

# ICELAND

Totally Inspiring



ENGLISH



[visiticeland.com](http://visiticeland.com)





© Icelandic Tourist Board

Produced for the Icelandic Tourist Board by Prentsníð Ltd. 2010

Design, layout and digital imaging/colour separation: Prentsníð Ltd.

Text: Saltmarsh Partnership Ltd. & Karólína Geirsdóttir

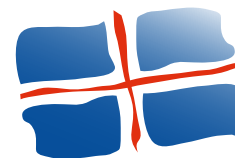
Printed by: Ísafoldarprentsmiðja, Iceland on Sappi's Royal Roto silk 90 g/m<sup>2</sup> & Magno Satin 150 g/m<sup>2</sup>

Total print run: 300,000 copies – also distributed on-line

Cover photograph: Ari Magg

Other photographs by: Ragnar Th. Sigurðsson, Arctic Images [www.arctic-images.com](http://www.arctic-images.com); Rúnar Óli Karlsson and Akureyri Tourist Office





## 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 skies 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	East and Southeast Iceland .....	14	Gourmet Iceland.....	20
Reykjavik and The Capital Area....	4	The Central Highlands &		Rejuvenation .....	21
South and Southwest Iceland.....	6	Vatnajökull National Park.....	16	Events .....	22
West Iceland .....	8	Advertisement Insert .....	middle	Practical Information .....	23
The West Fjords.....	10	Shopping in Iceland .....	18	Map of Iceland.....	32
North Iceland .....	12	Cultural life .....	18		



## Discover Iceland

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 speak-

ing, 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 Reykjavik – 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!



ences; elsewhere, fantastic trails throughout the country can be enjoyed from May to September.

Prefer to leave the legwork to others? Then try Icelandic horse trekking astride the sturdy native horses – unique in that they have an extra gait, the tölt. Short tours are offered year-round, while in summer you can go across country on itineraries of up to 15 days.

Fishing, dog-sledding, caving, diving, ice-climbing, snowmobiling, white-water rafting, and kayaking are just some of the other amazing activities found in Iceland. Golf is also highly popular, with more than 60 courses around the country.

And of course, no visit to Iceland would be complete without close encounters with its natural inhabitants. Whale-watching tours operate between April and mid-October, with around 50 species found in Icelandic waters. You are also likely to spot the delightful puffin, together with countless other species of birds which visit our shores, attracting ornithologists from around the globe.

Why not spread your wings in Iceland?

... 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](http://www.visiticeland.com)

[www.visitreykjavik.is](http://www.visitreykjavik.is)

The Reykjavik Grapevine paper and website list upcoming concerts and events regularly  
[www.grapevine.is](http://www.grapevine.is)

News from Iceland, Icelandic culture and travel [www.icenews.is](http://www.icenews.is)

Local activities and events: Consult websites listed on pp. 5–16







# Creative Energy

## Reykjavík and The Capital Area

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 Elíasson. 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 Nautholsvík Bay – where the water is maintained at around 20 degrees Celsius!

### Shopping with style

Along Laugavegur and Skólavörðustígur, 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 Reykjavík and Smáralind in nearby Kópavogur.

### Tastebud treats

Reykjavík boasts a sophisticated restaurant scene, but some of its simpler culinary pleasures





[www.visitreykjavik.is](http://www.visitreykjavik.is)  
[www.visiticeland.com](http://www.visiticeland.com)

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 Reykjavík's laid-back café culture transform into the hottest night-spots, open until the early hours.

#### 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 Reykjavík 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 Reykjavík 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 Reykjavík Capital Area's 17 geothermal pools. Feed the ducks on Lake Tjörnin, visit the animals at the Reykjavík Zoo and Family Park, learn about the 'Hidden People' on an interpretive walk and even stay in the Viking Hotel in Hafnarfjörður

## 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 Reykjavík 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 Reykjavík and its neighbouring towns in the southwest. Keflavík 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.







# 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 Reykjavík. 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

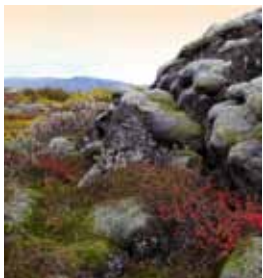


Grindavík, which honours the region's sea-faring traditions, and discover a complete Viking longboat at the Vikingaheimar museum.

### The 'Golden Circle'

Gullfoss (Golden Falls), Geysir and Þingvellir National Park are Iceland's most famous trio of natural attractions and a popular day-tour from Reykjavík. 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.





[www.reykjanes.is](http://www.reykjanes.is)  
[www.south.is](http://www.south.is)

### 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](http://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 Mýrdalsjökull 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 Grímsson was elected in June 1996 to succeed Vigdís 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.







# Inspiration and Wild Adventure

## West Iceland

West Iceland and the Snæfellsness 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**

Reykholzt, 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 Brúðheimar World of Puppets in Borgarfjörður to see puppetry as a sophisticated art form.





[www.west.is](http://www.west.is)

### 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 km<sup>2</sup>, this means that Iceland has around 3 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. 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 north-westerly 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 fór 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.





[www.westfjords.is](http://www.westfjords.is)



#### 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





[www.northwest.is](http://www.northwest.is)  
[www.nordurland.is](http://www.nordurland.is)

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 & Húnaþing

Skagafjörður and Húnaþing, 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

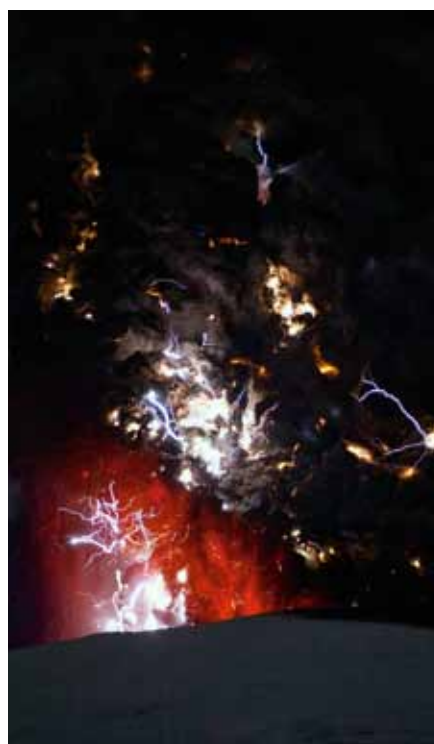
## East & South East Iceland

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.





[www.east.is](http://www.east.is)

### 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 eystri, or visit neighbouring Seyðisfjörður, with its thriving arts scene and colourful Norwegian-style houses unique in Iceland. Especially pretty, Eskifjörður 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 Öskjuvatn, 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!

