæfellsnes, like the Folk Museum. Arnarstapi and other places on Snæfellsnes are teeming with birdlife, and whales sometimes swim close to the coast. Snæfellsnes has a jagged shoreline, particularly in Breiðafjörður bay. The fjords and bays are mostly flat, especially those of Grundarfiörður and Kolgrafafiörður.

TOURIST INFORMATION IN WEST ICELAND

Hyrnutorg, Borgarnes t. 437-2214.

Akranes - Suðurgata 57 t. 433 -1065 Snorrastofa - Reykholti t. 433-8000. Ólafsvík - Kirkjutún 2 t. 433-6929.

Grundarfjörður - Grundargata 35 t. 438-1881. Stykkishólmur - travelininfo@stykkisholmur.is.

Búðardalur - Leifsbúð t 434-1441



Snæfellsnes has five blossoming municipalities: Eyja- and Miklaholtshreppur, Snæfellsbær, Grundafjarðarbær, Helgafellssveit, and Stykkishólmsbær. The municipalities cover an area just less than 1,500km2 and the total population is approximately 4,000 in 2019. In addition to fishing and farming, the economy on Snæfellsnes relies on various production industries and services, as well as the growing tourism industry. The municipalities of Snæfellsnes were the first in Europe, and the fourth worldwide, to receive an environmental certification from EarthCheck

Snæfellsjökull National Park, founded on June 28, 2001, is the youngest national park in Iceland and the only one adjacent to the sea. It's around 170km2 and is bordered by Háahraun lava field on the southern side and Gufuskálar farm on the northern side. Snæfellsjökull glacier is situated within the borders of the national park. The shore between Arnarstapi, Hellnar, and Búðir is not part of the national park. However, this area is protected and serviced by a park ranger, as is the spring Bárðalaug.

EVENTS

KJÓS

- · Fun in Kjós Flea market and festivities in Kjós.
- · Christmas market in December.

HVALFJARÐARSVEIT

- · Norðurálsmót, vouth soccer tournament
- · June 17: National Day.
- Fun in Hvalfjörður, market and festivities in Kjós and Hvalfjörður.
- Bjarteyjarsandur, tel. 433-8831/891-6626.
- · Christmas market in December.

AKRANES

- · Sjómannadagurinn (Sailors' Day) in Akranes.
- · June 17: National Day.
- · Icelandic Blacksmith Festival, eldsmidir.net
- · Irish Days festival in Akranes.
- · Steampunk Iceland An Adventurefest in Akranes.
- End of October to the beginning of November: Vökudagar Cultural Festival.
- · Light-up nights during the Advent season.

BORGARNES

- June 17: National Day
- Brákarhátíð festival

BORGARFJÖRÐUR DISTRICT

- June 17: National Day celebrated at Reykholt Church and in Logaland, Reykholtsdalur.
- · Reykholtshátíð, Reykholt Festival.

ÓLAFSVÍK

- · Sjómannadagurinn (Sailor's Day) in Ólafsvík.
- · Ólafsvík Festival.

REYKHOLT

- Concerts in Reykholt Church, year-round. Classical music in a historical setting. High mass and concert in honor of the 20th anniversary of Reykholt Church.
- · Reykholt Festival and lecture at Snorrastofa.

HELLISSANDUR

· Seamen's Day in Hellissandur.

GRUNDARFJARÐARBÆR

- · June 9-11: Seamen's Day in Grundarfjörður.
- July 28 30: On a good day in Grundarfjörður, family festival with various festivities.
- July 1: Jökulmílan cycling competition
- · Rökkurdagar, Dark days, culture festival.

STYKKISHÓLMUR

- · Sjómannadagurinn (Seamen's Day).
- · Skotthúfan (The Tasseled Cap), National Costume Festival.
- · Danish Days.

DALIR

- · August: Ólafsdalshátíð, a family festival in Ólafsdalur
- · October: Sheep farmers' autumn celebration.

KJÓS

Population: 100-500

Kjós is a thriving farming county south of Hvalfjörður fjord, stretching from Mt. Esja in the south to the innermost part of the fjord in the north. The word kjós means valley. Laxá í Kjós, one of Iceland's best salmon fishing rivers, flows from Stíflisdalsvatn lake at Laxárdalur to the sea in Hvalfjörður fjord. Meðalfell, an ancient manor farm, is located in the middle of the county and the Bugða river flows through it before joining with the Laxá river. Travel services are available at several farms in Kjós. A variety of leisure activities are offered for families, including excellent facilities for horseback riding. The Félagsgarður Community Centre is situated at Hvalfjarðarvegur road, by the Laxá river, and has good facilities for family gatherings and private parties. Vindáshlíð, a Christian summer camp for girls, is also in the area.

Notable attractions in Kjós include: Hvalfjarðareyri spit in Hvalfjörður fjord, which is teeming with birdlife, Maríuhöfn harbour in Laxvogur, believed to be one of the oldest harbours in the country, Laxfoss and Þórufoss waterfalls on the Laxá river; Steðji nature preserve in Hvalfjörður, and Iceland's second tallest waterfall, Glymur, along the Botnsá river. You'll find plenty of walking paths in the area, including the church path from Reynivellir to the Fossá river, over Svínaskarð gorge and along Mt. Meðalfell. There is an information and service centre at Kaffi Kjós.

Maríuhöfn in Laxvogur was one of the major trading posts in Iceland until the 15th century. The ships of the Skálholt bishopric sailed there, as the harbour was favourably situated for connections to Þingvellir and the upper Árnessýsla district. This is where the Black Death pandemic first came to Iceland in 1402, and about a third of Iceland's population is believed to have perished as a result.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

• Kaffi Kjós, by Meðalfellsvatn lake, tel. 566-8099/897-2219.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Kiðafell, tel. 566-6096.
- · Hjalli Guesthouse, tel. 566-7019. kaffikjos.is

CAMPING:

· Hjalli, tel. 566-7019. kaffikjos.is

EATING OUT:

Kaffi Kjós, tel. 566-8099/897-2219.

GROCERIES:

• Convenience store at Kaffi Kjós, tel. 566-8099/897-2219.

ACTIVITIES:

· Kiðafell, horseback riding tours, tel. 566-6096.

HVALFJARÐARSVEIT

Population: 500-1,000

Hvalfjarðarsveit is a thriving county bordered by Hvalfjörður fjord in the east, Skorradalur valley in the north, the Borgarfjarðarbrú bridge in the west, and the town of Akranes in the south. Its landscape is diverse, with a fair amount of lowlands, steep mountains, and shores cut with bays that are teeming with life. There is a great deal of natural beauty, and there are innumerable opportunities for outdoor activities. History dating back to the age of settlement may be found at every turn in Hvalfjarðarsveit county, as is a fascinating qeological history dating back to the end of the Ice Age.

Glymur, Iceland's second tallest waterfall, is located in Botnsdalur valley. There is a fabulous hiking path leading up to it that should only be attempted by experienced hikers and those without a fear of heights. Glymur flows from the Botnsá river that runs out of Hvalvatn, which is a lake closed by molten lava some 160m deep. At the bottom of Hvalfjörður fjord are Hvalfell, a towering table mountain (852m), and Botnssúlur (1095m), a tuff mountain. Bláskeggsárbrú, the oldest stone bridge in Iceland, is located in Litlasandsdalur valley along Hvalfjörður fjord and is more than 100 years old, although it was renovated in 2009. It can be accessed via a pleasant hiking path. Hvalfjörður fjord was used by the British and US militaries during World War II, and the Centre on Allied Occupation is dedicated to these times.

There is an ancient route that leads from Botnsdalur valley over a long and rocky mount called Leggjabrjótur (467m) to Þingvellir. The route across Leggjabrjótur is a very popular

hiking and riding trail and is marked by piles of cairns along the way. After crossing the mount, and upon reaching Öxarárdalur valley, the route goes past Svartagil ravine and down to Almannagjá gorge at Þingvellir. This hike takes 5-7 hours

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Vesturlandsstofa, Borgarbraut 58-60, Borgarnes, tel. 437-2214, west.is

ACCOMMODATION:

- Bjarteyjarsandur, tel. 433-8831/862-1751. bjarteyjarsandur.is
- · Hótel Glymur, tel. 430-3100. hotelglymur.is
- Kalastaðir, tel. 433-8970/840-1225.
- Evstra-Miðfell, tel. 433-8952.
- Hlíð, tel. 892-4010.
- Námshestar, Kúludalsá, tel. 897-9070.
- Hótel Laxárbakki, tel. 551-2783, laxarbakki,is
- Hótel Hafnarfjall, Hafnarskógur, tel. 437-2345/895-4366.
- · Móar guesthouse, tel. 655 0506.

CAMPING:

- Bjarteyjarsandur, tel. 433-8851/891-6626.
- War and Peace Museum, Hlaðir, tel. 433-8877.

EATING OUT:

- Bjarteyjarsandur, tel. 433-8831/891-6626.
- Ferstikla Restaurant, tel. 433-8940.
- War and Peace Museum, Hlaðir, tel. 433-8877.
- Hótel Glymur, tel. 430-3100.
- Hótel Laxárbakki, tel. 551-2783/894-3153.
- Hótel Hafnarfiall, Hafnarskógur, tel. 437-2345/895-4366.
- Skessubrunnur, tel. 863-1750.

SHOPPING:

- Álfhóll gallery, Bjarteyjarsandur, tel. 891-6626/433-8831.
- Hótel Laxárbakki, tel. 551-2783.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

War and Peace Museum, Hlaðir, tel. 433-8877.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

• Hlaðir swimming pool, tel. 433-8980.

ACTIVITIES:

- Námshestar, Kúludalsá, horseback riding tours and riding lessons. tel. 897-9070.
- Skriðhuský, dog sledding, tel. 777-8088.
- · Hótel Glymur, sightseering tours, tel. 430-3100.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Hallgrímskirkja church, near the church are marked locations that have a connection with Rev. Hallgrímur Pétursson, Saurbær.
- Leirárkirkja church, Innri-Hólmskirkja.
- War and Peace Museum, Hlaðir, tel. 433-8877. hernamssetrid.is



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O T/VISITAKRANES

AKRANES

Population: 5,000-10,000

Akranes, an old fishing village, is the first town you hit when you leave Hvalfjörður Tunnel, which connects Reykjavík to West Iceland. The fishing industry in Akranes started in the 17th century, and the sea has always been important for the town.

In wintertime, the town is beautifully lit. In 2015, it won an award for its lighting design. In summer, it's nice to sit outside at the town square with its fountains. There is also a seamen's memorial at the heart of the town.

The town's lighthouses have become popular art venues and are a stunning place to enjoy the view over the ocean. They are also the perfect backdrop for the northern lights, when weather conditions are right.

Akranes was settled in the 9th century by the Irish brothers Pormóður and Ketill. The locals cherish their Celtic heritage and celebrate it during the annual Irish Days festival at the beginning of July.

In the town centre, a church dating back to 1896 is located. The Akranes Museum Centre houses several museums, like the Akranes Folk Museum showcasing the history of the community. The site also houses a geological museum, a sports museum, and various exhibitions. One exhibition is dedicated to the

Hvalfjörður Tunnel, which shortened the route from Akranes to Reykjavík from 109km to 49km.

Langisandur beach is a popular recreation spot, and it's one of the three Blue Flag awarded beaches in Iceland. People go ocean swimming there, and on sunny days the beach is usually crowded with people. Guðlaug, a new hot pool on the beach, was opened in 2018 and has proven to be a popular spot for locals and visitors alike. There are other recreational options in Akranes, such as the local pool, which is fed by water from Deildartunguhver hot spring, and Garðalundur, where you can barbecue, and play beach volleyball, frisbee golf, and football. Next to Garðalundur you will find Garðavöllur, a fantastic 18-hole golf course with a great practice area. Let's not forget Mt. Akrafjall, which is a popular hiking area.

Akranes, as well as the surrounding countryside, is quite flat and offers great opportunities for long and short hikes, as well as for enjoying the varied birdlife. Akranes has excellent sports facilities and the town has been known for its top-level sports for decades. The local football team, IA, has been football league champion on numerous occasions. There are a couple of good shops in Akranes and it has excellent restaurants and cafés. The town also has a culture house, a cinema, and a vibrant music scene

In summer, from June 20 to August 15, a market is organised every Saturday, offering food and antiques. Akranes is expanding and is the biggest settlement in West Iceland.



FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

- Akranes Information Centre, in Akranes lighthouse, Breiðin, tel. 894-2500. visitakranes.is
- Western Iceland Information Centre, Borgarnes, tel. 437-2214.

SERVICES:

- Police, Þjóðbraut 13, tel. 112/444-0300.
- Post office, Smiðjuvellir 30, tel. 580-1200.
- Bank Landsbankinn, Þjóðbraut 1, tel. 410-4000.
- ATM Íslandsbanki, Dalbraut 1. tel. 440-4000.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Hospital, Merkigerði 9, tel. 432-1000.
- Pharmacy Apótek Vesturlands, Smiðjuvellir 32, tel. 431-5090.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Teigur B&B. Háteigur 1, tel. 431-2900/861-9901.
- Móar Guesthouse, tel. 431-1389/897-5142. 655 0506
- Akra Guesthouse, Skagabraut 4, tel. 587-3901/692-4624.

CAMPING

· Kalmansvík, tel. 894-2500. 895 0021

EATING OUT:

- Galito bistro café, Garðavöllur, tel. 431-2711
- Galito Restaurant, Stillholt 16-18, tel. 430-6767.
- N1, Þjóðbraut 9, tel. 431-2061.
- Subway, Dalbraut 1, tel. 431-5577.
- Gamla Kaupfélagið, Kirkjubraut 11, tel. 431-4343.
- Olís, Esjubraut 45, tel. 431-1650.
- Domino's Pizza, Smiðjuvellir 32, tel. 581-2345.
- Skeliungur, Skagabraut 43, tel. 431-1856.
- Svarti Pétur, Stillholt 16-18, tel. 431-1401.
- Lesbókin Café, Kirkjubraut 2, tel. 864-1476. 863 5793
- Café Kaja, Kirkjubraut 54, tel. 822-1669. 840 1665
- Kallabakarí, Innnesvegi 1, tel. 431 1644

GROCERIES:

- Matarbúr Kaju, Kirkjubraut 54, tel. 822-1669 840 1665
- Vínbúðin liguor store, Þjóðbraut 13, tel. 431-2933.
- · Bónus, Smiðjuvellir 32.

SHOPPING:

- Dýrfinna Torfadóttir, goldsmith, Stillholt 14, tel. 464-3460.
- Biarni Þór, Skólabraut 22. tel. 431-1964.
- Philippe Ricart, arts and crafts shop, Háholt 11, tel. 431-1887.
- Rammar og myndir, frames and photos, Skólabraut 27, tel. 431-1313.
- Kjarval Keramik KSK, Kirkjubraut 48, tel. 862-1197.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- · Akranes Folk Museum, tel. 433 1150. museum.is
- · Akranes Library, Dalbraut 1.
- Akranes Archives/Akranes Photographic Museum, Dalbraut 1, tel. 433-1203

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

 Jaðarsbakkar Sports Centre, swimming pool, sports grounds, tel. 433-1100.

- Bjarnalaug swimming pool, Laugarbraut 6, tel. 433-1130.
- Garðavöllur, 18-hole golf course, covered practice area, tel. 431-2711.
- Keilufélag Akraness, bowling, Vesturgata 130, tel. 431-4748.
- Shooting range by Garðasel, tel. 860-0066.
- · Guðlaug hot pool, Langisandur.

ACTIVITIES:

- Wild West Tours, Reynigrund 2, tel. 848-9047/865-8733.
- Skagaverk, coach tours, Smiðjuvellir 22, tel. 431-2345.
- · Thor Photography Tours, tel. 823-2331.
- · Horse Centre Borgartún, Æðaroddi 36, tel. 625-9025
- Travel Tunes Iceland, musicians, Smiðjuvellir 17, tel. 623-9293
- Smiðjuloftið, Activity Center, Smiðjuvellir 17, tel. 623-9293

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- · Akratorg, town square in downtown Akranes.
- · Akranes church, except during services, tel. 433-1500.
- The harbour area and shoreline, Langisandur beach, and Krossvík.
- Garðalundur (close to the museums at Garðar), barbecue facilities and children's playground.
- · Hikes to Mt. Akrafjall.
- Birdwatching at Elínarhöfða.
- · Akranesviti lighthouse, Breiðin, tel. 894-2500.
- 17 playground locations around Akranes.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Hópferðabifreiðar Reynis Jóhannssonar, coach service, Jörundarholt 39, tel. 433-8800.
- Skagaverk, coach service, Smiðjuvellir 22, tel. 431-2345.
- · Free local public bus in Akranes.
- Taxi Bifreiðastöð Þórðar Þ. Þórðarsonar, Smiðjuvellir 15, tel. 431-1500.
- Taxi Leigubíll Akranesi-Óli Jó, tel. 897-2769/786-1234.
- Taxi Svanur Jóns, tel. 772-2999.

GAS STATIONS:

- N1. Þióðbraut 9. tel. 431-2061.
- Olís, Esjubraut 45, tel. 431-1650.

BORGARNES

Population: 1,000-2,500

According to Egil's Saga, Borgarnes was named Digranes in ancient times and belonged to the farmstead of Borg á Mýrum. The main characters of the saga are often associated with places in the town. Skallagrímsgarður park is located in Skallagrímsdalur valley, and it's said that Skalla-Grímur was buried there with his horse, weapons, and blacksmith's tools.

Borgarnes Museum showcases two exhibitions: Children Throughout a Century, and The Adventures of Birds. There are also limited-time exhibitions held throughout the year. The Settlement Centre offers exhibitions about the age of settlement, an Egil's Saga exhibition, and numerous others. There are also a café, restaurant and a museum shop.

There are an excellent gym and sports centre, a top-notch swimming pool, and an 18-hole golf course. Bjössaróló is a beautiful little playground for children. In addition, there is an excellent bakery, a good selection of coffee shops and restaurants, as well as a farmer's market, where it's possible to purchase goods produced in West Iceland.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 West Iceland Information Centre, Borgarbraut 58-60, tel. 437-2214, west.is

SERVICES:

- Police, Bjarnarbraut 2, tel. 112/444-0300.
- Post office, Brúartorg 4, tel. 580-1200.
- ATM Arion Bank, Digranesgata 2, tel. 444-7000.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Healthcare centre, Borgarbraut 65, tel. 432-1430.
- · Pharmacy Lyfja, Hyrnutorg, tel. 437-1168.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hótel Borgarnes, Egilsgata 16, tel. 437-1119. info@ hotelborgarnes.is
- Icelandair Hótel Hamar, tel. 433-6600. hamar@icehotels.is
- Hótel Hafnarfjall, Hafnarskógur, tel. 437-2345/895-4366.
- Bjarg Borgarnes, Bjarg Borgarnes, tel. 437-1925/864-1325. bjarg@simnet.is
- Englendingavík, Skúlagata 17, tel. 555-1400.
- Borgarnes HI Hostel, Borgarbraut 11-13, tel. 695 3366 borgarnes@staywest.is
- Egils Guesthouse, Egilsgata 6-8 and Brákarbraut 11, tel. 860-6655/659-1918/690-7425.
- Kría Guesthouse, Kveldúlfsgata 27, tel. 845-4126.
- Lækjarkot, tel. 551-9590.
- Blómasetrið B&B, Skúlagata 13, tel. 437-1878. blomasetrid@blomasetrid.is
- Helgugata Guesthouse, Helgugata 5, tel. 695 5857
- Extraordinary Abode Art House, Sæunargata 12, tel. 612 3933 birdmichelle@mac.com
- The English Lodge, by the Langá river, tel. 437-1826/865-3899. enskuhusin.is
- · B59 Hótel, Borgarbraut 59, tel. 419-5959. b59hotel.is
- · Lambalækur Guesthouse, tel. 437-1826
- · Meyjarskemman Guesthouse, Litla Brekka, tel. 862-8946

CAMPING:

• By route 1, Granastaðir, tel. 775-1012.

EATING OUT:

- · Hótel Borgarnes, Egilsgata 16, tel. 437-1119.
- · Hótel Hafnarfjall, Hafnarskógar, tel. 437-2345/895-4366.
- Matstofan, Philippine restaurant, Brákarbraut 3, tel. 437-2017.
- Grillhúsið, Brúartorg, tel. 437-1282.
- Olís, Brúartorg, tel. 437-1259.
- N1, Brúartorg, tel. 440-1333.
- · Icelandair Hotel Hamar, tel. 433-6600.
- The Settlement Centre, Brákarbraut 13-15, tel. 437-1600.
- · Geirabakarí, bakery, Digranesgata 6, tel. 437-2020.
- Englendingavík, Skúlagata 17, tel. 555-1400.

- Blómasetrið Kaffi Kyrrð, Skúlagata 13, tel. 437-1878.
- La Colina Pizzeria, Hrafnaklettur 1b, tel. 437-0110.
- Café Brák, Brákarbraut 11, tel. 860-6655.
- Snorri's Kitchen and Bar, Borgarbraut 59, tel. 419-5959.
 b59hotel.is

GROCERIES:

- Bónus, Digranesgata 6.
- · Nettó, Borgarbraut 58-60.
- Vínbúðin liquor store, Hyrnutorg shopping centre, tel. 431-3858.

BORGARNES





SHOPPING:

- · Borgarsport, sportsware store, Hyrnutorg shopping centre, tel. 437-1707
- Fok, design boutique, Borgarbraut 57, tel. 437-2277.
- · Kristý, gifts and jewellery, Hyrnutorg shopping centre, tel. /37_2001
- The Settlement Centre, Brákarbraut 13-15, tel. 437-1600.
- Liómalind farmer's market, handicrafts, food, knitted goods. flowers, Brúartora 4, tel. 437-1400.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- · Borgarnes Museum, library, folk museum, archives, natural history exhibition, and art gallery, Bjarnarbraut 4-6.
- The Settlement Centre, Brákarbraut 13-15, tel. 437-1600. landnamssetur is
- Borgarnes Transportation Museum and Lazy Town Museum. Brákarey, tel. 862-6223.
- Soffia's Toy Museum, Englendingavík, Skúlagata 17, tel. 555

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- · Sports centre and swimming pool, Porsteinsgata 1, tel. 433-7140.
- · Hamarsvöllur, 18-hole golf course, just outside town, tel. 437-1663/437-2000.
- Activities
- Hvítá Travel, trips around Borgarfjörður, tel. 661-7173.
- · The Settlement Centre, orientation games, guided tour to the historical sites of Egil's Saga, tel. 437-1600.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- · Skallagrímsgarður, park by Borgarbraut.
- Biössaróló, playground by Skúlagata.
- · Einkunnir, outdoor area.

TRANSPORTATION:

- · Sæmundur Sigmundsson, coach service, tel. 437-1333/862-1373.
- · Sigurður Þorsteinsson, coach service, tel. 899-6186.
- Car Rental Bílatorg, Brákarbraut 5, tel. 437-1300/692-5525.
- · Car Rental Europcar, Svöluklettur 3, tel. 660-3437.
- · Taxi Borgarnesi, tel. 895 9565

GAS STATIONS:

- N1. Brúartorg, tel. 440-1333.
- Orkan, Brúartorg, tel. 437-1282.
- · Olís, Brúartorg, tel. 437-1259.

OTHER SERVICES:

- Garage Bílabær, Brákarbraut 5, tel. 473-1300/692-5525.
- Garage Harðar, Borgarbraut 55, tel. 437-1192.
- Garage Hvannes, Sólbakki 3, tel. 437-1000.
- Garage Brákarsund, Sólbakki 28, tel. 445-5400/896-6339.

BORGARFJÖRÐUR DISTRICT

Population: 100-500

Borgarfjörður district is an area in West Iceland, covering the land around Borgarfjörður fjord: Deildartunguhver, Húsafell, Arnarvatnsheiði, Borg, Bifröst University Village, Hreðavatn, and Hvanneyri.

Deildartunguhver is located in Deildartunga, a large farm in Reykholtsdalur. It yields 180l/s of 97°C hot water and is the most productive spring in Iceland. The area around the spring is the only place in Iceland where Skollakambur grows, a rare and



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Bjarnarbraut 4-6 Borgarnesi | +354 433 7200 safnahus@safnahus.is | www.safnahus.is







REYKHOLT Reykholtskirkja and Snorrastofa

Snorrastofa runs a tourist reception:

- · The exhibition Snorri's Saga
- · The audio guide Snorri (App)
- Lectures on Snorri Sturluson and the history of Reykholt
- A souvenir shop with books, music, postcards, and Icelandic design and handicraft
- · Cultural Programs, concerts

Opening hours:

1 May - 31 August, every day 10 - 17 1 Sept. - 30 April, weekdays 10 - 17

The Church of Reykholt - Snorrastofa, 320 Reykholt +354 433 80 00 www.snorrastofa.is snorrastofa@snorrastofa.is



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BORGARFIÖRÐUR

protected fern. Most of the hot water used for central heating in Akranes and Borgarnes comes from Deildartunguhver. In 2017, Krauma, a spa and restaurant, opened right next to Deildartunguhver.

Hraunfossar falls are a series of waterfalls that pour over the side of the Hvítá river canyon along a 1km stretch, from beneath Hallmundarhraun lava field. Just upstream is the beautiful Barnafoss waterfall. Hraunfossar and the surrounding area were declared a nature preserve in 1987. It's situated 5km from Húsafell.

Húsafell is the innermost farmstead in Hálsasveit county and a former benefice and parsonage. It still houses a chapel to this day, Reverend Snorri Biörnsson (1710-1803), who was the reverend of the benefice for some time, is featured in many folktales. He was revered for his physical strength and is said to have lifted the stone called Kvíahella (180kg), which can still he found at Húsafell Artist Páll Gudmundsson (a descendant of Reverend Snorri) has made sculptures from local rocks. which are on display outdoors and can be reached via a short path from Páll's workshop. He has also created a sculpture called Ghost Memorial in memory of Reverend Snorri, who was known for being skilled at putting ghosts to rest. The surrounding woods were declared a nature preserve in 1974. This is an active geothermal area and is a popular tourist resort during the summer. Into the Glacier, that organises tours through a man-made tunnel inside Langjökull glacier, also has a basecamp there.

Hallmundarhraun is a large lava field formed by a lava flow from the northwestern rim of Langjökull glacier, which then entered the Hvítá river. Some of the largest lava caves in Iceland were discovered in this area: Surtshellir, Stefánshellir, and Víðgelmir, as well as some smaller caves. Víðgelmir cave, 2km from Fljótstunga at Hvítársíða, is one of the largest caves in the world, by volume. A company called The Cave offers guided tours into Víðgelmir.

Arnarvatnsheiði is an extensive heath (400-600m) north and west of Eiríksjökull and Langjökull glaciers. There are rolling hills, alternating marshes, and gravel ridges. The area is strewn with numerous lakes of all sizes, most of which have fish in them. Also renowned for its birdlife, the heath was formerly visited for its source for eiderdown and eggs. This was the territory of outlaws in days of old, as mentioned in the saga of Grettir the Strong.

Grábrókarhraun is a rugged lava field in Norðurárdalur valley, covered with moss, heather, and shrubs. This lava once flowed from the distinctive Grábrókargígar scoria cones on the north side of the main road and is thought to be 2,000 to 3,000 years old. The Grábrókargígar cones have been declared a nature preserve by the Environment Agency of Iceland. Mt. Grábrók has a marked trail and is great for hiking.

Hreðavatn is the name of both a lake and a town in the southern part of Norðurárdalur. The lake is teeming with trout and the scenery is magnificent with many interesting sites, including

Glanni falls in the Norðurá river. Plant fossils dating back to the Tertiary period have been found at Hreðavatn lake.

The Bifröst University Village is a village of 500-600 people connected to Bifröst University. It has a café, shop, and a restaurant, and the surrounding area contains summerhouses and hiking trails.

Borg is currently a benefice and parsonage situated in Borgarvogur, on the west side of Borgarnes. Originally, it was the home of Skalla-Grímur, the first inhabitant of Borgarfjörður and father of Egill, the hero of Egil's Saga. A sculpture at Borg by Ásmundur Sveinsson (1893-1982) commemorates Egil's poem, Loss of His Sons and was erected in 1985.

Hvanneyri is part of the settlement of Skalla-Grímur. Hvanneyri has been a church centre for centuries, and a small community has formed around local agricultural organisations. The main ones are the Agricultural University, which traces its roots back to 1889, The Agricultural Museum of Iceland, a woollen and handicrafts workshop, and the Skemman coffee shop, which is located in the village's oldest building.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

- West Iceland Information Centre, Borgarbraut 58-60, Borgarnes, tel. 437-2214. west.is
- Snorrastofa in Reykholt, tel. 433-8000. snorrastofa.is

ACCOMMODATION:

- Milli Vina Guesthouse, Hvítárbakki, tel. 785-1082.
- Guesthouse Hvítá, Hvítárbakki 7, tel. 588-9122.
- Fossatún, tel. 433-5800/893-9733.
- Brennistaðir, Flókadalur, tel. 435-1565. brennistadir@emax.is
- Hverinn Sælureitur í sveitinni, Kleppjárnsreykjum, tel. 571-4433/863-0090.
- Kópareykir Sumarhús, cottage, Kópareykir 1, tel. 435-1137/893-6538.
- Nes. Revkholtsdalur. tel. 435-1472.
- · Fosshótel Reykholt, tel. 435-1260. reykholt@fosshotel.is
- · Steindórsstaðir, Reykholtsdalur, tel. 435-1227.
- · Signýjarstaðir, Hálsasveit, tel. 435-1218.
- · Gamli Bær, Húsafell, tel. 895-1342.
- · Hótel Húsafell, tel. 435-1551. booking@husafell.is
- Hótel Á, Kirkjuból II, Hvítársíða, tel. 435-1430/691-5120.
- Hraunsnef, country hotel, Norðurárdalur, tel. 435-0111.
- Lækjarkot, summerhouse, tel. 551-9590. laekjarkot.is
- The Old English Lodge, by the Langá river, tel. 437-1826/865-3899. enskuhusin.is
- Meyjarskemma Litlu Brekku, tel. 862-8946/437-1725.

CAMPING:

- Selsskógur, Skorradalur, tel. 898-442. 789 8442
- Húsafell, tel. 435-1556.
- Varmaland, Stafholtstungur, tel. 775-1012.
- Hverinn, tel. 571-4433/863-0090.

EATING OUT:

 Rock'n'Troll Bistro and Café, Fossatún, tel. 433-5800/893-9733.

- Krauma, natural bath and thermal spring, tel. 555-6066.
- Hótel Húsafell, tel. 435-1551.
- · Húsafell Bistró, tel. 435-1550.
- Baulan, Stafholtstungur, tel. 435-1440.
- · Hraunsnef, Norðurárdalur, tel. 435-0111.
- Hverinn, Kleppjárnsreykir, tel. 571-4433/863-0090.
- · Fosshótel Reykholt, tel. 435-1260. reykholt@fosshotel.is
- Munaðarnes Restaurant, tel. 898-1779, 776 8008
- Skemman, coffee shop, Hvanneyri, tel. 868-8626/869-0232.
- Brúarás Geo Centre, tel. 435-1270.
- Hraunfossar, café and restaurant, tel. 435-1155/862-7957.

SHOPPING

- · Ullarselið, Hvanneyri, tel. 437-0077.
- Hespuhúsið, at the hydroelectric power station in Árnes, tel. 865-2910.
- · Hverinn, Kleppsjárnreykir, tel. 571-4433.
- Rita og Páll, Grenigerði, tel. 849-4836.
- · Hraunfossar, café and restaurant, tel. 435-1155.
- Ása Ólafsdóttir, workshop and studio, Lækjarkot, tel. 699-0531
- · Snorrastofa, tel. 433-8000, snorrastofa, is
- Varmaland, eco-friendly vegetables, plants, and flowers, tel. 437-1401.
- · Háafell Icelandic Goat Farm, tel. 845-2331.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Agricultural Museum at Hvanneyri, tel. 844-7740.
- Acoustic Iceland, a programme with Icelandic music at Rock'n'Troll Bistro and Café in Fossatún, tel. 433-5800.
- Birdlife in the Andakill Ramsar Site Visitor Centre in Hvanneyri, tel. 844 7740
- Snorrastofa Cultural and Research Centre in Reykholt, tel. 433–8000.
- · Háafell Icelandic Goat Farm, tel. 845-2331.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Hreppslaug, swimming pool, tel. 437-0027.
- Húsafell, swimming pool, tel. 435-1552.
- Kleppjárnsreykir, hot tubs, sauna, tel. 435-1140.
- Krauma, natural baths and thermal spring, tel. 555-6066.
- Reykholtsdalsvöllur, nine-hole golf course, tel. 435-472. info@nesreykholt.is
- Húsafell, nine-hole golf course, tel. 435-1552.
- Glanni, nine-hole golf course, Norðurárdalur, tel. 571-5414.

ACTIVITIES:

- Steðji Microbrewery, tel. 896-5001.
- Mountaineers of Iceland, jeep tours, snowmobiling on Langjökull glacier, tel. 580-9900. mountaineers.is
- Into the Glacier, organised trips to the ice tunnel in Langjökull, tel. 578-2550.
- Fossatún's Tröllagarðurinn, hiking path, games, tel. 433-5800.
- Coldspot, day trips around Western Iceland, tel. 869-1033.
- Guided tours around Hvanneyri, tel. 433-5000.
- Húsafell, cave exploration of Surtshellir and Stefánshellir, tel. 435-1550/435-1551.
- Hiking tours near Húsafell, tel. 435-1556/435-1551.
- The Cave, guided tours through Viðgelmir cave, tel. 783-3600. thecave.is

- Fishing at Arnarvatnsheiði, tel. 892-5052.
- Ferðaþjónusta Geirshlíð, travel service, Flókadalur, tel. 435-1461/692-1461.
- Fjeldstedhestar.isGuðrún Fjeldsted, horseback riding tours, Ölvaldsstaðir. tel. 893-3886.
- Óli Flosa, horseback riding tours, Breiðabólsstaður, tel. 897-9323.
- Giljar Horses & Handcraft, horseback riding tours, tel. 691-8711.
- Oddsstaðir, horseback riding tours, tel. 895-0913
- Hestaland, horseback riding tours, tel. 435-1444/896 6726865-7578.
- · Áshestar, horse rental, Stóri-Ás, tel. 847-7051
- Sturlureykir horses, horsefarm visit, Sturlureykir 2, tel. 691–0280
- Iceland Exclusive Travels, day tours, tel, 896-8987.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- · Borg Church, near Borgarnes, tel. 437-1353.
- · Deildartunguhver, Europe's most powerful hot spring.
- · Snorralaug, a historical site.
- · Hiking path up Grábrók crater.
- Glanni waterfall

REYKHOLT

Reykholt is one of Iceland's most notable historical sites; it's a cultural centre, benefice, and parsonage. The area is most famous for being the home of Snorri Sturluson (1179-1241), Iceland's best-known author, poet, and scholar, during the years 1206-1241. There is a lot of geothermal water in Reykholt, and the ancient thermal pool Snorralaug is named after Snorri. A tunnel runs between the pool and the remains of his farm, both of which can be visited today. It's believed that Snorri is buried in the local churchyard, in an area called Sturlungareitur. Snorrastofa is a research institute that has the goal to advance research and promote interest in medieval studies, as well as the history of Reykholt and Borgarfjörður. To this end, the institute hosts exhibitions and lectures, as well as concerts at Reykholtskirkja church. It also provides tourist services, such as guided tours of the area.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

· Snorrastofa, visitor centre, tel. 433-8000. snorrastofa.is

ACCOMMODATION:

- Fosshótel Reykholt, culturally-themed hotel, tel. 435-1260. fosshótel is
- · Nes. Revkholtsdalur, tel. 435-1472, nesrevkholt, is
- Steindórsstaðir, Reykholtsdalur, tel. 435-1227.

EATING OUT:

- N1 Reykholt, tel. 435-0050.
- · Krauma, Deildartunguhver, tel. 555-6066.
- Staldrið, food truck, Deildartunguhver, tel. 863-0090

SHOPPING:

 Snorrastofa, Icelandic arts, handicrafts, and books, tel. 433-8000.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 Snorrastofa, exhibition about historian and scholar Snorri Sturluson, tel. 433-8000. snorrastofa.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Kleppjárnsreykir swimming pool, tel. 435-1140.
- Nes, nine-hole golf course, Reykholtsdalur, tel. 893-3889/435-1472.

ACTIVITIES:

- Gilgar Horses & Handcraft, horseback riding tours, tel. 691–8711
- Óli Flosa, horseback riding tours, Breiðabólsstaður, tel. 897-9323.

SNÆFELLSNES, SOUTH SIDE

On the south side of Snæfellsnes is a beautiful crater, Eldborg. It rises 60m above the surrounding lava field. It's the largest crater along a volcanic rift with a diameter of 200m and a depth of 50m and was created between 5,000-8,000 years ago. The area has been a nature preserve since 1974. It's easiest to approach Eldborg from Snorrastaðir on its southern side, walking through the shrub-covered lava field for 2.5km. It's possible to walk atop the crater.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

- Upplýsingamiðstöð Snæfellsness/Snæfellsnes Information Center. Breiðablik, tel. 435-6680
- Vesturlandsstofa, Borgarbraut 58-60, Borgarnes, 2 tel. 437-2214. west.is

ACCOMMODATION:

- Snorrastaðir, tel. 435-6628/863-6628.
- · Langafjaran Cottages, tel. 895-0798.
- Hömluholt, tel. 894-0648.
- Hótel Rjúkandi at Vegamót, tel. 788-9100.
- Söðulsholt cottages, tel. 895-5464.

CAMPING:

- Snorrastaðir, tel. 435-6628/863-6628.
- · Hallkelsstaðahlíð, tel. 435-6697.

EATING OUT:

Rjúkandi, restaurant and café, Vegamót, tel. 788-9100.

ACTIVITIES:

- Snorrastaðir, horseback riding tours, tel. 435-6628/863-6628.
- Hallkelsstaðahlíð, horseback riding tours, tel. 435-6697.
- · Hömluholt, horseback riding tours, tel. 894-0648.



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SNÆFFLLSBÆR

Population: 1,000-2,500

Snæfellsbær is situated on the outer Snæfellsnes peninsula. The boundaries of the municipality are Staðarsveit in the southeast and Búlandshöfði in the northeast. The majority of residents live in the towns Ólafsvík, Rif, and Hellissandur, while the remaining residents are divided among the rural areas and the smaller residential areas of Hellnar and Arnarstapi.

Those driving from Reykjavík along route 54 can choose to drive due north over the heath, and from there circle around the glacier. Alternatively, they can drive along Útnesvegur, route 574, in a circle to the north. Snæfellsjökull glacier, which can be seen from afar, forms a centre to the municipality.

Búðahraun is a lava field on the south shore of Snæfellsnes peninsula with a sandy beach, originating from the Búðaklettur crater (88m). The lava is rough with tiny fissures, and 11 of the 16 types of fern known in Iceland have been found there. A total of 130 plant species have been discovered in the Búðahraun area. Since olden times, the field has been a main travel route in the area, as shown by its many named tracks, such as Klettsgata, Jaðargata, and Sjávargata. An old timber church is located in the lava field close to Búðir, along with an old trading post that previously housed a hotel. This 140-year-old hotel burned down in February 2001. A new hotel has been built in its place. Búðahraun is a benefice and former place of commerce and anchorage.

Snæfellsjökull glacier, on the far side of Snæfellsnes, is one of the best-known sites of West Iceland. The glacier is atop a dormant volcano with three pronged covers (1,446m) and a 200m crater. Three eruptions have taken place under the glacier in the past 10,000 years, the last one around 300AD. Snæfellsjökull was first climbed in 1754, by Eggert Ólafsson and Bjarni Pálsson, and has been a popular hiking destination ever since. The majesty and power of Snæfellsjökull have provided inspiration for authors such as Jules Verne and Halldór Laxness. A road up to Snæfellsjökull glacier, just south of Gufuskálar, runs along Móðulækur stream and through Eysteinsdalur valley, all the way to the foot of the glacier. It's easily passable by all vehicles in summer.

Púfubjarg is a large cliff of stratified palagonite on the Snæfellsnes coast and is a relic of a submarine eruption like the one that produced Surtsey island. Lóndrangar is the name of two rock stacks (75m and 61m) to its west, which are probably volcanic plugs from the same eruption. They were first scaled in 1753. Lóndrangar was an old fishing centre and the ruins of fishermen's huts can still be seen there.

Djúpalónssandur, on the southern shore of Snæfellsnes, is home to some peculiar rock formations, along with four rocks that were used for tests of strength among fishermen: Fullster-kur (Strong, 154kg), Hálfsterkur (Half-Strong, 100kg), Hálfdrættingur (Half-as-Good, 54kg) and Amlóði (Lightweight, 23kg). For centuries, one of the largest seasonal fishing stations in Iceland was near Dritvík, with boats setting off to sea for two months

per year. All that remains now are ruins at the foot of the cliff.

Vatnshellir is a cave located in Purkhólahraun lava field, known for its numerous cave formations. The lava field is around 5,000-8,000 years old. Vatnshellir consists of four connected caves, the topmost of which is called Vatnshellir, and this one is open to the public. The three caves below are known as Undirheimar (Underworld). The lower part of Vatnshellir is 200m long and the cave is around 10m high. The deepest part of the cave, lður, is located more than 30m below surface. The cave boasts beautiful rock and lava formations, most notably the stalactites. Guided tours are available all year round.

Gufuskálar is another abandoned fishing site, where ruins and boat tracks can still be seen on the shore. Nearby ruins, known as "the Irish camps," are thought to date from the age of settlement (9th-10th century). Fishermen's lodgings are designated antiquities, believed to be 500-700 years old, counting them among the oldest fishery relics in Scandinavia.

Öndverðarnes is the westernmost point of the Snæfellsnes peninsula. It used to be a fishing centre and it was used to dry fish. It's also home to a well known as Fálki, with 17 stone steps leading down to it. To the south are the large black cliffs of Svörtuloft, a magnificent place for watching the waves crash. There are lighthouses on both sites. Neshraun is a huge lava field on the west side of Snæfellsnes, easily accesible by numerous walking paths.

Skarðsvík is a white sand inlet surrounded by cliffs. A paved road leads to the inlet and it's a popular tourist attraction.

Snæfellsjökull National Park was established on June 28, 2001 and is approximately 167km2 in area. The park covers the westernmost part of Snæfellsnes, from the eastern fringe of Háahraun in the south to the easternmost boundary of Gufuskálaland in the north. Snæfellsjökull glacier is within the boundaries of the park. The visitor centre for the national park is located at Malarrif and houses a lively and educational exhibition for all age groups.

There are exceptionally beautiful lava formations in the park, along with a magnificent coastline and notable historical sites from fishing days long gone. Towering above all this is the king of Icelandic mountain glaciers, Snæfellsjökull; an active volcano that has developed from numerous eruptions. Some feel the energy emanating from the glacier, which is believed to be one of the seven most powerful volcanic centres in the world

There are no campsites located in the park itself, but there are some just outside to the south and the north. A variety of accommodation is available in the vicinity. Information about walking trails is included in the park's brochure, and guided tours are offered. Maps of walking paths in the area are available for purchase in three languages.

Dritvík bay is located about 1km west of Djúpalónssandur, accessible by walking along the cliff edge and the grassy headland of Barðinn. The bay is enclosed by two cliff faces

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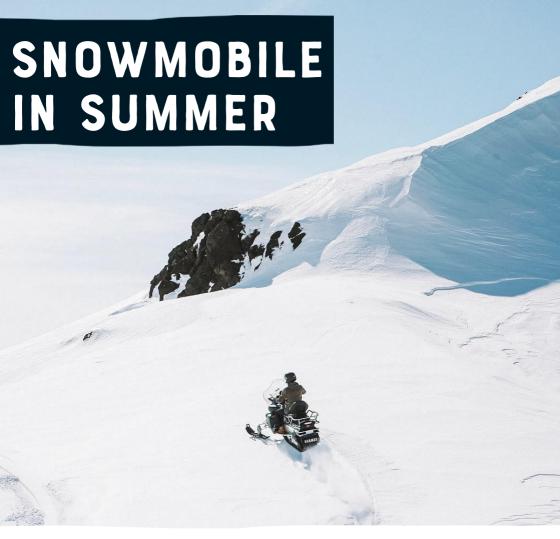
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that jut out into the sea, forming a natural harbour in between. At one time, Dritvík was one of the largest fishing centres in Iceland, with up to 600 seasonal workers living there.

On the road to Öndverðarnes, just west of Skarðsvík, is a parking area with a signpost marked Vatnsborg, Neshólar and Grashólahellir. A marked path leads to Vatnsborg, a deep volcanic crater that is impossible to climb in late summer because the bottom of it is then covered in ferns. A number of interesting walks can be made from Vatnsborg. One is to proceed to the Neshólar hills to visit Grashólahellir, a cave in Grashóll, the westernmost hill. Beautiful lava paths lead from there towards Öldungahóll hill, which will take you to Saxhólsbjarg cliff and the lighthouse at Skálasnagi. The cliffs abound with birdlife during the summer.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

- Snæfellsjökull National Park's Office, Klettsbúð 7, Hellissandur
- · Visitor centre, Malarrif, tel. 436-6888.

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Traðir Guesthouse, Staðarsveit, tel. 431-5353.
- · Hof Guesthouse, tel. 846-3897. gistihof.is
- · Langaholt Guesthouse, Garðar, tel. 435-6789.
- Lýsuhóll Travel Service, tel. 435-6716/895-6716.
- Böðvarsholt Country Hostel, sleeping bag accommodation, tel. 453-6699.
- Hótel Búðir, Búðir, tel. 435-6700.
- Stóri Kambur, studio apartment, tel. 852-7028.
- Brimhestar, tel. 436-5033.
- Kast Guesthouse, Lýsudalur, tel. 693-4739
- · Lava Water Guesthouse, Miðhraun 2, tel. 893-3333

CAMPING:

- · Langaholt Guesthouse, Garðar, tel. 435-6789.
- · Traðir Camping, Staðarsveit, tel. 431-5353

EATING OUT:

- Hótel Búðir. Búðir. tel. 435-6700.
- · Langaholt Guesthouse, Garðar, tel. 435-6789.
- Lýsuhóll Travel Service, tel. 435-6716/895-6716.
- Traðir Guesthouse, Staðarsveit, tel. 431-5353.

SHOPPING:

Krambúðin, local handicrafts, tel. 690-0646.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool, Lýsuhóll, tel. 433-9917.
- · Langaholt, nine-hole golf course, Garðar, tel. 435-6789.

ACTIVITIES:

- · Hiking tours, Búðahraun,
- Lýsuhóll, horseback riding tours, tel. 435-6716.
- Stóri Kambur, horseback riding tours, tel. 852-7028.
- Fengur, horseback riding tours, Staðarsveit, tel. 431-5353.
- Summit Adventure Guides, hiking and skiing tours on Snæfellsjökull glacier, Gufuskálar, tel. 787-0001. summitguides.is



- Vatnshellir, trips to Vatnshellir cave, tel. 787 0001. vatnshellir.is
- Brimhestar, tel. 436-5033.

ARNARSTAPI AND HELLNAR

Arnarstapi is a small fishing community with a growing number of summer cottages. The shore is both beautiful and striking. There are three different places along the shore where the ocean has corroded the cliffs and created large holes that spray water high into the air during high tide. Gatklettur, an extremely unusual rock formation, is located on the west side of the shore. Hellnar is about 3km west of Arnarstapi and was once one of the main fishing centres on the Snæfellsnes peninsula. Beautiful rock formations are found along the shoreline. Baðstofa, a large cave inside Valasnös cliff, is renowned for its unique light and colours. The shores along Arnarstapi and Hellnar are protected.

FACILITIES AT ARNARSTAPI

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

Samkomuhúsið, Arnarstapi, tel. 435-6611/615-1962.

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Arnarstapi Hotel, tel. 435-6783
- Arnarstapi cottages, tel. 435-6783.
- · Arnarstapi Center, tel. 435-6783
- Arnarstapi Guesthouse, Arnarstapi, tel. 435-6783

CAMPING:

· Arnarstapi Campsite, tel. 435-6783.

EATING OUT:

- Sniófell, Arnarstapi, tel. 435-6783.
- Samkomuhúsið, tel. 435-6611/615-1962.
- · Mönsvagninn Munch Wagon, fish and chips.
- · Stapinn, Arnarstapi, tel. 865 6740.

SHOPPING:

 Samkomuhúsið, handicrafts and souvenirs, Arnarstapi, tel. 435-6611/615-1962.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

Samkomuhúsið, Arnarstapi, tel. 435-6611/615-1962.

ACTIVITIES:

- Glacier Tours Snæfellsjökull, snowmobiling and snowcat tours on Snæfellsjökull glacier, tel. 783-2820 865 0061.
- Go West, biking, hiking, around the Snæfellsjökull National Park and surroundings, glacier tours up Snæfellsjökull glacier with full safety riq, tel. 695-9995/694-9513.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- · Hiking paths between Arnarstapi and Hellnar.
- · Bjarnafoss Waterfall

GAS STATIONS:

· Olís, tel. 435-6783.

FACILITIES AT HELLNAR

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Fosshótel Hellnar, tel. 435-6820. fosshotel.is
- Gíslabær, tel. 435-6886/867-7903. gislabaer@simnet.is

EATING OUT:

- · Fosshótel Hellnar, tel. 435-6820.
- Fjöruhúsið, tel. 435-6844. fjoruhusid@isl.is
- Stapinn, restaurant and café, Arnarstapi tel. 865-6740/773-4641.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

· Hiking paths in Snæfellsjökull National Park.

HELLISSANDUR AND RIF

Population: 500-1,000

Hellissandur was arguably one of the first settlements in Iceland to achieve the status of a fishing village, due to its proximity to fishing grounds. The Maritime Museum at Hellissandur collects items and has an exhibit on the former rowboat fishing enterprise, since the area surrounding Hellissandur contains a lot of fishery and settlement relics. The Maritime Museum is the ideal educational stop before exploring the historical sites in the vicinity. The area surrounding the museum has been renovated and now contains

a replica of a former seasonal fishing lodge used by migrant fishermen, called Þurrabúð. It contains a sculpture by Ragnar Kiartansson. Jöklarar, which is dedicated to fishermen. Hellissandur is home to two more sculptures: Beðið í von by Grímur Marinó Steindórsson, located at Brekknavör, a former anchorage for Hellissandur; and the sculpture Sigling by Jón Gunnar Árnason, which is located outside the municipal offices of Snæfellsbær. It's the predecessor of Sólfar (Sun Voyager), located on Sæbraut in Revkjavík, Hellissandur also has a beautiful forest area, as well as a newly erected and fully equipped camping site sheltered by the Sandahraun lava field. Hellissandur houses the municipal offices for Snæfellsbær, offices of the National Park, the park ranger's residence, and Röst Community Centre. Additionally, it also houses a play school, and the lower grades of Snæfellsbær Elementary School, Hellissandur has a clothing store and gift shop, hair salon, convenience store, café, restaurants, and accommodation.

Ingjaldshólskirkja is a church located on a short distance from Hellissandur and is believed to have been a winter residence of Christopher Columbus on his voyage across the world. It's also said that this is where he learned about discoveries of land farther west, which ultimately led him on his voyage to the "New World." Ingjaldshólskirkja was built in 1903 and is believed to be the oldest concrete house of worship in the world. The monuments of Icelandic explorer, writer, and conservator Eggert Ólafsson and his wife, Ingibjörg, are located there, and there is a wonderful view of Snæfelsjökull glacier. Hellissandur and Rif are connected by a beautiful, paved walkway, which takes visitors past mossy vegetation and along the seaside. It's an easy walk, accessible to most and teeming with birds in summertime.

Rif is an active fishing centre where a blossoming fish processing business is run from the large harbour. It houses other services as well, including shops, garages, and a workshop. Rif is teeming with birdlife and Rifsós has excellent facilities for birdwatching. One of Iceland's largest breeding colonies of arctic terns is found in the village. It used to be the largest breeding colony in Europe, but activity has decreased in recent years due to lack of food. Rif is a young settlement as most of the houses were built in the late 20th century. However, the village contains the execution site of Björnssteinn, Björn the rich, governor and close confidant of the King of Denmark, who was killed by British merchants in 1467. The event is said to have started a war between England and Denmark that lasted for five years.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

- Snæfellsjökull National Park's Office, Klettsbúð 7, tel. 436-6860/436-6888.
- Visitor centre, Malarrif, tel, 436-6888.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Welcome Hótel Hellissandur, Klettsbúð 9, tel. 487-1212.
- The Freezer Hostel, Hafnargata 16, Rif, tel. 865-9432.
- Hruni, cottages, tel. 436-6644/896-3644.
- · Mávur, cottages, tel. 845-1780.



MÝRAR VESTURLAND.

- North Star Apartments Rif. tel. 487-1212.
- · West Park Guesthouse, Gufuskálar, tel. 837-7700

EATING OUT:

- N1. Sandahraun, tel. 436-6611.
- Viðvík, tel. 436-1026
- Gilbakki, tel. 436-1001

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

• The Maritime Museum in the Fishermen's Park, Sandahraun, tel. 692-4440 844 5969.

ACTIVITIES:

- The Freezer Theatre, Hafnargata 16, Rif. tel. 865-9432.
- Sæmundur Kristjánsson, historical guided tours, tel. 436-6767/893-9797.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- · Park Tröð, barbecue facilities.
- · Walking path to Keflavíkurbjarg.

GAS STATIONS:

• N1, Útnesvegur, Hellissandur, tel. 436-6770.

OTHER SERVICES:

• Ægis, garage, Hafnargata 12, Hellissandur, tel. 436-6677.

ÓLAFSVÍK

Population: 500-1,000

Ólafsvík is the second-largest urban area in Snæfellsnes. Ólafsvík is sheltered by Mt. Ólafsvíkurenni, a large mountain that draws its name from settler Ólafur Belgur, whose settlement stretched between the mountain and the Fróðá river. Ólafsvík has good harbour facilities and rich offshore fishing grounds, which support a healthy fish processing industry.

Among the more interesting attractions in Ólafsvík are the Bæjarfoss waterfall, which is lit up in winter, and its beautiful and unique church. Hákon Hertervig was the architect of the church and the windows are the work of sculptor Gerður Helgadóttir. The town also has a maritime garden, which is the first of its kind in Iceland, designed to commemorate those who have died at sea. In the middle of the garden is a historical house that has been converted into a café.

Ólafsvík and its surrounding areas have many beautiful hiking options. Popular hiking paths include one that travels alongside Gilið and Mt. Ólafsvíkurenni, to a panoramic viewpoint known as Bekkurinn. Another popular hiking path, Mattíasargata, leads along the Arnarverpi cliff, with an excellent view of the village and Breiðafjörður.

A protected warehouse from 1844 has been turned into the Regional Museum of Snæfellsbær (Pakkhúsið), with exhibits on working methods from olden days. It also houses a local handicraft shop, and the tourist information centre is located behind it. A campsite is located on the eastern side of the village.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Snæfellsnes information centre, Kirkjutún 2, tel. 433-6929. west.is. snb.is

SERVICES:

- · Police, Bankastræti 1a, tel. 444-0300.
- Post office, Bæjartún 5, tel. 580-1200.
- Bank Landsbankinn, Ólafsbraut 21, tel. 410-1000.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Health care centre, Engihlíð 28, tel. 432-1360.
- Pharmacy, Ólafsbraut 24, tel. 436-1261.

ACCOMMODATION:

- North Star Hótel Ólafsvík, Ólafsbraut 20. tel. 487-1212.
- Welcome Apartments Ólafsvík, tel. 487-1212.
- Brimilsvellir, by Ólafsvík, tel. 436-1533.
- Guesthouse Ragnheiðar Víglunds, Skálholt 6, tel. 867-9407.
- Náttskjól Homestay, Brautarholt 2, tel. 867-8807.
- Guesthouse Við Hafið, Ólafsbraut 55, tel. 436-1166.

CAMPING:

• By Dalbraut just outside Ólafsvík, tel. 433-6929.

EATING OUT:

- Olís ÓK. Ólafsbraut 27. tel. 436-1012.
- · Hraun Restaurant, Grundarbraut 2, tel. 431-1030.
- · Kaldilækur café, maritime garden, tel. 862-5488.
- Brauðgerð Ólafsvíkur, bakery, Ólafsbraut 19, tel. 436-1119.
- SKER Restaurant, Ólafsbraut 19, tel. 436-6625.

GROCERIES:

- · Kassinn, supermarket, Norðurtangi 1, tel. 436-1376.
- Vínbúðin liquor store, Ólafsbraut 55, tel. 436-1226.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Pakkhúsið. tel. 433-6929.
- Snæfellsbær Community Centre, tel. 433-6929.

SWIMMING POOL AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool, Ennisbraut 9, tel. 433-9910.
- Fróðárvöllur, nine-hole golf course, tel. 861-9640.
- · Sólarsport, fitness centre, tel. 436-1020.

ACTIVITIES

Hiking in the vicinity of Ólafsvík, tel. 436-6767/893-9797.

GAS STATIONS:

- N1, Ólafsbraut 57, tel. 436-1581.
- Orkan, Ólafsbraut 27, tel. 436-1012.

GRUNDARFJARÐARBÆR

Mt. Kirkjufell, a mountain near Grundarfjörður, is among Iceland's best-known mountains. It's not uncommon for international photographers to visit Iceland with the sole purpose of photographing this unique mountain. Kirkjufell has been featured in popular movies and series — most recently, *Game of Thrones*. It's 463m tall and can be hiked, but only for really experienced hikers and in accompany of a guide who knows the Mountain inside out. It's also possible to walk around the base, taking a path up to magnificent views and an area rich with birdlife in the summertime. This walk is suitable for families and takes about three hours.

Grundarfjörður has more to offer than one amazingly beautiful mountain. Surrounded by magnificent countryside and containing the country's most beautiful waterfalls and spectacular wildlife, the town is nestled at the base of mountains, with Mt. Helgrindur towering above it. It's also not uncommon to see interesting sealife, most notably seals and killer whales. On summer days, guests can go sailing, enjoy the scenery, go fishing, or admire puffins and other seabirds. And if the sea conditions are not ideal, there are guided tours of Snæfellsnes peninsula by coach available.

Grundarfjörður could be called the centre of Snæfellsnes, as it lies between Stykkishólmur and Ólafsvík on the peninsula's northern shore. The town offers a good selection of guesthouses, a hotel, hostels, B and Bs, summerhouses, a campsite, and swimming pool. The swimming pool is just one of the interesting recreational facilities the town has to offer. The golf course, horseback riding facilities, cafés, restaurants, and the tourist information centre at Grundarfjörður Heritage Centre are also worth mentioning. Grundarfjörður has a good supermarket, as well as a Vínbúðin liquor store, a pharmacy, and a shop selling handicrafts. Although most tourists arrive overland, thousands also arrive every year on the many cruise ships that visit the town. Grundarfjörður Harbour prides itself on welcoming all cruise ships and making the stay memorable for their passengers. The number of visiting ships has increased rapidly in recent years.

The town is full of life in the summertime. The Glæsir Viking Association has built entertainment facilities in the town centre and the Vikings' antics are often the highlight of the day, according to cruise passengers. The town festival, Á Góðri Stund, held on the last weekend of July each year, sees the town decorated with red, blue, yellow, and green. Guests of all ages enjoy themselves at this family festival.

Located to the east of the fjord is a 380m high mountain, Mt. Klakkur. There is a glen with a pond on its western side. Legend has it that the river feeding the pond washes up wishing stones on the evening of Jónsmessa, or midsummer, which is celebrated in Iceland on June 24. It's enjoyable to walk out onto Klakkshausinn at the westernmost point in Grundarfjörður and look out over Breiðafjörður bay. The hike up Klakkur is of average difficulty and will take three hours at most, even counting a stop at the top.



EXPERIENCE NATURE FROM ITS CORE

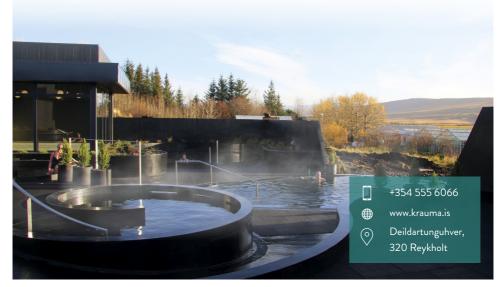
Krauma is a natural geothermal bath & spa resort at Deildartunguhver, Europe's most powerful hot spring. The cold water comes from Ok, Iceland's smallest glacier.

Krauma offers five relaxing natural geothermal baths, a cold tub, two steambaths and a relaxation room where you can rest by the fireplace.

At Krauma Restaurant you can enjoy Icelandic cuisine with emphasis on fresh ingredients from local farms. Relax with the spectacular view of Europe's most powerful hot spring.

Krauma is located at Deildartunguhver, a 97 km (60 miles) drive from Reykjavík.





Located in the Framsveit area, Mt. Eyjarfjall can be found just beyond the local golf course. The walk up well-maintained stairs to its 352m high summit is quite easy for most hikers and provides fantastic views. On a good day, you'll be able to see Snæfellsjökull glacier.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

- Grundafjörður Information Centre, Grundargata 35, tel. 438-1881. grundarfjordur.is, west.is
- Vesturlandsstofa, Borgarbraut 58-60, Borgarnes, tel. 437-2214.

SERVICES:

- · Police, Hrannarstígur 2, tel. 444-0300.
- Post office, Grundargata 38, tel. 580-1200.
- · ATM Arion Bank, Grundargata 30, tel. 444-7000.
- · ATM Landsbankinn, Grundargata 38.

HEALTHCARE:

- Healthcare centre, Hrannarstígur 7, tel. 432-1350.
- Pharmacy Lyfja, Grundargata 38, tel. 438-6745.

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Kirkjufell Hótel, Nesvegur 6, tel. 438-6893.
- Grundarfjörður Hostel, Hlíðarvegur 15, tel. 562-6533.
- · Gamla Pósthúsið, Grundargata 50, tel. 430-8043.
- Hálsaból, summerhouse, Hlíðarvegur 15, tel. 864-0366.
- · Setberg, tel. 438-6817.
- Suður-Bár, tel. 438-6815.
- Snoppa Apartments, Grundargata 18, tel. 868-5167.
- Grund Guesthouse, Grund, tel. 840-6100/438-1400.
- Biarg Apartments, Grundartanga 8, tel. 438-1700.
- · Hamrahlíð 9 Guesthouse, Hamrahlíð 9, tel. 867-9449.
- María Apartment, Hrannarstígur 3, tel. 847-3303/868-7688.
- Grundarfjörður Bed & Breakfast, Nesvegur 5, tel. 546-6808.
- · JF Comfy Stay, Smiðjustígur 4, tel. 861-0384.
- Dísarbyggð, summerhouse, Þórdísarstaðir, tel. 892-7746.

CAMPING:

- By the swimming pool, tel. 430-8564.
- · Setberg, tel. 438-6817.

EATING OUT:

- Bjargarsteinn, Sólvellir 15, tel. 438-6770.
- Kirkjufell Hótel, Nesvegur 6-8, tel. 438-6893.
- Kaffi 59, Grundargata 59, tel. 438-6959
- · Meistarinn, hot dog stand, by Grundargata.
- Kaffi Emil, at the information centre, Grundargata 35, tel. 897-0124.
- · Láki Hafnarkaffi, café, Nesvegur 5, tel. 546-6808.

GROCERIES:

- Samkaup, Grundargata 38, tel. 438-6700.
- Vínbúðin liquor store, Grundargata 38, tel. 438-1220.

SHOPPING:

- Blossi, Grundargata 61, tel. 438-6500.
- Krums, Eyrarvegur 20, tel. 842-1307.
- Láki Hafnarkaffi, Nesvegur 5, tel. 546-6808.

- Snæbvottur, Grundargata 61, tel. 438-6500.
- Liston, workshop and gallery, Sólvellir 6, tel. 690-4347

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

• The Saga Centre, Grundargata 35, tel. 438-1881.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool, Borgarbraut, tel. 430-8564.
- Bárarvöllur, nine-hole golf course, tel. 438-6815.

ACTIVITIES:

- · Kverná, horseback riding tours, tel. 898-2492.
- Berg, tel. 438-6875/891-6875.
- Láki Tours, bird and whale watching tours, sea fishing, night sailing, Nesvegur 5, tel. 546-6808.
- Snæfellsnes Excursions, Ölkelduvegur 5, tel. 616-9090.
- · Ferðafélag Snæfellsness. ffsn.is
- Vestur Adventures, kayaking, Sæból 14, tel. 897-0153

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- · Mt. Kirkiufell.
- Setbergskirkja, tel. 438-6821.
- · Klakkur, Eyrarfjall.

GAS STATIONS:

- N1. Grundargata 38. tel. 438-6700.
- Orkan, Suðurgarður 1, tel. 578-8800.

OTHER SERVICES:

• Garage, Sólvellir 5, tel. 438-6933/616-9090.

STYKKISHÓI MUR

Population: 1,000-2,500

Stykkishólmur, sometimes called "the town of a thousand islands," is situated on Þórnes headland looking out over the many islands of Breiðafjörður bay. The village has a history of trading that dates back over 400 years. It has an excellent natural harbour, sheltered by Súgandisevia island. which is connected to the mainland by a bridge. The oldest meteorological station in Iceland – and some say the world - is located in Stykkishólmur and was first manned by Árni Thorlacius in 1845. In 1832, he built the "Norwegian House" with Norwegian timber which is the oldest two-storey house in Iceland. It has been renovated recently and now serves as the local folk museum. Many of the old houses in town have been repaired and they give the town a historic feeling. Stykkishólmskirkja church hosts regular concerts during the summer. There is a swimming pool, and there are also art galleries and restaurants. Birdlife is varied in and around the town and in recent years, tourism and commerce have blossomed. The inhabitants of Flatey island get their supplies from Stykkishólmur.





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www.puzzledbyiceland.com



STYKKISHÓI MUR

Eiderdown can be collected in great quantities on the islands in Breiðafjörður bay, and this has given rise to a new and productive local industry. Sailing to these islands is popular as well, and birdwatching tours are among the most popular activities in the area.

The Sisters of St. Francis, nuns that arrived in the village in 1935, did much to shape the face of the village with the construction of a Catholic cloister as well as a hospital, which still hears the name of the order

Mt. Helgafell (73m high) is a low basalt mountain on Þórsnes, just outside Stykkishólmur, with a gentle western slope, but which is sheer on its northern and eastern sides. It appears repeatedly in Icelandic history and folklore. Many famous Icelanders have lived there, such as Snorri Goði and Laxdæla Saga heroine Guðrún Ósvífursdóttir. Her grave can be found north of the church. Medieval chronicler Ari Fróði (1067-1148) lived there until he was seven years old. An Augustine's monastery was moved there from Flatey in 1184, and remnants of a wall on Mt. Helgafell are said to be from its chapel. The manuscripts from the monastery are housed at Árnasetur in Reykjavík. Helgafell farmstead is situated at the base of the mountain. The mountain was named by Þórólfur Mostrarskegg, who settled this district. In the Book of Settlements, dating from 13th century, is written that he "believed so strongly in the mountain on the headland, which he called Helgafell, that no one was allowed to look at it without washing first, and it was so sacrosanct that nothing was to be killed on it, neither cattle nor men." Folklore advises anyone climbing the mountain for the first time to start at the

grave of Guðrún Ósvífursdóttir, and neither look back nor speak. People who do so will have three wishes granted, provided they are of good intent, the wisher tells no one, and faces east when making them. A breathtaking view across Breiðafjörður bay is visible from the mountain's peak. Nearby residents request that guests visit during the day, between 9-18.

Álftafjörður is the easternmost fjord on the northern coast of Snæfellsnes, with Mt. Úlfarsfell to the west and Mt. Eyrarfjall to the east. Farther east is Skógarsveit, a beautiful and fertile county. Álftafjörður is the setting of *Eyrbyggja Saga*, which is primarily set in Snæfellsnes.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 West Iceland Information Centre, Borgarbraut 58-60, Borgarnes, tel. 437-2214. west.is

SERVICES:

- Police, Borgarbraut 2, tel. 444-0300.
- Post office, Aðalgata 31, tel. 580-1200.
- · ATM Arion Bank, Aðalgata 10, tel. 444-7000.

HEALTHCARE:

- Heilbrigðisstofnun Vesturlands, Austurgata 7, tel. 432-1200.
- Pharmacy Lyfja, Aðalgata 24, tel. 438-1141.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Akkeri Guesthouse, Frúarstígur 1, tel. 844 1050.
- Fosshótel Stykkishólmur, Borgarbraut 8, tel. 430-2100.

- Hótel Breiðafiörður, Aðalgata 8, tel. 433-2200.
- Hótel Egilsen, Aðalgata 2, tel. 554-7700.
- Hótel Fransiskus, Austurgata 7, tel. 422-1101.
- Sjónarhóll Guesthouse, Höfðagata 1, tel. 438-1417.
- · Höfðagata Gisting, Höfðagata 11, tel. 831 1806.
- Alma B&B, Sundabakki 12, tel. 438-1435.
- Hólmur-Inn B&B, Skúlagata 4, tel. 899-9144.
- · Sýsló Guesthouse, Laufásvegur 1, tel. 831-1806.
- Langey B&B, Víkurgata 5, tel. 898-1457.
- Our Home Apartments, Laufásvegur 21-31, tel. 899-1797.
- · Harbour Hostel, Hafnargata 4, tel. 517-5353.
- · Friðarstaðir Cottage, Birkilundur 44, tel. 845-5309.
- · Hamar Guesthouse, Evervegur 12, tel. 552-2423.
- · Comfort Guesthouse, Lágholt 15, tel. 855-0011.

CAMPING:

• By the golf course, tel. 438-1075/849-8435. mostri@stykk.is

EATING OUT:

- Fosshótel Stykkishólmur, Borgarbraut 8, tel. 430-2100.
- · Narfeyrarstofa, Aðalgata 3, tel. 533-1119. narfeyrarstofa.is
- Skúrinn, Þvervegur 2, tel. 544-4004.
- Sjávarpakkhúsið, Hafnargata 2, tel. 438-1800.
- Skúrinn Pizza Joint, Borgarbraut 1, tel. 438-1717.
- Nesbrauð, Nesvegur 1, tel. 438-1830.
- Grill 66, Olís, Aðalgata 25, tel. 438-1254.
- · Meistarinn, hot dog stand on Aðalgata.
- · Finsen Fish & Chips, food truck at the harbour.
- · Is Kofinn, ice cream, waffles, and coffee at the harbour.
- · Jakobína kaffihús (Smiðjur), Aðalgata 20, tel. 894 0425.

GROCERIES:

- Vínbúðin liguor store, Aðalgata 24, tel. 430-1414.
- · Bónus, Borgarbraut 1.

SHOPPING:

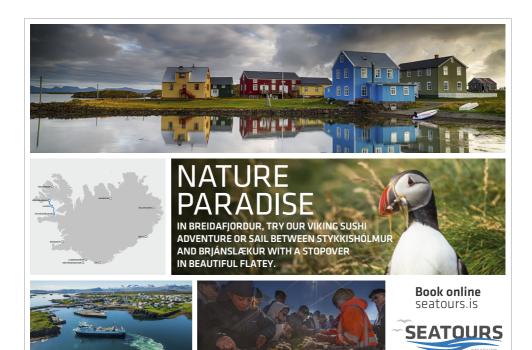
- Bókaverslun Breiðafjarðar, bookstore, Hafnargata 1, tel. 438-1121
- Smiðjur, Aðalgata 20 (í húsinu eru Leir 7 gallery, ceramics, tel. 894 0425, Smávinir - Lára Gunnarsdóttir's wood carving, tel. 896 1909, Greta Maria - fine jewelry, tel. 696 9628.
- Gallery Lundi, Aðalgata, tel. 893-5588/866-0228 845 9269.
- · Gallerí Stykki, Ægisgata 11, tel. 896-4489.
- Skipavík, Nesvegur 20, tel. 430-1400.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Norska húsið (Norwegian House), built in 1832, exhibition of the home of Árni Thorlacius and regional museum for the Snæfellsnes area. Hafnaroata 5. tel. 433-8114, norskahusid.is
- · District library, Hafnargata 7, tel. 433-8160.
- Library of Water, permanent installation by artist Roni Horn, Bókhlöðustígur 17, tel. 865 4516.
- Volcano Museum, multimedia exhibition, art gallery, Aðalgata 8. tel. 433-8154.
- The Eider Centre of Iceland, Frúarstígur 6, tel. 899-8369.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Sports centre, swimming pools, hot tubs, waterslide, sports field, and gym, Borgarbraut, tel. 433-8150.
- Víkurvöllur, nine-hole golf course, tel. 438-1075.



