OUTDOORS

– exploring the blue island

Find your favorite part!

Iceland is divided into seven different geographical regions.

- West Iceland
- The Westfjords
- North Iceland
- East Iceland
- South Iceland
- The Reykjanes peninsula
- The Capital Area

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Highlights

WEST ICELAND 6

Húsafell – A delight between lava and glacier 12

Krauma, at the heart of Iceland's nature 16

THE WESTFJORDS 20

A warm welcome at Hotel West 23

Ísafjörður – amazing restaurants and museums 24

THE NORTH OF ICELAND 26

Fjallabyggð welcomes you 28

Skagafjörður a land of adventure! 33

Whale Watching Húsavík 36

Hello Akureyri! 38

Mývatn Nature Baths 42

Hauganes – the place to be this summer 48

THE EAST OF ICELAND 52

Wonderful Fjarðabyggð 54

Vök Baths 62

THE SOUTH OF ICELAND 66

Selfoss area – Stay closer to nature 67

Árnes country's Uppsveitir district 72

THE REYKJANES PENINSULA 78

Enjoy Grindavik 83

Reykjanes peninsula puts on a grand show 84

THE CAPITAL AREA 88

Hafnarfjörður's bright days, all summer long 94

Gljúfrasteinn-Laxness museum 95

OUTDOORS
– exploring the blue island

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RITFORM

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- Álftavötn hut

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Amazing

Útivist offers weekend trips, summer vacation tours and day trips

Some of Útivist's most

Útivist is one of Iceland's largest travel association, whose goal is to encourage travel within the country in a healthy and enjoyable way. Everyone is welcome to join the association, which offer a wide variety of trips and have been a leader in marking trails and building mountain huts as well as promoting nature conservation.

Útivist offers weekend trips, summer vacation tours and day trips, with buses departing from the Central Bus Terminal in Reykjavík. All tours should be booked in advance at the Útivist website, www.utivist.is.

Básar

Básar in Goðaland is an outdoor paradise in the area known as Þórsmörk. At Básar, Útivist operates a campsite and two large cabins which can accommodate a total of 90 people. These cabins are available throughout the year, if there is space, for use by individuals or groups over shorter or longer periods. Those planning to use the cabins must make advance reservations through the Útivist office.

Fimmvörðuháls

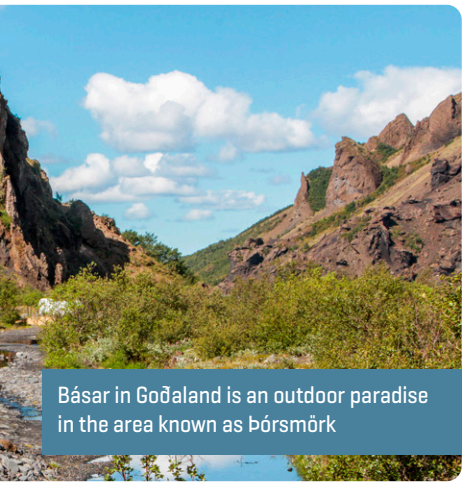
Fimmvörðuháls is an 1,100-m-high mountain pass between the glaciers of Eyjafjallajökull and Mýrdalsjökull, with a popular trail leading from Skógar to Básar. Útivist offers organized trips over Fimmvörðuháls every weekend in summer.

Sveinstindur – Skælingar

Ride a coach from Reykjavík to Sveinstindur for a one-night stay in the Útivist hut. Hike on the slopes of Sveinstindur with a view over the inland lake of Langisjór and the Fögrufjöll mountains. Stay at the Útivist hut, then hike on to Gjátindur and into Eldgjá canyon, on the way to Lambaskarðshólar. Return by coach via Fjallabak. Gear is shuttled between night stops.

hikes with Útivist

popular treks are:



Básar in Goðaland is an outdoor paradise in the area known as Þórsmörk

The Sveinstindur hut was previously used by farmers when gathering their sheep from the highlands, but members of Útivist rebuilt it some years ago

The Skælingar hut is characterized by the old icelandic building tradition

Strútsstígur

Strútsstígur is a new route from Fjallabak, between Lambaskarðshólar/Eldgjá and Hvanngil. This route is a continuation of the popular Sveinstindur – Skælingar route. Gear is shuttled between night stops.

Laugavegurinn

One of Útivist's best-known routes is "Laugavegurinn". This is a five-day trip from the hot-spring area of Landmannalaugar to Básar at Þórsmörk. If desired, you can extend your stay at Básar after the initial four days. Overnight accommodation is in tents or huts along the way. Gear is shuttled between night stops.

Further information is available on Útivist website, www.utivist.is, or via e-mail: utivist@utivisti.is.

www.utivist.is

West Iceland

Culture, nature and history

www.west.is

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 Eirikur 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.

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

Photos: www.west.is

Travel summer '21

HOTEL, RESTAURANT AND RELAXATION

www.husafell.is

Akranes is just moments away from the Reykjavík City Centre

Akranes – a picturesque village

Akranes is a picturesque village just moments away from the Reykjavík City Centre. You can take the city bus from Reykjavík to Akranes for only a few Euros, or use your Reykjavík visitors' card, and step off in Akranes within an hour.

The Museum area at Garðar is without a doubt the cultural centre of Akranes and a popular destination for tourists. Not far from there is the highly-praised 18-hole Garðavollur golf course and, likewise, the Garðalundur outdoor area with a playground for children of all ages. The swimming pool at Jaðarsbakki are also just a few minutes from the Museum Area.

If you are into photography or just interested in exploring new things in Iceland you need to look at Akranes lighthouses. Down by the harbour you will notice two lighthouses. The bigger one that is currently in use is open to the public so you can go up and enjoy the view from there and there is even a photography exhibition to enjoy in there.

www.visitakranes.is

In Iceland you need to look at Akranes lighthouses

Hraunfossar have been protected since 1987

Hraunfossar and Barnafoss waterfalls

Hraunfossar, or The Lava Waterfalls, are a beautiful and unusual natural phenonem and one of the most picturesque natural wonder in West Iceland.

Barnafoss waterfall, The Children´s Waterfall, is close to Hraunfossar. It takes it´s name after a story of two children who fell into the river when they attempted to cross the river by walking over a rock arch. The Hraunfossar waterfalls, near Húsafell, cascade from underneath the edge of the lava field Hallmundarhraun and into the river Hvítá. Hraunfossar have been protected since 1987.

There are viewpoints close the car park for both waterfalls and a coffee shop is open in the summer time.

VisitAkranes

Welcome to Akraness

GUÐLAUG BATHS

Guðlaug baths, a geothermal pool is located by the Langsandur beach

We welcome you to come and enjoy the beautiful view over the ocean and Faxabay

Outdoor showers and changing rooms available

only **40 min drive** from Reykjavík

Open all year round

Gudlaug.NaturalPool

The Borgarnes pool is popular for all ages

Photo: www.west.is

Fantastic pool **at Borgarnes**

The swimming pool at Borgarnes in the west of Iceland attracts more than 140,000 visitors every year. The pool is naturally heated with hot water drawn from from the Deildartunga hot spring 37 kilometres away in Reykholtsdalur. This is the largest hot spring in Europe and is protected. It produces 180 litres of boiling water every second, which is piped to Akranes and Borgarnes for domestic heating, as well as being routed to the municipal pool in Borgarnes for both the baths and the steam room, something that foreign visitors certainly appreciate. There are both indoor and outdoor pools, as well as hot tubs and a steam room.

Hot water from the spring is also used to heat greenhouses for horticulture on the farm at Deildartunga which also gives the spring its name.

The Impressive **Lóndrangar**

Lóndrangar are two sharp cliffs on the Snæfellsnes peninsula and they are impressive to say the least. The higher one towers 75 metres into the air and was first ascended 1735. The other one, measuring 61 metres was however not climbed until 1938. A variety of birds nest in these cliffs and according to old stories, an Eagle's nest was once on top of the higher cliff. Although there is no harbour beneath the cliffs the men from the area nevertheless set out to sea from there for many years. The lighthouse by the cliffs was built in 1917.

According to old stories, an Eagle's nest was once on top of the higher Lóndrangar cliff

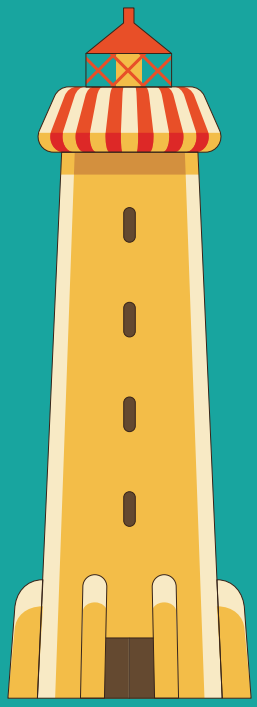
Diverse and Fun Activities

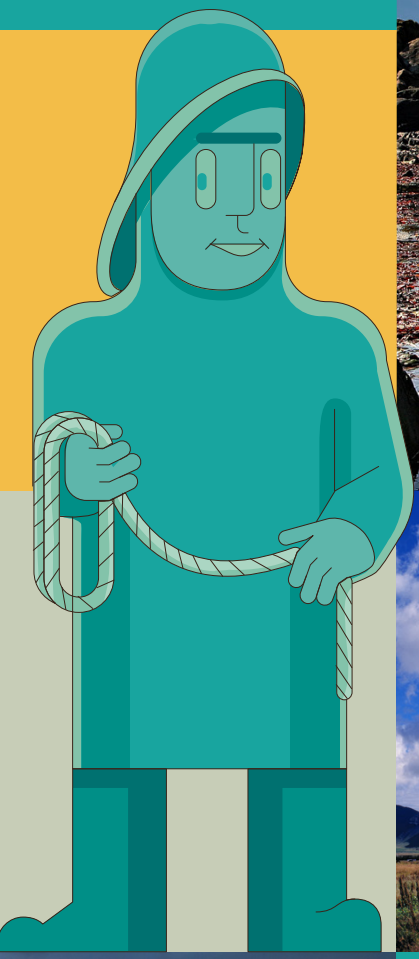
Cultural Experience

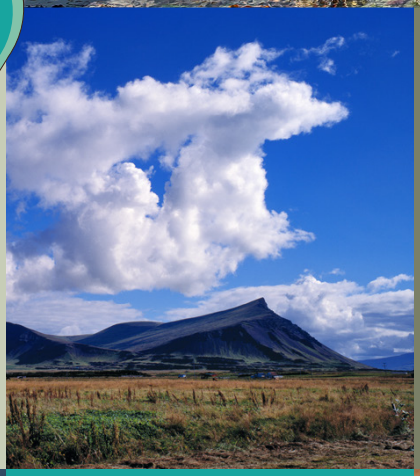
Akranes Folk Museum

Akranes lighthouse

Welcome to Akranes







Outdoor Activities

Guðlaug Natural Pool

Cycling and Walking Paths

Mountain Climbing at Akrafjall

Family friendly

Svimming

Golf

Varety of beaches

Húsafell – A delight between lava and glacier

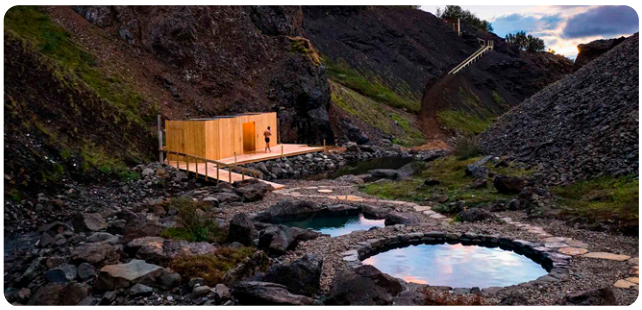
Hótel Húsafell is a special hotel placed within a special natural environment

Nobody comes away from Húsafell and the area around it without warm memories of their stay. The gentle climate, the woods, the hot pools and the facilities for travellers that have been built up in recent years have increasingly become an attraction for tourists and guests. The Ok, Langjökull and Eiríksjökull glaciers provide the encircling backdrop. Húsafell is often referred to as the pearl lying between the lava and the glaciers.

There's a magnificent 48-room hotel at Húsafell. During the summer this offers a variety of accommodation packages, such as room & golf, or full board options. The best prices are on the hotel's website at husafell.is.

Húsafell is a genuine paradise for walker, and as well as having plenty to offer for anyone interested in riding or cycling routes.

There is a wide choice of relaxation options. The old-fashioned pool is open to all, and there are two pools at the site, as well as two hot tubs and a water slide. Húsafell alsoo offers the unique experience of a walk under a guide's watchful eye that ends with an opportunity to spend time in the Canyon Baths. This is a roughly two-hour walk and this can be booked via husafell.is or at the Húsafell relaxation centre.



