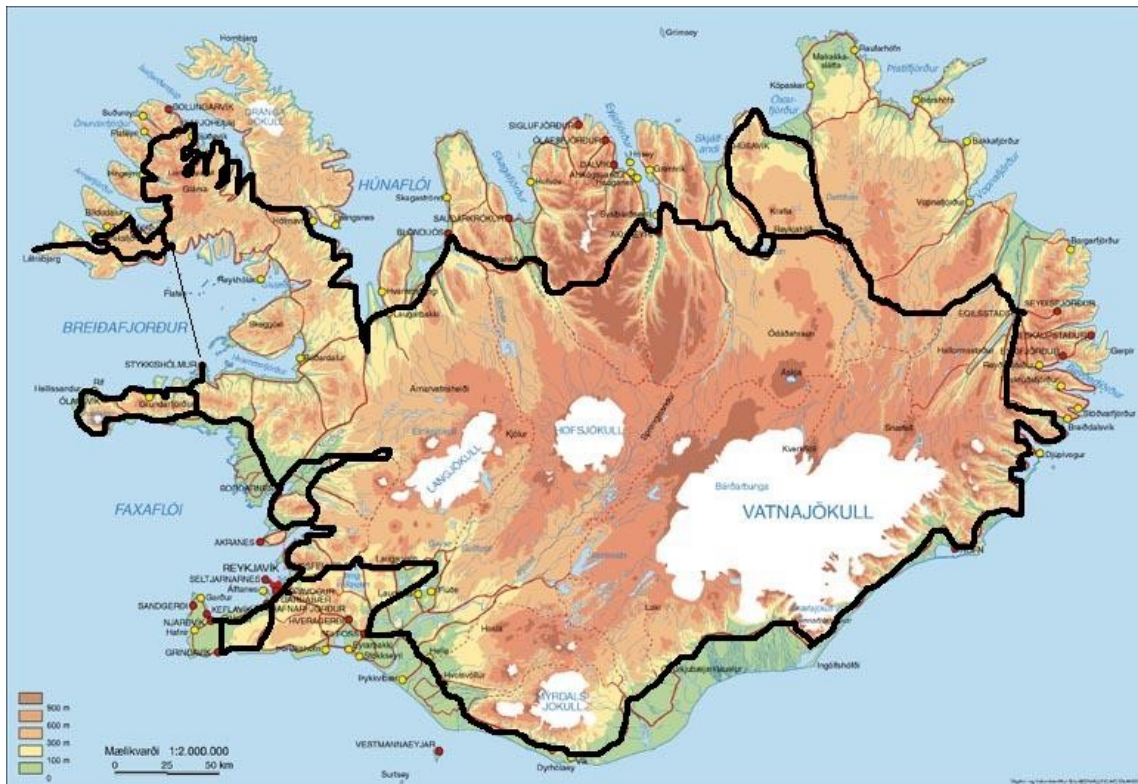


ICELAND GRAND TOUR EXPRESS 12 DAYS / 11 NIGHTS SD22



DETAILED ITINERARY



ICELAND GRAND TOUR EXPRESS – SD22

A complete package holiday around Iceland! Take in the exceptional beauty of Iceland's and breathtaking scenery and experience all the natural wonders it has to offer. You will visit unique places such as Mývatn, Egilsstaðir, Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon, Skaftafell National Park, Þingvellir National Park and many more. This holiday package to Iceland includes an amazing variety of places to visit, travelling through lava fields and grassland, with views of volcanos including the famous Eyjafjallajökull and visits to glaciers, waterfalls and hot springs.

IMPORTANT NOTES - READ CAREFULLY

All the information about schedules, meeting points, departure times, addresses and telephone numbers along with other relevant details can be found on your **e-vouchers** or **hotel list (Travel Documents)**. Please take this information into account when planning the activities for each day and make sure you double-check them prior to leaving your hotels and guesthouses.

CAR INSURANCE

Your car rental is provided with the basic Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) car insurance coverage. However, should you like to lower the non-waiver amount in case of damages to the car you can purchase the Super Collision Damage Waiver (SCDW) directly with the rental car company. The car rental company offers as well **other extra insurances** (windscreen insurance, ash, sand and storm insurance...) and a selection of services which you can get better acquainted with when you pick up your car.

For more information, please refer to your car rental voucher and consult with a staff member from the car rental company.

GPS SYSTEM

Coordinates: The GPS coordinates given in this itinerary are provided by Map Source (by Garmin). We recommend that you follow the itinerary for each day on the road map as well.

Destination names: Please note that more than one place in Iceland can bear the same name. Again, we recommend you compare GPS results with your road map as well.

ACCOMMODATION

Location: We recommend you look up your accommodation location for each day in advance so that you can compare it to your day's itinerary. In some cases, if you follow the itinerary, you might be passing through your accommodation for the night it during your drive and you will need to drive back, unless you decide to visit the rest of the day's highlights the following day.

ROAD CONDITIONS AND WEATHER

Please familiarize yourself with the websites www.road.is, www.vedur.is and the number 1778 to get information about the road conditions before arriving in Iceland. This may be your most important source of information regarding road conditions when in Iceland, especially during the winter time and when driving in the highlands. Please check this daily before departure.

ESTIMATED FUEL CONSUMPTION

As reference note this is the estimated fuel consumption for the vehicles detailed below:

Yaris: 5,7 litres/ 100km

Land Cruiser: 13 litres/100 km

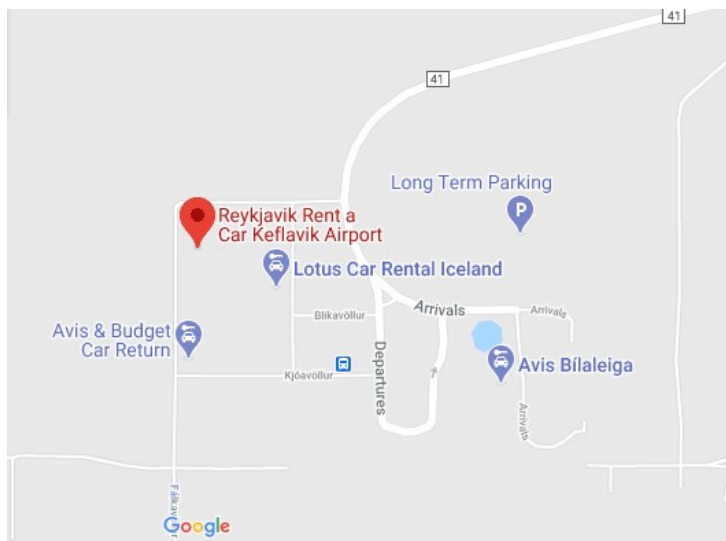
For more information on fuel prices visit: www.gsmbensin.is

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER

Iceland Tours 24/7 emergency phone number: +354-822-9050

UPON YOUR ARRIVAL IN ICELAND

- If you booked your rental car starting at the airport, you are invited to make your way to the Reykjavik Rent A Car shuttle parking lot where they will wait for you and take you to their office.
- How to find Reykjavik Rent A Car at KEF airport: <https://youtu.be/nWCtNISLxIA>



- If you are booked on the Fly Bus transfer to Reykjavik, continue to the Flybus service desk in the arrival's hall and enquire about your next Flybus shuttle which will take you to your hotel in Reykjavik.



Please note that there will not be an Iceland Tours' representative at the airport, if you need assistance when arriving in Iceland, you can contact Iceland Tours by phone +354 591 9030 during office hours (From Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm) or outside opening hours you can reach our 24/7 emergency phone at +354 822 9050.

If you want to meet an Iceland Tours representative, we will be happy to welcome you in our office at Bildshöfði 20, 110 Reykjavík.

Please note the information contained in this document is a comprehensive list of suggestions for each day. This outline is meant to give you an idea of the options available to you in the different areas as you drive around Iceland, the choice as to where to go and what to visit is entirely yours!

Useful numbers:

Lost luggage: (+354) 425 0200

Iceland Tours: (+354) 591 9030

Iceland Tours in urgent cases and outside office hours: (+354) 822 9050.

