B R E A ADVENTURES

STINGUM AF



ÆVINTÝRAFERÐIR FRÁ ÍSAFIRÐI
Bátsferðir í Jökulfirði og á Hornstrandir
Gönguferðir og kajakferðir við allra hæfi
Gisting á eyðibýlinu Kvíum í Jökulfjörðum
Gisting í fullbúnum tjaldbúðum í Hornvík
Skipulagning sérferða fyrir stóra sem
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SKrímslasetrið Bíldudal The Icelandic Sea Monster Museum

Kaffihús • Léttar veitingar • Minjagripaverslun



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ATTRACTIONS



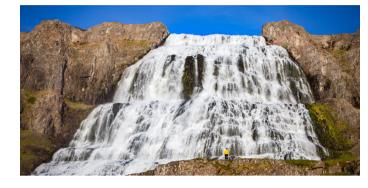
1 LÁTRABJARG CLIFFS

The cliffs of all cliffs, Látrabjarg, are home to birds in unfathomable numbers. This westernmost point of Iceland is really a line of several cliffs, 14 kilometres long, up to 441 km high and as steep as it gets, dizzyingly so. Safe from foxes, the birds are fearless and provide stunning photographic opportunities from a close range. Bird photography for dummies, you might say. The puffins are particularly tame and are the ones frequenting the grassy, higher parts of the cliffs from June until mid August. But look out, the edges are fragile and loose and the fall is high, don't be silly, stay safe and respect the birds' territory.

Látrabjarg is thus deservedly one of the most visited tourist attractions in the Westfjords. The cliffs are easily accessible by car and when you're there, a walk along the cliffs awaits. The whirling sensation will not fade, and neither will the memories.

Along the way to Látrabjarg is the Museum of Egill Ólafsson at Hnjótur that displays a unique collection of old items from the Southern Westfjords. The museum shows the history of fishing, farming and everyday life in the area.

An exhibition about the rescue of the British trawler Dhoon, that stranded at Látrabjarg in 1947, is found at the museum as well as an attractive cafeteria and tourist information center.



2 DYNJANDI WATERFALL

Simply enthralling; The Westfjords' favourite front-page model for decades, never short of breathtaking. The biggest and widest part of the waterfall is the one that gets all the attention and the photos, even though there are impressive, albeit smaller, waterfalls further down the river.

There are guided tours available from Ísafjörður and Patreksfjörður for those wanting a little extra.

To enjoy, follow this simple step-by-step manual:

1. Stop your car at the parking lot.

- 2. Walk all the way up to the biggest part of the waterfall, it takes about 15 minutes.
- 3. Take a deep breath and enjoy the surroundings.
- 4. Whenever ready, go back down to the car.
- 5. Tick off this article and continue working your way through the check-list.



3 RAUĐASANDUR

Rauðasandur, (Red Sand), is precisely that: a beach with endless red sand. Well, not endless, but 10 km is a lot.

The magnificent hues of the sand differ with daylight and weather, and the beach is the biggest pearl in a string of coves with sand ranging in colours from white through yellow through red to black, and in coarseness from very fine to sole-hurting chips of seashells. Just pure sand enlivened by countless seabirds and seals, an oasis with unique tranquillity. Forget everything, except maybe getting the perfect shot of the ever-changing hues of yellow, orange and red.

Here's just pure sand and unique tranquillity. You might want to step out of the car, get the camera out and start walking on the seemingly endless beach. Not up for a walk? Why not enjoy a cup of coffee at the French café and look at the spectacular view were Snæfellsjökull glacier in Snæfellsnes peninsula imperiously rivets your attention in the background.



4 HORNSTRANDIR

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

Its main attractions are three. First, the bird cliffs surrounding the bay of Hornvík, are a magnet of gigantic proportions. On the eastern side of the bay the cliff reaches a height of more than 500 metres, and the birds are teeming. Second, the sense of remoteness and lack of modern infrastructure allows for the authentic off the grid feel. The nature is pure and the tranquillity unmatched. Third, as the area is a haven for the Arctic fox (think hunting-ban and bird-packed cliffs), the chances of spotting one are high.