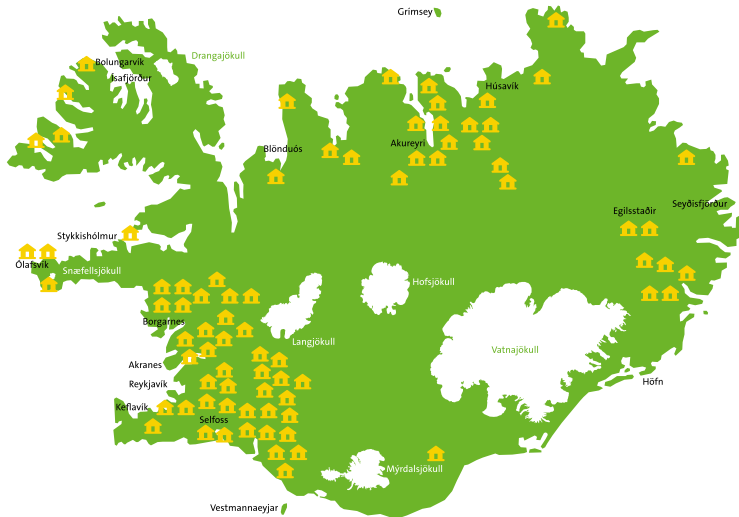


[www.visiticeland.com](http://www.visiticeland.com)  
[www.vatnajokulsthjodgardur.is](http://www.vatnajokulsthjodgardur.is)



# 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.

Viator  
Ármúli 24  
108 Reykjavík/Iceland  
(354) 544 89 90



Online reservations

[www.viator.is](http://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 Reykjavík—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!





## 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 Reykjavik's main shopping streets, Laugavegur and Skólavörðustigur.

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.



HÚSAVÍK ORIGINAL

# WHALE WATCHING

WITH *North Sailing*

AWARDED NATIONALLY & INTERNATIONALLY  
North Sailing  
★★★★★

**North Sailing**  
www.northsailing.is

Adventure tours Scheduled flights Air charter services

## Scheduled flights

Five destinations with year round possibilities

**Day tours** Experience excitement in Iceland's pure nature

**Air tours** Get a bird's eye view of Iceland's most beautiful places

+354 562 4200  
info@eagleair.is  
www.eagleair.is

**EAGLE AIR ICELAND**

a warm welcome in  
**iceland**

Icelandic Farm Holidays is a chain of 150 farms offering accommodation in country hotels, guesthouses, farmhouses and cottages.

Visit our website for online bookings, self-drive tours, day tours, horse riding, fishing, golf and much more...

**Icelandic farm holidays**

ifh@farmholidays.is  
www.farmholidays.is

**BLUE LAGOON ICELAND**

*Energy for life through forces of nature*

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

www.bluelagoon.com







## Gourmet Iceland

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 súrmatur 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.gagolf.is). Open midnight-sun tournaments are also held in Reykjavík and the Westman Islands (Vestmannaeyjar). See [www.golf.is](http://www.golf.is)

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

**JULY 27–31.** Reykholt 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 Snorri 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 Puffling. 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 5–7.** Gay Pride. Gays and lesbians come out in force and style to parade and party in Reykjavík.

**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](http://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 merrymaking lasts right through to the following year.



# Iceland A-Z

## ARRIVAL IN ICELAND

A Flybus service is operated between Reykjavík and Keflavík International Airport. Buses leave Reykjavík from the BSÍ bus terminal 2.5 hours before flight departure. The drive from the airport to Reykjavík takes about 40–50 minutes. The fare is ISK 1950 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](http://www.flybus.is)

**Taxis:** The cab fare to Reykjavík for a four-passenger taxi is approximately ISK 13.700

**Arrival in Seyðisfjörður ferry port –** Scheduled bus trips from Seyðisfjörður to Egilsstaðir 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 Egilsstaðir airport for domestic flights. Information: tel.: +354-472-1551 /1515, [ferjuhus@simnet.is](mailto:ferjuhus@simnet.is), [www.seydisfjordur.is](http://www.seydisfjordur.is)

## ALCOHOL RESTRICTIONS

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

## 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. Together they cover most of Iceland including all towns and villages with over 200 inhabitants. The following mobile systems can be used in Iceland. GSM900 and 1800 both 2G and UMTS 3G. Pre-paid cards are available at petrol stations around the country. Cell phones may be rented from Iceland Telecom, Ármúli 27, 108

Reykjavík. 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 woollens, 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):

	Reykjavík	Akureyri
Jan.	1,8	0,3
Feb.	0,1	-3,6
Mar.	0,3	-1
April	5	3,5
May	7,7	7,3
June	10,1	9,7
July	12,8	11,1
Aug.	11,3	10,5
Sep.	8,4	7,9
Oct.	5,1	2,8
Nov.	3,1	1,2
Dec.	0,9	-1
2009	5,5	4,1

## 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](http://www.restaurants.is)

## DISABILITIES

The travel industry in Iceland is gradually putting more emphases 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 and from 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.sjalfsbjorg.is](http://www.sjalfsbjorg.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](http://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](http://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 Reykjavík (information only): +354-444-1100.

See also [www.icesar.com](http://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 (salami, 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:

2011		2012
Jan 1	New Year's Day	Jan 1
Apr 21	Maundy Thursday	Apr 5
Apr 22	Good Friday	Apr 6



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 27
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
	(from noon)	
Dec 25	Christmas day	Dec 25
Dec 26	Sec. Day of Christmas	Dec 26
Dec 31	New Years Eve	Dec 31
	(from noon)	

## LANGUAGE

Icelandic is the national language and is believed to have changed very little from the original tongue spoken by the Norse settlers. English and Scandinavian languages are widely spoke.

## MEDICAL ATTENTION

**Pharmacies** are called “Apótek” and are open during normal business hours. Many are open at night. Medical Care can be obtained by visiting a Health Care Centre – Heilsugæslustöð – during opening ours.

For information tel.: +354-585-1300 or see [www.heilsugaeslan.is](http://www.heilsugaeslan.is)

**Medical help:** There is a medical centre or hospital in all major cities and towns in Iceland. The emergency phone number (24 hours) in Iceland is 112. See also [www.safetravel.is](http://www.safetravel.is)

**Health insurance:** Citizens of Scandinavia must show their passport in the event of a medical emergency. Citizens of EEA countries must bring the EHIC card (European Health Insurance Card) otherwise the patient will be charged in full. Non- EEA citizens are not covered by the EEA regulations and will be charged in full. For further information contact the State Social Security Institute, Tel.: +354-560-4400, Fax: +354-560-4451 Office hours: 08:30–15:30.

