OUTDOORS

– exploring the blue island

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Iceland is divided into seven different geographical regions.

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

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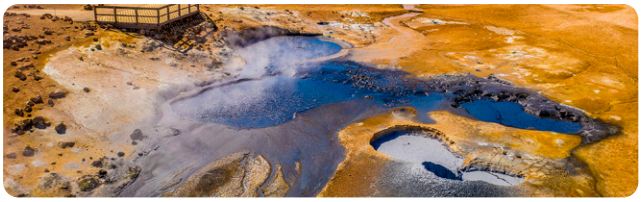

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OUTDOORS
– exploring the blue island

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Núpstaðaskógur is a remote and beautiful forest covered valley within Vatnajökull national park that relatively few people have seen up until now.
Photo: Skúli H. Skúlason

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Into the Wild with **Útivist**

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- Fimmvörðuháls hut
- Dalakofi hut
- Strútsskáli hut
- Sveinstindur hut
- Skælingar hut
- Álftavötn hut

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Amazing

Útivist offers weekend trips, summer vacation tours and day trips

Some of **Útivist's** most po

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

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

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

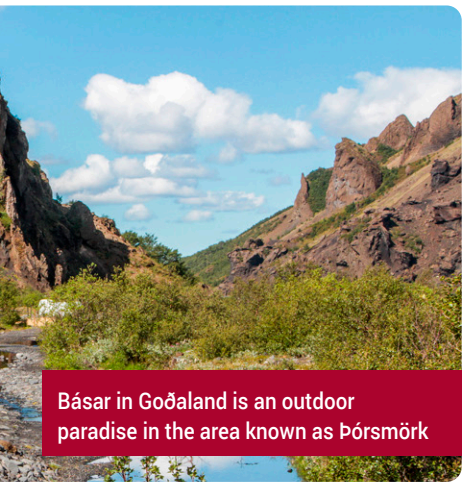
Ride a coach from Reykjavík to Sveinstindur for a one-night stay in the Útivist hut. Hike on the slopes of Sveinstindur with a view over the inland lake of Langisjór and the Fögrufjöll mountains. Stay at the Útivist hut, then hike on to Gjátindur and into Eldgjá canyon, on the way to Lambaskarðshólar.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

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.

hikes with Útivist

pular 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

Laugavegurinn

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

www.utivist.is

West Iceland

Culture, nature and history

www.west.is

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

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

Useful links

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

Photos: www.west.is

Travel summer '22

HOTEL, RESTAURANT AND RELAXATION

www.husafell.is

Húsafell – A delight between lava and glacier

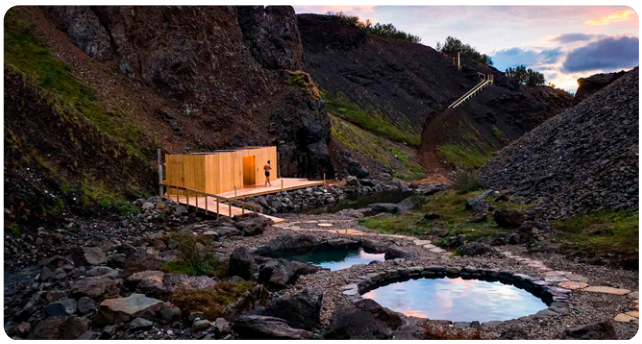
Hótel Húsafell is a special hotel placed within a special natural environment

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

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

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

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

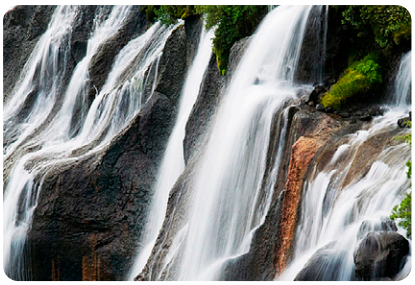


A walk to the Canyon Baths is a unique experience

www.hotelhusafell.is

Hótel Húsafell is offering a variety of accommodation packages this summer

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



Hraunfossar have been protected since 1987.

Hraunfossar and Barnafoss **waterfalls**

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

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

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

www.west.is

A stunning **fishing village**

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

By the harbour stands the basalt island Súgandisey and shelters the town from the northern wind. Súgandisey is connected to land by a road by the harbour so you can walk or drive to it and park by the island and walk upstairs which lead you up this beautiful cliff. Other stairs take you further up where you can rest on a bench and have a look at Stykkishólmur from high up.

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

www.visitstykkisholmur.is

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

Guðrúnarlaug in Dalir Region

According to Laxdaela saga, Gudrun Osvifursdóttir used to dwell by a geothermal pool in Laugar in Saelingsdalur. The pool is mentioned in Sturlunga saga and it seems to have been used a great deal.

Gudrun Osvifursdottir, heroine of Laxdaela Saga, was born (973AD) and brought up at Laugar. It is said that she used the hot water pool there a lot and also met there her followers Kjartan and Bolli. The pool is believed to have been destroyed in a landslide. In 2009 a new pool was built near to the location where the old pool is thought to have been situated and named Gudrunarlaug. A changing facility, referred to as a "house of modesty" in Icelandic, was also built at the same time.

There is a geothermal area at Laugar in Saelingsdalur and a naturally-heated swimming pool was built there in 1932. The hot water is also used for heating up the buildings at the place. Now there is a 25 meter outdoor swimming pool, with hot tubs, sauna and more.

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

www.west.is

Krauma, at the heart of Iceland's nature

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

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

Steam baths and relaxation

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

Fresh local ingredients

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

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

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

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

Iceland´s mountain roads – **drive carefully!**

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

Useful tips

- Always look at the weather forecast and adjust your travel plans accordingly. Icelandic Met Office: **www.en.vedur.is**
- ICE-SAR runs the Travellers Reporting Service, where travellers can register and be safe with the knowledge that if they don't report back by a scheduled time, they will be searched for. The ICE-SAR rescue teams operate emergency shelters around the coastline and in the interior of Iceland. These may only be used in emergencies. **www.icesar.com**
- Cell phones are important safety tools for those travelling far from populated areas – although they might not always be in range, they do cover quite a large portion of the country. If you have a GPS positioning system, you can have free access to a programme on the website of the National Land Survey: **www.lmi.is**
- Crevasse areas on glaciers are continuously changing and are very dangerous. Do not attempt to travel on glaciers without local knowledge and experience. Great care must be taken with rivers, and fords should be investigated. Glacial rivers can carry huge boulders with them, changing the clear path across the river in seconds, so don't put too much trust in old tracks.
- The emergency number in Iceland is 112.

EXPERIENCE NATURE FROM ITS CORE

QUIET YOURSELF AT KRAUMA

Krauma Nature Baths

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

Bar & Restaurant

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

KRAUMA

KRAUMA NATURE BATHS

@kraumageothermal
kraumageothermal

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

The Westfjords

A different experience

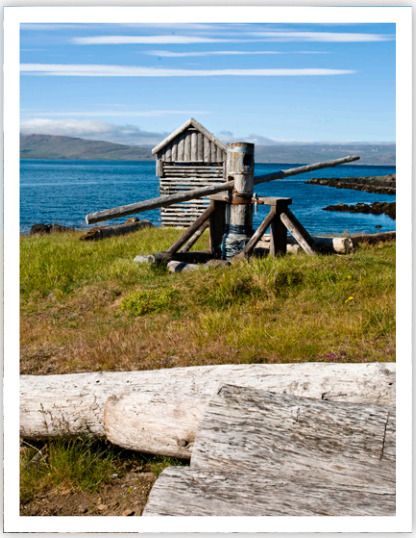
Visiting the Westfjords is surely a different experience. It is Iceland, but yet a different Iceland altogether. Looking like an enormous claw stretching out to sea, the Westfjords are known for sheer sea cliffs, some rising to a height of over 440 metres, and long, narrow fjords. A slender strip of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

The northwest tip of the Westfjords is Hornstrandir, a now uninhabited 600-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 Projec	www.westvikings.info
An exciting water project	www.vatnavinir.is
Official travel guide to Iceland	www.visiticeland.com
Promote Iceland	www.businessiceland.is



Photos: Ágúst Atlason.

The Museums **in Bolungarvík**

From Ósvör Museum in Bolungarvík.

A Polar bear Natural History Museum in Bolungarvík.

Westfjords botanical gardens focus on the local flora.

Ósvör is a reconstruction of an Icelandic fishing station from the 19th Century. The museum provide stunning photographic opportunities from many angels. The station consists of a dwelling, with beds and tools, a salting house and a drying shed. The museum focuses on interactive learning experience which makes it stand out among other museums and the experience of exploring it is fun for both children and adults.

Natural History Museum

The museum contains a variety of natural items like rocks, minerals, birds, eggs, mammals and shells.

In the museum there is a Polar bear with some of westfjords wild land mammals and seals.

The jaw from the biggest blue whale known to have been caught and thus the biggest animal ever known are on display in the museum.

Westfjords Botanical gardens

Westfjords botanical gardens focus on research, conservation and exhibition, of the local flora. Flowerbeds are located in the centre of Bolungarvík. The garden is always open and free of charge. Currently running is a wild crops exhibition witch shows the usage of plants from the time of the settlement until modern days. Both for magic, medicine and variety of other uses.

www.westfjords.is

The cascading **waterfall Dynjandi**

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

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

www.westfjords.is

Dynjandi waterfall is the biggest waterfall in the Westfjords.