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN KEFLAVIK – DRIVE TO REYKJAVIK

- Arrival at Keflavik International Airport.
The Keflavik International is located about 48 km / 29 mi. southwest from Reykjavík. In the arrival's hall you will find the duty free area and an ATM machine. Upon exiting the arrival's hall you will find a bank and a currency exchange group.
- Pick-up of your rented vehicle (or take the shuttle transfer Flybus) and drive to Reykjavik for your first night's stay in Iceland by driving onto road **nr.41** straight to Reykjavik.

Our suggestions for this area (optional – depending on your arrival time):***Viking world in Reykjanesbær (GPS unit: N63 58.337 W22 31.435)***

The Viking world is a five exhibition museum along with a settlement zoo, a playground and an outdoor classroom. The exhibitions are all connected to the Viking age in one way or the other and offer a unique opportunity to learn about the history and lifestyle of the Vikings of the North Atlantic a thousand years ago. Please view opening hours at:

<http://www.vikingaheimar.is/>

***Blue Lagoon (GPS unit: N63 52.738 W22 26.707)***

*On your way to Reykjavík, we recommend that you make a stop at the **Blue lagoon** and have a swim in the geothermal warm lagoon. From the airport you can reach the Blue Lagoon by first driving in the direction of Reykjavík and then make a right turn to road **nr.43** where the Blue Lagoon is located.*

Remember to book your entrances in advance [www.bluelagoon.is!](http://www.bluelagoon.is/)



Reykjanes Peninsula Tour (optional – depending on your arrival time)

- You might want to explore Reykjanes peninsula before traveling towards Reykjavík if you had an early flight to Iceland. If it suits you better - you can also visit these places on your departure day.
- From Keflavik airport follow road **nr.41** towards Reykjavík, but only for around 6 km. then turn right onto road **nr.44** and follow the road around the peninsula. Along the way the road number changes to **nr.425**.

Interesting stops along the way could be:



“Bridge between Continents” (GPS unit: N63 51.920 W22 40.701) which connects two continents; America to the west and Europe to the east, as it lies across the point where two tectonic plates are diverging.

Reykjanesviti lighthouse (GPS unit: N63 48.769 W22 42.948)

Gunnhver mud pool (GPS unit: N63 49.031 W22 41.785)

Brimketill, naturally carved pool by marine erosion (GPS unit: N63 49.474 W22 35.561)

- When you reach **Grindavík** village, you can make a left turn onto road **nr.43** for a visit to the Blue Lagoon (see above) or you can continue your drive around the peninsula following road **nr.427**.
- We recommend a stop along the way to visit **Krísuvíkurborg bird cliffs** and in this area together with the Seltún geothermal springs in **Krísuvík**.

Our suggestion for this area

Krýsuvík and Seltún (GPS unit: N63 53.753 W22 03.216)

You might have time to experience the geothermal area of **Krýsuvík**. It is in the south of Reykjanes in the middle of the fissure zone on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge which traverses Iceland. Krýsuvík consists of several geothermal fields, such as **Seltún** where solfataras, fumaroles, mud pots and hot springs have formed, the soil is colored with bright yellow, red, and green hues.



To reach Krýsuvík and Seltún you follow road **nr.427** from Grindavík until you can turn left onto road **nr.42**. Then you should reach the Seltún car park. From Seltún you can continue driving on road nr.42, past Lake Kleifarvatn to reach Reykjavík or you can turn back and continue your exploration.

- Your next stop could be at **Strandarkirkja church (GPS unit: N63 50.146 W21 42.279)**, a small church by the coast.

- Continuing your drive you will arrive in the small town of **Þorlákshöfn (N63 51.374 W21 23.152)**. From Þorlákshöfn you can take road **nr.34** to visit Eyrarbakki and Stokkseyri villages. These small villages are not without charms with their original old houses and the interesting Ghost Centre in Stokkseyri which relates tales of the Icelandic ghosts (<http://icelandicwonders.is/>).



Our suggestion for this area

Kayaking tour in Stokkseyri (N63 50.187 W21 03.761)

Enjoy a relaxing, yet a fun and exciting kayaking trip in Stokkseyri. Kayakferðir tour company offers vary of tours, for families, individuals and groups. The duration of the tours are 1-3 hours and suitable for everyone. For more information, please visit: <https://www.kajak.is/>



- From Þorlákshöfn you take road **nr.39**, later combining with road **nr.1** which leads you to Reykjavík.

Our suggestion for this area

Raufarhólshellir cave (GPS unit: N.63 56.407 W. 021 23.742) – The Lava Tunnel

Following road **nr.39** from Þorlákshöfn you could make a stop at Raufarhólshellir cave. A journey into Raufarhólshellir is a unique experience and a great opportunity to witness the inner workings of a volcanic eruption as one walks in the path of lava that flowed during the Leitahraun eruption, which occurred east of the Blá fjöll mountains about 5200 years ago.

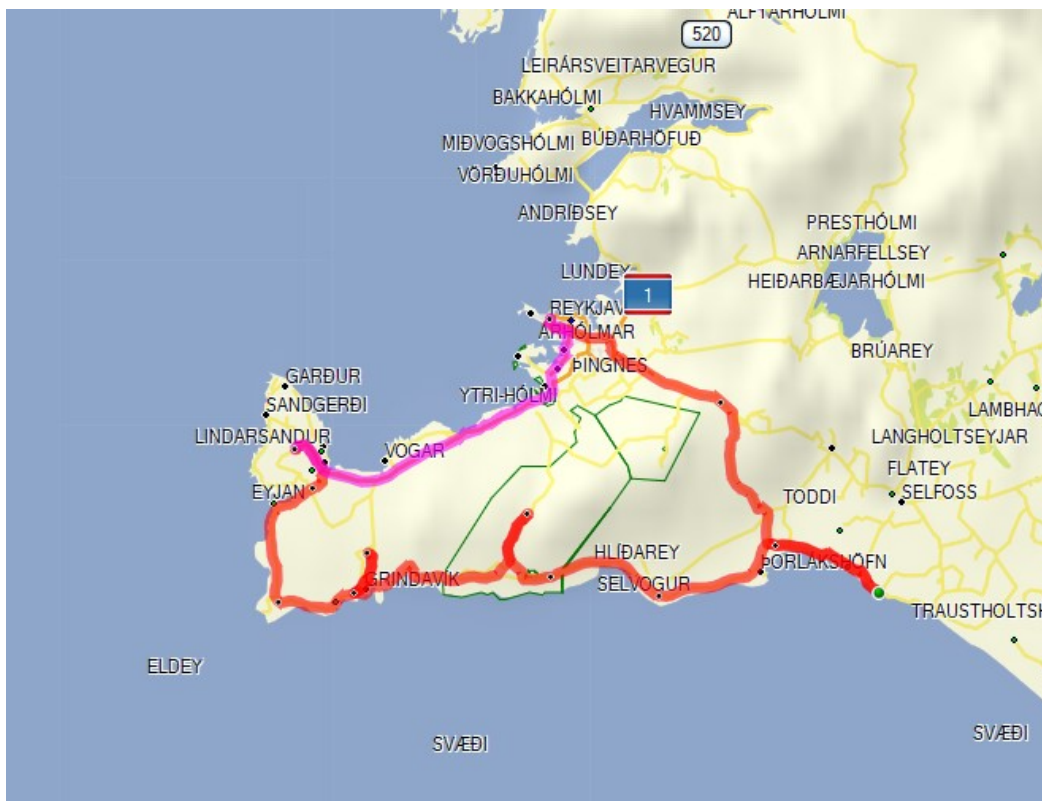


Book your tour: <https://thelavatunnel.is/>

Overnight stay in Reykjavik (See the exact address on your hotel list)

Driving distance: Between 50 and 225 km

Driving time: Between 45 minutes and 3 hours 40 minutes



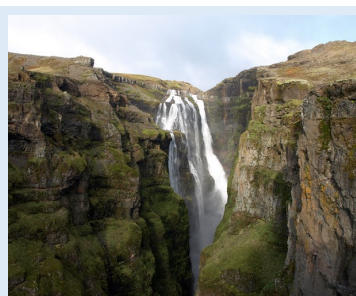
Highlights of this day:

Viking World, Blue Lagoon, Reykjanes peninsula, Reykjavík

DAY 2: REYKJAVÍK - SNÆFELLSNES

- Today you will be exploring the natural wonders of the Snæfellsnes peninsula which is known for its stunning Snæfellsjökull National Park and the Snæfell Glacier which towers the region. **Please note: This day involves both lot of driving and lot of activities so keep that in mind when you choose your route/excursions for the day.**
- From Reykjavík, you head towards the Snæfellsnes peninsula by going through the Borgarfjörður region where the biggest town there is Borgarnes. To reach **Borgarnes (GPS unit: N64 32.150 W21 55.414)**, first drive to Hvalfjörður fjord by taking road **nr.1** in the north direction.