ACTIVITIES:

- Sæferðir, adventure tours from Stykkishólmur, Viking sushi tours, gourmet tours, tel. 433-2254. seatours.is
- Go West, eco-friendly outdoor experiences in Breiðafjörður, hiking, bicycle, and kayak tours, tel. 695-9995/694-9513.
- Stykkishólmur Slowly, Hafnargata 4, tel. 697-8950. stykkisholmurslowly.com
- · Way Out West, tel. 834-7000. wayoutwest.is
- Ocean Adventures, sea angling, birdwatching, special tours, tel. 868-3157.
- Arctic Adventures, kayaking, tel. 562-7000. adventures.is
- Kontiki, sea kayaking, Austurgata 2, tel. 691-5663.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- · Reforestation area Grensás, barbecue area, tables, and benches.
- Súgandisey (near the harbour), a view over Stykkishólmur and the old lighthouse.
- · Viewing dial at Hótel Stykkishólmur.
- · Stykkishólmur church, tel. 438-1560.
- The Catholic Church of Iceland, Austurgata 7, tel. 438-1070.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Gunnar Hinriksson, coach service, Víkurflöt 4, tel. 438-1591/892-1091.
- Ferry Baldur, car and passenger ferry, scheduled service across Breiðafjörður between Brjánslækur and Stykkishólmur, stopping at Flatey island, tel. 433-2254/438-1450/456-2020. saeferdir.is
- Car Rental Alveg réttir, Reitarvegur 3, tel. 438-1586/690-2074.

GAS STATIONS:

- Olís, Aðalgata 25, tel. 438-1254.
- Orkan, self-service gas station, Aðalgata 26, tel. 444-3014.

OTHER SERVICES:

- Dekk og smur, garage and tire repair, Nesvegur 5, tel. 438-1385/895-2324 (emergency only).
- H. Tholl, garage, Nesvegur 13, tel. 855-1711.

FACILITIES IN THE VICINITY

ACCOMMODATION:

- Skjöldur, community centre, Helgafellssveit, tel. 868-8567.
- · Bassi, travel service, Helgafellssveit, tel. 565-1984.
- Stundarfriður cottages, Hólar 1, tel. 864-2463.

CAMPING:

Skjöldur, Helgafellssveit, tel. 868-8567/841-9478.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 Bjarnarhöfn Shark Museum, shark curing, old farm church, tel. 438-1581.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Mt. Helgafell, historical area, grave of Guðrún Ósvífursdóttir.
- Sauraskógur woods, Berserkjahraun lava, Berserkjagata trails.

DALIR

Dalir municipality has a rich history and was a major setting for the sagas. It offers beautiful scenery for hiking and walking, both along the shore and inland, with diverse birdlife and good rivers for fishing. Campsites and other accommodation and travel services make Dalir an ideal destination for families and those interested in Iceland's culture, history, and heritage.

Búðardalur is the main administrative and service centre in the Dalir municipality. There are statues commemorating two local cultural figures: 20th century poet Jóhannes úr Kötlum and 13th century lawspeaker and historian Sturla Þórðarson. The small marina in Búðardalur is where Leifsbúð is located, an information and cultural centre housing an exhibition dedicated to Leif the Lucky and Erik the Red, and their discovery of Vineland.

Leif the Lucky – the first European to set foot in America – was born at Eiríksstadir in Haukadalur valley. His parents, Erik the Red and Þjóðhildur, built a farm at Eiríksstaðir before leaving Iceland to found the first Viking settlement in Greenland. A replica of their longhouse was built, based on nearby ruins of a 10th century farmhouse, which was excavated by archaeologists. During summertime, "real" Vikings welcome visitors to the site, tell stories, and demonstrate ancient handicrafts.

Mt. Sauðafell is a mountain in Miðdalir and the name of a farm that was the home of Icelandic chieftain Sturla Sighvatsson (1198-1238). This was also the place where Jón Arason (1484-1550), Iceland's last Catholic bishop, was captured with his three sons during the Reformation; they were taken to Skálholt and beheaded on November 7, 1550.

FACILITIES IN BÚÐARDALUR

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 West Iceland Information Centre, Borgarbraut 58-60, Borgarnes, tel. 437-2214. west.is

SERVICES:

- Police, Miðbraut 11, tel. 444-0300.
- · Post office, Miðbraut 13, tel. 580-1200.
- Bank Arion Bank, Miðbraut 13, tel. 444-7000.

HEALTHCARE:

- Healthcare centre. Gunnarsbraut 2. tel. 432-1450.
- Pharmacy Lyfja, Gunnarsbraut 2, tel. 434-1158.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Dalakot, Dalbraut 2, tel. 434-1644.
- Guesthouse Kastalinn, Brekkuhvammur 1, tel. 865 3382.

CAMPING:

· Along Vesturbraut.

EATING OUT:

- Dalakot, tel. 434-1644.
- Blómalindin Kaffihornið, Vesturbraut 6, tel. 434-1606.
- · Veiðistaðurinn, Vesturbraut 12a, 4341110.



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GROCERIES:

- Samkaup Strax, Vesturbraut 10, tel. 434-1180.
- Vínbúðin liquor store, Vesturbraut 15, tel. 434-1303.

SHOPPING:

- Handverkshópurinn Bolli, Vesturbraut 12, tel. 434-1410.
- Blómalindin Kaffihornið, Vesturbraut 6, tel. 434-1606.
- Ytri-Fagridalur, farmers' produce, tel. 893-3211.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 Héraðsbókasafn Dalabyggðar, library, Miðbraut 11, tel. 430-4720.

GAS STATIONS:

N1. Vesturbraut 10. tel. 434-1436.

OTHER SERVICES:

• KM Þjónustan, garage, Vesturbraut 20, tel. 434-1611.

FACILITIES IN DALIR

ACCOMMODATION:

- Travel Service Svarfhóll, Miðdalir, tel. 825-6369.
- Travel Service Erpsstaðir, tel. 434-1357.
- Árblik, community centre, tel. 434-1366.
- · Stóra-Vatnshorn, tel. 434-1342.
- · Hótel Edda Plus, Laugar, tel. 444-4930.
- · Laugar Guesthouse, tel. 861-2660.
- Tjarnarlundur, community centre, tel. 430-4700. dalir@dalir.is

- Þurranes Travel Service, tel. 434-1556, thurranes@centrum.is
- Vogur Country Lodge, Fellströnd, tel. 435-0002.
- Seljaland Ferðaþjónusta, Hörðudalur, tel. 434-1116.
- Nýp, Skarðsströnd, tel. 896-1930.
- · Staðarfell, community centre, tel 430-4700. dalir@dalir.is
- Hótel Ljósaland, Skriðulandi, tel. 776-4103/564-4844.
- Giljaland Guesthouse, tel. 434-1402/854-1402.
- Sauðafell Guesthouse, tel. 846-6012/897-9603.
 Dalahyttur, in Hlíð in Hörðudalur, tel. 586-1025.
- Jörvi, tel, 862 6102

CAMPING:

- · Laugar, Sælingsdalur, tel. 444-4930.
- Á, Skarðsströnd, tel. 434-1420/663-1420.
- Tjarnarlundur, Saurbær, tel. 430-4700/897-0269.

EATING OUT:

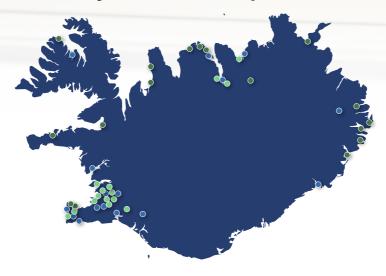
- Hótel Edda Plus, Laugar, tel. 444-4930.
- Hótel Ljósaland, Skriðulandi, tel. 776-4103/564-4844.
- Vogur Country lodge, Fellströnd, tel. 435-0002.
- · Rjómabúið Erpsstöðum, ice cream, tel. 434-1357.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Dalamanna Folk Museum, Laugar, Dalasýsla, tel. 434-1328/430-4700. safnamal@dalir.is
- Eiríksstaðir in Haukadalur, birthplace of Leif the Lucky, tel. 899 7111. eiriksstadir.is
- Ólafsdalur in Gilsfjörður. olafsdalur.is
- · Jörvi Leirvinnustofa, tel. 862 6102



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The Westfjords

The Westfjords region is the largest peninsula in Iceland. It stretches towards the northwest, between the Breiðafjörður and Húnaflói bays. The coastline is serrated with many fjords and there is little coastal lowland, except in the bays at the top of the fjords where grassy dells can be found. The highlands of the Westfjords are inland, where it's rocky with sparse vegetation, and the Drangajökull glacier towers above. Basalt is the main type of rock, generally stratified with lava stacks, and in many places, plant fossils have been found between the layers of lava.

The Barðaströnd district extends from the head of Gilsfjörður fjord to Arnarfjörður fjord. Many smaller fjords that reach into Breiðafjörður fjord characterise the district's southern coast, and on its western end is a beautiful sandy beach, Rauðasandur. The sheer Látrabjarg cliffs rise 440m out of sea and end at Bjargtangar, the westernmost point of Iceland and Europe. North of Blakknes, the "real" Westfjords take over, of which Arnarfjörður and Ísafjarðardjúp are the largest fjords. Many islands in the Breiðafjörður bay belong to the Barðaströnd district. The largest of these is Flatey island, which had a flourishing community up until the mid-20th century.

The safjörður district coastline is longer than any other district in the country, because nowhere else, there are so many small fjords. Throughout the area, there is very little lowland. The fjords are separated by high mountains, which have impeded transport between neighbouring districts since ancient times. Many areas are threatened by the danger of avalanches. The fjords are long and deep. Most are scattered with sandy spits of land and good harbour conditions abound. There are few lakes in the area and most rivers are short.

Ísafjörðurdjúp has the largest cluster of fjords in the country. The Æðey and Vigur islands are known for eiderdown farming. However, the largest production can be found at Mýrum and Lækur in Dýrafjörður. There are seven fjords of varying sizes on the southern side of Ísafjörðurdjúp, and the Jökulfjörður fjord is located on its northern side. The surrounding area has a tremendous landscape that is sparsely vegetated, except in the hollows at the top of the fjords. The Rytur headland guards the entrance to Ísafjörðurdjúp to the north, the Vík area to the east towards the Horn headland, and the Hornstrandir cliffs can be found between the Hornbjarg cliffs and Geirólfsnúpur headland.

In earlier times, Hornstrandir was well populated and the inhabitants based their livelihood on the sea and bird cliffs, but the area is abandoned now. There was a settlement at Hesteyri

in Hesteyrafjörður until the latter part of the 19th century, where the inhabitants worked at a whaling station and a herring factory. Hornstrandir is a protected nature reserve now and boasts a wealth of popular hiking trails. The nature reserve covers the entire Hornstrandir district and includes the Fljótvík and Aðalvík bays, along with the Jökulfjörður fjords.

A trip to Hornstrandir needs to be planned well and the visitation rules applying to this protected area should be respected. It must be kept in mind that the weather conditions in this area can be very hostile, that travellers cannot depend on mobile phone connections and that it's vital to travel with all the food you might need as well as a good map. Further information can be obtained from the Environment Agency of Iceland, the Westfjords Natural History Institute and the tourist information centres in [safjörður and Hólmavík.

The Strandir district is located on the western shore of Húnaflói bay. Bays and fjords abound along the shoreline, with sheer mountains separating the fjords. The fjords are mostly small, with the longest being Steingrímsfjörður and Reykjarfjörður fjords. Many islands and skerries can be found along the coast, of which Grímsey island is the largest. The northern coast no longer has any inhabitants, due to the harsh climate and barren land. Shark fishing was practiced at Gjögur, which was once a well-known fishing station.

TOURIST INFORMATION
IN THE WESTFJORDS
Reykhólar - Maríutröð t. 434-7830.
Hnjótur - Örlygshöfn t. 456-1511.
Tálknafjörður t. 456-2639.
Ísafjörður - Aðalstræti 7 t. 450-8060.
Bolungarvík t. 450-7010 in summer



FVFNTS

REYKHÓLAR

- Barmahlíðardagurinn, Cultural Festival for the Reykhólar District
- · Boatbuilding Days
- Reykhóladagar

PATREKSFJÖRÐUR

- · Seamen's weekend in Patreksfjörður.
- · Skjaldborg Filmfest, Icelandic documentary film festival
- · Gufupunk, Steampunk festival in Vesturbyggð.

TÁLKNAFJÖRÐUR

· Fun in Tálknafjörður, town festival.

BÍLDUDALUR

- · Seamen's Festival.
- · Baunagrasið, family music festival.

ÍSAFJARÐARBÆR

- June 17: The National Day celebrated at Hrafnseyri, the birthplace of Jón Sigurðsson.
- · June: Midsummer Night's Happenings, Hrafnseyri.

ÞINGEYRI

- · Dýrafjörður Days, family festival with a Viking touch
- Running Festival: Fun Run, Family Cycling and Svalvoga Cycling Race.
- Vesturgatan, a wilderness running festival past Svalvogar, between Arnarfjörður and Dýrafjörður, tel. 862 3291. Part of the Running Festival in the Westfjords.

ÖNUNDARFJÖRÐUR

· Aug. 5: Sandcastle contest at Holt, Önundarfjörður.

SUĐUREYRI

- 25th annual Happiness Weekend in Suðureyri.
- Act Alone, Suðureyri. Solo Performance festival at Suðureyri on Súgandafjörður.

ÍSAFJÖRÐUR

- Ski Week
- Aldrei fór ég suður. The Folk Rock Festival.
- Fossavatnsganga, Lake Fossavatn cross-country ski tournament for the general public: compete in 5, 10, 25 and 50km race.
- The Big Devil Tournament. Football/soccer tournament for mature footballers.
- · Salt Fish Feast, Byggðarsafn Vestfjörður.
- · Running Festival in Ísafjarðarbær.
- Ocean Swim, Suðurtangi, 500m and 1500m, Óshlíð run, Ísafjörður - Bolungarvík, half marathon, 10 km,
- · European Championships in swamp soccer
- Act Alone, Suðureyri, Solo Performances festival at Suðureyri við Súgandafjörð.
- Triathlon, organized by CraftSport. A triathlon made up of a 700 m swim, 17 km cycle and 7 km run. Swim in

- Bolungarvík, cycle to Ísafjörður, and run once there, tel. 862-3291.
- · Winter Nights, art and cultural festival.

ÍSAFJARÐARDJÚP

- Spring festival at Heydalur in Ísafjarðardjúp.
- Inndjúp Day medieval festival in Vatnsfjörður and Heydalur in Ísafjarðardjúp.

BOLUNGARVÍK

- June 9-11: Seamen's Festival on National Seamen's Day and the music festival Porskurinn (The Cod).
- · June 31-July 2: Market Day Weekend.
- Sept. 2: Triathlon organised by CraftSport. A triathlon made up of a 700m swimming, 17km cycling and 7km running. Swimming in Bolungarvík, cycling to Ísafjörður, and running through town.
- Mid-Sept: Sheep Roundup in Bolungarvík. Everyone is welcome to experience this farming tradition.

SÚĐAVÍK

- July 14: Arnarneshlaup. Run from Súðavík to Ísafjörður. Half marathon and 10km. Part of the Westfjords Running Festival.
- · August 4-6: Gönguhátið, Hiking Festival
- · Sept. 1-3: Bláberjadagar, blueberry days

HÓLMAVÍK

Happy Days in Hólmavík, family festival.

DRANGSNES

Sumarmölin, Music Festival.

STRANDIR

- National Seamen's Day, coffee at Sævangur, Sheep Farm Museum
- June 17: National Day, coffee at Sævangur, Sheep Farm Museum.
- · Chess tournament, Djúpavík, tel. 451-4037.
- · Djúpavík Circle, Midsummer Midnight Hike.
- · Wonder Games at Sævangur, Sheep Farm Museum.
- The Icelandic Museum Day celebrated at Sævangur, Sheep Farm Museum.
- · Tractor Day at Sævangur, Sheep Farm Museum.
- Djúpavík Days, Djúpavík.
- Rams Rating Championship at Sævangur, Sheep Farm Museum.







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REYKHÓLASVEIT

Population: 100-500

The Reykhólasveit district is renowned for its natural beauty and birdlife. Reykhólar is a historic site, once considered among the best farmlands in Iceland, mostly used for growing wheat. About 300 offshore islands belong to the district. Reykhólar is frequently mentioned in the sagas. Today, the local economy is mainly based on harvesting and processing kelp. When driving to Reykhólar, the road passes Barmahlíð, about which the poet Jón Thoroddsen (1818-1868) wrote My Beautiful Hillside.

Borgarland has unusual rock formations called volcanic dykes. It lies between the small fjords of Króksfjörður and Berufjörður. Bjartmarssteinn, a volcanic plug of 55m high and 100m across, is said to be the capital of the elves of Breiðafjörður. This rock can be reached from the village of Borg by driving down a track to the shore, and then walking along the beach to Bjartmarssteinn.

The hiking map of the countryside around Reykhólar identifies nine main hiking routes, plus several shorter ones. Two of them are as follows. The first is Vaðalfjöll, which starts as a walk along the roadside trail, just east of Bjarkalundur, and leads to two beautifully formed rock pillars that are best approached from the west. You can return the same way or walk west to the old highway and follow the road towards Kinnarstaðir, and

from there back to Bjarkalundur. The second hiking trail is Reykhólar, which is a walk around Einireykjastígur. It begins at the swimming pool Grettislaug and goes to Einireykjahver (hot springs), where there is a gravel trail with bridges over marshy areas thriving with birdlife. Start by walking along the trench, and then follow the stream to Jónsbúð.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Reykhólar district information office, Maríutröð, tel. 894-1011/434-7830.

HEALTHCARE:

- Healthcare centre, Hellisbraut, tel. 432-1460.
- Pharmacy, Hellisbraut, tel. 432-1460.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Álftaland, Reykhólar.
- Hótel Bjarkalundur, tel. 434-7762/434-7863/695-2091.
 bjarkalundur.is
- · Miðjanes Guesthouse, tel. 434-7787.
- Djúpidalur, tel. 434-7853.

CAMPING:

- Hótel Biarkalundur, tel. 434-7762, fax 434-7863.
- By the swimming pool at Reykhólar, tel. 434-7738.
- Miðjanes, tel. 434-7787.
- Sjávarsmiðjan, tel. 577-4800.

EATING OUT:

- Hótel Biarkalundur, tel. 434-7762.
- · Reykhólar Seabaths, café, tel. 577-4800.
- Bátakaffi, café and exhibition space, tel. 434-7830.
- 380 Restaurant, Hellisbraut 72, tel. 434-7890.

GROCERIES:

Hólabúð, Hellisbraut 72, tel. 434-7890.

SHOPPING:

- Market at Biarkalundur, tel. 434-7762.
- Handverksfélagið Assa, handicrafts, books, and a "garage sale" at Króksfjarðarnes, tel. 893-6396/892-7897.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Seljanes, exhibition on classic cars, tel. 434-7720.
- · Grund, old tractors on display, tel. 434-7922.
- Arnarsetur Íslands, the White-Tailed Eagle Centre, Króksfjarðarnes, tel. 894-1011.
- Bátakaffi, exhibitions on boat building and the lifestyle of past times. tel. 434-7830.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Grettislaug, swimming pool at Reykhólar, tel. 434-7738.
- Djúpidalur, swimming pool, tel. 434-7853.
- Reykhólar Seabaths, seaweed bath, tel. 577-4800. sjavarsmidjan.is

ACTIVITIES:

- Fishing in Gufudalur, tel. 568-6050.
- Fishing in Berufjarðarvatn at Hótel Bjarkarlundur, tel. 434-7762

PLACES OF INTEREST:

· Birdwatching house at Reykhólar.

GAS STATIONS:

 Filling stations at Hólabúð in Reykhólar and at Hótel Biarkalundur.

FLATEY

Flatey is the largest of the "Western Isles" in Breiðafjörður bay, which consists of around 40 islands. Trading has been recorded on Flatey since the Middle Ages, but the island didn't become a recognised trading post until 1777. A monastery was built there in 172 and Flatey became one of Iceland's leading cultural centres in the mid-19th century. The church is served from Reykhólar and was built in 1926. Paintings by Baltasar decorate the interior of the church. A portion of the island has been a protected natural site since 1975. The Baldur ferry service between Stykkishólmur and Brjánslækur stops at Flatey.

FACILITIES

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Hótel Flatey, tel. 555-7788. hotelflatey.is
- Grænigarður & Krákuvör, travel service, tel. 438-1451.
- · Læknishús/Línukot, Ólína J. Jónsdóttir, tel. 438-1476.

CAMPING:

• Grænigarður & Krákuvör, travel service, tel. 438-1451.

EATING OUT:

Hótel Flatey, Samkomuhúsið, tel. 422-7610.

ACTIVITIES:

 Hótel Flatey, birdwatching tours and guided walks around Flatey, boat tours, tel. 422-7610.

TRANSPORTATION:

 Ferry Baldur, car and passenger ferry, scheduled service across Breiðafjörður between Brjánslækur and Stykkishólmur, stopping at Flatey island, tel. 433-2254/438-1450/456-2020. saeferdir.is

VESTURBYGGÐ

Population: 1,000-2,500

Vesturbyggð is a municipality in the southwestern part of the Westfjords. It incorporates the residential towns of Patreksfjörður and Bíldudalur. Between them is Tálknafjörður, which is an independent municipality. Látrabjarg, one of the most spectacular bird cliffs in the country, is located there and this is a popular tourist destination. Bjargtangar, the westernmost point of Europe, is to the west of the Látrabjarg cliffs.

Vatnsdalur is a valley leading in from Vatnsfjörður fjord on Barðaströnd. The Vatnsdalsá river runs through it. Raven-Flóki, Iceland's name giver, spent a winter in this valley around 865. This is a picturesque area with diverse birdlife, fertile vegetation, and rowan trees growing among dwarf birch shrubs. Vatnsfjörður fjord has been a protected area since 1975. Brjánslækur, near the mouth of the fjord, is an old church site and now the point of call for the ferry from Stykkishólmur across Breiðafjörður bay. Just above the hamlet is Surtarbrandsgil canyon, a protected natural site



where there are fossilised plant remains from interglacial periods. Icelandic explorers Eggert Ólafsson and Bjarni Pálsson first discovered and described the fossils' location in the 18th century.

Rauðasandur is the inhabited area between the Látrabjarg cliffs and Mt. Stálfjall, named after the distinctive reddish sand on the beach there. A path leads from Rauðasandur to Látrabjarg. Tucked away in the corner of the Rauðasandur area is the Sjöundá river. A notorious murder took place at this site in the beginning of the 18th century, about which Gunnar Gunnarsson (1889-1975) wrote in his book *Svartfugl* (*Guillemot*). Farther along the headland is Skor, which was the final destination of Eggert Ólafsson, who drowned near this point in 1768.

Látrabjarg are 14km long precipitous bird cliffs between Keflavík (a town in the Westfjords, not the international airport with the same name) and Bjargtangar, and it's the westernmost point of Iceland. The cliffs can be divided into four distinct sections: farthest to the west are the main Látrabjarg cliffs; followed by Bæjarbjarg, where the cliffs reach their highest point at 444m; then the Breiðavík cliffs; and furthest to the east are the Keflavík cliffs. It's possible to drive out to the Bjargtangar lighthouse, built in 1913. The waters of Látraröst, notorious for shipwrecks, are offshore from the cliffs

Hnjótur Museum is a folk museum in Örlygshöfn, curated by Barðaströnd district and founded by Egill Ólafsson who lived in the area his whole life, and it contains a fine collection of local artifacts and aviation memorabilia

Selárdalur is the outermost of the Ketildalir valleys, on the west side of Arnarfjörður fjord. Recently-renovated outdoor artworks and buildings are showcased there at Brautarholt. These are created by artist Samúel Jónsson (1884-1969), who farmed there. Fossils have been found on Mt. Þórishlíðarfjall, above the valley, including pre-Ice Age vegetation such as beech and vines.

Several enjoyable walking trails have been marked in Vesturbyggð, like the following seven: 1) Selárdalsheiði heath. Walk from Sellátrar to Krossadalur, over Selárdalsheiði heath, and down Selárdalur valley to Brautarholt, where a church is located as well as artwork from Samúel Jónsson (20 km). 2) Walk from Tálknafjörður over Tunguheiði heath, down to Bíldudalur (10 km). 3) Lambeyrarháls. Walk from Patreksfjörður over Lambeyrarháls, down into Tálknafjörður (7 km). 4) Walking trail from Sauðlauksdalur over Mt. Vatnsdalsfjall to Keflavík (13 km). 5) From Hnjótur over Hnjótsheiði heath to Keflavík (11 km). 6) From Lambavatn lake along Sandfjöll to Keflavík (8 km). 7) Walking trail from Breiðavík to Keflavík (10 km).

FACILITIES OUTSIDE URBAN AREAS IN VESTURBYGGÐ

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

· Hnjótur Folk Museum, Örlygshöfn, tel. 456-1511. hnjotur.is

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hótel Flókalundur, tel. 456-2011.
- Guesthouse Rauðsdalur, tel. 456-2041/694-5099/694-8561.
- Guesthouse Bjarkarholt, Stóra Krossholt, tel. 456-2025.
- Hótel Breiðavík, tel. 456-1575/867-1575.
- Hótel Látrabjarg, Örlygshöfn, tel. 456-1500.
- Hnjótur Travel Service, Örlygshöfn, tel. 456-1596/456-1591/893-8024. hnjoturtravel.is
- Hænuvík, four chalets, tel. 456-1574/698-7810.
- Skálholt, apartments, tel. 456-2080/848-1062.

CAMPING:

- Flókalundur, tel. 456-2011.
- Breiðavík, tel. 456-1575.
- Hnjótur Travel Service, Örlygshöfn, tel. 693-6478/456-1596/456-1591/893-8024.
- Rauðasandur Melanes tel 845-2633

EATING OUT:

- Hótel Flókalundur, tel. 456-2011.
- Hnjótur Folk Museum, café, Örlygshöfn, tel. 456-1511.
- Breiðavík, tel. 456-1575.
- · Kirkjuhvammur, coffeehouse, Rauðasandur, tel. 866-8129.

SHOPPING:

- Breiðavík, tel. 456-1575.
- Hænuvík/Handverkshúsið Gullhóll, tel. 456-1574/698-7810.
- Hótel Flókalundur tel 456-2011

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

• Hnjótur Folk Museum, tel. 456-1511/896-5868. hnjotur.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Flókalaug, swimming pool, Vatnsfjörður, tel. 456-2044.
- · Laugarnes, swimming pool, Krossholt, tel. 456-2039.

ACTIVITIES:

- Hótel Flókalundur, trout fishing, tel. 456-2011.
- Fishing in Sauðlauksdalsvatn lake, fishing licenses sold in Patreksfiörður.
- Fishing in Vaðlar and the Breiðavík lakes, tel. 456-1575.
- Westfjords Adventures, hiking trails, bike tours, ATV/quad tours, jeep tours, sailing, and deep-sea fishing, tel. 693-6478/456-5006. westfjordsadventures.com

PLACES OF INTEREST:

 Hiking trails: Rauðasandur, Keflavík, Látrabjarg, Hænuvík, Kollsvík, and Vatnsfjörður. Hiking maps available at tourist information centres.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Ferry Baldur, car and passenger ferry, scheduled service across Breiðafjörður between Brjánslækur and Stykkishólmur, stopping at Flatey island, tel. 433-2254/438-1450/456-2020. saeferdir.is
- Eagle Air, scheduled flights between Reykjavík and Bíldudalur and scheduled bus between Bíldudalur, Tálknafjörður, and Patreksfjörður, tel. 562-4200.

PATREKSEJÖRÐUR

Population: 500-1.000

Patreksfjörður is a town on the northern shore of Patreksfjörður fjord, which used to be a trading post. The community grew into a village in the late 19th century when the fishing industry took off. Similar to other communities in the region. Patreksfjörður's economy is still based on fisheries. It's a popular tourist destination, as Látrabjarg cliffs, Rauðasandur beach, and Dynjandi waterfall are easy to reach, the latter especially after the opening of a new tunnel between Arnarfjörður and Dýrafjörður in 2019.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Westfiords Adventures, Aðalstræti 62, tel. 456-5006. westfjordsadventures.com

SERVICES:

- Police, Aðalstræti 92, tel. 444-0400.
- Post office, Biarkargata 4, tel. 456-1100.
- · ATM Landsbankinn, Bjarkargata 1, tel. 410-4153.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Healthcare centre, Stekkar 1, tel. 450-2000.
- Pharmacy Lyfja, Aðalstræti 6, tel. 456-1222.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Fosshotel Westfiords, Aðalstræti 100, tel. 456-2004.
- Stekkaból Guesthouse, Stekkar 19 and 21, tel. 864-9675.
- Hótel Ráðagerði, Aðalstræti 31, tel. 868-4658.
- Hótel West. Aðalstræti 62. tel. 456-5020/892-3414.

CAMPING:

· Campsite at the community centre, tel. 450-2360.

EATING OUT:

- Fosshotel Westfiords, Aðalstræti 100, tel. 456-2004.
- Stúkuhúsið Café, Aðalstræti 50, tel. 456-1404.
- Albína, Aðalstræti 89, tel. 456-1667.
- · Gillagrill, Aðalstræti 110, tel. 456-1515.

HARBOUR INN GUESTHOUSE

Dalbraut 1, 465 Bíldudalur info@harbourinn.is - www.harbourinn.is













GROCERIES:

- Vínbúðin liguor store, Þórsgata 10. tel. 456-1177.
- Albína, Aðalstræti 89, tel. 456-1667.
- Fjölval, Þórsgata 10, tel. 456-1545.

SHOPPING:

- Gallery Ísafold, Urðargata 7, tel. 895-7175.
- Húsið, culture house, café, art gallery and handcraft store. Eyrargata by the harbour.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

Sports centre Brattahlíð. Aðalstræti 55. tel. 456-1301.

GAS STATIONS:

N1. Aðalstræti, tel. 456-1245.

ACTIVITIES:

· Westfjords Adventures, hiking tours, bike tours, ATV/quad tours, jeep excursions, boat tours, fishing, tel. 456-5006. westfjordsadventures.com



Open 11 - 18 daily from June 1 - Sept. 8 or by arrangement. Coffee served in the turfhouse

Life in the interest of the nation

A new interesant exhibition about the life and work of Jon Sigurdsson was opened on his 200 years birthday, June 17th, 2011.

TRANSPORTATION:

 Flybus between Patreksfjörður, Tálknafjörður, and Bíldudalur Airport, tel. 893-2636.

OTHER SERVICES:

· Garage, Stormur Garage, tel. 456-1124.

TÁLKNAFJÖRÐUR

Population: 100-500

Tálknafjörður is a village and municipality located on a fjord of the same name. It was formerly named Sveinseyri or Tunguþorp. A greatly improved harbour has played a major role in the village's growth over the past 50 years. These days, sea angling is a popular activity offered in the area. The area also offers excellent hiking options.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

• By the swimming pool, tel. 456-2639.

SERVICES:

- · Post office, Strandgata 38, tel. 410-4155.
- Bank Landsbankinn, Strandgata 38, tel. 410-4155.

HEALTHCARE:

Healthcare centre, Strandgata 38, tel. 450-2000/456-2621.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Guesthouse Bjarmaland, tel. 891-8038. bjarmaland.bloggar.is
- · Sumarbyggð, chalets, tel. 861-4986.
- Systrakot, tel. 861-9749.
- Iceland Sea Angling, summerhouses, tel. 456-1450

CAMPING:

• By the swimming pool, facilities for caravans, tel. 456-2639.

EATING OUT:

- · Hópið, tel. 456-2777/899-6626/861-5107.
- · Dunhagi, Sveinseyri, tel. 662-0463.
- N1, store, Strandgata 36, tel. 456-2614.

GROCERIES:

Hjá Jóhönnu, Strandgata 36, tel. 456-2626.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- · Swimming pool, tel. 456-2639.
- Volleyball court, football/soccer field, and playground by the pool.

ACTIVITIES:

- Westfjords Adventures, hiking tours, bike tours, jeep excursions, boat tours, fishing, tel. 456-5006. westfjordsadventures.com
- · Iceland Sea Angling, sea angling tours, tel. 456-1450

PLACES OF INTEREST:

• Varied hiking trails in and around Tálknafjörður, tel. 456-5006.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Flybus between Patreksfjörður, Tálknafjörður, and Bíldudalur Airport, tel. 893-2636.
- Westfjords Adventures, car rental agent for Europear/Höldur, tel 456-5006

GAS STATIONS:

• N1, Strandgata 36, tel. 690-2632.

BÍLDUDALUR

Population: 100-500

Bíldudalur is a community on the outer edge of Bíldudalsvogur cove, along the western side of Arnarfjörður fjord. It's an old trading post which was greatly influenced by several entrepreneurs, such as Ólafur Thorlacius (1761-1815), who ran a small fishing fleet, and his successor Pétur J. Thorsteinsson (1854-1929). Many original houses from the 19th and early 20th century still exist.

FACILITIES

SERVICES:

- Post office, Langahlíð 1, tel. 456-2100.
- ATM, inside the Bylta sports centre.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Bildó questhouse, Dalbraut 14, tel. 842-1810.
- Bíldudalur Hostel, Hafnarbraut 2, tel. 456 2100.
- Harbour Inn/Guesthouse at the Harbour, Dalbraut 1.

CAMPING:

• By the Bylta sports centre, tel. 450-2354.

EATING OUT:

- Restaurant Vegamót, Tjarnarbraut 2, tel. 456-2232.
- The Sea Monster Museum, Strandgata 7, tel. 456-6666.
 skrimsli is

GROCERIES:

Restaurant Vegamót, Tjarnarbraut 2, tel. 456-2232.

SHOPPING:

 The Sea Monster Museum, Strandgata 7, tel. 456-6666. skrimsli.is

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Memories of Melodies, Icelandic music museum, Tjarnarbraut 5, tel. 456-2186/845-5518.
- Samúel Jónsson Art Museum, Selárdalur. samueljonssonmuseum.jimdo.com

 The Sea Monster Museum, Strandgata 7, tel. 456-6666. skrimsli.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Litlueyrarvöllur, nine-hole golf course, tel. 456-2162.
- · Reykjafjarðarlaug thermal pool in Arnarfjörður. watertrail.is

ACTIVITIES:

 Westfjords Adventures, hiking tours, bike tours, jeep excursions, boat tours, fishing, tel. 456-5006. westfjordsadventures.com

PLACES OF INTEREST:

· Hvestusandar, Dynjandi waterfall, Ketildalir, Geirþjófsfjörður.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Eagle Air, scheduled flights between Bíldudalur and Reykjavík, tel. 562-4200. eagleair.is
- Flybus between Patreksfjörður, Tálknafjörður, and Bíldudalur Airport. tel. 893-2636.
- Westfjords Adventures, car rental agent for Europcar/Höldur, tel. 456-5006.

GAS STATIONS:

• Orkan, Tjarnarbraut 2, tel. 444-3025.

ÍSAFJARÐARBÆR

Population: 2,500-5,000

Ísafjarðarbær is a municipality in the Westfjords incorporating four residential areas in the western part of the region: Ísafjörður on Skutulsfjörður fjord; Suðureyri on Súgandafjörður fjord; Flateyri on Önundarfjörður fjord; and Þingeyri on Dýrafjörður fjord. Tall mountains separate these residential areas and a tunnel has been built through Breiðadalsheiði and Botnsheiði heaths to connect them. The region is characterised by majestic mountain ranges, which many call the "Alps of the Westfjords." This is where Mt. Kaldbakur (998m) is located, the tallest mountain in the Westfjords.

FACILITIES IN ARNARFJÖRÐUR

EATING OUT:

• Hrafnseyri, coffeehouse, Arnarfjörður, tel. 456-8260.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 The Jón Sigurðsson Memorial Museum, honouring the memory of the leader of the independence movement, Hrafnseyri, Arnarfjörður, tel. 456-8260/845-5518. hrafnseyri.is

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Dynjandi waterfall, a walking trail follows the Dynjandisá river to the falls.
- Svalvogar, a magnificent route accessible by well-equipped jeep during summer, or by mountain bike.

- Many enjoyable cycle paths and trails, ask for information regarding the conditions of the paths at the tourist information centre in safiörður.
- Dynjandi, a waterfall on Dynjandisá river, is the most impressive waterfall in the Westfjords. It plunges over a 100m cliff top, cascading over many thresholds on the way down, spreading from 30m wide at the top to 60m at the bottom. Smaller falls can be found farther down the river. Dynjandi is a protected site.
- Hrafnseyri is a church and farm in Arnarfjörður. The farm was named after Hrafn Sveinbjarnarson, a 12th-13th century physician and chieftain who lived there. Hrafnseyri is the birthplace of independence movement leader Jón Sigurðsson and there is a chapel and memorial museum to commemorate him, open to the general public during the summer.
- Skrúður garden was founded by the Reverend Sigtryggur Guðlaugsson, the dean at Núpur. The garden was officially opened on August 7, 1909. The purpose of the garden is to encourage public schools to preserve nature's bounty and put a focus on environmental education. The garden is an example of successful horticulture in a northern climate and is therefore a notable part of the country's horticultural history. In 2013, Skrúður was awarded the International Carlo Scarpa Prize for Gardens, named after the architect Carlo Scarpa, by the Benetton Research Institute in Italy.
- Numerous walking paths are in the safjörður area and route maps are available at the tourist information centre in safjörður.
- Hiking routes have been marked on the peninsula between Önundarfjörður and Dýrafjörður fjords: 1) From the old road towards the top of Gerðhamradalur valley, up to Núpsdalsskarð pass, down into the west side of Núpsdalur valley, and on to Alviðrusel. 2) Westward from Sandsheiði heath to Mt. Óþoli, then along the edge of Mt. Skagafjall to Sandskörð pass, where the path links up to the Sandskarðadalur valley route. 3) From Nesdalsskarð pass up the mountain to Hraunshorn, then along the edge to Búðarhorn, northward to the land survey cairn on the farthest edge of Mt. Barði, which overlooks Leikvöllur, between Purka and Geldingaskál, which are bowl-shaped depressions in Mt. Barði. From the cairn, the trail goes to Kriki in Skáladalur valley.
- There is also a trail through Hnifsdalsheiði moor and Heiðarskarð pass. This trail conjoins Syðridalur valley in Bolungarvík with Hnifsdalur valley and used to be referred to as Óshlíð in olden times, especially when used for horse and cattle. The walk starts at the electricity plant in Syðridalur (built in 1953) and heads up a heather-covered slope along the track to the reservoir at Reiðhjalli. It continues along Heiðarskarð pass (500m), which offers an outstanding panoramic view, and then down a grassy slope into Hnifsdalur valley, following an old, hardly visible track. The track also reaches the deserted farmhouse at Neðri-Hnifsdalur on the other side of the Hnifsdalsá river.

DINGFYRI

Population: 100-500

Þingeyri, situated on the southern part of Dýrafjörður fjord, is one of the oldest trading posts in the Westfjords. The community has a good harbour and the settlement grew especially in the latter part of the 19th century. Þingeyrarkirkja church was designed by Icelandic architect Rögnvaldur Ólafsson (1874-1917) and consecrated in 1911. The altarpiece is by painter boraring B. Þorláksson (1867-1924). Þingeyri was once the site of an 18th-century warehouse, dating back to 1778. It's considered one of the oldest buildings in Iceland.

Þingevri served as a base for halibut fishermen from the USA in the late 19th century. French seamen were also frequent guests there. The fishing industry accounts for most of the employment in Þingeyri, although the tourism industry is growing. The oldest machinery shop in Iceland, the old Blacksmith's Workshop by Guðmundur J. Sigurðsson, is located in Þingeyri. It began its operations in 1913 and has been kept in virtually its original state since that time. It serviced domestic and foreign ships and was renowned both within Iceland as well as abroad. The shop is open to visitors.

FACILITIES IN ÞINGEYRI

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

Tourist information centre. Hafnarstræti 5. tel. 456-8304.

HEALTHCARE:

- Healthcare centre. Aðalstræti 26. tel. 456-8122.
- Pharmacy, Aðalstræti 26, tel. 456-8122.

KIRKJUBÓL IN BJARNARDALUR GH

Önundarfjörður, 425 Flateyri info@kirkjubol.is - www.kirkjubol.is















ACCOMMODATION:

- Guesthouse Við Fiörðinn, tel. 456-8172/898-8258.
- Hotel Sandafell, tel. 456-1600, hotelsandafell.com
- · Höfði Guesthouse, Dýrafjörður, tel. 833-4994.
- · Alviðra vacation house. Dýrafiörður, tel. 895-0080/895-7179

CAMPING:

· By the swimming pool, facilities for caravans, tel. 450-8470.

EATING OUT:

- N1 Kinsk tel 456-8380/456-8246
- Simbahöllin, café, tel. 899-6659/869-5654.
- · Sandafell, tel. 456-1600, hotelsandafell.com

SHOPPING:

Gallery Koltra, Hafnarstræti 5, tel. 623-8258.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

• The Old Blacksmith's Workshop, workshop of Guðmundur J. Sigurðsson, the oldest operating machinery shop in Iceland, with all original machinery on-site, tel. 456-3291.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- · Swimming pool with hot tubs, steam room, and solarium, Þingeyraroddi, tel. 450-8470.
- Sports centre, tel. 450-8470.
- Golf in Meðaldalur, nine-hole golf course, tel. 896-2879.

ACTIVITIES:

- · West Tours, Vikings of the Westfjords at Þingeyri, Viking circle, long fires, performances, dancing, facilities for over 400 people, grill parties, children's play area, tel. 456-5111. westtours is
- · West Horses, horseback riding tours, Sandar, tel. 899-6659/869-5654.
- Simbahöllin, bicvcle rental, tel, 899-6659/869-5654.
- · The Comedy Theatre of the Westfjords, Gísli Súrsson walk, Icelandic fare, a play, traditional Icelandic meat stew, tel. 891-7025.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- · Mt. Sandafell, a jeep road leads up the mountain to a viewing dial with an excellent view.
- Skrúður, botanical garden at Núpur of over 100 years old.
- · Ingjaldssandur valley.
- Haukadalur valley, the scene of The Saga of Gísli Súrsson.
- · The Alps of the Westfjords, hiking trail maps of the peninsula between Dýrafjörður and Arnarfjörður fjords are available, with routes up to the top of Kaldbak, the highest mountain in the Westfjords.
- The top of the Dýrafjörður fjord, forested hiking trails with good pathways.
- · The Svalvogar ringroad, a magnificent road with excellent view, passable in summer with well-equipped 4WD jeeps, also suitable for hiking and mountain biking but check road conditions beforehand



VESTFIRÐIR

TRANSPORTATION:

- Vestfirskar ævintýraferðir, scheduled coach service to Flateyri and Ísafjörður, isafjordur.is/thjonusta/straetisvagnar.
- F&S Bus Service, tel. 893-1058.

GAS STATIONS:

· N1, Sjávargata 4.

FLATEYRI

Population: 100-500

Flateyri is a harbour town on Önundarfjörður fjord which has been a trading post for over two centuries. Hans Ellefsen operated a whaling station there for 12 years, until it burned down in 1901. He is known for selling his stately house, that he had built himself at Sólbakki in 1892, for a symbolic amount to the first Icelandic minister, Hannes Hafstein (1861-1922). Hannes had the house moved to Reykjavík, where it was built up again in 1906. Today, this house is situated on Tjarnargata, by Tjörnin pond, and is used for government meetings and receptions.

An avalanche tragically hit Flateyri in late 1995, destroying 29 homes and killing 20 people. Defensive walls were constructed after this event, which these days tower over the town.

FACILITIES IN FLATEYRI

HEALTHCARE:

• Healthcare centre, Hrannargata 2, tel. 456-7638.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Sölvahús, tel. 860-6062.
- Litlabýli Guesthouse, Ránargata 2, tel. 848-0920.
- Síma Hostel, Ránargata 1, tel. 897-8700. icelandwestfjords. com
- Grænhöfði, Ólafstún 7, tel. 456-7762.

CAMPING:

Litlabýli Guesthouse, tel. 848-0920.

EATING OUT:

- · Vagninn, Hafnarstræti 19, tel. 456-7751.
- N1 Kiosk, grill, tel. 456-7878.
- Gunnu kaffi, Hafnarstræti 11, tel. 847-8412/456-7710.

SHOPPING:

- Workshop Purka, Hafnarstræti 11, tel. 456-7676.
- · Vagninn, Hafnarstræti 19, tel. 456-7751.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Gamla bókabúðin, an exhibition dedicated to the history of Flateyri, Hafnarstræti 35.
- International Doll Museum, Hafnarstræti 11, tel.



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456-7676/894-8836.

- The Nonsense Museum, a collection of curious things, Hafnarstræti 11, tel. 894-8836.
- Exhibition on dried fish production, Hafnarstræti (black house)
- Úlfarshöfn, an exhibition of model boats and ships, Drafnargata 2, tel. 893-1757.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

• Swimming pool, Tjarnargata, tel. 450-8460.

ACTIVITIES:

- Guided hikes, tel, 456-7621.
- Grænhöfði, kayak rental, tel. 456-7762/863-7662.
- Iceland ProFishing, sea fishing, tel. 455-6667. icelandprofishing.com
- · E-guide to the village, device available at the gas station.
- Litlabýli Adventures, snowmobiling and hiking tours, Ránargata 2, tel. 848-0920.

TRANSPORTATION:

 Vestfirskar ævintýraferðir, scheduled coach service to Þingeyri and Ísafjörður. isafjordur.is/straetisvagnar

GAS STATIONS:

N1. Hafnarstræti. tel. 456-7878.

OTHER SERVICES:

• Multicultural centre, Hafnarstræti 4, tel. 456-7710.

FACILITIES IN ÖNUNDARFJÖRÐUR

ACCOMMODATION:

- Kirkjuból in Bjarnardalur, tel. 456-7679.
- Korpudalur Hostel, tel. 456-7808.
- Guesthouse Holt, tel. 456-7611.
- Sæból II, Ingjaldssand, tel. 848-0920.

CAMPING:

- Korpudalur, tel. 456-7808.
- Holt in Önundarfjörður, tel. 456-7611.

SHOPPING:

• Sæból II at Ingjaldssandur, tel. 456-7782.

ACTIVITIES:

- · Fishing in Hestá river.
- BS Tours, sightseeing tours for 4-17 people, birdwatching, northern lights tours, tel. 770-5080. bstours.is

TRANSPORTATION:

· BS Tours, car rental, tel. 770-5080. bstours.is

SUÐURFYRI

Population: 100-500

Suðureyri is a village beneath Mt. Spillir on Súgandafjörður fjord. The village had been isolated for a long time, because of the high mountains surrounding it and bad roads leading into it. These days, it's connected to Isafjörður by a 5km long tunnel. A memorial to poet Magnús Hj. Magnússon (1873–1916) has been erected. He is the inspiration for Ólafur Ljósvíking in the novel Heimsljós, by Nobel Laureate Halldór Laxness.

FACILITIES

HEALTHCARE:

· Healthcare centre, Túngata 2, tel. 456-6144.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Fisherman Hotel, Aðalgata 14-16, tel. 450-9000. fisherman.is
- · Comfy Guesthouse, Túngata. 2, tel. 456-4600. comfy.is

EATING OUT:

- · Restaurant Talisman, tel. 450-9005.
- Fisherman Restaurant, Aðalgata 14, tel. 450-9000.

SHOPPING:

• Á milli fjalla, Aðalgata 15, tel. 456-6163.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

• Swimming pool, Túngata 8, tel. 450-8490.

ACTIVITIES:

- Fisherman Hotel, deep-sea fishing and tasting tours, and bike rental, tel. 450-9000.
- Iceland ProFishing, sea fishing, tel. 455-6667. icelandprofishing.com

TRANSPORTATION:

 Vestfirskar ævintýraferðir, scheduled coach service to Ísafjörður. isafjordur.is/thjonusta/straetisvagnar

ÍSAFJÖRÐUR

Population: 2,500-5,000

Nestled in Skutulsfjörður fjord, Ísafjörður is the largest town in the Ísafjarðarbær district. Each year, the town attracts many people with the music festival Aldrei fór ég suður, founded by lcelandic musician Mugison and his father. In ancient times the community was named Eyrarhreppur. Merchants first settled there in 1569, and it became the key trading port in the Westfjords when the Danish trade monopoly was at its peak. One of the oldest clusters of houses in Iceland stands at Neðstikaupstaður, near the harbour. Most of these houses are protected and were built between 1757-1784, of which Krambúðin is the oldest. The Westfjords Heritage Museum is located in one of these old houses and shows the maritime history and culture of the area.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Tourist information centre, Aðalstræti 7, tel. 450-8060. westfjords.is

SERVICES:

- · Police, Hafnarstræti 1, tel. 444-0400.
- Post office. Hafnarstræti 9-11. tel. 456-5000.
- Bank Landsbankinn, Pólgata 1, tel. 410-4156.
- · ATM Landsbankinn, Hafnarstræti 9-11.
- ATM Íslandsbanki, Hafnarstræti 1, tel. 440-4000.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Hospital and healthcare centre, Torfnes, tel. 450-4500.
- · Pharmacy Lyfja, Pollgata 4, tel. 456-3009.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hótel Ísafjörður, Silfurtorg 2, tel. 456-4111. hotelisafjordur.is
- · Hotel Edda, Torfnes, tel. 444-4960. hoteledda.is
- Gamla Gistihúsið, Mánagata 1 and 5, tel. 456-4146/897-4146. qistihus.is
- Litla gistihúsið, Sundstræti 43, tel. 474-1455/893-6993.
- Guesthouse Áslaug Faktorshouse at Austurvöllur, Hæstikaupstaður, Aðalstræti 42, tel. 899-0742. gistias@ snerpa.is
- Fjarðarstræti 39, Homestays, tel. 893-2182.
- Comfortable Bungalow, Silfurgata 12, tel. 863-5669/862-5669.
- Gentle Space Guest Apartments, Hlíðarvegur 14, tel. 892-9282/867-6657. gentlespace.is
- Hótel Horn, Austurvegur 2, tel. 456-4111.
- Húsið/Koddinn, Hrannargata 2, tel. 456-5555.
- · Massi, apartments, tel. 862-5669. massi.is
- Sólheimar Studio Apartments, Engjavegur 9, tel. 891-7731.
- GentleSpace, Mjallargata 1, Fjarðarstræti 6, Túngata 20, tel. 892-9282/867-6657.

CAMPING:

- By Hótel Edda at Menntaskólinn (the high school), tel. 444-4960
- By the golf course in Tungudalur, tel. 864-8592.
- By Kagrafell, close to Neisti shopping centre, opposite the Heritage Museum, tel. 862-8623.

EATING OUT:

- Við Pollinn, part of Hótel Ísafjörður, tel. 456-3360.
- Tiöruhúsið. Hafnarstræti 9-11. tel. 456-4419.
- Thai Koon, Hafnarstræti 9-11, tel. 456-0123.
- · Hamraborg, bistro, Hafnarstæti 7, tel. 456-3166.
- · Edinborg, bistro, café, bar, tel. 456-8335.
- · Húsið, café, Hrannargata 2, tel. 456-5555.
- · Heimabyggd, Aðalstræti 22b, tel. 456-3322.
- · Gamla Bakaríið, bakery, Aðalstræti 24, tel. 456-3226.
- Bakarinn Café, Hafnarstræti 14, tel. 456-4771.
- Langi Mangi, Aðalstræti 22, tel. 445-6031.

GROCERIES:

- Vínbúðin liguor store, Aðalstræti 20, tel. 456-3455.
- · Bónus, Skeiði 1.
- Nettó, Hafnarstræti 9, tel. 456-5460.
- · Hamraborg, Hafnarstræti 7, tel. 456-3166.

SHOPPING:

- Karitas, Aðalstræti 20. tel. 897-3834.
- Hvesta, sheltered workshop, Aðalstræti 18, tel. 450-8230.
- Rammagerð Ísafjarðar, Aðalstræti 16, tel. 456-3041.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Westfjords Heritage Museum, folk museum, Neðstikaupstaður, tel. 456-3291/848-5030.
- Safnahúsið at Eyrartún, old hospital, public library, art museum. tel. 456-8220/895-7138.
- Edinborgarhúsið, cultural centre with exhibition space, Aðalstræti 7, tel. 456-5444.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool, Austurvegur 9, tel. 450-8480.
- Tungudalsvöllur, nine-hole and six-hole golf courses, tel. 456-5081.
- Ski resort at Seljalandsdalur and Tungudalur, tel. 456-3793/456-3125.

ACTIVITIES:

- · Helga Hausner, tour guide, tel. 845-0845. experiences.is
- West Tours, bicycle rental, Hornstrandir expeditions, hiking tours, kayaking, and sailing, Aðalstræti 7, tel. 456-5111.
 vesturferdir.is
- Sjóferðir, boat tours to Hornstrandir, Jökulfirðir, and Vigur, tel. 456-3879.
- BS Tours, guided sightseeing tours in vehicles for 4-17 people, tel. 778-5080.
- Wild Westfjords, jeep and group tours throughout the Westfjords, tel. 456-3300.
- Borea Adventures, kayaking tours, guided hikes, yachting, day trips and longer trips, skiing trips, sea fishing, tel. 456-3322. borea.is
- The Icelandic Sports Centre, kayaking tours, yachting, and sailboats, tel. 895-5518.
- Kagrafell, various hiking tours in the Westfjords, Hornstrandir expeditions, skiing in Safjörður, cross-country skiing trips, tel. 862-8623. kagrafell@hesteyri.is
- Whale watching and nature tours on RIBs, tel. 660-0617.
- · Fishing in Pollurinn, free of charge.
- Horseback riding tours, tel. 863-5669/862-5669.
- BS Tours, sightseeing tours for 4-17 people, birdwatching, northern lights tours, tel. 770-5080.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

 Viewing dial at Arnarnes lighthouse at the eastern shore of Skutulsfjörður fjord.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Air Iceland Connect, scheduled flights to Reykjavík from Ísafjörður Airport, tel. 456-3000/456-5340.
- Valdimar L. Gíslason, scheduled coach services between Ísafjörður Airport, Ísafjörður, and Bolungarvík, tel. 456-7195/852-1417.
- Sophus, scheduled coach service to Suðureyri, tel. 853-8355/893-8355.
- Vestfirskar ævintýraferðir, scheduled coach service within the Ísafjörður district, services from Ísafjörður to Suðureyri, Þingeyri to Flateyri, tel. 893-6356. isafjordur.is/thjonusta/

straetisvagnar

- Hópferðamiðstöð, scheduled coach trip between Ísafjörður and Hólmavíkur with connections to Strætó bus nr. 59, tel. 893-1058
- Taxi station, tel. 456-3518.
- Taxi Rúnar Þór Brynjólfsson, tel. 895-3595.
- Taxi Ólafur Halldórsson, tel. 865-3709.
- Car Rental Bílaleiga Akureyrar-Europcar Iceland, tel. 840-6074.
- · Car Rental Hertz, tel. 522-4490.
- Car Rental Avis, tel. 660-0617.

GAS STATIONS:

- N1. Hafnarstræti 21. tel. 456-3574.
- ÓB, Sindragata, tel. 515-1141.
- Orkan, Skeiði 1, tel. 444-3023.

OTHER SERVICES:

- Heimabær, family reunions, parties, and functions, Arnardalur, tel. 860-6062.
- The community centre in Hnífsdalur, Strandgata, tel. 456-4350.

ÍSAFJARÐARDJÚP

Vigur and Æðey are the two largest islands in Ísafjarðardjúp, as well as the only inhabited ones. They are renowned for their rich birdlife and history. There are regular sailing trips between Ísafjörður and Vigur during the summer.

Reykjanes is a small peninsula in Ísafjarðardjúp, between Ísafjörður and Reykjafjörður fjords. There is widespread geothermal activity in the area. There used to be an active salt industry which experienced a revival in 2011 when the company Saltverk was established.

Kaldalón is a receding valley glacier at the head of a small tributary fjord in Ísafjarðardjúp. Through it flows Mórilla, a river which originates from Drangajökull glacier. This is an area of raw nature and intense contrasts. Composer Sigvaldi Kaldalóns (1881-1946) practiced as a district physician in Nauteyri and lived in Ármúli, south of Kaldalón, which is where he derived his adopted surname.

FACILITIES

ACCOMMODATION IN ÍSAFJARÐARDJÚP:

- Hotel Heydalur, Mjóifjörður, tel. 456-4824/892-0809. heydalur.is
- Hotel Reykjanes, tel. 456-4844/854-0747. rnes.is
- · Dalbær, Snæfjallaströnd, tel. 868-1964.

ACCOMMODATION IN JÖKULFIRÐIR:

- Grunnavík Travel Service, tel. 456-4664/866-5491. sigurross@ snerpa.is
- The Doctor's House, Hesteyri, tel. 456-7183/899-1515.

CAMPING IN ÍSAFJARÐARDJÚP:

- Hevdalur, Mióifiörður, tel. 456-4824/892-0809.
- Reykjanes Travel Service, tel. 456-4844/854-0747.
- · Dalbær, tel. 868-1964.

CAMPING IN JÖKULFIRÐIR:

• Grunnavík Travel Service, tel. 456-4664/866-5491.

EATING OUT:

- Ögur Travel, tel. 857-1840. ogurtravel.com
- Litlibær, coffee and waffles, Skötufiörður, tel. 894-4809.
- Hotel Heydalur, Mjóifjörður, tel. 456-4824/892-0809.
- · Hotel Reykjanes, tel. 456-4844.
- Dalbær, Snæfjallaströnd, tel. 868-1964.
- The Doctor's House, Hesteyri, Jökulfirðir, tel. 456-7183/853-5034.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Saltverk, tours through the artisanal sea salt production facility in Reykjanes, tel. 519-6510.
- Snjáfjallasetur Heritage Centre, with one exhibition on deserted farms and mythological creatures and one exhibition on composer and doctor Sigvaldi Kaldalóns, Dalbær, Snæfjallaströnd., tel. 698-7533. snjafjallasetur.is
- Litlibær, a farmstead renovated and restored for the National Museum of Iceland's Building Collection, Skötufjörður, tel. 894-4809.
- Steinshús, home of poet Steinn Steinarr, Nauteyri, tel. 898-9300.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

· Swimming pool in Reykjanes, tel. 456-4844.

ACTIVITIES:

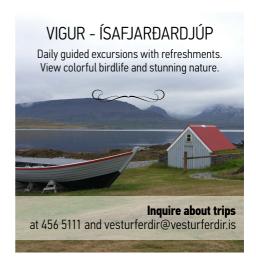
- Ögur Travel, kayaking, hiking tours, catering, tel. 857-1840. ogurtravel.com
- West Tours, excursions with a guide, tel. 456-5111.
 vesturferdir@vesturferdir.is
- Heydalur, horseback riding tours, snowmobiling, kayaking, fishing, beautiful hiking and riding trails, swimming pool and natural hot springs, birdwatching, tel. 456-4824. heydalur.is
- Svaðilfari, horseback riding tours, Mjóifjörður, tel. 456-4858/869-4859.
- Fishing in Laugardalsá river, tel. 456-4811.
- Guided tours around Vatnsfjörður, church, watchtower, walking paths, archaeological excavation site, settlement farm. tel. 456-4832.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Vigur, Folafótur, Hvítanes, and Drangajökull glacier.
- Enjoyable walk around Seljalandsdalur at the top of Álftafjörður, passing through the beautiful spot of Valagil.
- A circular walk (18km) around the majestic and craggy Mt.
 Hestur, this pathway leads to the end of the ness called
 Folafótur, in previous centuries, a great deal of fishing activity
 took place from Folafótur and there are indications that a
 small fishing settlement formed there.

GAS STATIONS:

• N1 at Reykjanes, tel. 896-5075.



BOLUNGARVÍK

Population: 500-1,000

Bolungarvík is the northernmost town in the Westfjords, located near the outer edge of Ísafjarðardjúp. Fishing has been practiced there since settlement times, and for centuries, Bolungarvík was one of Iceland's largest fishing stations. Trading, along with permanent settlement, began in 1890. The community was made accessible by land in 1950, when the Óshlíð road was opened. Nowadays, there is a tunnel between Hnífsdalur and Bolungarvík, as the Óshlíð road was considered







BOLUNGARVÍK

dangerous due to the risk of rockslides. The Ósvör Maritime Museum in Bolungarvík is based in a restored fishing hut, which is reminiscent of the old days of rowboat fishing. Exhibits at the Natural History Museum include over 250 stuffed birds, a jaw from a blue whale, and a stuffed polar bear.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Tourist information centre, Vitastígur 1, tel. 450-7010. touristinfo@bolungarvik.is

SERVICES:

- Police, Aðalstræti 12, tel. 444-0400.
- · Post office, Aðalstræti 14, tel. 580-1200.
- · ATM Landsbankinn, Aðalstræti 14, tel. 580-1200.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Healthcare centre, Höfðastígur 15, tel. 456-7287.
- Pharmacy Lyfja, Höfðastígur 15, tel. 456-7314.

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Mánafell, apartments, tel. 863-3879. orkudisa.is
- Einarshúsið, Hafnargata 41, tel. 456-7901/864-7901.
- The Doctor's House, Hesteyri, tel. 456-7183/853-5034.

CAMPING:

• By the swimming pool, tel. 456-7381.

EATING OUT:

- · Shell Kiosk, Þuríðarbraut 13, tel. 456-7554.
- Einarshúsið, Hafnargata 41, tel. 456-7901/864-7901.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Natural History Museum, Vitastígur 3, tel. 456-7507. nabo.is
- Maritime Museum Ósvör, east side of Bolungarvik, down by the sea. tel. 456-7005/892-5744. osvor.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool, Höfðastígur 1, tel. 456-7381.
- Golf in Syðridalur, 18-hole golf course, miniature golf and playground, opposite the music school.

ACTIVITIES:

- Trout and salmon fishing in Ósá river and Miðdalsvatn lake, fishing permits available at the Shell gas station, Þuríðarbraut, tel. 456-7554/456-7284.
- Fishing from the pier, safety vests available at Hafnarvogin.
- Hornstrandaferðir, sea fishing, tours to Hesteyri, tel. 862-2221.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Mt. Bolafjall, panoramic views, approachable by road in summer.
- Westfjords Botanical Gardens, collection of plants from the Westfjords, at the community hall, free entry.
- · Skálavík, unique natural beauty, diverse hiking paths.
- Surtarbrandsnáma lignite mine in Syðridalur, marked footpaths, historical remains.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Valdimar L. Gíslason, scheduled coach service between Ísafjörður and Bolungarvík, tel. 456-7195/892-1417.
- · Flybus, scheduled service to and from Isafjörður Airport.

GAS STATIONS:

- Orkan, Þuríðarbraut 13, 444-3024
- ÓB. Búðakantur 2. 515-1141

SÚĐAVÍK

Population: 100-500

The village of Súðavík is located on the banks of Álftafjörður fjord in the Súðavíkurhreppur district. Súðavík was first named a village in the population count of 1880, as settlement didn't start until the mid-19th century. Súðavíkurhreppur district begins at the deepest point of Ísafjörður fjord in the south and extends to a rock called Brúðarhamar in the north, just outside the entrance to Álftafjörður fjord. The village of Súðavík is divided into two parts: the inner and outer habitation. After an avalanche destroyed the old village on January 16, 1995, killing 14 people, it was renewed and moved to a safer place farther into the fjord. The dwellings in the outer habitation are therefore only inhabited in the summer months. The inner habitation is inhabited yearround. Súðavík has a wide range of industries; production of pet food and bag bait for line fishing vessels, canning of cod liver, dried fish production, fish farming, a fish processing plant, agriculture, and tourism.

FACILITIES

SERVICES:

- Post office, in the Álftaver Service Centre, Grundarstræti 3, tel. 580-1200.
- Bank Landsbankinn, in the Álftaver Service Centre, Grundarstræti 3, tel. 580-1200.

HEALTHCARE CENTRE:

Service Centre Álftaver, Grundarstræti 3. tel. 456-4966.

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Blómsturvellir, tel. 846-8573.
- Swanfjord guesthouse, Langeyri, tel. 865-8865. swanfjord@simnet.is
- · Fjord Guesthouse, tel. 695-6672.

CAMPING:

 At the end of Túngata, facilities for campers and trailers, tel. 450-5900.

EATING OUT:

- Rebbakaffi, coffeehouse of the Arctic Fox Centre, Eyrardalur, tel. 456-4922.
- Amma Habbý, tel. 456-5060.

GROCERIES:

· Kaupfélagið, Grundarstræti 3, tel. 778-3181.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 The Arctic Fox Centre, Eyrardalsbærinn, tel. 456-4922/862-8219. melrakki.is

ACTIVITIES:

- Iceland Tour Guy, hiking tours, birdwatching, tel. 868-0566. icelandtourguy.com
- Iceland Sea Angling, Aðalgata 2, tel. 456-1540.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- · A variety of hiking routes, for instance in Valagil.
- Raggagarður, family park with grill area and playground for children. raggagardur.is

TRANSPORTATION:

 Hópferðamiðstöð, scheduled service between Isafjördur and Hólmavík with a stop in Súðavík, connections to Reykjavík and Akurevri. tel. 893-1058.

GAS STATIONS:

Orkan, Grundarstræti, 1 tel. 444-3022.

OTHER SERVICES:

• Helgi Bjarni Auto Repairs, tel. 456-4977/893-8857.

HÓLMAVÍK

Population: 100-500

Hólmavík is located at the southwestern side of Steingrímsfjörður fjord. Trade began in Hólmavík about 100 years ago. Today, a government administration office is located in the town. Memorials to poet Stefán frá Hvítdal (1887-1933) and one-time Prime Minister Hermann Jónsson (1896-1976) can be found in Skeljavík, just south of the village. The Museum of Icelandic Sorcery & Witchcraft is a popular tourist attraction in Hólmavík.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Tourist information centre inside the Museum of Icelandic Sorcery & Witchcraft, Höfðagata 8-10, tel. 451-3111.

SERVICES:

- Police, Skeiði 2. tel. 444-0400.
- Post office, Hafnarbraut 19, tel, 455-5050.
- Bank Sparisjóður, Hafnarbraut 19, tel. 455-5050.

HEALTHCARE:

- Healthcare centre, Borgarbraut 8, tel. 455-5200/455-5208.
- Pharmacy, Borgarbraut 8, tel. 455-5200/455-5208.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Finna Hótel, Borgarbraut 4, tel. 451-3136, finnahotel, is
- Steinhúsið, Höfðagata 1, tel. 856-1911. steinhusid.is
- Iceland Visit Hostel, Hafnarbraut 25, tel. 860-6670.
- · Broddanes Hostel, tel. 618-1830.
- Kirkjuból Travel Service, tel. 693-3474/693-3474.

CAMPING:

 Hólmavík Camping Ground, by the community centre, tel. 451-3560

EATING OUT:

- Café Riis. Hafnarbraut 39. tel. 451-3567, caferiis.is
- Galdur Restaurant, in the Museum of Icelandic Witchcraft and Sorcery, Höfðagata 8-10, tel. 451-3525.
- N1. Höfðatún 3. tel. 451-3107.
- Húsavík, tel. 451-3393/845-8393.
- Miðhús, tel. 451-3340/663-4628.

GROCERIES:

- · Vínbúðin liguor store, Höfðatún 4, tel. 461-2114.
- · Kaupfélag Steingrímsfjarðar, tel. 455-3100.

SHOPPING:

· Strandakúnst, Höfðagata 3.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- The Museum of Icelandic Witchcraft and Sorcery, Höfðagata 8-10, tel. 451-3525. galdrasyning.is
- Sheep Farming Museum, Sævangur við Steingrímsfjörð, tel. 451-3324/693-3474.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- · Swimming pool by the campsite, tel. 451-3560.
- Golf at Skeljavík, nine-hole golf course, Hafnarbraut 18, tel. 892-4687.

ACTIVITIES:

- Birdwatching in Tungugrafarvogar, tel. 451-3111.
- Strandahestar, horseback riding and riding lessons, tel. 862-3263.
- Svaðilfari, travel agency, Laugarholt, tel. 456-4858/869-4859.

TRANSPORTATION:

 Hópferðamiðstöð, scheduled service between Isafjördur and Hólmavík, tel. 893-1058.

GAS STATIONS:

- N1, Höfðagata, tel. 461-2409.
- ÓB, Höfðagata, tel. 515-1141.

OTHER SERVICES:

· Vignis, garage and tire repair, tel. 855-0031.

DRANGSNES

Population: 0-100

Drangsnes, a fishing village on the Selströnd shore at the mouth of Steingrímsfjörður fjord, began developing in the 1920s. Drangsnes, which means Pillar Peninsula, gets its name from a tall rock pillar on the shore, named Kerling. It's said that Kerling is one of three troll women who tried unsuccessfully to dig a ditch to separate the Westfjords from the mainland. The public hot tubs on the shore are nice to visit, and it's possible to book a boat tour to the small island Grímsey from Drangsnes.

FACILITIES

SERVICES:

Post office inside Co-op Steingrímsfjörður, tel. 451-3225.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Guesthouse Sunna, Holtagata 10, tel. 451-3230.
- Guesthouse Malarhorn, Grundargata 17, tel. 547-1010.
 malarhorn is

CAMPING:

• Drangsnes Campsite, Aðalbraut, tel. 844-8701

EATING OUT:

• Malarkaffi, Holtagata, tel. 547-1010. malarhorn@malarhorn.is

GROCERIES:

Co-op Steingrímsfjörður, tel. 451-3225.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool, Grundargata 15, tel. 451-3201.
- · Hot tubs on the shore by Aðalbraut.

ACTIVITIES:

 Sundhani ST-3, cruises to Grímsey island, nature tours, sea fishing in Húnaflói bay, tel. 451-3238/899-4238.

GAS STATIONS:

• N1, next to Co-op Steingrímsfjörður, tel. 451-3225.

HORNSTRANDIR

Those hikers who want to see Iceland at its purest should look north to Hornstrandir. Hornstrandir is a protected area on the most recently formed arm of the Westfjords, an area which hasn't been inhabited for more than 60 years. Since then, nature has prevailed and one might say that at Hornstrandir, you can see Iceland as it was at the time of the settlement.

S FINNBOGASTAÐIR - SCHOOL

Trékyllisvík - 524 Árneshreppur - +354 451-4001







Norðurfjörður 1 - 524 Árneshreppur - +354 843-8110. urdartindur@urdartindur.is - www.urdartindur.is





For the most part, hikers who stay overnight at Hornstrandir will have to camp in tents, although there are a few guesthouses in the area, the main ones being at Hesteyri, Hornbjargsviti, and Reykjarfjörður.

Hikers should come to this area well-prepared, as the conditions are rather harsh, and any kind of weather can be expected at any time of year. Comparable ecosystems to the one at Hornstrandir are few, and in Iceland, it's hard to find such a large area that hasn't been grazed by animals over such a sustained period of time. As such, the vegetation and flora of the area are particularly unique. The arctic fox is a protected species within the reserve and they're less fearful of people there than they are in other parts of the country. Therefore, a visit to Hornstrandir also offers the rare opportunity of observing the arctic fox in its natural habitat.

It's only possible to get to Hornstrandir by boat, with ferries traveling to the area from Ísafjörður, Bolungarvík, and Norðurfjörður.

FACILITIES

ACCOMMODATION:

- Norðurfjörður, tel. 451-4017/568-2533. fi@fi.is
- Lighthouse Hornbjargsviti, Látravík in Hornstrandir, tel. 568-2533
- Bolungarvík in Strandir, tel. 893-6926/852-8267.
- Reykjarfjörður in Strandir, tel. 456-7215/896-1715.
- Ófeigsfjörður, tel. 852-2629/554-4341.

