ICELAND
Totally Inspiring

visiticeland.com
Be Inspired by Iceland

Whether you’re travelling for relaxation or stimulation for the mind, body or tastebuds, arrive in Iceland and you’re immediately on an adventure.

Iceland entertains day and night, year-round. It’s an extraordinary blend of scenic wonders and quirky characteristics created by a unique and highly creative culture, the personality of its people and a virtuoso performance by Mother Nature.

Choose the Capital Area and surrounding villages for stylish accommodation, top restaurants, hip nightlife and exceptional museums and galleries. The oh-so-different regions offer thrills, action and yet more culinary and cultural discoveries.

Every season brings a new dimension. Spring wakens the country’s inherent freshness, while in summer Iceland becomes a land of midnight sun, where daylight and the action barely wane.

The Autumn skyscapes produce yet more colours, drawing photographers from all over the world to record the spectacle of the annual horse and sheep round-up and locals foraging for wild berries and herbs. In winter, try cross-country skiing or experience the phenomena of the Northern Lights.

Visit us and you’ll experience this unrivalled choice and the warmth of a people who delight in sharing their country with discoverers like you.

Table of Contents

Discover Iceland ............................ 2
Reykjavík and The Capital Area ....  4
South and Southwest Iceland .......  6
West Iceland ..................................  8
The West Fjords ......................... 10
North Iceland ............................. 12

East and Southeast Iceland ........ 14
The Central Highlands & Vatnajökull National Park .......... 16
Advertisement Insert .......... middle
Shopping in Iceland .................... 18
Cultural life ............................. 18
Gourmet Iceland...................... 20
Rejuvenation ........................... 21
Events .................................... 22
Practical Information ............... 23
Map of Iceland .......................... 32
Two problems face you as you begin your holiday in Iceland: Where to start and what to leave out!

The second dilemma, at least, is easily solved – come back for another visit to take in what you did not have time for before!

Whether you are an extreme adventure enthusiast or someone who likes to revel in the culture, people and tastes of a country, Iceland is your kind of place.

The unique landscape is one of the first discoveries you’ll make. Geologically speaking, Iceland is much younger than most countries and volcanic activity means it’s still evolving. You’ll see striking lava formations, craters, volcanoes, table mountains and masses of pumice throughout your travels.

The Capital Area sets Iceland’s contemporary, chic style with boutique hotels, inventive restaurants, unique shopping, and a vibrant nightlife with buzzing bars and a busy programme of entertainment.

But even here you are never far from nature. The thermal energy beneath your feet is harnessed in numerous pools and spas around the city of Reykjavík – a visit to any of them will leave you relaxed and invigorated.

Outside the city, there are countless more ways to relax or get the full flavour of Iceland as an adventure playground.

Getting off the beaten track and discovering Iceland on foot is without doubt the best way to truly appreciate our magnificent scenery. Head for the highlands in July and August for some remarkable hiking experi-
Did you know …?

… that there is a website about Icelanders’ family trees, where people can trace their ancestry? Icelanders can find ancestors there from many centuries back, and it is not at all uncommon for people to find out that they are distant descendents from one of the first settlers in the 9th century. Also, you could find out that your neighbour is actually your cousin three times removed!

… that situated on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, Iceland is a hot spot of volcanic and geothermal activity: 30 post-glacial volcanoes have erupted in the past two centuries, and natural hot water supplies much of the population with cheap, pollution-free heating. Rivers, too, are harnessed to provide inexpensive hydroelectric power.

For More Information

www.visiticeland.com
www.visitreykjavik.is
The Reykjavik Grapevine paper and website list upcoming concerts and events regularly www.grapevine.is
News from Iceland, icelandic culture and travel www.icenews.is
Local activities and events: Consult websites listed on pp. 5–16
Encircled by mountains and sea, Reykjavík is the world’s northernmost capital and the cultural heart-beat of Iceland. Colourful corrugated houses sit side by side with contemporary architecture and enigmatic street art. With stunning natural attractions moments away and a vibrant arts scene, it’s ideal for a relaxing weekend away or an action-packed short break.

DON’T MISS …
The classic sites
For amazing views head to the top of Hallgrímskirkja, Iceland’s largest church, or the futuristic dome-shaped Perlan building. Walk or cycle by the waterfront to the Sun Voyager sculpture and new Harpa National Concert and Conference Hall, designed with a mesmerising façade by prominent artist Ólafur Eliasson. Take a boat to Viðey Island, home to Yoko Ono’s Imagine Peace Tower, lit every October to December as a beacon to world peace, or take a summer dip in the sea at the geo-thermally heated Blue Flag beach at Nautholsvik Bay – where the water is maintained at around 20 degrees Celsius!

Shopping with style
Along Laugavegur and Skólavörðustigur, the main shopping streets, you’ll find practically no chain stores but trendy fashion boutiques featuring local young designers and independent book and music shops where impromptu gigs and readings take place. Bag a bargain from Kolaportið, the weekend flea market, or for high street labels visit the shopping malls Kringlan in Reykjavik and Smáralind in nearby Kópavogur.

Tastebud treats
Reykjavik boasts a sophisticated restaurant scene, but some of its simpler culinary pleasures
Did you know …?

… that the first settler, Ingólfur Arnarson, is said to have thrown the pillars that stood by his seat of honour into the sea when he first saw Iceland, and that he is supposed to have found them back in the location where Reykjavík is now? He built his home where he found his pillars. Regardless of the truth of this lovely story, the location of Reykjavik is the best possible one for a capital: there is an abundance of hot water in the ground, an excellent natural harbour and the climate is the mildest in the whole of Iceland.

… that out of a population numbering more than 300,000, half live in the capital Reykjavik and its neighbouring towns in the southwest. Keflavik International Airport is located about 50 km from the capital. The highland interior is uninhabited (and uninhabitable), and most centres of population are situated on the coast.

Cultural delights

There’s no shortage of things to see and do with a year-round programme of festivals, live music and events taking place in Reykjavik and the Capital Area. Calendar highlights include the annual Arts Festival, RIFF Film Festival and the Jazz Festival. Visit modern art galleries and music venues to sample the creativity of Icelandic avant-garde or the amazing interactive Settlement Exhibition to experience Iceland’s Viking and Saga heritage. Be sure to pick up a copy of Reykjavik Grapevine for festival, events, exhibition and music listings.

Life with the locals!

Whales and puffins can be spotted by boat from April–October and nearby stables in Mosfellsbær and Hafnarfjörður offer horse-trekking tours deep into the volcanic landscape. Spend an afternoon bathing and gossiping with locals at one of Reykjavik’s geothermal pools. Feed the ducks on Lake Tjörnin, visit the animals at the Reykjavik Zoo and Family Park, learn about the ‘Hidden People’ on an interpretive walk and even stay in the Viking Hotel in Hafnarfjörður.

are also unmissable; a hot dog from Bæjarins Beztu Pylsur hot dog stand, a cup of creamy lobster soup, or fish dinner enjoyed in one of the cafés in the old harbour area, housed in converted boat shelters and net huts. After hours, establishments central to Reykjavik’s laid-back café culture transform into the hottest night-spots, open until the early hours.
The Evolving Earth
South and Southwest Iceland

With spurting geysers, active volcanoes, magnificent glaciers, powerful waterfalls and the revitalising waters of the Blue Lagoon, it’s no surprise South Iceland is the most visited region, located on the doorstep of Reykjavik. Here you will witness a young land still in formation, with the North American and Eurasian continental plates pulling apart by 2.5 cm each year, and where volcanic activity is still shaping the rugged, untamed landscape.

DON’T MISS …
Reykjanes Peninsula
Characterised by lava fields, raw geothermal power and small fishing communities, the Reykjanes Peninsula is home to the unique and unmissable Blue Lagoon. Sample a taste of the past at The Saltfish Museum at Grindavik, which honours the region’s seafaring traditions, and discover a complete Viking longboat at the Vikingaheimar museum.

The ‘Golden Circle’
Gullfoss (Golden Falls), Geysir and Pingvellir National Park are Iceland’s most famous trio of natural attractions and a popular day-tour from Reykjavik. At Geysir, you will witness powerful Strokkur which erupts nearly every seven minutes and see the original, now dormant Geysir, from which the English word “geyser” is derived. UNESCO World Heritage Site Thingvellir National Park is the most revered spot in Iceland. It was here that the Alþingi – the world’s first democracy – met from 930AD until 1798.
Continental drift
Dive or snorkel between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates in the Silfra Rift in Thingvellir National Park – whose incredible visibility makes it one of the top diving sites in the world.

