OUTDOORS

– exploring the blue island

Find your favorite part!

Iceland is divided into seven different geographical regions.

Find your favorite part!

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

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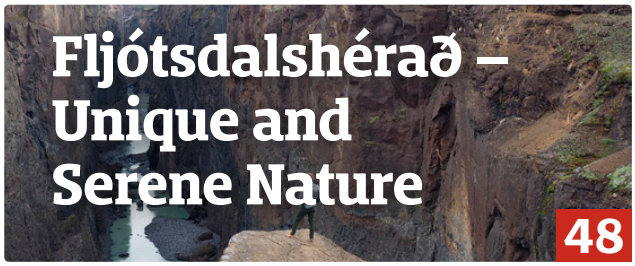
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OUTDOORS
– exploring the blue island

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RITFORM

Into the Wild with **Útivist**

Mountain huts in the Icelandic wilderness

- Básar hut in Þórsmörk
- Fimmvörðuháls hut
- Dalakofi hut
- Strútsskáli hut
- Sveinstindur hut
- Skælingar hut
- Álftavötn hut

Book now:
Tel. +354 562 1000

ÚTIVIST

Laugavegi 178 - 105 Reykjavík - Tel. +354 562 1000 - utivist@utivist.is

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 hiking and travel within the country in a healthy and enjoyable way. Everyone is welcome to join the association, which offers a a wide variety of hiking trips and has 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

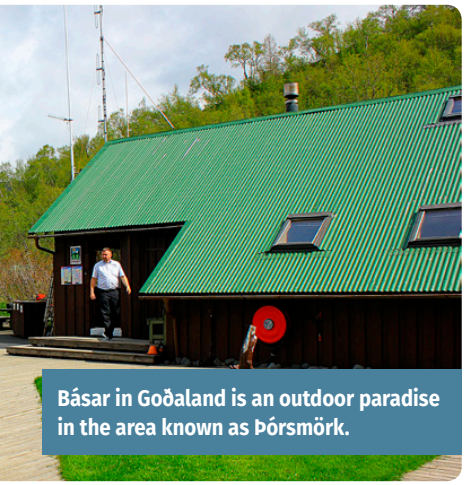
Fimmvörðuháls is an 1,100-m-high mountain pass between the glaciers of Eyjafjallajökull and Mýrdalsjökull, with a popular trail leading from Skógar to Básar. Útivist offers organized trips over Fimmvörðuháls every weekend in summer.

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's website, utivist.is, or via e-mail: utivist@utivist.is.

www.utivist.is

West Iceland

– *Discover the Saga land!*

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.

www.west.is

USEFUL LINKS

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

Photos: www.west.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.

GPS POINTS N64° 19' 17.748" W22° 4' 28.776"

In Iceland you need to look at Akranes lighthouses.

Vatnshellir Cave: 8000-year-old natural wonder

The cave Vatnshellir is a 100 m long lava-cave in the south slopes of Purkhólahraun lava flow. The lava and the cave are believed to be aproaximately 8000 years old. A spiral staircase has been put into the cave to enable access but entrance is only allowed with guides from the National Park.

During summer, guided tours are offered from 10am-6pm. During wintertime 2 tours a day are offered. All guests will be equipped with flashlights and helmets. Hiking shoes and warm clothes reccommended. Please check on the website www.vatnshellir.is.

GPS POINTS N64° 44' 56.266" W23° 48' 49.244"

A spiral staircase has been put into the cave.

The Agricultural Museum **at Hvanneyri**

The Agricultural Museum of Iceland presents the agricultural heritage and seeks to explain the history of Icelandic agriculture with emphases on the 19th and the 20th centuries. The Agricultural Museum of Iceland is open daily from June throughout August from 11:00 - 17:00. From September throughout May: Open by prior arrangement.

The museum has an extensive collection of farm artifacts. For example, the first plows and other horse-driven equipment and the first tractors imported to Iceland, as well as the more modern artifacts of current times. The museum has Iceland´s largest collection of farm machinery which goes back to 1880.

The Agricultural University of Iceland has its headquarters at Hvanneyri. A visit to Ullarselið (www.ull.is) is well worth a while. They offer a variety of high quality Icelandic handicraft made from wool and other natural materials.

GPS POINTS N64° 33' 54.309" W21° 45' 54.560"

The Agricultural Museum has Iceland´s largest collection of farm machinery.

Kirkjufell mountain: **a beautiful landmark**

Grundarfjörður's beautiful landmark is the most photographed mountain in Iceland. Its isolated position jutting out into the sea makes it a focal point for tourists and seamen alike.

Grundarfjordur is a charming fishing village on the north coast of the Snaefellsnes peninsula. The Eyrbyggja Heritage Centre is worth visiting as it does a sterling job, not only as a museum but also as an information centre for the whole peninsula.

Grundarfjordur offers a wide range of activities for those who like the outdoors; hiking, birdwatching, horse riding, fishing and in winter, skiing and ice climbing.

Kirkjufell has a lovely walking trail around it as well as a more challenging climb up to the top. Guide is recommended.

The Guðrúns pool is intended to resemble a Viking age pool.

Guðrúnarlaug – a wiking age geothermal pool

According to Laxdæla saga, Gudrun Ósvífursdóttir used to dwell by a geothermal pool in Laugar in Sælingsdalur. The pool is one of the biggest tourist attraction in the municipality of Dalasýsla

Guðrúnarlaug meaning Guðrúns pool, is a reconstructed geothermal pool situated in the valley of Sælingsdalur in the Western part of Iceland. The pool is built from natural materials, dry stone without any mortar. It is intended to resemble a Viking age pool as well as the changing facility with its dry stone walls, driftwood and a turf roof. The original pool was destroyed in a landslide 140 years ago, but was rebuilt in 2009.

GPS POINTS N65° 14' 50.677" W21° 48' 25.852"

Hallmundar-hraun lava field

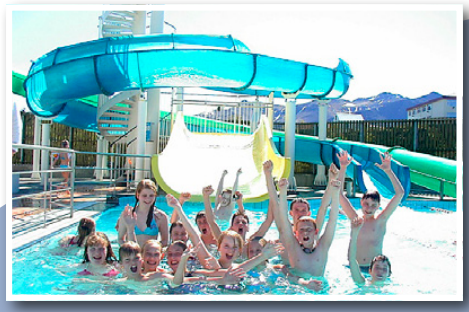
Hallmundarhraun is a lavafield that formed shortly after Iceland's settlement, in the 10th century. It is 8-9 cubic kilometers. Consisting of dark basaltic rocks covered in soft moss, there are wonderful formations, frozen ripples, crevasses, and among others Surtshellir and Víðgelmir caves are located underneath. The ancient lava flow gets it name from a cave-dwelling giant from the Saga of Grettir the Strong.

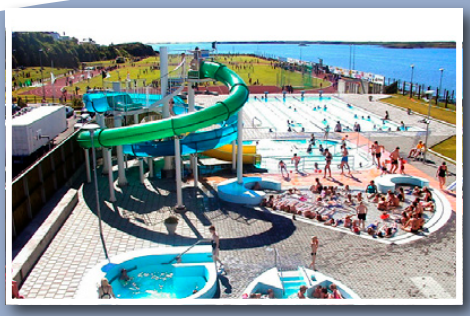
GPS POINTS N64° 44' 45.953" W20° 49' 58.888"

Hallmundarhraun includes the longest and largest caves in Iceland.

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

The Settlement Centre **at Borgarnes**

The Settlement Centre is next to the Brák Channel at Borgarnes.

Poet Egill Skallagrímsson was a skilled versifier as well as a viking who raided across Europe.

The Settlement Centre is located in the village of Borgarnes just one hours drive from Reykjavik on road no 1 towards the north. In two exhibitons The Settlement Centre is open all year round from 10:00 to 21:00.

The Settlement Centre tells the Saga of The Settlement of Iceland and Iceland´s most famous viking and first poet Egill Skallagrimsson. Audio guides in 15 languages: English, German, French, Italian, Polish, Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, Danish, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, Russian, Dutch and Icelandic. A complete circuit of each exhibition takes about 30 minutes. The Saga of Egill is the best record of how a single family settled itself in Iceland.

GPS POINTS N64° 32' 8.576" W21° 55' 23.438"

The historical Reykholt

Reykholt is one of Iceland's most notable historical sites. It houses a cultural centre and a church.

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

Snorrastofa, a cultural and medieval centre, founded in memory of Snorri Sturluson,and situated in his ancient homestead at Reykholt. Snorrastofa manages various research projects and provides reception and information for travelers, historical exhibitions, guided tours and lectures. Books on history and culture, Icelandic handicraft and souvenirs are available in the shop.

GPS POINTS N64° 39' 53.661" W21° 17' 32.068"

The new Church of Reykholt represents a cultural and medieval centre. It was consecrated on July 28th 1996.

The Hvalfjörður WW2 museum contains many historical items.

War and peace museum

The WW2 museum at Hlaðir in Hvalfjörður traces the unique and remarkable history of Iceland's occupation between 1940 and 1945, which turned a peaceful coastal region into a military encampment and was one of the factors that helped tip the balance in favour of the allies during the war.

The museum has a model of HMS Hood, the largest battleship in the British fleet, which was sunk by the Bismarck west of Iceland in 1941. The museum also has a collection of original uniforms of different nationalities, in addition to a wide variety of photographs and interactive material, as well as items dating back to WW2.

GPS POINTS N64° 24' 39.019" W21° 36' 32.223"

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.

GPS POINTS N64° 32' 25.682" W21° 55' 19.945"

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

Barnafoss 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.

Hraunfossar have been protected since 1987.

GPS POINTS N64° 42' 10.076" W20° 58' 39.780"

When in danger
Call 112
112

The Westfjords

– *Sea cliffs and narrow fjords*

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
Hotel West	www.hotelwest.is

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"

The Maritime museum gives a unique insight into the rich maritime history and culture of the area.

Westfjords **Heritage Museum**

The Westfjord Heritage Museum is situated at the tip of the small spit on which the town of Ísafjörður is located. The museum building is one of four 18th century houses that have been renovated and are now amongst the town biggest tourist attritions. The town of Ísafjörður was established and based on the fishing industry; therefore it is only natural that the museum focuses mainly on maritime history. In the museum itself, as well as in the area around it, you will find all kinds of fishing- and fish production equipment, everything from fish hooks to a ship. There is also a part of a big accordion collection.

After a tour around the museum and its surroundings, you can relax at the Tar House and enjoy some light refreshments!

GPS POINTS N66° 4' 5.238" W23° 7' 39.089"

The Drangsnes hot pools are in the middle of the village, easily spotted from the road.

Drangsnes – **hot pools at the shore**

Drangsnes is a fishing village, pure and simple. Conveniently located near the fishing grounds, it thrives in its minimalistic ways.

Grímsey island, supposedly formed by a giant trying to dig the Westfjords apart from the rest of Iceland, is the biggest attraction in Drangsnes. Grímsey boasts a rich bird life of puffins, fulmars and an interesting side story of fox farming.

The blend-in-with-the-locals way of bathing would be to dip into the small hot pools at the shore. The pools are in the middle of the village easily spotted from the road. The pots are used throughout the year by locals and visitors.

GPS POINTS N65° 41' 22.591" W21° 26' 16.313"

Hellulaug **Geothermal bath**

You can find at least eight free hot pools in the Westfjords. Some of the pools are situated right on the shoreline, with amazing views towards the sea, creating a unique experience to be enjoyed all year round.

