

TOURISM, CULTURE AND BUSINESS

ICELANDIC TIMES

ISSUE 47 • 2022



The North is Calling!
Christian Roots and
Royal Bloodlines
Museums You've
Never Seen
Bathing in Beauty
Petra's Unique
Collection

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ISSN

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Iceland is open for those who dare to be different and want their holiday to be an experience, who want to take home more than a suntan from sleeping on a beach. In Iceland, you get a suntan from hiking the mountain trails, exploring the wild nature, the waterfalls, glistening glaciers with their ice caves, or bathing in geothermal pools.

Since its settlement, Iceland has been a country for the adventurous, willing to brave tough conditions. Their stories are chronicled in museums around the country—dramatic stories brought to life in varied and unique presentations. You'll also find the history of the Faroes in this issue.

Healthy living is important and restaurants reflect that in their menus. Whether fish straight from the boat, vegetables grown in geothermal hothouses or using nature to create supplements or skin creams, Icelanders have taken the best and made it better.

Art and culture have generated innovations in design, clothing, jewellery, painting and more.

The Icelandic horse has played a key role in the country's survival. Today, you can take riding tours in many parts of the country. Recently, new routes have opened for vehicles, including the Arctic Coast Way, a 900km route that makes the entire north accessible.



Einar Th. Thorsteinsson

Tours with qualified guides reveal features visitors otherwise miss and a new photo book has just been published for you to take home. Iceland is vibrant, welcoming and willing to share the beauty of its land and society. One trip is not enough!

Contents

The Icelandic Phalological Museum.....6	Krauma Geothermal Baths.....39	The Pearls of East Iceland.....56
FlyOver Iceland.....8	Tokens of Iceland.....32	A Unique Bathing Experience.....58
Art at the Reykjavík Art Museum.....10	Journey to the Inside of a Glacier.....33	Where the Sun comes up.....60
The Joyful Wonderland.....14	Tjóðsavn of Faroe Islands.....34	Explore the Beauty of East Iceland.....62
Sustainable Artisan knifemaking in Iceland.....15	Tróndur í Gotu.....36	Petra's Stone & Mineral Collection.....64
A Taste of Thai.....16	Go West: Visit Lovely Akranes.....38	Survey the Scenic South.....66
Anna María Design.....17	To "Just Be" In Dalabyggð.....39	On Top of the world Glacier Jeeps.....68
Pure Iceland.....18	Into the Wild Westfjords.....40	A Little Bit of Icelandic Paradise.....70
Austurvöllur.....20	Visit the Great North.....42	Discover an Ice-Blue World.....71
The First Marriott Hotel in Icelandic.....22	Travel to the Edge of the Arctic.....44	A Taste of Iceland's Wild & Sweet.....72
Leather Designer.....24	Geothermal Sea Baths.....46	The House that Disappeared.....73
Travel in style with Hreyfill Taxi Service.....24	Akureyri Heart of the North.....48	Árnessýsla Heritage Museum.....74
Lysi.....25	Krua Siam.....50	The Bobby Fischer Center.....76
Fish House by the Harbour.....26	The Icelandic Seal Centre.....51	Dreaming of Iceland.....78
Exquisite gallery opens in Harpa.....27	A Charming Farm in Marvellous Myvatn.....52	Delightful Bakeries in South Iceland.....80
Go West!.....28	Myvatn Tours.....53	The Homely Herd's Lair.....80
Delving Into History.....29	An Idyllic Ice Cave in the Great North.....54	

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Icelandic language

Icelandic is one of the European root languages, like Latin. There is no 'c' or 'z' in modern Icelandic, except in foreign words. However, it still contains some letters not found in most other languages. This basic list provides a general idea of their sounds, using familiar words rather than phonetics.

Character	Pronunciation
á	Like 'ow' in 'cow'
æ	Like the personal pronoun 'I'
ð	Like 'th' in 'with'
þ	Like 'th' in 'thing'

How to make use of QR codes



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A source of health



Thermal swimming pools
Hot tubs and jacuzzi
Saunas, steam baths
The place to meet locals

Admission
Adults 1.100 isk. Children 175 isk.
Free entry for children 0-5 years old and senior citizens aged 67 and over

Thermal pools and baths in Reykjavík are a source of health, relaxation and pureness.

All of the city's swimming pools have several hot tubs with temperatures ranging from 37° to 42° C (98° -111° F). The pools are kept at an average temperature of 29° C (84° F)

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Admission April 2022. Price is subject to change



THE ICELANDIC PHALLOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Visit one of the most unique museums on the planet

The Icelandic Phallogological Museum is one of the most unique museums in the world and one of the most-visited in Reykjavík. The museum contains a collection of more than 300 penises belonging to every species of mammal found in Iceland and scores of foreign species. Visitors to the museum will see specimens belonging to whales, a rogue polar bear, seals and walruses, and specimens originating from many different kinds of land mammals. “The collection began in 1974 and it’s been constantly growing,” said Þórður O. Þórðarson, the manager of the museum. “We have well over 300 penis specimens and 300 penis themed art and cultural pieces.”

History of the museum

The founder, Sigurður Hjartarson, a historian and teacher, began this collection in 1974 when colleagues who worked at the nearby whaling station in West Iceland began giving him whale penises to tease him. The idea of collecting specimens from more mammalian species was born. Collecting the organs progressed and by 1980, he had collected 13 specimens, four from whales and nine from land mammals. In 1990 there were 34 specimens and, when the museum opened in Reykjavík in August 1997, the specimens totalled 62. In the Spring of 2004, the museum moved to the small fishing village of Húsavík, the whale watching capital of Europe. It

was moved back to Reykjavík in 2011 and opened under the direction of a new curator, Siguður’s son.

New and exciting location

“The first location in Reykjavík was great, but we had to relocate because the collection grew and the number of visitors grew as well,” said Þórður. “We are now located at Hafnartorg, which is a great area of Reykjavík near Harpa.” The museum has undergone extensive changes to improve the visitor experience. There is more space for guests to roam and view the specimens and the technology has been enhanced, with touch screens adding a modernized feel. Another exciting addition has been a phallus-themed bistro where locals and tourists can enjoy food, coffee and beers on tap from local breweries.

A visit to the Icelandic Phallogological Museum is a unique, must-see experience when visiting Reykjavík. The museum, which is open every day from 10:00 – 19:00, is a great way to spend a couple of hours in the capital, and it will be a conversation piece for years to come! - JG



The Icelandic Phallogological Museum
Hafnartorg, 101 Reykjavík
+354 561 6663
www.phallus.is



Two Icelandic Themed Villages

The Viking Village is a unique place and it is the only viking theme hotel and restaurant in Iceland. We have step by step been developing our facilities over the last 29 years and we will continue to do that in the future. We offer hotel accommodation and viking houses that are good for families and groups.

Most nights there are viking singers walking around singing and playing guitar in the restaurant while the guests enjoys their dinner.

The Fisherman's Village Resort is our newest accommodation and restaurant and is only few minutes drive from the Viking Village. It is located in Hlíð, Álftanes, close to the president residence. Like a country home by the seaside. There are 25 rooms in the Fisherman's Village all with sea view.

It is a very good place to see the northern lights. The restaurant is open for groups in the evenings.

15 minutes drive to the city center

Viking feast - Souvenirs / Live entertainment most nights

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FlyOver Iceland

Soar above the island on an exhilarating ride

FlyOver Iceland gives you a thrilling bird's eye view over the breathtaking landscapes of Iceland. Located in the Grandi harbour district on the west side of Reykjavík, the experience utilizes state-of-the-art technology, with full motion seating, for a true sense of flight. You sit suspended, feet dangling, before a 20-metre wraparound screen, while the film takes you on an exciting journey across Iceland. To enhance the experience, there are special effects, including wind, mist and scents, making you feel as if you are there.

An unforgettable experience

It's a unique feeling, hanging suspended as you soar through the landscape, feeling a light mist as you glide above a thundering waterfall, laughing and gasping at the dips and speed, and being enthralled by the epic beauty of the island. For many, the experience is more thrilling than expected and it's fantastic to share with your family.

Learn about Iceland's history and nature

Before the flight-ride experience, there are two pre-ride shows that allow you to explore the unique nature of Iceland, as

well as the nation's mythology and history. Before your flight begins, an animated Icelandic storyteller will welcome you into an ancient Viking longhouse. You join him by the light of the fire as he weaves a tale while an impressive shadow-play projection brings it all to life.

The animated narrator then takes you through the second experience, which uses audio, video and music. The guide, Sú Vitra, is a character based on old troll mythology that has been designed by the world-renowned illustrator Brian Pilkington. Sú Vitra guides you through three different acts. The first invites you to feel the power of Iceland's nature, including towering volcanoes, vast glaciers and thundering waterfalls. The next act centres around the first settlers, while the last act shows how Icelanders have made a life on the island, despite the many obstacles.

Relax at the comfortable café

You are welcome to enjoy the onsite café, Kaffi Grandi, where you can purchase snacks, light meals, soft drinks and coffee beverages. Adults can also order from the bar that includes a selection of beers, wines and cocktails.



Fun for the whole family

FlyOver Iceland is the perfect way to spend some time in the heart of Reykjavík with your family. Children aged 12 and under are welcome to join, as long as they are at least 102cm tall. FlyOver Iceland is open Wednesdays to Sundays this summer and the entire experience lasts about 35 minutes. The Grandi area is home to other family-friendly activities like the Whales of Iceland exhibition, as well as shopping and ice cream shops. -JG



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NATIONAL MUSEUM
 OF ICELAND



WELCOME TO

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND



WELCOME TO

KELDUR



The National Museum of Iceland
 Suðurgata 41, 102 Reykjavík

Keldur
 Keldum, 851 Hellu

Summer opening
 Daily 10-17

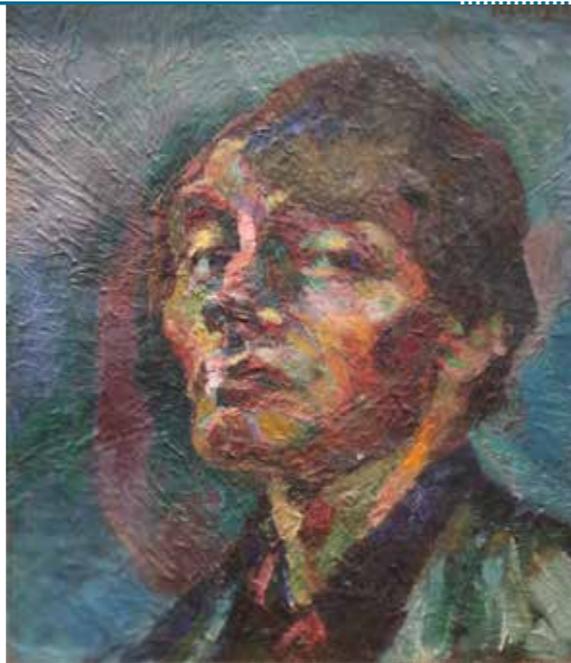
www.nationalmuseum.is
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 @thjodminjasafn

Art at the REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM

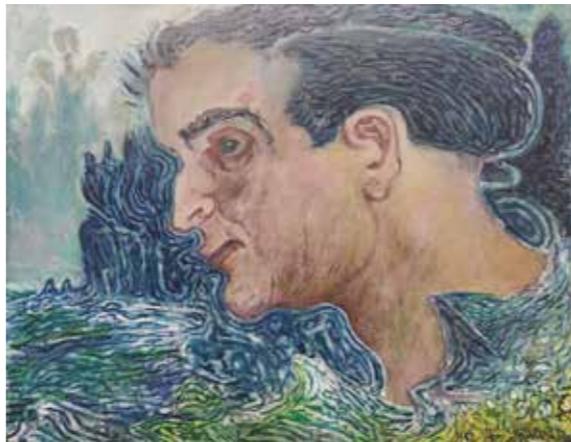
In Kjarvalsstaðir, the Reykjavík Art Museum is now showing the exhibition 'Heads from Clouds — The Portraits of Jóhannes S. Kjarval'. The painter Kjarval is one of the nation's greatest and most beloved artists. His paintings and his interpretation of Iceland's nature have shaped our view of nature, and he takes a major place in the cultural and art history of Iceland.

Kjarval began his career as a painter by making portraits of four CEOs of Landsbanki Íslands. 'Drawings of Icelandic People' from 1926 to 1930, however, were a watershed in his career. He won the minds and hearts of the people, and some of these pictures were purchased, his first for the National Art Museum.

Throughout his career, he was sketching, drawing and painting portraits, and over time they become a kind of extension of his view of the natural world. Finally, the Nobel Prize-winning writer, Halldór Kiljan Laxness, in his first art commentary in 1927, says about Kjarval's portraits of people from the previous year, "The working methods in the portraits ... certify the understanding of a highly educated artist of Icelandic nature". At this retrospective, 'Heads from Clouds', the first to be dedicated only to Kjarval's portraits of people, one of the main characteristics of Kjarval's portraits is that they are about people rather than the images. The curator of the exhibition is Aðalsteinn Ingólfsson. The exhibition is open until 18th September.



Jóhannes Kjarval self-portrait



Two Masters, Kjarval's painting of Erró. Both artists have exhibitions at Reykjavík Art Museum. Portrait of Erró, 1948.

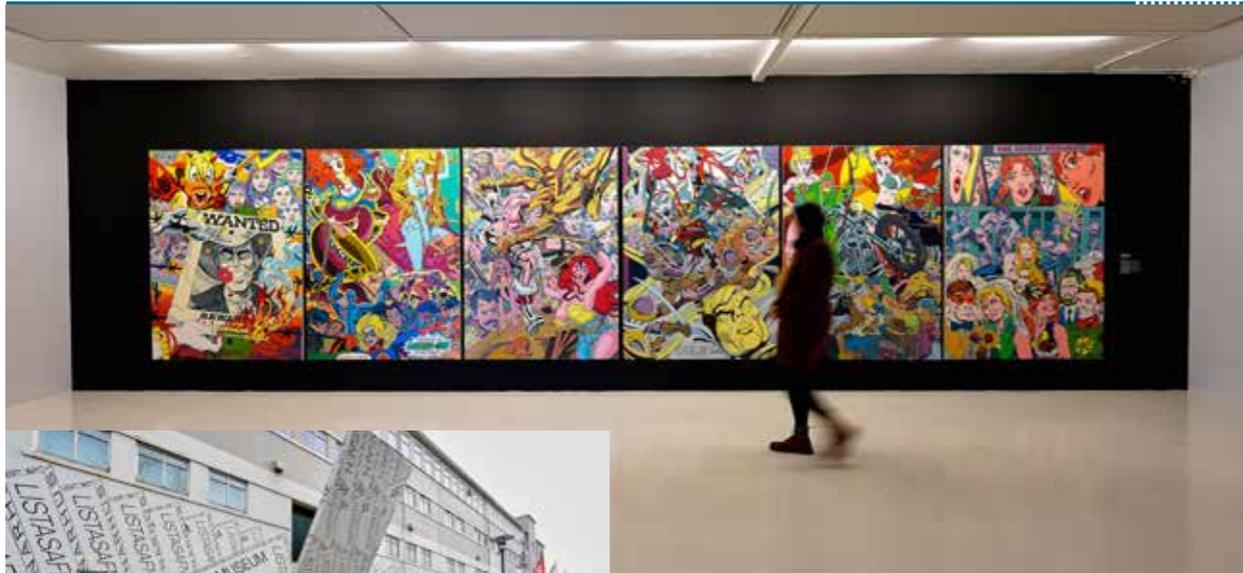


Kjarval. The Sisters from Stapi, 1948



Kjarval. Retrato de Jón Kaldal, 1917-20





One of our greatest artists is Guðmundur Guðmundsson, born in 1932, and known as the artist Erro. 'Explosive power of images', the Erro exhibition that is currently in the Reykjavik Art Museum, and lasts until early September, is the largest and most complete review of the career of this colourful artist, who lived and worked in Paris for more than half a century.

He is one of the few Icelandic artists who have gained a foothold in the world of international art. 33 years ago there was great news in Icelandic cultural life, when Erro gave the City of Reykjavik 2,000 works of art. In 2000, 22 years ago, the artist's gift was found a place in the Reykjavik Art Museum, Hafnarhús. The Erro Museum has grown steadily and now counts about 4,000 works, paintings, watercolours, graphics, sculptures, collages and other works of art that span the artist's career for a full 70 years. The curators of the exhibition are Danielle Kvaran and Gunnar B Kvaran. But more than 300 works by Guðmundur Guðmundsson, world-renowned as Erro are in the exhibition.



Ásmundarsafn in Laugardal is part of the Reykjavik Art Museum. The museum is dedicated to the works of sculptor Ásmundur Sveinsson (1893-1982) and was opened in 1983, in a single house that the artist designed both as a home and studio, and built between the years 1942-1959. The garden around the house is unique, with numerous sculptures by this pioneering

sculptor in Iceland. The exhibition in the museum this summer is called, 'Rósa Gísladóttir, Ásmundur Sveinsson: 'Spatial Infractions'. There, sculptors meet two hours in conversation. Rósa (1959) has in her career as a sculptor worked with various materials, but she is best known for plaster sculptures in different shapes and sizes. The exhibition runs until August 7.



FELDUR

VERKSTÆÐI

FUR STORE AND WORKSHOP

Find warmth in the heart of Reykjavík

Feldur is a family run fur brand that specializes in the design of high quality fur products. Their flagship store and workshop is located in the heart of Reykjavik where you will find a wide selection of fur products. Inside you can also see the furrier at work, altering and repairing old fur garments giving them a longer life and a new style. "We believe in the quality and durability of fur as a material that can last a lifetime".



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Snorrabraut 56 - 105 Reykjavík
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feldur@feldur.is
www.feldur.is



THE JOYFUL WONDERLAND

The Little Christmas Shop that is festive all year round

Anne Helen, owner of 'The Little Christmas Shop' on Laugavegur, Reykjavík's main shopping street, is what you might call a 'one woman wonder'. 20 years ago, she decided it was time for a change and turned to doing what she does better than most of us; making the world a prettier place, one Christmas ball at a time.

In the Land of Eternal Christmas

Anne Helen, a genuine aesthete, says she has always had somewhat of a Christmas obsession and an intense passion for things of beauty. She never goes for anything average but hunts for things of quality that truly stand out. Though she imports merchandise from all over Europe, her ambition is to specialise in Icelandic handiwork and ornaments. She already has an extensive range, most made exclusively for her by a number of craftsmen,

each having a distinctive approach and working in materials such as wool, glass and clay. In addition to customary Christmas ornaments, she includes local folklore figures, like the thirteen Yule Lads and the Christmas Cat.

Anne Helen loves to tell customers about Icelandic Christmas traditions. Visitors often stop by simply because they've heard of her hospitality and the shop's friendly atmosphere. They rarely leave empty handed. After all, placing an Icelandic Yule Lad on your Christmas tree every year is a great way to remember your visit to Iceland. -HDB



Litla Jólábúðin

Laugavegi 8 • Reykjavík
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SUSTAINABLE ARTISAN KNIFEMAKING IN ICELAND

One of a kind knives that will last you a lifetime

When people think about knifemaking, nature and waterfalls are probably the last things that come to mind. However, that is precisely what you find when you visit Páll Kristjánsson's and Soffía Sigurðardóttir's world-renowned sustainable knife atelier. Situated in the idyllic Álafosskvós in Mosfellsbær, only a 15-minute drive from downtown Reykjavík, the atelier offers some of the best knives you will ever own.

Páll Kristjánsson, or Páll as he likes to be called, has been making knives for over 30 years. His craftsmanship is renowned worldwide, but his knives are unique because he only uses sustainable materials. "Soffía and I use materials that otherwise would be thrown away and

give them a new life", Páll says. "Some of the materials we use are birch, rowan, horses' hooves, reindeer antlers, sheep horns and whale teeth." As a result, every knife is one of a kind and made with Japanese Damascus steel or stainless steel from Denmark, Germany and Sweden.

Soffía Sigurðardóttir's artisan kitchen knives are made with only the best blades, which have to be handled with care. She is also the only kitchen-knifemaker in Iceland. "I get inspiration from nature and my surroundings when I'm creating the knives. One colour combination of rust-red and green, I got from a ship in the shipyard in the Old Harbour in Reykjavík", Soffía says.

"Sustainability and the environment are very important to us. No animals are hunted for us. The ram horns and horse hooves come from slaughtered animals, and the ivory comes from beached

whales. If we buy wood, we only buy from specially certified companies in the USA, which can reliably prove that the trees were legally chopped down." Additionally, they get wood from old trees in Iceland that need to be cut down.

It's not only Páll and Soffía who sell their art in the atelier. Páll's brother Bjarni is also an artist. His primary medium is ebony and ivory, from which he carves out small animals and other figures. Just like Páll and Soffía, his materials are sustainably sourced.

Visiting the atelier gives a particular sensation of calmness. It is evident the work done there is done with care. The smell of the different woods and leather of the sheaths, combined with the calm sounds of birds chirping and the waterfall, which is literally in their backyard, makes for an exceptional experience. One which is highly recommended. -HDB



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A TASTE OF THAI

Krua Thai serves an enticing cuisine in the heart of the capital city

Reykjavík's culinary charm is quite impressive for a small city, with a growing number of choices to suit all tastes. While there are traditional Icelandic restaurants serving fresh fish and tender lamb dishes, there are also fantastic restaurants specialising in food that you may not expect to see in Iceland. For instance, Krua Thai features classic and inventive Thai food in Reykjavík.

