

# OUTDOORS

– exploring the blue island  
**2024**

**West Iceland**

**The Westfjords**

**North Iceland**

**East Iceland**

**South Iceland**

**The Reykjanes peninsula**

**The Capital Area**

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# Iceland's mountain roads – drive carefully!

As beautiful and tempting as the Icelandic highlands are, they can also be dangerous. Far away from any human traffic, and even at times out of cell phone range, it is necessary to take full precautions when travelling in uninhabited areas. You should always prepare your trip and examine conditions beforehand.

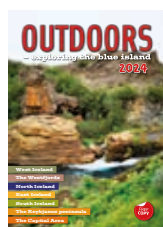
## Useful tips

- Always look at the weather forecast and adjust your travel plans accordingly. Icelandic Met Office: [www.en.vedur.is](http://www.en.vedur.is)
- ICE-SAR runs the Travellers Reporting Service, where travellers can register and be safe with the knowledge that if they don't report back by a scheduled time, they will be searched for. The ICE-SAR rescue teams operate emergency shelters around the coastline and in the interior of Iceland. These may only be used in emergencies. [www.icesar.com](http://www.icesar.com)

- Cell phones are important safety tools for those travelling far from populated areas – although they might not always be in range, they do cover quite a large portion of the country. If you have a GPS positioning system, you can have free access to a programme on the website of the National Land Survey: [www.lmi.is](http://www.lmi.is)

- Crevasse areas on glaciers are continuously changing and are very dangerous. Do not attempt to travel on glaciers without local knowledge and experience. Great care must be taken with rivers, and fords should be investigated. Glacial rivers can carry huge boulders with them, changing the clear path across the river in seconds, so don't put too much trust in old tracks.

**The emergency number in Iceland is 112.**



**OUTDOORS**  
– exploring the blue island

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**N1**

# West Iceland

## *Culture, nature and history*

Close to the capital yet away from the bustle, the west of Iceland is a world where culture, nature and history complement each other, creating a unique Icelandic experience. This vast area consists of fjords, valleys, craters, glaciers and volcanoes. Travel through historical Borgarfjörður, home to most of the Icelandic sagas and their heroes, or venture close to the centre of the earth at Snæfellsjökull glacier on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula before crossing over to Dalir, the cradle of the great explorers Eiríkur the Red and his son Leifur the Lucky.

The short distances between popular destinations make it possible to enjoy the area at a comfortable pace, so hurry up and slow down in west Iceland.



[www.west.is](http://www.west.is)

### ■ Useful links

West Iceland information centre	<a href="http://www.west.is">www.west.is</a>
Snorrastofa, culture and medieval centre	<a href="http://www.snorrastofa.is">www.snorrastofa.is</a>
Snæfellsjökull National Park	<a href="http://www.snafellsjokull.is">www.snafellsjokull.is</a>
The Icelandic Settlement Centre:	<a href="http://www.landnamssetur.is">www.landnamssetur.is</a>
The Agricultural Museum of Iceland:	<a href="http://www.landbunadarsafn.is">www.landbunadarsafn.is</a>
The Snæfellsnes Travel Association:	<a href="http://www.ffsn.is">www.ffsn.is</a>
Official travel guide to Iceland	<a href="http://www.visiticeland.com">www.visiticeland.com</a>
Promote Iceland	<a href="http://www.islandsstofa.is/en">www.islandsstofa.is/en</a>





The Glanni waterfall in the river Norðurá is believed to be home to elves and gnomes.

## Glanni Waterfall

N64° 45' 18.411" W21° 35' 46.134"

Glanni is an impressive waterfall in Norðurá River. Nearby is Paradise Hollow, a beautiful small oasis. The waterfall is said to be the dwelling place of elves and trolls.

Just before coming to Bifrost village you take a right turn by the sign post Glanni and pass a 9-hole golf course named after the waterfall Glanni. From the car park there is a marked path to a viewing point over the waterfall. A coffee shop is at the car park, open during summer months.

## Snæfellsjökull glacier at Snæfellsnes peninsula

N64° 49' 0.641" W23° 46' 52.685"

The Snæfellsjökull glacier at Snæfellsnes peninsula is 1446m above sea level. The glacier is an active volcano, having been built up through numerous eruptions during the last 800,000 years.

Many believe the glacier to be one of the seven main energy centres of the earth and its mystique is noticed by many. The glacier plays big role as the Center of the Earth in the novel Journey to the Center of the Earth (1864) by Jules Verne.

Snæfellsjökull is a part of the Snæfellsjökull National Park which was established 2001. The Park's purpose is to protect and conserve the areas unique landscape, indigenous plant and animal life as well as important historical relics. At the same time, the Park is meant to allow visitors easier as well as improved opportunities to get to know the area.

Driving on the Glacier is prohibited except with a permission from the park ranger.



Snæfellsjökull is a part of the Snæfellsjökull National Park which was established 2001.

## Akranes – a picturesque village

N64° 19' 1.490" W22° 5' 0.064"

Akranes is a picturesque village just moments away from the Reykjavík City Centre with population about 7.500 people.

The Museum area at Garðar is without a doubt the cultural centre of Akranes and a popular destination for tourists. Not far from there is the highly-praised 18-hole Garðavöllur golf course and the swimming pool at Jaðarsbakki is also just a few minutes from the Museum Area.

If you are into photography you need to look at Akranes lighthouses down by the harbour. The bigger one is open to the public so you can go up and enjoy the view from there and there is even a photography exhibition to enjoy! At Langisandur beach you can bathe in the ocean, build sandcastles and enjoy the view. You can also bathe in Guðlaug, a hot pool located in the rockgarden of Langisandur.



Akranes is just moments away from the Reykjavík City Centre.



In Akranes you need to look at the lighthouses by the harbour.



If you want to experience something new, then come and visit Guðlaug Baths!

# Krauma, at the heart of Iceland's nature



Geothermal hot water from the Deildartunga spring, one of the most productive in Europe.

Krauma is a natural baths to the north of the Deildartunga springs in Borgarfjörður. There are six baths in all, five hot and one cold. 'We use hot water from the Deildartunga springs, which have the highest flow of springs anywhere in Europe. No additives are put into the water, as the cleanliness is assured simply by the high flow rate,' said Krauma's managing director Jónas Friðrik Hjartarson.

## Steam baths, infrared cell and relaxation

The Deildartunga springs produce roughly 180 litres of 100°C water every second which flows through Krauma's baths, and is tempered with sparkling clean water. 'When guests have enjoyed a dip in the baths, they can rest in the relaxation room where gentle music is played and a fire can even be lit in the room's hearth. This has been extremely popular with guests, spending time in a hot or a cold pool or tub, and then going to the relaxation room. This is a fantastic way to relax. 'Guests also have the opportunity for a sauna at Krauma and also an infrared cell. Spring water sprays under the benches in the sauna.

## Fresh local ingredients

A magnificent restaurant occupies part of the main building at Krauma, where the emphasis is on fresh local ingredients. 'In designing the restaurant the focus was on making the most of the surroundings and that the building would integrate into the environment around it,' Jónas Friðrik said, adding that there has been a strong demand ever since Krauma opened.

'Krauma has attracted a lot of attention and we've had some fantastic reviews from discerning visitors, not least from overseas. We offer everyone a welcome in the summer, not least Icelandic visitors who intend to spend this year's holidays at home. Krauma is genuinely an experience for everyone.'



After a spending time in the hot tub, guests can rest in the relaxation room as music plays and the fire in the centre of the room can be lit.



Krauma's restaurant is a pleasant place and when the weather is fine guests can enjoy meals outside.



One of the defining landmarks in Stykkishólmur are the old houses.



On top of Sógandisey, you will find a lighthouse from where you can get an even better view.

## The historical place Reykholt

N64° 39' 53.661" W21° 17' 32.068"

Reykholt is one of Iceland's most notable historical sites. It houses a cultural centre and a church. Reykholt is most famous for being the home of Iceland's best-known author Snorri Sturluson during the years 1206-1241. An ancient geothermally-heated pool, Snorralaug, is named after him. It is one of the few things preserved whole from Iceland's medieval period.

Snorrastofa is a cultural centre and institute for research in medieval studies. Snorrastofa offers historical exhibitions and guided tours and lectures. Music recitals are held in the church of Reykholt.

Visit Reykholt's website [www.snorrastofa.is](http://www.snorrastofa.is)



Music recitals are held in the church of Reykholt.

## A stunning fishing village

N65° 4' 11.531" W22° 44' 8.004"

Stykkishólmur is located by Breiðafjörður Bay, which is renowned for its natural beauty and remarkable wildlife, on the north of Snæfellsnes peninsula. One of the defining landmarks in Stykkishólmur are the old houses in the old city centre and this is reflected in the atmosphere – it sometimes feels like a place from a different time.

By the harbour stands the basalt island Sógandisey and shelters the town from the northern wind. Sógandisey is connected to land by a road by the harbour so you can walk or drive to it and park by the island and walk upstairs which lead you up this

beautiful cliff. Other stairs take you further up where you can rest on a bench and have a look at Stykkishólmur from high up.

The drive from Reykjavík to Stykkishólmur is about 2 hours and 10 minutes (165 km). Take Ring Road nr. 1 towards the town Borgarnes. Drive through Borgarnes and take road nr. 54 towards the Snæfellsnes peninsula, drive for about 40 minutes and then turn right on road nr. 56. After about 10 minutes make a right turn again on road nr. 54 and drive for about 15 minutes towards Stykkishólmur.

[www.visitstykkisholmur.is](http://www.visitstykkisholmur.is)

## Home of Eirik the Red & Leif Eiriksson

N65° 3' 55.523" W21° 32' 21.214"

Hidden away in West Iceland, the Viking Age farm of Eiríksstaðir was the stage for the beginning of one of the most significant chapters in the history of mankind - first contact between Europe and North America.

Though the original farm is now in ruins, our historically accurate replica of the farm lets us bring both the sagas and the average Icelandic Viking Age farm into the twenty-first century. Inside the longhouse you will hear all about how the first settlers found unique ways to survive in this new, unforgiving land, and all about the sagas of the original inhabitants.

Tours are on-going throughout the day, with the last tour beginning 30 minutes before closing time. We welcome you to join us by the fire!

[www.eiriksstadir.is](http://www.eiriksstadir.is)



Eiríksstaðir Viking Home is a replica Viking turf-house in Dalabyggð region in West Iceland.

# EXPERIENCE NATURE FROM ITS CORE

## QUIET YOURSELF AT KRAUMA

### Krauma Nature Baths

Snug in the western village of Reykholt lies Europe's largest and most active hot spring, **Deildartunguhver**. Supplying water to all six of our nature baths, this geothermal powerhouse is the staple of our retreat and right in our backyard. **Soak in our mineral rich waters this holiday season and witness the tranquility of Krauma.**

### Bar & Restaurant

**Icelandic ingredients** are the foundation of our culinary craft at **Krauma** Restaurant & Bar and all of our food is locally sourced from **farms and greenhouses** that harness energy from the hot spring **Deildartunguhver** making your dining experience at Krauma purely Icelandic.



## KRAUMA NATURE BATHS

 @kraumageothermal  
 kraumageothermal

+354 555 6066 // [krauma.is](http://krauma.is)  
Deildartunguhver, 320 Reykholt

# The Westfjords

## *A different experience*

Visiting the Westfjords is surely a different experience. It is Iceland, but yet a different Iceland altogether. Looking like an enormous claw stretching out to sea, the Westfjords are known for sheer sea cliffs, some rising to a height of over 440 metres, and long, narrow fjords. A slender strip of land about 8 km wide connects the southernmost area with the rest of the country.

The northwest tip of the Westfjords is Hornstrandir, a now uninhabited 600-km<sup>2</sup> nature reserve of inspired natural beauty and undisturbed wildlife where nature lives in peace with itself. It is truly a privilege to experience such splendour.



[www.westfjords.is](http://www.westfjords.is)

### ■ Useful links

Official travel guide for the area	<a href="http://www.westfjords.is">www.westfjords.is</a>
Hólmavík tourist info	<a href="http://www.holmavik.is/info">www.holmavik.is/info</a>
The Gísla Saga Project	<a href="http://www.westvikings.info">www.westvikings.info</a>
An exciting water project	<a href="http://www.vatnavinir.is">www.vatnavinir.is</a>
Official travel guide to Iceland	<a href="http://www.visiticeland.com">www.visiticeland.com</a>
Promote Iceland	<a href="http://www.islandsstofa.is/en">www.islandsstofa.is/en</a>



# Welcome to Vigur island

N66° 2' 50.725" W22° 49' 42.011"

Vigur is an island in fjord Ísafjardardjúp. To get to Vigur, there is a daily boat tour from Ísafjörður. Puffins, eiders, guillemots and arctic terns are this island's magnets, and they are all abundant.

Indeed, as the puffins, which nest in burrows, have dug through much of the island's soil, travellers have to follow a certain path to avoid falling into one. This small bird, by some dubbed the penguin of the north, is a clumsy flier but impresses visitors by artfully stacking its beak full of sand eel or small fish, carrying it home to its hungry chicks.



The Vigur island is home to a number of nesting birds, including puffins.



Brjánslækur is an age-old manor and parsonage located on the mouth of Vatnsfjörður.

## Brjánslækur port

N65° 31' 47.716" W23° 11' 26.268"

Brjánslækur port is a single-pier harbor and ferry terminal at the mouth of Vatnsfjörður bay, from where the ferry Baldur to Stykkisholmur and Flatey island departs. For anyone interested in visiting the West Fjords, the ferry Baldur is a comfortable way to travel. The trip across Breiðafjörður takes

around two and a half hours. During the trip, passengers can sit back and enjoy a nice view of the fjord's so-called "innumerable" islands.

