

OUTDOORS

– exploring the blue island
2025

West Iceland

The Westfjords

North Iceland

East Iceland

South Iceland

The Reykjanes peninsula

The Capital Area

FREE
COPY

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
- 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

- 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

- 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
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ISSN 1670-892x

Distributed to tourist
information centres
around Iceland.

June 2025.

Publisher:
Ritform ehf.
Brekkuþróð 4
605 Akureyri

Designer:
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Cover image:
Joyful riding tour at
Skorrahestar, East Iceland.

Printing: Ísafold.





We Welcome You All Around Iceland

Fish & chips

Delicious Icelandic cod



Coffee & croissant

Treat yourself



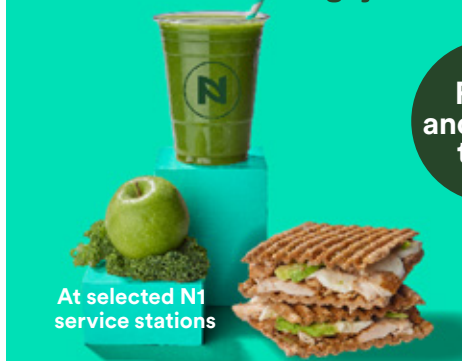
Lamb soup

Traditional Icelandic meal



Nesti

Ferskt
og fljótt



At selected N1
service stations

Fresh
and ready
to go



At selected N1
service stations



Electric vehicles

Power up at N1

You never have to run out of electricity when travelling Iceland. Power up your electric vehicle at N1's rapid charging stations in 11 locations in Iceland.

With **95 locations** around Iceland, N1 is always nearby. Find your nearest location and plan your trip at www.n1.is/en.



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

■ Useful links

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



The beautiful Vatnshellir Cave

The cave Vatnshellir is a 100 m long lava-cave in the south slopes of Purkhólahraun lava flow, 10 minutes drive west of Arnarstapi and 25 minutes south of Hellissandur. A spiral staircase has been put into the cave to enable access but entrance is only allowed with guides from the National Park.

We recommend booking online as soon as you have decided you want to go, tours regularly sell out and availability can be limited. Warm clothing is necessary and gloves recommended. Helmets and headlights are provided. A cave tour takes about 45 minutes. Don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions: Phone +354 787 0001 or Email info@summitguides.is

www.summitguides.is



Exploring Vatnshellir Cave is truly an amazing and unforgettable experience.

Glanni Waterfall

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.

You can find the Glanni Waterfall in western Iceland, about 20 km northeast of the town of Borgarnes, close to the Ring Road and near the Grábrók crater. 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.



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

■ WHAT TO DO?

There are swimming pools all over West Iceland large ones and small ones, and all are heated. Most are outdoor pools but a few are indoors. Extremely popular with locals and visitors alike, Icelandic pools are open throughout the year.

In West Iceland you can find a lot of beautiful, breathtaking Waterfalls in various sizes and shapes.

West Iceland is one big Sagaland with many resting places and services dedicated to telling the stories of the settlement

of West Iceland. You can also experience a troll walk, numerous amount of jumping balloons and playing grounds that make the trip for the kids unforgettable and exciting.

West Iceland has many possibilities to offer for you to stay and enjoy, refresh body and soul and get a deeply relaxed.

Most populated areas in West Iceland have at least one pub and the more populated areas have more pubs and also some clubs, ranging in price and quality.

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.



Flatey island draws in a number of tourists every year and has a hotel, guest house and one restaurant.

Beautiful Flatey island

The beautifully preserved town on the island of Flatey bears witness to the prosperity and optimism prevalent in the area around 1900. The largest amongst a myriad of islands, it was formerly a centre

for commerce in the Breiðafjörður bay; it also had a large fishing dock.

The island has a hotel, guesthouse and a restaurant, with daily ferry trips from

Stykkishólmur on the Snæfellsnes peninsula and Brjánslækur in the Westfjords.



Arnarstapi is a truly magical place, like so many places in Snæfellsnes peninsula.

The beautiful Arnarstapi

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The island has a hotel, guesthouse and a restaurant, with daily ferry trips from Stykkishólmur on the Snæfellsnes peninsula and Brjánslækur in the Westfjords.

Guðrúnarlaug pool in Dalir Region

Named after the well known Guðrún Ósvífursdóttir from the settlement age, Guðrúnarlaug has over 1.000 years of history. This pool is one of the places mentioned in Laxdæla Saga, making this a must-see spot for the fans of the settlement sagas.

Guðrun Osvífursdóttir was born (973AD) and brought up at Laugar. It is said that she

used the hot water pool there a lot and also met there her followers Kjartan and Bolli. The pool is believed to have been destroyed in a landslide. In 2009 a new pool was built near to the location where the old pool is thought to have been situated and named Guðrunarlaug. Therefore visitors to day can dip into this natural pool free of charge, just like Guðrún did!



Guðrúnarlaug pool is one of the places mentioned in Laxdæla, making this a must-see spot for the fans of the settlement sagas.

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
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.

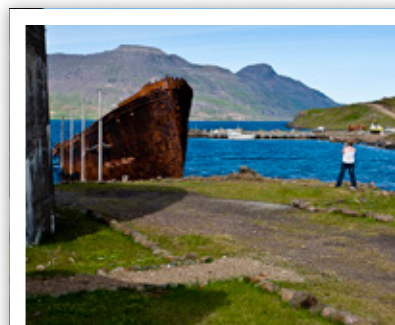
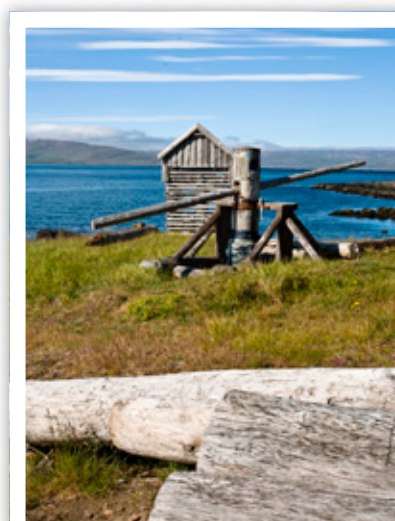
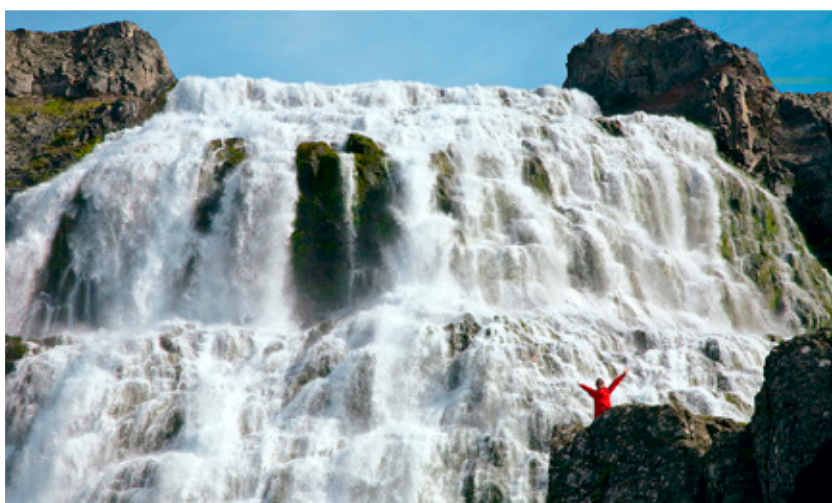
The northwest tip of the Westfjords is Hornstrandir, a now uninhabited 600-km² nature reserve of inspired natural beauty and undisturbed wildlife where nature lives in peace with itself. It is truly a privilege to experience such splendour.



www.westfjords.is

■ Useful links

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





The historical village of Djúpavík dates back to 1917, when a herring factory was established.



Hotel Djúpavík is run in an 100-year-old building, rebuilt in 1985.