A walk to the Canyon Baths is a unique experience

www.hotelhusafell.is

Hótel Húsafell is offering a variety of accommodation packages this summer

It doesn't get much cosier than sitting by the fire to enjoy the view

Akranesviti is the only lighthouse in Iceland that is regularly open to tourists

Akranes **lighthouse**

The Akranes lighthouse is a delightful place to visit, any time of year. Away from bright lights, tourists and residents flock to the site in winter to catch a glimpse of the northern lights dancing and flickering in the sky. In the summer, you can see locals having a picnic outside the lighthouse, and guests are often invited in where they can climb to the top. Built in 1947, the larger of the two lighthouses has been used in recent years to host concerts and art exhibitions. Akranesviti is the only lighthouse in Iceland that is regularly open to tourists, and thousands of travelers have visited over the last few years. The lighthouse has become so popular that the tourist information center is now based there. The lighthouse keeper welcomes guests and gives an overview of the history of the building. The smaller lighthouse, built in 1918, is one of the oldest concrete lighthouses in Iceland. It served the fishing town until it was deactivated in 1947, in favour of a larger structure.

Glanni **Waterfall**

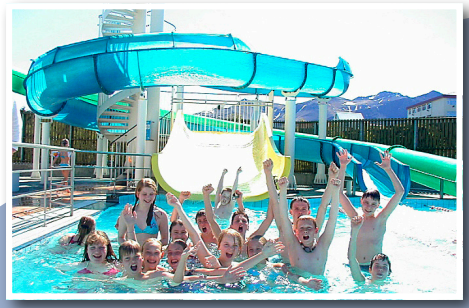
Glanni is an impressive waterfall in Norðurá River. Nearby is Paradise Hollow, a beautiful small oasis. The waterfall is said to be the dwelling place of elves and trolls.

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

Take a splash in Borgarfjörður!

The geothermal swimming pools in Borgarbyggð welcome you



Quality facilities – excellent pools, hot tubs, water slides, sauna, fitness center and more.

Borgarnes Sports Centre, tel. 433 7140
Kleppjárnsreykir Swimming pool, tel. 435 1140
Varmaland Swimming pool, tel. 437 1401

www.borgarbyggd.is

Snæfellsjökull National Park

Photo: Photos: Heiðrún B. Þorbjörnsdóttir.

Snæfellsjökull (Snaefell Glacier) National Park was established on June 28, 2001. The Park's purpose is to protect and conserve the area's unique landscape, indigenous plant and animal life as well as important historical relics. At the same time, the Park is meant to allow visitors easier as well as improved opportunities to get to know the area.

There are no campsites in the National Park but backpackers may camp for one night. Although we welcome you to explore this area, please help us conserve its ecology, its remarkable geological features and its tranquillity. Do not drive off roads, disturb geological formations or wildlife, or light fires.

www.snaefellsjokull.is

Eldborg Crater

Eldborg Crater, 38 km north of Borgarnes on the way to the Snæfellsnes peninsula, is a beautifully-formed crater rising 60m above the surrounding lava.

The easiest to approach Eldborg is from Snorrastaðir on its southern side, walking 2,5 km through the shrub-covered lava field. It is possible to walk all the way around the crater as well as up it.

The spatter cone is the largest crater along a short volcanic rift, 200 m in diameter and 50 m deep. Its last eruption was about 5000-6000 years ago. According to medieval chronics there was also one around the time of the colonisation of Iceland about 1000 years ago, but today it is known that it came from another of the many craters of the valley Hnappadalur which are part of the volcanic system Ljosufjoll, the mountains of the light.

Eldborg Crater is 200 m in diameter and 50 m deep

When in danger
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112

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

KRAUMA NATURE BATHS

@krauma_baths
kraumageothermal

+354 555 6066 // krauma.is
Deildartunguhver, 320 Reykholt

Krauma, at the heart of Iceland's nature

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 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 and relaxation

The Deildartunga springs produce roughly 180 litres if 100°C water every second which flows through Krauma's baths, and is tempered with sparkling clean water from the edges of the Ok glacier. '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 there are two of these in separate buildings. Spring water sprays under the wooden benches inside these spaces.

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 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.'

www.krauma.is

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

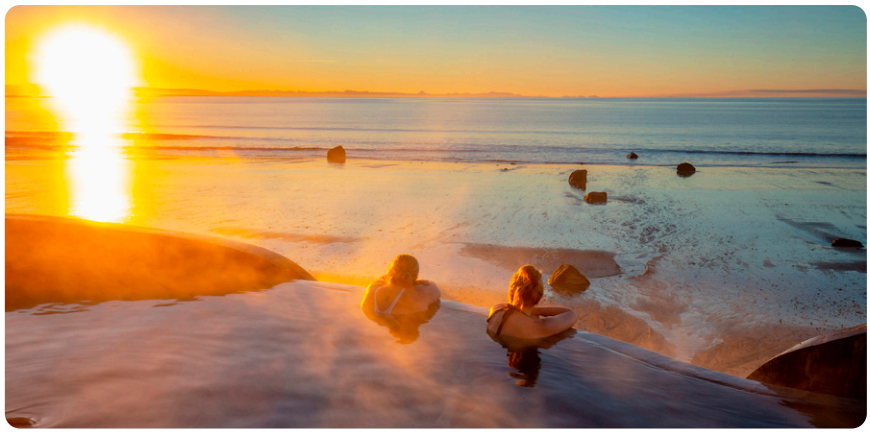
Krauma's restaurant is a pleasant place and when the weather is fine guests can enjoy meals outside

Guðlaug **Baths**

Guðlaug baths, a geothermal pool is located in Langisandur beach at Akranes. Langisandur beach is a one kilometre long sandy beach that has been awarded the Blue Flag environmental certification. There you can bath in the ocean and enjoy the view over Faxabay. The baths consist of a three-tiered structure, with a viewing deck on the top, a warm geothermal pool in the middle, and a cooler pool at the bottom. These three oval-shaped forms are each oriented differently, creating an irregularly shaped volume that nestles in amongst the large boulders of the sea wall. A staircase wraps the exterior, connecting all three levels. Untreated geothermal water is channelled into the upper pool from Deildartunguhver, a huge spring located 40 miles to the northeast.

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

For futher information and opening hours look at Guðlaug facebook site: Gudlaug Natural Pool



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

The Laxa in Kjós is one of the countries top producers and it never falls out of the top ten listings

Laxá **in Kjós**

The Laxa in Kjós is the centerpiece of one of the most stunning glacially-forged valleys in southern Iceland. A narrow upper canyon splays into a gentle, peaceful, arable valley before cascading down the final falls and pools into the sea.

Amazingly, this exceptional river and its beautiful Bugda tributary can be reached within an hour's drive from Reykjavik and one-and-a half hour's drive from Keflavik International Airport.

The river is one of the countries top producers and it never falls out of the top ten listings. Besides being a first-class Salmon river, it also has a very substantial run of good-sized sea trout, some straying into the 8 to 10 pound class. It goes without saying that the sea trout add another exciting angle to these intimate and exhilarating rivers.

Akranes Folk Museum offers a unique insight into past times in Akranes and surrounding area

Akranes **Folk Museum**

The Akranes Folk Museum is the best place in Akranes to get familiar with history. The museum was established and opened in 1959 and is situated on the ancient manor of Gardar. Gardar had a church and a parsonage from the early days of Christianity in Iceland until the last part of the 19th century. Akranes Folk Museum offers a unique insight into past times in Akranes and surrounding area. The museum's exhibition is in several houses, some of which were moved from other parts of town. The permanent exhibition reflects living conditions and life at sea, in rural areas, at work and in play. In the museum there is also a micro-cinema and a space for temporary exhibitions. An audio guided tour is included in the admission. In the area there is also a lively forge where blacksmiths practice their skills. The forge is sometimes in operation for guests. A visit to Akranes Folk Museum offers something for all senses.

Open from may 15th til september 15th every dag between 10 am and 5 pm.

A visit to Akranes Folk Museum offers something for all senses

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The Westfjords

A different experience

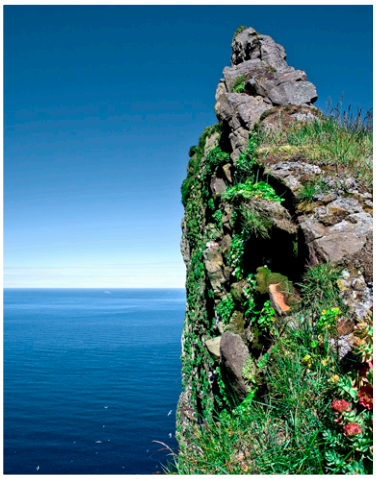
Visiting the Westfjords is surely a different experience. It is Iceland, but yet a different Iceland altogether. Looking like an enormous claw stretching out to sea, the Westfjords are known for sheer sea cliffs, some rising to a height of over 440 metres, and long, narrow fjords. A slender strip of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

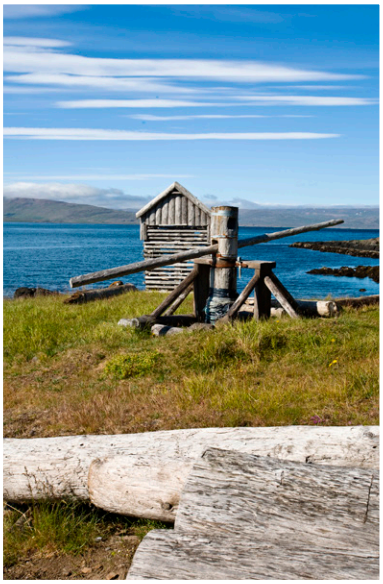
The northwest tip of the Westfjords is Hornstrandir, a now uninhabited 600-km^2 nature reserve of inspired natural beauty and undisturbed wildlife where nature lives in peace with itself. It is truly a privilege to experience such splendour.

www.westfjords.is

Useful links

Official travel guide for the area	www.westfjords.is
Hólmavík tourist info	www.holmavik.is/info
The Gisla 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





Photos: Ágúst Atlason.

A warm welcome at Hotel West

- Great location and personal service
- Comfortable new rooms in a historic building
- Magnificent natural attractions in the area

Hotel WEST

Aðalstræti 62 - 450 Patreksfjörður - Iceland
Tel. (+354) 456 5020 & (+354) 892 3414
www.hotelwest.is - stay@hotelwest.is
GPS N65° 35' 43.322" W23° 59' 7.448"

Vigur island – the bird's Paradise

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

Why Vigur? There is something inviting and charming about little islets, and the harmonious habitat for thousands of birds sets this one apart. Over the years, this destination has earned a great reputation among birdwatchers as a must-see.

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

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

You can find many remarkable items in Hnjótur Aviation Museum

Hnjótur Museum – do not miss it!

In The Folk Museum at Hnjótur you will find many remarkable items from old times, demonstrating means of occupation and survival, on land as well as sea, through the ages. Some of these are related to gathering of eggs in Látrabjarg, and there is a special section displaying the rescue of seamen in great danger. In the museum there are a few boats as well and equipment for whale-hunting.

At Hnjótur there is also an Aviation Museum displaying remarkable items related to the history of flying in Iceland. No one travelling in the south region of the Westfjords should miss the opportunity to visit the Folk Museum at Hnjótur. In the museum you will also find a nice café.

Rauðisandur – just pure sand

Rauðisandur, or (Red Sand), is precisely that: a beach with red sand, 10 km long. The magnificent hues of the sand differ with daylight and weather, and the beach is the biggest pearl in a string of coves with sand ranging in colours from white through yellow through red to black, and in coarseness from very fine to sole-hurting chips of seashells.

What to do in Rauðisandur? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. There is a Café but but not much else. There's just pure sand and unique tranquillity. You might want to step out of the car, get the camera out and start walking. Forget everything. Except maybe getting the perfect shot of the ever-changing hues of yellow, orange and red.

Rauðisandur is just pure sand and unique tranquillity

Hotel West is a new hotel in a house with an old soul

A relaxing view across the fjord

A warm welcome to Hotel WEST!

Hotel WEST is located in Europe's most westerly town of Patreksfjörður and is a small family run hotel that opened in 2014. This newly renovated house stands in the middle of the village where you have views from the rooms either to the mountains or to the fjord

In **Hotel WEST** we aim for creating a relaxing atmosphere for our guests, whether they are resting after or preparing for a day of exploring in the quietness and stunning nature of the Westfjords.

Fresh and newly renovated.

We offer 18 rooms with views to the fjord or to the mountain above the village.

Our guests can can enjoy a beautiful view over a healthy breakfast in the calmness in our breakfast area. We offer a free wifi in the whole hotel. A comfortable TV lounge is located next to the breakfast room.

Stunning nature

Although increasingly popular due to its spectacular nature, the area is still far from being overrun by tourists. Patreksfjörður is located in the southwestern part of the Westfjords, an Earth Check Certified region. Counting less than 700 inhabitants, it is a small fishing village that nonetheless has a swimming pool and a selection of restaurants.

The nature surrounding the village is stunning, from long sandy beaches and creeks to one of Europe's biggest bird cliffs, Látrabjarg; be sure to keep an eye out for waddling puffins and lounging seals. Dynjandi waterfall is a spectacular must-see, and a relaxation in the natural geothermal pool of Hellulaug is a unique experience!

www.hotelwest.is

The European Championship in Swamp Soccer is held in early August

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

Ísafjörður – amazing restaurants and museums

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

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

Ísafjörður also hosts an impressive array of events, many of which are world famous. Take the Aldrei fór ég suður music festival, held at Easter, and the European Championship in Swamp Soccer, held in early August. In the latter, a few hundred mad and glad people come together for a muddy competition in dirty tricks.