Vigur island – the bird's Paradise

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

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

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

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

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

www.westfjords.is

Hesteyri offers plenty of beautiful hiking trails

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

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

www.westfjords.is

Old houses in cheerful colour in Flatey.

Flatey island – like a movie set

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

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

www.westfjords.is

Ísafjörður is the tourist hub of the Westfjords.

Ísafjörður – amazing restaurants and museums

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

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

Ísafjörður also hosts an impressive array of events, for example the music festival Aldrei fór ég suður held at Easter every year. In the latter, a few hundred mad and glad people come together for a muddy competition in dirty tricks.

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

The North of Iceland

A true natural paradise

www.northiceland.is

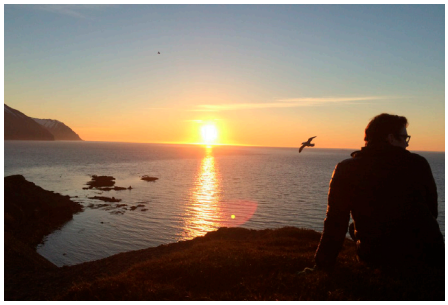
The north of Iceland is a true natural paradise, offering a multitude of adventurous activities, attracting people of all ages. From the country's largest geothermal fields to beautiful islands exuding folklore and one of Iceland's most popular skiing resorts, the north of Iceland offers a myriad of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

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

Useful links

Official travel guide for the area	www.northiceland.is
Akureyri tourist guide	www.visitakureyri.is
Akureyri Art Museum	www.listasafn.akureyri.is
Hof Cultural and Concert Centre	www.mak.is/en
Whale Museum in Húsavík	www.whalemuseum.is
Akureyri Museum	www.akmus.is
Grímsey island	www.grimsey.is
Hrísey island	www.hrisey.is
Official travel guide to Iceland	www.visiticeland.com
Promote Iceland	www.businessiceland.is

BREATHE IN...
HRÍSEY ISLAND



Municipality of Akureyri

Arctic Coast Way
Norðurstrandarleið

www.hrisey.com

#hrisey #visithrisey #akureyri

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

Boats at the quayside by the Herring Era Museum.

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

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

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

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

www.sild.is

Kolugljúfur's waterfalls take their name from the she-troll Kola.

The Beautiful **Kolugljúfur**

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

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

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

www.north.is

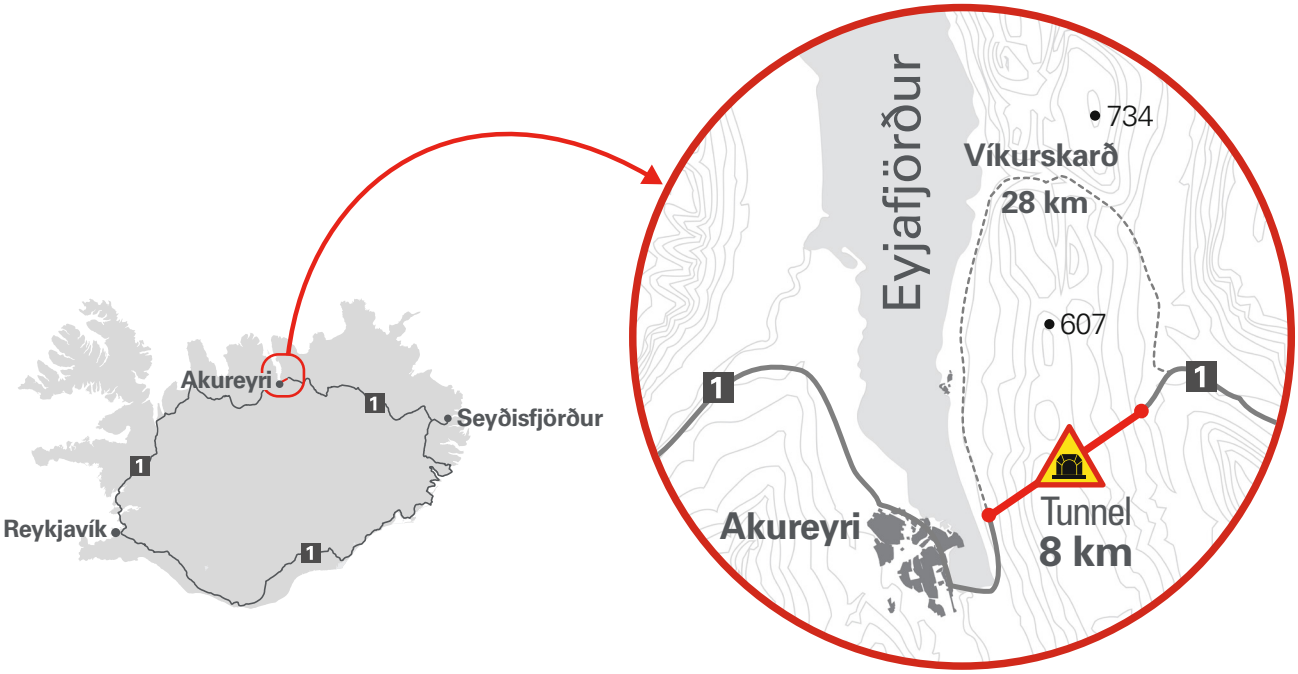
Access pass to **five museums**

The Akureyri Museum is offering a pass valid for the whole of 2022 providing access to five fascinating museums in the Eyjafjörður area. These are the Akureyri Museum itself, as well as the Akureyri Toy Museum, Nonni's House, the home of Davíð Stefánsson and the old homestead at Laufás.

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

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

www.minjasafnid.is



Pay toll within 24 hours at

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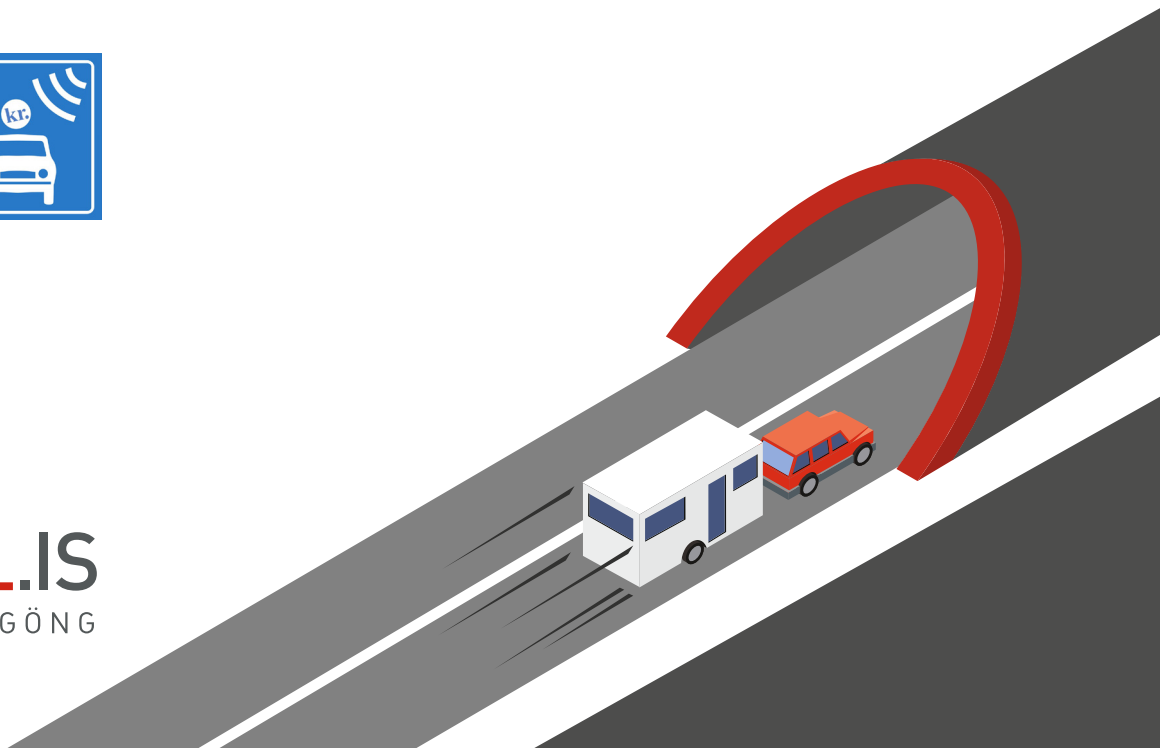


The geothermal district east of Námaskarður

The mighty Dettifoss, Europe's highest volume waterfall.

The whale-watching capital of Húsavík.

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

Ásbyrgi is one of Iceland's natural wonders.

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

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

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

www.north.is

Hveravellir: A must-see for the highland enthusiast

The service centre at Hveravellir is one of the most popular stops in the west of Iceland's highlands. Hveravellir is situated by Kjalvegur, between the glaciers Langjökull and Hofsjökull. The area is one of the most beautiful geothermal areas on earth, with fumaroles, mud pots and beautiful hot springs with sky-blue water.

It's a unique place to visit, in summer or winter, and quite a popular stop for tourists who both want to explore the area and take advantage of the services available. The travellers at Hveravellir are from all nationalities, coming by either private car or bus, as there is a daily bus service in the area throughout the summer months.

www.hveravellir.is

What can be better than to enjoy the sun and the view in the natural pool at Hveravellir?