Brjánslækur may be a small village, but the area is home to many beautiful attractions. It includes a natural protected area, caves, churches, and the ruins of early settlers in

Iceland. Like the rest of Iceland, the area is full of astonishingly picturesque views, sweeping and shrub-covered hills, and deep fjords of West Iceland. With Brjánslækur as a base, visitors at Westfjords can explore on foot or rent a car or a bike. The best time of year to visit the place is the summer, as more tourist attractions are open to the public. Ferries do not run in midwinter.



Hellulaug is a geothermal pool, located just off the highway, close to the beach in Vatnsfjörður.

## Hellulaug – a hidden gem

**N65° 34' 37.761" W23° 9' 34.925"**

The Hellulaug hot spring is located in tiny Flockalundur village at the mouth of the Vatnsfjörður fjord, offering fantastic views

of the Atlantic Ocean. Bathers can relax in the warm waters, listening to the sound of the waves and looking for sea birds like Arctic terns and oystercatchers. It is quite lovely to chill out in the pool (38°/100,4 F)

while looking out over the fjord. The pool cannot be seen from the road, but there is a parking lot next to the path that leads to Hellulaug. The pool is 60 cm deep.

## The cascading waterfall Dynjandi

**N65° 44' 11.646" W23° 12' 32.640"**

From Dynjandisheiði heath in the west the great waterfall of Dynjandi tumbles. One of the most spectacular waterfalls in the country. It falls off the edge of a mountain some 100 metres down.

Actually, Dynjandi is a series of waterfalls, beginning with the most awesome, Fjallfoss, 30 metres wide at the top and 60 metres at the bottom. Then smaller waterfalls follow, Hundafoss, Strokkur, Göngumannafoss and Hrísvaðsfoss. Finally the last waterfall, Sjóarfoss carries the water that started falling hundred metres above, into the ocean.



Dynjandi waterfall is the biggest waterfall in Westfjords.



The oldest house still standing in Iceland, built in 1734, is located in Ísafjörður as part of the local folk museum.

## Ísafjörður – amazing restaurants and museums

**N66° 4' 21.690" W23° 7' 9.675"**

Ísafjörður is an attraction in itself – “a cosmopolitan oasis”, according to the Lonely Planet guidebook. Take their word for it. Ísafjörður is the tourist hub of the Westfjords, the place where many a tourist stocks up and takes one last look at the map before venturing into a trek in the Hornstrandir wilderness.

Gourmands have a choice of restaurants. The hotel in town has a seasonal variety of local delicacies such as puffin and whale, while the celebrated restaurant Tjörhúsið at the maritime museum is all about fish. There is no menu; the waiter just informs guests of the fish on offer, depending on what the fishermen caught earlier in the day.

## Hesteyri – a paradise for hikers

**N66° 20' 2.785" W22° 52' 27.255"**

Hesteyri is a unique former fishing-village with its golden age about 100 years ago. In 1952 the last of its inhabitants moved away. Today the village serves as a summer resort for locals and offers plenty of beautiful

hiking trails. Hesteyri is the setting for the horror mystery movie „Ég man þig (e. I remember you)”

Traditional Icelandic refreshments are served at the old Doctor's house, which also serves as a primitive guesthouse, where

time has pretty much stood still since the abandonment. Hesteyri is only reachable by boat from Ísafjörður and Bolungarvík for 10 weeks during the summer between the middle of June and the end of August.



Hesteyri is located directly in the middle of the untouched nature of the West Fjords.



Westfjords are a hiker's paradise.

# The North of Iceland

## *A true natural paradise*



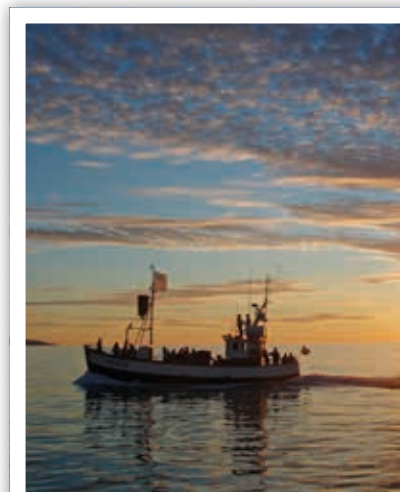
[www.northiceland.is](http://www.northiceland.is)

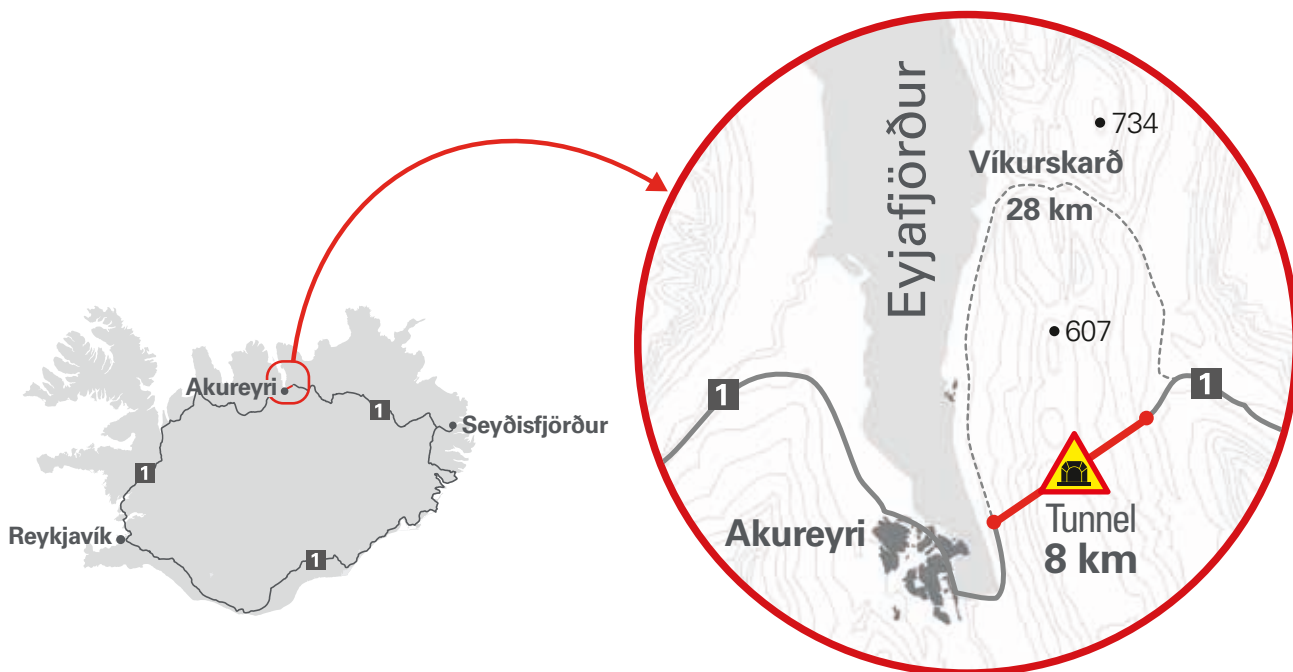
The north of Iceland is a true natural paradise, offering a multitude of adventurous activities, attracting people of all ages. From the country's largest geothermal fields to beautiful islands exuding folklore and one of Iceland's most popular skiing resorts, the north of Iceland offers a myriad of possibilities for outdoor recreation.

Akureyri is the centre of culture, education and leisure activities in north Iceland. The town is by far the largest outside the Reykjavík capital area. We also recommend going on organized excursions or outdoor activity tours taking you from town to town, out to the islands or into the highlands – allowing you the chance to see the magnificent landscape the north has to offer. Nearly every area has an outdoor swimming pool, and facilities for tourists are top-notch.

### ■ Useful links

Official travel guide for the area	<a href="http://www.northiceland.is">www.northiceland.is</a>
Akureyri tourist guide	<a href="http://www.visitakureyri.is">www.visitakureyri.is</a>
Akureyri Art Museum	<a href="http://www listasafn.akureyri.is">www listasafn.akureyri.is</a>
Hof Cultural and Concert Centre	<a href="http://www.mak.is/en">www.mak.is/en</a>
Whale Museum in Húsavík	<a href="http://www.whalemuseum.is">www.whalemuseum.is</a>
Akureyri Museum	<a href="http://www.akmus.is">www.akmus.is</a>
Grimsey island	<a href="http://www.grimsey.is">www.grimsey.is</a>
Hrisey island	<a href="http://www.hrisey.is">www.hrisey.is</a>
Official travel guide to Iceland	<a href="http://www.visiticeland.com">www.visiticeland.com</a>
Promote Iceland	<a href="http://www.islandsstofa.is/en">www.islandsstofa.is/en</a>





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 [info@tunnel.is](mailto:info@tunnel.is)



**TUNNEL.IS**  
VAÐLAHEIÐARGÖNG



# The Folk Music Centre

N66° 9' 1.774" W18° 54' 34.660"

The Siglufjörður Folk Music Centre is located in one of the oldest houses in

Siglufjörður, Madame House where the pastor Bjarni Þorsteinsson lived from 1888 to 1898. The centre brings to life the world of Icelandic folk music. Visitors can see



The Folk Music Centre is located in the so-called Madam-house at Siglufjörður.

video recordings of people of all ages chanting epic poetry (rímur), singing quint-songs (tvísöngur), reciting nursery rhymes, and playing folk instruments such as the langspil (similar to dulcimer) and the Icelandic violin (fiðla).

## Grettislaug

N65° 52' 47.525" W19° 44' 19.990"

The legendary bathing spot, Grettislaug at Reykir in Skagafjörður in North Iceland, is the bathing place of Grettir the Strong from Saga lore but he was an outlaw that lived in Drangey island. According to the Saga Grettir is said to have warmed himself up in the pool after the famous Drangeyjarsund, a 7,5 kilometers long swim in the ocean from Drangey island.

Located by the seaside with amazing views, the geothermal pool has been constructed with natural stones. Grettislaug is about 39°C (100°F) year round, though of course weather can influence the water's temperature. There are dressing rooms and since the pool is on a private property, there is a small entrance fee.



Grettislaug in Skagafjörður is the bathing place of Grettir the Strong from Saga lore.



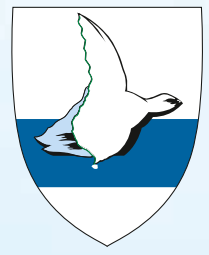
The dramatic structures at Dimmuborgir are one of Iceland's most popular natural tourist attractions.

## Dimmuborgir Lava Field

N65° 35' 31.385" W16° 54' 28.863"

Dimmuborgir or Dark Cities is an area of Mývatn, randomly strewn lava rocks and cliffs, surrounded by vegetation such as low bushes and plants. Dimmuborgir is a place of surprises with its myriad forms and images, small caves and towering volcanic rock, pierced by natural apertures. The most famous of these formations is the cave „The Church“, aptly named for its dome-like ceiling.

It is not only in summer that Dimmuborgir exerts its charm; a winter visit is also an invigorating experience which must include popping in to see the Yule Lads (Santas) who have settled there and made it their home.



# BREATHE IN... HRÍSEY ISLAND



# 1238: The Battle of Iceland

N65° 45' 8.500" W19° 39' 5.540"

The exhibition, 1238: The Battle of Iceland, at Aðalgata 21 at Sauðárkrúkur revolves around the most famous part of the Icelandic Sagas - Sturlung Era (1220 - 1264); the bloodiest and most violent era in Icelandic history. Sturlunga is recreated with interactive technology and brings to life, in a fascinating vision, Iceland's most dramatic clash of family clans and the fatal civil war that ended Iceland's independence.

1238: The Battle of Iceland, is an immersive exhibition that goes a step beyond the regular history museum. The exhibition offers people of all ages to experience history in a very modern and artful interactive installations and to take part in dramatic events through virtual reality. Whether visitors have great or no interest in history the visit is truly an amazing experience.

Café & Bistro, Souvenir Shop and Tourist Information Office is also located at 1238: The Battle of Iceland.

**Open daily in summertime: 10am to 5pm**

[www.1238.is](http://www.1238.is)



Eco-friendly

# Húsavík

# Whale

# Watching



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"I highly recommend taking the silent electric boat. You also help the environment and have a much richer experience."



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**northsailing.is**  
+354 464 7272



**NORTH SAILING**  
SINCE 1995

By using the green energy electric boats for whale watching North Sailing adds a new dimension to the way their guests experience nature.



# Whale Watching Húsavík:

## The silent and eco-friendly way!

**North Sailing** is an eco-friendly and sustainable whale watching company that is highly respectful of nature and wildlife. Their Original Whale Watching tour has built a reputation for the town of Húsavík as the Whale Capital of Iceland.

### Whales and puffins

Discover the magnificent nature of Skjálfandi bay where you can see whales, dolphins and sea birds in their natural

habitat. North Sailing's crew is both professional and highly qualified and will take you along on a smooth sailing in a traditional Icelandic oak boat to explore the home of the whales. In addition to seeing whales in their natural habitat, you get to see the colourful and iconic puffins nesting, flying around and diving for food!

### Eco friendly whale watching

The silent Andvari, North Sailing's innovative electric boat, is one of the most animal- and environmentally-friendly whale watching vessels in the world. Gliding silently alongside the whales on an electric boat offers a tranquil whale watching experience that is unparalleled: You will have a chance to quietly watch the whales, causing them minimal disturbance. An unforgettable experience!

[www.northsailing.is](http://www.northsailing.is)





The tunnel bypasses the precipitous Víkurskarð Mountain Road, a hazard for drivers in bad weather.

## Road toll in Vaðlaheiði tunnel

Vaðlaheiði tunnel is a 7.5 km (4.7 miles) on the Icelandic Ring Road, close to the town of Akureyri, the capital of North Iceland. The tunnel bypasses the precipitous Víkurskarð Mountain Road, a hazard for drivers in bad weather. The tunnel shortens the Ring Road by approximately 16 km (10 miles), saving drivers up to 12 minutes in good weather conditions.