**Vaccinations:** Vaccinations are not required.

## MIDNIGHT SUN

During summer the nights are bright all over Iceland. In the month of June the sun never fully sets in the north. There are even special excursions to the island of Grímsey on the Arctic Circle where you can experience the midnight sun. Bear in mind, however, that the sun at midnight is not as warm as at midday, so bring along a sweater.

## Daylight (sunrise/sunset)

	Reykjavík	Ísafjörður	Akureyri
Jan 1	11:19 15:43	12:02 15:10	11:33 14:59
Feb 1	10:10 17:14	10:31 17:02	10:07 16:46
Mar 1	08:34 18:48	08:44 18:47	08:23 18:28
Apr 1	06:44 20:20	06:45 20:30	06:26 20:09
May 1	04:58 21:53	04:47 22:15	04:31 21:51
June 1	03:21 23:32	02:39 00:26 *	02:32 23:52
July 1	03:06 23:56	— 01:22 *	01:59 00:30 *
Aug 1	04:35 22:30	04:18 22:56	04:03 22:32
Sep 1	06:11 20:42	06:08 20:54	05:50 20:33
Oct 1	07:37 18:56	07:44 18:58	07:23 18:39
Nov 1	09:12 17:10	09:29 17:02	09:06 16:45
Dec 1	10:46 15:47	11:21 15:21	10:54 15:08

Times marked with an asterisk (\*) refer to the following date. Used with the kind permission of the Almanac of the University of Iceland.

## NATIONAL PARKS

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

*Pingvellir* “Symbol of the Icelandic Consciousness”, is in a rift valley between the American and European geological plates and Lake Þingvallavatn contains species of fish found nowhere else. *Pingvellir* is a World Heritage site. *Snæfellsjökull National Park* is at the foot of a volcano and glacier, and is steeped in mystery and romance; it is the only Park that reaches from the seashore to the mountaintops.

*Vatnajökull National Park* is the largest national park in Europe, covering an area of 12.000 km<sup>2</sup>. The park encompasses, among other areas, the Vatnajökull glacier, Skaftafell, and Jökulsárgljúfur.

## NORTHERN LIGHTS

The Northern lights, Aurora Borealis are a spectacular sight, a bright coloured waves of light illuminating the night sky. The best time for viewing is generally between October and March, however there is no guarantee as hey only appear under certain meteorological condition, a clear sky and temperature below zero.

## 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.utli.is/english](http://www.utli.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.

## PETS

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](http://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.ust.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 REYKJAVÍK 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 of Reykjavík's thermal pools, a great many museums and other attractions, unlimited travel on the Reykjavík buses, discounts at shops and restaurants and free internet access. For more details see [www.visitreykjavik.is](http://www.visitreykjavik.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](http://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

Puffin season									
Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	November 1st- March 31st		
9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00
							Winter schedule		

\*10:00 and 14:00 departures from July 1st to August 10th



## 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](http://elding.is)



[elding.is](http://elding.is)

EXPLO - www.explo.is

# WE'LL TAKE YOU THERE!

DAY TOURS TO ALL THE MOST EXCITING PLACES IN ICELAND



Book now on [www.re.is](http://www.re.is)

Book now by calling 580 5450

## EXPERIENCE A GREAT DAY WITH US!

Discover all the magical places not to be missed when in Iceland: Beautiful nature, multicoloured mountains, fertile farmlands, stunning views, plummeting waterfalls, natural wonders and geological phenomena.



MORE TOURS AVAILABLE IN OUR BROCHURES AND ON OUR WEBSITE [WWW.RE.IS](http://WWW.RE.IS)



**Reykjavik Excursions**  
KYNNISFERÐIR

BSÍ Bus Terminal • 101 Reykjavík • ☎ +354 580 5400 • [main@re.is](mailto:main@re.is) • [www.re.is](http://www.re.is)



## EXPLORERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC – WELCOME TO A ONCE IN A LIFETIME HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE

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.

SMYRIL LINE • YVIRI VIÐ STROND 1 • P.O. BOX 370 • FO-110 TÓRSHAVN  
TEL +298 34 59 00 • FAX +298 34 59 50 • [OFFICE@SMYRIL-LINE.FO](mailto:OFFICE@SMYRIL-LINE.FO)



ICELAND • FAROE ISLANDS CRUISE

[WWW.SMYRILLINE.COM](http://WWW.SMYRILLINE.COM)



# Tourist information

## Visit Iceland (Íslandsstofa)

Borgartún 35  
IS-105 Reykjavík • Iceland  
Tel.: +354-511-4000  
Fax: +354-511 4040  
E-mail: islandsstofa@islandsstofa.is

## Embassy of Iceland

Hans Street, SW1X 0JE London  
Tel.: (20) 7259 3999  
Fax.: (20) 7245 9649  
E-mail: emb.london@mfa.is

## Information Centers around Iceland (clockwise):

### REYKJAVÍK

**Tourist Information Centre**  
Aðalstræti 2 • IS-101 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-590-1550 / 590-1551  
E-mail: info@visitreykjavik.is  
www.visitreykjavik.is

### WEST ICELAND

**Tourist Information Centre**  
Sólbakki 2 • IS-310 Borgarnes  
Tel./Fax: +354-437-2214 / 437-2314  
E-mail: info@westiceland.is  
www.west.is

### WESTFJORDS

**Tourist Information Centre**  
Aðalstræti 7 • IS-400 Ísafjörður  
Tel./Fax: +354-450-8060 / 456-5185  
E-mail: info@vestfirdir.is  
www.westfjords.is

### NORTH ICELAND

**Tourist Information Centre**  
Varmahlíð • IS-560 Varmahlíð  
Tel.: +354-455-6161  
E-mail: info@skagafjordur.is  
www.visitskagafjordur.is

**Tourist Information Centre**  
Menningarhúsið Hof  
Strandgata 12 • IS-600 Akureyri  
Tel./Fax: +354-553-5999 / 553-5909  
E-mail: info@visitakureyri.is  
www.nordurland.is

### EAST ICELAND

**Tourist Information Centre**  
Kaupvangur 10  
P.O. Box 144  
IS-700 Egilsstaðir  
Tel./Fax: +354-471-2320 / 471-2315  
E-mail: east@east.is • www.east.is

### Tourist Information Centre

Ferjuleiru 1  
IS-710 Seyðisfjörður  
Tel.: +354-472-1551 / 861-7789  
E-mail: ferdamenning@sfk.is  
ferjuhus@simnet.is  
www.seydisfjordur.is

### SOUTH-EAST ICELAND

**Tourist Information Centre**  
Hafnarbraut 30  
IS-780 Höfn (Hornafjörður)  
Tel.: +354-478-1500  
E-mail: tourinfo@hornafjordur.is  
www.visitvatnajokull.is