The fumarole area is accessible to all and visited by thousands each summer.

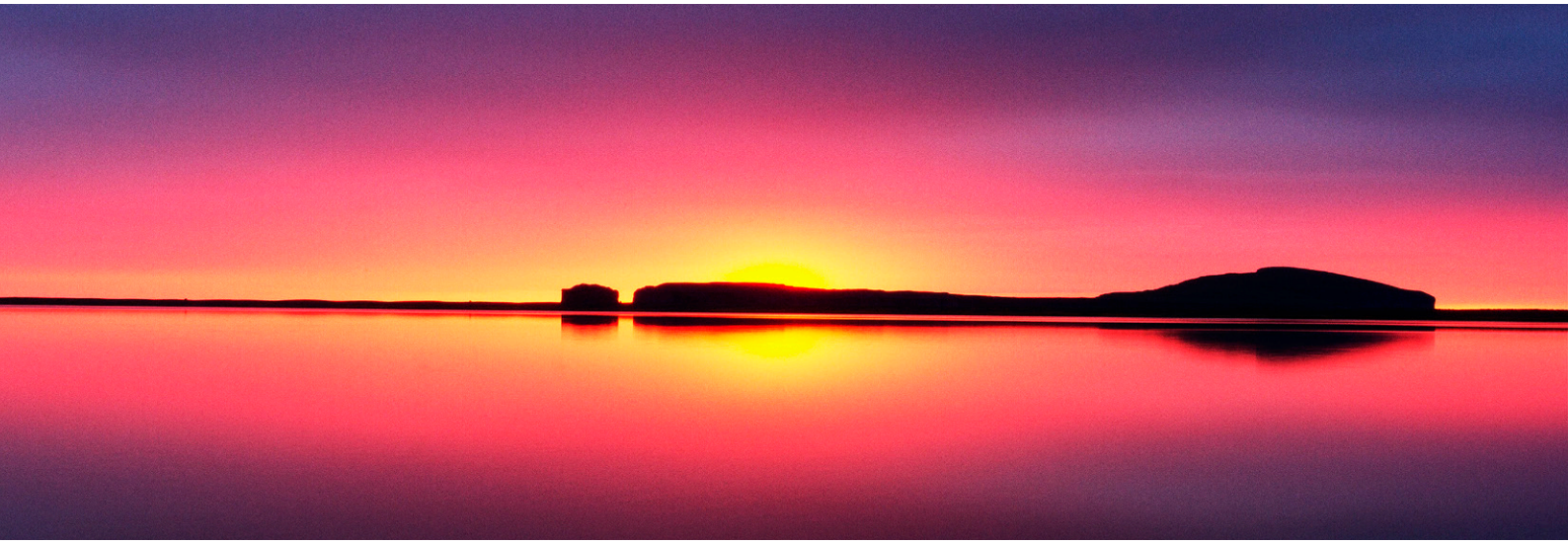
Enjoy the adventure!

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.

www.visitskagafjordur.is

Welcome to Skagafjörður



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; play golf at a scenic golf course; helicopter skiing on the Tröllaskagi mountain range; horse riding in an amazing and unique landscape; sailing to the majestic island of Drangey; relax in a natural hot spring; enjoy the magic of the northern lights in the winter stillness; indulge in excellent food prepared from local produce; visit a petting zoo… Or just lay back and relax and enjoy the stay – there are diverse accommodation options available for you to choose from.

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

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

visitskagafjordur.is

Tourist information in Skagafjörður

Tourist information in Vamahlíð and Sauðákrókur is open year-round.

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

Free access to the internet

Tel: Varmahlíð +354 455 6161

Tel: Sauðárkrókur +354 588 1238

info@visitskagafjordur.is

www.visitskagafjordur.is

Back in time at **Grenjaðarstaður**

A visit to the turf-walled homestead at Grenjaðarstaður in Aðaldalur takes you back in time to a world that has vanished. There has been a farm at this location since the settlement, and the farm has been been home to a chieftaincy, a church and a priest through the ages, and was at one time the location for postal services.

Grenjaðarstaður at one time was seen as the most magnificent homesteads of its kind and at 775m², one of the largest of its kind in the country. The oldest surviving part was built around 1865 and the farm was still inhabited in 1949. It was opened as a museum in 1958, complete with several thousand artefacts that had been donated. Entering it and seeing how adults and children lived in the past is a unique experience.

The turf homestead at Grenjaðarstaður.

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

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

www.north.is

Víti is a geothermal crater lake found in Askja Caldera in the Icelandic Central Highlands. Photo: www.northiceland.is.

The **Askja volcanic** centre

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

The eruption had far-reaching consequences on eastern Iceland and many people subsequently emigrated to North America. There was a great deal of subsidence following the eruption, resulting in the formation of the Askja lake. On the eastern edge of the lake is the fissure known as Víti, which is reckoned to have been the source of the ash cloud during the 1875 eruption. Alongside the Askja eruption, there was a parallel laval eruption at Sveinagjá, leading to the formation of the Nýjahraun lava fields. Askja's last eruption was in 1961.

www.north.is

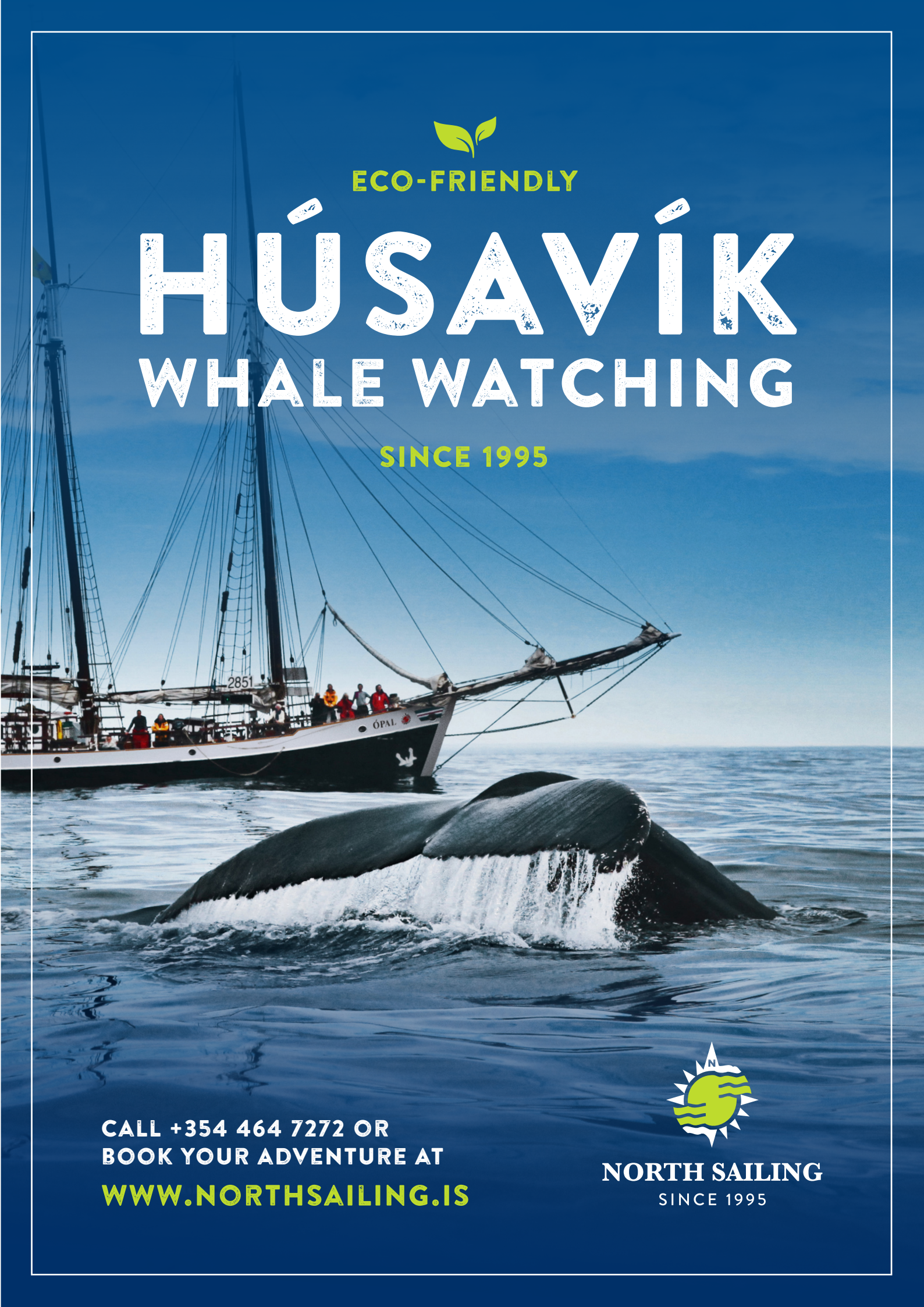
The viewing platform is a unique construction and it's well worth the drive out to Langanes to enjoy the view over the cliffs and the sea.

From a different viewpoint – **Skoruvíkurbjarg**

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

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

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

Whale Watching Húsavík:

The silent and eco-friendly way!

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

Whales and puffins

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

Eco friendly whale watching

Andvari and Opal, North Sailing's innovative electric boats are completely silent, one of the 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/en

Hello Akureyri!