Djúpavík – untouched by modern

Djúpavík is a sheltered bay in the Strandir district of northwest Iceland. It is a remote region, largely untouched by modern developments where silence reigns and nature continues to shape a rugged, mountainous landscape. Djúpavík leapt to

fame in the 1930s when a group of businessmen built a herring factory in the bay.

Djúpavík Hotel is a building that was formerly the living quarters for women

working in a herring processing factory that was built in the bay but fell into disuse many years ago.

www.djupavik.com

Ósvör Maritime Museum

The Ósvör Maritime Museum is located beside the road into Bolungarvík, town 415. The museum consists of a replica of a 19th century double fishing booth, salt-shed, fish drying platform and a fish drying shed. It also has on display the fishing boat Ölver that represents the type of boats that were used for fishing at earlier times.

The museum gives a realistic picture of the accommodation offered to fishermen of the 19th century, during the harsh winter fishing seasons. Dressed in the traditional protective clothing, made of skin, the curator guides visitors around the museum, offering a unique glimpse of a long gone past.



The Ósvör Maritime Museum gives a realistic picture of the accommodation offered to fishermen of the 19th century.

■ WHAT TO DO?

There is plenty of wildlife in the Westfjords but most visitors get excited over the arctic foxes, whales and birdlife.

There are many places in the Westfjords of Iceland that are ideal for bird watching. Látrarbjarg cliff is the largest bird cliff in Europe and gives you fantastic views over the puffins.

The Westfjords are small, with not that many people but of course we have a professional theater!

The Westfjords are of course known for their amazing fish, but there is so much more to the region regarding food and local produce. Visit the local brewery and taste the local seaweed beer, try the sea harvested, geothermal salt or see the chocolatier in Súðavík.

Kayaking is an exhilarating experience, the Westfjords have sheltered fjords and are for that reason excellent for sea kayaking.

The North of Iceland

A true natural paradise



www.northiceland.is

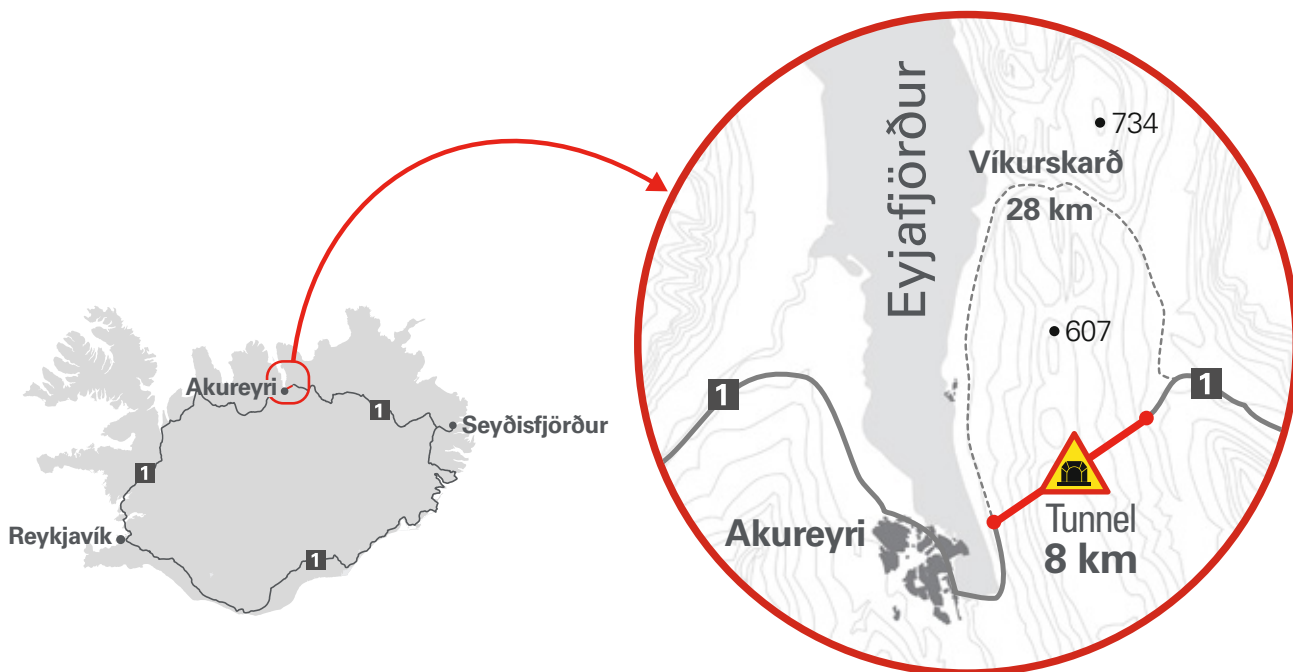
The north of Iceland is a true natural paradise, offering a multitude of adventurous activities, attracting people of all ages. From the country's largest geothermal fields to beautiful islands exuding folklore and one of Iceland's most popular skiing resorts, the north of Iceland offers a myriad of 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	www.northiceland.is
Akureyri tourist guide	www.visitakureyri.is
Akureyri Art Museum	www listasafn.akureyri.is
Hof Cultural and Concert Centre	www.mak.is/en
Whale Museum in Húsavík	www.whalemuseum.is
Akureyri Museum	www.akmus.is
Grimsey island	www.grimsey.is
Hrisey island	www.hrisey.is
Official travel guide to Iceland	www.visiticeland.com
Promote Iceland	www.islandsstofa.is/en



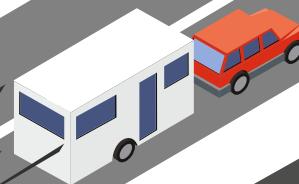


Pay toll within 24 hours at
www.tunnel.is

 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.



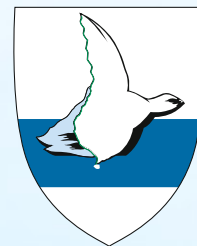
The dramatic structures at Dimmuborgir are one of Iceland's most popular natural tourist attractions.

Dimmuborgir Lava Field

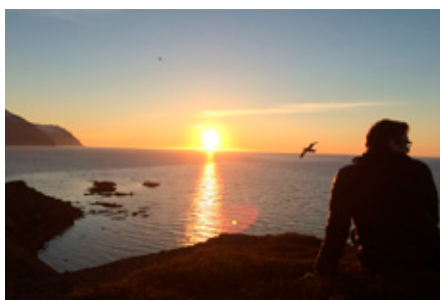
N65° 35' 31.385" W16° 54' 28.863"

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"

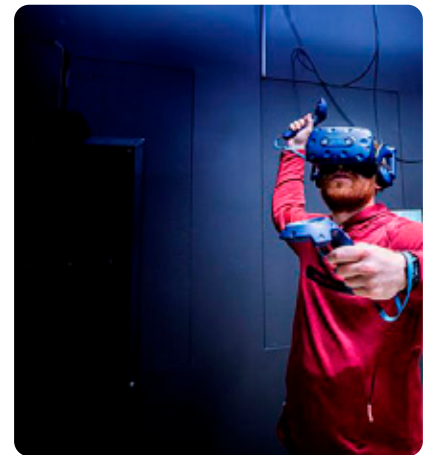
The exhibition, 1238: The Battle of Iceland, at Aðalgata 21 at Sauðárkrúkur revolves around the most famous part of the Icelandic Sagas - Sturlung Era (1220 - 1264); the bloodiest and most violent era in Icelandic history. Sturlunga is recreated with interactive technology and brings to life, in a fascinating 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





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

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

Road toll in Vaðlaheiði tunnel

N65° 41' 40.031" W18° 3' 13.578"

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 Vaðlaheiði 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 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

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.

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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

@thebattleoficeland

#1238thebattleoficeland



www.visitakureyri.com

Hello Akureyri!

20
OUTDOORS 2025

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 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 1 and August 2 this summer and the centre of town is the ideal place to see this year's runners as the hit the finishing line.

Akureyri is one of Iceland's most popular destinations.