*Hvalfjörður or “Whale Fjord” is approximately 30 km (18 mi.) long and 5 km (3mi.) wide. After being an important strategic naval station for the Allies during World War II, it became a whaling station until late 20th century. Today, you can either drive around the fjord to join the main road **nr.1** on the other side (62 km / 38 mi.) or take the submarine tunnel under the fjord (165m / 541 ft. under sea level - 1000 ISK per passenger car) which shortens the driving time considerably.*

Our suggestions for Hvalfjörður area:

Fossarétt (GPS unit: N64 21.205 W21 27.148) takes its name from the sheep sorting structure used there to separate the sheep by farm owners. Take a nice walk to see the waterfall!

Glymur (GPS unit: N64 23.455 W21 15.111) is the highest waterfall of Iceland (196m / 643ft.) to which you can hike (4 hours return) and cross a river along the way. This hike is demanding but the view is spectacular. **Please be careful as the trail is on the canyons edge and the ledges are narrow. Proper hiking shoes and caution is needed!**

Bjarteyjarsandur (GPS unit: N64 23.910 W21 30.573) is a farm, located in Hvalfjörður fjord, where you can meet the locals and experience the country life first hand. There you'll find sheep, horses, free range chickens, goats, rabbits, dogs and cats. A visit to Bjarteyjarsandur includes a light lunch from the farm's kitchen, introduction and education on food and farming culture in Iceland. For more information please visit: www.bjarteyjarsandur.is



War & Peace Museum or „Hernámssetrið“ at Hlaðir (GPS unit: N64 24.634 W21 36.655). The unique and remarkable history of the occupation period in Iceland, 1940-45 unfolds at the War and Peace Museum. The exhibition tells the story of how a peaceful countryside was transformed in the context of world events and its importance to the victory of the Allies in World War 2. Explore high-quality collect of artifacts and relax in the cozy cafe „The White Falcon“. At Hlaðir you will also find a swimming pool and a small playground for children.



For more information: <http://www2.warandpeace.is/english/>

- Once in **Borgarnes**, you could stop at the *Settlement Center* which provides fascinating insights into the history of the Settlement of Iceland and the Saga's era (*open all year from 10:00 – 21:00*). The town's small farmer's market "*Ljómalind*" sells handcrafts and food products straight from the local farmers where you can have a little taste of Iceland!
- Before continuing your drive from Borgarnes to Snæfellsnes peninsula you have the opportunity to explore the **Borgarfjörður** area. From Borgarnes drive pass the Borgarfjarðarbrú Bridge again and take road **nr.50** towards Hvanneyri.

- As you drive along road **nr.50** you will drive past the Fossatún campsite and restaurant. If travelling with children you might want to stop here for a short walk. Throughout the centuries, enigmatic rock formations in Iceland have spawned numerous tales of trolls who failed to reach their home before sunrise for various reasons and were turned to stone. **Fossatún (GPS unit: N64 35.552 W21 34.502)** celebrates this folklore tradition and has created a Troll adventure land where you can get to know these fearsome giants up



close and personal. There you'll be invited to take an informative Troll hike, participate in Troll inspired games and see some very impressive statues of the local trolls.

- Driving some 10 – 12 km further on road **nr.50** you will pass through the small village of **Kleppjárnsreykir (GPS unit: N64 39.383 W21 24.100)** where you can often buy fresh vegetables and fruits at a small roadside hut. There is no staff working there, only self-service and then you leave the money in a box.

Our suggestions for this area:

Deildartunguhver (GPS unit N64 40.143 W21 24.728): just after Kleppjárnsreykir: the biggest hot spring in Iceland in terms of water production per second.



Krauma - Geothermal Baths at Deildartunguhver
- Just 70meters north of the natural hot spring Deildartunguhver: Enjoy a relaxing dip into various geothermal baths, all containing the completely natural geothermal water. Aside from the hot tubs they offer two distinct steam baths, each with its own aromatic theme, and for those who want to balance their energy, and who dare, they offer an ice cold bath that surely gets your blood running. There you can also find a restaurant that offers locally sourced food. <http://www.krauma.is/>

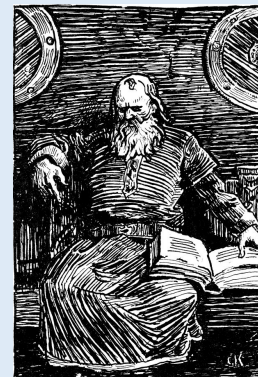


- Next you can drive towards **Reykholt** where nature blends spectacularly with culture.

Reykholt – Our suggestions for this area:

Snorrastofa in Reykholt (GPS unit: N64 39.865 W21 17.485) – from Deildartunguhver, drive back the same way you came (less than 1 km) and take road **nr.518** towards Reykholt.

Here you see a permanent exhibition dedicated to the life of The famous 13th century author Snorri Sturluson (Open daily from 10:00 -18:00 from April – Sept. Closed during weekend in October - March). Poet, historian, politician and author, Snorri Sturluson (1179-1241) is best known for his important and famous writing (Heimskringla which is one of the sources of Scandinavian history, Egils's Saga, one of the very best Icelandic Sagas, the story of the Viking poet Egill Skallagrímsson amongst others). You may also visit the warm bathing basin which was used in medieval times.





Hraunfoss and Barnafoss waterfalls (GPS unit: N64 42.105 W20 58.402): 20 km east of Reykholt (road nr.518) - you witness the water tumbling out of the lava into a passing river. Barnafoss takes its name after a legend in which 2 young children lost their lives in to the river looking for their mother on the night of the Christmas Mass.

- Should you continue your drive for approx. 6 km more you will reach **Húsafell (GPS unit: N64 42.115 W20 52.189)**, one of Icelanders most popular tourist destination in Iceland with its campsite, summer houses, hotel, restaurants and swimming pool.

Optional activity – Our suggestion for this area:

Ice Cave Exploration on Langjökull glacier: Join in for a unique experience! A man-made 500meters (1640 feet) tunnel run into the ice cap of Langjökull glacier. The tunnel consists of several 500m long tube in the glacier which has chambers deeper than the other ones and a small chapel which hosts weddings! Activity possible from Húsafell. Duration of the tour: 3-4 hours. Pre-booking is required: www.intotheglacier.is



Víðgelmir Cave (N64 45.116 W20 48.067)

Take a guided walk into the mighty Víðgelmir lava tube, it is a trip that the whole family can enjoy. Víðgelmir is the largest of all caves in Iceland, 148,000 cubic meters, and one of the largest lava caves in the world. It has beautiful ice formations and deep inside there are lava stalactites and stalagmites. Duration of the tour: 1,5 hours.

Pre-booking is required: <http://www.thecave.is/>



Please observe that the tours takes few hours and you would have to cut down your program in other places.

- After your tour of Borgarfjörður area drive back to Borgarnes and take road **nr.54** towards the Snæfellsnes peninsula.

Among our suggestions for this area

Eldborg crater: Hike of 2-3 hours – crater better accessed to on its southern side from **Snorrastaðir (GPS unit: N64 46.940 W22 16.023)**. Some geologists believe that it was formed five to eight thousand years ago, while others think there was a second eruption in historical time. The crater is a circle and it is possible to walk to the top with great view if the weather is good.



Gerðuberg - A few kilometers further (GPS unit: **N64 50.788 W22 22.165**): an impressive 500m long wall of basalt columns which is located near a farm called Ytri-Rauðamelur. Gerðuberg is listed as natural heritage.



Ölkelda (GPS unit: N64 50.004 W22 58.516 - road nr.571 to the right) where you have the possibility to taste the mineral water directly from the earth. Don't be shy and give it a try!