Among the hidden gems of the Westfjords are the natural hot pools that can be found even in most remote places. This might sound like a cliché, but the pools are truly a well kept secret, taken for granted, or even forgotten by locals. An explanation could be that the Westfjords are not generally considered a „hot spot" in Icelandic geology, so the geothermal activity is not as visible as it is in the north or the south of the country.

GPS POINTS N65° 34' 36.661" W23° 9' 48.289"

There is almost nothing better then taking a bath in a natural pool after a long day of travelling and driving all around.

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

A warm welcome at Hotel West

A relaxing view across the fjord.

In Europe's most westerly town, Patreksfjörður, there is a small family-run hotel offering maximum comfort. In freshly renovated and newly furbished rooms, Hotel West offers personal service and a rich and healthy breakfast.

Hotel West was founded in 2014 with the aim of creating a relaxing atmosphere for its guests, an environment where they could rest after a day's sightseeing and gather strength for their upcoming tours.

Stunning nature

Although increasingly popular due to its spectacular nature, the area is still far from being overrun by tourists. Patreksfjörður lies 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!

Fresh and newly renovated

Hotel WEST is a new and small hotel which opened in May 2014. This is a family run business and we strive to create a comfortable and intimate atmosphere for our guests so they feel the best when they stay with us. We offer 18 rooms with view of the fjord or mountain. To accommodate more guest we enlarge the breakfast area and the TV lounge. There guests can relax after a day of exploring the area.

www.hotelwest.is

Hótel Laugarhóll – **homemade local food and global cuisine**

Hótel Laugarhóll is a comfortable family-run guesthouse in the remote and peaceful Strandir in the east part of the Westfjords. It is located in the green and sparsely populated valley Bjarnarfjörður, midway between Reykjavík and Ísafjörður.

The hotel has single, double and triple rooms with private or shared facilities, a cosy living room with free internet access and a restaurant with special emphasis on fresh and tasty homemade local food as well as global cuisine; fish, lamb or vegetarian dishes, spicy soups with home baked bread, crunchy green salads and seasonal herbs from the garden.

Next to the hotel is The Pool of Gvendur the good, a naturally warm geothermal outdoor swimming pool (32-35°C) and adjacent natural hot pool (41°C), perfect for relaxing after a long day on the road or hiking in the wilderness.

Hótel Laugarhóll is open from May 1st to September 30th. See www.laugarholl.is

GPS POINTS N65° 46' 51.958" W21° 31' 13.251"

How to spend 5 days in Westfjords?

The Vigur island is a home for thousands of birds.

Rauðisandur is precisely that: a beach with red sand. Endless red sand!

Day 1
Start the day somewhere in West Iceland or even Reykjavík. Driving through region Dalir, stop at Reykhólar. Stay at or near Látrabjarg.

Day 2
In the morning, check out Látrabjarg cliffs and Rauðisandur. Now change direction and head towards Ísafjörður, stopping at least at Dynjandi waterfall. Stay in Ísafjörður.

Day 3
Today, pick from the smorgasbord of tours available in the Ísafjörður area. Tours to bird island Vigur and day tours to Hornstrandir nature reserve are the ones to check out first. Stay another night in Ísafjörður.

Day 4
Before heading south, finish up your checklist of things to do around Ísafjörður. Sleep in Heydalur or Reykjanes or near Hólmavík.

Day 5
In the morning, dive into centuries past when sorcery was common, and witches were burned for allegedly casting spells on their neighbours at Holmavik's Museum of Sorcery and Witchcraft.

Hornstrandir **Nature Reserve**

The Hornstrandir Nature Reserve, established in 1975, is known for its remote setting and dramatic landscapes. The 580 km² nature reserve is only accessible by boat during the summertime as there are no roads. The nature reserve is an incredibly remote area with no services so travelers must be entirely self reliant.

This territory of the Arctic fox has been uninhabited since the 1950s. As isolated as it was then, it attracts the casual half-day visitors and serious gore-tex hikers alike.

Most tours, especially day tours, depart from Ísafjörður. Hikers wanting to go on their own can also take boats from Bolungarvík and Norðurfjörður.

GPS POINTS N66° 22' 47.708" W22° 19' 56.448"

A trip to Hornstrandir must be well organised.

Skáleyjar **in Breiðafjörður**

Skáleyjar are a group of 160 small islands among the many hundreds of islands in Breiðafjörður bay. They are not far further inland from Flatey, which is the island stopped at by the Baldur ferry.

Skáleyjar used to be inhabited – once being home to as many as five farms spread across the islands. Despite the obvious challenges of farming on small islands, the land was considered particularly good and was highly valued centuries ago. It is likely the islands were first inhabited not long after Iceland was settled, but nobody lives there these days. Artefacts of past residents are still in evidence – as are eider ducks and many other birds.

GPS POINTS N65° 26' 33.694" W22° 38' 45.754"

Houses are still standing on many of the abandoned islands in Breiðafjörður bay.

The museum in Selárdalur features the works and life story of local artist Samúel Jónsson.

Samuel's Sculptures **in Selardalur**

Driving past Bíldudalur into Selárdalur in Arnarfjörður you find an exquisite museum of naivist artist Samúel Jónsson (1884-1969). He built there a grotesque but charming resemblance to the lion's fountain in the Alhambra-palace in Granada, Spain.

Jónsson constructed at his farm in Selardalur a folk art environment that consists of a sculpture garden and two built structures: a chapel and a museum with his paintings and other small works. The story related with the chapel says that Jonsson had made an altar, he wanted to donate to the local church, an offer that was rejected however, because the existing device was useful enough. So to provide a place for the artwork, Jonsson constructed his own chapel.

GPS POINTS N65° 46' 38.962" W24° 0' 13.426"

The North of Iceland

– *Culture, nature, activity*

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
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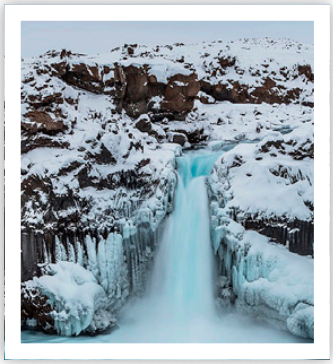


Fjallabyggð

Events in fabulous FJALLABYGGD 2020

Welcome to SIGLUFJÖRDUR & ÓLAFSFJÖRDUR

MARCH 27th - 29th
SIGLO FREERIDE WEEKEND

MARCH 28th
SUPER TROLL SKI RACE IN SIGLUFJÖRÐUR

APRIL 9th - 13th
EASTER FESTIVAL SKI SEASON
IN SIGLUFJÖRÐUR AND ÓLAFSFJÖRÐUR

APRIL 10th - 11th
PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL
ALÞÝÐUHÚSIÐ IN SIGLUFJÖRÐUR

JUNE 5th - 7th
FISHERMAN'S DAY FESTIVAL
IN ÓLAFSFJÖRÐUR

JUNE 17th
ICELAND NATIONAL DAY
IN FJALLABYGGÐ

JULY 1st - 5th
FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL IN SIGLUFJÖRÐUR

JULY 17th - 19th
SÁPUBOLTINN FESTIVAL
IN ÓLAFSFJÖRÐUR (SOAP FOOTBALL FESTIVAL)

JULY 25th
BOATING DAY FESTIVAL
IN SIGLUFJÖRÐUR

JULY 30th - AUGUST 2nd
SIGLÓ HERRING FESTIVAL
IN SIGLUFJÖRÐUR

JULY 31st - AUGUST 2nd
BERRYDAY´S MUSIC FESTIVAL
IN ÓLAFSFJÖRÐUR

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER
POETRY FESTIVAL IN FJALLABYGGÐ

FJALLABYGGD.IS
VISITTROLLASKAGI.IS

Welcome to Fjallabyggð: **Enjoy** the Midnight Sun in the North!

The Ólafsfjörður swimming pool offers outstanding family facilities.

The Herring Museum is one of the most remarkable historical collections in Iceland.

The two towns of Ólafsfjörður and Siglufjörður on the Tröllaskagi peninsula form the Fjallabyggð municipality, connected by the Héðinsfjarðargöng tunnel. The tunnel has proven its worth, making Tröllaskagi's magnificent nature an easy thing to explore both in winter as in summer.

The astounding nature in Fjallabyggð, with its majestic mountains and picturesque fjords, offers a great variety of outdoor and leisure activities. The nature is always within reach, whether you go for hiking, playing golf, swimming in the sea, snow-boarding or fishing in lakes, rivers or at sea. As the northern-most habited area in Iceland, Fjallabyggð is perfectly situated for enjoying the midnight sun. There you will find a variety of hiking tracks, incredible bird-life and countless options like midnight sailing, kayaking, jet skiing, surfing, and many other activities that connect the ocean with the shore. Fjallabyggð also has two 9-hole golf courses and two swimming pools.

Boating days and Berry Days

The people in Fjallabyggð know how to enjoy themselves and entertain others. The first weekend in July celebrates the annual Folk Music Festival in Siglufjörður. Siglufjörður again comes to life for the family festival Boating Days (Is. Trilludagar) on 25. July, offering entertainment for the young and old, with boat tours on the beautiful fjord where guests can try their hand at fishing. When you come ashore, the catch is made ready, and there is much activity down by the harbor. The first weekend in August is a three-day public holiday, known locally as Verslunarmannahelgi, which can also be very lively in Siglufjörður. The Berry Days in Ólafsfjörður are also held on the first weekend of August, a classical music festival that has been immensely popular over the past few years, attracting a great number of visitors.

A few tips

- Top Mountaineering organizes kayak trips and hikes in Siglufjörður, providing guidance around the mountains in Fjallabyggð and on Tröllaskagi. **www.topmountaineering.is**
- Fairytale At Sea is a recently established tourist operation in Ólafsfjörður, specializing in guided jet-ski trips all year round. **www.fairytale.is**
- Brewery Segull 67 is in the old cold storage facility in Siglufjöðrur. It offers a variety of events and beer-tasting. **www.segull67.is**
- Fríða's Chocolate Café in Siglufjörður is a friendly café and a chocolate production facility, making delicious products out of Belgian chocolate. There you can also get a delicious cup of coffee from Kaffitár, purchase gifts or art. **www.frida.is**
- There are a variety of companies that help travelers in Fjallabyggð, you can read more about them on **www.visittrollaskagi.is** and **www.fjallabyggd.is**

Welcome to Siglufjörður & Ólafsfjörður 2020

March 27th - 29th	SIGLO FREERIDE WEEKEND
March 28th	SUPER TROLL SKI RACE IN SIGLUFJÖRÐUR
April 9th - 13th	EASTER FESTIVAL SKI SEASON IN SIGLUFJÖRÐUR AND ÓLAFSFJÖRÐUR
April 10th - 11th	PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL IN SIGLUFJÖRÐUR
June 5th - 7th	FISHERMAN'S DAY FESTIVAL IN ÓLAFSFJÖRÐUR
June 17th	ICELAND NATIONAL DAY IN FJALLABYGGÐ
July 1st - 5th	FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL IN SIGLUFJÖRÐUR
July 17th - 19th	SÁPUBOLTINN FESTIVAL IN ÓLAFSFJÖRÐUR
July 25th	BOATING DAY FESTIVAL IN SIGLUFJÖRÐUR
July 30th - Aug 2nd	SIGLÓ HERRING FESTIVAL IN SIGLUFJÖRÐUR
July 30th - Aug 2nd	BERRYDAY´S MUSIC FESTIVAL IN ÓLAFSFJÖRÐUR
Sept/Oct	POETRY FESTIVAL IN FJALLABYGGÐ

Culturarl life in Fjallabyggð

Fjallabyggð has a lively cultural life. There is a number of restaurants with all sorts of menues, and many options when it comes to accommodation. There are also a few galleries and artists' ateliers that are worth a visit, not to mention museums and centres. The largest and most popular is without a doubt the Herring Museum in Siglufjörður, one of the country's largest marine and industrial museums.