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

To make it easier for visitors to keep track of events in and around Akureyri, the halloakureyri.is website lists information for all of the events taking place in the town, opportunities for relaxation and services, all in one place.

The aim is for the highlights of this summer's events schedule to peak at locations in the town and to be organised in compliance with current health regulations. This includes events listed for the Bank Holiday weekend in August and for the Akureyri Vaka weekend at the end of the same month. The Súlur Vertical offroad running race takes place on 30th of July and there has been plenty of interest in participating. The centre of town is the ideal place to see this year's runners as the hit the finishing line.

Akureyri is one of Iceland's most popular destinations

The Súlur Vertical offroad running race takes place on 30th of July

Akureyri old town

Botanical garden in Akureyri

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

- The Botanical Garden – most of the Icelandic flora as well as about 7000 foreign plants
- The Art Museum and Art Street (Kaupvangsstræti)
- Sundlaug Akureyrar – outdoor swimming pool, 3 pools, hut tubs, play areas and waterslides
- Whale watching from the pier below center of town
- Restaurants – promoting local food
- Kjarnaskógur – wood, trails and playgrounds
- The old town – old houses and several museums
- Golf course – The northern most 18-hole golf course and the competition “Arctic Open”
- Glerárgil – canyon and trails
- Hrísey – small island, village, culture and trails
- Akureyri Town Festival – end of August each year
- Beer from Víking and Kaldi – Local breweries
- Akureyrarkirkja – church, design and interior
- Hlíðarfjall – One of the best skiing area in the country
- The hidden world of Akureyri – hidden beings, elves and dwarves
- The Arctic Cirle, in the island Grímsey (25 mín flight from Akureyri or ferry from Dalvík)

Experience Mývatn Nature Baths

The swim up bar us very popular.

www.naturebaths.is
#myvatnnaturebaths
info@jardbodin.is

"We are very excited for the next two years, as construction work on new facilities is about to start. Our goal is to raise the service level in all possible ways, so we can excel our guest's experience. We are looking very much forward to welcoming you in a brand new house in 2024", 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 geothermal crack in the ground. Just over two years ago, a swim-up bar in the lagoon was opened and it is definitely the hottest bar in Mývatn area.

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

Easier access

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

www.naturebaths.is

Road toll in Vaðlaheiði tunnel

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

Drivers need to pay road toll when driving through the Vadlaheidi tunnel, but they should pay attention to there are no toll booths or pay machines around. Instead travellers pay for a single trip by visiting the website www.tunnel.is and pay for each single trip via card. To avoid an extra charges from the Car Rental travellers can pay for each trip through the tunnel 24 hours before entering the tunnel or max 24 hours after driving through the tunnel.

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

All further information on www.tunnel.is

Hrísey – Eyjafjörður's gem

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

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

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

hrisey.is

Welcome to Hrisey!

The House of Shark Jörundur

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

It also houses the Tourist information which is open 1pm to 5 pm from the start of June until the end of August.

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

When in danger

Call 112

112

MÝVATN NATURE BATHS

myvatnnaturebaths.is

Thankfully, most combinations of volcanoes and glaciers in Iceland are not so explosive.

Glacial Iceland

Although greener than the name would imply, Iceland does have its share of glaciers. The ice caps cover more than 11% of the land, influencing both the landscape and the weather.

Glaciers are large, persistent bodies of ice that flow slowly, resulting in large crevasses, which are a distinguishing feature. In a geothermally active country such as Iceland, many of the glaciers are situated above volcanoes. Thankfully, most combinations of volcanoes and glaciers in Iceland are not so explosive. Neither volcanoes nor glaciers, however, pose a threat to tourists, as they are very well monitored – and are far away from towns and villages.

Some of Iceland's most famous glaciers are:

Vatnajökull, 8,100 km²
Vatnajökull is the largest glacier in Europe. It is located in the southeast of the island, covering more than 8% of the country. With an area of 8,100 km², it is a part of Vatnajökull National Park – the largest nature preserve in the country. The thickness of the cap reaches 1,000 metres at most, averaging 400. The highest peak in Iceland, Hvannadalshnúkur (2,109.6 m), is located on the southern edge of glacier.

Mýrdalsjökull, 596 km²
Mýrdalsjökull is situated in the south, east of the smaller glacier Eyjafjallajökull. The ice cap covers an active volcano called **Katla** that has a caldera spanning 10 km. Historically Katla erupts every 40–80 years. Last erupt was in 1918 so Katla is now carefully monitored by scientists.

Snæfellsjökull, 170 km²
Shrouded in mystery, Snæfellsjökull is believed by many to have magical powers. Situated within Snæfellsjökull National Park, it is the only glacier in the country to extend to the sea. It is also the only glacier visible from Reykjavík.

Eyjafjallajökull, 78 km²
Eyjafjallajökull is actually quite a small glacier, situated in the south of Iceland. The ice cap covers one of Europe's most famous volcanoes, having stopped air traffic in the whole continent in the spring of 2010.

Fjallabyggð

The Herring Era Museum in Siglufjörður
© Þórarinn Hannesson

Welcome to Siglufjörður

FJALLABYGGÐ
IS AN AREA OF SPECTACULAR
NATURAL BEAUTY

THE CLOSENESS TO NATURE IS
ALWAYS WITHIN REACH

FLOURISHING CULTURAL LIFE,
MUSEUMS, GALLERIES & MORE

FJALLABYGGD.IS

Welcome to Ólafsfjörður

Ólafsfjörður Lake
© Ida M. Semay

The East of Iceland

Natural wonders and history

www.east.is

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

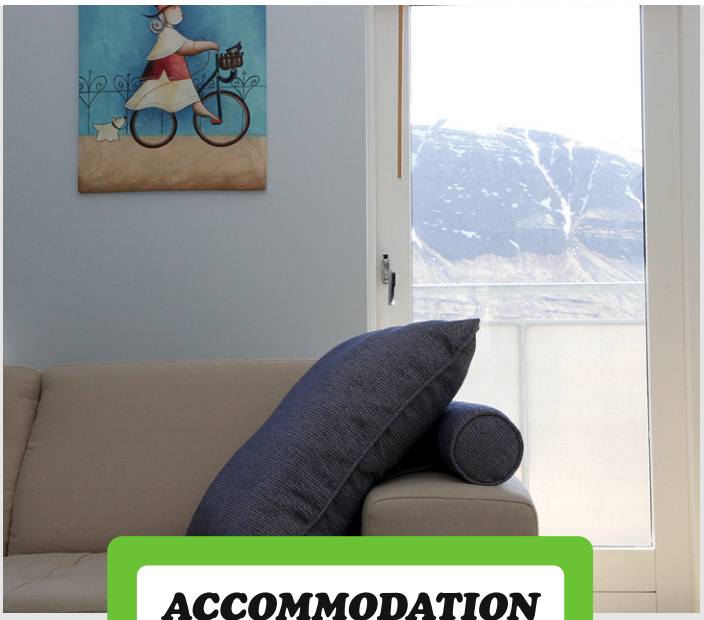
Villages of varying sizes dot the fjords. Loðmundarfjörður Fjord is ideal for travellers interested in walking peacefully where no one lives.

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

Useful links

Official travel guide for the area	www.east.is
Vatnajökull National Park	www.vatnajokulsthjodgardur.is
Official travel guide to Iceland	www.visiticeland.com
Promote Iceland	www.businessiceland.is

Photos: www.esast.is



ACCOMMODATION

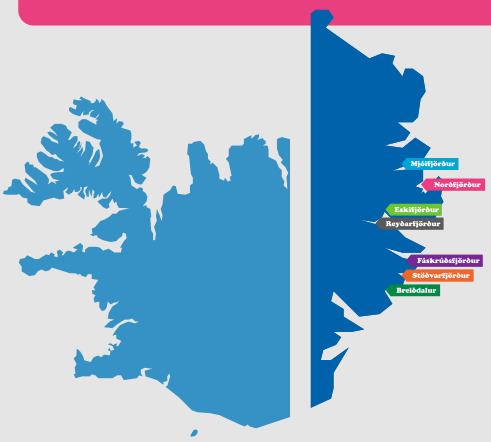
MUSEUMS

FOOD AND FUN

SWIMMING POOLS

GOLF

CAMPING



Wonderful Fjarðabyggð

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

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

FJARÐABYGGÐ
fjardabyggd.is

Wonderful Fjarðabyggð

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

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

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

www.visitfjardabyggd.is

A dance with **the Mountains**

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

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

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

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

www.auroras.is

Búlandstindur – a pyramid shaped beauty

Búlandstindur is a beautiful peak with a unique and impressive pyramid shape, generally considered to be one of the most beautiful mountains in Iceland. The mountain is a 1069 m high, belived to be about 8 million yers old.

Many people make their way to the summit every year. It is best to follow a road that runs along Búlandsá to the south and all the way to a dam that is in the heart of the valley. From there you walk straight up the grassy green slopes and landslides inside Stóruskriðugil in the direction of a pass inside Búlandstindur. After that, the route runs itself until the top peak is reached. You can view an aerial photo of a marked path up to the summit on Teigarhorn's website. The peak is a narrow and steep cliff and there is a great view.

Búlandstindur is a beautiful peak with a a unique and impressive pyramid shape.