CAMPING:

- Norðurfjörður, tel. 568-2533/451-4017. fi@fi.is
- Lighthouse Hornbjargsviti, Látravík in Hornstrandir, tel. 568-2533

ACTIVITIES:

Strandferðir, guided tours, Hornstrandir, tel. 842-2586.
 strandferdir is

TRANSPORTATION:

- Vesturferðir, Aðalstræti 7, Ísafjörður, tel. 456-5111.
 vesturferdir.is
- Sjóferðir, boat trips to Hornstrandir, Jökulfirðir, Vigur, tel. 456-3879.
- Hornstrandaferðir, sea fishing, tours to Hesteyri, tel. 862-2221.

STRANDIR

Strandir is the Icelandic name for the east coast of the Westfjords. There are many coves and fjords in the area, and it's perfect for hikes and nature exploration.

Trékyllisvík is a northerly cove, and the setting of many historical events on Strandir. The *Sturlunga Saga* tells this is where 13th-century Icelandic chieftain Þórður called together his supporters to fight in the Battle of the Gulf.

Once a major fishing centre, which attracted seasonal workers from far and wide, it's still the most flourishing community in the area. Off the coast of Trékyllisvík is Árnesey island, formerly known as Trékyllisey.

Djúpavík is a former fishing centre on Reykjarfjörður. The town became an important herring processing hub from the 1930s on, until herring vanished from the Húnaflói bay and operations were abandoned

Gjögur is a legendary fishing centre at the mouth of Reykjarfjörður, once renowned for its heroic open boat shark fishermen, but these days, it's almost abandoned. In its heyday, 15 to 18 boats at a time would brave the elements to catch shark for liver oil and meat. A lighthouse was built on Gjögurnes point in 1921 and geothermal springs can be found to the north of it.

FACILITIES

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hornbjargsviti, FÍ hut, Látravík at Hornstrandir, tel. 568-2533.
- Bolungarvík, in Strandir, tel. 893-6926/852-8267.
- Reykjarfjörður nyrðri, in Strandir, tel. 456-7215/896-1715.
- Valgeirsstaðir in Norðurfjörður, FÍ hut, tel. 568-2533/451-4017.
- Guesthouse Bergistangi, Norðurfjörður, tel. 451-4003.
- · Gistiheimili Norðurfjarðar, tel. 554-4089.
- Urðartindur, huts, chalets, and motel in Norðurfjörður, tel. 451-4017/843-8110.
- · Finnbogastaðir school, tel. 451-4031.
- Hótel Djúpavík, tel. 451-4037/847-2819. djupavík.com
- · Summerhouse Álfasteinn, Djúpavík, tel. 451-4037.
- Hótel Laugarhóll in Bjarnarfjörður, tel. 451-3380/698-5133.
- Kirkjuból, travel service in Steingrímsfjörður, tel. 451-3474. strandir.is/kirkjuból
- Broddanes, travel service, tel. 618-1830.
- · Snartartunga, tel. 451-3362.

CAMPING:

- Hornbjargsviti, FÍ campsite, Látravík at Hornstrandir, tel. 568-2533.
- Bolungarvík, in Strandir, tel. 893-6926/852-8267.
- Reykjafjörður, in Strandir, tel. 456-7215/896-1715.
- Ófeigsfjörður, tel. 852-2629/554-4341.
- · Valgeirsstaðir, in Norðurfjörður, tel. 451-4017.
- · Finnbogastaðir school, tel. 451-4031.
- Hotel Laugarhóll, Bjarnarfjörður, tel. 451-3380/698-5133.

EATING OUT:

- Kaffi Kind, inside Sævangur community centre, tel. 451-3321.
- Hótel Laugarhóll, in Bjarnarfjörður, tel. 451-3380/698-5133.
- Hótel Djúpavík, Árnes district, tel. 451-4037.
- · Kaffi Norðurfjörður, tel. 696-1397.

GROCERIES:

· Co-op Steingrímsfjörður, Norðurfjörður, tel. 451-4002.

SHOPPING:

· Kört, handicrafts and souvenirs, Trékyllisvík, tel. 451-4025.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Sævangur community centre, exhibition on sheep, tel. 451-3324. strandir.is/saudfjarsetur
- The Museum of Icelandic Sorcery & Witchcraft, the conjurer's craft at Klúka in Bjarnarfjörður, tel. 451-3524. galdrasyning.is
- The Djupavik Historical Exhibition, guided tours in the old herring plant in Djúpavík, tel. 451-4037.
- · Kört, crafts museum, Trékyllisvík, tel. 451-4025.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

Reykjarfjörður nyrðri, tel. 456-7215/896-1715.

- Krossnes, Árneshreppur, tel. 451-4048.
- Guðmundur's Pool, Hotel Laugarhóll, Bjarnarfjörður, tel. 451-3380/698-5133.

ACTIVITIES:

- · Kayak rental, Djúpavík, tel. 451-4037.
- Kollan, birdwatching, eider duck nesting ground, Kirkjuból, tel. 451-3474.
- Þemaferðir, tour planning, guiding, hiking tours, tel. 451-3384.
 themaferdir.is
- Fishing, Selá river in Steingrímsfjörður, permit needed, tel. 893-0529.
- Fishing, Víðidalsá and Þverá rivers in Steingrímsfjörður, permit needed, tel. 451-3272.
- · Fishing, Bjarnarfjarðará river, permit needed, tel. 451-3380.
- Strandferðir, excursions, private tours, tel. 842-2586.
 strandferdir is

TRANSPORTATION:

- Eagle Air, scheduled flights between Reykjavík and Gjögur, tel. 451-4033/562-4200.
- Strandferðir, scheduled coach service to Hornstrandir, tel. 842-2586, strandferdir is

GAS STATIONS:

 Gas station at Co-op Steingrímsfjarðar, Nörðurfjörður, tel. 451-4002.

OTHER SERVICES:

· Hótel Djúpavík, tire repair, tel. 451-4037.

BORĐEYRI

Population: 0-100

Borðeyri is a small village in the southern part of Strandir. With a population of just about 25, it's one of the smallest habitations in Iceland. It's a small commercial centre for farms in the vicinity, and there are a preschool and an elementary school. Prime Minister Sigurður Eggerz and the painters Þorvaldur Skúlason and Karl Kvaran were born in Borðeyri.

FACILITIES

ACCOMMODATION:

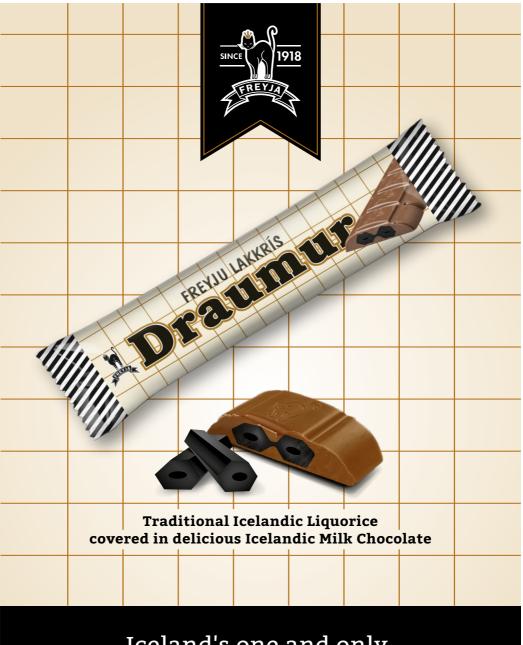
 Tangahúsið, travel service, tel. 849-9852/849-7891. tangahus.is

CAMPING:

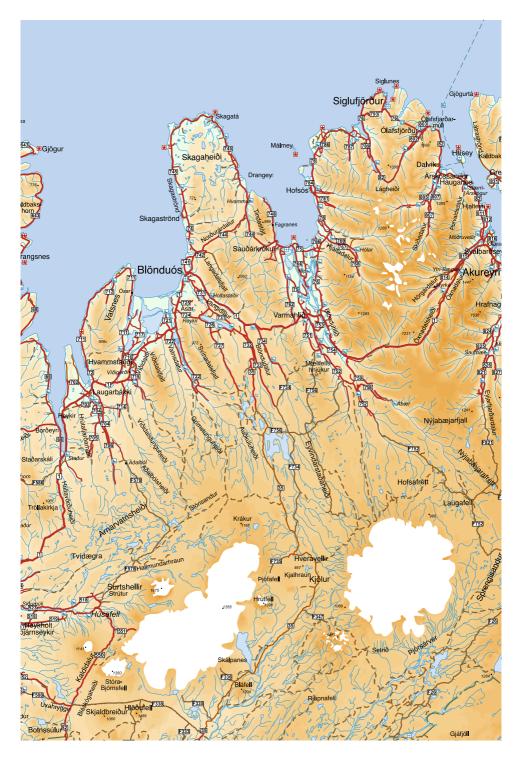
• Borðeyri Campsite, next to the seaside, tel. 849-7891

OTHER SERVICES:

- S.G. Verkstæði, garage, tel. 451-1145.
- The hotel and guesthouses surrounded by astonishingly beautiful mountains and coast. Hiking trails suitable for all levels - A map of the trails is available in the hotel. tel.: 434 7762 / 434 7863. or 695 2091 / 896 6849.



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The Northwest

Northwest Iceland lies between the Westfjords in the west and Skagafjörður fjord in the east, with its southern border running through Hofsjökull glacier, Kjölur, and the watershed on the heaths.

The district has two main regions: Austur- and Vestur-Húnavatnssýsla and Skagafjörður. Austur- and Vestur- Húnavatnssýsla are bordered by Húnaflói, the largest fjord in North Iceland, which also separates North Iceland from the Westfjords. Three fjords lead inland from Húnaflói: Hrútafjörður, Miðfjörður, and Húnafjörður. The Heggstaðanes peninsula separates Hrútafjörður and Miðfjörður fjords, and the Vatnsnes peninsula separates Miðfjörður and Húnafjörður fjords. The shoreline is mostly low-lying, except for the part at Vatnsnes.

Ping and Vatnsdalur valley lead up from the shoreline of Húnafjörður bay. Vatnsdalur valley stretches 25km inland and is lush and welcoming. A large, peculiar cluster of hills known as Vatnsdalshólar stretches across the mouth of Vatnsdalur valley. The lowlands give way to higher ground to the east, and deep valleys cut into the landscape. The area is also dotted with lakes, such as Miðfjarðarvatn, Vesturhópsvatn, Hópið, Húnavatn, and Svínavatn, which are all located close to populated areas. Some of the main rivers are Hrútafjarðará, Miðfjarðará, Víðidalsá, Vatnsdalsá, Laxá á Ásum, Blandá, Svartá, and Laxá á Refasveit. All the rivers are excellent for salmon fishing. On the eastern side of Húnaflói lies the peninsula Skagi, which separates the Húnaþing and Skagafjörður districts.

Skagafjörður district is a blossoming agricultural area. It's home to Drangey and Málmey islands. Drangey is a sheer island with a bedrock of palagonite, famous for its birdlife and egg gathering opportunities. It was also the residence of Grettir Ásmundarson in his exile. The shore of Skagafjörður is a vast lowland area, split by Hegranes at the fjord's southernmost point, and farther inlanthe region separates into Austurdalur and Vesturdalur valleys on the southern side and Norðurárdalur valley to the east. Route 1, the Ring Road, runs through the district over Öxnadalsheiði heath, towards Eyjafjörður.

The largest watershed in Skagafjörður is known as Héraðsvötn, which is primarily fed by the eastern and western Jökulsá rivers, both of which originate from underneath Hofsjökull glacier. The largest lakes in the district are Miklavatn in Borgarsveit, Höfðavatn on Höfðaströnd shore, and Miklavatn in Fljótaá. The area is beauti-

ful in the summertime, but the winters are often harsh with heavy snowfall. In spring, the vegetation often already starts blossoming underneath a layer of snow. The Héraðsvötn, Miklavatn, and Áshildarholtsvatn lakes are teeming with birdlife. The variety of bird species rivals that of the Mývatn area.

The main rock type in Northwest Iceland is basalt. The Húnaþing area has basalt that formed six to eight million years ago, while the basalt found in Skagafjörður formed about 12 million years ago. Glaciers largely shaped the landscape during the last Ice Age. Younger rock types have been discovered in several areas, and lava fields in Skagi consist of dolerite. Ancient volcanoes, which contain rhyolite and metamorphic rock formations, have been discovered in the area, such as Mt. Vatnsnesfjall, Mt. Víðidalsfjall, and the Staðarfjöll mountains south of Mt. Tindastóll. The area is geothermally active, and thermal water is used for central heating.

Vegetation in the area is thriving and consists mostly of grassland and marshes. Skagafjörður also has sedge meadows. There are few areas of shrubbery or woodland in the district. Northwest Iceland has been an agricultural area since ancient times. Siglufjörður has always been a fishing area, and its favourable natural harbour helped it become a centre of commerce in the latter half of the 19th century. It grew considerably in the first half of the 20th century do an increase in herring fishing. Fishing increased greatly in other places after 1920, and together with fish processing, trade with nearby regions, and a growing industry, it resulted in the formation of several new townships. Sauðárkrókur, Hvammstangi, Skagaströnd, and Blönduós are the most populated towns and villages.

TOURIST INFORMATION IN NORTHWEST ICELAND Staðarskáli t. 440-1336. Varmahlíð t. 455-6161. Aðalgata 20, t. 659-3313. Hólar í Hjaltadal t. 455-6333. (i)

A-Hún. Klausturstofa by Þingeyrakirkja church Hvammstangi - The Icelandic Seal Centre t. 451-2345.

EVENTS

HÚNAÞING VESTRA

- · July: The Great Seal Count at Vatnsnes.
- July: Icelandic Museum Day celebrated at the Folk Museum at Reykir.
- July: Grettir Festival at Laugabakki and Bjarg, Miðfjörður.
 Strongman competition, history walk at Bjargi, etc.
- · July: Eldur í Húnaþing. Héraðshátíð with a variety of events.
- Sept. and Oct.: Sheep and horse round-up. Unique atmosphere when the sheep are brought home in neighbourly celebration.

HVAMMSTANGI

- · June, July and Aug.: Secondhand market on Saturdays.
- July: Mountain jogging, youth art festival Fire in Húnaþing.
- · July: The Great Seal Count at Vatnsnes.

AUSTUR-HÚNAVATSSÝSLA

 Sept.: Visitors are invited to participate in the sheep and horse round-up in Húnavatnssýsla.

BLÖNDUÓS

- · June 17: National Day in Blönduós.
- Small town soccer tournament with 600-800 children and teenagers
- · Húnavaka Festival, various celebrations for four days.
- · Sheep round-up.
- · Laxárdalsreið og Skrapatungustóðrétt, horse round-up.

SKAGASTRÖND

- · June: Seamen's Day celebrations.
- · August: Village festival.

SKAGAFJÖRÐUR

- · Winter in Skagafjörður.
- · Sæluvika, arts and culture in Skagafjörður.
- · Commencement at Northwest high school.
- · Beer festival at the University.
- · SjávarSæla, sea celebration in Sauðárkrókur.
- · Seamen's Day Festival at Hofsós.
- · University graduation.
- · Midsummer Night's Festival in Hofsós.
- · Lummudagar, Pancake Days in Skagafjörður.
- Landsbanki soccer tournament in Sauðárkrókur.
- · National Riding Competition at Hólar í Hjaltadal.
- · Baroque Festival in Hólur
- · Króks soccer tournament in Sauðárkrókur.
- · Gæran music festival.
- · Sögudagur, History Day, at Sturlungaslóð.
- · Hólur Festival
- · Laufskálarétt, horse roundup.
- Lighting the Christmas tree at Kirkjutorg, Sauðárkrókur.

VARMAHLÍÐ

- · Lummudagar, Pancake Days in Skagafjörður.
- · Sæluvika, arts and culture in Skagafjörður.
- · Sögudagur, History Day, at Sturlungaslóð.



SIGLUFJÖRÐUR

- Folk Song Festival
- Fishing Boat (Trilla) Fest.
- The Herring Era Family Festival.
- · Pæjumót, Ladies football tournament.

ÓLAFSFJÖRÐUR

- Seamen's Weekend Festival
- · Blue North Music Festival.
- · Berry Days, with the Classical Music Festival.

HRÍSEY

• 8-9: The Hrísey Family Festival.

DALVÍK

- · End of June-early July: hiking week in Dalvíkurbyggð
- Second weekend in Aug.: The Great Fish Day, all you can eat of various seafood dishes, in addition to fun for the whole family, free of charge in the entertainment area.
- Culture House Berg, a variety of programs are available all year.
- Concerts in Svarfaðardalur, Kristjana Arngrímsdóttir.

HÖRGÁRSVEIT

- July 14 16: Medieval Days at the old trading place Gásir.
- Aug. 5: Happy Days in the Country, Hjalteyri, and many locations throughout Hörgársveit.

GRÍMSEY

- · June 2-4: Grímseyjardagurinn, family festival.
- · June 21: Summer Solstice Festival on Grímsey.



KÁI ESHAMARSVÍK

HÚNAÞING VESTRA

Population: 1,000-2,500

Húnaþing vestra is 2,580km2 in size. It's bordered by Holtavörðuheiði heath in the west, Arnarvatn lake in the south, Strandir on Stikuháls in the north, and the watershed on Arnarvatnsheiði heath in the south. The Gljúfurá river creates a border with Austur-Húnavatnssýsla district in the east.

The local folk museum for Húnavatn and Strönd is located at Reykjaskóli school in Hrútafjörður. School dormitories are used in winter, and in summer, the school serves as a travel agency. The museum has various notable artifacts on display from the Strönd and Húnavatnssýsla district. There is a special exhibit about shark fishing in Húnaflói bay, a fishing technique that was especially popular in the 19th century and part of the 20th century. A shark fishing vessel, Ófeigur from Ófeigsfjördur, is on display. Ófeigur is a ten-oar vessel that was constructed solely from driftwood. An old sitting room is also showcased, along with many interesting artifacts related to farming life in the past.

The Icelandic Seal Centre is located in Hvammstangi. Its main purpose is to conduct research on seals around Iceland and help promote tourism development in the region. It has an exhibit about seals and seal hunting in Iceland. The Seal Centre also functions as a tourist information centre.

Bjarg in Miðfjörður is located a short distance east of the Miðfjarðará river, the place where Icelandic outlaw Grettir Ásmundarson grew up. It's also home to a memorial to Grettir's mother, Ásdís, which is decorated with reliefs depicting events from *Grettir's Saga*.

Illugastaðir at Vatnsnes is an excellent location for spotting seals, and a lovely walking path leads from the parking lot down to the seashore. However, please note that the path is closed from April 30 until June 26, during the eider ducks' nesting season. A small country café and campground are open during the summer. Illugastaðir is known for being the home of self-educated doctor Natan Ketilsson (1795-1828) and the site of the Illugastaðir murders that led to the last executions in Iceland in 1830 at Þrístapar. Agnes Magnúsdóttir and Friðrik Sigurðsson were executed for the murder of Natan and his shepherd Pétur Jónsson. The site contains, among other things, the ruins of Natan's workshop. The graves of Agnes and Friðrik are located on the cemetery in Tjörn in Vatnsnes

Geitafell is an Icelandic seafood restaurant open during the summer also housing an exhibition. This tower exhibit contains many relics related to Scotland and Sr. Róbert Jack, who was a reverend at Tjörn in Vatnsnes for more than 30 years. The tower exhibit also contains photographs of local farms and the people of Vatnsnes from before 1955. Geitafell is also a sheep farm.

Hvítserkur is a mass of igneous rock in the shape of a dinosaur that is about 18m high and situated on the seashore at the southwestern part of Húnafjördur fjord. Birds like kittiwakes and fulmars live on Hvítserkur. An old story claims that Hvítserkur is a petrified troll that intended to stone Pingeyrarklaustur cloister, but dawn arrived before he could succeed. Sigríðastaðaós estuary, just south of Hvítserkur, is a good site for watching seals.

Borgarvirki butte rises 177m from the ridges between Vesturhópur and Víðidalur valley. It's a short walk from route 717 up to Borgarvirki. It consists of columnar basalt and is about 10-15m high. The top is a circular depression that opens to the east, where a stone wall with an entrance has been constructed. There are ruins in the depression, but there is no indication of the purpose of this structure. There is a viewing dial on-site.

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Opening times: Nov-March: Mo-Fr: 8am - 6pm & on request April-Oct: Mo-Fr: 8am - 6pm & weekends 10am - 6pm

Kolugljúfur is a gorge along the Víðidalsá river that leads into the southern end of Víðidalur valley. It's over 1km long and about 40-60m deep. The river drops into the gorge in two scenic waterfalls named Kolufossar.

Vatnsnes peninsula has marked walking trails going west to east over Mt. Vatnsfjall, where the view is excellent.

There is a marked spot for seal watching at Svalbarð ridge.
The coastal landscapes are very diverse, and in clear weather
the view to Strendur is beautiful. There is a marked trail to
Hvítserkur, a short distance from Ósar.

Gauksmýri is a hotel and restaurant with horseback riding tours, horse shows, and handicrafts. It's a short distance from a local pond teeming with birdlife, south of route 1. There is a specially designed path for people with disabilities that leads to a nearby birdwatching facility.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Staðarskáli, gas station with small tourist information centre, tel. 440-1336.

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Hotel Staðarflöt, tel. 451-1190.
- Sæberg Youth Hostel, tel. 451-0015.
- Brekkulækur Guesthouse, tel. 451-2938, abbi-island,is
- Langafit, Laugarbakki, tel. 451-2987/892-8487.
- Gauksmýri Lodge, tel. 451-2927/fax 451-3427. gauksmyri.is
- Ósar Youth Hostel, tel. 862-2778.
- · Hótel Hvítserkur, tel. 583-5000. hvitserkur.is
- · Neðra-Vatnshorn, tel. 451-2928. vatnshorn.is
- Dæli Guesthouse, tel. 451-2566, daeli,is
- Sindrastaðir, apartment rental and horse farm, tel. 899-1146.
 sindrastadir is
- · Hotel Laugarbakki, tel. 519-8600. hotellaugarbakki.is
- Stóra-Ásgeirsá, tel. 866-4954, storaasgeirsa@gmail.com
- North West Hotel, tel. 783-9393, northwesthotel@outlook.com

CAMPING:

- Sæberg in Hrútafjörður, tel. 451-0015.
- Laugarbakki, tel. 451-2987/892-8487.
- Illugastaðir in Vatnsnes, tel. 451-2664/894-0695.
- Dæli in Víðidalur, tel. 451-2566.

EATING OUT:

- Staðarskáli, gas station with grill and sandwiches to go, tel. 440-1336.
- Folk Museum at Reykir, coffee, light refreshments, tel. 451-0040.
- Hótel Edda Laugarbakki, Laugarbakki, tel. 519-8600.
- · Gauksmýri Lodge, tel. 451-2927.
- Café Sveitó, in Dæli Guesthouse, tel. 451-2566.
- Geitafell, seafood restaurant, Vatnsnes, tel. 861-2503/893-3380. geitafell.is
- North West, tel. 783-9393.
- Hótel Hvítserkur, tel. 583-5000.

SHOPPING:

- Folk Museum at Reykjaskóli school, handicrafts inspired by the museum collection, tel. 451-0040.
- Leirhús Grétu, ceramics, Litli-Ós, tel. 451-2482/897-2432.
- · Handverkshúsið Langafit, Laugarbakki, tel. 451-2987...

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 Folk Museum at Reykir, Hrútafjörður, tel. 451-0040. simnet.is/reykirmuseum

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Reykjartangalaug, geothermally-heated pool on the shore below Reykjaskóli.
- · Hot tubs at Sæberg, Hrútafjörður, tel. 451-0015.
- · Hot tubs at Laugarbakki, tel. 451-2987.
- Hot tub and sauna at Dæli Guesthouse, tel. 451-2566.

ACTIVITIES:

- Gauksmýri Lodge, horseback riding and horse shows, tel. 451-2927. gauksmyri.is
- Brekkulækur Travel Service, horseback riding and hiking trips, tel. 451-2938. abbi-island.is
- Fishing, Arnarvatn and Tvídægra lakes, tel. 892-7576.
- Stóra-Ásgeirsá, horse farm and petting zoo, tel. 855-4954. storaasgeirsa@gmail.com
- Sindrastaðir, horseback riding and walking tours, tel. 899-1146. sindrastadir.is

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Gauksmýri pond, diverse birdlife, 30-40 species, specially designed path for people with disabilities, birdwatching facility.
- Illugastaðir, walking path to a location for seal watching, diverse birdlife. Vatsnes. tel. 451-2345.

GAS STATIONS:

- ÓB. Laugarbakki, tel. 515-1142.
- N1, Víðigerði, tel. 440-1000.
- N1. Staðarskáli, tel. 440-1336.



Seal and Nature Watching

Every day from May 15 - September 30 10:00. 13:00 & 16:00

Tel. 897-9900 / 852-0645 info@sealwatching.is www.sealwatching.is

HVAMMSTANGI

Population: 500-1,000

Hvammstangi, the largest town of Húnaþing vestra, is situated on the eastern shore of Miðfjörður fjord. The town's primary economic activities are fisheries, services for the surrounding area, and tourism. A good harbour offers excellent sea angling options. Trade Museum Bardúsa is located in the town, as well as the Icelandic Seal Centre. Káraborg, a unique cliff, offers a stunning viewpoint in good weather.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

The Icelandic Seal Centre, tel. 451-2345.
 selasetur.is, visithunathing.is, northwest.is

SERVICES:

- · Police. Höfðabraut 6. tel. 455-2666.
- Post office, Lækjargata 2, tel. 580-1000.
- · ATM Landsbankinn, Brekkugata, tel. 410-4159.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Healthcare centre, Nestún 1, tel. 451-2346.
- Pharmacy, Nestún 1, tel. 451-2346.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hanna Sigga Guesthouse, Garðavegur 26, tel. 451-2407/861-2207.
- Hotel Hvammstangi, Norðurbraut 1, tel. 855-1303.
- Smáhýsin, Kirkjuhvammur, tel. 855-1303. smahvsi@amail.com
- Bed and breakfast/Homestay, tel. 659-7274. strandgata1907@gmail.com
- Sólgarður Apartments, Garðavegur 14, tel. 519-5130.
- Brekkulækur, tel. 451-2938.



Kaupfélag Vestur-Húnvetninga

Only 6 km from road 1.

Supermarket, hardware store and liquor store.

Strandgata 1, 530 Hvammstangi Tel. 455-2300 - www.kvh.is

CAMPING:

At Kirkiuhvammur, tel. 899-0008.

EATING OUT:

- Söluskálinn, Hvammstangabraut, tel. 451-2465.
- Hlaðan, Brekkugata 2, tel. 451-1110/863-7339. hladan@simnet.is
- The Icelandic Seal Centre, Strandgata 1, café and light refreshments, tel. 451-2345. selasetur.is
- Sjávarborg, Strandgata 1, tel. 451-3131.

GROCERIES:

• The Húnaþing vestra Co-op, tel. 455-2300. kvh.is

SHOPPING:

- Trade Museum Bardúsa, Brekkugata 4, tel. 451-2747.
- Wool Factory Shop Kidka, Höfðabraut, tel. 451-0060. kidka@simnet.is
- Eðalmálmsteypan, goldsmith, Eyrarlandi 1, tel. 451-2811.
- Verslunin Hlín, Klapparstígur 2, tel. 451-2515.
- · Verzlunin Ægissíða, Smiðjugata, tel. 848-5893.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Trade Museum Bardúsa, Brekkugata 4, tel. 451-2747.
- The Icelandic Seal Centre, an exhibition dedicated to seals around the coast of Iceland, and nature and culture of Vatnsnes, Strandgata 2, tel. 451-2345. selasetur.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

 Swimming pool and sports centre, Hlíðarvegur 6, tel. 451-2532.

ACTIVITIES:

- Selasigling, seal watching, tel. 897-9900. sealwatching.is
- Seal Travel, travel agency, tel. 451-2345. sealtravel.is
- Handbendi, puppet theatre, Brekkugata 2, tel. 611-4694.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

· Kirkjuhvammskirkja church by the campsite.

AUSTUR-HÚNAVATNSSÝSLA

Austur-Húnavatnssýsla is a county in the northwestern part of Iceland, with a diverse landscape consisting of geothermal areas, mountains, bays, and shores. There are numerous hiking trails in the area.

Vatnsdalshólar is a large, remarkable cluster of hills stretching across the mouth of Vatnsdalur valley. Þrístapar, the three hills on the northern side of the main road, is the site of Iceland's last public execution, when Friðrik Sigurðsson and Agnes Magnúsdóttir were executed on January 12, 1830 for the murders of Natan Ketilsson and Pétur Jónsson. The block and axe that were used are preserved at the National Museum of Iceland in Reykjavík, and the spot is marked with a memorial.

Pingeyrar is a benefice that has long been considered one of the finest estates in Iceland. The present church, Þingeyrarkirkja, was built from 1864 to 1877, and is considered to be among the greatest houses of worship in the country. It was made from stones that were transported during winter from Nesbjörg, a ridge on the other side of Hóp lake, a tidal lake in North Iceland. Oxen were used to drag the stone blocks across the frozen lake. Iceland's first monastery was founded at Þingeyrar in the year 1133, and it remained a major cultural and educational centre until the Reformation in 1550. Many sagas are thought to have been written there. Facilities and exhibitions are located in the new service building near the church and there are guided tours of Þingeyrarkirkja church available.

Stóra-Giljá is a farm on the bank of the river of the same name. It was there that the first Christian missionary in Iceland grew up: Porvaldur víðförli. A rock called Gullsteinn (Gold Stone) is located a short distance from route 1, on the northern side of Stóra-Giljá. Porvaldur's father, Koðrán, refused to be baptised, not wanting to enrage a guardian spirit that he believed lived in Gullsteinn. Porvaldur's fellow missionary, Friðrekur, is said to have sung hymns until the rock shattered, whereupon Þorvaldur's father agreed to be baptised. A memorial was set up beside Gullsteinn in 1981 to commemorate the 1000-year anniversary of the start of the Christian mission in Iceland.

Hof in Vatnsdalur is a farm in the eastern part of Vatnsdalur valley. Ingimundur gamli Þorsteinsson settled this land in the year 900, which stretches from Helgavatn lake to Urðarvatn lake. Ingimundur joined Haraldur hárfagri in Hafursfjörður fjord and gained the friendship of the king. During a midwinter blót festival (a sacrificial holiday), a seer made a prophecy to Ingimundur that he would live in a land called Iceland, become a man of honour, and have a great clan in that country. Ingimundur was chieftain of the Vatnsdæla family. In the pasture outside Hof is a small hill called Goðhóll, which is said to be where Ingimundur practiced pagan worship. A beautiful tree grove was planted in 1927, including the Icelandic poolar tree.

More inland, located north of Kjalhraun, is Hveravellir, one of Iceland's largest geothermal areas, with numerous hot springs. Hveravellir can be found in a hollow in a lava field. Nearby weather observatory Breiðamelur is located at an altitude of 650m. The hot spring Öskurhólshver is situated there and once made such a loud noise that it could be heard for over 400m, according to the travel log of Icelandic explorers Eggert Ólafsson and Bjarni Pálsson. The springs in this area all behave in different ways: Öskurhólshver spouts steam; Bræðrahverir and Eyvindarhver spout little jets of water; and Bláhver and Grænihver are filled with still water. Eyvindarhver is named after the famous outlaw Eyvindur of the Mountains, who lived in the area with his wife Halla. Tales tell of other outlaws seeking shelter there. A ruin known as Eyvindarkofi (Eyvindur's Hut) is located in a lava crevasse near Eyvindarhver, and there are also stacked rocks known as Evvindarrétt.

Spákonufell, at 639m high, is one of the most noteworthy and magnificent mountains in these parts. It's named after a fortune teller called Þórdís who lived on a farm at the base of the mountain in the 10th century (spákona translates to seeress). She's the first person to have lived in Skagaströnd. From the top of the mountain there is a view in all directions.



Kálfshamarsvík is a small bay on the northwestern shore of the Skagi peninsula, and there are beautiful columnar basalt formations nearby. Kálfshamarsvík was a fishing centre at the beginning of the 20th century but was hit by the great depression and abandoned by 1940.

From Geitaskarð in Langidalur is an ancient trail to Laxárdalur, which takes about three hours. The trail has been marked properly and a horse track can still be seen clearly. The most difficult part is traversing the Skarðsbrekkur slopes, where the trail starts. There is a watershed at the westernmost point of the pass, with two ponds and sizeable sedge marshes. East of these are the ruins of an old sheepcote, where Brunnárdalur cirque opens to the south and southeast. The terrain is rather difficult and should be avoided; instead, the best route is to head east and follow the horse track to the Laxá river in Laxárdalur valley. The same route is taken on the way back, although the hike can be extended by going south along the western bank of the Laxá river to Strjúgsskarð pass, which was also once a much-travelled place for crossing into Laxárdalur valley.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

• Klausturstofa, visitor centre inside Þingeyrarkirkja church.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Stóra-Giljá, tel. 452-4294.
- Hof in Vatnsdalur, tel. 452-4077/844-8649. hof-is.com
- Hótel Húni, tel. 456-4500/691-2207. info@hotelhuni.com
- Geitaskarð, tel. 452-4341.

- Dalsmynni, community centre, tel. 452-7155.
- Húnaver, bed and breakfast, sleeping bag accommodation, tel. 452-7110/693-4060/693-4061, hunaverbb@gmail.com
- · Hólahvarf, tel. 531-6100. lax-a.is
- Guesthouse Svínavatn, tel. 452-7123/860-3790. s vinavatn@svinavat.com
- · Hafnir ferðaþjónusta, tel. 452-4163. hafnir.is
- Skagabúð félagsheimili, tel. 861-8483/452-2746.
- Grund í Svínadal, tel. 849-4299.
- Stekkiardalur við Svínavatn, tel. 452-7171.

CAMPING:

- · Húnaver, tel. 452-7110.
- Húnavellir, tel. 453-5600.

EATING OUT:

Hótel Húni, tel. 456-4500.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

• Swimming pool at Hotel Húni, tel. 453-5600.

ACTIVITIES:

- There are numerous possibilities for horseback riding and trout and salmon fishing in the area. For more information, contact the tourist information centre at Blönduós, tel. 452-4520
- Blanda Power Station, guided tours, tel. 455-6700.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

· Þingeyrakirkja church, built between 1864 and 1877.

BLÖNDUÓS

Population: 500-1,000

Blönduós is a town situated on both sides of the Blandá river. Its main economic activity consists of various services for the local area. Additionally, light industry and services for travellers have increased in recent years. Upstream from the bridge is Hrútey island, a park with several hiking trails which was declared a nature preserve in 1975. Traditional knit and wool products are displayed at The Textile Museum. A section is named after Halldóra Bjarnadóttir (1873–1981), who, at the time, was the oldest woman to have lived in Iceland. The museum displays a collection of homemade woolen and textile objects, beautiful national costumes, and the ancient instruments used to make them. The Icelandic Textile Centre, showcasing a tapestry depicting the Saga of Vatnsdæla, is located in the old women's college.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

· Tourist information centre, Aðalgata 8, tel. 452-4848.

SERVICES:

- Police, Hnjúkabyggð 33, tel. 444-0700.
- Post office, Hnjúkabyggð 32, tel. 580-1200.
- ATM Arion Bank, Húnabraut 5, tel. 444-7000.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Healthcare centre, Flúðabakki 2, tel. 455-4100.
- Pharmacy Lyfja, Flúðabakki 2, tel. 452-4385.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hótel Blanda, Aðalgata 6, tel. 452-4205/898-1832.
- Blanda Hostel, Blöndubyggð 10, tel. 452-4205/898-1832.
- Retro Blönduból Guesthouse, Blöndubyggð 9, tel. 519-4445.
- Glaðheimar, summerhouses, Brautarhvammur, tel. 820-1300/690-3130. gladheimar@simnet.is
- Kiljan Guesthouse, Aðalgata 2, tel. 452-4500.
- Gistiheimilið Tilraun, Aðalgata 10, tel. 583-5077/848-7218.
 tilraun@talnet is.

CAMPING:

By route 1, tel. 820-1300.

EATING OUT:

- Hótel Blanda, Aðalgata 6, tel. 452-4205/898-1832.
- N1, Norðurlandsvegur 3, tel. 440-1339.
- Ömmukaffi, Húnabraut 2, tel. 899-9811/898-4090.
- B&S Restaurant, tel. 453-5060. bogs.is
- · Veitingahúsið Kiljan, Aðalgata 2, tel. 452-4500.
- Borgin restaurant, Aðalgata 6, tel. 553-5550. facebook.com/borginrestaurant

GROCERIES:

- N1, convenience store, Norðurlandsvegur 3, tel. 440-1339.
- · Kjörbúðin, Húnabraut 4, tel. 455-9020.
- · Vínbúðin liquor store, Húnabraut 5, tel. 452-4501.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- The Icelandic Textile Museum, Árbraut 29, tel. 452-4067. textile.is
- Hillebrandt House, the oldest wooden house in Iceland, Blöndubvaað 2.
- Eyvindarstofa at B&S Restaurant, an exhibition dedicated to Eyvindur of the Mountains, Norðurlandsvegur 4, tel. 453-5060.
- Icelandic Textile Centre, Árbraut 31, tel. 452-4030. textilmidstod.is
- Vatnsdæla á refli, a project of the Icelandic Textile Centre about the Vatnsdæla Saqa, tel. 452-4030.
- Minjastofa í Kvennaskólanum, exhibition on women's education. tel. 892-4928/893-4341.
- Héraðsbókasafn A-Hún, library, Hnjúkabyggð 30, tel. 452-4415

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Blönduós sports centre, swimming pool, gym, and sports hall, Melabraut 2, tel. 452-4178. blonduskoli.is/ib
- Vatnahverfisvöllur, nine-hole golf course, tel. 864-4846.

ACTIVITIES.

- Glaðheimar, goose and ptarmigan hunting, fishing, horseback riding tours, shooting range, tel. 820-1300.
- Galsi Horse Rental, horseback riding tours, tel. 692-0118. galsi.
 is
- Vötnin veiðiþjónusta, fishing services, tel. 862-0474. anglingservice.com

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Birdwatcher's house, Blanda Blönduósi, tel. 455-4700.
- · Hrútey open forest, Vatnahverfi, Hnjúkar.

GAS STATIONS:

• N1, Norðurlandsvegur 3, tel. 440-1339.

SKAGASTRÖND

Population: 100-500

Skagaströnd is an ancient trading port on the eastern coast of Húnaflói bay. In the Middle Ages, English and German merchants traded at this port, which was then called Höfði or Höfðakaupstaður. In 1602, Skagaströnd became one of 20 authorised posts of the Danish-monopolised merchants. Danish traders named the place Skagestrand, adopting the name of the coastline itself.

The settlement of Skagaströnd grew considerably in the beginning of the 20th century, as it's conveniently located near rich fishing grounds. Around 1945, a big rendering plant was built, around the time that large numbers of herring migrated to Húnaflói, but it never operated at full capacity, since the herring had largely disappeared by the time it was finally completed. Skagaströnd owes its existence to fisheries, and these days it has diverse fisheries and a strong fish market.





HOF Í VATNSDAL

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Considerable changes have occurred in the economy and village life in the past few years; there is, among other things, a new marine biotechnology science hotel and the Icelandic Directorate of Labour has an office in the village. Spákonuhof, Museum of Prophecies, traces the story of the fortune-teller Þórdís, and offers fortune-telling for its guests. More than one hundred artists visit the Arts Centre NES each year, staying for a month or more at a time working in a studio inside an old, revamped fish factory.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

· Tourist information centre, Aðalgata 8, Blönduós, tel. 452-4848.

SERVICES:

- Police, Hnjúkabyggð 33, Blönduós, tel. 444-0720.
- · Post office, Höfði, tel. 410-4160,
- Bank Landshankinn Höfði tel 410-4160.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Healthcare centre, Ægisgrund, tel. 455-4100.
- · Pharmacy, Ægisgrund, tel. 452-2717.

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Fellsborg Community Centre, group accommodation, sleeping bag accommodation, tel. 452-2720.
 - skagastrond@skagastrond.is
- Skálinn near Mt. Spákonufell, tel. 895-3809/452-2809. iollicola@simnet.is
- Snorraberg, summerhouse, tel. 517-6200/892-5089.
- Hafnir, summerhouse, tel. 452-4163.
- · Sæluhúsin, summerhouses, tel. 777-9848.

CAMPING:

Bv Hólabraut, tel. 455-2700/848-7706.

EATING OUT:

- · Söluskáli Olís, Grill 66, Oddagata, tel. 452-2851.
- Biarmanes Café, tel. 452-2850.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- · Spákonuhof, exhibition about Þórdís, the fortune-teller, who was also the first-named inhabitant of Skagaströnd in the late 10th century, guests can have their fortunes told, tel. 861-5089. dagny@marska.is
- Árnes, oldest house in town, a home from the first part of the 20th century, tel. 861-5089. dagny@marska.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool, Einbúastígur, tel. 452-2806/864-4908. ithrottahus@skagastrond.is
- Háagerðisvöllur, nine-hole golf course, tel. 892-5089/892-3080.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

· Marked hiking trails to Spákonufellshöfði headland and Mt. Spákonufell, hiking maps available in Icelandic, English, and German.

GAS STATIONS:

Ólis. Oddagata, tel. 452-2851.

SKAGAFJÖRÐUR

Population: 2.500-5.000

Skagafjörður is one of the most historically famous districts in Iceland, mostly due to the Sturlung Era (Sturlungaöldin), a 42-44-year civil war in mid-13th century Iceland, documented in Sturlunga Saga.

Arnarstapi is a hill beside route 1, on the edge of Vatnsskarð pass, that offers a good view over most of Skagafjörður. There is a memorial to poet Stephan G. Stephansson (1853-1927), who was born at nearby Kirkjuhóll, which is now deserted. The memorial, made of piled rock, was designed by artist Ríkarður Jónsson (1888-1977) and is adorned with three reliefs by him.

Víðimýri is a benefice just east of Vatnsskarð, that was the home of one of the main families involved in the civil war of the 13th century. The turf church dates from 1834 and has been restored to its original form. Dr. Kristján Eldjárn, the third president of Iceland, described the building as "one of the purest and most beautiful examples of traditional Icelandic architecture" (Hundrað ár í þjóðminjasafni, 1963).

Glaumbær is a benefice and parsonage. Snorri Þorfinnsson, son of early-11th-century Icelandic explorer Porfinnur "karlsefni" Þórðarson and Guðríður Þorbiarnardóttir, is said to have lived there in the 11th century. A turf farm located on-site is part of the National Museum of Iceland's Building Collection and houses the first-ever exhibition set up by the Glaumbær Skagafjörður Folk Museum. There are 13 farm-

SKAGASTRÖND MUNICIPALITY



Welcome to Skagaströnd

www.skagastrond.is

Skagaströnd a unique town with a thriving culture, but it still has the rhythm of a typical sea village and the port is alive with activity, especially when the fishing boats return with their haul.

The Nes Artist Residency hosts many guest artists who enrich life and culture. There is a marked hiking path on Mt. Spákonufell (640 m), and Spákonufellshöfði is also a popular recreational area. There are published descriptions of these paths.

Háagerðisvöllur is a nine-hole golf course located four km north of town.

Coffeehouse Bjarmanes is a beautiful, old fashioned house situated on the waterfront with a view the harbor

Accommodation is available in **Snorraberg**, a beautiful summerhouse; **Sæluhúsin**, under the cliffs of Höfðinn; or **Skíðaskálinn**, at the base of Mt. Spákonufell.

The campsite is very comfortable and there is plenty of space for trailers, campers and caravans.



The swimming pool is small and cozy. Travelers can rest and relax after a day of exploring. There is a wide selection of groceries is available at **Samkaup**.

Árnes is the town's oldest house and is a good example of the housing and way of life in the first half of the 20th century.

Spákonuhof Hof has an entertaining exhibition about the fortuneteller Þórdís, who lived in the second half 10th century, with information about fortunetelling methods.

Olís skálinn offers services and nutrition for both vehicles and people.

Borgin restaurant is in a unique log house and serves refreshments of the highest quality. The spirit of the seaside village is apparent in the pictures on the wall and the atmosphere of the establishment.









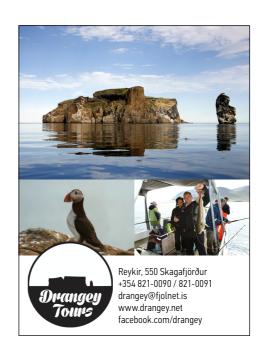




RIVER RAFTING IN THE WEST GLACIAL RIVER

houses in total, dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries. Additionally, travellers can visit Áshúsið and Gilsstofa, two well-preserved timber houses from the 19th century, which contain an exhibition, small museum, and café (Áskaffi).

Reynistaður, formerly Staður in Reynisnes, is an old manor. Þorfinnur "karlsefni" was from Revnistaður. He resided there for some time with his wife Guðríður after they returned from their journey to Vinland. The powerful Ásbirning clan lived there in the Sturlung Era, like Kolbeinn "kaldaljós," and the site also hare the name the Place of Kolheinn. He left it to his son. Brandur Kolbeinsson, Gissur Þorvaldsson, a medieval Icelandic chieftain, later owned Reynistaður which may be viewed as the seat of the Earl, as Gissur earned the title of earl in his lifetime. Gissur left Reynistaður to the Catholic Church to serve as a convent upon his death. The convent was closed down during the Reformation, with the introduction of Protestantism, but the few nuns that still resided there were allowed to stay to live out their lives. When the old town in Revnistaður was demolished in 1935, an old doorframe and the outlines of a sod house remained. Around 1999, this home was moved and restored with concrete. It was rebuilt near the original site. with turf walls and a turf roof, and is now protected and under the care of the National Museum of Iceland. There have been churches in Reynistaður from the age of settlement, and the present church, made of wood, was constructed in 1870. It's





AÐALSTRÆTI - AUSTURSTRÆTI - LÆKJARTORG - LAUGAVEGUR - SKÓLAVÖRÐUSTÍGUR KRINGLAN - BORGARTÚN - HLEMMUR - SUÐURLANDSBRAUT - HAMRABORG - SMÁRALIND - HAFNARSTRÆTI now considered a protected national heritage site. It's said that Farl Gissur is buried under the floor of the church

Revkir on Revkiaströnd is farmland on the western shore of the fjord, north of Sauðárkrókur, and by the eastern roots of Mt. Tindastóll. Cape Reykjadiskur protrudes from the farmland area. In Grettir's Saga, outlaw Grettir the Strong came ashore at this spot after swimming four miles from Drangev island. where he went to fetch fire. He is said to have warmed himself in Grettislaug, the thermal pool on the beach. The pool has recently been renovated.

Hegranesping is the ruin of a local asembly site, just off route 1 by Garður farm. It's featured in several sagas, including Grettir's Saga, as the location where Grettir the Strong is said to have wrestled

Drangey is a sheer island of palagonite, almost 200m high and about 20ha in area. Known for its diverse birdlife, Drangey used to be a source of food for locals, who both caught birds and gathered eggs there. As a result, Drangey was called "the pantry of the people of Skagafjörður," and as many as 200,000 birds were caught there one spring. The island is famously described in Grettir's Saga as the dwelling of Grettir the Strong and his brother Illugi during their three years of self-imposed exile. It's

also where they died at the hands of their enemies. Visitors to the island can still make out the outline of their dwelling. The island can only be ascended from one spot: Uppgönguyík bay on the western side. There are trips by boat to Drangey from Reykir in Reykjaströnd, arranged by Drangey Tours (Drangeyjarferðir).

Flugumýri is a farm and benefice in Blönduhlíð, at the foot of Mt. Glóðafevkir. It was the ancestral home of one of the main families involved in the 13th century civil war, as well as the location of one of the most horrendous acts of the war: 25 people were burned to death at the end of the wedding celebration of Hallur, son of Gissur Þorvaldsson, and Ingibjörg, daughter of the historian Sturla Þórðarson, in an act of vengeance.

Örlygsstaðir is a site of ruins and a circular enclosure just above route 1, across from Víðivellir in Blönduhlíð, It's doubtful that it was ever a residence. It was the site of the largest battle in Icelandic history, on August 21, 1238, Almost 3,000 people from three of the country's most powerful clans fought there. The battle was waged between the Sturlungar clan on one side and the Haukdælingar and Ásbirningar clans on the other, with the latter being victorious. A total of 56 people died that day, including district chieftain from Grund in Eviafiörður, Sighvatur Sturluson and four of his sons.



Passing Through Skagafjörður?









Exhibitions in Minjahúsið in Sauðárkrókur

Open daily: June 1 - August 31, 12-19 Open by arrangement by winter. Tel. 453 6870.

Exhibitions in Glaumbær

Open daily: May 20 - Sepember. 20, 9-18 Open by arrangement by winter. Tel. 453 6173 - Áskaffi, tel. 453 8855.

www.skagafjordur.is/byggdasafn

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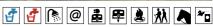
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Miklibær is a benefice and parsonage in Blönduhlíð. It's known for the story of the disappearance of Reverend Oddur Gíslason, as told by Einar Benediktsson (1864-1910) in his poem The disappearance of Reverend Oddur from Miklibær. The present-day church is modern and was consecrated in 1973. Poet Hjálmar Jónsson, also known as Bólu-Hjálmar (1796-1875) is buried at the cemetery with a standing stone in lieu of a headstone.

Bóla is a farm in Blönduhlíð hest known for its association with Hjálmar Jónsson, who lived there from 1833-1843. A memorial to him was erected in 1955. Above the farm is Bólugil gully, which is featured in folktales.

Revkiafoss is a beautiful waterfall in the Svartá river, best viewed from the east side. The entrance is at Vindheimamela. and the path that passes Reykjafoss continues over a walking bridge to Fosslaug, a natural pool on the bank above the falls.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Tourist information centre, tel, 455-6161. visitskagafiordur.is

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Gil. tel. 453-6780.
- Brennigerði, tel. 453-5521.



GI ALIMBÆR

- Stóra Vatnsskarð, tel. 453-8152.
- Steinsstaðir Travel Service, tel. 453-8812/899-8762.
- Bakkaflöt, tel. 453-8245/899-8245.
- · Lýtingsstaðir Cottages, tel. 453-8064. lythorse.com
- Sölvanes, tel. 453-8068.
- Himnasvalir, Egilsá, tel. 453-8219/770-8219/892-1852.
- Syðsta Grund, Akrahreppur, tel. 453-8262.
- Flugumýri, tel. 453-8814/895-8814.
- Keldudalur Guesthouse tel 453-6233/846-8185.
- Keldudalur, Leifshús, tel. 453-6533/893-6231.
- Glæsibær Travel Service, tel. 453-5530/892-5530.
- Hofsstaðir Lodge, tel. 453-7300.
- Hofsstaðir, farm accommodation, tel. 453-6555.
- Hofsstaðasel, the old farm, tel. 896-9414.
- · Lónkot, farm stays, tel. 453-7432. lonkot.com
- Akrar í Fljótum, tel. 467-1054/895-7135.
- Sólgarðaskóli í Fljótum, tel. 467-1040/467-1054.
- Bjarnargil Travel Service, tel. 467-1030/866-8788.
- Tröð, guesthouse, tel. 453-5225/861-9840. trod@fjolnet.is
- Lambanes-Reykir, summerhouse, Fljótum, tel. 467-1020/895-5626. bruna@simnet.is
- Brúnastaðir Fljótum, summerhouse, tel. 467-1020/869-1024.

CAMPING:

- Steinsstaðir Travel Service, tel. 453-8812.
- Bakkaflöt, tel. 453-8245.

- Lónkot, tel. 453-7432.
- · Varmahlíð, tel. 899-3231.
- · Lauftún by Varmahlíð, tel. 453-8133.

EATING OUT:

- Áskaffi at Glaumbær, tel. 453-8855.
- · Lónkot Restaurant, tel. 453-7432. lonkot.com
- Bakkaflöt Restaurant, tel. 453-8245.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Lýtingsstaðir Torfhesthús (The Old Stable), tel. 453-8064/893-3817. lythorse.com
- Glaumbær, regional folk museum with additional exhibitions at Minjuhúsið in Sauðárkrókur and the Icelandic Emigration History Centre in Hofsós.
- Skagafjörður Museum of Transport, Stóragerði, tel. 845-7400/848-7817.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool in Sauðárkrókur, tel. 453-5226.
- Hofsós, tel. 455-6070.
- Swimming pool in Varmahlíð, tel. 453-8824.
- · Sólgarðar pool, tel. 467-1033.
- · Lónkot, nine-hole golf course, tel. 453-7432.

ACTIVITIES:

- Hestasport, horseback riding tours, tel. 453-8383, riding is
- Arctic rafting, river rafting on the Eastern and Western Jökulsá rivers, tel. 562-7000. adventures.is
- · Bakkaflöt, river rafting, tel. 453-8245. riverrafting.is
- Paintball, tel. 849-0565.
- Tindastóll, ski area, tel. 453-6664.
- Lýtingsstaðir, horseback riding tours, tel. 453-8064/893-3817. lythorse.com
- Flugumýri, horse shows, riding tours, tel. 453-8814/895-8814.
- Varmilækur, Icelandic horse shows, tel. 898-7756/453-8021.
- Lónkot, various events, art shows, and country market, tel. 453-7432

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Marked hiking trails to Mælifellshnjúkur, Tindastóll, Molduxi, and Hólabyrða mountains and to Húnavatnssýsla.
- The trail of the Sturlungs in Skagafjörður, guided walks and information. sturlungaslod.is
- · Gröf and Sjávarborg churches.
- Víðimýri church, one of Iceland's oldest turf churches, tel. 453-5895. qlaumbaer.is

VARMAHLÍÐ

Population: 100-500

Varmahlíð is a village in Skagafjörður municipality, southeast of Reykjarhóll. The population increased considerably in 1931, and commerce and local services have thrived since. Services at Varmahlíð include a school, a preschool, a convenience store, a hotel, a swimming pool, a campsite, and summerhouses, as well as various services for tourists. An outdoor recreation area can be found in the Reykjarhlíð forest. The Varmahlíð area offers diverse leisure activities, such as river rafting, horseback riding, and horse shows.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

· Tourist information centre, tel. 455-6161. visitskagafjordur.is

SERVICES:

Bank Arion Bank, Sauðárkróksbraut, tel. 444-7000.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hótel Varmahlíð, tel. 453-8170. hotelvarmahlid.is
- · Lauftún, tel. 453-8133.
- Lýtingsstaðir Cottages, tel. 453-8064/893-3817. lythorse.com
- · Hestasport, summerhouses, tel. 453-8383. info@riding.is
- Himnasvalir, tel. 453-8219/892-1852.
- · Orlofshús, by Reykjarhóll, tel. 862-2129.

CAMPING:

- · Varmahlíð, tel. 899-3231. tjoldumiskagafirdi.is
- Lauftún by Varmahlíð, tel. 453-8133.

EATING OUT:

- Hótel Varmahlíð, tel. 453-8170.
- Kaupfélag Skagfirðinga, Varmahlíð, tel. 455-4680.

GROCERIES:

• Kaupfélag Skagfirðinga, Varmahlíð, tel. 455-4680.

SHOPPING:

Gallerí Albýðulist, tel. 453-7000.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

· Varmahlið swimming pool, tel. 453-8824.

ACTIVITIES:

- · Hestasport, riding tours, tel. 453-8383. riding.is
- Arctic rafting, river rafting in the Eastern and Western Jökulsá rivers, tel. 562-7000, adventures,is
- JRJ Super Jeep Travel, tours across the Icelandic highlands, tel. 453-8219/892-1852.
- · Bakkaflöt, river rafting, tel. 453-8245. riverrafting.is
- Paintball, tel. 849-0565/453-8383.
- Lýtingsstaðir, horseback riding tours, tel. 453-8064/893-3817.
- Suðurleiðir, group coach trips to anywhere in Iceland, tel. 453-6806/892-4433.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- The trail of the Sturlungs in Skagafjörður, guided walks and information. sturlungaslod.is
- · Marked hiking trail to Reykjarhóll hill.

TRANSPORTATION:

 Sterna, scheduled trips between Akureyri, Reykjavík, and Sauðárkrókur, tel. 551-1166. sternatravel.com

GAS STATIONS:

- ÓB. tel. 515-1144.
- N1, tel. 825-4680

SAUÐÁRKRÓKUR

Population: 2,500-5,000

Sauðárkrókur is located on the southwestern shore of the innermost part of Skagafjörður fjord. Permanent settlement began in 1871. The town offers diverse services and activities, including exhibitions, museums, clubs, shops, restaurants, accommodation, a hospital, auto workshop, a sports field, volleyball court, swimming pool, and more. The convenience store Verslun Haraldar Júlíussonar, which has been in operation without interruption since 1919, is located on Aðalgata.

The slopes above the town are called Nafir and have a series of ancient beach ridges as well as a viewing dial, from which one can enjoy the view over the fjord. East of Sauðárkrókur, there is a black sand beach that is approximately 4km long,

called Borgarsandur. Slightly to the south, by Áshildarholtsvatn lake, is an area with vibrant birdlife. The estuaries of Héraðsvötn, Miklavatn, and Áshildarholtsvatn, just south of Sauðárkrókur, are also home to diverse birdlife.

FACILITIES

SERVICES:

- Police, Suðurgata 1, tel, 444-0700.
- Post office, Ártora, tel. 580-1200.
- ATM Arion Bank, at Faxatorg and in Skagfirðingabúð, tel. 453-5300
- · ATM Landsbankinn, Suðurgata 1, tel. 410-4161.
- Bank Sparisjóður Skagafjarðar, Ártorg 1, tel. 455-5555.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hótel Tindastóll, Lindargata 3, tel. 453-5002. hoteltindastoll.com
- Hótel Mikligarður, Skagfirðingabraut 24, tel. 453-6330/891-9147. mikligardur.is
- Mikligarður Guesthouse, Kirkjutorg 3, tel. 453-6880/891-9147. arctichotels.is
- Gamla pósthúsið, apartment accommodation, tel. 892-3375. ausis.is

CAMPING:

• By the swimming pool, tel. 899-3231.

EATING OUT:

- Kaffi Krókur, Aðalgata 16, tel. 453-6299.
- N1, Ártorg 4, tel. 455-7070.

- Ólafshús, Aðalgata 15, tel. 453-6454.
- Sauðárkróksbakarí, Aðalgata 5, tel. 455-5000.
- Orkan Bláfell, Skagfirðingabraut 49, tel. 453-6666.
- Hard Wok Café, Aðalgata 8, tel. 453-5355.

GROCERIES:

- Vínbúðin liguor store, Smáragrund 2, tel. 453-5990.
- · Skagfirðingabúð, Ártorg 1, tel. 455-4530.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Skagafiörður District Art Museum, tel. 453-6640.
- Skagafjörður District Library, tel. 453-5424.
- Minjahúsið, Aðalgata 16b, tel. 453-6870.
- Eldsmiðja Ingimundar, Suðurgata 5, tel. 453-5020.
- The Tannery Visitor Centre, Borgarmýri 5, tel. 512-8025.
- 1238: The Battle of Iceland, Aðalgata 21, tel. 588-1238.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool, tel. 453-5226.
- Hlíðarendavöllur, nine-hole golf course, tel. 453-5075.
- · Þreksport, fitness centre, tel. 453-6363.

ACTIVITIES:

- Skotfélagið Ósmann, shooting range, tel. 858-9232.
- Tindastóll, ski lodge, tel. 453-6707.
- Topphestar, horseback riding tours, tel. 866-3973/868-1776.
- Krókaleiðir, snowmobile rental, tel. 453-5065.
- Drangeyjarferðir, cruises to Drangey island and Glerhallavík cove on a boat from Sauðárkrókur or Reykir, sea fishing, tel. 821-0090/821-0091. drangeyjarferdir.is
- Málmeviarferðir, tel. 453-7380/892-2881.

TRANSPORTATION:

 Sterna, scheduled coach service, tel. 551-1166. sternatravel.com

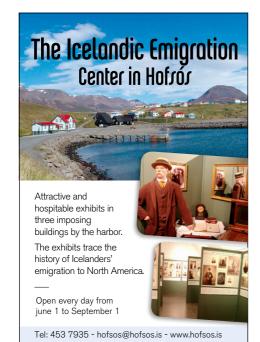
GAS STATIONS:

- Olís, Aðalgata 22, tel. 453-5136.
- Orkan, Skagfirðingabraut 29, tel. 444-3026.
- N1, Ártorg 4, tel. 455-7070.

HÓLAR IN HJALTADALUR

Population: 0-100

Hólar is one of Iceland's best-known historical sites. It was the seat of the Bishop from 1106-1801, as well as the capital of the north during that period. The current cathedral at Hólar was consecrated in 1763. It's made of red sandstone, which was transported from Mt. Hólabyrða, a mountain close to the town. An agricultural school has been operated in Hólar since 1882 and its origins can be traced back to the beginning of the bishopric. The Hólar University College specialises in tourism studies, horse breeding and riding, as well as aquaculture and fish biology. Hólar is home to a turf farmhouse, Nýibær, dating back to 1854, and the beam and stonework houses Auðunar-



stofa and Theodórsstofa. Archaeological excavation has been underway at Hólar in recent years and over 40,000 objects have been discovered. Some of them are exhibited in the old school building. Visitors can take a "walk through history" following a marked trail.

It's also possible to take a trip to the Icelandic Horse Heritage Museum or the Icelandic Beer Centre, the latter of which is the smallest brewery in the country.

There are several hiking trails in the area. A path marked with signposts has been set up at the ancient episcopal see of Hólar in Hjaltadalur. Each of the 14 signposts is numbered, referring to a descriptive text in a tour booklet available to visitors. This historical tour takes an hour, at an easy pace. The tour can be extended to 2-3 hours by going halfway up the slopes of Mt. Hólabyrða from Prestssæti (the Priest's Seat, signpost no. 11), for a look at a natural phenomenon created by an avalanche from Hólabyrða. It's called Gvendarskál (Gvendur's Bowl), and inside it stands a rock known as Gvendur's Altar, both of which are associated with 12th-century Bishop Guðmundur Arason the Good. A path leading to a mine, where building blocks of the cathedral originated, has also been marked with signposts. The walk takes 1.5-2 hours. Maps of paths and hiking trails leading from Hólar to nearby mountains, such as Mt. Þríhyrningar, Mt. Hólabyrða, and Mt. Elliði, are available in Hólar. The town is also an ideal destination for travellers traversing the ancient trails on Tröllaskagi peninsula, many of which lead to Hólar.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

• Hólar Travel Service, tel. 455-6333. holar.is

ACCOMMODATION:

 Hólar Travel Service, cottages, apartments, rooms, tel. 455-6333.

CAMPING:

In Hólaskógur, tel. 588-1300.

EATING OUT:

· Undir Byrðunni, tel. 455-6333.

SHOPPING:

Souvenir shop inside the tourist information centre in summer.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- The Icelandic Horse Heritage Museum, an international centre of knowledge and information about the history of the Icelandic horse, tel. 455-6345. soqusetur.is
- The Icelandic Beer Centre. bjorsetur@holar.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

• Swimming pool, hot tub, and sauna, tel. 455-6333.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- · Hólar church, tel. 455-6333. kirkjan.is/holadomkirkja
- · History Walk, marked hiking trail.
- The Hólar Excavation, an archaeological excavation at Hólar with relics of Icelandic ecclesiastical and national history.

HOFSÓS

Hofsós is a small village on the eastern shore of Skagafjörður fjord, known for its great swimming pool. At one time, it was the region's main trading centre, and it's one of the oldest still in existence, with trading believed to have begun in the 16th century. Pakkhúsið in Hofsós is an old log warehouse from the days of the Danish trade monopoly. The Icelandic Emigration Centre is also located in Hofsós, which chronicles the emigration of Icelanders to North America. It has various exhibitions related to the migration of Icelanders to America and their way of living on the new continent. The old centre of Hofsós is worth a visit as it's being rebuilt and has regained the charm of an old bustling commercial community. The shoreline at Hofsós is also well worth exploring, particularly because of the beautiful columnar basalt formations.

Gröf is a farm on Höfðaströnd, just south of Hofsós. It was once one of the grandest farmsteads in Skagafjörður. It was the birthplace of Hallgrímur Pétursson (1614-1674), Iceland's most celebrated religious poet. The small turf church there contains remnants of the oldest place of worship in the country. The National Museum of Iceland oversees the site.

FACILITIES

SERVICES:

- Police, Sauðárkrókur, tel. 444-0700.
- Bank Arion Bank, tel. 453-7400.

HEALTHCARE:

Healthcare centre. Suðurbraut 15. tel. 453-7354.

ACCOMMODATION:

• Hofsós Guesthouses, tel. 453-7434.

CAMPING:

• By the primary school, tel. 899-3231.

EATING OUT:

• Restaurant Sólvík, Suðurbraut, tel. 453-7930.

SHOPPING:

• The Icelandic Flag-sewing Factory, tel. 453-7366.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

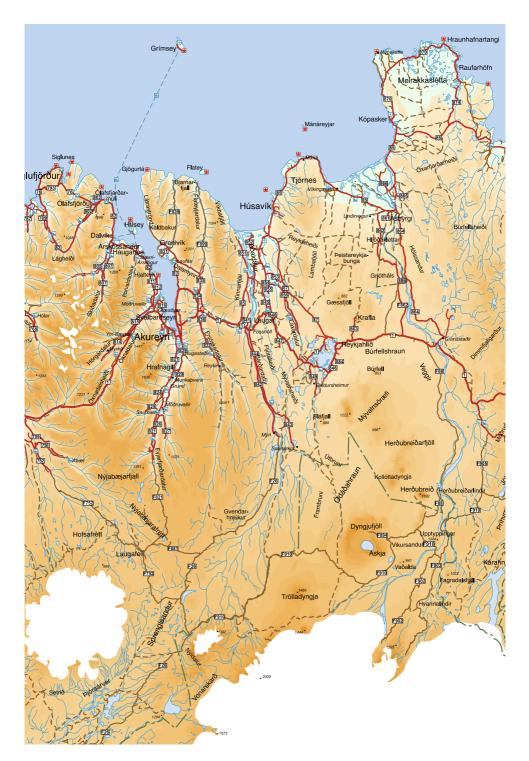
 The Icelandic Emigration Centre in Hofsós, a genealogical information service, a library, and exhibitions on Icelandic emigration to North America, tel. 453-7935. hofsos.is

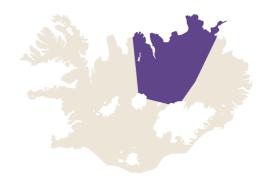
SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

• Swimming pool and hot tub, tel. 455-6070.

GAS STATIONS:

N1. Suðurbraut, tel. 453-7360.





The Northeast

Northeast Iceland extends from Hvanndalabjarg rock in the west to Mt. Gunnólfsvíkurfjall in the northeast. Watersheds and mountains form the main boundaries of this region. Since the change in electoral districts in 2003, Siglufjörður is considered to be in Northeast Iceland instead of Northwest Iceland.

Northeast Iceland is divided into two main regions: Eyjafjarðarsýsla district and South and North Þingeyjarsýsla districts. The mountain range between Skagafjörður and Eyjafjörður has always been regarded as rugged, harsh and difficult terrain for travellers. Before the beginning of the 20th century, the range was dubbed Tröllaskagi, but prior to that it had been unnamed. Hvanndalabjarg (600m) is Iceland's highest standing rock in the sea. In Ólafsfjörður and Dalvík, the westernmost communities in the region, there are sheer cliffs rising from the sea with limited lowland areas. It's not uncommon to see snow-covered mountains well into summer, while populated areas have green grass and blooming flowers. The lowland areas increase farther inland from the Eyjafjörður fjord, and this is where fertile farmland is found. Large-scale farming is practiced around Akureyri, which is often called the capital of the north. In Akurevri, as well as in the other towns along Eyjafjörður fjord, fishing is the primary occupation and many of Iceland's major fishing companies are located in this area.

Hrísey and Hrólfssker are islands found in Eyjafjörður fjord. Grímsey island is 41km offshore, with the arctic circle passing through it. The Eyjafjörður district is the second-most densely populated area in Iceland and it often has favourable weather. The district contains numerous hot springs and the thermal water is harnessed to heat the major urban areas. For example, the Ólafsfjörður Heating Utility is the oldest district heating provider in the country, along with the Reykjavík District Heating Utility.

Basalt is the main rock type, but rhyolite and lignite are also found in some places. In general, there is rich vegetation, including pastures, moorland, and even some low-lying forest scrub.

The Þingeyjarsýsla districts cover a much larger territory than the Eyjafjarðarsýsla district. The South Þingeyjarsýsla

district, to the east of Eyjafjörður, is a mountainous peninsula with limited lowland areas. Until the mid-20th century, there were settlements on Látraströnd beach, Fjörður, and the Flateyjardalur valley. Popular hiking trails now crisscross these areas. East of Mt. Vaðlaheiði is the Fnjóskadalur valley, which has rich vegetaiton and prominent tree growth. Vaglaskógur is the largest forest in the area and it's considered to be one of the most beautiful birch forests in the country. There, among other sights, one can see the remains of ancient peat pits used to make iron.

Bárðardalur valley, situated east of Fnjóskadalur valley, is home to the Skjálfandafljót river. East of the river, there is stratified volcanic rock, also called palagonite, and the surrounding area is characterised by low, undulating moorland separated by valleys. The few mountains in the landscape are the product of subglacial eruptions during the Ice Age. Interesting fossils from that period have been found on the Tjörnes headland. There are many active volcanoes and geothermal areas to be found in this region, which are used for district heating in Húsavík. Mývatn is the best-known lake in the north and it's the fourth largest lake in Iceland. A plethora of fauna and wildlife flourish there. In

TOURIST INFORMATION IN NORTHEAST ICELAND

Siglufjörður, Gránugötu 24, s. 464-9120. **Akureyri - Strandgata 12 s. 450-1050**. Gljúfrastofa - Vatnajökull National Park, Jökulsárgljúfur t. 470-7100.

Raufarhöfn - Hótel Norðurljós, t. 465-1233. Mývatnssveit-Hraunvegur 8, Reykjahlíð, t. 464-4390. Húsavík - Húsavíkurstofa. Hafnarstétt 1, t. 464-4300 particular, the lake is famous for its birdlife; during the summer. there are more varieties of ducks in the lake than there are found in most other places on earth.

The low-lying land of Melrakkaslétta stretches between the Öxarfjörður and Þistilfjörður fjords. Farther east is the Langanes peninsula, which stretches to the northeast until it ends in a narrow, rocky spit of land called Fontur.

Most of the terrain in the North Þingeyjarsýsla district is low-lying, but it steadily rises to the south. Palagonite is the predominant rock type and lava fields are widespread. Geothermal activity is only found in Öxarfjörður fjord. There are many lakes in the area, as well as the Jökulsá á Fjöllum river, which is one of the most powerful rivers in Iceland. Dettifoss waterfall, arguably the most powerful in all of Europe, is along this river. There is a sprawling forest in this region and the land is fertile.

Langanes offers an array of outdoor activities and hiking trails, and it's one of the four gannet nesting sites in Iceland. Additionally, one of the largest arctic tern nesting areas in the country used to be at Skoruvík, while the area was populated. The ruins of Skála, which once was a flourishing village, are found on the east side of Langanes peninsula.

The main islands in the area are Flatey and Lundey in the Skjálfandi bay, as well as Mánáreyjar islands, located north of Tjörnes headland. Þingey, a small island found in the Skjálfandafljót river, is where the surrounding district draws its name from. Húsavík is the largest settlement in the area and the town operates a large fishing industry, in addition to serving as a service centre for the surrounding region. Whale watching from Húsavík is a booming industry.

There are three distinct villages in this northern region: the fishing towns of Raufarhöfn and Þórshöfn, and Kópasker, which is home to a shrimp processing plant.

FVFNTS

AKUREYRI

- · Local Museum Dav.
- Icelandic Museum Day.
- · National Arts of Akureyri.
- · Automobile Days in Akureyri.
- · Aviation Day in Akureyri.
- · Arctic Open, Intern. Midnight Sun Golf Tournament.
- · Sundays in July: Akureyrarkirkja church, summer concerts. Free entrance.
- · Hiking Week in Akurevri.
- · Iceland Summer Games.
- · Akureyri Town Festival.