Westman Islands
Just a short ferry crossing or flight from Reykjavík’s domestic airport, the Westman Islands offer impressive natural beauty and abundant birdlife, including one of Iceland’s largest puffin colonies. Locals were forced to abandon their homes on Heimaey Island in 1973 when a new volcano erupted on the edge of the town; see the remains at the Pompeii of the North project, www.pompeinordursins.is

Volcanic activity
Enter the region of Iceland’s most active volcanoes, the now-famous Eyjafjallajökull, Mt. Hekla, and Mt. Katla, located under the Myrdalsjökull glacier. Sculptural lava fields and black sand beaches lead a trail to past eruptions.

Adventure playground
Hike across some of Iceland’s most scenic trails, try horse trekking, white-water rafting, snowmobiling on glaciers or ice-climbing – and experience a varied and spectacular natural landscape.

Did you know …?
… that in 930, the Icelandic settlers founded one of the world’s first republican governments; the Old Commonwealth Age, described in the classic Icelandic Sagas, lasted until 1262, when Iceland lost its independence, and in 1944 the present republic was founded. The country is governed by the Althing (parliament), whose 63 members are elected every four years. Four-yearly elections are also held for the presidency; President Ólafur Ragnar Grimsson was elected in June 1996 to succeed Vigdis Finnbogadóttir. The head of state plays no part in day-to-day politics.

… that Iceland is Europe’s westernmost country, the second largest island in the North-Atlantic ocean, a little over 3 hours flight from London, Paris, Amsterdam or Copenhagen.

www.reykjanes.is
www.south.is
West Iceland and the Snæfellsnes Peninsula present a dramatic and striking landscape of pale sand beaches, glaciers, mountains and volcanoes. Peppered with small fishing towns and home to some of Iceland’s finest countryside hotels, the area has a mysterious romance that has inspired storytelling for generations.

DON’T MISS …

Journey to the Centre of the Earth
Visit Snæfellsjökull, the ice cap covering a domed volcano, which was the fictional setting of Jules Verne’s 1846 classic science fiction epic.

The Saga trail
Many classic Icelandic sagas took place in West Iceland and the West Fjords. The Settlement Centre at Borgarnes tells of warrior Viking Egill Skallagrímsson, while reconstructed farmstead at Eiríksstaðir, where Erik the Red lived, is also a must. Eiríksstaðir is reputed to be the birthplace of Erik’s son ‘Leif the Lucky’ Erikson, the famous explorer who landed in North America nearly 500 years before Columbus.

Borgarfjörður – a cultural centre
Reykolt, in Borgarfjörður, is one of Iceland’s major cultural centres, most notably as the venue of an internationally-renowned classical music festival in July – and of medieval scholar and poet Snorri Sturluson (1179–1241), whose farmstead is now a popular museum. Visit the new Brúðuheimar World of Puppets in Borgarfjörður to see puppetry as a sophisticated art form.
A shark’s tale
Sample the notoriously pungent Icelandic delicacy Hákarl – fermented shark – at the Bjarnarhöfn, shark museum and farm.

Bird Heaven
Dotted with thousands of tiny islands teeming with birdlife, Breiðafjörður is a shallow bay separating the West Fjords from the rest of Iceland. In this UNESCO World Heritage site, puffins colonise basalt cliff faces, while the rare white-tailed eagle glides above.

Nature in action
The meeting of fire and ice produces spectacular ice formations at Iceland’s second largest glacier, Langjökull. See more volcanic formations at the striking craters Eldborg (‘fire castle’) and Grábrók, while Europe’s largest hot spring Deildartunguhver produces 180 litres per second with temperatures averaging 100°C. In contrast, the unusual Hraunfossar waterfalls are formed by clear cold springs welling up through lava rock.

Did you know …?
… that the first settlers of Iceland came mostly from Norway, because they were dissatisfied with the new King there, who wanted a lot of power? The settlers were people who cherished their independence above everything else. One might wonder whether modern Icelanders have not inherited this tendency?

… that Iceland only has a bit over 300,000 inhabitants? With an area of 105,000 km², this means that Iceland has around 3 inhabitants per km². Nevertheless, the small nation manages to maintain a complete education system and a health care system that is up to the highest modern standards. Life expectancy is among the highest and infant death rates among the lowest in the world!
Mountains, Fjords and Bountiful Nature
The West Fjords

Rugged grandeur, raw beauty – the sparsely populated West Fjords are one of Europe’s best preserved wildernesses. Enjoy majestic mountains, fjords, magical waterfalls and pristine nature on a journey to the most northwesterly point of Europe.

DON’T MISS …
Ísafjörður
The capital of the West Fjords with just 3,000 inhabitants, this pretty town with its bustling harbour and colourful, historic downtown area, is the gateway to the amazing landscape beyond – a hiker’s paradise! The area also offers great skiing with regular tournaments, while Ísafjörður’s thriving Aldrei för ég suður, (‘I never went South’) annual Easter music festival is a cultural highlight.

Hornstrandir Nature Reserve
Home of the elusive Arctic Fox, about 260 species of flowering plants and ferns and a wealth of bird and sea life, this remote pristine area is accessible only on foot or by boat.

Bird Cliffs
Europe’s three largest bird cliffs are all found in the West Fjords. Látrabjarg, the westernmost part of Europe shelters some of the largest Black Guillemot and Razorbill colonies in the world, sharing nesting sites with Puffins, Fulmars and Kittiwakes.

Bathing beauty
Twelve nature pools are dotted around Iceland’s West Fjords. Harnessing naturally occurring hot springs, you can bathe in nature, surrounded by her beauty.
Sheer adventure
West Iceland and the West Fjords offer some of the world’s best kayaking, most extreme mountain biking and breathtaking cross country skiing. Trek the magnificent landscapes on pure-bred Icelandic horses or fish for an abundance of marine life.

Did you know …?

… that in old times, people who had committed crimes could be outlawed? It was a punishment mostly reserved for the severest of crimes, and it certainly was a harsh punishment. Outlaws could rightfully be killed by anyone who could get to them, so they had to hide in the most unlikely places. Even today, you can still see some ruins of small huts in the highlands where outlaws used to hide out, for example, at Eyvindarkofaver south of Hofsjökull Glacier, where the famous outlaw Eyvindur hid with his wife Halla in the 18th century. Fortunately this punishment has long been abolished!

… that Iceland is one of the very few countries in the world that knows its history from the beginning, in the 9th century, until the present day? Many of the oldest written sources have been preserved and throughout the centuries people have diligently recorded what happened in the country.
The Arctic Coast
North Iceland

The north of Iceland is where you can find the second largest city, flourishing villages and farming communities, soaring mountain peaks and offshore islands. Here you’ll find some of our most famous and spectacular attractions. Ever wanted to touch the Arctic Circle? Visitors to Grimsey, Iceland’s northernmost inhabited island 40 kms from the mainland, actually can!

DON’T MISS ...
Midnight sun
An extraordinary spectacle seen particularly in coastal areas around the summer solstice, the sun sinks down to touch the horizon before rising again in breathtaking tones of red and gold.

Akureyri
Iceland’s second largest city sits at the foot of Eyjafjörður – its longest fjord – surrounded by imposing snow topped mountain ranges. Famous as the site of the Arctic Open each June (an international golf tournament played under the midnight sun!), Akureyri boasts a thriving cultural scene (Hof opened in mid 2010 as an innovative and flexible conference and performing arts space), as well as quality bars and restaurants, a botanical garden and Iceland’s best ski facilities.

Mývatn and Krafla
The tranquil Lake Mývatn and surrounding wetlands are famous for their unique birdlife and heart stopping beauty. Geothermal Mývatn Nature Baths offer a soothing respite for weary travellers, while the nearby...
Goðafoss ‘waterfalls of the gods’ and curious rock formations of Dimmuborgir are also worth a visit. Further east, see the boiling mud pools and steam vents of Námafjall.

Jökulsárgljúfur
A magnificent National Park which is home to the river Jökulsá á Fjöllum and the huge sunken horseshoe shaped valley Ásbyrgi. Fed by the immense Vatnajökull glacier, the river flows into Europe’s most powerful waterfall, the thundering Dettifoss.

Whale and Seal watching
Join whale watching tours at Húsavík, home to a fascinating whale museum. Several varieties of these magnificent creatures, as well as porpoises and dolphins, can be spotted off Eyjafjörður and Skjálfandi bays. Seals can be observed at play offshore along Vatnsnes Peninsula and at the Icelandic Seal Center in Hvammstangi.

Skagafjörður & Húnavötn
Skagafjörður and Húnavötn, a prosperous farming district in Northwest Iceland, is especially famous for the successful breeding of Icelandic horses. As well as horse trekking, it is one of the best places to experience Réttir, Iceland’s annual horse and sheep round up. Other highlights include the turf buildings of the Glaumbær folk museum or experiencing thrilling white-water rafting on the region’s glacial rivers. The north-west region also offers superb angling on some 20 trout lakes and 17 salmon rivers.