Impressive Menu

Quality ingredients, friendly service and a comfortable environment make Krua Thai a favourite among locals and travellers. The menus feature many of the staples you expect to see such as savoury spring rolls, tasty rice and noodle dishes, and glorious plates of Pad Thai. Main courses include delicious options like Pad Grapow, which is a fried dish with chilli and basil leaf in oyster sauce, served with rice and either chicken, pork, beef or lamb. There are also soups and salads on the menu. There is truly something for everyone.

Vegetarian-friendly dining

Non-meat eaters will feel more than welcome as Krua Thai has a large vegetarian section that is big on flavour. For instance, guests can enjoy vegetable noodle and rice dishes, as well as fried vegetables with tofu in oyster sauce, and a spicy vya salad served with rice.

Central location

Krua Thai at Skólavörðustíg 21a, is conveniently located in the heart of city centre, and is a delightful location for a meal. It has a cosy atmosphere and friendly staff who are eager to ensure you have an ideal dining experience. It's the perfect place for a meal after some time exploring museums, shops, and cafes in the trendiest and liveliest part of Reykjavík. If you want to spend the evening in at your hotel or guesthouse, you can order food to take away, and with delivery. Delivery is available daily until 21:00. -JG



Krua Thai
 Skólavörðustíg 21a, Reykjavík 101
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 www.kruathai.is



ANNA MARÍA Design

The influence of the Icelandic nature

Anna María Sveinbjörnsdóttir is an Icelandic jeweller and designer who runs her own jewellery store, Anna María Design, on one of the main shopping streets in the city, Skólavörðustígur 3, in the heart of Reykjavík. Anna María studied both in Iceland and Denmark and has run her own company for more than three decades.

Anna María's design is pure, timeless and modern at the same time. She stresses exceptional attention to detail and craftsmanship and has eye for the smallest detail.

The jewellery is both for women and men and encompass silver, gold, white gold, Icelandic stones as well as precious stones like diamonds. In the store, you can find one of the biggest selections of jewellery with Icelandic stones in the country like Agate, Mose-agate, Jasper, Basalt and Lava.

When it comes to emphasis and style, Anna María mentions free and organic forms based on the Icelandic nature. Iceland is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and its waves inspire the jeweller and much of her jewellery where you can see the forms of the waves on rings, necklaces, bracelets or ear-rings.

Filigree represents a delicate form of jewellery metalwork usually made in silver and is well known regarding the traditional Icelandic women's costume. In some of Anna María's designs you can find this extraordinary delicate work, which reminds one of the Icelandic heritage. -SJ



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 www.annamariadesign.is



PURE ICELAND

Photographer Kristján Ingi Einarsson's latest book is a triumph



Iceland is an undeniably beautiful place, but it takes a skilled photographer to capture the true essence of this idyllic island. In his recently published book, *Pure Iceland*, Kristján Ingi Einarsson expertly photographs diverse landscapes, unique geology and thrilling natural phenomena.

Pure Iceland features photographs from every corner of Iceland, from the hauntingly beautiful black sands of Reynisfjara in the south to Hvítserkur, the legendary sea stack in the north.

Geology enthusiasts will especially be interested in the book as the photos of vast lava fields, bubbling geothermal areas and the epic eruption of Fagradalsfjall remind readers that the land of Iceland is very much alive.

Wondrous waterfalls

The sheer beauty of the waterfalls at Svartifoss, Seljalandsfoss and Hraunfossar are documented perfectly as white water crashes metres below in the midst of an epic landscape.

Kristján Ingi also captures some of the ice in Iceland with starkly beautiful shots of ice caves in the Highlands and enormous glacier outlets bathed in soft light.

Beautiful Icelandic poetry

Pure Iceland includes texts from some of Iceland's most revered poets and authors, including Halldór Laxness, Steingrímur Thorsteinsson, and Steinunn Sigurðadóttir. The words complement Kristján Ingi's photographs perfectly, creating an extra layer of beauty to the book.

The man behind the lens

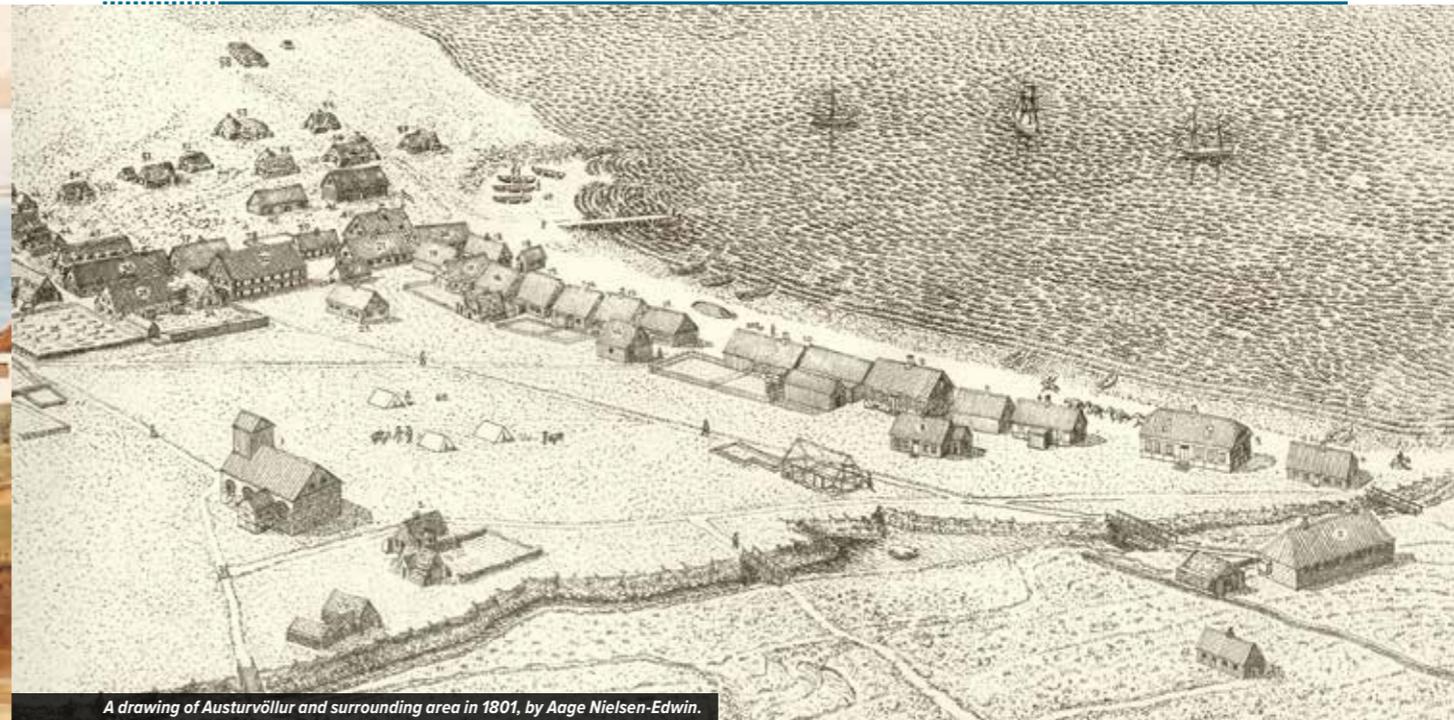
Kristján Ingi is the author of several bestselling books that exhibit Icelandic nature at its best. His previously published books include *The Essence of Iceland*, *Iceland So Quiet*, *I was here*, *Niceland*, and *Horses & Nature*. He started taking photographs as a boy and later worked for various newspapers, magazines, companies and institutions. Kristján Ingi has held numerous photographic exhibitions, with his most recent work focused on landscapes interpreting his vision of Iceland. His books are available for purchase in bookshops like Eymundsson and most tourist shops.

AUSTURVÖLLUR

The Central Square where people gather in Reykjavík



A drawing of Austurvöllur and surrounding area in 1820, by Aage Nielsen-Edwin.



A drawing of Austurvöllur and surrounding area in 1801, by Aage Nielsen-Edwin.

In olden times, when Reykjavík was simply a farm, Austurvöllur (the East Field) was its best grassfield, and much larger than it is today. It extended over much of what is now the old centre of Reykjavík: from Aðalstræti to Lækjargata, and from Hafnarstræti to the Lake.

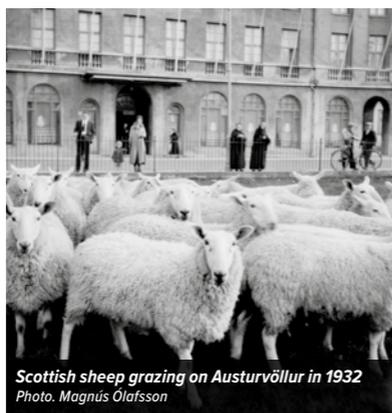
When Reykjavík Cathedral was built in 1788-90, rock was quarried nearby and stored on Austurvöllur.

By the early 1800s the field was in a poor state due to overuse and turf-cutting (for construction). As a result the town magistrate banned unauthorised turf-cutting.

In 1806 he stated that it had once been a fine, useful field, but was now nothing but a neglected peat-bog. At that time, dumping of ash and refuse on the field was prohibited, but no other measures were

taken. The field was marshy and uneven, and unsuitable for building.

As the village of Reykjavík grew, it gradually encroached on the field. In the



Scottish sheep grazing on Austurvöllur in 1932
Photo. Magnús Ólafsson

19th century it served as a campsite for countrymen visiting the town, and also for early tourists.

In 1874 the town council of Copenhagen presented a statue to the people of Reykjavík: a self-portrait by Icelandic-Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen. The town council chose a place for it in the middle of Austurvöllur, and in the summer of 1875 the field was fenced, levelled and turfed, and paths were made. The sculpture was ceremonially unveiled on 19 November 1875, the artist's birthday. It was Reykjavík's first public sculpture.

In 1930 the fence was removed, opening the square, and in 1931 the Thorvaldsen statue was moved to the Hljómskálagarður park, to make way for a statue of Jón Sigurðsson (1811-79), leader of Iceland's

19th-century independence movement, by sculptor Einar Jónsson.

In the early 20th century an artificial skating rink was often created in winter on the square, which was popular with the townspeople.

Many entertainments and social events have taken place on the square over the years, and the people of Reykjavík have traditionally gathered here, in front of Parliament House, whether to celebrate or to protest. At one of the first protest meetings, in 1905, thousands objected to the laying of an undersea telephone cable to Iceland. On 30 March 1949 a protest against Iceland joining NATO led to violence; police used truncheons and teargas on the crowds. Every year people gather on Austurvöllur to celebrate National Day on 17 June, when

a wreath is laid before the statue of Jón Sigurðsson; and in December crowds come to see the lights lit on a Christmas tree, a gift from the people of Oslo.

After the Icelandic economy collapsed in the autumn of 2008, Austurvöllur was again the scene of protests. People gathered, listened to speeches, and hammered on pots and pans to express their rage, in what has become known as the Kitchenware Revolution.

Austurvöllur, in its present form was designed by Sigurður Albert Jónsson, former chief of The Reykjavík Botanical Gardens, and presented to the city by Hafliði Jónsson, former chief of Reykjavík Parks Department; in 1999 the plan was simplified and renewed, to designs by landscape architect Þórólfur Jónsson.

Reykjavík's Historical Plaques

In recent years the City of Reykjavík has been installing plaques at historic sites around the city. The markers display pictures and information about the site's history, art, literature and social life. This is the information displayed at the Austurvöllur Central Square.

Text and photos: Reykjavík City Museum
See more at www.reykjavikcitymuseum.is



Austurvöllur in 1905. A statue of Bertel Thorvaldsen, later relocated to Hljómskálagarðurinn Park.
Photo. Magnús Ólafsson



Tug-of-war on Austurvöllur in 1912. Photo. Magnús Ólafsson



Celebrations on Austurvöllur as women in Iceland gained the right to vote, June 19th 1915. Photo. Magnús Ólafsson



Women's Freedom Day celebrated on Austurvöllur, June 19th 1919. Photo. Magnús Ólafsson



Lighting the lights on the Oslo Tree in December 1983.
Photo. Jim Smart

COURTYARD IN REYKJANESBÆR

THE FIRST MARRIOTT HOTEL IN ICELAND

Of the famous Marriott Hotels of the world, the one at Keflavík must rank as one of the most strategically located, with the volcanic eruption at Fagradalsfjall – ‘Beautiful Valley Mountain’ – being visible from its bedrooms.

The hotel is located within the world-renowned Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark and is in close proximity of numerous geological wonders and attractions, such as Gunnhver and the bridge between the continental plates of America and Europe, where one can literally walk from one continent to the other. Keflavík’s Marriott is easy to get to, being only five minutes away from Keflavík International Airport and thirty minutes from the capital, Reykjavík.

The hotel offers 150 deluxe rooms that combine comfort and functionality, with crisp linen, blackout curtains, a walk-in shower, complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi, flat screen TV and a large desk. The hotel has a 24/7 gym and The Market, a convenience store, also open 24/7.

The Bridge Restaurant at the centre

The new state-of-the-art lobby at the Courtyard provides greater flexibility and choices for guests. At the centre of it all is The Bridge restaurant for a great breakfast, lunch or dinner and drinks in the evenings. Guests also enjoy inviting, flexible spaces, whether working or relaxing, free Wi-Fi throughout and easy access to the latest news, weather, and airport conditions. The Bridge, the on-site restaurant, brings a new standard and presentation for both local guests and international travellers, with exciting menus using fresh ingredients from local suppliers, offers endless opportunities for events, groups, business occasions etc.

Brand-new meeting spaces are perfect for interviews, corporate training, and other events. The hotel’s two meeting rooms can be combined into one large event space with an accessible pre-function area, ideal for corporate meetings or smaller gatherings.

Whether visiting Iceland for business or pleasure, the friendly staff at Courtyard Reykjavik Keflavik Airport guide guests and help make visit to Iceland a success. -HH



Keflavik's Marriott
 Adalgata 60, 230 Reykjanessaer
 +354 599 6100
 info@courtyardkeflavikairport.is
 www.Marriott.com/KEFCY



BRYGGJAN KAFFIHÚS is a cosy little Café located on the Pier next to the Grindavík Harbour on the Reykjanes peninsula, minutes south from famous Blue Lagoon.

*Bryggjan Grindavík
 Miðgarður 2, 240 Grindavík
 +354 426 7100
 info@bryggjan.com
 www.bryggjan.com*



THE GRINDAVÍK CAMPSITE on Reykjanes peninsula is one of the more organised campsites in Iceland. They have BBQ's, electricity, playgrounds, a play castle, kitchen, laundry room and WiFi.

*Camping in Grindavík
 Austurvegur 26, 240 Grindavík
 +354 660 7323
 camping@grindavik.is www.grindavik.is/tjaldsvaedi*



FISHHOUSE BAR & GRILL in the romantic fishing village of Grindavík is an excellent seafood restaurant minutes south of the Blue Lagoon. They pride themselves on the use of delicious local produce.

*Fishhouse bar and grill
 Hafnargötu 6, 240 Grindavík
 +354 426 9999
 kari@fishhouse.is
 www.fishhouse.is*



SALTHÚSIÐ RESTAURANT in Reykjanes is the only seafood restaurant in Iceland that specialises in Bacalao, the salted cod. Once the staple food for the poor, now a sought after delicacy all over Iberia and Iceland.

*Stamphólsvegi 2, 240 Grindavík
 +354426 9700
 salthusid@salthusid.is
 salthusid-english.weebly.com/*



GRINDAVÍK SWIMMING POOL is located in the middle of town, next to the lovely campsite. They have a 25m lap pool, a kid pool, waterslide, hot tubs, sauna, tanning beds and a gym.

*Austurvegi 1, 240 Grindavík
 +354 426 7555
 ithrottir@grindavik.is
 www.grindavik.is/sundlaug*



BRUIN RESTAURANT is a family run seafood place with delicious fish dishes and fish soup as specialties with a stunning view over the harbour. Their menu also includes pizza, burgers and a kids menu.

*Hafnargötu 26, 240 Grindavík
 +354 426 7080
 bruin@simnet.is
 www.restaurantbruin.com*



VOGA SEATOURS is a new tour company offering sea-tours such as whale watching, sea angling and Northern lights tours from Vogur on Reykjanes, 15 minutes from Keflavik airport.

*Voga Höfn, 190 Vogur
 +354 833 9080
 info@vogaseatours.com
 vogaseatours.com*



VOGAR CAMPING and Youth Hostel is located only 15 min from KEF airport. Open 24/7 all year.

*Hafnargata 19 - 22, 190 Vogur
 +354 777-3222
 vidsjoinn@gmail.com
 www.vogarcamping.is*



THE HERITAGE MUSEUM ON GARÐSKAGI, Bygðasafnið á Garðskaga, is located in a museum area by Garðskagaviti Lighthouse in Suðurnesjabær, where there is a beautiful panoramic view in all directions.

*Skagabraut 100, 250 Suðurnesjabær
 +354 425 3008
 byggdasafn@sudurnesjabær.is
 Open: May 1. – Sept. 30. 10am – 17 pm*



SÓLHESTAR HORSE RENTAL Solhestar is a company specializing in taking customers on horseback through the amazing. With over 80 horses, the guide ensures you'll get the horse suitable for you.

*Surtlugata 19, 110 Reykjavík
 +354 892 3066
 solhestar@solhestar.is*



KRUA THAI IN KÓPAVOGUR is a favourite for many. With their reputation to always deliver fresh, tasty food, both at the restaurant & to your door, it is no wonder they are such a popular choice.

*Bæjarlind 14, 201 Kópavogur
 +354 552 2525
 www.kruathai.is/en/
 kruathai@kruathai.is*



HAPPY TOURS is a small family company running an old and lovely fishing boat from Hafnarfjörður since 2009. Their goal is to give guests an intimate and informational experience.

*Hlésgata, 101 Reykjavík
 +354 85 33 111
 info@happytours.is
 happytours.is/*



At the **ÁRNESSÝSLA HERITAGE MUSEUM'S** varied exhibitions in 'The House' at Eyrbakkí, visitors can experience past times and learn about the remarkable history of the building. Húsið (The House) at Eyrbakkí is one of Iceland's oldest buildings, built in 1765.

*Húsinu 820, Eyrbakka
 +354 4831504
 lydurp@byggdasafn.is*



FEEL ICELAND. Utilizing the treasure troves of geothermal heat, wild fish and health-giving pristine waters has helped this tiny nation in the North Atlantic Ocean survive and prosper since Viking times. Beauty is celebrated from an elemental perspective, taking cues from the land and sea to promote natural wellness.

*Skólavörðustígur 28 - 101 Reykjavík
 +354-783-1300*



LEATHER DESIGNER

Ladies handbags, earrings and necklaces

Quality Icelandic design and leather handcraft is much sought after. “My first leather design was a handbag painted with colourful artwork and patterns,” says Guðrún Stefánsdóttir, a successful independent architect who found a second career in creative leather designs.

Guðrún designs leather handbags and now she’s added necklaces and earrings to her Ark Art accessory collection. “I wanted to use the leather cut-offs for something useful, when I came up with the idea to use them to make jewellery—earrings and necklaces.”

Guðrún’s Ark Art leather jewellery is recognisable by her use of thin leather rings or squares and use of colours. It is a sophisticated yet simple design, skilfully using geometric shapes and colours. Guðrún graduated from the Royal School of Architecture in Denmark in 1986.

After working at an architect’s office, she started her own business. “I’ve worked on some amazing projects, ranging from large buildings to single family homes. My favourite projects are those where I design everything from A-Z for private homes. Those projects would typically involve the house and interior design, the landscaping around the house and the furniture inside.” Her services are available upon request.

The Ark Art collection is available at the National Art Gallery, Snorrastofa in Reykholt, at Rammagerðin at the Keflavík International Airport, and directly from Guðrún. More information can be found on Facebook: Arkart-leatherdesign. -NHH



Arkart
 Síðumúli 1 • 105 Reykjavík
 +354 8623355
 arkgunna@gmail.com
 www.icelandictimes.com/leather-designer/





TRAVEL IN STYLE WITH HREYFILL TAXI SERVICE

Why not skip the rental car in Iceland and book a taxi instead? Hreyfill taxi offers a personal experience, whether it is to be picked up from Keflavík International Airport or if you want to explore the country. Hreyfill is the largest taxi service in Iceland, as well as one of the oldest, founded in 1943.

Hreyfill is an excellent option if you want to travel to places off the beaten track or even if you just want a more intimate Golden Circle Tour. Longer or shorter trips are also available, and it is possible to book at short notice. The call centre is open 24/7, so there is always someone who can help.

One of the must-go places to visit in Iceland is the Blue Lagoon, near Grindavík. The lagoon is a great place to relax and eat good food, and having a driver and car from Hreyfill takes the whole experience to the next level. There is no need to plan your trip according to a company’s coach schedule.