It is very important to be careful not to walk too far to the east if something is visually or if it is slippery, because the eastern slope of the mountain is steep and rocky. There is a good mobile connection on the summit.

www.east.is

When in danger

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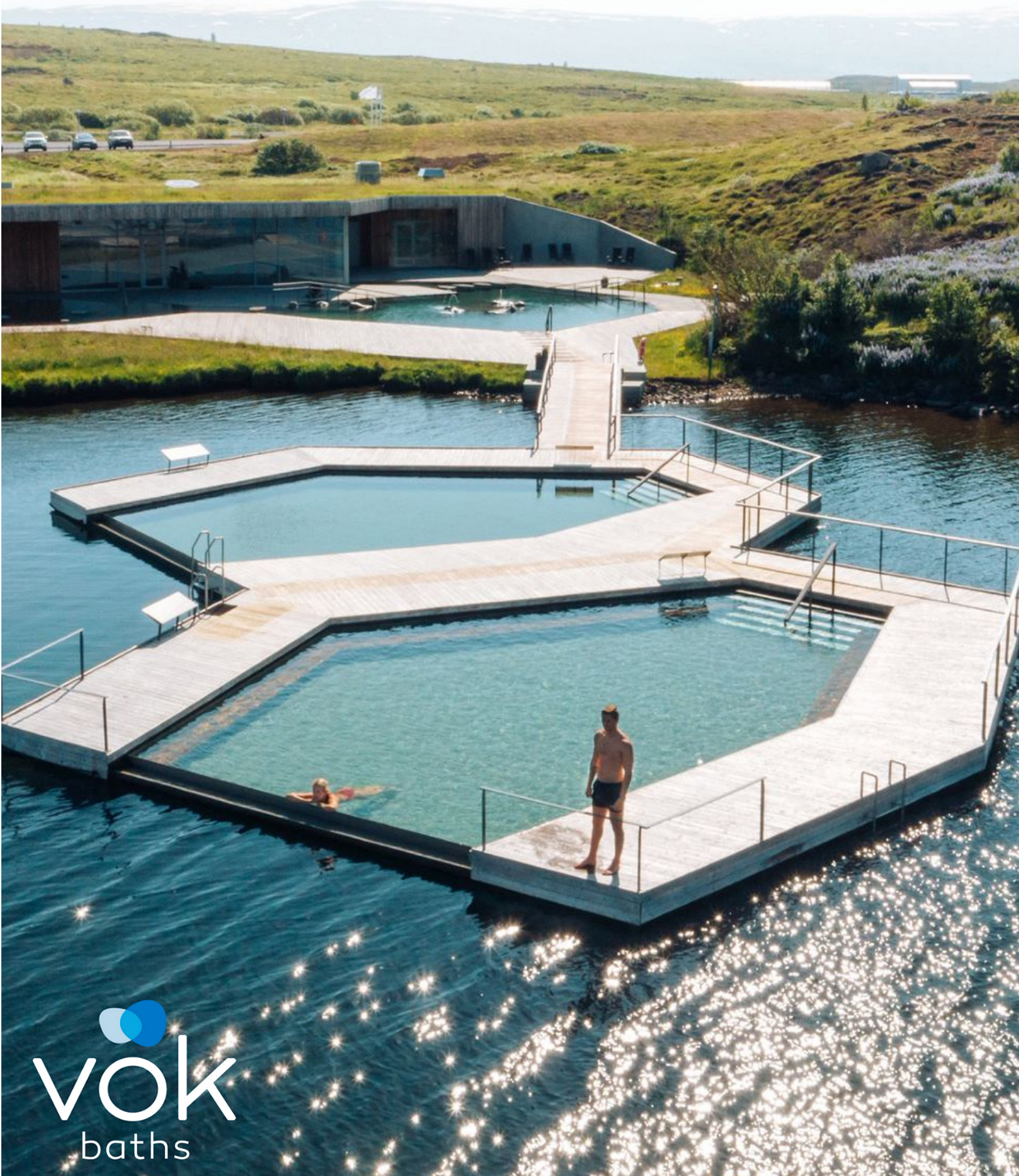
112

Reconnect with nature

and experience the unique geothermal floating pools in East Iceland



www.vokbaths.is

Vök Baths
Wonderful Urriðavatn

Vök Baths are natural bathing pools by the lake at Urriðavatn, few minutes from downtown Egilsstaðir. The baths became an instant hit with overseas visitors, and have been no less popular with locals travelling around Iceland.

All due to the hot water

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

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

Diverse menu

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

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

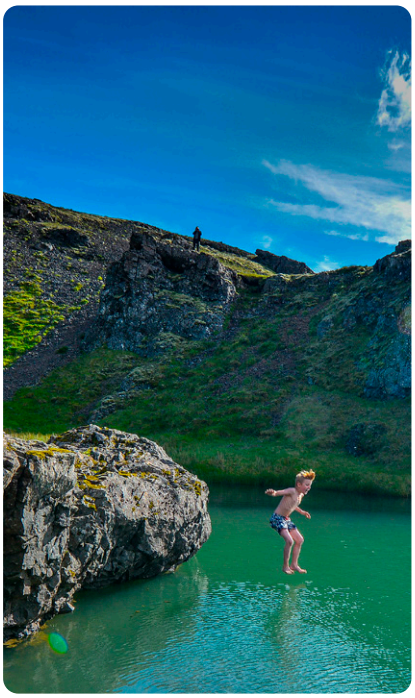
East Iceland – a lot to do!

For families with children, East Iceland can be a wonderfull place to visit. In this corner of Iceland you can enjoy everything from beautiful easy hikes, animals and birds, kayaksailing, horse riding and mountainbike tours. The Icelandic swimmingpools are also very good and there is one in almost every town.

East Iceland offers some of the Icelands best hiking trails. Guided tours are available both with one of many hiking clubs in East Iceland and with our experienced tour -operators. Longer trails include the magnificent hut-to-hut Snæfell - Lónsöræfi, edge of Vatnajökul National Park trail and Víknaslóðir coastal trail. Hikingmaps are available at tourist information centers and the hiking-club webs.

Always remember to check the weather and inform about where you are going and how long you will hike, either on an informationcenter or at farm/ town nearest to you.

www.east.is



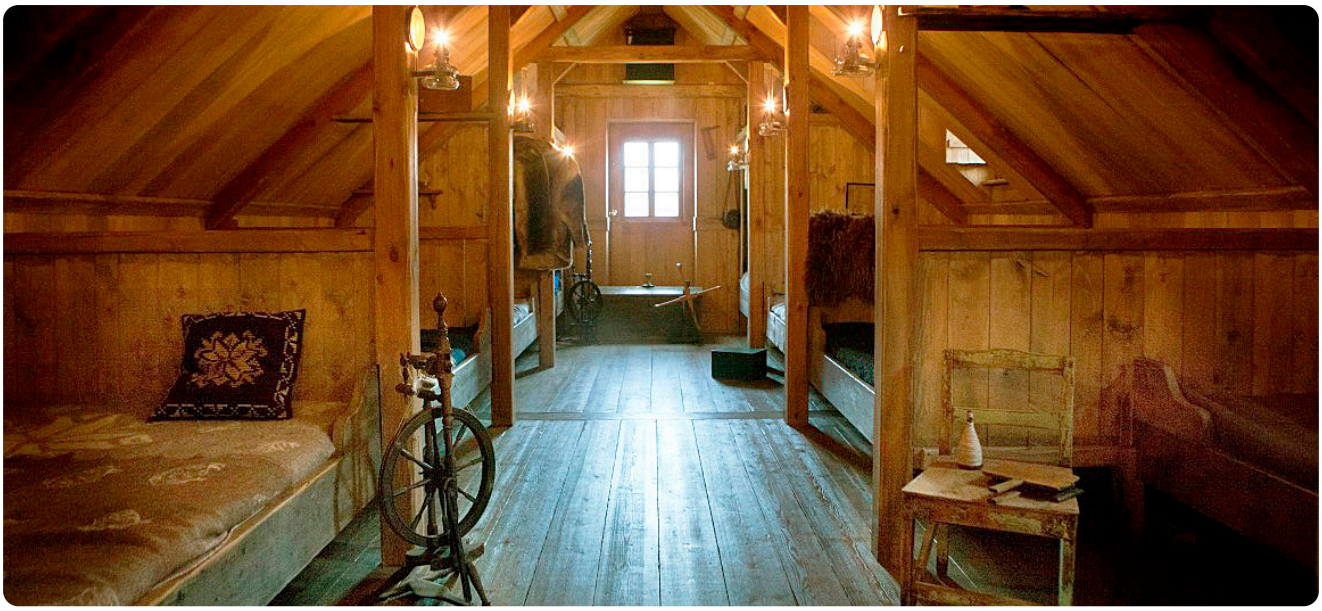
Gerpir – the easternmost cape in Iceland

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

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

www.east.is

We recommend a visit to Gerpir for all lovers of nature.