EYJAFJARÐARSVEIT

• August 4-7: Handicraft Fair in Hrafnagil School.

GRENIVÍK

- · The Museum Day in Eyjafjörður
- · Summer workdays at the old Laufás farm
- · Market Day at the old Laufás farm
- · Family festival in Grenivík
- · Advent workday in the old farm at Laufás

NORÐUR-ÞINGEYJARSÝSLA/TJÖRNES

- Aug. 12: Jökulsárhlaup, a run through Jökulsárgliúfur canvon.
- · Aug. 19: Sléttugangan, a walk from Raufarhöfn around Melrakkaslétta plains.

RAUFARHÖFN

- Aug. 13: Sléttugangan, hike around Melrakkaslétta plains.
- · First weekend in Oct.: Ram's Day, the exhibition and sale of rams from the neighbouring communities.
- Oct · Culture Week

ÞÓRSHÖFN

· Mid-July: Kátir dagar: Merry Days family festival, throughout Langanesbyggð.

FIALL ARYGGÐ

Population: 1,000-2,500

Fjallabyggð is a municipality that spans the northernmost part of the Tröllaskagi peninsula, between Skagafjörður and Eyiafjörður fjords, and is home to the fishing towns of Siglufjörður and Ólafsfjörður. Tall mountains separate the villages but two new tunnels, opened in 2010, now connect them; only 15km of road separate the two towns. Fjallabyggð has many enjoyable hiking trails and there are different types to suit all skill levels. Some are ancient routes that Icelandic people walked for 1,000 years, but there are also newer, easier pathways that are worth exploring. Thanks to a recent project, the trails on Tröllaskagi are well marked and there is an excellent hiking map for sale that was made by the Hólaskóli school.

SIGI UFJÖRÐUR

Population: 1,000-2,500

Siglufjörður is located in a fjord of the same name, at the northernmost point of the Tröllaskagi peninsula. It was a major centre for the fishing industry in the first half of the 20th century because of its excellent harbour. At one point, it was the largest herring-processing centre in Iceland, with its population peaking at 3.100. The town was guite isolated until a tunnel was built through Mt. Strákar in 1967, the first of its kind in Iceland. Two new tunnels in 2010 have further connected the town. The Herring Era Museum commemorates the "herring years," and showcases interesting artifacts from days past. Siglufjörður is known for its vibrant artist community, and there are several art galleries in town.



Thanks to the underground geothermal heat, the seawater in GeoSea is warm and comfortable. The mineral-rich water will caress your skin while you can enjoy the view of the mountain range to the west, Skjálfandi Bay beneath the cliffs and the Arctic Circle itself on the horizon. In the modern yet welcoming dining area you can enjoy light refreshments.

SUMMER OPENING

From 1. May - 30. September From 10:00 - 24:00 Guests are able to enter the baths until 23:30.

WINTER OPENING

From 1. October - 30. April From 12:00 - 22:00 Guests are able to enter the baths until 21:30.



Vitaslóð 1
640 Húsavík, Iceland
Look for the yellow lighthouse.









FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

• Town Hall, Gránugata 24, tel. 464-9100.

SERVICES:

- Police, Gránugata 4-6, tel. 444-2860.
- · Post office, Aðalgata 24, tel. 467-1107.
- · ATM Arion Bank, Túngata 3, tel. 444-7000.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Healthcare centre, Hvanneyrarbraut, tel. 460-2100.
- · Pharmacy Siglufjarðar Apótek, Aðalgata 34, tel. 467-2222.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Sigló Hótel, Snorragata 3, tel. 461-7730.
- · Guesthouse Siglunes, Lækjargata 10, tel. 467-1222.
- The Herring House, guesthouse, tel. 868-4200.
- · Sigló Harbour Hostel, Tjarnargata 14, tel. 897-1394.

CAMPING

- By Snorragata in the centre of town, tel. 464-9100.
- By Stóra-Bola, tel. 464-9100.

EATING OUT:

- Rauðka, Gránugata 19, tel. 461-7730.
- · Hannes Boy Café, Gránugata 23, tel. 461-7734.
- Harbour House Café, Gránugata 5b, tel. 659-4809.
- Torgið, Aðalgata 32, tel. 467-2323.
- · Siglunes Guesthouse, Lækjargata 10, tel. 467-1222.
- · Aðalbakarí, Aðalgata 28, tel. 467-1720.
- Olís, Tjarnargata 6, tel. 467-1415.

GROCERIES:

- Vínbúðin liquor store, Eyrargata 25, tel. 467-1262.
- Kjörbúðin, Suðurgata 2-4, tel. 467-1987.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- The Icelandic Herring Era Museum, Snorragata, tel. 467-1604.
- The Icelandic Poetry Centre, Túngata 5, tel. 865-6543.
- Siglufjörður District Library, Gránugata 24, tel. 464-9120.
- Rev. Bjarni Þorsteinsson's Folk Music Centre, Maðdömuhús, Norðurgata 1, tel. 896-8997/467-2300. folkmusic.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Sports centre of Fjallabyggð, Hvanneyrarbraut 52, tel. 464-9170.
- · Golf at Hóll, nine-hole golf course.
- · Sports centre by Hóll, tel. 467-1284.
- Skiing area in Skarðsdalur, tel. 467-1806/878-3399.

ACTIVITIES:

- · Whale watching, tel. 822-0258.
- Sea Angling Rauðka, tel. 467-1550.
- · Top Mountaineering, tel. 898-4939.

GAS STATIONS:

• Olís, Tjarnargata 6, tel. 467-1415.

ÓLAFSFJÖRÐUR

Population: 500-1,000

Ólafsfjörður is in a fjord of the same name that extends into the Tröllskagi peninsula. Settled at the turn of the 19th century, it has a good natural harbour, which is valuable, since the economy is based on the fishing industry. Iceland's first memorial to drowned seamen was constructed there in 1940, near the local church. There is a 3.5km long tunnel through Mt. Ólafsfjarðarmúli that connects Ólafsfjörður to Dalvík, and two 11km long tunnels that connect it to Siglufjörður.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

- Fjallabyggð Library, Ólafsvegur 4, tel. 464-9215.
- Joe's Guesthouse, Strandgata 2, tel. 466-4044.

SERVICES:

- Post office, Aðalgata 14, tel. 444-7000.
- ATM Arion Bank, Aðalgata 14, tel. 444-7000.

HEALTHCARE:

Healthcare centre, Hornbrekka, tel. 466-4050.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Brimnes Hótel, Bylgjubyggð 2, tel. 466-2400.
- Tröllakot, tel. 847-4331.
- Joe's Guesthouse, Strandgata 2, tel. 466-4044.
- Tindaöxl Ski Lodge, tel. 466-2527/878-1977.

CAMPING:

• By the sports centre, tel. 464-9250.

EATING OUT:

- Brimnes Hótel, Bylgjubyggð 2, tel. 466-2400.
- Olís, Bylgjubyggð 2, tel. 466-2272.
- · Höllin, Hafnargata, tel. 466-4000.
- Kaffi Klara, Strandgata 2, tel. 466-4044.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Fjallabyggð's Nature Museum, Aðalgata 14, 466-2651.
- District Library and Archives, Ólafsvegur 4, tel. 464-9215.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Sports centre of Fjallabyggð, tel. 464-9250.
- Skeggjabrekkuvöllur, nine-hole golf course, tel. 466-2611.
- Tindaöxl skiing area, tel. 878-1977.

ACTIVITIES:

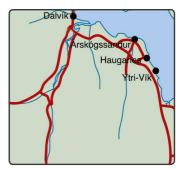
- Viking Heliskiing, Þverá river in Ólafsfjörður, tel. 846-1674.
- Arctic Freeride, Ólafsfjarðarmúla, tel. 859-8800.
- Amazing Mountains, Hrannarbyggð 14, tel. 863-2406.

GAS STATIONS:

• Olís, Bylgjubyggð 2, tel. 466-2272.



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The Icelandic Herring Museum

in Siglufjörður



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The House of Shark-Jörundur

in Hrísey Island



Old fishing equipment and other things relating to the island in various ways.

www.hrisey.net

Memorial Museum in Akureyri



The former home of Davíð Stefánsson, one of Iceland's most loved poets. Unchanged since the time of his death in 1964. www.minjasafnid.is

Nonni's House

in Akureyri



A museum in memory of children's book author Jón Sveinsson, "Nonni," in one of Akureyir's oldest buildings. www.nonni.is

The Akureyri Museum

in Akureyri



Unique exhibitions from the Settlement to modern times. Nominated for the Icelandic Museum Award 2008. www.minjasafnid.is

The Icelandic Aviation Museum

in Akureyri



Preserving the history of aviation in Iceland from its beginning.
www.flugsafn.is

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HRÍSFY

Population: 100-500

Hrísey is Iceland's second largest island, after Heimaey island in the south. Most of the population make their living by small-boat fishing. Ferry Sævar connects Hrísey with the mainland. It runs every 1-2 hours, and a one-way trip takes around 15 minutes. Activities on the island include walks, a hay cart trip, a guided lighthouse tour, and a visit to Orkulind – a grassy hollow that is said to be a source of energy originating from nearby Mt. Kaldbakur. Alternatively, one can simply enjoy the peace and quiet of the island, its rich birdlife, and the surrounding views. Hrísey is a good whale watching spot, as whales swim very close to the island.

FACILITIES

ACCOMMODATION:

· Wave Guesthouse, tel, 695-2277.

CAMPING:

• By the sports centre, tel. 461-2255.

EATING OUT:

Verbúðin 66. tel. 467-1166.

GROCERIES:

Hríseyjarbúðin, tel. 466-1750.

SHOPPING:

Perlan Handicrafts, tel. 861-1305.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- The Shark Museum, in the old house of "Jörundur, the shark-catcher."
- Holt Folk Museum, the house of Alda Halldórsdóttir, tel. 695–0077

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

• Swimming pool, tel. 461-2255.

ACTIVITIES:

- Sightseeing tour on tractor, tel. 695-0077.
- Walking tours to the lighthouse, 1.5-2-hour tours, tel. 695-0077.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Sæfari, scheduled ferry service between Dalvík, Hrísey, and Grímsey. tel. 458-8900/458-8970.
- Sævar, scheduled ferry service between Árskógssandur and Hrísey, tel. 695-5544.

DALVÍK

Population: 1,000-2,500

Dalvík is a municipality located on the Tröllaskagi peninsula. There are three villages in the municipality: Hauganes, Árskógssandur, and Dalvík, the final being the largest. The primary economic activities are fishing, tourism, industry, and trade. In the summer of 1934, a large earthquake damaged most houses in the town and its vicinity.

The Hvoll Folk Museum of Dalvík has rooms dedicated to two locals: Jóhann Pétursson (1913-1984) — or Jóhann the Giant — believed to be the tallest-ever Icelander at 2.34m; and Dr. Kristján Eldjárn (1916-1982), one-time president of Iceland.

There are many interesting walks and hikes of varying distances to take from Dalvík. A popular walk, suitable for everyone, goes along the old road around Ólafsfjarðarmúli bluff, which offers a panoramic view. Longer trails include the old route over Heljardalsheiði heath, linking Svarfaðardalur valley and the episcopal seat Hólar in Hjaltadalur, as well as a choice of three old travelling paths leading to the neighbouring town of Ólafsfjörður: via Reykjaheiði, Grímubrekkur, and Drangaleið.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

· Culture House Berg, Goðabraut, tel. 823-8660.

SERVICES:

- · Police, Gunnarsbraut 6, tel. 444-2865.
- · Post office, Hafnarbraut 26, tel. 466-1100.
- ATM Sparisjóður, tel. 460-1800.

HEALTHCARE:

- Healthcare centre, Hólavegur, tel. 466-1500.
- Pharmacy Lyf og heilsa, Goðabraut 4, tel. 466-1234.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hótel Dalvík, Skíðabraut, tel. 466-3395, hoteldalvik.com
- · Dalvík Hostel Gimli, tel. 699-6616. vegamot.net
- Húsabakki Guesthouse, Svarfaðardalur, tel. 859-7811. husabakki.is
- Syðri-Hagi, Árskógsströnd, tel. 466-1981. sydrihagi.is
- Ytri-Vík Lodae. Árskóasströnd. tel. 894-2967. sporttours.is
- Raven Hill Lodge, Klængshóll, Skíðadalur, tel. 858-3000. ravenhilllodge.com

CAMPING

- Dalvík campsite at the sports centre, Svarfaðarbraut, tel. 460-4940. dalvikurbyggd.is
- · Húsabakki, Svarfaðardalur, tel. 466-1551/859-7811. husabakki.is
- Árskógur community centre, Árskógsströnd, tel. 460-4900.

EATING OUT:

- Gregor's Pub, Goðabraut 3, tel. 466-1213.
- Við Höfnina, Hafnarbraut 5, tel. 464-2040. dallas.is
- Tomman,, Hafnarbraut 21, tel. 466-1559.
- Basalt Café + Bistro, Goðabraut 2, tel. 868-1202.

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- Olís, Skíðabraut, tel. 466-1832.
- Kaffihús Bakkabræðra Gísli-Eiríkur-Helgi, Grundargata 1, Dalvík, tel. 666-3399.
- Kaldi Brewery, Öldugata 22, Árskógssandur, tel. 466-2505.

GROCERIES:

- Vínbúðin liguor store, Hafnarbraut 7, tel. 466-3430.
- Kjörbúðin, Hafnartorg, tel. 466-3111.

SHOPPING:

- Glergallerí Máni, Ásgarður, tel. 869-8702.
- Draumablá, Hafnarbraut 7, tel. 620-9268.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Hvoll Folk Museum, tel. 460-4928. dalvikurbyggd.is/
- Berg Culture House, tel. 460-4930. dalvikurbyggd.is/bokasafn

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Dalvík's sports centre. Svarfaðarbraut 34. tel. 460-4940.
- Swimming pool, Svarfaðarbraut 34, tel. 460-4940/863-4369.
- Arnarholtsvöllur, nine-hole golf course, Svarfaðardalur, tel. 466-1204.
- Ski area with ski lift, Böggvisstaðafjall, tel. 466-1010. skidalvik.
- · Climbing wall, Víkurröst, tel. 460-4900.

ACTIVITIES:

· Sport Tours, a variety of trips available, tel. 894-2967.

sporttours.is

- · Raven Hill Lodge, guided hikes, yoga and meditation, nature study, downhill skiing, Skíðadalur, tel. 858-3000.
- · Whale Watching Hauganes, whale watching, fishing, tel. 867-0000, whales, is
- · Arctic Sea Tours, whale watching, sea fishing, and birdwatching from Dalvík, tel. 771-7600. arcticseatours.is
- · Bergmenn, downhill skiing excursions, heli-skiing, mountain hikes, and climbing, tel. 698-9870.
- Syðri-Hagi, Árskógsströnd, boat rental and fishing, tel. 466-1961/866-7968.
- · Tvistur, horseback riding tours, Hringsholt, tel. 861-9631/466-1679

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Birdwatching houses at Hrísatiörn and Tiarnartiörn.
- · Svarfaðardalur valley, educational nature walks from Olís gas station and Húsabakki guesthouse.

TRANSPORTATION:

- · Sæfari, scheduled ferry service between Dalvík, Hrísey, and Grímsey. tel. 458-8900/458-8970.
- Sævar, scheduled ferry service between Árskógssandur and Hrísev. tel. 695-5544.

GAS STATIONS:

- Olís, Skíðabraut 21, tel. 466-1832.
- N1, Sunnutún, tel. 466-1236.

Vaðlaheiði tunnel Remember to pay and avoid extra charges

Pay toll online at www.tunnel.is

For further information contact tunnel helpdesk:

+354 464 1790







HÖRGÁRSVFIT

Population: 500-1,000

Hörgársveit municipality is located north of Akureyri, on the western shore of Eyjafjörður fjord. The municipality consists of a series of small, individual settlements extending across the rural area north of Akureyri. In addition, small residential areas have begun to form at Lónsbakki and Hjalteyri. Pelamerkurskóli school at Laugaland is the district's compulsory school and the Pelamörk sports centre and swimming pool are located next to it. The small village of Fagriskógur is the birthplace of one of Iceland's best-loved poets, Davíð Stefánsson (1895-1964), and a memorial statue has been erected there.

Hjalteyri is a village on the Galmaströnd shoreline on the west bank of Eyjafjörður fjord. It became an official trading post in 1897, built up a large herring industry in the early 20th century, and later practiced fish farming for many years. These days, it's a popular whale watching area.

Hraun in Öxnadalur is the birthplace of poet Jónas Hallgrímsson (1807-1845). There is a residence for writers and scholars, as well as exhibition rooms in memory of Jónas. Most of the farmland has been turned into a public park.

Gásir is a major historical site located at the southern edge of the Hörgá river delta. From the time of settlement until the 16th century, it was an important trading centre.

Möðruvellir in Hörgárdalur is a church, located at the mouth of Hörgárdalur valley, and this is one of the main historical sites in North Iceland. A monastery was established there in 1296, the regional governor lived there from 1797-1874, and it was an educational centre from 1880-1902. Writer Jón (Nonni) Sveinsson (1857-1944) was born there, and poets Bjarni Thorarensen (1786-1841) and Davíð Stefánsson (1895-1964) are buried in its cemetery.

FACILITIES

ACCOMMODATION:

- Arnarnes Paradís, tel. 894-5358.
- Skjaldarvík Travel Service, tel. 552-5200. skjaldarvík.is
- Guesthouse Pétursborg, tel. 461-1811.
- Fagravík and Sílastaðir, summerhouses, tel. 462-1924/690-0006.
- Guesthouse Lónsá, tel. 462-5037/895-1685.
- · Apartment Hótel Hjalteyri, tel. 897-7070.

EATING OUT:

- · Apartment Hótel Hjalteyri, tel. 897-7070.
- Skjaldarvík Travel Service, tel. 552-5200. skjaldarvik.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

Jónasarlaug swimming pool, Þelamörk, tel. 462-4718.

ACTIVITIES:

· Skjaldarvík Travel Service, tel. 552-5200. skjaldarvík.is

GRÍMSEY

Population: 0-100

The island of Grímsey is a very unique place. The small settlement is an outpost in the north with abundant fishing waters and colourful birdlife, like the Atlantic puffin. It's a popular tourist destination because the arctic circle runs through the island, and it's possible to cross the dividing line. The island is 5.3km2 in size and the distance to the mainland is 41km. The main industries are fishing and fish production. The Sæfari ferry connects the island to the mainland with trips three days a week year-round. A one-way trip takes about three hours. Air Iceland Connect flies to Grímsey.

FACILITIES

SERVICES:

Post office, Gallerí Sól, tel. 467-3190.

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Guesthouse Básar, tel. 467-3103.
- Kvenfélagið Baugur, group accommodation, tel. 467-3138.
- Gullsóll Guesthouse, Sólberg, tel. 467-3190. gullsol.is

EATING OUT:

- Restaurant Krían, tel. 467-3112.
- Gallery Sól, café, Sólberg, tel. 467-3190. gullsol.is

GROCERIES:

Búðin, tel, 467-3102.

SHOPPING:

• Gallery Sól, Sólberg, tel. 467-3190.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

• Swimming pool, tel. 467-3155/897-3123.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Sæfari, scheduled ferry service between Dalvík, Hrísey, and Grímsey. tel. 458-8900/458-8970.
- Air Iceland Connect, flights to and from Grímsey, tel. 460-7000.
- Norlandair, scheduled flights and excursions from Akureyri to Grímsey, tel. 414-6960.

AKUREYRI

Population: > 10,000

Akureyri, the largest town outside of the Greater Reykjavík area, is situated on the southwestern side of Eyjafjörður fjord. It's an old trading station, the oldest references dating back to 1602. Today, Akureyri is the centre for trade, services, and communications in North Iceland. In addition, there is a long history of processing marine and agricultural products. It's also an educational centre, with two secondary schools, a music school, an art school, and a university.



AKUREYRI

Akureyri has the greatest selection of goods and services outside of the Capital Area, and distances within the city are short, which makes exploring it easy. Akureyri takes pride in its selection of cafés and restaurants, and its pubs and clubs make for a vibrant nightlife. Fitness studios and health spas in town offer excellent options for those interested in physical exertion or relaxation and pampering.

Akureyri has a variety of museums and galleries that hold regular exhibitions. Among these are the Akureyri Art Museum and the Akureyri Museum, which offer a diverse summer programme, with activities, musical entertainment in the evenings, and an exhibition at the Nonnahús museum. Numerous galleries featuring events and exhibitions are located in Listagil, and the Akureyri Theatre Company hosts a compelling line-up of plays during its winter season.

Lystigarðurinn Public Park and Botanical Garden is one of the most popular tourist spots during the summer. The outdoor recreation area in Kjarnaskógur and the Scouts' area in Hamrar are suitable for all age groups, with walking and hiking paths, a playground, and picnic areas. Akureyri is the main winter sports site in Iceland and it has one of the best ski slopes in the country. Among other leisure activities are guided hiking trips, birdwatching, and bike, boat, and horseback riding tours.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

• Culture House Hof, Strandgata 12, tel. 450-1050. visitakureyri.is

SERVICES:

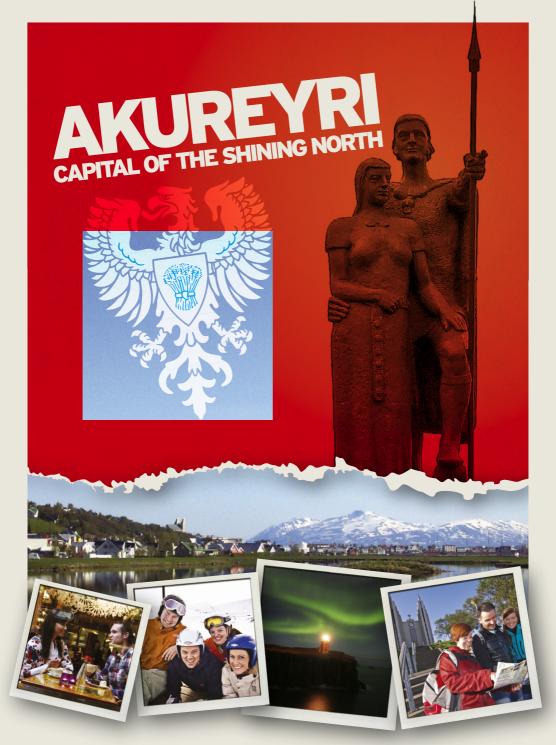
- · Police. Þórunnarstræti 138. tel. 444-2800.
- Post office. Strandgata 3, tel. 580-1200.
- · Bank Íslandsbanki, Skipagata 14, tel. 440-4000.
- Bank Landsbankinn, Strandgata 1, tel. 410-4000.
- ATM Arion Bank, Geislagata 5 and Glerártorg, tel. 444-7000.
- Bank Sparisjóður, Glerárgata 36, tel. 462-4000.

HEALTHCARE:

- Akurevri Regional Hospital, Evrarlandsvegur, tel. 463-0100.
- · Healthcare centre, Hafnarstræti 99, tel. 460-4600.
- Pharmacy Apótekarinn, Hafnarstræti 95, tel. 460-3452.
- · Pharmacy Lyf og heilsa, Glerártorg, tel. 461-5800.
- Pharmacy Apótekarinn, Hrísalundur 5, tel. 462-2444.
- Pharmacy Apótek Hagkaups, Furuvellir 17, tel. 461-3920.
- Pharmacy Akureyrarapótek, Kaupangur, Mýrarvegur, tel. 460-9999

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hótel KEA, Kea Hotels, Hafnarstræti 87-89, tel. 460-2000. keahotels.is
- Hotel Norðurland, Kea Hotels, Geislagata 7, tel. 462-2600.



www.visitakureyri.is



- Hotel Edda Plus, Hrafnagilsstræti, tel. 444-4900.
- Icelandair Hotel Akureyri, Þingvallastræti 32, tel. 444-4000/518-1000.
- Hótel Akureyri, Hafnastræti 67, tel. 462-5600.
- · Hótel Kjarnalundur, Kjarnaskógur, tel. 460-0060.
- Gula Villan, Þingvallastræti 14, Brekkugata 8, tel. 896-8464. qulavillan.is
- Guesthouse Súlur, Þórunnarstræti 93, Klettastígur 6, tel. 461-1160
- Sólgarðar Guesthouse, Brekkugata 6, tel. 461-1133.
- Guesthouse Hrafninn, Brekkugata 4, tel. 661-9050. hrafninn.is
- Youth Hostel, Stórholt 1, tel. 462-3657/894-4299. akureyrihostel.is
- · Akurinn, Brekkugata 27a, tel. 461-2500. akurinn@akurinn.is
- Guesthouse Brekkusel, Byggðavegur 97, tel. 895-1260. brekkusel.is
- Akureyri Backpackers, Hafnarstræti 98, tel. 578-3700. akureyribackpackers.is
- Centrum Guesthouse, Hafnarstræti 102, tel. 892-9838. centrumhostel.com
- Guesthouse 6 Hrafnar, Hrafnagilsstræti 6, tel. 770-2020.
- · Sæluhús, cottages, Sunnutröð, tel. 618-2800.
- · Amma Guesthouse, Skólastígur 5, tel. 777-0200.
- · Hvítahúsið gistiheimili, Gilsbakkavegur 13, tel. 869-9890.
- Glerá Guesthouse, Hlíðarfjallsvegur, tel. 462-5723.
- Gista Apartments, Gránufélagsgata, tel. 694-4314.
- Gisting Akureyri, apartments, Langholti 11, tel. 858-7900.
- Íbúðagisting Akureyri, apartments, Hamratúni, tel. 892-6515.
- Helgi magri, apartments, Helgamagrastræti 30, tel. 820-1950/821-3278.
- Margrétar, apartments, Kotárgerði 29, tel. 462-5668/849-9812.
- Centre Apartment Hotel, Brekkugata 1b, tel. 571-7201/ 660-0700.
- Hálönd v/Hlíðarfjallsveg, tel. 460-6100. halond.is
- Hrímland, accomodation in the highlands, Hlíðarfjall, tel. 860-8160.
- · Apartment, Kaupvangsstræti 19, tel. 663-5791.
- Our Guesthouse, Hafnarstræti 82, tel. 461-1200.
- Lava Apartments, Geislagata 3b, tel. 461-1111.

CAMPING:

- By Þórunnarstræti, tel. 462-3379.
- Hamrar, north of Kjarnaskógur, tel. 461-2265/461-2264.

EATING OUT:

- 1862 Nordic Bistro, Culture House Hof, tel. 466-1862.
- Ak-Inn, Hörgárbraut, tel. 464-6474.
- Akureyri Backpackers, Hafnarstræti 98, tel. 571-9050.
- Bautinn Grill, Hafnarstræti 92, tel. 462-1818.
- Taste, Skipagata 2, tel. 578-6400.
- Bláa Kannan, Hafnarstræti 96, tel. 461-4600.
- Brauðbúðin, Hafnarstræti 108, tel. 460-5930.
- Bryggjan, Strandgata 49, tel. 440-6600.
- Brynja, ice cream parlour, Aðalstræti 3, tel. 462-4478.
- · Café Amour, Ráðhústorg 9, tel. 788-7778.
- Café Laut, Lystigarðinum, tel. 461-4601.
- DJ Grill, Strandgata 11, tel. 462-1800.
- Domino's Pizza, takeaway, Undirhlíð 2, tel. 581-2345.
- · Greifinn, Glerárgata 20, tel. 460-1600.
- Hamborgarafabrikkan, Hafnarstræti 87-89, tel. 575-7575.

- Hlöllabátar, Ráðhústorg 1, tel. 462-7200.
- Hótel Edda, in the upper-secondary school, tel. 444-4900.
- Hótel KEA, Múlaberg, Hafnarstræti 87-89, tel. 460-2000.
- Icelandair Aurora, Þingvallastræti 32, tel. 518-1000.
- Indian Curry Hut, Hafnarstræti 100b, tel. 461-4242.
- Ísgerðin, ice cream parlour, Kaupangur, tel. 469-4000.
- Sprettur-Inn Pizza, Kaupangur, tel. 464-6464.
- Kaffi Ilmur, Ingimarshúsi on Hafnarstræti, tel. 571-6444.
- Keilan, Hafnarstræti 26, tel. 461-1126.
- · Kaffi Torg, Glerártorg, tel. 462-2200.
- · Krua Siam, Thai restaurant, Strandgata 13, tel. 466-3800.
- Kung Fu Express, sticks + sushi, Ráðhústorg, tel. 462-1400.
- Pizza Smiðjan, Hafnarstræti 92, tel. 461-5858.
- · Leiru-Nesti, Leiruvegur, tel. 461-3008.
- Litla kaffistofan, Tryggvabraut 12, tel. 462-2344.
- N1 Kiosk, Hörgárbraut, tel. 461-3012.
- Rub23, Kaupvangsstræti 6, tel. 462-2223.
- · Símstöðin, Hafnarstræti 102, tel. 462-4448.
- Strikið, Skipagata 14, tel. 462-7100.
- Subway, Kaupvangstræti 1, tel. 461-3400.
- Te og kaffi, Eymundsson Hafnarstræti 91-93, tel. 540-2180.
- Örkin hans Nóa, Hafnarstræti 22, tel. 461-2100.
- Akurevri Fish Restaurant, tel. 414-6050.
- Berlin,t café, Skipagata 4, tel. 772-5061.
- T-Bone steikhús, steakhouse, Brekkugata 3, tel. 469-4020.
- Shanghai, Chinese restaurant, Gránufélagsgata 10, tel. 562-6888.
- · Serrano, Ráðhústorg 7, tel. 519-6918.
- · Götubarinn, Hafnarstræti 95, tel. 462-4747.

GROCERIES:

- · Hagkaup, Grenivellir 26, tel. 563-5256.
- Bónus, Langholt 1, tel. 527-9000.
- Nettó, Glerártorg, tel. 460-3200.
- Nettó, Hrísalundur 5, 460-0389.
- Krambúð, Byggðavegur 98, tel. 460-0376.
- · Krambúð, Borgarbraut 600, tel. 461-7900.
- Vínbúðin liguor store, Hólabraut 16, tel. 462-1655.

SHOPPING:

- Rósenborg, handicraft and hobby centre, Skólastígur 2, tel. 460-1244.
- · Sveinbjörg Design, Njarðarnes 4, tel. 461-3449.
- Margrét's Ceramics Workshop, Gránufélagsgata 48, tel. 462-5668.
- · Hvítspói, gallery and art studio, Brekkugata 3b, tel. 466-2064.
- Linda Óla, gallery and art studio, tel. 862-4448.
- · Laufabrauðssetur, Strandgata 43, tel. 869-4341. laufabraud.is

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- District Library, Brekkugata 17, tel. 460-1250.
- Art Museum of Akureyri, Kaupvangsstræti 24, tel. 461-2610.
- Akureyri Museum, Aðalstræti 58, tel. 462-4162. museum.is
- Nonnahús, memorial house to writer "Nonni," Aðalstræti 54, tel. 462-3555. nonni.is
- Friðbjarnarhús, historical museum, Aðalstræti 46, tel. 863-4531.
- Davíðshús, home of poet Davíð Stefánsson, Bjarkarstígur 6, tel. 462-4162.

AKURFYRI BY ÞÓRUNNARSTRÆTI

+354 462-3379

hamrar@hamrar.is - www.hamrar.is





AKUREYRI - HAMRAR AT KJARNASKÓGUR

+354 461-2264

hamrar@hamrar.is - www.hamrar.is



Open all year.































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- · Sigurhæðir, home of poet Matthías Jochumsson, Eyrarlandsvegur 3, tel. 466-2609.
- The Industry Museum, Krókeyri 2, tel. 462-3600.
- · The Icelandic Aviation Museum, Akureyri Airport, tel. 460-4400. flugsafn.is
- The Motorcycle Museum, Krókevri 2, tel. 866-3500.
- Norðurslóð Into the Arctic, Strandgata 53, tel. 588-5090.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- · Swimming pool, hot tubs, sauna, steam room, Þingvallastræti 21. tel. 461-4455.
- · Glerá swimming pool, Höfðahlíð, tel. 462-1539.
- Jaðarsvöllur, 18-hole golf course, tel. 462-2974.
- · Hlíðarfjall, ski resort, tel. 462-2280.
- · Skating rink, Naustavegur 1, tel. 461-2440.

ACTIVITIES:

- Sport tours, tel. 899-8000/894-2967. sporttours.is
- · Nonni Travel, day tours, flights, and sailing trips, Brekkugata 5, tel. 461-1841, nonnitravel.is
- Ferðafélag Akurevrar, Strandgata 23. tel. 462-2720.
- SBA-Norðurleið, day tours, Hafnarstræti 82, tel. 550-0700.
- Saga Travel, excursions, northern lights tours, tel. 558-8888.
- · Extreme Icelandic Adventure, mountain truck excursions, tel. 862-7988
- · Inspiration Iceland, adventure and wellness excursions for body and soul, tel. 865-9429.
- · The Traveling Viking, sightseeing in North Iceland, tel.
- Ambassador Whale Watching, Torfunesbryggja, tel. 462-6800. amhassador is
- Nökkvi, boat and kayak rental, tel. 864-5799/694-7509.
- Yoga, dog sledding, hiking tours, tel. 865-9429.
- Akureyri Whale Watching, Oddeyrarbót 2, tel. 497-1000.

- akurevriwhalewatching.is
- · Sailing with Húni II, tel. 848-4864.
- Mýflug, sightseeing flights, tel. 464-4400.
- Norlandair, sightseeing flights, tel. 414-6960.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- The Church of Akurevri, tel. 462-7700.
- Botanical garden, tel. 462-7487.
- · Kjarnaskógur, reforestation area, recreational area with running and hiking paths, children's playground, and barbecue facilities, tel. 462-4047. kjarnaskogur.is

TRANSPORTATION:

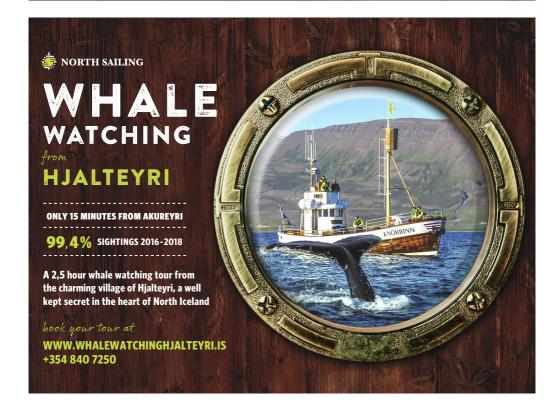
- · Air Iceland Connect, scheduled flights to various places in Iceland, tel. 460-7000.
- · Sterna, scheduled coach service between Akureyri and Reykjavík, tel. 551-1166. sternatravel.com
- · Scheduled boat journeys to Hrísey and Grímsey islands, further information from the tourist information centre, tel. 450-1050
- SBA-Norðurleið, scheduled coach service between Akurevri. Ásbyrgi, and Dettifoss, and to Reykjavík via highland route Kiölur, tel. 550-0720.
- · Car rental Bílaleiga Akureyrar, National Car Rental/Europcar, Tryggvabraut 12, tel. 461-6000.
- Car renta Hertz/Icelandair, at the airport, tel. 461-1005.
- Car rental Budget, Hvannarvellir 14, tel. 660-0629.
- Car rental Avis. Hvannarvellir 14. tel. 824-4010.
- Car rental Dollar Thrifty/Saga, Tryggvabraut 5. www.thrifty.is

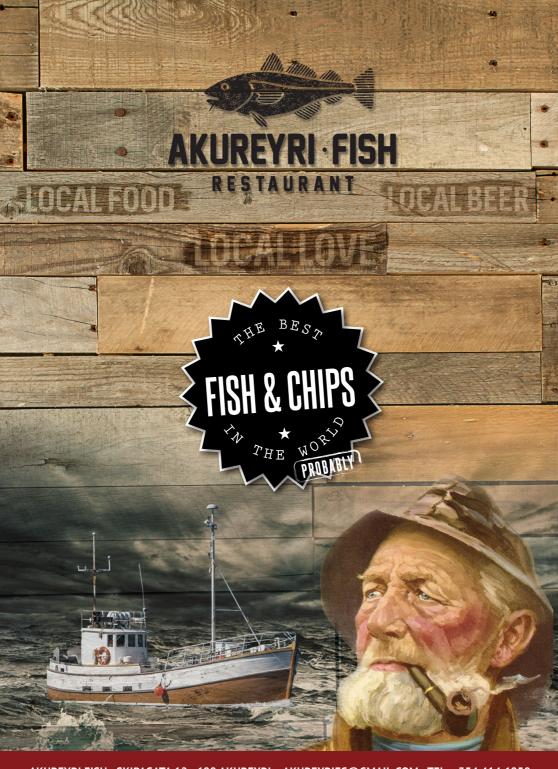
GAS STATIONS:

- Orkan, Furuvellir 17, tel. 444-3033.
- Orkan X, Kjarnagata 2, tel. 444-3029.
- N1, Hörgárbraut, tel. 461-3012.
- ÓB. Hlíðarbraut, tel. 515-1141.



Swimmingpool | Adress: Skólatröð 9, 601 Akureyri | Phone: +354 464-8140







AKLIRFYRI

EYJAFJARÐARSVEIT

Population: 1.000-2.500

Eyjafjarðarsveit is a verdant and densely populated area to the south of Akureyri, with a number of historical sites. Viking warrior Helgi Eyvindarson settled in Eyjafjörður and built his farm in Kristnes

Sightseeing spots include several churches, Sverrir Hermannsson's Sundry Collection at Leyningshólar, and The Christmas Garden, where you can buy Christmas decorations and gifts year-round. The District Offices are in Syðra-Laugaland.

Hrafnagil was a chieftain's estate and church site long ago, as well as the scene of an infamous act of revenge committed on Christmas Day 1258, at the height of Iceland's civil war.

Grund is a major historical site and was home to one of the main families involved in Iceland's civil war. The church there, built in 1905 by Magnús Sigurðsson, is one of the most splendid examples of rural ecclesiastical architecture in Iceland.

Leyningshólar is an area of glacial formations (moraines and hillocks) in western Eyjafjörður. Brushwood and scattered clumps of trees are likely relics of a large forest that is referenced in ancient sources. The wooded area was fenced in and protected by the Eyjafjörður Forestry Society in the 1940s and is now gradually recovering from erosion. Below the hills is a small lake, Tjarnarqerðisvatn, and beside it is an ancient grave

known as Völvuleiði (Prophetess' Grave).

Möðruvellir in Eyjafjörður is a church site that was once home to Guðmundur Eyjólfsson "The Powerful," one of the most powerful chieftains in Iceland during the Saga Age. He was said to have owned 120 cows and had more than 100 farmhands working for him. The present-day church, built in 1848, contains many interesting artifacts, including an alabaster altar façade.

Munkaþverá used to be, and still is, an important church site and farm. Many leading figures in Icelandic history were born there, one of which was a powerful man named Glúmur Eyjólfsson, known for his tendency to kill people, as described in *Viga-Glúms Saga*. There was also a monastery on the site, dating from 1155, but it was abolished during the Reformation in 1550. The present church was built in 1844. The cemetery is said to contain the body of Sighvatur Sturluson (1170-1238) from the Sturlung clan, who died along with his son during the battle of Örlygsstaðir in 1238. There is also a statue of the last Catholic bishop, Jón Arason (1484-1550), who lived and studied in the monastery.

Saurbær is an ancient church site. The present church, built in 1858 by Einar Thorlacius, is one of the few remaining examples of turf churches in Iceland.

FACILITIES

ACCOMMODATION.

- · Leifsstaðir, villa. www.nollur.is
- · Lamb-Inn Öngulstaðir, travel service, tel. 463-1500. lambinn.is
- Ytra Laugaland, tel. 463-1472.



GOĐAFOSS

- · Gistiheimilið Brúnalaug, tel. 848-8479.
- Silva Holidav Homes, Svðra-Laugaland, tel. 851-1360.
- Great View Guesthouse, Jódísarstaður 4, tel. 898-3306.

CAMPING:

· By Hrafnagil school, tel. 464-8140.

EATING OUT:

- Holtssels-Hnoss, fresh dairy products, Holtssel, tel. 861-2859.
- Kaffi Kú, Garður, tel. 867-3826.
- Silva, Syðra-Laugalandi, tel. 851-1360. silva@silva.is
- · Lamb-Inn Öngulsstöðum, tel. 463-1500.

SHOPPING:

 The Christmas Garden, Christmas decorations year-round, tel. 463-1433.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- · Dyngjan Listhús, art gallery, tel. 899-8770.
- Sverrir Hermannsson, Sundry Collection, Sólgarður, Saurbær, tel. 463-1261. smamunasafnid.is
- Tónlistarhúsið Laugarborg, music hall, tel. 463-1139.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool and sports centre by Hrafnagil school, tel. 464-8140.
- Þverá, nine-hole golf course, tel. 862-5516/893-1927.
- Leifsstaðir, nine-hole golf course, tel. 462-161/861-1610.

SUÐUR-ÞINGEYJARSÝSLA

Population: 100-500

Suður-Þingeyjarsýsla is a mountainous peninsula, located in Northeastern Iceland. Svalbarðseyri is a village on Svalbarðsströnd beach, along the eastern shore of Eyjafjörður fjord. Svalbarðseyri was once a trading centre, but today, its residents mainly provide services to and work in neighbouring communities. Laufás is a church site in Grýtubakkahreppur, near the Fnjóská estuary. Ancient heathen burial mounds have been unearthed there, and the present-day church, dating from 1865, contains many interesting artifacts. A protected turf farmhouse, dating from a similar time, houses a folk museum.

FACILITIES IN SVALBARÐSSTRÖND ACCOMMODATION:

- A Friendly Cottage, Smáratún 5, tel. 462-5043/893-6843.
- · Safnasafnið, apartments, tel. 461-4066.
- Hotel Natur. Þórisstaðir. tel. 467-1070.
- Sveinbjarnargerði Hotel, tel. 462-4500.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 Safnasafnið, the Icelandic Folk and Outsider Art Museum, Svalbarðsströnd, tel. 461-4066.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

Swimming pool near the school, tel. 461-2074.

GRFNIVÍK

Population: 100-500

Grenivík is a fishing village located on a cove of the same name, on the eastern shore of Eyjafjörður fjord. The community began developing during the 1910s and grew significantly after a new harbour was constructed in 1965. Grenivíkurkirkja church, built between 1885 and 1886, can be found in the village.

Grenivík village is located at the foot of Mt. Kaldbakur (1,173m). A number of easy and enjoyable hiking routes can be climbed on both Mt. Kaldbakur and Mt. Þengilhöfði, a 260m tall mountain south of Grenivík. Other mountains in the vicinity offer more daring hikes, such as Mt. Blámannshattur and Mt. Laufáshnjúkur.

Látraströnd is the vast peninsula between Eyjafjörður fjord and Skjálfandi bay, which was once densely populated, but is now deserted. Nearby area Svínárnes is accessible by regular vehicles, whereas jeeps are required to reach Grímsnes, that lies a bit farther down the shore. The whole area is ideal for longer hikes and enjoying the outdoors. A pleasant hiking path goes from Grenivík to Látrar, and then along Uxaskarð and Keflavíkurdalur out to Gjögurtá, the furthest point of the peninsula. There is a considerable amount of lowland in the inland regions, whereas the coastline has steep cliffs and is virtually impassable at Látur because of this. The mountain slopes are lined with brooks, some of which run through deep canyons, a rich history and is well known as the home of poet Látra-Björg (1716-1784).

FACILITIES IN GRENIVÍK AND GRÝTUBAKKAHREPPUR

SERVICES:

- Police, Þórunnarstræti 138, 600 Akurevri, tel. 464-7700.
- Post office, Jónsabúð, Túngata 3, tel. 463-3236.
- Bank Sparisjóður Höfðhverfinga, Túngata 3, tel. 460-9400.

HEALTHCARE:

· Healthcare centre, Túngata 2, tel. 460-4600.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Ártún, travel service, tel. 463-3267.
- Lómatiörn Accommodation, tel. 896-0847.
- · Grýtubakki Guesthouse, tel. 846-9699. grytubakki.is
- Grenivík Guesthouse, Miðgarðar 2, tel. 861-2899. grenivik@ grenivikquesthouse.is

CAMPING:

- By the school, tel. 414-5420.
- Ártún Travel service, tel. 892-3591/896-2275.

EATING OUT:

- Kontorinn, Túngata 1-3, tel. 571-7188.
- Ártún Travel service, tel. 892-3591/896-2275.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Grenivík Fishing Museum, tel. 895-8131. sjominjasafn.grenivik.
 is
- Laufás, church and folk museum in an old turf farmhouse, Grýtubakkahreppur, tel. 463-3196/895-3172. laufas@akmus.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool and fitness centre, by the school, tel. 414-5420
- Hvammur Golf Club, six-hole golf course, by the school, tel. 896-9927

ACTIVITIES:

- Pólarhestar, horseback riding tours, Grýtubakki II, tel. 463-3179. polarhestar.is
- Kaldbaksferðir, snowmobile trips up Mt. Kaldbakur, Réttarholt 2, tel. 867-3770. kaldbaksferdir.com
- · CapeTours, kayak tours in the area, tel. 666-8700. capetours.is

GAS STATIONS:

• N1, Túngata 3, tel. 861-6612.

OTHER SERVICES:

• Birnir, garage and tire service, Réttarholt, tel. 463-3172.

ÞINGEYJARSVEIT

The county of Þingeyjarsveit stretches from Víkurskarð pass in Eyjafjörður in the west to Hólasandur landmass in Mývatnssveit in the east, and from Flatey island in the north to Bárðarbunga volcano under Vatnajökull glacier in the south. Economic activities are focused on agriculture, fishing, forestry, tourism, and food production.

Flateyjardalur valley and Fjörður are areas on the peninsula between Eyjafjörður and Skjálfandi bay. Their shores and valleys were once populated but are now deserted. The region offers varied and interesting hiking options.

Vaglaskógur is a birch forest on the eastern side of Fnjóskadalur valley, covering an area of 300ha. It's one of Iceland's largest and most beautiful wooded areas, with birches as tall as 12m or more. The forestry station for Northeastern Iceland is located there. In the early 20th century the forest was in poor condition, but the Icelandic state bought the nearby farm of Vaglir and created a protected area to restore what remained of Vaglaskógur.

Porgeir's Church at Ljósavatn was erected to commemorate the adoption of Christianity in Iceland in the year 1000. It's named after Porgeir, a Viking chieftain at Ljósavatn and a lawspeaker, who was instrumental in the peaceful adoption of the new faith. The former bishop of Iceland, Karl Sigurbjörnsson, consecrated the church in 2000.

Goðafoss waterfall is along the Skjálfandafljót river, not far from the main road at Fosshóll farm in Bárðardalur valley. The waterfall can be viewed from several places and the river flows into a series of chasms beneath it. The name Goðafoss

(Waterfall of the Gods) was given after Þorgeir threw his pagan idols into the waterfall after ruling at the Þingvellir assembly that Iceland should adopt Christianity, signifying that he had taken up the faith himself.

Laugar in Reykjadalur is a school district that was established in 1925 and it has a brand-new sports centre. This is a highly active geothermal area.

Grenjaðarstaður is a church site and popular benefice in Aðaldalur. The present-day church was built in 1865 and there is a medieval rune stone in the cemetery. The oldest parts of the protected farmhouse date back to 1876 and today it houses a regional folk museum.

Mt. Geitafell is 432m tall and has a fine panoramic view, as well as a viewing dial at the summit. It's easy to reach the peak of Mt. Geitafell: either by following the old track from Laxárvirkjun hydropower station and then ascending the ridge north of the mountain; or by starting at Kísilsvegur (route 87) and trekking up the old path just north of Geitafell farm.

FACILITIES

SERVICES:

 Bank Sparisjóður Suður-Þingeyjarsýsla, Kjarni, Laugar, tel. 464-6200

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Guesthouse Draflastaðir, tel. 461-1726.
- Hótel Edda Plus, Stórutjarnir, tel. 444-4890.
- Guesthouse Fosshóll, by Goðafoss, tel. 464-3108.
- Guesthouse Kiðagil, Bárðardalur, tel. 464-3290.
- Guesthouse Narfastaðir, tel. 464-3300, farmhotel.is
- Hótel Laugar, tel. 466-4009. hotellaugar.is
- Stóru-Laugar, farm stays, tel. 464-2990.
- · Hotel Rauðaskriða, tel. 464-3504.
- Guesthouse Staðarhóll, tel. 464-3707.
- Guesthouse Brekka, Aðaldalur, tel. 464-3518.
- Hagi I, farm stays, tel, 464-3526.
- Þinghúsið Hraunbær, farm stays, tel. 464-3695.
- Garður Guesthouse. Aðaldalur. tel. 464-3569/862-4080.
- Klambrasel at Langavatn, tel. 464-3515.
- Árbót Hostel at Berg, tel. 464-3677/894-6477.
- Björg, tel. 464-3737/845-4800.

CAMPING:

- Hjarðarholt, tel. 462-6914.
- Vaglaskógur, tel. 860-4714.
- Systragil, Hróarsstaðir, tel. 860-2213.
- · Sigríðarstaðir, tel. 462-6731.
- By Guesthouse Fosshóll, tel. 464-3108.
- Hjalli, Reykjadalur, tel. 864-8790.
- Stóru-Laugar, tel. 464-2990.
- Staðarhóll, tel. 464-3707.

EATING OUT:

- Restaurant Goðafoss, tel. 464-3332.
- Guesthouse Fosshóll, tel. 464-3108.
- Guesthouse Kiðagil, Bárðardalur, tel. 464-3290.

• Dalakofinn at Laugar, tel. 464-3344.

GROCERIES:

- Goðafoss shop, Fosshóll, tel. 464-3261.
- Dalakofinn at Laugar, tel. 464-3344.

SHOPPING:

- Goðafoss Market, Fosshóll, tel. 464-3323.
- · Hlöðuhandverk Grenjaðarstað.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Ystafell Transportation Museum, tel. 464-3133. ystafell.is
- Grenjaðarstaður, church and folk museum in an old turf farmhouse. Aðaldalur. tel. 464-3688. husmus.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Illugastaðir swimming pool, tel. 462-6199.
- · Laugar swimming pool, tel. 862-3822/898-3414.
- Lundsgolf, nine-hole golf course, Lundi Fnjóskadalur, tel. 462-6477/893-054.

ACTIVITIES:

- Rúnar Óskarsson's Mountain Views, excursions in Northeast Iceland for groups and individuals, tel. 464-3940.
- Jón F. Sigurðsson, guided tours to Flateyjardalsheiði heath and to Flateyjardalur valley, tel. 462-6914/892-1638.

GAS STATIONS:

- N1, Fosshóll, tel. 464-3332.
- · N1, Laugar, tel. 898-3328.

MÝVATNSSVEIT

Mývatn is Iceland's fourth-largest lake, measuring 37.3km2. Frequent lava flows have caused the lake's irregular shape and its many islets and rock formations. It's also exceptionally shallow: it's no more than 4.5m deep at its deepest point. It's said that more species of ducks breed at this internationally renowned birdwatching site during the summer than anywhere else in the world. Particularly rich flora flourishes around the lake, which lies in the protection of Vatnajökull glacier. The southerly winds have lost their power by the time they reach Mývatn, and as a result the region enjoys some of the best summer weather in Iceland. There is very little surface flow in this area and most of the water in Mývatn originates from springs in the bed of the lake, which drains into the Laxá river.

Few areas offer such a wide spectrum of geological formations. Mývatn lies on an active volcanic belt where eruptions are frequent, with the most recent eruption occurring in 1984. The area is known for its intense geothermal activity, which is harnessed and provides heating for a large part of the region.

In 1974, laws were passed to ensure the protection of Mývatn and the Laxá river, including a 200m strip of land on either side of the river until it reaches the ocean. The purpose of these laws is to preserve the unique nature and biosphere of the area and to contribute to research.



DAILY ASKJA EXCURSIONS

















The spa Mývatn Nature Baths opened in July 2004 and it's called the "Blue Lagoon of the north." You can swim in the lagoon, book a massage, and experience steam baths.

A little bit farther down the road, is geothermal area Námaskarð. This area at the foot of Mt. Námafjall is reminiscent of Martian landscapes, with a distinct red colour. The different geysers and mud pools are worth a visit.

The Mývatn area offers countless walking trails ranging from one to three hours in length. One of these is the marked path from Reykjahlíð to Grjótagjá (the cave from Game of Thrones), and then up the side of Mt. Hverfjall. It's possible to return by the same route, or to follow a path through lava field Dimmuborgir, but transportation must be arranged to return to the starting point. Dimmuborgir is filled with unique and bizarre lava formations and is an area worth exploring. There is also a road that leads to the foot of Mt. Hverfjall (also known as Hverfell). Another enjoyable hike is to the peak of Mt. Vindbelgjarfjall, which has a panoramic view from the top. Lastly, there is a well-marked hiking trail leading from Reykjahlíð to Mt. Hlíðarfjall, and on to the parking lot below Leirhnjúkur lava field at Krafla.

Please note that it's prohibited to leave the main road between Vagnbrekka and Grímsstaðir between May 15 and July 20, so as not to disturb nesting birds.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

• The Mývatn Centre, Hraunvegur 8, Reykjahlíð, tel. 464-4390. visitmyvatn.is

SERVICES:

- · Post office. Helluhraun 3. tel. 464-6200.
- · ATM Sparisjóðurinn, Reykjahlíð, tel. 464-6200.



MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTAT

Located on road 85 between Akureyri and Húsavík. Open from may 15 to 30th

of September, from 10.00 - 20.00

Ystafell 3, 641 Húsavík, tel. 464 3133, 8611213. sverrir@islandia.is - www.ystafell.is



samqonguminjasafnid ystafelli

HEALTHCARE:

• Healthcare centre, Helluhraun 17, Reykjahlíð, tel. 464-0500.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Icelandair Hotel Mývatn, Reykjahlíð, tel. 594-2000. icelandairhotels.com
- Hótel Laxá by Mývatn, tel. 464-1900. hotellaxa.is
- Eldá Travel Service, Helluhraun 15, Revkiahlíð, tel. 464-4220.
- Hlíð Travel Service, Hraunbrún, tel. 464-4103. myvatnaccommodation.is
- Bjarg Travel Service, Bjarg, tel. 464-4240. ferdabjarg@simnet.is
- Private questhouse acc., Helluhraun 13, tel. 464-4132. helluhraun13@gmail.com
- Vogafjós, Vogar I, tel. 464-3800. vogafjosfarmresort.is.
- Vogar Travel Service, Vogar, tel. 464-4399. vogahraun.is
- · Hotel Gígur, Skútustaðir, tel. 464-4455. keahotels.is
- Skútustaðir II. tel. 464-4212.
- Skútustaðir Farmhouse, tel. 464-4212, skutustadir.com
- Sel-Hótel Mývatn, Skútustaðir, tel. 464-4164. myvatn.is
- Stöng, tel. 464-4252. stong.is
- Guesthouse Dimmuborgir, Geiteyjarströnd, tel. 464-4210. dimmuborair.is
- Hótel Reykjahlíð, Reykjahlíð, tel. 464-4142.

CAMPING:

- Bjarg Travel Service, Reykjahlíð, tel. 464-4240.
- Hlíð, Reykjahlíð, tel. 464-4103.
- · Vogar Travel Service, Vogar, tel. 464-4399.

EATING OUT:

- Hótel Laxá, tel. 464-1900.
- Icelandair Hotel Mývatn, Reykjahlíð, tel. 594-2000.
- · Gamli bærinn, Reykjahlíð, tel. 464-4270.
- Hótel Reykjahlíð, Reykjahlíð, tel. 464-4142.
- · Samkaup Strax, Reykjahlíð, tel. 464-4466.
- · Vogafjós, Vogar I, tel. 464-3800.

GH HLÍÐ - TRAVEL SERVICE

Hraunbrún - 660 Mývatn - +354 464-4103 / 899-6203 info@myvatnaccommodation.is - myvatnaccommodation.is



























- · Hótel Gígur, Skútustaðir, tel. 464-4455.
- Sel-Hótel Mývatn, Skútustaðir, tel. 464-4164.
- Kaffi Sel. Skútustaðir. tel. 464-4164.
- Kaffi Kvika, Mvvatn Nature Baths, tel. 464-4411.
- · The Sigurgeir Stefánsson Bird Museum, Ytri-Neslönd, tel. 464-4477
- Kaffi Borgir, Mývatn's Market, Dimmuborgir, tel. 464-1144.
- Daddi's Pizza, Vogar, tel. 773-6060.
- Hótel Reykjahlíð, Reykjahlíð, tel. 464-4142.

GROCERIES:

· Samkaup Strax, Reykjahlíð, tel. 464-4466.

SHOPPING:

- Dyngjan, Hraunvegur 6, Reykjahlíð, tel. 464-2003.
- · Kjörbúðin, Dimmuborgir, tel. 464-1144. visitdimmuborgir.is

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- · Mývatnsstofa, the Environmental Agency's visitor centre with an exhibition on the biology and geology of the Mývatn district, Hraunvegur 8, tel. 464-4460/822-4039. ust.is
- · Vogafjós, Vogar I, visit the dairy farm, watch the cows through the glass walls of the restaurant, tel. 464-3800.
- The Sigurgeir Stefánsson Bird Museum, a fascinating museum of stuffed birds, Ytri-Neslönd, tel. 464-4477.
- · Landsvirkjun's visitor centre, introduction to the harnessing of geothermal power at the Krafla Power Station and energy utilisation in Iceland, cinematic display of the Krafla eruption, tel. 464-8200.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Mývatn Nature Baths, geothermal spa, tel. 464-4411.
- Swimming pool, Reykjahlíð, tel. 464-4225.
- Krossdalsvöllur, 6-hole golf course, Reykjahlíð, tel. 464-4165. Ski lift at Krafla

ACTIVITIES:

· Hlíð, travel service, Reykjahlíð, tel. 464-4103.

- Hike & Bike, various guided hiking and mountain bike tours. Múlayegur 1, tel. 899-4845, hikeandbike.is
- Bjarg Travel Service, Reykjahlíð, tel. 464-4240.
- Safarí hestar, horseback riding tours, Álftagerði III, tel. 464-4203
- · Askja Mývatn Tours, day tours in the area, Askja-Herðubreiðarlindir, tel. 464-1920. myvatntours.is
- · Geo Travel, guided jeep excursions, dog sledding tours in winter, tel. 464-4442. geotravel.is
- SBA-Norðurleið, sightseeing tours around Mývatn, tel. 550-0700, sba.is
- Rúnar Óskarsson's Mountain Views, excursions in Northeast Iceland for groups and individuals, tel. 464-3941.
- Mýflug, Mývatn Airport, sightseeing flights, tel. 464-4400.
- · Sel-Hótel Mývatn, winter tours and northern lights tours, Skútustaðir, tel. 464-4164.
- Saga Travel, travel from Akureyri to Mývatnssveit, tel. 558-8888. sagatravel.is

TRANSPORTATION:

- SBA-Norðurleið, scheduled coach service, tel. 550-0700, sba.
- · Reykjavík Excursions, tours to Reykjavík via highland route Sprengisandur, Landmannalaugur to Reykjavík, tel. 580-5400. austurleid.is
- Car rental Six60.is, Múlavegur 1, Reykjahlíð, tel. 858-2660.
- Taxi service Þuríður Helgadóttir, tel. 464-4399/893-4389. vogahraun.is

GAS STATIONS:

- N1. Revkiahlíð, tel. 464-4466.
- Orkan, Skútustaðir 2c. tel. 464-4164

OTHER SERVICES:

Garage and tire repair, Reykjahlíð, tel. 464-4117/848-2678.

HÚSAVÍK

Population: 1,000-2,500

Húsavík is situated on the eastern shore of Skjálfandi bay. Fishing and fish processing, along with trade, services and tourism, are the economic mainstays. Húsavík has three mustsee museums: the Húsavík Whale Museum. The Exploration Museum, and The Húsavík Cultural House, Tourism in the area has greatly increased in recent years and over 170,000 tourists visit the town annually. Visitors are drawn to the variety of activities available, the beautiful nature in the area and the fascinating whale watching trips in Skjálfandi bay. The first organised whale watching trips in Iceland started in Húsavík in 1994.

GeoSea Geothermal Sea Baths opened recently in the town. It's a natural seawater spa with beautiful views of Húsavík's mountain range, Skjálfandi bay, and the arctic circle on the horizon.

In centuries past, Húsavík was an export harbour for sulphur from Þingeyjarsýsla county.

JARÐBÖÐIN VIÐ MÝVATN



www.naturebaths.is #myvatnnaturebaths



HÚSAVÍK

Swedish explorer Garðar Svavarsson was the first man to discover that Iceland is an island. He spent one winter at Húsavík in 870 – four years before settler Ingólfur Arnarson arrived in Iceland – and named the island Garðarshólmi. There are many Swedish influences in Húsavík, such as the name of the town which translates to House Bay, which likely refers to the house built by Garðar Svavarsson.

FACILITIES

SERVICES:

- Police, Útgarður 1, tel. 444-2850.
- Post office, Garðarsbraut 70, tel. 517-1126.
- ATM Íslandsbanki, Stórigarður 1, tel. 440-3830.
- ATM Landsbankinn, Garðarsbraut 19, tel. 410-4192.
- Bank Sparisjóður Suður-Þingeyinga, Garðarsbraut 18, tel. 464-6200.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Healthcare centre, Auðbrekka 4, tel. 464-0500.
- Pharmacy Lyfja, Stórigarður 13, tel. 464-1212.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Fosshótel Húsavík, Ketilsbraut 22. tel. 464-1220. fosshotel.is
- Húsavík Cape Hotel, Laugarbrekka 16, tel. 463-3399. husavikhotel.com
- Guesthouse Árból, Ásgarðsvegur 2, tel. 464-2220. arbol.is
- · Kaldbakskot, by Kaldbakur, tel. 892-1744. cottages.is

- Guesthouse Sigtún, Túngata 13, tel. 864-0250. questhousesigtun.is
- Guesthouse Húsavík, Laugarbrekka 16, tel. 463-3399.
- Höfði Guesthouse, Héðinsbraut 11, tel. 852-0010. hofdiguesthouse.is
- Húsavík Hostel, Vallholtsvegur 9, tel. 858-5848/853-3848. husavikhostel.com
- Saltvík Guesthouse, tel. 847-9515.

CAMPING: Nordurping, tel. 840-0025. camping@nordurthing.is

EATING OUT:

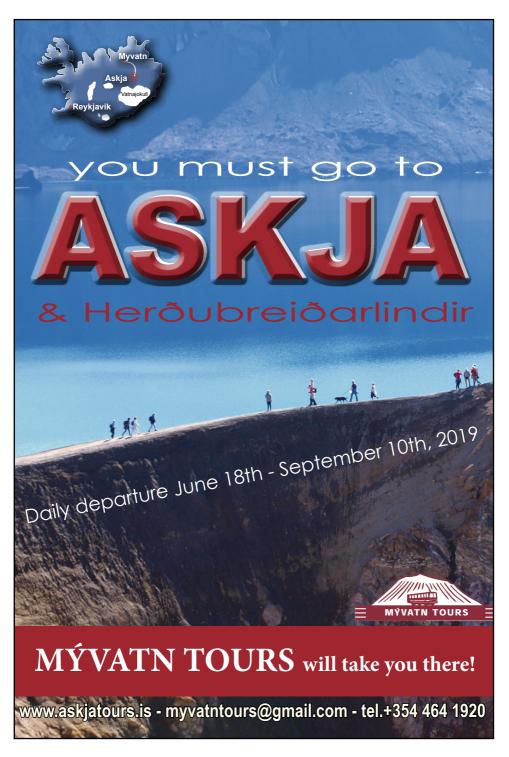
- Fosshótel Húsavík, Ketilsbraut 22. tel. 464-1220.
- Gamli Baukur, Hafnarstétt 9, tel. 464-2442.
- Heimabakarí, Garðarsbraut 15, tel. 464-2900.
- Café Hvalbakur, Hafnarstétt 9, tel. 464-7278.
- · Naustið restaurant, Ásgarðsvegur 1, tel. 464-1520.
- Salka Restaurant, Garðarsbraut 7, tel. 464-3999. salkarestaurant.is

GROCERIES:

- Vínbúðin liguor store, Garðarsbraut 21, tel. 464-2230.
- Nettó, Garðarsbraut 64, tel. 464-1750.

SHOPPING:

 Kaðlín House of Arts and Handicrafts, Garðarsbraut 6, tel. 464-2060.



GH

VOGAR TRAVEL SERVICE

Vogar 660 - Mývatn - +354 464 4399, 773 6060 info@vogahraun.is - www.vogahraun.is





Hólsfiöll.660 Mývatn - +354 464-4294/899-9991/546-4294. djupadokk@simnet.is - www.grimstunga.is





GRÍMSTUNGA

@

Askia 100 km Herðubreiðarlindir 60 km Mývatn 40 km

to stay for 2-3 nights and go on day trips.: Ásbyrgi 50 km Dettifoss 25 km Húsavík 100 km

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- The Húsavík Whale Museum, Hafnarstétt, tel. 414-2800. whalemuseum.is
- The Exploration Museum, Hédinsbraut 1, tel. 463-3399. explorationmuseum.com
- Húsavík Cultural House, exhibition on man and nature. maritime exhibition, art exhibitions, café, museum shop, Stórigarður 17. tel. 464-1860. husmus.is
- · Húsavík Library, Stórigarður 17, tel. 464-6165.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool, Héðinsbraut, tel. 464-6190.
- · Katlavöllur, nine-hole golf course, tel. 464-1000.
- Geosea Geothermal Sea Baths, Vitaslóð 1, tel. 464-1210.

ACTIVITIES:

- North Sailing, whale watching excursions, tel. 464-7272. northsailing.is
- · Gentle Giants, whale watching excursions, tel. 464-1500. gentlegiants.is
- Salka Whale Watching, whale watching excursions, Garðarsbraut 7, tel. 464-3999. salkawhalewatching.is
- Húsavík Adventures. RIB whale watching and buggy adventures. Garðarshraut 5 tel 859-8505 husavíkadventures is
- Rúnar Óskarsson's Mountain Views, excursions in Northeast Iceland for groups and individuals, tel. 464-3940. fjallasyn.is
- Saltvík Horse Rental, horseback riding tours, tel. 847-9515.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Public park in the centre of town.
- · Hiking paths, e.g. a marked hiking route around Botnsvatn lake, which can be walked in approximately 1.5 hours.
- Húsavík Church, beautiful architecture, tel. 464-2136.

TRANSPORTATION:

· Eagle Air, scheduled flight service Reykjavík and Húsavík, 6 days a week, tel. 562-2640, eagleair, is

- SBA-Norðurleið, scheduled coach service between Húsavík and Mvvatn. tel. 550-0700. sba.is
- Car rental Bílaleiga Húsavíkur, Garðarsbraut 66, tel. 464-2500.

GAS STATIONS:

- N1, Naustagil, tel. 464-2650.
- Olís, Garðarsbraut 64, tel. 464-1040.

OTHER SERVICES:

Car service, Garðarsbraut 52, tel. 464-1122.

NORÐUR-ÞINGEYJARSÝSLA/TJÖRNES

Population: 2.500-5.000

Norður-Þingeyjarsýsla covers the municipality of Húsavík, Öxarfjörður fjord, and much of Melrakkaslétta plain, and stretches far into the wilderness south of Öxarfiörður fjord to Grímsstaðir. There are many natural wonders in the municipality, making it popular with tourists. Húsavík is the whale watching capital of the country.

The Diamond Ring is a circular route that links Húsavík and some of the most stunning places in the area, such as Jökulsárgljúfur National Park, Ásbyrgi canyon, Hljóðaklettar (Echoing Rocks), the vegetated area Hólmatungur, and Dettifoss waterfall. The route runs south to Mývatnssveit district and back along Hólasandur sands and Reykjahverfi to Húsavík. The route is 215km long and the trip takes approximately seven to ten hours, depending on how long travellers stop at each site.

Tjörnes is a peninsula between the bays of Skjálfandi and Öxarfjörður, with remarkable strata in the sandstone banks along its entire western shore. These contain lava, sediment from rivers, lakes, and the seabed, and glacial moraine, as well as some lignite. The strata provide a continuous record of changes in climate, vegetation, and marine life from the start of the Ice Age, three million years ago, all the way into the Tertiary period. The easiest place to approach the strata is on the south side of the Hallbjarnarstaðaá river.

Vatnajökull National Park is one of Iceland's three national parks and it was founded in 2008. The area of the national park near Jökulsárgljúfur canyon includes the land west of the Jökulsá river as well as the Dettifoss waterfall. It's 30km long and the total area is 120km2. The Jökulsárgljúfur canyon is among the largest and most impressive of Iceland's many river canyons; it's over 25km long with a width of up to 0.5km and a depth of up to 100m. This area is ideal for hiking.

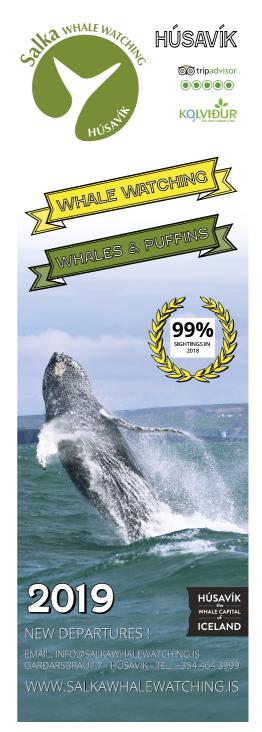
Ásbyrgi canyon is a large, horseshoe-shaped rocky depression in the landscape. The enormous hollow was most likely caused by a catastrophic flooding of the Jökulsá á Fjöllum river after the last Ice Age. The canyon is about 3.5km long, 1km wide, and 100m deep. According to legend, the horseshoe-shaped canyon was formed when Sleipnir, Óðinn's eight-legged horse, touched one of its hooves to the ground there. Visitor centre Gljúfrastofa, representing the northern territory of the national park, is located at Ásbyrgi.

Dettifoss is considered the most impressive waterfall in Europe. It's 45m tall and 100m wide. Farther down the Jökulsá river Hafragilsfoss waterfall (27m) is located, and upriver Selfoss waterfall (10m). These three waterfalls form a unit unlike any other in the world. There is a marked walking path from Dettifoss to Hafragilsfoss.

Jökulsá á Fjöllum is one of the most powerful glacial rivers in Iceland, and at 206km, it's the second longest. It flows from the Vatnajökull glacial cap in two main branches, that merge near the interior "oasis" of Herðubreiðarlindir. The river follows a gentle slope most of the way to the inhabited area of Kelduhverfi, and from there it plunges down to the Öxarfjörður lowlands over the dramatic and unique Jökulsárgljúfur waterfall series that stretches several kilometres

Hófaskarðsleið is a route leading from Norðausturvegur (route 85), just south of Kópasker, that goes straight over Melrakkaslétta plain eastward to Þistilfjördur fjords. A new road has also been created that goes from the Hófaskarðsleið route to Raufarhöfn. The road has shortened the drive between Þórshöfn and Húsavík by about one hour. A beautiful stopover point can be found in the Hófaskarð pass, with a great view over Þistilfjörður fjord and information about Melrakkaslétta plain. Visitors who prefer peace and solitude to watch birds and experience nature often use the old route through Melrakkaslétta plain.

Rauðinúpur is a 73m high rock formation that stands on the westernmost part of Melrakkaslétta plain. Rauðinúpur is thought to have been an old volcano, which would account for its bowl shape. The rock is used as a landmark by boats



and its red colour comes from cinder. There is a good hiking path up to Rauðinúpur with excellent views from the top.

For a long time, Hraunhafnartangi was believed to be Iceland's northernmost point, but recent measurements proved that Rifstangi is just a little bit farther north. There, the arctic circle is only about 3km from the mainland. At Hraunhafnartangi, one of the most notorious saga heroes, borgeir Hávarsson ("who feared absolutely nothing"), was killed and he is said to be buried beneath the huge pile of rocks at Hraunhöfn cove.