No trip is too short or too long. If you just need a ride to the next street over, Hreyfill is



happy to help. It’s possible to order a taxi by phone, via email, through their app or just hail one from one of the many taxi ranks in the city centre. -HDB



Hreyfill Taxi
 Fells múli 26, 108 Reykjavík
 +354 588 5522
 www.hreyfill.is





LYSI

Bringing the healthy living of Iceland to the world



The story of LYSI is one of vision and innovation. In 1938, two Icelandic brothers formed LYSI as a small cod liver oil producer. The demand for lýsi – cod liver oil – was already high in Iceland, due to the need for vitamins A and D. LYSI began by offering the oil to Icelanders at home. During World War II, LYSI began exporting to the US and UK. As research into the benefits of omega-3 fatty acids increased, the demand for LYSI’s products continued to rise. The company placed research and product development at its forefront and has since grown considerably. Today, LYSI offers a suite of fish oil and wellbeing products to world markets, from fish taken straight from the Icelandic seas.

Wide range of products

LYSI has recently introduced ‘Lýsi Life’, a line of products that combine an omega-3 base with other functional supplements; a focus on the brain, heart, skin, joints, eyes, bones and pregnancy, along with the fundamental liquid cod liver oil. The products include active ingredients such as antioxidants, marine collagen, calcium, folate and hyaluronic acid. Packed with omega-3 fatty acids, LYSI’s cod liver oil is key to development and unlocks the potential of the brain, the central nervous system, and the immune system. Vitamin D is essential to build strong, dense bones, while contributing greatly to an optimal immune system. LYSI will continue

launching their series of novel health products to fit all diet and nutritional needs in early 2020.

Impressive technology & facilities

LYSI continues to invest in its operation to ensure the highest quality products, opening advanced production plants in 2005 and 2012, as well as an expert in-house laboratory. With the latest technology, the LYSI production process meets consumer demands for high purity products. The processes have been specifically designed to minimize the oxidation of the oil and to remove taste and smell in the final product by natural means. Quality is a vital factor in LYSI’s business.

Strong values & social responsibility

LYSI is committed to sustainability, with core values that reflect social responsibility. The company’s ethos is in the spirit of sustainability and respect for nature, exploiting the whole raw material in its entirety and throwing nothing away. Thus, LYSI makes by-products from the remainders of the primary production, creating value out of every part. LYSI uses energy from renewable resources – geothermal and hydropower – while guaranteeing effective waste management and maximizing the raw materials used



within production. LYSI has also invested in plastic recycling, and the company is committed to these operations.

Trusted brand at home & abroad

LYSI has been a recognised part of the Icelandic market for decades, making it a well-established and trusted brand. In fact, it’s a tradition for every Icelander to take cod liver oil from childhood. The brand extends abroad as well, as its health benefits have become known worldwide. As global demand continues for LYSI products, the company has extended its e-commerce operations to reach customers in all geographic markets. -JG

The products can be purchased online at www.lysi-life.is



LYSI hf.
 Fískislóð 5-9, 101 Reykjavík
 + 354 525 8100
 www.lysi.com



FISH HOUSE by the Harbour



Fish House Bar & Grill by the harbour in Grindavík, offers not only fish but steaks, great pizzas and burgers, too. The restaurant holds one of the best weekend live music concerts in the country in Gígurinn, ‘The Crater’, an adjoining meeting hall that groups and businesses can also book. Dining guests can be lucky enough to find themselves unexpectedly experiencing concerts or other events that can turn the evening into an unusual, unforgettable experience. On weekends, as the evening goes on, The Crater, being next to the restaurant, turns into a bar, where locals and tourists have fun together.



Kári Guðmundsson

Grindavík is one of the largest fishery towns in the country. Fishing vessels unload fresh catches ashore numerous times a day. From there, it is only a few dozen metres onto the dishes in the Fish House. It is not only the Fish House that is well located down by the harbour in Grindavík, the town itself is centrally located in the south of Reykjanes, just a few minutes’ drive from the Blue Lagoon and less than half an hour

to Keflavik and the airport. It is much less than an hour’s drive from the capital area. From Grindavík, it is a very short distance to see the new lava that flowed last year from the Fagradalsfjall volcano, just northeast of the town. What is better is that, after a little time outdoors, experiencing Icelandic nature, you can sit down to a good meal at the Fish House.



The menu at the Fish House is very varied. The fish of the day is always a classic favourite, followed by fish and chips with crispy fresh fish, seafood soup and pan-fried char. Meat dishes on the menu include lamb chops, Haf & hagi or Surf & Turf beef tenderloin with lobster, and lamb steak, a favourite dish of many Icelanders. Then they serve Fish Salad and Chicken Salad, both real burgers and fish burgers and then the volcano, with 140 grammes of beef in Brioche bread. About two dozen pizzas are then on the menu, either to enjoy on site, or to take away.

Fish House Bar and Grill is located at Hafnargata 6, in Grindavík. Meal orders and information can be placed by phone 426 9999. For information, orders or offers for groups it’s best to contact by e-mail: kari@fishhouse.is

Exquisite gallery OPENS IN HARPA

Listval exhibits Icelandic art

Listval opened an exhibition space in Harpa where beautiful works of art are on display and can be seen through the windows in front of Harpa. Established in 2019, Listval aims to make it easier for people to invest in and access art in Iceland. Listval has helped many institutions and companies choose new works and assisted individuals with their collections and the installation process. The gallery in Harpa opened last year.

Gorgeous gallery

The space intends to create a beautiful and refined setting in the form of art exhibitions and a gallery and provide guests with a memorable experience and insight into what Icelandic art has to offer. The founders of Listval want to create a comfortable atmosphere for visitors, who can receive advice on choosing works, learn about Icelandic art and view books on art. Listval also has an event program where new publications and works will be celebrated.



Harpa is the perfect host

A striking glass structure, Harpa hosts rock concerts, operas, the Icelandic Symphony, and art exhibitions. Designed by Icelandic-Danish artist Ólafur Elíasson, the hall’s exterior features individual glass panels that light up during the darkness of winter, sometimes blinking in a pattern or simply changing colors, and the building’s waterside location lends itself to lovely reflections. Art exhibitions help attract a more diverse group of guests and bring a new dimension to the guest experience.

experience, insight and connections with the art scene to Listval. They have been involved in many projects related to art, including gallery operations, publishing, the Venice Biennale and the promotion of Icelandic art internationally.

Be sure to visit Listval in Harpa while visiting Reykjavík. The opening hours are from 12m-6pm on weekdays and 12m-4pm on Saturday and Sunday. You can follow Listval on Instagram at www.instagram.com/listval and view works on www.listval.is.

Meet the founders

Elisabet Alma Svendsen and Helga Kjerúlf have worked in art and design on various projects, bringing their wealth of



Listval
Harpa - Austurbakki 2
101 Reykjavík
<https://listval.is/>



Go WEST!



Enjoy the Vast Beauty of West Iceland

A trip to West Iceland is perfect if you want to see a bit of everything. Black-sand beaches, hot springs, quiet fishing towns and a glacier accessible by foot await you. The West is frequently referred to as 'Iceland in miniature' as it contains so many interesting landscapes and attractions.

Visit stunning waterfalls

The West is home to some spectacular waterfalls. Glymur, Iceland's second tallest waterfall, is a worthwhile detour before heading further west from Reykjavík. Glymur stands 198 metres high on the Botnsá river, the white water crashing down the side of Hvalfell mountain. The hike to the top can be a bit challenging for some, but it's worth it! The view from the top over Hvalfjörður is quite striking on a clear day.

Hraunfossar is a series of waterfalls streaming over 900 metres out of a lava field. The falls are beautiful to visit in any season and rainbows are frequently seen when the sun breaks through on showery days. There's a neighbouring waterfall very

close by, called Barnafoss. It's a stunning, wide waterfall, with water rushing over a rocky landscape, creating several cascades.

Enjoy Iceland's unique geology

Iceland is paradise for geology buffs. Be sure to take a look at Deildartunguhver, which is considered Europe's most powerful hot spring. It provides 200 litres of boiling—100°C (212°F)—water per second. Visitors will see water bubbling up and splashing against moss and rock, a reminder that Iceland is very much alive with pure geothermal energy.

If you want to get up close and personal with Iceland's interior, visit Viðgelmir, the largest cave in Iceland. With a guided tour, you can explore the beautiful ice formations, including scores of stalactites and stalagmites. It's a fascinating look at Iceland from the inside.

See spectacular Snæfellsnes

The Snæfellsnes peninsula is considered the jewel of the western coast, in part, because the region has a taste of everything,

including a mighty glacier. Snæfellsjökull, the king of Icelandic mountains, lies on top of a volcano situated in the centre of a national park. The glacier's peak reaches 1,446 metres and can be seen from Reykjavík on a clear day. The volcano is considered active, though it last erupted 1,900 years ago.

Meanwhile, the western edge of the Snæfellsnes peninsula is home to Snæfellsjökull National Park and small towns like Hellissandur, Ólafsvík, and Grundarfjörður. Charming fishing villages dot the peninsula and offer ample hiking routes and quirky museums. Other areas of interest include the beautiful rock formations and birdlife of Arnarstapi-Hellnar, and Kirkjufell, one of the most photographed mountains in Iceland.

It's possible to visit all these places in three days and enjoy others along the way, but it is recommended to allot more time to the West for the sheer beauty and uniqueness of the region.

Make sure West Iceland is on your radar for your next trip to Iceland. -JG



DELVING INTO HISTORY

The Settlement Center in Borgarnes Takes You on a Trip Through Time

Some 1100 years ago, Iceland was a place covered with impenetrable forests and dangerous bogs, and it took groups of bold men to cross the rough North Atlantic sea, to discover the remote island and determine to settle there in order to start a new life. They were the first to name rivers, mountains and places that are world famous today, and many farms are still able to trace their history back to the days of the Settlement. As the most important source of Iceland's history, the Sagas are a collection of exciting stories built around these first settlers. Understanding Iceland completely means paying tribute to their achievements, which made the country what it is today.

A Warehouse of Exhibitions

In 2006 an Icelandic couple, actor Kjartan Ragnarsson and news reporter Sigríður Margrét Guðmundsdóttir, decided to dedicate a project to the story of the Settlement. They found a charming old warehouse in Borgarnes in West Iceland and started building up



two exhibitions on the brave pioneers who followed their curiosity into the unknown.

Provided with an audio guide available in 15 languages, visitors find themselves in an elaborate labyrinth that displays history in a really exciting way. Step onto a moving boat and get the feeling of how it must have been to cross the ocean in an open boat! Listen to stories, while figures behind the glass silently watch over you. On the lower floor the

exhibition of Saga hero and settler's son, Egill Skallagrímsson, takes you right into the story, with Egill's spirit at your steps.

Transformed through Art

Visual artists from Iceland and abroad contributed their work to both exhibitions, transforming it into a unique experience. Each audio tour takes 30 minutes, leaving the visitor with the deep desire to learn more. The Settlement Center's shop serves as a treasure chest of books on Saga literature, as well as Viking-themed handicrafts and woolen items created by local artists. Take your time to complete your visit with a dinner in the cosy restaurant that catches the atmosphere of the house perfectly and boasts a range of sophisticated Icelandic food at reasonable prices.

-DT/ASF



The Settlement Center
Brákarbraut 13-15 • 310 Borgarnes
+354 437 1600
landnam@landnam.is
www.landnam.is



KRAUMA

Geothermal Baths

Experience Iceland's geothermal energy in these soothing hot baths

Enjoy Iceland's sublime naturally-heated waters while bathing in geothermal baths in West Iceland. Krauma, the newly opened bathing facility, offers five relaxing natural baths, along with a cold tub, two soothing saunas and a relaxation room, where you can lounge by the fireplace while listening to calming music. This is the perfect way to experience Iceland's renowned waters in a more intimate setting than the more crowded Blue Lagoon.

Powerful hot spring

The water for the baths is heated by Deildartunguhver, which is considered Europe's most powerful hot spring. It provides 200 litres per second of hot water at 100°C (212°F). To achieve the perfect bathing temperature, Krauma mixes the hot water with cold water from Rauðsgil, which originates in what was the Ok glacier, Iceland's smallest glacier. Visitors can see Deildartunguhver next to the baths, with its water bubbling up and splashing against bright green moss and jagged rocks. Seeing where the heated water comes from adds to this unique experience. Be sure to keep your distance, though, to avoid being splashed if you get too close.

Important hot water source

Deildartunguhver is crucial to the comfort of the region. Most of the water used for central heating in the West Iceland towns of Akranes and Borgarnes is taken from Deildartunguhver. The hot water pipeline to Akranes is 64 kilometres long, which is the longest in Iceland. It's still about 78-80°C when it reaches the town.

West is best

Krauma is conveniently located in West Iceland, where there are numerous attractions. Starting from Reykjavík, you can make stops at the popular fishing town of Akranes and climb to the top of its lighthouse for spectacular views, before continuing to



Borgarnes to visit the Settlement Centre to get a taste of the famous Sagas. In Reykholt, one of Iceland's most notable historical sites, you can stop at the Icelandic Goat Centre before visiting Snorrastofa, dedicated to Snorri Sturluson, one of the most famous and important figures in Icelandic literature. Snorri penned the Edda, Egil's Saga, and Heimskringla before his death in 1241. There is so much to see and do in West Iceland and Krauma is perfectly positioned.

Visit Krauma

Geology enthusiasts and spa lovers alike will enjoy a visit to Krauma. You can experience nature from its core while bathing in these unique geothermal baths in beautiful West Iceland. Make sure you pay a visit to Krauma during your visit to Iceland. -JG



Krauma
Deildartunguhver, 310 Borgarbyggð
www.krauma.is





TOKENS of Iceland

Tokens of Iceland is a collection of high-quality souvenirs from Iceland, created and handcrafted by Oddný Braga in the West Iceland town of Borgarnes. The line features handmade silver pendants that evoke four distinct Icelandic elements—magma, glaciers, auroras, and hot springs. The jewellery, which is crafted with natural

mineral pearls wrapped in sterling silver, represent the geology and uniqueness of Iceland. Tokens of Iceland also offers four high-quality perfume body mists; with scents that make your memories of Iceland come alive. The scents are elegant and unique, with captivating fragrance notes in beautiful packaging.

Tokens of Iceland
 Borgarbraut 58-60, 310 Borgarnes
 +354 437 2001
 kristy@simnet.is
 www.tokensoficeland.is




JOURNEY INTO THE INSIDE OF A GLACIER



Into the Glacier is an environmentally conscious company with a rich history

Exploring the surface of a glacier is thrilling, but actually getting inside one is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The staff behind Into the Glacier offer travellers that rare opportunity. Situated in the western section of Langjökull, the second largest ice cap in Iceland, and 1,260 metres above sea level, the ice cave reaches 300 metres (984 ft) deep underground and is 550 metres long. It has 5 rooms carved out, including a chapel for weddings, and it gives visitors a chance to see ice that has been formed over centuries.

Proud history

The Into the Glacier story began with an idea among a small group which then led to four years of planning. Baldvin Einarsson and Hallgrímur Örn Arngrímsson thought of the idea to construct a manmade ice cave and a team of architects, geophysicists, and specialists was brought in to see how the concept could take shape. Over fourteen months, the construction team worked to make the ice cave a reality.

An iconic experience

In 2015, Into the Glacier began welcoming tourists on this epic adventure. Guests board one of the most unique vehicles ever made: a customised super truck, which seats 35 passengers. Once the truck reaches the mouth of the ice tunnel, the visitors are provided crampons to attach to their shoes before experiencing something few have ever seen. They are also treated to views of gaping crevices as they look up from below.

Focus on sustainability

The founders of Into the Glacier and its staff recognise their environmental responsibility and work to a high standard to protect the environment and nature. They ensure their operations are as eco-friendly as possible and invite travellers to help counteract the adverse effects of climate change and offset part of their carbon footprint in Iceland by donating money to plant a tree in the region of Húsafell. The trees are planted in the Kolviður forest, a planting area dedicated to carbon offsetting to help save the glaciers from climate change. Into The Glacier is also a dedicated member of the Iceland Carbon Fund and Glacier Forest Project, where the company plants



5,000 trees a year to minimise the carbon footprint of its daily operations. The Into the Glacier team has a great appreciation and respect for the nature they show their visitors every day.

Into the Glacier
 Skútuvogur 2, 104 Reykjavík
 +354 578-2550
 info@intotheglacier.is
 www.intotheglacier.is



TJÓDSAVN OF *Faroe Islands*

The Faroe National Museum has evolved into a nature's museum as well as a museum of antiquities, says Rannvá Winkler, curator

By Hallur Hallsson

In recent years the National Museum of the Faroe Islands – Tjódsavnið – has gotten a new identity as nature's museum as well as a museum of antiquities. Rannvá Winkler is the museum's curator overseeing the museum's exhibits. "The Tjódsavnið praises the Faroe Island's majestic nature as well as a eulogy of the Viking and Medieval times with new exhibits such as of Faroe wool as high fashion product and our ancient Faroese roving boat soon to be put on the UNESCO list," Rannvá says in an interview with *Icelandic Times*.

The permanent exhibition at the National Museum offers an experience of the geology, botany, zoology, archaeology, folk-life and history of the Faroe Islands. Among the cultural treasures in exhibition, is the before mentioned original Faroe roving boat; the full collection of the legendary 15th century Kirkjubøur benches, a variety of national costumes and interesting findings from the Viking era.

You can experience a journey through the natural and geological history of the Faroe Islands with its mammal and bird life and the volcanic geological origin of the islands. The farm of Hoyvíksgarður

is situated in a beautiful green valley just outside Tórshavn and within short walking distance from the National Museum exhibition hall with houses, stables and surroundings. The legend says that the farmhouse was originally situated at Kúrdalur, but was moved to its present location in 1772. Then there is the old whaling station which was closed in 1980 when the Faroese stopped whaling.

North of Scotland, between Norway & Iceland

The Faroe Islands or simply the Faroes – Føreyjar in Icelandic, Føroyar in Danish – are a North Atlantic archipelago located 320 kilometres north-northwest of Scotland, between Norway – 580 kilometres away and Iceland – 430 kilometres away. Faroe Islands are an autonomous territory of the Kingdom of Denmark since 1948. The islands have a total area of approximately 1,400 square kilometres and a population of 53,358 as of 2021. Like Iceland, the terrain is rugged, subpolar climate, windy, wet, cloudy and rather cool although climate is very much moderated by the Gulfstream.

The Faroese run Atlantic Airways with flights to Iceland, Scandinavia, Europe

and soon to come New York, as well as Icelandair has direct flights between the Iceland and Faroe Islands. Smyril Line runs a ferry between Iceland and the Faroes as well as Denmark. So, its easy to get to the Faroe Islands from Iceland all year around.

Tjódsavnið outside Tórshavn

The Tjódsavnið is just outside Tórshavn – Þórshöfn in Icelandic – that is the capital and largest city of the Faroe Islands on the east coast of Streymoy – Straumey in Icelandic or Island of Currents. The city itself has a population of approximately 21,000. The Norse established their parliament on the Tinganes peninsula in AD 850, half a century before Iceland's Althing – Alþingi. Tórshavn thus became the capital of the Faroe Islands and has remained so ever since. The medieval Icelandic Føreyinga Saga says: "The place of the ting of the Faroese was on Streymøy, and there is the harbour that is called Tórshavn". The Viking age ended in 1035.

Celtic Hermits

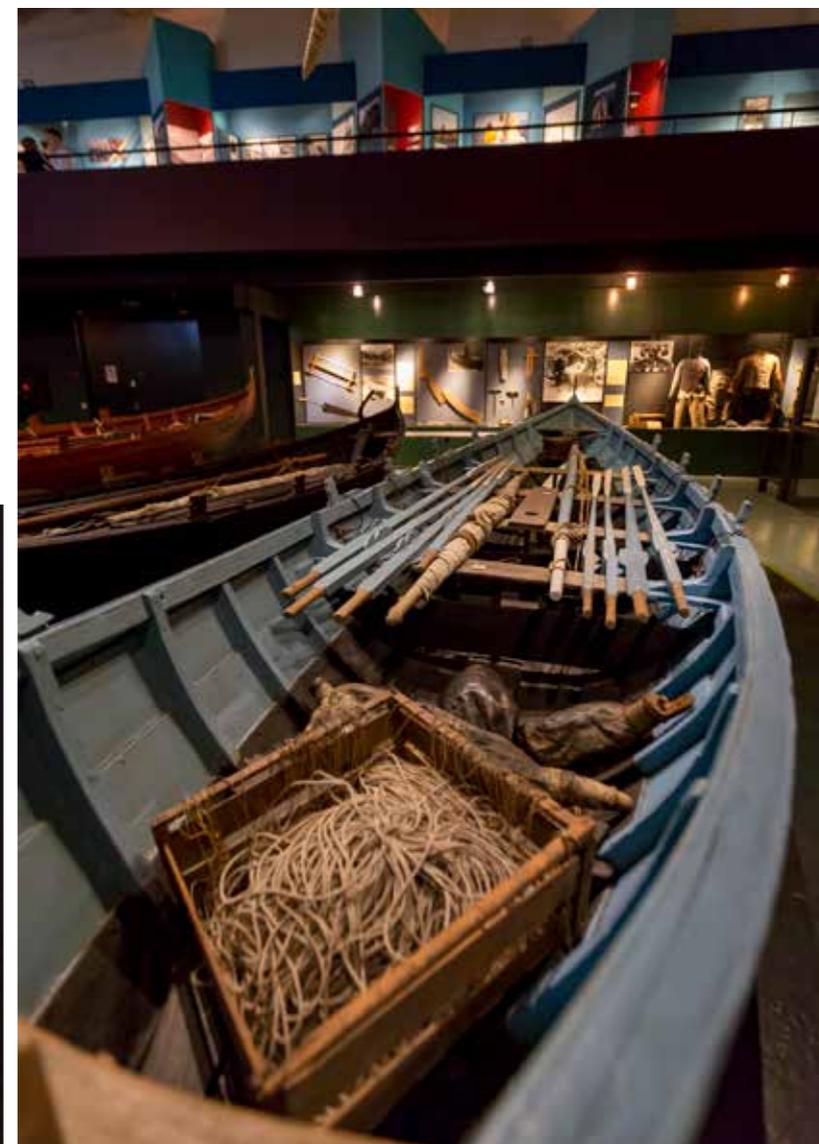
Archaeological evidence shows Celtic hermits living on the Faroe Islands before the Norse arrived. Scientists have found

domesticated plants, that suggest people living on the islands before the Vikings. The Irish Navigator, Holy Brendan [488-572] arrived in the Faroes probably around AC 550 according to his account *The Brendan Voyage*. He also sailed to Iceland where he met with Paul the hermit and witnessed a volcanic eruption at sea. If accounts are accurate, Brendan's voyage to North America predates Leif Erikson's discovery of Vinland by 400 years and Christophers Columbus's finding of America by nearly 1,000 years.