### SOUTH ICELAND

**Tourist Information Centre**  
Sunnmörk 2-4 • IS-810 Hveragerði  
Tel./Fax: +354-483-4601 / 483-4604  
E-mail: tourinfo@hveragerdi.is  
www.south.is

### SOUTH-WEST

**Tourist Information Centre**  
Krossmóar 4 • 230 Keflavík  
Tel.: +354-421-3520 / 893-4096  
E-mail: info@visitreykjanes.is  
www.visitreykjanes.is

### Tourist Information Centre

Leifur Eiríksson Terminal  
IS-235 Keflavík Airport  
Tel.: +354-425-0330  
E-mail: touristinfo@sandgerdi.is



# Transportation

## HOW TO GET TO ICELAND BY AIR

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

Approximate flight times from continental Europe 3-3 1/2 hours

Approximate flight times from US East Coast 5-6 hours

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

**Summertime only:** Barcelona, Bergen, Berlin, Stavanger, Dusseldorf, Madrid, Milan and Munich

**Addresses of Icelandair offices:**  
www.icelandair.com

**Iceland** – Icelandair head office  
IS-101 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-505-0100 / 505-0150  
E-mail: iceland@icelandair.is

**UK & Ireland** – Adam House  
2nd Floor, 1 Fitzroy Square  
London W1T 5HE  
Tel.: +44 (0) 84 4811 1190  
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7874 1001  
E-mail: uk@icelandair.is  
www.icelandair.co.uk

**Iceland Express** is a low-fare carrier that maintains regular scheduled flights to Iceland from the following cities: London (Gatwick and Stansted airports), Copenhagen, Berlin, Warsaw and New York.

**Summer:** Aalborg, Alicante, Barcelona, Basel, Billund, Bologna, Boston, Chicago, Frankfurt (Hahn airport), Friedrichshafen, Gothenburg, Geneva, Krakau,

Milano, Luxembourg, Oslo, Rotterdam, Paris, Warsaw and Winnipeg.

**Winter (selected dates):** Innsbruck and Alicante.

Iceland Express also operates flights (summer-time only) between Copenhagen and Akureyri.

**Iceland Express head office:**  
Efstaland 26 • IS-108 Reykjavík  
Tel.: +354-5-500-600  
Fax: +354-5-500-601  
E-mail: info@icelandexpress.is  
www.icelandexpress.com

### International call center

Tel.: +354-550-0600

### Call centre in the United Kingdom

Tel.: +44-(0)-118-321-8384

## 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./Fax: +298-345-900 / 345-950  
E-mail: booking@smyrilline.fo  
www.smyrilline.com

## DOMESTIC TRANSPORTATION – BY AIR

**Air Iceland** offers domestic flights to and from Reykjavík to: Ísafjörður, Egilsstaðir and Akureyri. Also flights



from Iceland to Greenland and Faroe Islands. For further information please contact the following:

#### **Air Iceland**

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

**Eagle Air** offers scheduled flights to Westman Islands, Höfn in Hornafjörður, Sauðárkrúkur, Bíldudalur and Gjógur. Eagle Air also offers variety of Day tours and Air Tours of Iceland's pure nature – check out the website for further information.

#### **Eagle Air**

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

#### **CHARTER SERVICE:**

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

#### **Air Iceland**

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

#### **DOMESTIC TRANSPORTATION – FERRIES**

##### **Baldur Ferry**

Smiðjustigur 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**

BSÍ Bus Terminal  
IS-200 Kópavogur  
Tel./Fax: +354-580-5400 / 564-4776  
E-mail: main@re.is • www.re.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  
www.grayline.is

##### **Hópbílar hf.**

Melabraut 18 • IS-220 Hafnarfjörður  
Tel./Fax: +354-599-6000 / 599-6001  
E-mail: hopbilar@hopbilar.is  
www.hopbilar.is

##### **COACH HIRE:**

##### **Guðmundur Jónasson Ltd**

Borgartún 34 • IS-105 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-511-1515 / 511-1511  
E-mail: gjtravel@gjtravel.is  
www.gjtravel.is

##### **SBA – Norðurleið**

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**

Hesthals 10 • IS-110 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-587-6000 / 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**

Suðurhraun 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**



## 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 Snorri  
Hotel Edda Laugar in Sælingsdalur  
Hotel Edda Akureyri  
Hotel Edda Eiðar  
Hotel Edda ÍKÍ Laugarvatn

Hotel Edda Laugarbakki  
Hotel Edda M.L. Laugarvatn  
Hotel Edda Egilsstaðir  
Hótel Edda Ísafjörður  
Hotel Edda Nesjaskóli  
Hotel Edda Neskaupstaður  
Hotel Edda Skógar  
Hótel Edda Stórutjarnir  
Hótel Gígur – Kea Hotel  
The Old Guesthouse Ísafjörður

#### **Three stars:**

CenterHotel Klöpp  
CenterHotel Þingholt  
Country Hotel Anna  
Fosshotel Baron  
Fosshotel Húsavík  
Fosshotel Lind  
Fosshotel Reykholt  
Fosshotel Vatnajökull  
Guesthouse Staðarskáli Country hotel  
Hotel Björk – Keahotel  
Hotel Borgarnes  
Hotel Edda Plus Akureyri  
Hotel Edda Plus Laugar in Sælingsdalur  
Hotel Edda Plus Vík í Mýrdal  
Hotel Frón  
Hotel Harpa – Keahotel  
Hotel Hellissandur  
Hotel Höfn

Hotel Ísafjörður  
Hotel Natur  
Hotel Norðurland – Keahotel  
Hotel Ólafsvík Hring Hotels  
Hotel Rauðaskriða Country hotel  
Hotel Reykjavík – Reykjavík Hotels  
Hotel Tindastóll  
Hotel Þórshamar  
Icelandair Hotel Flúðir  
Icelandair Hotel Hamar  
Icelandair Hotel Hérað  
Icelandair Hotel Klaustur  
Metropolitan Hotel  
Park Inn Island  
Sel Hotel Mývatn  
Sveinbjarnargerði Sveitahótel

#### **Four stars:**

CenterHotel Skjaldbreið  
Grand Hotel Reykjavík – Reykjavík Hotels  
Hilton Reykjavík Nordica  
Hotel Borg  
Hotel Kea – Keahotel  
Hotel Keflavík  
Icelandair Hotel Flughotel  
Icelandair Hotel Loftleiðir  
Hotel Óðinsvé  
Hotel Rangá Allseason Hotels  
Hotel Reyhlið  
Radisson SAS Hotel Saga  
Radisson SAS 1919