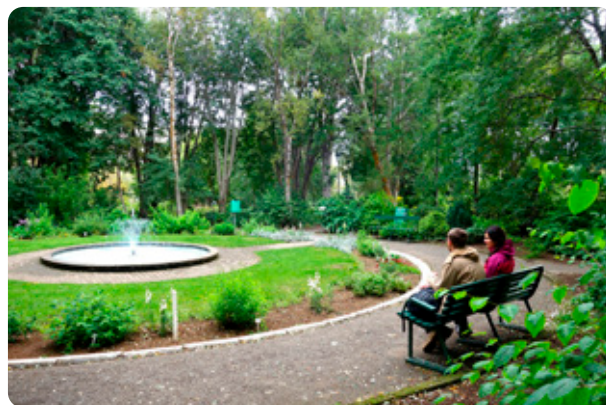




The ultra trail run Súlur Vertical takes participants from the highest peaks around Akureyri down to the central heart of town.



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
www.visittrollaskagi.is

A woman with red hair is lying back in a blue natural hot spring pool, her head resting on a concrete ledge. She is looking up towards the sky with a peaceful expression. The water is a vibrant blue, and the background shows a blurred view of a natural landscape with mountains and a body of water.

RELAX
ENJOY
EXPERIENCE

MÝVATN NATURE BATHS

pre-book online at naturebaths.is

Experience Mývatn Nature Baths

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. 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."

Ragnhildur also adds that in March 2026, the baths will reach a milestone when a new building will be opened, where the focus is to provide more space, more luxury, more diversity and to lift the guest's experience to a completely new level.





The swim up bar is very popular.

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

www.naturebaths.is

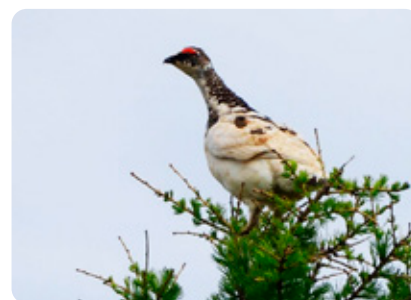


Shark-Jörundur's house is a fascinating museum dedicated to the history of the shark fishery, as well as presenting the story of the island of Hrísey in words and pictures

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





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



Seals are delightful animals.

Skagafjörður

a land of adventure!

28

OUTDOORS 2025

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





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 Eriksdóttir 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
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

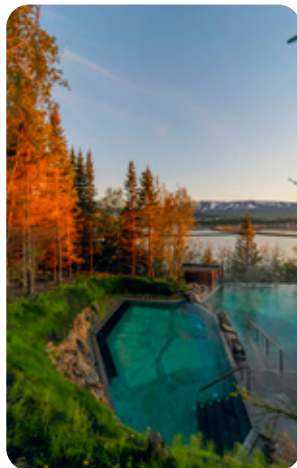
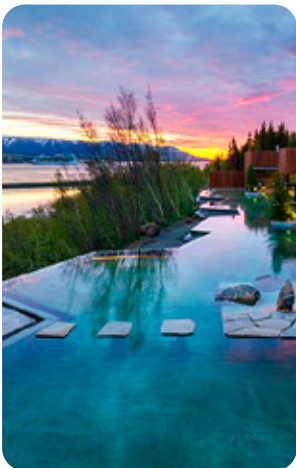
forestlagoon.is

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.



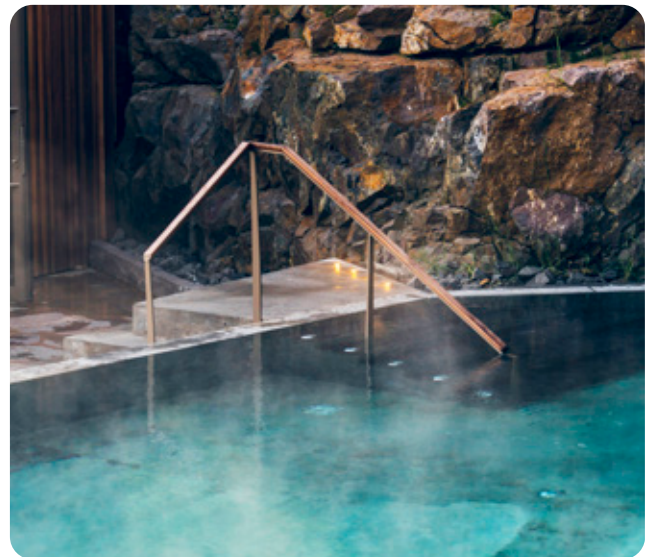
Our great amenities

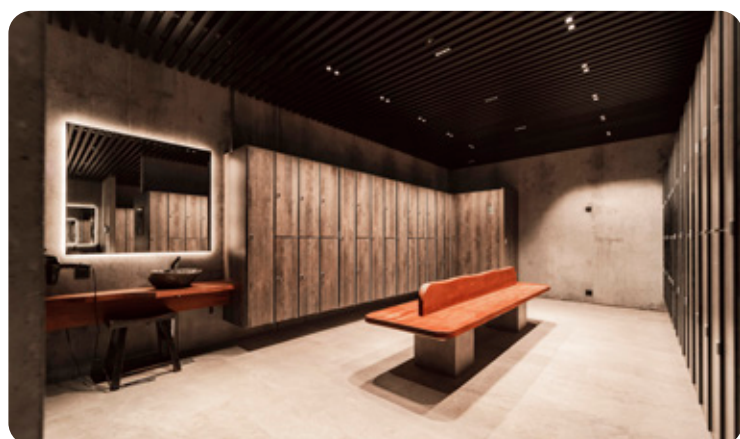
With its 530 square metre geothermal pool, the Forest Lagoon offers an unforgettable experience. Alongside the main pool, kept at a steady temperature of 37-38°C, are a 53 square metre hot pool at 40°C plus the opportunity to cool off with a plunge in the 12°C cold pool. There are two in-pool bars for 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.





Eyjafjarðarsveit rural paradise

34

OUTDOORS 2025

N65° 34' 48.155" W18° 4' 11.147"

The Eyjafjarðarsveit district has much to offer visitors. It's 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



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

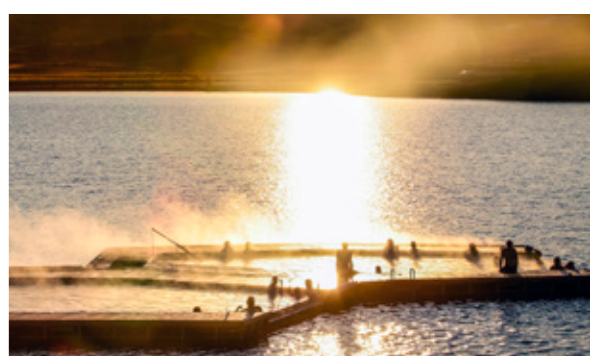
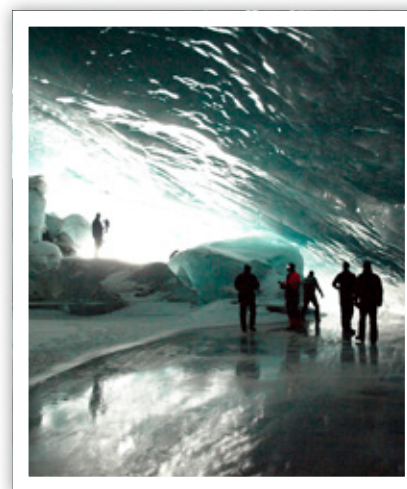
The east of Iceland – a magical region of natural phenomena. Glaciers, forests, bird cliffs, vast expanses, deserts, majestic mountains and narrow fjords. Waterfalls, rivers and the sea. The east of Iceland is a gem of natural wonders and history. It is a region rich in relics from times long past, vestiges 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	www.east.is
Vatnajökull National Park	www.vatnajokulsthjodgardur.is
Official travel guide to Iceland	www.visiticeland.com
Promote Iceland	www.islandsstofa.is/en

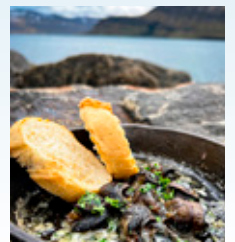
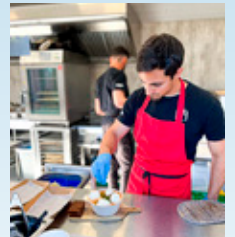


BEITUSKÚRINN

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 metre

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
Find us on Facebook or on our website www.hildibrand.is

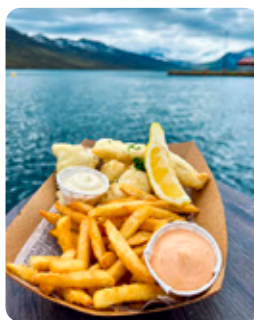
Seafood banquet at the Bait Shack!