Drivers need to pay road toll when driving through the Vaðlaheidi tunnel, but they should pay attention to there are no toll booths or pay machines around. Instead travellers pay for a single trip by visiting the website [www.tunnel.is](http://www.tunnel.is) and pay for each single trip via card. To avoid an extra charges from the Car Rental travellers can pay for each trip through the tunnel 24

hours before entering the tunnel or max 24 hours after driving through the tunnel.

All further information on [www.tunnel.is](http://www.tunnel.is)

## Ystafell Transportation Museum

**Unique cars and vehicles – worth visiting!**



**Opening hours:\***  
**Daily 11:00-18:00**  
**\*until end of september**

Price: 1.500 kr. pr. adult  
Free for 12 year  
and younger

**Ystafell Transportation Museum**

By Route 85 – 37km south from Húsavík

Tel. 354 861 1213

[sverririfelli@gmail.com](mailto:sverririfelli@gmail.com) - [www.ystafell.is](http://www.ystafell.is)

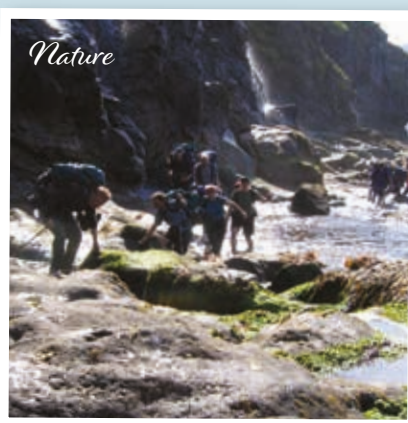


# WELCOME TO SIGLUFJARÐAR & ÓLAFSFJARÐAR

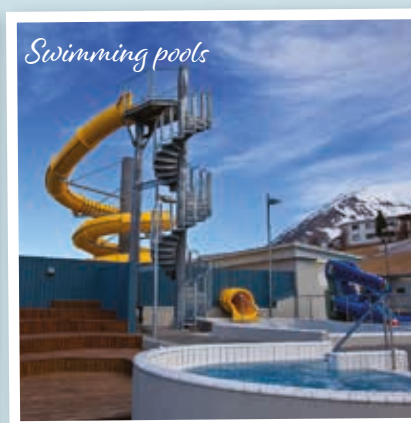
Festivals



Museum



Nature



Swimming pools



Adventure



Golf



Hiking

Museum

The swimming pool in Siglufjörður  
Hvanneyrbraut 52  
Tel: +354 464 9170

Swimming  
pools

The swimming pool in Ólafsfjörður  
Tjarnarstíg 1  
Tel: +354 464 9250



TOURIST INFORMATION  
CENTER IN FJALLABYGGÐ  
[info@fjallabyggd.is](mailto:info@fjallabyggd.is)

i

Gránugötu 24, Siglufjörður Bylgjubyggð 2b, Ólafsfjörður  
Tel: +354 464 9120 Tel: +354 467 1555

Summer opening from June 4th - August 15th  
Open weekdays from 10 am - 12 pm and 1 pm - 5 pm  
Siglufjörður is open from 10 am - 2 pm on Saturdays.  
CLOSED on weekends in Ólafsfjörður





## The Transportation Museum at Ystafell

Antique and unique cars and vehicles

The Transportation Museum at Ystafell is located by route 85, 37 km south from Húsavík, in North Iceland. Ystafell is the oldest car museum in Iceland and has one of the largest collections of cars, trucks and other vehicles in the country, many of them extremely rare and historic.

The Transportation Museum at Ystafell was established in 1998, opened in July 2000 and there you will find over 100 vehicles of all kind. Both original cars and beautifully rebuilt cars. Rare passenger cars, jeeps, cars from the war years in Iceland, tractors, snowmobiles, tanks, work



machines, trucks, motorcycles and so on. Plenty of antique treasures of the motorworld to discover!



Opening hours is daily at 11:00-18:00. Please visit our website and Facebook for further information.

[www.ystafell.is](http://www.ystafell.is)

## Dimmuborgir Lava Field

N65° 35' 31.385" W16° 54' 28.863"

Dimmuborgir or Dark Cities is an area of Mývatn, randomly strewn lava rocks and cliffs, surrounded by vegetation such as low bushes and plants. Dimmuborgir is a place of surprises with its myriad forms and images, small caves and towering volcanic rock, pierced by natural apertures. The most famous of these formations is the cave „The Church“, aptly named for its dome-like ceiling.

It is not only in summer that Dimmuborgir exerts its charm; a winter visit is also an invigorating experience which must include popping in to see the Yule Lads (Santas) who have settled there and made it their home.



The dramatic structures at Dimmuborgir are one of Iceland's most popular natural tourist attractions.vers in bad weather.

# Herðubreið – queen of Icelandic mountains

N65° 10' 36.318" W16° 19' 41.112"

Mt. Herðubreið on the Öskjuleið Route is a 1682m high table mountain. It is the national mountain of Iceland and often called the "Queen of Icelandic mountains". There is a hiking trail to the top of the mountain, but due to loose rock it's difficult and steep. In 2002, Icelanders voted Herðubreið as the "national mountain" of their country.

Near the mountain lies an oasis called Herðubreiðarlindir with a campground and hiking trails. In former times, outcasts who had been excluded from Icelandic society because of crimes they had committed lived at the oasis. One such outlaw was Fjal-la-Eyvindur, who lived there during the winter of 1774–1775. – The road to Herðubreiðarlindir is only passable in summer.



Herðubreið rises 1677 meters up from the Ódádahraun lava desert.

## Take Part in the Last Battle of the Vikings



Aðalgata 21, 550 Sauðárkrúkur

[www.1238.is](http://www.1238.is)

@thebattleoficeland

#1238thebattleoficeland



[www.visitakureyri.com](http://www.visitakureyri.com)

# Hello Akureyri!

There aren't many places that equal Akureyri in being popular as a place to visit, at any time of the summer or winter. The town has a bustling community, a colourful cultural scene, a variety of museums, one of the finest swimming pools in the country, all kinds of events taking place and restaurants to suit every taste, and much, much more. On top of that, this is a place where the weather is kind, there's some magnificent nature on every corner and endless opportunities to enjoy the outdoors!

To make it easier for visitors to keep track of events in and around Akureyri, the [www.visitakureyri.com](http://www.visitakureyri.com) website lists information for all

of the events taking place in the town, opportunities for relaxation and services, all in one place.

We pay special attention to events listed for the Bank Holiday weekend in August and for the Akureyri Town Festival weekend at the end of the same month. The trail running event Sútur Vertical takes place in Akureyri, August 2 and August 3 this summer and the centre of town is the ideal place to see this year's runners as they hit the finishing line.

Akureyri is one of Iceland's most popular destinations.





The ultra trail run Súlur Vertical takes participants from the highest peaks around Akureyri down to the central heart of town.



Akureyri town centre.



Botanical garden in Akureyri.

**Akureyri has a lot to offer!**  
Below we list some attractions and activities that we recommend for our guests while in Akureyri.

- » The Botanical Garden – most of the Icelandic flora as well as about 7000 foreign plants
- » The Art Museum and Art Street (Kaupvangsstræti)
- » Sundlaug Akureyrar – outdoor geothermal swimming pool, 3 pools, hut tubs, play areas and waterslides
- » Whale watching from the pier below center of town
- » Restaurants – promoting local food
- » Kjarnaskógur – wood, trails and playgrounds
- » The old town – old houses and several museums
- » Golf course – The northern most 18-hole golf course and the competition “Arctic Open”
- » Glerárgil – canyon and trails
- » Hrísey island, the charming village and hiking trails (30 min drive and 15 min ferry sailing)
- » Akureyri Town Festival – end of August each year



# Welcome to Fjallabyggð!

N66° 4' 24.773" W18° 38' 43.163"

The municipality Fjallabyggð in North Iceland has a backdrop of natural beauty bringing together magnificent mountains and fjords. The proximity to nature is always at hand, whether you're looking for a walk, a round of golf, a swim in the sea, windsurfing, kayaking or a trip on a jetski, or would simply prefer to relax in one of the quiet communities. This most northerly community in Iceland is one of the finest places to take in the midnight sun at its best.

The Fjallabyggð region is home to a thriving cultural scene. There are many restaurants and plenty of accommodation options. Museums include the Herring Era Museum in Siglufjörður, Ólafsfjörður's Pálshús which is home to a unique natural history collection, the reverend Bjarni Thorsteins-



son's folk music centre in Siglufjörður, where there is also the Saga Fotográfica photography museum.

This isn't a place where the younger generation are going to be bored. There's the excitement of the beaches, horse riding, or fishing from the town's quays. Our woodlands are a natural delight that offer orienteering challenges, great places to barbecue and so much that makes time

with the family even more worthwhile. Fjallabyggð has two nine-hole golf courses, two swimming pools (one of which is open-air), with hot pools, hot tubs where you can sit and enjoy company, plunge pools and two water slides.

Welcome to Fjallabyggð!

[www.fjallabyggd.is](http://www.fjallabyggd.is)

[www.visittrollaskagi.is](http://www.visittrollaskagi.is)

A woman with red hair is lying back in a natural hot spring pool, her head resting on the concrete edge. She is looking up towards the sky with a peaceful expression. The water is a clear, light blue. In the background, there is a blurred view of a lake and distant mountains under a soft, hazy sky.

RELAX  
ENJOY  
EXPERIENCE

MÝVATN NATURE BATHS

**pre-book online at [naturebaths.is](https://naturebaths.is)**

# Experience Mývatn Nature Baths

30

OUTDOORS 2024

## Relax in the lagoon

Mývatn Nature Baths are open every day, all year round, except for January 1st. Anyone who wants to relax in the lagoon is welcome, and in addition to the lagoon there is a hot tub with water temperature around 41°C and the unique steam baths, with natural steam rising directly from a geothermal crack in the ground. We proudly offer a swim-up bar in the lagoon and it is definitely the hottest bar in Mývatn area!

The water temperature of the lagoon is normally 36-40°C. The water in the lagoon contains high levels of minerals, is alkaline and highly suitable for a dip. It is considered to have good effects on skin problems, such as eczema and psoriasis because of the trace elements in the water. Due to its chemical composition, undesired bacteria and vegetation do not thrive in the lagoon making chloride or any other disinfectant redundant. After a refreshing bath, visitors can relax at Café Kvika and have a light meal while enjoying the spectacular views of Mývatn area.

## Easier access

Mývatn Nature Baths use a booking system so anyone can book at the website, [www.naturebaths.is](http://www.naturebaths.is). Ragnhildur Hólm Sigurðardóttir, marketing manager at Mývatn Nature Baths highly recommends to pre-book to make sure to get available entrance tickets. "In the past years, well – before Covid, we saw it happen multiple times that visitors arrived and we were sold out. We needed to act on it, therefore we started using the booking system and the results are great! We are no longer overcrowded with queues all the way to the parking lot. That makes everyone happier, both our visitors and our staff members."



**The swim up bar is very popular.**

**[www.naturebaths.is](http://www.naturebaths.is)  
[#myvatnnaturebaths](https://www.instagram.com/myvatnnaturebaths)  
[info@jardbodin.is](mailto:info@jardbodin.is)**

---

**[www.naturebaths.is](http://www.naturebaths.is)**



Shark-Jörundur's house is a fascinating museum dedicated to the history of the shark fishery, as well as presenting the story of the island of Hrísey in words and pictures

## Hrísey – Eyjafjörður's gem

**N65° 59' 43.298" W18° 23' 1.467"**

Hrísey is the gem of Eyjafjörður and it has a flourishing community, magnificent panoramic views of the fjord and a rich birdlife. Sailing to the island with the ferry Sævar only takes about 15 minutes. Departure is from the small harbour at the community Árskógssandur (35 km from Akureyri).



Hrísey has plenty to see and do. There is a shop and a restaurant, a chance to go for a swim, or a visit to the house of Shark-Jörundur which is home to a fascinating museum dedicated to the shark fishery off the coast of Iceland in years gone by. The history of the islands is also presented in a series of displays with both text and pictures. The museum is open every day through the summer.

The island has a variety of delightful walking routes and the eastern shore of Hrísey is said to offer some of the most magnificent and inspiring views to be found in Iceland. Peace and tranquillity flow across the fjord from Kaldbakur, the mountain that watches over the eastern side of Eyjafjörður. The route is marked with signs for visitors.

[www.hrisey.is](http://www.hrisey.is)





The turf homestead at Grenjaðarstaður.

## Grenjaðarstaður – the old turfhouse

**N65° 49' 11.863" W17° 20' 22.376"**

The historic settlement of Grenjaðarstaður in Aðaldalur is one of Iceland's largest turf houses, situated 30 km south of Húsavík. In its heyday Grenjaðarstaður was a prosperous vicarage and the oldest part of the existing turf house was built in 1865 and inhabited until 1949. The house is unique, primarily insulated with lava rocks, which are abundant in the surrounding area, and the interior is panelled with driftwood.

A visit to the turf-walled homestead at

Grenjaðarstaður takes you back in time to a world that has vanished. There has been a farm at this location since the settlement, and the farm has been home to a chieftaincy, a church and a priest through the ages, and was at one time the location for postal services. The oldest surviving part was built around 1865 and the farm was still inhabited in 1949. It was opened as a museum in 1958, complete with several thousand artefacts that had been donated. Entering it and seeing how adults and children lived in the past is a unique experience.

The museum is open between 1 June to 15 August. Every day 11-17.



Visitors can see what daily life in a turf-walled house was like.