The Irish monk Dicuilus wrote approx AC 825 "De mensura orbis terrae" or "Concerning the Measurement of the World". Dicuilus claimed he had reliable information of "hermits from our land" who had lived on the northerly islands until the arrival of "Norse pirates."

Free bus to the Savnið

Tórshavn is served by Bussleiðin – Strætó in Icelandic – a network of local buses. As the Tjódsavnið is just outside Tórshavn, its easy to get to. Bussleiðin has five routes and is operated by the municipality. Buses within Tórshavn have been completely free of charge since 2007. Buses depart to villages throughout the islands and the Island's roadsystem is highly modernised.





Tróndur í Gøtu

Christian Roots and Royal Bloodlines

One of Iceland's most common proverbs is *Prándur í Gøtu* – in Faroese, Tróndur í Gøtu, literally meaning ‘an obstacle to someone’. However, it is not common knowledge that Prándur Þorbjörnsson [945-1035] had royal bloodlines in abundance as the descendant of one of Iceland's most famous settlers, Auður hin djúpúðga – the Deep-minded – who was born ca. 850 AD.

Auður settled in Hvammur in the valleys of West Iceland in the 10th century. Auður was a Celtic Christian, the daughter of Norse Viking, Ketill Flatnose Bjarnason, whom King Harald Fairhair had sent to win back the Outer Hebrides – known as Suðureyjar in the Icelandic sagas. Ketill Flatnose, as ruler of the Outer Hebrides, neglected to pay taxes to King Harald. Auður was wife to Ólafur White Ingjaldsson, King of Dublin, who was killed in battle in Dublin. The first sentence of the Erik the Red Saga states:

Ólafur was the name of a warrior king who was called Ólafur the White. He was the son of the King Ingjaldur Helgason, son of Helgi, son of Ólaf, son of Guðred, the son of Hálfðan Whiteleg, King of Uplands [first

Yngling King in Norway]. Ólafur engaged in Viking raids in the West and conquered Dublin in Ireland as well as the shire of Dublin and made himself king.

Auður and King Ólafur's only child was Thorsteinn the Red. After Ólafur's death in Dyflinn – Dublin – Auður, along with her young son, fled to the Outer Hebrides then ruled by her father. Þorsteinn the Red married Þuríður Eyvindardóttir, daughter of Eyvindur Eastman and Rafarta Kjarvalsdóttir, daughter of Cerball Kjarval MacDúnlaing [ca. 800-888 AD], King in Ireland. Þorsteinn the Red and Þuríður had seven children; Ólafur feilan and six daughters, Gróa, Ólöf, Ósk, Þórirður, Þorgerður and Vigdís. Þorsteinn the Red became King in Scotland but was killed by the Scots at Katanes. The Icelandic *Færeyinga Saga* that was written in 13th century says:

There is a man named Grímur Kamban. Grímur was the first person to settle the Faroe Islands. In the time of Haraldur hárfagri – Fairhair – a large number of people fled in the face of his tyranny. Some settled in the Faroe Islands and dwelt there, while some sought other unpopulated lands. Auður hin

djúpauðga sailed out to Iceland and called in at the Faroes and there gave Þorsteinn the Red's daughter, Ólöf, in marriage, and thence originated the greatest family line of the Faroe Islanders, which they call Gata-Chaps, who lived on Austrey.

There was a man called Þorbjörn. He was known as Gata-Chap. He lived on Austrey in the Faroes. His wife was called Guðrún. They had two sons. The elder was called Þorlákur, and the younger Prándur, [Tróndur]. They were promising men. Þorlákur was both big and strong; Prándur was also of the same build when he grew up, but there was a large difference in their ages. Prándur had red hair and a freckled face, handsome to look at.

After her son's death at Katanes, Auður secretly had a Viking knörr [ship] built in the forest and set sail with the family treasures, along with Þuríður her daughter in law, grandchildren, freeborns and slaves. The family history, *Laxdæla Saga*, states:

Men do not know that ever has one woman gotten away from such strife [war] with as much capital and entourage. From that it was concluded that she was outstanding among women.

Descendant of royals

The municipality of Gøta, near the Gøtavík fjord on the Eastern island, was the home of chieftain Tróndur í Gøta, defender of Viking traditions in the face of the King of Norway and the chieftain, Sigmundur Brestisson. Tróndur, as a descendant of Auður the Deep-minded, would have known his foremother's Celtic Christian heritage.

Tróndur í Gøtu – Prándur í Gøtu – is the most famous of the Gøtu-Skeggjar or Gata-Chaps. It is common belief in Iceland that Tróndur was a heathen and worshipped the Viking gods and was a hero in the Faroe Islands. According to the *Færeyinga Saga*, those who did not approve of Haraldur Fairhair's rule of Norway between 872-930 AD settled, among other places, in the Faroes. In the early 11th century, Sigmundur Brestisson [961–1005 AD] was sent by Ólafur Tryggvason, King of Norway to Trondheim [995-1000 AD]. Sigmundur forced Tróndur í Gøtu to convert or face beheading. Although Sigmundur was killed, Norwegian taxation was upheld. The Kingdom of Norway entered the Kalmar Union with Denmark in 1397 and the Faroes gradually came under Danish control.

Epic in Faroese history

Sigmundur Brestisson and Tróndur Þorbjörnsson are two epic individuals in Faroese history. To the Catholic author of the Faroese saga there was no doubt: Sigmundur was the white knight and crusader fighting against Tróndur, who was said to be stuck in primitive and outdated Viking beliefs though he was really a Celtic

Christian. Tróndur was renowned for his love for his land with deep sense of honour, executing the murderers of his enemy.

In this context, it's worth noting that his foremother, Auður, had accepted Christ and become a Celtic Christian while in the Outer Hebrides. Her granddaughter Ólöf would, in all probability, have been of the same religion as her grandmother.

The events of the *Færeyinga Saga* take place between the 9th and 11th centuries, but the story was written when the Roman Catholic Church had attained supreme rule in Iceland and Faroes.

Descendant of Ynglings and Skjöldungar

According to Sigurdur Bjarnason, one of Iceland's leading genealogists, Tróndur Þorbjörnsson í Gøtu was a descendant of the Ynglings and Skjöldungar, the dynasty of Scyldings, who were the ancient Danish Kings. Skjöldur, the first Danish King, was claimed to be the son of the Viking god Óðinn, whom Bjarnason maintains, was born in mid-3rd century AD. Snorri Sturluson wrote of Óðinn in *Heimskringla*. *Ynglingasaga* is the first part of Snorri's history of the ancient Norse gods in Scandinavia and how Freyr founded the Swedish Yngling dynasty at Uppsala and their settlements in Norway and became ancestor to King Haraldur Fairhair.

Tróndur was a descendant of Ragnar Lothbrok – Ragnar Loðbrók – born in the mid-8th century, a legendary Viking King of Denmark and Sweden, known from ancient poetry. According to the traditional literature, Ragnar

distinguished himself by conducting many raids against the British Isles and the Holy Roman Empire during the 9th century. Ragnar Loðbrók's son, Sigurdur Snake-in-the-Eye, born ca. 780, became King of Sweden. He took up arms against his uncle Haraldur Wartooth in a bid to overthrow him and take the crown of Denmark. Sigurdur won the Battle of the Brávellir, where it is said that Óðinn himself intervened. Ragnar's son, Sigurdur Snake-in-the-Eye, had a daughter, Tóra – Þóra, mother of Ingjaldur, who was father of Ólafur White, the King of Dublin and Þorsteinn the Red.

Ólöf Þorsteinsdóttir was about 17 years old when her son, Þorbjörn Gata-Chap – Þorbjörn Gøtu-Skeggi was born, father to Þorlákur and Tróndur.

- Hallur Hallsson, Editor & Historian



Go West:

VISIT LOVELY *Akranes*



Charming towns await travellers who drive north through the Hvalfjörður tunnel from Reykjavík. Just 50km from the capital is Akranes, a popular detour for those looking to explore the west coast and spend time in the countryside. Akranes is a traditional fishing village, peaceful and friendly, and home to a famous lighthouse that is open to the public.

The Akranes Lighthouse (Akranesviti) is a delightful place to visit at any time of year. Away from the bright lights, tourists and locals flock to the site in winter to enjoy the view of the Northern Lights dancing across the sky. In the summer, people picnic outside the lighthouse and, during opening hours, guests are invited in and can climb to its top. Built in 1947, the lighthouse has been used to host concerts and art exhibitions in recent years. Visit @akraneslighthouse on Instagram for photos and videos and its Facebook page for opening hours.

Rich town history

To get familiar with the town's history, visit the Akranes Folk Museum, which is dedicated to exploring what Akranes was

like from the time of the Settlement to the present day. The museum recently underwent an extensive renovation, re-opening in 2020, and the revamped museum hall features multimedia exhibitions and historical and cultural artefacts from the town. There's an audio guide available in the price of admission. Outdoors, there are various houses and boats crucial to the town's history. Visitors can explore the houses. Visit www.museum.is and the Akranes Folk Museum's Facebook page for more information.

Bathe in soothing Guðlaug

After exploring the lighthouse and folk museum, there is no better place to relax



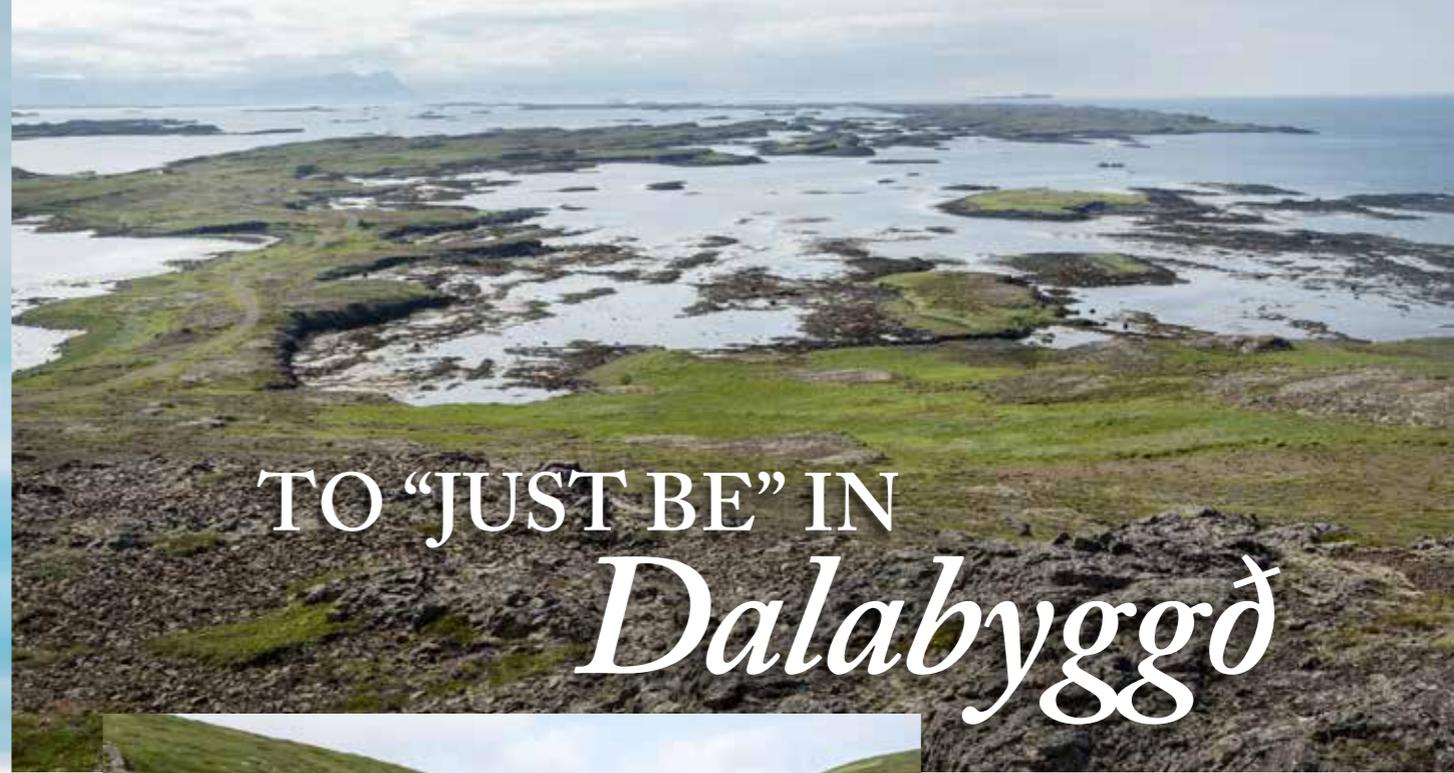
than in Guðlaug, a heated natural pool situated along Langisandur, Akranes' sandy beach. The two-tier structure is the perfect place to take some time off. For opening times and prices, visit Guðlaug's Facebook page and visit @gudlaugbaths on Instagram for picturesque photos.

Akranes is a family-friendly destination, so ensure you take time to visit the town on your next trip to Iceland.



Akranes

www.skagalif.is/is/visit-akranes



TO "JUST BE" IN *Dalabyggð*



When you enter Dalabyggð, you find a region of history and pristine nature, an area where you can just be. Be in silence, in nature, with the culture and experience Iceland like the locals do all year round.

You can visit the sites of Auður djúruðga (Aud "the deep-minded") famously involved in Saga of Erik the Red and Laxdæla Saga and see the landscape that affected this intelligent and wide travelled woman. Or visit the birthplace of Leif, "the lucky" Eriksson, son of Erik the Red, where you can experience the ways of life and conditions that his family lived in at Eiríksstaðir.

Go for a look around valleys, beaches and waterfalls, and the nature reserves of Breiðafjörður. You might find Holtasóley, the national flower of Iceland or Blóðberg, which is excellent for herbal tea. And before the summer ends, go for a berry picking for bilberries and crowberries in the hills.

Look out to Breiðafjörður bay with its abundance of islands, islets and skerries; their number has been estimated to be close to 2500. You might see seals, puffins or spot a White-tailed eagle.

You don't have to go off-road to experience everything that Dalabyggð has to offer but might get a better sense of everything with a little walk. This is a place to travel slow, take everything in, enjoy, and just be.



INTO THE WILD WESTFJORDS

Discover Iceland “the Westfjords Way”

The Westfjords are an unmissable region of Iceland. Here, you will find steep cliffs with millions of nesting birds, well-maintained hiking paths, quirky museums, and some of the most breathtaking beauty on the island. To explore this beautiful slice of Iceland, there is a convenient new touring route called Vestfjarðaleiðin, or the Westfjords Way. This driving route encompasses a 950 km circle around the edges of the Westfjords and there are eight different types of route experiences to help travellers navigate the region.

Driving highlights

Vestfjarðaleiðin pinpoints locations where the landscape views are impressive and the driving experience is thrilling. Examples include the pass between Hrafnseyri and Þingeyri, the road around Klofningur and the Neshringur loop.

Quirky experiences

Many experiences are unique to Iceland, with unexpected places, museums, and attractions. Examples on this route include the Samúel Jónsson Sculpture, the Museum of Sorcery & Witchcraft and the Sea Monster Museum.



Tours to iconic sites

There are numerous opportunities to tour remote natural spots like the Hornstrandir Nature Reserve, the Látrabjarg cliffs and the Rauðasandur beach. You can spend your time roaming these gorgeous natural sites, soaking in the spectacular scenery.

Getting wet

Water is abundant on the island and can be experienced by bathing in hot pools like Guðúnarlaug, visiting waterfalls such as Dynjandi, or getting into it by kayaking and whale watching.



Taking the air

There are countless sky-high viewpoints where you can marvel at mountains, ascend hiking routes and enjoy skiing in the winter months. Examples include: Bolafjall, Dynjandi waterfall, the experience of flying into Ísafjörður, or hiking the old road to Bolungarvík.

Stories

The Westfjords have a rich history and travellers can explore this through the sagas, visiting longhouses and museums. Examples include: Hnjótur Museum, Eiríksstaðir Viking Museum, Eldsmiðjan Iron making, and the Jón Sigurðsson Museum.

Taste the place

Foodies rejoice, Iceland has so many tasty options to enjoy and the Westfjords is no exception. The Vestfjarðaleiðin route leads you to the best eating places, coffee stops, excellent restaurants and farm shops. Examples include Erpsstaðir Dairy, Tjörhúsið, and Sætt og Salt specialty chocolate. The Westfjords is also home to cosy cafes like Kaffi Sól, Litlibær, and Simbahöllin.

Instagrammable icons

Get your phone ready as there are so many views and experiences that capture the essence of Vestfjarðaleiðin. Examples include: the aircraft at Hnjótur; Garðar BA64 Steel Ship; the red roofed A-frame sheep hut in Arnarfjörður, as well as wildlife like puffins, whales, seals, and Arctic foxes.



Easier to navigate

Vestfjarðaleiðin was created following the opening of a tunnel between Arnarfjörður and Dýrafjörður, an important link between the north and south parts of the Westfjords. The opening of the tunnel ensures the new Westfjords Way will be open year-round as travellers can now avoid the Hrafnseyrarheiði mountain pass, which is unpaved and closed for many months of the year.

In a country full of beauty, the Westfjords may be the most beautiful region of all. Endless coastlines, jaw-dropping cliffs, and spectacular mountain landscapes await those who make the trip. Discover Iceland the Westfjords Way. -JG





VISIT THE GREAT NORTH

Explore the culture, beauty and history of North Iceland

North Iceland is a beautiful part of the country, encompassing breathtaking nature, unique history and some of the best bathing spots in all of Iceland.

Navigating the Diamond Circle

The Diamond Circle is a popular tourist route that covers five key destinations in the north, starting with the picturesque Goðafoss waterfall. In a country full of spectacular waterfalls, what sets Goðafoss apart is the sheer width of these powerful falls. White water surges over the rim, thundering down and crashing into rocks and the water below. Next are the striking blue and green landscapes of Lake Mývatn, followed by the stunning Dettifoss, the most powerful waterfall in all of Europe. Continuing on the route takes you to Ásbyrgi, an enormous canyon full of fascinating rock formations, lush grass, well-maintained walking paths, thriving birdlife, and several bodies of water. The final destination is Húsavík, the whale-watching capital of Iceland, with deep blue seas and several boat departures every day.

Arctic Coast Way

For travellers who have a bit more time to allocate to the north, North Iceland's newest tourist route spans 900 km and has been dubbed the Arctic Coast Way. This route leads travellers on a journey across 21 towns and villages close to the Arctic Circle. The route, which debuted in 2019, is recommended to take 9 days. Along the way, you will see spectacular landscapes of mountains, steep cliffs, charming fishing villages, glacial river deltas and even crossings to islands like Grímsey and Hrísey. For more information on the route, visit www.arcticcoastway.is/en.

Rich bathing culture

Bathing opportunities are plentiful in the north and it is worth visiting as many as time allows. These swimming pools are heated by natural geothermal energy, at the perfect temperature in which to relax and enjoy some conversations with the locals. Icelanders love their pools! There are also fantastic bathing centres for a more extensive experience like the Mývatn Nature Baths and the GeoSea Sea Baths in



Húsavík. For something truly unique, visit the Beer Spa in Árskógssandur. Here you soak in a bathtub filled with beer, water, hops and yeast, an unforgettable soothing experience for your skin.

Don't forget about the wildlife

Getting on a whale-watching boat and viewing the gentle giants up close is an extraordinary experience and there are several harbours in the north that offer trips. You can board whale watching vessels in Akureyri, Dalvík, Hauganes, Hjalteyri and Húsavík to get a glimpse of these spectacular creatures. For seal watching opportunities, be sure to visit Hvammstangi and for puffins, taking a ferry to the island of Grímsey, straddling the Arctic Circle, is highly recommended to spot these iconic birds.