Langanes is a peninsula on the eastern side of Þistilfjördur fjord. At one time, settlers lived there off fishing and catching birds, but it's now largely abandoned.

Jökulsárgljúfur canyon, part of Vatnajökull National Park, is ideal for walking and hiking, and in fact cannot be explored to the fullest except on foot. A marked path leads through the park from Dettifoss waterfall to the campsite at Ásbyrgi, generally threading its way along the canyon. It can take up to two days to complete this walk, but many shorter hiking options are available. A popular circular walk from Hljóðak-lettur to Hólmatunga connects the two areas. The Vesturda-lur valley is a good starting point to walk to Rauðhólar or the Svínadalur valley, and from Ásbyrgi a variety of hiking trails are available, including shorter, guided tours. Gljúfrastofa, the visitor and information centre in the Vatnajökull National Park, houses an interesting exhibition on nature and life in the area.

Forvöð, a lone rock opposite Hólmatungur, stands approximately 8km from route 864, to the east of Jökulsárgljúfur canyon.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Gljúfrastofa, visitor and information centre in the Vatnajökull National Park at Ásbyrgi. vjp.is

ACCOMMODATION:

- Klambrasel, farm stays, Reykjahverfi, tel. 464-3514/895-2514.
- Langavatn, farm stays, Reykjahverfi, tel. 464-3514/895-2514. ksel@emax.is
- Heiðarbær, Reykjahverfi, tel. 464-3903/864-0118. heidarbær.
 is
- Skógar III, Reykjahverfi, tel. 464-3919. skogar1.is
- Tungulending guesthouse, at Tjörnes, tel. 896-6948. tungulending.is
- Hótel Skúlagarður, Kelduhverfi, tel. 465-2280/821-1388. skulagardur.com
- Keldunes II, Kelduhverfi, tel. 465-2275/861-2275. keldunes.is
- River Guesthouse, tel. 465-2280/847-5513.
- Dettifoss Guesthouse, tel. 869-7672. facebook.com/ dettifossguesthouse
- Grímstunga I, Hólsfjöll, tel. 464-4294/899-9991. djupadokk@ simnet.is
- Grímsstaðir á Fjöllum, tel. 464-4294/852-8855. grimsstadir.is
- Fishing cabins, at Brunná river in Öxarfjörður, tel. 847-7675. brunna is

CAMPING:

- Heiðarbær, Reykjahverfi, tel. 464-3903/864-0118.
- Ásbyrgi, tel. 470-7100.
- Grímsstaðir á Fjöllum, tel. 464-4292/852-8855. grimsstadir.is

EATING OUT:

- Heiðarbær, Reykjahverfi, tel. 464-3903.
- Hótel Skúlagarður, Kelduhverfi, tel. 465-2280.
- Ásbyrgi, coffeehouse, Kelduhverfi, tel. 465-2260.
- Tungulending café, at Tjörnes tel. 896-6948.

SHOPPING:

- · Heimöx, local handicrafts, Ásbyrgi, tel. 465-2370.
- Ásbyrgi, Kelduhverfi, tel. 465-2260.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Folk museum at Mánárbakki, Tjörnes, tel. 464-1957.
- Gljúfrastofa, exhibit on nature, geology, and culture of the region, Vatnajökull National Park Jökulsárgljúfur, tel. 470-7100. vjp.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Heiðarbæiarlaug, swimming pool, hot tub, tel, 464-3903.
- Golf at Ásbyrgi, nine-hole golf course, tel. 465-2260.
- Lundur, swimming pool, tel. 465-2247/465-2248.

ACTIVITIES:

- Vatnajökull National Park Jökulsárgljúfur, guided tours with park wardens, tel. 470-7100.
- Active North, horseback riding, bike tours, and walking tours, Ásbyrgi, tel. 858-7080, activenorth.is
- Fishing licenses in Litluá (Little River) in Kelduhverfi, tel. 465-2275. litlaa.is
- Fishing licenses in Brunná river in Öxarfjörður, with cabins available, tel. 847-7675. brunna.is

TRANSPORTATION:

- Air Iceland Connect, flights to Þórshöfn, tel. 570-3030.
 airicelandconnect.com
- Eagle Air, flights to Húsavík, tel. 562-2640. eagleair.is

KÓPASKER

Population: 100-500

Kópasker is a small village is on the eastern shore of Öxarfjörður fjord. Its economy centres on services for the surrounding farms, as well as the fishing industry, despite poor harbour facilities. The Earthquake Centre, with a fascinating exhibition, opened recently at Kópasker and it's open during the summer. The local folk museum is located at Snartarstaðir, just outside the village.



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Expeditions



FACILITIES

SERVICES:

- · Post office, Bakkagata 8-10, tel. 455-1300.
- Bank Landsbankinn, Bakkagata 8-10, tel. 455-1300.

HEALTHCARE:

• Healthcare centre, Akurgerði 13, tel. 464-0640.

ACCOMMODATION:

 Kópasker Hostel, Akurgerði 7, tel. 465-2314. hostel.is/kopasker

CAMPING:

Austurtröð, tel. 864-3013/898-2180.

SHOPPING:

• Skerjakolla, Bakkagata 10, tel. 465-2122.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Snartarstaðir Folk Museum, interesting collection of handicrafts, costumes, books, café, and museum shop, free admittance, tel. 465-2171/464-1860. husmus.is
- The Earthquake Centre, exhibition inside the primary school, tel. 845-2454/465-2105. earthquake@kopasker.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

• Putting green, info available at The Earthquake Centre.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

 Guided walking tours around Kópasker, info available at The Earthquake Centre.

GAS STATIONS:

• N1, Bakkagata 10, tel. 465-2122.

OTHER SERVICES:

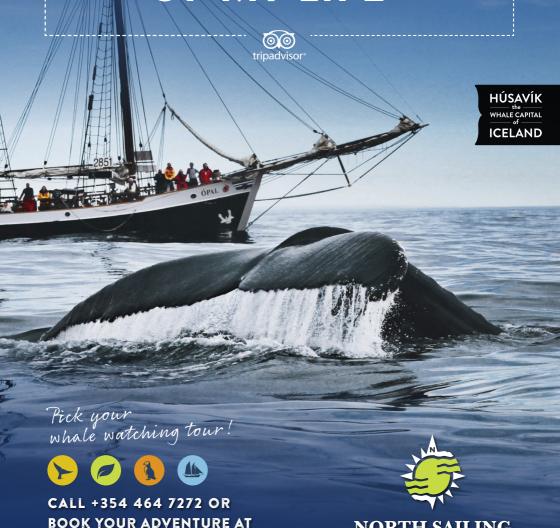
• Röndin, garage and tire repair, Röndin 5, tel. 465-2124.

RAUFARHÖFN

Population: 100-500

Raufarhöfn is a village on the eastern shore of the Melrakkaslétta plain. During the years of large herring catches in the mid-20th century, Raufarhöfn was one of the main landing and processing stations, and one of Iceland's largest export harbours. On the Melrakkaás ridge, north of Raufarhöfn, a unique public artwork that is partly inspired by Old Norse religion is HÚSAVÍK ORIGINAL WHALE WATCHING

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made, called *Heimskautsgerði*, the Arctic Henge. There are numerous marked walking paths in the area.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

- Kaffi Ljósfang, Aðalbraut 26, tel. 465-1115.
- Town Hall, Aðalbraut 23, tel. 464-6100.

SERVICES:

- · Police. Víkurbraut. tel. 444-2850.
- Post office, Aðalbraut 23, tel. 464-9898.
- Bank Landsbankinn, Aðalbraut 23, tel. 455-1300.

HEALTHCARE:

· Healthcare centre. Aðalbraut 33. tel. 465-1145.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hotel Norðurljós, Aðalbraut 2, tel. 465-1233. hotelnordurljos.is
- The Nest Guesthouse, Aðalbraut 16, tel. 472-9930. nesthouse.is
- Sunset Gusthouse, Víkurbraut 18, tel. 476-1300/849-3536.

CAMPING:

• By the swimming pool, tel. 465-1144.

EATING OUT:

- · Hótel Norðurljós, tel. 465-1233.
- Co-op Raufarhöfn, Aðalbraut 24, tel. 849-3536/854-0202.
- · Kaffi Ljósfang, Aðalbraut 26, tel. 465-1115.

GROCERIES:

- Verslunin Urð. Aðalbraut 35. tel. 465-1111.
- Co-op Raufarhöfn, Aðalbraut 24, tel. 849-3536/854-0202.

SHOPPING:

• Gallerý Ljósfang, Aðalbraut 26, tel. 465-1115.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

Swimming pool, Skólabraut, tel. 465-1144.

ACTIVITIES:

- Fishing license for Deildarvatn and Höfði lakes, Nanna St. Höskuldsdóttir, tel. 868-8647.
- Fishing license for Ölduá and Fremri Deildará rivers, tel. 666-9555. info@deildara.com
- Arctic Angling, guided fishing trips, tel. 868-9771. arcticangling.is

PLACES OF INTEREST:

· The Arctic Henge, a huge sundial.

GAS STATIONS:

N1. Aðalbraut 26. tel. 894-1178.

OTHER SERVICES:

Véla- og trésmiðja SRS, garage and tire service, tel. 465-1264

SVALBARÐSHREPPUR

Population: 0-100

Svalbarðshreppur in Þistilfjördur fjord is a fertile agricultural area, ideal for sheep farming, with grassy heaths extending into the highlands. There is an old chieftain's residence and a church site. Well-known salmon rivers run through the area, including the Svalbarðsá, Sandá, Hölkná, and Hafralónsá rivers.

Rauðanes is a beautiful inlet on the western side of Þistilfjörður fjord, with interesting caves and rock formations. It's possible to go on a nice drive up to the Vellir farm, where a map is available for a 7km long walk. This is a wonderful spot for nature lovers, with a variety of birdlife.

FACILITIES

ACCOMMODATION:

- Travel Service Ytra-Áland, tel. 468-1290. ytra-aland.is
- Grásteinn Guesthouse, Holt, Þórshöfn, tel. 468-1279. grasteinnguesthouse.is

EATING OUT:

 Forystufjársetur, coffeehouse in the leader sheep centre, Svalbard in Þistilfjörður, tel. 852-8899. forystusetur.is

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 Forystufjársetur, leader sheep centre, Svalbard in Þistilfjörður, tel. 852-8899. forystusetur.is

ACTIVITIES:

- · Salmon and trout fishing in the vicinity.
- · Marked hiking trail to Rauðanes.

LANGANESBYGGÐ

Langanes is the peninsula east of Þistilfjördur. It's wide at its base, and then narrows until it ends at Fontur cliff. A wide variety of birdlife can be seen along the coastline. In previous times, boats rowed out to fish, the shores were littered with driftwood, and locals used the eggs, meat, and down of eider ducks and seabirds. The area was always sparsely populated and these days, it's mostly deserted.

Skálar at Langanes is a deserted village from the early 20th century. It was the site of a thriving fishing station where over 100 people resided. It's an interesting site for those curious about Icelandic history and culture.

Skeggjastaðir is a church site and vicarage on the coast of Bakkafjörður fjord. This is the site of the oldest timber church in Iceland, built in 1845 and reconstructed in 1962. It contains a Danish pulpit, probably from the early part of the 18th century, and an altarpiece painted by Danish painter Wilhelm August Knippel in 1857.

ÞÓRSHÖFN

Population: 100-500

Pórshöfn is a small fishing village situated on the eastern shore of Lónafjörð fjord, which cuts in from Pistilfjörður fjord on the southeastern side. It has an excellent natural harbour. In addition to its fishing industry, the town provides various services to the surrounding countryside.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

- Ver sports centre, Langanesvegur 18b, tel. 468-1515.
- Sauðaneshús, tel. 464-1860, husmus.is

SERVICES:

- Police, Evrarvegur 2, tel. 468-1133.
- Post office, Fjarðarvegur 5, tel. 455-1300.
- · ATM Landsbankinn, Fjarðarvegur 5, tel. 455-1300.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Healthcare centre, Miðholt 4, tel. 464-0600.
- Pharmacy Lyfja, Miðholt 4, tel. 464-0609.

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Guesthouse Lyngholt, tel. 468-1238. lyngholt.is
- Hostel Ytra-Lón, tel. 846-6448. hostel.is/ytralon

CAMPING:

• Bv Miðholt, tel. 468-1515.

EATING OUT:

- Báran, Eyrarvegur 3, tel. 468-1250. baranrestaurant.is
- Sauðaneshús, café with traditional cuisine, tel. 464-1860.
 husmus is

GROCERIES:

- Kjörbúðin, Langanesvegur 2, tel. 468-1100.
- Vínbúðin liguor store, Langanesvegur 2, tel. 468-1505.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 Sauðaneshús, stories and artifact collections from the Langanes region, tel. 464-1860. husmus.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

• Ver sports centre and swimming pool, tel. 468-1515.

ACTIVITIES:

- Þórshöfn Kayak, tel. 468-1250. baranrestraurant.is/is/kayak
- Fishing license for Sauðanesós estuary, tel. 846-6448.
- · Hlíð, travel service, tel. 468-1109.
- Fishing at Bakká river and Bakkavatn lake, salmon and trout, tel. 866-7813.
- Arctic Angling, guided fishing trips, tel. 868-9771. arcticangling.is
- Ytra-Lón, guided birdwatching tours, tel. 866-6448. ytralon@ hostel.is
- Guided hiking tours around Þórshöfn and out to Grenjanes lighthouse, tel. 892-8202.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

Krókavatn lake at Fell. tel. 473-1696.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Air Iceland Connect, scheduled flights to Pórshöfn from Reykjavík via Akureyri, tel. 468-1420. airicelandconnect. com
- Eagle Air, flights between Reykjavík and Húsavík, tel. 562-2640. eagleair.is
- Car rental Bílalega Akureyrar/Europcar, tel. 840-6078.
- · Car rental Hertz, tel. 896-1142.

GAS STATIONS:

N1. Fiarðarvegur 2. tel. 897-5064.

BAKKAFJÖRÐUR

Population: 0-100

Bakkafjörður is a remote town with a small harbour situated on Bakkafjörður fjord, which stretches inland to the south from Bakkaflói bay. Trade and fishing both began there in 1888. The town flourished in the first decades of the 20th century, but after 1930, the population began to decline. At present, fishing from the town is limited to small vessels. A good hiking path, approximately 8km in length, runs along Viðvíkurdalur valley, between Bakkafjörður and Viðvík.

FACILITIES

SERVICES:

Police, Eyrarvegur 2, tel. 468-1133.

ACCOMMODATION:

Fell Cottages, tel. 473-1696/822-1696. fellcottages.is

CAMPING:

• By Skólavegur, tel. 468-1515.

ACTIVITIES:

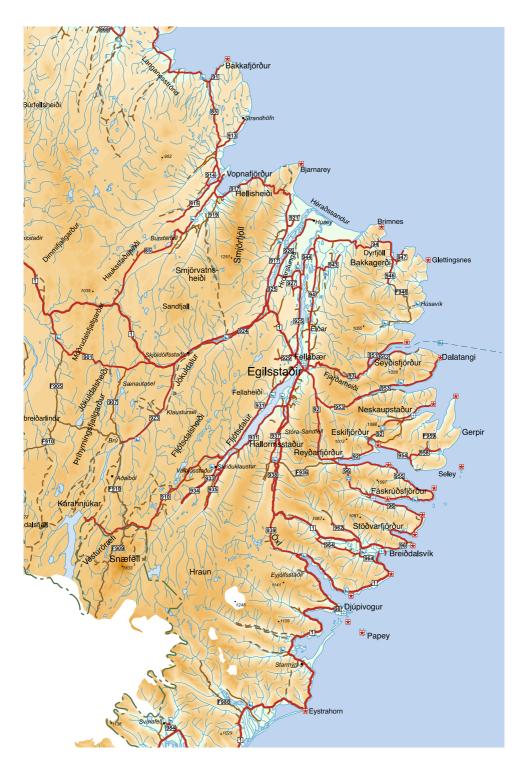
- Salmon and trout fishing in the Bakká river, Bakkavatn lake, and other lakes, tel. 866-7813.
- Guided hike to Digranes lighthouse, tel. 892-8202.

GAS STATIONS:

• N1, Hafnartangi, tel. 866-7813.

THIS IS IT WELCOME 2019







The East

East Iceland once stretched as far south as Skeiðarársandur plain, but now that region, Austur-Skaftafellssýsla, geographically belongs to South Iceland. On the inland side, the border lies along Helkunduheiði heath and the mountains near the Jökulsá á Fjöllum river, and then follows the river south to Vatnajökull glacier.

The lowlands in East Iceland are divided into two main districts: Múlabing and Austur-Skaftafellssýsla. The northeastern coast is marked by two bays and one fjord: Bakkaflói, Vopnafjörður, and Héraðsflói. From the shore, the land quickly transforms into grassy valleys that lead up to densely vegetated heaths farther inland. A high mountain range, topped by Mt. Smjörfjall (Butter Mountain), separates Vopnafiörður bay and Fliótsdalshérað district. Fljótsdalshérað is a vast, low-lying area bordered by Héraðsflói bay to the north and Vatnajökull glacier to the south. The plain gives way to three valleys: Jökuldalur, Skriðdalur, and Fljótsdalur. Fljótsdalur is the main valley, Skriðdalur lies to the east and Jökuldalur is the northernmost valley. Jökuldalur is East Iceland's longest inhabited valley, and to the north of it lies Jökuldalsheiði heath. Fliótsdalsheiði heath is located between Jökuldalur and Fljótsdalur valleys. The heaths and the surrounding areas, stretching all the way to the edge of Vatnajökull glacier, are the habitat of the Icelandic reindeer. Two of the longest and largest rivers in East Iceland, Jökulsá á Brú and Lagarfljót, originate from underneath Vatnajökull glacier and flow through Fliótsdalshérað district.

A large mountain range, Austfjarðafjallgarður, lies northeast of Vatnajökull glacier and to the south of Fljótsdalshérað district. This is the oldest part of the country, and the fjords marking the shoreline are similar to those in the Westfjords. The most dramatic fjord is Reyðarfjörður, while Breiðdalur has the most extensive lowlands. The largest islands are Seley, Skrúður, Andey, and Papey.

Basalt is the most common rock type, and palagonite is commonly found on the heaths and highlands east of the Jökulsá á Fjöllum river. Rhyolite is also found in the area, mostly around Borgarfjörður fjord. There are no active volcanoes in the region and there is little geothermal activity, though modern technology

has increased the possibilities for the harvesting of geothermal energy. Glaciers have carved the landscape of southern Múlaþing and some of the valleys contain strata created by moraine.

Rich flora typifies the valleys, while the mountains tend to be bare. Extensive pastures cover the heaths, making Múlaþing one of the main sheep farming districts of Iceland. Hérað has the densest vegetation and includes Hallormsstaðaskógur, the largest forest in Iceland. Another large forest, Egilsstaðaskógur, is located a short distance away. Near Egilsstaðir, just off Eiðavegur, is Selskógur, a forest that is often used for outdoor leisure, which is an extension of Egilsstaðaskógur.

East Iceland boasts many natural harbours. As a result, it became densely populated around 1900, with fishing as the main industry. The largest of the older municipalities are Seyðisfjörður, Neskaupstaður, Eskifjörður, and Fáskrúðsfjörður. Egilsstaðir and Fellabær are newer municipalities, located near Lagarfljót, and they have evolved into the main transport and service centres in the district.

TOURIST INFORMATION IN NORTHEAST ICELAND

Vopnafjörður, t. 473-1331. Egilsstaðir, Miðvangur 1-3, t. 471-2320. Skriðuklaustur, Fljótsdalur, t. 471-2990. Seyðisfjörður-bei, Ferjuleira, t. 472-1551. Seyðisfjörður - Austfar, Fjarðargata 8, t. 472-1111. Breiðdalsvík, t. 470-5560. Djúpivogur, Sætún, Bakki 3, t. 478-8204



Events

VOPNAFJÖRÐUR

- · Vopnaskak family festival
- · Bustarfell Dav.

EGILSSTAÐIR - FLJÓTSDALSHÉRAÐ

- June-sept: Exhibition at Slaturhusid Cultural Centre: Fine art and historical mystery.
- · June 17: Icelandic National Day, festival
- June 22: The Great Forest Day in Hallormsstaðarskógur forest: A family festival.
- · July 27: Swimming in Urriðavatn.
- Aug 10.: Tour de Ormurinn: A bike race around Lagarfljót.
- Sept.: Ormsteiti family festival: An annual week-long celebration throughout the Fljótsdalshérað district.
- · Oct.: Autumn Evenings in Egilsstaður.
- · Nov.: Days of Darkness: A festival in East Iceland.

FLJÓTSDALUR

- · Sep 14: Melarétt. The annual sheep round-up.
- Sep: Ormsteiti family festival: An annual week-long celebration throughout the Fljótsdalshérað district.
- Nov.: Days of darkness: A ten-day festival around Eastern Iceland.
- · Dec 1: Gryla festival at Skriðuklaustur

BORGARFJÖRÐUR EYSTRI

- Júlí: Dyrfjöll Run, 23km run off the beaten path in easternmost Borgarfjörður.
- July: Bræðslan, a music festival in an old fish liver oil factory which received Eyrarrósin in 2010, an award given annually in recognition of outstanding cultural work outside of Reykjavík.

SEYÐISFJÖRÐUR

- The Blue Church, concerts most Wednesday evenings.
- LungA, an annual festival hosted by the LungA school with art exhibitions, plays, and concerts.
- Blacksmith Festival in the Technical Museum, July 28-29.
 Exciting artisanry courses, e.g., blacksmithing, whittling, knife-making, and more. Live concerts and dancing on the Saturday evening on the old pier.
- First Saturday in October: Haustroði, a family day, free admission to museums, open markets, and much more.
- · November: Days of Darkness, various activities.
- · Advent: Various activities.
- Jan. and Feb.: Þorrablót celebrations throughout East Iceland.

FJARÐABYGGÐ

 Á fætur í Fjarðarbyggð is a week-long local hiking celebration (Saturday to Saturday) that is held during the last week of June. There are guided hikes for everyone, family events in the evening and a nature school is hosted for the children.











Hauksstaðir Farmers Guesthouse

Hauksstaðir is the innermost farm in the Vesturár Valley, 21 km from Vopnafjörður.

The guesthouse can accommodate 8 visitors and has two bedrooms: one bedroom with double bed and the second has a bunk and single beds. In addition, sleeping accommodation is available in the sitting room. The house is equipped with all the basic necessities.

For further information and bookings +354 473 1469/846 4851/868 4169. E-mail: hauksst@simnet.is

REYÐARFJÖRÐUR

• Last weekend in June: Military Occupation Day: the Reyðarfjörður war years remembered.

ESKIFJÖRÐUR

· Seamen's Weekend Festival, diverse events.

NORÐFJÖRÐUR

- Easter: Easter Festival in Oddskarð skiing area and neighbouring towns.
- Seamen's Weekend Festival celebrated throughout the Eastern Fiords.
- Mid-July: Eistnaflug, rock and etal music festival. Received the Eyrarósin award in 2017.
- Neistaflug, a family festival, including the Barðsneshlaup race, free admission and camping at the campsite.

FÁSKRÚÐSFJÖRÐUR

- The National Holiday of France, flag day in Fáskrúðsfjörður.
- French Days, a family festival during the Icelandic Merchant's Weekend

VOPNAFJÖRÐUR

Population: 500-1,000

Vopnafjörður fjord lies southwest to northeast and divides the land into two peninsulas – Kollumúli to the south and Digranes to the north. The boundary of the Vopnafjörður district runs along a horseshoe-shaped route connecting the peninsulas and around the fjord. Mountain ranges and freestanding peaks also encircle the fjord.

Vopnafjörður rests on top of alkaline and silicic volcanic rock and sediment. In some places around the fjord, more recent strata from the Paleogene and Pleistocene periods (older than 11,000 years) have become visible. The Torfastaðanúpur ridge protrudes from the edge of the land and divides the Selárdalur and Vesturárdalur valleys. The most distinctive characteristics of this ridge are the columnar basalt formations on its peaks. Nearby, the oldest central volcano in East Iceland can be found in the Fagridalur mountains, which run down to the sea between Héraðsflói bay and Vopnafjörður fjord. These mountains and the eastern edge of the Hellisheiði lava plateau are primarily comprised of silicic rock, most notably rhyolite, which is a light-coloured rock that is guite vibrant in the midst of its surroundings. The skeleton of a prehistoric deer, dating back to before the Ice Age, was discovered in the Þuríðarárgil ravine in Vopnafjörður. This is the only place in Iceland where mammal remains of this age have been found.

Mt. Smjörfjall separates Vopnafjörður and the Jökulsárhlíð mountain range. The mountains in this range are high and steep, reaching about 1,250m at their highest point. The road between Vopnafjörður and the outlying district runs through the Hellisheiði lava plateau to the north of Mt. Smjörfjall. This road is quite elevated at around 655m, making it one of the highest mountain roads in the country. Due to its elevation,

the plateau receives heavy snowfall in the winter, so the road is only open in the summertime. When accessible, however, it provides a number of ideal vantage points from which to take in the surroundings.

Three major valleys run out of the fjord and into the surrounding countryside: Hofsárdalur valley is the southernmost one, followed by Sunnudalur, and the valleys of Vesturárdalur and Selárdalur. Three eponymous rivers – named Hofsá, Vesturdalsá, and Selá, respectively – flow through these valleys. These rivers are all known for excellent salmon and trout fishing.

Fuglabjarganes peninsula, on the north coast, is an enjoyable hiking area with marked trails. It's on the border of Ljósaland and Hámundarstaður farms. There is a marked trail from Strandhafnarvegur road that runs along the Fuglabjörg river. The promontory itself is a flat plain with stone sheepfolds, white beaches, caverns, rock pillars, and spectacular cliffs.

Ljósastapi is a giant stone pillar that stands in the sea to the east of Vopnafjörður. Its shape undoubtedly calls to mind an elephant and is an awe-inspiring sight. A few kilometres into the fjord, one may see Glúfursárfoss waterfall by the side of the road. This tall, grand, and powerful waterfall plunges into a deep, narrow ravine and is sure to impress all who see it.

Bustarfell is a farm in the Hófsardalur valley in Vopnafjörður and is situated at the base of the mountain range from which it takes its name. The Bustarfell range stretches 6-7km. On the mountain next to the village, there are panoramic viewing binoculars. The folk museum in Bustafell is located in one of the most beautiful turf houses in Iceland. Generations of the same family lived on this farm for over 500 years. This unique museum primarily exhibits the former residents' farming practices and lifestyle, from before 1770 until they stopped living there in 1966. The Icelandic government took over the ownership and maintenance of the original turf home in 1943, but all the household tools are the original belongings of the residents. The Hjáleigan café and service centre are close to the original farmhouse.

The town of Vopnafjörður lies on the eastern side of the Kolbeinstangi spit. It has been a trading centre since ancient times and the town was established before the end of the 19th century. Author Gunnar Gunnarsson grew up at the Ljótsstaðir farm in Vopnafjörður. He moved to Copenhagen as an adult, but later returned to Vopnafjörður and bought Arnarvatn farm, where he lived for a while. On what would have been Gunnar's 100th birthday in 1989, a monument in his memory was unveiled in Vopnafjörður.

Composer Björgvin Guðmundsson (1891–1961) was born and grew up at Rjúpnafell in Vopnafjörður, where he lived until he moved to North America to pursue his musical education. He returned home to Iceland in his adulthood and lived in Akureyri until his death. Guðfinna Þorsteinsdóttir (1891–1972), who wrote under the pen name of Erla, lived

for a long time at Teigur in Vopnafjörður. She was among the first women in Iceland to publish a poetry book. It has been suggested that the trading centre that main character Bjartur of Summerhouses visits in the book *Independent People* (*Sjálfstætt folk*), by Iceland's Nobel Laureate Halldór Laxness, was inspired by Vopnafjörður.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Vopnafjörður Information Centre Kaupvangur, Hafnarbyggð 4, tel. 473-1331. vopnafjordur.is

SERVICES:

- · Police. Lónabraut 2. tel. 444-0610.
- · Post office, Kolbeinsgata 10, tel. 410-4178.
- Bank Landsbankinn, Kolbeinsgata 10, tel. 410-4178.

HEALTHCARE:

- Healthcare centre, Laxdalstún, tel. 470-3070.
- Pharmacy, Kauptún supermarket, Hafnarbyggð 4, tel. 473-1109

ACCOMMODATION:

- Ásbrandsstaðir, summerhouse, tel. 473-1459. facebook.com/ ferdatjonustanasbrandsstadir
- Síreksstaðir Farm Holiday, summerhouses and guesthouse, tel. 473-1458. sireksstadir.is
- Hauksstaðir, summerhouse, tel. 473-1469/846-4851/868-4169. hauksst@simnet.is
- Hótel Tangi, Hafnarbyggð 17, tel. 473-1203/845-2269. hoteltangi.com
- Hvammsgerði, guesthouse, tel. 588-1298/821-1298. hvammsgerdi.is
- Syðri-Vík, summerhouses and guesthouse, tel. 473-1199/848-0641. kristinbrynjolfs@simnet.is

CAMPING:

 Along Miðbraut road, near the playschool, tel. 473-1331/844-1153. vopnafjörður.is

EATING OUT:

- Hótel Tangi, breakfast and dinner, groups should make reservations in advance, tel. 473-1203. facebook.com/ Hoteltangi
- Hjáleigan, café, Bustarfelli, tel. 691-7354. facebook.com/ hjaleigan
- Kaupvangskaffi, coffee, snacks, and light meals, Kaupvangur, tel. 473-1331/662-3588. facebook.com/Kaupvangskaffi
- Hjá okkur, breakfast and dinner, tel. 473-1458/848-2174. sireksstadir.is

GROCERIES:

- · Kauptún, Hafnarbyggð 4, tel. 473-1403.
- Ollasjoppa, Kolbeinsgata 35, tel. 779-8415.
- Vínbúðin liguor store, Hafnarbyggð 4, tel. 473-1403.

SHOPPING:

- Vopnfirskt handverk, Hafnarbyggð 4, tel. 473-1331/844-1153.
- · Nema-Hvað Crafts, Hafnarbyggð 7, tel. 473-1565.
- · Hirðfíflin, thrift shop, tel. 866-8972.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Múlastofa, exhibition on the life and art of the brothers Jónas and Jón Múla. tel. 473-1331/844-1153.
- Bustarfell Folk Museum, service centre with facilities and refreshments, tel. 855-4511/844-1153. bustarfell.is
- East Iceland Immigration Centre, genealogy service, tel. 473-1200

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Selárdalur, swimming pool, tel. 473-1499/473-1331/844-1153.
- Golf course at Skálar, nine-hole golf course, tel. 473-1331/844-1153.
- · Gym, weightlifting room, tel. 473-1492.

ACTIVITIES:

 Syðri-Vík Travel Service, horseback riding tours, guided tours, and trout fishing licenses sold for the Hofsá river, tel.
 473-1199/848-0641. svdrivíkortex.is

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Diverse, marked walking and riding trails through the mountains and valleys.
- Krossavíkurfjall, Gljúfursá-Drangsnes, Búrið-Fagridalur, Skjólfjörur-Ljósastapi ("The Elephant"), Fuglabjargarnes, Tangasporður, Hof, and more.
- Great views from Hellisheiði lava plateau, more information at Vopnafjörður Information Centre, tel. 473-1331/844-1153.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Vopnafjörður Airport, scheduled flights to Akureyri, tel. 473-1121
- Car rental Bílaleiga Akureyrar, tel. 840-6076.

GAS STATIONS:

• N1, Kolbeinsgata 35, tel. 845-2285.

OTHER SERVICES:

• Bíla og véla, car and tire repair shop, tel. 473-1333.

FLJÓTSDALSHÉRAÐ

Population: 2,500-5,000

Fljótsdalshérað is an expansive municipality located in mid-East Iceland, extending from Héraðsflói bay in the north to Vatnajökull glacier in the south. With 8,884km2, it's the largest municipality in Iceland in terms of area, and it's the most populous municipality in East Iceland. Most residents of Fljótsdalshérað district are employed in the service industry and public administration. A large communications, trading, and service industry has developed in Egilsstaðir and Fellabær, serving all mid-East Iceland. Egilsstaðir Airport plays a significant role in the economy and tourism of the region.

Möðrudalur is the site of the farm at the highest altitude in Iceland, at 469m. As one of the largest farmlands in the country, Möðrudalur has been inhabited almost continuously since its settlement. The local church was built single-handedly by farmer Jón Stefánsson (1880–1971) in memory of his wife, at his own expense, and was consecrated in 1949. He also painted the distinctive altarpiece depicting the Sermon on the Mount. The tablet is considered quite unique.

Jökuldalsheiði is a heath with an average altitude of 500m. It's located to the southwest of Vopnafjörður fjord and west of Jökuldalur valley, with route 1 passing through its northern end. It has alternating gravel dunes and hills, with wetlands, pastures and numerous lakes in between. Some 16 farms were built on Jökuldalsheiði heath in the middle of the 1800s, but the area was rendered almost uninhabitable by the eruption of Mt. Askja in 1875. Some farms remained until the middle of the 1900s, but the heath is now uninhabited. Many of those who migrated to North America left because of the Mt. Askja eruption. The farms of Jökuldalsheiði heath have been an inspiration to many artists.

Sænautasel on Jökuldalsheiði heath is a replica of one of the original farms and is a fine representation of an old homestead. During the summer, it's open every day, offering coffee and refreshments.

Aðalból in Hrafnkelsdalur is the farmstead of Hrafnkell Freysgoði and the location of his burial site. Various artifacts have been discovered in its vicinity and appear to support the validity of the Saga of Hrafnkell. Today, an information centre is run at Aðalból, and Hrafnkelsdagurinn, or the Hrafnkell's Day festival, is celebrated annually with tours of important saga sites, as well as games, handicrafts, barbecues, informative presentations, and more.

Kárahnjúkar is a group of liparite mounds on the eastern side of the Jökulsá á Brú river, opposite Sauðárdalur valley; the tallest one is 835m high. The Jökulsá river cuts through Kárahnjúkar, forming canyons called Hafrahvammagljúfur and Dimmugljúfur, the latter of which is one of the darkest and most imposing canyons in Iceland. The entire canyon spans from Desjará river to Tröllagil gully, a total of 10km. The biggest rock dam in Europe was erected at Kárahnjúkar, measuring 190m high. The Hálslón reservoir is located behind the dam, with a total area of 57km2. The water of the Jökulsá á Brú river runs from the reservoir through 40km of underground tunnels to an underground power plant located in Fliótsdalur. When the reservoir overflows in late summer. excess water finds its way down the old riverbed. The power plant also receives water from the Jökulsá á Fljótsdal river, whose water travels through a 13km underground tunnel before connecting with the longer tunnel from the Jökulsá á Brú river. Laugarvalladalur, a remote valley, is located a short distance from the power plant. Travellers enjoy bathing in the warm brook at the site of an old farmhouse, then rinsing off in a natural shower where the water cascades from a cliff. becoming a small waterfall. Visitors should be aware that cold water has been in short supply in recent summers, so the streams tend to be too hot for bathing.

Lagarfljót is one of the main rivers in East Iceland. It stretches 140km from its source in the Jökulsá á Fljótsdal river to its estuary. The upper part of the river is a long lake, called Lögurinn or Lagarfljót, which is the third largest lake in the country, with an area of 53km2. The lake is 112m at its deepest point and its floor is approximately 90m below sea level. Folklore claims that a monster called Lagarfljótsormurinn lives in the lake. In centuries past, this monster was greatly feared, and it was believed to bode ill tidings if the monster's back appeared out of the water. The monster has not been discussed much lately, although it has been claimed that clear photographs of the creature – and even a video – have been taken in recent years.

Stórurð, translating to Boulder Hollow, is a unique area to the west of the Dyrfiöll mountains. It's the site of impressive landscapes: lush, grassy hollows; massive rock mounds; sheer cliffs dozens of metres tall; beautiful ponds; and distinctive vegetation. A hike through Stórurð is an exceptional experience. It's best to set off from Vatnsskarð, hike along the mountain range, and then take the "lower route" back to Mt. Ósfjall (approximately 16km long). It's also possible to continue on to Borgarfjörður, to the north or south of Dyrfjöll. An entire day is needed to fully experience the area. Visitors can sign a guest book found at Stórurð. Markings showing the starting point of the hiking trails are located on route 1 where it ascends to Vatnsskarð, on the way to eastern Borgarfjörður. The Víknaslóðir trail map that is widely available in the area is a valuable resource for planning local hikes. In Vatnsskarð. there is a service building with toilets and information about the area. The view out over the area is especially beautiful there

At Stapavík, you can go on an easy 5km hike along the Selfljót river with beautiful scenery. Rare plants are found in this area. En route are the old stonewalls of a cart road from the early 20th century. There are ruins from the ancient fishing operation of Eidaver to the west of the estuary, as well as remnants of old sheep cots. The Krosshöfði headland is located on the estuary, and an important trading post for farmers from all over the region was established there in 1902. When the landing at Krosshöfði became impassable due to a buildup of sand in the 1920s, disembarkation was moved to Stapavík where a manual capstan was erected. The facilities at Stapavík were never very good, however, and so disembarkation in both locations was finally ended in 1945. The Stapavík landing has continued to deteriorate in recent years, due to continued sand buildup.

FACILITIES

ACCOMMODATION:

- The Wilderness Centre, tel. 440-8822, wilderness, is
- Guesthouse Fjalladýrð, Möðrudalur, tel. 471-1858/894-0758. fjalladyrd.is
- Sámur bóndi, Hrafnkelsdalur, Aðalból 2, tel. 471-2788.
- Á Hreindýraslóðum, Skjöldólfstaðir, Jökuldalur, tel. 471-2006.



EGILSSTAÐIR

ahreindvraslodum.is

- Hótel Svartiskógur, country hotel, Jökulsárhlíð, 471-1030/899-1035. svartiskogur.is
- Youth Hostel Húsey, Hróarstunga, tel. 471-3010/695-8832. huseyfarm.is
- Ekra, chalets, tel. 868-0957/471-3054. sumarhusekru. blogspot.com
- Flúðir, chalet, tel. 471-1917/869-7269. annabraga@simnet.is
- Hótel Eyvindará II, Fljótsdalshérað, tel. 471-1200/691-9240. eyvindara2@simnet.is
- Útnyrðingsstaðir/Gæðinga Tours, Vellir, tel. 471-1727/869-8210/691-9240.
- Vallanes, Vellir, tel. 471-1747/899-5569.
- Eviólfsstaðir. Hérað. tel. 471-2171. eviolfsstadir.is
- Hótel Hallormsstaður, tel. 471-2400/859-2403, 701hotels.is
- Hafursá, cottages, Hallormsstaður, tel. 899-9028/893-9428. annagerdur@gmail.com
- Stóra-Sandfell, Skriðdalur, tel. 471-2420/661-4457.
- Fljótsdalsgrund Guesthouse, Végarður, Egilsstaðir, tel. 865-1683/863-5215. fljotsdalsgrund@fljotsdalur.is
- Hunting lodge in Hálsakot in Jökulsárhlíð, Úlfsstaðarskógur 20, Egilsstaðir, tel. 567-5204. strengir.is
- · Mjóanes in Vellir, tel. 896-7370.
- Laugarfell Hostel, directly north of Snæfell, tel. 773-3323.
- Cabins administered by The Touring Club of Fljótsdalshérað, at Snæfell, Kverkfjöll, Egilssel, and Geldingafell, tel. 863-5813.
- · Stormur Cottages, Iðavellir, tel. 895-8713.

CAMPING:

- Fjalladýrð, Möðrudalur, tel. 471-1858.
- · Sænautasel, Jökuldalsheiði, tel. 892-8956.
- Á Hreindýraslóðum, Skjöldólfsstaðir, Jökuldalur, tel. 471-1085.
- Svartiskógur, Jökulsárhlíð, tel. 471-1030/899-1035. svartiskogur.is
- Hallormsstaðaskógur (Atlavík and Höfðavík), tel. 470-2070. hallormsstadur@skogur.is
- Stóra-Sandfell, Skriðdalur, tel. 471-2420/661-4457.
- Fljótsdalsgrund in Fljótsdalur, tel. 863-5212.

EATING OUT:

- Fiallakaffi, Möðrudalur, Fiöllum, tel. 471-1858.
- Sænautasel, café, Jökuldalsheiði, tel. 892-8956.
- Sámur bóndi. Jökuldalur. Aðalból 2. tel. 471-2788.
- Á Hreindýraslóðum, Skjöldólfsstaðir, Jökuldalur, tel. 471-2006.
- Hótel Svartiskógur, Jökulsárhlíð, tel. 471-1030/899-1035.
- Hússtjórnarskólinn, Hallormsstaður, tel. 471-2400.

SHOPPING:

- Sænautasel, Jökuldalsheiði, tel. 892-8956.
- Fjallakaffi, Möðrudalur, Fjöllum, tel. 471-1858.
- Á Hreindýraslóðum, Icelandic handicrafts, Skjöldólfsstaðir, Jökuldalur, tel. 471-2006.
- Húsey, Hróarstunga, tel. 471-3010.
- Eik listiðja, Miðhús, tel. 471-1320.
- Hús handanna, Icelandic design and handicrafts, Miðvangur 1, tel 471-2433

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- The Wilderness Centre, a fascinating exhibition showcasing Icelandic wilderness history, nature, and the life of the original inhabitants of the farm, Fljótsdalur, tel. 440-8822.
- Sænautasel, an old restored farmhouse, Jökuldalsheiði, tel. 854-2666.
- Geirsstaðir in Hróarstunga, a replica of a turf and wood chapel, like those that would have been constructed around the time of the Icelandic settlement in the 9th and 10th century.
- Galtastaðir, a farmhouse exhibit of an old communal living room, supervised by the National Museum of Iceland.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

Skjöldólfsstaðir, swimming pool, Jökuldalur, tel. 471-2006.

ACTIVITIES:

- Stóra-Sandfell, travel service, Skriðdalur, tel. 471-2420/661-4457.
- Gæðinga Tours, Vellir, tel. 471-1727. Húsey, seal watching on horseback, Hróarstunga, 471-3010.
- The Wilderness Centre, day tours, Fljótsdalur, tel. 440-8822/896-2339.
- Fjalladýrð, fishing, jeep tours, and hiking tours, Möðrudalur, tel. 471-1858
- Horse and boat rental, Hallormsstaður, tel. 867-1441/847-0063/847-3706. vediskl@simnet.is
- Grái hundurinn,, Hjalli, Hallormsstaður, tel. 471-2128.
- Sænautasel, fishing in Sænautavatn lake, Jökuldalsheiði, tel. 853-6491.
- Klaustursel, farm animal zoo, Jökuldalur, tel. 471-1085.
- Veiðibiónustan Strengir. . tel. 567-5204. strengir.is
- Jeeptours, half-day and full-day mountain and fjord trips. ieeptours.is
- East Highlanders, ATV and jeep trips, tel. 699-3673.
- Wild Boys, day tours, tel. 864-7393/896-4334. wildboys.is

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Möðrudalur, church of Jón Stefánsson, marked hiking trails, hiking map available at Fjallakaffi in Möðrudalur.
- Hafrahvammagljúfur, one of the most splendid canyons in Iceland.
- Kárahnjúkar dam, the largest construction project in the history of Iceland.
- · Hjálpleysa, a deep and beautiful deserted valley, full of history.
- Marked hiking trails in Hallormsstaður woods and Eiðar woods
- Fardagafoss waterfall, located 5km from Egilsstaðir.
- · Kirkjubær in Hróarstunga, a beautiful historic church.
- Stórurð at Mt. Dyrfjöll, large cliffs and glacial ponds, marked hiking trails.
- Mt. Snæfell, 1,833m.
- Enjoyable hiking paths at Krosshöfði at Stapavík, a lovely cliff-lined inlet, where goods were imported as late as the 1940s.
- · An easy hike along Selfljót.
- Viewing dial in Fjarðarheiði, can be accessed by way of Norðurbrún, magnificent view over Fljótsdalshérað.
- · Hvanngil, a pleasant hiking route from Möðrudalur.
- Hallormsstaður National Forest, hiking paths and recreation area, tel. 847-3706/847-0063.

FGIL SSTAÐIR

Population: 2,500-5,000

The first house in Egilsstaðir was built in 1944, and the town has grown steadily since that time. Today, it's a thriving centre with an economy based on providing services to East Iceland and its visitors. Egilsstaðir was the site of an ancient assembly as well as Gálgaás, a cliff near the local church where criminals were once executed. Gálgaás is also related to the story of Valtýr the green-shirted farmer, an innocent man framed for murder and wrongfully executed.

The headquarters of the State Forestry Service are located in Egilsstaðir, as well as the country's largest forest, Hallormsstaðaskógur, which is 30km south of town.

FFI I ABÆR

Population: 100-500

Fellabær village is situated to the west of the bridge over the Lagarfljót river. There is an old ferry site named Ferjusteinar and Ferjuklettur. Like the residents of Egilsstaðir, the people of Fellabær support themselves primarily by providing various services to travellers and nearby municipalities. Fellabær and Egilsstaðir are now part of Fljótsdalshérað county.

FACILITIES IN EGILSSTAÐIR AND FELLABÆR TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

- Egilsstaðastofa, information about Fljótsdalur district, Kaupvangur 17, tel. 470-0750. visitegilsstadir.is
- Austurland Tourist Information Centre, Miðvangur 1-3, tel. 471-2320. east.is

SERVICES:

- Police, Lyngás 15, tel. 444-0640.
- Post office, Fagradalsbraut 9, tel. 471-1100.
- ATM Landsbankinn, Kaupyangur 1, tel. 410-4175.
- ATM Arion Bank, Miðvangur 6, tel. 444-7000.
- ATM Íslandsbanki, Miðvangur 1-3, tel. 440-4000.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Kaldá Lyngholt Holiday Homes, tel. 618-9871.
- Icelandair Hótel Hérað, tel. 471-1500.
- Hótel Edda, Menntaskólinn Egilsstaðir, tel. 444-4880.
- Hótel Valaskjálf, 701 Hotels, Skógarlönd 3, tel. 471-2400.
- Egilsstaðir Guesthouse, tel. 471-1114.
- Skipalækur, Fellabær, tel. 471-1324.
- Olga Guesthouse, Tjarnarbraut 3, tel. 860-2999.
- · Vínland, Fellabær, tel. 615-1900.
- Heimagisting, Bláargerði 43, tel. 864-3082.
- Lyngás Guesthouse, Lyngás 5-7, tel. 471-1310.



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- Hótel Evvindará II. tel. 471-1200.
- Fljótsdalsgrund Guesthouse, tel. 865-1683/863-5215.
- Hálsakot in Jökulsárhlíð, Úlfsstaðarskógur 20, tel. 848-6798. strengir.is
- Stóri Bakki, Egilsstaðir, tel. 866-5783/843-7634.
- · Birta Guesthouse, Tjarnarbraut 7, tel. 860-2999.
- Guesthouse Ormurinn, Fagradalsbraut 9, tel. 471-2004.
- Gistihúsið Lake Hotel Egilsstadir, Egilsstaðir 1-2, tel. 471-1114.

CAMPING:

- Kaupvangur 17, tel. 470-0750.
- Skipalækur, Fellabær, tel. 471-1324.
- Vínland, campsite for caravans and similar, Fellabær, tel. 615-1900/471-2259.

EATING OUT:

- Icelandair Hótel Hérað, tel. 471-1500.
- Hótel Edda, Menntaskólinn Egilsstaðir, tel. 444-4880.
- Hótel Valaskjálf, Glóð, Skógarlönd 3, tel. 471-2400.
- Café Nielsen, tel. 471-2626.
- Egilsstaðir Guesthouse, tel. 471-1114.
- N1, Kaupvangur 2, tel. 440-1450.
- Skálinn, Shell, Fagradalsbraut 13, tel. 471-1899.
- Subway, Miðvangur 13, tel. 477-2777.
- Bókakaffi Hlöðum, Helgafell 2, tel. 471-2255.
- Kaffi Egilsstaðir, Kaupvangur 17, tel. 470-0200.
- Salt Café & Bistro, Miðvangur 2-4, tel. 471-1700.

GROCERIES:

• Vínbúðin liquor store, Miðvangur 2-4, tel. 471-2151.

SHOPPING:

- Eik Listiðja, Miðhús, tel. 471-1320.
- · Hús Handanna, Miðvangur 1, tel. 471-2433.
- Galleri Gnótt, Lagarfell 2, tel. 861-1794.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- The Eastern Iceland Heritage Museum, Laufskógar 1, tel. 471-1412. minjasafn.is
- Library and archives, Laufskógar 1, tel. 471-1546/471-1417.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool and sports centre, Tjarnarbraut 26, tel. 470-0777.
- Sports centre, Fellabær, Smiðjusel 2, tel. 470-0776.
- · Vilhjálmsvöllur, soccer court, by Skógarlönd, Egilsstaðir.
- · Fellavöllur, six-hole golf course, Fellabær.
- Ekkjufellsvöllur, nine-hole golf course, Fellabær, tel. 471-1113.

ACTIVITIES:

- Stafdalur, skiing area, Fjarðarheiði, tel. 472-1160/878-1160.
- Stóri-Bakki, horseback riding tours, Egilsstaðir, tel. 866-5783/843-7634.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- · Selskógur woods, marked hiking trails by Egilsstaðir.
- · Gálgaás execution site in Egilsstaðir.
- · Viewing dial at Fénaðarklöpp, Taglarétt.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Air Iceland Connect, scheduled flights to Reykjavík, tel. 471-1210.
- SBA-Norðurleið, scheduled coach service to Myvatn and Akureyri, Egilsstaðir and Höfn, tel. 550-0700.
- Sterna, scheduled coach service between Egilsstaðir and Höfn, tel. 551-1166. sternatravel.com
- Austfjarðaleið, scheduled coach service in the Eastfjords, tel. 477-1713. austfjardaleid.is
- Ferðaþjónusta Austurlands, scheduled coach service to Seyðisfjörður, tel. 472-1515.
- Jakob Sigurðsson, scheduled coach service on weekdays, along with the postal service, to Borgarfjörður eystri, tel. 472-9805/894-8305.

GAS STATIONS:

- N1. Kaupvangur 4. tel. 440-1451.
- Orkan, Fagradalsbraut 13, tel. 471-1899.
- Orkan, Miðvangur 13, tel. 578-8800.
- Olís, Lagarfell 2, tel. 471-1623.
- Atlantsolía, Fagradalsbraut 15, tel. 591-3100.

OTHER SERVICES:

- Bílaverkstæði Austurlands, garage and tire repair, Miðás 2, Egilsstaðir, tel. 470-5070. bva.is
- AB Varahlutir, spare car parts, Fagradalsbraut 25, tel. 471-2299 austur@ah is

FLJÓTSDALUR

At over 120m tall, Hengifoss is the second-highest waterfall in the country. It's located in a magnificent gorge that faces Hallormsstaður, across Lagarfljót river. At the top of the waterfall are basalt strata, and there is sandstone that contains fossilised tree trunks in the gorge below, which is evidence of a much warmer climate at the time when the rock was formed during the Tertiary period. A second waterfall, Litlanesfoss, is located downriver in a beautiful columnar basalt setting — it's surrounded by some of the tallest basalt columns in the country. There is a hiking trail up to Hengifoss from a parking lot along route 1.

Valþjófsstaður in Fljótsdalur is a benefice and ancient chieftain's manor. A replica of the famous Valþjófstaðarhurð door, one of the most precious objects owned by the National Museum of Iceland, is kept there. It dates back to the 13th century and is thought to have originally been part of the manor, later becoming the inner door of a large timber church that stood at Valþjófsstaður long after the Reformation.

Fljótsdalsstöð Power Station is located 800m inside Mt. Valþjófsstaðafjall and accessible by a tunnel. It's the biggest power plant in Iceland, producing 690MW. At the entrance to the plant is a control centre and transformer



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Mon - Fri **12 am - 6 pm**Sat **11 am - 2 pm**Closed on Sundays.

TIC and Local Art and Design - Entryway to the East

In the heart of Egilsstaðir is the elegant art and design shop Hús Handanna. The gallery specialises in local Icelandic quality design and handicrafts. The boutique also serves as the main tourist information centre in the East and aims to maximise services to passing travellers. So if you are in need of assistance or if you are simply curious to learn about the East's hidden secrets and local treasures, be sure to pay Hús Handanna a visit.



SOUVENIRS WITH A TWIST LOCAL FOOD LOCAL ART & CRAFT







plant. This hydroelectric power plant provides energy for the aluminum factory in Reyðarfjörður. The whole structure – dams, tunnels, power plant, control centre, and transformer plant – is called Kárahnjúkavirkjun, and it's powered by harnessing the flow of powerful water sources in the area. The water from the Hálslón reservoir is conducted eastwards to the plant by a tunnel that runs under the Fljótsdalsheiði heath. There, it mixes with water that has been siphoned through more tunnels running from the Ufsarlón lagoon. This combined waterflow is then sent northeast through another tunnel, where it's fed into an intake within Mt. Valþjófsstaðafjall. There is an energy-related exhibition at Kárahnjúkavirkjun which is open to visitors by appointment.

Skriðuklaustur is an ancient manor estate in Fliótsdalur. From 1493-1552, a monastery was operated there. Extensive archaeological research took place from 2002 to 2011, and the cloister ruins are now open to visitors all year round. Novelist Gunnar Gunnarsson (1889-1975) bought Skriðuklaustur in 1939 and built a large house, designed by German architect Fritz Höger. Gunnar moved to Reykjavík in 1948 and donated Skriðuklaustur to the Icelandic government. An agricultural research centre was located at Skriðuklaustur for a long time. In 2000, the Gunnar Gunnarsson Foundation resumed operations at Skriduklaustur, reopening the cloister as a cultural research centre. Skriðuklaustur offers various exhibitions. cultural events, and guided tours of the writer's house and the archaeological site. A visitor centre for the Vatnaiökull Glacier National Park has been opened in a new building with an exhibition about the national park.

Mt. Snæfell is 1,833m high and it's the tallest mountain in Iceland, excluding the glaciers. Recent research suggests that the mountain may be a dormant volcano. Eyjabakkar, a unique vegetation oasis and goose sanctuary in the highlands, is located near Mt. Snæfell. The mountain can be climbed fairly easily, and most departures are from a mountain hut beneath its western slope, or from Sandfell, on the northern side. An unpaved road leads to Mt. Snæfell, which is passable in the summer. It's possible to make a day trip from Eqilsstaðir to hike the mountain.

Located on the Fljótsdalsheiði health, Laugarfell is an ancient resting place for travellers, popular for its natural hot pots. There is a highland guesthouse located on-site today, with good bathing facilities and access to many hiking trails. Laugarfell is about a 30km drive on the paved road from Fljótsdalur valley, on the way to the Kárahnjúkur dam

The Wilderness Centre is an authentic and peaceful hideaway, located right by the edge of North Europe's largest wilderness area. It's a gateway to the greatest highland in North Europe. Guests experience the spirit of the past through a variety of services, such as unique accommodation, locally-sourced food products, an exhibition, horseback riding and hiking tours, and a variety of day tours, escorted tours, and tailor-made tours.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

- Snæfellsstofa, visitor and information centre in Vatnajökull National Park, tel. 470-0840.
- Skriðuklaustur, historical site with ruins of a monastery, Fljótsdalur, tel. 471-2990.

ACCOMMODATION:

- The Wilderness Centre, tel. 440-8822/863-9494/896-2339.
 wilderness.is
- Fljótsdalsgrund Guesthouse, Végarður, Egilsstaðir, tel. 865-1683. fljotsdalsgrund.is
- Laugarfell, accommodation and hot springs, tel. 773-3323. highlandhostel.is
- Snæfellsskáli, mountain hut in the Vatnajökull National Park, tel. 470-0840.

CAMPING:

• Végarður community centre, Fljótsdalsgrund, tel. 865-1683.

ACTIVITIES:

- Wilderness Centre, day tours, escorted tours, and tailor-made tours tel. 440-8822/863-9494/896-2339. wilderness.is
- Into the Wild, highland horse tours. riding-iceland.com/tours/ into-the-wild
- · Laugarfell, jeep, hiking, and reindeer tours, tel. 773-3323.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Víknaslóðir, marked hiking trails in the area of Héraðsflói and Seyðisfjörður.
- Bakkagerði church, altarpiece by famous painter Kjarval.
- Viewing dials at Álfaborg and Gagnheiði.
- Viewing platform on Hafnarhólmi in the harbour, Blue Flag-awarded small boat marina, great for birdwatching. puffins.is
- Urðarhólar at the far end of Borgarfjörður, a stunning, marked, circular route leading up to a unique scree.
- · Vatnajökull National Park, numerous hiking trails.

BORGARFJÖRÐUR EYSTRI

Population: 0-100

Borgarfjörður eystri is a short, wide fjord that leads into the Austfjarðarfjöll mountain range. Many of the mountains in the area are light-coloured and exceptionally beautiful. It's one of the two largest deposits of rhyolite in Iceland. The two major industries have long been agriculture and small boat fishing. Álfaborg, a unique set of cliffs reported to be the home of elves, including Borghildur, Iceland's Queen of the Elves, is located at the edge of Bakkagerði. There are numerous accounts of elves linked to Borgarfjörður. Álfaborg is a protected site and there is a viewing dial at its top. Iceland's great landscape painter, Jóhannes S. Kjarval, was raised in Borgarfjörður and he took a great deal of inspiration from his natural surroundings, as well as



RORGARFIÖRÐI IR FYSTRI

from local folk beliefs about elves. The small boat marina on Hafnarhólmi island has been awarded the Blue Flag, indicating that its inhabitants are respectful of their natural surroundings. Also, on the island are two viewing platforms for birdwatching, which are especially good for observing puffins from April 10 to August 10.

Víknaslóðir is a group of hiking trails that was mapped out by the Borgarfjörður Tourist Association. They published a high-quality map with the most important information about 20 to 30 of these routes; this map is readily available throughout the east. Víknaslóðir is considered to be one of the best-planned hiking areas in Iceland. There is a ten-day trek along marked paths, as well as two five-day trips; one through the northern region and one through the southern region. There are a variety of services available to hikers, such as tour planning, spa treatments, hot pots, accommodation, guiding, and shuttling of gear. Food can also be purchased and there are three well-maintained mountain huts: at Breiðavík, Húsavík, and Loðmundarfjörður fjord.

Mt. Hvítserkur (not to be confused with the rock formation on Vatnsnes peninsula), is one of the most unusual and beautiful mountains in Iceland, situated along the road to Húsavík and Loðmundarfjörður. It's largely comprised of ignimbrite, which is a light-coloured deposit from past volcanic eruptions. The mountainside that faces Húsavík

has dark-coloured dikes crisscrossing back and forth, which stand out against the light-coloured ignimbrite and give the surface a unique appearance.

Mt. Kúahjalli and Mt. Hrafnatindur are the site of another enjoyable hiking path. It's best to start along the Bakkaá river and continue up to Hrafnatindur peak, which offers a magnificent view of the town and Borgarfjörður fjord. The path continues to Mt. Kúahjalli, and then down to the Kjarval memorial at Geitavík. The hike takes around three hours and reaches an elevation of 350m. Near the memorial, there is a path that leads to the ruins of Kjarval's shepherd hut.

Brúnavík is a bay to the south of Borgarfjördur and it's an easy day hike away at 12km. The route begins at the television broadcast tower at Ölduhamar and travels along Brúnavíkurskard pass (350m), east of Geitfell. A relatively steep hill leads down to a farmstead and a river must be waded or crossed on stones, unless hikers choose to go out onto the sand at the bottom of the inlet. This is recommended since the coastline is highly unusual and colourful. The route then travels back along the inlet, on both sides of the river, down to Brotagil gully. There is a footbridge over the river a short distance from there. From Brotagil gully, the route travels along a dirt road across Hofstrandarskard pass (320m). This hike takes five to six hours and is on marked paths and dirt roads.

Urðarhólar, located at the far end of Borgarfjörður, is a lovely spot and the starting point of an easy hike of 3km. The route passes a beautiful lake, Urðarhólavatn, and can be extended if further exploration is desired.

Innra-Hvannagil, a canyon in Njarðvík, is accessible by car. A hiking route starts from the parking lot, approximately 100m up along a river and past a dyke that blocks the view of the canyon. Beyond the dyke, there is a stunning view of rock formations along the walls of the canyon, as well as river rapids flowing on the canyon floor.

Loðmundarfjörður fjord is approximately 6km long and 3km wide, and it opens up to the ocean. The basalt rocks surrounding the area are at least 1km thick from the shore to the highest peaks. The most unique, natural phenomenon in Loðmundarfjörður is Loðmundarfjarðarskriður (also known as Stakkahlíðarhraun), which is a rock formation that was formed by three separate glacial surges during the last Ice Age. Loðmundarfjörður is also the location of several remarkable fossil discoveries.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Tourist information centre, for all East Iceland, Miðvangur 1-3, Egilsstaðir. borgarfjordureystri.is

SERVICES:

- Búðin, village store, tel. 649-6452
- · Bank Landsbankinn, tel. 410-4175.

HEALTHCARE

• Healthcare centre, Heiðargerði, tel. 472-9945/471-1400.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Álfheimar Guesthouse, tel. 471-2010. alfheimar.com
- · Blábjörg Guesthouse, tel. 861-1792. blabjorg.is
- Lífið í sveitinni, farm accommodations in Njarðvík by Borgarfjörður, tel. 472-9805/894-8305.
- Mountain huts in Breiðavík, Húsavík, and Loðmundarfjörður, tel. 863-5813. ferdafelag@eqilsstadir.is

CAMPING:

- By Álfaborg, tel. 472-9999/857-2005.
- Mountain huts in Breiðavík, Húsavík, and Loðmundarfjörður, tel. 863-5813.

EATING OUT:

- Álfacafé, Iðngarðar, tel. 472-9900.
- Já sæll, Fjarðarborg, tel. 472-9920
- · Frystiklefinn, Blábjörg guesthouse, tel. 472-1180
- Álfheimar Guesthouse, tel. 471-2010.

ACTIVITIES:

- Borg Guesthouse, guided hikes on Víknaslóðir routes, luggage transport, tel. 426-8685.
- Álfheimar Travel Service, hiking tours, offers for groups, tel. 471-2010/861-3677. info@elftours.is
- Kayhike, kayak rental and guided tours, kayhike@kayhike.com.

- Fjord Bikes, mountain bike rental and bike tours, tel. 7700791. fjordbikes@gmail.com.
- Spa & wellness, Blábjörg guesthouse, tel. 472-1180.

TRANSPORTATION:

 Coach service on weekdays between Borgafjörður and Egilsstaðir, tel. 472-9805/894-8305. hlid@centrum.is

GAS STATIONS:

N1, Bakkeyri, tel. 894-3214.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Víknaslóðir, marked hiking trails in the area of Héraðsflói and Seyðisfjörður.
- Bakkagerði church, altarpiece by famous painter Kjarval.
- · Viewing dials at Álfaborg and Gagnheiði.
- Viewing platform on Hafnarhólmi in the harbour, Blue Flag-awarded small boat marina, great for birdwatching. puffins.is
- Urðarhólar at the far end of Borgarfjörður, a stunning, marked, circular route leading up to a unique scree.
- · Vatnajökull National Park, numerous hiking trails.

SEYÐISFJÖRÐUR

Population: 500-1,000

Seyðisfjörður is a town situated at the innermost point of a fjord with the same name. It began as a trading centre in the mid-19th century. In the latter part of that century, many Norwegians travelled to Iceland to fish herring, with many settling in Seyðisfjörður. Among them was an entrepreneur named Otto Wathne (1844-1898). Many houses from that prosperous period have now been renovated. adding to the town's appeal. Being a naturally-sheltered harbour facilitated ocean-related transport, which resulted in many new technologies arriving in Seyðisfjörður before they could reach other parts of Iceland, such as the telephone. The Fjarðará river, in the centre of town, is home to the first alternating current power plant in Iceland. During World War II, Seyðisfjörður was one of the main Allied bases in Iceland. All year round, there are weekly ferry trips between Seyðisfjörður and Europe, with layovers in the Faroe Islands. There are numerous exciting hiking trails in the nearby mountains.

Vestdalur is a valley near Seyðisfjörður offering a variety of interesting one to three hour walks. One leads into the lower part of the Vestdalur valley, starting either from Háubakkar, or by following the Vestdalsá river from Vestdalseyri. Vestdalur and Vestdalseyri offer unique vegetation and cultural relics.

Austdalur valley is a good destination for a half-day or fullday hike to Brekkugjá gully and continuing to Mjóifjörður fjord, to the south. Another route to Mjóifjörður fjord is



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farther inland, from Sörlastaðir and Hánefsstaðadalur valley through Hesteyrarskarð pass. Another interesting hike travels along the Sörlastaðaá river. There is much to see on the path on the southern side of the fjord towards Austdalur valley, as well as from Selstaðir on the northern side of the fjord towards Brimnes. Sörlastaðadalur is the starting point for a hike to Gullþúfa, which is the highest point on the mountains south of town. For the descent, it's possible to either head towards Neðri-Stafur or Botnarnir. A marked path is available from Sunnuholt, on the northern side of the fjord, into Kolstaðadalur and then over Hjálmárdalsheiði heath to Loðmundarfjörður fjord.

The Seyðisfjörður Hiking Club has installed boxes with logbooks atop seven separate summits along Seyðisfjörður fjord, as part of a project called The Mountain Champ. The boxes also contain hole punches with a different pattern for each summit. A map with the names of the seven mountains and a route description can be purchased from the tourist information centre.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

- Tourist information centre, Ferjuleira 1, tel. 472-1551.
 visitseydisfjordur.com
- Smyril Line, office of the ferry to the Faroe Islands and Denmark, Fjarðargata 8, tel. 470-2808. isoffice@smyrilline.is

SERVICES:

- · Post office, Kjörbúðin, Vesturvegur 1, tel. 472-1201.
- ATM Landsbankinn, in Kjörbúðin, Bjólfsgata 7, tel. 410-4176.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Healthcare centre, Suðurgata 8, tel. 472-3060.
- Pharmacy Lyfja, Austurvegur 32, tel. 472-1403.

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Við Lónið Guesthouse, Norðurgata 8. vidlonidguesthouse.com
- Hótel Aldan, Norðurgata 2, tel. 472-1277. hotelaldan.com
- Hafaldan Guesthouse and Youth Hostel, Ránargata 9, reception at Suðurgata 8, tel. 472-1410. hafaldan.is
- · Harbour Hostel, tel. 777-5007.
- Post Hostel, Hafnargata 4, tel. 898-6242. info@posthostel.is
- Lónsleira apartments, by Lónsleira, tel. 849-7094/849-3381. lonsleira.com
- Óla Guesthouse, tel. 862-2990. guesthouseola.com
- · Skálanes, tel. 690-6966, skalanes.com
- Silla Guesthouse, Botnahlíð 10, tel. 865-4605/472-1189. aistihussillu.com
- · Langahlíð cottage, Vestureyrarvegur. langahlid.com
- Dagmál guesthouse, Austurvegur 48, tel. 869-5107. dagmalguesthouse.tumblr.com

CAMPING:

• Near the town centre, tel. 472-1521. camping@sfk.is



EATING OUT:

- Norð Austur Sushi & Bar, Norðurgata 2, 2nd floor, tel. 787-4000. facebook.com/nordaustur
- · Hótel Aldan, Norðurgata 2, tel. 472-1277.
- Skaftfell, bistró and gallery, Austurvegur 42, tel. 472-1633.
- Orkuskálinn Dalbotni, Hafnargata 2a, tel. 471-2090.
- El Grillo bar, pub and café, Norðurgata 3, tel. 472-1703.

GROCERIES:

- · Kjörbúðin, Vesturvegur 1.
- Vínbúðin liguor store, Hafnargata 4a, tel. 472-1101.

SHOPPING

- · Kjörbúðin, souvenirs, postcards, Vesturvegur 1.
- The Harbour Shop, Ferry House, Ferjuleira 1.
- The Handicrafts Market, tel. 866-7859.
- Gallerí Vigdís, glass and ceramics, Botnahlíð 4, Fjörður 4b, tel. 865-0633.
- Borgarhóll art&craft, Icelandic crafts and design, Austurvegur 17b. borgarhollartandcraft@qmail.com
- Gullabúið, Icelandic crafts, souvenirs, and more, Norðurgata 8, tel. 899-9429/866-6201. facebook.com/gullabuid

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- The Harbour Shop, Ferry House, Ferjuleira 1.
- Technical Museum, Jóhann Hansson's machine shop, the first telegraph station in Iceland, and more, Hafnargata 44, tel.

472-1696, tekmus.is

- Skaftfell Centre for Visual Art, exhibitions, various events, tel. 472-1632. skaftfell.is
- Fjarðarselsvirkjun power plant, first alternating current power plant in Iceland, Electricity Museum on second floor, tel.
 472-1122. fjardarsel.is
- · Seyðisfjörður church.
- Skálanes, a natural and cultural centre, tel. 690-6966. skalanes.com

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool, sauna, hot tubs, Suðurgata 5, tel. 472-1414.
- Sports centre, sauna, hot tubs, cold tubs, solarium, fitness studio, tel. 472-1501/861-7787.
- Hagavöllur, nine-hole golf course, tel. 472-1240.

ACTIVITIES:

- Skálanes, guided tours, tel. 690-6966. skalanes.com
- Hlynur's kayak and mountain bike rental, tel. 865-3741.
 Orkuskálinn Dalbotni, fishing licenses, tel. 471-2090.
- Fjarðarheiði, ski area, tel. 472-1160.
- Sál Seyðisfjarðar, guided walking tours, tel. 659-1435.
- · The Mountain Champ, mountain hikes.
- FÍ, travel agency of Fljótsdalshérað, Tjarnarás 8, Egilsstaðir, tel. 863-5813.



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PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Viewing platforms and hiking paths next to the avalanche guards in Bjólfur, 640m above sea level, the road opens in lune
- · Tvísöngur, outdoor sculpture by Lukas Kuhne.
- Hvað er að frétta, outdoor artwork by Guðjón Ketilsson to commemorate Iceland's connection to the rest of the world by laying a marine cable, tel. 566-1906.
- Útlínur, outdoor sculpture by Kristján Guðmundsson, a gift from the municipality to commemorate its 100th anniversary in 1995

TRANSPORTATION:

- Smyril Line, the Norræna Ferry sails from Seyðisfjörður to the Faroe Islands and Denmark, tel. 470-2808.
- FAS, coach service between Seyðisfjörður and Egilsstaðir, tel. 472-1515.

GAS STATIONS:

• Orkuskálinn Dalbotni, Hafnargata 2a, tel. 472-1700.

FJARÐABYGGÐ

Population: 2,500-5,000

Fjarðabyggð extends from Mjóifjörður fjord in the north to Stöðvarfjörður fjord in the south, and it has the largest population of all municipalities in East Iceland. The landscape is magnificent, with coves along the coastline as well as vast mountainous regions. Fishing and fish processing are the main industries in Fjarðabyggð, with three of Iceland's largest fishing companies located there. The municipality has six townships and is named after the six majestic fjords within its region. The community consists of strong and well-established fishing villages. Diverse forms of trade thrive in the region and it's known for its handicrafts and arts. It's an ideal place for outdoor activities in nature.

MJÓIFJÖRÐUR

Mjóifjörður is a narrow, sheltered fjord. Ancient footpaths to neighbouring fjords cross the high mountain passes and birch shrub grows in much of the fjord. At the beginning of the 20th century, there was a fairly large settlement in Mjóifjörður, mostly to take advantage of herring and whale fishing. A road leads from the fjord via Mjóafjarðarheiði heath and Slenjudalur valley to the inland district of Egilsstaðir, although it's often impassable during the winter. At the crossroads, the southern road leads to Reyðarfjörður fjord and the northern road leads to Egilsstaðir. When the road is closed in the wintertime, a ferry runs between Mjóifjörður and Norðfjörður fjords on Mondays and Thursdays.

