



Westfjords

The Official Tourist Guide

#westfjords



THE WESTFJORDS

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Published by

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www.westfjords.is

travel@westfjords.is, info@westfjords.is

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Ágúst Atlason and others

Please keep in mind:

This guide 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 note that some roads are only open during summertime. For information please contact the Icelandic Road Administration (tel. 1777).

Useful websites:

www.road.is & www.safetravel.is



The Information Centre in Ísafjörður

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About the Westfjords of Iceland!

Hi, there! Let me tell you a little bit about us, the Westfjords of Iceland is a large peninsula at the north western part of Iceland. The Westfjords only has about 7.000 inhabitants and is around 22 km² of size, so even with growing numbers of visitors there is still plenty of space for everyone.

The Westfjords were built up around the fishing industry due to its location close to some of the best fishing grounds in Iceland. We are therefore, settled in many small villages all around the region – and for centuries our lives revolved around fish, fish and some more fish. On your journey you will most likely become aware of this legacy, you might see a fish drying hut alongside the road, you might eat fresh seafood at one of our many restaurants or see our fishermen heading out to sea early in the morning.

This is the segment where we do some bragging, all nine of the municipalities of the Westfjords have joined hands and taken a big step towards sustainability. We are now in a benchmarking process with EarthCheck, an international tourism and environmental management and advisory group. Our focus is becoming an environmentally certified community where we take nature into the account in all our decision making. So we are working on becoming lean, green and sustainable!

In the Westfjords there are endless options for recreation. Are you a nature loving hippie, a family of five, an obsessive birdwatcher or an amateur hiker, we have something right up your alley. Whether it is your dream to pet an arctic fox, hike for three days and see nobody else, run on red sandy beaches or soak in a geothermal hot pool, the Westfjords are the place to make that dream come true.

In this handbook you will find information about the Westfjords of Iceland that hopefully will make your journey even more enjoyable. For further information go to: www.westfjords.is

Welcome to the Westfjords, enjoy your stay and hopefully we'll see you again.

P.S. Hope you will help us spread the word **#Westfjords**



visit

Westfjords

Westfjords Pop. 7.400

The Westfjords region has sometimes been dubbed “the most famous unknown place in Iceland”. Well, throw in the prestigious “European Destination of Excellence” awards and add to that the fact that the Lonely Planet travel guide put the area on its top 10 list of regions in the world to visit in 2011, and you will see that the Westfjords are becoming increasingly famous – or perhaps less unknown.

Lonely Planet, the respected travel guide publisher, placed the Westfjords in its top 10 regions of the world to visit in 2011, saying that the “oddly shaped” peninsula is “as isolated as it is spectacular”. Luckily, “isolated” does not mean inaccessible. With only 7400 inhabitants in the area, each person has around 1,2 km² of personal space, so there is ample room for visitors as well.

Although the locals are great, it is, by and large, the nature that attracts visitors. For understandable reasons as well: it is untouched and almost uninhabited. The cliffs and valleys are packed with birds, the uninhabited fjords offer a moment of silence and tranquillity, and the Arctic fox proudly roams the mountains and inlets. The waterfalls are high and the streams pure. The distances are long and the fjords are deep. And then there are places where there are no roads at all.

The Westfjords are a great place to watch the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) during the winter and equally fantastic to experience the midnight sun during the summer.

Visiting the Westfjords is surely a different experience. It is Iceland, but yet a different Iceland altogether.

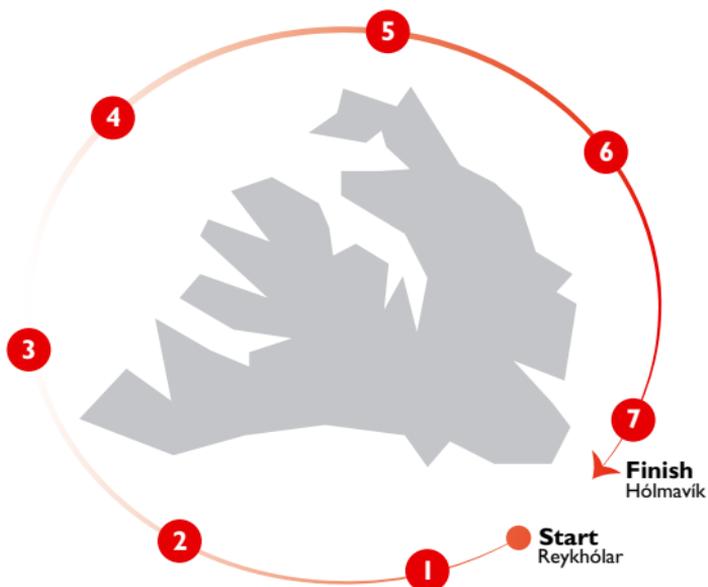
THE WESTFJORDS





Symbols in this book

-  Address
-  Telephone
-  Opening hours
-  E-mail
-  Web page



To help you plan your journey each chapter is organised in geographical order around the Westfjords peninsula as shown by the arrow.

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 taking roughly 40-50 minutes, depending on the destination.

Air Iceland - www.flugfelag.is

Two daily flights to Ísafjörður all year round.

Fly-Bus (airport-Ísafjörður-Bolungarvík)

Valdimar Lúðvík Gíslason, tel.: 892-1417

Eagle Air Iceland - www.eagleair.is

Two flights per week from Reykjavík to Gjógur and six flights per week to Bíldudalur.

Fly-Bus (airport-Bíldudalur-Tálknafjörður-Patreksfjörður)

Torfi Andrússon tel.: 893-2636



By car

Reykjavík to Patreksfjörður - 400km total, 331 km of paved road:

Reykjavík - Hvalfjörður (tunnel) - Brattabrekka (road 60) - Svínadalur - Barðaströnd (road 60) - Flókalundur - Kleifaheiði - Patreksfjörður.

Reykjavík to Ísafjörður - 455 km, paved road:

Reykjavík - Hvalfjörður (tunnel) - Borgarnes - Brattabrekka (road 60) - Svínadalur - Arnkötludalur (road 61) - Steingrímsfjarðarheiði - Ísafjarðardjúp - Ísafjörður.



Reykjavík to Hólmavík - 233 km total, paved road all the way:

Reykjavík - Hvalfjörður (tunnel) - Borgarnes - Brattabrekka (road 60) - Svínadalur - Amkötuldalur (road 61) - Hólmavík.



By bus

A public bus service runs between Reykjavík and Ísafjörður with connection to Akureyri.

All year:

Reykjavík-Hólmavík and vice versa.

For schedules and stops see www.straeto.is.

June, July & August:

Reykjavík-Stykkishólmur-Brjánslækur (with ferry Baldur)-Ísafjörður and vice versa. Connection to Patreksfjörður and Látrabjarg.

Reykjavík-Hólmavík-Ísafjörður and vice versa.

For schedules and stops see www.sterna.is.



By boat

The **car ferry Baldur** operates between Stykkishólmur, Flatey and Brjánslækur. Summer: two departures per day from June 10th to August 26th. Winter: One departure every day, except Saturdays.

Visit www.seatours.is for more information.

THE WATERTRAIL

The WaterTrail **Pure - Wild - Wellness**

The WaterTrail (Vatnavinir Vestfjarða) leads you along tourist destinations, with natural geothermal pools and hot springs. In these places in the Westfjords, sustainable wellness tourism is being developed. The WaterTrail is in the process of building new and preserving old natural hot springs in rural locations with emphasis on the therapeutic effects of thermal baths.



The Westfjords have many hidden gems, among them plenty of natural or partially man-made hot springs in remote locations. The abundance of natural warm water and a rich history have created a unique outdoor bathing culture in direct contact with nature. The origin of the bathing pools is geothermal water that flows directly and constantly from the ground. In summer our visitors can enjoy the romantic midnight sun in the wilderness, and in winter lying in a warm pool watching the northern lights is also an unforgettable experience. The perfect travel adventure is when thermal bathing is integrated and enriched with culture and outdoor activities in natural environment. Keep an eye on us at www.watertrail.is.

Vatnavinir
VESTFJARÐA





Tag your photos
#westfjords





INFORMATION CENTRES

1 - Westfjords Regional Information Center



Aðalstræti 7, 400 Ísafjörður



info@vestfiridir.is



+354 450-8060



www.westfjords.is

2 - Reykhólar Information Center



Maríutröð, 380 Reykhólahreppur



info@reykholar.is



+354 434-7830 & +354 894-1011



www.visitreykholahreppur.is

3 - Hnjótur Local Information Center



Minjasafn Egils Ólafssonar, 451 Patrj



museum@hnjotur.is



+354 456-1511



www.hnjotur.is

4 - Patreksfjörður Tourist Centre



Aðalstræti 62, 450, Patreksfjörður



info@westfjordsadventures.com



+354 456-5006 & +354 690-8025



www.westfjordsadventures.com

5 - Dunhagi



Sveinseyri, 460, Tálknafjörður



dagnyalda62@gmail.com



+354 662-0463



6 - Simbahöllin Café



Fjarðargata 5, 470 Þingeyri



simbahollin@gmail.com



+354 899-6695



www.thingeyri.is

6 - Þingeyri District Information Center



Hafnarstræti 5, 470, Þingeyri



thingeyri@thingeyri.is



+354 456-8304 & +354 891-6832



www.thingeyri.is

7 - Suðureyri Information Center



Aðalgata 15, 430 Suðureyri



info@sudureyri.is



+354 450-9000



www.sudureyri.is

8 - Bolungarvík District Information Center



Vítastígur 1, 415 Bolungarvík



touristinfo@bolungarvik.is



+354 450-7010 & +354 891-7504



www.westfjords.is

9 - Súðavík The Arctic Fox Center



Eyrardalur, 420 Súðavík



info@melrakki.is



+354 456-4922



www.melrakki.is

10 - Hólmavík District Information Center



Höfðagata 8-10, 510 Hólmavík



info@holmavik.is



+354 451-3111



www.holmavik.is/info

12 - Kjörbúðin Óspakseyri



Bræðrabrekka, 500 Stað



kjorbudin@hotmail.com



+354 451-3310



Borea Adventures

Borea Adventures is based in Ísafjörður, the capital of the Westfjords of Iceland. The company is run by climbers, skiers, and kayakers that love what they do.

Our priority is to guarantee our guests an enjoyable experience in perfect harmony with the environment that supports our business. Each guided trip is rooted in our lust for adventure and the natural world.

Our respect for the environment inspires us to share these unforgettable experiences with our guests. We use this inspiration to encourage fellow adventures to experience something they could only dream of.

Borea Adventures offers a great selection of guided adventure tours in the Westfjords of Iceland. Whether it's exciting day trips, great home-made lunch boxes for your adventure, or good times with your friends at our coffee house, welcome to the Borea Experience.

Contact information on page 102.



West Tours

West Tours works in cooperation with nearly all service suppliers in the Westfjords peninsula and is certainly the bureau to contact if any assistance with your travel plans is needed.

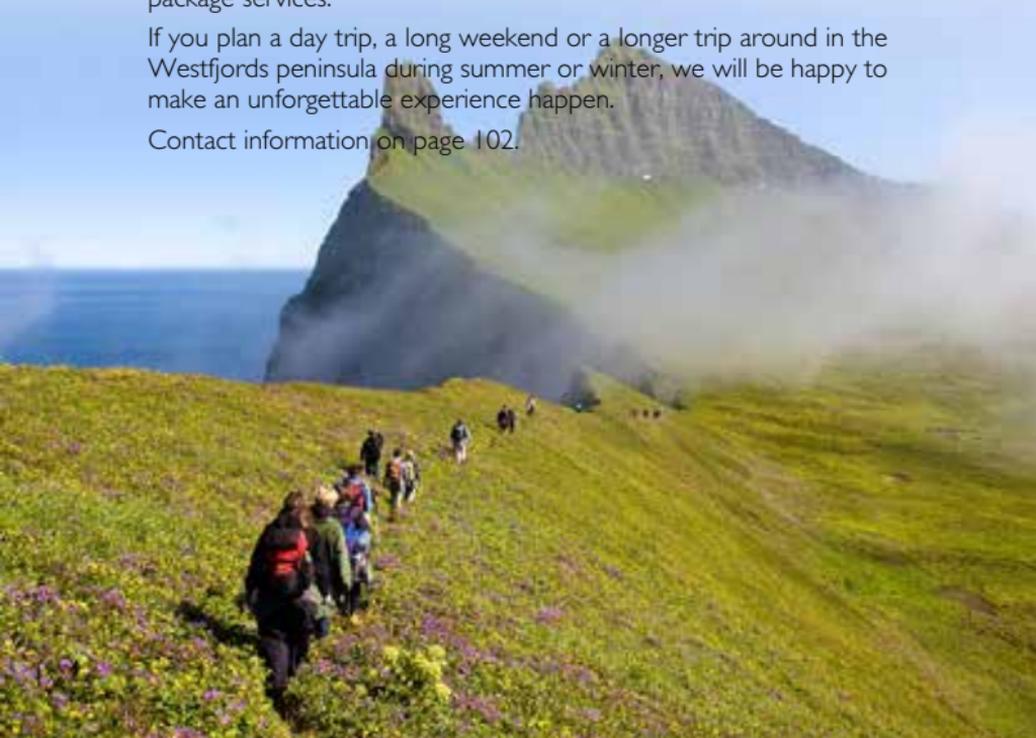
Our tours and services help you – individuals or groups - discover the magnificent Westfjords of Iceland and we can arrange all services needed: transportation, accommodation and recreation.

Activities we offer in 2014

ATV tours, bike rentals, bird watching, horseback riding, hikes and walks, kayaking tours of any type, local food tastings, northern light tours, Rib-boat safaris, scooter rentals, sea angling, sightseeing tours by car or boat, whale watching, winter activities and many kinds of package services.

If you plan a day trip, a long weekend or a longer trip around in the Westfjords peninsula during summer or winter, we will be happy to make an unforgettable experience happen.

Contact information on page 102.



Kagrafell

Kagrafell is a new travel agency, launching its operations in Ísafjörður summer 2011.

Among other things Kagrafell offers a bike rental and bookings for miscellaneous tours, accommodation and transportation in the Westfjords, but its main focus is on organized hiking tours, both day tours and longer ones, within the Homstrandir Nature Reserve.