Boat tours depart from Ísafjörður and Norðurfjörður.



5 ÁRNESHREPPUR

Árneshreppur is one of the smallest communities in Iceland, but comprises a large area. The inhabitants earn their income by raising sheep, but in recent years, tourism has grown in importance.

Stunning landscape, proximity to the natural elements and rich fauna are the area's main attractions. Additionally, the area and community are steeped in history, such as of the Icelandic sagas, witch-hunts, herring adventures and folklore. A boat connects Norðurfjörður to Hornstrandir, perfect for hikers and those wanting to marvel the area from the sea.

Tourism has in the last few years seen a remarkable upswing. Travellers can camp in several places and choose from a variety of other accommodation choices. Kaffi Norðurfjörður (you guessed it, kaffi is both café and coffee) and Hótel Djúpavík offer an array of local food. In Djúpavík, a herring factory closed down in the 50's has been honoured by an exhibition about its history. At Kört, local handcrafts and history are combined. Other services are available as well, such as a grocery store, a filling station and a unique swimming pool by the seaside







6 GEOTHERMAL POOLS

Public swimming pools can be found in almost every town and village of the Westfjords. Opening hours are usually long, the entrance cheap and more often than not there is a hot tub or two for those who prefer relaxing to swimming. Natural geothermal pools can also be found all over in the region, relaxing in one of them is a fantastic way to end a day of sightseeing. A strict etiquette applies in the public pools of Iceland. Guests are required to wash thoroughly without swimsuits before and after entering the swimming pools. These rules can usually be bent when bathing in the natural pools though, as these often lack both changing rooms and showers.

TRAVELLING WITH KIDS

HEY KIDS THIS IS FOR YOU!

Travelling with adults can be such a nuisance. They usually pretend to know everything and then end up making all the wrong decisions. It is a universal fact that the best way to ruin a perfect vacation is to leave the adults in control. Hence, we decided to provide you with a toolkit for the struggle ahead. Read the following text and use the recommendations there to battle the bad ideas from the old folks in the front seats.



SANDY BEACHES

Iceland is not exactly known as the land of golden beaches - unless, of course, you're going to the Westfjords. The area has almost half of Iceland's coastal line and you will quickly realize that white and golden beaches are not uncommon.

The Barðaströnd coastline, Rauðasandur, Breiðavík, Hænuvík, Ketildalir coastline, Önundarfjörður and Norðurfjörður are amongst the spots where you can find beautiful beaches to

Although it is not recommended to try swimming in the ice-cold sea, building castles and creating sculptures of sand is great fun for all generations. So too, is collecting shells and looking for signs of intellectual life, such as worms, starfish and



BIRD

You saw a picture of a puffin in one of the travel books or brochures before you came to Iceland, right? And after you arrived, you quickly had the pleasure of meeting an arctic tern in person, right? But there are more birds, so many more, and here in the Westfjords you have found the best possible place to get to know them. The Reykhólar area is probably the best bird-watching site in Iceland, the home to around 60 different types of birds, including the white-tailed eagle. Látrabjarg and Hornbjarg are amongst the biggest bird cliffs in the North-Atlantic, the islands Vigur and Grímsey are puffin colonies without comparison.

The list goes on and on. How about a small competition? Which family member sees the most types of birds during your stay in the Westfjords? The winner gets the window seat on the flight back home!