Experience North Iceland's culture

The locals of North Iceland are proud of their history and eager to introduce travellers to their art and culture, which stretches back to the Viking Age. Some museums to put on your radar include the Húsavík Whale Museum, which presents not just 11 real whale skeletons, including a 25-metre-long blue whale but an educational overview of these fantastic beasts. Another museum of note is the Icelandic Herring Era Museum in Siglufjörður, which examines the region's rich maritime history. For those after an interactive experience, the newly opened exhibition, 1238: The Battle of Iceland, uses technology to bring history to life. The exhibition tells the tale of Iceland's dramatic clash of family clans which led to a fatal civil war.

There's something for everyone in the north, whether it's charming towns and villages, well-maintained hiking paths, spectacular bathing centres, soaking in the culture at museums or getting up close to Iceland's wildlife. The North awaits! -JG



TRAVEL TO THE *Edge of the Arctic*

Explore the Northeast of Iceland, the end of the Arctic Coast Way

The northeast of Iceland is home to some of the most exquisite nature on the island, without the crowds. The north is ideal for slow travel, to spend time basking in the beauty of the region, and enjoying outdoor activities like hiking, kayaking and birdwatching. The region offers sweeping landscapes with backdrops of looming mountains, narrow fjords, and curvaceous coastlines. If you're looking for unspoiled beauty, it's all here.



Báran Restaurant, Þórshöfn in Langanes

Báran Restaurant has earned the reputation as one of the best restaurants in northeast of Iceland. Specialising in fresh local meat and produce from nearby farms and fresh fish from the local boats, Bárán is a delightful full-service restaurant in Þórshöfn.

Báran, which features a cosy, warm atmosphere, is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week, something rare for this part of Iceland as the next full-service restaurant is about 150 kilometres away. Guests can enjoy options from a diverse menu, including lamb, fresh fish, burgers, soups, sandwiches, pasta and pizza. There's something for everyone. And if the weather is good, guests can enjoy their meal on an outdoor deck overlooking the serene harbour. For those up for a drink, Bárán has an impressive beer menu from local Icelandic breweries as well as imported beer.



Eyri in Hjalteyri

Nearby Hjalteyri, which is a small village on the western shores of Eyjafjörður, close to Akureyri, has transformed from a fishing town to an artist community. The old herring factory is frequently used as a venue for art exhibitions. Hungry travellers should stop by the Eyri Restaurant, a beautiful eatery with gorgeous fjord views. Eyri serves dishes derived from local meat and produce. In fact, all of the lamb served is from farms within 30 kilometres of the restaurant and the fish comes from Þórshöfn.

Hjalteyri has evolved into an attractive tourist destination over the past few years. There is a food co-op that sells fresh organic produce every two weeks; there's live music on weekends and the hot tub is a hit with locals and tourists alike. Eyri is at the heart of it all with great food and a friendly atmosphere.



Hotel Skúlagarður and Restaurant

Hótel Skúlagarður offers comfortable accommodation for travellers looking to explore two tourist routes—the Diamond Circle and the Arctic Coast Way. The hotel has 17 rooms, all with private bathrooms and, during the summer months, the hotel provides a reception area, restaurant and bar. The restaurant focuses on quality, local ingredients and offers an á la carte menu from June 1– September 1. The winter months have limited service.

Skúlagarður is located in Kelduverfi and natural wonders can be found within walking distance of the hotel, including hiking trails, caves and lake Skálftavatn. The location is perfect for travellers exploring the Northeast and discovering some hidden gems along the way.



Sandur Guesthouse in Þórshöfn

Sandur Guesthouse offers charming accommodation in a historically significant house in the town of Þórshöfn. The renovated guesthouse offers an array of accommodation ranging from a single room to a 4-bed family room, all with private bathrooms. The guesthouse is perfectly situated along the Arctic Coast Way, with attractions nearby. The guesthouse owners also offer kayaking rentals and tours that allow you to explore the natural beauty of the area by water.



The Arctic Coast Way

The businesses above are located along the north-eastern corner of North Iceland's newest tourist route, the Arctic Coast Way, which spans 900 kilometres from Hvammstangi in the northwest to Bakkafjörður in the northeast. This route leads travellers on a journey across 21 towns and villages, and along the way you will see spectacular landscapes of towering mountains, charming fishing villages, and glacial river deltas.

Northeast Iceland is often overlooked, but has some of the most pristine, untouched nature in Iceland. On your next trip to Iceland, make sure to spend some time hiking and photographing the Northeast coast. Even during the high season, there's a good chance you won't bump into many other tourists. The Northeast can be your own private treasure. -JG



Geothermal SEA BATHS

Húsavík's unique hot baths



At the awesome GeoSea baths, set on top of Húsavíkurhöfði – ‘Húsavík Cliff’ – bathing guests view a majestic range of mountains to the west, old oak fishing boats silently sailing Skjálíandi Bay, the Puffin and Flatey Islands, the Arctic Circle on the Horizon and the serene town of Húsavík, with its majestic wooden Church. Húsavík, the whale watching capital of Europe, with its population of 2,500, is one of Iceland’s main tourist attractions. Simply magical and unmatched anywhere else.

Health benefits of GeoSea

The geothermal heat north of Húsavík has been well known to residents, who have used it for bathing and washing for centuries. Drilling for hot water at Húsavíkurhöfði in

the mid-20th century revealed water that turned out to be hot seawater, too rich in minerals to be suitable for heating houses.

Instead of letting the hot water go to waste, an old cheese barrel was installed at Húsavíkurhöfði. There, Húsavík residents could enjoy the health benefits of bathing in hot seawater. Many suffering from skin conditions such as psoriasis have found relief by bathing in the water, which is at an optimal temperature of 38°-39°C.

The bore holes provide purity

The water in the GeoSea baths comes from two bore holes, one located by the cheese barrel and the other by Húsavík harbour. There is no need to use any cleaning agents or equipment, as the steady flow of water

from the bore holes, between the pools, over their edges and into the sea ensures that the water stays within the limits stipulated by health regulations.

The GeoSea sea baths enable guests to enjoy nature in a unique manner. Thanks to the underground heat, the seawater in the baths is warm and comfortable and the mineral-rich water caresses the skin. While warm sea works its miracles, guests enjoy the spectacular view and health benefits. -JG



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HALLDORA

ICELAND



**ICELANDIC UNIQUE SHOES
AND ACCESSORIES - WEARABLE PIECES OF ART
AND ONE OF A KIND SUVENIERS**



ICELANDIC
FISH LEATHER

Handmade and limited fashion with extraordinary astonishing details hand crochet horsehair laces (cut from Icelandic horsehair - tails) black lava filled heels and Nordic handcut and quilted fish leather parts. The shoes, the handbags and the smaller accessories are inspired by Icelandic nature and heritage and made from sustainable leather, Icelandic salmon fish leather, perch and even cod.

The designer Halldóra Eydis is from the nature paradise- Lake Mývatn area. She studied footwear design at London College of Fashion, Cordwainers and started her business in Iceland in 2010.

The collection can be purchased in her small and personal showroom at **Grensásvegur 26, 108 Reykjavík - open every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 14-18, or by pre-booked appointments.**

The online store www.halldora.com offers free shipping and deliveries in Iceland and affordable prices on express worldwide shipping.

**ONLINE STORE:
WWW.HALLDORA.COM
Tel: +354 8667960
halldora@halldora.com**

AKUREYRI

Heart of the North



The dozen inhabitants in 1786, clinging to the side of Eyjafjörður, Iceland's longest fjord, probably never imagined their brave struggle would ultimately result in a town of almost 20,000 people with all the services of a major city.

Akureyri is not as big as any of the world's cities but it provides all the features and services expected of a big city in a very compact form, so that everything is available within a short distance.

Take, for instance, winter activities like skiing. The family-friendly slopes are under 10 minutes from the airport and the hotels. Likewise, the horse riding tours, boat trips, bird watching—to name a few—are all so close, you can almost touch them. You name it, it's close-by. The weather, with its combination of crisp, dry snow and Northern Lights, makes a holiday here memorable.

Cultural Centre of the North

When it comes to culture, Akureyri has it all: museums, art galleries, international exhibitions, conference facilities, music venues, music of all genres, theatre and cinemas showing the latest films.

It has well over 20 restaurants, covering both Icelandic and international cuisine, with top chefs who create their own innovative cuisine. There is an abundance of cafés, each with their individual speciality.

For groups and individuals, Akureyri offers such a wide range of activities, events and opportunities, it maximises the time available. There are a multitude of tours covering every interest from flying to caving, from fishing to the Hidden People, walking to whale watching.

Sports of all kinds

Sport activities are very popular in the North and many sports are represented in this dynamic community. We have already mentioned the ski slopes, but other popular

facilities are the big skating rink, football fields and recreational areas ideal for running, hiking and downhill biking.

The geothermally-heated swimming pools, with their hot pots, jacuzzi and awesome water slides are open—and very popular—all year round.

The Arctic Open Golf championship is played on the most northerly 18-hole course in the world, just outside the city under both snow-covered mountains and the midnight sun. You can hire clubs if you need them and relax in the club house afterwards.

See the Sights

Akureyri is also a service base for many of the most important tourist destinations in North Iceland. From here, you can visit Mývatn, Dettifoss—the most powerful waterfall in Europe, the islands of Hrísey, and Grímsey, straddling the Arctic Circle; see craters and boiling mud pools and, in fact, reach all the

pearls of the North in under 2 hours. If you are planning your visit, then it's recommended you check out the Arctic Coast Way with all its wonders. www.arcticcoastway.is.

Easy Access

Flights from Reykjavík airport take just 35 min. Scheduled buses drive twice a day between Reykjavík and Akureyri. The trip from Reykjavík to Akureyri takes about 6 hours, although in the summer time you can choose a longer route over the highlands if you wish to turn your trip into a journey rich with sights and natural beauty.

The city bus service is free in town. Every type of accommodation is on hand, from 4-star hotels to camp sites.



Visit Akureyri
+354 450 1050
info@visitakureyri.is
www.visitakureyri.is



KRUA SIAM

Experience Thai Cuisine in North Iceland

In the heart of the largest town of North Iceland, Akureyri, is the Krua Siam restaurant. The restaurant specialises in authentic Thai food and offers fish, meat and vegetarian dishes.

The name Krua Siam means Siam Kitchen and refers to the name of Thailand until 1939. Many Thai customs involve food. It is common for everyone to order a few dishes, which are then shared among the group; it is even seen as bad luck to eat

on your own. It is considered important to not throw away leftovers since it can anger the rice goddess, Phosop. Her role is to make sure everyone has enough to eat and if she becomes angry, it could mean famine for the whole nation!

Krua Siam offers the option to eat in or take away and has offers for 2 and more people. There is a lunch buffet between 11:30 and 13:30 every weekday with many different courses. You can find dishes with everything from pork, chicken, shrimp, fish and, of course, fried noodles and vegetable dishes, as well.

The restaurant is situated smack downtown on the corner of Glerárgata and Strandgata, near to Ráðhústorgið and Hof, the Akureyri Cultural and Conference Centre. It is thus a great place to check out during your travels.

Enrich your palate with a visit to Krua Siam. –HDB

Krua Siam
Strandgata 13, 600 Akureyri
+354 466 3800
kruasiam@kruasiam.is
www.kruasiam.is



Information on road condition

Call 1777



Vegagerðin Icelandic Road and Coastal Administration, IRCA

@vegagerdin www.road.is

THE ICELANDIC SEAL CENTRE

The Icelandic Seal Centre was created to promote seal research and sustainable seal-watching along the Vatnsnes peninsula. While the centre has a serious research component to the facility, the museum section perfectly captures these lovable, adorable creatures.

The main varieties of seals that the Centre works with are harbour, harp, bearded, gray, hooded, and ringed seals. (There's also the odd walrus that comes ashore in Iceland from Greenland. The Seal Centre is contacted in that event.) The staff has information on the best sites for seal-watching opportunities and a small shop (hours variable; check website) sells souvenirs and light meals. For independent travellers, it is possible to go to the popular seal-watching spots without a tour guide.

The museum is an entertaining, informative and fun experience for both adults and kids. Some of the exhibitions are geared toward children, with topics

that include the seals of the North Atlantic and the Arctic, the importance of seals in Icelandic culture and tradition, seal biology (with skeletons on display), and the evolution of seal hunting on the island. There are also documentaries on Icelandic seals in English.



Selasetur Íslands
Brekkgata 2 - 530 Hvammstanga
4512345
selasetur@selasetur.is
www.selasetur.is



HÚSAVÍK GREEN HOSTEL is an environmentally friendly hostel located in the heart of Húsavík with its own environmental policy. The hostel offers a variety of rooms and a minimum stay of two nights.

Vallholtsvegur 9, 640 Húsavík
+354 866 0882
husavikgreenhostel@gmail.com
www.husavikgreenhostel.is/



The **ARCTIC FOX CENTRE** is a non-profit research and exhibition center, focusing on the arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*) – the only native terrestrial mammal in Iceland. The long term aim is to collect all available knowledge and material relevant to the arctic fox in past and presence.

Eyrardalur 1, 420 Súðavík
456 4922
melrakki@melrakki.is
www.melrakki.is



KAKALASKÁLI in Skagafjörður has two story and art exhibitions about the turmoils of the 13th century. One is an outdoor installation depicting the biggest battle in Icelandic history, the Battle of Haugsnes. At Kakalaskáli you also find Maria's workshop and antiques store.

Kringlumýri, 561, Varmahlíð
t: +354 865 8227
kakalaskali@gmail.com
www.kakalaskali.is/



NAUSTIÐ is a small, family-owned restaurant in the heart of Húsavík. It is located in a beautifully renovated old house, full of great ambience. They offer great food, with carefully chosen ingredients.

Ásgarðsvegur 1 - 640, Húsavík
t: 4641520
www.facebook.com/naustid



FISH AND CHIPS in Húsavík harbour is a fast-food restaurant with the freshest fish and excellent views over the harbor. This is a fantastic place to enjoy your fish and chips.

Hafnarstétt 19 - 640, Húsavík
+354 4642099
www.facebook.com/fishchips-152014694866754



The **ICELANDIC SEAL CENTER'S** main mission is to promote seal research, responsible seal watching and contribute to the development of sustainable seal watching locations on the Vatnsnes peninsula in cooperation with the local tourism board and NORCE.

Brekkgötu 2 - 530, Hvammstangi
+354 4512345
selasetur@selasetur.is
www.selasetur.is/en/



BÁRAN BAR/RESTAURANT in Þórshöfn, Northeast Iceland, offers local cuisine like fish, lamb, vegetables or for those who dare, whale or Puffin. During summer they also serve breakfast.

Eyrarvegur 3, 680 Þórshöfn
+354 468 1250
knaveitingar@gmail.com
baranrestaurant.is/en/

A CHARMING FARM IN MARVELLOUS MÝVATN

Vogafjós emphasises a farm-to-table approach amidst stunning surroundings



Vogafjós is situated on a spectacular slice of land in the Mývatn region. The farm, owned by the same family for roughly 120 years, is an ideal base to explore a bit of Mývatn while enjoying comfortable accommodation and delicious food at this friendly farm resort.

From farm to table

The restaurant focuses on using the farm's products for a delicious farm-to-table concept. The meat is sourced from the farm and is used in burgers, carpaccio and soup, while the farm's milk is used to make

mozzarella and salad cheese and for coffee drinks and cooking. While enjoying your meal, you can watch their dairy cows being milked on the other side of a glass partition (milking is at 7:30 and 17:30). Guests are also welcome to go inside the cowshed and pet the cows.

Traditional Icelandic methods

In addition to their farm-to-table concept, Vogafjós embraces some traditional Icelandic cooking methods, a lovely authentic experience for guests. As Vogafjós is situated close to a geothermal area near Lake Mývatn,



they prepare Geysir bread, a sweet rye bread, for guests. The bread is placed in a hole in the ground in the geothermal area, and then a lid is placed over it to harness the heat and bake the bread. The bread is kept underground for 24 hours while it slowly bakes. Vogafjós also prepares smoked Arctic char and raw lamb meat in the traditional method, adding a unique, classically Icelandic flavour. This method has been used in the Mývatn area for generations.

Comfortable accommodation

Vogafjós' guesthouse consists of two log houses with ten rooms each and one log house with four superior king-size rooms and double rooms, all with private bathrooms – a total of 26 rooms. The rooms are well furnished, comfortable and are designed to let guests feel relaxed while enjoying the unique natural environment Mývatn offers.

The Mývatn region is a can't-miss part of North Iceland. Visitors are lured by gorgeous hiking trails, rich birdlife, activities along Lake Mývatn, and the soothing Mývatn Nature Baths. There's so much to do and see in Mývatn, and Vogafjós is the perfect place to base yourself from when travelling the great North. -JG

Vogafjós
660 Mývatnssveit
+354/464-3800
www.vogafjosfarmresort.is



Enjoy the breathtaking landscapes of Askja and Viti

Iceland's uninhabited interior is home to an otherworldly landscape that must be seen to be believed. It's full of dramatic and wild scenery, swept by endless wind and marked by vast expanses of ice and desert. It's the most distinctive landscape on the island, replete with lava fields and volcanoes.

Explore the highlands with Mývatn Tours

You can venture deep into the highlands on a day tour with the family-run business, Mývatn Tours. The Askja Classic tour, which has been operated for more than 40 years by Mývatn Tours, brings you to Askja on a unique 4x4 bus. Askja is a caldera (sunken crater) within the surrounding Dyngjufjöll mountains which offers dramatic volcanic features that were formed by collapsing land after a volcanic eruption. They are essentially huge volcanic craters. The area is remote and

awe-inspiring. Askja, which stands at 1,510 metres, emerges from the Ódáðahraun lava field, amidst rocky terrain.

The awe-inspiring Askja

Askja is in the middle of the Highlands and it takes between 3 to 4 hours to drive there. The trip starts and ends in the village of Reykjahlíð, in the Lake Mývatn area. On the way up to Askja, the bus stops several times to have a closer look at the amazing landscapes and geological wonders, such as lava fields, glacial rivers, fresh water rivers, natural springs and towering mountains.

Travel in a vehicle equipped for the Highlands

Getting to the Highlands is no easy feat as basic rental cars are not suitable for the journey. With Mývatn Tours, you sit up high in a special vehicle designed to navigate the rugged Highlands, with a lot of space for your feet and your belongings. The 4x4 buses can handle the unforgiving lava fields and rivers. You are in safe hands with the experienced and professional drivers, so you can relax and listen to the guide while he tells you about the area.

When the bus arrives at the parking space in Askja around 12–1pm, passengers get 2–2½ hours to explore the area. There is



an approximately 35-minute easy walk from the parking area to Askja and the Viti crater area. Viti is a tremendous crater, filled with a pale blue lake, that emerged after the great eruption of the Askja volcano in 1875 where you can go for a swim, if conditions allow.

The Highlands are an unforgettable slice of Iceland and the guides of Mývatn Tours can't wait to introduce you to the hauntingly beautiful landscapes of its interior. - JG



Mývatn Tours
660 Mývatn, Iceland
Tel: +354 464 1920
www.myvatntours.is
myvatntours@gmail.com



AN IDYLIC ICE CAVE IN THE GREAT NORTH

Geo Travel takes you to the heart of the Lofthellir ice cave

Embarking on an ice cave adventure in Iceland is a unique, fascinating experience and one that Geo Travel guides take great pride in. “The cave is a lava tube, but it’s different than any other lava tube in the world as it’s a permafrost ice cave,” said Anton Birgisson, co-owner of Geo Travel. “Due to a limited airflow through the cave, a microclimate exists inside the cave where you see enormous icicles that have been formed for hundreds of years.” There are daily tours to the cave year-round.

What is the tour like?

Departing from the Mývatn region, a guide begins the tour by driving through rugged and wild terrain with breathtaking landscapes, including the volcano Hverfjall and the Lúdentarborgir craters. After reaching base camp, you start a 30-minute easy guided hike across a lava field until you reach the cave. After travellers are

provided with the proper equipment (helmet, headlamp and studded boots), you enter the cave and are instantly exposed to the fragility of nature. “It’s an art piece of earth,” said Anton. “There are icicles in there that are 500 years old. It’s really special to turn off the headlamps, and as the icicles melt, they play their own kind of music.”