Kagrafell also offers a new RV camping ground in Ísafjörður close to downtown Ísafjörður and all major services.

Contact information on page 118.



Svaðilfari - Real Horseback Expeditions

Svaðilfari is based at Laugarholt in Ísafjarðardjúp and offers 7-10 days horse treks through the spectacular landscape of the Westfjords. Local guides with years of experience and local knowledge follow the group of maximum 10 persons. Horse expedition with Svaðilfari is not only a chance to leave the civilisation behind, but also an opportunity to experience breathtaking wilderness of the Westfjords. With Svaðilfari one can experience the magic of Iceland in a very special way.

Svaðilfari offers circular tours around the magnificent Drangajökull glacier where ancient routes over mountain passes and through abandoned farmland are followed, rivers and fjords are crossed, soaked in hot springs and trekked across the Drangajökull glacier.

Contact information on page 125.



Wild Westfjords

Wild Westfjords specialises in customised Iceland holidays with a focus on the spectacular Westfjords region. We pride ourselves on flexible solutions and personal customer service. We arrange anything from complete Iceland holiday packages to individual day tours. Private and/or small group experiences are very important themes in almost all our itineraries.

We also operate private super jeep sightseeing tours from Isafjordur. These tours are available year round and a great way to efficiently explore the highlights of the Westfjords in a comfortable jeep with an experienced local driver guide.

Contact information on page 103.



Sagnaslóð - Riding Iceland

Dreaming of riding in Iceland? You have come to the right place.

Riding Iceland follows the saga trails in the footsteps of the great saga heroes on our soft multi-gaited and hardy saga horses. We drive a flock of loose horses with us while we learn about historic sights, hear exciting stories and songs about the heroes, trolls, elves and outlaws of ancient Iceland.

The magnificent and wild Westfjords, is home to the saga of Gísli Súrsson and we can't wait to show and tell you more!

Contact information on page 99.



Westfjords Adventures

Westfjords Adventures, based in Patreksfjörður, offers various travel services and leisure activities in the scenic, spectacular and picturesque Southern Westfjords. We organize guided tours to Látrabjarg cliff, Rauðasandur beach, Dynjandi waterfall and other scenic places in the area.

We offer guided bus tours, super jeep tour, hiking tour, bicycle tours, panoramic boat trips, sea angling tours, seal and whale watching tours, bike rental and car rental.

We tailor our services to the interest of different travelers; nature lovers, photographers, birdwatchers, wildlife spectators, hikers, bikers, adrenaline kickers, sea anglers and those seeking to inhale the tranquility of unspoiled nature. We would be happy to design various packages tailored to your requirements.

Our goal is to enrich your stay in the Southern Westfjords and make it most enjoyable.

Contact information on page 86.



Theme-Travel

Theme-Travel operates mainly in the Strandir district, the eastern part of the Westfjords peninsula.

We are a local independent company run by an ecologist and a historian and our service is based on extensive knowledge of our area, about the nature, the history and the people.

The Strandir area offers a variety of walks and other outdoor activities in a peaceful and unspoilt environment.

Our tours give you a good insight into the local folklore, history and nature.

We can offer walks from the arctic coast, with interesting Siberian driftwood, up to the highland plateau and down into lush green valleys. Sailing out to Grímsey, where thousands of puffins nest, is another opportunity, or trying sea angling, and of course every traveller will have to experience the numerous warm pools.

Theme-Travel organize custom-made tours, both for groups and individuals, their interests and ideas are our guiding light when planning the perfect trip for you at your own pace.

Contact information on page 135.



Aurora-Arktika

Aurora-Arktika grew out of our passion for playing outdoors. Our love for the wild and beautiful lands of the Arctic and the North Atlantic led us to explore further on foot, on skis, by kayak and under sail.

Onboard our expedition sailboat Aurora you gain access to some of the most remote and captivating places alongside expert guidance for backcountry skiing, kayaking, hiking, photography, wildlife watching and any other activity you may be looking for.

The Aurora offers the additional benefit of returning to a warm and dry boat where you can relax at the end of a great day exploring the Arctic. Gourmet meals from tasty and wholesome local ingredients will give you the energy needed for your outdoor activities.

In March to May we do backcountry skiing in the beautiful Homstrandir wilderness area. In June and July we do kayaking, hiking and wildlife trips in Iceland's Westfjords as well as expeditions to the island of Jan Mayen. In August and September we are in east Greenland. All trips based onboard Aurora.

Contact information on page 105.





Road
606

Reykhólar

If you are interested in bird-watching, the small village of Reykhólar is the perfect hub. The sea closest to shore is very shallow and with a high tidal range. These conditions, combined with the marshes and ponds found inland create a bountiful biota and a perfect environment for a rich bird life.

In Reykhólar you can enjoy a new and unique exhibition, dedicated to the various gifts of nature in the Breiðafjörður area and their utilization by farmers and fishermen. One of them is the eider duck, providing the celebrated eiderdown, collected and refined here for centuries. The traditional wooden boats built and used in Breiðafjörður Bay are also displayed here. In Grund near Reykhólar you find antique tractors and in Seljanes there is a collection of vintage cars.

The village is also famous for its kelp factory, the only factory in Iceland that processes seaweed. The products are used in food, animal fodder, fuel, fertilizers and for medicinal purposes, to name just a few.



Patreksfjörður

The biggest town in the southern region of Westfjords is Patreksfjörður and it is situated in a fjord bearing the same name. The fjord got its name from its first settler, whose spiritual guide was St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Somewhat fittingly it was in this fjord that the first potatoes were cultivated in Iceland in the 18th century. Early in the 20th century, Patreksfjörður was a pioneering force in Iceland's fishing industry, initiating trawler fishing. Still today the chief occupation is commercial fishing and fish processing.

Patreksfjörður is also a service centre for the southern region with a hospital, bank, post office, pharmacy, swimming pool with excellent sport facilities and various other services, such as restaurants, cafés, craft galleries and gift shops. Just a few km outside town is an excellent golf course as well as many challenging hiking trails.



Tálknafjörður

Tálknafjörður is a friendly village in the southern part of the Westfjords, with a population of approximately 300. For centuries, most of the locals made their living from fishing, and they still do of course, but in order to diversify its economy, the town now welcomes large groups of tourists every year, the biggest attraction being sea angling.

In the northern part of the fjord, hot water springs from the earth. This pure energy is used for fish farming and heating the swimming pool. Bonuses to this geothermal activity are natural hot pools located just outside the village. There is nothing better after a long day on the road, than to glide down into the warm water and enjoy the stunning beauty of the surrounding mountains. Various hiking trails can be found on either side of the fjord, many of them old riding paths, used to cross the surrounding mountains and heaths.



Bíldudalur

Bíldudalur is an beautiful little village that enjoys some of the best summer weather in the Westfjords. Due to its position, the sea breeze rarely reaches the town, making it an excellent place to hang out on sunny days.

The largest industry in town is a sea mineral plant that processes calcified red seaweed, harvested from the seabed, mainly used in animal feed, hygiene and fertiliser products.

Although the population of this picturesque village is only about 200, music and culture have thrived there for decades. Therefore it should be no surprise that there are two museums found in the village. The Icelandic Sea Monster Museum opened in 2009, offering an action-packed multimedia display of the local tales of sea monsters, which have played a colourful role in Icelandic folk culture for centuries. Melodies of the Past is a peculiar music museum in town, exhibiting Icelandic musical memorabilia.



Road
60

Pingeyri

Pingeyri is a small village situated on a spit of land in one of Iceland's most scenic fjords, Dýrafjörður. Like in most other seaside villages in Iceland, the culture and industry has been shaped by the sea throughout the centuries. Pingeyri provides various services to the surrounding countryside as well as to its visitors; a small shop, post office, bank and a swimming pool at the local sports hall.

Simbahöllin is a homely café, specializing in Belgian waffles, set in a beautifully renovated old Norwegian house from 1915. Another point of interest is the oldest functioning mechanic workshop in Iceland, established in the year 1913.

Pingeyri is the home of a Viking project, hosting a Viking festival every summer.

One of Iceland's most scenic golf courses is just a stone's throw from Pingeyri, with the Westfjords Alps as a backdrop, including the highest mountain of the peninsula, Kaldbakur (998 metres).



Flateyri

Flateyri has been a trading post since 1792 and saw its heyday in the 19th century when it was home to a fleet of decked vessels and the base for shark-hunting and whaling operations. With its fishing industry grinding to a halt, Flateyri, like so many other fishing villages, is dependent on tourism in the summer months; the majority of visitors being sea anglers from Europe. Kayaking is also a popular activity for tourists.

The old bookshop has been turned into a museum where the history of the village is displayed. Visitors can also buy second hand books and visit an old merchant's home. An international doll museum can also be found in Flateyri.

A small shop, bank, post office and a pub provide visitors with all the basic services.

There is a nice sandy beach on the other side of the fjord, and although the sea might be colder for bathing than most people prefer, the sand is great for building sand castles.



Suðureyri

Suðureyri is a traditional, yet eco-conscious fishing village that is pioneering a new concept that draws visitors into the daily work life of the village. That's what I'm taking a break from!", you might say. However, a change is often as good as a break and an opportunity to try or just take a look at something you would never normally get to do. Whether joining a fishing boat crew, visit the cod in the lagoon or touring a fish-processing factory, these are authentic cross-cultural experiences you're unlikely to forget! Here you will find a village that is working together as a team to provide the visitor with an understanding of their way of life - a life they are justifiably proud to share. Here you can learn about all the steps involved in bringing that delicious fish from the sea to your plate.

All basic services can be found in Suðureyri and the outside swimming pool is one of the most popular in the area on sunny summer days.



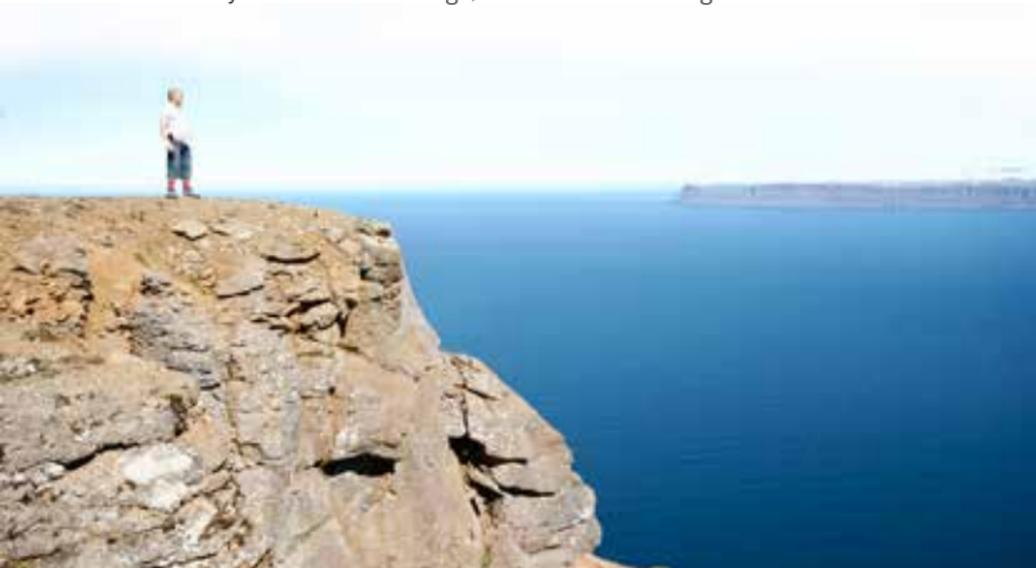
Bolungarvík

Bolungarvík is the northernmost village in the Westfjords, situated on an eponymous cove.

The village has been a fishing port since settlement, so naturally the most popular tourist attraction in Bolungarvík is the Ósvör museum, a fascinating replica of an old fishing outpost. There, the museum curator greets visitors wearing a skin suit similar to the one Icelandic fishermen wore in the 19th century. In addition there is a natural history museum in town that hosts a large geological collection, also an extensive bird and mammal collection, including a polar bear.

Another popular visiting point is the top of Bolafjall Mountain offering a staggering view. There is a road all the way to the top to service the radar station up there. It is open to tourists in the summer months only.

Amenities include a gas station, shops and different types of accommodation, as well as an indoor swimming pool and a sports centre. Just outside the village, there is a nine hole golf course.



Hnífsdalur

Road
61

Hnífsdalur is a small village between Ísafjörður and Bolungarvík. With a population of only 250, most of the inhabitants work in Ísafjörður, which is only about 5 kilometres away.

No actual services can be found in the quiet village, but it is a great place for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts. The deep valley that the village derives its name from is lush and green, with a river winding through it. Multiple hiking trails can be found in the valley and surrounding mountains, both moderate and challenging. Hnífsdalur is easily reached by bus, with multiple departures from Ísafjörður every weekday.

Trivia: The people of Hnífsdalur are a home-loving bunch. So much that a family living in Hnífsdalur built their summerhouse, yes you guessed it, a little bit further up the valley. Why go far if everything you need is near at hand?



Ísafjörður

Road
61

Ísafjörður is the largest town in the peninsula. It is conveniently located between five smaller villages, and being the capital of the area it is the centre of interest in the peninsula.

On the gravel spit that stands out into the fjord, small corrugated houses line the streets. Having a wharf all around the spit is fitting, as fish and seafaring has always been the name of the game. For the tourist, Ísafjörður has a range of services for all budgets and tastes. An array of day tours, both in the wilderness and closer to civilisation, are available, for hikers, paddlers and other outdoorsy types of course, but also for those wanting a leisurely walk in a bird colony or at a museum.

Trivia: all three roads out of town are through tunnels. Iceland's oldest and shortest tunnel connects to neighbouring Súðavík, the newest connects it to Bolungarvík and the longest connects it to both Suðureyri and Flateyri.



Súðavík

The small and friendly fishing village of Súðavík, 20 kilometres from Ísafjörður. Since 1995, when an avalanche destroyed a big part of the village, it has been divided into two parts, the old and the new. The new village was built on a location safe from avalanches, and the old part is kept intact as a summer resort for travellers.