### **HOTEL CHAINS**

#### **CenterHotels**

Skjaldbreið, Klöpp, Thingholt, Arnarhvoll and Plaza. 413 rooms in 5 first-class hotels in the heart of Reykjavík's city centre  
**Central Booking Office:**  
Aðalstræti 4 • IS-101 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-595-8500 / 595-8511  
E-mail: reservations@centerhotels.is  
www.centerhotels.com

#### **Fosshotels – all around Iceland**

A chain of 11 friendly tourist class hotels all around Iceland  
**Central Booking Office:**  
Sigtún 38 • IS-105 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-562-4000 / 562-4001  
E-mail: sales@fosshotel.is  
www.fosshotel.is

#### **Icelandic Farm Holidays**

A chain of 150 farms with 4,000 beds; country hotels and guesthouses all around Iceland  
**Central Booking Office:**  
Síðumúli 2 • IS-108 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-570-2700 / 570-2799  
E-mail: ifh@farmholidays.is  
**Online bookings**  
www.farmholidays.is



### Reykjavík Hotels

Sigtún 38 • IS-105 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-514-8000 / 514-8030  
E-mail: info@reykjavikhoteis.is  
www.reykjavikhoteis.is

### Keahotels Iceland

Six hotels in key locations. Hótel Borg & Hótel Björk in Reykjavík city, Hótel Kea, Hótel Harpa & Hótel Norðurland in Akureyri and Hótel Gígur by Lake Mývatn

#### Head office:

Tel./Fax: +354-460-2050 / 460-2070  
E-mail: keahotels@keahotels.is  
www.keahotels.is

### Park Inn Island ★★

Ármúli 9 • IS-108 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-595-7000 / 595-7001  
E-mail: sales.reykjavik@rezidorparkinn.com  
www.parkinn.com/hotel-reykjavik

### Radisson BLU 1919 Hotel,

#### Reykjavík ★★★★★

Pósthússtræti 2 • IS-101 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-599-1000 / 599-1001  
E-mail: info.1919.reykjavik@RadissonBLU.com  
www.radissonBLU.com/1919hotel-reykjavik

### Radisson BLU Saga Hotel ★★★★★

Hagatorg • IS-107 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-525-9900 / 525-9909  
E-mail: sales.saga.reykjavik@radissonblu.com  
www.radissonblu.com/sagahotel-reykjavik

### HOTELS IN REYKJAVÍK

#### Hotel Borg ★★★★★

Character with style. Built in 1930 and restored to its original Art Deco style in 2008, the four star Hotel Borg is a showcase of sophistication

Pósthússtræti 9–11

IS-101 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-551-1440 / 551-1420  
E-mail: hotelborg@hotelborg.is  
www.hotelborg.is

### Hótel Hafnarfjörður

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

### GUESTHOUSES IN REYKJAVÍK

#### Guesthouse Borgartún

Borgartún 34 • IS-105 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-511-1500 / 511-1511  
E-mail: gjtravel@gjtravel.is  
www.gjtravel.is

### ACCOMMODATION OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

#### Hótel Keflavík ★★★★★

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

#### Hnjótur Guesthouse

Hnjótur near the Museum, Örylgshöfn • IS-451 Vesturbyggð  
Tel.: +354-456-1596 / 892-8024  
E-mail: info@hnjoturtravel.is  
www.hnjoturtravel.is

#### Country Lodge Arnanes

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

### Hótel Selfoss

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

### Hótel Bláfell ehf

Sólvellir 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

Síðumúli 2 • IS-108 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-570-2700 / 570-2799  
E-mail: ifh@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: +354-553-8110 / 588-9201  
E-mail: info@hostel.is  
www.hostel.is

### CAMPING

#### Þakgil – Camping Ground and Cabins

Between Höfðabrekkuafréttur and Mýrdalssandur, 20 km from Vík in Mýrdalur.  
Tel./Fax: +354-893-4889 / 487-1555  
E-mail: helga@thakgil.is  
www.thakgil.is

### SUMMERHOUSES AND COTTAGES

#### Höfn Camping and Cottages

Hafnarbraut 52 • IS-780 Höfn  
Tel./Fax: +354-478-1606 / 478-1607  
E-mail: camping@simnet.is  
www.campsite.is

#### Icelandic Holiday Homes

Austurholti 8 • IS-310 Borgarnes  
Tel.: +354 695 3366  
info@icelandicholidayhomes.com  
http://icelandicholidayhomes.com

#### Viator Summerhouses

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

## 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: at@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  
www.grayline.is

#### Guðmundur Jónasson Travel

Borgartún 34 • IS-105 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-511-1515 / 511-1511  
E-mail: gjtravel@gjtravel.is  
www.gjtravel.is

#### Erlingsson Naturreisen

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

#### Iceland Encounter

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

#### Icelandic Mountain Guides /

#### Iceland Rovers

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

#### Iceland ProTravel United Kingdom Ltd.

The Courthouse • Erfstadt Court  
Denmark Street • Wokingham  
RG40 2YF Berkshire  
Tel.: +44-(0)118-979-1248  
E-mail: eli@icelandprotravel.co.uk  
www.icelandprotravel.co.uk  
www.fjordfishing.co.uk

#### Iceland Travel

Skútvogur 13A • IS-104 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-585-4300 / 585-4390  
E-mail: sales@icelandtravel.is  
www.icelandtravel.is  
www.icelandtotal.com

#### Icelandic Farm Holidays

Síðumúli 2 • IS-108 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-570-2700 / 570-2799  
E-mail: ifh@farmholidays.is  
www.farmholidays.is

#### Isafold Travel

(Small Groups – Great Experience)  
Suðurhraun 2b • IS-210 Garðabær  
Tel./Fax: +354-544-8866 / 544-8869  
E-mail: info@isafoldtravel.is  
www.isafoldtravel.is



**H**  
HÓTEL  
★★★★★  
2011  
Férbæmalistofa / Icelandic Tourist Board

As described in more detail in the Practical Information section of this brochure, Iceland has a classification system for accommodation. Star ratings are included in the listings and advertisements where available.

[www.visiticeland.com](http://www.visiticeland.com)

**HÓTEL REYNIHLÍÐ  
MÝVATN**







...your home by Lake Mývatn !




[www.myvatnhotel.is](http://www.myvatnhotel.is)  
tel. +354 464 4170 bookings@myvatnhotel.is

**A CLOSER  
VIEW**  
...from a distance

## Helicopter Tours

Depart from Reykjavík Airport and enjoy a bird's-eye view of Reykjavík. You can fly to the northern and southern extremes of the capital area, with extensive views over lava fields and volcanic craters.

An experience you will **never** forget.

**heli.is**

For info, booking and reservation please contact :  
info@heli.is | Tel. +354 562 2500

## 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.

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.

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.