- Be sure to stop at Búðir, a small place known for its natural beauty. **Búðir (GPS unit: N64 49.299 W23 23.074)** is a former port of commerce where there is today a beautiful wooden church surrounded by a magnificent lava field. This is one of Iceland's most popular wedding destination as the unique surroundings make the special day even more memorable.



- After passing Búðir you continue your drive following road **nr.574** around the peninsula. After driving approximately 16 km, you will reach **Arnarstapi (GPS unit: N64 46.191 W23 37.324)**, a beautiful fishing village that has a unique natural port where you can take a short walk to see basalt columns of all sizes and shapes. Here we recommend a walk along the coastline to enjoy magnificent lava formations and watch the birds for here you will find quite a large arctic tern colony.
- A little further from Arnarstapi, you will find **Hellnar (GPS unit N64 45.040 W23 38.771)**, a former fishing station with beautiful cliffs along with the visitor's center of the Snæfellsjökull National Park.

Among our suggestions for this area:

Optional activity - Vatnshellir cave exploration

A 45 minutes guided tour of the 8000 years' old lava tube. "As the lava rushed down the hill in a lava river it began to cool on the surface, creating a crust on top of the lava river. As the eruption stopped, all the lava from underneath this crust continued to drain out. That eventually left behind empty tube with roof on top that gradually cooled down" – Summit Adventure Guides -



www.vatnshellir.is - Located approximately 10 minutes' drive from Hellnar.

Lóndrangar

A pair of single sharp and steep cliffs, most likely volcanic plugs left behind from an eruption and eroded to its present form by the sea. If you stop here you should also take time for a short walk to Þúfubjarg, high and steep cliffs with waves smashing and squawking birds. Here you will truly sense the glorious power of nature.



- A stop at **Djúpalónssandur (GPS unit: N64 45.216 W23 53.707)** is not to be missed. This beach is one of the highlights of the Snæfellsnes peninsula wonders. The picturesque beach is covered by countless little black stone pebbles which have been shaped by the non-stopping forces of the ocean and wind. At the beach you will find ruins of a shipwreck and big rounded stones which in the past were used to measure people's/sailors strength in order for them to be hired on one of the ships. Each stone has a different weight with the heavies weighing 154 kg!



- Continue your drive on road **nr.574** with lovely views of the majestic Snæfellsjökull glacier. The stunning landscapes of the peninsula have captured the imagination of people all over the world ever since Jules Verne wrote the famous science fiction novel "Journey to the Centre of the Earth"; the



amazing Snæfellsjökull glacier is where the journey begins and the Stromboli volcano in Italy is where it ends.

- As you reach the northern part of Snæfellsnes you might want to stop at **Öndverðarnes (GPS unit: N64 53.113 W24 02.661)**, the westernmost point of the peninsula and a former fishing station. The huge black cliffs of Svörtuloft, a superb place for watching the waves break will take your breath away but many shipwrecks have occurred there in the past. At Öndverðarnes you will also find the well **Fálki (GPS unit: N64 53.108 W24 02.501)**, located deep in the ground with 18 steps leading down to it. To reach Öndverðarnes take road **nr.579**.



Please note that the road to Öndverðarnes is partly gravel so drive carefully.

- Continue your drive along the northern side of the peninsula, through the fishing villages of Hellissandur, Rif and Ólafsvík. The road will have changed to **nr.54** when you reach the town of **Grundarfjörður (GPS unit: N64 55.515 W23 15.558)**. From there you have the possibility of joining a whale watching boat tour (www.lakitours.com), one of the best places in Iceland to see the orca or killer whale.

Overnight stay in Grundarfjörður or Stykkishólmur (See the exact address on your hotel list). If Stykkishólmur, please see information below.

To go to Stykkishólmur

- If your hotel are in Stykkishólmur or if you are not ready to go to your hotel yet, you can carry on your exploration by driving to the village of **Stykkishólmur**.
- Approx. 18 km – 20 km after passing through Grundarfjörður you could take road **nr.577** and make a stop at Bjarnarhöfn farm, one of few farms in Iceland where there is shark exploitation and where visitors can learn about shark fishing around Iceland and even have a taste (www.bjarnarhofn.is).



- **Stykkishólmur (GPS unit: N65 04.252 W22 44.041)**, a charming fishing village with many old houses beautifully situated overlooking the Breiðafjörður bay, can be reached by following road **nr.54** and then **nr.58** until you arrive in the town.

[Our suggestions in this area:](#)

Day tours with SeaTours

From Stykkishólmur you have the possibility to go sightseeing among the uncountable islands and explore the unique nature and bird life Breiðafjörður Bay. Visit Flatey island or join „The Viking Sushi Adventure Voyage (see below)“. For more information please visit: www.seatours.is



Vikingshushi Adventure – a Bird & Nature watching Tour

“Have you ever tasted fresh scallops straight from the sea? If not, then the "VikingSushi Adventure" is the right boat tour for you - seafood simply doesn't come fresher than this! Try the delicious fresh scallops and sea urchin roe straight from the ocean. Soya, wasabi and ginger will make it a special Sushi-event for you. Experience countless birds like puffins, cormorants or the white tailed eagle and explore the strongest currents in Iceland or the fantastic basalt rock formations” (www.seatours.is).

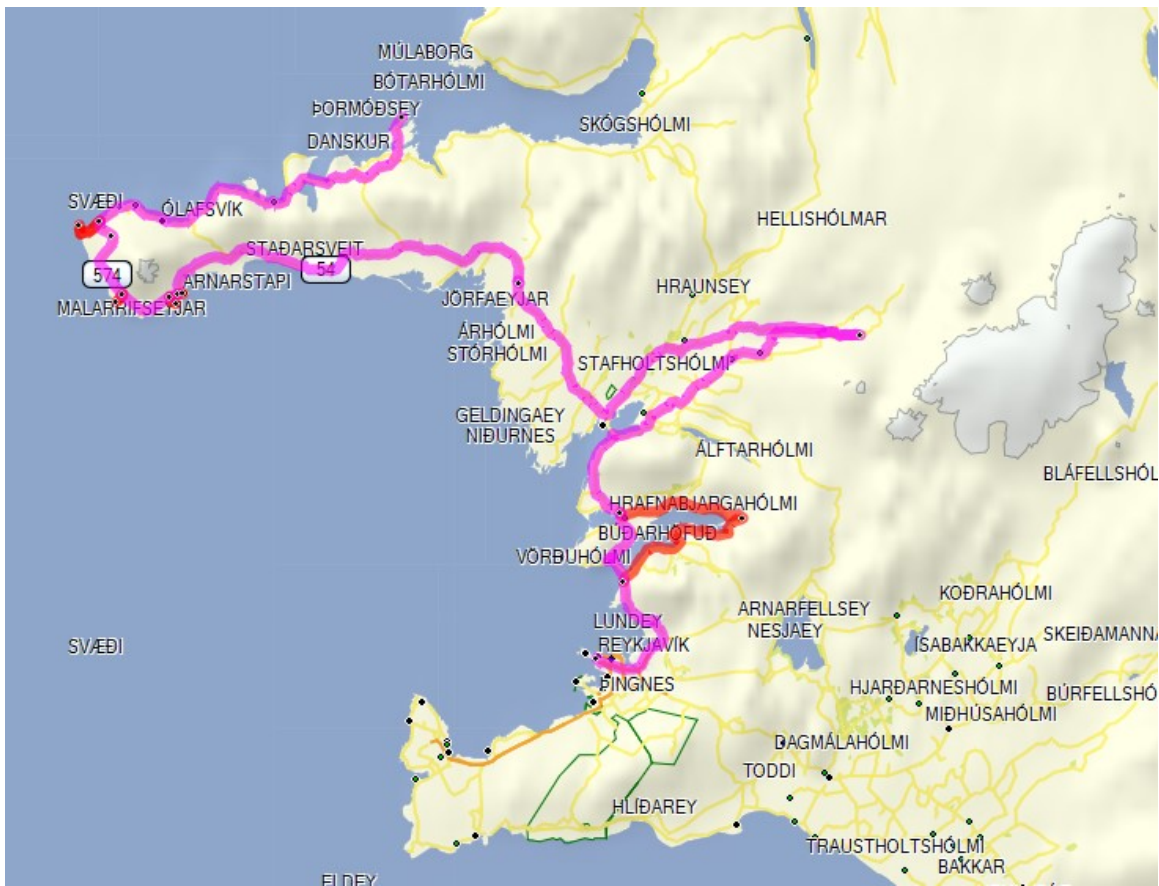


Walk up to the lighthouse on Ségandiseyja Island which is now linked to the mainland.