Súðavík is a great place to visit, especially for families. The family garden Raggagarður, is a playground in the heart of the old town. It is created for kids and adults alike, a place where the whole family can spend time together. Another attraction is The Arctic Fox Centre, an exhibition and research centre focusing on the only native terrestrial mammal in Iceland, the Arctic fox. The Arctic Fox Centre also serves as a district information centre.

Iceland Sea angling ehf is the oldest sea angling project of Westfjords. It offers boats and accommodation services in Súðavík, Tálknafjörður and Bolungarvík. The town is an excellent place for hiking and local guide is available for neighbouring routes. Súðavík has two restaurants, a café, nice and quiet camping place, grocery shop, gas station, post office and bank service.

Súðavík municipality is known for its rich Blueberry fields and celebrates the harvest of the summer with the Blueberry festival in August.



Hólmavík

Hólmavík is the largest town in the Strandir region, an area with an exciting and tragic history of witchcraft, witch-hunting and sorcery. Inhabitants in the countryside surrounding Hólmavík live mostly on sheep farming, while economic activity in town revolves around the fisheries and the service sector.

The Museum of Sorcery & Witchcraft takes visitors on a tour into the mystical world of the supernatural. The history of witch-hunting in 17th century Iceland is presented at the exhibition as well as various aspects of magic from more recent sources. A second part of the exhibition, The Sorcerer's Cottage, is in Bjarnarfjörður, 23 kilometres from Hólmavík. The Cottage is a replica of an old turf house where an exhibition gives a glimpse of how a tenant farmer lived in Iceland in the 17th century and what magic he used to make life more tolerable. Next to Hólmavík is also the Sheep Farming Museum, an entertaining exhibition about the Icelandic sheep and sheep farming.

Visitors will find all basic amenities, and more, in Hólmavík. A golf course is to be found not far from town and there's a newly built swimming pool in town. A good Tourist Information Centre is in Hólmavík that serves the whole area. The swimming pool is next to the camping ground and upon the hills by Hólmavík, there are good and marked hiking paths.



Road
645

Drangsnes

Drangsnes is a fishing village, pure and simple. Conveniently located near the fishing grounds, it thrives in its minimalistic ways. In fact, the entrepreneur who runs the local restaurant and one of the guesthouses is a fisherman. He also runs the boat tours to Grímsey. Grímsey island, supposedly formed by a giant trying to dig the Westfjords apart from the rest of Iceland, is the biggest attraction in Drangsnes. The boat ride is only 10 minutes across. Grímsey boasts a rich bird life of puffins, fulmars and an interesting side story of fox farming.

It does not come as a surprise that in this small hamlet, the camping place is just by the municipality's office building, as synergy is always important in small villages. Lastly: although the new swimming pool in town is of top notch quality, the blend-in-with-the-locals way of bathing would be to dip into the small hot pools at the shore.



Borðeyri

This small settlement, once a flourishing trading centre, has seen its population and level of service decline in the last couple of decades. It has a garage and a school, but more importantly for travellers, both a guesthouse and a camping place. As one can imagine, personal service is of high importance there. On the list of must-sees is the oldest house, the Riis-house. It was home to a merchant by the name of; you guessed it, Riis, who lived in Borðeyri in the early 1900s. Other service is provided at the nearby Staðarskáli, at the crossroads between north, west and south.





ATTRACTIONS



Ísafjörður

Road
61

Ísafjörður is an attraction in itself. “A cosmopolitan oasis” according to the Lonely Planet guide book. Take their word for it. Ísafjörður is the tourist hub, the place where many a tourist stocks up and takes the last look at the map before venturing into a trek in Homstrandir wilderness.

Gourmands have a choice of places. The hotel in town has a seasonal variety of local delicacies such as puffins and whales, while the accolade restaurant Tjöruhúsið at the maritime museum is all about fish. There is no menu; the waiter just tells guests the fish offered, depending on what the fishermen caught earlier in the day.

Also, Ísafjörður hosts an impressive array of events, many of whom are world famous. Take the Aldrei fór ég suður music festival, held at Easter, and the European Championship in Swamp Soccer, held in early August. In the latter, a few hundred mad and glad people come together for a muddy competition in dirty tricks.



European Swamp Soccer Championship in Ísafjörður

Suðureyri **The Eco-Friendly Fishing Village**

A large fleet of small boats sails from the harbor to rich fishing grounds nearby all year round. Fishing methods include long-lines and hand-lines and the catch is processed as soon as it is landed. Fancy a guided tour around a hi-tech fish processing plant or go out with the fishing boats?

Suðureyri fishermen strive to practice sustainable, environmentally friendly fishing in complete harmony with nature. By doing this they ensure their own future and their children's future. The village enjoys a supply of geothermal hot water and a hydroelectric power station that provides the residents of the fjord with green electricity. This is how the residents of Suðureyri want to see their village develop. Every visitor should take the opportunity to enjoy some of the village's products in local restaurants.

This traditional yet eco-conscious fishing village is a pioneering model that welcomes visitors into the daily work rituals of Icelandic life. These are the kinds of authentic cross-cultural experiences you're unlikely to forget.



Road
612

Látrabjarg cliffs

The cliffs of all cliffs, Látrabjarg, are home to birds in unfathomable numbers. This westernmost point of Iceland (and Europe if the Azores are not counted) is really a line of several cliffs, 14 kilometres long and up to 441 km high. And it's as steep as it gets, dizzyingly so. Safe from foxes, the birds are fearless, and provide stunning photographic opportunities from close range. Bird photography for dummies, you might say. The puffins are particularly tame and are the ones frequenting the grassy, higher part of the cliffs. But look out, the edges are fragile and loose and the fall is high.

Látrabjarg is thus deservedly the most visited tourist attraction 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.



Dynjandi waterfall

Simply enthralling; The Westfjords' favourite front-page model for decades, and is 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. In fact, one is formed in such a way that the brave can walk behind it, relatively dry. There is a camping place at the site with basic services.

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 through the check-list.



Dýrafjörður and surroundings

Road
60

Dýrafjörður was the Westfjords' most important centre of trade for many centuries, attracting merchants and fishermen from all around Europe and the USA. In the 19th century, the French government even sought to establish its own colony there. Although Dýrafjörður has now lost its former status as a trade-centre, it still attracts visitors from all around the world, people who come there to enjoy its unique nature and tranquility. The village Þingeyri, in Dýrafjörður, is the home to some 260 people. It offers all necessary services to travelers, including a horse rental and a chance to sail onboard a Viking ship.

Þingeyri is nestled under the beautiful mountains often referred to as the "Westfjords' Alps". There you will find Kaldbakur, the highest mountain in the Westfjords area. On the peninsula between Dýrafjörður and Amarfjörður, the rough jeep road Kjaransbraut offers breathtaking views, but it is not for the faint hearted to drive. Hiking, biking or horseback riding along this road is also very popular. On the northern shore of Dýrafjörður you will find Skrúður, Iceland's oldest botanical garden.



Flatey Island

Beautifully kept old houses in cheerful colours line the dusty path through the settlement of Flatey island. Walk through it, and at the end of the settlement, the path becomes even narrower and more crooked, taking you through a dense population of birds, consisting mainly of Arctic terns. Two families stay on the island throughout the winter, but many more migrate during the summer, mainly for leisure but also to serve tourists.

In a charming way, it feels very much like a movie set. And so it is. Many movies are set on the island, most notably *The Honour of the House* based on a short story by Nobel Prize winner Halldór Laxness, *White Night Wedding*, a movie by Baltasar Kormákur and *Nonni og Manni*. In fact, Baltasar's father painted the unusual altar piece in the island's church, making it worthy of a visit.

In summertime, a ferry goes to Flatey twice a day from Stykkishólmur and Brjánslækur, and, albeit less frequently, a passenger boat offers connection to Reykhólar.



ATTRACTIONS

Arnarfjörður

Road
619

Road
63

Road
60

Arnarfjörður is one of the largest and most spectacular fjords in Iceland. It is surrounded by steep mountains and valleys that create strong appearance and mystique. The fjord is famous for its beautiful landscape and has fostered renowned personalities and artists.

Everyone can find something of interest in Arnarfjörður,- be it running on the yellow sand in Ketildalur, viewing the artworks of Samúel Jónsson in Selárdalur, the waterfall Dynjandi, visiting the Jón Sigurðsson Museum at Hrafnseyri or learning about monsters at the Sea Monster museum.



Ísafjarðardjúp

When visiting the Westfjords of Iceland, chances are you will be driving through some of the 8 fjords of Ísafjarðardjúp, fjord system, so it truly puts the “fjords” in your Westfjords adventure.

Amongst all the natural wonders of the area such as Hvítanes seal colony, Reykjanes geothermal area and the historical location Litlibær you will find a small community of 190 people, most based in the phoenix village of Súðavík. The village was rebuilt by its residents after a tragic avalanche in 1995. The “old” village is now used as a holiday area for families, friends and travelers between May-October.

Raggagarður Family Park, the Arctic Fox Centre, numerous walking and hiking paths make Súðavík and Ísafjarðardjúp a family friendly retreat for those looking to relax and enjoy life.



The Garden Skrúður

The Garden Skrúður holds an important place in the Icelandic history of gardening. Skrúður is a botanical and vegetable garden on the shore of one of the Westfjords of Iceland, close to the Arctic Circle. Laid out on an incline facing south-west towards the Dýrafjörður inlet, it is backed by a grim chain of glacier-eroded mountains. Beside it stand a church and the guesthouse Núpur.

The garden was opened in 1909, the brain-child of the Reverend Sigtryggur Guðlaugsson (1862-1959) who, with his brother Kristinn, had started a school at Núpur a few years earlier. In 2013 Skrúður won the International Carlo Scarpa Prize for Gardens, awarded by the Benetton Foundation since 1990, possibly the world's only prize awarded to locations.



Seals

Seal watching is a fascinating experience and there is no better place to see these beautiful animals than where they are most at home i.e. in their natural habitat. Seals are naturally curious creatures and therefore, with a good camera, it should be relatively easy to get some excellent pictures of them in their proper environment. There are also a number of tours that offer seal watching, from land, sea or even from a kayak.

Seal watching is an experience that is long remembered, and certainly gives one a new perspective on life and nature.

Seals can be spotted in many locations in the Westfjords for example in Strandir area and in Hvítanes in the Ísafjarðardjúp fjord system.



Drangajökull

Drangajökull is Iceland's fifth largest glacier, around 150 km². With the highest peak, Jökulbunga, at 925 m above sea level, Drangajökull is the only Icelandic glacier which lies entirely below 1000 m altitude. Its lowest point is at around 140 m above sea level. Drangajökull is known to behave differently from other glaciers in the country. It goes through cycles of 50-60 years during which it grows and recedes. Only the first few years of the cycle are a growing period, followed by a receding period of several decades. Scientists have not been able to fully explain these periods, as they seem to be independent of weather and climate. The last period of growth came just after the year 2000.

When the Hornstrandir area was still inhabited, many communication routes lay across the glacier and people would cross it either walking or riding. Today, Drangajökull is becoming increasingly popular amongst outdoor enthusiasts. For those traveling by car it is easiest to reach the glacier by driving to Kaldalón (road #635) and then hike from there. It only takes 60-90 minutes hike from the road up to the edge of the glacier. Please remember that glaciers can be dangerous due to crevasses. Hence, never venture out on a glacier without consulting a local expert first, or being accompanied by an expert guide.



Arctic Foxes

The Westfjords of Iceland are known for their abundant wildlife, seals, whales, birds and a favorite of many the arctic foxes. Arctic foxes can be found throughout Iceland but one of the best places to see them are in the Westfjords.

Homstrandir Nature Reserve is one of a few places in Iceland where arctic foxes are completely protected. Because of this protection the foxes in Hornstrandir are especially tame and curious, this makes it even easier to get closer to them for a peak or even a picture or two.

If you do not want to venture into nature to chase after the arctic foxes you can always go to the Arctic Fox Centre in Súðavík to find out more about these amazing animals.



Vigur Island

Puffins, eiders, guillemoths and arctic terns are this island's magnets, and they are all abundant. Indeed, as the puffins, which nest in burrows, have dug through much of the island's soil, travellers have to follow a certain path to avoid falling into one. This small bird, by some dubbed the penguin of the north, is a clumsy flier but impresses visitors by artfully stacking its beak full of sand eel or small fish, carrying it home to its hungry chicks. Being the opposite of the hospitable humans that live on the island, the Arctic terns fight to keep intruders away. Luckily, a stick held above the head does the trick. Eiders and humans share a mutual beneficence; eiders get protection by nesting in close vicinity of the people, who collect the precious down from the eider nests. One of the every day event is when locals feed a group of orphan eider chicks. In Vigur you find the smallest post office in Iceland, as well as the only windmill and beautifully renewed houses. Since an end was put to milk production on Vigur island, the inhabitants spend much of the winter preparing the eider down, collected over the summer, for export.

To get to Vigur, there is a daily boat tour from Ísafjörður.



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, as there are no infrastructure and the tourists few in relation to the sheer size of the area, the sense of remoteness is strong. You can hike days on end without seeing a single person. 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.

Tours depart from Ísafjörður, Bolungarvík and Norðurfjörður.



Road
643

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 Homstrandir, perfect for hikers and those who want to marvel the area from the sea.

Tourism has in the last few years seen a remarkable upswing. Now, travelers 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 honored 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.



Krossnespool in Árneshreppur

Reykhólar

The small village of Reykhólar is truly a paradise for bird-watchers. Surrounded by the sea and coast on one hand; and wetland, meadow, grassland, and cliffs on the other, Reykhólar is an ideal dwelling for numerous species of birds. It is believed that up to 60 different species can be spotted in the Reykhólar area during the summer time, including the king of birds – the white tailed eagle.

Reykhólar is located on a small peninsula on the northern shore of the bay Breiðafjörður. The bay has countless small islands and skerries which are homes to a large population of sea birds. Some of the islands also have natural, geothermal hot-pots where visitors are allowed to bathe.

Visitors can enjoy the rich bird life of Reykhólar simply by walking around the area. Boat tours to the islands of Breiðafjörður depart from just outside the village.