The Icelandic Centre for Poetry (Is. Ljóðasetur Íslands) is also in Siglufjörður, where you can explore Icelandic poetry from the time of settlement to the present. You can also see valuable books and artifacts and other objects that are connected to Icelandic poetry.

In Ólafsfjörður you will find the Natural Museum in Pálshús which has a wonderful exhibition called "Desire to Fly", covering Icelandic bird flora and examines the human desire to fly. Apart from the bird collection, the museum also has other stuffed animals such as a goat, a polar bear, foxes and crabs, as well as exhibiting eggs and plants.

The Folk Music Centre introduces traditional Icelandic music in an accessible and entertaining manner. It features videos of people of all ages, singing songs and rhymes and playing instruments. The centre also depicts the life of the Rev. Bjarni Thorsteinsson and how he collected the folk songs.

www.fjallabyggd.is

A summer's day in the centre of Ólafsfjörður.

Ólafsfjörður is increasingly becoming a destination for surfers to battle the waves.

Fjallabyggð

WELCOME TO SIGLUFJÖRÐUR AND ÓLAFSFJÖRÐUR

- BOTNALEIÐ
- FOSSDALUR
- HÉÐINSFJÖRÐUR
- HREPPSENDASÚLUR
- HVANNDALIR
- HVANNDALABJARG
- MÚLAKOLLA
- RAUÐSKÖRÐ
- SIGLUFJARÐARSKARÐ
- SIGLUNES

ENJOY OUR VARIOUS TRAILS THROUGH THE AREA'S SPECTACULAR NATURE

SEE TRAIL MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS ON
WWW.FJALLABYGGD.IS
WWW. VISITTROLLASKAGI.IS

SKAGAFJÖRÐUR

HOME OF THE NORTH

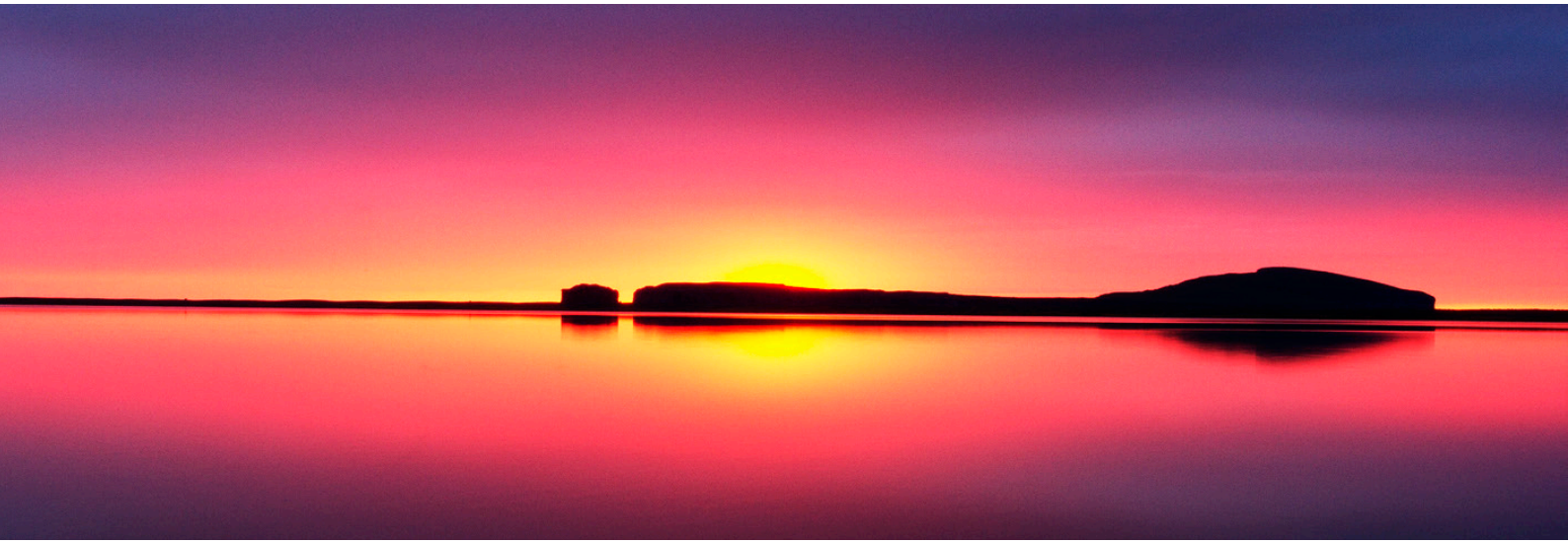
Enjoy the adventure!

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

Watching a whale off North Iceland will fascinate anyone.

Whale **Watching**

Watching whales has become one of the most common activities among foreign visitors to North Iceland. In fact, Húsavík and Eyjafjörður were among the first places in the country as a whole that offered whale-watching excursions.

The number of species, along with favourable weather and sea conditions, make North Iceland one of the best Icelandic areas for spotting whales. Skjálfandi and Eyjafjörður are sheltered bays, perfect for a boat ride on a summer's day, surrounded by birds and beautiful scenery. The experience becomes complete by seeing dolphins and minke, humpback or even blue whales play beside one of the particularly appealing oakwood boats used exclusively in North Iceland.

Kópasker's **earthquake center**

The village of Kópasker was rocked by an earthquake on the 13th of January 1976 and a small museum has been set up in the former school dedicated to the event. This was a serious earthquake, measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale. The large earthquake had its undersea epicentre approximately twelve kilometres south-west of Kópasker. Fortunately the earthquake was not one that triggered a tidal wave, but the sea was reported to bubble like a cauldron.

As well as its earthquake display, the museum also has display devoted to the Krafla eruption, local folklore and other earthquakes, beliefs from the past, as well as pictures and video footage. There is a footpath around Kópasker and a guide booklet is available from the museum in both English and Icelandic. The walk takes around ninety minutes.

The earthquake museum is open every day from 13:00 to 17:00 between the 1st of June and the 31st of August.

GPS POINTS N66° 18' 4.193" W16° 26' 47.318"

The earthquake museum is in what used to be the Kópasker school.

HÚSAVÍK ORIGINAL WHALE WATCHING

"ONE OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE DAYS OF MY LIFE"

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HÚSAVÍK the WHALE CAPITAL of ICELAND

Pick your tour!

HÚSAVÍK ORIGINAL WHALE WATCHING

An unforgettable whale watching exploration, recommended by thousands of travellers.

BEST SELLER

SILENT WHALE WATCHING

Glide silently alongside the whales on an electric boat. A tranquil whale watching experience.

CARBON-NEUTRAL

WHALES AND PUFFINS

The perfect combination. A whale watching excursion with a stop by the peaceful Puffin Island.

HOME OF THE PUFFINS

WHALES AND SAILS

Get close to the whales on board a traditional Icelandic sailboat and learn the old ways of sailing.

TRADITIONAL SAILING

NORTH SAILING
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WWW.NORTHSAILING.IS

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.visitakureyri.is

Akureyri

– a lively and energetic town

Akureyri old town.

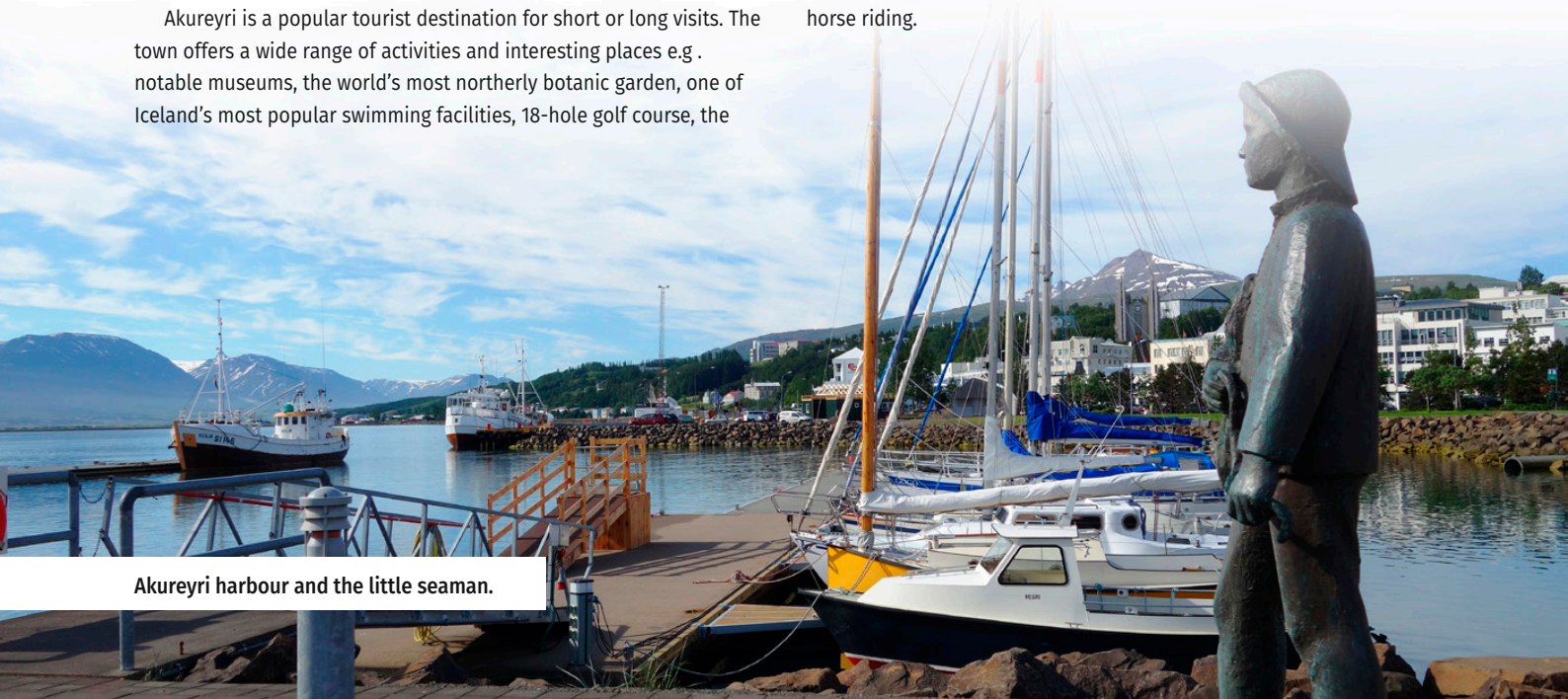
Botanical garden in Akureyri.

Akureyri is situated in north-east Iceland, in one of the longest fjords in the country and is surrounded by mountains reaching 1000-1500 m. The Arctic Circle is only 60 km north of Akureyri but still the climate is mild, with summer temperatures up to 25°C and winter temperatures on average around 0˚C.

Akureyri is the second largest urban area after the capital area of Reykjavík, with a population of about 18.800. Akureyri is the centre of trade and services in northern Iceland. It is also a town of culture and education, building on a firm foundation.

Akureyri is a popular tourist destination for short or long visits. The town offers a wide range of activities and interesting places e.g . notable museums, the world's most northerly botanic garden, one of Iceland's most popular swimming facilities, 18-hole golf course, the best skiing area in the country, good hiking trails and a free city bus. Our guests can choose between varied accommodation and an excellent range of restaurants, some of which specialise in local food.