## The Icelandic Seal Center in Hvammstangi

**N65° 23' 42.954" W20° 56' 50.623"**

The Icelandic Seal Centre in Hvammstangi is housed in the historically interesting and

attractive premises of VSP in Hvammstangi. Here you will find informative exhibitions on the seal and its habits, seal hunting and the utilisation of seal-related products,

besides stories and folklore surrounding that fascinating creature.

You will also find information on the wildlife of the area, including the notorious Arctic Fox, Eider Duck, famous Puffins, Whales and the abundant sea and inland bird life of the area. You can watch our scientists at work in our lab, learn about the research that is being done on seals and even help us by collecting data on your travels around the area!

The Centre is open all year round and its opening hours during the summer are every day from 10:00 to 18:00.

[www.selasetur.is](http://www.selasetur.is)



Seals are delightful animals.

# Skagafjörður

## *a land of adventure!*

34

OUTDOORS 2024

Skagafjörður is truly a land of adventure for all. Offering a wide variety of activities set in beautiful surroundings. Whether you wish to go white water rafting down foaming glacial rivers; play golf at a scenic golf course; helicopter skiing on the Tröllaskagi mountain range; horse riding in an amazing and unique landscape; sailing to the majestic island of Drangey; relax in a natural hot spring; enjoy the magic of the northern lights in the winter stillness; indulge in excellent food prepared from local produce; visit a petting zoo... Or just lay back and relax and enjoy the stay – there are diverse accommodation options available for you to choose from.

### **Tourist information in Skagafjörður**

#### **Tourist information in Varmahlíð and Sauðárkrúkur is open year-round.**

There you can obtain maps, brochures, and information about Skagafjörður.

Free access to the internet

Tel: Varmahlíð +354 455 6161

Tel: Sauðárkrúkur +354 588 1238

info@visitskagafjordur.is

www.visitskagafjordur.is

Skagafjörður has a rich cultural heritage and an abundance of historical sites. The Skagafjörður Heritage Museum engages in exhibitions, conservation, and research. The museum in the old turf farmhouse at Glaumbær has for over half a century been showing visitors what 18th and 19th century life was like in rural Iceland. There are numerous other institutions, exhibits, and activities which are interesting to see and do: Viðimýrarkirkja turf church near the village of Varmahlíð, the Old Stable in Lýtingsstaðir, The Icelandic Emigration Center in Hofsós, take a dip in Hofsós scenic swimming pool, The Vintage Auto Museum at Stóragerði, The historical bishop's seat of Hólar in Hjaltadalur Valley, The Icelandic Horse History Center in Hólar, the history and art exhibition Kakalaskáli at Kringlumýri, or the virtual exhibitions 1238 – The Battle of Iceland in Sauðárkrúkur.

Skagafjörður's unique interplay of nature, history and culture makes it an exciting destination, offering a wide variety of experiences for your holiday. The heritage of stories occurring locally, such as the Saga of Grettir the Strong, the Saga of the Sturlungas and numerous folktales, in addition to the many cultural relics, will make your vacation fascinating and memorable.

visitskagafjordur.is



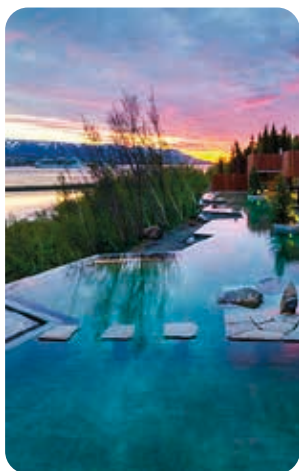


# Unique experiences create unique memories

N65° 40' 18.832" W18° 2' 40.487"

The Forest Lagoon is located just outside the town of Akureyri, with views overlooking one of Iceland's longest fjords, Eyjafjörður. The spa's unique position, surrounded by birch and pine trees, provides the perfect shelter from the wind. During a visit to the Forest Lagoon guests will experience the view, the tranquility and the energy of Vaðlaskógur that surrounds the baths.

The Forest Lagoon opened in 2022 and during the planning phase careful consideration was given to every detail, both inside and out. Even the approach to the spa's entrance is a part of the experience! We know every detail matters.



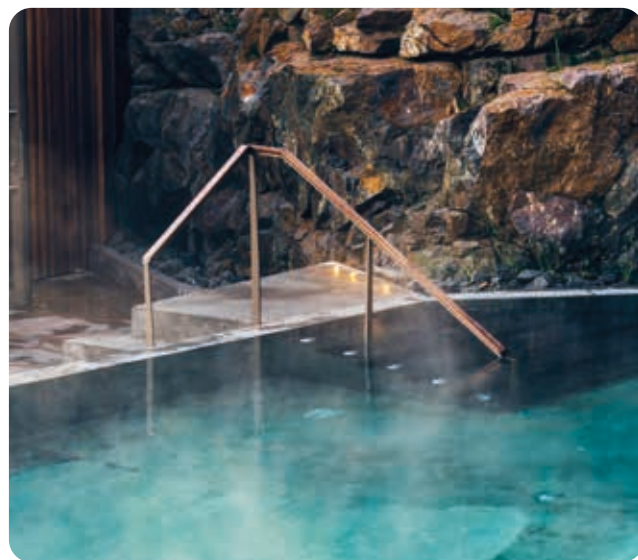
## Our great amenities

With its 530 square metre geothermal pool, the Forest Lagoon offers an unforgettable experience. Alongside the main pool, kept at a steady temperature of 37-38°C, are a 53 square metre hot pool at 40°C plus the opportunity to cool off with a plunge in the 12°C cold pool. There are two in-pool bars for those who want to relax in the water, and a traditional Finnish dry sauna provides the chance for an unforgettable experience.

The Forest Lagoon has outstanding facilities, with 204 changing room lockers, two changing cubicles within the changing rooms and there is a fully-equipped changing room for disabled visitors. Showers have cubicles as well as in the external open-air shower area.

In addition to the in-pool bars, the Forest Lagoon provides a varied menu at its on-site bistro.

Further facilities include an outside seating area and charging stations for both electric bikes and cars are available.





forestlagoon.com



# The Whale Capital of Iceland

N66° 2' 35.940" W17° 20' 27.745"

Húsavík is the oldest settlement in Iceland. The town is known for whale watching tours in Skjálfandi Bay and is often referred to as the Whale Capital of Iceland. Up to 23 species of whale, including the Blue Whale, as well as large colonies of puffins can be found in or around the bay. One can experience the gigantic life-size of whales in the local Whale Museum where, amongst others, a 22m long skeleton of a Blue Whale is on display.

Húsavík is linked with Eurovision. The film Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire and Saga is based on two characters Lars

Ericksson played by Will Ferrell and Sigríð Ericksdóttir played by Rachel McAdams. Húsavík is the hometown of the duo and the title song is also named Húsavík. It's likely you will see some locals from the movie if you visit Húsavík. If you have limited time we recommend taking the Fire and Saga Tour.

The Museum House at Húsavík, as the inhabitants of the district call their cultural centre, houses part of the South Pingeyrarsýsla District Museum, a maritime museum, natural history museum, folk museum, district archives, photograph archives, and an art gallery.



Húsavík has a lively harbor scene with a fantastic view over the Skjálfandi Bay.

## Welcome to Hrísey!

### The House of Shark Jörundur



In the oldest house on the Island a museum has been set up where you learn about the history of shark fishing in Iceland and the settlement in Hrísey.

It also houses the Tourist information which is open 2 pm to 5 pm from the start of June until the end of August.

Further information: E-mail: [hrisey@hrisey.net](mailto:hrisey@hrisey.net)  
[www.hrisey.is](http://www.hrisey.is)

Services in Húsavík are different types of accommodation, restaurants and cafés, a brewery, a geothermal swimming pool and campsites as well as a golf course and skiing area on the outskirts of town. A newly opened sea bath invites for a dip in geothermal hot sea water while enjoying a magnificent view over the bay.



The Pingeyrachurch was consecrated in 1877.

## The remarkable church at Pingeyrar

N65° 33' 19.514" W20° 24' 16.569"

The church at Pingeyrar is one of the most remarkable in the country and is located where there was a chieftain's residence and a local meeting place in the past. The first monastery in Iceland was established at Pingeyrar in 1133.

The church was consecrated in 1877 and the rocks for the building was taken from the Ásbjarnarnes cliffs and dragged eight kilometres on sleds across the frozen estuary to the site. The church is built in Roman style and there are seats for a congregation of a hundred inside. Its cupola is rounded and painted blue, and studded with approximately a thousand gold stars and there are a thousand panes in the church windows. The church is well endowed with old and remarkable artefacts.

Not far from Pingeyrar is Þrístapar, a historic site, where the last execution of a convicted felon took place in 1830. Agnes Magnúsdóttir and Friðrik Sigurðsson were sentenced to death for two murders, and their story and the story of this execution is told on signs and monuments on the site.



FOREST LAGOON

*geothermal spa*

*Only five minutes away from  
Akureyri city center*

*Book your ticket on*

**forestlagoon.is**

# Eyjafjarðarsveit rural paradise

40

OUTDOORS 2024

N65° 34' 48.155" W18° 4' 11.147"

The Eyjafjarðarsveit district has much to offer visitors. Its largest village is Hrafnagilshverfi, which has a swimming pool open all year round and a camping site with excellent facilities. There are roughly 1100 inhabitants in Eyjafjarðarsveit and agriculture provides the main employment, plus a variety of services for tourists has been built up in recent years.

There is a wide choice of accommodation in the district and various recreational offers.

Hælið at Kristnes hosts the 'White Death' exhibition of the history of tuberculosis in Iceland. This exhibition is thoroughly unique among Iceland's many museums and exhibitions, providing a moving account of this illness that in its time deeply marked so many families in Iceland. The exhibition and the Hælið café are open daily through the summer.

Among other interesting destinations in the Eyjafjarðarsveit is Holtssel, which offers wonderful home-made ice cream. Beef can also be bought direct from the Holtssel farm.

The Jólagarðurinn (Christmas Garden/ Santas house) and Bakgarðurinn (Back garden) shops have long been known to everyone in Iceland for the variety of goods on display that can't be found anywhere else. These are both an experience and a shopping opportunity for visitors.

Sverrir Hermannsson's Smámunasafnið (small exhibits) in Sólgarður is another place that is entirely unique. Sverrir was a collector of everything imaginable, and his museum has collections of agricultural items, tools, household items, nails, blacksmiths' tools, keys, and more.



three metres in height and five metres in length, and it's entirely fitting that from her position she has a fine view over the blooming agriculture in Eyjafjarðarsveit.

For those looking to put the focus on staying healthy during their travels, there are numerous walking and cycle routes, both in low-lying areas and in mountain regions. One of Iceland's newest resorts, Skógarböðin, is to be found in the Eyjafjarðarsveit, and comfort and healthy living are at the top of the agenda at the Vökuland Wellness.

Information about all these and many more facilities for visitors to the Eyjafjörður district can be found at the Hrafnagil swimming pool's reception area.

esveit.is

A visit to Sólgarður is also an ideal opportunity to take in the region's latest artwork – Edda the cow, sculpted in iron by local blacksmith and artist Beate Stormo. Edda is no small installation, measuring





The Tourist Information Office in Dalvík is housed in Berg.

## Berg cultural house in Dalvík

**N65° 58' 19.574" W18° 31' 56.759"**

Cultural house Berg is in the town centre of Dalvík. The Public Library is located there and a Coffee House. Art performances,

concerts, conferences and cultural tourism also have their place in the house and a multi-purpose hall is available. Various events are scheduled all year round.

Open Monday to Friday from 11:00 to 17:00, Saturdays from 13:00 to 16:00.

[www.dalvikurbyggd.is/berg](http://www.dalvikurbyggd.is/berg)



Hvítserkur is easily accessible year round on Road nr. 711, approximately a 30-kilometer drive from Ring Road nr. 1.

## Hvítserkur Sea Stack

**N65° 36' 25.656" W20° 37' 32.617"**

Hvítserkur is a 15 m-high sea stack just off shore on the eastern side of the Vatnsnes Peninsula and rises up from the sea in Húnaflói Bay in north-west Iceland. Hvítserkur roughly translates into „White

Shirt” and the name comes from being covered in bird droppings.

Legend has it, that the cliff was once a troll that intended to destroy the church at Þingeyrar which is located close by. However the journey took longer than

expected and before the troll could execute its plan, the sun rose on the horizon turning the troll into stone. Geologists believe that Hvítserkur is an ancient crater plug that has been eroded by the ocean waves. It is a very spectacular rock formation and is certainly well worth a visit.

# The East of Iceland

## *Natural wonders and history*



[www.east.is](http://www.east.is)

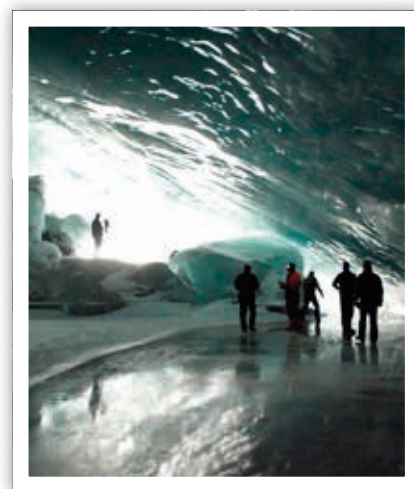
The east of Iceland – a magical region of natural phenomena. Glaciers, forests, bird cliffs, vast expanses, deserts, majestic mountains and narrow fjords. Waterfalls, rivers and the sea. The east of Iceland is a gem of natural wonders and history. It is a region rich in relics from times long past, vestiges of work methods, culture and life's eternal struggle. It is home to around 16,000 people, who enjoy the relatively still weather of the fjords that makes the water an ideal reflector of the surrounding mountain landscapes.