Gjögur was once a big fishing station for shark fisheries with up to 18 boats hunting for sharks at the same time

The old fishing station Gjögur

Gjögur is an old fishing station at Reykjafjörður fjord in Strandir. The village is surrounded by tall and elegant mountains, the mountain that stands above the village is called Sætrafjall.

Back in the days around 15-18 ships went shark fishing from there and each ship had around 7-11 people on board. In the 20th century the fishing began to decrease for the village and people moved away. Today there is no service there except for the airport, two times a week there are flights from Reykjavík to Gjögur.

Not far from the airport is a natural geothermal pool, owned by local residents. If you want to dip in the pool be sure to ask for a permission first, it is strictly forbidden to use it without asking.

Hesteyri offers plenty of beautiful hiking trails

Hesteyri is a unique former fishing-village with its golden age about 100 years ago. In 1952 the last of its inhabitants moved away. Today the village serves as a summer restort for locals and offers plenty of beautiful hiking trails. The landscape is shaped by steep cliffs, desolate, moss-overgrown valleys and rocky high plains. Large colonies of seabirds breed here and polar foxes hunt undisturbed.

Hesteyri is only reachable by boat from Ísafjörður and Bolungarvík for 10 weeks during the summer between the middle of June and the end of August. Traditional Icelandic refreshments are served at the old Doctor's house, which also serves as a primitive guesthouse, where time has pretty much stood still since the abandonment.

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

Flatey island – **like a movie set**

Old houses in cheerful colour in Flatey

Beautifully kept old houses in cheerful colours line the dusty path through the settlement of Flatey island. Walk through it, and at the end of the settlement, the path becomes even narrower and more crooked, taking you through a dense population of birds, consisting mainly of Arctic terns.

When you arrive in Stykkishólmur you need to make your way to the harbor and by a ticket for the Baldur ferry. You ask the staff to transport your car to Brjánslækur where you will collect the car when you return to Brjánslækur. If you are coming back to Stykkishólmur then you just leave your car at Stykkishólmur.

More information: www.seatours.is

Dynjandi waterfall is the biggest waterfall in the Westfjords

The cascading **waterfall Dynjandi**

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

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

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
Grímsey island	www.grimsey.is
Hrísey island	www.hrisey.is
Official travel guide to Iceland	www.visiticeland.com
Promote Iceland	www.islandsstofa.is/en

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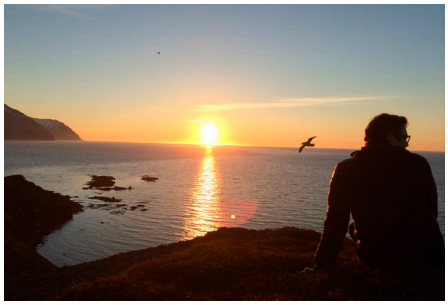


Municipality of Akureyri

Arctic Coast Way
Norðurstrandarleið

www.hrisey.com

#hrisey #visithrisey #akureyri

Photo. Gísli Kristinsson

Photo. Jón Steinar Ragnarsson

Fjallabyggð welcomes you

There are numerous walking routes that thread the magnificent landscape of the Fjallabyggð region, passing over mountains and through valleys, with the chance to experience the unique scenery in peace and tranquillity, and there are more opportunities for relaxation that can be easily counted up. 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.

Fjallabyggð 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.

Photo. Jón Steinar Ragnarsson

Photo. Guðný Ágústsdóttir

Photo. Magnús A. Sveinsson

Photo. Gestur Hansson

Culture and services

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

Something for all the family

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, greta places to barbecue and so much that makes time with the family even more worthwhile. Fjallabyggð has two outstanding swimming pools, jumping pads, great play areas and much, much more.

www.fjallabyggd.is
www.visittrollaskagi.is

Pay the toll within 24 hours at
www.tunnel.is

TUNNEL.IS
VAÐLAHEIÐARGÖNG

+354 464 1790 info@tunnel.is

The geothermal district east of Námaskarð

Take a look **at the Diamond Circle!**

North-eastern Iceland's Diamond Circle has a number of key destinations. This 250 kilometre trail brings together natural wonders, history and community. The most prominent of these is the historical and magnificent Goðafoss. From there the trail passes to Mývatn County where there's picturesque sight after another. Dimmuborgir is among these many special sites, and taking time to relax in the Mývatn Nature Baths is an opportunity not to be missed.

Heading eastwards towards Dettifoss, don't miss out on the hot springs at Námaskarður, and not far from the trail is the Krafla power station with its visitor centre where guests can find out how geothermal steam is used to generate electricity. Ásbyrgi is a world of its own and one of Iceland's most wonderful locations, with its cliff faces, woodlands, uniquely mild weather, birdlife and the lake at far end. This is a place to relax and enjoy.

The mighty Dettifoss, Europe's highest volume waterfall

Pictures: www.northiceland.is.

The trail joining together the north-east of Iceland's diamonds ends with a call in Húsavík, and on the way there it's worth taking in the view at Tjörnes and the birdlife by the sea shore. Húsavík is the ideal place for a whale-watching trip, a visit to a museum, a chance to enjoy the best of Húsavík's cuisine in any of the town's restaurants, and an opportunity to take in this northern community's daily life.

Ásbyrgi is one of Iceland's natural wonders

The whale-watching capital of Húsavík

SKAGAFJÖRÐUR

HOME OF THE NORTH

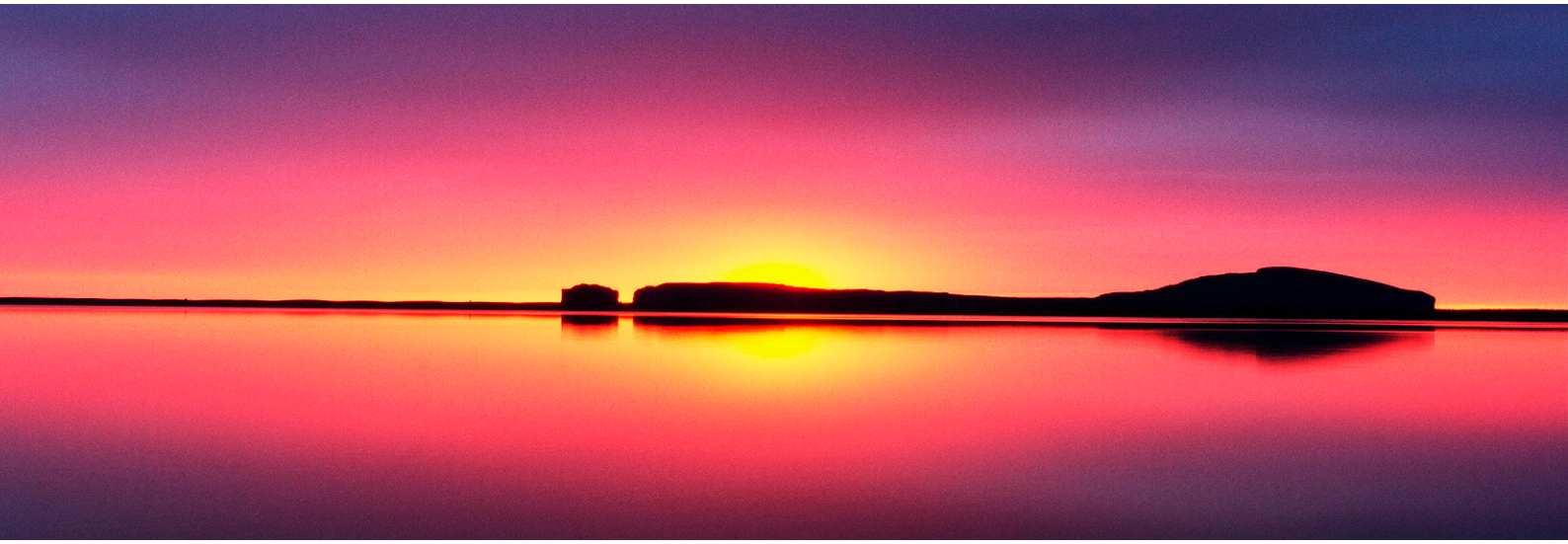
Enjoy the adventure!

Skagafjörður invites you to delight in the adventure of a lifetime. Sailing down a glacier river, horseback riding trip, trekking mountain, luxuriating in awesome nature or enjoying other leisure activities that the district offers.

History, singing, cheer and good food are always close at hand in Skagafjörður.

Welcome to Skagafjörður

Visit us or contact the Tourist Information Centre at Varmahlíð, it's open year-round.
+354 455 6161, info@visitskagafjordur.is, visitskagafjordur.is



Skagafjörður

a land of adventure!

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; 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... Or just lay back and relax and enjoy the stay – there are many diverse accommodation options available for you to choose from.

Skagafjörður has a rich cultural heritage and an abundance of historical sites. The Skagafjörður Heritage Museum engages in exhibitions, conservation and research. In the old turf farmhouse at Glaumbær, the museum has for over half a century been showing visitors what 18th and 19th century life was like in rural Iceland. There are also numerous other institutions and exhibits which are interesting to visit, for example the Icelandic Emigration Centre in Hofsós, the Víðimýrarkirkja turf church near the village of Varmahlíð, the Minjahúsið museum in Sauðárkrókur, the Skagafjörður Transport Museum and the historical bishop's seat of Hólar in Hjaltadalur valley.

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 Sturlungs and numerous folktales, in addition to the many cultural relics, will make your vacation fascinating and memorable.

visitskagafjordur.is

Tourist information in Skagafjordur

Tourist information in Varmahlid and Sauðárkrókur is open all year round.

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

Free access to the internet.

Tel: +354 455 6161

info@visitskagafjordur.is
www.visitskagafjordur.is

Siglufjörður's spirit of **the herring era**

Herring was one of the greatest forces for change in Iceland during the 20th century and laid the basis for Icelanders to be able to rise up from their longstanding poverty and build a modern society. Events concerning the herring fishery were so pivotal for the country and its people that this is referred to as an adventure – the Herring Adventure.

Herring towns of every size appeared around every port across the north and east of Iceland, and Siglufjörður was the largest and the best known of these. The Herring Era Museum in Siglufjörður is one of Iceland's largest museums and it contains a unique collection devoted to the herring fishery and the processing of the Silver of the Sea. Róaldsbrakki is a Norwegian herring shed dating from 1907. This is much as it was during the years of the Herring Adventure when herring workers lived there. Grána contains a collection related to the fishmeal industry, long seen as Iceland's first heavy industry, and boats can be seen at the quaysides, providing a real taste of the herring era.

The Herring Era Museum was awarded the Icelandic Museums Award in 2000 and a European award in 2004 when it was voted the best new industrial museum in Europe.

www.sild.is

Boats at the quayside by the Herring Era Museum

Photos: northiceland.is

Herring is still salted in Siglufjörður, although mainly for the benefit of tourists and visitors to the town

Víti is a geothermal crater lake found in Askja Caldera in the Icelandic Central Highlands