Did you know …?

… that there are Thirteen Yuletide Lads in Iceland? They are dressed in woollens with natural sheep colours, and they live in the mountains. 13 days before Christmas, the first one arrives in inhabited areas, and after that one after another shows up, each on his own day. They tease people, by stealing candles or meat, peeping through windows or slamming doors. Their names are derived from their pranks. After Christmas, they return, one each day, to the mountains again.

… that the Icelandic horse has five gaits? Most horse breeds in the world move around in walk, trot or gallop, but Icelandic horses have two more gaits: the pace, in which the legs are moved very fast in lateral pairs, and the tölt, where the legs are moved in a four-beat rhythm, resulting in a very comfortable gait for the rider. Thus, competitions for Icelandic horses include things such as Pace-Races, Tölt Events and Five- or Four-Gait tests!
Amazing Contrasts
East & South East Iceland

In East Iceland, you will find an astonishing variety of landscapes. Impressive fjords meet fertile valleys and peaceful, friendly fishing villages, set against a backdrop of imposing mountains and at its southern end, the vast Vatnajökull Glacier. Wild Reindeer herds roam the eastern highlands in this photogenic area, one of the oldest regions of Iceland, shaped by Ice Age glaciers.

DON’T MISS …
Superb hiking
East Iceland really is a dream come true if you love nothing better than to don a pair of hiking boots, strap on a backpack and go! Hiking trails are well marked and charted on specialist maps of the area available from local tourist offices. Plan challenging hut-to-hut routes through grassy valleys and along high mountain ridges or opt for shorter day walks. The vast unspoilt landscapes give an exhilarating sense of freedom and space.

The realm of Vatnajökull
Visiting Vatnajökull, Europe’s largest ice sheet, can be a humbling experience. Everything here is on a grand scale: the sheer mass of the ice itself, the spectacular mountain peaks, and all the signs of volcanic activity beneath the ice. This otherworldly environment, and glacial lagoon Jökulsárlón, in particular, has featured in movies such as the James Bond adventures Die Another Day and A View To A Kill and other big-budget offerings like Lara Croft: Tomb Raider. Experience it by taking a cruise among the ice floes on the lagoon, or an organised expedition up onto the icecap for ice climbing, skidooring or trekking.
Höfn
One of the region’s largest towns and ideally located as a base for exploring the Eastern part of the Vatnajökull National Park. The town holds a lobster festival, Humarhátíð, during the first weekend in July, where you can feast to your heart’s content and join in the parades, concerts, drinking and exhibitions rounded off by singing around a huge bonfire!

Egilsstaðir
A modern town built on the banks of the Lagarfljót river which runs through a lush fertile farming valley. Hallormsstaðaskógur, Iceland’s biggest forest, is also located in this area. Here you can find some of the region’s best dining and most sophisticated accommodation. This bustling hub of the East is the perfect place to recharge your batteries before embarking on your next adventure!

Charming coastal villages
Encounter the Álfaborg rock – home to Iceland’s Fairy Queen – at Borgarfjörður eystra, or visit neighbouring Seyðisfjörður, with its thriving arts scene and colourful Norwegian-style houses unique in Iceland. Especially pretty, Eski fjörður is built on a small sand spit and up the slopes of a mountain, which rises above the town.

Did you know …?

… that Icelandic farm animals have descended from the animals brought during the Settlement period? Travelling over the ocean in open boats with animals on board was not all that easy, so as soon as there were enough farm animals in the country to breed, people stopped bringing animals to Iceland. By now, it is even forbidden, because the centuries-long isolation has kept infectious diseases away, a situation people very much like to maintain!

… that the Icelandic language is still very similar to what most of the first settlers spoke in the 9th Century, Old Norse? The language has changed relatively little over the centuries, and its grammar is rather complicated, compared to other modern languages. The nouns are declined into five cases, in strong or weak patterns, and the verbs can be used in active, passive or middle voice, to mention only a few examples.
Untouched Wilderness
The Central Highlands & Vatnajökull National Park

Iceland’s interior is like nothing you have ever experienced before: rocky deserts, jagged mountain peaks, ice caps, volcanoes, hidden valleys and hot springs. For centuries it provided refuge for outlaws. More accessible today, it nonetheless remains an awe-inspiring, untouched wilderness. And it’s also home to Europe’s largest National Park.

DON’T MISS …
Bathe in the natural hot rivers of the geothermal area of Landmannalaugar, surrounded by the yellows, greens and reds of the volcanic rock mountains.

Explore distinctive ice caves at Kverkfjöll, melted by steam rising at the edge of a glacier.

See Iceland’s deepest lake Óskjuvatn, situated in an 11 square-kilometre caldera, and the neighbouring crater Víti which is filled with warm water.

Visit the 12,000 square-kilometre Vatnajökull National Park, home to Europe’s most powerful waterfall Dettifoss, Iceland’s highest freestanding mountain Snæfell (1,833 metres) and the stunning terrain of the Laki craters.

Camp in the green, sheltered inland valley of þórsmörk – the perfect base for hiking into the surrounding mountains.

See the Highlands on horseback or on an organised hiking tour, exploring wide-open spaces far from human habitation.

Did you know …?
… that Iceland’s oldest songbook, Grallarinn, dates from 1594? It is still being used today, and it is as popular as ever. Most Icelanders love to sing, and there are a lot of choirs throughout the country, both amateur and professional. And when people get together, you can expect them to burst into song at any time!
Enjoy our summerhouses

Be our guest

Peaceful
Renting a privately owned summer house is a peaceful and laid back alternative to hotels. Plan and cook your meals in your own fully equipped kitchen, or enjoy nature and grill outdoors. Relax and be in control of your own schedule.

Individual
We look after you from the instant you book online with Viator, until the moment you leave. Our houses are individually decorated by their owners so each one is unique.

Economical
Summerhouses are ideal and more economical for families and smaller groups of 3 or more. Spend time in one location, relax in a natural setting or travel and acquaint yourself with different areas of our beautiful country.

Online reservations
www.viator.is

Travel with the Iceland Experts...
Why do over 99% of our travellers recommend us to family and friends?

Local Expertise
We’re located in Reykjavik—so you can expect an authentic Icelandic experience and expert travel advice.

Personal Touch
We take the time to learn about your needs and interests, and tailor your itinerary accordingly.

Dedicated Service
Service doesn’t end with your booking—we’re here for you before, during, and after your stay!

Quality & Value
We carefully select our travel partners to ensure the best quality and value for you.

Visit us online or call us toll-free for great offers on amazing holidays in Iceland!

NORDIC VISITOR
www.nordicvisitor.com
Shopping in Iceland

From leading edge designer fashion to vintage boutiques, Iceland’s distinctive shopping offers plenty of opportunities to find the perfect purchase!

Look out for cool Icelandic design from high fashion to quirky home-ware along Reykjavík’s main shopping streets, Laugavegur and Skólavördustigur.

Take home something uniquely Icelandic – perhaps a necklace of polished lava or a fish leather handbag. Labels such as 66° North, Cintamani and Zo-on offer stylish high performance adventure gear. But the must-have clothing item is the traditional ‘lopapeysa’ – a knitted wool sweater with a special design at the neck and cuffs.

Most shops open from 10.00–18.00 on weekdays and 10.00/11.00–16.00/18.00 on Saturdays. Clothing stores are usually closed on Sundays, but music and bookshops are open. Don’t forget – visitors to Iceland spending over 4,000 ISK on goods in one shop are entitled to a 15% tax refund – look out for the Tax-Free sign in participating stores!

Cultural life

Delve into Iceland’s long heritage and rich contemporary culture at one of our many excellent museums.

Heritage exhibitions interpret the nation’s long history, from the age of the settlement and Sagas. Safeguarding Iceland’s treasures, The National Museum houses objects dating from 800 AD to the present day.

Turf-roofed folk museums, such as the Skógar Museum, recreate how rural Icelanders used to live, and maritime museums document Iceland’s enduring relationship with the sea.

Iceland also has many beautiful preserved turf churches, and countless museums and galleries dedicated to both classical and contemporary art. Wildlife is also celebrated at the Husavik Whale Museum, The Icelandic Seal Center and Sigurgeir’s Bird Museum on the shores of Lake Myvatn.