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!



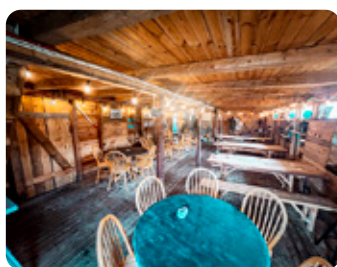
Enjoying a meal on a summer evening at the Bait Shack by the dock is an exceptional experience, bringing together the sea air, the stillness and the mountains. In the past the Bait Shack was where fishermen prepared their lines before going to sea. A few years ago the idea came up that this place would 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 2024m 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





Skorrahestar farm

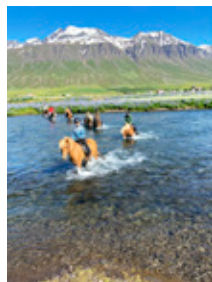
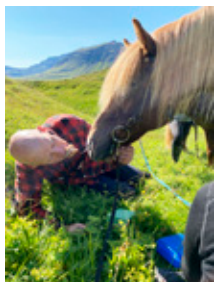
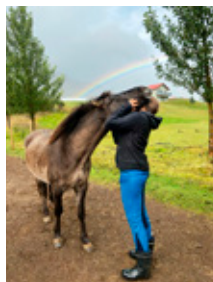
Unique experience

Horse back riding tour at Skorrahestar.

Horses for experienced riders as well as for beginners. Local guides.

Discount of 4 pers or more. One hour ride, 2 hrs ride or private tour into the nature of the east Iceland valleys. Riding with Skorrahestar is much more than you expect. 😊

Riding tours – Online booking



Visit us at:

Skorrahestar
Tripadvisor



Skorrahestar Guesthouse
– Online booking

Skorrahestar
Instagram



Skorrastað 3, 740 Norðfjörður, Iceland
info@skorrahestar.is

Tel: 869-5679, 891-8036, 477-1736

www.skorrahestar.is

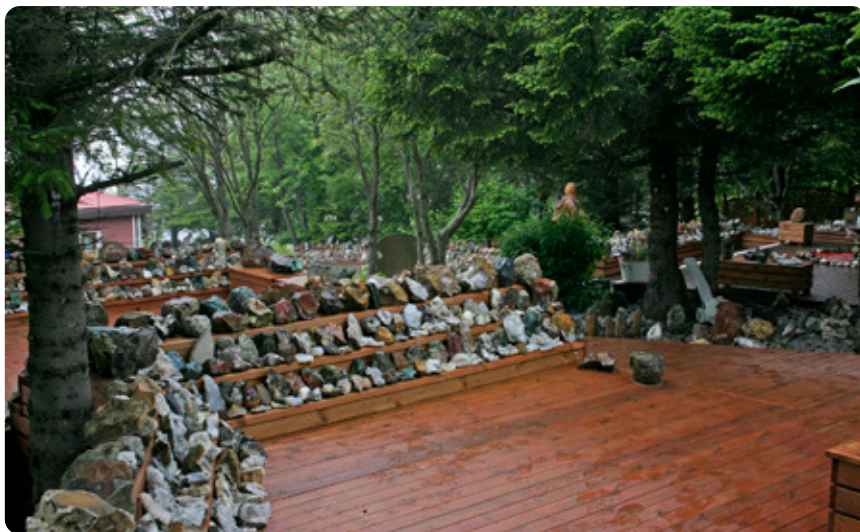
A must see Stone museum

One of the biggest and best stone collections in the world, Petra's Stone Collection, is in the coastal village of Stöðvarfjörður. The founder, Petra Sveinsdóttir, started to collect stones when she was a child.

Most of her stones were found in Stöðvarfjörður and other places in East Iceland because Petra didn't go much looking for stones in other parts of the country. In 1974, Petra decided to open her home for all those that wished to look at her stones. Petra's receives many visitors each year and it has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in East Iceland.

Open from May 1 to October 15th, seven days a week from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

www.steinapetra.is



Most of Petra's Stone Collection were found in Stöðvarfjörður and other places in East Iceland.

Stuðlagil in the valley



Stuðlagil in the valley Jökuldalur (Glacier Valley) in East Iceland is a marvelous natural site that almost nobody knew about until recently.

Múlaþing is the second largest municipality in Iceland by area. The biggest town in the municipality is Egilsstaðir, with a population of

around 2,500. The second largest town of Seyðisfjörður is one of the oldest towns in Iceland.

The nature in the area is both remarkable and unique. The 25 km long coastline has fascinated many a traveler with its coal-black sand, rough landscape, varied birdlife, and curious seals playing right off the beach. We recommend that travelers take their time in discovering the hidden treasures of the area, which has something to suit every taste. There are marked hiking routes leading to 30 of the area's main attractions, leading people to unique places where they can enjoy nature in peace and quiet.

For a long time Stuðlagil canyon was hidden underwater or until the hydroelectric plant Kárahnjúkavirkjun was built and the water flow in the glacier river Jökulsá á Dal, a.k.a. Jökla, was remarkably reduced.

visitegilsstadir.is

■ WHAT TO DO?

There is a church in every village and every rural area in East Iceland. Churches are often beautiful and figurative buildings that are a major part in the history of Iceland.

All family members should find something of interest while exploring East Iceland and there are plenty of rest-stops along the way to stop and stretch, take in the scenery and breathe in the fresh air.

In East Iceland, you will find a variety of outdoor artworks that liven up the environment.

For a change from the classic swimming pools, check out the natural pools that East Iceland has to offer.

East Iceland is a hikers' paradise. Hiking trails and marked routes of different difficulty levels can be found all over the region.

There are various campsites all over East Iceland, most of them open from May until the beginning of September but some are open all year around.



The historic Randulfs Sea House in Eskifjörður. The restaurant is on the ground floor, and the gallery and the original fishermen's quarters are on the floor above.



Fresh fish plays a leading role on the menu, along with reindeer and other local delicacies.

The Randulfs Sea House historical and culinary experience

N65° 3' 51.660" W13° 59' 56.072"

One of the truly historic buildings in Eskifjörður is the the Randulfs Sea House, built in 1890 and for much of its history associated with the herring fishery. The building is owned by the East Iceland Maritime Museum, and on the upper floor the original fishermen's quarters can be seen, alongside the gallery. The restaurant on the ground floor is run by the Mjóeyri travel service in Eskifjörður. The Randulfs Sea House is an ideal place to break a journey around the east coast, to enjoy the menu and take in the histroy of this remarkable place

Emphasis on fresh local produce

The Randulfs Sea House is open daily from 11.30 to 21.00 through the summer, with lunch and dinner menus, and with a variety of offerings available during the day. The restaurant's trained chefs place a strong emphasis on fresh fish from the fjord, reindeer and other local delicacies. This place is a genuine culinary experience by the sea. The Randulfs Sea House bears the name of Peter Randulff from Norway, who built it in 1890 as a herring station, and it was used as such until 1930.