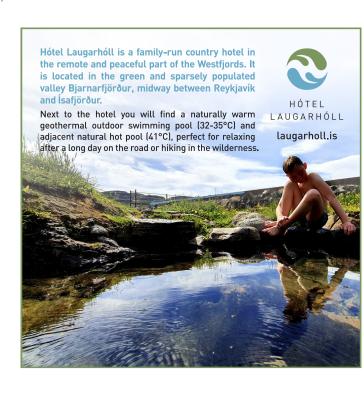


MUSEUMS

Boring, boring, right? Absolutely - except for the museums in the Westfjords! Here we have all the museums that the scholars and adventurers of the future could possibly want to see: Learn about the king of birds at the White-Tailed Eagle Centre in Króksfjarðarnes (near Reykhólar), go to Hnjótur Museum (near Látrabjarg) to learn about the amazing rescue operation that saved a crew from a stranded ship under the severe cliffs of Látrabjarg, or go to the Sea Monster Museum in Bíldudalur to learn about the strange creatures that have been following you for the past few days. Aspiring artists should not miss Samúel Jónsson's sculptures in Selardalur, while the future engineers might prefer at the Old Mechanic Workshop in Þingeyri. The Ósvör Museum in Bolungarvík and the Maritime Museum in Ísfjörður offer a rare insight into the lives of the fishermen of earlier centuries. You can get up close and personal with the arctic fox at the Arctic Fox Museum in Súðavík and learn some true stories about magic at the Museum of Icelandic Sorcery and Witchcraft in Hólmavík. These are just a few examples, there are many more museums in the area so if you are fortunate enough to

experience one of those rare rainy days in the Westfjords,

use it wisely and visit as many museums as you possibly can.





ACTIVITIES



ENJOY LOCAL PRODUCE

If you like tasting local food while travelling we have some foodie hints for you.

The Westfjords were built up around fishing and the seafood industry, make sure you don't leave the region before trying some of our fresh delicious fish. The Westfjordians are also very proud of their lamb, some say it has a hint of ocean taste due to its pastures being so close to the sea. And if you would like to add some more taste, try salting your food with some of the locally harvested sea salt flakes. Both Norðursalt and Saltverk use the geothermal heat in the region to harvest salt flakes from the ocean, they also offer a range of flavoured salt, for example liquorice salt – definitely a must try!

More recent additions to our local cuisine are the mouthwatering chocolate, Sætt og Salt, made in Súðavík and Westfjords local brews from Dokkan brugghús.



BREATH

Park your car in one of the many stopping places along the road, please don't stop or park on the side of the road. We know the surroundings are scenic and views to die for, but we prefer you don't! Parking on the side of the road is very dangerous, both for you and others driving along the winding scenic roads.

Now, back to the breathing. Park your car in a safe place, walk a couple of hundred meters away from the car, sit down on a rock and breathe. Take in the noise of nothing. Just you, chirping birds and prickling fresh streams. Fill up your water bottle from the nearest stream and listen carefully, if lucky you might catch the sound of a spouting whale or the call of an Arctic fox.

HOW TO GET TO THE WESTFJORDS

Detailed updated information is available on www.westfjords.is or via phone +354 450 8060. **By plane**

The quickest way to get to the Westfjords is by air. The flight from Reykjavík only takes around 40-50 minutes, depending on which of the three airports you are travelling to:

Ísafjörður: The flight is operated by Icelandair. Please visit icelandair.is for further information. **Bíldadalur:** The flight is operated by Norlandair. Please visit norlandair.is for further information. **Gjögur:** The flight is operated by Norlandair. Please visit norlandair.is for further information.

By car: The Westfjords are within an easy driving distance from the

Reykjavík-Hólmavík: 233 km (roads no 1, 60 and 61: Reykjavík-Hvalfjörður tunnel-Borgarnes-Bifröst-Búðardalur-Hólmavík) all asphalt roads.

Reykjavík-Reykhólar: 228 km (roads no 1, 60 and

607: Reykjavík- Hvalfjörður tunnel-Borgarnes-Bifröst-Búðardalur-Reykhólar) all asphalt roads. **Reykjavík-Patreksfjörður:** 392 km (roads no 1, 60 and 62: Reykjavík- Hvalfjörður tunnel-Borgarnes-Bifröst-Búðardalur-Reykhólar-Flókalundur-Patreksfjörður)

asphalt roads 365 km, gravel roads 24 km. **Reykjavík-Ísafjörður (via Hólmavík):** 455 km (roads no 1, 60 and 61: Reykjavík-Hvalfjörður tunnel-Borgarnes-Bifröst-Búðardalur-Hólmavík-Ísafjörður) all asphalt roads **Reykjavík-Ísafjörður (via Dynjandi):** 420 km (roads 1, 60: Reykjavík-Hvalfjörður tunnel-Borgarnes-Bifröst-

Búðardalur-Flókalundur-Dynjandi-Ísafjörður) asphalt

roads 363 km, gravel roads 57 km.