Dalatangi was the first lighthouse built in Iceland, on the easternmost point of the island. The drive out to it is via a gravel road that is carved out along the fjord. It's accessible to regular vehicles. It passes along landslides and cliff edges, past waterfalls and ravines, and when Dalatangi is within sight, there is the sensation of being on an island surrounded by land. There are two historic lighthouses on-site: the older one was built in 1895 and the younger one was built in 1908. The farm fields extend all the way to the coast and a botanical garden and greenhouse are situated next to the farm buildings.

Klifbrekkufossar are a magnificent series of waterfalls far inland that can be found on the right side of route 1, as you drive south from Mjóifjörður heath.

Prestagil gully is located far inland, on the southern side of the Mjóifjörður fjord. It's named after the priests who were lured to their death at the hands of a troll that lived in the gully.

FACILITIES IN MJÓIFJÖRÐUR IN FJARÐABYGGÐ

ACCOMMODATION:

• Sólbrekka, guesthouse, tel. 476-0007/476-0020.

CAMPING:

Sólbrekka, tel. 476-0007/476-0020.

EATING OUT:

Sólbrekka, café, tel. 476-0007/476-0020.

REYÐARFJÖRÐUR

Population: 1,000-2,500

Reyðarfjörður fjord, at approximately 30km in length, is the largest of the fjords in East Iceland. The town of the same name has a good, naturally-sheltered harbour and is the administration centre for Fjarðabyggð. It has a small shopping centre and bakery which also sells local handicrafts. A campsite is located by the lake Andapollurinn, which is a short distance from the town entrance. An Alcoa aluminum plant, with an annual production capacity of 340,000 tons, is located in Reyðarfjörður. The plant receives its power from the Fljótsdalsstöð power plant.

World War II did not leave Iceland untouched and the first troops arrived in Reykjavík on May 10, 1940. Shortly after July 1, the first troops arrived in Reyðarfjörður. The occupation had a large impact on Reyðarfjörður, which was populated by only 300 people at that time. Three thousand British troops were stationed in the village over the course of World War II, during which time they constructed an extensive hospital camp just outside of town. This camp is now the site of the Icelandic Wartime Museum, which also houses a number of other relics of the wartime era. The museum's exhibitions aim to create a realistic picture of the war years in Reyðarfjörður, such as



SEYÐISFJÖRÐUR

the overall spirit of the time and popular fashions, as well as the feelings of fear that pervaded the era. There's a beautiful hiking trail bordering the museum, running from Reyðarfjörður up to the Búðará river. Following the path at the museum, the Búðarfoss waterfall and Búðarárstífla dam are passed. The dam was completed in 1930, when Rafveita Reyðarfjarðar, the local electricity company, began its operations.

Grænafell is a friendly, sheltered area beneath the shrub-covered slopes of Mt. Grænafell, just west of the town. There is an easy, marked hiking path that leads onto the mountain from Fagradalur valley, as well as an additional hiking path along the beautiful Geithúsaá river ravine. Large boulders in the shrubbery could be mistaken for elf homes, but they are in fact deposits left by avalanches and landslides from the mountain. For decades, students had a tradition of planting their own trees on the slopes of Mt. Grænafell, as witnessed by the tall evergreens found in the area. The mountain was previously a gathering place for the residents of Reyðarfjörður, and the site of their sports tournaments. It's currently the most popular walking and hiking area for the town's residents.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

• Icelandic Wartime Museum, Heiðarvegur 37, tel. 470-9063. sofn@fjardabyggd.is

SERVICES:

- Police, tel. 444-0600.
- Post office, Búðareyri 35, tel. 474-1106/1100.
- Bank Landsbankinn, Hafnargata 2, tel. 410-4167.
- Bank Íslandsbanki, Búðareyri 7, tel. 440-4000.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hótel Austur, Búðareyri 6, tel. 456-2555. hotelaustur@simnet.is
- Hjá Marlín, Vallargerði 9, tel. 474-1220. bakkagerdi.net
- Guesthouse Tærgesen, Búðargata 4, tel. 470-5555. taergesen.com

CAMPING:

• By Andapollurinn lake on the outskirts of town.

EATING OUT:

Hótel Austur. Búðarevri 6. tel. 456-2555.

- Hiá Marlín, café, Vallargerði 9, tel. 474-1220.
- · Sesam brauðhús, bakery, brasserie, café, Hafnargata 1, tel. 475-8000.
- Olísskálinn, Búðareyri 33, tel. 474-1147.
- Geskur, Búðareyri 28, tel. 474-1111.
- · Tærgesen, Búðargata 4, tel. 470-5555.
- · Kaffi Kósí, pub, Búðargata 6, tel. 474-1666.

GROCERIES:

- · Krónan, Hafnargata 2. kronan.is
- Vínbúðin liguor store, Hafnargata 2, tel. 474-1406.

· Sesam brauðhús, local handicrafts, Hafnargata 1, tel. 475-8000

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 Icelandic Wartime Museum, World War II memorabilia. Heiðarvegur 37, Hæðargerði, tel. 470-9063. sofn@fjardabyggd.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

 Kollur, nine-hole golf course, maintained by the Fiarðabyggð Golf Club. tel. 477-1165.

ACTIVITIES:

· Oddskarð Ski Centre, downhill and cross-country skiing for skiers of all levels, tel. 853-1465/878-1474. visitfjardabyggd.is/ oddsskard

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- · Walking path up the shores of the Búðará river.
- · Birdwatching shelter near Andapollurinn lake.

TRANSPORTATION:

· Strætisvagnar Austurlands, scheduled coach service in East Iceland, svaust.is

GH HJÁ MARLÍN



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ESKIFIÖRÐUR

Population: 1,000-2,500

Eskifjörður is a town situated along a fjord of the same name that extends off Reyðarfjörður fjord. Its most notable feature is the large number of red houses along the harbour, which give the town a welcoming atmosphere. Eskifjörður began growing rapidly after 1870, when Norwegians began fishing herring off the Eastfjords. The first independent church in Iceland was built in Eskifjörður in 1884. There's a memorial to the town's sailors who lost their lives at sea designed by Ragnar Kjartansson, as well as a maritime museum located in an old store from the early 19th century. Nearby is the Hólmanes peninsula, which was declared a protected area in 1973 because of its diverse and beautiful environment

Hólmatindur peak is Eskifjörður's pride and joy. Hólmatindur is 985m high and towers over the fjord, opposite the town. The hike to the top is demanding, and once there, hikers can record their names in a logbook.

Hólmanes, located between Reyðarfjörður and Eskifjörður, was declared a common and partially a nature reserve in 1973. There is a great deal of birdlife in the area and unique rock formations abound. This is a great location for outdoor activities, either along the cliffs or the shoreline. The part that is declared a nature preserve has a marked hiking trail.

The Iceland spar mine at Helgustaðir is one of the best-known in the world. Iceland spar was mined there from the 17th century until the early 20th century, until spar became obsolete. The mine is located a short distance out along Reyðarfjörður fjord and has a walking path leading to it. The Helgustaðir mine has been declared a natural monument

The gravesite of the *völvg* (female seer) is located at the top of Hólmaháls hill, a short distance above the road. The völva is said to have protected Reyðarfjörður and Eskifjörður from outside attacks for centuries. There is an exceptional view from this site

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 The Maritime Museum, Strandgata 39b, tel. 476-1605/470-9063.

SERVICES:

- Police, Strandgata 52, tel. 444-0600.
- ATM Landsbankinn, Hafnargata 2, tel. 410-4167.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Healthcare centre, Strandgata 31, tel. 470-1430.
- Pharmacy Lyfja, Strandgata 31, tel. 476-1287.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Askja Guesthouse, Strandgata 86b, tel. 476-1150.
- Mjóeyri Travel Service, Strandgata 120, tel. 477-1247/696-0809/698-6980, mioevri.is

- Hótel Eskifjörður (Puffin Hotel), Strandgata 47, tel. 476-0099. puffinhotel.is
- Hótelíbúðir, Strandgata 26, tel. 892-8657. hotelibudir.net

CAMPING:

· Directly upon entering the town.

EATING OUT:

- Randulfssjóhús, Strandgata 96, tel. 477-1247.
- · Kaffihúsið Eskifirði, Strandgata 10, tel. 476-1150.
- Shell gas station, Strandgata 13, tel. 476-1383.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- The Maritime Museum, Strandgata 39b, tel. 476-1605.
- Church and cultural centre, concerts, exhibitions, tel. 476-1740. tonleikahus.is
- Randulffssjóhús, an original fisherman's hut from the war, tel. 477-1247/696-0809. mjoeyri@mjoeyri.is
- Rock Collection of Sören and Sigurborg, Lambeyrarbraut 5, tel. 476-1177.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool, Dalbraut 3a, tel. 476-1218.
- Byggðarholtsvöllur, nine-hole golf course, on the outskirts of town.

ACTIVITIES:

- Randulfssjóhús, boat rental, Strandgata 96, tel. 477-1247/696-0809.
- Oddskarð Ski Centre, downhill and cross-country skiing for skiers of all levels, tel. 853-1465/878-1474. visitfjardabyggd.is/ oddsskard
- · Fishing in the Eskifjarðará river.
- Tanni Travel, day tours, Strandgata 14, tel. 476-1399.
 tannitravel is
- Mjóeyri Travel Service, day tours, tel. 477-1247/696-0809. mjoeyri.is

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- · Helgustaðanáma, spar mine located just outside of town.
- · Hólmanes Nature Reserve.
- · Hiking trail over Eskifjörður heath.

TRANSPORTATION:

• Strætisvagnar Austurlands, scheduled coach service in East Iceland. svaust.is

GAS STATIONS:

Shell, Strandagata 13, tel. 476-1383.

NORÐFJÖRÐUR

Population: 1,000-2,500

Neskaupstaður is located on the northern coast of the Norðfjörður fjord, which is the northernmost of the three fjords that make up Norðfjarðarflói bay. The other two fjords are

Hellisfjörður and Viðfjörður, the latter of which is famous for its folklore and ghost stories.

Three valleys, all filled with shrubbery, extend from the fjord: Oddsdalur, Seldalur, and Gannardalur. The town began expanding during the latter part of the 19th century, but it was not until 1949 that Norðfjörður had a land route to neighbouring towns. The route went over Oddskarð, one of Iceland's highest mountains, which is very difficult to traverse in snow. A tunnel, 626m long and 632m above sea level, was built from 1974-1977. Oddskarð is the centre for winter sports in the area. The Culture House in Neskaupstaður contains various museums, and a nature reserve is located to the east of the town. Construction of the Norðfjarðargöng tunnel of 7.9km to Eskifjörður began in 2013. The tunnel was opened in November 2017.

Avalanche defense structures have been erected above Neskaupstaður to protect against snow avalanches. Hiking paths lead up to the structures, from which there is a breathtaking view. There are also paths leading from there to the nature reserve, which is east of Neskaupsstaður – a route that should not be missed. The path leading to the Páskahellir cave has several signs and offers an informative walk.

Gerpissvæði hiking area is a true paradise for hikers. Located between Norðfjörður and Reyðarfjörður, it's becoming one of the most popular hiking areas in the country. The Fjarðamanna Travel Association has designated numerous hiking paths there, as well as elsewhere in the region. Their hiking maps may be purchased at tourist information centres and shops throughout Fjarðabyggð.

Rauðubjörg is a set of rhyolite rocks located in Barðsnes, near Norðfjarðarflói bay. The residents of Norðfjörður have long said that the sun shimmering on Rauðubjörg in the evening signals fine weather for the following day.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Safnahúsið, Egilsbraut 2, Neskaupstaður, tel. 470-9063/477-1446. visitfjardabyggd.is

SERVICES:

- Police, Melagata 2a, tel. 444-0620.
- · Post office, Miðstræti 26, tel. 477-1100.
- Bank Landsbankinn, Hafnarbraut 40, tel, 410-4168.
- ATM Sparisjóður Austurlands, Egilsbraut 25, tel. 470-1100.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Hospital, Mýrargata 20, tel. 470-1450.
- Pharmacy Lyfja, Hafnarbraut 15, tel. 477-1118.

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Hotel Capitano, Hafnarbraut 50, tel. 477-1800. hotelcapitano.is
- Hildibrand Hotel, Hafnarbraut 2, tel. 477-1950. hildibrand.com
- Hótel Edda Neskaupstaður, Mýrargata 10, tel. 444-4860.
- Tónspil Accommodation, Hafnarbraut 22, tel. 477-1580.
- Skorrahestar, Skorrastaður 4, tel. 477-1736/891-8036. skorrahestar.is

CAMPING:

· By the avalanche guards above the town centre.

EATING OUT:

- Kaupfélagsbarinn, inside Hótel Hildbrad, Hafnarbraut 2, tel. 477-1950. hildibrand.com
- · Hótel Edda, Mýrargata 10, Neskaupstaður, tel. 444-4860.
- Nesbær, Egilsbraut 5. tel. 477-1115.
- Olísskálinn, Hafnarbraut 19. tel. 477-1500.
- Hótel Capitano, Hafnarbraut 50, tel. 477-1800/861-4747.
- Pizzafiörður, Hafnarbraut 17. tel. 475-0500.

GROCERIES:

- · Kjörbúðin, Hafnarbraut 13. kjorbudin.is
- Vínbúðin liguor store, Hafnarbraut 6, tel. 477-1890.

SHOPPING:

 Gallery Thea, Skorrastaðir 4, tel. 477-1736/891-8036. skorrahestar.is

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 Safnahúsið, houses The Natural History Museum of East Iceland; The Tryggvi Ólafsson Museum; and The Maritime and Machine Shop Museum of Jósafat Hinriksson, Egilsbraut 2, tel. 470-9063/477-1446. sofn@fjardabyqqd.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Norðfjörður swimming pool, Miðstræti 15, tel. 477-1243.
- · Nine-hole golf course, tel. 477-1165.

ACTIVITIES:

- Samvinnufélag útgerðarmanna, fishing permits, tel. 477-1133.
- Oddskarð Ski Centre, downhill and cross-country skiing for skiers of all levels, tel. 853-1465/878-1474. visitfjardabyggd.is/ oddsskard
- Skorrahestar, horseback riding tours, Skorrastaður 4, tel. 477-1736/891-8036. skorrahestar.is
- Fjarðamanna Travel Association, organised hiking tours, tel. 477-1790

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Avalanche guard wall above town, provides a good view over the fjord.
- · Neskaupstaður Nature Reserve.

TRANSPORTATION:

 Strætisvagnar Austurlands, scheduled coach service in East Iceland, svaust.is

GAS STATION:

Ólis, Hafnarbraut 19, tel. 477-1500.

OTHER SERVICES:

 Bílaverkstæði Önundar, car repair, Vindheimanaust 7c, tel. 477-1731.

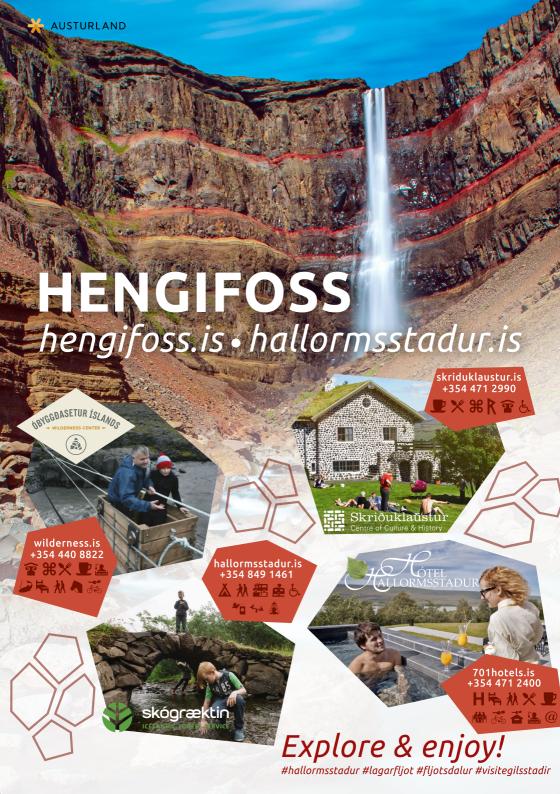
FÁSKRÚÐSFJÖRÐUR

Population: 500-1,000

Fáskrúðsfjörður village, also known as Búðir, is located at the innermost point of Fáskrúðsfjörður fjord. It's believed to have derived its name from Skrúður, a rocky island at the mouth of the fjord. During the 19th century, it was one of the main bases for French fishermen operating off the Eastfjords. The French consul was stationed there, and the French built a hospital and chapel. Street names are still in Icelandic and French. Some of the houses have been restored and now service the town as a hotel and museum. 49 French and Belgium fishermen are buried at Krossar, on the north shore of town. A traditional open deck boat, built by Einar Sigurðsson, is displayed on the lake in the town park. There are many walking trails that have been marked in Fáskrúðsfjörður and the town is an excellent location for spotting northern lights in winter.

Skrúður is a grassy island situated at the mouth of Fáskrúðsfjörður fjord. On the island are the high and spacious Skrúðshellir caves. They are considered the largest in East Iceland. Fishermen in the old days would dwell in these caves







STÖÐVARF IÖRÐUR

between trips out to sea. Birdlife thrives on the island, and there was a time when collecting eggs and hunting birds were an important part of daily life. The island is now a nature preserve.

Kolfreyjustaður is a parsonage and benefice. The present-day church was built in 1878 and has preserved many ancient church relics. Poets Jón (1850-1916) and Páll Ólafsson (1827-1905) grew up at Kolfreyjustaður.

Mt. Sandfell is a rhyolite mountain (743m) south of Fáskrúðsfjörður. It's a wonderful example of laccolith formations in leeland. On the south side of the mountain, it's possible to see how the laccolith has folded the basalt over itself. The laccolith is estimated to be 600m thick and is one of the best examples from the Tertiary period found in the northern hemisphere. A very enjoyable and beautiful walking trail leads up Mt. Sandfell, which takes two to three hours.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

• Kolfreyja gallery, Tangi, Hafnargata, tel. 852-2288. visitfjardarbyggd.is

SERVICES:

· Police, Skólavegur 53, tel. 444-0660.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Healthcare centre, tel. 475-1225.
- · Pharmacy Lyfja, Hlíðargata 60, tel. 475-1551.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Guesthouse Elínar Helgu, Stekkholti 20. tel. 868-2687.
- Fosshótel Austfirðir, Hafnargata 11-14, tel. 470-4070. fosshotel.is
- Hótel Bjarg, Skólavegur 49, tel. 475-1466/899-6221. hotelbjarg. is

CAMPING:

. On the outskirts of town.

EATING OUT:

- Fosshótel Austfirðir, Hafnargata 11-14, tel. 470-4070.
- Sumarlína, café and light refreshments, Búðavegur 59, tel. 475-1575.
- SJ gas station, grill and coffee shop, tel. 475-1490.

GROCERIES:

- · Kjörbúðin, Skólavegur 50. kjorbudin.is
- Vínbúðin liguor store, Skólavegur 59, tel. 475-1530.

SHOPPING:

- Kolfreyja gallery, Tangi, Hafnargata, tel. 852-2288.
- Anna frænka. Búðavegur 49. tel. 844-7817.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 The French Museum, an exhibition about French sailors in Iceland during the war, Hafnargata 12, tel. 470-9000. fjardabyggd.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool. Skólavegur 37, tel. 475-9070.
- · Nes. nine-hole golf course.

ACTIVITIES:

• Hótel Bjarg, ATV tours and sea fishing, tel. 475-1466/899-6221.

TRANSPORTATION:

 Strætisvagnar Austurlands, scheduled coach service in East Iceland. svaust.is

GAS STATIONS:

N1. at the harbour, tel. 470-5016.

STÖÐVARFJÖRÐUR

Population: 100-500

The settlement Stöðvarfjörður was established approximately 100 years ago along the fjord of the same name. The beautiful natural environment offers many possibilities for outdoor activities. Rare rocks and minerals have been found in the vicinity, many of which can be seen at Petra's Stone Collection, a stone museum started by Petra Sveinsdóttir, who passed away in 2012. Stöðvarfjörður has a thriving artistic culture and is home to an excellent centre for graphic arts, which is run by Ríkharður and Sólrún Valtingojer. The Creative Centre of Stöðvarfjörður is located in an old fish process freezing plant, and during the summer. Salthúsmarkaður market is home to a magnificent local handicraft and art market. Stöð, a settlement site located at the deepest point of Stöðvarfjörður fjord, was established by Þórhaddur "the old." He banned the hunting of wild animals and birds in the area and has hence been named the first nature conservationist in Iceland

Einbúi is a set of large, unique rocks that stand out in the otherwise flat surroundings. It's located at the end of the Jafnadalur valley, which leads upwards from Stöðvarfjörður fjord on the north side. A hiking path leads through the valley, across Stöðvarskarð pass. A large stone archway that is approximately 6m in diameter can also be found in Jafnadalur, to the east of Mt. Álftafell.

Saxa is a "sea geyser" located just outside of Lönd. It's a natural phenomenon where ocean waves crash into a rock crevice and then shoot high into the air creating an "eruption" effect. The name Saxa is derived from a seaweed called saxað (chopped), which is found inside the crevice and then hurled into the air with the waves

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

• Brekkan, Fjarðarbraut 44, tel. 475-8939.

HEALTHCARE:

· Healthcare centre, Túngata 2, tel. 470-3088.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hótel Saxa, Fiarðarbraut 41, tel. 511-3055, saxa.is
- Kirkiubær, Fiarðarbraut 37a, tel. 475-8938/892-3319.
- Gallerí Svarthol Guesthouse, Skólabraut 10, tel. 861-9164.
 eastartist com
- · Sólhóll, Fjarðarbraut 66, tel. 863-4631.

CAMPING:

Near the town centre, tel, 470-9000.

EATING OUT:

- Hótel Saxa, restaurant and coffeehouse, Fjarðarbraut 41, tel.
 511-3055 saxa is
- · Brekkan, Fjarðarbraut 44, tel. 475-8939.

GROCERIES:

• Brekkan, convenience store, Fjarðarbraut 44, tel. 475-8939.

SHOPPING:

- Art Gallery Snærós, Fjarðarbraut 42, tel. 475-8931/861-7556. solrun.frid@simnet.is
- Gallerí Snærós, Fjarðarbraut 42, tel. 475-8931/861-7556.
- Svarthol gallery, Skólabraut 10, tel. 861-9164, eastartist.com
- The Creative Centre, Bankastræti 1, tel. 537-0711. inhere.is
- · Salthúsmarkaður, market and showroom, Fjarðarbraut 43.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

• Petra's Stone Collection, rock and mineral collection, Sunnuhlíð, tel. 475-8834. steinapetra.com

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

• Stöðvarfjörður swimming pool, tel. 475-9046.

TRANSPORTATION:

 Strætisvagnar Austurlands, scheduled coach service in East Iceland. svaust.is

GAS STATIONS:

N1. tel. 660-9114.

BREIÐDALUR

Population: 100-500

Breiðdalur is an expansive valley in comparison to the other valleys in the Eastfjords, and it's divided into three parts: Norðurdalur, Suðurdalur, and Útsveit.

Breiðdalsvík, the district's service centre, is probably the youngest town in East Iceland and it did not truly become established until after 1960.

Nothing is known for sure about the settlement until about 1880, when trading company Gránufélagið built a warehouse. However, full-time settlement did not begin until 1896, when the

Brynesverslun store in Sevðisfjörður built a branch at the top of Selnes, at the eastern corner of Selnesbót. The store burned down in the spring of 1906 and was rebuilt the same year, but this time to the west of the inlet. That building still stands today, making it the oldest in Breiðdalsvík. The old shop has been rebuilt as a geology centre, which is fitting since Breiðdalur is East Iceland's volcanic centre, as evidenced by the colours of the mountains

A collection dedicated to linguist and literary historian Stefán Einarsson (1897-1972), former professor at John Hopkins University in Baltimore, is also housed in Breiðdalsvík's oldest building.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

- Kaupfjelagið, Sólvellir 25, tel. 475-6670.
- The District Office, tel. 470-5560, breiddalur.is
- Breiðdalssetur tel 470-5565 breiddalssetur is

SERVICES:

- Post office. Selnes 38. tel. 470-8720.
- Bank Sparisjóður Hornafjarðar, Selnes 38, tel. 470-8720.

HEALTHCARE:

Н

Healthcare centre. Selnes 44. tel. 470-3099.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hótel Bláfell, Sólvellir 14, tel. 475-6770. hotelblafell.is
- Veiðihúsið Eyjar, tel. 567-5204/660-6890. strengir.is
- Háaleiti, chalets, tel. 475-6798.
- · Hótel Staðarborg, tel. 475-6760. stadarborg.is
- · Café Margret, Heimaleiti, tel. 475-6625. cafemargret@simnet.is

HÓTEL STAÐARBORG

Staðarborg - 760 Breiðdalsvík - +354 475-6760 stadarborg@simnet.is - www.stadarborg.is



















- Óðinsferðir Íslands, chalet/farmhouse accommodation, tel.
- · Silfurberg, Þorgrímsstaðir, tel. 475-1515. silfurberg.com

CAMPING:

- · Hótel Bláfell, tel. 475-6770.
- · Hótel Staðarborg, tel. 475-6760.

EATING OUT:

- · Hótel Bláfell, tel. 475-6770.
- Kaupfielagið, coffee corner, Sólvellir 25, tel. 475-6670.
- Café Margret, Heimaleiti, tel. 475-6625.
- Veiðihúsið Eyjar, tel. 567-5204/660-6890.
- · Hótel Staðarborg, tel. 475-6760.
- · Beljandi Brugghús, brewery, tel. 860-9905.

GROCERIES:

Kaupfjelagið, convenience store, Sólvellir 25, tel. 475-6670.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

· Breiðdalssetur, cultural centre, geological exhibition, information on the history of the community, tel. 470-5565. breiddalssetur is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

• Breiðdalshreppur swimming pool, tel. 470-5575.

ACTIVITIES:

- Strengir, fishing permits, Veiðihúsið Eyjar, tel. 567-5204/660-6890. strengir.is
- Innri-Kleif, trout fishing, tel. 475-6789/475-06754.
- Óðinsferðir Íslands, horseback riding tours, Höskuldsstaðir, tel. 475-8088/861-4392.
- Tinna Adventure, day tours, Selnes 28, tel. 832-3500. tinna-adventure is

GAS STATIONS:

N1, Ásvegur, tel. 475-6664.

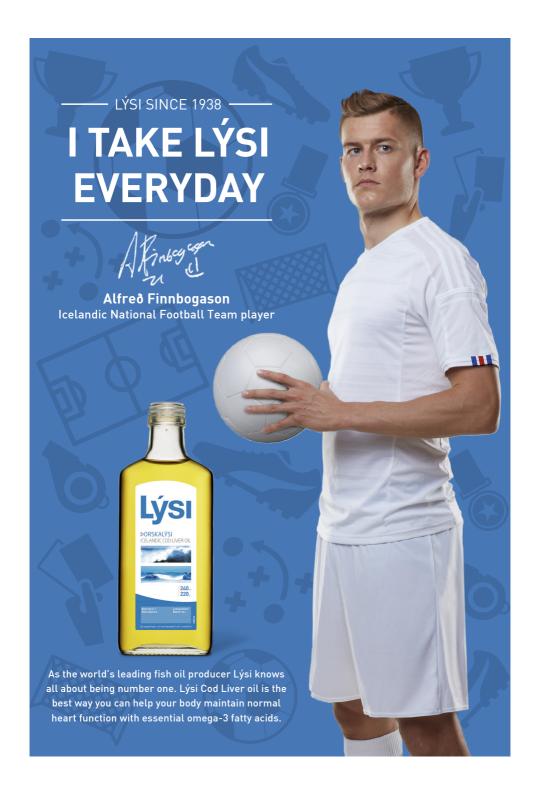
OTHER SERVICES:

• Bifreiðaverkstæði, garage, Selnes 28-30, tel. 475-6616.

DJÚPIVOGUR

Population: 100-500

The municipality of Djúpivogur extends from the middle of the Hvalnes scree in the south to Streiti á Berufjarðarströnd beach in the north. Three fjords lie within this district: the sea lagoons Álftafjörður and Hamarsfjörður and, to the north, the deep fjord Berufjörður. The landscape and wildlife in this area are extremely diverse. For instance, a large herd of reindeer live there for a large part of the year, and out along the beach, seals sprawl among the skerries. The municipality boasts wetlands that are brimming with birdlife and have excellent birdwatching facilities. Countless islands are just off Djúpivogur's shores, as well as many isthmi and skerries. There are family-friendly





THE EGGS AT MERRY BAY IN DJÚPIVOGUR.

black, white, and red sand beaches, exquisite waterfalls, and flora, numerous hiking trails through magnificent mountains, verdant valleys, and even a few glaciers. One reason for the beauty and diversity of the region is that within it stand the remnants of two central volcanoes with light-coloured rhyolite and igneous dikes, as well as basalt lava beds which most resemble grey layer cakes. There are many marked hiking trails in the Djúpivogur district and it's possible to obtain a trail map at the information centre and various other places in town.

Djúpivogur is the main town in the Djúpivogur municipality, situated to the north of the Búland peninsula that divides the Hamarsfjörður and Berufjörður fjords. Djúpjvogur has historically been an important trading centre, dating all the way back to 1589 when merchants from Hamburg obtained trading licenses there. The cove that the village is named after - Diúpivogur means deep cove - is an excellent natural harbour that, before the turn of the century in 1900, was the most important shipping centre in East Iceland. Djúpivogur boasts robust and diverse occupational industries, although fishing is still the primary industry of the region, in addition to tourism. Many homes in the village have been renovated in recent years and are quite lovely. Next to the town stands the Bondavarða cairn, which is said to have been established in 1627. Barbary pirates had raided the village and so the cairn became a place to keep watch over the village and the fjords in all directions.

Cittaslow is an international association of towns and rural municipalities that emphasises the creation of people-friendly societies which provide clean, safe, and eco-friendly environments and that focus on local specialties, working methods, and cultural traditions. Djúpivogur became a member of the association in 2013 and remains the first and only town in Iceland with the Cittaslow designation. Keep an eye out for the Cittaslow symbol: an orange snail carrying a village on top of its shell. Local supporters of the Cittaslow ethos use this symbol as a seal of quality. It indicates, for instance, the seller's promise that their products – such as food items or produce, handicrafts, or anything else – originate in the district. The motto shared by Djúpivogur and Cittaslow is: "Slow down and enjoy life – speed doesn't have to be a way of life."

Papey island is often referred to as one of the pearls of Icelandic nature and has been listed on the National Conservation Register since 1975. Birdlife International, an international partnership supporting bird conservation, also lists it as one of Europe's Important Bird Areas. Papey is the largest of the numerous islands that lie off the Djúpivogur coastal area and it's rich in both seal and seabird life, including puffins. The island is so rich in resources, that in the olden days it was said that Papey's owners dressed in so-called "Papey Pants," which granted their wearers untold riches. Papey takes its name from the word papi, which refers to the Christian hermits from Ireland and Scotland who were said to have lived on the island

before the Norsemen settled in Iceland. Papey is also home to the oldest timber church in Iceland, which was built in 1807. Boat trips to the island can be taken on the Gísli í Papey ferry, which sails from Djúpivogur daily in summer.

Langabúð is a long red house that stands right next to the Djúpivogur harbour. The oldest part of the house was first built in 1790, which makes it one of the oldest trading houses in the country. A café, the Djúpivogur folk museum, and two museums dedicated to the lives and work of sculptor Ríkarður Jónsson (1888–1977) and politician Eysteinn Jónsson (1906–1993) are now based at Langabúð. In fact, Eysteinn's first job in his youth was setting up the pins for Langabúð's former bowling lane.

Eggin í Gleðivík, or The Eggs in Gleðivík Bay, is an outdoor art installation by artist Sigurður Guðmundsson. It comprises precise replicas of the eggs of 34 different nesting birds that can be found in the Djúpivogur region. The eggs are all marked with plaques that indicate which bird species they belong to, giving both their Icelandic names and their scientific names in Latin. The largest egg is that of the red-throated loon, which is the region's signature bird.

The Blábjörg cliffs are part of welded tuffs, or pyroclastic rocks, which have fused together and are called Berufjarðartúff, or Berufjörður acid tuffs. These were formed by the pyroclastic flow of an acidic and phreatic, or steam-driven, eruption. The blue-green color of the rock can be attributed to the chlorite minerals that are derived when the rocks themselves are formed. Disturbing or damaging this area's geological formations in any way is strictly prohibited.

Teigarhorn við Berufjörð – often just known as Teigarhorn – was given a protected status in 2013 and now employs a park ranger. The area is known for its natural formations, as well as for its commercial and cultural history. Teigarhorn is home to one of the most significant concentrations of zeolite in the world, the formation of which is largely dependent upon the extensive system of dykes which extend from the Álftafjörður volcano. Zeolite from Teigarhorn was sold to collections all over the world in the late 18th century. Since the area was declared a protected natural monument in 1976, however, it has been illegal to tamper with or remove the minerals.

Weywadthús is also located at Teigarhorn, a house which was built from 1880-1882 by the director of the Ørum and Wulff enterprise at Djúpivogur, Níels P.E. Weywadt. Níels' daughter, Nicoline Weywadt, was the first Icelandic woman to study photography and she operated a photography studio from Teigarhorn. Nicoline also owned the first sewing machine in East Iceland. The highest temperature ever measured in Iceland, 30.5°C, was recorded at Teigarhorn in 1939.

Pvottá, Cleansing River, was thusly named because it's said that the first christenings in Iceland took place there. King Ólafur of Norway, who was the King of Iceland back then as well, sent Pangbrandur, the missionary to convert Icelanders to the Christian faith at the end of the 10th century. Pangbrandur landed at Álftafjörður and spent his first winter at the Síða-Hallur farm there. By the year 1000, he had converted all of Iceland to

Christianity. A monument was erected in 1999 to memorialise Iceland's conversion to Christianity.

Mt. Búlandstindur (1,069m) is considered one of the most beautiful mountains in Iceland and it's thought of as the regional mountain of the Djúpivogur municipality. There's a great view from its summit; in good weather it's possible to see Mt. Snæfell, Þrándarjökull glacier, and far out over the surrounding fjords. To the east of Mt. Búlandstindur stands a cliff that is about 700m tall, called Goðaborg, or Cliff of the Gods. It's said that people carried their pagan idols up this mountain right after the Christian conversion, so that they could hurl them over the side. However, other sources say that Goðaborg once had a lake atop of it, where the entrails of sacrificial animals were cleansed.

Búlandsnes peninsula is an especially good spot for birdwatching and is also the source of numerous hiking trails. The Birdwatching Society has erected a bird observation tower there and has also prepared informational materials about local birds as well as marked trails that are optimal for birdwatching expeditions. The informational materials can be picked up at the tourist information centre in Djúpivogur.

Hálsaskógur forest is a forestation area belonging to the Djúpivogur Forestry Society and it's a great area for hiking. In the summer, the forest is decorated with the artwork of children from the Bjarkartún play school in Djúpivogur. Within the forest, there are also the ruins and remains of the old Búlandsnes farm, as well as an outdoor art installation by Vilmundur Þorgrímsson, sometimes known as Vilmundur í Hvarfi, or Vilmundur the Invisible. The installation is made of materials that were found in the woods.

FACILITIES IN DJÚPIVOGUR AND BERUFJÖRÐUR

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

• Sætún, Bakki 3, tel. 470-8740. info@djupivogur.is

SERVICES:

- Police, Markarland 2, tel. 444-0665.
- Post office, Markarland 1, tel. 410-4000.
- ATM Landsbankinn, Markarland 1, tel. 410-4000.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hátún, Hammersminni Guesthouse, Hammersminni 4, tel. 478-8895/894-2292/892-8895. haaleiti@simnet.is
- Hótel Framtíð, Vogaland 4. tel. 478-8887, hotelframtid.com
- · Hostel and guesthouse Berunes, tel. 478-8988.
- Havarí Guesthouse, Karlsstaðir in Berufjörður, tel. 663-5520. havari.is
- Eyjólfsstaðir, Fossárdalur, Berufjörður, tel. 478-8971/847-9850.
- · Lindarbrekka, guesthouse, tel. 865-0870. beggav@gmail.com
- Klif Hostel, Kambur 1, tel. 478-8802/869-9422, klifhostel, is
- · Adventura, Hamarsfjörður, tel. 843-9889. adventura.is
- Seglskip, Hamarsfjörður, tel. 478-8860. vidvoginn@simnet.is
- Bragðavellir, Hamarsfjörður, tel. 478-8240. bragdavellir.is
- Hostel Framtíð, Varða 2 and Eyjaland 4, tel. 478-8887. framtid@simnet is

CAMPING:

- Hótel Framtíð tel 478-8887
- Hostel and questhouse Berunes, tel. 478-8988.
- Eyjólfsstaðir, Fossárdalur, Berufjörður, tel. 820-4379.

EATING OUT:

- Hótel Framtíð, tel. 478-8887.
- Langabúð, café, refreshments, tel. 478-8220.
- Við Voginn, Vogaland 2, tel. 478-8860.
- Hostel and questhouse Berunes, tel. 478-8988.
- Havarí, Karlsstaðir in Berufiörður, tel. 663-5520, havari,is

GROCERIES:

- · Kjörbúðin, Búlandi 1, tel. 478-8888.
- Við Voginn, tel. 478-8860.
- Vínbúðin liquor store, Búland 1, tel. 478-8720.

SHOPPING:

- · Arfleifð, designer clothes and accessories, Búland 1, tel. 863-4422 arfleifd is
- Bones, sticks & stones, gallery, Víkurland 7, tel. 868-9058.
- JFS Icelandic handicraft studio, workshop, Icelandic handicrafts, tel. 478-8916/899-8331.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

Djúpivogur swimming pool, Varða 6, tel. 478-8999.

ACTIVITIES:

- Lindarbrekka, reindeer spotting tours, tel. 865-0870. beggav@ amail.com
- Papeviarferðir, boat trips to the island of Papev, tel. 478-8119/862-4399/659-1469.
- Adventura, Icelandic fishing adventures, Hamarsfiörður, tel. 843-9889 adventura is

 Havarí, event venue, Karlsstaðir Berufiörður, tel. 663-5520. havari is

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- · Langabúð-Byggðasafn-Ríkarðssafn, culture house, collection of art from artist Ríkharður Jónsson, the Eysteinn Jónsson Memorial Museum, and the Regional Museum, tel. 478-8220.
- · Bones, sticks & stones, gallery and nature exhibition, Víkurland 7. tel. 868-9058.
- Steinasafn Auðuns, mineral museum, tel. 861-0570.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- The Eggs in Gleðivík Bay by artist Sigurður Guðmundsson, installation at Djúpivogur's Gleðivík bay.
- · Hálsaskógur, woods with hiking routes decorated with artwork by the youngest inhabitants of Diúpiyogur.
- · Hiking trails in the area, a good hiking map can be obtained from the information centre in Djúpivogur.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Sterna, scheduled coach service between Höfn and Egilsstaðir, tel. 551-1166, sternatravel.com
- Flugrúta, scheduled coach service between Diúpivogur and Höfn, tel. 478-8933/893-4605/844-6831.

GAS STATIONS:

- N1. Búland 1. tel. 478-8888.
- N1. Víkurland 2. tel. 478-8889/849-6347.

OTHER SERVICES:

Smástál, car repair, tel. 891-9440.

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HÓTFI FRAMTÍÐ

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DJÚPIVOGUR

YOUR PERSONAL GUIDE, the Wapp app and PocketGuide app. Available at your App Store and Play Store.

HIKING AND WALKING along shores and valleys or onto mountains and glaciers. Get a trail map at the information centre in Djúpivogur.

THE GLEÐIVÍK EGGS, sculptures by the artist Sigurður Guðmundsson represent the eggs of 34 locally breeding birds.

TROUT FISHING is offered in two rivers, Bulandsá and Hamarsá.

BIRDWATCHING is very popular on the Búlandsnes peninsula, close to Djúpivogur, where the society behind www.birds.is provides information, trails and hides.

TEIGARHORN is a protected area, world-famous for zeolites.

REINDEER and SEALS are frequently seen in Djúpivogur community, so keep your eyes peeled.

WATERFALLS that will surprise and delight you, even in series, can be viewed along the Fossá river and Öxi road in the fiord Berufiörður, or near Bragðavellir farm in Hamarsfjörður.

ROLLING SNOWBALL/12, Djúpivogur is an art exhibition in the Bræðsla building in Djúpivogur, featuring works from international artists. The exhibition is open from

July 13 - August 18.

RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS Enjoy snacks or fine meals, at Við Voginn, Hótel Framtíð, Bragðavellir Barn Restaurant, Havarí and Langabúð.

COLLECTIONS AND HANDICRAFTS Langabúð, Auðunn's rock collection, Gallery Bones Stick & Stones, JFS Icelandic handicrafts, Reynir Katrínar Handcrafts, Geislar Design, Bakkabúð and the Zeolite museum at Teigarhorn.

www.djupivogur.is



HÓTFL FRAMTÍÐ

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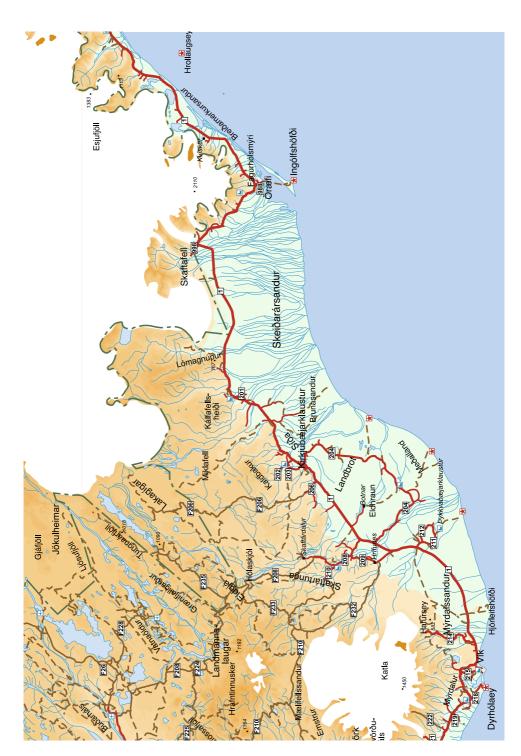


DJÚPIVOGUR **SWIMMING POOL**

Varða 4 - 765 Djúpivogur tel 470-8730









The South

South Iceland extends from Hvalnesskriður in the east to Herdísarvík on Reykjanesskagi peninsula in the west. This region contains the largest uninterrupted area of lowlands in Iceland. Sands and lava characterise the eastern part of the region, where vegetation is sparse. West of Mt. Eyjafjall, the lowlands are more expansive, with grass and moorland areas. Foothills and highlands rise from the lowlands in the east, but west of Mt. Eyjafjall, a sharp distinction can be seen between the lowlands and the mountains. Volcanic palagonite, or tuff, is the main rock type, with dolerite or grey basalt rock also found, and in some places, rhyolite. South Iceland has numerous volcanoes and geothermal areas. The main volcano of the region is Mt. Hekla, with primary geothermal areas found around Torfajökull glacier, Biskupstungur in Haukadalur valley, in Hveragerði, and in the Hengill region. Thermal water is widely used to heat homes and water is piped from Nesjavellir Geothermal Power Station to Reykjavík. There are more power plants in South Iceland than in any other region.

Austur-Skaftafellssýsla is unlike any other region of the country. It covers the coastal strip in the southeastern corner of the country, with Vatnajökull, the largest glacier in Europe, towering in the background with its steep, carved mountainsides. From the main glacier, the glacial arms reach down into the valleys to the sea, picking up sand. silt, and glacial lava on their way. Throughout the region, powerful, short rivers flow to the sea, such as Jökulsá í Lóni, Hornafjarðarfljót, Jökulsá á Breiðamerkursand, and Skeiðará. For centuries, these rivers created obstacles for travellers. However, in 1974, a bridge was built over the Skeiðará river, finally closing the Ring Road around the country. This relieved the Öræfasyeit region, in the foothills of the Öræfajökull glacier - which is an ice-covered volcano - from its long isolation, Hvannadalshniúkur, Iceland's highest mountain, rises from the Öræfajökull glacier. Bæjarstaðaskógur, one of the most magnificent forests in the country, is found there and considerable areas of scrub forest cover the terrain of the Skaftafell district. Almost all the beaches are low-lying and sandy. In the east, Lónsvík. Skarðsfjörður, and Hornafjörður are lagoon bays separated from the sea by low sand spit ribs. On both sides of Lónsvík bay. Mt. Eystrahorn and Mt. Vestrahorn descend into the sea. To the west of this area, the flat coastal terrain extends all the way west to the high cliffs of Ingólfshöfði headland, home to an array of birds, including guillemots, razorbills, puffins, and fulmars.

Basalt is the main rock type in Austur-Skaftafellssýsla, but west of the Breiðamerkur sands, palagonite dominates. Rhyolite occurs in many places, along with different types of plutonic rock.

Next is Vestur-Skaftafellssýsla, stretching as far as the districts of Rangárvallasýsla and Árnessýsla in the west. From the lowlands of this county in the east rise low, but steep mountainsides, above which sloping moorland climbs up towards Vatnajökull glacier. The Grænalón and Langisjór lakes are located in the highlands there. Among the rivers

TOURIST INFORMATION IN SOUTH ICELAND

Höfn, Hafnarbraut 30, t. 478-1500.
Skaftafell - Skaftafellsstofa, t. 470-8300.
Kirkjubæjarklaustur, Kirkjuhvol, t. 487-4620.
Vík, Brydebúð, Víkurbraut 28, t. 487-1395.
Hvolsvöllur, Austurvegur 8, t. 487-8043.
Þingvellir, Service Centre, t. 482-2660.
Hveragerði - Tourist Information Centre
in Shopping Centre Sunnumörk T. 483-4601.
Þorlákshöfn, Publ. Library Ölfus, t. 480-3830.



Selfoss, Tourist Information Centre, Eyrarvegur 3. t. 482 4241. Vestmannaeyjar, Tourist Information at Eymundsson, Bárustígur 2, t. 488-2555 in the province are Kúðafljót, the third most powerful in the country, and the Skaftá river. Towering over the inhabited areas stand the well-known volcanoes Eldgjá, Lakagígar, and Katla, the latter of which erupted in 1918. The Skaftáreldahraun lava flow is the result of the Lakagígar eruption in 1783. It's one of the largest lava flows that has ever occurred in a single eruption and the volcanic ash was carried all the way to mainland Europe. The main towns in the county are Kirkjubæjarklaustur and Vík in Mýrdal. Near Vík is one of the largest nesting areas for arctic terns in the country.

The Rangárvallasýsla coastline is low, sandy, and devoid of harbours. The lowlands are fertile and grassy, and strike a contrast with the scant, upland vegetation, which has been severely eroded in places. From Galtalækur, roads lead into the highland area where many rivers originate; among them are the Markarfljót, Eystri and Ytri Rangá, and Þjórsá rivers. They create a landscape sprinkled with waterfalls, including the majestic Skógafoss. The setting of Njál's Saga is in the vicinity of Hvolsvöllur, and nearby are the Fljótshlíð and Þórsmörk areas, renowned for their natural beauty.

West of the Þjórsá river is Árnessýsla district. The terrain is almost uninterrupted vegetated lowland along the coast, with the town of Þorlákshöfn being the only port. Inland, there are incredible mountains separated by grassy valleys with scrub slopes. On the outskirts of the region, to the west, are the mountainous areas of Bláfjöll (Blue Mountains) and Hengill. Bláfjöll is the main ski area for the Capital Region, and the Hengill area has many popular, marked hiking trails that can be explored, amidst clouds of steam rising from the ground. The district has many lakes, the largest being Þingvallavatn lake. The main rivers are Þjórsá and Hvítá. Once the Sog river, which flows from Þingvallavatn lake, joins the Hvítá river, the combined rivers become the Ölfusá river; the most powerful in the country. Gullfoss, the best-known waterfall in Iceland, is located in a canyon on the Hvítá river

South Iceland possesses numerous natural wonders and many of the most remarkable historical sites in the country. The main attractions are Pingvellir, the ancient site of the nation's parliament where Christianity was adopted in 1000, and Skálholt, the seat of Icelandic bishops for eight centuries. In practical terms, Skálholt was the functioning capital of Iceland from 1056 until the end of the 18th century.

Agriculture is the most important economic activity for the rural inhabitants in the south, however, the towns and villages also depend on fisheries, processing agricultural products, trade, and services. Major horticultural centres using thermal heating in greenhouses flourish in the geothermal areas. The largest towns are Selfoss and Heimaey. Heimaey is part of the Westman Islands just off the coast and also Iceland's largest island. During a volcanic eruption on Heimaey in 1973, all the inhabitants had to be evacuated to the mainland. The birdlife on the island is unique, with the puffin being the most common bird. Stórhöfði is the south headland of Heimaey island, which is the southernmost inhabited soot of Iceland.

FVFNTS

HORNAFJÖRÐUR

- Yearly in March: Höfn Blues and Rock Festival.
- · Lobster Festival in Höfn.
- Weekends in Oct.: Musicals from the Hornafjörður Skemmtifélag.

THE VATNAJÖKULL REGION

 Aug. 13 at 23: Fireworks display at Jökulsárlón, ravel arranged from Höfn, Skaftafell, and Kirkjubæjarklausturtri village.

KIRKJUBÆJARKLAUSTUR

- · Easter program: The Victory of Life.
- · Chamber music festival.
- · Oct./Nov.: Harvest festival in Skaftárhreppur village.

VÍK

- · Geopark Week, Environmental Day on April 25.
- Regnboginn Art for the Beauty in Nature, important cultural festival in Vík. See the Facebook page:
- "Regnboginn-List í fögru umhverfi".

RANGÁRÞING YTRA

· Mid-Aug.: Töðugjöld, Family Festival.

SKEIÐA- & GNÚPVERJAHREPPUR

· Mid-Sept.: Sheep round-up at Skeiðaréttir and Stafholtsréttir.

FLÚÐIR

- Harvest Festival in Flúðir.
- · Mid-Sept.: Hrunaréttir, sheep round-up.

BISKUPSTUNGUR

- Skálholtshátíð Festival.
- · July and Aug.: Summer Concerts in Skálholt.
- · First weekend in Aug.: Úthlíð, Family Festival.
- · "Tvær úr Tungunum" Village Festival
- Mid-Sept.: Tungnaréttir, sheep round-up
- · Grímsnes & Grafningshreppur
- · Aug. 12: Grims-adventure in Borg in Grímsnes.
- · Performances and art exhibitions in Sólheimar.

FLÓAHREPPUR

· Fun in Flói, a family festival.

SELFOSS

- · Drepstokkur: cultural festival for youth from the south.
- · Summer in Selfoss, a family festival.
- · Spring in Árborg.
- · Kótelettan, family and music festival.
- · Car Show.
- · June 17: National Day celebrations.
- · Vintage Car Club National Meeting.
- Brúarhlaup run, UMF Selfoss.
- · Cultural October a month of cultural events.

STOKKSEYRI

- · Seamen's Weekend Festival.
- Pier Festival

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November 1st.

EYRARBAKKI

- · Midsummer Night.
- · Culture Month in October.
- Seamen's Day Festival.
- · National Festival Day.
- · Midsummer Night, campfire and songs.
- The Icelandic Museums' Day, celebrated in the Regional Folk Museum
- Turn of the Century Festival in Eyrarbakki.

ÞORLÁKSHÖFN

- · Hafnardagar, familiy festival.
- · Music by the Sea, concerts in the winter months.

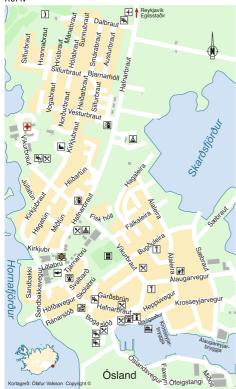
HVERAGERÐI

- The First Day of Summer. Open house at The Agricultural School at Reykir.
- Blóm í bæ, garden and flower exhibition.
- · Blooming days, a local family festival.

WESTMAN ISLANDS

- First weekend in July: End of eruption in the Westman Islands remembered in Skyísusund.
- · National holiday festival (bank holiday).
- Golf tournaments all summer. Golf adventure for kids.
- First weekend in Nov.: Museum weekend (free entry to many museums).

HÖFN





HORNAFJÖRÐUR

Population: 1,000-2,500

Fishing town Höfn is located on the headland between Hornafjörður and Skarðsfjörður fjords, and along with neighbouring communities, it forms the municipality of Hornafjörður. Settlement began late in the 19th century when merchant Ottó Tuliníus (1869-1948) moved his store from Papós to Höfn. The building has been moved to its original location on the harbour, where it now houses the Vatnajökull National Park visitor and information centre. Near the port, there is an ongoing project to renovate the old townscape of Mikligarður, south of the old shop. Mikligarður was home to fisheries and used to be an important part of the social and economic development of the port. It was also used for meetings of various kinds and the area was the lifeblood of the region.

In addition to being a thriving fishing town, Höfn has always been a trade and service centre for Austur-Skaftafellssýsla. Within the town limits is Ósland, a protected park area.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Gamlabúð, housing the Vatnajökull National Park visitor centre, Heppuvegur 1, tel. 470-8330. vatnajökulsthjödgardur.is

SERVICES:

- Police, Hafnarbraut 36, tel. 444-2050.
- · Post office. Hafnarbraut 21, tel. 478-1100.
- Landsbankinn, Hafnarbraut 15, tel, 410-4172.
- ATM Sparisjóður Hornafjörður, Hafnarbraut 36, tel. 470-8700.

HEALTHCARE:

- Healthcare centre, Víkurbraut, tel. 470-8600.
- Pharmacy Lyfja, Miðbær, Litlaubrú 1, tel. 478-1224.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Aurora Inn. Dalbraut 4. tel. 864-1847
- Dalbraut 8. Dalbraut 8. tel. 845-5730
- Höfn HI Hostel, Hvannabraut 3, tel. 478-1736
- Guesthouse Dyngja, Hafnarbraut 1, tel. 866-0702
- · Guesthouse Hafnarnes, Hafnarnes, tel. 844-6175
- Guesthouse Hvammur, Ránarslóð 2. tel. 478-1503
- GST Guesthoue, Biarnahól 9, tel.
- Glacier Inn, Silfurbraut 40, tel.
- Hlíðartún 1. Hlíðartún 1. tel.
- · House by the glacier, Hrísbraut 2, tel.
- House On The Hill, Fiskhóll 11, tel. 478-1234
- Hotel Edda Höfn. Ránarslóð 3. tel. 444-4850
- Höfn Guesthouse. Hafnarbraut 21, tel. 844-6038
- Hofn Inn. Vesturbraut 3. tel. 478-1544
- Lilia Guesthouse, Hólabrekka 2, tel. 892-4088
- Milk Factory questhouse, Dalbraut 2, tel. 478-8900
- Sigurhæð Apartment, Bogaslóð 4, tel. 849-5455
- Skolabru 3, Skólabrú 3, tel. 845-4592
- Wellah Guesthouse, Hlíðartún 15, tel. 895-7927.
- Hótel Höfn, Víkurbraut, tel. 478-1240.



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• By Hafnarbraut 52, tel. 478-1606. campsite.is

EATING OUT:

- Íshúsið Pizzeria, Heppuvegur 2a, tel. 478-1230.
- Ósinn, Hótel Höfn, Víkurbraut 24, tel. 478-1240.
- Humarhöfnin, Hafnarbraut 4, tel. 478-1200/846-1114. humarhofnin is
- Hafnarbúðin. Ránarslóð 2, tel. 478-1095.
- · Z Bistro, Víkurbraut 2, tel. 478-2300.
- Otto Matur og Drykkur, Hafnarbraut 2, tel. 478-1818.
- · Pakkhúsið, Krosseyjarvegur 3, tel. 478-2280. pakkhus.is

GROCERIES.

- Nettó, Miðbæ, netto.is
- Vínbúðin liguor store, Miðbær, Litlabrú 1, tel. 471-3267.

SHOPPING:

Handraðinn, local handicrafts, Hafnarbraut 34B, tel. 868-7028.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Vatnaiökull National Park visitor centre, exhibition on geology. glaciers, and birdlife, with regular screenings of films about Vatnajökull and its 1996 eruption, Heppuvegur 1, tel. 470-8330. vatnajokulsthjodgardur.is
- · Hornafjörður Cultural Centre and library, Nýheimar, Litlabrú 2, tel 470-8050

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool, Víkurbraut 9, tel. 470-8477.
- Silfurnesvöllur, nine-hole golf course, tel. 478-2197.

ACTIVITIES:

- · Glacier Jeeps, snowmobile and snow scooter tours on Vatnajökull glacier, tel. 478-1000/894-3133. glacierjeeps.is
- Ice Guides, glacier and nature hikes, tel. 661-0900. iceguide.is

 Höfn Local Guide, slow adventure tourism, tel. 894-4952. hofnlocalquide.com

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- · Hiking trails around Höfn and surrounding neighbourhood.
- · Ósland, nature reserve, diverse birdlife, and popular hiking
- · Walking paths with views of glaciers and the coastline of Höfn.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Eagle Air, scheduled flights to Reykjavík, tel. 562-4200. eagleair.is
- Sterna, scheduled coach service between Höfn and Egilsstaðir, tel. 551-1166, sternatravel.com

THE VATNA JÖKULL REGION

Lón (or Lónssveit) is the easternmost area of Austur-Skaftafellssýsla and South Iceland, situated on the eastern part of Lónsfjörður. It's hailed for its great natural beauty. Mountains reach the sea on both sides; Mt. Eystrahorn, Mt. Vestrahorn, and Lónsvík bay lie between them. Long sandy rifts enclose the inlet, which is where Papafjörður and Lónsfjörður fjords are located. The waterway connections between Papafjörður and Lónsfjörður crisscross through Papós estuary. Above the lagoons are far-reaching lowlands, consisting mostly of silt and mud brought by the glacial river Jökulsá á Lóni. The river divides the district into Suður-Lón and Austur-Lón, Grassy valleys hide between barren and rugged mountains. From Lón, it's possible to travel to Hornafjörður fjord through Almannaskarð pass. It features one of the most beautiful views in the country, but there is also a tunnel. There were almost 300 inhabitants in Lón at the end of the 19th century, but now, there are fewer than 50. Granite is the main rock type, but in many places, liparite,



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gabbro, and other rare rock types are found. The colourful mountains in the innermost part of Lón are the product of volcanic eruptions that occurred approximately nine million years ago. There's a road from Stafafell, along the eastern part of the Jökulsá river, up to the camping grounds at Smiðjunes. There are many summerhouses along this road. A popular hiking trail begins at Smiðjunes and leads up to Lónsöræfi, where at Eskifell a walking bridge was constructed over Jökulsá river in 2002. A jeep trail runs from the highway up the muddy sands south of Jökulsá river and into Lónsöræfi.

Lónsöræfi is an extensive uninhabited area stretching inland east of Vatnajökull glacier, with dramatic mountains gouged out by gullies and chasms. Vegetation is fertile and the landscape is richly coloured, with rhyolite and minerals found in many places. Reindeer frequently enter Lónsöræfi from their habitat in the interior of East Iceland. This is an interesting place to hike and travellers' societies from the Austur-Skaftafellssýsla district along with Fljótdalshérað district have built a travellers' hut on the route from Mt. Kollumúli to Mt. Snæfell. The area is protected since 1977.

Mt. Vestrahorn is a mountain (454m) between Skarðsfjörður and Papafjörður fjords, and one of the few plutonic gabbro formations in Iceland. The mountain can be approached from the sea; however, this is a dangerous pathway. West of Mt. Vestrahorn, the cape of Stokksnes juts out into the sea. A NATO

defense station once operated from this point. There is a moderately accessible walking path leading up to the site.

Just east of Borgarhöfn is Hálsaós estuary, where Hestgerðislón lake drains into the sea. Hálsar, the low cliffs at the estuary, were once an important fishing centre; people are said to have walked across the glacier from northern lceland to work there. Fishing largely stopped in the area in 1575 when almost 100 men from 17 boats drowned in a single day.

Hali in Suðursveit is the birthplace of author Þórbergur Þórðarson (1889-1974). Þórbergssetur is a learning centre featuring exhibitions devoted to his life and work. Þórbergssetur offers a museum, souvenir shop, and restaurant.

Jökulsá on Breiðamerkursandur is a very powerful glacial river of only 1,500m. It drains from Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon (100m deep), where icebergs calve from Breiðamerkurjökull glacier, part of the Vatnajökull glacial cap. Jökulsá river was a major obstacle to travel in the area and many people on foot opted to skirt the side of the glacial cinstead. A bridge was built from 1966 to 1967, but it's in danger of being eroded by ocean waves. Due to climate changes and warmer temperatures, this area has gone through many changes since the 1920s; Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon began to form between the Breiðamerkurjökull glacier and a glacial ridge by the ocean. The lagoon is very deep and the greater part of it was formed after 1950. Large icebergs

have broken off the glacier and they float on the lagoon. Jökulsárlón has become a popular tourist spot and has been used as a location for Hollywood films, including James Bond's Die Another Day.

Ingólfshöfði is a headland (76m) directly south of Öræfajökull glacier. It's easily accessible from the northwest but blocked by sheer mountains elsewhere. The headland is named after Ingólfur Arnarson, the first settler of Iceland, who came ashore and spent his first winter there, before moving along the coast to live in what is now called Reykjavík. There is a memorial to Ingólfur on the headland which was constructed in 1974. A teeming bird colony, featuring puffins, is found on and around Ingólfshöfði, and there's a beautiful panoramic view along the shore. It's possible to visit it from the small village Fagurhólsmýri on a tractor with a hay wagon.

Öræfajökull is the location of Iceland's highest mountain, Mt. Hvannadalshnúkur (2,110m), which rises 300m above Vatnajökull, on the southern side of the glacier. It's a rhyolite formation, and the first recorded ascent was in 1813 by a Norwegian surveyor, Hans Frisak, and a man named Joh Árnason from Fagurhólsmýri. Öræfajökull is a central volcano with a caldera of 12km2 in area, from which the glacier creeps down to the lowlands. The volcano is active and has erupted twice in recorded history: in 1362 and 1727. A number of travel agencies organise walks to Öræfajökull glacier and other nearby areas.

Öræfi district extends across the black glacial outwash sands of Breiðamerkursandur to the Skeiðará river, and deep into the glacial interior. Its flourishing farming community was destroyed by a catastrophic eruption beneath Öræfajökull glacier in 1362. At least 24 farms were abandoned after the eruption and the resulting flood. The landscape in Öræfi is majestic, and vegetation is richer and more diverse than in most parts of the country. With no harbours, Vatnajökull glacier behind it, and roaring glacial rivers on either side, the district was relatively isolated until the rivers were bridged in 1967 and 1974, thereby completing the Ring Road around Iceland.

Vatnajökull National Park in Skaftafell is the former site of major farms and an ancient assembly site in the Öræfi district. The place is first mentioned in Njál's Saga, where a character named Þorgeir lived near Svínafell. Due to large amounts of mud and silt deposited by the glacial floodwater from the Skeiðará river, the farm had to be moved to higher ground on the Skaftafell moorlands. Skaftafell sits on a strip of land flanked by two glacial tongues: Morsárjökull glacier to the west and Skaftafellsjökull glacier to the east. Skaftafell offers panoramic views, and to the west of Mórsárdalur valley lies Bæjarstaðaskógur, one of the largest birch forests in Iceland. Some 210 higher plant species have been identified in Skaftafell. There are excellent facilities for travellers, and this is one of Iceland's most popular spots for outdoor activities.

Skeiðará is a vast glacial river that originates from beneath Skeiðarárjökull glacier. The river was a major obstacle in centuries past, and it was not bridged until 1974. Tremendous surges come in the river every few years, carrying large icebergs out onto the sands. The last major glacial surge was in November

1996, reaching its height at a volume of about 45,000m2/sec. The surge destroyed the Ring Road and took out a bridge over the Gígjukvísl river, in the western part of the sands. Since then, smaller surges have come in the river, but none have caused substantial damage.

There are no roads in the Skaftafell area, except for one road leading to a farm. Marked hiking trails lead from the car park by the campsite. Visitors are free to explore the park as they please; however, they are expected to follow marked paths when possible. A paved walking path leads up to Skaftafells-jökull glacier, allowing for easy access for disabled people. Park wardens provide interesting guided tours that are advertised in the visitor centre, Skaftafellsstofa. The centre also houses an interesting exhibition on the flora and fauna in the area. Some examples of hikes: the gully route to Svartifoss waterfall, which takes two hours; to Sjónarsker rock; and to the rim of Skaftafellsjökull glacier. Worthwhile destinations for longer hikes (four to eight hours) include Kristínartindar, which is the source of Skeiðará river, or through Bæjarstaðarskógur forest.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Skaftafellsstofa visitor centre, Vatnajökull National Park in Skaftafell, tel. 470-8300. vjp.is

ACCOMMODATION:

- Stafafell Hostel, Stafafell, Lón, tel. 478-1717.
- Dilksnes, tel. 478-1920. dilksnes@simnet.is
- Árnanes, Nesjar, tel. 478-1550.
- Hótel Jökull, Nesjar, tel. 478-1400.
- Fosshótel Vatnajökull, Nesjar, tel. 478-2555/562-4000. fosshotel.is
- GlacierWorld, Nesjum, tel. 478-1514/898-5614. glacierworld.is
- Brunnhóll á Mýrum, tel. 478-1029.
- Lambhús, cottages, tel. 662-1029. info@lambhus.is
- Hólmur Travel Service, Mýrar, tel. 478-2063/861-5959. eldhorn. is/mg/gisting
- Skálafell, Suðursveit, tel. 478-1041.
- Smyrlabjörg, Suðursveit, tel. 478-1074.
- · Youth Hostel Vagnsstaðir, Suðursveit, tel. 478-1567/1048.
- Fallastakkur, Lækjarhús, Suðursveit, tel. 478-1517. fallastakkur.is
- Brunnavellir, Suðursveit, tel. 478-1055/1056.
- Guesthouse Hali, Suðursveit, tel. 478-1073, hali,is
- · Litla-Hof, Öræfi, tel. 478-1670.
- · Nónhamar Guesthouse, cabins, tel. 616-1247. nonhamar.is
- Vesturhús, sleeping bag accommodation, Hof, Öræfi, tel. 857-2235. vesturhus@vortex.is
- Hotel Skaftafell, Öræfi, tel. 478-1945. hotelskaftafell.is
- · Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon, Öræfi, tel. 514-8300. fosshotel.is

CAMPING:

- Stafafell in Lón, tel. 478-1717.
- Haukafell, Mýrar, tel. 470-8080.
- · Lambhús, tel. 662-1029.
- Hrolllaugsstaðir/Gerði, Suðursveit, tel. 478-1905.
- Svínafell, Öræfi, tel. 478-1765.
- Skaftafell National Park, Öræfi, tel. 470-8300.

EATING OUT:

- Vatnajökulsþjóðgarður, Vatnajökull National Park, Skaftafell, Öræfi, tel. 470-8308.
- Hólmur á Mýrum, tel. 478-1037/861-5959.
- · Smyrlabjörg, Suðursveit, tel. 478-1074.
- · Hrolllaugsstaðir/Gerði, Suðursveit, tel. 478-1905.
- Þórbergssetur, Hali, Suðursveit, tel. 478-1078/867-2900.
- Jökulsárlón, Suðursveit, tel. 478-2122.
- Hotel Skaftafell, Öræfi, tel. 478-1945.
- Freysnes, tel. 478-2242.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Skaftafellsstofa, visitor centre for Vatnajökull National Park at Skaftafell, exhibitions on local nature, history, and culture, as well as screenings of films about the Vatnajökull glacier, tel. 470-8300. vjp.is
- Þórbergssetur, exhibition on author Þórbergur Þórðarson,
 9-20 every day, Hali, Suðursveit, tel. 478-1078/867-2900.
 thorbergssetur.is

ACTIVITIES:

- Hoffell Travel Service, ATV and jeep tours in the vicinity of Hoffellsjökull glacier, Nesjum, tel. 478-1514/898-5614. hoffell.
- · GlacierWorld Hoffell, Nesjum, tel. 478-1514/898-5614.
- Hólmur Travel Service, coastal trips, reindeer watching in winter, indigenous wildlife zoo, Mýrar, tel. 478-2063/861-5959. eldhorn.is/mg/gisting
- Glacier Jeeps, snowmobile and snow scooter tours to Vatnajökull, tel. 478-1000/894-3133. glacierjeeps.is
- Vatnajökull Travel, trips to Höfn, Jökulsárlón, Vatnajökull, tel. 894-1616
- Glacier Lagoon, cruises on Jökulsárlón, Breiðamerkursandur, tel. 478-2222/851-1822. jokulsarlon.is
- Fjallsárlón, lagoon cruises from Breiðamerkursandur. fjallsarlon.is
- South East Jeep Tours, customised tours, tel. 846-6313/866-2318. southeasticeland.is
- Glacier Trips, glacial walks and northern light tours, tel. 779-2929. qlaciertrips.is
- Ice Guide, guided glacier and mountain hikes, tel. 661-0900. icequide.is
- Ice Explorers, guided glacier walks, tel. 866-3490.
- Glacier Adventure, guided glacier and mountain hikes. glacieradventure.is
- Guided hikes from visitor centre Skaftafellstofa, Skaftafell, tel. 478-1627
- Icelandic Mountain Guides, guided glacier hikes, tel. 894-2959. mountainquide.is
- · Glacier Guides, guided glacier hikes. glacierguides.is
- Local Guide, trips to Ingólfshöfði headland, hiking tours on Vatnajökull, and glacier trips in winter, tel. 894-0894. localguide.is
- Reykjavik Excursions, trips from Skaftafell to Jökulsárlón, tel. 580-5400.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

 Stafafellsfjöll mountains, Lónsöræfi, the area around Hornafjörður, Mt. Ketillaugarfjall, Hoffellsjökull glacier, and Nesjar.

- Haukafell in Mýrar, a shrub-covered mountain near a glacier.
- · Heinaberg, the area around Skálafell.
- Staðarfjall í Suðursveit, once home to distinguished author Þórbergur Þórðarson.
- · Marked hiking trails from the reforestation area to Klukkugil.
- Fláajökull, marked hiking trails.
- Fjallsárlón lagoon, the area around Kvíármýrarkambar.
- Glacial trail 1: Breiðármörk: 15km hiking path between the glacial lagoons Jökulsárlón, Breiðárlón, and Fjallárlón.
- Glacial trail 2: From Haukafell in Mýri to Skálafell in Suðursveit.

GAS STATIONS:

• Freysnes, Öræfi, tel. 478-2242.

SKAFTÁRHREPPUR

Skaftárhreppur is a thinly-populated municipality in South Iceland. It's mostly known because of the canyon Fjaðrárgl-júfur. This is a magnificent site 10km west of the town Kirk-jubæjarklaustur and it's believed to have formed during the last glacial period, about nine thousand years ago. The land feathers out from the heath in a wide, beautiful tuff ravine that is well worth visiting. The entrance to the canyon is found when following Lakavegur and Holtsvegur, and the path then continues up to the tuff formations and natural sculptures. It's also possible to walk up the canyon itself but expect to wade through water. Fjaðrárgljúfur is a protected area and sometimes the area is closed for nature conservation.

Dverghamrar are peculiar twin columnar basalt cliffs forming a horseshoe shape in Austur-Síða, just east of the farm Foss and down from the Ring Road. The Dverghamrar landscape was formed by wave action at the end of the Ice Age when the sea level was higher. The cliffs are a protected area.

Kirkjugólf, or Church Floor, is a rock formation near Kirkjubæjarklaustur. Geologists believe that this is the top of a columnar basalt cluster exposed by the sea's erosion, giving the appearance of a tiled floor. This is a protected natural site since 1987.