[Driving distance:](#) Between 433 and 500 km

[Driving time:](#) Between 6 hours 20 minutes and 7 hours 10 minutes



Highlights of this day:

Hvalfjörður, Borgarfjörður, Deildatunguhver, Barnafoss, Húsafell, Eldborg, Búðir, Arnarstapi, Hellnar, Djúpálónssandur, Öndverðarnes, Breiðafjörður Bay

DAY 3: SNÆFELLSNES – WEST FJORDS

To reach the West Fjords you can either take the ferry or drive around the fjords.

- **FERRY:** Drive to **Stykkishólmur (GPS : N65 04.532 W22 43.626)** on road **nr.54** and then **nr.58**. From there you take the car ferry Baldur across the Breidafjörður bay. After approximately 3 hours sailing across this scenic bay with its innumerable small islands, you reach Brjánslækur in the West Fjords.
- **DRIVING:** Follow road **nr.54** and **nr.60** to Búðardalur village. Very shortly after you turn onto road **nr.60** you can turn right onto road **nr.586** which will take you to Eiríksstaðir, the residence of the Viking “Eric the Red”. Here his son, Leifur Eiríksson, was born and now you find a Viking museum at Eiríksstaðir. Drive back on road **nr.60** to Búðardalur and continue driving north along the West fjords following the same road, which later changes to road **nr.62**, right before you reach Brjánslækur where the ferry arrives. **Please note that part of this road is gravel.**

[Among our suggestions for this area:](#)

Guðrúnarlaug: Natural pool where you can take a bath just like our women Viking hero, Guðrún, character of *Laxdæla Saga* who passionately lived together with both Bolli Þorleiksson and Kjartan Ólafsson in a love-triangle affair.

The pool is located approximately 17 km after passing through Búðardalur village, on road nr.589 to Laugar, a hotel, camping site and swimming pool.



- **BOTH FERRY AND CAR:** When you reach Brjánslækur follow road **nr.62** along the coast and across Kleifarheiði towards Patreksfjörður town.

Our suggestions for this area:

- **Road nr.612, before arriving at Patreksfjörður**

Látrabjarg (GPS unit: N65 30.152 W24 31.759)

Látrabjarg is one of the biggest and most breathtaking bird cliffs in Iceland. It is a home to birds in unfathomable numbers and one of the most colorful one is the puffin. At Látrabjarg you need to be very careful as there is no fence or barrier and the grass at the edge of the cliff can be slippery.

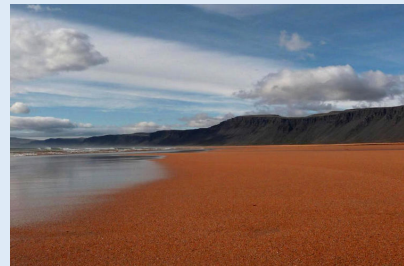


Hnjótur Museum or “Minjasafn Egils Ólafssonar að Hnjóti” (GPS unit: N65 33.448 W24 09.286).

Hnjótur Museum in Örlygshöfn, displays a unique collection of old items from the Southern Westfjords. The museum provide insight into the history of fishing, agriculture and the daily life of the people living in this remote area. At the museum you will also find an exhibition about the rescue of the British trawler Dhoon that stranded at Látrabjarg cliffs in 1947, a cafeteria and an information center. <http://www.hnjotur.is/en>



Rauðisandur (GPS unit: N65 28.640 W23 59.832), a beautiful sand beach with endless red sand. The magnificent hues of the sand differ with daylight and weather and the beach is the biggest pearl in a string of coves with sand ranging in colors from white through yellow through red to black, and in coarseness from very fine to sole-hurting chips of seashells. Enjoy walking in the sand and if you are lucky you might even spot some seals. At Rauðisandur you will also find a wonderful French Café.



Please note: The road to Látrabjarg/Hnjótur/Rauðisandur is a difficult one (small path, gravel and a lot of curves) but should be passable for careful drivers (4x4 recommended).

- **Patreksfjörður (GPS unit: N65 35.859 W23 59.890)** is the biggest town in the southern part of the Westfjords, with a population of around 660 inhabitants. Early in the 20th century, Patreksfjörður was a pioneering force in Iceland's fishing industry, initiating trawler fishing. The area is still today specialized in the fishing industry and has extended their expertise in to fish farming. The town has a new, absolutely gorgeous outdoor swimming pool we recommend trying it out! But if you prefer natural hot pots you will find them within an easy driving distance from the town.



[Our suggestions for this area](#)

Stúkuhúsið (GPS unit: N65 35.476 W23 59.220)

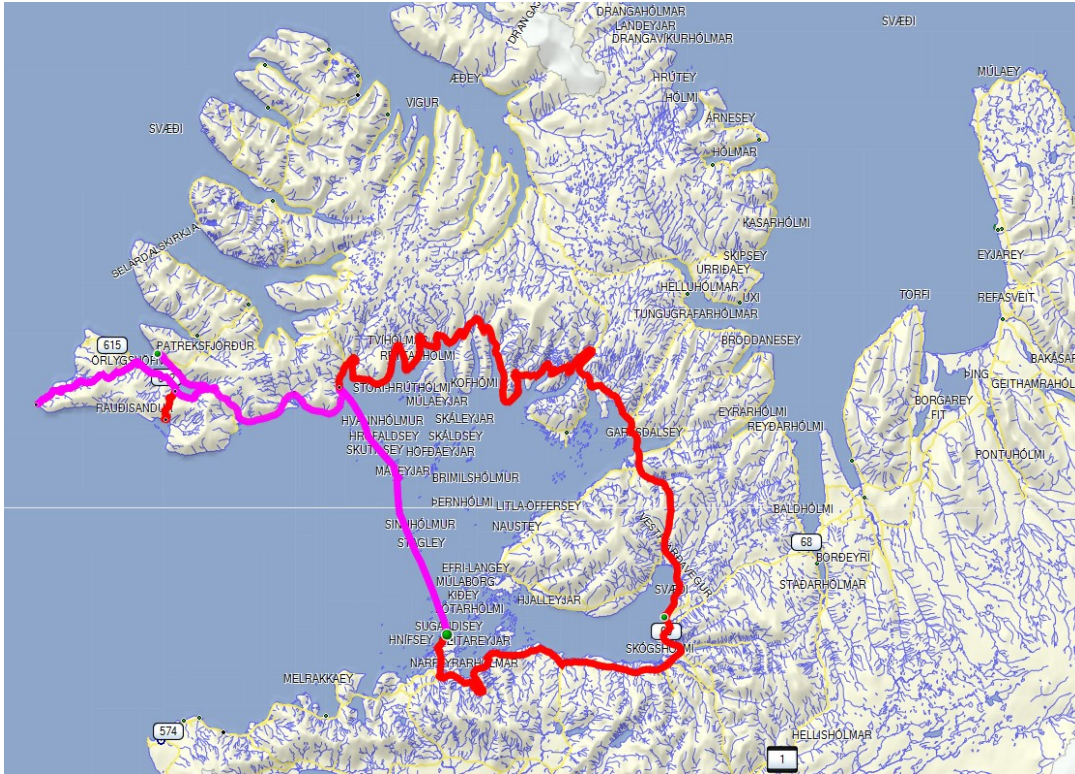
A great restaurant located in the center of Patreksfjörður town. Relax and enjoy a great view over the fjord meanwhile you treat yourself with something nice. A light lunch, a dinner or just a warm cup of coffee with some sweets, this is the place! www.stukuhusid.is



Overnight in the South region of the West Fjords. (See the exact address on your hotel list).