Road Administration Information Line, tel.: (+354) 1777
Road Administration Information Webpage: www.road.is
Important: This information is valid for summer only, as
some roads are closed during other seasons. If driving to the
Westfjords during autumn, winter or spring, always contact
the Road Administration for information on open roads and
road conditions.

Emergency number: 112

By bus:

Reykjavík-Hólmavík: Strætó (www.bus.is).
Reykjavík-Stykkishólmur (connection to ferry Baldur)
Strætó (www.bus.is).
Buses within the Westfjords area: See www.westfjords.is.

By ferry:

The **car ferry Baldur** operates between Stykkishólmur and Brjánslækur via Flatey. For schedule, prices and other information please see www.seatours.is.









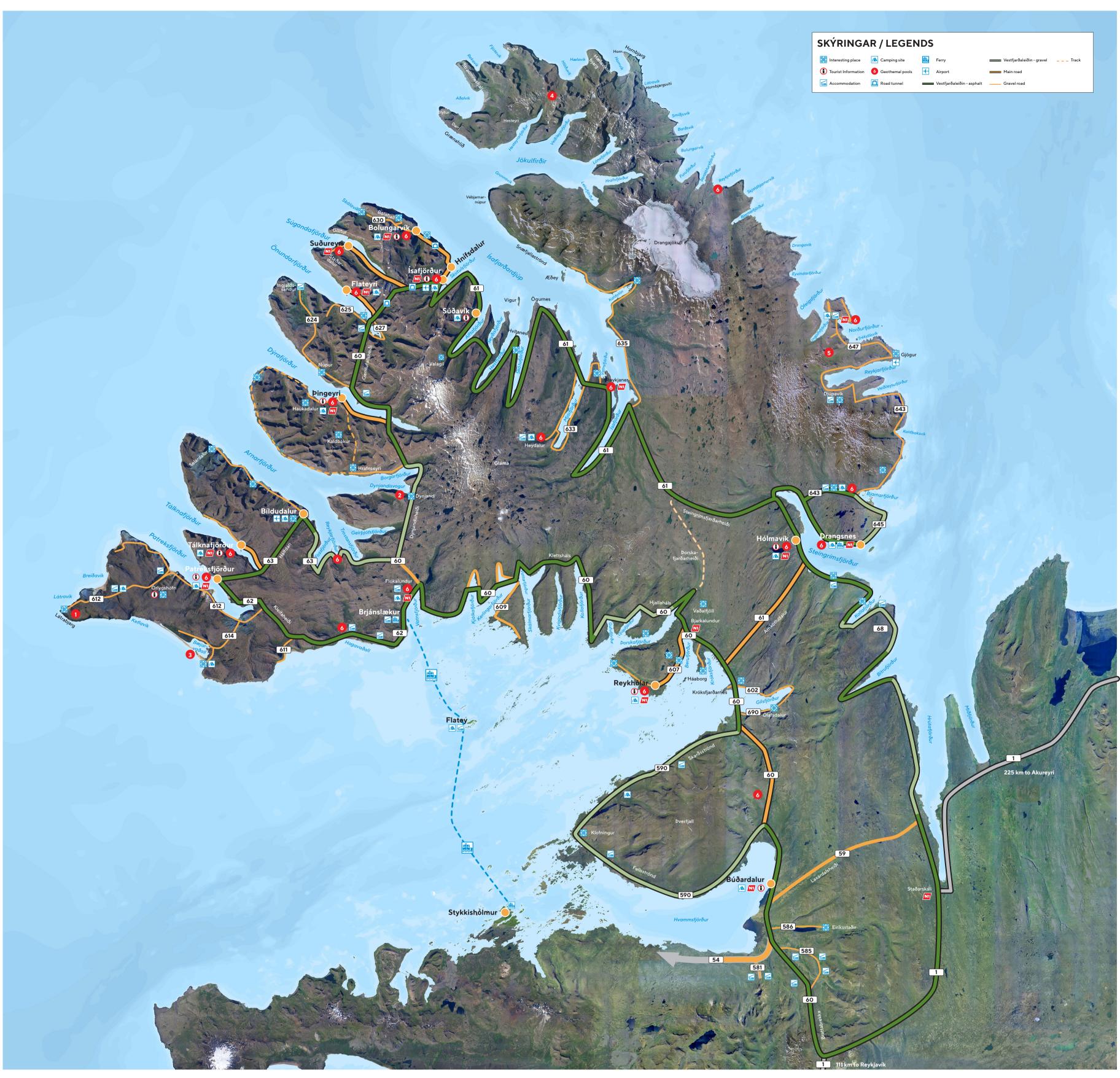
#Fishermanlceland

Share your Westfjords experience.

How about escaping the 21st century for a while?

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VESTFJARÐALEIÐIN

Vestfjarðaleiðin er ný ferðamannaleið um Vestfirði og Dalina sem opnaðist við opnun Dýrafjarðarganga í október 2020. Leiðin er um 950 km með einstökum áningarstöðum og upplifunum.

Vestfjarðaleiðin er nær en margar grunar, aðeins eru 111 km frá Reykjavík inn á leiðina sem er því aðgengilegur og áhugaverður valkostur fyrir ferðaþyrsta. Auðvelt er að kanna króka og kima svæðisins, upplifa óspillta náttúru og víðerni eða lenda á spjalli við Jón og Gunnu í einni af fjölmörgum laugum sem á vegi þínum verða. Hvort sem þú ætlar að keyra leiðina alla eða hluta hennar, þá hvetjum við ferðalanga til þess að stoppa og njóta alls þess sem svæðið hefur upp á að bjóða. Hér gildir svo sannarlega orðatiltækið; Njóta, ekki þjóta!

Vestfirðirnir eru einn elsti hluti landsins, mótaðir af umróti ísaldar fyrir 10 þúsund árum síðan. Djúpir firðir og skörðótt fjöll með dölum og láglendi hafa þannig mótast af náttúruöflunum líkt og íbúar svæðisins sem hafa tileinkað sér eigin lífsfærni í takt við kröfur náttúrunnar. Það er Vestfjarðaleiðin.

Vestfjarðaleiðin er samstarfsverkefni Vestfjarðastofu og Vesturlandsstofu.

Fyrir frekari innblástur eða upplýsingar kíkið á www.vestfjardaleidin.is