Photo: www.northiceland.is

The church was consecrated in 1877

Photo: www.northiceland.is

The remarkable church **at Þingeyrar**

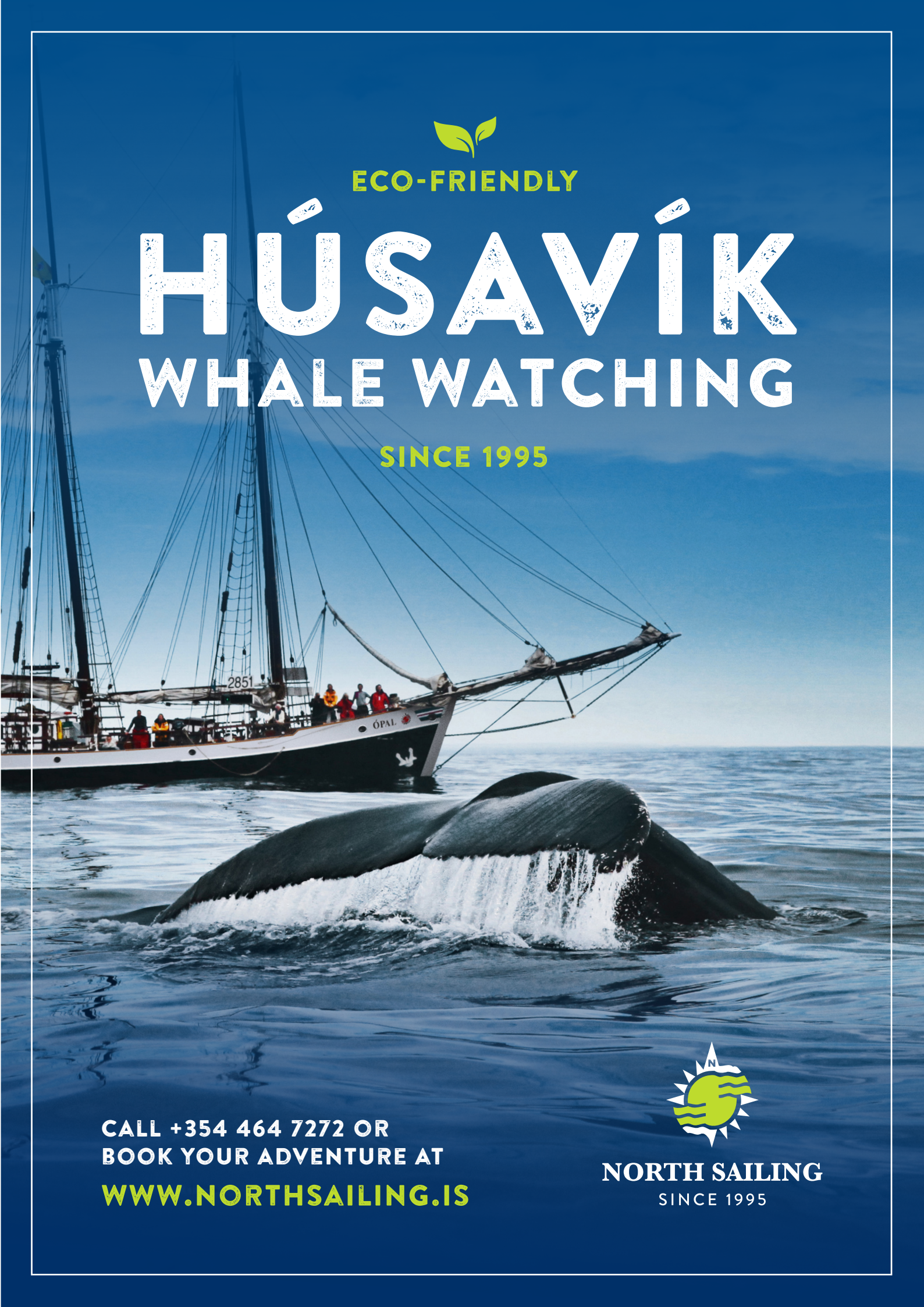
The church at Þingeyrar is one of the most remarkable in the country and is located where there was a chieftain's residence and a local meeting place in the past. The first monastery in Iceland was established at Þingeyrar in 1133.

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.

The Askja **volcanic centre**

The Askja volcanic centre is part of the Vatnajökull National Park and as such has been protected since 1978. This was a practically unknown volcanic region until the eruption that began there on the 29th of March 1875. It is known as the Askja eruption or the Dyngjufjall eruption, the latter name coming from the mountains that circle Askja.

The eruption had far-reaching consequences on eastern Iceland and many people subsequently emigrated to North America. There was a great deal of subsidence following the eruption, resulting in the formation of the Askja lake. On the eastern edge of the lake is the fissure known as Víti, which is reckoned to have been the source of the ash cloud during the 1875 eruption. Alongside the Askja eruption, there was a parallel laval eruption at Sveinagjá, leading to the formation of the Nýjahraun lava fields. Askja's last eruption was in 1961.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By using the green energy electric boats for whale watching North Sailing adds a new dimension to the way their guests experience nature

Whale Watching Húsavík:

The silent and eco-friendly way!

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

Whales and puffins

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

Eco friendly whale watching

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

www.northsailing.is

www.halloakureyri.is

Hello Akureyri!

There aren't many places that equal Akureyri in being popular among Icelanders 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 halloakureyri.is website lists information for all of the events taking place in the town, opportunities for relaxation and services, all in one place.

The aim is for the highlights of this summer's events schedule to peak at locations in the town and to be organised in compliance with current health regulations. This includes events listed for the Bank Holiday weekend in August and for the Akureyri Vaka weekend at the end of the same month. The Súlur Vertical offroad running race takes place on 31st of July and there has been plenty of interest in participating. 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 Súlur Vertical offroad running race takes place on 31st July

Akureyri old town

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 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 – small island, village, culture and trails
» Akureyri Town Festival – end of August each year
» Beer from Víking and Kaldi – Local breweries
» Akureyrarkirkja – church, design and interior
» Hlíðarfjall – One of the best skiing area in the country
» The hidden world of Akureyri – hidden beings, elves and dwarves
» The Arctic Cirle, in the island Grímsey (25 mín flight from Akureyri or ferry from Dalvík)

Ásbyrgi – one of the wonders

Ásbyrgi is one of the wonders of nature, a well forested horse-shoe shaped canyon in Oxarfjordur. Asbyrgi is a part of Jökulsárgljúfur, within the Vatnajökull National Park. The Jökulsárgljúfur site of the National park reaches from highway 85, by Asbyrgi south to Dettifoss, covering an area of 120 km². Many hiking tracks are in the vicinity of Asbyrgi.

Informative visitors centre, shop, golf course and camping is located by Asbyrgi.

www.northiceland.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

Photo. www.northiceland.is

Photo: www.fjallasyn.is

Hrísey – Eyjafjörður's gem

There's a ferry short crossing from Árskógssandur to the island of Hrísey in Eyjafjörður, and stepping ashore on the island is as good as shifting into a new relaxation gear in this exceptionally peaceful community!

Hrísey has plenty to see and do. There are coffee houses and restaurants, a chance to go for a swim, or a visit to the house of Shark-Jörundur which these days 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 isa open every day through the summer months.

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.

hrisey.is

Blönduós's outstanding thermal pool

Blönduós has a great swimmingpool for everyone, especially families with children. The swimming pool is 25 x 8.5 meters and the pool area also has two hot tubs, steam bath, waddle pool for children, ice bath, two large water slides and a lot of toys.

Natural resources are used in the swimming pool. Chlorine is produced on site and table salt is the only ingredient needed in the production as well as electricity and water. Chlorine gas is produced and put directly into the disinfection system as well as the system produces chlorine water used to meet daily fluctuations in usage. The device is the first of its kind in Iceland. The main advantages of the new system are: No transfers between locations of hazardous substances, chlorine odour is reduced, redness in eyes and skin irritation is reduced, Eco-friendly for the staff and promotes Eco-friendly environment.

Blönduós has a fine swimming pool, with slides, a paddling pool and hot tubs

The Blönduós swimming pool is open in summer Mondays to Fridays 08:00-21:00 and Saturdays and Sundays 10:00-20:00.

www.imb.is

MÝVATN NATURE BATHS

myvatnnaturebaths.is

The new swim-up bar

Mývatn Nature Baths

– a wonderful place to relax and recharge

The Mývatn Nature Baths are at Jarðbaðshólar, around four kilometres from Reykjahlíð. This place has been used as a centre of natural bathing for as long as there have been people in Iceland. This is a place for those who like to be in direct contact with nature, and want to relax while they revitalise both body and soul. These are among the finest hot springs to be found anywhere in the world.

Unique mineral composition

The Mývatn Nature Baths offer a natural sauna, a bathing pool heated with hot spring water and a hot tub. The water is rich in minerals, alkaline and it's a fantastic place to relax, while it also has properties that are effective against skin conditions, as well as being as soft as silk to the touch.

Kaffi Kvika

Visitors to the Mývatn Nature Baths can take the opportunity before or after using the baths to choose from a menu of light refreshments served in an airy dining room. On offer are soups, salads, coffee and cakes, juices, beer and wine.

www.jardbodin.is

www.myvatnnaturebaths.is

#myvatnnaturebaths

info@jardbodin.is

Road toll in Vaðlaheiði tunnel

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

Drivers need to pay road toll when driving through the Vadlaheidi 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 the each trip throug the tunnel 24 hours before entering the tunnel or max 3 hours after driving through the tunnel.

All further information on www.tunnel.is

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

The Icelandic Aviation Museum covers the history of aviation in Iceland Photo: www.northiceland.is

The Aviation Museum

The Icelandic Aviation Museum is located in a large hangar at Akureyri Airport. The museum covers Iceland's aviation history with photographs, videos, artefacts, models and historic aircrafts, which some are in airworthy condition and fly on the annual Fly Day held by the museum in June.

The exhibition takes you back in time, as you explore the development of aircrafts and airlines from 1919 to the present, and are allowed to access the interior of few of the aircrafts.

Opening hours:

May : Saturdays and Sundays 11:00-16:00
June, July and August: Open daily 11:00-17:00
The museum is also open by appointment.

www.flugsafn.is

Back in time at Grenjaðarstaður

A visit to the turf-walled homestead at Grenjaðarstaður in Aðaldalur 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 been home to a chieftaincy, a church and a priest through the ages, and was at one time the location for postal services.

Grenjaðarstaður at one time was seen as the most magnificent homesteads of its kind and at 775m^2, one of the largest of its kind in the country. 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.

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

The museum is open between 10:00 and 18:00 every day between the 1st of June and the 31st of August.

The turf homestead at Grenjaðarstaður

Photos: www.norticeland.is.

BACCALÁ
BAR & RESTAURANT

Welcome
TO HAUGANES

Hauganes is a small fishing village approx. 30km north of Akureyri in North Iceland. In Hauganes you will find a **Camping area** with good facilities, the picturesque restaurant **Baccalá Bar**, which serves a great variety of dishes and drinks. The cherry on top in Hauganes is the **Black sand beach** with geothermal **Hot Tubs** that make the North Atlantic Ocean a surprisingly cozy place!

BACCALÁ BAR & RESTAURANT – HAUGANESI BY ROAD #82 – TABLE BOOKINGS TEL: +354 620 1035
THE HOT TUBS ARE OPEN BETWEEN 10AM-22PM / COLD DURING NIGHTTIME – THE CAMPING AREA IS OPEN
MORE INFORMATION ON EKTAFISKUR.IS/EN & FACEBOOK: BACCALÁ BAR - EKTAFISKUR

bæk bækhonnun.is

Midnight sun on the Arctic Circle

Grimsey island Arctic Circle Monument

www.norticeland.is

Grímsey island is the only substantial part of Iceland that lies partly within the Arctic Circle. The island is a notable tourist destination for being the northernmost place in Iceland, it is only two square miles in size.

The Arctic Circle is a line close to the 66,5° parallels in the Northern and Southern hemispheres. It marks the approximate area where the sun never rises in winter and never sets in summer. There is no better place to enjoy the unique midnight sun and during the summer solstice the sun remains above the horizon around the clock and the islanders have a special festival to celebrate. ORBIS et GLOBUS (Circle & Sphere) is an artwork, a 17,600-pound concrete sphere, that was placed on the Arctic Circle in 2017. It is a 3m diameter globe that will follow the fluctuating North-South path of the Arctic Circle until it leaves the island.

www.grimsey.is

The viewing platform is a unique construction and it's well worth the drive out to Langanes to enjoy the view over the cliffs and the sea

Photo: www.northiceland.is

From a different viewpoint – Skoruvíkurbjarg

Your heart beats a little faster and you might find your knees go weak if you walk out to the viewing platform at Skoruvíkurbjarg on the furthest tip of Langanes. The platform is built on a robust framework and there's no reason not to enjoy the unique experience it offers, namely the chance to see from a completely new viewpoint the fantastic bird life that inhabits this extreme position.

There is some exceptionally colourful bird life here, with puffins, common guillemots, razorbills, black guillemots, northern fulmars and black legged kittiwakes all nest on the cliffs. Beneath the Skoruvíkurbjarg headland itself is a freestanding rock formation known as Stórikarl that is home to population of northern gannets. The birds don't pay visitors much attention, and it's easy to forget yourself as you stand on the viewing platform and watch the bird life as it whirls around you.

The Icelandic Emigration Center at Hofsós was founded in 1996 Photo: www.northiceland.is

The Icelandic Emigration Center at Hofsós

The Icelandic Emigration Center at Hofsós is dedicated to commemorate Icelandic emigrants to North America and to promote connections between their descendants and the people of Iceland. The exhibitions at the center combine text, photographs and tableaux to illustrate the conditions in Iceland that influenced the decision to emigrate, the journey to the 'New World' and the new way of life they encountered.

Visitors also have the opportunity to consult with staff about their Icelandic ancestors, accessing information found on our database and in our library. If you are planning a journey to discover the lives of your ancestors, contact us for assistance in identifying family ties and making connections that will enhance your visit.

www.hofsos.is

Kolugljúfur's waterfalls take their name from the she-troll Kola Photo: www.norticeland.is.

Beautiful Kolugljúfur

Anyone travelling on Route i through Víðidalur in Vestur-Húnavatns County should make a point of taking time to visit Kolugljúfur on the Víðidalur river, which lies only a few kilometres from the main road.

The gorge itself is both magnificent and beautiful, with the delightful river that gushes over the falls. The falls take their name from the she-troll Kola.

There are parking facilities by the falls and a viewing area from which the fantastic views can be safely seen.

When in danger

Call 112

112

Welcome to Hrisey!

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 1pm to 5 pm from the start of June until the end of August.

Further information: E-mail: hrisey@hrisey.net
www.hrisey.is

Hauganes is one of the travel sector's hidden delights. The hot tubs on the beach can be seen, and next to these is the camping ground. The Baccalá Bar restaurant is to the right, along with the Ektafiskur processing plant.