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

The Wilderness Centre of years gone by

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

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

www.obyggdasetur.is

Center for visual arts

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

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

Open: All year round.

www.skaftfell.is

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

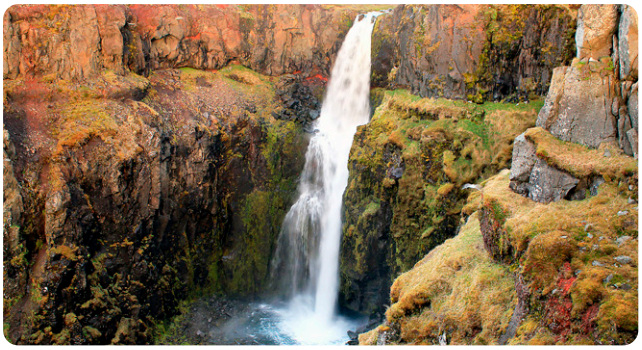
Stuðlagil – a natural wonder

It's no surprise that Stuðlagil on the Jökulsá á Dal river was one of the most popular destinations in the country in 2021. This gorge has been largely unknown to the public but became more visible as the Kárahnjúkar power station began operation. The strikingly green-blue mountain water now flows languidly between magnificent walls of column basalt and today this natural wonder is seen as one of the treasures of Eastern Iceland.

Stuðlagil is reached by leaving Highway 1 at Skjöldólfsstaðir í Jökuldal, turning onto road 923. Another route is to drive to the farm at Grund, where there is a car park, toilet facilities and safe access with steps and platforms, providing an excellent view along the gorge. Entering the gorge itself has to be from the eastern bank. Leave the road at Hákonarstaðir and head for Klaustursel. It is not permitted to drive over the bridge that spans the Jökulsá river, so leave your car in the car park on the west side of it, and from there follow the trail leading to Stuðlagil.

www.east.is

Stuðlagil has proved hugely popular destination in recent years.



While travelling through Austurland you will without a doubt spot some of the most beautiful scenery in the world.

Ljósastapi rock pillar stands out in the sea just off Skjólfjörur. It is a vera photogenic place!

Vopnafjörður – plenty of natural beauty

The secluded town of Vopnafjörður sits pretty on a scenic stretch of coastline, surrounded by mountains, valleys, sea cliffs and rock formations. The natural wonders are in evidence, but there are great tributes to history here, too: Kaupvangur in the heart of town houses a museum in remembrance of the thousands of emigrants who left the region for Canada and the USA in the wake of the Askja volcanic eruption in 1875.

Outside Vopnafjörður, the 250-year-old turf-roofed farm Bustarfell is a folk museum where history comes alive through summertime storytelling and workshops.

The surrounds of Vopnafjörður hold plenty of natural beauty as well as farm guesthouses and cottages ready to welcome visitors keen for a taste of local life. World-renowned salmon-fishing rivers have hosted illustrious guests including the Prince of Wales and George Bush snr. The local birdlife is a magnet for birdwatchers, while coastal walking trails and mountain hikes add more opportunities for active sightseeing. At the end of the day, seek out the remote riverside swimming pool Selárdalslaug for a true local experience.

www.east.is

Check the **Road Conditions**!

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

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

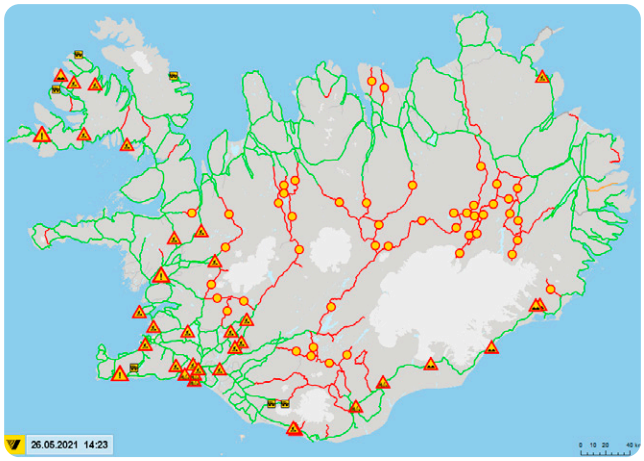
The map gives information on what state the roads are in; whether they are clear, slippery, snowed under, or even closed. Automatic weather stations with traffic counters are located in various areas, providing up-to-date information on conditions in each place, temperature and wind speed, as well as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

On road.is you will also find a map with live cameras, where you can see for yourself what the conditions are. You can also find information on Twitter (Vegagerðin | Iceland Roads).

If you have trouble getting on-line, you can call IRCA's Traffic Service on 1777, which also gives information on conditions and weather.

The phone service is open from 6:30 am to 10:00 pm during the wintertime, and from 08:00 am to 4:00 pm in the summer.

If you have trouble getting on-line, you can call IRCA's Traffic Service on 1777, which also gives information on conditions and weather. The phone service is open from 6:30 am to 10:00 pm during the wintertime, and from 08:00 am to 4:00 pm in the summer.



www.road.is

Information on road condition

Call 1777

Icelandic Road and Coastal Administration, IRCA

@vegagerdin
www.road.is

The South of Iceland

History at every footstep

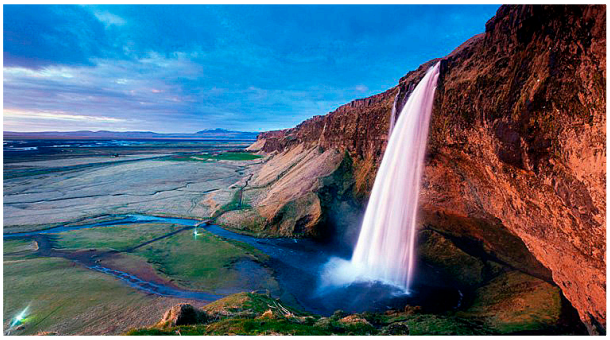
www.south.is

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

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

Useful links

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



Photos: www.south.is

Selfoss area

– Stay closer to nature

SELFOSS AREA stay closer to nature

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

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

Open Monday - Friday from 09:00-18:00.

Saturday from 10:00-14:00.
Tel: +354 480 1900

www.arborg.is

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

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

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

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

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

www.arborg.is

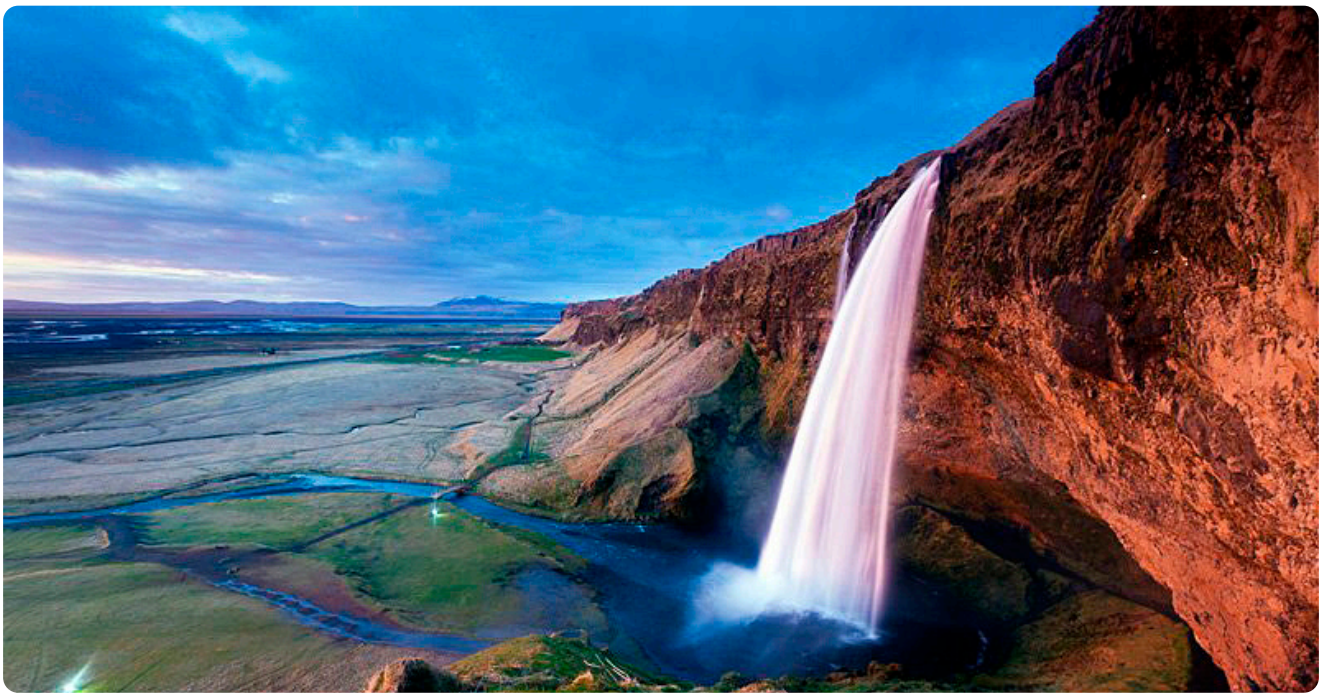
The church at Eyrarbakki

Seljalandsfoss: **The waterfall you can walk behind!**

Seljalandsfoss is one of the most famous waterfalls of Iceland. It is very picturesque and therefore its photo can be found in many books and calendars.
Seljalandsfoss is situated between Selfoss and Skógafoss waterfall at the road crossing of the Ring Road with the trail leading into Þórsmörk.

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

www.south.is



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

Þuríðar´s cottage in **Stokkseyri**

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

www.south.is

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

The Kerið crater is located 15 km north of Selfoss, right off highway 35, in South Iceland.