[Driving distance: Between 150 and 460 km](#)

[Driving time: Between 2 hours 20 minutes and 6 hours 40 minutes](#)



Highlights of this day:

Breiðafjörður, Eiríksstaðir, Guðrúnarlaug, West Fjords, Látrabjarg cliffs, Rauðisandur and Patreksfjörður

DAY 4: WEST FJORDS - ÍSAFJÖRÐUR

- Today you continue up north along road **nr.63** to the West Fjords, one of the most remote regions of Iceland. The landscape is breathtaking as you cross mountains and heaths and drive along the dramatic fjords at the foot of steep cliffs.
- **Tálknafjörður (GPS unit: N65 37.602 W23 49.588)**, a village of approximately 300 inhabitants, is the first village you will drive past. For centuries the town relied on fishing industry as the main source of income, they still do - however the town now welcomes large groups of tourists every year, the biggest attraction being sea angling. Various hiking trails can be found on either side of the fjord, many of them old riding paths, used to cross the surrounding mountains and heaths.
- The next town you will drive past is **Bíldudalur (GPS unit: N65 41.168 W23 36.090)**. The main industries in this picturesque village are sea mineral processing and fish farming, while tourism has also been increasing. Although the population of Bíldudalur is only about 200 inhabitants, music and culture have thrived there for decades. The village hosts an annual folk music festival and also offer an exhibition of Icelandic music memorabilia.

[Our suggestions for this area](#)

Melodies of the Past (GPS unit: N65 41.820 W23 35.567) - This small music museum is in the basement of the owner Jón Kr. Ólafsson. It's a private museum and hosts a considerable collection of LP's and other musical paraphernalia that Jón has collected in his many years as one of Iceland's noted vocalists. The museum is located at Reynimelur – Tjarnabraut 5.

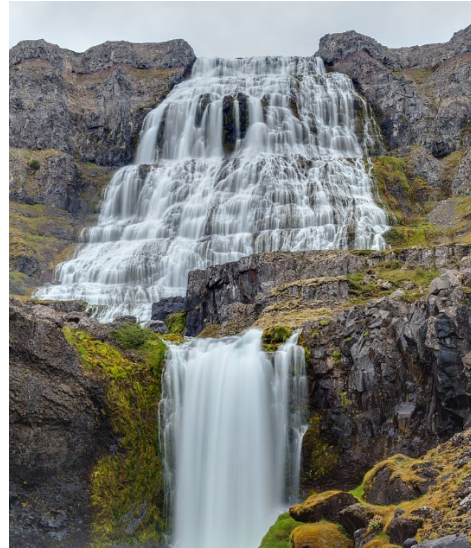


Icelandic Sea Monster Museum – “Skrímslasetur” (GPS unit: N65 68.674 W23 59.720) - Tales of sea monsters have played a colorful role in Icelandic folk culture for centuries and thousands of written accounts can be found all around the country. Visitors to the museum watch these remarkable creatures brought to life through a lively mix of words, images and videos. For more information: www.skrimsli.is



- After passing Bíldudalur, road **nr.63** will become a gravel road so drive carefully. Later the road number changes to road **nr.60**.

- Continuing your drive we recommend a stop at **Dynjandi waterfall (GPS unit: N65 44.197 W23 12.538)**. Dynjandi means “Thundering” and the waterfall is simply enthralling. The biggest and widest part of the waterfall is the one that gets all the attention and the photos, even though there are impressive, albeit smaller, waterfalls further down the river.



- Nearby is **Hrafnseyri (GPS unit: N65 45.584 W23 27.063)**, birthplace of Jón Sigurðsson who was the leader of the Icelandic independence movement in the 19th century. Here you can visit a small museum dedicated to him and his memory. As a part of the museum is the old turf house that Jón grew up in and the chapel that was built in his memory. The church that stands outside is always open for guests and in the old turf house is a small coffee house where you relax and enjoy some treats.

- As you reach the small village of **Þingeyri (GPS unit: N65 52.624 W23 29.434)** the road becomes paved again. In Þingeyri you can visit **Simbahöllin (GPS unit: N65 52.374 W23 29.236)**, a homely café, specializing in Belgian waffles, set in a beautifully renovated Old Norwegian house from 1915 (<http://www.simbahollin.is/>). Another point of interest is the oldest functioning mechanic workshop in Iceland, established in the year 1913.



- Continue toward the north on road **nr.60** until you reach the village **Flateyri (GPS unit: N66 02.978 W23 30.807)**. From Flateyri follow road **nr.60** through the Vestfjarðagögn tunnel towards Ísafjörður village. If you are staying in Suðureyri: Turn left onto road **nr.65** inside the tunnel to reach Suðureyri.

- **Ísafjörður (GPS unit: N66 04.415 W23 07.228)** is the largest town in the Westfjords peninsula, with around 2600 inhabitants. There you will find hospital, schools ranging from kindergarten to a small university, government organizations, restaurants and recreation for all budgets and tastes. A golf course, hiking- and biking trails, horse riding, bird watching, skiing and kayaking are all within an easy reach.



- **Suðureyri (GPS unit: N66 07.778 W23 31.641)** is a small fishing village located around 20 km from Ísafjörður. Recently, villagers seized the opportunity of combining the fishing tradition with tourism, and every summer hundreds of sea anglers from Europe visit the village and try their luck at catching cod and halibut out in the fjord. All basic services can be found in Suðureyri. The swimming pool is one of the most popular in the area, being one of the few outside pools!



Among our suggestions for this area:

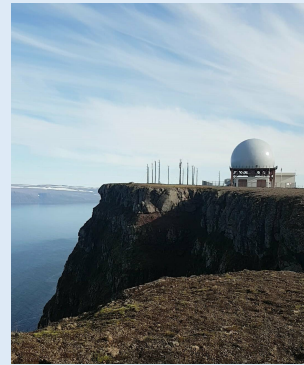
The Maritime Museum Ósvör (GPS unit: N66 09.492 W23 12.491)

*The museum is located on the east side of **Bolungarvík (GPS unit: N66 09.603 W23 14.889)** - road **nr.61**. The museum contains a double 19th century fishing base, a salt hut, a fish drying area and a drying hut. Among the pieces displayed, there is the row-boat Ölver that gives a good idea of the kind of ships that were used for fishing in that time. In the museum are also for display all kinds of fishing equipment and various tools that were used for fishing and fish production in the time of the fishing base. For more information visit: <http://www.osvor.is/english/>*



Once you have visited Ósvör museum you could visit the radar station on top of **Bolafjall Mountain (GPS: N66 10.698 W23 19.897)** – road nr.630 from Bolungarvík. Where, on clear day, you can have amazing views over the uninhabited Hornstrandir Nature Reserve.

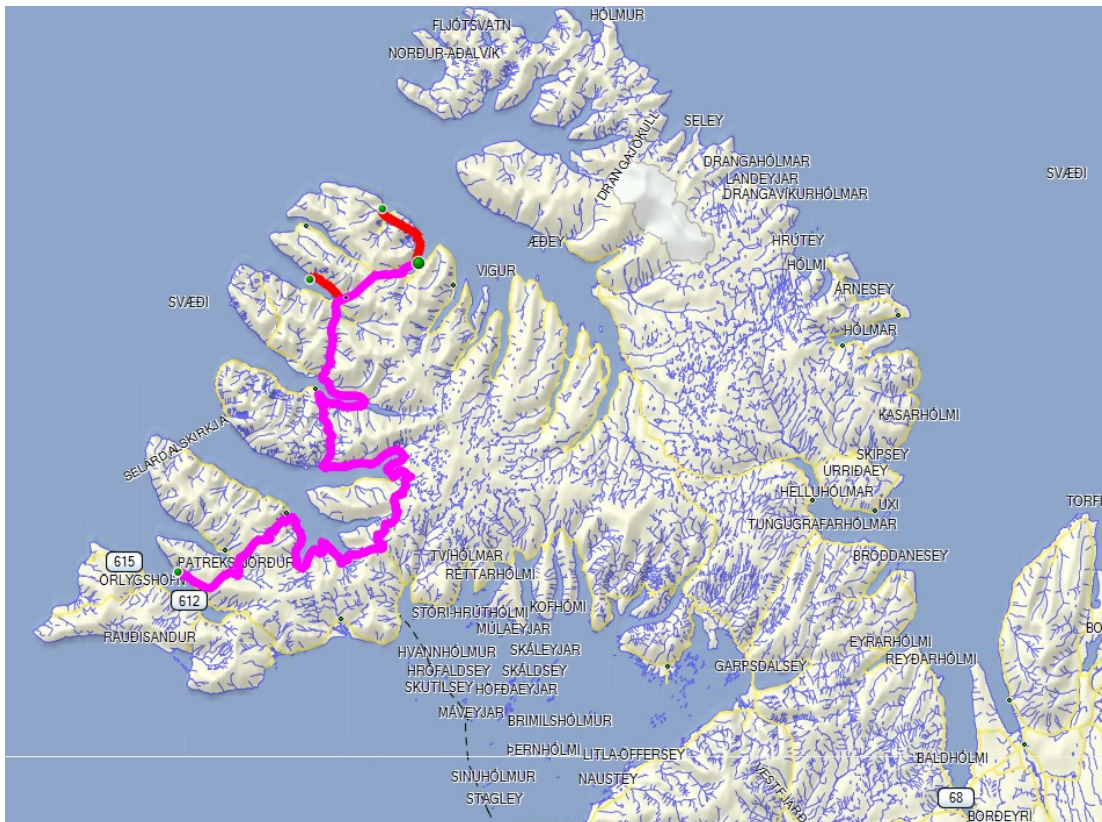
Please be careful when driving to Bolafjall Mountain, the road is small path, gravel and very narrow.