Hesteyri

A visit to Hesteyri is an unforgettable experience. There rests a deserted village underneath mountain cliffs, fathomed by a wood of angelicas. It is magical to stroll around the sand spit and enjoy the unexpected wonders that pass before your eyes. The last inhabitants moved from Hesteyri around 1950 but before that there was a busy lifestyle due to the whaling station which was built in 1894. At Hesteyri you can find historical ruins and unspoiled nature at its best all year round.

At Hesteyri you can buy coffee, food and accommodations. Scheduled boat trips go from Ísafjörður (60 min) and Bolungarvík (50 min). The boat trip is a great journey with an unusual sightseeing of mountains and glaciers and a good chance of seeing whales rise close up to the boat.



Heydalur

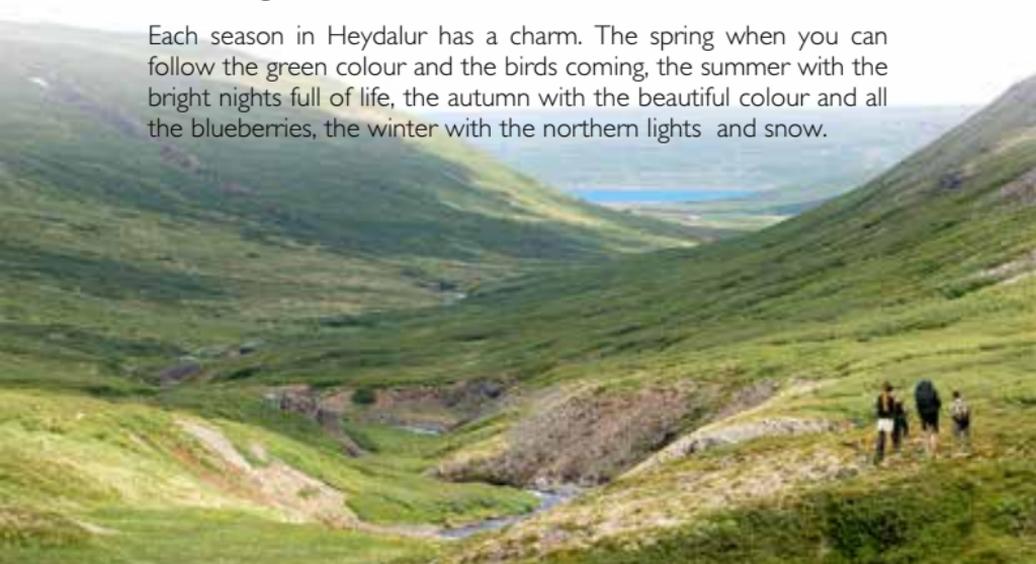
Heydalur is a 6 km long valley in Mjóifjörður in Ísafjarðardjúp. In further days the story tells that 12 farmers were living in the valley. The oldest ruins tell us that the valley has been an inhabited area since before the year 1100.

Now there is only the farm hotel left in the middle of a beautiful surrounding countryside with a river, waterfall, bushy hillsides, mountains, fjords and the shore full of wildlife and flora.

On the other side of the river Heydalsá there is a hot spot from ancient time. The story tells that the bishop Gudmundur the Good blessed this hot spot in the 12th century and that many sick people have been cured after a visit here.

At Heydalur you also find original outdoor hot pots, a swimming pool and a sauna where you may relax after the many possible outdoor activities, such as riding, kayaking, hiking, and fishing, before a luxury dinner of local food. Keep your eyes open you may even see our fox running around.

Each season in Heydalur has a charm. The spring when you can follow the green colour and the birds coming, the summer with the bright nights full of life, the autumn with the beautiful colour and all the blueberries, the winter with the northern lights and snow.



Rauðasandur

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 tranquility. 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.

If not, why not enjoy a cup of coffee in the French café and look at the spectacular view were Snæfellsjökull glacier in Snæfellsnes peninsula imperiously rivets your attention in the background.



Grímsey island

Grímsey island is the jewel of Steingrímsfjörður, located virtually at the doorsteps of the village Drangsnæs. Grímsey is a bird paradise. Its signature bird is the Puffin as the island has one of the most dense Puffin colony in Iceland. There are some 31.000 nesting holes, home to about 75.000 individuals. Among other birds that thrive on Grímsey are Shag, Arctic Tern, Black Guillemot, Razorbill and Northern Fulmar which all together with the Puffin create an extraordinary symphony of birdlife.

There is a daily boat tour available from Drangsnæs to Grímsey and it only takes 10 minutes to sail to the island.



Flókalundur in Vatnsfjörður Nature Reserve

Iceland owes its name to Hrafna-Flóki or Raven-Floki. After a long navigation from Norway, he took land in Vatnsfjörður. Seeing the surrounding Breiðafjörður Bay full of ice, he announced that this place should be called Iceland.

Lakes and ponds are numerous in the Nature reserve. Lake Vatnsdalsvatn is the largest, with an area of two square kilometers. Approximately 20 species of birds inhabit the nature reserve. Both mice, Arctic foxes and mink roam the area but seals are easier to spot, because they like to laze about sunbathing on the reefs by Hörgsnes peninsula. There are numerous hiking trails in the area and you can take a walk along the shores and enjoy a dip in the memorable natural pool down by the sea.

There is a hotel at Flókalundur with a restaurant, gas-station, swimming pool and camping ground.



The Natural pool in Flókalundur

Natural pools - The Water Trail

Among the hidden gems of the Westfjords are the natural hot pools that can be found even in most remote places. This might sound like a cliché, but the pools are truly a well kept secret, taken for granted, or even forgotten by locals. An explanation could be that the Westfjords are not generally considered a “hot spot” in Icelandic geology, so the geothermal activity is not as visible as it is in the north or the south of the country. Therefore it is surprising to find that nowhere in Iceland are there more natural bathing pools than in the Westfjords, the reason being that the water is of perfect temperature straight from the ground.

Some of the pools are situated right on the shoreline, with amazing views towards the sea, creating a unique experience to be enjoyed all year round.

See more at www.watertrail.is



ATTRACTIONS

Swimming 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 pools can also be found all over in the region, most of them free of charge.

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.



Gvendarlaug in Laugarhóll

History

Fish and sheep. If only given a space of three words, these would be near the top. Luckily, 1100 years of history can usually be given a little bit more space than three words. The most visited history attractions are 15 minutes apart, two museums that approach the maritime history from two different angles. Ósvör in the village of Bolungarvík, is one. There, the sheep-skin clad guide shows you around the huts where fishermen lived for thousand years. The maritime museum in Ísafjörður fills up the holes in the history, showing how the fish was processed and what was done with it after the processing.

At the Arctic Fox Centre in Súðavík, you will learn about the 1100 year story of legal foxhunting in Iceland and get into the world of the legendary foxhunters of the past.

Another museum of interest is The Museum of Icelandic Sorcery and Witchcraft. The museum is in two parts, one located in Hólmavík and one 25 km away in Bjarnarfjörður. Other museums of historical interest include Hnjótur and Hrafnseyri, where a hero of independence, Jón Sigurðsson (the gentleman on the ISK 500 bill), is commemorated and the Sea Monster Museum in Bíldudalur.



The Maritime museum Ósvör in Bolungarvík

ATTRACTIONS

Coast

A fun fact: a third of Iceland's coast line is in the Westfjords. Come to think of it, it is not surprising, as the entire peninsula is carved and cut by long fjords. The shore offers a wealth of attractions, most of which cost nothing to enjoy.

We have already told you about Rauðasandur, that red sandy beach which is not famous for its bathing facilities, but its colour. We have also told you about the bird cliffs at Látrabjarg and way up north in Homstrandir. Which reminds us, the bird life at the coast is rich, to say the least. We could drop a lot of bird names, such as oystercatchers, harlequin ducks, and white-tailed eagles, but the bird enthusiast would do well in picking up further information there, just take our word for the variety. In most areas, you can expect to see seals, resting on stones or just peering curiously towards land. In the deep fjords, whales can often be seen, blowing and diving. So be aware, the wildlife is all around you, if you only pay attention.

Many fjords, islands and inlets are uninhabited and unspoiled, so you have it all for yourself. The silence is unmatched.



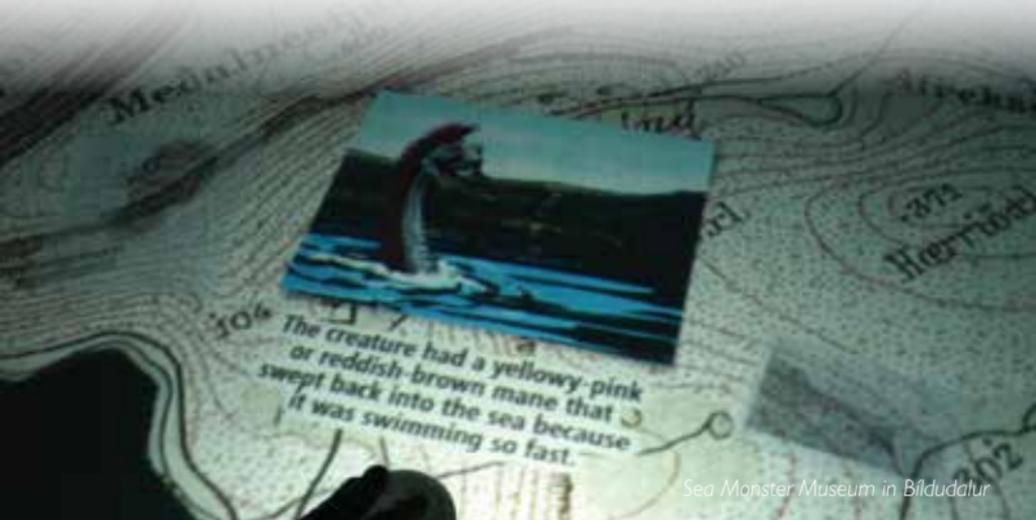
Skötufjörður in Ísafjarðardjúp

Culture

Many aspects of culture are intangible; it is how people behave and how society is organised. However, it has its concrete manifestations as well. The best bet for a first stop is a museum. They are scattered all over the peninsula, covering areas such as pirates (Patreksfjörður), sea monsters (Bíldudalur), sorcery and witchcraft (Hólmavík), and foxes (Súðavík). Want more? Old tools from fishermen (in Ísafjörður and Bolungarvík), sheep farming museum (near Hólmavík) and old tractors (near Reykhólar) all have their dedicated museums.

Also of big interest are the local handicrafts traditions that flourish in every fjord and valley. Almost all villages have their energetic bunch, knitting and crocheting and selling to interested tourists. Some interesting innovations can be found, especially those based on the patterns used for Icelandic wool sweaters.

And then there is the intangible aspect. Keep your eyes open for village feasts, held all over all through the summer. Strike up a conversation about the weather with the one next to you in the hot-dog line and there you go: local culture in one of its many manifestations.



Sea Monster Museum in Bíldudalur

ATTRACTIONS

Hiking

When hiking in the Westfjords, there is always a tendency to hike between two fjords. Understandably; if you look at the map, there is most often a pass or two between any fjords and the feeling of looking down the other side of the mountain is one to savour.

One of the most popular area for hiking is without a doubt Homstrandir Nature Reserve. The reserve is ideal for longer hikes, and there are day tours available from Ísafjörður as well. However, its biggest advantage is also its disadvantage, which is the inaccessibility and lack of service.

The rest of the Westfjords are just as stunning, for example Látrabjarg, the biggest birdcliff in Europe, and Rauðasandur.

At the nearest information centre, make sure to pick up a hiking map for the area you want to visit. The maps, seven in total, cover between them the whole peninsula.



Westfjords Foodtrail

The Westfjords Foodtrail is based on strong cultural background as well as embracing modern food tradition with a local twist. The aim is to promote and increase the visibility of Westfjords' top quality food. Innovation is encouraged and special emphasis is put on product development, motivating new techniques in the production, processing and cooking practices of Westfjords local ingredient and related services. Restaurants members in Westfjords Foodtrail ambitiously present each area's food specialty and food producers are highly devoted in producing top quality food items originated from the Westfjords. The food is specifically labeled so if you are looking for traditionally smoked products, freshest ingredients of the day or jams made of rhubarb and bilberries, search for our logo on menus and you won't be disappointed!

See more at www.veislaadvestan.is



Horseback riding

One of the great adventures you can take part in when visiting Iceland is riding the small and hardy Icelandic horses, known for their strong character and bred to survive through cold and starvation. Trotting along a sandy beach or through a wooded valley is an unforgettable experience and gives you a different view of the surrounding nature. Inexperienced riders need not worry, the horses are calm.

Why not combine the horse riding with some fishing? In Heydalur you can ride the horses up the valley to a heath where you can try your luck at catching trout in Lake Ausuvatn. There are also horse rentals in Ísafjörður, Þingeyri and Hólmavík.



Ketildalur

Fishing

Iceland boasts of one of the world's few sustainable fisheries, catching fish both on big trawlers and small boats. A good addition to the commercial fishing is that around 2000 anglers come annually to villages in the peninsula to try to catch the big one. And big they are. In 2007, a halibut of 175 kg (385 lbs) was caught on a fishing rod near Suðureyri, and in 2010 one of whopping 220 kg (485 lbs) was caught.

Those more inclined to sweet water fishing, can find many rivers and lakes around the peninsula to catch Arctic char and salmon although the best salmon rivers are usually fully booked, there are plenty of drop-in places to catch char.



Westfjords Rideshare

To increase people's opportunity to travel from place to place around the Westfjords, signs have been put up on the outskirts of towns and villages. People who want to use this service can wait at the signs, pointing at the name of the place they want to go to. If you wish to use this service you are expected to pay the fee according to information given on the sign.

You can also ask for or offer a ride on the website **www.bilfar.is**

You can find Rideshare signs at the following posts: Bolungarvík, Ísafjörður (to Bolungarvík), Súðavík (to Ísafjörður), Patreksfjörður, Brjánslækur, Tálknafjörður og Bíldudalur.



Kayaking

Kayaking in the deep fjords of the west is an amazing and different experience, giving you an opportunity to get close to the rich birdlife, seals, and other creatures of the sea. This is an excellent way to explore the fjords and islands from an unusual angle.

Although kayaking might seem like a strenuous activity, it is surprisingly easy to glide calmly between the towering mountains. Novices and experienced paddlers alike will find something to their liking, whether it be a two hour bird watching tour or a week-long wildlife adventure. Ísafjörður, Ögur, Heydalur, Reykjanes, Öndarfjörður and Djúpavík are the places to go, for those interested.