Kerið crater – worth a look

Kerið is a 55 m deep crater lake in the Grímsnes area of South Iceland. It is close to the three major sites that comprise Iceland's world-famous Golden Circle sightseeing route.

Kerid is 3,000 year old volcanic crater lake and relatively shallow, between 7 and 14 metres depending on rainfall and other factors. The water is a unique and strikingly vivid aquamarine shade of blue. Kerið is easily found, located only 15 km north of Selfoss, right off of highway 35. If you are driving the golden circle, it is well worth stopping off here even if it's just to take a break and stretch your legs. A car park is located directly next to the crater.

www.south.is

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 opening:
Mon - Fri 13:00 - 21:00,
Sat - Sun 10:00 - 17:00

Winter opening:
Mon - Fri. 16:30 - 20:30,
Sat. - 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

Though the Great Geysir itself is now more or less inactive, the area surrounding is geothermically very active with many smaller hot springs.

Strokkur is 100 meters south of the Great Geysir erupts at regular intervals every 10 minutes or so.

Visit the famous **Geysir!**

One of the greatest natural attractions of Iceland and part of the famous „Golden Circle Tour", is The Great Geysir wich has been dormant since 1916 when it suddenly ceased to spout. The best way to get there is to take a self-drive tour of the Golden Circle or take a guided bus tour to Geysir.

Though the Great Geysir itself is now more or less inactive, the area surrounding is geothermically very active with many smaller hot springs. The attraction of the area is now Strokkur (The Churn), another geyser 100 meters south of the Great Geysir, which erupts at regular intervals every 10 minutes or so and its white column of boiling water can reach as high as 30 meters.

Once you arrive in Geysir, you will find all the facilities that you need. The Geysir Center is right next door, with toilets, shops, restaurants, and accommodation. There is both a luxury hotel and a simple campsite available, depending on your needs.

www.south.is

Dyrhólaey – a nature reserve

Dyrhólaey is a 120-metre high promontory, not far from Vík. The place got its name from the massive arch that the sea has eroded from the headland.

When the sea is calm, big boats can sail through Dyrhólaey. There has even been a maniacal daredevil pilot that flew through the arch with a small-craft airplane! From the top of Dyrhólaey there is a great view. The headland is thought to have been made in an underwater volcanic eruption late in the glacial period, not unlike the eruption of Surtsey. Dyrhólaey has been a natural reserve since 1978.

The birdlife at Dyrhólaey is abundant with puffins and eider ducks being the most common species. The lighthouse on the top of the cliff stands impressive and stoic in this often very windy area. Be careful not to go too close to the ledge of this dramatic cliff.

www.south.is

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

Jökulsárlón: **a natural wonder**

A word of warning: don't jump onto the ice floating in the lagoon.

Huge iceblocks are floating on the lagoon.

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

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

www.jokulsarlon.is

Welcome to Eldheimar
– the Westmann Islands' new eruption museum

Uppsveitir District – **Golden Circle**

Gullfoss.

Laugarvatn.

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

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

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

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

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

Strokkur.

Brúarhlöð.

Úlfljótsvatn.

The Golden Circle / circles.

Fjaðrárgljúfur is 6 kilometers from Road 1, take road F206.

Fjaðrárgljúfur – a magnificent canyon

Fjaðrárgljúfur is a magnificent and massive canyon, about 100 meters deep and about two kilometres long. The canyon has sheer walls, and is somewhat serpentine and narrow. The bedrock in Fjaðrárgljúfur is mostly palagonite from cold periods of the Ice Age and is thought to be about two million years old.

The river Fjaðrá has its source in the mountain Geirlandshraun and falls off the heath edge in this stunning canyon until it makes it down into Skaftá river. Fjaðrá has changed a lot in the course of time. Deep in the canyon there are waterfalls so one needs to walk the same way back.

Take the walking path up on the canyon's edge while simultaneously enjoying the view above the canyon. Due to important breeding grounds, hiking up the canyon along or in the river is strictly forbidden.

www.south.is

Hjörleifshöfði mountain

Hjörleifshöfði was probably an island in the sea in the past, now surrounded by black sands that have collected after repeated glacial runs from Katla volcano.

Hjörleifshöfði gets its name from the settler Hjörleifur Hróðmarsson, Ingólfur Arnarson's stepbrother. Hjörleifur was killed by Irish slaves who followed them to the country. They fled to the Westman Islands where Ingólfur found them and killed them.

www.south.is

Hjörleifshöfði is a 220-meter tuya cliff, flat-topped, steep-sided volcano formed when lava erupts through a thick glacier or ice sheet. Hjörleifshöfði is on the southwest side of Mýrdalssandur. It is believed it formed during the last cold period of the ice age when the eruption took place under the glacier.

South of Hjörleifshöfði, a spit is named after Katla and is called Kötlutangi - the Katla spit. It was formed from a large eruption in 1918 where an enormous amount of sediment came with a large glacial run from Katla. Kötlutangi - the Katla spit is the southernmost point of mainland Iceland before the eruption it was Dyrhólaey.

Skógar Museum
SKÓGASAFN

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

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

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

Opening times:
June, July and August 09:00-18:00 // September 10:00-17:00
October-April 10:00-16:00 // May 10:00-17:00

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

The National Icelandic **Horse Competition**

The National Icelandic Horse Competition, known to Icelanders as the „Landsmót", is the largest outdoor sporting event in Iceland showcasing Iceland's best horses and riders. This summer Landsmót is will be held að Hella, South Iceland 3th-9th of July. This event has not been held since 2018 due to Covid-19.

The first Landsmót was held at the Thingvellir National Park in1950 and has since then the event has grown into the full blown bi-annual country festival that it is today. The Landsmót has been held at rotating locations around Iceland since the beginning in 1950. At Landsmót at Hella South Iceland in 2008, attendance reached a record high of 14.000 visitors.

The main theme of the event is an all Icelandic Riding Horse Competition, „gæðingakeppni", where riders of all ages and their horses compete in an event composed of showing all five gaits of the Icelandic horse; Tölt, trot, walk, gallop and pace. The parallel theme is a competition and show of breeding horses, were the best stallions and breeding mares are shown and rated. As Tölt is the most treasured gait of the Icelandic horse, the highlight of the Landsmót is always the Tölt Competition where the best Tölt horses and their riders compete for the Landsmót Tölt Champion Title.

Apart from being a horse competition, this event is a popular spectator and family Country Festival. The Landsmot area is transformed into a village featuring a large camp site, markets with a variety of goods, children's playgrounds, a line-up of Icelandic entertainers performing during the week and a number of Icelandic food vendor offering a wide variety of culinary choices.

For further information and ticket sale; please visit our website at landsmot.is

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

Opening hours:

Summer 11:00 - 18:00

Winter 13:00 - 17:00

Open for groups outside normal hours by prior agreement

Eldheimar volcano museum Vestmannaeyjar

An incredible journey!

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

Other significant volcanic activity is also part of the Eldheimar exhibition, including the Surtsey eruption that started in 1963 and lasted almost four years. Following the eruption, Surtsey was declared a protected nature reserve, which gave the scientific community its first opportunity to observe how new life and a new ecosystem appear. Surtsey is on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

www.eldheimar.is

Kristín Jóhannsdóttir, the museum´s director.

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

Uppsveitir District - Golden Circle

Natural wonders and historical sites

- Borg
- Sólheimar
- Laugarás
- Flúðir
- Reykholt
- Laugarvatn
- Þingvellir
- Geysir
- Gullfoss

Bláskógabyggð

Hrunamannahreppur

Grímsnes- og Grafningshreppur

www.sveitir.is

www.south.is

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

Skógar's **remarkable museum**

SKÓGASAFN
Skógar Museum

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

Cultural heritage through the ages

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

Fascinating Technical Museum

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

www.skogasafn.is

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

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

The National Icelandic Horse Competition, known to Icelanders as the "Landsmót" is the largest outdoor sporting event in Iceland showcasing Iceland's best horses and riders.
Get your tickets
tix.is/landsmot
HELLA
Landsmót
2022
3. - 10. JULY

The Reykjanes Peninsula

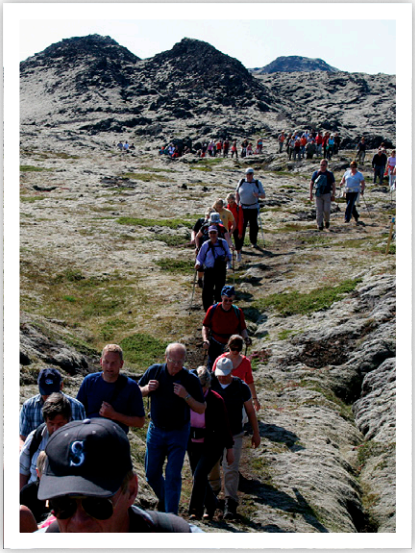
The first step into a wonderland

www.visitreykjanes.is

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

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

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



Useful links

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

Photos: www.visitreykjanes.is

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Lamb Soup
Traditional Icelandic meal

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Coffee & Croissant
Treat yourself

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N1

The volcanic eruption at **Fagradalsfjall**

The eruption in Mt. Fagradalsfjall started on March 19th, 2021 at 8:45 PM after an increased seismic activity on the Reykjanes peninsula for over a year, dating back to January 2020. These events were unusual, compared to the background activity in the area over the last decades. The volcano stopped erupting on last September after 181 days of eruption

Periods of rifting and volcanism occur at intervals of 800-1000 years on the Reykjanes Peninsula, alternating with periods of earthquake episodes occurring at intervals of a few tens of years. The latest eruption was the Reykjanes Fires in 1210-1240 AD, where eruptive fissures within both the Reykjanes and the Eldvörp-Svartsengi volcanic systems were active, producing extensive lava flows.