Even in small rural villages you’ll find superb exhibitions by local artists and themed exhibitions about aspects of Icelandic life such as fisheries, sea monsters, ghosts and witchcraft, aviation, textiles and handicrafts, photography, medicine, folk music, science and horsemanship.
Energy for life through forces of nature

Blue Lagoon is open daily year round.
Ideally located, only 20 minutes from Keflavik International Airport and 45 minutes from Reykjavik

www.bluelagoon.com
Food is an essential part of the Icelandic experience. Fresh, pure local produce is showcased in restaurants up and down the country, serving both homely traditional dishes and gourmet fine-dining. Wonderful, abundant fish and seafood are served up fresh from the unpolluted ocean and organic Icelandic mountain lamb is said to be the best in the world, with a purity of flavour attributed to the grazing land’s mixture of grass, moss and berries. Pure Icelandic drinking water springs from the earth.

And surprising as it may seem, a lot of vegetables are also grown in Iceland, many in geothermal greenhouses.

Icelandic chefs are becoming internationally famous and renowned for their inventive approach to fusion cooking. That culinary genius is best sampled in Iceland where nature’s finest ingredients are plentiful.

On more traditional menus, look out for Icelandic dishes including smoked lamb, Icelandic meat soup, lobster soup, and creamy skyr.

If you are a culinary enthusiast, visit during Þorrablót, the Viking midwinter feast that takes place at the end of January and early February. During the festivities you can try unique sürmatur or whey-pickled foods, blood pudding, singed sheep’s head and pickled rams testicles! Or for the truly adventurous – fermented shark washed down with a shot of Brennivín (known as Black Death!)

For more information visit www.icelandgourmetguide.com
Rejuvenation

Iceland is the perfect choice to relax and recover from the stresses of everyday life. The geothermal water that is found so abundantly in the Icelandic soil provides wonderful opportunities for relaxation and recreation.

Most villages or towns has a thermal pool where you soak up Iceland’s pure energy in water of 27–29°C and relax in outdoor hot tubs. Out in the countryside there are natural geothermal hot springs such as those at Landmannalaugar and Hveravellir, where you can bathe in water rich in minerals and soothingly warm – an amazing experience during the endless hours of the Midnight Sun. Or take a refreshing dip in the Mývatn Nature Baths or the Blue Lagoon, and treat yourself to an in-water massage and facial treatment, followed by steam room and sauna.

Want to work out and get yourself in shape? There are many fitness training facilities – but we recommend simply hiking through Iceland’s incredible landscape. Fill your lungs with the pure fresh air of one of the least polluted countries on earth.

Did you know …?

… that you can drink almost any water in Iceland? In mountain rivers, the water is crystal-clear and pure, providing the most thirst-quenching drink ever. Tap water is good to drink everywhere. Even the warm tap water can be drunk, but in some areas it contains a bit of sulphur, so it does not taste all that good, even though it is perfectly safe.

… that Icelandic surnames are usually made up of the father’s given name with a suffix for “son” or “daughter”? Thus, the children of a man called Jón Björnsson would have their given name, followed by Jónsson for the sons and Jónsdóttir for the daughters. You can also conclude immediately, that Jón’s father was called Björn! In the telephone directory, people are listed alphabetically with their given names, not the surnames. The given name is considered the most important and Icelanders never call each other by the surname. Thus, it is not at all impolite to call Jón simply Jón, instead of Mr. Björnsson.
Festivities in a Distinctive Setting

Iceland is more than just beautiful landscape – there is always something interesting going on. It might be a festival or a charming local custom that might catch your attention. Check out these dates in the Icelandic calendar for 2011 and on the websites of the regions of Iceland.

JANUARY–MAY. Cultural season: music, ballet, events, exhibitions and theatre.

JANUARY 21–FEBRUARY 20. Midwinter feast (Porrablót). An ancient Viking tradition – feasting on “delicacies” such as boiled sheep’s head and rotten shark meat, as well as more edible goodies. Be brave just once a year.

FEBRUARY. Food and Fun. Well-known visiting chefs competing right along with Iceland’s finest culinary masters. The festival is a chance for restaurants to strut their stuff. A delight for the taste buds. See www.foodandfun.is

FEBRUARY. Winter Lights Festival in Reykjavík. Dedicated to the theme of light and energy, an exciting public festival celebrating both winter and the growing light after a long period of darkness.

MARCH 1. Beer Day. Beer was only legalised in Iceland in 1989, and people celebrate the anniversary in suitable style every year.

MARCH 7–9. Bursting time. Fill up before Lent, with all the cream buns you can eat on “Bun Monday” and oversized helpings of salted meat and mushy peas on “Bursting Tuesday.” Then on Ash Wednesday, watch the children dressed up in the streets, singing and playing pranks.

APRIL 21–25. Easter. One of the highlights of the musical year, with diverse concert programmes plus chocolate eggs of huge proportions, smoked lamb and a time for families to relax together. The skiing season peaks.

APRIL 21. First Day of Summer. Icelanders welcome the end of winter and start of summer – a national holiday – with colourful parades and entertainment in the streets.

APRIL–SEPTEMBER. Trout-fishing season in lakes and rivers around the country.

APRIL–OCTOBER. Whale-watching season. With thousands of whales just off its shores, Iceland offers more chances of sightings than just about anywhere else in the world.

MAY 4. Reykjavík Concert Hall & Conference Center opens. The opening artistic program will be announced in autumn 2010. See www.harpa.is

MAY. Birdwatching time. Puffins, Arctic terns and rarer migrant birds zoom in from the south, bringing summer with them.

MAY 20–JUNE 5. The annual Reykjavík Arts Festival will be held in May, with a varied programme of cultural events featuring leading Icelandic and visiting artists. See www.artfest.is

MAY–JUNE. Festival of the Sea. Based on the old Icelandic tradition of Seamen’s Day, June 5, the festival runs the first weekend of June and honours those who make their living from the sea. However, the festival has been modernised of late. It now includes numerous cultural activities, parades, arts and crafts activities for kids, food fairs, and sailing competitions, and new residents of Iceland are given the opportunity to share their different cultures.

MAY–SEPTEMBER. Salmon-fishing season. Clean air and rivers make Iceland one of the best places in the world for anglers. Make sure to book your rods well in advance.

JUNE 16–20. Viking Festival in Hafnarfjörður. More than 100 Vikings from ten different nations get together with about 60 Icelandic Vikings for a weekend of endless happenings and entertainment.

JUNE 17. National Day. Icelanders take to the streets to celebrate independence (since 1944). Colourful ceremonies followed by parades, street theatre, sideshows and outdoor dancing in the midnight sun, all over the country.

JUNE 21. Summer solstice. Gatherings to celebrate the magic of the midnight sun on the longest day of the year.

JUNE 23–25. Arctic Open International Golf Tournament. In Akureyri, just south of the Arctic Circle, tee off at midnight in bright sunshine and play through the night in a marvellous natural setting. For exact date see www.gagolf.is. Open midnight-sun tournaments are also held in Reykjavík and the Westman Islands (Vestmannaeyjar). See www.golf.is

JUNE–AUGUST. Marathon time. Fresh air and scenery that’ll take your breath away, including: Myvatn Midnight Sun Marathon (North Iceland, May/June), Highland Marathon (55 km of uninhabited landscapes between Landmannalaugar and Pórsmörk nature reserves, South Highlands); and Reykjavík International Marathon (several distances around the city in August 20).

JULY 27–31. Reykholtt Music Festival. “Classical music in a classic environment” in the beautiful church in the West Iceland community which was once the home of Saga writer Snorr Sturluson.

JULY 30–AUGUST 1. Bank Holiday weekend. On the first weekend in August, almost everyone goes off to camp at festivals around the country – everything from family events to wild rock festivals.

EARLY AUGUST. Flight of the Puffing. A sight not to be missed in the Westman Islands (Vestmannaeyjar) off the south coast, when millions of baby puffins leave their nests and take wing for the first time.


AUGUST 20. Culture Night in Reykjavík. To mark Reykjavík’s anniversary on August 18, bookstores, museums and galleries stay open into the Saturday night nearest that date; artistic events are staged in the streets and at cafés, bars, and restaurants all over the capital, culminating in a massive fireworks display.

SEPTEMBER. Sheep round-up. Colourful and lively time with plenty of song and merriment all around the countryside. Held at sorting pens where farmers herd in the sheep they have rounded up from summer grazing in the wilds.

SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER. Cultural season and festivals. Concerts, opera, ballet, drama, visual arts – you name it, it’ll be on the season’s agenda somewhere in Reykjavík. Every year Reykjavík also hosts a Jazz Festival (late Sept./early Oct.), and the third Reykjavík International Film Festival (also late Sept./early Oct.) offers movie buffs a top-notch programme. Both festivals are international events with plenty of celebrated guests.

OCTOBER 12–16. Iceland Airwaves Festival. This festival is fast gaining a reputation as one of the best alternative music events to go to and garnering praise from the broadsheets and music magazines. Check www.icelandairwaves.com

CHRISTMAS. Icelanders go in for Christmas in a big way, with 13 separate Santa Clauses who play pranks and sing in the beautifully illuminated streets. Check out the delicious Christmas buffets and traditional festive-season delicacies such as smoked lamb, ptarmigan and reindeer.