Kayaking in Djúpavík



REYKHÓLAR AREA



REYKHÓLAR AREA





① The White-Tailed Eagle Centre



Króksfjarðarnes , 380 Reykhólahreppur



+354 894-1011



Open 15/06 - 15/08



Info@reykholar.is



www.visitreykholahreppur.is

Categories: History, Culture, Arts



② Grettislaug



Grettiströð, 380 Reykhólahreppur



+354 434-7738 & +354 434-7880



Open: 01/06 - 23/08



grettislaug@reykholar.is



www.reykholar.is

Categories: Accommodation, Swimming Pools



② Boat- and gift of nature exhibition



Maríutröð, 380 Reykhólahreppur



+354 434-7830 & +354 894-1011



Open: Open all year



info@reykholar.is



www.visitreykholahreppur.is

Categories: History, Culture, Arts



② SjávarSmiðjan



Vesturbraut 2, 380 Reykhólahreppur



+354 577-4800



Open: 15/06 - 15/09



sjavarsmidjan@sjavarsmidjan.is



www.sjavarsmidjan.is

Categories: Natural Pools, Swimming Pools, Watertrail, Dining



③ Hotel Flatey



Flatey á Breiðafirði, 345 Flatey



+354 555-7788



Open: 01/06 - 23/08



info@hotelflatey.is



www.hotelflatey.is

Categories: Accommodation, Dining



Seljanes - Ancient Cars

Address: Seljanes, 380 Reykhólahreppur

Tel. +354 434-7720 & +354 894-1011.

www.visitreykholahreppur.is

Categories: History, Culture, Arts.

Grund - Ancient Tractors

Address: Grund, 380 Reykhólahreppur

Tel. +354 434-7830 & +354 894-1011. www.visitreykholahreppur.is

Categories: History, Culture, Arts.

Álftaland Guesthouse

Address: Álftaland, 380 Reykhólahreppur

Tel. +354 434-7878. www.alftaland.is

Categories: Accommodation, Camping, Boat Tours, Hiking Tours, Horse Riding, Angling, Hunting, Snowmobile ATV Tours.

Staður

Address: Staður, 380 Reykhólahreppur

Tel. +354 434-7730 & +354 893-1389. www.beintfrabyli.is/stadur

Categories: Farm food direct.

Miðjanes

Address: Reykhólasveit, 380 Reykhólahreppur

Tel. +354 434-7787 & +354 893-7787. loajat@simnet.is

Categories: Accommodation.

Hotel Bjarkalundur

Address: Reykhólasveit, 380 Reykhólahreppur

Tel. +354 434-7762 & +354 434-7863. www.bjarkalundur.com

Categories: Accommodation, Camping, Dining, Bird Watching, Hiking Tours, Angling.

Djúpidalur

Address: Reykhólahreppur, 380 Reykhólahreppur

Tel. +354 434-7853 & +354 861-4853. djupadal@simnet.is

Categories: Accommodation, Sumarhús, Swimming Pools.

Guesthouse Ólína Jónsdóttir

Address: Læknishúsið, 345 Flatey á Breiðafirði

Tel. +354 438-1476.

Categories: Accommodation.



A wide-angle landscape photograph of a fjord in Westfjords South, Iceland. The foreground is dominated by dark, jagged, and mossy rocks. The middle ground shows a calm body of water reflecting the soft, warm colors of the sky. The background features a range of low mountains under a vast, clear sky with a few wispy clouds. A white rectangular box is positioned at the top center of the image, containing the title text.

WESTFJORDS SOUTH (LÁTRABJARG AND SURROUNDINGS)

WESTFJORDS SOUTH





WESTFJORDS SOUTH

① Seatours

	Brjánslækur, 451 Vesturbyggð
	+354 438-1450
	Open all year
	seatours@seatours.is
	www.seatours.is



Categories: Ferry, Booking Service, Dining

② Rauðsdalur

	Barðaströnd, 451 Vesturbyggð
	+354 456-2041 & +354 694-5099
	Open all year
	raudsdal@vortex.is
	www.raudsdalur.is



Categories: Accommodation

③ Birkimelur Swimming Pool

	Lauganes við Hagavaðal, 451 Vesturbyggð
	+354 456-1301
	Open: 01/06 - 15/08
	vesturbyggd@vesturbyggd.is
	www.vesturbyggd.is



Categories: Swimming Pool

④ Patreksfjörður Swimming Pool

📍 Aðalstræti 63, 451 Vesturbyggð

☎ +354 450-2300

🕒 Open all year

✉ brattahlid@vesturbyggd.is

🌐 www.vesturbyggd.is

Categories: Swimming Pool



④ Europcar Car Rental / Bílaleiga Akureyrar

📍 Aðalstræti 62, 450 Patreksfjörður

☎ +354 456-5006 & +354 840-6048

🕒 Open: Open all year

✉ patreksfjordur@holdur.is

🌐 www.westfjordsadventures.com

Categories: Car Rental



④ Fosshótel Westfjords

📍 Aðalstræti 100, 450 Patreksfjörður

☎ +354 456-2004

🕒 Open: Open all year

✉ vestfirdir@fosshotel.is

🌐 www.fosshotel.is

Categories: Accommodation, Dining



WESTFJORDS SOUTH

④ Stúkuhúsið

📍 Aðalstræti 50, 450 Patreksfjörður

☎ +354 456-1404

🕒 Open all year

✉ stukuhusid@simnet.is

🌐 www.stukuhusid.is

Categories: Dining



④ Westfjords Adventures

📍 Aðalstræti 5, 450 Patreksfjörður

☎ +354 456-5006

🕒 Open all year

✉ info@westfjordsadventures.com

🌐 www.westfjordsadventures.com

Categories: Travel Agency, Booking Service, Hiking Tours, Bicycle Tours & Rentals, Day Tours, Bird Watching, Boat Tours, Car Rental, Sea Angling, Jeep- & Glacier Tours, Whale/Seal Watching, Angling



④ FOX Hostel

📍 Aðalstræti 62, 450 Patreksfjörður

☎ +354 56 5006 & +354 865 4697

🕒 Open all year

✉ stay@foxhostel.is

🌐 www.foxhostel.is

Categories: Accommodation



⑤ Tálknafjörður Swimming Pool

📍 Sport center, 460 Tálknafirði

☎ +354 456-2639 & +354 456-2649

🕒 Open all year

✉ sundlaug@talknafjordur.is

🌐 www.talknafjordur.is

Categories: Swimming Pool, Camping



⑤ Guesthouse Bjarmaland

📍 Bugatún 8, 460 Tálknafjörður

☎ +354 891-8038

🕒 Open 01/05 - 30/09

✉ bjarmaland06@simnet.is

🌐 www.guesthousebjarmaland.is

Categories: Accommodation



5 Veitingastaðurinn Hópið



Hrafnadalsveg, 460 Tálknafjörður



+354 456-2777



Open all year



hopid@simnet.is



Categories: Dining



6 Stiklur verkefnahús



Dalbraut 1, 465 Bíldudalur



+354 662 8446



Open all year



stiklur.steppingstones@gmail.com



www.stiklur.is

Categories: Accommodation



Flókalaug

Address: Vatnsfirði, 45 | Vesturbyggð

Tel. +354 456-2044.

Categories: Watertrail, Swimming/Natural Pools.

Hotel Flókalundur

Address: Vatnsfirði, 45 | Vesturbyggð

Tel. +354 456-2011. www.flokalundur.is

Categories: Accommodation, Camping, Dining, Angling.

Móra / Skálholt

Address: Skálholt, 451 Vesturbyggð

Tel. +345 456-2080 & +354 848-1062. www.beintfrabyli.is/skahlolt

Categories: Day Tours, Farm food direct , Open Farms.

Bjarkarholt

Address: 451 Vesturbyggð

Tel. +354 456-2025 & +354 849-0820. www.bjarkarholt.is.

Categories: Accommodation.

Kirkjuhvammur

Address: Rauðisandur, 451 Vesturbyggð

Tel. +354 866-8129

Categories: Dining.

Hnjótur Travel

Address: Hnjótur Örylgshöfn, 451 Vesturbyggð

Tel. +354 456-1596. www.hnjoturtravel.is.

Categories: Accommodation, Camping.

Hnjótur Museum / Information center

Address: Hnjótur, Örylgshöfn, 451 Vesturbyggð

Tel. +354 456-1511 & +354 868-5868. www.hnjotur.is.

Categories: Dining, History, Culture, Arts, Crafts & Design.

Hotel Látrabjarg

Address: 451 Vesturbyggð

Tel. +354 456-1500. www.latrabjarg.com

Categories: Accommodation, Dining.

WESTFJORDS SOUTH

Hotel Breiðavík at Látrabjarg

Address: Látrabjarg, 451 Vesturbyggð

Tel. +354 456-1575 & +354 867-1575. www.breidavik.is

Categories: Accommodation, Camping, Dining, Angling.

Travel West.is

Address: Breiðavík, 451 Vesturbyggð

Tel. +354 865-4695. keran@patro.is.

Categories: Day Tours, Team Building.

Hænuvík Travel Service / Gallery Gullhóll

Address: Hænuvík, 451 Vesturbyggð

Tel. +354 456-1574 & +354 848-8113.

Categories: Accommodation, Bird Watching, History, Culture, Arts, Crafts & Design.

PATREKSFJÖRÐUR

Patreksfjörður Golf Club

Address: Vestur-Botn, 450 Patreksfjörður

Tel. +354 846-1362. www.golf.is/gp.

Categories: Golf.

Stekkaból Guesthouse

Address: Stekkar 14, 19, 450 Patreksfjörður

Tel. +354 864-9675. stekkabol@snerpa.is

Categories: Accommodation.

Sjóræningjahúsið/House Of Pirates

Address: Smiðjuni við Aðalstræti, 450 Patreksfjörður

Tel. +354 456-1133. www.sjoraeningjahusid.is.

Categories: Dining, Live music, History, Culture, Arts, Craft & designs.

Grillskálinn/Besti bitinn

Address: Aðalstræti 100, 450 Patreksfjörður

Tel. +354 456-1599 & +354 456-1698.

Categories: Dining.

Ráðagerði hostel

Address: Aðalstræti 31, 450 Patreksfjörður

Tel. +354 456-0181 & +354 868-4658. www.radagerdi.com.

Categories: Accommodation.

Heimsendi

Address: Eyrargata, 450 Patreksfjörður

Tel. +354 892-5561 & +354 865-6290. haukurmar@simnet.is

Categories: Dining.

The French fishermen and the old time

Address: Mýrar 8, 450 Patreksfjörður

Tel. +354 456-1140 & +354 892 5059

Categories: History, Culture, Arts.

TÁLKNAFJÖRÐUR

Dunhagi

Address: Sveinseyri, 460 Tálknafjörður

Tel. +354 662-0463. www.cafedunhagi.is

Categories: Dining, History, Culture, Arts.

Hópið Restaurant

Address: Hrafnadalsvegur, 460 Tálknafjörður

Tel. +354 456-2777.

Categories: Dining.

Tígull Restaurant

Address: Strandgata 32, 460 Tálknafjörður

Tel. +354 456-2662. anna.kristina@simnet.is.

Categories: Dining.

BÍLDUDALUR

The Icelandic Sea Monster Museum

Strandgata 7, 465 Bíldudalur

Tel. +354 456-6666 & +354 894-81684. www.skrimsli.is.

Categories: History Culture, Arts, Dining.

Bíldudalur Golf Club

Address: Hóll, 465 Bíldudalur

Tel. +354 456-2569 & +354 895-2500. www.golf.is/gbb.

Categories: Golf.

Bíldudalur Hostel

Address: Hafnarbraut 2, 465 Bíldudalur

Tel. +354 456-2100 & +354 860-2100. bildudalur@hostel.is.

Categories: Accommodation.

Museum of Music - Jón Kr. Ólafsson

Address: Reynimelur, 465 Bíldudalur

Tel. +354 456-2186 & +354 847-2542. www.arnfirdingur.is

Categories: History, Culture, Arts.

Samúel Jónsson's Art Museum

Address: Brautarholt, Selárdalur, 465 Bíldudalur

Tel. +354 845-2334. olafur@sogumidlun.is.

Categories: History, Culture, Arts.

Vegamót

Address: Tjarnarbraut 2, 465 Bíldudalur

Tel. +354 456-2232.

Categories: Dining.





WESTFJORDS NORTH (ÍSAFJÖRÐUR AND SURROUNDINGS)



WESTFJORDS NORTH





① **Pingeyri Swimming pool**

📍 Pingeyraroddi, 471 Pingeyri

☎ +354 450-8470

🕒 Open all year

✉ sundth@isafjordur.is



Categories: Swimming Pools

① **Simbahöllin**

📍 Fjarðargata 5, 470 Pingeyri

☎ +354 899-6659 & +354 869-5654

🕒 Open all year

✉ simbahollin@gmail.com

🌐 www.simbahollin.is



Categories: Dining, Bicycle Tours & Rentals, Horse Riding

① **EagleFjord Travel Service**

📍 Viking village at Pingeyri, 470 Pingeyri

☎ +354 894-1684

🕒 Open 01/06 - 01/10

✉ info@eaglefjord.is

🌐 www.eaglefjord.is



Categories: Sea Angling, Boat Tours

② Nupur Guesthouse

 Nupur Guesthouse, 471 Þingeyri

 +354 456-8235

 Open all year

 info@hotelnupur.is

 www.hotelnupur.is

Categories: Accommodation, Dining



③ Flateyri Swimming pool

 v/Tjarnargata, 425 Flateyri

 +354 450-8460

 Open all year

 itrflat@isafjordur.is



Categories: Swimming Pools



④ Sagnaslóð - Riding Iceland

 Kot í Öfundarfirði, 401 Ísafjörður

 +354 822-7307

 Open all year

 hreinn@riding-iceland.com

 www.riding-iceland.com

Categories: Travel Agencies, Horse Riding



5 Suðureyri Swimming pool

	Túngata 8, 430 Suðureyri
	+354 450-8490
	Open all year
	ithrottamidstod@isafjordur.is
	

Categories: Swimming Pools



5 Fisherman Hotel

	Aðalgata 14-16, 430 Suðureyri
	+354 450-9000
	Open all year
	hotel@fisherman.is
	www.fisherman.is

Categories: Accommodation, Dining, Booking Service



5 Talisman

	Aðalgata 14-16, 430 Suðureyri
	+354 450-9000
	Open all year
	hotel@fisherman.is
	www.fisherman.is

Categories: Dining



5 Café Kaupfélag

 Aðalgata 14-16, 430 Suðureyri

 +354 450-9000

 Open all year

 hotel@fisherman.is

 www.fisherman.is

Categories: Dining



5 Comfy Guesthouse

 Túngata 2, 430 Suðureyri

 +354 456-4600 & +354 868-2149

 Open 15/05 - 15/09

 booking@comfy.is

 www.comfy.is

Categories: Accommodation



6 Ísafjörður Swimming Hall

 Austurvegur 9, 400 Ísafjörður

 +354 450-8480

 Open all year

 ithrottamidstod@isafjordur.is



Categories: Swimming Pools



⑥ Borea Adventures

📍 Aðalstræti 22b, 400 Ísafjörður

☎ +354 456-3322

🕒 Open all year

✉ info@borea.is

🌐 www.boreaadventures.com



Categories: Travel Agencies, Day Tours, Kayak Tours, Hiking Tours, Boat Tours, Ferry, Winter Activity, Bicycle Tours, Seal Watching.