The islands Hrísey and Grímsey are a part of the municipality of Akureyri. Both islands are ideal for bird watching. The atmosphere is calm and relaxing and a visit can be an unforgettable experience. The town is also a good base for many of Iceland's most beautiful natural wonders such as waterfalls, volcanic areas and canyons as well as exciting activities like river rafting, hiking, fishing, whale watching and horse riding.



Akureyri harbour and the little seaman.

Along the coast path.

Photos María H. Tryggvadóttir.

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)

Bird Watching

Many good places for bird watching are within Akureyri and its surroundings. In total there are 11 sites, that all provide favourable conditions, easy access, and services. Whitin the town limits you find three sites: Krossanesborgir, Naustaborgir and the estuary of the river Eyjafjarðará, called Óshólmar.

A booklet with information on all 11 birdwatching locations in Eyjafjörður has been published. The booklet can be purchased e.g. at the Tourist Information Center in the Hof Cultural and Conference Center. Also in Hrísey in “Hús Hákarla Jörundar”.

Grimsey island puffins. Photo Friðþjófur Helgason.

Blönduós's outstanding thermal pool

Blönduós has a great swimming pool 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 apart from electricity and water. Chlorine gas is produced and put directly into the disinfection system and the system also 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.

GPS POINTS N65° 39' 34.605" W20° 16' 56.964"

In Víti you can take a bath in the nature in middle of Iceland, that is 1100 m above sea level.

Víti in Askja

Askja is a 50 km2 caldera in the Dyngjufjoll mountains. The mountains emerged in eruptions under an Ice Age glacier cap. Askja itself was formed, for the most part, at the end of the Ice Age in a major ash eruption which caused the roof of the magma chamber at the heart of the central volcano to subside. Askja is a part of Vatnajökull National Park.

The caldera contains several volcanoes, including Víti (explosive volcanic crater). Water has accumulated in the crater, its temperature is variable – it is around 30°C on average. Víti is a popular bathing site, but if you intend taking a dip, please be aware that the sloping path is very slippery in wet weather.

GPS POINTS N65° 37' 11.618" W16° 55' 17.899"

Hvítserkur is a nesting ground for several species of birds, including gulls and fulmars.

Hvítserkur Rock

Hvítserkur is a 15 m-high sea stack just off shore on the eastern side of Vatnsnes. The rock has two holes at the base, which give it the appearance of a dragon who is drinking. The base of the stack has been reinforced with concrete to protect its foundations from the sea.

Vatnsnes is an area of varied animal life, and it is here that we find the largest and most accessible seal sanctuary in Iceland, where the common seal (Phoca vitulina) can be seen at quite close range. Good seal spotting place at the estuary of the Sigridarstadir lake, south from the stack. Facilities for seal watching can also be found at Illugastaðir, Svalbarð and Ósar.

GPS POINTS N65° 36' 25.656" W20° 37' 32.617"

MÝVATN NATURE BATHS

myvatnnaturebaths.is

The new swim-up bar.

Mývatn Nature Baths

– a wonderful place to relax and recharge

"We aim to excel and our focus is set on finding ways to raise the service level. Our newest improvement is a swim-up bar in the lagoon which makes it easier to enjoy a drink while relaxing in the milky blue water", says Ragnhildur Hólm Sigurðardóttir, marketing manager at Mývatn Nature Baths.

Relax in the lagoon

Mývatn Nature Baths are open every day, all year round, except for January 1st. Anyone who wants to relax in the lagoon is welcome, and in addition to the lagoon there is a hot tub with water temperature around 41°C and the unique steam baths, with natural steam rising directly from a crack in the ground. The water temperature of the lagoon is normally 36-40°C and the water in the lagoon contains high levels of minerals, is alkaline and highly suitable for a dip. It even has good effects on skin problems, such as eczema and psoriasis because of the trace elements in the water. Due to its chemical composition, undesired bacteria and vegetation do not thrive in the lagoon making chloride or any other disinfectant redundant. After a refreshing bath, visitors can relax at Café Kvika and have a light meal while enjoying the spectacular views of Mývatn area.

Easier access

Mývatn Nature Baths has started using a booking system so now anyone can book at the website, www.myvatnnaturebaths.is. Ragnhildur recommends to pre-book, especially during summer months, to make sure to get available entrance tickets. "In the past years we have seen it happen multiple times that visitors have arrived and we were sold out. We needed to act on it so we started with the booking system and the results are great. We are no longer overcrowded with queues all the way to the parking lot. That makes everyone happier, both our visitors and our staff members."

www.myvatnnaturebaths.is

#myvatnnaturebaths

info@jardbodin.is

Jökulsárgljúfur – a delicate balance of flora and fauna

The Dettifoss waterfall is the most powerful waterfall in Europe, 500 cubic meters of water per second plunge over the edge.

The dramatic canyon, Jökulsárgljúfur, was formed by the actions of water, fire and ice. Enormous, catastrophic glacial bursts are believed to have carved out the deep ravines and rocky basins, the most famous of which is Ásbyrgi.

The Hljóðaklettar outcrops are the cores of ancient volcanoes, revealed when the river swept away all the loose volcanic material. The waterfalls on the River Jökulsá á Fjöllum, Selfoss, Dettifoss, Hafragilsfoss and Réttarfoss are powerful and impressive. The Hólmatungur district is an area of contrasts: crystal clear streams and bubbling brooks cross the land before emptying into the raging, chocolate-coloured torrent. A delicate balance of flora and fauna thrives under the protection of cliffs and scree slopes.

The museum has among others a collection of antique tractors.

Ystafell: Cars with history

The Ystafell transport museum has a unique collection of vehicles that are all linked to Iceland's history. Now the museum has around 4000 visitors every year. The majority are foreign visitors who are curious about the museum's contents, but a large number of locals also pay a visit to Ystafell.

Transport Museum at Ystafell is the place to visit if you are interested in modes of transport both past and present. Its purpose is to collect and preserve all kinds of vehicles, information and photographs connected to the history of transport in Iceland.

Hours of Operation:
May 15th to September 30th
Daily 10:00-20:00

GPS POINTS N65° 46' 59.592" W17° 34' 42.069"

At Myvatn Nature Baths it is good to relax in the alkaline bathing lagoon and enjoy the scenery.

The amazing Mývatn

The Myvatn basin sits squarely on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Although most of the interesting sights are volcanic or geothermal features, the centrepiece is the 37 sq km lake Myvatn itself, which averages a depth of only 2.5m.

The lake contains over 50 islands and islets, mostly pseudocraters formed when molten lava flowed into the lake. Places of interest include the pseudocraters at Skutustadir, Hofdi peninsula, Dimmuborgir lava formations, Hverfell Crater, Hverir hotspring area, Krafla volcanic area and Myvatn Nature Bath.

The very rare Moss balls can be found in Mývatn. The only other lake where Moss balls are common is in Lake Akan in Hokkaido Japan.

GPS POINTS N65° 34' 28.278" W16° 57' 12.241"

Mývatn is considered one of the best birdwatching place in Iceland.

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
Tel. +354 695 0077 - www.hrisey.net

Growing tourism in Dalvík

The Berg Cultural Centre in Dalvík is hosting exhibitions all summer. It also houses a coffee shop and information point for tourists.

'The travel business is growing in the area, with new and exciting developments alongside the more traditional tourism that has flourished here for a long time. I'd like to direct visitors towards the information point that was opened in the Berg Cultural Centre, with varied information available, whether you are seeking relaxation or travel opportunities in the Dalvík district,' said Margrét Víkingsdóttir, the Dalvík municipality's information officer.

Beer baths

New and a truly uniqe addition to the tourism industry in Dalvíkurbyggð are the newly opened Beer Baths, the only ones of their kind in Iceland. There, you can relax in a big tub, made of Kambala wood, filled with beer, water, yeast and hops. The beer used in the baths comes from Kaldi, a local micro brewery, located nearby and that is owned by the same people as the Beer Baths.

The Great Fish Day in the Twentieth time

As in previous 20 years, the Fish Festival on the 8th of August and the programme around it in the week leading up to the festival Saturday is the high point of the summer in Dalvík. At the Great Fish Day guests are invited to a sea food buffet between 11:00 and 17:00 at the harbour in Dalvík, and there is an outdoor concert during the evening that ends with fire works.

www.dalvikurbyggd.is
www.visittrollaskagi.is

The Fish Festival on the 6th to 9th of August is the high point of the summer in Dalvík.

Dalvíkurbyggð in North Iceland

For those who want first hand experience with nature, the municipality of Dalvikurbyggd is the perfect choice. There you will find a well equipped swimming pool, folk museum Hvoll, skiing facilities, golf course, sea angling, whale watching, horseback riding and our truly unique Beer baths, the only ones of their kind in Iceland.It is ideal to visit Dalvik to experience the stillness, safety and the spectacular view we have to offer.

Information center

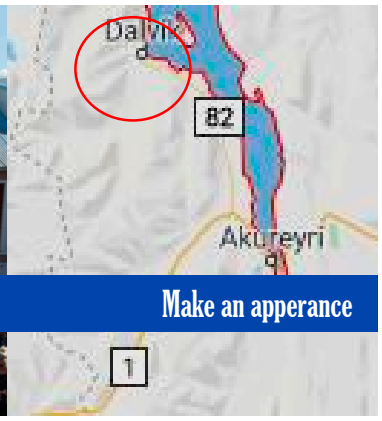
We would like to direct visitors towards our information point which is placed in Berg cultural house in Dalvik. There they have varied information available whether you are seeking relaxation or travel oppurtunities in the municipality Dalvíkurbyggð.

The Great Fish Day for the twentieth time

As in previous years, the Fish Festival on the 8th of August and the programme around it in the week leading up to the festival Saturday is the high point of the summer in Dalvíkurbyggð. On the Great Fish Day guests are invited to a sea food buffet between **11:00-17:00** at Dalvik harbour.

DALVÍKURBYGGÐ

www.dalvikurbyggd.is



Hrísey: the pearl of Eyjafjörður

Hrísey is a small island in North Iceland.

Hrísey is a small island in North Iceland. It is only 35 kilometers drive from Akureyri to the little village of Árskógssandur where the ferry to Hrísey takes off every 2 hours. It's easy to remove yourself from the daily grind in this little coastal community of 170 people. The ferry ride takes 15 minutes and you start relaxing on the way to the Island.

If you are lucky you might catch a tractor ride, the tractor trips are particularly popular. These are about 40 minute trips around the village and surroundings, on a hay cart towed by an elderly tractor. The trips are not on schedule but we go with groups and there might be room for more people.

The island has a variety of walking routes and the eastern part of Hrísey is renowned for its natural beauty. Information points are in place for all of the walks and guided walks are also available. The Eastern area of Hrísey is said to be full of energy and is considered to be the second most powerful area in Iceland after Mt. Snæfellsjökull Glacier. The energy is transferred to Hrísey from the stunningly beautiful Mt. Kaldbakur across the fjord. Here you can sit down and enjoy the scenery while inhaling positive and relaxing energy.

In the oldest house of Hrísey, The House of Shark Jörundur, you will find an exhibition about the history of the island and the history of shark fishing in Iceland in earlier centuries. The house has been renovated and brought to its original state and now hosts the Tourist

Information Office during summer

Holt - A memorial museum of a typical working-class home from the era when the new and the old times met, is in a house called Holt located in the village.