Ensuring sustainable travel

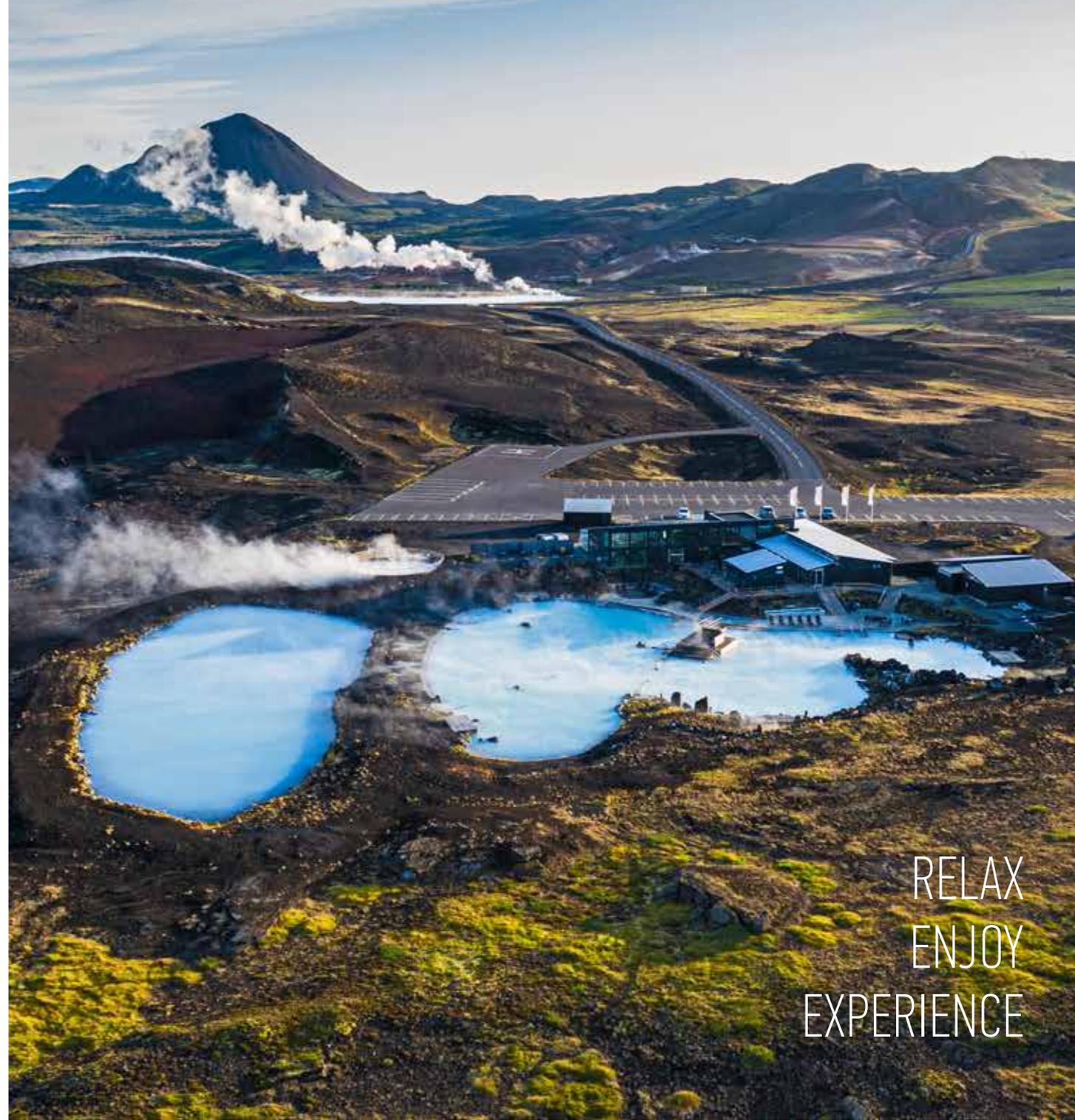
Lofthellir is a unique cave, and it’s essential to respect and preserve it. “The cave has been there for 3,000 years, and it would be terrible for us to ruin it,” said Anton. “For us, it’s a really special place on earth. We used to take three or four trips a day to the cave, but we reduced it to one trip a day.” Indeed, only a limited number of tours are allowed, and the goal of the cave project is to offer sustainable tours and preserve it for future generations to explore. Every ticket includes a fee for the protection program and local landowners.

Assisting in cave research

The Geo Travel team is involved in research where Lofthellir is used to understand cave explorations on planet Mars further. “NASA is preparing for human exploration to Mars, where there are a lot of lava tubes,” said Anton. “There’s a team of researchers travelling around the world looking for a similar sister cave on Mars. We have been a part of this study for six years.”

Geo Travel is a small, family-run business with a great passion and respect for the nature they show tourists. They also offer tours to Askja, super jeep tours and snowmobile and northern lights tours in the winter.

Geo Travel
 Geitayarströnd, 660 Mývatn
 +354/464-4442
 www.geotravel.is



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THE PEARLS OF *East Iceland*

Explore the vast beauty of the East

East Iceland is home to some of the most remote, spectacular nature on the island, with breathtaking attractions and numerous hiking opportunities. The region offers sweeping landscapes with backdrops of looming mountains, narrow fjords, and rugged coastlines. If you're looking for unspoiled beauty, it's here.

There are several itineraries to help you determine the best way to explore East Iceland on www.east.is. Below are some of the highlights of the eclectic east.

Djúpivogur, a town of fewer than 500 people that has a history of fishing and trading dating to 1589, is a recommended place to visit. The picturesque landscape is the backdrop to countless hiking trails, which are free to roam and explore.

Fáskrúðsfjörður is a small village, also with fewer than 500 people, nestled on a long fjord of the same name. It's the most 'French' part of Iceland, as the village was originally a base for more than 5,000 French fishermen, who came every year to fish the rich Icelandic waters. Some settled here in the late 19th century. The village had a hospital, chapel, and cemetery that were built by the French, and both the buildings and the history

remain, as the streets of Fáskrúðsfjörður are marked in both Icelandic and French.

Egilsstaðir is considered the unofficial capital of East Iceland, but don't let that fool you; it's a 'capital' with fewer than 3,000 residents. The quaint town earned its name based on a reference to the nearby Egil's farm, which appears in the stories of the Sagas.

If you're interested in exploring a bit more of the interior, consider a drive through the highlands. There are the hot natural pools at Laugarfell, the towering Snæfell mountain, and the vast beauty of the Vatnajökull National Park.

While surveying the landscape, you will have certainly noticed that trees are a rare sight in Iceland. Hallormsstaður has the distinction of being the largest forest in the country, though it would be considered small by other standards. It stretches along banks of the 35-kilometre-long Lagarfljót glacial lake. It's beautiful to roam among native birch trees that have survived inclement weather and found a way to thrive.

Seyðisfjörður is well-known for its variety of cultural events, its diverse community and the town centre that is adorned with beautiful wooden houses that are quite rare in this



country, as well as the ferry port that brings visitors from Europe with the cars, motorbikes or bikes. Opportunities for outdoor activities are varied in Seyðisfjörður and for those who are interested in hiking, you can find both short and longer hiking trails.

Convenient App

To help you discover and navigate the magic of East Iceland, an app called Austurland, is a valuable resource to get the most out of your trip. Austurland includes information about attractions, hiking trails, swimming pools, as well as discounts, special offers, local secrets,

services and announcements. The Austurland app, which is available for both Apple and Android products, is a great guide to help you find inspiration for places to eat, activities or ways to unwind in the east of Iceland.

East Iceland is often overlooked by first-time visitors to the country, but it has some of the most pristine, untouched nature in Iceland. On your next trip to Iceland, be sure to spend some time visiting, hiking and photographing the east coast and Eastfjords. Even during the high season, there's a good chance you won't bump into many other tourists. The East can be your own private treasure. -JG



A UNIQUE BATHING EXPERIENCE *in the Idyllic East*

Vök Baths offers guests the only floating geothermal pools in all of Iceland



Vök Baths is an exciting new geothermal bathing facility where guests can enjoy two heated floating pools among the beautiful scenery of Lake Urriðavatn. Situated just a few minutes away from Egilsstaðir, Vök Baths is an ideal place to relax while sightseeing in East Iceland. The brand new baths, completed in the summer of 2019, take their shape from the ice-free patches on the lake, created by the bubbling hot springs in the lake.

Harnessing the power of geothermal energy

There are many advantages to the Land of Fire and Ice, and one is the abundance of natural, renewable geothermal energy. The

baths are gloriously warm, soothing your skin and muscles while you're enjoying the pristine nature of the region. The pools, whose water is so clean and pure it has been certified as drinkable, are especially welcome to the area, as East Iceland is home to few hot springs, compared to other parts of Iceland.

Bathing facilities and changing rooms

In addition to the floating pools there are two on-shore hot pools, and an outdoor pool bar. A steam bath and cold tunnel equipped with a cool mist shower inside is just about completed. The indoor shower facilities and changing rooms are comfortable with nature-inspired designs.

There are private showers and lockers to store your belongings while bathing. You can rent swimsuits and towels at the baths if you did not bring your own.

Enjoy an onsite café, restaurant and bar

Housed inside the facility, the café-restaurant offers a delicious array of small courses. The Infusion bar also serves an impressive selection of complimentary teas made from local herbs, brewed with the natural hot spring water.

Using the hot water from Lake Urriðavatn, Austri, the local brewery, produces a 4% Blond Kellerbier and a 4% Session IPA especially for Vök Baths from this special hot water. If you would like to enjoy a drink or two while bathing, there is a pool bar so you can relax with your drink while soaking in the pure waters surrounded by the unique Icelandic nature.

Strong commitment to the environment

The creators of Vök Baths have a deep respect for the environment and are committed to upholding excellent standards of sustainability in every aspect of their business. When it comes to maintaining the pools, the bar and restaurant facilities, employees make a determined effort to avoid all use and disposal of plastic, where possible, and packaging is organic and recyclable. Additionally, all the wood furniture and features at Vök are made from ethically sourced trees raised in East Iceland. -JG



Vök Baths

Vök við Urriðavatn, 701 Egilsstaðir
+354 470 9500



WHERE THE SUN COMES UP



It is possible to debate whether Klifbrekafossar in Mjóafjörður is the most beautiful waterfall in the country, that nowhere is the fog more awesome than in Stöðvarfjörður, or that the stillness on Eskifjörður is so complete, the silent and majestic mountains are reflected inverted on its mirror-like surface. But one thing is certain that the sun rises in Iceland first in Fjarðabyggð, always.



MJÓIFJÖRÐUR

ESKIFJÖRÐUR

REYÐARFJÖRÐUR

REYÐARFJÖRÐUR

Fjarðabyggð is the tenth most populous municipality in Iceland, with over five thousand residents in the middle of East Iceland, from Mjóafjörður in the north to Breiðdalsvík in the south. Fjarðabyggð was formed in 1998, about a quarter of a century ago, when Neskaupstaður, Eskifjörður and Reyðarfjörður merged, followed by Mjóifjörður, Fáskrúðsfjörður, Stöðvarfjörður and Breiðdalsvík.

The fishing industry, aquaculture and the processing of marine products are the basic pillars of value creation in the municipality, as three of the larger fishery companies in the country are located in Fjarðabyggð. Then there is Alcoa-Fjarðaál, with its large aluminium smelter, in Reyðarfjörður. The third pillar in the municipality is, of course, the tourism industry that has grown and grown rapidly in a short time, as the area is great for seeing and experiencing the uniqueness of Iceland year-round. Even in the winter, there is skiing in Oddskarð, the sight of reindeer in the middle of the

track, and enjoying the Northern Lights dancing above Skrúð, the island east of Vattarnes, between Reyðarfjörður and Fáskrúðsfjörður.

The first protected nature conservancy of the country was established in Fjarðabyggð, in Neskaupstaður. The area around the foot of the Nipan mountain was protected in 1972. Since then, Hólmanes, between Eskifjörður and Reyðarfjörður has also been designated a nature reserve. The Gerpis area, the easternmost part of Iceland, between Norðfjörður and Reyðarfjörður is becoming one of the most popular hiking

areas in Iceland, both because the area is deserted and because it is laid out with great, well-marked hiking trails, which makes it accessible to tourists and hikers alike. The nature and bird life in the area are exceptional.

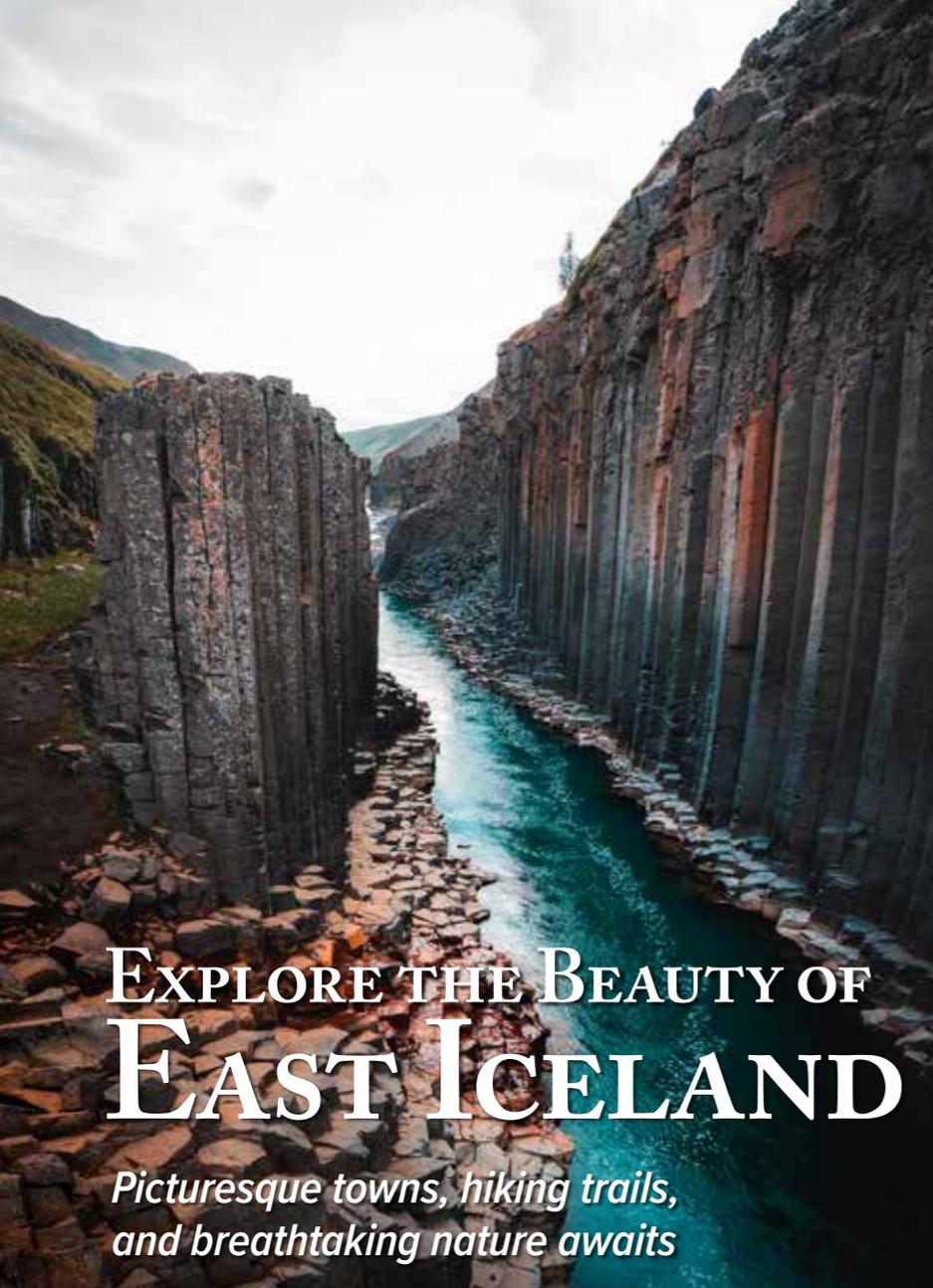
What makes Fjarðabyggð especially exciting for tourists is its diversity. The tranquillity and beauty of Mjóafjörður is unforgettable, whether you take the sea route from Neskaupstaður or drive over the Mjófjarðarheiði pass. In contrast, Neskaupstaður bustles with energy. There is always life in the town, whether at the

museum at the harbour, or around the harbour itself. In Eskifjörður, old meets new charmingly in the fjord, creating a picturesque town. Reyðarfjörður is the centre of the action, while at the bottom of the fjord between Vattarnes and Hafnarnes lies the town of Fáskrúðsfjörður, where you have to speak French! In the last century, the town was a centre for French fishing boats, fishing the wild Icelandic waters, as there are very good fishing grounds off the East coast. To the south is Stöðvarfjörður, where most travellers touring the country visit the unique and famous Petra's Stone Collection. Continuing south, in Breiðdalsvík is Meleyri, one of the most beautiful coastlines in Iceland, a three kilometre-long beach with the Sæhvammstind mountains on one side and Sátor mountain with its distinctive peak, on the other. To see the sun kissing the land at dawn is stunning while, because Fjarðabyggð is Iceland's most eastern municipality, naturally, most other people still only see a morning glow in the sky.



BREIÐDALUR

STÖÐVARFJÖRÐUR



EXPLORE THE BEAUTY OF EAST ICELAND

Picturesque towns, hiking trails, and breathtaking nature awaits

East Iceland is home to some of the most pristine, untouched nature on the island and charming towns with cultural attractions to boot. Múlaþing municipality consists of four villages, Borgarfjörður eystri, Seyðisfjörður, Djúpvogur, and Egilsstaðir, which are can't-miss destinations in the east of Iceland.

Beautiful Borgarfjörður eystri

Borgarfjörður eystri is a gem hidden between spectacular mountains in the east. It is the home of the Atlantic puffin, which can be visited during the summer season. These adorable birds are delightful to see

in their natural habitat. In Hafnarhólmi, guests can get close to the birds, observe them, and get magnificent photos.

Borgarfjörður offers a variety of fantastic well-maintained hiking trails where you can feel connected to nature. As the fjord is the home of hundreds of elves, who knows what one might spot while roaming the beautiful landscape. For those who want to experience the fjord filled with music and people, it is worth visiting during the Bræðslan music festival, which takes place in July every year. Check out borgarfjordureystri.is for more information about the village.



Serene and scenic Seyðisfjörður

Both culture and vibrant atmosphere symbolise the unique fjord Seyðisfjörður. The village buzzes with life during LungA, its annual art festival boasting local and international artists. In addition to the unique festival, it also hosts the LungA School. Exploring the sound sculpture, Tvisöngur combines hiking in beautiful surroundings and engaging art; it is a place where one might be tempted to sing a song or two.

Walking in the fascinating village, down the rainbow street with its cute little coffee houses, market, shops, and restaurants

and into the blue church makes a visit worthwhile. Everywhere is an opportunity to catch breathtaking photos of people, nature, and quirky old houses. Information about nature, attractions, and hiking can be found at visitseydisfjordur.com.

Dreamy Djúpvogur

Djúpvogur is a charming fishing village where heritage is celebrated by beautiful old houses, fascinating museums and the idyllic island Papey. For birdwatching enthusiasts, a visit to Djúpvogur is an excellent opportunity to explore various birds; one can even set up in a birdwatching

hut and wait for the perfect photo moment.

Along the coastline towards the harbour, one can see a stunning art piece which consists of 34 granite eggs; it is a replica of the eggs of the birds which lay eggs around the village. In and around Djúpvogur, one can go hiking or enjoy strolls along the black sand beach or the white sand beach. During a walk, one might lay eyes on reindeers and seals. The village and its surroundings are incredibly picturesque.

A gorgeous landscape is the backdrop to countless hiking trails, free to roam and explore. The 1,069-metre (3,507-ft)



Mount Búlandstindur looms over the town, dominating the terrain. Visit visitdjupvogur.is for more information about the village.

Endearing Egilsstaðir

Egilsstaðir is considered the unofficial capital and the hub of services and shops in the east of Iceland. With its wide range of options for dining, everyone should find what they desire. It is the home to the domestic airport and a connection to the fjords and other interesting places in the area. In Egilsstaðir, one can relax with a drink in hand at Vök Baths or take the family to the local swimming pool, which prides itself on a slide, two hot tubs, a cold tub and a sauna.

Stuðlagil is an extraordinary place, one of the most stunning sights in the east. The canyon has one of the largest numbers of basalt rock columns in Iceland. Stuðlagil emerged from under the river Jökulsá just a few years ago when the river levels fell, revealing this natural wonder. There is a viewpoint where you can marvel at the dark-coloured columns, which contrast perfectly with the clear blue colour of the river.

Meanwhile, Selskógur is a cute little forest within walking distance on the outskirts of the village. It is a tranquil spot where one can walk along the river and listen to its sound blending in with the lovely tunes of the birds living in the area. Also, Egilsstaðir is situated along a beautiful lake called Lagarfljót that stretches 35 kilometres (21.7 mi) long and offers numerous opportunities for hiking and outdoor recreation. These attractions and more can be found at visitegilsstadir.is.

The east is a paradise for hikers, as there are numerous places to roam and experience the breathtaking nature of the region with few fellow travellers nearby. Be sure to check out the beauty and rich culture of the east during your trip to Iceland.



A FAIRY TALE HOME *Petra's Stone & Mineral Collection*

In the tiny town of Stöðvarfjörður in East Iceland, a young girl named Petra began collecting stones in the mountains surrounding her home—and continued to do so until she passed away at the age of 89. During her lifetime, her home became a museum and is now a popular tourist attraction: Petra's Stone & Mineral Collection.

In the story of *Burnt Njal* (*Brennu-Njálssaga*), it is said that a quarter of your personality comes from your name, the other three-quarters come from your mother, father and your upbringing. 'Petra' means stone, which is oddly fitting.

The collection is remarkable, as every stone is beautiful. While it is very interesting for geologists to see so many rocks from the same area, the stones have not been arranged according to their scientific value but rather in a way that pleases the eye, a tribute to the wonderful colours that can be found in nature.

At first, this was only her personal collection as, for the first two decades, Petra would only collect stones that were within walking distance of her house. As she arranged them in the garden, strangers would pull over in their cars to better see what was going on. Sometimes the children would be sent out to ask the drivers if they would like to come inside to see more stones and have a cup of coffee.