KIRKJUBÆJARKLAUSTUR

Population: 100-500

Kirkjubæjarklaustur is a village in the Síða district, with a hotel and a shopping centre serving the region. According to the *Book of Settlements*, Irish monks were the first settlers and there was a convent at the site from 1186 until the Reformation. Various folktales are associated with the convent, such as the one about Systrastapi (Sisters Rock), located near the west hayfield at Kirkjubær. There was a church at Kirkjubæjarklaustur until 1859, and the local cemetery contains the grave of Jón Steingrímsson (1728–1791), the local vicar at the time when the Skaftár Fires occurred, an eight-month eruption of the volcano Laki. On July 20, 1783, he delivered his famous sermon that is

believed to have convinced God to stop the flow of lava before it reached Systrastapi. In 1974, a new chapel was consecrated in his memory. Kirkjubæjarstofa is a new cultural and research centre in Kirkjubæjarklaustur.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Skaftárstofa, Vatnajökull National Park visitor centre, Klausturvegur, tel. 487-4620. visitklaustur.is

SERVICES:

- · Police, Iðjuvellir 7b, tel. 444-2040.
- Post office, inside Kjarval supermarket, Klausturvegur 13, tel. 487-4616.
- ATM Arion Bank, Klausturvegur 13, tel. 488-4070.

HEALTHCARE:

Healthcare centre. Skriðuvellir 13. tel. 432-2880/432-2888.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Icelandair Hotel Klaustur, tel. 444-4000/487-4900. icelandairhotels.is
- Hvoll questhouse, tel. 487-4785/861-5553, road201.is
- · Fosshotel Núpar, tel. 517-3060. fosshotel.is
- · Hörgsland I Travel Service, tel. 487-6655. horgsland.is
- · Hotel Geirland, tel. 487-4677. geirland.is
- · Hótel Laki, Efri-Vík, tel. 412-4600. hotellaki.is
- Hunkubakkar Travel Service, tel. 487-4681/865-2652. hunkubakkar.is
- Hólaskjól Highland Centre, at Fjallabaksleið North, tel. 855-5812/855-5813.
- Glacier View Guesthouse, Hrífunes, tel. 770-0123.
 alacierviewquesthouse.is
- · Hrifunes Guesthouse, tel. 864-5540. Hrifunesquesthouse.is
- Klausturhof, tel. 567-7600/863-7601. klausturhof.is
- Nonna and Brynjuhús, Þykkvabæjarklaustur, tel. 487-1446/849-7917. kiddasiggi@simnet.is
- Dalshöfði, tel. 487-4781/861-4781. dalshofdi@gmail.com
- · Giljaland Guesthouse, tel. 487-8870. giljalandrent.is
- · Seglbúðir Guesthouse, tel. 697-6106. seglbudir.com
- Guesthouse Frakkur, Þykkvabær, tel. 847-0644. thykkvibaer@gmail.com

CAMPING:

- · Kirkjubær II, tel. 894-4495. kirkjubaer.com
- Travel Service Hörgsland 1, tel. 487-6655. horgsland.is
- Kleifar, near Kirkjubæjarklaustur, tel. 487-4675/863-7546.
- Hrífunes, tel. 770-0123.
- Hólaskjól Highland Centre, at Fjallabaksleið North, tel. 855-5812/855-5813. holaskjol.com

EATING OUT:

- Systrakaffi, Klausturvegur 13, tel. 487-4848. systrakaffi.is
- Skaftárskáli, tel. 487-4628.
- · Kaffi Munkar, tel. 567-7600. klausturhof.is
- Hótel Geirland, tel. 487-4677. geirland.is
- · Hótel Laki, Efri-Vík, tel. 412-4600. hotellaki.is
- Hunkubakkar Guesthouse, dining room, tel. 487-4681/865-2652. hunkubakkar.is

GROCERIES: Kjarval, Klausturvegur 13, tel. 487-4616.

SHOPPING:

 Klausturhólar, local handicrafts, Klausturvegur, tel. 487-4767/867-2915

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 Skaftárstofa, exhibitions on Vatnajökull National Park, Katla Geopark, and the Skaftár Fires, tel. 487-4620. vjp.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

• Swimming pool and sports centre, tel. 497-4856.

ACTIVITIES:

- Reykjavik Excursions, trips to Lakagígar, Eldgjá, and Landmannalaugar, tel. 580-5400. re.is
- Secret Iceland, jeep and ATV tours, Efri-Vík, tel. 660-1151. holasport.is
- Icelandic Mountain Guides, tel. 587-9999. mountainguides.is
- Kind Adventure, mountain hikes and tours of Kirkjubæjarklaustur and the vicinity, tel. 692-6131/847-1604.
- · Vaga Hikes, hiking tours, tel. 866-0790. vagavaga.net
- Nonna and Brynjuhús, hiking and driving tours, 487-1446/849-7917. kiddasigga.is
- Sheep dog show, Jón Geir Ólafsson, Gröf, tel. 865-5427. sheepdog.is

TRANSPORTATION:

- Sterna, scheduled coach service between Reykjavík and Höfn, tel. 551-1166. sternatravel.com
- · Revkiavik Excursions, tel, 580-5400, re.is

GAS STATIONS:

- N1 in Skaftárskáli, tel. 487-4628.
- ÓB, Iðuvellir 1, tel. 515-1141.

OTHER SERVICES:

 Unicars Repair Shot and Roadside Assistance, tel. 649-4979. unicars.is

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VÍK Í MÝRDAL

Population: 100-500

Iceland's southernmost village, Vík í Mýrdal, has been a trading post since 1887. The natural surroundings in Vík are quite beautiful and the climate is relatively mild. The birdlife is diverse and there are good conditions for birdwatching. The area is perfect for exploration and there are many lovely walking and hiking paths in Vík and the surrounding areas. The population has been growing in recent years because of growing tourism in the area.

Hjörleifshöfði (Hjörleifur's Headland, a tuff island of 221m) is to the southwest of Mýrdalssandur plain. This was a coastal headland until the 14th century, when the shore began to advance as deposits piled up after glacial floods caused by eruptions of Mt. Katla. Hjörleifshöfði headland is named after first settler Ingólfur Arnarson's foster-brother, who was killed by his slaves during their first year in Iceland. The island is the product of a submarine eruption during an Ice Age interglacial period and was inhabited up until the 20th century.

Mýrdalsjökull glacier is 595km2 in area and 1,493m tall. Its glacial tongues creep down to the lowlands, the most prominent being Sólheimajökull, which is close to the Ring Road. Katla, an active central volcano with a caldera up to 10km in diameter, is found under the southeastern side of the glacier. On average, Katla has erupted at intervals of 40 to 80 years, melting the glacial cap and causing catastrophic floods which sweep glacial debris across the entire sands.

Sixteen Katla eruptions have been recorded in historical times, but there have probably been 20 in all. Katla's last eruption was in 1918, but it did not cause significant damage.

Dyrhólaey is a sheer promontory (120m) west of Reynishverfi beach that rises towards the sea and is the southernmost point of the mainland. It's home to rich birdlife. A narrow point called Tóin juts out into the sea, with an opening that is large enough to be passable by boats. It's believed that Dyrhólaey formed during a later interglacial period as a result of a submarine eruption, similar to the one that created Surtsey island between 1963 and 1967 (an island that is part of the Westman Islands). Dýrhólaey has been a protected area since 1978.

Reynisfjara beach is part of Reynishverfi, west of Mt. Reynisfjall, and is undoubtedly one of the most majestic beaches in Iceland. It's also home to a beautiful columnar basalt cave. It's important to use caution when visiting this area, regardless of how clear the weather may seem. It's not only the height of the waves that makes travelling in these locations so dangerous, but also their unpredictability. One of every 7-12 waves may wash higher up on the beach than those preceding them. The waves come

unbroken to land and can be very powerful. There are very high cliffs with sheer drop-offs within a few metres of the tide line. The combination of these elements increases the strength of the wave and its tractive forces. It's therefore essential to be extremely alert in this area.

The Katla UNESCO Global Geopark lies along the south coast of Iceland and contains numerous natural wonders. such as the Selialandsfoss and Skógafoss waterfalls. Dýrhólaey and Reynisfjara, the Eldhraun lava field, and the Landbrótshólar pseudocraters. It's one of the most volcanically active areas of the country and boasts internationally important geological artefacts that together tell the story of volcanic activity. Signs of continental drift and dispersion connected to the hotspot under Iceland are also visible. Some of the most prominent of these volcanic artefacts include the Eldgjá and Lakagígar volcanic fissures, and the Katla, Eviafiallaiökull, and Grímsvötn volcanoes. From the beginning, the landscape and residential settlements of the area have developed in tandem with the area's volcanic activity and glacial rivers, and continue to do so.

Katla Geopark is built on the cooperation of locals and scholarly institutions and its goal is to protect nature, as well as geological and cultural artefacts as they are sustainably utilised for the purposes of informative nature tourism and initiatives which advance the region. Geologically-based tourism, or geotourism, is already strong at the park, which emphasises education related to geological artefacts, man's interaction with nature, and outdoor activities. Regional products and locally-produced foods are also highlighted within the park. Katla Geopark is a member of the European collaborative network of UNESCO Global Geoparks.

FACILITIES IN VÍK TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Kötlusetur visitor centre, Brydebúð, Víkurbraut 28, tel. 487-1395. info@vik.is

SERVICES:

- · Police. Ránarbraut 1. tel. 444-2030.
- Bank Arion Bank, Ránarbraut 1, tel. 488-4050.

HEALTHCARE:

- Healthcare centre, Hátún 2, tel. 480-5340, after hours tel. 480-5344.
- Pharmacy, Hátún 2, tel. 480-5340.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Icelandair Hotel Vík, Klettsvegur, tel. 487-1480/444-4840. vik@icehotels.is
- Puffin Hotel Vík, Puffin Hostel, Puffin Apartments, Víkurbraut 26, tel. 467-1212. puffinhotelvik@puffinhotelvik.is
- Guesthouse Ársalir, Austurvegur 7, tel. 487-1400. kolbrun@ vik.is
- Vík Hostel, Suðurvegur 5, tel. 487-1106/867-2389. hostel.is



REYNISFJARA

- Einarsstaðir Homestay, dog-friendly accommodation, tel. 849-4938/780-7341. einarsstadirhomestay@gmail.com
- Kósý Vík, Hátún 6, tel. 567-9845/821-3549. kosyvik.is
- Guesthouse Carina, Mýrarbraut 13, tel. 699-0961.
 guesthousecarina.is
- Guesthouse Gallery Vik, Bakkabraut 6, tel. 487-1231/849-1224/893-6272. leirbrotoggler.is
- Sunnubraut 31 Apartments, tel. 867-0766. Sunnubraut31@ gmail.com

CAMPING:

• Vík Camping, Klettsvegur, tel. 487-1345. vikcamping.is

EATING OUT:

- Halldórskaffi, Víkurbraut 28. tel. 487-1202, halldorskaffi,is
- Víkurskáli, restaurant Ströndin, Austurvegur, tel. 487-1230. strondin.is
- Restaurant Suður-Vík, Suðurvíkurvegur 1, tel. 487-1515.
- Berg Restaurant, Klettsvegur, tel. 487-1480.
- Ströndin, Austurvegur 18, tel. 487-1230.

GROCERIES:

- Kjarval, Víkurbraut 4, tel. 487-1235.
- Lindarfiskur, Sunnubraut 18, tel. 663-4528.
- · Vínbúðin liquor store, Ránarbraut 1, tel. 486-8660.

SHOPPING:

- Icewear Víkurprjón, Austurvegur 20, tel. 487-1250. icewear.is
- Gallerý Leirbrot and Gler, Bakkabraut 6, tel. 849-1224.
- Kötlusetur visitor centre. Víkurbraut 28. tel. 487-1395.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

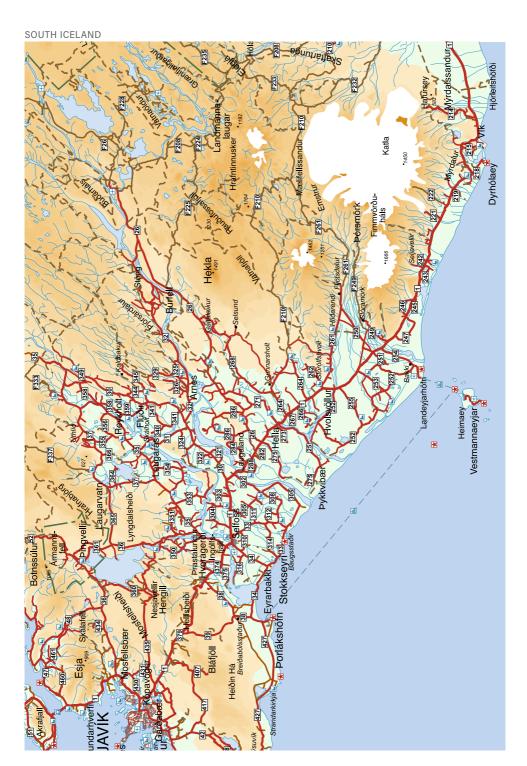
- Kötlusetur visitor centre, exhibition on life and nature in Mýrdalur, Víkurbraut 28, tel. 487-1395.
- Gallery Leirbrot and Gler, porcelain and glass items, Guðrún's rare collection of cups, Bakkabraut 6, tel. 849-1224.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Golf Club Vík, nine-hole golf course, Klettsvegur, tel. 694-1700. golf.is
- Swimming pool and sports centre, Mánabraut 3, tel. 487-1174.

ACTIVITIES:

- Katlatrack, jeep tours, Austurvegur 18, tel. 849-4404. katlatrack.com
- True Adventure, paragliding, tel. 698-8890/848-3222. trueadventure.is
- Vík HHHHhh Horse Adventure, horseback riding tours, tel. 787-9605. vikhorseadventure.is



PLACES OF INTEREST:

Vík Church tel 487-1118

TRANSPORTATION:

 Sterna, scheduled coach service between Reykjavík, Vík, and Höfn. tel. 551-1166. sternatravel.com

GAS STATIONS:

- Víkurskáli, Austurvegur, tel. 487-1230.
- Orkan, Smiðjuvegur 11, tel. 444-3001.

OTHER SERVICES:

 Framrás, garage and tire repair, towing service, Smiðjuvegur 17, tel. 487-1330.

FACILITIES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Volcano Hotel, tel. 486-1200, volcanohotel, is
- Guesthouse Görðum, tel. 487-1260. reynisfjara-guesthouses. com
- Guesthouse Reyni, tel. 487-1434/ 894-9788. reyni.is
- Hótel Dyrhólaev, tel. 487-1333/487-1420, dyrholaev.is
- Travel Service Vellir, tel. 487-1312/849-9204, F-vellir,123.is
- Travel Service Steig, tel. 487-1324/868-7651. gesthousesteig.is
- Travel Service Eystri-Sólheimar, tel. 487-1316. eystrisolheimar.is
- Sólheimahjáleiga guesthouse tel. 487-1305/864-2919. solheimahjaleiga.is
- Travel Service Mið-Hvoll, Suður Hvoli, tel. 863-3238, midhvoll, is
- Travel Service Pétursey, Vestur-Pétursey 2, tel. 487-1307/893-9907/845-9907. sveit.is
- Giliur Guesthouse, Gilium, tel. 487-1369/866-0176, sveit.is
- · Grand Guesthouse Garðakot, tel. 894-2877. ggg.is
- Skammidalur Guesthouse, Skammidalur 2, tel. 863-4310.
 Skammidalur2@gmail.com
- · Hvammból Guesthouse, Hvammból, tel. 863-2595.
- Götur Cottages, tel. 483-5101/847-8844.
- Hótel Katla, Höfðabrekka, tel. 487-1208, hotelkatla.is

CAMPING:

- Þakgil, camping and huts in pristine nature, Höfðabrekkuheiði, tel. 893-4889. thakgil.is
- Eyrarland Community Centre, Reynishverfi, tel. 861-0294.

EATING OUT:

- Black Beach Restaurant, Reynisfjara, tel. 571-2718. svartafjaran.com
- Arcanum Jöklakaffi, at Sólheimajökull glacier, tel. 487-1500. arcanum.is
- · Fossís, ice cream, Reynishverfi, tel. 861-0294.

ACTIVITIES:

- Arcanum Travel Service, snowmobile trips, glacier tours, and ATV trips on Mýrdalsjökull and Sólheimajökull glaciers and Sólheimasandur, Ytri-Sólheimar, tel. 487-1500. arcanum.is
- Katlatrack, jeep tours, Austurvegur 18, Vík, tel. 849-4404. katlatrack.com
- Ferðafélag Mýrdæla, guided hikes, tel. 869-0170. myrdalur.com
- Fagradalsbleikja, fish hatchery and farm, tel. 487-1105.

- Mountain Excursion, jeep tours, ice climbing, Ketilstaðir, tel. 868-3642/897-7737.
- · mountainexcursion.is
- Icelandic Mountain Guides, glacier hikes on Sólheimajökull, tel. 587-9999. mountainguides.is
- Travel Service Mið-Hvoll, horseback riding tours, tel. 863-3238/864-2426.

RANGÁRÞING EYSTRA

Population: 500-1,000

Rangárþing eystra is a municipality in South Iceland. The largest villages are Skógar and Hvolsvöllur.

Pórsmörk is a high plateau west of Mýrdalsjökull glacier, between the Krossá river in the south and the Þröngá and Markarfljót rivers in the north, cut by ravines and small valleys. In 1919, the farmers in the Fljótshlíð area requested that the Forestry Service assumed the protection of Þórsmörk and asked it to enclose the land due to heavy erosion. The land was fenced in and protected in 1924, and since then, the vegetation has undergone an extensive transformation. The views from the mountains in Þórsmörk are magnificent, and it's now one of the most popular recreational areas in the country.

Skógar is located to the east of Eyjafjöll mountain ridge. The Skógar Museum is considered one of the finest folk museums in the country. The Skógaá river originates south of Fimmvörðuháls and cascades down over Skógaheiði heath. There are about 20 waterfalls along the river, many beautiful and moderate, with the largest being Skógafoss at 60m high. Legend says that Prasi, who settled in Skógar, hid a chest of gold in a cave under Skógafoss. The waterfall is a protected site.

Volcano glacier Eyjafjallajökull (1,666m) has erupted numerous times since the middle of the Ice Age. The apex of the cone crater is 3-4km in diameter. Eyjafjallajökull is about 100km2. The volcano last erupted in the spring of 2010. This ash eruption caused an enormous disturbance to air traffic in Europe and the North Atlantic.

The famous waterfall Seljalandsfoss is along the Seljalandsá river and plunges over the mountainside of West Eyjafjöll. It's one of the highest waterfalls in Iceland and it's possible to walk behind the cascading water. In Hamragarða park, just to the north Seljalandsfoss, is the Gljúfurá river with a mountainside waterfall.

Hlíðarendi at Fljótshlíð is on the northern side of the valley where Markarfljót drains from Þórsmörk, and the area is very grassy and sheltered. Fljótshlíð was the home of Gunnar Hámundarson, one of the most memorable characters

of *Njál's Saga*. According to tradition, he was buried in the large mound in the meadow close to the Gunnarshaugur farm.

Bergbórshvoll is a church farm in Vestur Landeyjar, on the west bank of the Affallið river. It's an important site in *Njál's Saga*, as it's where Njáll, his family, and household are attacked by his enemies and burned alive in 1011. Njál's son-in-law, Kári Sólmundarson, escaped the blaze and his revenge is the focus of the latter part of the saga. Signs of ancient fencing can be seen on the part of the farmland known as Línakrar, a protected site where flax was probably grown in ancient times.

Hvolsvöllur, a small town in the Rangárþing eystra district, began developing in the late 1930s, and it grew rapidly after the main rivers in the area were bridged. Most of its residents work in industry, trade, and services for the surrounding communities. An exhibition devoted to the settlement years and *Njál's Saga* has been set up, and tours around the saga's historical sites are available. Informational signs have been placed at the various saga sites. In 2017, the Lava Centre, a museum about the volcanic history of Iceland, opened its doors there.

FACILITIES IN EYJAFJÖLL

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Hotel Edda, Skógar, tel. 444-000.
- Youth Hostel Skógar, tel. 487-8801/899-0850.
- Hótel Skógar, tel. 487-4880.
- Skógar Guesthouse, tel. 894-5464.
- · Hótel Skógafoss, tel. 487-8780.
- Drangshlíð I. tel. 487-8868.
- Guesthouse Edinborg, tel. 487-1212.
- · Hótel Lambafell, tel. 566-7979. lambafell.is
- · Hotel Anna, Moldnúpur, tel. 487-8950. hotelanna.is
- Skálakot, tel. 487-8953.
- Dalssel, tel. 857-4550.
- Ásólfsskáli, summerhouses, tel. 487-8989//861-7489.
- Stóra Mörk III Travel Service, tel. 487-8903/698-0824.
- Volcano Huts, Húsadalur, Þórsmörk, tel. 552-8300.
- Básar, Þórsmörk, tel. 562-1000/893-2910.
- Langidalur, Þórsmörk, tel. 568-2533/893-1191.
- Fimmvörðuskáli, mountain hut, tel. 562-1000/893-4910.
- Baldvinsskáli, tel. 568-2533/855-0808.

CAMPING:

- Skógar, tel. 899-5955.
- · Hamragarðar, tel. 866-7532.
- Húsadalur, Þórsmörk, tel. 552-8300.
- Básar, Þórsmörk, tel. 562-1000/893-2910.
- Langidalur, Þórsmörk, tel. 893-1191/568-2533.

EATING OUT:

- · Hótel Edda, Skógar, tel. 444-4830.
- · Skógakaffi, inside Skógar Museum, tel. 487-8845.
- · Hótel Skógar, Skógum, tel. 487-4880.
- Fossbúð Restaurant, tel. 487-8843.
- · Hótel Skógafoss, tel. 487-8780.
- Drangshlíð I, tel. 487-8868.

- · Gamla Fjósið, Steinar, tel. 487-7788.
- Café Anna, Moldnúpur, tel. 487-8950.
- Volcano Huts, Húsadalur, Þórsmörk, tel. 552-8300.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Skógar Museum, tel. 487-8845.
- Museum of Communication, Skógar, tel. 487-8845.
- Hotel Anna, former house of author Anna from Moldnúpur's, Moldnúpur, tel. 487-8950.

ACTIVITIES:

- TG Travel, adventure tours, tel. 869-0093.
- South Coast Adventure, day tours, Gljúfrabúi base at road 249, tel. 867-3535.

FACILITIES IN HVOLSVÖLLUR AND VICINITY TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Tourist information centre, Hlíðarvegur 14, Hvolsvöllur, tel. 487-8781. tourinfo@hvolsvollur.is

SERVICES:

- · Police, Hlíðarvegur 16, tel. 444-2020.
- · Post office, Austurvegur 2, tel. 487-8100.
- · ATM Landsbankinn, Austurvegur, tel. 410-4182.

HEALTHCARE:

- Healthcare centre, Öldubakki, tel. 432-2700.
- Pharmacy Apótekarinn, Austurvegur 15, tel. 487-8630.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Vestri-Garðsauki, tel. 487-8078.
- Hotel Hvolsvöllur, Hlíðarvegur 7, tel. 487-8050.
- Ásgarður, Stórólfshvoll, tel. 487-1440/896-1248.
- Eldstó I Guesthouse, tel. 482-1011/691-3033.
- Borg Apartments, tel. 664-5091.
- Bergbórshvoll, A-Landeyjum, tel. 487-7715/863-5901.
- · Youth Hostel Fljótsdalur, tel. 487-8498.
- Hótel Fliótshlíð, tel. 487-1416.
- Goðaland Guesthouse, tel. 848-9758.
- · Húsið Guesthouse, tel. 892-3817. guesthousehusid.is
- Hellishólar, tel. 487-8360, hellisholar, is
- · Guesthouse Fagrahlíð, tel. 863-6669.
- Bakland að Lágafelli, tel. 891-8091.
- · South Iceland Guesthouse, tel. 581-4480.
- · Langanes Villa, tel. 840-1489.
- Aurora Lodge Hotel, tel. 487-6680.
- · Spói Guesthouse, tel. 861-8687.
- · Midgard Hostel, tel. 578-3180.

CAMPING

- Austurvegur, Hvolsvöllur, tel. 487-8785/866-8945.
- Grandavör, Hallgeirsey, tel. 898-8888/864-6486.
- Smáratún Travel Service, tel. 487-1416.
- Kaffi Langbrók, tel. 487-8333/863-4662.
- Hellishólar, tel. 487-8360.

EATING OUT:

- Hótel Hvolsvöllur, Hlíðarvegur 7, tel. 487-8050.
- N1, gas station, tel. 487-8197.
- · Björkin, Austurvegur 10, tel. 487-8670.

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- Gallery Pizza, Hyolsyegur 29, tel. 487-8440.
- Café Eldstó, Austurvegur 2, tel. 482-1011.
- Kaffi Langbrók, tel. 487-8333.
- Hellishólar, tel. 487-8360.
- Hótel Fliótshlíð, tel. 487-8471.

GROCERIES:

- · Krónan, Austurvegur, kronan, is
- Vínbúðin liguor store, Austurvegur 1, tel. 487-8198.

SHOPPING:

- Saga Centre, gallery, tel. 487-8781.
- · Sveitabúðin Una, local Icelandic products and design, tel. 544-5455

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Saga Centre, co-op exhibition, with a tapestry of 90m long depicting Nial's saga, tel. 487-8781.
- Eldstó, gallery, Austurvegur 2, tel. 482-1011.
- · The Lava Centre, earthquake and volcano exhibitions, Austurvegur 14, tel. 891-9820.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool and sports centre. Hvolsvöllur, tel. 488-4295.
- Strandarvöllur, 18-hole golf course, tel. 487-8208.
- · Hellishólar golf courses, nine- and 18-hole courses, tel. 487-8360/660-7600.

ACTIVITIES:

- · Midgard Adventure, jeep tours, hiking tours, day tours, tel. 770-2030.
- Norðurflug, flight excursions, tel. 562-2500.
- South Coast Adventure, ieep tours, ATV tours, tel. 867-3535/897-9468
- Grandavör, truck tours, sea angling, Hallgeirsey, tel. 898-8888.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

· Meyjarhof Móðir jörð, a temple of the Norse pagans, by Kaffi Langbrók, tel. 487-8333.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Sterna, scheduled coach service, tel. 551-1166, sternatravel.
- Revkiavík Excursions, scheduled coach service, tel. 580-5400.
- · Trex. scheduled coach service, tel. 587-6000, trex.is
- Gray Line, scheduled coach service, tel. 540-1313.
- Herjólfur ferry, ferry service between the main land and the Westman Islands, tel. 481-2800.

RANGÁRÞING YTRA

Population: 500-1,000

Keldur is an ancient farm and church site in Rangárvellir district, mentioned in Njál's Saga. It's located on the edge of a lava flow where there is a natural spa. The land around Keldur is now barren, but records show that many farmsteads were located there in the past. The ironclad timber church was built in 1875 and contains many interesting items. The main hall of the turf-built farm at Keldur is of ancient origin and the only one of its kind now preserved. Old household utensils and agricultural implements are also on display at Keldur.

Oddi was the home of one of the leading families in the 12th and 13th centuries and used to be a major centre for learning and culture. A church was built on the site after the intro-



Summer (1.5.-30.9.) Mon-Fri 06:00-21:00 Sat-Sun 10:00-19:00. Winter (1.10.-30.4.) Mon-Fri 06:00-21:00 Sat-Sun 10:00-15:00



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duction of Christianity, although the present-day church only dates from 1924. Oddi was the home of many important cultural and political figures in the past, including Sæmundur the Wise, the subject of many folktales in which he consistently outwits the devil. His grandson, Jón Loftsson (1124-1197), was the most powerful man in Iceland in his day and fostered the great historian and saga writer Snorri Sturluson (1178-1241).

Mt. Hekla is Iceland's most famous volcano and it's still very active today. The mountain is 1,491m tall and towers impressively above the lowlands of the south. For centuries. Hekla was thought to be the gateway to hell, where the souls of the damned burned in eternal flames. Hekla is a central volcano that has been piled up along a 40km fissure, and studies of ash strata reveal that it has been active for at least 6.600 years. Some 20 eruptions in Hekla have been witnessed since the settlement, and another 8 in the vicinity. The best approach for hiking Hekla is from the north or northwest. The explorers Eggert Ólafsson (1726-1768) and Bjarni Pálsson (1719-1779) were the first men to climb the mountain in 1750. An exhibition featuring Mt. Hekla has been set up at the Hekla Centre, at Leirubakki á Landi near Mt. Hekla, in which the nature of the volcano and the relationship between the mountain and the Icelandic nation over 11 centuries is explored. The Hekla Centre also provides information about the best route to Mt. Hekla and provides certificates to those who hike up the mountain

The easiest way to ascend Mt. Hekla is by driving from Landmannaleið on the west side of Nýjahraun and parking at Rauðaskál, and from there, the peak can be reached by walking along the ridge. The walk is 7km each way, so a whole day should be set aside for the trip.

The town Hella stands on the eastern bank of the Ytri-Rangá

river. The community began in 1927 when a store was opened and has continued to grow since. Residents provide a variety of general services for the surrounding area. On the west bank of the river, facing Hella, are caves dug into encrusted sand. Other such examples are at Árbær, Áshverfi, and Hellar. Some of the caves have indecipherable inscriptions, and one hypothesis is that they're relics from the time when Irish monks were settled there, over 1,100 years ago.

FACILITIES IN HELLA

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

• The Hekla Centre, Leirubakki, tel. 487-8700.

SERVICES:

- Post office, Þrúðvangur 10, tel. 487-5800.
- ATM Arion Bank, Þrúðvangur 5, tel. 488-4000.

HEALTHCARE:

- Healthcare centre, Suðurlandsvegur 3, tel. 480-5320.
- Pharmacy Apótekarinn, Suðurlandsvegur 3, tel. 487-5030.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Guesthouse Árhús, Rangárbakkar, tel. 487-5577. arhus.is
- Galtalækur II, tel. 861-6528.
- Hótel Hella, Þrúðvangur 6, tel. 487-4800. hella@southdoor.is
- Guesthouse Nonni, Arnarsandur 3, tel. 894-9953.

CAMPING:

Árhús, on the banks of Rangá river, Hella, tel. 487-5577. arhus.is

EATING OUT:

- Café Árhús, Rangárbakkar, tel. 487-5577.
- Kanslarinn, Dynskálar 10c, tel. 487-5100.

GROCERIES:

- Kjarval, Gamli Suðurlandsvegur 1, tel. 585-7500.
- · Verslunin Mosfell, tel. 487-5828.
- · Vínbúðin liguor store, Suðurlandsvegur 1, tel. 487-8487.

SHOPPING:

Litla Lopasjoppan, tel. 486-1434.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool, Útskálar, tel. 487-5334.
- Strandarvöllur, 18-hole golf course, between Hvolsvöllur and Hella, tel. 487-8208.

ACTIVITIES:

- Toptours, snowmobile tours to Hekla, tel. 487-5530. toppferdir@mmedia.is
- South Door Hella, fishing permits, horseback riding tours, tel. 487-5577.
- Mudshark, adventure tours, Freyvangi 22, tel. 691-1849. mudshark.is

TRANSPORTATION:

- Sterna, scheduled coach service between Reykjavík, Selfoss, Hella, Hvolsvöllur, Vík, and Höfn, tel. 551-1166. sternatravel.com
- Taxi. tel. 862-1864/860-2802.



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GAS STATIONS:

• Olís, Gamli Suðurlandsvegur, tel. 487-5180.

OTHER SERVICES:

• Bílaþjónustan Hellu, garage, Dynskálum 24, tel. 487-5353.

FACILITIES IN THE VICINITY OF RANGÁRÞING YTRA

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Hotel Rangá, tel. 487-5700. hotelranga.is
- Hekluhestar, tel. 487-6598.
- Guesthouse Hrólfsstaðahellir, tel. 861-2290.
- Hotel Leirubakki, tel. 487-8700/862-8005. leirubakki.is
- Galtalækur II, chalets, tel. 487-6528/861-6528. 1.is/gl2
- Rjúpnavellir, sleeping bag accommodation, tel. 892-0409.
 Hótel Háland, near Hrauneyjar, tel. 487-7782. hotelhighland.is
- Hrauneyjar Highland Centre, tel. 487-7782. hrauneyjar.is
- Hótel Lækur tel 466-3930 hotellækur is
- Hotel Lækur, tet. 466-3930. notettae
- · Landmannahellir, tel. 893-8407.
- Mountain hut at Álftavatn, run by FÍ, tel. 568-2533.
- Mountain hut at Hvanngil, run by FÍ, tel. 568-2533.
- Mountain hut at Landmannalaugar, run by FÍ, tel. 568-2533.

CAMPING:

- · Áning, Stóra Klofa, tel. 487-6611.
- Leirubakki, tel. 487-8700.
- · Galtalækjarskógur, tel. 618-7400.
- Laugaland, tel. 487-6543.
- Þykkvibær, caravans, campers, tel. 895-7680.
- · Landmannahellir, tel. 893-8407.

EATING OUT:

- · Leirubakki, tel. 487-8700.
- · Hótel Háland, tel. 487-7782.
- Hrauneyjar Highland Centre, tel. 487-7782.

SHOPPING:

- · Hlutverk frá Dóru, ceramics, Hákot, Þykkvibær, tel. 487-5618.
- Gallery Guðfinna, Saurbær, tel. 869-6135/487-6560.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Keldur, folk museum in one of the oldest buildings in Iceland, Rangárvellir, tel. 487-8452.
- The Hekla Centre, modern and informative multimedia exhibition about Mt. Hekla, its history and impact on the Icelandic people, from the age of settlement to the present day, Leirubakki, tel. 487-8700.
- Visitor centre Sagnagarður, exhibition of the struggle to restore the soil and vegetation of Iceland, Gunnarsholt, tel. 488-3060. sagnagardur.land.is

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

· Laugaland, swimming pool, tel. 487-6545.

ACTIVITIES:

- Leirubakki, horseback riding tours, tel. 487-6545.
- Hekluhestar, horseback riding tours, tel. 487-6598.
- Horsetravel.is, horseback riding tours, Hrólfstaðahelli, tel. 862-8101.
- Hraunhestar, horseback riding tours, tel. 566-6693.
- Icelandic Horse World, horseback riding tours, Skeiðvöllur, tel. 899-5619. iceworld.is

PLACES OF INTEREST:

 Hellar á Landi, man-made caves that can be explored for an admission fee. tel. 487-6583.

SKEIÐA- & GNÚPVERJAHREPPUR

Pjórsá is the longest river in Iceland and its source is at Bergvatnskvísl on Sprengisandur, in the highlands. As it flows past Hofsjökull glacier, the river runs through the extensive Þjórsáver wetlands, a protected natural site that is the world's main breeding site for the pink-footed goose. The Þjórsá river is 230km long and drains a catchment area of 7,530km2. Typical summer flow in the river is 350 to 700m2/s at the Urriðafoss waterfall. Many other waterfalls on the Þjórsá river's course seawards, especially in the highlands, and a number of hydroelectric power stations have been built to harness the power of the river and its tributaries. The Búrfell, Sigalda, and Hrauneyjarfoss power stations utilise the river itself, while reservoirs have been created for others at Þórisvatn and Sultartangi lakes.

Þjórsá river was once a major obstacle, although it was possible to cross by fording or on a ferry in some places, the oldest of which was the Sandhóla ferry crossing. A bridge was constructed across the Þjórsá river in 1895, and it became the second-largest bridge construction in the country. A new bridge replaced it in 1949. The current bridge was officially opened on December 11, 2003.

FACILITIES

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Fosshotel Hekla, tel. 486-5540.
- Hestakráin, Húsatóftir, tel. 486-5616/895-0066.
- Vorsahær II tel 486-5522
- Álftröð Skeiðum, tel. 895-6247.
- Steinsholt II, accommodation, tel. 486-6069.

CAMPING:

- Brautarholt, tel. 897-2612.
- Hólaskógur, tel. 841-1700.

EATING OUT:

- · Fosshotel Hekla, tel. 486-5540.
- Verslunin Árborg, Árnes, tel. 486-6006.
- · Hestakráin, Húsatóftir, tel. 486-5616.

GROCERIES:

Verslunin Árborg, Árnes, tel. 486-6006.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

 Brautarholt swimming pool, tel. 663-4666/823-3999. kertasmidian.is

ACTIVITIES:

- Land og hestar, horseback riding tours, Húsatóftir, tel. 486-5560/895-0066/894-4062.
- Núpshestar, horseback riding tours, Breiðanes, tel. 852-5930. nupshestar.is
- Fossnes, horseback riding tours, tel. 486-6079.
- Steinsholt II, horseback riding tours, tel. 486-6069.
- Vorsabær II, farm visits, horseback riding tours, tel. 486-5522.

ÁRNES AND ÞJÓRSÁRDALUR

Árnes is a hamlet that has been developing in the Gnúpverjahreppur municipality in recent years. During summer, the community centre provides food and refreshments. There is also a questhouse, swimming pool and sports facility.

Þjórsárdalur vallev is the easternmost vallev in Árnessýsla. and it lies to the north of Gaukshöfði, between Mt. Hagafjall and Mt. Burfell. The land in the valley was once a sandy wasteland, but land reclamation and reforestation efforts have been made around the area of Mt. Skriðufell, and it became a preservation area in 1938. In addition to the Þjórsá river, there are three rivers that traverse the Þjórsárdalur vallev: the Fossá. Rauðá and Þverá rivers. In addition to the remarkable Hiálparfoss and Háifoss waterfalls, there is also the smaller, picturesque Gjárfoss waterfall in the valley. A flourishing farming community lived in Þjórsárdalur valley after the settlement until it was swamped by ash from an eruption of Mt. Hekla in 1104. One of the ruined farms, Stöng, has been excavated and served as the model for the nearby Viking farm reconstruction at Þjóðveldisbærinn. The Þióðveldisbærinn farmhouse in Þiórsárdalur was built between 1974 and 1977 for the occasion of the 1100th anniversary of Iceland's history, and shows how a house would have been constructed and how an Icelandic chieftain used to live in the latter part of the 11th century.





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FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

Þjórsárstofa, Árnes community centre, tel. 486-6116.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hólaskógur, cabin hostel, tel. 841-1700.
- Steinsholt, tel. 486-6069/863-8270.
- Guesthouse Árnes, Bugðugerði 2a, tel. 861-2645.
- · Guesthouse Denami, Vestra-Geldingaholt, tel. 892-8452.

CAMPING:

- · Sandártunga, Þjórsárdalur, tel. 893-8889.
- Þjórsárstofa, Árnes community centre, tel. 486-6116.

EATING OUT:

• Þjórsárstofa, Árnes community centre, tel. 486-6116.

SHOPPING:

 Þjórsárstofa, Árnes community centre, farmers' market, tel. 486-6116

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Þjóðveldisbærinn, Viking farm, replica of original farm Stöng found by archaeologists, in Þjórsárdalur, tel. 488-7713. thjodveldisbaer.is
- Þjórsárstofa, Árnes community centre, short films, information about the area, tel. 486-6116.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

Neslaug, swimming pool, Árnes, tel. 486-6117.

ACTIVITIES:

- Steinsholt, horseback riding tours, hot tubs, tel. 486-6069.
- Guesthouse Denami, horseback riding tours, Vestra-Geldingaholt, tel. 892-8452/698-7090.
- Fossnes, horseback riding tours, tel. 486-6079/895-8079.

FI ÚÐIR

Population: 100-500

Flúðir is the major hamlet in the Hrunamannahreppur municipality, and it was developed because of its proximity to geothermal field Hellisholt. An important greenhouse industry is operated at Flúðir, including Iceland's largest production of mushrooms. In 1899, geologist Dr. Helgi Pétursson (1872-1949) found palagonite tuff formations at Hellisholt, which led to new theories about the duration of the Ice Age. A new bridge over the Hvíta river, at the Bræðratunga farm, has led to great improvements in communications between Flúðir and the Biskupstungur district. The Secret Lagoon, a natural geothermal swimming pool, is a popular tourist attraction in town.

FACILITIES

ACCOMMODATION:

- Icelandair Hotel Flúðir, tel. 444-4000.
- Dalbær, tel. 486-6770/847-3485.
- Flúðir Guesthouse, tel. 565-9196/896-1286.

Guesthouse Saga, Syðra-Langholt, tel. 486-6574.

CAMPING:

- Álfaskeið, tel. 486-6774/486-6574.
- Flúðir campsite, tel. 486-6535/618-5005.

EATING OUT:

- Icelandair Hótel Flúðir, tel. 486-6630.
- · Kaffi-Sel, by the golf course, tel. 486-6454.
- Kaffihúsið Grund, tel. 565-9196.
- Bragginn, pottery and café, Birtingaholt (10 minutes from Flúðir), tel. 847-8384.
- · Minilik, Ethiopian restaurant, tel. 846-9798.
- Útlaginn Kaffihús, Flúðum, tel. 486-6425.

GROCERIES:

Samkaup Strax, tel. 486-6633.

SHOPPING:

- Bragginn, pottery studio, ceramics, Birtingaholt, tel. 847-8384.
- · Sólheimar, local handicrafts, tel. 422-6000.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- · Flúðir swimming pool, tel. 486-6790.
- The Secret Lagoon, natural pool in geothermal area, tel. 555-3351.
- Selsvöllur, golf course, tel. 486-6454/891-7811.

ACTIVITIES:

 Syðra-Langholt, horseback riding tours, tel. 486-6774/894-8974.

GAS STATIONS:

N1. tel. 486-6633.

BLÁSKÓGABYGGÐ

Population: 1,000-2,500

Bláskógabyggð is a municipality in the upper Árnessýsla district, west of the Hvítá river. To the south are the Grímsnes district and Grafningshreppur municipality, and to the west it borders Mosfellsbær, a town east of Reykjavík. The municipality was formed in 2002 through the merger of Þingvallahreppur, Laugardalshreppur, and Biskupstungnahreppur districts. Residential centres have formed in Laugarás, Reykholt, and Laugarvatn. The name of the municipality is taken from an area around Þingvallavatn lake known as Bláskógar (Blue Forests). A new road has been constructed over the Lyngdalsheiði heath connecting Þingvellir National Park and Laugarvatn. This road opens up a route connecting Reykjavík with the upper regions of Árnessýsla county.

BISKUPSTUNGUR

Population Reykholt and Laugarás: 100-500

Reykholt and Laugarás are two hamlets in the Biskupstungur district, both of which have large reserves of geothermal water used to heat numerous greenhouses. There is a healthcare centre and domestic animal zoo at Laugarás, and a swimming pool, store, and accommodation facilities at Reykholt.

Gullfoss (Golden Waterfall), on the glacial Hvítá river, is renowned for its breathtaking beauty and it's one of Iceland's main sightseeing attractions. This mighty, two-tier cataract creates a majestic spectacle as it thunders 32m down over a fault into a gorge measuring 2.5km in length and up to 70m deep in places, which the river has cut into the strata over the past 10,000 years. The waterfall can be viewed up close. as well as from above the chasm, where Sigríðarstofa, an information centre, has been built in memory of Sigríður Tómasdóttir, a local woman from Brattholt. She campaigned against plans to develop a hydroelectricity plant there in the early 19th century. The land around Gullfoss is owned by the state, and the tract of land to the west of the river has now become a protected conservation area.

Geysir is another must-see site for tourists, which has lent its name (meaning Gusher) as the generic term for this phenomenon of spouting hot springs. It's thought that Geysir was formed in an earthquake towards the end of the 13th century. The eruptions of boiling water from Geysir used to reach a height of 40m-60m, but it has been inactive for the last decade. A smaller, adjacent hot spring, called Strokkur, is a popular attraction, erupting 15-20m high at 5-10-minute intervals. The Geysir geothermal field is protected and contains a variety of hot springs and bubbling pools. Geysisstofa, an education and information centre, was opened in the summer of 2000 and it covers the subjects of volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, glaciers, hot springs, waterfalls, and vegetation in the area. There is also a technological exhibition on geology in Iceland.

Skálholt was a bishopric from 1056-1801, and for centuries, one of the main cultural, educational, and political centres in Iceland. It's located in a geothermal area in Biskupstungur, with a commanding view of the surrounding countryside. In all, 44 bishops served at Skálholt during its almost 700-year tenure as the centre of religious life in South Iceland: 31 Catholic bishops until the Reformation in 1550, and 13 Lutheran bishops after that. In 1796, the bishopric was moved to Reykjavík, but in 1801, Skálholt and the northern see of Hólar were merged to form the present-day single bishopric which is based in Revkiavík. Among the many important historical events that occurred at Skálholt was the execution of the last Catholic bishop, Jón Arason (born in 1484), and his three sons in 1550. The present cathedral was consecrated in 1963, but visitors can still see much older relics, including a tunnel that linked it to the nearby houses and school, and the sarcophagus of Bishop Páll Jónsson, who died in 1211.

GH SKÁLHOIT

Skálholt - 801 Selfoss (Laugarás) - +354 486-8870. Fax 486-8994 - skalholt@skalholt.is - www.skalholt.is

















FACILITIES IN REYKHOLT AND LAUGARÁS SERVICES:

· Bank Landsbankinn, Reykholt, tel. 410-4151.

HEALTHCARE:

· Healthcare centre, Laugarás, tel. 432-2770.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Húsið, Bjarkarbraut 26, Reykholt, tel. 486-8680/897-5728.
- Guesthouse Fagrilundur, tel. 772-6869, fagrilundur, is
- The White House Inn, Reykholt, tel. 660-7866/660-7860.

CAMPING:

Reykholt, tel. 893-1434/897-5728.

EATING OUT:

- · Café Mika, Reykholt, tel. 896-6450.
- · Friðheimar, tomato farm and lunchroom, Reykholt, tel. 897-1915.
- · Slakki, Laugarás, tel. 486-8783.

GROCERIES:

· Bjarnabúð, food store, Reykholt, tel. 486-8999.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

· Reykholtslaug, swimming pool, tel. 480-3040.

ACTIVITIES:

- Slakki, farm animal zoo, Laugarás, tel. 486-8783/868-7626.
- Garðyrkjustöðin Engi, farm visits, Laugarás, tel. 486-8913.
- · Garðyrkjustöðin Espiflöt, farm visits, Reykholt, tel. 486-8955/896-8720.
- · Friðheimar Reykholt, horse shows and tomato greenhouses, tel. 897-1915, fridheimar.is
- Iceland River Jet, sailing on the Hvítá river on jet boats, tel. 863-4506. icelandriverjet.com

OTHER SERVICES:

· Iða, garage and tire repair, tel. 486-8840.

FACILITIES IN BISKUPSTUNGUR

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Hótel Gullfoss, tel. 486-8979.
- Kióastaðir, chalets, tel. 486-3333/848-0969.
- Skálinn, Myrkholt, tel. 486-8757/867-3571.
- · Hótel Geysir, tel. 480-6800. geysircentre.is
- Úthlíð. tel. 486-8770/699-5500.
- Eyjasól, cottage, tel. 698-9874/898-6033.
- Hrosshagi, chalets and overnight stays in plastic bubble, tel. 486-8905/861-1915.
- · Skálholt, tel. 486-8870, skalholt, is
- Efstidalur II Farm Hotel, tel. 486-1186.

CAMPING:

- By Faxi waterfall, tel. 486-8710/898-1594.
- By Geysir, tel. 486-6800.
- Skjól, tel. 899-4541.
- Úthlíð. tel. 486-8770/699-5500.

EATING OUT:

- Skálholt, tel. 486-8870.
- Hótel Geysir, tel. 480-6800.
- Geysir Glíma, tel. 480-6800.
- Geysir Shop, tel. 480-6800.
- Réttin, Úthlíð, tel. 486-8770/699-5500.
- Skjól, tel. 899-4541.
- Gullfosskaffi, tel. 486-6500/899-3014.

SHOPPING:

Rósin, handicrafts, Austurhlíð, tel. 865-9300.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Hlíðarlaug, swimming pool, Úthlíð, tel. 486-8770.
- Úthlíð Golf, nine-hole golf course, Biskupstungur, tel.
 484, 8770
- Haukadalsvöllur, nine-hole golf course, Geysir, tel. 893-8733/898-9141.

ACTIVITIES.

- Kjóastaðir, horseback riding tours, tel. 486-3333/848-0969.
- Arctic Rafting, river rafting, sailing, climbi unst datiling, caving, tel. 562-7000. arcticrafting.is
- Mountaineers of Iceland, river rafting on Hvítá river, ATV tours on Haukadalsheiði, and snowmobile tours on Langjökull, tel. 580-9900
- Hrosshagi, farm visits, tel. 486-8905/861-1915.

LAUGARVATN

Population: 100-500

Laugarvatn is a rooted, rural, inhabited area in Laugardalur valley in Bláskógarbyggð region. It was originally formed around the local schools. Laugarvatn lake contains a lot of

geothermal heat and there are many hot springs around the lake and on the lakeside. For a long time, Laugarvatn has been popular among tourists and praised as a summer resort. According to folklore, the bodies of Jón Arason and his sons, who were beheaded at Skálholt in 1550, were washed in a warm pool by the lake, called Vígðalaug (Christening Pool), before they were transported north to their burial grounds. Next to the pool are stones called Líkasteinar (Body Stones).

Spa resort Laugarvatn Fontana offers the experience of unique steam rooms directly over the famous fumaroles, which locals and guests have used for therapeutic bathing for ages. The entire area is stunning, and in addition to the steam, it's possible to enjoy therapeutic bathing in a tripartite bathing pool, relax in the hot sauna, take a stroll in the warm sand, or wade into Laugarvatn lake itself. The café offers refreshments and it's possible to bake hot spring bread using geothermal heat, an experience that is available every day.

Mt. Laugarvatnsfjall is an ideal place for a panoramic view of the trails around Laugarvatn lake. The easiest approach is up the shoulder by the ski lift. The mountain is wide and flat at the top, so it's worth walking around it for a complete view. Mt. Gullkista also offers a panoramic view and can be approached by car from Miðdalur valley.

FACILITIES

SERVICES:

Post office, at Samkaup Strax, tel. 486-1126.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hótel Edda, tel. 444-4810.
- Guesthouse Dalssel, tel. 899-5409.
- Gallerí Laugarvatn, tel. 486-1016/486-1017.
- Efstidalur, tel. 486-1186. efstidalur.is
- Golden Circle Apartments, Laugarbraut 1-5, tel. 537-8060.
- Héraðsskólinn, hostel, Laugarvatn, tel. 537-8060. heradsskólinn is

CAMPING:

 Laugarvatn camping centre, facilities for RVs, hot and cold water, showers, grill, tel. 615-5848.

EATING OUT:

- Restaurant Lindin, tel, 486-1262/898-9599.
- One Stop, Dalbraut 6, tel. 511-4455.
- Fontana, Hverabraut 1, tel. 486-1400.
- Gallery Laugarvatn, café, tel. 486-1016.
- Hótel Edda ML, tel. 444-4810.
- Hótel Edda IKI, tel. 444-4820.
- Efstidalur, café in cowshed, fresh dairy products, tel. 486-1186/862-1626.
- · Héraðsskólinn in Laugarvatn, tel. 537-8060. heradsskolinn.is
- · Lindin Restaurant, Lindarbraut 2, tel. 486-1262.

GROCERIES:

· Samkaup Strax, tel. 486-1126.

SHOPPING:

• Gallery Laugarvatn, local handicrafts, tel. 486-1016.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool and hot tubs, tel. 486-1251.
- Laugarvatn Fontana, hot tubs and natural steam baths, Hverabraut 1, tel. 486-1400, fontana.is
- · Dalbúi, nine-hole golf course, tel. 894-1169.

ACTIVITIES:

- Efstidalur, cowshed open to visitors, tel. 486-1186/862-1626.
 efstidalur is
- Laugarvatn Adventure, various leisure activities, cave exploration, canoeing, tel. 862-5614.

GAS STATIONS:

Bílaþjónusta Valbergs, Lindaskogur, tel. 775-2620/486-8600.

ÞINGVELLIR

THE SACRED SITE OF ALL ICELANDERS

Icelanders first gathered at the Öxará river in Þingvellir in 930AD. From then until 1798 – continuously for 868 years – Pingvellir was the nation's political heart. Icelanders met at Þingvellir to discuss politics, settle disputes, and trade.

The first part of this period has been named Iceland's "Golden Age." This refers to the Icelandic Commonwealth that lasted from 930 to 1264. Iceland was an independent nation during this period. The Alþingi (Icelandic Parliament) in Þingvellir held supreme authority over the country. The Alþingi was both a legislative and judicial assembly and they resolved disputes from all over the country. In ancient times, the Alþingi convened each year at the end of June for a period of approximately

X

BORG SPORTS CENTRE

Borg, Grímsnesi - 801 Selfoss +354 480-5530



 Summer
 Mon-Fri 10:00 - 22:00
 Sat-Sun 10:00 - 19:00.

 Winter
 Mon-Thu 14:00 - 22:00
 Fri Closed
 Sat-Sun 11:00 - 18:00

two weeks, but in later centuries, it became one week at the beginning of July.

During Iceland's Golden Age, Pingvellir was the site of many events of the Icelandic sagas, most of which were written in the 13th century and are the cornerstone of Icelandic civilization.

After 1262, Iceland became a part of the monarchy of the Norwegian King, and later of the Danish King. The Alþingi nevertheless continued to convene in Þingvellir as a legislative assembly and judicial court until the end of the 18th century. Evidence has been found that there were general festivals held during this period. Thus, Þingvellir, as in earlier times, was the centre of national life at the time of assembly each year.

In the 19th century, there were several gatherings held in Pingvellir, and the most outstanding was the National Celebration of 1874 when Iceland acquired its constitution. Poets wrote poetry about Pingvellir, and the site became a symbol for all that Iceland is.

In the 20th century, Icelanders held national celebrations in Pingyellir that were attended by a great many people, such as the Alþingi Festival in 1930. The most remarkable one, however, was the Dedication of the Republic on June 17, 1944, when the Republic of Iceland was founded. Because of this occasion and others, Pingyellir has become "the sacred site of all Icelanders," as the act of 1928 on the protection of Pingyellir states.

In addition to the above, Pingvellir is remarkable for scientific reasons: the site of the ancient Alþingi lies in a rift valley and the basin is part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge that runs through Iceland from southwest to northeast. The present-day rift valley basin in Þingvellir has been formed over the last 10,000 years. Þingvallavatn is the largest lake in Iceland and teems with life; it's home to four different kinds of trout.

Pingvellir has been protected for more than 80 years and is the oldest national park in Iceland. Pingvellir National Park is under the management of the Alþingi. In summer 2004, Pingvellir was registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List and it's the first place in Iceland to be featured on this list, which only includes the most unique places of interest in the world.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

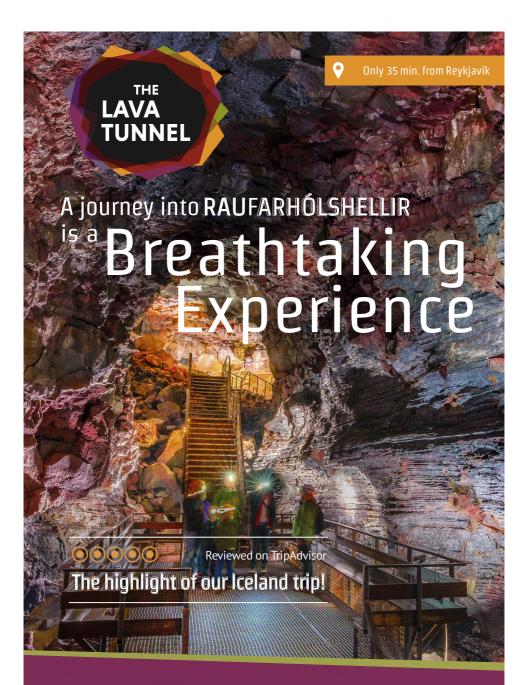
 Þingvellir National Park service centre, Leirar, tel. 482-2660/482-3606. thingvellir.is

ACCOMMODATION:

- Cottages Lake Thingvellir, chalets, tel. 892-7110. lakethingvellir.is
- Skógarhólar, accommodation with area for horses, tel. 898-9488. lhhestar.is
- Cottages at Þingvellir National Park, Þingvellir, tel. 482-2660.

CAMPING

Skógarhólar, campsite with area for horses, tel. 863-9975.
 Ihhestar.is



For more information and bookings: www.thelavatunnel.is

+354 760 1000 info@thelavatunnel.is

EATING OUT:

 Þingvellir National Park service centre, Leirar, tel. 482-2660/482-3606.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 Hakið Visitor Centre, multimedia show, near the entrance to Almannagjá gully, tel. 482-2660. thingvellir.is

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- · Almannagjá, a walking path between tectonic plactes.
- Þingvallavatn lake.
- Law Rock, which used to be the focal point of Iceland's Parliament.
- · The Drowning Pool, a historical site.
- · Öxarárfoss waterfall.
- · Þingvellir church.
- Silfra, a fissure located in Þingvallavatn lake and a popu unst datiling destination.

GRÍMSNES & GRAFNINGSHREPPUR

Population Sólheimar: 0-100

Grímsnes & Grafningshreppur is a municipality in South Iceland, with Sólheimar as its biggest settlement. Sólheimar in Grímsnes is an eco-village founded in 1930. This charming village is renowned for its international, artistic, and ecological atmosphere. It prides itself on its varied cultural, social, and sporting activities.

FACILITIES

ACCOMMODATION:

- Minniborgir, Minni Borg, tel. 486-1500/868-3592. minniborgir.is
- Sel Guesthouse, tel. 486-4441.
- Brekkukot Guesthouse, Sólheimar, tel. 480-4483.
- Hótel Grímsborgir, Grímsnes, tel. 555-7878.
- Ion Hotel, Nesjavellir, tel. 482-3415.
- Hótel Borealis, Efri-Brú, tel. 897-6549, hotelborealis, is

CAMPING

- Borg, Grímsnes, tel. 486-4402/863-7139.
- · Þrastaskógur, Grímsnes.

EATING OUT:

- Ion Luxury Adventure Hotel, Nesiavellir, tel. 482-3415.
- Græna Kannan, Sólheimar, tel. 480-4483.
- · Hótel Grímsborgir, Grímsnes, tel. 555-7878.
- Minniborgir, Minni Borg, tel. 486-1500/868-3592. minniborgir.is
- · Hótel Borealis, Efri-Brú, tel. 897-6549. hotelborealis.is
- Þarastalundur, tel. 779-6500.

SHOPPING:

Vala, gallery, Sólheimar, tel. 480-4450.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 Sesselju-ús - Centre for Sustainability, conference centre, courses, auditorium, sculpture park, Sólheimar, tel. 480-4430.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool Borg, tel. 486-4402.
- Swimming pool Hraun, Hraunborgir, tel. 486-4414.
- Kiðjabergsvöllur, nine-hole golf course, Grímsnes, tel. 486-4495.
- Öndverðarnesvöllur, nine-hole golf course, Grímsnes, tel. 482-3380.

ACTIVITIES:

- The Adrenaline Garden, diverse leisure activities, treasure hunts, group motivation, mystery tours, and more, tel. 567-8978/511-1140. adrenalin.is
- Útilífsmiðstöð skáta, jungle gym, boats, and diverse leisure activities for groups, Úlfljótsvatn, tel. 482-2674. ulfljotsvatn.is
- · Paintball, Grafningur, tel. 857-2000.
- Jeep tours from Minniborair, tel. 486-1500/868-3592.

FLÓAHREPPUR

Population: 500-1,000

The borders of the Flói area are the Ölfusá river, the Hvítá river, Merkurhraun, the Þjorsá river, and the coast. Vegetation is diverse and birdlife thrives. Flóahreppur is a municipality in the easternmost part of the Flói area and the inhabitants make their living off agriculture and work in various service sectors.

Þjórsá is the longest river in the country at 230km and has a similar volume to the Ölfusá river at 360m2/s. The water comes from under the Hofsjökull and Vatnajökull glaciers. There is a great deal of clay carried along the river, 4.5 million tons per year.

Þjórsárhraun, the largest lava flow from a single volcanic eruption on earth since the Ice Age, rests underneath most of Flói. It was formed by a great eruption east of Þórisvatn lake approximately 8,700 years ago. An enormous amount of magma (almost double the volume produced in the Skaftár Fire eruptions at Laki) flowed from a 20-30km crack in the earth, down Skeið and Flói towards the sea at Stokkseyri and Eyrarbakki, almost 140km away from the eruption site.

Flóahreppur is fairly densely populated. The countryside is reasonably flat, but also punctuated by mountain ridges and rocky outcroppings which offer fantastic vistas. There is a lot of birdlife in the area, as well as great views of the mountains in the distance. Photographers will find many ideal vantage points there.

FACILITIES

ACCOMMODATION:

- Guesthouse Lambastaðir, tel. 777-0705.
- Vatnsholt Guesthouse, Vatnsholt 1-2, tel. 899-7748.
- Arabær, tel. 487-5818/868-0304.
- · Guesthouse Bitra, tel, 480-0700,
- Gaulverjarbæjarskóli, youth hostel, tel. 551-0654/865-2121.

CAMPING:

Þjórsárver Campsite, tel. 899-7748.

EATING OUT:

- Krían á Kríumýri, country inn. tel. 899-7643/897-7643.
- Íslenski bærinn, turf house exhibition and café, tel. 694-8108/864-4484/892-2702.

SHOPPING:

- Ullarvinnslan Þingborg, near Selfoss, tel. 482-1027/693-6509.
- Gallery Flói, Þingborg, 868-7486. fanndis.com
- Tré og list, Forsæti III, tel. 486-3335.
- Flói og mói, tel. 898-0728.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 Íslenski bærinn, turf house exhibition, tel. 694-8108/864-4484/892-2702.

ACTIVITIES:

- Vatnsholt Travel Service, various activities, tel. 899-7748. staviniceland.com
- Iceland South Coast Travel, guided jeep excursions, tel. 777-0705. isct.is
- Dog Sled Tours, tel. 899-1791.
- · Salmon fishing in the Hvítá river, tel. 695-9833.

ÁRBORG

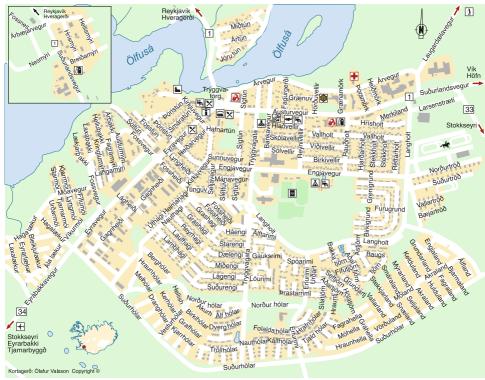
Árborg municipality is located in the western part of the Flói district and is the strip of land between the Þjórsá and Ölfusá rivers. The municipality was created when four municipalities merged in 1998. Árborg consists of three towns: Selfoss, Stokkseyri, and Eyrarbakki. It offers diverse and stunning landscapes, beautiful mountain vistas, unique birdlife, and a stunning shoreline. Árborg has a range of services catering to the citizens of South Iceland and visitors alike – restauran unst dationtion, interesting museums, and galleries.

SELFOSS

Population: 5,000-10,000

Selfoss is part of the municipality of Árborg. It's the largest residential area in South Iceland and it's situated next to the Ölfusárbrú bridge. Selfoss was settled in 1891 when a suspension bridge was built across the Ölfusá river. At the time, the bridge was the largest man-made structure in Iceland. Around 1930, the town expanded

SELFOSS



when the Kaupfélag Árnesinga co-op and Miólkurbú Flóamanna dairy processing plant began their operations. Selfoss is the main centre of trade, services, and industry in South Iceland, It has a tourist information centre, various accommodation options, a campground, restaurants and cafés, a swimming pool with a sauna, art gallery, hospital, two elementary schools, a music school, and the Fjölbrautaskóli Suðurlands upper secondary school. There are robust sport and leisure activities in and around Selfoss, including a nine-hole golf course, fine walking and hiking paths, and an exceptional view of the mountains.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

· Árborg Tourist Information and Booking Service, Austurvegur 4, tel. 482-4241. visitarborg.is

SERVICES:

- · Police. Hörðuvellir 1. tel. 444-2010.
- · Post office, Austurvegur 26, tel. 580-1200.
- Bank Landsbankinn, Austurvegur 20, tel. 410-4152.
- · ATM, inside Samkaup, Tryggvagata 40.
- · ATM Arion Bank, Austurvegur 10, tel. 444-7000.
- ATM Íslandsbanki, Austurvegur 9, tel. 440-4000.
- · ATM Kjarninn, Austurvegur 3-5.

HEALTHCARE:

- Healthcare centre, Árvegur, tel. 480-5100/480-5112.
- Pharm unst f og heilsa, Austurvegur 3-5, tel. 482-1177.
- · Pharmacy Lyfja, Austurvegur 44, tel. 482-3000.

ACCOMMODATION:

- · Hótel Selfoss, Eyrarvegur 2, tel. 480-2500.
- Gesthus, Engjavegur, tel. 482-3585/663-2449. gesthus.is
- · Fosstún, apartment hotel, Eyrarvegur 26, tel. 615-4699. fosstun is
- Menam, Eyravegur 8, tel. 482-4099.
- Hostel, Austurvegur 28, tel. 482-1600/660-6999.
- Geirakot, farm guesthouse, tel. 482-1020/895-8493.
- Bella Apartments and Rooms, Austurvegur 35, tel. 482-7800/859-6162. bellahotel.is
- Bjarney Guesthouse, Kjarrmói 1, tel. 776-2410/893-1159.
- South Central Apartment, Furugrund 19, tel. 663-4666.
- Þóristún Villa. Þóristún 19. tel. 864-4493.
- Garun Guesthouses, Heiðmörk 1A & Skólavellir 7, tel. 864-3250

CAMPING:

- · Gesthús, Engjavegur, tel. 482-3585.
- · Þjórsárver Campsite, Selfoss, tel. 899-7748.

EATING OUT:

- · Skalli Fast Food, Austurvegur 46, tel. 483-1111.
- Yellow, Austurvegur 3, tel. 482-1380.
- Riverside, inside Hótel Selfoss, Eyrarvegur 2, tel. 480-2500.
- Surf & Turf, Austurvegur 22, tel. 482-2899.
- Kaffi-Krús, Austurvegur 7, tel. 482-1266.
- · Kaffi Selfoss, Eyravegur 2, tel. 482-1132.
- · Subway, Eyrarvegur 2, tel. 482-7877.
- · Golfskálinn Svarfhólsvöllur, tel. 482-2417.
- Pylsuvagninn, hot dogs, Tryggvatorg, tel. 482-1782.



TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE



Information, Booking Office. internet, souvenirs, maps and travel books

Austurvegur 2, 800 Selfoss tourinfo@arborg.is www.selfossarea.is



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+354 846 9287 / 693-6509 gamlathingborg@gmail.com tom-made sweaters.

Traditional and cus-

- Kentucky Fried Chicken, Austurvegur 46, tel. 482-3466.
- Menam, Evrarvegur 8, tel, 482-4099.
- · Bókakaffið, Austurvegur 22, tel. 482-3079.
- · Hlöllabátar, Austurvegur 52, tel. 483-1005.
- Ísbúð Huppa, ice cream parlour, Eyravegur 2.
- Seylon, Eyravegur 15, tel. 571-6657/849-9325.
- Hamborgarabúlla Tómasar, Eyrarvegur 32, tel. 571-8288.
- Eldhúsið, Tryggvagata 40, tel. 482-1770.
- Dominos Pizza, Eyravegur 2, tel. 581-2345.
- Vefjan, food truck and fast food on Engjavegur, tel. 844-5544.
- Tryggvaskáli, á la carte menu, Tryggvatorg, tel. 482-1390. tryggvaskali.is
- · Guðni's bakery, Austurvegur 31b, tel. 482-1755.
- Almar's bakery, Austurvegur 1, tel. 482-2829.

GUESTHOUSE SELFOSS

v/Engjaveg - 800 Selfoss

+354 482-3585 / 663-2449 - gesthus@gesthus.is

















Two summerhouses, each with their own Jacuzzi.

The Bobby Fischer Centre

Austurvegur 21, 800 Selfoss // +354 +354-894-1275. www.fischersetur.is // fischersetur@gmail.com Bobby Fischer Centre: GPS DD LAT 63.93748 LONG -20.99649 Laugardælakirkja: GPS DD LAT 63.94655 LONG -20.96699







- Memorabilia of World Chess Champion BOBBY FISCHER.
- The Bobby Fischer Grave Site, Laugardælakirkja, is about 2 km from the Centre.

Arborg Swimming Facilities

Selfoss Swimming Pool - open year round

Weekdays: 06:30 - 21:30 Weekends: 09:00 - 19:00 Stokkseyri Swimming Pool

Summer June 1 - Aug 15 Weekdays: 13:00 - 21:00

Weekends: 10:00 - 17:00 Winter Aug. 16 - May 31

Mon - Fri: 16:30 - 20:30 Sat: 10:00 - 15:00

Sun: Closed



GROCERIES:

- · Krónan, Austurvegur,
- Bónus, Gaulveriabæiarvegur.
- · Hagkaup, Larsenstræti.
- Vínbúðin liguor store, Vallholt 19, tel. 482-2011.

SHOPPING:

- Hannvrðabúðin, Evrarvegur 23. tel. 555-1314.
- Kastalinn gjafabúð, Eyrarvegur 5, tel. 663-3757.
- Motivo. Austurvegur 9. tel. 482-1700.
- · Gallery Viss, sheltered workshop, Gagnheiði 39, tel. 480-6920.
- Handverk Jóhönnu, wooden toys, Grashagi 1a, tel. 694-5282.
- Töfraljós, Fossheiði 5, tel. 893-6804.
- · Handverksskúrinn, Eyravegur 3, tel. 898-1550.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Árborg Library and Listagjáin showroom, Austurvegur 2, tel. 480-1980.
- · Fischer Centre, exhibits connected to Bobby Fischer. Austurvegur 21, tel. 894-1275. fischersetur.is
- · Hangar Museum, Selfoss Airport, tel. 780-5500.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool by Bankayegur, tel. 480-1960.
- · Svarfhólsvöllur, nine-hole golf course, on the banks of Ölfusá river, tel. 482-2417.

ACTIVITIES:

- Fishing permits at Veiðisport, Eyrarvegur 15, tel. 482-1506.
- Selfossbíó, movie theatre, Eyravegur 2, tel. 517-7000. selfossbio.is
- · Iceland Forever, booking service, Austurvegur 4, tel. 482-4241, icelandforever.is
- Photography Tours, Fossheiði 1, tel. 578-4800.
- Sterna, day tours and bus passport, tel. 551-1166. sternatravel.com
- · Reykjavik Excursions, trips to Landmannalaugar, N1 Austurvegur 48. tel. 580-5450.
- · TREX group tours, transportation to Landmannalaugar and Þórsmörk, N1 Austurvegur 48, tel. 587-6000.
- SBA-Norðurleið, scheduled tours to Akureyri via Kjölur, N1 Austurvegur 48, tel. 550-0700.
- · Guðmundur Tyrfingsson, coach service, various tours, tel. 482-1210
- Hópferðabílar ÞÁ bílar, Gagnheiði 36, tel. 511-5510/842-5510.
- Bifreiðastöð Árborgar, Kirkjuvegur 8, tel. 482-3800.
- · Arctic Wings, tours by air, Selfoss Airport, tel. 780-5500.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Europcar/Bílaleiga Akureyrar, tel. 840-6098.
- JÞ. Evravegur 15b. tel. 482-4040, carrentalselfoss.is
- Iceland Cars. tel. 691-5256/897-6554.
- Toyota Selfoss, Suðurlandsvegur, tel. 480-8000.

GAS STATIONS:

- N1, Austurvegur 48, tel. 482-1005.
- Olís, Arnarberg, tel. 480-1306.
- · Orkan, Suðurlandsvegur, tel. 578-8800.

Looking for more?

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www.whatson.is



STOKKSEYRI

Population: 500-1,000

Stokkseyri is a seaside town, just east of Eyrarbakki. The Stokkseyri shoreline has many small pools of water and is renowned for its beauty and diverse birdlife. There is a rich artistic and cultural life in Stokkseyri. The town has a number of artists' workshops, as well as strong ties to the nation's ghost, troll, and elf myths. There are museums and leisure activities for the whole family. Þuríðarbúð is an old dwelling that has been renovated, where seamen used to sleep, eat, and spend their time during their days ashore. It's named after "foreman" Þuríður Einarsdóttir (1777-1863), a famous female fisherman. Knarrarósviti lighthouse is located east of Stokkseyri village, built in functionalism and Jugendstil styles. It's designed by architect Guðjón Samúelsson, and it's the tallest building in South Iceland.