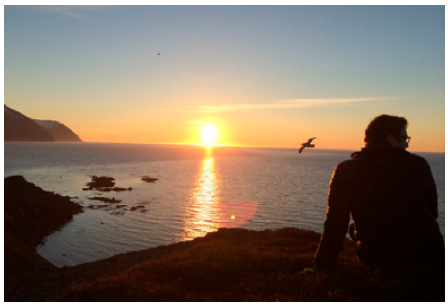
A visit to the swimming pool after a walk is recommended, as the pool offers a unique view over Eyjafjörður fjord, with the chance of seeing whales swimming past. Hrísey is also an excellent place for a swim in the sea.

Go to the local grocery store is something you have to do. There you can buy ice cream and coffee. You can also go to one of the restaurants and have coffee, cakes or a meal.

The annual Hrísey Family Festival has been held since 1997. In 2020 it is to be held on weekend of 13th-14th of July. During this weekend the islanders invite people to come and enjoy music, tractor trailer rides, taste local food among many other things.

www.hrisey.is

BREATHE IN...
HRÍSEY ISLAND



Municipality of Akureyri

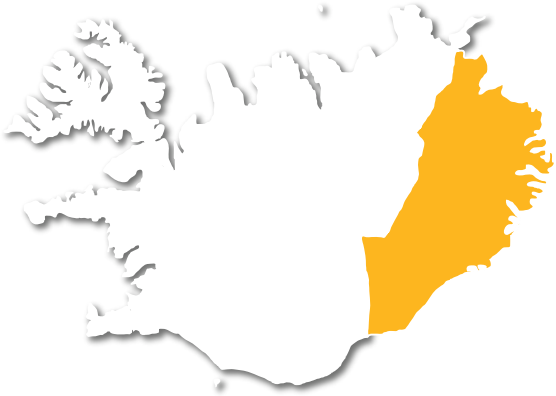
Arctic Coast Way
Norðurstrandarleið

www.hrisey.com

#hrisey #visithrisey #akureyri

The East of Iceland

– A unique place on a global scale



www.east.is

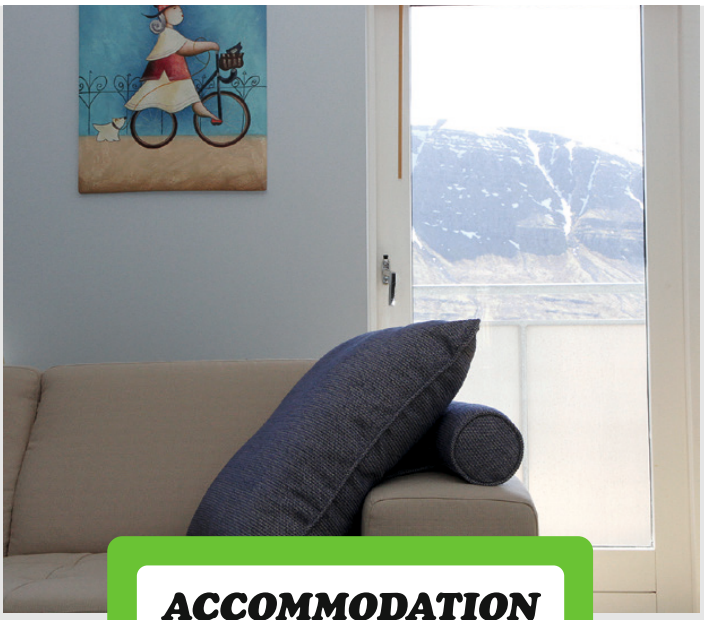
The east of Iceland – a magical region of natural phenomena. Glaciers, forests, bird cliffs, vast expanses, deserts, majestic mountains and narrow fjords. Waterfalls, rivers and the sea. The east of Iceland is a gem of natural wonders and history. It is a region rich in relics from times long past, vestiges 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

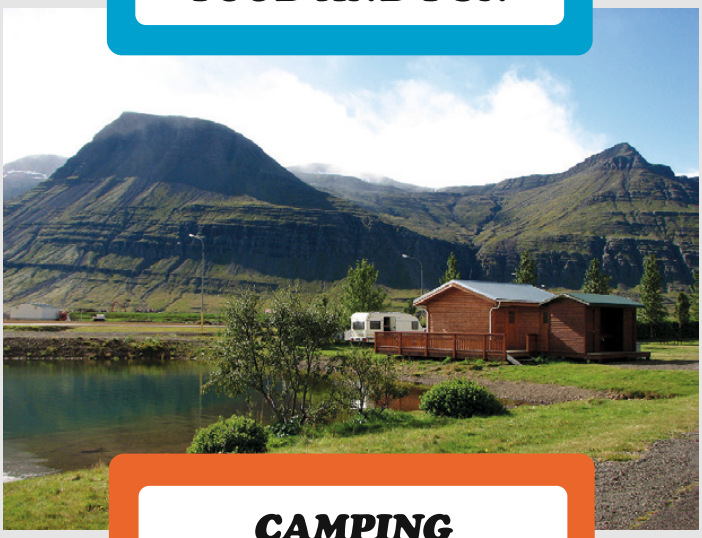


ACCOMMODATION

MUSEUMS

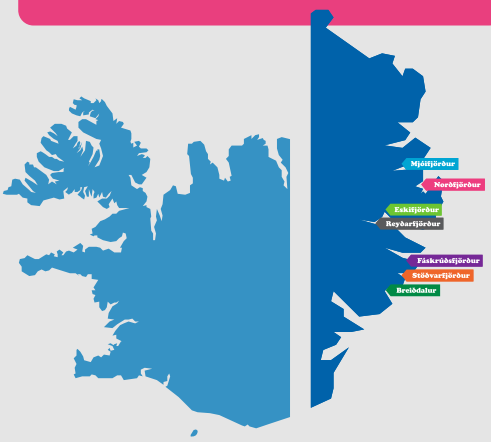
FOOD AND FUN

SWIMMING POOLS



CAMPING

GOLF



Wonderful Fjarðabyggð

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

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

FJARÐABYGGÐ
fjardabyggd.is

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!

Events
summer 2020

4-7th June
Seaman´s day Festival in Fjarðabyggð

20-27th June
Hiking week – On Your Feet in Fjarðabyggð

26-28th June
Reydarfjordur Occupation day

9-12th July
Eistnaflug, heavy metal mucic festival in Neskaupstaður

23-26th July
French Days in Fáskrúðsfjörður

30th July-3th August
Neistaflug, municipal festival in Neskaupstaður

21-23th August
Útsæðið – town festival in Eskifiörður

www.visitfjardabyggd.is

Wonderful Fjarðabyggð

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.

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.

GPS POINTS N64° 39' 37.558" W14° 16' 53.171"

Djúpivogur is a charming village with a long history of trading since 1589.

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

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.

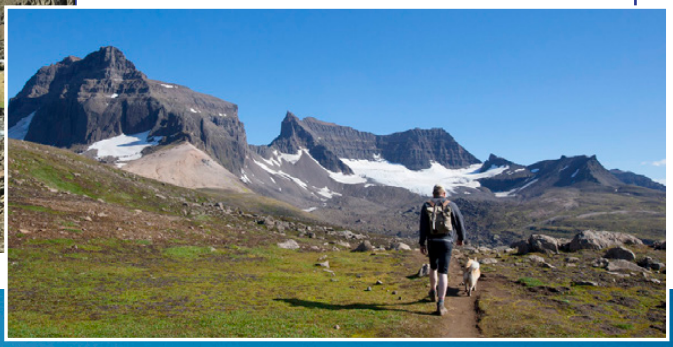
GPS POINTS N65° 31' 36.435" W13° 48' 57.783"

VISITAUSTURLAND

A WARM WELCOME TO FLJÓTSDALSHÉRAÐ, THE CENTER OF THE EAST.

Hallormsstaður National Forest is considered to be Iceland's largest forest. The forest covers an area of 740 hectares most of which is native birch. Since 1905, the forest has been the site of large scale trials of exotic species and 11 hiking trails have been marked throughout the forest, one leading through the arboretum tree collection where the history of tree planting in Iceland is displayed. A hiking map is in a box at the start of all the hiking trails, as well at Hotel Hallormsstadur. There are art exhibitions in the area and many other events.

Hengifoss waterfall is Iceland's second-highest waterfall. It is known for it's picturesque red clay layers that burst from the otherwise dark-colored rock. It can be reached from both sides of the river but most visitors choose to walk up to it from the parking area. On the way up a smaller waterfall, Litlanesfoss, with it's is beautiful pillars, is visible from the path.



Stórurð lies below Dyrfjöll, or Door Mountain and is one of Iceland's most illustrated places. It consists of gigantic tuff boulders, spread around green meadows and clear blue ponds. To enjoy this wonderful scene we recommend to spend the whole day. The hike starts from a parking lot with a stunning view of Fljótsdalshérað from the Vatnsskarð mountain. As always, we ask you to stay on the path. The best time to visit Stórurð is from the middle of July to the middle of September.

Fljótsdalshérað:
Unique and Serene Nature

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

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 river-banks.

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

VISITAUSTURLAND

What to do **in East Iceland?**

Boats and Sailing

In East Iceland you can find many specialized firms which will lead you to a great adventure on water. Boats in all formats and sizes can be found, to be sailed on salted ocean or pure water.

Hikes and treks for everyone

Hiking is by far the East Iceland traveller's best way to enjoy the refreshing wilderness. Good hiking maps of the whole region are available at Tourist Information Centres and a number of paths have been marked for safer hiking and optimum enjoyment.

Swimming pools

There are swimming pools in almost every town and village in Iceland. The pools are generally out-door, heated by warm geothermal water (28-29°C) and include nice hot tubs and sauna´s.

History and Museums

East Iceland is rich in history and offers a variety of informative historical places and museums. The East is also rich of folk tales and the supernatural lives within them.

Skiing

East Iceland offers great outdoor possibilities and skiing is definitely one of them. Whether cross country skiing in the highlands or fjords, or sliding on skis or a skiboard in the great resorts in the area; you will enjoy a stunning scenery and unique character, and it is definitely worth the while.

Hunting and Angling

Going angling is a relaxing and yet exciting way of enjoying the thrills of East Iceland. Other options are for example to hunt reindeers, geese, ptarmigans and the arctic fox – an adventurous and unique experience.

Golf

Come and play golf in the beautiful surroundings in East Iceland. Playing golf in the midnight sun in the breathtaking and peaceful nature is something you cannot miss.

Biking

East Iceland is a wonderful region to go biking in. You can enjoy small tours that are for the whole family or you can go extreme biking over the old postroads over the mountains between the fjords.

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.

Seyðisfjörður: **vibrant culture and stunning beauty**

Seyðisfjörður is a lovely fishing village, surrounded by singing waterfalls and steep mountains, famous for its vibrant culture and stunning beauty.

„We are very excited for the upcoming season an travellers have already started arriving here in Seyðisfjörður," says Dagný Erla Ómarsdóttir, travel-, culture and sports representative at Seyðisfjörður town in East Iceland. An incredible number of travellers visit the town during the summertime, and increasingly during the off-season as well. „We now have visitors coming all year round, a positive trend that brings life to the town." Last summer the weather was extremely good in East-Iceland, and Dagný hopes this will be the case this year as well as this attracted not only foreign visitors but also a great number of Icelanders.

Dagný Erla with her daughters by Vestdalsfoss, one of the many waterfalls surrounding the town.

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 (Norðurgata).

What should tourists not miss?

„Don't forget to snap a picture along the Rainbow Street with the Blue church in the background. I 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," suggests Dagný Erla, adding that the town also offers a variety of diffirent accommodations, from hotels and guest-houses and a camping area.

www.visitseydisfjordur.com

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!

The estate at Skriðuklaustur was designed 1939 by the German architect Fritz Höger.