Petra spent her entire life collecting rocks, and would sometimes bring her young children along to search for new additions

to the collection in the surrounding mountains. She arranged her stones in a garden that would be right at home in a fairy-tale. Petra believed in elves and hidden people and her colourful garden would be the perfect place to meet them. As her children moved out of the house, her stones moved in and the remarkable collection continued to grow.

Petra loved people as well as stones and her passion project became a museum that is open to the public. Her husband, Nenni, passed away in 1974 and on the day of his funeral she decided to open up their home so that those who wished to see the mineral collection could do so.

The stones and minerals have been chosen for their beauty and their colours, without regard to their scientific value or monetary worth. However, there are many semi-precious stones in the collection, such as amethyst.

Today, her children run the museum together and continue to add to the collection. Her youngest daughter, Þórkatla, says that she, herself, would prefer not to believe in elves—but maybe her mother had a helping hand when she went around searching for rocks, as she was incredibly lucky. -EMV



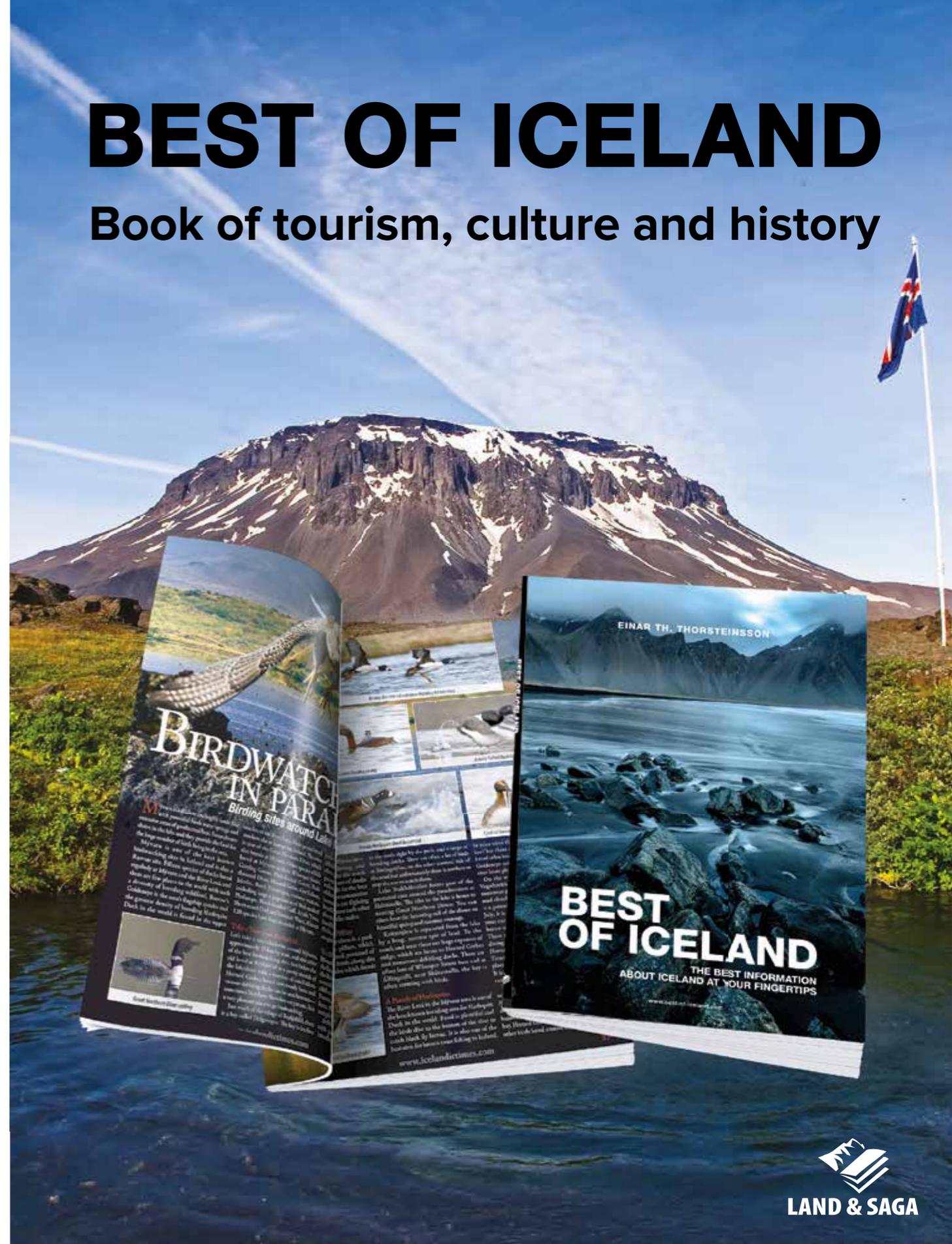
Petra's Stone Museum

Fjarðarbraut • 755 Stöðvarfjörður
 +354 475 8834
 petrasveins@simnet.is
 www.steinapetra.is



BEST OF ICELAND

Book of tourism, culture and history





SURVEY THE SCENIC SOUTH

Arguably the most popular region of Iceland that never disappoints

The South is home to glaciers, volcanoes and well-known sights like Þingvellir National Park and the Geysir geothermal region (both on the popular Golden Circle tour), lesser-known gems like Þórsörk (an area with its own micro-climate), colourful mountains, waterfalls, canyons, and lava-shaped landscapes.

The classic Golden Circle

Encompassing the three most visited sights in South Iceland, the Golden Circle gives you a slice of Icelandic history at Þingvellir, a spectacular view of Iceland's bubbling geothermal activity at Geysir, and the experience of a roaring, powerful waterfall at Gullfoss. Many travellers visit Þingvellir for its geological significance, offering a rare view of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the meeting point of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. It's also home to Þingvallavatn, the largest natural lake on the island.

The next stop on the Golden Circle route is the Geysir hot spring area. While Geysir itself currently lies dormant, its neighbour, Strokkur, erupts every seven minutes or so. Crowds gather to watch as the churning, gurgling pool of hot water erupts into a fountain of boiling water 15-20 metres high. The final stop is at the mighty Gullfoss waterfall, where the Hvítá, meaning 'white river', a perfect name for the turbulent white

water, plunges into the deep canyon below. The falls consist of three steps, ranging from 11 to 21 metres, ending in the 70-metre-deep gorge.

The scenic South Coast

The south coast has a bit of everything: waterfalls, black sand beaches, charming villages and vast canyons. Two of the most popular waterfalls, Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss, stand near the coast, and they are unmissable.

Meanwhile, a stop at Reynisdrangar provides a rare experience before heading to the quaint village of Vík. Reynisdrangar is a cluster of striking basalt sea stacks that jut out from a black sand beach. The stacks sit under the Reynisfall mountain just outside Vík. It's popular pastime to climb on the stacks and take photos, then roam the black-sand beach picking up stones and admiring the rock formations. Reynisfjara, from which Reynisdrangar is visible, is probably the most famous black-sand beach in Iceland. The juxtaposition of the white waves crashing on the stark black sand and pebbles is beautiful, with towering basalt columns along the shore next to a small cave.

A lesser-known attraction, Fjaðrárgljúfur canyon, is worth a visit. The canyon, which is believed to have been formed during the last ice age, has been hollowed by the Fjaðrá river, creating narrow walls. The canyon is about 2 kilometres long and about 100

metres deep and visitors can walk on a foot path along the canyon's edge to admire the view and take photos.

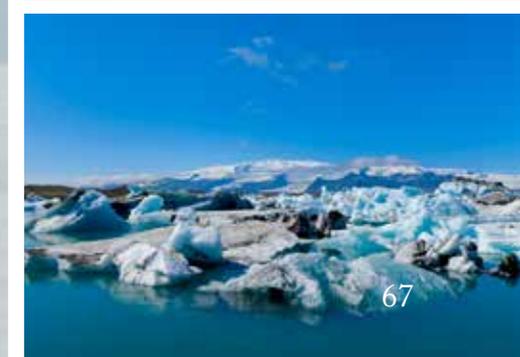
The vast, striking beauty of the Vatnajökull region

The South is home to yet another unmissable attraction, Jokulsárlón Glacier Lagoon. Situated in the Vatnajökull region, the lagoon features massive chunks of ice scattered about, walls of ice jut from the sea, and icebergs of various sizes float on the water. Huge blocks of ice constantly break off the Breiðamerkurjökull glacier into the lagoon which, though not very wide, is up to 250 metres deep—the deepest lake in Iceland.

Meanwhile, Svartifoss waterfall is another spectacular site. After a short hike, you can see Svartifoss (Black Falls) waterfall, where thundering white water cascades over striking black basalt rock columns.

A lesser-known gem is Vestrahorn, an area approximately a ten-minute drive away from Höfn. The shore features stunning lava dunes, that are constantly being shaped by the natural forces of water and wind. Down towards the sea, it is possible to get perfect reflections in the wet sand, a favourite for photographers.

South Iceland has something for everyone and is a must-see region. Waterfalls, glaciers, national parks and black sands await! -JG



ON TOP OF THE WORLD *Glacier Jeeps*

The largest glacier in Europe



The weather report was looking good—a full day of sunshine ahead of me and temperatures above 10°C. I was on my way to a face to face encounter with the world’s 3rd largest glacier, the mighty Vatnajökull. This trip would mark a couple of firsts for me—my first time ever to set foot on a glacier, and my first time to travel by snowmobile. Needless to say I was really excited!

I first met Kristján and Bjarney, of Glacier Jeeps, at our pre-arranged meeting place: Vagnsstaðir. This is the official meeting place for all Glacier Jeep summer tours. Glacier Jeeps has years of experience conducting jeep, snowmobile and hiking tours on the glacier since 1994. (Bjarney has been helping run the family business since she was 14 years old.) I parked my car and joined them in their sturdy 4WD, which wound its way slowly every upwards on road F985 after a short drive on Route No. 1. The gravel road twisted and turned around hairpin bends, past waterfalls and deep canyons. My guides fill me in on the details of the landscape, pointing out how the glacier has crawled across the terrain, devastating everything in its path along with other interesting facts.

It is about a forty minute drive from Vagnsstaðir to the roots of Vatnajökull Glacier where we suit up with boots, warm overalls and helmets for the snowmobile excursion.

Now it’s time to test drive the snowmobiles. I am a little hesitant at first and Kristján shows me the ropes. It looks easy enough but I decide that I prefer to let him drive over the glacier with me sitting safely behind him on this ‘skidoo for two’, at least until I get a better feel for it. ‘Off we go over the wild white yonder, climbing high into the sun’ to paraphrase an old song, with cloudless blue skies above us and the wind in our faces. Further along we stop and dismount, to take in the magnificent panoramic views over the glacier, the Atlantic Ocean and the town of Höfn far below in the distance. I felt like I was on top of the world and it was truly a cause for celebration!

Kristján jokes that we cannot go onwards unless I drive. By now I am feeling a little more sure of myself and agree to give it a try. This time we are off to inspect a massive sheer rock face that rises straight up from the glacier at an elevation of 1200 metres. Finally, our one

hour snowmobile adventure comes to an end and it is time to return to base.

Glacier Jeeps also offers a hiking tour of the glacier that comes with all the equipment such as safety helmets, climbing irons and ice axe, instruction and a guide, included in the price.

In case you just don’t think a strenuous hike or a thrilling snowmobile adventure is for you, then Glacier Jeeps offers an alternative to see the glacier in a comfortable, specially equipped 4WD and is available year round, weather permitting. Each tour is only 3 to 4 hours in total, giving you plenty of time to do other things with your day, even though once you are up there you may not want to come down. Although it’s best to book one day in advance, you can also just show up at Vagnsstaðir at either 9.30 am or 2.00 pm and join the tour from there.

Vatnajökull Glacier Jeep tours: a must for your bucket list! -EMV

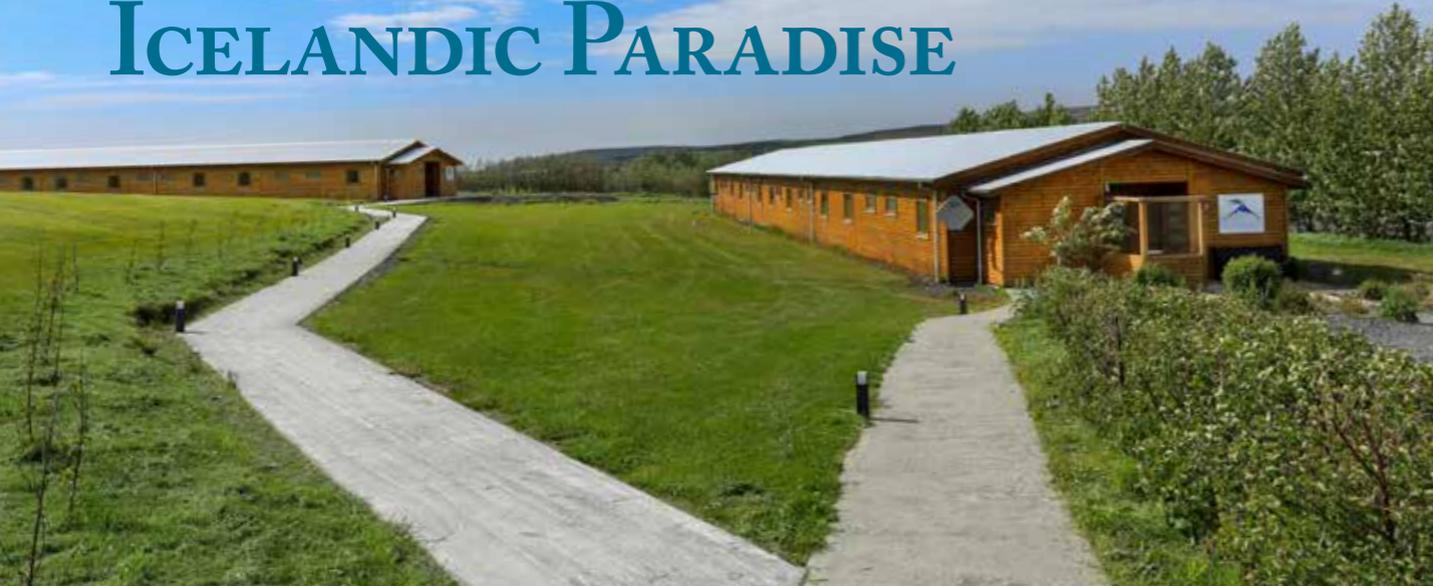


Glacier Jeeps
Vagnsstaðir, 781 Sudursveit
+354 478 1000
info@glacierjeeps.is
www.glacierjeeps.is



HELLISHÓLAR COTTAGES, GUESTHOUSE AND HOTEL

A LITTLE BIT OF ICELANDIC PARADISE



Set in one of the most idyllic locations in South Iceland, Hellishólar offers a variety of accommodations for the weary traveller who is looking for a good night's sleep in peaceful surroundings.

The sprawling Hellishólar property is located 17 minutes from Route 1, near the village of Hvolsvöllur in the middle of Fljótslíð, a picturesque farming district sheltered by three glaciers: Mýrdalsjökull, Eyjafjallajökull and Tindfjallajökull.

Cosy Cottages

Why not bed down for the night in one of Hellishólar's 25 popular, fully-furnished cottages? Each cottage can sleep from 3 to 6 people and has a small kitchen for making your own meals. If you prefer, you can also eat your meals in the on-site restaurant that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.

So Many Choices!

At Hellishólar, there is also a guesthouse and a brand new hotel called Hótel Eyjafjallajökull with 36 spacious and comfortable bedrooms, each with an ensuite bathroom.

A Glorious View of Nature

The views from Hellishólar are, in a word, stunning! In winter, when the Northern



Lights are visible, one has only to step outside the door and look up. The lack of light pollution makes Hellishólar an ideal location for viewing the Northern Lights.

In summer, the long days bring optimum opportunities to experience the many activities that are possible at Hellishólar—trout fishing on the lake, salmon fishing from the river that runs through the

property and enjoying a round of golf on the 9-hole golf course. Hellishólar is the perfect base from which to explore South Iceland year-round. See you there! -EMV

Hellishólar ehf
 861 Hvolsvöllur
 +354 487 8360
 hellisholar@hellisholar.is
 www.hellisholar.is
 www.hoteleyjafjallajokull.is

DISCOVER AN ICE-BLUE WORLD

Jökulsárlón Boat Tours on the Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon

There are few glacial lagoons existing in the world today and certainly none more awe-inspiring and accessible than the renowned Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon, situated at the head of Breiðamerkulljökull outlet glacier on the peerless Vatnajökull Glacier.

Sail Among the Icebergs

Jökulsárlón ehf has been operating boat tours on the east side of the lagoon for the last 30 years. Sail among the icebergs in a 40 minute amphibious boat tour, or take an exciting one hour Zodiac boat tour that goes further into the lagoon, getting you as close as is safe to the icebergs and the glacier itself.

Coffee with a View

Enjoy the spectacular view over the lagoon in the small café where you can get homemade soup with bread, fresh sandwiches, cakes with coffee or tea which can be either taken out on the terrace or consumed inside.

The Show of Fire and Ice

The magnificent annual fireworks display over the lagoon can be described without a doubt as one of the most memorable fireworks shows on earth. The event, held annually in late August, starts at 11.30 pm, with proceeds going to Iceland's volunteer search and rescue organization, ICESAR.

Located within a few hundred metres of Route No. 1, the lagoon is actually much bigger and deeper than it appears. With an area measuring over 28 square

km (9.6 square miles), you could easily fit the island of Heimaey (in the Westman Islands) into it with room to spare. At over 300m (984 feet) deep, five Leaning Towers of Pisa, stacked one on top of the other, would fit inside the lagoon with room to spare. With the ebb and flow of the tides, sea water enters into the lagoon bringing with it krill, capelin, herring and salmon. Curious seals know where the food is plentiful and can often be seen bobbing along with the currents, swimming in and out between the icebergs and appearing to enjoy the attention from onlookers on the shore. Across the road, near the delta where fresh and salt water converge, you can walk down to the water's edge to witness the rather surreal sight of baby 'bergs' beached on the shoreline. -EMV

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 Reynevillir 3
 781 Höfn í Hornafjörður
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 www.jokulsarlon.is





A TASTE OF ICELAND'S WILD & SWEET

Laugarvatn's Lindin Restaurant & Café Bistro

Located on the banks of Lake Laugarvatn, has a firm foundation of culinary excellence that attracts patrons from around the world. Owner, Baldur Öxdal Halldórsson, pastry and master chef, trained at the Hotel and Restaurant School of Iceland between 1980–1984, received training as a pastry chef at the Culinary Institute of America, New York in 1986–1987, and attended the prestigious Richemont Professional School in Lucerne from 1988–1989, where he developed his interest in the art of chocolate and learnt the secrets behind a great dessert.

After his training abroad was completed, Baldur began something of a culinary revolution in Reykjavík, working at many of the top hotels and restaurants, creating spectacular and sophisticated desserts that were hitherto unknown in the capital.

Mecca of Icelandic Wild Game

Baldur took over Lindin Restaurant in 2002 which has become known as the 'Mecca of Icelandic wild game', with its lamb, fish, seafood and game caught in the wild. His menu

is seasonal and features exotic dishes that can be made from reindeer, goose, duck, cormorant, guillemot, puffin, minke whale or pan-fried arctic char. Always on the cutting edge, you can be sure of finding new and exciting additions to his dessert menus such as his delectable chocolate mousse with raspberry sauce, with watermelon pieces and white chocolate foam and his bilberry skyr mousse with crow berries and rhubarb.

Passion for purity and freshness

Passionate about food, Baldur insists on the absolute purity and freshness of all his ingredients. Located in the heart of Iceland's 'greenhouse belt', he can take his pick of the choicest fruits and vegetables grown in the area year round. The restaurant even has its own small kitchen garden, providing a fresh supply of rhubarb, chervil, red and blackcurrants. The lamb and venison come from N.E. Iceland and are known for their delicious flavour, fed on mountain herbs. The Arctic char are caught fresh from either Lake Pingvellir or Lake Apavatn daily.

In the heart of the Golden Circle

Lindin is located in the village of Laugarvatn, right beside the lovely natural sauna, steam baths and pool at the Fontana Spa. The 45 minute scenic drive from



Reykjavík takes you through enchanting landscapes. Laugarvatn is half-way between Pingvellir and Geysir and Gullfoss, making it an excellent choice for a day trip to in one of the most scenic areas of Iceland. You can also now stay at any time of year in Laugarvatn at either the Golden Circle Apartments next to Lindin, the Gallerí Guesthouse or the village hostel to enjoy the Northern Lights in winter and the midnight sun in summer and the spectacular views from Lindin's terrace and garden across the lake to the Hekla and Eyjafallajökull volcanoes. —EMV/ASF

Lindin Restaurant
Lindarbraut 2 • 840 Laugarvatn
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lindin@laugarvatn.is
www.laugarvatn.is



THE HOUSE THAT DISAPPEARED

None of Heimaey's 5,300 inhabitants had ever expected that a volcanic eruption could make them homeless. But on 23rd January 1973, earthquakes started to shake the small island south of the Icelandic mainland. Only hours later a 2,000 metre-long crevice opened just outside the town and close to the church, pouring fountains of lava and ash over Heimaey's houses and streets.