The Randulfs Sea House restaurant is open daily from 11.30 to 21.00



Accommodation, routes and guided tours

The restaurant is just one of the activities of the Mjóeyri travel service, a family company run by Sævar Guðjónsson and Berglind Steina Ingvarsdóttir. Mjóeyri offers accommodation at its friendly guest house and in attractive summer houses with amazing views over the fjord. Organised walking tours are also available, along with tailored guided tours.

mjoeyri.is

Borgarfjörður eystri – worth visiting

The Borgarfjörður region, on the coast about 70 km from Egilsstaðir in East Iceland is known for its great natural beauty. The village has around 100 inhabitants.

Borgarfjörður is famous for the good hiking trails named „Víknaflóðir“ leading to the deserted fjords and coves, Víkur, and to Loðmundarfjörður. The area has become a hiker's paradise with local people marking numerous trails, comfortable hiking huts



Today the wild reindeer live only in East Iceland, mostly at higher elevations in summer but seek lower grassland, closer to the coast in winter.



Borgarfjörður eystri is a tiny village in the Eastern Region in Iceland.

and a good hiking-map. In Borgarfjörður are also excellent facilities for bird-watching.

Reindeer in Iceland are mostly confined to East Iceland but once lived wild around most of Iceland. There are around 3000 wild

reindeer in Iceland, and their population is controlled with seasonal reindeer hunting permits. This ensures they do not damage the fragile highlands or grow to unsustainable herd sizes that would take food away from all the visiting sheep every summer.



A culinary experience by the sea

The Randulffs Sea House restaurant is located in an old Norwegian herring station by the shore in Eskifjörður.

A varied local menu – fresh fish, reindeer and other delicacies.

Lunch and dinner menus.

The original fishermen's living quarters and art gallery are on the upper floor.



Kitchen open from 11:30-21.00.

Strandgata 96, 735 Eskifjörður
r.sjohus@gmail.com
866 1247 & 696 0809

randulffssjohus.is

Welcome to Eskifjörður!

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, where you will find an interactive map of Iceland in English.

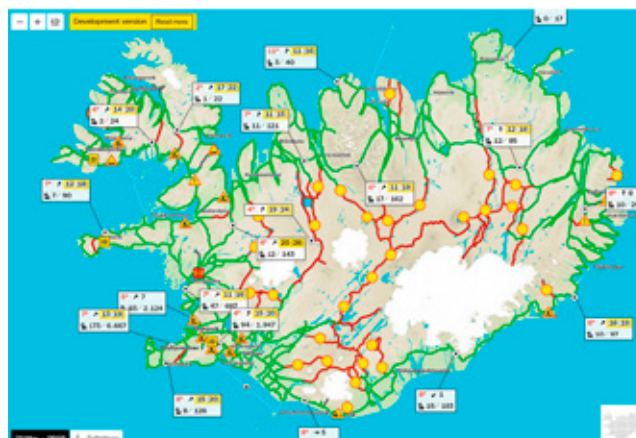
The map gives information on what state the roads are in; whether they are clear, slippery, snowed under, or even closed. Automatic weather stations with traffic counters are located in various areas, providing up-to-date information on conditions in each place, temperature and wind speed, as well as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

On trafficinfo.is 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



Drive safely

Check trafficinfo.is

Call 1777

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



The South of Iceland

History at every footstep



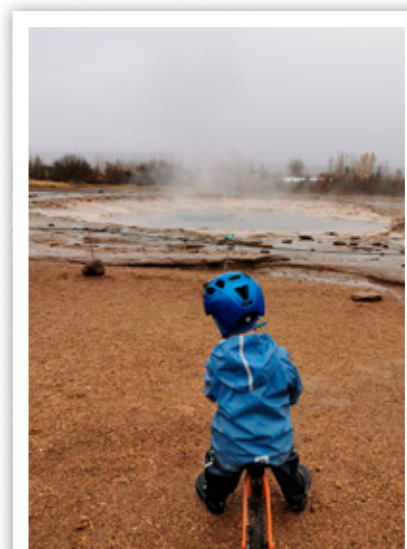
www.south.is

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.

■ Useful links

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



Uppsveitir Árnessýslu - 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



Westman islands – The Pompeii of the North!

- Around 30 types of bird nests are in Westman Islands
- Surtsey is the youngest island in the world, from 1963
- Eldfell mountain is the youngest volcano in the world, from 1973
- When pirates invaded the island in 1627 around 230 people was kidnapped and sent into slavery
- The highest mountain in Westman Islands, Heimaklettur is 283m high
- Westman Islands is the largest puffin colony in the world
- About 400 houses was destroyed in the volcano eruption year 1973
- The Westman Islands have often been referred to as The Pompeii of the North!

Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon

Jökulsárlón is a glacial lagoon by the ring road and was recently designated as a part of Vatnajökull National Park. It's 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!



The northern lights over Jökulsárlón are a magnificent spectacle.

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, Þórsmörk, a paradise for hikers and the famous volcano Eyjafjallajökull.



Hvolsvöllur swimming pool is one of the best in Southern Iceland.

The wreck on Sólheimasandur Beach

Sólheimasandur on South Iceland is a sand desert formed by jökulhlaup, or glacial outburst floods, from the Katla volcano system that lies underneath the Mýrdalsjökull glacier.



There is a good and beautiful view from the airplane wreck on Sólheimasandur.

In 1973 a DC-3 US Navy plane ran out of fuel and landed on the beach of Sólheimasandur between Skógafoss and Dyrhólaey. Everyone survived the landing. The plane wreck is still there and has become a popular site, specially when pictures of the Canadian pop star Justin Bieber, skateboarding on the roof of the plane wreckage, went viral around the world.

Driving to the plane wreck is forbidden, but by the main road #1, there is a good parking place, and relatively easy to walk from there to the site. The walk each way takes about an hour.

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.

Fjaðrárgljúfur – a magnificent canyon

Fjaðrárgljúfur is a magnificent and massive canyon, about 100 meters deep and about two kilometres long. People can travel by small cars to Fjaðrárgljúfur all year round and to get there take road F206.

The canyon has sheer walls, and is somewhat serpentine and narrow. The bedrock in Fjaðrárgljúfur is mostly palagonite from cold periods of the Ice Age and is thought to be about two million years old. The river Fjaðrá has its source in the mountain Geirlandshraun and falls off the heath edge in this stunning canyon until it makes it down into Skaftá river. Fjaðrá has changed a lot in the course of time. Deep in the canyon there are waterfalls so one needs to walk the same way back.



Fjaðrárgljúfur is 6 kilometers on road F206 from Road 1.

■ WHAT TO DO?

National Parks and Nature Reserves in South Coast that are interesting to visit.

The famous black sand beaches that you can find on the South Coast.

Churches in South Iceland with Historical and Cultural Interest.

LAVA „Iceland Volcano & Earthquake Center“ at Hvolsvöllur reveals the epic forces of nature that shaped our planet and created Iceland only 20 million years ago. LAVA is dedicated to the unique volcanoes and geology of Iceland.

The Westman Islands are a group of islands off the south coast of Iceland. They consist of 15 islands and 30 cliffs and skerries that make up the archipelago. Westman Islands are also characterized by a spectacular history of volcanic eruptions and rich birdlife.

Mýrdalssandur, the vast desert east of the glacier, is the outwash plain where glacial outburst flooding has continued to pummel the landscape. It is believed to have once been a fertile farming community destroyed by repeated glacial flooding through the centuries.



Some areas at Dyrhólaey are closed for part of the year to protect wildlife.

Dyrhólaey – a nature reserve

Dyrhólaey is a 120-metre high promontory, not far from Vík. The place got its name from the massive arch that the sea has eroded from the headland. The birdlife at Dyrhólaey is abundant with puffins and eider ducks being the most common species. The lighthouse on the top of the

cliff stands impressive and stoic in this often very windy area. Be careful not to go too close to the ledge of this dramatic cliff.