Two hot tubs at the beach. A perfect place for a dip in the sea

Hauganes – the place to be this summer

For anyone travelling through the Eyjafjörður district, Hauganes at Árskógsströnd is not to be missed. There are few places along the coast are able to offer so much, with a camping ground, a top-class restaurant, whale watching, sea fishing, hot tuns right on the beach, sea swimming opportunities, walking routes and more.

Saltfish pizza

The Baccalá Bar restaurant puts the emphasis on production from Ektafiskur, which produces quality saltfish for both local and export markets. Baccalá Bar always has fresh fish on the menu, but its saltfish dishes are always in high demand, including deep-fried saltfish and chips, and saltfish pizza.

It's open from 1200 to 2100 every day except Monday. Ektafiskur's upper floor also hosts a market every weekend through the summer, offering a variety of handicrafts and other offerings. Everyone's welcome.

Everything you could need

The Hauganes camping ground is large and has plenty of amenities. There are four toilets, showers and hot tubs by the beach, a children's playground and it goes without saying that anyone who feels like it can cast a line from the harbour wall. A dip in the sea is a great option, and those who want to go further out to sea can take a whale watching trip or try some sea fishing on board whale watching boat Níels Jónsson.

www.ektafiskur.is

The Baccalá Bar restaurant is open every day except Mondays throughout the summer. There is a varied menu, with the emphasis on dishes prepared from the freshest possible fish and salted fish

Baccalá Bar's saltfish pizza has been a major success

Fjallabyggð

The Herring Era Museum in Siglufjörður
© Þórarinn Hannesson

Welcome to Siglufjörður

FJALLABYGGÐ
IS AN AREA OF SPECTACULAR
NATURAL BEAUTY

THE CLOSENESS TO NATURE IS
ALWAYS WITHIN REACH

FLOURISHING CULTURAL LIFE,
MUSEUMS, GALLERIES & MORE

FJALLABYGGD.IS

Welcome to Ólafsfjörður

Ólafsfjörður Lake
© Ida M. Semay

The old farmhouse at Laufás is an example of a chieftain homestead from the past

Photo. northiceland.is.

Access pass to **five museums**

The Akureyri Museum is offering a pass valid for the whole of 2021 providing access to five fascinating museums in the Eyjafjörður area. These are the Akureyri Museum itself, as well as the Akureyri Toy Museum, Nonni's House, the home of Davíð Stefánsson and the old homestead at Laufás.

There are two long-term exhibitions at the Akureyri Museum which remain to the end of the year. These are Akureyri, the Town By the Water, and the Musical Town of Akureyri. The Toy Museum at Friðbjarnarhús certainly encourages its visitors to think back to their younger years and the spirit of the poet Davíð Stefánsson remains strong at Fagraskógur. Nonni's House, the childhood home of children's author and Jesuit priest Jón Sveinsson, known as Nonni, is among the oldest in Akureyri, built around 1850. In addition to maintaining a collection of items related to Nonni, the house is also a fine example of a townhouse of the time.

www.minjasafnid.is

Check the Road Conditions!

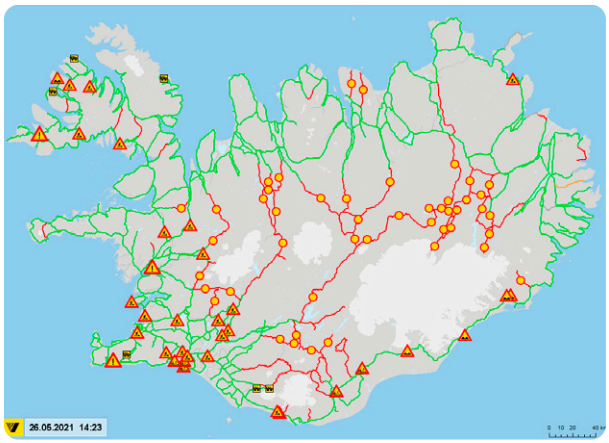
Before you embark on your drive around Iceland, especially in the wintertime, you need to check out what the road conditions are like and which roads are closed.

The Icelandic Road and Coastal Administration (IRCA) provides regular information on both road conditions and the weather on their web-site, www.road.is, where you will find an interactive map of Iceland in English. By clicking on the middle of the map, you will find information on the whole island, and by clicking on specific parts of the country you will find local conditions.

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 road.is you will also find a map with 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 08:00 am to 4:00 pm in the summer.



www.road.is

Information on road condition

Call 1777

Icelandic Road and Coastal Administration, IRCA

@vegagerdin

www.road.is

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.

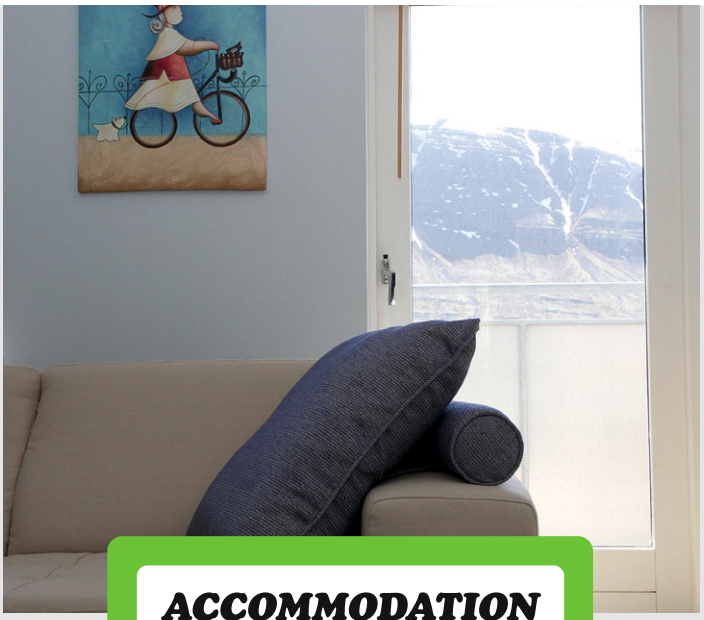
Villages of varying sizes dot the fjords. Loðmundarfjörður Fjord is ideal for travellers interested in walking peacefully where no one lives.

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

Photos: www.esast.is



ACCOMMODATION

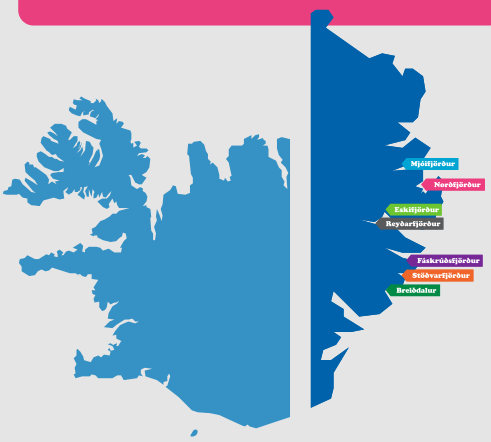
MUSEUMS

FOOD AND FUN

SWIMMING POOLS

GOLF

CAMPING



Wonderful Fjarðabyggð

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

In Fjarðabyggð you'll find six wonderful fjords, each with a unique charm of its own.
Find your favourite fjord or the coolest mountain.

FJARÐABYGGÐ
fjardabyggd.is

Wonderful Fjarðabyggð

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

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

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

www.visitfjardabyggd.is

Stuðlagil has proved hugely popular in recent years Photo. Guðmundur Þorsteinsson

Stuðlagil – One of eastern Iceland's treasures

It's no surprise that Stuðlagil on the Jökulsá á Dal river was one of the most popular destinations in the country in 2020. This gorge has been largely unknown to the public but became more visible as the Kárahnjúkar power station began operation.

The strikingly green-blue mountain water now flows languidly between magnificent walls of column basalt and today this natural wonder is seen as one of the treasures of Eastern Iceland.

Stuðlagil is reached by leaving Highway 1 at Skjöldólfsstaðir í Jökuldal, turning onto road 923. Another route is to drive to the farm at Grund, where there is a car park, toilet facilities and safe access with steps and platforms, providing an excellent view along the gorge.

Entering the gorge itself has to be from the eastern bank. Leave the road at Hákonarstaðir and head for Klaustursel. It is not permitted to drive over the bridge that spans the Jökulsá river, so leave your car in the car park on the west side of it, and from there follow the trail leading to Stuðlagil.

We recommend a visit to Gerpir for all lovers of nature

Gerpir – the easternmost cape in Iceland

Gerpir is the easternmost cape in Iceland, running steep into the sea from a height of 661 metres. Estimated to be around twelve million years old, the rock is considered to be among the oldest formations in Iceland.

The area around Gerpir is a hiker's dream: you can find a hiking map of the area in information centres and stores around Fjarðabyggð. A visit to Gerpir is well worth it!

Hafragilsfoss – An Awesome Waterfall

The glacial river Jökulsá á Fjöllum is the second longest river in Iceland. It flows for more than 200 km from its source and down to the delta in Öxarfjörður fjord. The river emerges from the glaciers Dyngujökull and Brúarjökull but from the second glacier the rivers Kreppa and Kverká also stem. On its long way to sea the river flows through dark and rough wasteland, sands and lava fields. When the river reaches the Jökulsá River Canyons, the watercourse crashes off several impressive waterfalls; Selfoss, Dettifoss and the awesome Hafragilsfoss, pictured.

www.visitegilsstadir.is

www.visitseydisfjordur.is

www.borgarfjordureystri.is

www.visitdjupivogur.is

Skaftfell is situated in an imposing old house, built in 1907

Center **for visual arts**

Skaftfell in Seyðisfjörður Village is a cultural centre dedicated to nurturing and exhibiting visual arts, the main emphasis being on contemporary art. Skaftfell is a meeting point for artists and locals and serves as a center for visual arts in the entire region.

Skaftfell was founded in the year 1998 by a group of art enthusiasts in the town of Seyðisfjörður. The main floor houses extensive exhibition space with standing exhibitions the whole year round. The top floor encompasses agreeable lodgings for visiting artists and scholars .On the ground floor there is a Bistro endowed with a good library on art and related material.

Open: All year round.

www.skaftfell.is

A must see **Stone museum**

Most of her stones were found in Stöðvarfjörður and other places in East Iceland

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 June 1st - August 31st, 10 AM-5 PM.

www.steinapetra.is

The out-door paradise that is the district of Fljótsdalshérað, welcomes you to enjoy its unique natural beauty and serenity in a varied landscape

Fljótsdalshérað: Unique and Serene Nature

Fascinating **nature**

Fljótsdalshérað is in the East of Iceland, between Héraðssandur in the north and Vatnajökull glacier to the south. The nature 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. Away from the sands you will find lush, green areas and woods, magnificent canyons and high waterfalls that bring joy to hikers and nature lovers alike. The magnificent Lagarfljót river passes through the area – home of a mythical beast called Lagarfljótsormurinn (e. Lagarfljót's-Worm) - and Iceland's largest forest, Hallormsstaðaskógur, is right off the riverbanks.

Pearls of Fljótsdalshérað

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.

visitegilsstadir.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 „Víknaslóðir" 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 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.

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

A dance with the Mountains

The Icelandic Northern Lights Centre is in the Wathne house in Fáskrúðsfjörður, with an exhibition of photographs on the theme of 'Dancing with Mountains.' Each photograph is clearly labelled with the time and date, camera settings and other information.

The Northern Lights Centre is practically next door to Fosshotel Eastfjords in the French Hospital. The number of visitors to Fáskrúðsfjörður has increased significantly since the French Hospital's renovation was complete, along with the addition of other services to visitors. The Northern Lights Centre is part of the growth in sights of interest in Fáskrúðsfjörður.

The Icelandic Northern Lights Centre is in the Wathne house in Fáskrúðsfjörður

The Kárahnjúkar Power Plant

The biggest Power Plant in Iceland is the Kárahnjúkar Hydropower Plant, 690 MW, and its power-generating capacity is 4,600 GWh/year. The main storage reservoir is Hálslón, on the River Jökulsá á Dal, alongside the Kárahnjúkar peaks. The water passes through a headrace tunnel to the Fljótsdalur powerhouse at Valthjófsstadarfjall and then through further tailrace tunnels and canals to the River Jökulsá í Fljótsdal. Kárahnjúkar HPP has substantial underground structures with tunnels totalling over 70 km in length.

To get to Kárahnjúkar from Fljótsdalur valley, drive along road nr. 910, which leads directly to the former construction site at the Kárahnjúkar mountains. When you have driven over the Kárahnjúkar dam you will reach a parking place. From there tourists can walk to the edge of the dam and enjoy the view of the lake and the canyon.

The Northern Lights Centre is open daily from 12:30 PM to 5:00 PM, 15th of June to 15th of August.

www.auroras.is

The Wilderness Centre of years gone

Iceland's Wilderness Centre is close to the bottom of the Norðurdalur valley in the Fljótsdalur district, offering a rich variety relaxation and accommodation options, including exhibitions detailing life off the beaten track, riding and walking routes and more, as well as the unique experience of staying in the traditional living room of a traditional house. A varied choice of menu is available from the kitchen and the better house's suites.