⑥ West Tours

📍 Aðalstræti 7, 400 Ísafjörður

☎ +354 456-5111

🕒 Open all year

✉ info@westtours.is

🌐 www.westtours.is



Categories: Travel Agencies, Sea Angling, Boat Tours, Bicycle Tours & Rentals, Bird Watching, Hiking Tours, Winter Activity, Kayak Tours, Whale Watching, Horse Riding, Day Tours, Snowmobile ATV Tours, Car Rental.

⑥ Aurora-Arktika

📍 Hlíðarvegur 38, 400 Ísafjörður

☎ +354 899-3817

🕒 Open all year

✉ info@aurora-arktika.com

🌐 www.aurora-arktika.com



Categories: Travel Agencies, Winter Activity, Hiking Tours, Kayak Tours

⑥ Wild Westfjords

📍 Ísafjörður

☎ +354 822-7307

🕒 Open all year

✉ info@wildwestfjords.com

🌐 www.wildwestfjords.com



Categories: Travel Agencies, Hiking Tours, Jeep- & Glacier Tours

⑥ Iceland backcountry travel

📍 Urðarvegur 27, 400 Ísafjörður

☎ +354 861-4694

🕒 Open all year

✉ info@ibctravel.is

🌐 www.ibctravel.is



Categories: Hiking Tours, Winter Activity, Day Tours, Bird Watching, Ice Fishing, Snowmobile ATV Tours, Seal Watching, Jeep- & Glacier Tours, Photo Tours.

⑥ Helga I. Hausner - Ísafjörður Guide

	Seljalandsvegur 85, 400 Ísafjörður
	+354 456-2095 & +354 845-0875
	Open all year
	hausner@simnet.is
	www.isafjordurguide.is



Categories: Winter Activity, Hiking Tours, Day Tours, tour operator

⑥ ISlandfrauen, Helga I. Hausner

	Seljalandsvegur 85, 400 Ísafjörður
	+354 456-2095
	Open all year
	islandfrauen@gmail.com
	www.islandfrauen.de



Categories: Team building, Winter activity, Tour operator

⑥ Europcar Car Rental

	Ísafjarðaflugvöllur, 400 Ísafjörður
	+354 840-6074
	Open all year
	isafjordur@holdur.is
	www.holdur.is/en



Categories: Car Rental

⑥ Avis Car Rental

 Ísafjörður airport, 400 Ísafjörður

 +354 591-4000

 Open all year

 avis@avis.is

 www.avis.is

Categories: Car Rental



⑥ Hertz Car Rental

 Ísfljóðaflygvöllur, 400 Ísafjörður

 +354 522-4490 & +354 858-0490

 Open all year

 hertz@hertz.is

 www.hertz.is

Categories: Car Rental



⑥ Air Iceland

 Ísafjörður Airport, 400 Ísafjörður

 +354 570-3030

 Open all year

 ifjap@flugfelag.is

 www.flugfelag.is

Categories: Airline



WESTFJORDS NORTH

⑥ Hótel Ísafjörður

📍 Silfurtorg 2, 400 Ísafjörður

☎ +354 456-4111

🕒 Open all year

✉ info@hotelisafjordur.is

🌐 www.hotelisafjordur.is

Categories: Tour Operator, Accommodation, Dining, Day Tours



⑥ Gamla Guesthouse

📍 Mánagata 5, 400 Ísafjörður

☎ +354 456-4146 & +354 897-4146

🕒 Open all year

✉ gistihus@gistihus.is

🌐 www.gistihus.is

Categories: Accommodation



⑥ Hótel Edda

📍 Menntaskólinn, 400 Ísafjörður

☎ +354 444-4960

🕒 Open 11/06 - 18/08

✉ edda@hoteledda.is

🌐 www.hoteledda.is

Categories: Accommodation, Camping



⑥ Hótel Horn

📍 Austurvegi 2, 400 Ísafjörður

☎ +354 456-4111

🕒 15/04 - 15/09

✉ lobby@hotelhorn.is

🌐 www.hotelhorn.is

Categories: Accommodation



⑥ Áslaug's Accommodation - Faktorshus

📍 Austurvegur 7, 400 Ísafjörður

☎ +354 899-0742

🕒 Open all year

✉ gistias@snerpa.is

🌐 plus.google.com/102925127862817466046/about

Categories: Accommodation



⑥ GentleSpace Guest Apartments

📍 Mjallargata 1/Fjarðarstræti 6, 400 Ísafjörður

☎ +354 892-9282 & +354 867-6657

🕒 Open all year

✉ info@gentlespace.is

🌐 www.gentlespace.is

Categories: Accommodation



⑥ Edinborg Bistró Cafe Bar

📍 Hafnarstræti 7, 400 Ísafjörður

☎ +354 456-8335

🕒 Open all year

✉ info@hotelnupur.is

🌐 www.hotelnupur.is

Categories: Dining



⑥ Tjöruhúsið

📍 Neðstíkaupstaður 1, 400 Ísafjörður

☎ +354 456-4419

🕒 Open all year



Categories: Dining



⑥ Við Pollinn at Hótel Ísafjörður

📍 Silfurtorg 2, 400 Ísafjörður

☎ +354 456-4111

🕒 Open all year

✉ info@hotelisafjordur.is

🌐 www.vidpollinn.is

Categories: Dining



7 Bolungarvík Swimming pool

	Höfðastígur 1, 415 Bolungarvík
	+354 56-7381 & +354 696-7316
	Open all year
	sundlaug@bolungarvik.is
	www.bolungarvik.is



Categories: Swimming Pool, Camping

7 The Natural History Museum of Bolungarvík

	Vitastígur 3, 415 Bolungarvík
	+354 456-7507 & +354 456-7005
	Open all year
	nabo@nabo.is
	www.nabo.is



Categories: History, Culture, Arts

7 Ósvör Maritime Museum

	Óshlíðarvegur, 415 Bolungarvík
	+354 892-5744 & +354 456-7005
	Open all year, call in winter
	osvor@osvor.is
	www.osvor.is



Categories: History, Culture, Arts

8 Family Park Raggagardur



Nesvegur 1, 420 Súðavík



+354 823-4566



Open all year



raggagardur@raggagardur.is



www.raggagardur.is

Categories: Family Park



9 Ögur Travel



Ögur Ísafjarðardjúpi, 401 Ísafjörður



+354 456-4809 & +354 894-4809



Open 01/05 - 31/08



ogur@ogurtravel.com



www.ogurtravel.com

Categories: Tour Operator, Hiking Tours, Day Tours, Bird Watching, Seal Watching, Kayak Tours, Angling, Dining



10 Hotel Heydalur



Mjóifjörður, 401 Ísafjörður



+354 456-4824 & +354 892-1019



Open all year



heydalur@heydalur.is



www.heydalur.is



Categories: Accommodation, Camping, Dining, Hiking Tours, Swimming/
Natural Pools, Kayak Tours, Seal Watching, Horse Riding, Angling

PINGEYRI AND SURROUNDINGS

Dynjandi Camping Ground

Address: Vallargata 3, 470 Þingeyri

Tel. +354 450-8060. umhverfisfulltrui@isafjordur.is.

Categories: Camping.

Jón Sigurðsson Memorial Museum

Address: Hrafnseyri, 471 Þingeyri

Tel. +354 456-8260 & +354 845-5518. www.hrafnseyri.is.

Categories: History, Culture, Arts, Dining.

Gamla Smiðjan

Address: Hafnarstræti 14, 470 Þingeyri

Tel. +354 456-8331 & +354 456-8113. vbk@snerpa.is.

Categories: History, Culture, Arts.

Guesthouse Vera

Address: Hlíðargata 22, 470 Þingeyri

Tel. +354 891-6832. skuli@snerpa.is.

Categories: Accommodation.

Við fjörðinn Guesthouse

Address: Aðalstræti 26, 470 Þingeyri

Tel. +354 898-8258 & +354 847-0285. www.vidfjordinn.is.

Categories: Accommodation.

Hotel Sandafell

Address: Hafnarstræti 7, 470 Þingeyri

Tel. +354 456-1600. www.hotelsandafell.com.

Categories: Accommodation, Dining.

Gláma Golf Club

Address: Meðaldalur, 470 Þingeyri

Tel. +354 896-2879. www.golf.is/ggl.

Categories: Golf.

Þingeyri Camping Ground

Address: Hrunastígur 2, 470 Þingeyri

Tel. +354 450-8470. sundth@isafjordur.is.

Categories: Camping.

NI - Service Station

Address: Sjávargata 4, 470 Þingeyri

Tel. +354 456-8380.

Categories: Dining.

Guesthouse Fjarðargötu 10

Address: Fjarðargata 10, 470 Þingeyri

Tel. +354 896-3750. hio@simnet.is

Categories: Accommodation.

Gallery Koltra

Address: Hafnarstræti 5, 470 Þingeyri

Tel. +354 456-8304. thingeyri@thingeyri.is.

Categories: History, Culture, Arts.

Hópfærðamiðstöð Vestfjarða

Address: Vallargata 15, 470 Þingeyri

Tel. +354 893-1058. vidfjordinn@vidfjordinn.is.

Categories: Bird Watching, Day Tours.

Alvidra

Address: Dýrafjörður, 471 Þingeyri

Tel. +354 895-0080 & +354 895-7179. alvidra@snerpa.is.

Categories: Accommodation.

Höfði

Address: Höfði Dýrafjörður, 471 Þingeyri

Tel. +354 456-3042 & +354 846-7475. hofdi@snerpa.is.

Categories: Accommodation.

Skrúður, horticulture museum

Address: Núpur í Dýrafirði, 471 Þingeyri

Tel. +354 893-1065.

Categories: History, Culture, Arts.

Culture museum, Hlíð

Address: Núpur í Dýrafirði, 471 Þingeyri

Tel. +354 456-8239 & +354 896-1660. www.thingeyri.is.

Categories: History, Culture, Arts.

Gemlufall

Address: Gemlufall, 471 Þingeyri

Tel. +354 848-3426. www.beintfrabyli.is/gemlufalli.

Categories: Farm food direct.

FLATEYRI

Guesthouse Holt

Address: Önundarfjörður, 425 Flateyri

Tel. +354 456-7611 & +354 456-7783. www.holt.it.is

Categories: Accommodation.

Korpudalur, Kirkjuból Hostel

Address: Önundarfjörður, 425 Flateyri

Tel. +354 456-7808 & +354 892-2030. www.korpudalur.is

Categories: Accommodation, Camping.

Solvahus

Address: Hafnarstræti 13, 425 Flateyri

Tel. +354 860-6062. flateyrivilla@gmail.com

Categories: Accommodation.

International Dolls Museum

Address: Hafnarstræti 11, 425 Flateyri

Tel. +354 456-7710 & +354 866-4642. smag@snerpa.is.

Categories: History, Culture, Arts.

The Nonsense Museum

Address: Hafnarstræti 11, 425 Flateyri

Tel. +354 894-8836. dellusafnid@simnet.is.

Categories: History, Culture, Arts.

Flateyri Camping Ground

Address: Söluskáli NI, 425 Flateyri

Tel. +354 450-8460. itrflat@isafjordur.is.

Categories: Camping.

The Old Book Shop Flateyri

Address: Hafnarstræti 3-5, 425 Flateyri

Tel. +354 699-3936. bokabudinflateyri@gmail.com.

Categories: History, Culture, Arts.

Iceland ProFishing ehf.

Address: Hafnarstræti 9, 425 Flateyri

Tel. +354 456-6667 & +354 896-0538. www.icelandprofishing.com.

Categories: Accommodation, Sea Angling.

Grænhöfði ehf.

Address: Ólafstúni 7, 425 Flateyri

Tel. +354 456-7762. www.kajaktravel.net.

Categories: Accommodation, Kayak Tours, Sea Angling

Kirkjuból in Bjarnardalur

Address: Kirkjuból, Bjarnardalur, 425 Flateyri

Tel. +354 456-7679 & +354 898-2563. www.kirkjubol.is.

Categories: Accommodation.

Vagninn Restaurant

Address: Hafnarstræti 19, 425 Flateyri

Tel. +354 456-7751.

Categories: Dining.

Félagsbær Café

Address: Hafnarstræti 11, 425 Flateyri

Tel. +354 456-7676.

Categories: Dining.

NI - Service Station

Address: Hafnarstræti, 425 Flateyri

Tel. +354 456-7878.

Categories: Dining.

SUÐUREYRI

Fisherman Mini Market

Address: Aðalgata 14-16, 430 Suðureyri

Tel. +354 456-6262.

Categories: Dining.

Á milli fjalla - handcraft

Address: Aðalgata 14, 430 Suðureyri

Tel. +354 450-9000. sui@simnet.is

Categories: Craft & design.