When the sea is calm, big boats can sail through Dyrhólaey. There has even been a maniacal daredevil pilot that flew through

the arch with a small-craft airplane! From the top of Dyrhólaey there is a great view. The headland is thought to have been made in an underwater volcanic eruption late in the glacial period, not unlike the eruption of Surtsey. Dyrhólaey has been a natural reserve since 1978.

Hvolsvöllur Sport Center

Opening hours

May 1st to August 31th	Sept 1st to Apr 30th
Mon - Fri: 6:00-21:00	Mon - Fri: 6:00-21:00
Sat - Sun: 10:00-19:00	Sat - Sun: 10:00-17:00

Hvolsvöllur Sport Center
Vallarbraut 16
Tel. 488 4295





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

Opening:

May 1st - September 30th:

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

Open for groups outside normal hours by
prior agreement

For more information, call +354 846 6497.



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.



Kristín Jóhannsdóttir, the museum's director.

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
.....



The northern lights over Jökulsárlón are a magnificent spectacle.

Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon

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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!

Welcome to Eldheimar – the Westmann Islands' new eruption museum



www.eldheimar.is - eldheimar@vestmannaeyjar.is - Tel. +354 488 2000



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

Skógar's remarkable museum



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



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.

Þórsmörk – most beautiful place in Iceland?

Þórsmörk is a natural gem that sits between Mýrdalsjökull to the east, the river Krossá in

the south, with Markárfjöt and Þröngá to the north. Its diverse landscape is character-

ized by impressive gorges, ravines, scrubby slopes, and a wide variety of unique vegetation. In times past, the farmers of Fljótshlíð and the area under Eyjafjall pastured their sheep all year round due to the mild climate found within Þórsmörk.

Since the 1918 eruption of Katla, Þórsmörk was designated as a Natural Mountain Reserve. There are many curious natural rock formations in the area, such as Snorraríki, Sóttarhellar Cave, Álfakirkja (The Church of the Elves), Stakkholtsgjá Gorge, and the stone arch in Stóra Enda.

Only large jeeps and buses can navigate the road into Þórsmörk due to the ever-changing volume of water, which can turn small and easily passable tributaries into tumultuous rivers in a matter of hours.



The Húsadalur valley in Þórsmörk. A trip to Þórsmörk is an absolute adventure!

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.



The 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 Safnavegur 1, 861 Skógar Iceland

Uppsveitir Árnessýslu

Heart of Iceland's Golden Circle



Reykholt.



Brúarhlöð.



Gullfoss.



Kerið.

Uppsveitir Árnessýslu offers many interesting places to visit, from famous natural attractions and historical sites to hidden gems worth exploring. Þingvellir, Gullfoss, and Geysir are well-known highlights, but other noteworthy spots include Kerið, Lake Úlfjótswatn, Brúarhlöð canyon, Haukadalur woods, Laugarvatn, and Skálholt.

Skálholt hosts the annual Summer Concerts from June 28–July 13, featuring classical performances by Icelandic and international musicians. An art exhibition runs alongside the concerts at Hotel Skálholt.

In Sólheimar, Iceland's only eco-village, the Menningarveisla cultural program runs throughout summer, offering concerts and theatre performances.

The district hosts several family-friendly events during the summer. Grímsnes holds its family festival, Grímsævintýri, on August 23, featuring traditional games, markets, and children's activities. Skeiða- og Gnúpverjahreppur hosts the Upp í sveit festival from June 13–15, celebrating rural life. Flúðir comes alive during the Flúðir um Véslo festival the first weekend of August.

In September, traditional sheep round-ups, Skeiðaréttir and Tungnaréttir, draw farmers and visitors together. The Harvest Festival in Hrunamannahreppur on September 6 marks the end of summer with local food and cultural events.

Year-round family activities include horseback riding, fishing, birdwatching, cave exploring, hiking, ATV tours, snowmobiling, and river rafting. Visitors will also find petting zoos, adrenaline parks, galleries, museums, golf courses, and swimming pools.

Charming villages such as Flúðir, Laugarvatn, Reykholt, Laugarás, Borg, and Sólheimar offer varied accommodation and dining options, emphasizing local ingredients and culinary experiences.

Uppsveitir Árnessýslu is a captivating region where nature, history, culture, and community combine to create memorable experiences. There's always something new and exciting to discover!



The Golden Circle / circles.

The Reykjanes Peninsula

The first step into a wonderland



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

Tourist site for the area	www.visitreykjanes.is
Grindavík tourist site	www.visitgrindavik.is
Viking World	www.vikingworld.is
Blue Lagoon	www.bluelagoon.com
Official travel guide to Iceland	www.visiticeland.com
Promote Iceland	www.islandsstofa.is/en



Photos: www.visitreykjanes.is



Guide to Life Harbor

Reykjanesviti is Iceland's oldest lighthouse, located on the tip of the Reykjanes Peninsula. The tower is a 31 metres (102 ft) tall construction. The original structure was built in 1878; just eight years later the building was destroyed by an earthquake. In

1929 the current Reykjanesviti lighthouse, a concrete construction yet with traditional looks, was illuminated.

The Reykjanes Lighthouse Friends Association has set up an exhibition in a

small building east of the visitor center. It is in the so-called engine house, which is used to power the lighthouse's lights if the electricity goes out. The exhibition is called Guidelight to Life Harbor and describes the fate of hundreds of crew members, ships and boats that have been in danger at sea off the Reykjanes Peninsula.

Open from 12:00-17:00 Saturday and Sunday. During the opening hours the Icelandic flag is raised next to it at Flaggs-tangarhól, south of the lighthouse keepers' quarters.



Reykjanesviti. Lighthouses play a vital role in keeping ships and their crews safe.



A normal trip is a 1-2 hour row to the Gerðistangi lighthouse, although group trips to other locations can be requested.

Nature at close quarters from a kayak

Reykjanes Seakayak offers guided tours on seakayaks in the vibrant and safe environment in Reykjanes bay in the period 1st of May- 30th of September, from our farm, Þórustadir.

Sit on top Kayaks are easy and safe, our visitors have been from 6 years to 70 years . We supply: Dry suits – warm and comfortable, Rubber shoes and Life west. You can wear your own clothes underneath, what you feel comfortable to wear.

How to find us :

Driving from Keflavik on the road, Reykjanesbraut (Road 41) you turn right into Vogar (town is on your left) , then turn right into Vatnsleysuströnd (Road 420) , drive until you see the church on your left side. Our farm (Þórustaðir) is the last left drive in before the church.

Bookings and further information on seakayak@seakayak.is



This year's Night of Lights will be held September 4-7.

Night of Lights festival in Reykjanes

Ljósanótt, cultural and family festival Night of Light is held in Reykjanesbær 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 as a result, a grand carriage drive, a big concert on the outdoor stage, firework displays and more.

www.ljosanott.is

Karlinn and Geirfuglinn

On the tip of the Reykjanes peninsula, just off the coast of Valahnúkur, you can see Karlinn (The Man) a 50-60 m high seacliff, an eroded volcanic plug, which stands there high and mighty. Karlinn is popular spot with visitors and especially among photographers, as it is truly picturesque when the unrelenting waves hit the rock.



The seacliff Karlinn stands high and mighty just off the coast of Valahnúkur.

Kaffi Gola opens in Hvalsnes

The continued growth on the Reykjanes Peninsula is showing no signs of slowing down, as Kaffi Gola has recently opened in Hvalsnes. The cafe is located within close proximity of the popular Hvalsneskirkja (Hvalsnes Church), and is the first cafe to be opened in the area. This family run cafe is a great location for travellers and locals alike to grab some drinks, fresh food and baked goods whilst also visiting the popular 'Hvalsneskirkja' which is situated directly opposite. Aside from food and drinks, the local owners plan on hosting concerts and various other events.



The Cafe Gola is located within close proximity of the popular Hvalsneskirkja.