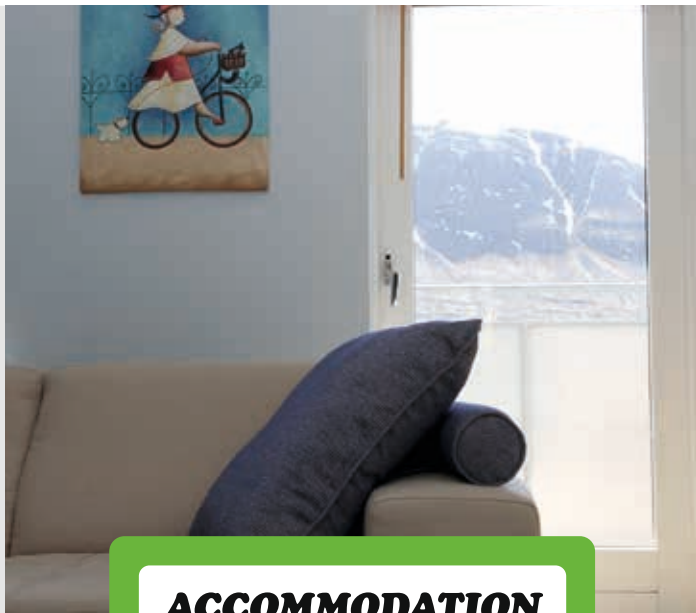
Villages of varying sizes dot the fjords. Loðmundarfjörður Fjord is ideal for travellers interested in walking peacefully where no one lives.

Fog is common in the stillness of east Iceland's fjords, and the name "east Iceland fog" has become part of the weather terminology.

### ■ Useful links

Official travel guide for the area	<a href="http://www.east.is">www.east.is</a>
Vatnajökull National Park	<a href="http://www.vatnajokulsthjodgardur.is">www.vatnajokulsthjodgardur.is</a>
Official travel guide to Iceland	<a href="http://www.visiticeland.com">www.visiticeland.com</a>
Promote Iceland	<a href="http://www.islandsstofa.is/en">www.islandsstofa.is/en</a>





## ACCOMMODATION



## FOOD AND FUN



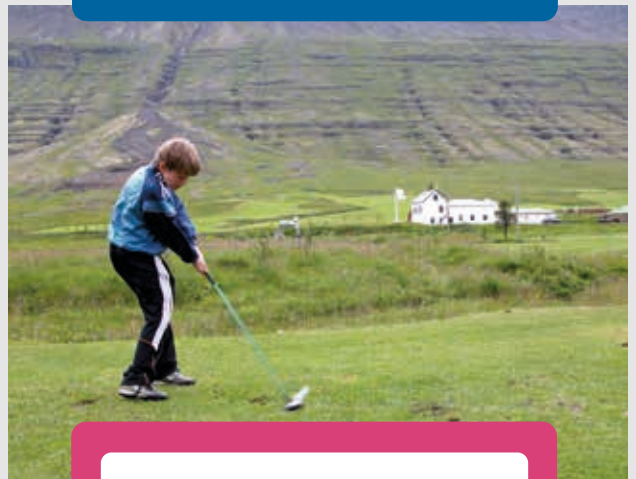
## CAMPING



## MUSEUMS



## SWIMMING POOLS



## GOLF



# Wonderful Fjarðabyggð

**Welcome to the region of the fjords**  
**Experience the riches of**  
**East-Iceland**

In Fjarðabyggð you'll find six wonderful fjords,  
each with a unique charm of its own.

**Find your favourite fjord or**  
**the coolest mountain.**



**FJARÐABYGGÐ**  
**fjardabyggd.is**

# Wonderful Fjarðabyggð



The community's magnificent mountains and picturesque fjords are just part of what Fjarðabyggð has to offer. Equally memorable to those who visit are the communities and the culture of the seaside villages, each with its own spirit and character nestling along Iceland's easternmost coast. Every year, the Fjarðabyggð combination of landscape, history and easy going attitude towards life attracts more visitors.

You can easily find the hotel or guest house best suited to your desires, or choose one of Fjarðabyggð's six camping areas. You'll also find plenty of choices for recreation, in a municipality where both mountain slopes and seashores lie just beyond your doorstep.

No matter where else you're heading in East Iceland, Fjarðabyggð will be worth every minute you spend here. Check out our wide range of services and recreation for travellers and come enjoy the wonders of East Iceland, at all times of the year!





Stórirurð is a spectacular mountain region in east Iceland.

## Stórirurð – loved by hikers

**N65° 30' 51.937" W13° 59' 26.295"**

Stórirurð boulders is one of Iceland's most spectacular sights and has gained more popularity amongst hikers in recent years. The expansive surroundings offer plenty to see and experience; blue-green ponds contrast with flat, vegetated meadows

surrounded by sheer-sloped and jagged tuff Dyrfjöll mountain peaks. As the name suggests, the area is strewn with many enormous boulders, likely abandoned by retreating glaciers.

Five marked trails lead to and from Stórirurð. Two from Vatnsskarð pass, one from

Njarðvík and two from Borgarfjörður Eystri. Since Stórirurð is located over 400 m above sea level, snow often lingers far into summer so best time for exploring this magnificent area is from mid-July to first appreciable snows of autumn. The hike back and forth takes about 4-5 hours so consider this a day tour.

## Lindarbakki turf house

**N65° 31' 31.362" W13° 48' 33.014"**

Borgarfjörður Eystri is known for its unique beauty and rich history. Lindarbakki, a small, beautiful turf house, has captivated many visitors with its picturesque look. A must see when visiting the village. The house is typical of its time, originally built in 1899 but parts have been rebuilt since.

Borgarfjörður eystri is a fjord with a population of around 130 people, located in East Iceland. Its main settlement is Bakkagerdi. The area is renowned for its natural beauty. Sheep farming, fishing and fish work is the Bakkagerdi's main economy, as well as tourism, though this is only during the summer months.

Borgarfjörður eystri is one of the safest places in Iceland to see puffins. Boardwalks and



The turf houses in Iceland are our architectural heritage, but unfortunately, there are only a few of them left.

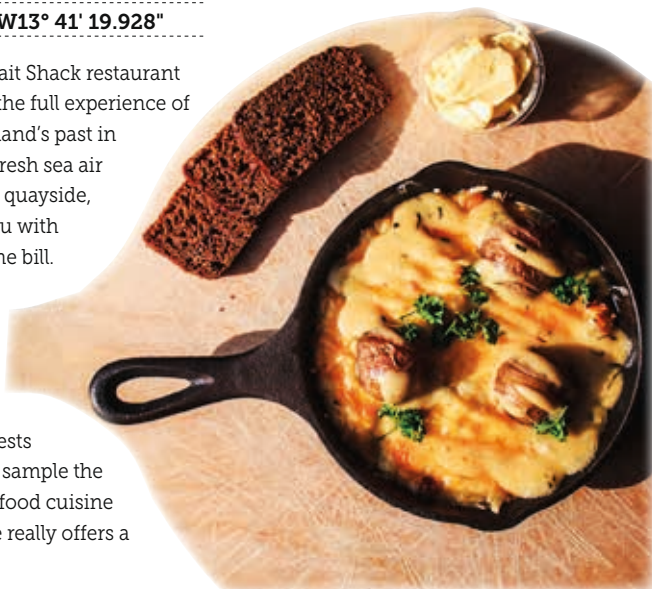
viewing platforms have been erected so that you can get up close to the puffins without damaging their burrows. It is estimated that

10,000 pairs of puffins nest here from mid-April through mid-August.

# Seafood banquet at the Bait Shack!

N65° 8' 55.399" W13° 41' 19.928"

Guests calling at the Bait Shack restaurant in Neskaupstaður get the full experience of the atmosphere of Iceland's past in antique building, the fresh sea air while they dine by the quayside, and not least, the menu with seafood at the top of the bill. Neskaupstaður is the port that sees more fish landed than anywhere else in the country, so it's entirely fitting that guests get the opportunity to sample the best that Icelandic seafood cuisine has to offer. This place really offers a banquet!

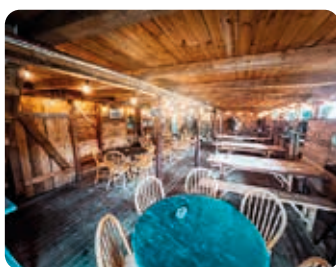


Enjoying a meal on a summer evening at the Bait Shack by the dock is an exceptional experience, bringing together the sea air, the stillness and the mountains. In the past the Bait Shack was where fishermen prepared their lines before going to sea. A few years ago the idea came up that this place would be perfect for a restaurant and the Bait Shack has been popular from day one as a unique venue.

The dock was substantially extended in 2024 and other improvements were also made.

The Bait Shack is in the heart of Neskaupstaður, and is within walking distance of Hótel Hildibrand og the Cliff summer hotel.

[beituskurinn.is](http://beituskurinn.is)



# Seyðisfjörður – Picturesque town in a splendid natural setting



The Church in Seyðisfjörður is one of the most recognisable landmarks in Iceland.

N65° 15' 35.451" W14° 0' 17.643"

Seyðisfjörður is regarded by many as one of Iceland's most picturesque towns, not only due to its impressive environment, but also because nowhere in Iceland has a community of old wooden buildings been preserved so well as here. The local economy has long been based on the fisheries, while light industry also flourishes. Tourism is playing a growing role, as the picturesque town in its spectacular surroundings attracts more and more visitors.

## Museums and festivals

Tourism in Seyðisfjörður has developed with a focus on history, arts and culture. Skaftfell – Center for Visual art, is dedicated to nurturing



The natural surroundings of Seyðisfjörður offer close encounters with steep high mountains and a vast open sea.

and exhibiting visual art, the main emphasis being on contemporary art. Variety of art and culture events do take place in town each summer; LungA festival for young people and Blue Church concert series.

The car/passenger ferry Norrøna, which plies between continental Europe and Iceland every summer, docks at Seyðisfjörður every Thursday. Seyðisfjörður has been a cosmopolitan community from its foundation, and the ferry service has contributed to ensuring that it remains so.

[www.visitseydisfjordur.com](http://www.visitseydisfjordur.com)

# The Eggs in Gleðivík

N64° 39' 44.773" W14° 17' 40.095"

Eggin í Gleðivík (the eggs at Merry Bay) is an outdoor artwork by artist Sigurður Guðmundsson (b. 1942). The artwork has 34 replicas of eggs of nesting birds that nest in the vicinity of Djúpvogur and reflects the strong connection that Djúpvogur has with nature. The work is especially for the site. The eggs stand on concrete pillars that previously supported a landing pipe between the pier and the smelter.



The eggs in Gleðivík are a popular tourist attraction and has become one of Djúpvogur's landmarks.

# BEITUSKÚRINN

## BAIT SHACK

### *Seafood and sea air!*

WELCOME TO NESKAUPSTAÐUR!

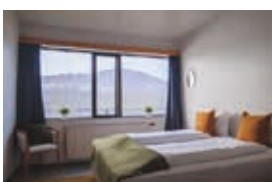


A visit to the Bait Shack is the key experience of your trip to Iceland, offering a restaurant and bar in the romantic setting of the old quayside buildings and the 500 square

meters dock where guests can enjoy a meal to the sound of lapping waves underfoot!

The Bait Shack offers a varied pop-up menu that features

the freshest possible fish at the top of the bill. We focus on Icelandic traditions in our seafood, and reasonable prices.



### **Hótel Hildibrand**

offers 15 apartments of various sizes and five twin rooms.

We also offer accommodation at the Cliff summer hotel with 29 rooms.

Info at [hildibrand@hildibrand.com](mailto:hildibrand@hildibrand.com)  
Find us on Facebook or on our website [www.hildibrand.is](http://www.hildibrand.is)

# The South of Iceland

## *History at every footstep*

The South of Iceland is unique and that part of the country which by far the greatest numbers of foreign visitors come to. Here history follows you at every footstep, there is creative art, culture and flourishing trade and endless possibilities to enjoy the outdoor life in all seasons. Above all there is the awesome and rugged nature from the mountains to the sea.

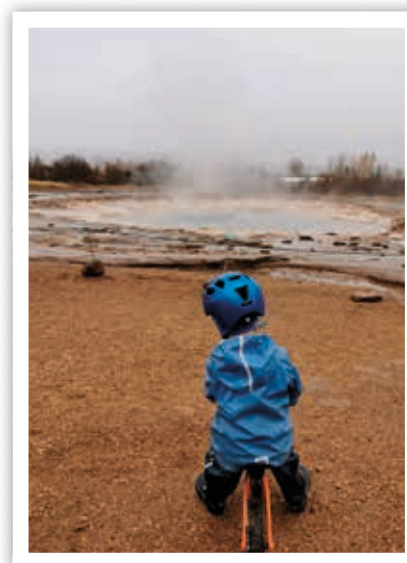
The south of Iceland is a nature traveller's daydream, a sampling of all that is Icelandic, including some of the country's most treasured natural attractions. Many are not far from the capital while others are more adventurously located, requiring 4-wheel-drive vehicles and a map of the southern highlands. Or hiking boots.



[www.south.is](http://www.south.is)

### ■ Useful links

Official travel guide for the area	<a href="http://www.south.is">www.south.is</a>
Tourist information	<a href="http://www.southiceland.is">www.southiceland.is</a>
Pingvellir national park	<a href="http://www.thingvellir.is">www.thingvellir.is</a>
Þórsmörk area	<a href="http://www.thorsmork.is">www.thorsmork.is</a>
Geysir	<a href="http://www.geysircenter.is">www.geysircenter.is</a>
Landmannalaugar highland	<a href="http://www.landmannalaugar.info">www.landmannalaugar.info</a>
Official travel guide to Iceland	<a href="http://www.visiticeland.com">www.visiticeland.com</a>
Promote Iceland	<a href="http://www.islandsstofa.is/en">www.islandsstofa.is/en</a>
Promote Iceland	<a href="http://www.islandsstofa.is/en">www.islandsstofa.is/en</a>





The turf-roofed cottage is the centrepiece of the Museum.