FACILITIES

ACCOMMODATION:

- Guesthouse Kvöldstjarnan, Stjörnusteinar 7, tel. 483-1800.
- Art Hostel, Hafnargata 9, tel. 854-4510/894-2910.
- Guesthouse Heba, Íragerður 12, tel, 565-0354.
- Húsið við hafið, Íragerður 14, tel. 588-6212/699-2040.
- Vestri Grund. Vestri Grund 1. tel. 844-3882.

CAMPING:

• By Sólvellir in the centre of the village, tel. 896-2144.

EATING OUT:

- Fiöruborðið, Evrarbraut 3a. tel. 483-1550.
- Kaffi Gott, Hafnargata 1, tel. 486-1486/659-4801.
- Shellskálinn Fast Food, Hásteinsvegur 2, tel. 483-1485.

SHOPPING:

- Organ workshop, instructions about organ making, organ music, and the history of music from the south coast, Hafnarqata 9, tel. 861-1730. orgel.is
- Gallery Gimli, Hafnargata 1, tel. 894-7909/848-8612.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Þuríðarbúð, historic fisherman's house and museum, Strandgata, tel. 483-1082.
- The dairy farm at Baugsstaðir, 5km east of Stokkseyri, tel. 486-3369.
- The Ghost Centre, Hafnargata 9, tel. 483-1202. draugasetrid.is
- Icelandic Wonders Museum, dedicated to elves, trolls, and the northern lights, Hafnargata 9, tel. 483-1202. icelandicwonders. com
- The Wildlife Museum, a collection of mounted animals, firearms, and artifacts relating to hunting, Eyrarbraut 49. veidisafnid.is

ÁRBORG STOKKSFYRI



ÁRBORG EYRARBAKKI



SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

 Swimming pool and hot tubs by Stiörnusteinn, Evrarbraut, tel. 483-3260.

ACTIVITIES:

- · Kajakaferðir, Eyrarbraut, tel. 868-9046. kajak.is
- Information on fishing permits from Veiðisport, Eyrarvegur 15, Selfoss, tel. 482-1506/482-1043/695-3034.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

· Knarrarósviti lighthouse, west of the Baugsstaðir farm.

GAS STATIONS:

Orkan, Strandgata 5, tel. 483-1485.

EYRARBAKKI

Population: 500-1,000

Eyrarbakki is an old trading post on the seashore, just east of the Ölfusá river estuary, and the village is bursting with history. The town's heyday was from the mid-19th century to the early 20th century. A number of houses from around 1900 exist, many of which have been preserved and renovated in recent years. Húsið, (The House), in Eyrarbakki, built by Danish merchants in 1765, is one of the oldest buildings in Iceland and currently houses the Árnes Folk Museum. The Eyrarbakki Maritime Museum is located on a short distance from Húsið, and the village has a few private museums. The Women's Book Centre was opened in Evrarbakki in 2013, which collects and promotes the writings of Icelandic women. The Flói bird conservation area is located north of Eyrarbakki and the seashore is popular for walks and exploration.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

· Menningar-Staður, Búðarstígur 7, tel. 898-4240.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Bakki Hostel, Eyrargata 51-53, tel. 788-8200.
- Guesthouse 77, Eyrargata 77, tel. 893-4549.
- · Sea Side Cottages, Eyrargata 37a, tel. 898-1197.
- Rein Guesthosue B&B. Þvkkvaflöt 4. tel. 777-5677.

West of the village in Búðarstígur, tel. 483-3330/898-1366.

EATING OUT:

- · Rauða húsið, Búðarstígur 4, tel. 483-3330.
- · Laugabúð, Eyrargata 46, tel. 483-1443.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- · Árnes Folk Museum, Eyrarvegur 50, tel. 483-1504. husid.com
- · Maritime Museum, Túngata 59, tel. 483-1504.
- The Women's Book Centre, Túngata 40, tel. 483-1504.
- Óðinshús Art Gallery, Eyrargata, tel. 896-2866.

THE HOUSE AT EYRARBAKKI



Árnessýsla folk museum is located in Húsið, the House, historical home of the Danish merchants built in 1765

Húsið is one of the oldest houses in Iceland and a of Eyrarbakki's time as the biggest trading place on the south coast, beautiful monument

exhibitions about the story and culture of the region, famous piano, shawl made out of human hair and the kings pot, are among

Húsið prides itself with warm and homelike atmosphere

The Maritime museum is close by where the beautiful twelve-rower Farsæll is the largest

A glimpse of the past lives of Eyrarbakki's villagers is what meets the eye of the guests.

HÚSIÐ Á EYRARBAKKA

The Southcoast Museum



Opening Hours. May 1st-Sept 30th Daily 11-18 or by an agreement. Tel. +354 483 1504 & +354 483 1082 | info@byggdasafn.is | byggdasafn.i

BAKKI HOSTEL & APARTMENTS

Eyrargata 51-53 - 820 Eyrarbakki

+354 788 8200 - info@bakkihostel.is - www.bakkihostel.is







ACTIVITIES:

- Vesturbúð, fishing permits available for the Ölfusá river, Evrargata 49. tel. 483-1385.
- Bakkahestar Horse Rental, tel. 698-1509/895-8059.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

Bird sanctuary in Flói.

GAS STATIONS:

ÓB, Vesturbúð, Eyrargata 49, tel. 485-1385.

ÖL FUS

Population: 1,000-2,500

Ölfus is a municipality located on the western edge of the Árnessýsla district and it's bordered by the Ölfusá river in the east. In the east, the countryside is characterised by marshes and sandy beaches, while in the west, there are mountains, lava fields. and seaside cliffs. To the north is a mountainous area and the Hellisheiði heath, while in the south, there is a large agricultural area. Ölfus is one of the largest centres of horse breeding in Iceland. Residents increasingly commute to workplaces in Reykjavík or Selfoss. The residential areas of Hveragerði, Þorlákshöfn, and Árbæjarhverfi are considered part of Ölfus, despite the fact that Hveragerði is its own municipality.

Mt. Hengill and the surrounding area are ideal places to enjoy outdoor activities. There are many interesting paths, covering a total of 125km. They have been marked by the Reykjavík District Heating Company, which harnesses hot water for the capital's central heating. There are parking areas and information posters with maps where the paths start. The walks are of varying difficulty, so hikers must be sure to get the necessary information before setting off. Paths start at the parking lots located in the following places: Sleggjubeinsdalur, by the geothermal water borehole; Rjúpnabrekkur, inland from Hveragerði; Úlfljótsvatn lake, by the Scouts' huts; Ölfusvatn lake, by the bridge over the Ölfusvatnsá river; Nesjavellir, by Nesbúð; Kýrdalsbrúnir, above Nesiavellir; Botnadalur in Dyrafjöll; Dyradalur in Dyrafjöll.

The Selvogur bays are located on the southwestern coast of Iceland and are known for their rich birdlife. It's said that the original Strandarkirkja church was built by shipwrecked seamen whose prayers for rescue were miraculously answered. Even today,

many people still pledge donations to the church in the hope that they will overcome illness or adversity.

Herdísarvík is an old fishing centre where there are the ancient remains of fishermen's huts. Poet and campaigner-for-progress Einar Benediktsson (1864-1940) spent the last years of his life in the small black timber house there. The house and land were donated to the University of Iceland and are now protected. There's a sign on this house with a map of the area.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

• Public library, Hafnarberg 1, Þorlákshöfn, tel. 480-3830.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Ölfusborgir, vacation rentals, tel. 483-4260.
- Núpar I-II, tel. 857-2040. nupar.is
- Hótel Hlíð, Króki, tel. 483-5444, hotelhlid.is
- Hótel Eldhestar, Vellir, tel. 480-4800/483-4884, eldhestar, is
- Akurgerði, chalets, tel. 483-4449/893-9814, akurgerdi,is
- Gljúfur, chalets, tel. 483-4461. gljufur.is
- Guesthouse Hjarðarból, tel. 567-0045/840-1574. hjardarbol.is
- T-bær. Selvogur. tel. 483-3150.

CAMPING:

T-bær, Selvogur, tel. 483-3150.

EATING OUT:

- T-bær, café, Selvogur, tel. 483-3150.
- The Ski Lodge, Hveradalir, tel. 567-2020. skidaskali.is
- Litla kaffistofan, by route 1, Svínahraun, tel. 557-7601.
- Básinn, Ingólfsskáli, Efstaland, tel. 483-4160. basinn.is
- Hafið bláa, at Ósevrarbrú, tel. 483-1000, hafidblaa.is
- Fákasel, Ingólfshvoll, tel. 480-5050. fakasel.is
- Hendur í Höfn, Unubakka 10-12, tel. 848-3389.

GH BLACK BEACH GUESTHOUSE Unubakki 4, 815 Þorlákshöfn +354 556-1600 www.blackbeachquesthouse.is



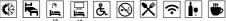




















BLACK BEACH COTTAGE

Unubakki 4, 815 Þorlákshöfn +354 556-1600 www.blackbeachquesthouse.is info@blackbeachguesthouse.is





















SHOPPING:

· Ceramics gallery, Hraun, tel. 862-5077.

ACTIVITIES:

- Eldhestar, horseback riding tours, Vellir, tel. 480-4800/483-4884. eldhestar.is
- Sólhestar, horseback riding tours, Borgargerði, tel. 892-3066. solhestar.is
- Fákasel, horse park, Ingólfshvoll, tel. 480-5050. fakasel.is
- Fishing in Hlíðarvatn lake, Stangveiðifélagið Árblik, tel. 483-3848.
- Fishing in Þorleifslækur creek, tel. 557-6100.
- The Lava Tunnel, tours of Raufarhólshellir cave, tel. 519-1616. thelavatunnel.is

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 Hellisheiði Geothermal Power Plant, tel. 412-5800. onpower.is/exhibition

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Hiking paths in the Hengill mountain area, maps available at the Hellisheiði Power Plant, the tourist information centre in Hveragerði, and at the municipal library in Þorlákshöfn.
- · Hiking trails on the coast and to Mt. Geitafell.
- Selvogur, Strandarkirkja, and Herdísarvík; interesting outdoor areas with historical connections.
- Arnarker cave, cars can approach on the old Selvogsvegur road, extreme care must be taken in the cave, Leitarhraun.

ÞORLÁKSHÖFN

Population: 1,000-2,500

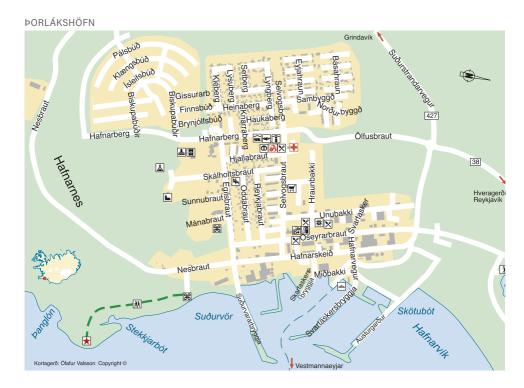
Porlákshöfn is a town by the Ölfusá river. It was a seasonal fishing centre for centuries, but major harbour improvements which strengthened the town's fisheries industry were made after the eruption of Eldfell volcano on the Westman Islands in 1973. Part of these harbour improvements was the placement of dolosse, concrete blocks, in the harbour wall, acting as breakwater to protect the harbour and sand dunes in the area. These dolosse are featured on the official emblem of Ölfus, the municipality that Porlákshöfn is a part of. Porlákshöfn has a challenging sand golf course and it's enjoyable to walk along the coast, go to the sports centre in town, see the outdoor photography exhibition on the main street, view fascinating exhibits at the library, and relat at the popular pool. When the Óseyrarbrú bridge was completed a few years ago, communication between Porlákshöfn and the south coast communities greatly increased.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE: Ölfus Tourist Information Centre, Hafnarberg 1, tel. 480-3830. olfus.is

SERVICES:

- Bank Landsbankinn, Hafnarberg 1, tel. 410-4000.
- · ATM, in Skálinn, Óseyrarbraut 15.



HEALTHCARE:

- Healthcare centre, Selvogsbraut 24, tel. 480-5240.
- · Pharmacy Apótekarinn, Selvogsbraut 41.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hjá Jonna Guesthouse, Oddabraut 24, tel. 483-5292/868-5292. hjajonna@gmail.com
- · Oddabraut 17 Guesthouse, Oddabraut 17.

CAMPING:

· By the sports centre, Hafnarberg 41, tel. 483-3890.

EATING OUT.

- Skálinn, Óseyrarbraut 17, tel. 483-3801.
- Meitillinn, Selvogsbraut 41, tel. 483-5950.
- Svarti Sauðurinn, Unubakka 4, tel. 483-3320.
- Hendur í höfn. Unubakka 10-12. tel. 848-3389.
- · Café Sól, Selvogsbraut 41.

GROCERIES:

Vínbúðin liguor store, Selvogsbraut 41, tel. 481-3963.

SHOPPING:

 Hendur í höfn, glass, handicrafts, Unubakka 10-12, tel. 848-3389.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

- Municipal Library, art exhibitions, and mounted fish on display, Hafnarberg 1, tel. 480-3830.
- · Outdoor photo exhibition on Selvogsbraut.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool and sports centre, tel. 483-3890.
- 18-hole golf course, Óseyrarbraut, tel. 483-3009.

ACTIVITIES:

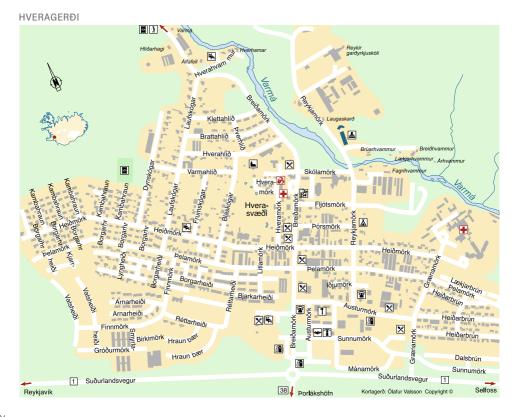
 Perlushestar, horseback riding tours, Faxabraut 12, tel. 780-0082. info@perluhestar.is

PLACES OF INTEREST:

- Þorlákskirkja church, with walking paths and informational signs east of the church.
- · Outdoor recreational areas in the surrounding countryside.
- · Karlsminni, a monument north of the town.
- · Scenic outlook at Hafnarnesviti, a famous surfboarding area.

GAS STATIONS:

- Orkan, Óseyrarbraut 15, tel. 444-3000.
- ÓB. Ósevrarbraut 6. tel. 483-3401.
- Skálinn, Óseyrarbraut 14, tel. 483-3801.





Welcome to Hveragerði a village in Bloom





Tourist Information Centre Sunnumörk, 810 Hveragerði Tel: +354 483 4601, fax 483 4604. E-mail: tourinfo@hveragerdi.is





Swimming Pool Laugaskarð 810 Hveragerði Tel: +354 483 4113

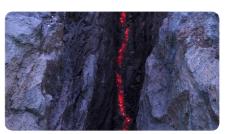




The Geothermal Park
Hveramörk 13, 810 Hveragerði
Tel: 483 5062.

E-mail: tourinfo@hveragerdi.is







Quake 2008.

The exhibition in shopping centre Sunnumörk Hveragerði Tel: 483 4601.

E-mail: tourinfo@hvergerdi.is



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HVERAGERÐI

Popultion: 2.500-5.000

Hveragerði is a town and municipality in the south of Iceland, located 45km to the east of Reykjavík. It became a municipality in 1946. In previous years, Hveragerði was known as the town of horticulture and artists. The street Frumskógar is often called Poets Street because poets lived in every second house there in the middle of the 20th century. Large horticultural and gardening shows are held in the town every summer and they attract many visitors. One of the biggest assets of Hveragerði is its geothermal garden.

When a powerful earthquake (6.3 on the scale of Richter) hit the region in May 2008, a new hot spring zone was created close to the town. Houses closest to the epicentre of the earthquake suffered severe damage.

There is an exhibition at the South Iceland Tourist Information Centre about how residents experienced the earthquake, and the damages it caused. An earthquake simulator is part of the exhibition, as well as an illuminated earthquake rift under the floor.

The natural surroundings in Hveragerði are a paradise for outdoor

enthusiasts. Hiking and riding trails run from the town through Ölfusdalur valley to the Hengill district, all the way to Nesjavellir and Pingvellir. Along the way, there are natural hot springs where it's possible to bathe (although sometimes the roads to this area are closed for nature conservation reasons).

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 South Iceland Information Centre, Sunnumörk, tel. 483-4601/660-3905. hveragerdi.is

SERVICES:

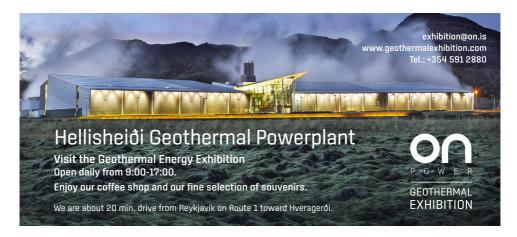
- Post office. Sunnumörk, tel. 483-4601.
- ATM Arion Bank, Sunnumörk 2-4, tel. 480-4500.

HEALTHCARE:

- Healthcare centre. Breiðamörk 25b. tel. 480-5250.
- Pharmacy Apótekarinn, Sunnumörk 2-4, tel. 483-4197.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hotel Örk, Breiðamörk 1c, tel. 483-4700. hotel-ork.is
- Frumskógar Guesthouse, Frumskógar 3, tel. 896-2780. frumskogar.is
- Frost and Fire Guesthouse, Hverahamar, tel. 483-4959.
- Varmi, Varmahlíð 15, tel. 699-5858/483-4065.
- Axelshús, Reykjamörk, tel. 618-8000.



· Hot Springs Hostel, Breiðamörk 22, tel. 788-6500.

CAMPING:

• By Reykjamörk, tel. 857-9903.

EATING OUT:

- HVER Restaurant, inside Hótel Örk, Breiðamörk 1c, tel. 483-4700.
- Kiöt og kúnst. Breiðamörk 21. tel. 483-5010.
- Veitingahúsið Varmá, Hverhamar, tel. 483-4959.
- Shell Kiosk, Austurmörk 22, tel. 483-4221.
- Matstofa NLFÍ, vegetarian restaurant, Grænamörk 10, tel. 483-0300
- · Almar's Bakery, Sunnumörk 2-4, tel. 483-1919.
- Dalakaffi, Reykjadalur, tel. 862-8522.
- Rósakaffi, Breiðamörk 3, tel. 571-6899.

GROCERIES:

- · Bónus, Sunnumörk 2.
- Vínbúðin liguor store, Sunnumörk 2-4, tel. 481-3932.

SHOPPING:

- Gallerí Smiðia, ceramics, Kambahraun 57, tel. 483-4420.
- Hverablóm, flowers, souvenirs, gifts, Breiðumörk 3, tel. 483-3300.
- Listasafn Árnesinga, art gallery, Austurmörk 21, tel. 483-1727.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 Exhibition about the earthquake of 2008, earthquake demonstration, information about the earthquake fissure, and an earthquake simulator, Sunnumörk 2-4, tel. 483-4601.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool, Laugaskarð, tel. 483-4113.
- Hotel Örk, swimming pool, tennis court, pitch and putt, tel. 483-4700
- Gufudalsvöllur, nine-hole golf course, tel. 483-5090.

ACTIVITIES:

- Iceland Activities, Mánamörk 3-5, tel. 777-6263. icelandactivities.is
- The Rose Garden, open greenhouse, guided sightseeing tours, Breiðamörk 3, tel. 483-3301.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

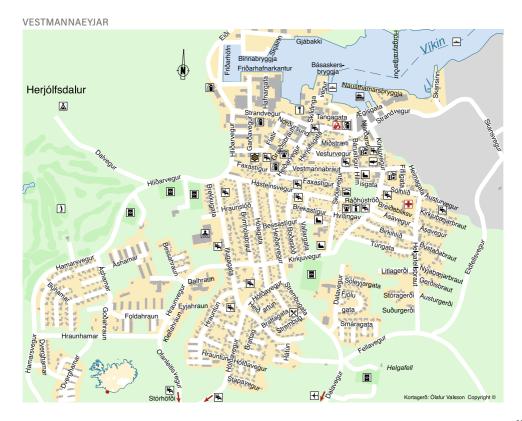
• Geothermal park, Hveramörk 13, tel. 483-4601.

GAS STATIONS:

- Shell, Austurmörk 22, tel. 483-4221.
- N1. Breiðamörk 1. tel. 483-4242.

OTHER SERVICES:

Bílaverkstæði Jóhanns, garage, Austurmörk 13, tel. 483-4299.



WESTMAN ISLANDS

Population: 2,500-5,000

The Westman Islands are a group of 15 islands and about 30 skerries and rock pillars, located off the mainland's south coast. The islands were formed by submarine and subglacial volcanic eruptions along a 30km long fissure which runs southwest to northeast. The largest and only inhabited island is Heimaey of 13.4km2. Most of the islands have steep sea cliffs and are well vegetated. Bird hunting and egg collecting are traditional to the islanders' culture. A weather station and lighthouse stand at Stórhöfði headland on Heimaey, which is the southernmost inhabited point in Iceland.

The Westman Islands play an important part in Icelandic settlement history. Founder Ingólfur Arnarson found his half brother, Hjörleifur, dead at Hjörleifshöfði headland on the south coast of Iceland. His Irish slaves, who escaped to the Westman Islands, had murdered him. Ingólfur followed them and killed them all. Since then, the islands have been associated with these slaves, as they were called *vestmenn* ("from the west," Irish).

The most tragic event in the island's history occurred when Algerian pirates raided the island in 1627, killing and torturing the inhabitants and taking 242 Icelanders into captivity, eventually selling them into slavery.

Landakirkja church is the third-oldest stone church in Iceland, completed in 1778. In 2000, a Norse timber church, a gift from the Norwegians to commemorate 1,000 years since Christianity was accepted in Iceland, was consecrated on Heimaey. It's the only church of its kind in Iceland and is located in the Skansswaði area where a stonewall, originally built after the Algerian kidnapping in 1627, has been rebuilt.

Established in 1963, Iceland's oldest aquarium and natural history museum is located on Heimaey. The museum is called Sæheimar and it's extremely popular among travellers, especially since it takes into its care flightless fledgling puffins that are not able to migrate after the end of nesting season.

Sagnheimar, the Westman Islands Folk Museum, was completely renovated and given a makeover in 2011. The museum boasts installations, antique displays, and entertaining narratives about life in the Westman Islands. The museum's work has also been characterised by collaborations with various local associations which place particular focus on educating tourists and the general public.

On 23 January 1973, an eruption began on Heimaey that dramatically affected the lives of the inhabitants. Almost all residents were evacuated to the mainland during the night. The eruption ended in June, after which many people began returning home. Since then, the Westman Islands have been a popular tourist destination. Interesting to visitors will be Eldheimar, a volcanic museum tracing the history of the disastrous eruption in 1973 and the creation of the island of Surtsey from 1963 till 1967. Surtsey island is on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

FACILITIES

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE:

 Tourist information centre, tel. 488-2555. visitvestmannaeyjar.is

SERVICES:

- Police, Faxastígur 42, tel. 444-2090.
- Post office, Strandvegur 52, tel. 580-1200.
- ATM Íslandsbanki, Kirkjuvegur 23, tel. 440-3000.
- ATM Landsbankinn, Bárustígur 15, tel. 481-4185.

HEALTHCARE:

- · Healthcare centre, Sólhlíð 10, tel. 432-2500.
- Pharmacy Apótekarinn, Vesturvegur 5, tel. 481-3900.

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hótel Vestmannaeyjar, Vestmannabraut 28, tel. 481-2900. hotelvestmannaeyjar.is
- · Aska Hostel, Bárustígur 11, tel. 662-7266. askahostel.is
- Guesthouse Hamar, Herjólfsgata 4, tel. 481-3400. questhousehamar.is
- Hótel Eyjar, Bárustígur 2, tel. 481-3636/895-8350.
- B and B, Jóhanna Finnboga, Vestmannabraut 13a, tel. 698-2962.
- Scouts Youth Hostel, Faxastígur 38, tel. 692-6952.
- Bændagisting Dalabú, Dalvegur, tel. 694-2598.
- Árný Guesthouse, tel. 690-9998. arny.is

CAMPING:

• In Herjólfsdalur and by Þórsheimili, tel. 864-4998.

EATING OUT:

- 900 Grill House, Vestmannabraut 23, tel. 482-1000.
- · Canton, Strandvegur 49, tel. 481-1930.
- Einsi kaldi, Vestmannabraut 28, tel. 481-1415.
- GOTT, Bárustígur 11, tel. 481-3060.
- · Slippurinn, Strandvegur 76, tel. 481-1515.
- Tanginn, Básaskersbryggja 8, tel. 414-4420.
- Fiskibarinn, Skólavegi 1, tel. 414-3999.
- Joy, Brekkugata 15, tel. 481-3883.
- Kráin/Hlöllabátar, Boðaslóð 12, tel. 481-3939.
- Lundinn, Kirkjuvegur 21, tel. 481-3412.
- · Prófasturinn, Heiðarvegur 3, tel. 481-3700.
- · Tvisturinn, Faxastígur 36, tel. 481-3141.
- Subway, Bárustígur 1, tel. 571-5277.
- Café Varmó, Strandvegur 5, tel. 481-1674.
- Eyjabakarí Cakes and Cookies, tel. 481-2058.

GROCERIES:

- · Krónan, Strandvegur 48.
- · Bónus, Miðstræti 20.
- · Vínbúðin liquor store, Vesturvegur 10, tel. 481-1301.

SHOPPING:

- Gallery Steina, Vestmannabraut 36, tel. 481-3208.
- Gallery Tyrkja-Gudda, Bárustígur 11, tel. 481-1569.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS:

 Eldheimar, volcano museum, Austurgerði/Gerðisbraut, tel. 846-6497. eldheimar.is

- · Sagnheimar, folk museum, tel. 488-2045. sagnheimar.is
- Vestmannaeyjar Cultue House, library, folk museum, art museum, photo archive, tel. 488-2040. vestmannaeyjar.is/ safnahus
- Volcanic film show at the community centre, Heiðarvegur, tel. 481-1045/694-8945

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES:

- Swimming pool and sports centre, tel. 488-2400.
- Hressó gym, Strandvegur 65, tel. 481-1482.
- 18-hole golf course, Herjólfsdalur, tel. 481-2363.

ACTIVITIES

- EyjaTours, coach tours, Básaskersbryggja, tel. 852-6939. eyjatours.com
- · Ribsafari, boat tours, tel. 661-1810. ribsafari.is
- Viking Tours, boat and coach tours, tel. 488-4884.
 vikingtours.is
- Atlantsflug, sightseeing flights, Bakkaflugvöllur, tel. 478-2424.

PLACES OF INTEREST:

 Skanssvæðið area with a stave church that is a replica of an old Norwegian church, tel. 481-1149.

TRANSPORTATION:

 Herjólfur, scheduled ferry service to and from the Westman Islands, tel. 481-2800. herjolfur.is



- Eagle Air, scheduled air service between the Westman Islands and Reykjavík, tel. 562-2640 eagleair.is
- Car rental Flugtaxi, Akureyri Car Rental, tel. 840-6072.
- · Car rental Hertz, Vestmanneyjar Airport, tel. 522-4400.
- Car rental Hertz Langeyjahöfn, Hvolsvöllur, tel. 522-4400. hertz.is

GAS STATIONS:

- Olís, Græðisbraut, tel. 481-1858.
- Shell, Faxastígur 36, tel. 481-3141.



The Highlands

KEEP IN MIND

Travellers driving into the uninhabited highland interior must bear in mind that it calls for a different type of preparation than travelling in inhabited regions, as services and assistance are not nearby if mishaps occur. There is no reason to fear the interior, but motorists must travel in well-equipped vehicles. People are discouraged from driving low vehicles, such as standard cars.

Please respect the official spring closures of highland roads. Driving on closed roads can cause irreparable damage to the environment. Never leave marked roads or tracks – tire marks can take decades to disappear.

- The highland roads are closed until spring and are opened gradually, depending on weather and local conditions (especially thawing), which are monitored by the Icelandic Road and Coastal Administration. Some roads remain closed until well into the middle of summer. Weekly maps are issued at tourist information centres, showing which interior roads are open for traffic. Up-to-date information is available from the Icelandic Road and Coastal Administration's website: road.
- Travellers should always consult books and maps before setting off to acquaint themselves with the areas they will be driving through and the possible dangers en route.
- 3. Gas stations are few and far between, so motorists should make sure they have adequate fuel for their journey.
- 4. Always cross unbridged rivers and streams with the utmost caution. Glacial rivers require particular care, since the currents and depth at fording places may change sharply and very quickly. Motorists travelling by themselves are advised to wait until other travellers are present before they cross glacial rivers, in case the need for help should arise. The water level is always lowest early in the day, before the sun causes any melting on the glaciers.
- Because of the increase in highland traffic in recent years, travellers can no longer be certain of finding unoccupied mountain huts and shelters.
- 6. It's always a good idea to consult the long-term weather forecast provided by the Icelandic Meteorological Office. Special forecasts are now issued for weather in the interior. For more information, go to: vedur.is.

HIKING IN THE HIGHLANDS

GENERAL SAFETY RULES FOR HIKERS TRAVELLING IN ICELAND:

Hiking in the Icelandic highlands is steadily increasing in popularity, and slowly but surely, so is the availability of marked trails. This means that highland hiking has become accessible



for nearly all travellers, or at least those who are relatively experienced hikers.

The weather in Iceland changes from one year to the next and as such, there are many things that hikers must keep in mind when they begin a hike in the Icelandic highlands, even during summer. Most of the highlands lie more than 600-800m above sea level. Although the calendar may say that it's summertime, travellers should be prepared to encounter practically wintry conditions. It can snow during any month of the year in the Icelandic highlands. In fact, it would hardly be a summer without at least a little snow somewhere in the highlands – even in July, the warmest month of the year. This means that in some years, highland routes may open as much as two to three weeks later than usual, which can easily disrupt prior travel plans.

As much as possible, travellers should pay close attention to weather forecasts, consult the staff at mountain huts and trail wardens, and manage their travel plans according to this guidance. Although the temperature may only drop $2\text{-}3^\circ\text{C}$, such a change can create life-threatening conditions in the highlands if followed by precipitation. Hypothermia can be fatal and, in summer, it can typically set in at around $0\text{-}4^\circ\text{C}$.

Travellers should stick to designated and marked hiking trails. There are many such trails to choose from, the most popular of which include: the Laugavegurinn trail between Landmannalaugar and Þórsmörk, the Fimmvörðuháls trail, various routes beginning within the Lónsöræfi nature reserve, the route from Herðubreiðarlindir through the Askja caldera and the Dyngjafjöll mountains to the inhabited area in Bárðardalur valley, the route from Mt. Sveinstindur around Hólaskjól and Eldgjá and then farther into Hvanngil canyon, and last but not least, the Kjalvegur trail from Hveravellir to Hvítarnes, which has lately enjoyed increased traffic.

All these trails feature mountain huts where hikers can stay along the way and there are trail wardens working along most of them during the high season. Before hikers set off, it's important that they register their itinerary and lodging plans at the mountain hut they set off from and on www.safetravel. is. They should stick to the route and schedule once they start out. These precautions go a long way to ensuring their safety on their journey and reduce the likeliness that a search party will be dispatched to find them unnecessarily.

Laugavegurinn

The most popular hiking trail in Iceland is Laugavegurinn, which runs between Þórsmörk and Landmannalaugur. This route is 55km long and travels through incredibly diverse landscapes featuring high mountains, colourful rhyolite, geothermal areas with erupting geysers, ice caves, sprawling deserts, magnificent canyons, and, at the very end, verdant birch forests. And of course, it would be remiss not to mention the geothermal river at Landmannalaugur among these other wonders.

Laugavegurinn can be divided into four unique segments to be hiked a day at a time. It's most popular to start the hike at Landmannalaugur and then break overnight at the mountain huts at Hrafntinnusker, Álftavatn, Emstrur, and Þórsmörk. There are trail wardens at each of these huts and each has excellent facilities for hikers. The route is well marked and should be safe for everyone, though the highest part of the trail around Hrafntinnusker is about 1,000m above sea level. During this stretch of the trail, one can expect winter weather conditions — even during the height of summer — and thus, it's the most dangerous part of the route, with an increased risk of getting lost in the foo or snow.

On the other hand, Hrafntinnusker is also the most colourful part of the trail, and so it pays to delay the departure from Landmannalaugur and wait for good weather if needed. As ever, hikers should always consult the trail wardens, who are very familiar with the area and trail conditions, before beginning a hike in hazardous weather.

When hikers arrive at Álftavatn lake after the first two days' hike, the trail elevation decreases significantly, therefore reducing the danger of bad weather. There are several rivers that must be forded along the trail. Two of these are sourced by mountain lakes: the Bratthálskvísl river adjoining Álftavatn lake and Bláfjallakvísl, right next to Hvanngil canyon. These two rivers increase dramatically after heavy rainfall and can become treacherous.

Right before hikers reach Þórsmörk, they'll need to ford the Þröngá river. This glacial river increases during periods of warm weather and can become impassable, although this is extremely rare. Consult the trail wardens and do not attempt to cross the river under hazardous conditions. It can be worthwhile to wait by the river for other hikers and then help each other make the crossing together.

Many people choose to divide the route into more or fewer days, depending on their interests and abilities. It's common for hikers to spend a day walking around Álftavatn lake. Those who are sleeping in tents have more choices for overnight stays than those who are sleeping in mountain huts. It's also possible to begin the hike in the south at Þórsmörk and end north at Landmannalaugur, as a regular shuttle service is available to and from both locations.

Fimmvörðuháls

Fimmvörðuháls is a mountain pass that connects the Mýrdalsjökull and Eyjafjallajökull glaciers. A popular trail runs through it between Þórsmörk and the village of Skógar, which is located at the base of the Eyjafjöll mountains. The trail is 26km in length, over the course of which it rises 1,100m in elevation. It's most popular to start the trail from Skógar, following the Skógá river up gentle slopes and marvelling at the many waterfalls along the way. Those who don't want to hike along the river can follow the track the long way up the ridge. The trail is marked with posts, but these can get lost in the snow, and early in the summer, it can be easy to lose one's way in the fog on the snowy plain at the top of the ridge. At around 900m up the south side of the ridge, there is Baldvínsskál, a mountain hut owned by the the Iceland Touring Association. At the very top of the pass, there's a cosy hut owned by the Útivist travel association. Most people stay the night at this hut and then continue onwards the next day, although it's not uncommon for people to travel the whole route in one leg, particularly if they are not carrying a heavy pack.

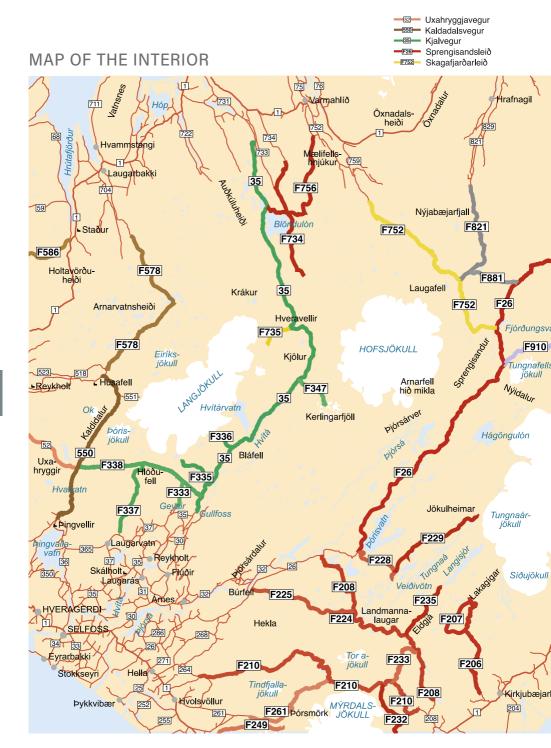
The trail leading from the Fimmvörðuháls hut down to Þórsmörk is shorter but very steep, so chains have been erected at Heljarkambur in order to help hikers who aid those with a fear of heights keep their balance. There is then a clear path leading down to Þórsmörk and it's easy to find the way down, even in overcast conditions. The last phase of the hike, around Kattarhryggur, the Strákagil canyon, and down to Þórsmörk is particularly memorable.

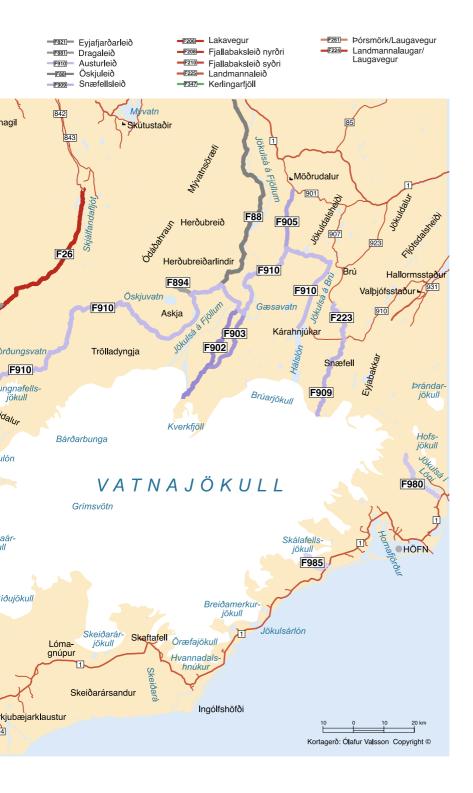
This is a magnificent trail which, in good weather, is one of the most beautiful in the country. In bad weather, however, there's very little reason to take it, so if the conditions aren't right, it's worthwhile to delay the hike for one to two days — just be sure to let someone know about the change in travel plans.

The ancient Kjalvegur trail

This track over the Kjölur plateau between Skagafjörður in the north of Iceland and Uppsveitir Árnessýslu in the south has existed since the time of Iceland's settlement. It's an extremely long trail, 180km between Blöndudalur valley and Gullfoss waterfall. Sheltered by the Langjökull and Hofsjökull glaciers, the Hveravellir Nature Reserve – which boasts fantastic geysers, geothermal vents, and hot baths – is located right in the middle of the route and offers many interesting and well-marked hiking trails.

One part of this ancient trail is very popular for hikes. That's the part that runs between Hvitárvatn lake and Hveravellir, beginning the trip at the lake and then walking north. From there, it's about 40km to Hveravellir. The entire trail is 400-500m above sea level and it's generally accessible for hikers of all levels. On the way, it's possible to stay overnight at the Þverbrekknamúli and Þjófadalir mountain huts, although many people choose







The eruption in holuhraun.

to divide the journey into fewer stages, in accordance with their own hiking abilities. It's also possible to break the hike at Hvítárnes at the oldest rest house in Iceland, which is still in use and of which some people say it's haunted. From there, the trail runs along the Fúlukvísl river on ancient, grassy riding trails, following the same cairns that have led travellers on their way for 1,000 years.

There are footbridges across Fúlukvísl at two places near Þverbrekknamúli. The route is well vegetated and well trafficked, with rich birdlife (at Hvítárnes especially) and grazing sheep, and given the steady flow of hikers and riders, the trail is never empty for long. Jutting out from the side of the Langjökull glacier just next to the mountain hut at Þverbrekknamúli, is the Hrútafell ice cap. Towering above the trail, Hrútafell has tempted many travellers, but its ascent is only suitable for the most skilled and experienced of hikers.

Kjalvegur is well marked with posts and cairns all along the way to Hveravellir, where there are diverse services, hot natural baths, and many other travellers to welcome hikers on arrival.

public transportation in the summertime. It's a great idea for hikers to use the mountain hut as their base in the mountains for a few days, so that they can get to know the diverse land-scape via numerous marked trails.

Landmannahellir

Not far from Landmannalaugur is the Landmannahellir tourist centre. There is a good campground and mountain hut accommodation there, and over the last few years, the site supervisors have done a good job of marking hiking paths in the area. It's possible to follow marked trails from Rjúpnavellir í Landsveit and Áfangagil in the south of Iceland up to Landmanahellir. From there, the trail continues to Landmannalaugur along lesser-travelled paths, but there are also marked trails leading up to Hrafntinnusker along the magnificent Klukkugil canyon and from there, around less popular trails that run parallel to the busier Laugavegur.

Kerlingarfjöll

Kerlingarfjöll is a picturesque mountain range on the Kjölur plateau worth a separate visit. Hikers in this area will encounter beautiful and colourful mountains, a diverse geothermal area, and rare natural wonders. There are good facilities for hikers in operation there and it's also possible to reach Kerlingarfjöll via

Strútsstígur

In recent years, travel association Útivist created a hiking trail called Strútsstígur. This trail runs from the Hólaskjól lodge next to the Eldgjá volcanic canyon, around the Álfavatnskrókur dell, and north towards the Svartahnúksfjöll mountain ridge and the Strútsskáli hut, which stands under the eponymous Mt.

Strútsfjall. From there, the hike continues to Hvanngil canyon, where it ends. Hikers can extend this route by beginning at Mt. Sveinstindur north of Eldgjá and continue around Skælingar at Hólaskjól.

 Strútsstígur attracts fewer hikers than the more well-known routes, even though it traverses incredibly colourful regions, rushing glacial rivers, jagged lava fields, hot pools, hidden valleys with thundering, unnamed waterfalls, and majestic mountains. There is a little bit of everything along Strútsstígur.

DRIVING IN THE HIGHLANDS:

UXAHRYGGJAVEGUR (52) / KALDADALSVEGUR (52)

Uxahryggjavegur road lies north of Þingvellir and enters Borgarfjörður at Lundarreykjadalur. At Brunnar, Kaldadalsvegur road continues to Húsafell, the farthest inland settlement of Borgarfjörður south of the Hvítá river. This road can be taken by standard car, but it's a slow and rough drive. In olden times, one of the main routes from the north to the Albingi at Þingvellir ran across this district. The route runs between the shield volcano Ok (1,198m) and Þórisjökull glacier (1,350m). Between Þórisjökull glacier and the Geitlandsjökull tongue of the large Langjökull glacier lies Þórisdalur valley, where the hero of Grettir's Saga is said to have stayed with a giant called Þórir. Geitland is the area west of Geitlandsiökull, east of the Geitá river and north of the banks of the Hvítá river, which was inhabited from the 10th century until 1600. The ruined outlines of farms and old fields can be seen in two places. Geitland has been officially protected since 1988. The highest part of Kaldidalur is known as Langihryggur (727m), and just north of it lies the rough and rocky dolerite lava field Skúlaskeið (Skúli's course). Folktales, as well as a popular ballad by 19th century poet Grímur Thomsen, describe a criminal named Skúli who was sentenced to execution at the Albingi, but he escaped on his fleet-footed steed, Sörli. On completing the "course," Sörli dropped dead, and is said to be buried in the field at Húsafell.

SPRENGISANDSLEIÐ (F26)

The Sprengisandur road (Sprengisandsleið) links the Sigalda Hydroelectric Power Station in the southern uplands with the northern uplands at Bárðardalur. In past centuries, Sprengisandur was a much-travelled path; people from East Iceland crossed it on their way to the Albingi, and bishops from the episcopal see at Skálholt often followed it on their visitations to the east. The route was abandoned in the 17th century, but people began using it again at the end of the 18th century. Sprengisandur was first crossed by motor vehicle in 1933, and the old route was moved when the Tungnaá river was bridged in connection with the Sigalda project. With its unbridged rivers, Sprengisandur is only safe for well-equipped 4WD vehicles. North of Nýidalur, there are options for routes to the north and east of Iceland; Skagafjörður, Eyjafjörður, or Bárðardalur for the three main districts of North Iceland, or the route Austurleið (F910) for Fast Iceland

Sprengisandur is reached from the south through either Landsveit or Þjórsárdalur, Búrfell Power Station, built in 1970 on the south side of the Sámsstaðamúli bluff, harnesses water diverted from the Þjórsá river, which is Iceland's longest river at 210km. The water enters Bjarnalón reservoir (1km2) and is then taken by tunnel through the bluff to a 115m headrace towards six turbines, with a total capacity of 210MW. The Tungnaá river originates beneath the western edge of Vatnajökull glacier. Some 129km long, the Tungnaá river was bridged at Sigalda in 1968. Before then, it was a major obstacle to travellers and farmers driving sheep to the mountains or going fishing in the Veiðivötn lakes, which is why the old route north lay west of the Þjórsá river. The river and landscape around it have changed considerably in recent years with the creation of two large reservoirs, Krókslón for the Sigalda station and Hrauneyjalón for the Hrauneviarfoss station.

A bridge over the Tungnaá river at the Hald ferry station opened on June 1, 2003. Tourists now have the opportunity to drive up to Búðarháls to see one of the most magnificent views in Iceland, including six glaciers on a clear day. A centre for highland travellers has been built at Hrauneyjar, by the road to Landmannalaugar. A side road from the main Sprengisandur route, over the bridge at the Vatnsfellsskurð canal from Þórisvatn lake to Krókslón, leads to the Veiðivötn lakes, a cluster of lakes 5km wide and 20km long, north of the Tungnaá river. The Veiðivötn lakes are a popular destination for trout fishing. The area is heavily marked by volcanic activity, and it reached its present appearance after an eruption around 1480. The side road is 37km in all and forms a circle round the lakes. The Sprengisandur road continues west of Þórisvatn lake, which today serves as a reservoir for the Tungnaá and Þjórsá hydropower stations. Originally, the lake measured 70km2 in area, but since the Kaldakvísl diversion was channeled into it in 1971, its highest water level can now cover up to 83km2.

Þjórsárver, the area south of Hofsjökull glacier on either side of the Þjórsá river, measures 150km2 and is comprised of wetlands with patches of marshland where numerous ruins remain. Þjórsárver is a protected area and the location of the largest breeding ground of the pink-footed goose found anywhere in the world. Accommodation for travellers is available at Versalir, near Illugaver. The route passes through the Nýidalur valley (the mouth of Jökuldalur valley, 800m), where there is an Iceland Touring Association mountain hut. Mt. Fiórðungsalda, northwest of Tungnafellsiökull glacier. is probably the closest mountain to the exact geographical centre of Iceland. It also marks the highland "crossroads" where Austurleið (F910) branches northeast to Öskjuvatn lake and Skagafjarðarleið (F752) northwest to Skagafjörður or Eyjafjörður. The main Sprengisandur route continues due north, passing the Aldeyjarfoss waterfall, with its peculiar columnar basalt formations and rock bowls hollowed out by water, and on to Mýri in Bárðardalur. From Kiðagilsdrög there is a route known as Dragaleið, which leads to Mt. Laugafell.

KJALVEGUR (F35)

Kjalvegur road lies between the major Langjökull and Hofsjökull glaciers and is the route from Gullfoss in the south to the Blöndudalur settlements in the north. Rivers and waterfalls along the way have now been bridged, so the route is navigable by all vehicles, although it's a slow journey. Ever since the settlement of Iceland, Kjalvegur has been an important route between the north and south. The entry point in the south is 10km beyond Gullfoss waterfall, just north of the Sandá river, where a track leads to a small mountain hut owned by the Iceland Touring Association, near Hagavath lake.

Some way north, the road skirts the east side of Hvítárvatn, a lake measuring almost 30km2 in area. Langjökull glacier used to calve on either side of Mt. Skriðufell, filling the lake with icebergs, but the southern tongue has retreated considerably in recent years. A short way past the bridge over the Hvítá river, which drains from the lake, is a track to the Iceland Touring Association hut at Hvítárnes. Langjökull (1,355m) stands out to the west, which is the second largest glacier in Iceland at 950km2. To the east stands the Kerlingarfjöll mountain cluster, whose highest peaks are Snækollur (1.482m) and Loðmundur (1,429m). A skiing school has been operational at Kerlingarfjöll since 1961, and a variety of travel services are available there. To the northeast is Hofsjökull glacier (1,765m), Iceland's third largest glacier at 923km2, with many glacial tongues creeping from its western side. In 1983, scientists studied the landscape beneath Hofsiökull glacier using a sonar device of Icelandic design, which revealed that the glacier covers one of the largest calderas in the country, some 700m deep.

Beinahóll (Bone Hill) is located at the northeast foot of Mt. Kjalfell and is the site where some brothers from Reynistaður in Skagafjörður perished in 1780. They were in a party of five returning from a trip to buy sheep in the south in late October, with 16 horses and 180 sheep. Only one horse and a few sheep managed to cross all the way back to the north. A road continues to Hveravellir geothermal field (650m), a protected area where the Iceland Touring Association has set up accommodation facilities and a geothermal bathing pool. At Hveravellir, there are still ruins of the hideout where 18th-century outlaw Eyvindur of the Mountains stayed. The road to the north crosses the Sevðisá river, which has now been bridged. and Auðkúluheiði, the heath that spans out between the Blandá river to the east and Grímstunguheiði heath to the west. Much of the heath is now submerged under a reservoir of 40km2 created for the Blandá Power Plant. The source of the Blandá river. which measures 125km in length, is the west side of Hofsjökull glacier. The hydropower project led to the rerouting of the old trail over the heath, including laying a road over Mt. Áfangafell. where there is a panoramic view of the whole reservoir area.

Kerlingarfjöll mountains

The Kerlingarfjöll mountains are among the most varied natural treasures in Iceland. The landscape is amazingly colourful; the geology is diverse, exciting, and full of contrasts; the glaciers coincide with geothermal activity; and there is rich flora along with deserts.

For many years, a ski school operated at Kerlingarfjöll, but

in later years, more emphasis has been put on other outdoor activities, such as mountain hikes. There are numerous hiking paths in the area, both marked and unmarked, and everyone should be able to find a path to suit their ability. In the summer of 2010, a new three-day hiking path around Kerlingarfjöll was formally opened and there are sleeping facilities available in lodges along the way.

From Snækollur, the highest point of the mountains, it's possible to see all the way to the ocean to the south and the north of Iceland, by just turning 180°.

Kerlingarfjöll mountains are home to one of the largest geothermal areas in Iceland, and accessibility to the area is excellent. A service centre is operated in Kerlingarfjöll with lodgings, a campsite, a restaurant, and a gas station. There are bridges over all the rivers on the way to Kerlingarfjöll and the road is open to all vehicles during summer.

SKAGAFJARÐARLEIÐ (F752) / EYJAFJARÐARLEIÐ (F821) / DRAGALEIÐ (F881)

The Skagafjörður route (Skagafjarðarleið) branches off from the Sprengisandur route at Fjórðungsvatn lake, and then heads towards Mt. Laugafell. There are geothermal pools of 40-50°C northwest of Laugafell where The Touring Club of Akureyri has set up a hut and small swimming pool. Laugafell can also be reached by driving across from Kiðaqilsdrög on the Sprengisandur route. A track from Laugafell leads down to the deserted interior farmstead called Þorljótsstaðir in Vesturdalur. Two unbridged rivers need to be crossed, which calls for considerable caution. A side road from Mt. Reyðarfell leads to Ingólfsskáli, a hut maintained by the Skagafjörður Touring Club at Lambahraun, near the western Jökulsá river. Another track from Laugafell crosses the Geldingsárdrög hills to the north of Eyjafjarðardalur, passing Nýibær, which hosted a weather observation station for a time. The route to the bottom of the valley is very steep and needs to be approached with the utmost caution.

AUSTURLEIÐ (F910)

The eastern route, called Austurleið, branches off from the Sprengisandur route at Tómasarhagi within the boundaries of the Vatnajökull National Park, and reemerges from the interior at Brú in Jökuldalur valley. From there, it crosses Hrafnkelsdalur valley and Fljótsdalsheiði heath to Fljótsdalur valley. Given the many side roads leading off the eastern route, a good map is vital when travelling through the area. After crossing the bridge over the Skjálfandafljót river, the road leads to Trölladyngja in Vatnajökull National Park, one of the largest shield volcanoes in Iceland. It continues north of Mt. Þríhyrningur to Fjallsendi, which is the southernmost part of the outer ring of the Dyngjufjöll mountains, and on towards Dreki in Drekagil canyon.

A side road just east of the Skjálfandafljót bridge follows the Gæsavatnaleið route to the Gæsavötn lakes, Dyngjuháls ridge, and the eastern route at Kattbekingur. It opens later in the summer than most other interior roads, is only navigable by 4WD and should only be driven in convoy. From Dreki, the eastern

route crosses the bridge over the Jökulsá á Fiöllum river just south of Mt. Upptyppingar, then descends Kverkfjallarani ridge, and crosses another bridge over the Kreppa river.

At the crossroads near Arnardalur, the road leading straight ahead follows the side of Þríhyrningsvatn lake towards Brú in Jökuldalur, then continues from Hrafnkelsdalur valley to the foot of Mt. Snæfell and down into Fliótsdalur valley. Two side roads from the eastern route lie around Kverkfiallarani: Kverkfjallaleið (F902) and Hvannalindavegur (F903); they reunite near Kverkhnjúkaskarð en route to Sigurdarskáli, which is just north of Mt. Kverkfjöll and at the west foot of Mt. Virkisfell. Kverkfjöll is a big massif on the northern edge of Vatnajökull glacier, lodged between two tongues from the main cap, Dyngjujökull and Brúarjökull. There, on the rim of the ice, is one of the greatest geothermal fields of Iceland.

The road travels close to Hyannalindir, an oasis of vegetation alongside springs and streams, near the centre of Krepputunga and at an altitude of 630m. The ruins at this spot are likely remnants of the lair of outlaw Eyvindur of the Mountains. Hvannalindir was first discovered in 1834, but the ruins were found in 1880. They are protected national relics overseen by Vatnajökull National Park, and the spring area is also a protected natural site. A park warden resides there in the summer. Facing Arnardalur is a side road from the east route. Möðrudalsleið (F905), which extends north towards the town of Möðrudalur á Fiöllum. It's possible to drive into Hafrahvömmum canyons from Fiskidalsheiði, above Brú á Jökuldal, and then over to Kárahnúkur. From there, a paved road leads down into the Fliótsdalur vallev.

SNÆFELLSLEIÐ (F909)

Near Mt. Laugarfell, the Snæfellsleið (F909) side road from the eastern route leads to a hut of the Fljótsdalshérað Touring Club at the foot of Mt. Snæfell (1,833m), which is the highest mountain in Iceland excluding the central glaciers. Mt. Snæfell and the area between Eyjabakkar and Hálslón are now within the boundaries of Vatnaiökull National Park, Mt. Snæfell is an ancient cone whose last eruption cannot be dated with any certainty. East of it, Eyjabakkajökull glacier leads down to the grassy wetlands of Eyjabakki (700m). The area around Mt. Snæfell is one of the main summer grazing grounds for

reindeer in East Iceland.

ÖSKJULEIÐ (F88)

The route to Askja volcano, called Öskjuleið, turns from the Ring Road (route 1) between Mývatnssveit and Grímsstaðir, just west of the Jökulsá á Fjöllum river. It skirts the river to Herðubreiðarlindir, another oasis with much vegetation cover, which lies northeast of Mt. Herðubreið. Numerous springs originate from the Lindahraun lava field and form the Lindaá river. which subsequently drains into the Jökulsá river. The Akurevri Touring Club has set up huts and a campsite there. Approximately 100m northwest of the hut is Eyvindarkofi (Eyvindur's Hut), where Eyvindur of the Mountains is thought to have spent one winter. The hut is on the edge of the lava field and a spring runs right through it. During summer, park wardens are on duty in Herðubreiðarlindir, which is a protected area in the custody of Vatnajökull National Park, along with Grafarlönd.

From the springs, there is a view of Mt. Herðubreið (1,682m), a wonderfully symmetrical table mountain that is often cited as a classic example of this type of volcanic formation. Loose rocks make Mt. Herðubreið difficult and dangerous to climb; the first confirmed ascent was in 1908. Mt. Herðubreið was nominated as the national mountain of Iceland in a survey conducted in autumn 2002. The road to Askja continues southward, skirting the Jökulsá river and through Drekagil canyon, then up Öskjuop to Vikraborgir, rock formations created during an eruption in 1961. The Akureyri Touring Club has set up huts and a campsite at Drekagil, and park wardens are on duty during summer. Askja is a caldera in the Dyngjufjöll mountains, a central volcano that has been piling up above Ódáðahraun lava field for thousands of years and now covers an area of about 250km2. Approximately 50km2 of this area has sunk to form a caldera at Askja, whose bottom is at an altitude of about 1,150m. During an 1875 eruption, the southeastern side of Askja caved in to form Öskjuvatn lake, an area of 11km2 and the deepest lake in Iceland, as well as a crater to the north, called Víti (Hell). Askja is a protected area in the custody of Vatnajökull National Park.

LAKAVEGUR (F206)

In South Iceland, just west of Kirkjubæjarklaustur, is a track to the Lakagigar crater series, whose eruption in 1783 was likely one of the deadliest to occur in earth's history. The crater row

The Kerlingafjöll area has an amazing array of marked and unmarked hiking paths. Hveradalir is one of the largest and most impressive geothermal areas in Iceland, with bubbling hot springs at every step. Something for everyone. The view from the vistas is among the best in Iceland

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HÁIFOSS IN ÞIÓRSÁRDAI UR

stretches for 25km, intersected near its centre by the palagonite tuff Mt. Laki. An estimated 100 craters of various forms and shapes make up the series, the largest ones reaching 100m high. They are mainly composed of black and red scoria, but most are covered with grey moss today. Great caution should be shown when exploring this area, which was put under a protection order in 1971 and is now a part of Vatnajökull National Park. The lava flow produced by the 1783 eruption followed two main courses before spreading out in the lowlands, primarily along the beds of the Skaftá and Hverfisfljót rivers. A park warden is on duty in Bláqil during summer.

FJALLABAKSLEIÐ NYRÐRI-(NORTH FJALLABAK ROAD, F208)

This road leads from the Sprengisandur road at Sigalda through Landmannalaugar and the Eldgjá river to join the Ring Road at Skaftártunga. The road from Sigalda to Landmannalaugar lies just west of Tungnaá river. Just after entering Fjallabak Nature Reserve, the road reaches the bank of Bjallavað, an old fording spot formerly used by farmers from the south on their trout fishing trips to the Veiðivötn lakes. About 5km upstream is Hófsvaðið ford, first crossed by motor vehicle in 1950 and used until the Tungnaá river was bridged at Sigalda in 1968. In 1979, an area of 470km2 around Landmannalaugar was officially designated as Friðland að Fjallabaki (Fjallabak Nature Reserve). Spectacularly coloured rhyolite mountains surround Landmannalaugar. Many interesting hiking trails can be found in this area and its warm streams are popular bathing spots. The Iceland Touring Association has set up several huts and a campsite in the area. The Laugavegurinn trail draws many visitors every year, even though the hike takes at least three to four days with overnight stays in huts along the way. North Fjallabak road travels via Jökuldalur and Kýlingar to Eldgjá, a fissure of 40km in the Skaftártunguafréttur highlands, that is up to 200m deep and 600m wide. The Nyrðri-Ófæra river enters the fissure on its western side in two waterfalls.

FJALLABAKSLEIÐ SYÐRI -(SOUTH FJALLABAK ROAD, F210)

The South Fjallabak road loops from Keldur in Rangárvellir around the northern side of Mýrdalsjökull glacier and back to the inhabited area of Skaftártunga. It's suitable only for jeeps and preferably in convoy. Many side roads branch off from it, some of which are very rough. Centuries ago, Icelanders from the southeast travelled along South Fjallabak when going to the trading post at Evrarbakki, Today, the track runs north of Tindfjallajökull glacier, past the Skyggnishlíðar slopes, across the unbridged Markarfliót river and to the hut of the Iceland Touring Association east of Álftavatn lake. Some 8km south of the hut, at Hyanngil, the road forks on the other side of the Kaldaklofskvísl river. To the west, it leads to the Emstrur highlands, and then over a bridge across the Markarfliót river to return to the lowlands at Fljótshlíð. The eastern branch leads to the Mælifellssandur sands, about 600m above sea level. The sands are reasonably navigable by vehicle, apart from patches of wet sand, which can occur where there are streams. To the south is Mýrdalsjökull, Iceland's fourth largest glacier at 700km2. Katla, one of Iceland's most active volcanoes. lies under the southeast part of the ice. Since the settlement of Iceland, it has erupted at intervals of 40 to 80 years, most recently in 1918. Subglacial eruptions of Katla melt the ice and cause catastrophic glacier bursts, which spread ice all over the Mýrdalssandur sands to the south. West of Brytalækir is a southbound road to Háalda, known as Öldufellsleið. Driving west of the Hólmsá river leads to Hrífunesvegur (F209), while the eastbound road offers a choice of routes: Álftakróksleið on the North Fiallabak road, south of the Eldgiá river, is a rough track which involves crossing the unbridged and often difficult Svðri-Ófæra river: and the southeast route, more commonly taken by travellers, which joins Snæbýlisleið and leads to the Snæbýli farm in Skaftártunga.

HIKING IN ICELAND

GENERAL RULES OF CAUTION FOR HIKERS IN ICELAND

Hikes through the Icelandic highlands are becoming increasingly popular. The number of marked hiking routes is growing steadily, gradually making this popular activity accessible to all.

A number of things must be kept in mind, however, when embarking on hikes through the Icelandic highlands in summer.

Most of Iceland's highlands are 600-800m above sea level. Even if it's summer according to the calendar, travellers must be prepared for wintry conditions. Snow can be expected year-round in the highlands, and hardly a summer goes by when it does not snow somewhere, even in July, which is the warmest month in Iceland.

Travellers should make a point of keeping up with weather reports by consulting with the wardens at the various mountain huts or nature reserves. Tours should be planned in accordance with those weather reports. Even if temperatures drop to 2-3°C, life-threatening conditions may occur if there is precipitation. Hypothermia can lead to death, and during summer this can happen in temperatures from 0-4°C.

Hikers should stick to clearly designated paths. The most popular hiking routes are between the areas of Landmannalaugar and Þórsmörk; across Fimmvörðuháls; in Lónsöræfi, from Herðubreiðarlindir through the Askja and Dyngjufjöll areas to the inhabited area in Bárðardalur; and a path from Sveinstindur through Hólaskjól and Eldgjá, and from there to Hvanngil.

Along all those paths, there are mountains huts, most of which are supervised by wardens during high season. It's essential for hikers to leave behind a travel itinerary and details of places where overnight stays are planned, and to stick to it. This provides hikers with some degree of safety. It's best to leave the itinerary where the hike begins and it's vital to stick to it in order to avoid the launching of unnecessary searches.

LAUGAVEGURINN

The most popular hiking route in Iceland is known as Laugavegurinn, and it links the areas of Þórsmörk and Landmannalaugar. It's 55km long and passes through extremely diverse landscapes: tall mountains, multi-coloured rhyolite areas, geothermal regions with erupting geysers, ice caves, sprawling sands, magnificent canyons, and finally vibrant birch forests. And of course, the geothermal river in Landmannalaugar.

The route is divided into four days of hiking. Setting off from Landmannalaugar is most popular, with overnight stays at Hrafntinnusker, Álftavatn, Emstrur, and Þórsmörk. All those locations have wardens and facilities for hikers. The route is well marked and should be safe for everyone. Its highest point is Hrafntinnusker, at just over 1,000m above sea level. Wintry conditions may occur there, even in mid-summer, and there

is a high risk of getting lost if it's snowy. Hrafntinnusker is the most colourful part of the journey and is best appreciated in favourable weather conditions. Hikers should not set off in poor conditions, or at least not without consulting wardens who are familiar with the area.

The altitude drops considerably near Álftavatn lake, after the first two days, and there is less chance of adverse weather. Several rivers must be waded en route. Two are freshwater rivers: the Bratthálskvísl river near Álftavatn and the Bláfjallakvísl river near Hvanngil. Extra caution is required when crossing these rivers in rainy conditions, as they expand considerably.

The Pröngá river, near Þórsmörk, must also be waded. It's a glacial river that may become impassable after warm spells, due to increased volume, but this is very rare. Ask wardens for advice and never attempt to cross rivers when conditions appear uncertain. Under some circumstances it may be advisable to wait for other hikers at the banks of the river, for safety's sake.

FIMMVÖRÐUHÁLS

Fimmvörðuháls is a mountain pass connecting the Mýrdalsjökull and Eyjafjallajökull glaciers. The route across it, between Þórsmörk and Skógar and beneath the Eyjafjöll mountains, is popular for hiking. The route is 26km in length and reaches an elevation of 1,100m. The most popular hike begins at Skógar and follows the Skógá river up sloping hillsides. Tire tracks may be followed most of the way up the pass. The route is designated with markers, but they can be lost in foggy or snowy conditions, the latter of which are possible even in early summer. A comfortable mountain hut, operated by the Útivist travel association, is situated at the highest point of the pass and this is a popular place to spend the night. Many people like to hike the entire distance in one day, particularly if they are not carrying heavy provisions.

In spring 2010, a volcanic eruption began at Fimmvörðuháls, shortly before the better-known eruption in Eyjafjallajökull. A hiking trail has been marked out over the new lava field and craters that were created. This route is open to everyone. A thick layer of ash still covers the whole area and is easily blown around by wind. Be careful and check the weather forecast, as visibility can be limited with a lot of dust particles in the air.

The route from the Fimmvörðuskáli mountain hut down to Þórsmörk is shorter, but very steep in places. Chains have been put up in the Heljarkambur area for the benefit of those with a fear of heights. A clear path leads down into Þórsmörk, which is easy to follow, even in overcast conditions. The trek through Kattahryggir and Strákagil, during the last section of the hike down into Þórsmörk, is particularly memorable.

This is a magnificent hiking route and it's one of the most stunning routes in Iceland. However, this is only true if the weather is good, so it may be advisable for hikers to delay their trip for one to two days for the sake of good conditions. Hikers should remember to let someone know of their travel plans.

THE ANCIENT ROUTE OF KJALVEGUR

Kjalvegur has been a commonly used travel route since the settlement of Iceland and it crosses the area known as Kjölur, between Skagafjörður and the upper regions of Árnessýsla district. It's a lengthy route, spanning 180km from Blöndudalur valley to Gullfoss waterfall. The Hveravellir area, at the halfway point, has magnificent hot springs, hot pools, and views of glaciers. Many travellers take advantage of the various well-marked hiking trails in the area. One popular hike runs along a section of this ancient route, between Hvítárvatn lake and Hveravellir. The route begins at Hvítárvatn lake and travels approximately 40km north to Hveravellir.

En route it's possible to stay overnight at Þverbrekknamúli and Þjófadalir, although many travellers choose to divide the route into shorter distances according to their own abilities. The entire route is 400-500m above sea level and is generally easily traversed and within the capabilities of most travellers. From Hvítárnes, where hikers can spend the night in one of Iceland's oldest mountain huts that is reportedly haunted, the route runs along the Fúlukvísl river through ancient, overgrown riding paths. The path is navigated by using the same cairns (piles of stones) that have guided travellers for more than 1,000 years.

The Fúlakvísl river has footbridges in two separate places at bverbrekknamúli. This is a good place for an overnight stop. There is ample vegetation along the route and Hvítárnes has diverse birdlife and numerous sheep. This route is popular with both riders and hikers and therefore is rarely empty. Langjökull glacier is nearby and Mt. Hrútfell, which rises out of the glacier by the hut in Þverbrekknamúli, attracts many hikers. However, it should only be attempted by rock climbers and experienced hikers.

This route is well designated with markers and cairns all the way to Hveravellir, where hikers will find a variety of services, such as a geothermal pool, and are sure to be welcomed by fellow travellers.

FACILITIES

ACCOMMODATION:

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- Þúfnavellir í Víðidalur, tel. 453-5900, ffs.is
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- Áfangagil, tel. 845-9500.
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 Highland Centre by Hrauneyjar at the F26 and F208 crossroads, tel. 487-7782. hrauneyjar.is

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kranes	.218	89		37	135	418	351	599		49
kureyri	.558	429		314	354	558	1323	248		50
rnarstapi		233		119	87	444			685	
sbyrgi				454		698			219	
akkafjörður	. 679	677	636	562	602	806	248	162	190	41
akkagerði	. 586		707	633	673	877	319	71		32
íldudalur			419	346	352	205	539	787	814	86
arkalundur			215	141	148	232		582	610	65
önduós	.414	285	244	170	210	414	144		420	
olungarvík	. 638	509	468	394	401	13	571		846	
		115	74	1323	98			562	590	51
reiðdalsvík			610					92	118	16
úðardalur			153			302		520	548	59
alvík			412	338		582		291	319	54
úpivogur			551			959	401	154	179	10
gilsstaðir	.517	646	636	562	602	806	248		27	
		658	650	576	616	820	262		36	
kifjörður		633		611		855			74	24
rarbakki	. 142	13	59	118	216	499	432	659	685	4
gurhólsmýri	. 161	290	346	404	503	786	604	356	382	1
skrúðsfjörður	. 472	601	657	612	651	856	298	L 50		20
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indavík	.213	84		119		500			708	
undarfjörður	. 347	218		103	39	407			649	
ıllfoss	. 176	71	115	156	254	537	470		712	
allormsstaður	.543	672	662	588	628	832			54	
ella	. 93	36	92	150	248	531	465	610	636	3
ellissandur	. 373	245	203	130	74	442	408	656	684	64
erðubreiðarlindir	.708	604	563	489	529	733	175	191	219	4
ofsós		368	327	253	293	497	132	380	408	
ólmavík		274	233	159	166	225		584	611	6
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ísavík						633		219	246	4
ammstangi	. 367	238	197	123	163	367		450	478	
/eragerði	. 142	13	44	103	201	484	417	659	685	
eravellir				246	322		204		479	
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öfn í Hornafirði	.272	401	456	515	613	896	502		280	
afjörður			455		388	1948	558	806	833	89
eflavík	. 224	95	47			496		677	705	49
rkjubæjarklaustur.	.73	202	257			697		446	472	20
ópasker				486		730	172		246	
róksfiarðarnes	. 369	2/0	100	125	122	257	318	566	594	64
andeyjahöfn	.73	79	135	194	292	575		591	616	3/
andmannalaugar	. 121	138	194	252	351	634	567	543	569	29
augarvatn		39	77	118	216	499	432	680	706	43
ýri í Bárðardal			459	385	425	629	71	252	280	
, eskaupstaður	.523	652	707	630	669	873		67	93	25
orðurfjörðu	.505	376	335	261	268	307	438	686	713	77
idalur		207	263	322	399	603	132	348	376	42
, afsfjörður		443	402	322 329	368	573	61	309	336	56
afsvík		235	194	121	64	433	399	647	675	
treksfjörður		433		319		177	511	759	787	8:
ufarhöfn		635	594	520	560	764	206	263	291	5
yðarfjörður	.488	617	673	596	635	839			59	
ykholt		149	108	39	137	385			593	
ykjahlíð		512	471	398	437	641	83	165		4
ykjavík	. 186	57	1339	74	172	455	388	636		4
ndgerði		104	56	124	222	505	438	686	714	5
uðárkrókur	.460	331		217	256	461	120	368		6
lfoss		1323		114	212	495	428	646	672	4
yðisfjörður		672	663	590	629	833	275	27	1378	
glufjörður	.556				352	556	77	325		
göldustöð	. 143	111	166	225	323	606	238	455	482	3
aftafell	140	269	325	383	482	765	629	381	406	1
agaströnd	. 436	307	266	193	232				439	
ógar	. 33	98	153	212	310	593	526	550	576	3
aðarskáli					129	334	225	473	501	
ykkishólmur			172	98	1492	388			629	
ndvarfiörður	444	573	629	435	675	879	321		99	
oovarijordur iðirevr	62/	/,95	/,5/.	38U	387	23	575	822	850	۱۰۰۰۰۰ ۱۹
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umaijuiuui	. J / /	340	310		252	214	/,22			0
iausudiskirkjā	.407	225	317	240	2/0	210	0/	2/2	078	/
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yai1101	. 307	18U	137		33	370	356	6U4	0.51	ວ່າ
K I Myrdal	. 1323	127	184		341 571	775	217	51/	543	27
pnatjorour	. 648	646	605	531		/ /5		131	157	38
					333					
ingvellir;	. 173	44	50	91	189	472	405	653	680	4/
orlákshöfn	. 157	28	51	110	208	491	424	674	700	42
rshöfn	.715	663	622	548	588	792	234	197	225	45
	01	101	154	215	313	596	529	803	Y33	3/

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