'What we have set out to achieve here has worked out well so far and we have built this up in the belief that there are people who want to experience something more than a coach tour and Iceland's nature seen through a window. This is a place where there's history everywhere at your feet, and it's a history that showcases in a unique way the lives of the nine siblings who lived here well into the twentieth century, living a completely self-sufficient lifestyle, making the utmost use of everything and living on the strength of their own ingenuity,' said Steingrímur Karlsson, who with Arna Björg Jónsdóttir runs the highly regarded centre.

www.obyggdasetur.is

Accommodation is available year-round in the tastefully renovated rural living room

The calm, deep fjord of Seyðisfjöður stretches 17 km inland and is known for its stunning nature. The picture is taken by Neðri-Stafur at Fjarðarheiði heath

Visit the camping and caravan site

A newly renovated camping site in Seyðisfjörður is located in the center of the village, surrounded by trees and divided into smaller areas. The camp site has great facilities for tents, mobile homes and folding campers. In the service building you'll find a dining room, cooking facilities, showers, barbecue outside, hot and cold water, washing machine, a dryer and internet connection free of charge!

Blossoming **arts scene**

Seyðisfjörður is known for its vibrant culture and stunning beauty, offering an abundance of diverse activities: The arts scene here is flourishing, with regular exhibitions in Skaftfell Center for Visual Arts, the Tvísöngur Sound Sculpture right above the town, regular cultureal events like the Blacksmith Festival, the Blue Church's concert series, the annual Gay Pride Festival, Hýr halarófa and of course the LungA art festival.

The calm, deep fjord of Seyðisfjöður stretches 17 km inland and is known for its stunning nature. „We have great number of interesting hiking trails, for both novices and those who are more used to the great outdoors. We also offer a number of guided walking tours and hikes. Experienced hikers can also try the local challenge of conquering all of the fjord's seven peaks! There are also kayak tours and boat tours in Seyðisfjörður, as well as the local swimming pool, disc-golf course and an excellent 9 hole golf course.

The Blue Church and Rainbow Street

What should tourists not miss?

Don't forget to snap a picture along the Rainbow Street with the Blue church in the background. We recommend checking out the local hand craft market before grabbing a bite of sushi at NorðAustur and finishing off the day by enjoying an El Grillo beer at Kaffi Lára. The town also offers a variety of diffirent accommodations, from hotels and guesthouses and a camping area.

www.visitseydisfjordur.com

The Eggs **at Merry Bay**

Djúpivogur is a charming village with a long history of trading since 1589 located in a place of incomparable natural beauty. This small village is worth to visit and don't miss the outdoor sculpture, the Eggs at Merry Bay (Eggin í Gleðivík) by the world famous Icelandic artist Sigurður Guðmundsson, consisting of 34 eggs. The artwork is on the coast, about 1 km from the centre of the village, in a convenient walking distance.

Today the main industry is fishing with tourism increasing rapidly in recent years. Langabúð, the oldest house in Djúpivogur, houses some of the works of sculptor Ríkarður Jónsson, a heritage museum and a coffee-shop with delicious homemade cakes and a display of local handicraft.

Djúpivogur is a Cittaslow village, the only one of its kind in Iceland. Cittaslow is an international network of cities where living is good and the uniqueness is cherished. Cittaslow towns focus on the authenticity of products, good local food, rich and fascinating local craft traditions, and the protection of the environment where the joy of slow and quite living on daily bases is key.

www.mulathing.is

The outside artwork Eggin í Gleðivík consists of 34 huge granite eggs which represent the eggs of each of the nesting birds in this area

Vök Baths
Wonderful Urriðavatn

The hot pools of Vök Baths are a wonderful place to relax

The Vök Baths are designed to become part of the landscape around them

Vök Baths are natural bathing pools by the lake at Urriðavatn, not far from Egilsstaðir. The baths became an instant hit with overseas visitors, and have been no less popular with locals travelling around Iceland.

All due to the hot water

The whole basis of the venture is the clean hot water from the bed of the lake. This has many health-giving properties and it can also be tasted at the Tea Bar, as this is included in the entrance fee. The pools area covers around 500 square metres, with two pools by the shore and two floating Vakir pools on the lake itself.

In addition, there are saunas, cold showers, a pool bar and a restaurant where the focus is on the natural hot water and the district's wonderful local produce. Sustainability and respect for nature are key features at Vök Baths.

Diverse menu

Anyone taking the opportunity to visit Vök Baths and its fabulous facilities should definitely not expect to leave hungry. Soups, smoothies, fresh salads and a wide variety of home-baked breads are available at the Vök Bistro and the Tea Bar, along with choices such as organic herb drinks that guest scan mix for themselves. The emphasis is firmly on the locality's produce and every effort is made to source organic produce wherever possible.

www.vokbaths.is

The restaurant at Vök Baths is a great place with plenty of choice

There are two pools at the side of the lake at Urriðavatn and there are two floating hot pools, known as Vakir, in the lake itself

The baths are just five minutes from Egilsstaðir

Ullarkistan's Halldóra Björk Hreiðarsdóttir: 'Travellers like to come to us before heading for the Reykjanes volcanic sites'

Warm gear for the volcano trek

'There are plenty of people who come up to Skeifan to pick up warm underclothes before they head for the Reykjanes volcanic eruption sites, not least visitors to Iceland, and we offer a range of underclothes made in merino wool which is highly suitable for cold conditions. These let moisture from the body out, they don't remain damp if they get wet, and they dry out quickly,' said Halldóra Björk Hreiðarsdóttir who runs the Ullarkistan wool clothing shop on Skeifan in Reykjavík.

'We have a variety of clothing from Janus in Norway, including socks, ear bands, hats, gloves and more. We also have a range of Safa goods available, including wool and silk clothing, ladies' tights and singlets, trousers and socks for men.'

Ullarkistan has shops at Skeifan 3b in Reykjavík and on Glerártorg in Akureyri. Goods can also be purchased for delivery through Ullarkistan's online shop.

www.ullarkistan.is

Floating hot tubs in the wonderful natural surroundings of the Eastfjords

Five minutes from Egilsstaðir

vök baths

Vök Baths by Lake Urriðavatn
5 km north of Egilsstaðir

www.vok-baths.is

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
Þingvellir 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

Photos: www.south.is

Selfoss area

- Stay closer to nature

SELFOSS AREA stay closer to nature

A suspension bridge over Ölfusá River was built in 1945. The bridge is 84 meters long and is in the town Selfoss

Selfoss Area Information Center
Austurvegur 2, Selfoss (in the library)

Open Monday - Friday from 09:00-18:00.
Saturday from 10:00-14:00.
Tel: +354 480 1900
www.arborg.is

he towns of Selfoss, Eyrarbakki and Stokkseyri are going to be busy places this summer with a variety of events scheduled. It's a perfect opportunity to take in the southern part of Iceland and its areas of natural beauty, as well as to experience the number of local festivals taking place. There is ample room for visitors, with many camping sites, hotels and guest houses.

Selfoss is the largest service hub in the region with shops, restaurants and a choice of entertainments. Among the most popular attractions is the swimming pool with plenty of play areas for children, relaxation opportunities in the hot tubs and in the saunas and steam baths. There are also the golf course, the Fischer Centre and the many walking, cycling and riding routes.

Built in 1938-1939, the Knarrarósviti lighthouse was the first one in Iceland to be built out of reinforced concrete

A small but special swimmign pool is at the heart of Stokkseyri and the Við Fjöruborðið restaurant is also centrally placed. The shoreline is always worth a visit and this is well known for its natural beauty, plus there is the world-class hunting museum and a good walk to the Knarrarós lighthouse or the Baugsstaðir Creamery is always worthwhile.

Eyrarbakki's historic House is at the centre of the community and this is home to the district's museum, close by the local seafaring museum. The Saga Music Hall and the Rauða húsið restaruant are also at the heart of this town and an information centre has recently been opened at the Staður community centre, next to the sea defences and right next to Rauða húsið. Eyrarbakki has plenty of available accommodation for those who are looking for the district's evening tranquillity.

The church at Eyrarbakki

www.arborg.is

River rafting, canoeing and kayaking are all done in the river Þjórsá

Þjórsá: The longest river in Iceland

Þjórsá, the longest river in Iceland, whose source is at Bergvatnskvísl on Sprengisandur in the Highland interior. On its way past Hofsjökull glacier, the river runs through the extensive Þjórsáver wetlands, a protected natural site which is the worlds main breeding site for the pink-footed goose.

Þjórsá is 230 km long and drains a catchment area of 7,530 km^2. Typical summer flow in the river is 350-700 m^3/sec. at the Urriðafoss waterfall. Many other waterfalls are on its course seawards, especially towards the Highlands, and a number of hydroelectric power stations have been built to harness it and its tributaries.

The river has six hydropower stations, built by Landsvirkjun. These are Búrfellsstöð, Sultartangastöð, Hrauneyjafossastöð, Sigoldustöð, Vatnsfellstöð and Búðarhalsstöð.

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.

When the sea is calm, big bwoats 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.

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.

Hornafjörður, home to the Lobster Festival

The lobster plays an important role in Höfn

Hornafjörður is a blooming community in the realm of the greatest glacier in Europe, Vatnajokull. It is a geographically large municipality, covering 260 kilometers of the south-eastern shoreline, but the population is just over 2000 inhabitants.

The southern part of Vatnajökull National Park is located in the community and the scenery from the town of Höfn and the countryside is breathtaking.

Fishing is the largest industry in Hornafjordur municipality, but it is also an agricultural area.

The name Höfn actually means harbour. A good part of the Icelandic lobster catch is landed and processed in Höfn. The lobster plays an important role in Höfn where the annual „Lobster festival" is celebrated each summer.

Tourism is a growing industry in Hornafjordur municipality. It offers diverse accommodation, restaurants and shopping. Hornafjordur is a great base for discovering Vatnajökull National Park, and also offers activities for the whole family.

www.hornafjordur.is

Seljalandsfoss: The waterfall you can walk behind!

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

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

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

Seljalandsfoss waterfall is a „do-not-miss" attraction

STOKKSEYRI SWIMMING POOL

Sundlaug Stokkseyrar is a small and friendly pool, located only 50 minutes from Reykjavík. It has 17 m outdoor pool, waterslide and 3 hot tubs and you might get coffee served in the hot tub. From the swimming pool you can walk and see the beautiful ocenside in Stokkseyri.

Opening times

Summer (*01.06.20 – 15.08.20*):	
Mon. - Fri.	13:00 - 21:00
Sat. - Sun.	10:00 - 17:00
Winter (*16.08. - 31.05.20*):	
Mon. - Fri.	16:30 - 20:30
Sat.	10:00 - 15:00
Sun.	10:00 - 15:00

Address:

v/Hásteinsveg Stokkseyri
825 Árborg
(+354) 480-3260

sundh@arborg.is
www.arborg.is

GPS: 63° 50.266'N, 21° 3.815'W

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

Hvolsvöllur: base for exploration of South Iceland

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. Only 30 minutes from Hvolsvöllur you can find Landeyjahöfn from where you take the ferry to Vestmannaeyjar.

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

www.visithvolsvollur.is

Vík – a village nearby Katla volcano

Vík í Mýrdal is a village on the south coast of Iceland, sandwiched between sand, sea and the glacier that overlooks it. This is one of the most interesting areas of the south coast, not least with the unique attractions of the black sands at Reynisfjara, the surf that hits the shore at Reynisdrangar, the reserve at Dyrhólaey, Sólheimajökull, Hjörleifshöfði and Reynisfjall. Mýrdalur has unique bird life, with many nesting areas for Artic terns and millions of puffins.

The Katla Center

The Myrdalur Life and Nature exhibition is at the Katla Center, showing aspects of life in the region and the effects on it from the nearby Katla volcano. There is also an information center open all year where visitors have access to information about the region and close regions. At Katlacenter there is also a unique handcraft store that only sells icelandic products, books and the most beautiful woolen sweaters you can find in Iceland, decoraded with puffin pattern.

www.visitvik.is

The village Vík í Mýrdal

Huge iceblocks are floating on the lagoon

Jökulsárlón: a natural wonder

The main lagoon measures about 7 square miles (20 km^2) and until 1932 was covered in thick glacial ice. Then the glacier started to retreat, and nowadays more than 300 feet (100 m) of ice breaks away each year to reshape the lagoon and fill it with spectacular icebergs.

The lagoon is open to the sea and so contains a mixture of salt and freshwater, giving it a unique blue-green color. There are hundreds of seals here in the winter and the lagoon supports many species of fish including krill, herring, trout and, occasionally, salmon.

www.jokulsarlon.is

At this historical place, the independence of the Republic of Iceland was proclaimed on June 17, 1944

Pingvellir: a protected national shrine

Thingvellir, 50 km (31 miles) to the east of Reykjavík, is the national shrine of Iceland. The history has nowhere more visible than at Thingvellir on the Öxará river. Iceland's Parliament, the Althing, was established here and it was the scene of many momentous events in the country's history. It's safe to say that Thingvellir is the place that hold a special position in the Icelandic psyche. Thingvellir is a UNESCO world heritage site.