## Skógar's remarkable museum



N63°31'34.2" W19°29'34.8"

Skógar Museum is one of the oldest museum in Iceland and altogether it has more than 18 thousand exhibits. There's

every reason to stop at Skógar Museum when travelling around the country and to take in all the fascinating things to be seen there.

### Cultural heritage through the ages

The Folk Museum is the oldest part of the collection as a whole and it offers three floors of exhibition space. These include maritime, agriculture and natural history sections, including examples of weaving, ancient manuscripts and books, including a Guðbrandur Bible dating from 1584, as well as items dating back to the Viking age. In the Open Air Museum visitors can experience

how Icelanders lived through the centuries in houses made from turf and stone.

### Fascinating Technical Museum

The Technical Museum traces the evolution of transport and technology in Iceland through the 19th and 20th centuries. This covers the changeover from horses to motor vehicles, the development of Iceland's telephone systems, the origins of electricity, the history of the postal services and much more. The Technical Museum also houses a souvenir shop and a café.

[www.skogasafn.is](http://www.skogasafn.is)



The Technical Museum contains vehicles from the early years of Iceland's car era.



The eight-oared Pétursey is among the Museum's most remarkable exhibits.



Seljalandsfoss waterfall is a „do-not-miss“ attraction.

## The waterfall you can walk behind!

**N63° 36' 54.714" W19° 59' 17.799"**

Seljalandsfoss is one of the most famous waterfalls of Iceland. It is very picturesque and therefore its photo can be found in many books and calendars. Seljalandsfoss is

situated between Selfoss and Skógafoss waterfall at the road crossing of the Ring Road with the trail leading into

### Þórsmörk.

This waterfall of the river Seljalandsá drops

60 metres (200 ft) over the cliffs of the former coastline. It is possible to go behind the waterfall. Access to the waterfall is very good. There is plenty of car parking, and footpaths in the surrounding area. Nearby is a good campsite at Hamragarðar.

## Keldur – the oldest existing farmhouse in Iceland

**N63° 49' 20.366" W20° 4' 27.926"**

Keldur is a village in Rangárvellir on Iceland in the region of Suðurland. In the village there is an old manor house and the ruins of an old residence. In the manor, inhabited until 1946, there are some 20 buildings. To the north of the village is the Hekla volcano.

At Keldur you can experience how Icelanders lived in the past. The old turf farm at Keldur is the oldest existing farmhouse in Iceland. Constructed from stone, timber, and portions of turf, this ancient farmhouse can be traced back to the late 12th century. The old farmhouse is connected to an underground tunnel, possibly during a period of conflict. New research indicates that beneath the fields situated across the riverbank, there are undisclosed ruins waiting to be uncovered.

### Opening hours

June 1st – 31st August: Open daily from 10:00 am - 17:00.

Guided tours daily at 11:00 am & 15:00 pm. If you want to book a guided tour for a group, please send an email for further information, [keldur@thjodminjasafn.is](mailto:keldur@thjodminjasafn.is)



There has been a church in Keldur from the earliest times, and served from Odda. The current log church, called Keldnakirkja in Icelandic, was built in 1875.



Svartifoss is an extraordinary waterfall in Skaftafell National Park. cathedral.

## Svartifoss Waterfall in Skaftafell

N64° 1' 38.691" W16° 58' 31.345"

Svartifoss (Black Falls) is a waterfall in Skaftafell in Vatnajökull National Park in Iceland, and is one of the most popular sights in the park. It is surrounded by dark lava columns, which gave rise to its name.

Best period to visit Svartifoss and other waterfalls in Iceland is in summertime. Then all roads are open and temperatures are acceptable and also good for melting snow and ice off of the glaciers.

The base of this waterfall is noteworthy for

its sharp rocks. New hexagonal column sections break off faster than the falling water wears down the edges. These basalt columns have provided inspiration for Icelandic architects, most visibly in the Hallgrímskirkja church in Reykjavík, and also the National Theatre.

## Welcome to Eldheimar – the Westmann Islands' new eruption museum



[www.eldheimar.is](http://www.eldheimar.is) - [eldheimar@vestmannaeyjar.is](mailto:eldheimar@vestmannaeyjar.is) - Tel. +354 488 2000

## The dangerous Reynisfjara beach

N63° 24' 10.512" W19° 2' 36.422"

Reynisfjara is widely known as one of the world's most beautiful beaches. The beach's impressive black sand is made of ash from nearby volcanic eruptions. The stark contrast between the black sand and the white-tipped waves is mesmerizing. The beach is also known for its photogenic basalt columns, formed from the cooling of lava flows, resulting in their iconic hexagonal shape. If that's not enough, Reynisdrangar sea stacks stand tall in the ocean just off the coast, giving the area an ethereal and otherworldly feel.

Please keep in mind that although Reynisfjara black sand beach shares its stunning beauty, visitors must be aware of the sea currents and sneaker waves at



The waves at Reynisfjara are deceiving and have caused the death of a number of visitors in recent years.

Reynisfjara beach. To make sure that visitors return home safely they must never

turn their back on the ocean and supervise children at Reynisfjara beach.

## Skógar Museum SKÓGASAFN



*The Skógar Museum is one of the oldest Museum in Iceland.*

*It is divided into three parts: a Folk Museum, an Open Air Museum and a Technical Museum with a variety of exhibits on its 2500 square metre area.*



*Technical Museum traces the history of transport and technological development in Iceland through the 19th and 20th centuries.*

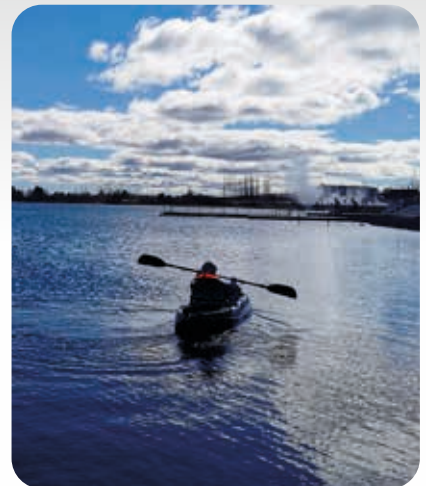
**Opening times:**

June, July and August 09:00-18:00 // September-May 10:00-17:00

Tel. 487 8845 [www.skogasafn.is](http://www.skogasafn.is) Safnavegur 1, 861 Skógar Iceland

# Uppsveitir District - Golden Circle

## Natural wonders and historical sites



- Borg
- Sólheimar
- Laugarás
- Brautarholt

- Flúðir
- Reykholt
- Laugarvatn
- Árnes

- Þingvellir
- Geysir
- Gullfoss
- Þjórsárdalur



Bláskógabyggð



Hrunamannahreppur



Grímsnes- og  
Grafningshreppur



Skeiða- og  
Gnúpverjahreppur



The volcano museum in the Westmann Islands has been highly rated by visitors.

### Opening:

1th May until 30th September:

Open daily from  
11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

## Eldheimar volcano museum Vestmannaeyjar

# An incredible journey!

Eldheimar in the Westmann Islands is devoted to the 1973 volcanic eruption and the process of rebuilding afterwards. The centrepiece of the exhibition is the house at Gerðisbraut 10 that was buried beneath the ashfall nearly fifty years ago and which has not been touched since. It provides a moving display of how this natural disaster affected people's homes and Eldheimar

shows just how significant a threat the eruption was to the future habitation of the Westmann Islands.

Other significant volcanic activity is also part of the Eldheimar exhibition, including the Surtsey eruption that started in 1963 and lasted almost four years. Following the eruption, Surtsey was declared a protected

nature reserve, which gave the scientific community its first opportunity to observe how new life and a new ecosystem appear. Surtsey is on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

[www.eldheimar.is](http://www.eldheimar.is)



Kristín Jóhannsdóttir, the museum's director.



Gerðisbraut 6 was an ordinary house that was buried under the ash of the Westmann Islands eruption and is now the centrepiece of the Eldheimar exhibition devoted to the 1973 eruption and the 1963 Surtsey eruption.



The northern lights over Jökulsárlón are a magnificent spectacle.

## Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon

N64° 2' 52.473" W16° 10' 45.666"

Jökulsárlón is a glacial lagoon by the ring road and was recently designated as a part of Vatnajökull National Park. Its still blue waters are a sight not to be missed, as it is dotted with icebergs from the edge of Breiðamerkurjökull, a part of the Vatnajökull glacier.

The lagoon is accessible from the beach all year round, and so is the

café on the banks of Jökulsárlón. During the summer, the national park offers interpretive tours with a ranger. Check for information on the park homepage or social media.

A word of warning - don't jump onto the ice floating in the lagoon. Some tourists think it's okay to do it, but it is dangerous to play, and the ice can capsize, leaving you stuck beneath it in the ice-cold water. So let's be very careful here!

## Hvolsvöllur Sport Center

### Opening hours

*Okt 1st to Apr 30th*

Mon - Fri: 6:00-21:00

Sat - Sun: 10:00-17:00

*May 1st to Sept 30th*

Mon - Fri: 6:00-21:00

Sat - Sun: 10:00-19:00

Hvolsvöllur Sport Center

Vallarbraut 16

Tel. 488 4295



# The magnificent Lómagnúpur

N63° 57' 23.410" W17° 29' 18.167"

Lómagnúpur mountain is a 688 metres high mountain located between the Kirkjubæjarklaustur village and Skaftafell



Lómagnúpur Mountain is amongst the most photographed natural wonders in Iceland.

area. The surroundings are renowned for their spectacular beauty, stretching from the black sand beaches of the south shore, all the way to Vatnajökul Glacier. Volcanoes, glaciers, and lakes have been woven together to form a varied landscape that can only be said to be extraordinary from a geological perspective. Lómagnúpur is part of the Núpsstaður Farmlands which is on the list of protected national heritage sites in Iceland.



Þuríðarbúð is always open for visitors and the entrance is free of charge.

## Hvolsvöllur: The center of Njál's saga

N63° 45' 2.842" W20° 13' 25.995"

There is nothing quite like a swim in the geothermal pools in Iceland and Hvolsvöllur in Rangarþing eystra has one of the best in Southern Iceland. Don't miss out on the sauna and hot tubs as well (included in the admission ticket).

Hvolsvöllur is a vast district in central South Iceland and ranges from the highlands to the sea. The area boasts a great number of

geological wonders and is also known for its many beautiful nature scenes like the waterfalls, Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss, Þórsörk, a paradise for hikers and the famous volcano Eyjafjallajökull.

At Hvolsvöllur visit The LAVA centre, opened in 2017, which is an interactive, high-tech educational exhibition depicting volcanic activity, earthquakes and the creation of Iceland.



Hvolsvöllur swimming pool is one of the best in Southern Iceland. Don't miss out on the sauna and hot tubs as well!

## Þuríðar's cottage in Stokkseyri

N63° 50' 3.988" W21° 3' 35.230"

Þuríðar's cottage was rebuilt in 1949 in Stokkseyri but cottages such as this were numerous all along the coastline in the past. They were the shelters of the crews, where they lived, slept and ate during the winter fishing season. Þuríðarbúð was erected in memory of Þuríður Einarsdóttir and old working procedures. Þuríður was a woman, born 1777 died 1863, who was captain in 50 years.

Stokkseyri, pop. 559 is a charming village renowned for its beautiful seashore, breaking ocean waves and birdlife, and rich in handicrafts and culture. Workshops, galleries, Ghost Center, and the Elves and Northern Lights Museum are all located in a Cultural Centre, Menningarverstöðin, an old fish processing factory that has found a new role due to changes in the fishing industry.

# Uppsveitir District – Golden Circle



Gullfoss.



Laugarvatn.

The region offers numerous interesting destinations to visit, natural wonders, historical sites and some little-known hidden gems. Everyone knows Thingvellir National Park, Gullfoss waterfall and Geysir hotspring area. Other popular places are Kerið volcanic crater, Lake Úlfljótsvatn, Brúarhlöð canyon, Haukadalur woods, Lake Laugarvatn and the historical site Skálholt.

The district offers a great many opportunities for outdoor experience and relaxation.

There is a wide range of activities for the whole family to enjoy: horse riding, fishing, bird watching, exploring caves, walking trails, river rafting and snowmobile trips. Petting zoo, paintballing, an adrenaline park, galleries, museums, golf courses and variety of nice warm swimming pools and geothermal baths.

Throughout the district are pleasant villages and communities to visit. Most of them started developing when geothermal activity was discovered in the area; Flúðir, Laugarvatn, Reykholt, Laugarás, Borg and Sólheimar eco-village. The villages offer a variety of services and are worth exploring to find interesting experiences and enjoy.

The area is rich of geothermal energy which is used to grow vegetables in greenhouses, to heat houses and pools. There is a long tradition for baking bread in the geothermal areas, using the steam or boiling water from the geysers. Numerous restaurants are to be found in the area many of which specialize in local food and ingredients and some offer special food experience. Farmers markets sell gourmet products direct from the farms. All types of accommodation is available so there should be something to suit everyone's needs. There is always something new and exciting to be found in this unique part of Iceland.



The Golden Circle / circles.



Strokkur.



Flúðir.



Kerið.

# The Reykjanes Peninsula

*The first step into a wonderland*



[www.visitreykjanes.is](http://www.visitreykjanes.is)

Reykjanes Peninsula is most often the beginning of a traveller's Iceland adventure. As the Reykjanes coastline draws closer and the plane prepares to land at Keflavík Airport, the wrinkled lava, naked hills and mountains, yawning craters, spirals of geothermal steam and virtually treeless environment are probably an exciting contrast to memories of home.