Not far away is the sculpture Geirfuglinn (The Great Auk) created by the American artist Todd McGrain. The great auk was a flightless bird that lived across the North Atlantic Ocean and was a good swimmer. The species became extinct in the mid-18th century due to overhunting. The sculpture

shows a great auk made out of bronze facing out to the sea, looking in the direction of the island of Eldey, where the last documented pair of great auks were killed. The work is intended to draw attention to environmental issues and is a memorial to an extinct species.

Katlahraun: One of the wonders of Reykjanes

Katlahraun is on the southern edge of the Reykjanes peninsula, lying to the west of Ögmundarhraun and Seltangi. Katlahraun is lava that flowed about 2,000 years ago and entered the sea. Sudden damming at the shore caused a large, circular lava pond to form. Some lava solidified, but the remaining liquid escaped. The site now contains beautiful and various lava formations.

Katlahraun is a geosite within Reykjanes Unesco Global Geopark.

You can always find updates on travel information in the Reykjanes region on www.visitreykjanes.is



Katlahraun's remarkable laval formations.

■ WHAT TO DO?

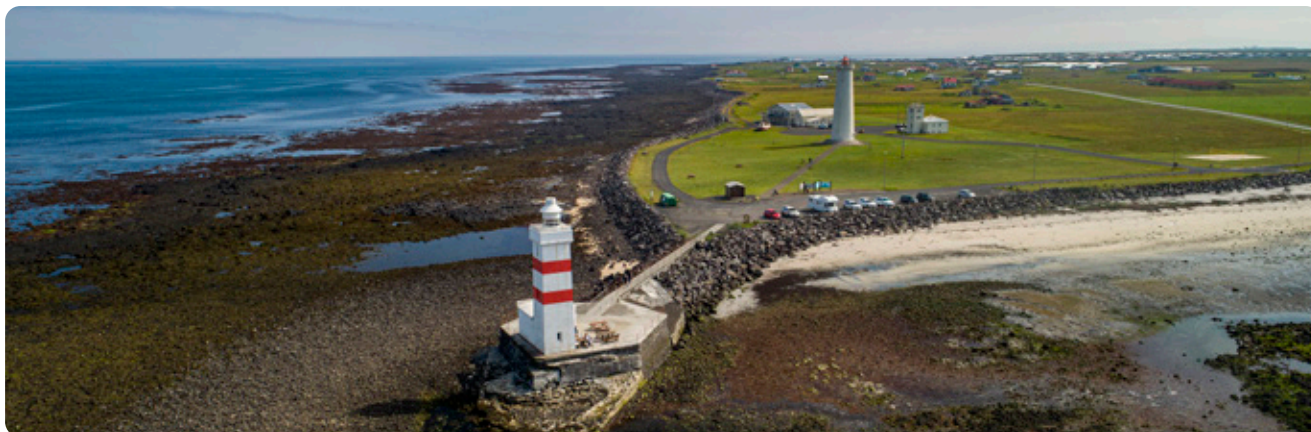
Reykjanes has all kinds of interesting museums that have a deep connection to the area. Most of them are pretty standard but others are dedicated to more abstract things, such as Vikings, nature and other curious phenomena.

Brimketill is a small, naturally carved pool, by marine erosion, at the lava shore edge west of the town of Grindavík.

Most populated areas in Reykjanes have at least one pub and the more populated areas have more pubs and also some clubs, ranging in price and quality. Those who enjoy going to pubs and clubbing should be able to find something to their liking.

Eldvörp is the name of scoria and spatter cones in off-set sections that form a row of ten kilometers, and it's surrounding lava covering 20 square kilometers. It dates back from a volcano-tectonic episode between 1210 and 1240 called the Reykjanes Fires. At the center of Eldvörp there are geothermal features and a single borehole.

The Blue Lagoon is a health and geothermal spa on the Reykjanes Peninsula. A visit to the Blue Lagoon Iceland geothermal spa is an important part of your stay in Iceland.



The Folk Museum in Garður is a great point of interest for visitors as it tells the story of how fishing developed and the history of the people who lived and worked in the community.

Folk Museum in Garður

The municipal museum in Garðskagi is located in a natural paradise, which blends

the beauty of the landscape with its rich animal and birdlife.

The museum was first opened in November 1995 in the old processing houses in Garður. The museum has both a Folk and Maritime Museum. It has an outstanding engine collection of Guðni Ingimundarson. There are over 60 engines on display and almost every one of them is functional.

Grænadyngja and Trölladyngja

The mountain Trölladyngja (Troll Mountain) is quite curious, only 275 meters high. Next to Trölladyngja is another mountain, Grænadyngja (Green Mountain) that is a bit higher, 393 m. Both mountains are geothermally very active, and also very popular amongst hikers.

These little mountains are surrounded by young volcanic fissures, geothermal sites and beautiful colours. They are associated with various lava flows, including Afstaphraun close to the Keflavík International Airport main road.



The best way to approach the mountains is by car, exiting road nr. 41 on the crossroads towards Mt. Keilir and road nr. 420.

Many important items from the municipal history of Garður are located in the museum, items which were essential for the livelihood on both land and sea. The Museum is a great point of interest for visitors as it tells the story of how fishing developed and the history of the people who lived and worked in the community. A restaurant and camping site with facilities is on-site and if you are lucky you might see dolphins and whales near the shore from the terrace of the restaurant.

Bridge between Europe and North America

The lava-scarred Reykjanes peninsula lies on one of the world's major plate boundaries, the Mid Atlantic Ridge. According to the continental drift theory the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates are continuously drifting apart with great forces under the gaping rifts.

The Bridge between two continents at Sandvík is a small footbridge over a major fissure which provides clear evidence of the presence of a diverging plate margin. The bridge was built as a symbol for the connection between Europe and North America. This must-see spot is easy to reach and requires little effort to reach.



The Bridge Between Continents is located in the eastern-most end of Reykjanes peninsula, about an hour's drive from Reykjavík.

The Capital Area

Center of fun and adventure



www.visitreykjavik.is

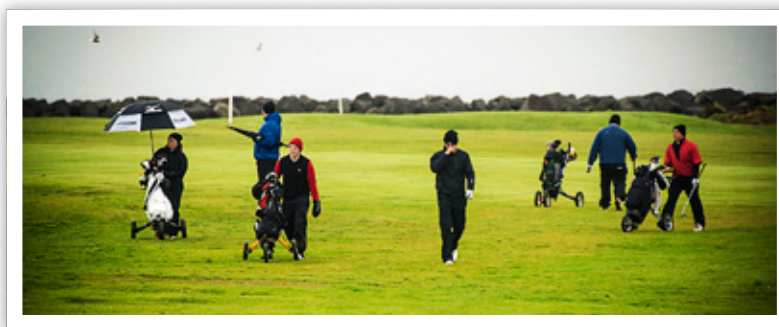
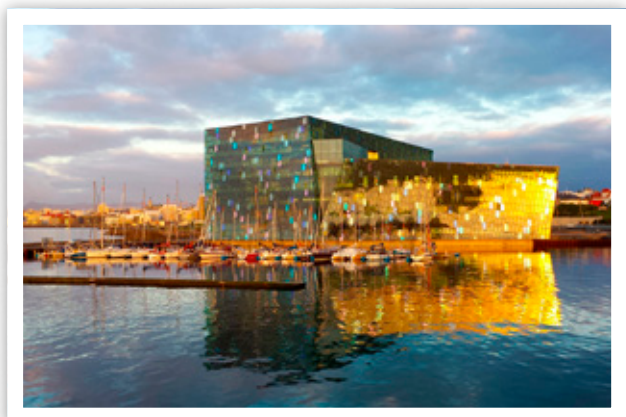
Reykjavík Capital Area must be on the must-do list of anyone looking for fun and adventure in a world of Spa wellness. It has most of the advantages of big-city life and virtually none of the disadvantages.