Centre of Culture and History

Skriðuklaustur has a firm place in Icelandic history: a former manor, it also served as an Augustine monastery from 1493 to 1552. After the ruins of the monastery were found, an archaeological dig revealed that it was both a site of healing and writing books. During the summer travellers can go on guided tours through the area.

One of Iceland's most renowned writers, Gunnar Gunnarsson (1889–1975), built a large and glamorous estate at Skriðuklaustur in 1939. When he moved to the capital in 1948, he gave the house to the Icelandic state. For a long time it was an experimental centre for agriculture, but in 2000 the Gunnar Gunnarsson Institution settled in the house. Skriðuklaustur is now a cultural and historical centre, with several exhibitions each summer and guided tours through the poet's house.

Snæfellsstofa, a Visitors centre for Vatnajökull National Park is also at Skriðuklaustur.

GPS POINTS N65° 2' 29.182" W14° 57' 8.205"

Hiking and horseback riding in East Iceland

If you want to go horseback riding or hiking in East Iceland and have a nice sleepover with homemade food, Skorrahestar in Fjarðabyggd is your stop! Located in Norðfjörður, close to the village of Neskaupstaður, Skorrahestar's motto is 'come as a guest – leave as a friend'.

Skorrahestar offer walking trips as well as long and short riding tours. Skorrahestar has accommodation for up to 23 guests in bedrooms for two, three or four guests and can also accept groups.

'You get to experience our homemade international cuisine with a touch of Icelandic tradition as you become a member of the Skorrahestar family,' says Doddi Júlíusson, who runs Skorrahestar with his wife Thea Alfreðsdóttir. 'Just contact us on Facebook or the web and we will see what we can do for you,' says Doddi, eager to please his guests, as numerous positive reviews on www.tripadvisor.com and www.booking.com can confirm.

www.skorrahestar.is

Skorrahestar's motto is 'you'll arrive as a guest and leave as a friend,' which describes perfectly the spirit that characterises riding and hiking in the Icelandic wilderness.

Small groups, relaxed atmosphere and good guides: Skorrahestar hiking and riding tours offer everything from one hour to weeklong tours.

A Farm **on the Heath**

The heath farm Sænautasel was built on the Jökuldalsheiði heath in 1843. By 1861 there were sixteen such farms on the heath, most of which were destroyed in a volcanic eruption from Katla in 1875. Sænautasel, however, was inhabited until 1943, and was renovated in 1992 by the parish and is now open as a museum during the summer months.

The area was a source of inspiration for Halldór Laxness' master work, Independent People; notice that many farm names here match the fictional farms in the book. Now rebuilt, the interior and exterior of the turf buildings are open to visitors during the summer. Guided tours help reveal the conditions of earlier Icelandic generations. Refreshments in traditional style are offered.

The highland farm at Sænautasel.

GPS POINTS N65° 15' 45.055" W15° 30' 47.425"

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

The hike up Mt. Snæfell is one of the hiking treasures of Fljótsdalshérað.

Mt. Snæfell: **the queen of the East**

Snæfell, 1,833 m, is the highest mountain in Iceland outside the glacier regions. It was once a volcano, but has not seen any activity in ten millenniums.

While Snæfell boasts a splendour of its own, it offers a fabulous view, partly overlooking the oasis of Eyjabakkar. To hike Snæfell, there is a parking lot 1.5 kilometres (one mile) south of a hut called Snæfellsskáli where the trail begins. The route is about eight kilometres (five miles), and though steep at times and reasonably difficult, smooth to traverse. At the top, you can get a stamp to mark your journey. If it is covered in snow, you can get the stamp at the aforementioned hut.

GPS POINTS N64° 48' 49.713" W15° 35' 38.869"

Stórurð **rock formation**

Stórurð (The Giant Boulder) lies below the small glacier west of Dyrfjöll mountains. It is one of Iceland's most amazing rock formations, with awe-inspiring stone blocks dozens of metres high. The area also has some beautiful ponds and unique vegetation. A walk through Stórurð is definitely a unique experience. A full day's hike, it is certainly worth the effort!

GPS POINTS N65° 30' 51.936" W13° 59' 26.295"

Stórurð is located to the east of the road leading to Borgarfjörður Eystri.

VISITSEYÐISFJÖRÐUR

Charming, fun, lively, lovely, different, friendly, creative, historic, peaceful, artistic, beautiful, open minded, active, bohemian

You can find further information on www.visitseydisfjordur.com

The South of Iceland

– A nature traveller's daydream

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.

The 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.

The church at Eyrarbakki.

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

Plenty to see and do

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.

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.

Selfoss Area Information Center

Austurvegur 2, Selfoss (in the library)
Open monday-friday from 08:00-18:00.
Saturday from 10:00-15:00.
Tel: +354 480 1900
www.selfossarea.is

Stokkseyri's coastline.

www.selfossarea.is

Lakagígar is a protected area, regarded as being unique.

The unique world **of Lakagígar**

Lakagígar lies inside the Vatnajökull National Park and is formed of a series of fissures that appeared during an eruption over a 25 kilometre wide area 250 years ago, which was the largest eruption in Iceland's history. The fissures are protected as a natural wonder and are considered to be unique.

The area is staffed by wardens during the summer, who provide information to visitors and give guidance on pathways. Their information is invaluable to get the most of a visit. The district is open to travellers all year round, depending on snow levels and how long roads can be kept open in winter. Normally the roads are open by the beginning of June and remain open until autumn. Vehicles can only be driven on the routes marked on the map and other tracks and paths are closed to normal traffic. Driving off-road is strictly prohibited, as is the case in other parts of the country.

Lakagígar has marked walking routes.

Historical centre **at Oddur**

Not far from the main road crossing the Rangárvellir district, between Hella and Hvolsvöllur, is one of Iceland's best-known historical sites. Oddur was the home of leading chieftains and an ancient centre of culture, from where there is a view over the whole of the southern lowlands.

Oddur's best-known inhabitant was Sæmundur Sigfússon (1056-1133), known as Sæmundur the Learned. He was sent away as a young man to study, most likely to France. His grandson was Jón Loftsson (1124-1197), who also lived at Oddur. He was the foster father of the writer Snorri Sturluson who was murdered at Reykholt in 1241.

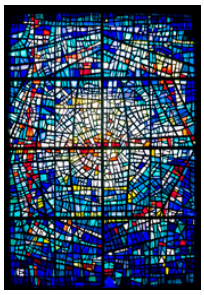
GPS POINTS N63° 46' 37.421" W20° 23' 11.038"

Oddur in the Rangárvellir district is one of the greatest of the ancient chieftaincies and a cultural centre.

Skálholt **Cathedral**

Skálholt is one of the most remarkable historical sites in Iceland and an exceptionally peaceful spot, as well as being the location of one of the country's most ancient churches. The present church was designed by arcitect Hörður Bjarnason and was consecrated in 1963. This is a magnificently airy building in every way.

During the construction, the decision was taken to fit stained glass windows and following a competition in the spring of 1958, the task went to sculptor Gerður Helgadóttir (1928-1975). Her stained glass work can be seen in five churches in Iceland and several more in other countries. The Skálholt cathedral also houses more unique works of art, including a mosaic by Nína Tryggvadóttir.



One of Gerður Helgadóttir's windows in the Skálholt cathedral.

GPS POINTS N64° 7' 33.405" W20° 31' 33.852"

Skálholt is an exceptionally peaceful place and there is history everywhere.

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

The Laugarvatn caves have been renovated the way they looked when the last Cave People in Iceland lived there a Century ago.

The Laugar-vatnshellar **caves**

The Laugarvatn caves are located on the Golden Circle route near Laugarvatn and have been returned to the condition they would have been in between 1910 and 1922. This summer there will be guided tours available through the caves, bringing to life the lives of the inhabitants, as well as which souvenirs and refreshments will be available.

With no farm available anywhere in Laugardalur, a young couple moved into the caves in 1910 and lived there for a year. In 1918 another couple moved in and lived there until 1922, during which time they had three children. Both couple kept livestock, but also sold refreshments to travellers, as the cave was on the main road between Laugardalur and Reykjavík. More information on www.thecavepeople.is

GPS POINTS N64° 13' 12.741" W20° 43' 47.541"

Reynisdrangar and Reynisfjara

Reynisdrangar are basalt sea stacks situated under the mountain Reynisfjall near the village Vík í Mýrdal, southern Iceland which is framed by a black sand beach that was ranked in 1991 as one of the ten most beautiful non-tropical beaches in the world.

On Reynisfjöru beach, very beautiful basalt formations in the south part of the mountain can be seen, and there you will find an exceedingly beautiful cave called Hálsanefshellir. Please keep in mind that although Reynisfjara black sand beach shares it stunning beauty, visitors must be aware of the sea currents and sneaker waves at Reynisfjara beach.

GPS POINTS N63° 24' 10.512" W19° 2' 36.422"

Reynisdrangar stacks are a collection of 66 m high rock pillars that rise out of the sea.

Svartifoss is an extraordinary waterfall in Skaftafell National Park.

Svartifoss Waterfall **in Skaftafell**

Svartifoss (Black Falls) is a waterfall in Skaftafell in Vatnajökull National Park in Iceland, and is one of the most popular sights in the park. It is surrounded by dark lava columns, which gave rise to its name. Best period to visit Svartifoss and other waterfalls in Iceland is in summertime. Then all roads are open and temperatures are acceptable and also good for melting snow and ice off of the glaciers.

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

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

Hvolsvöllur: **The center of Njál's saga**

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.

At Hvolsvöllur you can find the Njál's Saga Center which is fitting since all around town is the scene of action for one of the most famous Icelandic Saga, The story of burnt Njal. Also 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.

GPS POINTS N63° 45' 2.842" W20° 13' 25.995"

Welcome to Eldheimar
– the Westmann Islands' new eruption museum

A real Country Dream in South Iceland

Country Dream is a family owned guesthouse in South Iceland offering accommodation for up to 16 guest in brand new studio apartments for 2-4 guests, as well as in 3 cosy bedrooms, each for two guests, in the service house.

Located at the farm Langholt 2, just east of the town Selfoss, Country Dream is very well placed for day trip visits to the Golden Circle, Þingvellir, Seljalandsfoss, Þórsmörk and other nature treasures of South Iceland. In autumn and winter time Country Dream is a nice spot to see the northern lights and close by is the river Hvítá with variable birdlife and good surroundings for short hiking tours.

Guest can also take short horseback riding tours in Langholt 2, as the owners, Ragnar and Fridur, have years of experience in horse farming. For more information send an e-mail to info@countrydream.is or call +354 482 1061.

Relaxed atmosphere and good accommodation is Country Dream´s trademark.

facebook.com/icelandiccountrydream

The Great Geysir Area

Geysir, sometimes known as The Great Geysir, was the first geyser described in a printed source and the first known to modern Europeans. Geysir lies in the Haukadalur valley on the slopes of Laugarfjall hill, which is also the home to Strokkur geyser about 50 metres south.

Eruptions at Geysir can hurl boiling water up to 70 metres in the air. However, eruptions are infrequent, and have in the past stopped altogether for years at a time.

The nearby geyser Strokkur erupts much more frequently than Geysir, erupting to heights of up to 30 metres every few minutes.

Strokkur's activity has also been affected by earthquakes, although to a lesser extent than the great Geysir. Due to its eruption frequency, online photos and videos of Strokkur are regularly mislabeled as depicting Geysir.

GPS POINTS N64° 18' 34.451" W20° 18' 6.450"

Strokkur's activity has also been affected by earthquakes, although to a lesser extent than the great Geysir.