Iceland is a nature paradise, and Reykjanes is a cross section of all that is Iceland. It is the first step into a wonderland, a region that beckons to be explored and enjoyed, that has its own geological drama, its own personality.

Reykjanes is your corridor into and out of Iceland, a place you must experience, a place where there is so much to experience.

## ■ Useful links

<a href="http://www.visitreykjanes.is">Tourist site for the area</a>	<a href="http://www.visitreykjanes.is">www.visitreykjanes.is</a>
<a href="http://www.visitgrindavik.is">Grindavík tourist site</a>	<a href="http://www.visitgrindavik.is">www.visitgrindavik.is</a>
<a href="http://www.vikingworld.is">Viking World</a>	<a href="http://www.vikingworld.is">www.vikingworld.is</a>
<a href="http://www.bluelagoon.com">Blue Lagoon</a>	<a href="http://www.bluelagoon.com">www.bluelagoon.com</a>
<a href="http://www.visiticeland.com">Official travel guide to Iceland</a>	<a href="http://www.visiticeland.com">www.visiticeland.com</a>
<a href="http://www.islandsstofa.is/en">Promote Iceland</a>	<a href="http://www.islandsstofa.is/en">www.islandsstofa.is/en</a>



Photos: [www.visitreykjanes.is](http://www.visitreykjanes.is)



# Gunnuhver – Iceland's largest mud pool

**N63° 49' 11.500" W22° 41' 14.623"**

Iceland's largest mud pool at present prominent, highest up in the Gunnuhver group, close to Reykjanes lighthouse, are collectively named Gunnuhver after a female ghost that was laid there. She had caused great disturbance until a priest set a trap for her and she fell into the spring. This happened about 400 years ago. It is 20 meters wide across a rim of mud, boiling vigorously.



The lightsignal at Reykjanes lighthouse is 69 meters above sealevel but the actual height of the lighthouse is 26 metres. incanation!

## Reykjanes Lighthouse and its surroundings

**N63° 48' 54.266" W22° 42' 11.934"**

On rocky coastlines such as those you find in Iceland, unseen hazards in the water can prove disastrous for ships and smaller boats. Over the centuries, many have foundered on the rocks and protecting the lives and livelihoods of mariners is a priority as a result. This situation has led to the construction of numerous lighthouses around the country's shores.

The oldest of these working lighthouses is the Reykjanes lighthouse. It replaced a short lived structure that had been erected at Valahnúkur in 1878. Unfortunately, it had only stood for a few years before the shaking by earthquakes irreparably damaged it and the sea took its toll. Luckily, the same fate hasn't befallen the current Reykjanes lighthouse, which dates from 1908.



Gunnuhver stands in the heart of the Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark where the North Atlantic ridge rises from the ocean.

Two ramps are located at the Gunnuhver group, on close to Gunnuhver itself where you can look down to the spring and hear the vigorous noise, see the boiling water and feel the power bursting from the ground. The other ramp is located on Kísilhóll, a silica hill. From there you have a good view over Gunnuhver group and surroundings.

Gunnuhver is the heart in a future geopark where the North Atlantic ridge is rising from the ocean, you find 100 different craters and lava, bird cliffs, high geothermal area, sand beach, The Bridge Between Continents, powerplant, lighthouses and exhibitions amongst other things.



The present church on Kálfatjörn was built in 1892-93 and consecrated June 11th 1893.

## Kálfatjörn Church

**N64° 0' 55.905" W22° 17' 42.500"**

Kálfatjörn is a former farm, parsonage and church site in the Vatnsleysa County but first mention of a church on Kálfatjörn can be dated to the year 1200. It was a parsonage until 1907, when the parish was united with the Gardar parish of the Kjalarnes deanery. During catholic times, the church was dedicated to St Peter.

The current church on Kálfatjörn was consecrated in 1893 and was the largest rural church in the country when it was built. Guðmundur Jakobsson designed the church and was the carpenter, but the woodwork and carving by Þorkell Jónsson, a farmer in Móakot. The altarpiece is a replica of the Cathedral table and was painted by Sigurður Guðmundsson in 1866 and shows the resurrection.

# The Krísuvík geothermal area

**N63° 52' 9.919" W22° 3' 21.346"**

Krísuvík is an ancient parish south of the Kleifarvatn lake. Location: By road 42. 1 km west of Grænavatn which is 3 km south-west of Kleifarvatn.

Originally the Krýsuvík settlement was further west, above the bay now known as Hælsvík, and which may have been known as Krýsuvík in ancient times. The settlement was moved when the Ögmundarhraun lava flowed over much of its pastures. Part of the ruins of the settlement can still be seen at Húshólmar, which is accessible with a 4x4 vehicle and a short walk.

Much of the geothermal area lies in the Krýsuvík district at Seltún. At one time there was exploratory drilling there in the hope of locating steam energy for Hafnarfjörður and the neighbouring municipalities, but the results were not encouraging. Drilling was ended in 1950. The main shaft, 230 metres deep, was blocked in 1999 and exploded ten

days later, leaving a 30 metre wide crater.

For a while, sulphur was mined there, which

was transported to Hafnarfjörður and shipped abroad.



Krísuvík is a popular recreational destination with many interesting hiking paths.

## Night of Lights – cultural and family festival

Night of Lights, Reykjanesbær's cultural and family festival, was held for the first time in 2000 and was Reykjanesbær's contribution to Reykjavík, the city of culture in 2000. The festival was dedicated to lighting the sea hammers of the "Bergsin" and derives its name from that event.

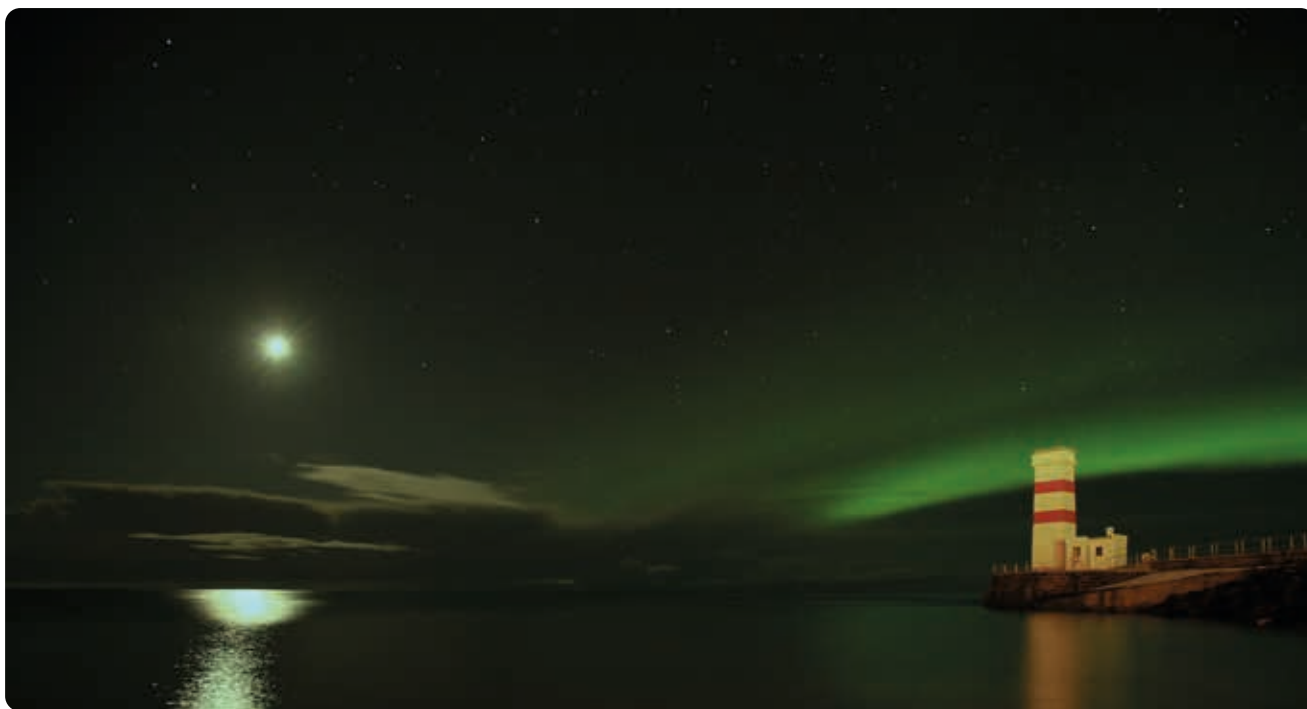
Night of Light is held on the first weekend in September every year, and the focus is on extensive events from Thursday to Sunday, although the festival sometimes extends beyond that framework. It always reaches its peak on Saturday evening with a big concert on the outdoor stage, the illumination of the Berg and a spectacular fireworks display.

Various regular events characterize the festival, including an opening ceremony where the children of the town play a central role, the opening of new art exhibitions organized by the Reykjanesbær Art Museum and exhibitions throughout the town.

[www.ljosanott.is/en](http://www.ljosanott.is/en)



The festival Night of Light in Reykjanesbær takes place on the weekend of the first Saturday in September.



Garðskagi lighthouse is a popular destination to view the Northern lights.

## Northern Lights at Reykjanes Peninsula

Hunting for the northern lights is one of the most popular activities during the winter. The Reykjanes Peninsula is a popular destination to view the Northern lights as the region has some of the most spectacular locations with low light pollution. Good viewing spots for the Aurora Borealis are in

the Krýsuvík area, Bridge Between Continents, Garðskagi and Kálfatjarnakirkja.

In order to maximise your chance to see the Northern Lights you can follow this checklist:

- Visit between September and April
- It must be as dark as possible, for example a full moon will dim the Northern lights
- Go to a place with low light pollution
- Clear sky or very little clouds
- Enough solar activity

## Hvalsneskirkja: a beautifully restored church

**N63° 59' 26.358" W22° 43' 59.055"**

The church at Hvalsnes was consecrated in 1887. The church is preserved and is completely built of carved stone collected from the local plentiful area of rock. All of the wood in the interior was collected from the shores nearby.

Hallgrímur Pétursson, Iceland's most revered clergyman, had his first parish at Hvalsneskirkja, 5 km (3 miles) south of Sandgerði. Hallgrímur's only child, Steinunn Hallgrímsdóttir, died here in 1649, profoundly affecting his religious mission. Her gravestone was found in 1964 when the church's stone walkway was built. It now sits near the altar of the beautifully restored church, its crude lettering remarkably intact.



The church at Hvalsnes was built with basaltic lava stones in 1886-1887.

# The Capital Area

## Center of fun and adventure



Reykjavík Capital Area must be on the must-do list of anyone looking for fun and adventure in a world of Spa wellness. It has most of the advantages of big-city life and virtually none of the disadvantages.

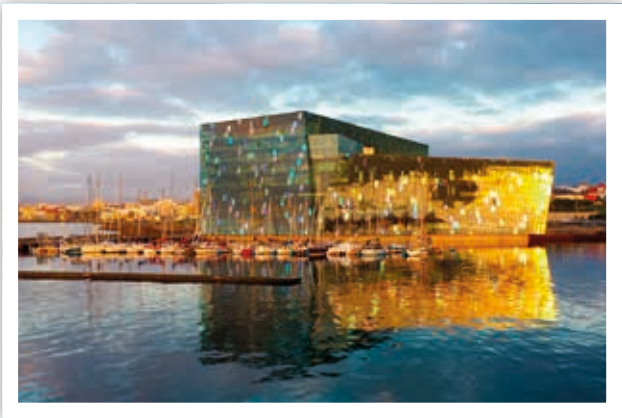
Comprised of six municipalities – Reykjavík, Hafnarfjörður, Kópavogur, Garðabær, Mosfellsbær and Seltjarnarnes – the Capital Area is the hub of the Icelandic nation. It is where about two-thirds of country's population of 370,000 live and work, and exists in close harmony with pristine nature and renewable energy resources.

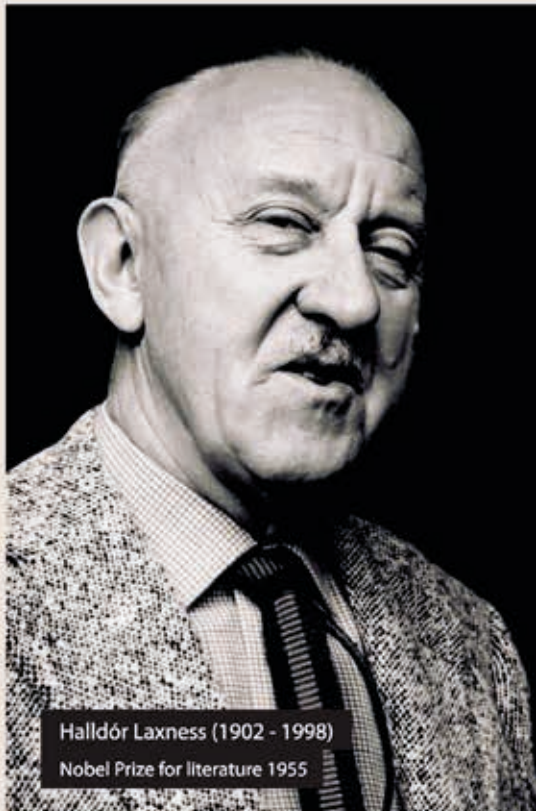
It is the biggest little metropolitan area in the world, a good-time environment with plenty of healthy oomph to spare – and share. It's Pure Energy.