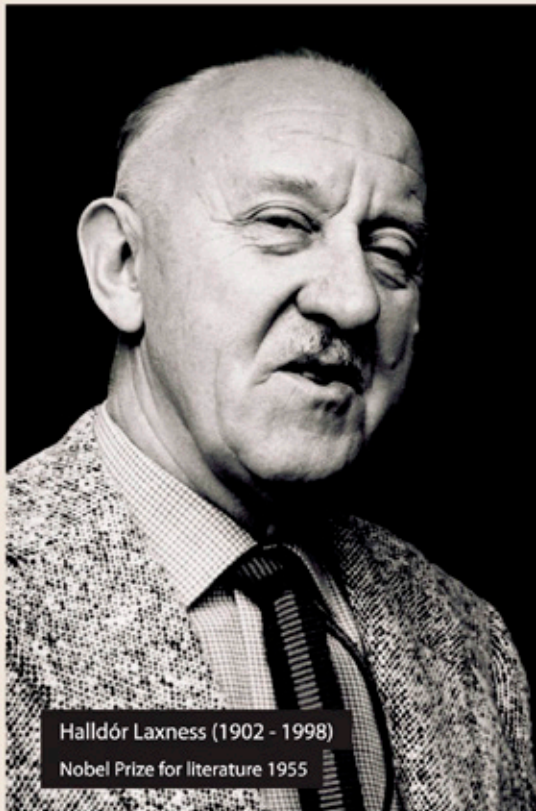
Comprised of six municipalities – Reykjavík, Hafnarfjörður, Kópavogur, Garðabær, Mosfellsbær and Seltjarnarnes – the Capital Area is the hub of the Icelandic nation. It is where about two-thirds of country's population of 370,000 live and work, and exists in close harmony with pristine nature and renewable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

■ Useful links

Public buses	www.bus.is
Harpa Concert Hall	www.harpa.is
National Museum of Iceland	www.natmus.is
National Gallery of Iceland	www.listasafn.is
Kópavogur Art Museum	www.gerdarsafn.is
Reykjavík Art Museum	www.artmuseum.is
Icelandic National Theatre	www.leikhusid.is
Airwaves Festival	www.airwaves.is
Reykjavík Arts Festival	www.listahatid.is





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
www.gljufrasteinn.is
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The sculpture Sólfar is located by Sæbraut in the centre of Reykjavík.

Sólfar – The Voyager of the Sun

Sólfar (The Traveler/Voyager of the Sun) is sculpture by Jón Gunnar Árnason (1931-1989). Sólfar is a dreamboat, an ode to the sun. Intrinsically, it contains within itself the promise of undiscovered territory, a dream of hope, progress and freedom. The sculpture is located by Sæbraut, by the sea in the centre of Reykjavík.

Jón Gunnar Árnason (1931-1989) was an sculptor and after studying at the University of Iceland Reykjavík Arts and Crafts from 1944 to 1946 and the School of Visual Arts, he graduated as an engineer from the Technical University of Reykjavík in 1952. From 1965 to 1967 he continued his studies of the Fine Arts at the University of Hornsey in London. His works have been exhibited in prestigious galleries in Iceland, Norway, the Netherlands and Germany.

Reykjavík culture night

Reykjavík's largest anniversary and city festival, Culture Night, will be held this summer on Saturday, August 23. You could say the festival is the highlight of the summer, with fun events coloring daily life in the city center from morning to evening. The festival is for all city residents and guests who want to join the celebration and have fun. Many families and groups of friends now have a tradition of meeting up on Culture Night to enjoy a fun-filled day together. All events are free of charge for everyone to enjoy.

Reykjavík Culture Night is organised and produced by the events team at Reykjavík Cultural Office, in collaboration with other



Cultural attractions can be found all over the city during Culture Night.

city departments, organisations, artists, societies, and countless others.

www.culturenight.is

Swimming in Reykjavík

Experience Iceland's pure thermal energy and take a dip in one of Reykjavík's many thermal pools and spas! Not only a great source of natural therapy but an important part of our culture and a tonic for the body and mind!

Reykjavík City runs many public thermal pools which are heated with geothermal water. The pools offer steam baths, saunas, hot tubs and jacuzzis. Most of the swimming pools are outdoors. They are open all year round and offer a unique spa-like experience. The pools are heated to about 28° and have several hot tubs to choose from, at various temperatures, ranging from 38°C up to around 45°C.



■ WHAT TO DO?

Kópavogslaug, one of the many local geothermally heated swimming pools, offers hot tubs, a lap pool, a sauna, and even a fun slide for those travelling with kids. The naturally heated water is perfect for easing into your day, and you'll get a taste of how locals relax and socialise.

The National Museum of Iceland in Reykjavík offers a fascinating look at the country's past from the Settlement Era to the present day. The exhibits include Viking weapons, medieval manuscripts, and modern cultural items.

Perlan, one of Reykjavík's most distinctive landmarks is home to interactive exhibits that explore Iceland's natural wonders. One of the highlights is the man-made ice cave, which offers a unique opportunity to walk through a frozen tunnel and learn about Iceland's glaciers.

The Lava Show in Reykjavík is the only place in the world where you can see real molten lava poured into a showroom. As the lava flows, cools, and solidifies right before your eyes, you'll gain a deep appreciation for Iceland's volcanic landscape and geological history.

Strandstígur is a scenic walking and cycling path along Hafnarfjörður harbor, offering stunning views over Faxaflói Bay and the bustling port. Along the trail, the Hafnarfjörður Museum has set up an engaging photo exhibition that highlights the daily lives and history of the people who built the town, making for an interesting stop along the way.



Salurinn is the first specially designed concert hall in Iceland.



Gerðarsafn is a progressive art museum.

Kópavogur Culture Houses

Salurinn Concert Hall is one of the Kópavogur Culture Houses which all are situated in Borgarholt. A place where you will find, besides the concert hall, Gerðarsafn, an art museum and a library – all within easy walking distance. Salurinn is the first specially designed concert hall in Iceland. It was opened in January 1999. Exceptional acoustics, modern design and the use of Icelandic building materials make Salurinn a place worth visiting.

Gerðarsafn is a progressive museum with an emphasis on modern and contemporary art, located in the heart of Kópavogur. Gerðarsafn offers temporary exhibitions with works by Icelandic and international contemporary artists as well as displaying the museum collection. The exhibition program echoes the museum's status as the only Icelandic museum built in honor of a female artist. The museum was built in memory of artist Gerður Helgadóttir (1928-1975) and opened in 1994.



Hallgrímskirkja in the city centre of Reykjavík; dominating landmark that is impossible to miss.

Hallgrímskirkja – a dominating landmark

Rising 74.5 m (244 ft), Hallgrímskirkja is the tallest building in Reykjavík and also used as an observation tower. It is situated in the city center and has become one of Reykjavík's best known symbols. The church is named after the Icelandic poet and priest Hallgrímur Pétursson (1614-74), author of the beloved Passíusálmur. He was one of the most influential pastors during the Age of Orthodoxy and wrote many important Lutheran hymns.

State Architect Guðjón Samúelsson's design of the church was commissioned in 1937. He is said to have designed it to resemble the basalt lava flows of Iceland's landscape. Construction work began in 1945 and ended in 1986. The church houses a large pipe organ by the German organ builder Johannes Klais of Bonn.



Pakkhúsið is part of Hafnarfjörður Museum and there is much to be seen there.

Hafnarfjörður in the past

The Hafnarfjörður Museum is a lively and fascinating collection for the whole family and an interesting place to spend some time. The Museum is distributed across five buildings, which are Pakkhúsið, Sívertsen-shúsið, Siggubær, the Bungalow and Beggubúð.

Sívertsen-shúsið shows how a well-to-do family lived at the beginning of the 19th century and this is the town's oldest building, erected in 1803-1805. Siggubær is

preserved as an example of the home a workman or fisherman in the early 20th century and the Bungalow has an exhibition of the period in the early 20th century when foreign shipping owners came to Hafnarfjörður. Beggubúð is preserved by the Hafnarfjörður Museum as a shop from a past age, and it was built in 1906 on the town's main street.

www.museum.hafnarfjordur.is



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.



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

www.gljufrasteinn.is

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

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