Over the last few decades research has also shown that Thingvellir is a natural marvel in which the geological formation of the place and the ecology of the lake form a unique whole. Being able to monitor the development of species in an area such as around lake Thingvellir is of enormous value. The Thingvellir region is part of the North Atlantic ridge that passes through Iceland and which is gradually widening. The evidence of this process is to be seen in the cracks and fissures around the whole area.

Welcome to Eldheimar
– the Westmann Islands' new eruption museum

Árnes country's Uppsveitir district

Stay, experience, enjoy

The view from Flúðir. The region is home a number of interesting villages and urban centres

The Uppsveitir of Árnes county extends from Thingvellir to the Thjórsá river and up into the highlands.

The region offer numerous interesting destinations to visit, natural wonders, historical sites and some little-known hidden gems. Everyone knows Thingvellir, Gullfoss and Geysir, but less well known are Hjálparfoss on the Thjórsá river valley and its woods, Thjóðveldisbær, Stöng and Háafoss. Other popular destinations are Kerið, the Úlfljóts lake, Brúarhlöð, the Haukadalur woods and the district surrounding lake Laugarvatn. The district offers a great many opportunities for outdoor relaxation, walking routes and there organised walks are available.

There are opportunities for the whole family to enjoy themselves, with choices of horse riding, fishing, bird watching, exploring caves, walking, sailing and snowmobile trips. There are petting zoos, paintballing, an adrenaline park, galleries, and many museums golf courses.

Throughout the district are pleasant villages and communities, including Flúðir, Laugarvatn, Reykholt, Laugarás, Árnes, Brautarholt, Borg and Sólheimar. These offer a variety of services and it's always worth checking at camping sites and guest houses to find out what each locality has that's worth experiencing. There's always something new and exciting to be found in this unique part of Iceland.

www.sveitir.is - www.south.is

This young traveller shows a strong interest in Strokkur

The Uppsveitir region of the Árnes county is a place for the whole family to relax

Thingvellir is a true natural paradise

In Þorlákshöfn you can find the best surfing spot in Iceland

Black **sand beach and surfing**

Ölfus has a black sand beach that stretches from Þorlákshöfn to Ölfusá river. A long walk on the beach surrounded by black sand and lyme grass is the perfect way to unwind from the day to day stress. The beach is also a popular surfing spot and the waves are suitable for those taking their first steps at surfing. For more advanced surfers the waves by the lighthouse in Thorlákshöfn are superb.

From Þorlákshöfn village and all over the municipality you have sensational panoramic views over most of the south coast e.g. over the volcanoes Mt. Hekla and Eyjafjallajökull and to Vestmannaeyjar.

www.olfus.is

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

Opening hours:

Open daily from 11:00 - 17:00

Open for groups outside normal hours by prior agreement

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

Kristín Jóhannsdóttir, the museum´s director

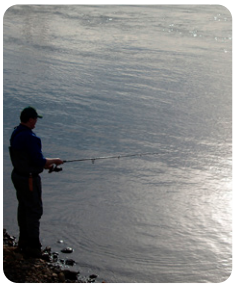
Gerðisbraut 6 was an ordinary house that was buried under the ash of the Westmann Islands eruption and is now the centrepiece of the Eldheimar exhibition devoted to the 1973 eruption and the 1963 Surtsey eruption

All that you desire is here!

South Iceland is a beautiful setting and the perfect base for touring Iceland's most popular natural wonders:

Interesting Historical & Nature sites

- Volcanos
- Waterfalls
- Glaciers
- Caves
- National Parks
- Geysirs Geothermal
- Lighthouses
- Mountains
- Old famous farms
- Valleys
- Super jeep tours
- Lava fields
- Cultural activities
- Kajaking, Whale watching
- Horse Riding tours
- Fishing in Lakes and Rivers
- And much more!



www.south.is

Skógar Museum
SKÓGASAFN

The Skógar Museum is one of the oldest of its kind in Iceland. It brings together a museum, a collection of of preserved buildings, a transport and technology collection and a variety of exhibits on its 2500 square metre area.

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

Opening times:
June, July and August 10:00-18:00 // September 10:00-17:00
October-April 11:00-16:00 // May 10:00-17:00

Tel. 487 8845 www.skogasafn.is Safnavegur 1, 861 Skógar Iceland

The turf-roofed cottage is the centrepiece of the museum

Skógar's remarkable museum

SKÓGASAFN
Skógar Museum

The Skógar museum is one of the oldest of its kind in Iceland and altogether it has more that 18 thousand exhibits. There's every reason to to stop off at the Skógar Museum when travelling around the country and to take in all the fascinating things to be seen there.

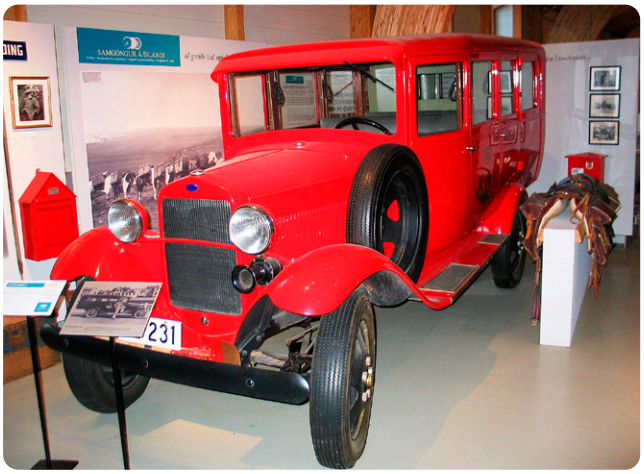
Buildings through the ages

The museum itself is the oldest part of the collection as a whole and it offers three floors of exhibit space. These include seagoing, agricultural and natural history sections, including examples of weaving, ancient manuscripts and books, including a Guðbrandur Bible dating from 1584, as well as items dating from the Viking age. The collection also includes examples of buildings through the ages.

Fascinating transport collection

The transport collection 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 electrification and the history of the postal services in the past. The transport collection also houses a souvenir shop and a café.

www.skogasafn.is



The Transport museum contains vehicles from the early years of Iceland's car era

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

UPPSVEITIR IN ÁRNES COUNTY

A relaxing environment for the whole family

- Flúðir
- Laugarvatn
- Reykholt
- Borg
- Sólheimar
- Laugarás
- Brautarholt
- Árnes
- Þingvellir
- Geysir
- Gullfoss
- Þjórsárdalur

Bláskógabyggð

Hrunamannahreppur

Grímsnes- og Grafningshreppur

Skeiða- og Gnúpverjahreppur

www.sveitir.is

www.south.is

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.

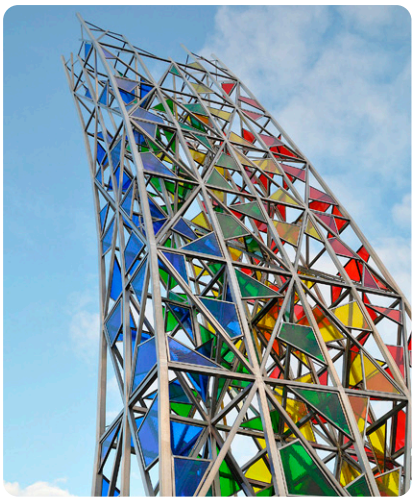
Useful links

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

Photo: Jóhann Ólafur Halldórsson

One of 25 wonders of the world
Blue Lagoon geothermal seawater is unlike any other water on the planet. Born deep underground, this natural marvel is rich in silica, algae, and minerals—the elements that give the water its extraordinary powers.
Discover the water. Experience the wonder.
BLUE LAGOON
ICELAND
bluelagoon.com



Rúri's Rainbow stands 24 metres high, the tallest work of art in Iceland

The Keflavík **Rainbow**

Made in stainless steel and stained glass, the Rainbow is an artwork that stretches 24 metres upwards. There are 313 panes of yellow, red, green and blue glass in total, and artist Rúri is responsible for this unique piece of work.

The Rainbow stands on a stone plinth of heavyweight grey basalt slabs and when night falls it is illuminated. The work was unveiled in 1991.

'The Rainbow is uncompleted. I imagine that some time in the future, after a century, or a millennium, someone will pick up to continue where the work was left off. The work will stretch higher and higher into the sky, and then back down again. That's until the end finally touches the earth and the Rainbow will be complete,' the artist says on her web page.

The older lighthouse, constructed in 1897, was for decades one of the best lighthouses in Iceland

The Garðskagi lighhouses

On Garðskagi you can find two lighthouses standing side by side to guide the seafarers, one tall, one short. The shorter one, constructed in 1897, was for decades regarded as one of the best lighthouses in Iceland because it stood low. The tall one was constructed in 1944. Two decades later the old lighthouse had a new role and became a bird observatory – and no wonder, as the local birdlife is spectacular!

The new lighthouse is a cylindrical concrete tower rising 28 meters high with a four-way facing rotation lens. The view from the top is breathtaking. Here is where you find the midnight sun in its purest form and during winter you can practically touch the northern lights.

The Sunset Festival on Garðskagi is held annually on Garðskagi in the middle of the summer. The facility is ideal for campers with tents, trailer tents and winnabegos.

Sea cliffs **with colourful birdlife**

On the Krýsuvíkurberg and Hafnaberg cliffs, thousands of seabirds nest each summer. Krýsuvíkurberg is 50 metres high, and about 57.000 pairs of seabirds nest on these cliffs. The highest point of Hafnaberg is 43 metres, and its estimated population of seabirds is 6.000 pairs.

Fourteen kilometres southwest of the peninsula is Eldey island, home to one of the largest gannet colonies in the world. The gannet is the largest seabird in the north Atlantic ocean, and about 16.000 pairs nest each year on the island, which is only 0.3 km² in area, and up to 77 metres high.

The arctic tern is among the most common birds in the peninsula, mostly found in colonies on the tip of Reykjanes, east of Grindavík and between Garður and Sandgerði. Whimbrels which breed in the Suðurnes area spend the winter in Africa, and arctic terns migrate to the Antarctic. The golden plover, oystercatcher and snipe are migratory birds which are common in the area, while the purple sandpiper is one of the few Icelandic waders which does not migrate.

Krýsuvíkurberg is home to 60,000 individual birds in the height of summer, when migratory species come to lay their eggs

Keilir is located within the area of Krýsuvík volcanic system and Reykjanesfólkvangur

A pyramid-shaped **Keilir mountain**

Keilir mountain is the most distinctive landmark of Reykjanes and a symbol of the Reykjanes peninsula. On top of the mountain is a concrete table with a view direction map on a metal plate.

Keilir, a pyramid-shaped mountain, is clearly visible from Reykjavík. It is not very high, a mere 379 m above sea-level. Keilir was created during subglacial eruptions during the ice age. It´s shape makes it distinctive and according to geologists, it probably is a crater plug. In spite of its steep slopes, it is not too difficult to climb, and the view from its top on a fine day is to be remembered.

WITNESS THE FORCE OF NATURE IN REYKJANES

REYKJANES · UNESCO · GLOBAL · GEOPARK

reykjanesgeopark.is — visitreykjanes.is

The Blue Lagoon has long been one of Iceland's landmark destinations

The Blue Lagoon, known around the world

Situated on the Reykjanes peninsula, the Blue Lagoon is a salt water lagoon, of which two thirds salt and on third is fresh water. The lake is rich in minerals, silica and algae, and people who take the opportunity to immerse themselves in its waters immediately feel its positive effects on skin and hair. In addition, it's simply a pleasure to spend time at this health spa with its reputation that extends around the world.

The bathing area covers 8700 square metres and the lagoon itself contains around nine million litres of geothermal water at a steady temperature of 37-39°C, and with a constant flow so that the entire contents are renewed approximately every 40 hours.

Every year around a million visitors have come to the Blue Lagoon and this has long been Iceland's most popular destination.

The Blue Lagoon was established in 1992 and since then it has been systematically built up as a health resort, alongside the development of health products. The Blue Lagoon also has restaurants, meeting and conference facilities and first class hotel accommodation.

visitreykjanes.is blaalonid.is

An eruption began on 19th of March this year and volcanic activity in nearby Geldingadalir

Enjoy Grindavik: A place with something for everybody

The village of Grindavík is one of Iceland's special surprises for tourists. While best known for its world famous Blue Lagoon, Grindavík also offers visitors a range of opportunities for recreation, leisure and family fun.

An eruption began on 19th of March this year and volcanic activity in nearby Geldingadalir has now been continuing for three months. The hiking route leading to the eruption site is easily accessible and the view is amazing if the weather conditions are good.

Grindavík has guesthouses, excellent camping facilities, one of Iceland's top 18 hole golf courses, and the unique Kvikan cultural centre with its exhibitions of marine resources and geothermal energy, as well as a variety of places to relax. There is an information centre for tourists and you will also find an unexpected variety of fine restaurants in Grindavík, such as Salthúsið, the Fish House, Hjá Höllu and Festi Bistro bar, to name just a few.

The area immediately around Grindavík offers endless opportunities for adventure and entertainment. Hike along historic trails such as Prestastastígur, Skógfellsvegur and Reykjavegur, or take a trip on an ATV, go horseback riding or tour by bicycle.