In less than one hour all the inhabitants had been evacuated, without any chance of saving their belongings. Some people never returned to the island.

Heroes Saving a Home

Two hundred brave men stayed in the danger zone to fight the devastation, and finally succeeded in slowing down the lava flow by cooling it with seawater and thus saved the port. However, when 5 months later, the eruption came to its end, around 400 houses had been completely destroyed.

This volcanic eruption made headlines worldwide, bringing back memories of the Italian town of Pompeii which, in

73 AD, was buried under thick layers of ash and lava from Mt. Vesuvius. Huge parts of that historic site have since been excavated—so people on the Westman Islands rolled up their sleeves and started doing the same.

'Pompeii of the North' deserves its name: 40 years after the disaster some 10 houses have been raised from the ashes, and an impressive museum tops off the excavation site that had been open to visitors since the very first dig.

A Museum as a Mirror

Eldheimar's design is unique, rather ominous, and yet austere. It is an architectural masterpiece made of volcanic stone that perfectly mirrors the inexorability and harshness of nature. Its beating heart right in the centre of the building is Gerðisbraut No. 10, the house that had been situated on the slope of the lava-spewing volcano. Having been fully excavated, it displays life on the day of the eruption and now serves as a memorial for a lost homeland.

In Eldheimar's over 1,000m² museum, visitors are presented multimedia shows and exhibitions about the Westman



Island's Eldfjall volcano that, in 1973 rose up to a height of 220 metres out of the blue, not existing before its eruption.

It was similar to the submarine volcano that erupted in 1963 and lasted four years creating the island of Surtsey, south of Heimaey.

Nature protection laws protect Surtsey and only scientists are allowed to access the island for research reasons. The island is part of the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage since 2008.

The Eldheimar museum is quite open in both design and guidance in the exhibition halls as well as in the café and shop. It leaves enough space for walking around and contemplating the natural disaster and its impacts on the economic and cultural life of the Westman Islands, creating respect for the determination of its fearless inhabitants, who still brave the elements today. —DT



Eldheimar
Suðurvegur • 900 Vestmannaeyjum
+354 488 2000
eldheimar@vestmannaeyjar.is
www.eldheimar.is

The history of the Árnessýsla Heritage Museum began in 1953, almost 70 years ago. In the beginning, it mainly held objects from the old farming community, with its emphasis on farming, trade and the fishing industry until mechanization. During these 70 years, of course, the emphasis has changed, and now more emphasis is placed on the daily life and households until the middle of the last century. The museum's first home was in Selfoss, but it was moved to Eyrarbakki in 1995.



Lýður Pálsson, historian and museum director



ÁRNESSÝSLA HERITAGE MUSEUM

“Húsið á Eyrarbakki, the oldest house in South Iceland, was built in 1765 and is our main jewel”, says Lýður Pálsson, historian and museum director for 30 years. “These beautiful and unique buildings should be enjoyed, as they are, in fact, the main exhibits. Therefore, special emphasis is placed on the history of Húsið – The House – and its cultural significance in recent centuries.”

When the merchant Jens Lassen built The House in 1765, Eyrarbakki was probably the largest trading place in Iceland. This was towards the end of the Danish-Icelandic Trade Monopoly, which lasted from 1602 to 1787. During this period, the citizens of the country were not allowed to trade with other merchants or foreign ships. At the time, it seemed that Eyrarbakki would be made the capital of Iceland, as it had a much larger population than Reykjavík.

Two other museums in Eyrarbakki belong to Árnessýsla Heritage Museum. The Maritime Museum, as Eyrarbakki was, through the centuries, one of the largest trading ports in the country, and Kirkjubær, an Icelandic family home built in 1920, where we go back a hundred years and see how ordinary poor people lived. Both museums are within walking distance of The House.

In The House itself, the summer exhibition of the Árnessýsla Heritage Museum is completely modern, as of the Spring of 2022. Artists from nine countries partially transformed the exhibition spaces of The House with works that were created in Eyrarbakki at the Hafsjór - Oceanus Art Festival, which took place this Spring. This was a collaboration between the museum and artist Ásta Vilhelmina Guðmundsdóttir, the festival's curator.

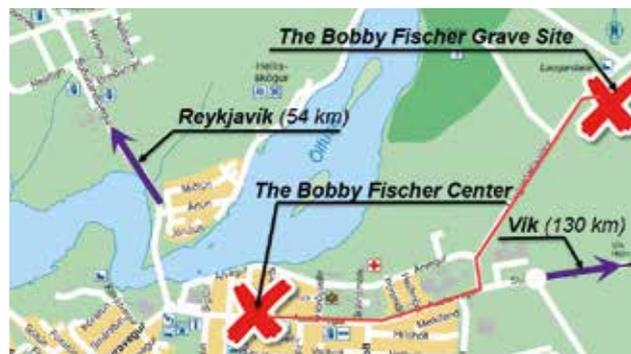
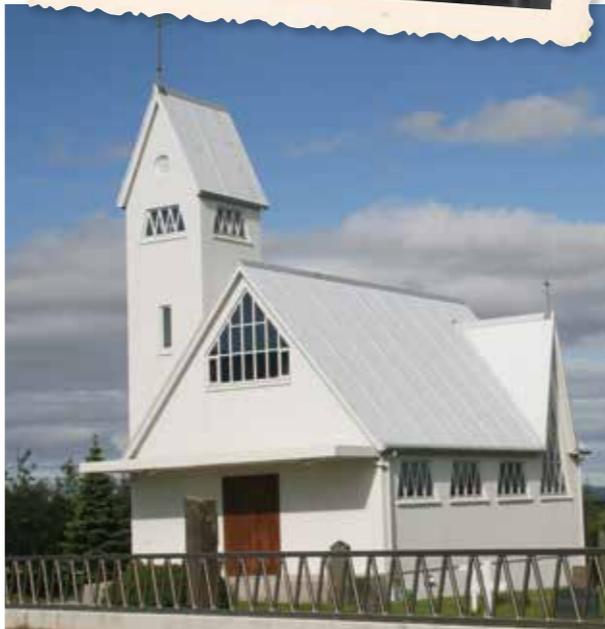
Does it take time to go back in history and see one of the oldest and most significant houses of Iceland in Eyrarbakki and the other two museums? No, it only takes 45 minutes to drive from Reykjavík, or 15 minutes from the Ring Road from Selfoss. The museums in Eyrarbakki are open every day from 10:59 to 18:02.



THE BOBBY FISCHER CENTER

It is housing a memorabilia of the 11th World Chess Champion BOBBY FISCHER and the Selfoss Chess Club.

The American Bobby Fischer became the World Chess Champion when he defeated the Soviet grandmaster and reigning World champion Boris Spassky in Reykjavik in the summer of 1972. The match is generally referred to as the Match of the Century. It took place at the height of the Cold War, mirroring the tense relations between the two superpowers, United States of America and the Soviet union. Since 1948 Soviet chess players had held the World championship title - uninterrupted for quarter of a century. On display at the Bobby Fischer Center in Selfoss are among other things Spassky's and Fischer's scoresheets, a printout from the radiation measurements demanded by Spassky's delegation after the 17th game and a replica of the chess board used during the match which was staged in Laugardalshöll in Reykjavik. In addition many curious items related to Bobby Fischer's stay in Iceland during his last years (2005-2008), for example his chair from the antiquarian bookshop Bókin in Reykjavik. He died on 17th of January 2008 at the age of 64. Bobby Fischer's final resting place is at Laugardælir cemetery, a few hundred meters away from Bobby Fischer center.



BUSTARFELL is one of the most beautiful and best kept turf houses in Iceland. Look through the history of farming and changes in lifestyle since 1770. Traditional cakes and coffee at the café.

Bustarfell 691 Vopnafjörður S. 8554511
 bustarfell@simnet.is
 facebook.com/bustarfell



THE HÚSAVÍK WHALE MUSEUM is a non-profit organization, founded in 1997. The museum is also running an educational program for children. It is expected that every pupil visits the Children's Whale School at least four times during their schooling.

Hafnarstétt 1, 640 Húsavík +354 414 2800
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 www.hvalasafn.is/en/



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BÁRAN BAR/RESTAURANT in Þórshöfn, northeast Iceland offers local cuisine like fish, lamb, vegetables or for those who dare, whale or Puffin. During summer they also serve breakfast.

Eyrarvegur 3, 680 Þórshöfn +354 468 1250
 knaveitingar@gmail.com
 baranrestaurant.is/en/



B&S RESTAURANT is a family operated restaurant in Blönduós, north Iceland. Ever since the start in 2007, they have put an emphasis on fresh produce and no white sugar nor MSG.

Norðurlandsvegur 4, 540 Blönduós +354 453 5060
 info@bogs.is
 bogs.is/



SJÁVARBORG RESTAURANT is by the harbor in Hvammstangi and has a spectacular view of the ocean. Sometimes guests can enjoy their meal while watching whales swim in the sea. Our menu has various dishes with an emphasis on fresh Icelandic ingredients.

Strandgata 1, 530 Hvammstangi +354 451 3131
 info@sjavarborg-restaurant.is
 www.sjavarborg-restaurant.is



ÁRNESSÝSLA HERITAGE MUSEUM has one of the oldest buildings in Iceland. "Húsið" was built in 1765 for a Danish merchant. During that time, the house was the centre of European art & culture in Iceland.

Eyrargötu 50, 820 Eyrarbakki +354 483 1504
 info@byggdasafn.is
 www byggdasafn.is/english/



STRACTA HOTEL in South Iceland is located right in the middle of the majestic plains with stunning mountain views in all directions, including the south, where the horizon meets the ocean.

Rangárflati 4, 850 Hella +354 531 8010
 info@stractahotels.is
 www.stractahotels.is/



One of the oldest museums in Iceland, **SKOGAR MUSEUM**, was founded in 1949 and nowadays hosts a collection of more than 18,000 regional artifacts, exhibited in three different spaces.

Skógum, 861 Hvolsvelli 4878845
 skogasafn@skogasafn.is
 www.skogasafn.is



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HJARÐARBÓL GUESTHOUSEIS located 46km outside of Reykjavik, close to all the hot springs in Hveragerði. A family run guesthouse where barns & haytowers have been converted to a guesthouse.

Hjarðarból, 861 Ölfus +354 567 0045
 info@hjarðarbol.is
 hjarðarbol.is/



THE WESTMAN ISLANDS FOLK MUSEUM was founded in 1932 and was recently modernised inside and out. It uses the latest technology to share its resources, including the Algerian Pirate Raid and the Heimaey eruption, with visitors.

Ráðhúströð 2, 900 Vestmannaeyjar 488 2050
 sagnheimar@sagnheimar.is
 www.sagnheimar.is

DREAMING OF ICELAND

Glacier Journey's Adventure of a Lifetime

For many, a trip to Iceland is the culmination of dream; a long awaited journey that sometimes takes years of saving to achieve. And once you are finally here, the daunting task of choosing what to do, where to go and what to see begins. The good news is that Iceland is a fairly compact little country and many of the most sought after gems of Icelandic nature, particularly on the south coast, are within easy reach of the capitol.

One of south Iceland's most awe inspiring natural phenomena is the formidable Vatnajökull Glacier that harbours no less than six volcanoes within its icy depths. The vast glacier spans a large portion of the south coast driving route and a visit to the glacier is undeniably one of the top "must-do's" that should be on everyone's bucket list.

Let the adventure begin

Glacier Journey is a local, family run company that offers a variety of year-round snowmobile and jeep tours to the glacier and has received many glowing reviews over the years. Even if you have never had any experience driving a snowmobile,

the friendly guides at Glacier Journey are with you all the way— and learning how to drive a snowmobile is all part of the fun. At base camp you will receive warm overalls, helmets, gloves and a face mask that you can take home with you as a souvenir and then you're off to explore the mesmerising beauty of Europe's largest glacier by snowmobile.

A magical-mystical world of ice

The 15th of November to the end of March marks a very special moment in the year when it's cold enough to go ice cave exploring! Glacier Journey's three hour "Combo Tour" offers you a tremendous opportunity to explore the glacier inside and out. Experienced guides will lead the way into one of the ice caves that form at the edge of the glacier when temps drop down to below freezing and these icy-blue, fairy tale caves are safe to enter. The tour then continues "up top" with a fun-filled snow mobile adventure across the glacier, with incredible views along the whole south coast and beyond.

Small groups and families welcome

Glacier Journey caters to all sizes of groups, from company incentive tours to small groups and personal, private tours for the whole family. Young explorers under the age of eight are also welcome to visit the ice cave accompanied by their parents, of course. It's sooooo exciting!

See you soon on a Glacier Journey tour for the ultimate trip of a lifetime! -EMV

Glacier Journey
 Vikurbraut 4 • 780 Höfn
 +354 478 1517
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 www.glacierjourney.is



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Delightful Bakeries IN SOUTH ICELAND



Almar Bakari offers delectable pastries and sandwiches in four locations

Almar Bakari is the place to stop and enjoy delicious pastries and savoury sandwiches when travelling in South Iceland. The family-run bakery has locations in Hveragerði, Selfoss, Hella, and Fluðir. The owners, Almar Þór Þorgeirsson and Ólöf (Lóa) Ingibergsdóttir, put passion and love into their baking. “We pride ourselves on having a great selection of pastries,” says Lóa. “And if you are going on a picnic, we have a great selection of sandwiches.” Customers can find delicious sandwiches like turkey breast on fresh-baked ciabatta bread with bacon and tomatoes, crunchy baguettes with ham and cheese, and perfectly flaky croissants with cheese and salami.

Almar Bakari offers divine bread and pastries for the whole family. “Our breads take 18-20 hours to make as they are slow-rising and handmade,” says Lóa, adding that their sourdough bread, Hengill and Hilla, are the most popular. In all, the bakery makes 13 different types of bread. As for the pastries, customers are tempted with many treats, from Icelandic classics like kleinur and vinarbrauð to doughnuts and cinnabuns. The cakes are exquisite, including carrot, chocolate, and caramel. The bakery is very inclusive and there are several vegan options available.

Family-run business

Almar and Lóa opened their first bakery in Hveragerði in 2009. Since then, they have expanded to three other locations, with their four children and other family

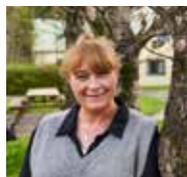
members all working for the business. Almar is a passionate, creative baker, who learned his craft in Denmark more than 20 years ago. “The family wants customers to experience beautiful, good food, with friendly service,” says Lóa.

Convenient locations

Almar’s bakeries are situated close to Route 1, which makes them an ideal place to stop when travelling along the southern part of the ring road. There is good parking at the sites, and the family is ready to welcome you whether you choose to dine in or takeaway to continue your Iceland road trip adventure! -JG

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THE HOMELY HERD’S LAIR



Hotel Hjarðarból lies in the South-West between Selfoss and Hveragerði, 30 minutes from Reykjavík

Hotel Hjarðarból – Herd’s Lair – is a friendly family-run guesthouse in the countryside close to Hringvegurinn – The Ring Road or Route #1 – midway between the towns of Hveragerði and Selfoss in South West Iceland, just 30-minutes drive from the capital, Reykjavík. Hotel Hjarðarból has a homely atmosphere reminiscent of a bygone era. Rooms come with shared or en-suite bathrooms. It provides a good base for sight-seeing and exploring around South Iceland and the Reykjanes peninsula and for day trips to Reykjavík,

as most of the major attractions are within a relatively short driving distance.

Old farm buildings

Hjarðarból is set in reconstructed farm buildings surrounded by woodland. This laid-back accommodation is in an amazing area of hot springs and waterfalls in Hveragerði’s Geothermal Park with various activities, such as horseback riding and hiking, nearby. Hotel Hjarðarból features 30 comfortable, down-to-earth and homely rooms with rustic furnishings that vary in size and set up, with double, triple, quadruple, and special family rooms with private or shared bathrooms suitable for all types of travellers.

Built in the 1950s

The Hjarðarból farm was a part of a government project to give people who wanted to be farmers a chance to do so.

The Old House was built in the 1950s, a beautiful farm with cattle, horses and sheep. Today’s main building was a barn with two sour-hay towers and a cowshed. The towers are still standing, the barn is now the main hall and the lounge is in the old cowshed. There is also the old sheep shed, where the horses most likely stayed with the sheep. The last ‘original’ house is the shed where tools were kept. This has been converted today into rooms #13-14.

Helga & Guðbrandur

Sigríður Helga, known as Helga, runs this unique hotel with her husband, Guðbrandur Sigurðsson. They have raised three children, lived in Denmark, where they started a restaurant, before returning and taking the risky decision to move their family from Reykjavík and 9-5 work. Guðbrandur is a carpenter. As he has worked in that field for most of his life, renovations haven’t been a problem. -HH

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Service stations all around Iceland



ICELANDIC TIMES

Icelandic Times is an ambitious magazine, published in five languages, for the multitude of visitors Iceland receives all year round. Icelandic Times emphasizes everything that can be considered Icelandic – the people, the food, tourism, industry and in fact anything that might give visitors a better picture of the country and its people.

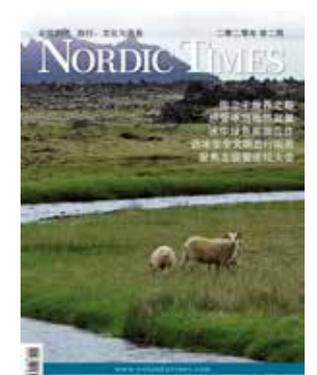
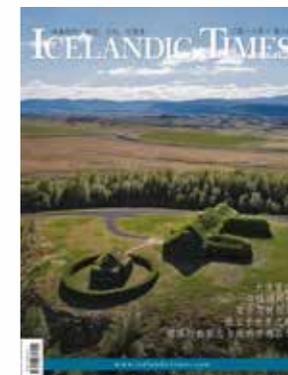
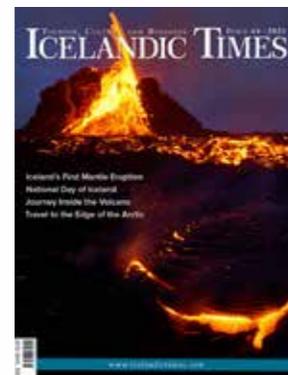
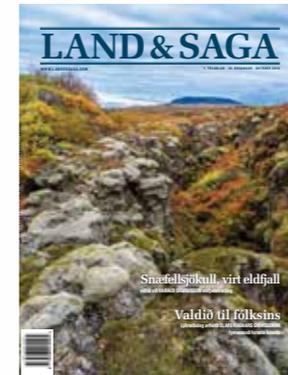
As you may know, Iceland has a lot to offer and there are countless individuals and companies who have meticulously laboured for years to make your stay more

memorable. Hundreds of mountain trails and caves have been mapped out, dozens of jeeps have been modified, millions have been spent on logistics, and thousands of sweaters have been knitted, just for you.

We hope you enjoy reading about these people and that this magazine will be helpful in making your stay more enjoyable.

Einar Th. Thorsteinnsson
 Managing Editor and Publisher

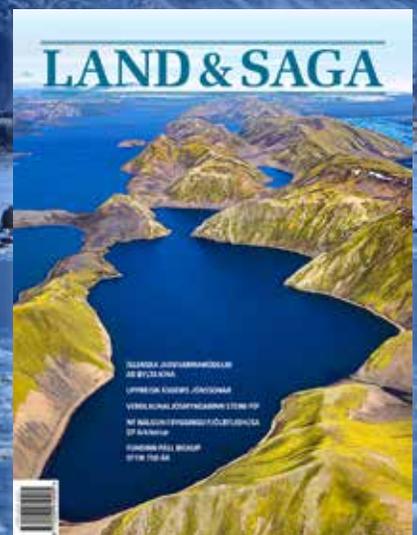
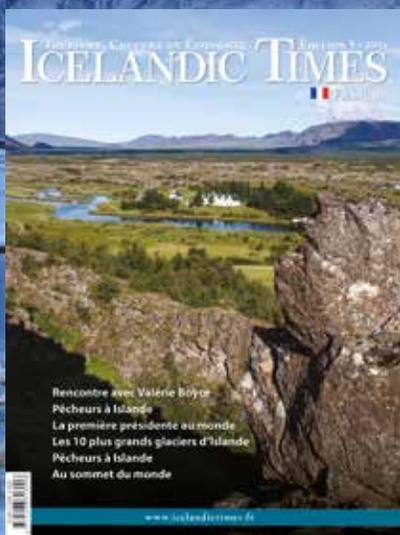
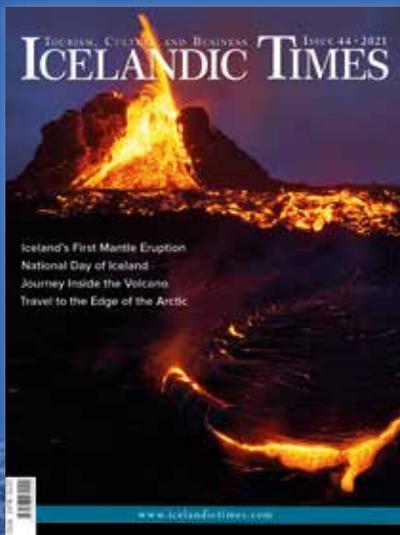
LAND & SAGA



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