Skógafoss is one of the biggest waterfalls in Iceland, with a drop of some 62 meters and a width of 25 meters.

The spectacular **Skógafoss waterfall**

Skógafoss is on the Skógá River in South Iceland. The cliff from which these falls descend is the former coastline, which has now receded in a seaward direction about 5 km. The former sea cliffs now run parallel to the coast for many kilometers, these mountains create a kind of border between the lowlands on the coast and the highland areas of Iceland.

Skógafoss is situated in absolutely spectacular scenery, on the eastern side, there is a trail which leads up to the famous Fimmvörðuháls pass. You do not need to walk for many minutes along the pathway from Skógafoss to be rewarded with majestic and spectacular views. The are dozens of waterfalls on the trails running from the same river as Skógafoss itself.

GPS POINTS N63° 31' 54.500" W19° 30' 43.187"

When in danger

Call 112

112

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

Eldheimar volcano museum Vestmannaeyjar

An incredible journey!

Opening hours

Summer
11:00 to 18:00

Winter
13:00-17:00

Open for groups outside normal hours by prior agreement

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 more than forty 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.

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.

The Reykjanes Peninsula

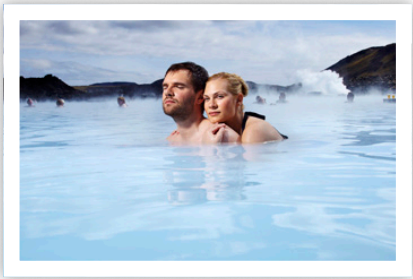
– *Crossing continents*

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

One of **25 wonders** of the world

Blue Lagoon geothermal seawater is unlike any other water on the planet. Born deep underground where fresh water and ocean water converge in volcanic aquifers, this natural marvel possesses silica, algae, and minerals. These elements give the water its cleansing, healing, nourishing powers—bringing radiance to the mind and body. **Discover the water. Experience the wonder.**

BLUE LAGOON
ICELAND

bluelagoon.com

Reykjanesviti lighthouse is an iconic historic structure, built 1907-1908.

Reykjanes **Lighthouse**

The first lighthouse in Iceland was built on Valahnúkur in Reykjanes in

the year 1878. By 1905 earthquakes and surf had damaged Valahnúkur so much that there was the risk of the lighthouse falling into the sea.

A new lighthouse was therefore built in 1907-1908 on Bæjarfell hill in Reykjanes and the old one was demolished with an explosion on april 16th 1908. The lightsignal height is 69 meters above sealevel but the actual height of the lighthouse is 26 metres. Reykjanes lighthouse also has a radio beacon with a correction signal. There is carved rock and concrete in the lighthouse. Architect Frederik Kjørboe and engineer Thorvald Krabbe designed the lighthouse. The operation of Reykjanes Lighthouse is under the supervision of the Icelandic Maritime Administration.

GPS POINTS N63° 48' 54.266" W22° 42' 11.934"

Brimketill **lava rock pool**

Brimketill is a coastal rock pool on the Reykjanes Peninsula.

Brimketill is a small, naturally carved pool, by marine erosion, at the lava shore edge west of the town of Grindavík. The pool is made out of lava rock, created by the volcanism of the Reykjanes Peninsula. This peninsula is renowned for its many cone-shaped peaks, its endless expanses of black lava, and its constant geothermal activity.

The viewing platform overlooking Brimketill is just a few steps away from the parking lot starting with a small set of stairs, making the platform inaccessible to wheelchairs. Standing on the platform you risk the possibility of getting soaked as the waves can almost reach the parking lot. Make sure to watch your step while taking in the amazing view and the unrelenting forces of nature. Utmost caution is recommended, especially when travelling with children.

GPS POINTS N63° 49' 4.741" W22° 35' 56.075"

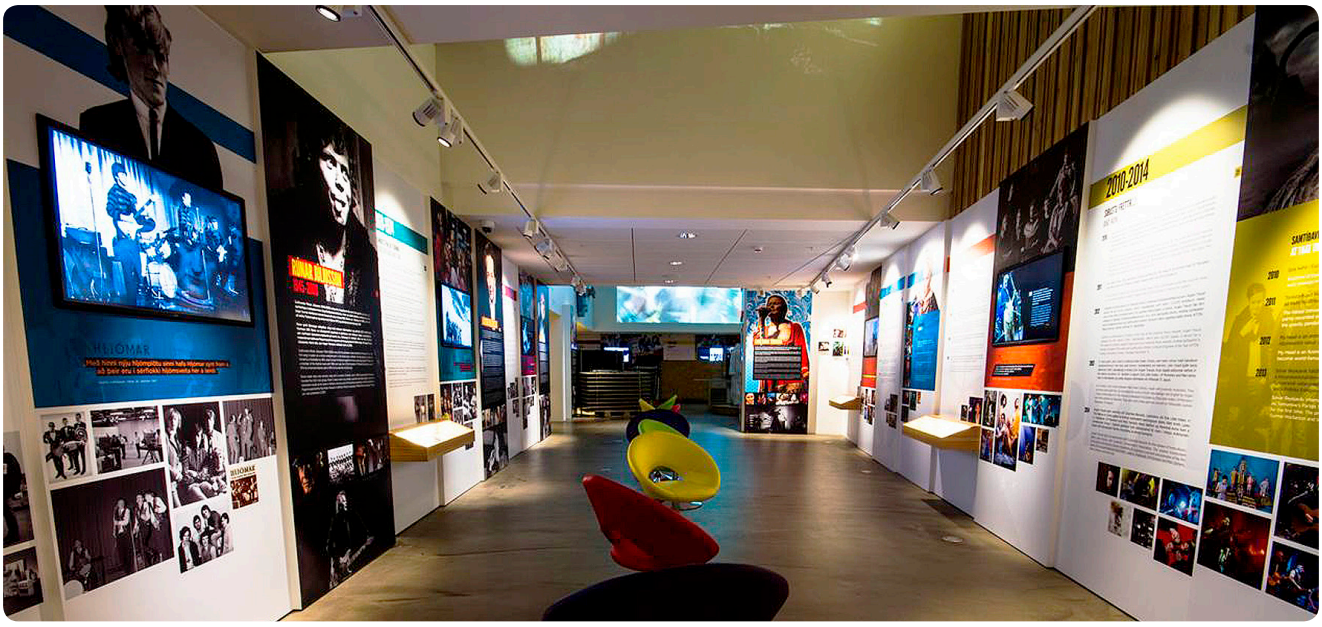
The church at Hvalsnes

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

One of the most remarkable items of the church is the gravestone of Steinunn Hallgrímsdóttir who died when she was 4 years old in 1649. She was the daughter of Hallgrímur Pétursson (1614-74), Iceland's most important psalmist which at that time served as a priest at the parish in Hvalsnes. The gravestone was lost for a long time but was discovered again in 1964 but it had been used as a part of a walkway leading to the church.

GPS POINTS N63° 59' 26.358" W22° 43' 59.055"

The longest serving priest in the Hvalsnes parish was Hallgrímur Pétursson, a much-loved hymn writer whose life has become a legend.



The museum in Keflavik traces the history of popular music in Iceland.

The Icelandic Museum **of Rock´n´ Roll**

The Icelandic Museum of Rock & Roll in Keflavík is tracing the history of Icelandic popular music from the middle of the 19th century up to today with the aid of pictures, screen and displays. Visitors get to borrow a tablet computer and a pair of earphones for their visit, allowing them to dig deeper into the stories behind the musicians that the museum is dedicated to.

Visitors can listen to music, watch music videos and interviews with musicians, plus the walls are filled with displays focusing on various periods and musicians. There are also musical instruments and artefacts linked to various Icelandic musicians. Visitors can also try their hands at keyboards, electric guitars and electronic drum kits, and watch documentaries about Icelandic music.

GPS POINTS N63° 59' 23.021" W22° 33' 1.466"

WITNESS THE FORCE OF NATURE IN REYKJANES

REYKJANES · UNESCO · GLOBAL · GEOPARK

reykjanesgeopark.is — visitreykjanes.is

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 diverse opportunities for recreation, leisure, and family fun.

Grindavík has guesthouses, a state of the art camping facilities, one of Iceland's top 18 hole golf course, 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 a surprising amount of good restaurants in Grindavík, for example the Fish House Bar and Grill, Hjá Höllu, and Max, just to name a few.

The area immediately around Grindavík offers countless opportunities for adventure and entertainment. Hike along historic trails such as Prestastastígur, Skógfellsvegur and Reykjavegur, or travel 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 near the sea. Tour the fish processing facility in Stakkavík; fish in the harbor. Climb Þorbjarnarfell Mountain and enjoy a spectacular view of Grindavík and the surrounding area. See natural gems such as Gunnuhver, Brimketill, Eldvörp, Kleifarvatn and Krísuvíkurberg.

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. And summer in Grindavik is full of activity. Sjóarinn síkáti; one of the biggest festivals in the nation, and the annual Midsummer´s Night Eve hike, Nature´s Week in Reykjanes.

Yes: Grindavík is a place with something for everybody!

www.visitgrindavik.is

Gunnuhver hot springs. Iceland's largest mud pool, bubbling with geothermal activity.

Grindavik has a fantastic swimmingpool!

Katlahraun's remarkable laval formations.

Photo: visitreykjanes.is.

Katlahraun: **One of the wonders of Reykjanes**

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

Katlahraun is a geosite within Reykjanes Uneco Global Geopark. The theory is that the surface of the pools of lava solidify at the shore, and the edges of the lava concentrations then give way under the weight of lava seeking a way out. This left the cooled and broken lava rafts and the lava chimneys that produce these unique chambers. The 'Chamber' is to be found in the lava field not far from the shore. This provides shelter to examine the lava formations.

GPS POINTS N63° 50' 24.176" W22° 14' 42.500"

The bridge was built as a symbol for the connection between Europe and North America.

A Bridge Between **Two Continents**

The lava-scarred Reykjanes peninsula lies on one of the world's major plate boundaries, the Mid Atlantic Ridge. According the continental drift theory the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates are continuously drifting apart with great forces under the gaping rifts. As the plates diverge, linear fractures, known as fissures form due to stresses created by the tension that builds up as the plates move away from each other.

The Bridge between two continents at Sandvík is a small footbridge over a major fissure which provides clear evidence of the presence of a diverging plate margin. The bridge was built as a symbol for the connection between Europe and North America. One can cross the continental divide on Leif the Lucky's Bridge and take home a personalised certificate at Reykjanes Information Center as a confirmation and a reminder of this spectacular experience.

GPS POINTS N63° 52' 5.558" W22° 40' 31.588"

Iceland´s largest **mud pool**

Gunnuhver stands in the heart of the Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark.

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

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

GPS POINTS N63° 49' 11.500" W22° 41' 14.623"

A normal trip is a 1-2 hour row from Þórustaðir to the Gerðistangi lighthouse.

Guided tours **by seakayaks**

Iceland is known for its amazing landscape and the best way to experience the beauty of the country is by getting in touch with its nature from a close view.

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

Reykjanes Seakayak is located between Keflavik and Reykjavik and the guided tours are done in a group of 2-8 persons for 2 hours, from Þórustaðir, Vatnsleysuströnd to the Gerðistangi lighthouse and back.