Season Calendar Events and Activities	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Hiking	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Biking					•	•	•	•	•			
Whale Watching					•	•	•	•	•			
Skiing		•	•	•								
Dog Sledding	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Jeep Safaris	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Snowmobiles	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Golf					•	•	•	•	•			
Glacier Safaris			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Bird Watching			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
River Rafting					•	•	•	•	•			
Horseback Riding	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Fishing – Trout and Salmon				•	•	•	•	•	•			
Fishing – Deep-Sea					•	•	•	•	•			
Outdoor Swimming	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
The 13 Santa Clauses of Iceland												•
Midnight Sun					•	•	•					
Northern Lights	•	•	•						•	•	•	•
The Ten Million Puffins					•	•	•	•				
Horse and Sheep Roundups								•	•			
Hot Springs and Geysers	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Symphony – Ballet – Opera	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•
Jazz	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Theatres	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kayaking				•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Marathons							•	•				
Reykjavik Arts Festival					•							
Folk Festival							•					
Gay Pride Festival								•				
Jazz Festival		•			•			•				
Iceland Airwaves										•		
Film Festival									•			
Hidden World Walks					•	•	•	•	•			
Thorablót Festival		•										
Sightseeing Flights	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Reykjavik Culture Festival								•				
Food & Fun Festival		•										

**Icelandic Holiday Homes**  
Best value accommodation

**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](http://www.icelandicholidayhomes.com)  
[info@icelandicholidayhomes.com](mailto:info@icelandicholidayhomes.com)

### **IH-Travel**

Sörlaskeið 26 • IS-220 Hafnarfjörður  
Tel./Fax: +354-555-7000 / 555-7001  
E-mail: info@ishestartravel.is  
www.ihttravel.is

### **Nordic Travel**

Stangarhýlur 1 • IS-110 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-550-0700 / 552-9450  
E-mail: info@nordictravel.is  
www.nordictravel.is

### **Nordic Visitor**

Laugavegur 26 • IS-101 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-578-2080 / 511-2443  
E-mail: iceland@nordicvisitor.com  
www.nordicvisitor.com

### **Puffin Express**

Geirsgata • Verbúð 6  
IS-101 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-892-0099 / 456-6699  
E-mail: info@puffinexpress.is  
www.puffinexpress.is

### **Reykjavík Excursions**

Vesturvör 34 (head office)  
IS-200 Kópavogur  
Tel./Fax: +354-580-5400 / 564-4776  
E-mail: main@re.is • www.re.is

### **Terra Nova Iceland**

Skógarhlíð 18 • IS-105 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-591-9010 / 591-9001  
E-mail: sales@terranova.is  
www.terranova.is

### **Timi Tours**

Borgarholtsbraut 42  
IS-200 Kópavogur  
Tel./Fax: +354-578-7111 / 578-7111  
E-mail: timi@timi.is • www.timi.is

### **The Icelandic Travel Company**

Fiskilóð 20 • IS-101 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-533-1160 / 533-1166  
icelandholidays@icelandholidays.is  
www.icelandholidays.is

### **Volcano Tours**

Flaggus • Víkurbraut 2  
IS-240 Grindavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-426-8822 / 426-8809  
E-mail: volcanotours@volcanotours.is  
www.volcanotours.is

## **EXCURSIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Air Iceland –**

#### **Fly and discover Day tour**

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

### **Blue Lagoon geothermal spa**

IS-240 Grindavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-420-8800 / 420-8801  
E-mail: bluelagoon@bluelagoon.is  
www.bluelagoon.com

### **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  
www.grayline.is

### **Norðurlug Helicopter Service in**

#### **Iceland**

Kringlan 4–6, 7th fl • IS-103 Reykjavík  
Tel.: +354 562 2500 / 5-900 8810  
E-mail: info@nordurflug.is  
www.nordurflug.is

### **Reykjavík Excursions**

Vesturvör 34 (head office)  
IS-200 Kópavogur  
Tel./Fax: +354-580-5400 / 564-4776  
E-mail: main@re.is • www.re.is

### **SBA – Norðurleið**

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

### **Volcano Tours**

Flaggus • Víkurbraut 2  
IS-240 Grindavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-426-8822 / 426-8809  
E-mail: volcanotours@volcanotours.is  
www.volcanotours.is

## **DOLPHIN AND WHALE-WATCHING**

### **Elding Reykjavík Whale Watching**

Ægisgarður 7 • Reykjavík Harbour  
IS-101 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-555-3565 / 554-7420  
E-mail: elding@elding.is  
www.elding.is

### **Húsavík Original Whale Watching with North Sailing**

Gamli baukur • IS-640 Húsavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-464-7272 / 464-2351  
E-mail: info@northsailing.is  
www.northsailing.is

### **Life of Whales Whale Watching**

Suðurbúg • IS-101 Reykjavík  
Tel.: +354-562-2300 / 897-8433  
E-mail: hvalalif@hvalalif.is  
www.hvalalif.is

### **Puffin Express**

Geirsgata • Verbúð 6  
IS-101 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-892-0099 / 456-6699  
E-mail: info@puffinexpress.is  
www.puffinexpress.is

## **BIRDWATCHING**

### **Erlingsson Naturereisen**

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

### **Puffin Express**

Geirsgata • Verbúð 6  
IS-101 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-892-0099 / 456-6699  
E-mail: info@puffinexpress.is  
www.puffinexpress.is

### **Seatours**

Smiðjustígur 3  
IS-340 Stykkishólmur  
Tel./Fax: +354-433-2254 / 438-1050  
E-mail: seatours@seatours.is  
www.seatours.is

## **HIKING**

### **Erlingsson Naturereisen**

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

### **Icelandic Mountain Guides /**

#### **Iceland Rovers**

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

## **HORSEBACK RIDING**

### **Íshestar Riding Tours**

Sörlaskeið 26 • IS-220 Hafnarfjörður  
Tel./Fax: +354-555-7000 / 555-7001  
E-mail: info@ishestar.is  
www.ishestar.is

## **SKIING**

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

## **CYCLING**

### **Reykjavík Bike Tours**

Hringbraut 105 • IS-107 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-694-8956  
E-mail: bike@icelandbike.com  
www.reykjavikbiketours.is

## **FISHING AND ANGLING**

### **FishIceland**

Gauksás 27 • IS-221 Hafnarfjörður  
Tel.: +354-899-4247  
E-mail: info@fishiceland.com  
www.fishiceland.com

## **SEA ANGLING**

### **Puffin Express**

Geirsgata • Verbúð 6  
IS-101 Reykjavík  
Tel./Fax: +354-892-0099 / 456-6699  
E-mail: info@puffinexpress.is  
www.puffinexpress.is

### **Seatours**

Smiðjustígur 3  
IS-340 Stykkishólmur  
Tel./Fax: +354-433-2254 / 438-1050  
E-mail: seatours@seatours.is  
www.seatours.is