DECEMBER 31. New Year’s Eve goes off with a bang, with the biggest fireworks display you’ll probably ever see – everyone takes part. There are public bonfires, and the meremaking lasts right through to the following year.
Iceland A–Z

ARRIVAL IN ICELAND
A Flybus service is operated between Reykjavik and Keflavik International Airport. Buses leave Reykjavik from the BSI bus terminal 2.5 hours before flight departure. The drive from the airport to Reykjavik takes about 40–50 minutes. The fare is ISK 1590 one way for adults and ISK 975 one way for children 12–15 years. Prices are subject to rate list 2010. See departure times www.flybus.is

Taxis: The cab fare to Reykjavik for a four-passenger taxi is approximately ISK 13 700

Arrival in Seyðisfjörður ferry port – Scheduled bus trips from Seyðisfjörður to Egilstaðir at 09:00 and 16:00 Mon–Fri. Additional trips in connection with the arrival of the ferry. Bus stops at Hotel Seyðisfjörður and at the Ferry terminal and at Egilstaðir airport for domestic flights. Information: tel.: +354-472-1551 /1515, ferjuthus@simnet.is www.seydisfjorður.is

ALCOHOL RESTRICTIONS
Vine and spirits are sold in special shops in cities and larger villages. Look for the Vinbúðin sign. Age limits for buying alcohol is 20 years. Most restaurants in Iceland are fully licensed.

BANKS
Opening hours Mon–Fri 09:15–16:00. 24 hour cash dispensers may be found in cities and villages around the country. Look for the Hraðbanki sign.

BUSINESS HOURS
Monday–Friday 09:00 to 17:00 in general.

CELL PHONES & INTERNET
There are five phone operators in Iceland. The internet network in Iceland is very well developed and most hotels offer internet connection.

CLIMATE AND CLOTHING
Climate: Thanks to the Gulf Stream, Iceland enjoys a cool temperate maritime climate, cool in summer and fairly mild in winter. However, the weather is very changeable and tourists should be prepared for the unexpected.

Weather/Clothing: For weather information in English, tel: 902-0600. http://en.vedur.is. When travelling in Iceland you should bring along lightweight woolens, a sweater or cardigan, a rainproof (weatherproof) coat and sturdy walking shoes. Travellers who are camping or heading into the interior will need warm underwear and socks, rubber boots and a warm sleeping bag.

2009 Temperature Averages in Celsius (Centigrade):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Reykjavik</th>
<th>Akureyri</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>-3.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar.</td>
<td>0.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>7.3</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>9.7</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>11.1</td>
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<td>Aug</td>
<td>11.3</td>
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<td>Sep.</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>7.9</td>
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<td>Oct.</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>2.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>3.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>4.1</td>
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CREDIT CARDS
All major credit cards are accepted by hotels, restaurants, shops and petrol stations. You can also draw money with your creditcard (limited amounts) from cash points throughout the country. Traveller's cheques, debit & credit cards are widely accepted. The major cards in Iceland are Europay/Master and VISA.

CURRENCY
Currency exchange: The Icelandic monetary unit is the króna. Coins are in denominations of 100 kr., 50 kr., 10 kr., 5 kr. and 1 kr. Banknotes are in denominations of 5000 kr., 2000 kr., 1000 kr., and 500 kr. All Icelandic banks provide foreign exchange and are generally open on weekdays from 09:15 to 16:00.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS
Duty free allowance
• 1 liter spirits and 1 liter wine or
• 1 liter spirits and 6 liters beer or
• 1.5 liter wines and 6 liters beer or
• 3 liters wines
Spirits comprise alcoholic beverages having 21% alcoholic content or more; wines comprise alcoholic beverages, other than beer, having less alcohol content.
• 200 cigarettes or 250 g of other tobacco products
The minimum age for bringing alcoholic beverages into Iceland is 20 years and 18 years for tobaccos.

DINING
Food is an essential part of the Icelandic experience, fresh, pure local produce is showcased in restaurants up and down the country, serving both homely traditional dishes and gourmet fine-dining. Fish and seafood are served up fresh from the ocean and the organic Icelandic mountain lamb is said to be the best in the world. For more information about restaurants, menus and prices please check www.restaurants.is

DISABILITIES
The travel industry in Iceland is gradually putting more emphasis on adapting their facilities for the disabled. However there are still many locations with limited accessibility. We recommend that you check this when before making the travel plans. The coastal ferry Baldur is accessible and so is the ferry Herjólfur. All airlines flying to Iceland are equipped to accommodate travelers with disabilities. A few domestic buses equipped for wheelchair users are available for special tours upon request. For accessible hotels and tourist attractions, see www.sjallsbjorg.is

DRIVING IN ICELAND
Many mountain roads and roads in the interior of Iceland have a gravel surface. The surface on the gravel roads is often loose, especially along the sides of the roads, so one should drive carefully. The mountain roads are narrow and not made for speeding. The same goes for some bridges allowing only one car to pass at a time. Information on road conditions, tel.: +354-1777, daily 8:00–16:00. www.road.is. Ring Road Nr. 1 around Iceland is 1,339 km. The general speed limit is 50 km/h in urban areas, 80 km/h on gravel roads in rural areas, and 90 km/h on asphalt roads. For more information check www.safetravel.is

ELECTRICITY
The electric current in Iceland is 220 volts, 50 Hz AC, you may need an adapter with two round ended prongs.

EMERGENCY NUMBER
Emergency: The 24-hour emergency phone number in Iceland is 112. For information, call the police in Reykjavik (information only): +354-444-1100. See also www.icesar.com

FOOD IMPORT LIMITATIONS
Travelers may import duty-free up to 3 kg of food, not exceeding the value of ISK 18 500. In general, the condition for importing meat products is that they be fully cooked or tinned. Smoking, salting or drying without cooking is not sufficient. For example, the import of bacon, sausages (kalami, meat sausages and all kinds of smoked, uncooked sausages), smoked saddle of pork and poultry, uncooked milk and raw eggs, is prohibited.

HOLIDAYS
Public holidays: Businesses, banks and most stores are closed on these holidays:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>New Year's Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 3</td>
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<td>Sep 17</td>
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www.visiticeland.com
Apr 24 Easter Sunday Apr 8
Apr 25 Easter Monday Apr 9
Apr 21 First Day of Summer Apr 19
May 1 Labour Day May 1
June 2 Ascension Day May 17
June 12 Whit Sunday May 21
June 13 Whit Monday May 28
June 17 National Day June 17
Aug 8 Bank Holiday Monday Aug 6
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Dec 24

Daylight (sunrise/sunset) Reykjavík íslendingur Akureyri
Jan 1 11:19 12:02 11:33
Feb 1 10:10 10:31 10:07
Mar 1 08:34 08:44 08:23
Apr 1 06:44 06:45 06:26
May 1 04:58 04:47 04:31
June1 02:31 02:39 02:32
July1 03:06 —— 01:59
Aug 1 04:35 04:18 04:03
Sept 1 06:11 06:08 05:50
Oct 1 07:37 07:44 07:23
Nov 1 09:12 09:29 09:06
Dec 1 10:46 11:21 10:54

NATIONAL PARKS
There are three National Parks around the country, each with its own particular points of interest.

PASSPORT AND VISA
REGULATIONS
Iceland has fully implemented the Schengen Agreement since 25 March 2001. For information on passport and visa requirements as well as the Schengen area regulations see Icelandic Directorate of Immigration website www.utl.is/english

PETROL STATIONS
Most petrol stations in the Greater Reykjavík area are open daily until 23:30. Opening hours around the country, where the pumps are privately operated, can vary from place to place. Many stations in the Reykjavík area and larger towns of Iceland offer self-service after closing hours, the automats accept Europay/Master and VISA cards as well as bank notes.

PETALS
Traveling to Iceland with your dog (or cat) is quite complicated and it is advised to leave your dog at home when traveling to Iceland. Requirements for taking your dog to Iceland are quite strict and include several forms, an import application fee, and 4 weeks of quarantine.

POST OFFICES
General hours are Mon–Fri 09:00–16:30. Some offices in Reykjavík are also open on Saturdays. See detailed information on www.postur.is/english

RELIGION
The Church of Iceland is Evangelical Lutheran with approximately 250,000 members which is close to 80% of the population. The Church is open to everyone living in Iceland regardless of nationalities.

RIGHT OF PUBLIC ACCESS
The law of access to the natural environment allows you free passage through the country and to dwell there for legitimate purpose. Everyone is obliged to treat the natural environment with respect and take the utmost care to avoid damaging it. For detailed information please check the Environment Agency’s website http://english.uut.is/.