Overnight in Suðureyri / Ísafjörður area (see the exact address on your hotel list).

Driving distance: Between 170 and 210 km

Driving time: Between 2 hours 20 minutes and 3 hours 10 minutes



Highlights of this day:

West Fjords, Bíldudalur, Dynjandi waterfall, Ósvör museum, Ísafjörður

DAY 5: ÍSAFJÖRÐUR - HRÚTAFJÖRÐUR

- From Ísafjörður you continue your journey of the West fjords on road **nr.61**. You drive along the numerous small fjords of Ísafjarðardjúp passing the Vigur Island on the way. You can experience the largest Hot pot in Reykjanes. After Steingrímsfjarðarheiði heath you reach the Northwest region.

[Our suggestions for Súðavík \(GPS unit: N66 01.562 W22 59.491\):](#)

Melrakkasetur Íslands – “The Arctic Fox Centre” (GPS unit: N66 03.0471 W22 99.1710) - 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. There you can learn everything about the biology and history for the arctic fox as species and during the summertime they have a real life arctic foxes puppies - making it an ideal stop for children.
<http://www.melrakki.is/>



Raggagarður Family Park (GPS unit: N66 03.9660, W22 98.7138)

Raggagarður (A garden for Raggi) is a family garden in the village of Súðavík, created by Vilborg Arnardóttir in the memory of her son Ragnar (Raggi) for all families to enjoy and create a place where they could spend time together enjoying each other company. The aim with the garden was to create a family attraction for both local people as well as an attraction for travelers. The Result is a fantastic family recreation park with a playground suited for all children! And adults too!



Our suggestions for Hólmavík (GPS unit: N65 42.268 W21 40.613):

Drangsnæs (GPS unit: N65 41.398 W21 26.469)

Experience this unique moment! Relax in an outdoor hot tub overlooking the sea and admire the view given onto the fjord before (free of charge).



Strandagaldur in Hólmavík (GPS unit: N65 46.795 W21 23.186) - “Strandagaldur” or the Museum of Icelandic sorcery and witchcraft – it’s a small museum which gives a glimpse of how important magic was in the old days. The museum displays several items but also spells used to achieve particular outcomes. For more information please visit: <http://www.galdrasyning.is/>



Sauðfjársetrið Ströndum – “Sheep Farming Museum” (GPS unit: N65 38.2746 W21 35.0752)

Interesting and entertaining exhibition about the Icelandic sheep and sheep farming. The exhibition focuses on providing diverse entertainment for all ages. One of the main attractions in the Sheep Farming Museum are the lambs, which the visitors can feed with milk from a bottle. There you can also find a small and cozy coffee bar Kaffi Kind.



- Continue along the Hrótafjörður fjord on road **nr.68** which can be gravel in some parts until you arrive at your accommodation in the region.

Overnight in Hrótafjörður area (see the exact address on your hotel list).

Driving distance: Between 360 and 410 km

Driving time: Between 5 hours and 5 hours 45 minutes

DAY 6: HRÚTAFJÖRÐUR - AKUREYRI

- From your accommodation follow road **nr.1** in direction of Akureyri.

Detour – our suggestion for this area (depends on your accommodation location):***Vatnsnes peninsula and Hvítserkur (road nr.711)***

*From Hvammstangi (road nr.72) you can drive around Vatnsnes peninsula, the best place to spot some seals. You can as well make a stop at **Hvítserkur**, a 15 m high basalt stack where several species of birds live.*

*You can also travel straight to Hvítserkur by making a left turn onto road **nr.716** (from road **nr.1**). The road leads you to the right side of the peninsula where Hvítserkur is located. Please note that the roads are graveled.*



- After passing through the town of Blönduós, keep on road **nr.1** through Langidalur's valley where beautiful flowers grow just by the side of the road. Be sure to make a stop in the Skagafjörður region! Skagafjörður is known for horse breeding and many Icelandic horses can be seen grazing in the fields in the valley.

Among our suggestions for this area:

Horse riding tours from Varmahlíð village (Hestasport, www.riding.is Phone: (+354-4538383).

Turf houses: The turf buildings in Skagafjörður are two of the best preserved in the country.



Glaumbær (N65 36.714 W19 30.299) is a turf-house museum (road **nr.75** north of Varmahlíð) and the turf church **Víðimýri (N65 32.349 W19 28.270)** dates back from 1834 but was restored to its original form (2 km before Varmahlíð). Both open daily from 09:00–18:00 from June – August.

If you are up for a historical detour, visit Hólar and Hofsó's!

Hólar (GPS unit: N65 44.009 W19 06.653) is located in Hjaltadalur Valley, a beautiful mountain valley (road **nr.76 & 767**) and is the former residence and diocese of the bishop of North Iceland Jón Árason. The story of his battle against the Protestant Reformation and poignant death was immortalized in the 2003 award winning novel *Öxin og Jörðin (the Axe and the Earth)* by the Icelandic author Ólafur Gunnarsson. This was an important cultural center in the middle ages and there you can see the old church which beholds precious art treasures that are rarely found elsewhere in Iceland.



Hofsós (GPS unit: N65 53.768 W19 24.614) is a small fishing village on the east side of Skagafjörður (road **nr.76**). It became known at the end of the 19th century as a harbor from which many Icelanders emigrated to the "new world" in search for a better life. The swimming pool in Hofsós offers a unique view of Skagafjörður fjord. Try it out!