ÍSAFJÖRÐUR

Ísafjörður Culture house

Library - Art Collection - Photo Museum - Archives

Address: Eyrartún, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 450-8220 & +354 895-7138. safn.isafjordur.is.

Categories: History, Culture, Arts.

The Little Guesthouse

Address: Sundstræti 43, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 893-6993. www.guesthouseelitla.is

Categories: Accommodation.

Miðtún - Guesthouse

Address: Miðtún 16, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 456-3139 & +354 892-3139.

www.airbnb.com/rooms/11353799

Categories: Accommodation.

Guesthouse Koddinn

Address: Hrannargata 2, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 859-7855. lovisa@snerpa.is

Categories: Accommodation.

GentleSpace Guest Apartments

Address: Túngata 20, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 892-9282 & +354 867-6657. www.gentlespace.is.

Categories: Accommodation.

Apartment Tangagata 10a

Address: Tangagata 10a, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 862-5669. www.massi.is.

Categories: Accommodation.

Engjavegur 33

Address: Engjavegur 33, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 693-6478. anname76@gmail.com.

Categories: Accommodation.

Apartment Silfurgötu 12

Address: Silfurgata 12, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 862-5669. www.massi.is

Categories: Accommodation.

RH Apartments

Address: Túngata 5, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 892-2118. tung4160@simnet.is

Categories: Accommodation.

Gamla Apótekið

Hafnarstræti 18, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 659-7897. www.gamlaapotekid.mono.net

Categories: Accommodation.

Tungudalur Ski Lodge

Address: Tungudalur, 401, Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 865 5713. thorunn.pals@gmail.com

Categories: Accommodation.

Ísafjörður Golf Club

Address: Tungudalsvöllur, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 456-5081. www.golf.is/gi

Categories: Golf.

Tungudalur Camping Ground

Address: Tungudalsvöllur, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 864-8592. www.gih.is

Categories: Camping

Kagrafell

Address: Mánagötu 1, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 862-8623. www.hesteyri.is/kagrafell

Categories: Travel Agencies, Camping, Boat Tours, Hiking Tours, Winter Activity

Kagrafell Camping Site

Address: Suðurtangi, við safnasvæði í Neðsta, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 862-8623. www.hesteyri.is/kagrafell

Categories: Camping

Westfjords Heritage Museum

Address: Neðstakaupstað, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 456-3297 & 456-3299. www.nedsti.is

Categories: History, Culture, Arts.

Edinborg Cultural Center

Address: Aðalstræti 7, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 456-5444. www.edinborg.is

Categories: History, Culture, Arts.

Massi Horse Rides

Address: Suðurtangi 2, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 862-5669. www.massi.is

Categories: Day Tours, Horse Riding.

Sjóferðir H&K

Address: Hjallavegur 7, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 892-1879. www.sjoferdir.is

Categories: Boat Tours, Ferry.

Björgvin Sveinsson

Address: Hjarðardalur, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 661-5773 & +354 6615-773. www.bstours.is

Categories: Day Tours, Taxi.

Hamraborg

Address: Hafnarstræti 7, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 456-3166. hamraborg@heimsnet.is

Categories: Dining.

Bræðraborg Café

Address: Aðalstræti 22b, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 456-3322 www.borea.is

Categories: Dining.

Thai-Koon

Address: Hafnarstræti 9, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 456-0123.

Categories: Dining.

Gamla Bakarið

Address: Aðalstræti 24, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 456-3226.

Categories: Dining.

Bakarinn

Address: Hafnarstræti 14, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 456-4771. bakarinnhf@simnet.is.

Categories: Dining.

Krílið Drive Through

Address: Sindragata 6, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 456-3556.

Categories: Dining.

Húsið

Address: Hrannargata 2, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 456-5555. lovisa@snerpa.is

Categories: Dining.

Kayak Center Iceland

Suðurtangi 2, 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 895-5518. info@kayakcenter.is

Categories: Kayak Tours, Day Tours.

Tungudalur/Seljalandsdalur Ski Area

Address: 400 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 450-8404. www.isafjordur.is/ski

Categories: Winter Activity.

Arnardalur Camping Ground

Address: Heimabær Arnardal, 401 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 860-6062. www.arnardalur.is

Categories: Camping.

Fitjateigur, Hnífsdalur

Address: Fitjateigur 3, 410 Hnífsdalur

Tel. +354 863-0180 & +354 863-7039. adjurik@simnet.is

Categories: Accommodation.

BOLUNGARVÍK

Bolungarvík Golf Club

Address: Syðridal, 415 Bolungarvík

Tel. +354 456-7072. www.golf.is/gbo

Categories: Golf.

Guesthouse Mánafell

Address: Stigahlíð 4, 415 Bolungarvík

Tel. +354 863-3879. www.orkudisa.com.

Categories: Accommodation.

Shell - Service Station

Address: Þuríðarbraut 13, 415 Bolungarvík

Tel. +354 456-7554 & +354 456-7284

Categories: Dining, Angling.

vaXon.is

Address: Aðalstræti 9, 415 Bolungarvík

Tel. +354 456-7999 & +354 862-2221. www.vaxon.is

Categories: Accommodation, Sea Angling, Boat Tours, Dining, Hiking Tours, Day Tours, Bird Watching, Seal Watching, Hunting, Winter Activity, Team Building.

Einarshúsið

Address: Hafnargötu 41, 415 Bolungarvík

Tel. +354 456-7901 & +354 864-7901. www.einarshusid.is

Categories: Accommodation, Dining.

Gil guesthouse

Address: Aðalstræti 13-15, 415 Bolungarvík

Tel. +354 893-6860 & +354 892-8525. www.gil.is

Categories: Accommodation.

West Fjords Botanical Gardens

Address: Aðalstræti 21, 415 Bolungarvík

Tel. +354 456-7005. www.grasagardar.is

Categories: Family park.

HORNSTRANDIR NATURE RESERVE AND SURROUNDINGS

Doctorshouse in Hesteyri

Address: Þjóðólfsvegur 5, 415 Bolungarvík

Tel. +354 456-7183 & +354 899-1515. www.hesteyri.net/.

Categories: Accommodation, Dining.

Bolungarvík á Ströndum

Address: Hornstrandir, 401 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 893-6926 & +354 861-1425. www.freydis.is

Categories: Accommodation.

Grunnavík Travel Service

Address: Grunnavík í Jökulfjörðum, 401 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 456-4664 & +354 848-0511. www.grunnavik.is

Categories: Accommodation, Camping, Boat Tours.

Hornbjargsviti- Ferðafélag Íslands

Address: Látravík á Ströndum, 401 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 568-2533. www.fi.is

Categories: Accommodation.

Reykjarfjörður Travel Service

Address: Hornstrandir, 520 Drangnes

Tel. +354 456-7215 & +354 896-1715. www.reykjarfjordur.is.

Categories: Accommodation, Swimming/Natural Pools.

Reykjarfjörður Swimming Pool

Address: Hornstrandir, 520 Drangnes

Tel. +354 456-2662. anna.kristina@simnet.is.

Categories: Swimming/Natural Pools.

SÚÐAVÍK AND SURROUNDINGS

Súðavík Camping Ground

Address: Túngata 20, 420 Súðavík

Tel. +354 450-5900 & +354 848-7959. www.sudavik.is.

Categories: Camping.

Iceland Sea Angling

Address: Aðalgata 2, 420 Súðavík

Tel. +354 456-1540. www.icelandseaangling.is

Categories: Sea Angling.

Iceland Tour Guy

Address: Hlíð, 420 Súðavík

Tel. +354 868-0566 & +354 691-6965. www.icelandtourguy.com

Categories: Accommodation, Bird Watching, Hiking Tours, Day Tours, Snowmobile ATV Tours.

Amma Habbý Restaurant

Address: Aðalgata 1, 420 Súðavík

Tel. +354 456-5060. ammahabby@gmail.com

Categories: Dining.

Blómsturvellir - Guesthouse

Address: Blómsturvellir, 420 Súðavík

Tel. +354 846-8573. www.blomsturvellir.com

Categories: Accommodation.

Accommodation Swanfjord

Address: Langeyri, 420 Súðavík

Tel. +354 823-4566. boggaamars@internet.is

Categories: Accommodation.

ÍSAFJARÐARDJÚP FJORDS

Litlibær

Address: Skötufjörður, 401 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 456-4809 & +354 894-4809. hvitanes@isl.is.

Categories: History, Culture, Arts.

Hotel Reykjanes

Address: Reykjanes, 401 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 456-4844. mes@mes.is

Categories: Accommodation, Camping, Dining, Swimming/Natural Pools.

Dalbær Travel Service

Address: Snæfjallaströnd, 401 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 898-9300. thruman@simnet.is

Categories: Accommodation, Dining.

Snjafjallasetur Heritage Centre

Address: Dalbær, 401 Ísafjörður

Tel. +354 698-7533. www.snjafjallasetur.is

Categories: History, Culture, Arts.

Svaðilfari

Address: Laugarholt, 512 Hólmavík

Tel. +354 456-4858 & +354 869-4859. www.strandir.is/svadilfari.

Categories: Horse Riding, Travel Agencies.



STRANDIR AREA



STRANDIR AREA



STRANDIR AREA

① Krossnes Swimming pool



Norðurfjörður, 524 Árneshreppur



+354 451-4048



Open all year



Categories: Swimming Pools

① Urðartindur Travel Service



Norðurfjörður 1, 524 Árneshreppur



+354 843-8110



Open 01/05 - 30/09



01/05 - 30/09



www.urdartindur.is



Categories: Accommodation, Camping

② Eagle Air



Gjögur airport, 524 Árneshreppur



+354 562-4200



Open all year



info@eagleair.is



www.eagleair.is



EAGLE AIR
ICELAND

Categories: Airline, Day Tours

③ Hotel Djúpavík

📍 Djúpavík, 524 Ámeshreppur

☎ +354 451-4037

🕒 Open all year

✉ djupavik@snerpa.is

🌐 www.djupavik.com



Categories: Accommodation, Dining, History, Culture, Arts

④ Hotel Laugarhóll

📍 Bjarnarfjörður, 510 Hólmavík

☎ +354 451-3380 & +354 698-5133

🕒 Open all year

✉ laugarholl@laugarholl.is

🌐 www.laugarholl.is



Categories: Accommodation, Camping, Dining, Swimming/Natural Pools

④ Laugarhóll Swimming pool

📍 Bjarnarfjörður, 510 Hólmavík

☎ +354 451-3380 & +354 698-5133

🕒 Open all year

✉ laugarholl@laugarholl.is

🌐 www.laugarholl.is



Categories: Swimming/Natural Pools

STRANDIR AREA

5 Drangsnes Hot pots



520 Drangsnes



Open all year



www.drangsnes.is

Categories: Natural Pool, Watertrail.



5 Drangsnes Swimming pool



Grundargata 15, 520 Drangsnes



+354 451-3201



Open all year



sundlaug@drangsnes.is



www.drangsnes.is

Categories: Swimming Pool



6 Hólmavík Swimming pool



Jakobínutún, 510 Hólmavík



+354 451-3560



Open all year



sundlaug@holmavik.is



Categories: Swimming Pools



6 Finna Hotel

📍 Borgabraut 4, 510 Hólmavík

☎ +354 451-3136

🕒 Open all year

✉ finnahotel@simnet.is

🌐 www.finnahotel.is

Categories: Accommodation



7 Broddanes Hostel

📍 Broddanesskóli, 510 Hólmavík

☎ +354 618-1830

🕒 Open 15/05 - 15/09

✉ broddanes@broddanes.is

🌐 www.broddanes.is

Categories: Accommodation



STRANDIR AREA

ÁRNESHREPPUR

Kaffi Norðurfjörður Café

Address: Norðurfjörður, 524 Árneshreppur

Tel. +354 451-4034 & +354 692-6096. www.nordurfjordur.is.

Categories: Dining.

Guesthouse Bergistangi

Address: Bergistangi, 524 Árneshreppur

Tel. +354 451-4003 & +354 842-5779. gunnsteinn@simnet.is.

Categories: Accommodation.

Norðurfjörður - Iceland Touring Association

Address: Valgeirsstaðir, 524 Árneshreppur

Tel. +354 568-2533 & +354 862-3363. www.fi.is.

Categories: Accommodation.

Hornstrandaferðir

Norðurfjörður, 524 Árneshreppur

Tel. +354 843-8110. www.hornstrandaferdir.is

Categories: Boat Tours, Ferry.

Memorial Museum Kört

Address: Ámes II, 524 Árneshreppur

Tel. +354 451-4025. www.trekylisvik.is.

Categories: History, Culture, Arts, Craft & design.

Guesthouse Finnbogastaðaskóli

Address: Trékyllisvík, 524 Árneshreppur

Tel. +354 451-4012 6 +354 451-4026. arneshreppur@simnet.is.

Categories: Accommodation.

Theme Travel

Address: Bakki, Bjarnarfirði, 510 Hólmavík

Tel. +354 438-1375 & +354 864-2419. www.themaferdir.is.

Categories: Travel Agency, Hiking Tours.

DRANGSNES AND SURROUNDINGS

Sundhani ST-3

Address: Kvíabali 1, 520 Drangsnæs

Tel. +354 451-3238 & +354 899-4238. www.malarhorn.is.

Categories: Sea Angling, Boat Tours, Whale Watching.

Guesthouse Malarhorn

Address: Grundargata 17, 520 Drangsnæs

Tel. +354 451-3238 & +354 896-0337. www.malarhorn.is.

Categories: Accommodation, Dining.

Gistipjónusta Sunnu

Address: Holtagata 10, 520 Drangsnæs

Tel. +354 451-3230 & +354 846-1640. www.drangsnæs.is/sunna.

Categories: Accommodation.

HÓLMAVÍK AND SURROUNDINGS

Hólmavík Golf Club

Address: Hafnarbraut 18, 510 Hólmavík

Tel. +354 892-4687. www.golf.is/gho.

Categories: Golf.

STRANDIR AREA

Hólmavík Camping Ground

Address: Jakobínutúni, 510 Hólmavík

Tel. +354 451-3560. sundlaug@holmavik.is.

Categories: Camping.

The Icelandic Sorcery and Witchcraft Museum

Address: Höfðagata 8-10, 510 Hólmavík

Tel. +354 451-3525. www.galdrasyning.is

Categories: History, Culture, Arts, Dining.