GPS POINTS N64° 0' 45.536" W22° 18' 18.318"

Check the **Road Conditions!**

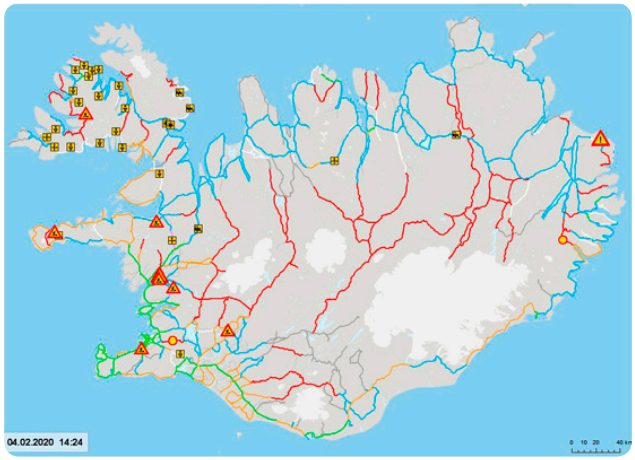
Before you embark on your drive around Iceland, especially in the wintertime, you need to check out what the road conditions are like and which roads are closed.

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.

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

The Capital Area

Pure Energy, fun and adventure

www.visitreykjavik.is

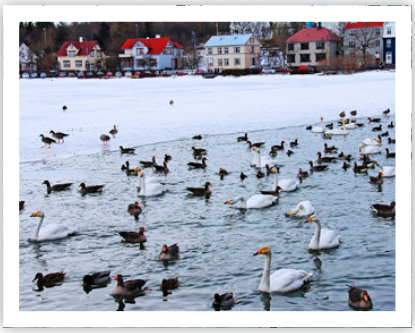
Reykjavík Capital Area must be on the must-do list of anyone looking for fun and adventure in a world of Spa wellness. It has most of the advantages of big-city life and virtually none of the disadvantages.

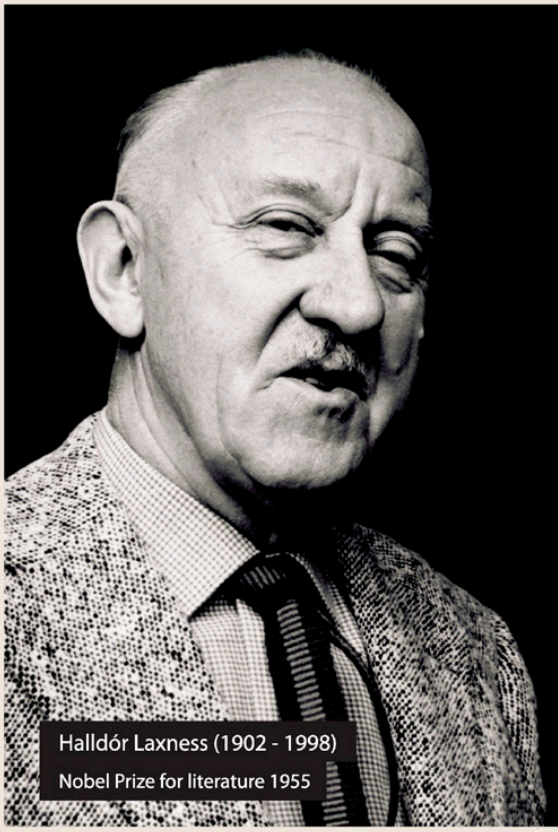
Comprised of six municipalities – Reykjavík, Hafnarfjörður, Kópavogur, Garðabær, Mosfellsbær and Seltjarnarnes – the Capital Area is the hub of the Icelandic nation. It is where about two-thirds of country's population of 310,000 live and work, and exists in close harmony with pristine nature and renewable 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 9.00-17.00

Concerts
Gljúfrasteinn hosts concerts every Sunday at 16.00 during the summer. Admission ISK 2.500

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

Hallgrímskirkja – Reykjavík's **main landmark**

Designed in 1937, construction finally finished in 1986. Hallgrímskirkja Church is Reykjavík's main landmark, with its distinct tower which can be seen from almost anywhere in the city. A trip to the top offers great views all over the city and its surroundings.

Standing directly in front of the church, and predating it by 15 years, is a fine statue of Leifur Eiríksson (c. 970 – c. 1020) – the first European to discover America. Records suggest that Leifur landed on the shores of the new world in the year 1,000 A.D., that's 500 years before Christopher Columbus. The statue, which was designed by Alexander Stirling Calder was a gift from the United States in honour of the 1930 Alþingi Millennial Festival, commemorating the 1,000th anniversary of the establishment of Iceland's parliament at Þingvellir in 930 AD.

Hallgrímskirkja is 74.5m high and it the largest church in Iceland and among the tallest buildings in the country.

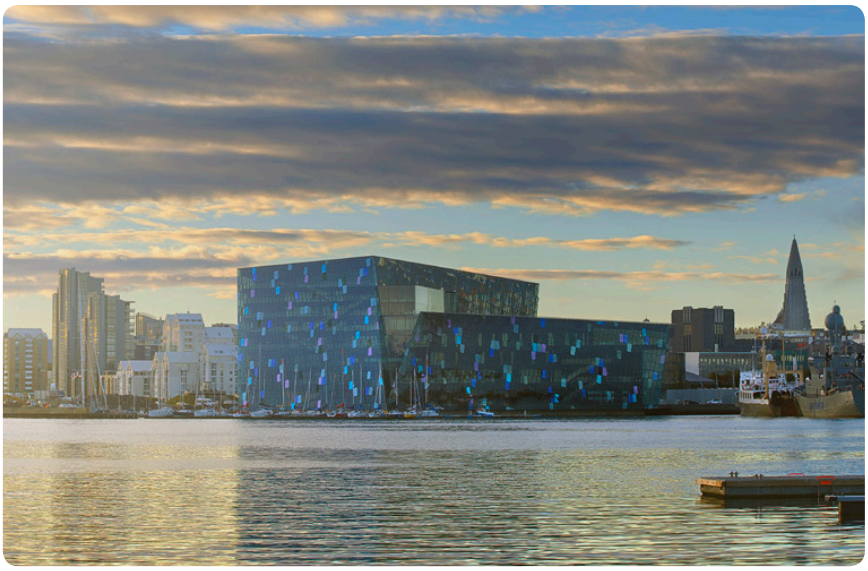
The Perfect Present
A variety of beautiful jewelry

Gullkistan goldsmith's shop
Frakkastíg 10 - 101 Reykjavík - Tel. +354 551 3160
gullkistan@vortex.is - www.thjodbuningasilfur.is

Ingólfur Arnarson **Statue**

The sculpture of the city's founder stands at the top of Arnarhóll Hill. The tribute was created by Einar Jónsson in 1907 and erected in 1924.

According to Landnámabók, the Book of Settlements, Norseman chieftain Ingólfur Arnarson fled Norway in the 9th century with his wife and brother. When he sighted land, he cast his high seat pillars into the Atlantic and vowed to settle where they washed ashore. Arnarson then established his settlement in 874 and called it Reykjavík meaning Smoke Cove or Smokey Bay.



Inspired by basalt crystals, the faceted glass scatters reflections of the surrounding harbour and sky, and presents a glittering wall of light after dark.

Harpa – **Award-winning architecture**

Harpa is one of Reykjavik's greatest and distinguished landmarks. It is a cultural and social centre in the heart of the city and features stunning views of the surrounding mountains and the North Atlantic Ocean.

Harpa provides outstanding facilities for all types of music both classical, contemporary, opera, jazz, pop and rock. The halls have outstanding acoustics, well suited for a grand scale of music. The main hall, Eldborg has great acoustics for various concerts and is the hall where the Iceland Symohony and the Icelandic Opera host their concerts and stage operas.

Harpa is one of the top 10 best designed buildings in the world according to Architectural Digest Magazine. Henning Larsen Architects and Icelandic studio Batteriid Architects are the designers in collaboration with artist Olafur Eliasson.

Reykjavík **Culture Night 2020**

Reykjavík Culture Night will be held on 22. August 2020. The event is both created and enjoyed by city residents and takes place all across central Reykjavik, with celebrations in the streets and squares, in museums, businesses and residential gardens!

The main objective of Reykjavik Culture Night is to deliver a diverse and rich offering of cultural events from 1-11pm, ending with a magnificent firework show by the harbour. All events are free of charge for everyone to enjoy. Reykjavik Culture Night is organised and produced by the events team at Reykjavík Cultural Office, in collaboration with other city departments, organisations, artists, societies and countless others.

During Reykjavík Culture Night the whole down town area will be transformed into one big walking street.

The Presidential Residence **Bessastaðir**

Bessastaðir, near Reykjavík, is the Icelandic „White House“, home of president Guðni Th. Jóhannesson and his family. Not as heavily guarded as many presidential residences, visitors are allowed to roam around outside the house and its surroundings. If you decide to make the trip, we recommend exploring Álftanes area a bit. The beautiful and very Icelandic Garðakirkja church is located here.

Besides being the residence of the President of Iceland, Bessastaðir is also an important historical site that has played a prominent role in the history of the country. The property of Bessastaðir on Álftanes has a history that runs from the Age of Settlement. In its present form, Bessastaðir consists of a group of buildings including Bessastaðastofa, a reception room, a service wing, the President's Residence, the manager's and caretaker's apartments, Bessastaðir Church, and a garage.

Bessastaðir has played a prominent role in the history of the country.

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

Colourful houses **in Reykjavik**

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

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

Gullkistan: Traditional silverware and jewelry

Gullkistan at Frakkastígur 10 in Reykjavík is a goldsmith's shop that offers a wide variety of silverware for the 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 have 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

Goldsmith Dóra Guðbjört Jónsdóttir at Gullkistan on Frakkastígur.

Opening hours

Monday to Friday: 14:00-18:00 – Saturdays: 11:00-14:00

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
Call 112
112

The Handknitting Association of Iceland – Handprjónasambandið – runs two shops in Reykjavík, one at Skólavörðustígur 19 and the other at Borgartún 31.

The warmest gift:
A hand-made Icelandic Sweater!

In recent years, travellers from all over the world have discovered the quality of the Icelandic wool and been inspired by its natural colour variations and knitted patterns.

The Handknitting Association of Iceland has a wonderful selection of garments in their hub at Skólavördustígur 19 in the town centre, as well as in their shop at Borgartún 31, slightly further.

There is no greater souvenir from Iceland than a beautiful, functional garment that you can wear for many years to come, and a hand-knitted item of clothing is an excellent gift for young and old. “Most travellers come here to buy traditional sweaters and want to make sure they are produced locally. Our customers have been extremely happy with the great selection we have, and have fallen in love with the traditional, Icelandic garments, spending hours browsing through our range, from sweaters of all sizes to hats, mittens, socks and more,“ says Thuridur Einarsdóttir of the Handknitting Association.

She explains that the Icelandic wool has unique properties, that have kept the nation warm for over a thousand years, even when wet. The Icelandic sheep is one of the most colorful breeds of sheep in the world, and this has been directly translated into the unique and colorful (yet un-dyed) traditional patterns.

The Real Deal - All the garments from Handprjónasambandið are locally knitted.

Buying directly from the knitters

A driving force behind the continuous popularity of Icelandic woolen products, The Handknitting Association of Iceland operates under the slogan of “Buy directly from the people who make them.“ and has a large selection on offer all made with care by enthusiastic, local knitters.

The Handknitting Association of Iceland – Handprjónasambandið – operates two shops in Reykjavík, one at Skólavörðustígur 19 and the other at Borgartún 31. The stores both carry a wide variety of woolen goods as well as pattern books and recipes, knitting needles, buttons, yarn and “lopi“ for knitting enthusiasts.

www.handknitted.is

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and the home of the Blue Lagoon.
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and leisure activities, Grindavík welcomes you.

www.visitgrindavik.is