Visit the Hópsnes circle, with its shipwrecks and relics, and the Reykjanes lighthouse for a glimpse of life by the sea. Tour the Stakkavík fish processing facility, go fishing in the harbor. Climb Thorbjarnarfell Mountain to enjoy a spectacular view of Grindavík and the surrounding area.

Don't miss natural highlights such as Gunnuhver, Brimketill, Eldvörp, Kleifarvatn and Krísuvíkurberg.

Grindavík has a fantastic swimmingspool!

The Reykjanes lighthouse is a sight well worth seeing, along with the colourful birdlife and activity around the harbour at Grindavík, which is also one of Iceland's primary fishing ports.

Summer in Grindavik buzzes with activity. This includes Sjóarinn síkáti, one of the largest festivals in the country, the annual Midsummer's Night Eve hike and Reykjanes Nature Week.

This autumn there are plans to hold a seafood festival in co-operation with the restaurants in Grindavík - and every one of them offers seafood of some kind.

Yes: Grindavík is a place with something for everyone!

Summer in Grindavik buzzes with activity

www.visitgrindavik.is

Reykjanes peninsula puts on a grand show

It's eight hundred years since the last time there was a volcanic eruption on the Reykjanes peninsula, until lava started to pour out at Fagrdalsfjall, not far from Grindavík, on 19th March – the first time for 6000 years that this site had seen volcanic activity.

As soon as the eruption began, a great many people made the trek to the site and since then tens of thousands of people have made the journey to witness nature putting on a fireshow. This eruption hardly came as a surprise, as it has been the culmination of more than three weeks of non-stop earthquakes that shook the south-west of Iceland. Lava began to flow into the valley of Geldingadalur on the eastern side of Fagradalsfjall, and this volcanic activity is seen as an effusive eruption of the type that has hardly been seen in Iceland since the end of the last ice age. The lava that gushes from a number of fissures is primitive, and originates from 17-20 kilometres beneath the surface. This is a pahoehoe type of lava formed of quick-flowing molten basalt.

The pictures taken by Jóhann Ólafur Halldórsson speak for themselves.

What you need for a day trip

The Iceland Touring Association (Ferðafélag Íslands) has published a checklist on its website of items anyone planning to visit the eruption site. They also warn that the walking route from the starting position to the site in Geldingadalur can be from seven to twelve kilometres, so the right equipment is essential and visitors should be physically fit.

Walking gear

- Good quality walking boots and comfortable walking socks
- Wool or fleece underclothes
- A sweater and walking trousers
- A hat, gloves and a scarf
- Windproof, waterproof protective clothing

In your backpack

- A protective cover for the backpack, or a plastic bag as a liner
- Compass, map and GPS
- Sandwiches
- Snacks and a bottle of water
- A flask with a hot drink
- Walking poles and a head light
- Camera, binoculars and sunglasses
- Toilet paper, wet wipes and a bag for used paper
- Gaiters and crampons

Always drive carefully on Icelands roads! Great care must be taken with rivers and fords should always be investigated before crossing

Driving in Iceland´s **mountain roads**

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.

All mountain roads and roads in the interior of Iceland have a surface of loose gravel. The surface on the gravel roads is often loose, especially along the sides of the roads, so one should drive carefully and slow down whenever approaching an oncoming car. The mountain roads are also often very narrow, and are not made for speeding. The same goes for many bridges, which are only wide enough for one car at a time.

Check the weather!

Always look at the weather forecast and adjust your travel plans accordingly. Icelandic Met Office website in English: **www.en.vedur.is**

Leave a travel plan!

ICE-SAR, the Icelandic Association for Search and Rescue, 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. Just stop by the ICE-SAR office at Skógarhlíð 14 in Reykjavík or visit **www.safetravel.is**

GPS and phones

Cell phones are important safety tools for those traveling 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 program on the website of the National Land Survey: **www.lmi.is**

Treacherous glaciers and rivers

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 always be investigated before crossing. 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

Borgarsögusafn Reykjavíkur
Reykjavík City Museum

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

www.reykjavikcitymuseum.is

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

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.**

An extensive multimedia presentation about the life and work of Halldór Laxness is running in the reception area. The presentation is accessible on a touch screen in **Icelandic, English and Swedish.**

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 2020

Adults	ISK 1.200,-
Children age 6-18	Free
Seniors	ISK 1.000,-

June 1st – Agust 31st
Open every day 10.00-17.00

Concerts
Gljúfrasteinn hosts concerts every Sunday at 16.00 from **July 1st-Sept 26th 2021**

Gljúfrasteinn – Laxness museum
P.O. Box 250
270 Mosfellsbær
Tel. + 354 586 8066
gljufrasteinn@gljufrasteinn.is
www.gljufrasteinn.is
facebook.com/gljufrasteinn
instragram.com/gljufrasteinn

Imagining peace in Viðey

Located on Reykjavík's island of Viðey, the Imagine Peace Tower is a co-operative venture by Yoko Ono, the City of Reykjavík, the Reykjavík Art Museum and Reykjavík Energy, which was begun at the artist's initiative.

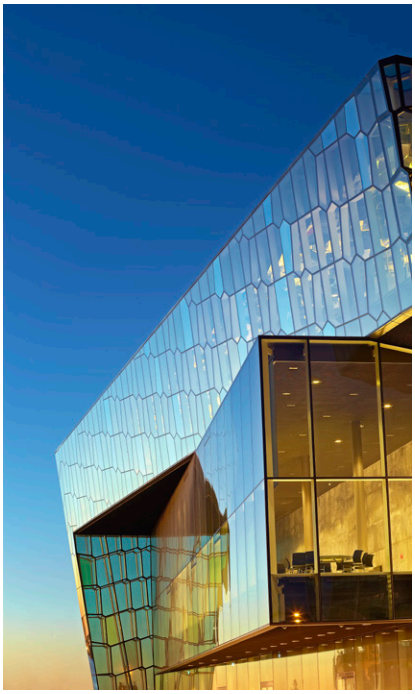
The work takes the form of a wishing well, and is inscribed with the words 'Imagine Peace' I 24 languages. A column of light emerges from the well, formed of fifteen beams of light that combine into a single bright light.

Every year the Peace Tower is lit from 9th October (John Lennon's birthday) to the anniversary of his death on 8th December. The light is also on from the winter solstice to New Year's Day, and for one week each spring.

The Peace Tower is powered by geothermal energy from the Hellisheiði power plant.

The Imagine Peace Tower is a symbol of the campaign by Ono and Lennon for world peace

Harpa – everyone's house



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

The glass shell of the building is designed by Ólafur Elíasson.

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

Harpa offers world-class facilities for events, including concerts, conferences, exhibitions, banquets or other cultural events.

Harpa's first concert took place in 4th May 2011.

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

The Harpa underground car park is partly below sea level and special measures had to be taken to ensure that the building remains completely dry.

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

Around 32,000 people came to look over the building when it was opened, equivalent to a tenth of the population if Iceland.

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

The building measures 28,000 square metres and stands 43 metres high. The base of the building covers 8000 square metres and 2500 tonnes of structural steel went into its construction, as well as 4000 tonnes of reinforcing steel.

The Harpa name was announced at a ceremony on 11th December 2009. The winning choice was chosen from 4156 suggestions put forward by 1200 individuals.

Multimedia technology provides visitors with a fascinating impression of what life was like for Reykjavík's original inhabitants

Photo: borgarsogusafn.is

Settlement era Reykjavík

The settlement exhibition on Aðalstræti is based on theories put forward by experts, using the clues provided by archaeological remains found in the city, of the life and work of those who first settled here. The centre of the display is the remains of a 10th century dwelling that was uncovered in 2001, preserved in its original location. To the north of the dwelling a section of wall dating back even further was discovered. Believed to be from before 871AD, this is among the oldest evidence of human activity to be found in Iceland.

The exhibition endeavours to present a vision of Reykjavík as it was at the time of the settlement. Multimedia technology and interpretation of archaeological finds allows a light to be shone on the life and everyday existence of Reykjavík's original inhabitants, and their connection to the environment around them in this new country. The Settlement Era exhibition is based on the results of archaeological research, presented in a scientific manner and presenting the latest interpretations of this period of history.

borgarsogusafn.is

Gullkistan for creative people

Gullkistan at Frakkastígur 10 in Reykjavík is a goldsmith's shop that offers a wide variety of silverware for Icelandic national dress. Goldsmith Dóra Guðbjört Jónsdóttir now runs Gullkistan after studying her trade in Sweden and Germany

'Gullkistan has a variety of national dress silver, much of which is made to old patterns that have been part of the workshops that has been here since 1870. We still use these old patterns, but the original moulds are now kept at the Árbær museum,' she said.

'National dress silverware comes in many different varieties and customers can have their items made to old patterns and we also offer a variety of items worked in silver wire. If people have heirloom jewellery, we can repair, clean and gild it as required,' she added.

www.thjodbuningasilfur.is

Opening hours

Monday to Friday: 14:00-18:00

– Saturdays: 11:00-14:00

Goldsmith Dóra Guðbjört Jónsdóttir at Gullkistan on Frakkastígur

Welcome to Hafnarfjörður

Recharge in Hafnarfjörður. Exciting events, charming shops and boutiques, cozy cafés, friendly restaurants, and new adventures and activities at every step. Children swim for free in the swimming pools and free admission to the museums. Come for a visit!

visithafnarfjordur.is

Hafnarfjörður

The centre of town has a friendly atmosphere with cosy coffee houses, welcoming restaurants and new experiences on every corner

Ástjörn is home to a varied collection of bird and wildlife, and this is a very special part of upper Hafnarfjörður

Hafnarfjörður's bright days, **all summer long**

The Bright Days cultural festival takes place in Hafnarfjörður and lasts the whole summer. A variety of events take place around the town, setting out to entertain locals and visitors to Hafnarfjörður, reflecting the town's highly varied cultural life. The festival lasts all summer.

The capital region's cheeriest community

Hafnarfjörður is a town that has everything when it comes to entertainment, shopping and services. It has a natural beauty of its own and this is a popular destination for both local and overseas visitors. Hafnarfjörður is a growing community that welcomes diversity and innovation. This has brought in specialist shops, artisan bakers, studios, galleries and small retail outlets with Icelandic produce straight from the farm to set up around Hafnarfjörður.

This is a place that's always worth a visit, with its varied shops and services, welcoming restaurants, cosy coffee houses, homely hotels, galleries and studios that are home to Icelandic art and design, museums and the unique natural environment within walking distance.

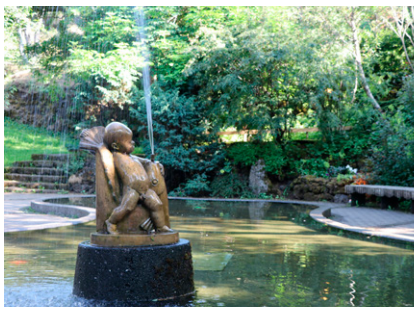
The town has its unique warm atmosphere, the people are friendly and there are opportunities to relax for every age group. There are four jumping pads and three swimming pools in Hafnarfjörður, each with its own unique charm. Swimming pools are free for anyone of 17 and younger.

A log history reflected in the surroundings

The centre of Hafnarfjörður buzzes with life and the harbour area is particularly enchanting, with its ships and boats, and people fishing everywhere. The community's long history is to be seen in the surroundings, and to get to know it better, take a look at Strandstígur and the town's free museums. The Hafnarfjörður museum is a great place to start, as well as Hafnarborg and the library, and the museum's five buildings are open over the summer. On a bright summer's day it's always worthwhile to take a good book, a snack a blanket, cards or anything you like, and stroll up to Hellisgerði, the lava-studded park at the heart of Hafnarfjörður.

Jigging for fish is a popular pastime and midsummer children's fishing competitions have been held for many years

Hvaleyrarvatn is a popular spot for exercise and watersports



The Hellisgerði park is a popular place for both locals and visitors to Hafnarfjörðar

Experiencing the outdoors

Upper Hafnarfjörður has hidden experiences at every step. A turn around Hvaleyrarvatn is a pleasant walk, and the lake is perfect for paddling and watersports. You can't go wrong with a visit to Krýsuvík, offering a colourful experience for the whole family. Helgafell is a popular destination for walkers, or a visit to the Valaból caves is not to be missed, and the wildlife and bird life of Ástjörn is simply fascinating. The town's camping ground is at Víðistaðatún, which is an outdoor paradise in its own right, with climbing frames, jump pads, castles, a grill area, outdoor art installations and a nine-hole frisbee golf course.

Come home to Hafnarfjörður to experience a whole summer of bright days!

hafnarfjordur.is

Gljúfrasteinn-Laxness museum is only 20 minutes away from Reykjavik on the way to Thingvellir national park

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 has now been opened to the public as a museum, unchanged from when Laxness lived there

When in danger
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112

WELCOME TO GRINDAVÍK

Grindavík is a charming little fishtown with active volcano in it´s backyard.

The town is the home of the famous Blue Lagoon.

With a great selection of restraurants, accomondation and leisure activities, Grindavík welcomes you!

www.visitgrindavik.is