## **GOLF**

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

## **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.visitreykjavik.is, www.sundlaugar.is and www.vatnavinir.is

**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.

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										
	Reykjavík	Borganes	Stykkishólmur	Ísafjörður	Sauðárkrúkur	Akureyri	Egilsstaðir	Höfn	Vík	Selfoss
Reykjavík (B4)		74	172	457	319	389	698	459	187	57
Borganes (B4)	1 hr		98	384	246	315	580	519	246	117
Stykkishólmur (B3)	2:10 hrs	1 hr		390	295	363	628	617	345	215
Ísafjörður (B1)	6:30 hrs	5:30 hrs	5:30 hrs		498	567	832	902	630	500
Sauðárkrúkur (D2)	4 hrs	3 hrs	4 hrs	6:30 hrs		119	384	631	492	362
Akureyri (D2)	4:45 hrs	3:45 hrs	4:30 hrs	7:30 hrs	1:30 hrs		265	512	561	432
Egilsstaðir (G3)	8:45 hrs	7:15 hrs	7:45 hrs	11 hrs	5 hrs	3:20 hrs		247	511	640
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	
The highlands (km)										
Landmannalaugar	205									148
Hveravellir	203	236				208				163
Nýdalur	274					136				217
Herðubreiðarlindir	580					191	192			





**Hertz**

**At your service for 40 years in Iceland**

Environmentally friendly | Quality service  
Over 30 rental and service stations | Safe cars  
24/7 emergency service | 40 years experience

Book on [www.hertz.is](http://www.hertz.is)  
Your discount code is: **ICE2011**

Hertz Car Rental  
Flugvallarveg 5  
101 Reykjavík, Iceland

Call: +354 522 44 00  
Visit: [www.hertz.is](http://www.hertz.is)  
E-mail: [hertz@hertz.is](mailto:hertz@hertz.is)

*We are the Car Rental Experts in Iceland*

# Groups

## Coach Rental

# Day Tours

## Activities



**Icelandexcursions**  
GRAY LINE ICELAND

+354 540-1313 / [iceland@grayline.is](mailto:iceland@grayline.is)  
[www.grayline.is](http://www.grayline.is)

Tour Operator  
Approved by  
Icelandic Tourist Board

Gray Line



**PUFFIN WATCHING** **5 TIMES DAILY**  
100% viewing success!

**WHALE WATCHING** **4 TIMES DAILY**  
Get there faster – spend more time whale watching!

**SEA ANGLING** **EVERY DAY at 18:00**  
BBQ on board or keep your catch!

**PUFFIN EXPRESS**

Special Tours  
Reykjavik  
Old Harbour  
+354 892 0099

For online booking and more information visit [puffinexpress.is](http://puffinexpress.is)

PRAXTBYVA - SÍA - 101999



**AIR ICELAND**

[www.airiceland.is](http://www.airiceland.is)

# Fly and discover

Air Iceland is your West Nordic airline, a customer-driven service company responsible for scheduled domestic flights and flights from Iceland to the Faroe Islands and Greenland. Air Iceland offers a variety of day tour packages, in Iceland and to Greenland, which include flight, bus transfer and guidance. All these magical locations are but a short, comfortable flight from Reykjavik. **Come fly with Air Iceland**



**2 or 5 hour Evening Tour**  
**Beyond the Arctic Circle**  
→ Grímsey



**12 hour Day Tour**  
**Birds and Blue Waters**  
→ Ísafjörður



**12 hour Day Tour**  
**Highlights of the North**  
→ Mývatn

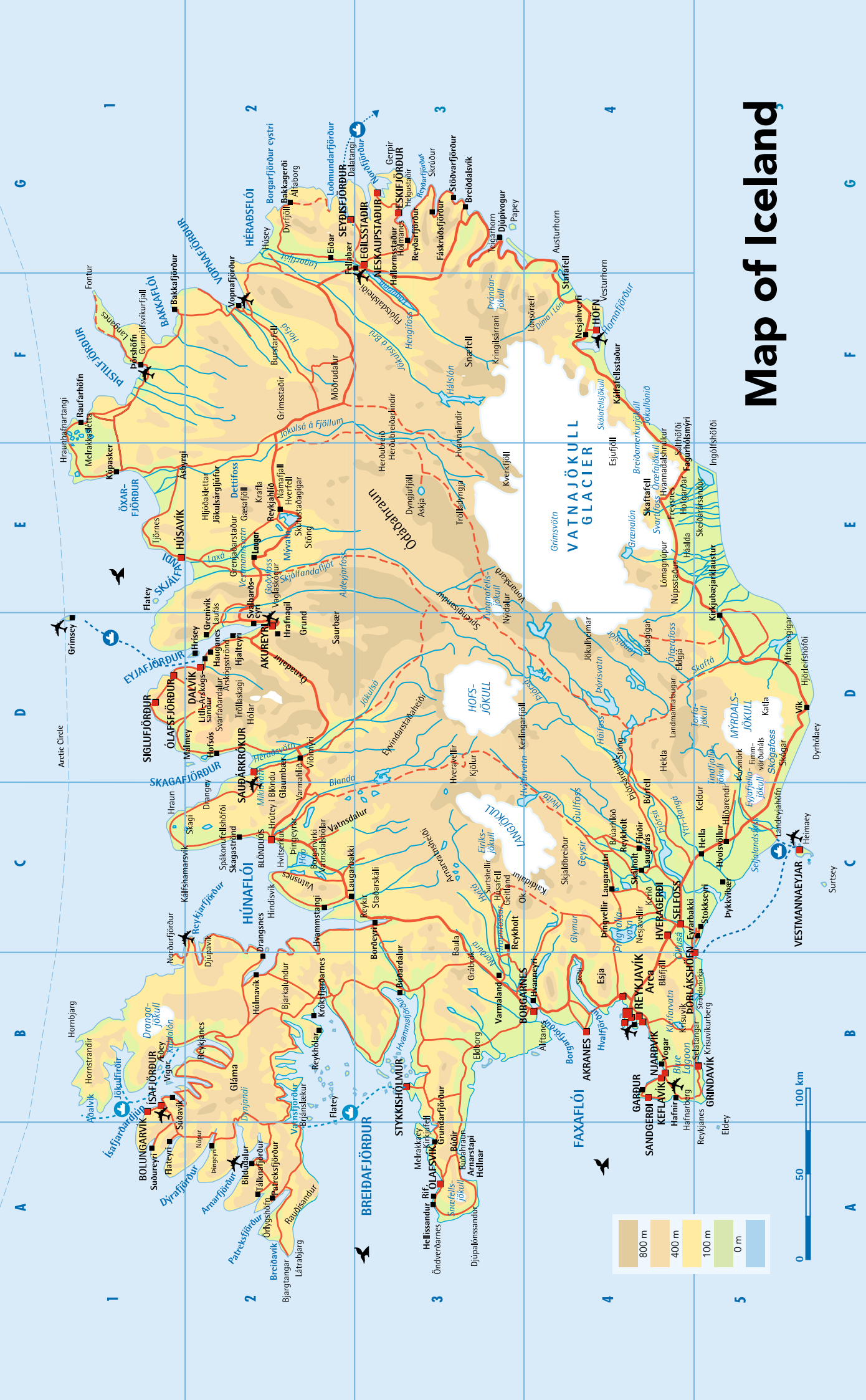


**8 hour Day Tour**  
**Remarkable Greenland**  
→ Greenland – Kulusuk



Contact Air Iceland or travel agent for reservation.