SHOPPING
The shops in Iceland are of international standard and carry a wide variety of merchandise. Local specialties are woolen knitwear (for example sweaters, cardigans, hats and mittens), handmade ceramics, glassware and silver jewelry. General opening hours are 10–18. Saturdays 10/11–14/18.

SMOKING
Smoking is not permitted on board aircrafts or other means of public transport. Nor is smoking permitted in public buildings and other places open to the public, offices, shopping centres. This includes hotels, bars and restaurants. For purchase of tobacco in Iceland you must have reached the age of 18.

SUMMER TIME
Iceland is on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) throughout the year, and does not adjust to daylight saving time.

TAX FREE SHOPPING
VAT in Iceland is 25,5% or 7% on special goods. To get a refund you must have a permanent address outside of Iceland. Minimum amount when shopping tax-free is ISK 4,000. Goods must be exported within three months from date of purchase. Maximum refund is 15% of the retail price.

TELEPHONES
There are 300 payphones in cities and towns around Iceland. For directory enquiries call 118 for Iceland 1811 for all other countries. To call Iceland from abroad dial +354 in front of the 7 digits number. When calling outside Iceland press 00 and then the country code and telephone number you wish to reach.

THE REYKJAVÍK CARD
The REYKJAVIK WELCOME CARD makes it easier for you to enjoy the best that the city has to offer. Available for 24, 48 or 72 hours and offering great value for money, the welcome card gives you free admission to all Reykjavik’s thermal pools, a great many museums and other attractions, unlimited travel on the Reykjavik buses, discounts at shops and restaurants and free internet access. For more details see www.visiterykjavik.is

TIPPING
Service and VAT are invariably included in prices in Iceland. Tipping is therefore not a must, but always welcome.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Please take great care when visiting the natural wonders of Iceland, such as geothermal areas, waterfalls and glaciers. Always stay on defined paths and/or at a safe distance.

www.safetravel.is
Whale Watching
all year round from Reykjavik
Take part in an adventure at sea with an unforgettable trip into the world of whales and sea birds

Other adventures at sea
Midnight Whale Watching
Daily schedule from June 15th to July 31st at 20:30
Sea Angling
Daily schedule from May 1st to August 31st at 11:00
Puffin Watching
Daily schedule from May 15th to August 15th at 9:30 and 15:00
Free entry to the Whale Watching Centre for our passengers
Call us at 555 3565 or visit elding.is

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Smyril Line offers you a fantastic holiday in Iceland or the Faroe Islands. Bring your own vehicle and explore the country at its best. Iceland offers superb conditions for roundtrips in own car, exploring in own auto-camper or an adventure on nature’s own terms in the solitary highland by 4x4 jeep.
Smyril Line offers departures to Iceland and the Faroe Islands from Denmark. Furthermore we can provide various roundtrip itineraries with pre-booked accommodation for individuals, group tours, cruises with excursions and combination tours. Let us provide you with a once in a lifetime experience.

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HOW TO GET TO ICELAND

BY AIR

Icelandair maintains scheduled flights to Iceland from the following cities: Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm, Glasgow, Manchester, London, New York, Boston, Baltimore, Seattle.

Approximate flight times from continental Europe 3–31/2 hours Approximate flight times from US East Coast 5–6 hours

Seasonal: Minneapolis / St. Paul, Toronto, Orlando, Halifax and Helsinki

Summer time only: Barcelona, Bergen, Berlin, Stavanger, Dusseldorf, Madrid, Milan and Munich

Addresses of Icelandair offices:

www.icelandair.com

WEST ICELAND

Tourist Information Centre
Sólbakki 2 • IS-310 Borgarnes
Tel./Fax: +34-310-2214 / 237-2314
E-mail: info@west.is
www.west.is

NORTH ICELAND

Tourist Information Centre
Varmahlíð • IS-561 Varmahlíð
Tel.: +34-345-6161
E-mail: info@skagafjordur.is
www.visitskagafjordur.is

Tourist Information Centre
Meningarhúsið Hof
Strandgata 12 • IS-600 Akureyri
Tel./Fax: +34-345-5999 / 553-5909
E-mail: info@visiakureyri.is
www.nordurland.is

EAST ICELAND

Tourist Information Centre
Kauvvangurur 10
P.O. Box 144
IS-700 Egilsstaðir
Tel./Fax: +34-471-2320 / 471-2315
E-mail: east@east.is • www.east.is

Tourist Information Centre
Ferjuleið 1
IS-710 Seyðisfjörður
Tel.: +34-472-1551 / 861-7789
E-mail: ferjamennir@sfk.is
ferjuhus@simnet.is
www.seydisfjordur.is

SOUTH-EAST ICELAND

Tourist Information Centre
Hafnarbraut 30
IS-780 Höfn (Hornafjörður)
Tel.: +34-478-1500
E-mail: tourinfo@hornafjordur.is
www.visitsvatsnajokull.is

SOUTH-WEST

Tourist Information Centre
Krossmörk 4 • 230 Keflavík
Tel.: +34-425-0330
E-mail: tourinfo@sandgerdi.is

HOW TO GET TO ICELAND

BY SEA

Smyril Line maintains a regular scheduled cruise- and car-ferry service to Iceland from Hirtshals in Denmark and Tórshavn in the Faroe Islands. Please contact Smyril Line head office or see www.smyrilline.com for further information on sales offices and General Sales Agents abroad.

Smyril Line – Head Office
Yviri við Strond 1 • P.O. Box 370
FO-110 Tórshavn
Tel.: +58-345-9600
Fax.: +58-345-950
E-mail: booking@smyrilline.fo
www.smyrilline.com

DOMESTIC TRANSPORTATION – BY AIR

Air Iceland offers domestic flights to and from Reykjavik to: Ísafjörður, Egilsstaðir and Akureyri. Also flights
Accommodation

CLASSIFICATION
All lodging facilities in Iceland have the opportunity to be classified. The classification is voluntary and is divided into five categories, i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 stars, and is by no means an all-embracing assessment of the quality of the accommodation in question. It is solely based on factors which can be objectively measured. The grading consists of more than 100 different items.

The Icelandic Tourist Board is in charge of the classification. Look for the blue-red sign placed near the entrance which indicates the present classification of the facility.

For further information see www.visiticeland.com

Two stars:
Fosshotel Suðurgata
Guesthouse Baldursbrá
Guesthouse Ólafsvík
Guesthouse Sigríður
Guesthouse Snorrí
Hotel Edda Laugar in Sælingsdalur
Hotel Edda Akureyri
Hotel Edda Edur
Hotel Edda í Klúga Laugarvatn
Hotel Edda Laugarbakki
Hotel Edda M.L. Laugarvatn
Hotel Edda Egilsstaðir
Hotel Edda Ísafjörður
Hotel Edda Nesjavellir
Hotel Edda Skógur
Hotel Edda Sórustæðarinn
Hotel Gígur – Kea Hotel
The Old Guesthouse Ísafjörður

Three stars:
CenterHotel Klöpp
CenterHotel Pingholt
Country Hotel Anna
Fosshotel Baron
Fosshotel Húsavík
Fosshotel Lind
Fosshotel Reykholtsfoss
Fosshotel Vatnajökull
Guesthouse Stáðarhús
CenterHotel Stáðarhús
Hotel Björk – Kea Hotel
Hotel Borgarnes
Hotel Edda Plus Akureyri
Hotel Edda Plus Laugar in Sælingsdalur
Hotel Edda Plus Vik í Myrdal
Hotel Frón
Hotel Harpa – Kea Hotel
Hotel Helissandur
Hotel Höfn
Hotel Ísafjörður
Hotel Natur
Hotel Norðurland – Kea Hotel
Hotel Ölafsvík Hring Hotels
Hotel Rauðaskriða Country hotel
Hotel Reykjavík – Reykjavík Hotels
Hotel Tindastóll
Hotel Prísnahamrar
Icelandair Hotel Flúðir
Icelandair Hotel Hamar
Icelandair Hotel Hérað
Icelandair Hotel Klaustrum
Metropolitan Hotel
Park Inn Island
Sel Hotel Myvatn
Sveinbjarnarðóri Sveithátel

Four stars:
CenterHotel Skógabreid
Grand Hotel Reykjavík – Reykjavík Hotels
Hilton Reykjavík Nordica
Hotel Borg
Hotel Kea – Kea Hotel
Hotel Keilavík
Icelandair Hotel Flughotel
Icelandair Hotel Loftleiðir
Hotel Ólafsvík
Hotel Rangá Allseason Hotels
Hotel Reynirhúsi
Radisson SAS Hotel Saga
Radisson SAS Hotel Flugmagö∂ur

CHARTER SERVICE:
Air Iceland offers charter service within Iceland and to Greenland and Faroe Islands.