ICELAND'S NEW TOURING ROUTE

Look at a map of Iceland and you will see a hand that stretches out from the North West towards Greenland. That's the Westfjords. Vestfjarðaleiðin is the spectacular driving route that navigates a grand 950 km circle around the edges of this breathtaking peninsula, twisting and turning along fingers of land and occasional mountain passes, revealing grand vistas which take your breath away.

Vestfjarðaleiðin #TheWestfjordsWay is a new project developed by Visit Westfjords and Visit West Iceland inspired by the popularity of touring routes around the world. It brings together the best the area has to offer into a new experience for visitors who want to discover the real Iceland away from the crowds further south, to spend time exploring the landscape, nature and the way of life.

Vestfjarðaleiðin (Icelandic for TheWestfjordsWay and pronounced 'Vest-fyar-tha-lay-thin') is a dramatic driving route which makes for a memorable road trip. It is a real driving experience, twisting and turning, occasionally along gravel roads and through tunnels, giving visitors the freedom to choose where to stop and explore – at viewpoints, mountain tops, beaches or headlands.



Visitors can wander round the traditional towns and villages that punctuate the route, stay in understated hotels and unpretentious family run guest houses, eat some of the best fish and wild-roaming lamb anyone will ever taste, and share the Icelander's love of coffee and cake at cafés and bakeries that pop-up just when you least expect them.

Vestfjarðaleiðin is immense and immersive. The visitor is surrounded by the elements – water most of all – sea, rivers, waterfalls, hot pools and of course rain. You can see, feel and taste the weather all around you. Your eye can discern an infinite palette of blues in the sea, sky and mountains. You can get close to the wildlife – whales, seals, puffins and other seabirds abound. And most of all you are drawn into the character and charm of the place through its people – natural storytellers who are willing to share their sagas, myths and very personal stories of their place, their history and their lives.