[www.visitreykjavik.is](http://www.visitreykjavik.is)

### ■ Useful links

Public buses	<a href="http://www.bus.is">www.bus.is</a>
Harpa Concert Hall	<a href="http://www.harpa.is">www.harpa.is</a>
National Museum of Iceland	<a href="http://www.natmus.is">www.natmus.is</a>
National Gallery of Iceland	<a href="http://www.listasafn.is">www.listasafn.is</a>
Kópavogur Art Museum	<a href="http://www.gerdarsafn.is">www.gerdarsafn.is</a>
Reykjavík Art Museum	<a href="http://www.artmuseum.is">www.artmuseum.is</a>
Icelandic National Theatre	<a href="http://www.leikhusid.is">www.leikhusid.is</a>
Airwaves Festival	<a href="http://www.airwaves.is">www.airwaves.is</a>
Reykjavík Arts Festival	<a href="http://www.listahatid.is">www.listahatid.is</a>





Halldór Laxness (1902 - 1998)  
Nobel Prize for literature 1955

# Gljúfrasteinn

LAXNESS MUSEUM

*Laxness*

Gljúfrasteinn – Laxness museum is located in Mosfellsbær on the way to Þingvellir national park; only 20 minutes drive from the centre of Reykjavík.

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.



## VISITING THE MUSEUM

Our audio tours of the house take about 25 minutes and are available in five languages: **Icelandic, English, Swedish, Danish and German.**

House concerts are held every Sunday at 16.00 from June – August. Unique atmosphere where guests can expect to hear classical and modern music by excellent musicians.

A selection of Laxness's books in various languages, containing the official stamp of the museum are on sale in the museum shop at the reception.

The museum garden is open to visitors. Pleasant walks can be made from the garden around the vicinity and down to the small river that runs by the house. It is also possible to picnic in the garden.



## ADMISSION AND OPENING HOURS 2024

Adults  
Children age 6-18  
Seniors

ISK 1.500,-  
Free  
ISK 1.200,-

**June 1st – August 31st**  
Open every day 10.00-17.00

### Concerts

Gljúfrasteinn hosts concerts every Sunday at 16.00 from June-August 2024

Gljúfrasteinn – Laxness museum  
P.O. Box 250  
270 Mosfellsbær  
Tel. + 354 586 8066  
[gljufrasteinn@gljufrasteinn.is](mailto:gljufrasteinn@gljufrasteinn.is)  
[www.gljufrasteinn.is](http://www.gljufrasteinn.is)  
[facebook.com/gljufrasteinn](https://facebook.com/gljufrasteinn)  
[instagram.com/gljufrasteinn](https://instagram.com/gljufrasteinn)



From the Hallgrímskirkja bell tower, the houses look like Lego pieces.

## Colourful houses in Reykjavik

Reykjavík is a small city, the northest capital in the world. What Reykjavík lacks in size it makes up for in character and colour. The houses of downtown Reykjavík keep charming visitors and these diverse colour schemes take place on the corrugated iron plates that clad the old timber houses, built in the years 1870-1915, in particular.

Icelanders started importing corrugated iron from England in the mid-1800's. The locals then quickly learned that the corrugated iron made for highly effective insulation and durable building material in the harsh Icelandic climate. It also became a solution to the shortage of timber construction materials given that there is no forest in Iceland.

## Tjörnin Pond

Whether it's frozen to perfection like a frosted mirror or dressed in the dazzling shades of summer, Tjörnin pond is enchanting in any season and one of Reykjavík's most photographed attractions.

Tjörnin, which is dramatically framed by numerous beautifully coloured old houses, is a natural pond and home to countless ducks, swans and geese that even stay for the entire winter season thanks to a little geothermal heating. Apart from being a great place to frame a photograph, it's also a great place to wander and a popular destination for families in Reykjavík, who are often seen feeding bread to the bustling birdlife.



Tjörnin, or "The Pond", has since long become an integral part of the Reykjavík city life.



The electricity for the Imagine Peace Tower comes entirely from Reykjavik Energy, which produces the electricity from geothermal power.

## The Imagine Peace Tower

The Imagine Peace Tower is a memorial to John Lennon from his widow, Yoko Ono, located on Viðey Island in Kollafjörður Bay near Reykjavik. It consists of a tall tower of light, projected from a white stone monument that has the words „Imagine Peace“ carved into it in 24 languages. It appears every year and is visible from

October 9th (John's birthday) until December 8th (the anniversary of his death).

The light tower is composed of a number of individual lights that join together to form a single beam. Six of the lights travel through corridors across a platform that surrounds the well and are reflected upwards to the sky

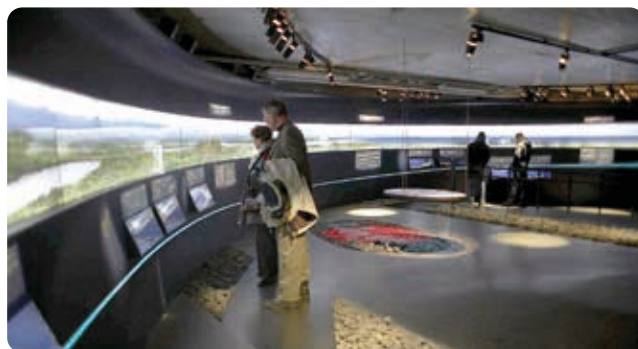
with mirrors. An additional nine lights shine straight up to the sky, strengthening the tower of light. The strength, intensity and brilliance of the light tower continually change as particles in the air fluctuate with the changing weather and atmospheric conditions unique to Iceland.

## The Settlement Exhibition

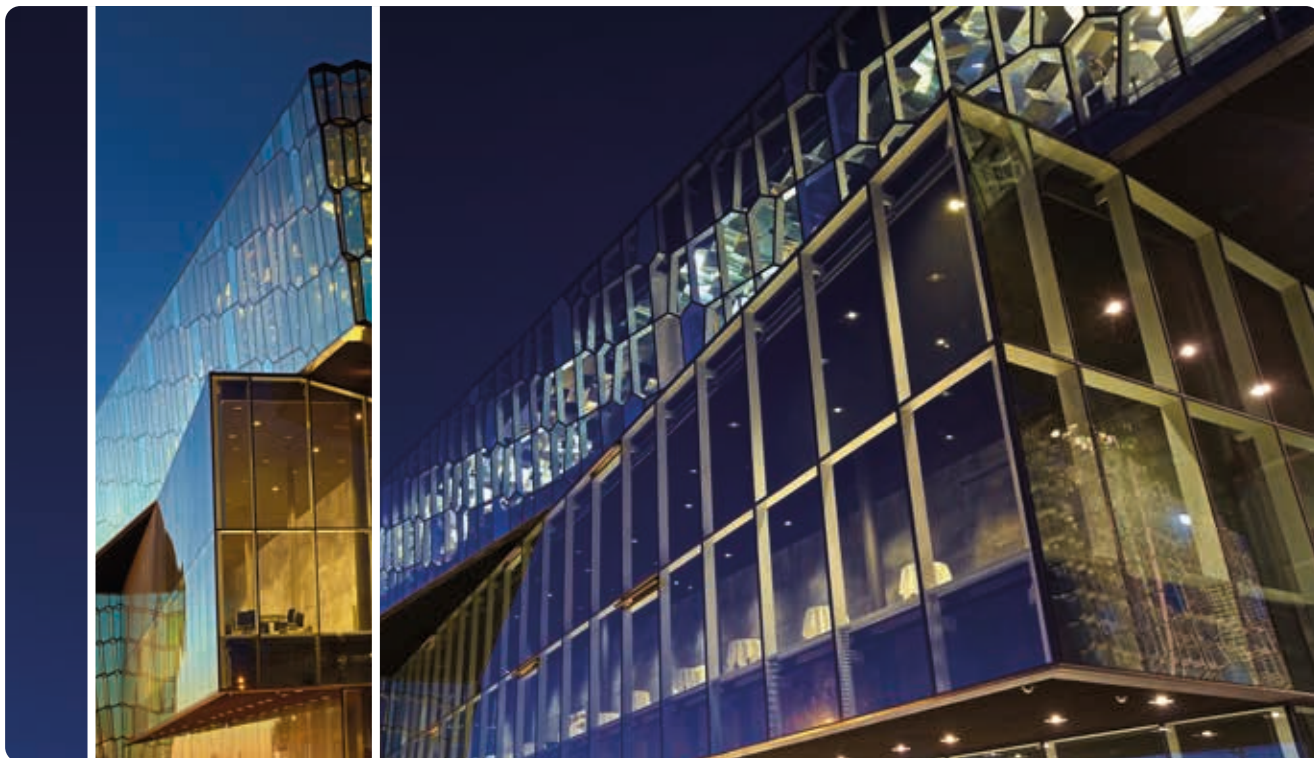
The Settlement Exhibition - Reykjavik 871± 2 in Aðalstræti 16 in Reykjavik deals with the settlement of Reykjavik. The exhibition is based on scholars theories on what the heritage sites in central Reykjavik can tell us about the life and work of the first settlers. The focus of the exhibition is the remains of a hall from the Settlement Age which was excavated in 2001. The hall was inhabited from 930-1000. North of the hall are two pieces of turf, remnants of wall which was clearly built shortly before 871. This is one of the oldest man-made structures so far found in Iceland. Also on display are objects from the Viking age found in central Reykjavik and the island of Videy.

### Opening Hours:

Mon - Sun: 10.00am - 5.00pm



The focus of the exhibition is the remains of a hall from the Settlement Age which was excavated in 2001.



## Harpa – everyone's house

**Harpa**, Reykjavík's concert and conference centre, is designed by Batterið Architects and Danish architecture company Henning Larsen.

**The Harpa name** was announced at a ceremony on 11th December 2009.

**The glass shell** of the building is designed by Ólafur Eliasson.

**The Iceland Symphony Orchestra and the Icelandic Opera** are both based at Harpa, which is also home to the Reykjavík Big Band and Máxímús Músíkúsi!

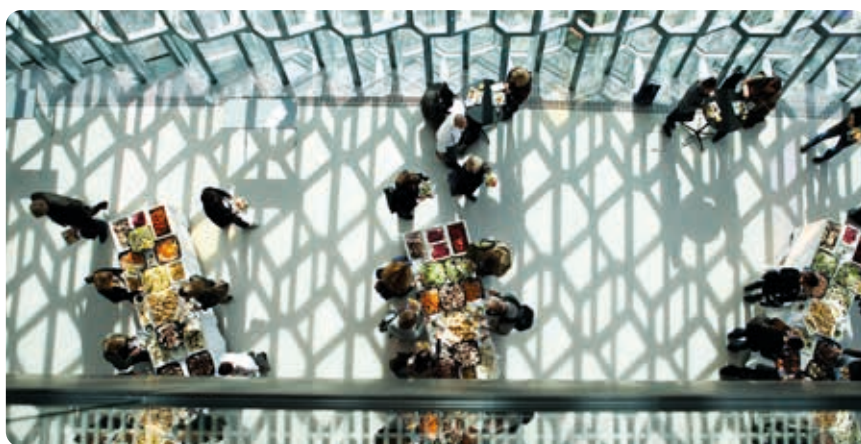
**The largest hall** in the building, Eldborg, can seat 1600-1800 people.

**The first musical work** performed at Harpa was Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy.

**Altogether** there are 19 air conditioning units within Harpa that together pump 214,000 cubic metres per hour.

**The building** measures 28,000 square metres and stands 43 metres high.

[www.visitreykjavik.is](http://www.visitreykjavik.is)



# Check the Road Conditions!

Before you embark on your drive around Iceland, especially in the wintertime, you need to check out what the road conditions are like and which roads are closed.

The Icelandic Road and Coastal Administration (IRCA) provides regular information on both road conditions and the weather on the web-site, [www.trafficinfo.is](http://www.trafficinfo.is), where you will find an interactive map of Iceland in English.

The map gives information on what state the roads are in; whether they are clear, slippery, snowed under, or even closed. Automatic weather stations with traffic counters are located in various areas, providing up-to-date information on conditions in each place, temperature and wind speed, as well as how many cars have passed through the road in the last 10 minutes and from midnight.

On [trafficinfo.is](http://trafficinfo.is) you will also find over 200 live cameras, where you can see for yourself what the conditions are. You can also find information on Twitter ([Vegagerðin | Iceland Roads](#)).

If you have trouble getting on-line, you can call IRCA's Traffic

Service on 1777, which also gives information on conditions and weather.

The phone service is open from 6:30 am to 10:00 pm during the wintertime, and from 06:30 am to 8:00 pm in the summer.



[www.trafficinfo.is](http://www.trafficinfo.is)



## Drive safely

Check [trafficinfo.is](http://trafficinfo.is)

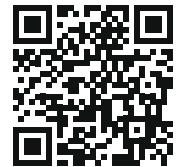
Call 1777

**Vegagerðin**  
Icelandic Road and Coastal  
Administration, IRCA  
[@vegagerdin](#)





Gljúfrasteinn Laxness Museum is located on the Golden Circle route on the way to Þingvellir, only 20 minutes away from Reykjavik.



## Gljúfrasteinn-Laxness museum:

# The home and workplace of a Nobel Prize winner

Gljúfrasteinn-Laxness museum in the valley of Mosfellsdalur is only 20 minutes away from Reykjavik on the way to Thingvellir

national park. 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 is open to the public as a museum, unchanged from when Laxness lived there.



The home of Laxness and his family is open to the public as a museum, unchanged from when Laxness lived there.

Halldór Laxness (1902-1998) stands head and shoulders above the other Icelandic writers of the 20th century and his books have been translated into 43 languages and published in more than 500 editions. His first book *Barn náttúrunnar* was published 1919 when Laxness was only 17 years old.

Tours of the house are available in Icelandic, English, German, Swedish and Danish, and an illustrated guide in French. For further information or booking of tours tel: 586 8066 or e-mail: [gljufrasteinn@gljufrasteinn.is](mailto:gljufrasteinn@gljufrasteinn.is)

[www.gljufrasteinn.is](http://www.gljufrasteinn.is)

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