Air Iceland
Reykjavík Airport • IS-101 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354 562-3030 / 570-3001
E-mail: wesba@airiceland.is
www.airiceland.is
www.airiceland.dk

Eagle Air
Reykjavík Airport • IS-101 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354 562-4200 / 562-4202
E-mail: eagleair.is
www.eagleair.is

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E-mail: eagleair.is
www.eagleair.is

Eagle Air
Reykjavík Airport • IS-101 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354 562-4200 / 562-4202
E-mail: eagleair.is
www.eagleair.is

DOMESTIC TRANSPORTATION – FERRIES
Baldur Ferry
Smöðustigur 3 • IS-340 Stykkishólmur
Tel./Fax: +354 433-2254 / 438-1050
E-mail: seatours@seatours.is
www.seatours.is

DOMESTIC EXCURSIONS AND TRANSPORTATION – BY BUS
EXCURSIONS:
Reykjavík Excursions
BSI Bus Terminal
IS-200 Kópavogur

COACH HIRE:
Guðmundur Jónasson Ltd
Borgarút 34 • IS-105 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354 511-1515 / 511-1511
E-mail: gtravel@gtravel.is
www.gtravel.is

SBA – Nordurléið
Hjalteyrargata 10 • IS-600 Akureyri
Tel.: +354 550-0700 / 550-0770
Fax: +354 550-0701 / 550-0771
E-mail: sba@sba.is • www.sba.is

TREX – Coach Rental and Tours
Hestháls 10 • IS-110 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354 550-6000 / 569-4969
E-mail: info@trex.is • www.trex.is

DOMESTIC TRANSPORTATION – CAR RENTALS
Hertz Car Rental
Reykjavík Airport • IS-101 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354 522-4400 / 522-4401
E-mail: hertz@hertz.is
www.hertz.is • www.hertz.com

ISAK 4X4 Rental
Súðurhraun 2b • IS-210 Garðabær
Tel./Fax: +354 544-8866 / 544-8869
E-mail: info@isak.is • www.isak.is

Emergency-SOS number after office hours: +354 863-9414
Tours and Excursions

**TOURS**

Authorised Travel Agencies and Tour Operators offering short or long tours

**Atlantik**
Grandagarður 14 • IS-101 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354-575-9900 / 575-9915
E-mail: atl@atlantik.is
www.atlantik.is

**Iceland Excursions – Gray Line Iceland**
Höfðatún 12 • IS-105 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354-540-1313 / 540-1310
E-mail: iceland@grayline.is
www.icelandexcursions.is

**Guðmundur Jónasson Travel**
Borgartrú 34 • IS-105 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354-511-1515 / 511-1511
E-mail: gjtravel@gjtravel.is
www.gjtravel.is

**Erlingssön Natureseas**
Tjarnargata 4 • IS-101 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354-551-9700 / 551-9703
E-mail: erlingsson@natureseas.is
www.natureseas.is

**Iceland Encounter**
Grenndalur 1 • IS-107 Reykjavík
Tel.: +354-857-8804
E-mail: contact@encounter.is
www.encounter.is

**Icelandic Mountain Guides / Iceland Rovers**
Vagnhófin 7 • IS-110 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354-587-9999 / 587-9996
mountainguides@mountainguides.is
www.mountainguides.is
www.icelandrovers.is

**Iceland ProTravel Ltd.**
The Courthouse • Erfstadt Court
United Kingdom Ltd.
Tel./Fax: +354-570-2700 / 570-2799
E-mail: info@icelandprotravel.co.uk
www.icelandprotravel.co.uk

**Isafold Travel**
Skúturvogur 13A • IS-104 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354-585-4300 / 585-4390
E-mail: info@isafoldtravel.is
www.isafoldtravel.is

**Isafold Travel**
Skúturvogur 13A • IS-104 Reykjavík
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E-mail: sales@icelandtravel.is
www.icelandtravel.is
www.icelandtotal.com

**Icelandic Farm Holidays**
Súðmúli 2 • IS-108 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354-570-2700 / 570-2799
E-mail: info@icelandicfarmholidays.com
www.icelandicfarmholidays.com

**Visor Summerhouses**
Ármúla 24 • IS-108 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354-544-8990 / 565-0661
E-mail: info@visor.is
www.visor.is

**Hófn Camp ing and Cottages**
Hafnarbraut 52 • IS-780 Höfn
Tel./Fax: +354-478-1666 / 478-1607
E-mail: camping@simnet.is
www.campsite.is

**Icelandic Holiday Homes**
Austurholt 8 • IS-310 Borgarnes
Tel.: +354 695 3366
info@icelandicholidayhomes.com
http://icelandicholidayhomes.com

**Camp ing**

**Pakgil – Camping Ground and Cabins**
Between Höfðabrekkuárfirðar and Mýrdalsandur, 20 km from Vik in Mýrdalur.
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E-mail: helga@thakgil.is
www.thakgil.is

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IS-101 Reykjavík
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E-mail: hotelborg@hotelborg.is
www.hotelborg.is

**Hótel Hafnarfjörður**
Reykjavíkurvegur 72
IS-220 Hafnarfjörður
Tel.: +354-540-9700 / 540-9701
E-mail: info@hhotel.is
www.hhotel.is

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Borgartún 34 • IS-105 Reykjavík
Tel.: +354-511-1300 / 511-1511
E-mail: gitravel@gitravel.is
www.gitravel.is

**HOTELS IN REYKJAVIK**

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Vatnsnesvegur 12
IS-230 Keflavík
Tel./Fax: +354-420-7000 / 420-7002
E-mail: stay@kef.is • www.kef.is

Hótel Borgarnes
Egilsgata 16
IS-310 Borgarnes
Tel./Fax: +354-437-1119 / 437-1443
E-mail: hotelbo@centrum.is
www.hotelborgarnes.is

Hnjútr Guesthouse
Hnjútr near the Museum,
Órlyghófn • IS-451 Vesturbyggð
Tel.: +354-456-1596 / 892-8024
E-mail: info@hnj turftravel.is
www.hnj turftravel.is

Country Lodge Árnanes
IS-781 Höfn
Tel./Fax: +354-478-1550 / 478-1819
E-mail: arnanes@arnanes.is
www.arnanes.is

Hótel Selfoss
Eyrauvegur 2 • IS-800 Selfoss
Tel.: +354-480-2500 / 482-2524
E-mail: info@hotelselfoss.is
www.hotelselfoss.is

Hótel Bláfell ehf
Sólvegur 14 • IS-760 Breiðdalsvík
Tel./Fax: +354-475-6770 / 475-6668
E-mail: info@hotelblafell.is
www.hotelblafell.is

**FARMHOUSE ACCOMMODATION**

Icelandic Farm Holidays is an association/chain of 150 farms around Iceland. Icelandic Farm Holidays is also a licensed travel agency offering guided group tours, individual travel, day tours and self-drive tours. For further information and bookings visit our website with online booking system or contact:

**Icelandic Farm Holidays**
Súðmúli 2 • IS-108 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354-570-2700 / 570-2799
E-mail: ihf@farmholidays.is
www.farmholidays.is
Online bookings
www.farmholidays.is

**HOSTELS**

There are 36 Hostelling International Hostels around Iceland, open to people of all ages. They offer budget accommodation in a clean and comfortable lodging with opportunity for self-service, so travellers can keep travelling costs to a minimum. All the hostels have a well-equipped guest kitchen and family rooms. The Travel Section arranges travel in Iceland and provides different tours. The Travel Section also offers packages which consist of rental car and hostel overnight vouchers. The Travel Section is a central booking office for all Hostelling International Hostels in Iceland for individuals and groups. For further information see the brochure “Hostelling in Iceland” or contact:

**Hostelling International Iceland**
Borgartún 6 • IS-105 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354-587-9999 / 587-9996
E-mail: sales@icelandtravel.is
www.icelandtravel.is

**Icelandic Mountain Guides / Iceland Rovers**

Vagnhófin 7 • IS-110 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354-587-9999 / 587-9996
mountainguides@mountainguides.is
www.mountainguides.is
www.icelandrovers.is

**Icelandic Farm Holidays**
Súðmúli 2 • IS-108 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354-570-2700 / 570-2799
E-mail: ihf@farmholidays.is
www.farmholidays.is

**Isafold Travel**
Skúturvogur 13A • IS-104 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354-585-4300 / 585-4390
E-mail: sales@icelandtravel.is
www.icelandtravel.is

**Icelandic Holiday Homes**
Súðmúli 2 • IS-108 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354-570-2700 / 570-2799
E-mail: ihf@farmholidays.is
www.farmholidays.is