As soon as the eruption began, a great many people made the trek to the site and since then tens of thousands of people have made the journey to witness nature putting on a fireshow.

Although the eruption has now stopped the area is still worth to visit. Before traveling it is important to familiarise yourself with the conditions in the area, the hiking trail, road and weather conditions, and more. On www.safetravel.is you can find daily updates on opening and conditions on-site.

www.visitreykjanes.is

On 18th September 2021, after 181 days, the eruption in Mt. Fagradalsfjall stopped. The area is still worth to visit.

Kleifarvatn – unique and beautiful lake

The lake Kleifarvatn is about 10 km². It is the largest of Reykjanes peninsula and the third largest of southern Iceland. It is about 97 m deep and one of the deepest lakes in Iceland. Its catchment area is small and it has a very limited discharge on the surface. The lake has diminished since year 2000 because of two major earthquakes, which probably opened up fissures at its bottom.

In the southernmost part a hot water from some hot springs runs into the lake but elsewhere the lake is very cold. A small fishing lodge is located by the lake. Great place for photographers because of the volcanic surroundings of the lake are unique and beautiful. The story says that a monster in the shape of a worm and size of a medium sized whale lives in the lake. The lake has no visible water coming in or going out as most of its water comes and leaves underground.

Kleifarvatn is located close to the geothermal area at Krýsuvík and about 35 minute drive from Reykjavík.

Kleifarvatn is located close to the geothermal area at Krýsuvík and about 35 minute drive from Reykjavík. From Reykjavík take the Reykjanesbraut road (41) and then turn on Krísuvíkurvegur road (42). From there you will find the car park.

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

A pyramid-shaped **Keilir mountain**

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

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

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Eldvörp – a spectacular site to visit

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

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

The row of craters at Reykjanes Peninsula called Eldvörp formed in an eruption in the early 13th century is a spectacular site to visit.

At the center of Eldvörp there are geothermal features and a single borehole. Women from Grindavík used to bake bread in the steam from the lava and a trail called Brauðstígur, or the Bread trail, leads there from the town. Remains of human activity can be found in various places in Eldvörp.

Driving to Eldvörp is relatively easy and suitable for every kind of car. From Reykjavík, you drive to the road Reykjanesbraut Nr. 41 which is the same road most visitors drive when they arrive through the International Airport at Keflavík. After driving approximately 30 kilometers you turn south on Grindavíkurvegur Nr. 43 and turn west when you reach the intersection to the Blue Lagoon. You drive past the intersection to the Blue Lagoon parking lot about a mile or 1.6 kilometers. Here you drive to the west about 3 kilometers or two miles on a gravel road to reach Eldvörp.

www.visitreykjanes.is

Sea cliffs with **colorful birdlife**

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

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

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

www.visitreykjanes.is

The **Garðskagi lighhouses**

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

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

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

www.visitreykjanes.is

Enjoy Grindavik: **A place with something for everybody**

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

With a new volcanic crater and freshly made lava in Grindavík´s backyard!

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.

For six months during the year 2021, there was a volcanic eruption in the mountain of Fagradalsfjall that made world news. A hike to the eruption site you will be able to see a brand new volcanic crater and freshly made lava up close - a lifetime experience for most people.

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 Salthúsið, the Fish House and Hjá Höllu, 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.

Grindavik has a fantastic swimmingpool!

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

Summer in Grindavik 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

The Capital Area

Center of fun and adventure

www.visitreykjavik.is

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

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

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

Useful links

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

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

Gljúfrasteinn
LAXNESS MUSEUM

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

Gljúfrasteinn was the home and workplace of Halldór Laxness, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955, and his family for more than half a century.

VISITING THE MUSEUM

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

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

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

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

ADMISSION AND OPENING HOURS 2020

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

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

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

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

Harpa – everyone's house

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.visitreykjavik.is

Playing golf in Iceland is an adventure you'll remember for a lifetime.

Golfing in Reykjavík – why not?

Playing golf in Iceland is an adventure you'll remember for a lifetime. With eight golf courses set in stunning landscapes, Reykjavík provides a test for all levels. Sweeping mountains, lava fields, rich birdlife, and majestic ocean views characterize the Reykjavík golf courses, which follow the contours of the naturally dramatic landscapes in their design.

Sunlight stretches a full 24-hours through June and most of July in Iceland. These extended hours provide a unique opportunity for the country's 65 golf courses, most of which celebrate by offering golfers a signature Midnight Tee Time.

www.visitreykjavik.is

The Imagine **Peace Tower**

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

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

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

www.visitreykjavik.is

The Imagine Peace Tower is a symbol of the campaign by Ono and Lennon for world peace that began in the 1960s.

Grótta – an island of flora and fauna

Grótta is in reality an island off Seltjarnarnes, connected to the mainland by a causeway that floods at high tide. There was settlement on this little island in the past, according to references going back to 1547. A lighthouse was built on Grótta in 1897 and was replaced fifty years later by the present lighthouse. This is a cylindrical concrete tower with an English lantern house 24 metres above the ground.

At low tide it is possible to walk across to Grótta and to stay there for six hours before the flood tide cuts it off again from the land. Information on the times of low and high tide can be found at the information point located in the Grótta car park. Grótta became protected in 1974. Regulations for the protection of bird life put Grótta out of bounds between 1st May and 15th July.

www.vistreykjavik.is

Grótta near Seltjarnarnes is a beauty spot. At low tide it is possible to walk across and stay for six hours before the tide cuts it off again!

Gullkistan for creative people

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

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

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

www.thjodbuningasilfur.is

Opening hours

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

Goldsmith Dóra Guðbjört Jónsdóttir at Gullkistan on Frakkastígur.

The statue of Leifur Eiríksson is at the front of Hallgrímskirkja in Reykjavík.

Leif the Lucky (970–1020)

At the end of Skólavörðustígur street and in front of Hallgrímskirkja church is one of the best-known landmarks in Reykjavik, the statue of Leifur Eiríksson (Leif Ericsson).

Leifur is probably the first European to arrive in America but Leifur's voyage to America in the year 1000 preceded the Christopher Columbus' voyage by roughly half a millennia. The statue was designed by Alexander Stirling Calder (1870–1945) and it was a present from the US on the 1000th anniversary of the Alþingi (Parliament) in 1930. Statues of Leif Erickson are located across the world, while there are countless public parks, roads and streets in the United States named after Erikson. However, none of these pieces are tied to the very identity of the region like the Statue of Leif Erikson is to both Reykjavik and Iceland.

www.visitreykjavik.is

When in danger

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Welcome to Hafnarfjörður

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

visithafnarfjordur.is

Hafnarfjörður

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

The heart of Hafnarfjörður shopping is Strandgata, the town's delightful main street

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

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

The capital region's cheeriest community

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

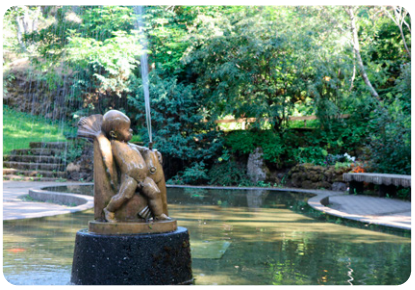
This is a place that's always worth a visit, with its varied shops and services, welcoming restaurants, cosy coffee houses, homely hotels, galleries and studios that are home to Icelandic art and design, museums and the unique natural environment within walking distance.

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

A log history reflected in the surroundings

The centre of Hafnarfjörður buzzes with life

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



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

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

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

Hellisgerði, the lava-studded park at the heart of Hafnarfjörður.

Experiencing the outdoors

Upper Hafnarfjörður has hidden experiences at every step. A turn around Hvaleyrarvatn is a pleasant walk, and the lake is perfect for paddling and watersports. You can't go wrong with a visit to Krýsuvík, offering a colourful experience for the whole family. Helgafell is a popular destination for walkers, the wildlife and bird life of Ástjörn is simply fascinating and a guided tour through Leiðarendi lava tube reveals a wealth of knowledge about Icelandic history, geology and folklore. The town's camping ground is at Víðistaðatún, which is an outdoor paradise in its own right, with climbing frames, inflatable jump pads, castles, a grill area, outdoor art installations and a nine-hole frisbee golf course.

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

hafnarfjordur.is

Christ the King **Cathedral** in Reykjavik

Landakotskirkja was built in 1929 by Guðjón Samúelsson, the same architect who designed Hallgrímskirkja, and Akureyrarkirkja in Akureyri. This is a Catholic Church from the Roman Catholic with a neo-gothic architectural style. The church apart from being opened for worship and regular masses celebrated, also hosts concerts and other events in the city.

Marteinn Meulenberg, who was the head of the mission and initiated the construction of the church, was ordained the first Catholic bishop in Iceland after the reformation. The church offers services in Icelandic, English, Spanish, and Polish depending on the days of the week and hours.

www.wisitreykjavik.is

Landakotskirkja is located in the western part of Reykjavík, on the Landakot property.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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