Vestfjarðaleiðin #TheWestfjordsWay is truly unforgettable. At any time of year.

For inspiration and further information please visit www.vestfjardaleidin.is



For people who are keen to discover new places and get off the beaten track, the route can be followed independently through self-drive or in small groups. This is about slow tourism based on sustainable experiences sharing the way of life of people who have lived here for generations. Vestfjarðaleiðin offers eight types of experience to help visitors explore the route:

Drive Highlights Stopping points, viewpoints and diversions; locations where the views are impressive and the driving experience is boast-worthy. Examples include: the pass between Hrafnseyri and Þingeyri; the road around Klofningur; Arnarneshamar Tunnel; and the Neshringur loop

Quirky experiences. Unique and unexpected places, museums, eating places, attractions and places to stay. Examples include: Samúel Jónsson Sculptures; Museum of Sorcery & Witchcraft; The Old Book Store; The Sea Monster Museum.

Tours to iconic sites, remote hot pools and places to savour the northern lights. Best experienced with qualified guides. Examples include: Hornstrandir Nature Reserve; Látrabjarg Cliffs; Rauðasandur with its seals and beach pods; Hvammsfjörður; Hvítanes Seal colony.

Getting wet. Hot pools, beaches, waterfalls, kayaking, whale watching. Examples include: hot pools Guðrúnarlaug and Hellulaug; Dynjandi Waterfall; boat tours to watch the whales and cliff birds; kayaking in Ögur and Ísafjörður.

Taking the air. Head up towards the sky to viewpoints, mountain passes, hiking routes/ tours and winter skiing. Examples include: Bolafjall; Kleifabúi statue at Kleifaheiði Pass; Dynjandi waterfall; the experience of flying into Ísafjörður; winter skiing; having a guide take you into the wild; hiking up to the Trolls seat, Naustahvilft or hike the old road to Bolungarvík.

Stories. The sagas, longhouses, museums and events. Examples include: Hnjótur Museum; Heydalur Guesthouse; Eiríksstaðir Viking Museum; Eldsmiðjan Iron making; Ósvör Maritime Museum; Jón Sigurðsson Museum.

Taste the place. The best eating places, coffee stops, excellent restaurants serving local produce and farm shops. Examples include: Erpsstaðir Dairy; Fisherman, Suðureyri; Tjöruhúsið; Restaurant Galdur; Sætt og Salt; Dokkan Brugghús; cafes such as Kaffi Sól, Litlibær, Simbahöllin; as well as Saltverk and Norðursalt.

Instagrammable icons. Evocative and emotive places, views and experiences that capture the essence of Vestfjarðaleiðin. Examples include: the aircraft at Hnjótur; Garðar BA64 Steel Ship; the red roofed A-frame sheep hut in Arnarfjörður; Puffins, Whales, Seals and Arctic.

Published by: Visit Westfjords in cooperation with the Westfjords Tourist Information

Please have in mind:
This map is designed to help finding travel services in the Westfjords.
The majority of the road system in the Westfjords are paved roads. Nevertheless there are gravel roads to be found throughout the region. These roads are maintained all summer long by the Icelandic Road Administration and are kept in good condition. Please contact the Icelandic Road Administration (tel. 1777) to ensure the roads conditions.

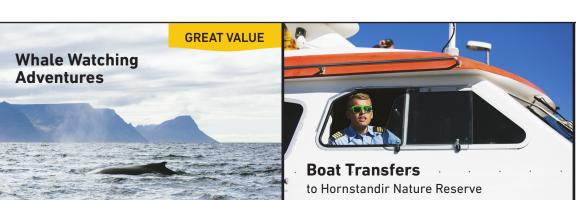
Useful websites: www.road.is & www.safetravel.is



Travel Agency & Tour Operator in Ísafjörður Tel: +354 456 5111, Aðalstræti 7, Ísafjörður westtours@westtours.is, www.westtours.is







West Tours is your local Travel Expert and one stop shop for tours in the Westfjords

Daily departures

Sales office is open all days during the summer from 08.00am to 18:00hrs

See our tour selection at

www.westtours.is