[websales@airiceland.is](mailto:websales@airiceland.is) / tel. +354 570 3030 / fax. +354 570 3040



# Map of Iceland

## Index to Tourist Attractions

Asbyrgi	E2	Gullfoss	E2	Jökulsá-canyon	C4	Jökulsárlón	A3	Reykjavík	G2	Reykholar	B2	Pingvellir	C4
Blue Lagoon	B4	Helnar	E2	Jökulsárlón	E2	Mt. Snæfell	E4	Reynisdrangar	F3	Reynisdrangar	D5	Þorsmörk	D5
Dettifoss	E2	Hljóðaklettur	B4	Kirkjubæjarklaustur	D2	Mt. Kirkjufell	E4	Skaftafell	F3	Skaftafell	E4	Þorsmörk	C4
Dyrhólaey	C4	Hornstrandir	B1	Krísuvík	B1	Mt. Herðubreið	B4	Skálholt	E2	Skálholt	C4	Þorsmörk	C4
Goðafoss	E2	Örnskiöld	C2	Krísuvíkurborg	C2	Mývatn	B5	Skogafoss	E2	Skogafoss	D5	Þorsmörk	C5
				Látrabjarg		Námaskarð	A2	Vestmannaeyjar	E2	Vestmannaeyjar			



All different  
all excellent  
for any and every occasion



go to [www.reykjavikhoteles.is](http://www.reykjavikhoteles.is) for reservations



REYKJAVIK  
HOTELS

Reykjavik Hotels / Sigtún 38  
105 Reykjavik / Iceland  
Tel: +354 514 8000



Your comfort  
is our business

**REYKJAVÍK:**

Fosshótel Baron  
Fosshótel Lind  
Fosshótel Suðurgata  
Garður Guesthouse

**WEST ICELAND:**

Fosshótel Reykholt

**NORTH ICELAND:**

Fosshótel Dalvík  
Fosshótel Laugar  
Fosshótel Húsavík

**EAST ICELAND:**

Fosshótel Vatnajökull  
Fosshótel Skaftafell

**SOUTH ICELAND:**

Fosshótel Mosfell

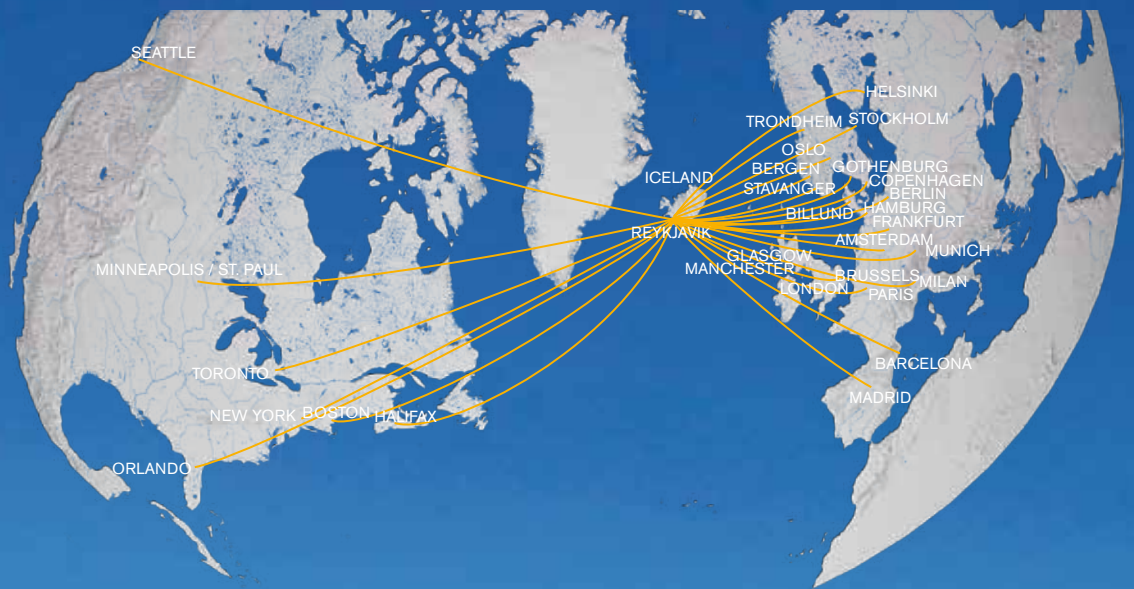
WE ARE  
READY FOR  
YOUR VISIT

Book now at [www.fosshotel.is](http://www.fosshotel.is)



FOSSHOTEL  
AROUND ICELAND

FOSSHOTEL / SIGTÚN 38 / 105 REYKJAVÍK  
ICELAND / TEL.: +354 562 4000 / FAX: +354 562 4001  
E-MAIL: [sales@fosshotel.is](mailto:sales@fosshotel.is)



# YOUR ICELAND EXPERIENCE BEGINS WITH ICELANDAIR

WE OFFER DIRECT SCHEDULED FLIGHTS FROM  
THE UK TO ICELAND, THE STATES AND CANADA.  
CHOOSE ICELANDAIR FOR GREAT COMFORT AND SERVICE  
– NOT TO MENTION ICELANDIC HOSPITALITY!

Your Iceland adventure begins the minute you step onboard an Icelandair aircraft and take in the unique atmosphere. You are guaranteed a warm reception and friendly service in the time-honoured Icelandic tradition.

We've been flying passengers to Iceland for more than 60 years, making us uniquely qualified to provide truly enjoyable flights to this one-of-a-kind, mid-North Atlantic island. What's more, our aircraft feature spacious, high-quality seats, ample legroom and an in-flight entertainment system for the enhanced enjoyment of each passenger.

Experience Iceland with Icelandair!

+ Further information at [www.icelandair.co.uk](http://www.icelandair.co.uk)



**ICELANDAIR**  
WWW.ICELANDAIR.CO.UK