**Camping and Cottages**

**Hafnarfjörður**
Hafnarbraut 52 • IS-780 Höfn
Tel./Fax: +354-478-1666 / 478-1607
E-mail: camping@simnet.is
www.campsite.is

**Icelandic Farm Holidays**
Austurholt 8 • IS-310 Borgarnes
Tel.: +354 695 3366
info@icelandicfarmholidays.com
http://icelandicfarmholidays.com

**Icelandic Mountain Guides / Iceland Rovers**
Vagnhófin 7 • IS-110 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354-587-9999 / 587-9996
mountainguides@mountainguides.is
www.mountainguides.is
www.icelandrovers.is

**Icelandic Farm Holidays**
Súðmúli 2 • IS-108 Reykjavík
Tel./Fax: +354-570-2700 / 570-2799
E-mail: ihf@farmholidays.is
www.farmholidays.is

**Isafold Travel**
(Small Groups – Great Experience)
Sudurbraun 2b • IS-210 Garðabær
Tel./Fax: +354-544-8866 / 544-8869
E-mail: info@isafoldtravel.is
www.isafoldtravel.is
Enjoy a pleasurable stay in Iceland

Icelandic Holiday Homes offers you a wide selection of holiday homes all around Iceland. All our homes are nice and comfortable, some luxurious, and they are all conveniently situated in towns and villages or within a driving distance of well-known nature pearls. Here you can find exactly the holiday home you are looking for and book it immediately. It is easy and secure.

Tel: +354 695 3366
+354 895 4366
www.icelandicholidayhomes.com
info@icelandicholidayhomes.com

Season Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Jan</th>
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Licensing and registration of travel-related services

The Icelandic Tourist Board issues licences to tour operators and travel agents, as well as issuing registration to booking services and information centres.

Tour operators and travel agents are required to use a special logo approved by the Icelandic Tourist Board on all their advertisements and on their Internet website.

Booking services and information centres are entitled to use a Tourist Board logo on all their material. The logos below are recognised by the Icelandic Tourist Board.
**Ryu Oishi**

**Kringlan 4-6, 7th fl • IS-103 Reykjavík**

**Tel.: +354-562-2500 / 5-900 8810**

**E-mail: info@nordurflug.is**

**www.nordurflug.is**

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**Tel.: +354-580-5400 / 564-4776**

**E-mail: main@re.is • www.re.is**

**Terravellir 203 236 208 163**

**Hveravellir 580 191 192**

**Landmannalaugar 205 148**

**The highlands (km)**

**Selfoss (C4) 0:50 hrs 1:40 hrs 2:40 hrs 6:45 hrs 4:40 hrs 6:10 hrs 8 hrs 5:10 hrs 1:40 hrs**

**Vík (D5) 2:20 hrs 3:10 hrs 4:10 hrs 9 hrs 6:10 hrs 7 hrs 6:30 hrs 3:30 hrs 129**

**Akureyri (D2) 4:45 hrs 3:45 hrs 4:30 hrs 7:30 hrs 1:30 hrs 265 512 561 432**

**Sauðárkrókur (D2) 4 hrs 3 hrs 4 hrs 6:30 hrs 119 384 631 492 362**

**Ísafjörður (B1) 6:30 hrs 5:30 hrs 5:30 hrs 498 567 832 902 630 500**

**Stykkishólmur (B3) 2:10 hrs 1 hr 390 295 363 628 617 345 215**

**Borgarnes (B4) 1 hr 98 384 246 315 580 519 246 117**

**Höfn (F4) 5:45 hrs 6:30 hrs 7:45 hrs 12 hrs 7:50 hrs 6:20 hrs 3 hrs 273 402**

**Vík (D5) 2.20 hrs 3:10 hrs 4:10 hrs 9 hrs 6:10 hrs 7 hrs 6:30 hrs 3:30 hrs 129**

**Selfoss (C4) 0.50 hrs 1.40 hrs 2.40 hrs 6.45 hrs 4.40 hrs 6.10 hrs 8 hrs 5.10 hrs 1.40 hrs**

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**Reykjavík Excursions**

**Vesturvör 34 (head office)**

**IS-101 Reykjavík**

**Tel./Fax: +354-550-7000 / 552-7001**

**E-mail: info@nordurflug.is**

**www.nordurflug.is**

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**Seltótarbær (G3) 8.45 hrs 7.15 hrs 7.45 hrs 11 hrs 5 hrs 3.20 hrs 247 511 640**

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**Hofn (F4) 5.45 hrs 6.30 hrs 7.45 hrs 12 hrs 7.50 hrs 6.20 hrs 3 hrs 273 402**

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**Ekströður (E3) 3.30 hrs 4.30 hrs 7.30 hrs 10 hrs 7.30 hrs 5 hrs 3.20 hrs 247 511 640**

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**Hróar (H) 3.30 hrs 4.30 hrs 7.30 hrs 10 hrs 7.30 hrs 5 hrs 3.20 hrs 247 511 640**

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**Hafnarfjörður (H) 2.20 hrs 3:10 hrs 4:10 hrs 9 hrs 6:10 hrs 7 hrs 6:30 hrs 3:30 hrs 129**

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**Selvogur (C6) 0.50 hrs 1.40 hrs 2.40 hrs 6.45 hrs 4.40 hrs 6.10 hrs 8 hrs 5.10 hrs 1.40 hrs**

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**Icelandic Mountain Guides / Iceland Rovers**

**Vagnhöfði 7 • IS-600 Akureyri**

**Tel.: +354-587-9999 / 587-9996**

**mountainguides@mountainguides.is**

**www.mountainguides.is**

**www.icelandrovers.is**

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**BIRDWATCHING**

**Erlingsson Nature reserve**

**Tjarnargarður 7 • IS-101 Reykjavík**

**Tel.: +354-551-9700 / 551-9703**

**E-mail: erlingsson@nature.is**

**www.nature.is**

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**Puffin Express**

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**IS-101 Reykjavík**

**Tel./Fax: +354-892-0099 / 456-6699**

**E-mail: info@puffinexpress.is**

**www.puffinexpress.is**

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**SEATOURS**

**Sniðjúkagígur 3**

**IS-340 Stykkishólmur**

**Tel.: +354-433-2254 / 438-1050**

**E-mail: seatours@seatours.is**

**www.seatours.is**

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**HORSEBACK RIDING**

**Íshestar Riding Tours**

**Hafnartún 12 • IS-101 Reykjavík**

**Tel.: +354-555-7000 / 555-7001**

**E-mail: info@ishestar.is**

**www.ishestar.is**

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**SKIIING**

Winter skiing is available in many parts of the country. Ski resorts with both cross-country and downhill skiing are found throughout Iceland see www.nordurland.is and www.westfjords.is for more information.

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**CYCLING**

**Reykjavik Bike Tours**

**Hringbraut 105 • IS-107 Reykjavík**

**Tel.: +354-694-8956**

**E-mail: bike@icelandbike.com**

**www.reykjavikbiketours.is**

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**FISHING AND ANGLING**

**FishIceland**

**Gaukás 27 • IS-221 Hafnarfjörður**

**Tel.: +354-899-4247**

**E-mail: info@fishiceland.com**

**www.fishiceland.com**

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**SEA ANGLING**

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**E-mail: info@puffinexpress.is**

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**SEATOURS**

**Sniðjúkagígur 3**

**IS-340 Stykkishólmur**

**Tel.: +354-433-2254 / 438-1050**

**E-mail: seatours@seatours.is**

**www.seatours.is**

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**GOLF**

All the major golf courses in Iceland are open to visitors. Green fees are moderate. See www.golficeland.org for more information.

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**SWIMMING AND SPA’S**

Swimming is a very popular activity all year around in Iceland and there are outdoor and indoor pools located in most towns and villages, all filled with water from natural hot springs. The temperature of the water is around 30°C. Jacuzzis and hot pots where the water temperature ranges from 36–44°C can also be found at most pools. More information on www.visitreykjavi.is, www.sundlaugar.is and www.vatnavinir.is

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**NOTE:** Prices are subject to change.

Every effort has been made to verify that information in this brochure is correct as of June 15, 2010. However, the lists of services are not always complete.

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**Driving distances and duration (entries include a reference to the map on page 32)**

**Upper half: km. – Lower half: duration of drive – The Ring Road (Road 1) is 1,339 km long**
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→ Isafjördur

12 hour Day Tour
Highlights of the North
→ Mývatn

8 hour Day Tour
Remarkable Greenland
→ Greenland – Kulusuk

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NORTH ICELAND:
Fosshótel Dalvík
Fosshótel Laugar
Fosshótel Húsavík

EAST ICELAND:
Fosshótel Vatnajökull
Fosshótel Skjálfandafljót

SOUTH ICELAND:
Fosshótel Mosfell

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