Café Riis

Address: Hafnarbraut 39, 510 Hólmavík

Tel. +354 451-3567.

Categories: Dining.

NI - Service Station

Address: Höfðatún 3, 510 Hólmavík

Tel. +354 451-3107.

Categories: Dining.

Steinhúsið guesthouse

Address: Höfðagata 1, 510 Hólmavík

Tel. +354 856-1911. www.steinhusid.is.

Categories: Accommodation.

Kirkjuból

Address: Kirkjuból við Steingrímsfjörð, 510 Hólmavík

Tel. +354 451-3474. www.strandir.is/kirkjubol.

Categories: Accommodation.

Sheep farming exhibition

Address: Sævangur við Steingrímsfjörð, 510 Hólmavík

Tel. +354 451-3324. www.strandir.is/saudfjarsetur.

Categories: History, Culture, Arts, Dining.

Husavík

Address: Húsavík, 510 Hólmavík

Tel. +354 451-3393 & +354 845-8393. www.strandalamb.is.

Categories: Farm food direct.

Strandahestar

Address: Víðidalssá, 510 Hólmavík

Tel. +354 451-3262 & +354 862-3263. www.strandahestar.is.

Categories: Horse Riding, Day Tours.

Midhus

Address: Miðhús, Kollafirði, 510 Hólmavík

Tel. +354 451-3340 & +354 663-4628. brellir@ismennt.is.

Categories: Farm food direct.

Snartartunga

Address: Snartartunga, Bitrufjörður, 500 Stað

Tel. +354 451-3362. www.farmholidays.is.

Categories: Accommodation.

Kjörbúðin Óspakseyri

Address: Bræðrabrekka, 500 Stað

Tel. +354 451-3310. kjorbudin@hotmail.com

Categories: Information Centre.



EVENTS
IN THE WESTFJORDS
OF ICELAND 2014-2015



EVENTS





Events in the Westfjords of Iceland 2014-2015

- June 4-6 **① NAFA International Anthropological Film Festival & Conference in Ísafjörður**
Anthropologists working with film, film makers interested in anthropology and the general public get together and watch documentaries and discuss. Free entry, open for all.
www.uw.is/nafa2014
- June 6-8 **② Skjaldborg Film Festival in Patreksfjörður**
An annual documentary film festival with new and exciting Icelandic documentaries by upcoming film makers and veterans alike.
www.skjaldborg.com
- June 12-15 **① LÚR-Festival**
LÚR or Farther out of nowhere is an art festival held in Ísafjörður. The festival is held by a youth group in Edinborg Cultural Center.
www.edinborg.is
- June 14 **③ Sumarmölin Music Festival in Drangnes**
Sumarmölin (e. "summer gravel") is a new music festival, established in 2013. The aim is to create an atmosphere where old and young can come together and enjoy some of the best in Icelandic music amidst beautiful surroundings.
- June 19-22 **① Við Djúpið, classical music festival in Ísafjörður**
One of Iceland's best known and most ambitious music festivals. Numerous concerts and Master Classes given by Icelandic and international musicians.
www.viddjupid.is

- June 20-22 **④ Gengjð um sveit hiking festival in Reykhólar**
Guided hikes, long and short, in the beautiful area of Reykhólar. Suitable for the whole family.
www.visitreykholarhreppur.is
- June 20-27 **②⑤ Hiking festival in Patreksfjörður/Látrabjarg**
Guided hikes in Vesturbyggð (which includes Látrabjarg, Rauðasandur, Patreksfjörður etc) suitable for the whole family. Experience the nature, history and culture of this magnificent area.
www.westfjordsadventures.com
- June 21-22 **⑥ Summer Solstice Festival at the Viking area in Þingeyri**
www.eaglefjord.is
- June 27-29 **⑦ Bildalia**
Bildalia is the first Steampunk festival in Iceland. The festival takes place in Bíldudalur, Patreksfjörður and Barðaströnd. The whole region will be transformed into the adventures land of Bildalia.
www.bildalia.com
- June 27-29 **⑧ Hamingjudagar in Hólmavík**
Hamingjudagar or Happy Days Festival will be held for the 10th time this year. Happy Days are filled with various activities for the whole family, making it a great opportunity to visit Strandir.
www.hamingjudagar.is

EVENTS

July 3-6

9 **Rauðasandur Music Festival**

A cosy, family friendly music festival in the beautiful area of Rauðasandur (close to Látrabjarg). A venue for young and upcoming musicians, folk music and more. Yoga, hiking, sand castle building and boat tours also on offer.

www.raudasandurfestival.is

July 18-20

1 6 12 **Runners' Festival**

Street run, wilderness run, fun run, mountain biking, open water swimming and triathlon in the magnificent nature of the Westfjords. Something for all members of the family.

www.hlaupahatid.is

July 25-27

4 **Reykhóladagar in Reykhólar**

A town festival with games, food, culture, music and more.

www.visitreykholahreppur.is

August 1-3

1 **Swamp Soccer European Championships in Ísafjörður**

Thought you'd seen all the dirty tricks in soccer? Think again. Also, make sure you don't miss the concerts, the bonfire and the firecrackers!

www.myrarbolti.com

August 1-3

1 **XC-Ísafjörður**

A boogie tournament in Ísafjörður, though the main goal is to have fun and enjoy the view.

<http://xcisafjordur.info/>

August 6-9 **⑩ Act alone in Suðureyri**
An annual theatre festival dedicated to monodrama, as well as dance and music. Free Admission.
www.actalone.net

August 22-24 **⑪ Bláberjadagar in Súðavík**
Blueberry festival with games, competitions, music, sports and more.
<http://blaberjadagar.com>

2015

April 1-6 **① Skíðavíkan in Ísafjörður**
A winter festival with various skiing and cultural events.
www.skidavikan.is

April 3-4 **① Aldrei fór ég suður**
One of Iceland's best known music festivals, managed by local musician Mugison and his father, Papamug. Free admission.
www.aldrei.is

May 2 **① Fossavatn Ski Marathon**
The oldest and biggest festival of cross-country skiing in Iceland. Suitable for the whole family. Don't miss the Master Class, buffets and parties, either!
www.fossavatn.com



TRAVELLING WITH KIDS



TRAVELLING WITH KIDS





Hey kids this is for you!

Traveling 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 pages and use the recommendations there to battle the bad ideas from the old folks in the front seats.

Natural pools

Whether you have spent (too) many hours in the car, had a long hike looking for elves and trolls, been kayaking amongst seals or spent the day at museums, playgrounds or cafés, there is no better way to top the day than to dip into a warm, geothermal pool. The Westfjords area has numerous natural hot pots and pools, some of which are accessible day and night at no cost, while others have specific opening hours and admission fee.

You're on vacation, so why don't you try staying up late and bathe in the midnight sun? You'll be the only one in your school who has ever done that!



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, Ketildalur coastline, Öfundarfjörður and Norðurfjörður are amongst the spots where you can find beautiful beaches to play on.

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 amphipods.



Birds

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 different types of birds during your stay in the Westfjords? **The winner gets the window seat on the flight back home!**



Fishing

Although Icelanders have been fishing for more than a thousand years, there is still plenty of fish left for you to catch. Organized sea-angling tours are offered from many villages, but you can also fish from the shore. There are also numerous rivers and lakes for those who prefer freshwater fishing, but please remember that you need a license for many of them so it is best to ask the locals first.



Museums

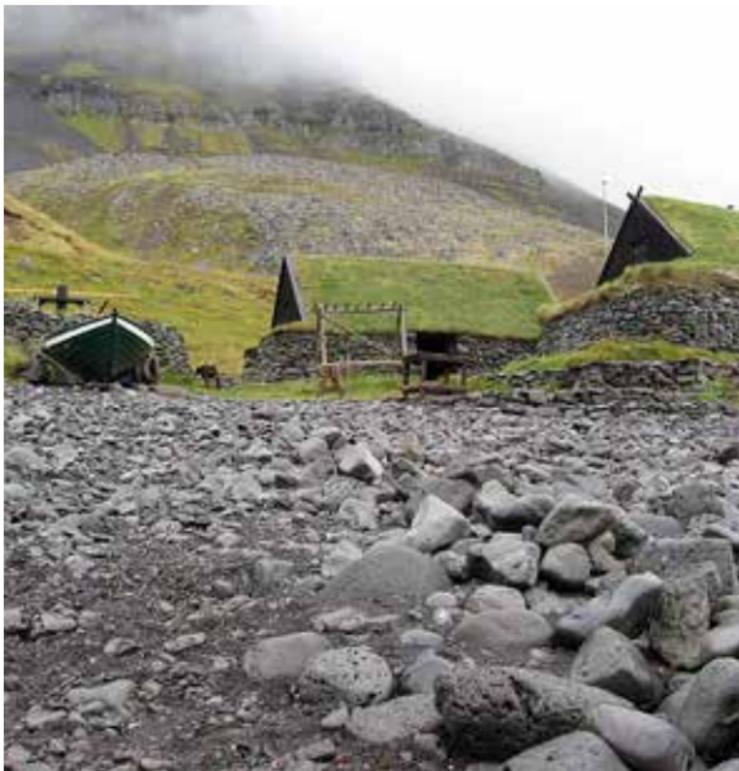


Boring, boring, boring, right? Absolutely - except for the museums in the Westfjords! Here we have all the museums that the scholars and adventurers of the future could possibly want to see: Learn about the king of birds at the White-Tailed Eagle Centre in Króksfjarðarnes (near Reykhólar), go to Hnjótur 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 Selárdalur, while the future engineers might prefer at the Old Mechanic Workshop in Þingeyri.

Explorers and nature scientists will feel at home amongst the birds, foxes and the polar bear at the Natural History Museum in Bolungarvík (the birds there do not count in the competition mentioned in the "Birds" section). The Ósvör Museum in Bolungarvík and the Maritime Museum in Ísfljóður 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.



Talk to the animals



We don't have many wild animals here in the Westfjords, but if you are lucky you might see an arctic fox or a mink running across the road. Another animal which seems to love running across the road is the sheep. They tend to jump across at the worst possible moment, so remind the driver to slow down while driving amongst sheep.

Many farm-guesthouses offer their guests the opportunity to see animals such as cows and horses. At Skálholt, by Barðaströnd, an open farm allows visitors to see pigs, cows, hens and more.

It is a well-known fact here in Iceland that on New Year's Eve and the last day of Christmas, January 6, cows can speak and understand human language. You can try to talk to them at other times of the year, **but most likely they won't understand you - just like your parents.**

Pet the cod



The cod and the sheep might not be regarded as the most intelligent creatures on planet Earth, but nevertheless we can, to a large degree, thank them for the fact that Icelanders have managed to survive in this harsh country for more than a thousand years. Presumably you have already seen a lot of sheep by the roads and highways, but in the eco-friendly village of Suðureyri you have a unique opportunity to greet the cod in person.

As you enter the village you will see a small pond on the left hand side of the road. This is the home to a group of cods who are eagerly waiting to meet you. First, though, you should go to the Fisherman Minimarket to obtain some cod food. Then you come back to the pond, go to the small pier and throw a little bit of the food into the water. Once the cods realize that the party has started, they will accept your invitation quickly. Sometimes they will allow you to pet them and even eat out of the palm of your hand. Be careful, though, as the term “finger food” has a different and more painful meaning in the cod-world than amongst humans.

Geology 101



The guy who wrote your geology textbook might not have known this, but in Iceland we only have three types of rock: trolls, elves and sea-monsters. Need a scientific explanation? Here it is: In the earlier centuries, Iceland was full of trolls. They were, however, very sensitive to daylight and if the sun shed its light on them, they turned to stone. Thus, little by little, the trolls died out but you can still find numerous cliffs and rocks which prove beyond doubt that trolls once existed.

Amongst famous trolls are the two big pillars of rock in Kollafjörður, south of Hólmavík (road #68). They are the remains of the trolls who tried to dig a canal to separate the Westfjords from the rest of Iceland. Their co-worker can be found in the village Drangsnæs. If you look carefully you will realize that there are trolls almost everywhere. Count how many you can find during your stay. If you

practice hard enough, you will learn to separate between rocks that used to be trolls, and rocks that are the homes of elves and other hidden creatures. Amongst famous “elves-rocks” are Dvergasteinn, close to the village Súðavík (road #61), and the big Bjartmannssteinn, right on the tip of the Borgarland peninsula (take the short gravel road just east of the junction 60/607). Bjartmannssteinn is actually a harbor city where merchant-elves from other countries are said to come on their big ships to trade with their Icelandic counterparts. If you manage to see them, you are one of the few chosen ones. Please remember that elves usually don't like loud noise or other disturbance so be careful whenever you are close to a rock which might belong to them. Remember also that elves have been known to seduce humans to enter their world, but once you have stepped over the boundaries it is difficult to get back!

The third type of rock, sea-monsters, can only be found in one place in Iceland, at the shore between the valleys Hvestudalur and Hringisdalur (road # 619), just west of the village Bíldudalur. This is where the sea monsters crawl on land and willingly turn to stone once they have grown old and weak. So, after you have visited the sea monster museum in Bíldudalur, go to this shore, examine the rocks and try to recognize as many different types of monsters as you can.



Enjoy local art



Before you burn this page: no, we are not asking you to visit one of those galleries where adults walk around trying to look like they understand the deeper meaning of the “art” on the walls. Far from it. We are talking about works created by the greatest artist of all times, Mother Nature. For the past 16 million years she has been working hard on shaping the Westfjords peninsula, just to make sure the area will look its best during your visit. How about sculptures like Vaðalfjöll mountains near Reykhólar, or the majestic cliffs at Látrabjarg and Hombjarg?

Or a painting like Rauðasandur and music like the thundering sound of the waterfall Dynjandi? Here is your next mission: make sure you are in control of the family camera. Take pictures of the artworks you like best and then use your Instagram account (or borrow somebody else’s) to post your pictures using the hashtag #westfjords. The pictures will then be displayed on the Westfjords Facebook page as well as on our official website www.westfjords.is. Now you have created your own artwork and put it on display for the whole world to see!





visit

Westfjords

www.westfjords.is

travel@westfjords.is · info@westfjords.is