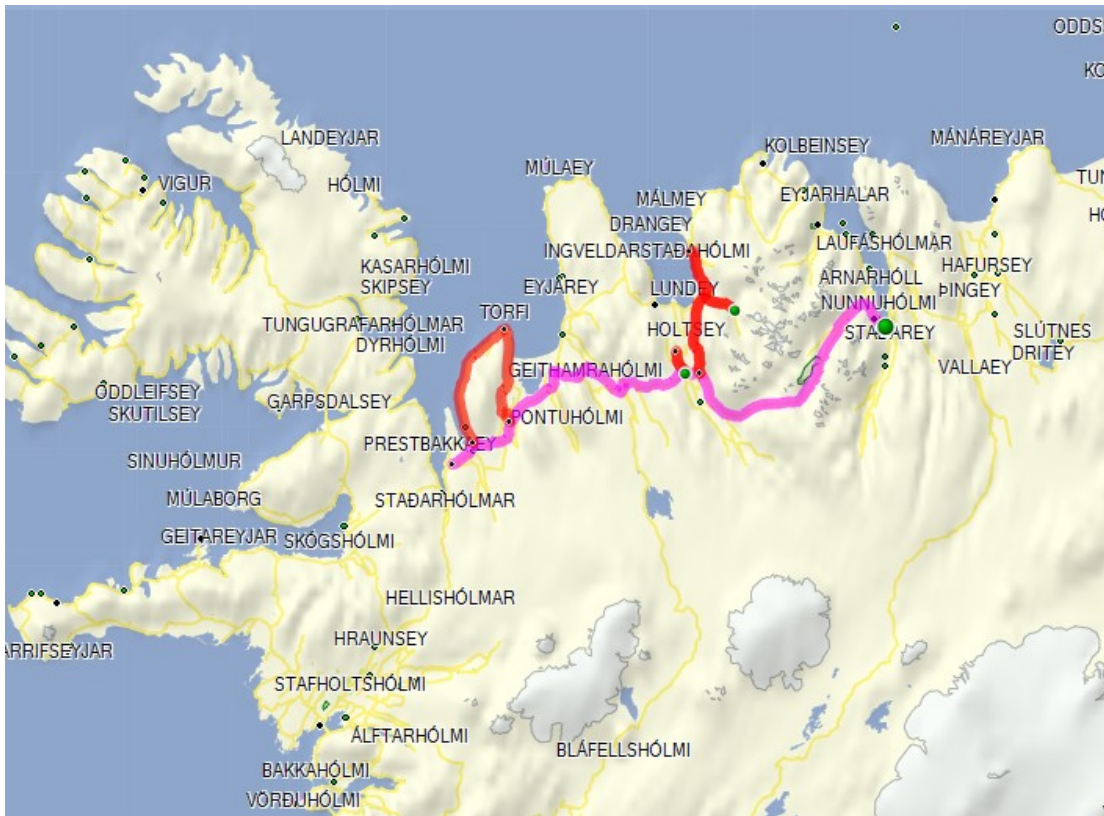


- Heading towards Eyjafjörður fjord, on road **nr.1**, the road takes you through the deep valleys of Northern Iceland before you arrive in **Akureyri (GPS unit: N65 40.934 W18 05.543)**. The town is called "The Capital of the North" with about 15,000 inhabitants. You could take some time to visit its beautiful church and botanical gardens, shop in the colorful walking area just below the church or even enjoy the outdoor swimming pool. Try out one of the many nice restaurants in Akureyri!

Overnight stay in Akureyri area (see the exact address on your hotel list).

Driving distance: Between 200 and 390 km

Driving time: Between 2 hours 50 minutes and 5 hours 20 minutes



Highlights of this day:

Skagafjörður, Víðimýri church, Glaumbær museum, Skagafjörður, Eyjafjörður Fjord, Akureyri town

DAY 7: AKUREYRI – MÝVATN

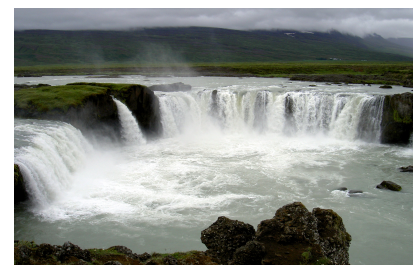
- In the morning you can spend some time in Akureyri to visit the center and do some shopping or even enjoy the outdoor swimming pool!

[Our suggestion for Akureyri area:](#)

Jólagarðurinn or Christmas garden: only 10 minutes' drive away (road nr.821) from Akureyri is located this astonishing little house full of treasures. Toys, Icelandic sweets and all sorts of ornaments are found in this local all year around open fairytale house. Open 10:00-21:00 from June – August and 14:00-18:00 from September – May.



- From Akureyri you drive towards **Mývatn** following road **nr.1**. On your way you have a chance to see the picturesque **Goðafoss** waterfall “waterfall of the Gods” (**GPS unit: N65 41.071 W17 31.392**) which was named in year 1000 when Þorgeir Ljósvetningagoði who instituted Christianity as the official religion of Iceland, threw the statues of the Norse gods into the water marking this site as a symbolic place for religious conversion.



- Lake Mývatn is one of Iceland’s most interesting regions. Be sure you spend enough time in the area where there are fantastic volcanic formations, geothermal activity and the lake itself, teeming with bird life, particularly ducks.

Please note that a tunnel was just finished on the route between Akureyri and Mývatn!

The road numbers have changed and now the ring road 1 goes through the tunnel but does not reflect onto the paper version of the map of Iceland which you have. The new road numbers are as follow:

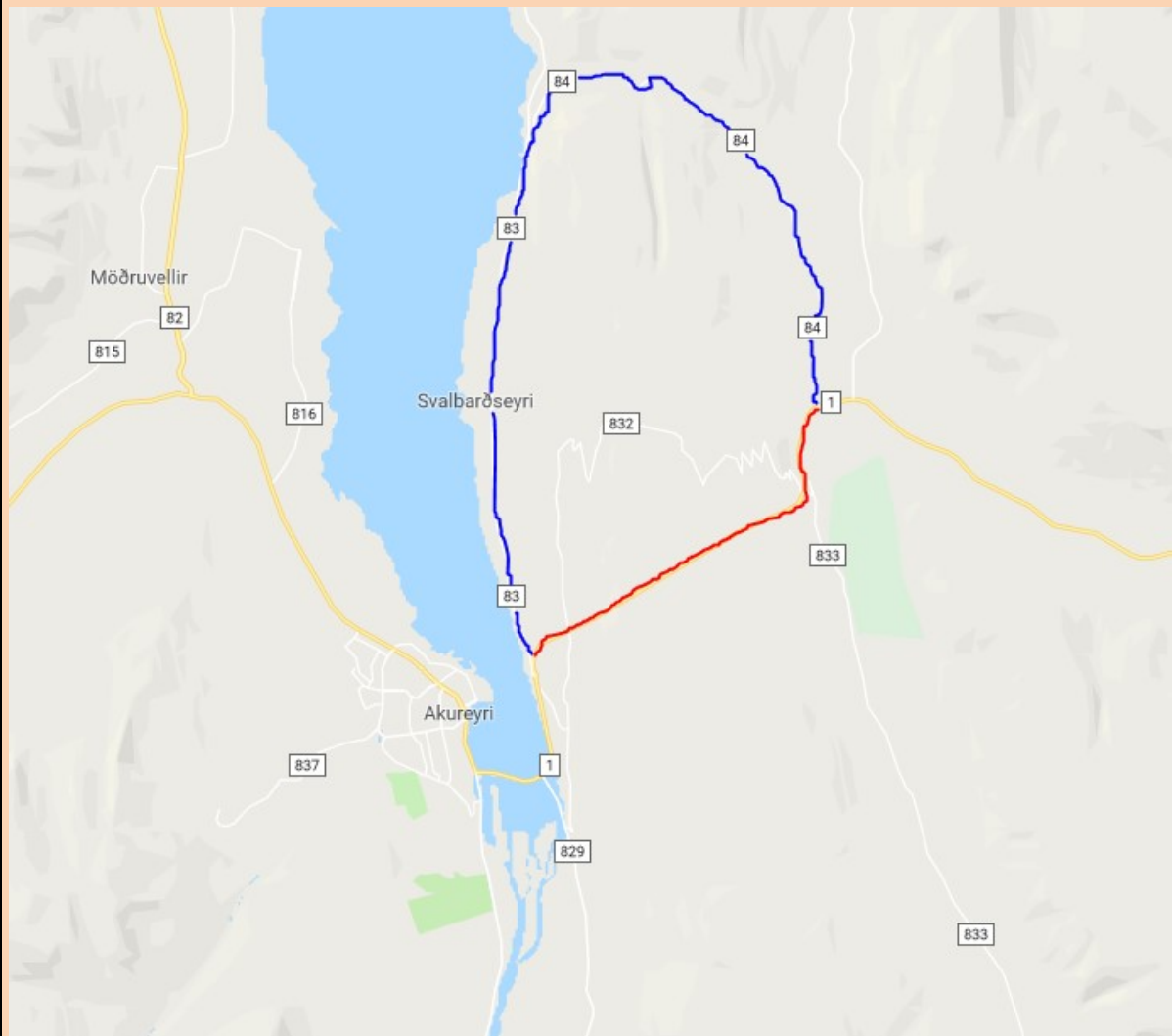
The road nr.1 over the mountains is now marked 84/83 depending on which side you are on.

You can still take this road if you want to avoid paying the tunnel fee of 1500isk we would however advise people to use the tunnel during winter times.

Please be aware that you need to pay the fee through the website www.tunnel.is

ATTENTION: You only have 3 hours after passing through to pay the fee before it goes from 1500isk to 2500isk. They have a special button on the website to pay for rental cars.

Old route is marked in BLUE and the new in RED.



Lake Mývatn – Among our suggestions for this area:



Skútustaðir (GPS unit: N65 34.039 W17 01.666): Mývatn has several pseudo-craters near the lake Grænavatn which were formed approximately 2300 years. The pseudo-craters are actually the result of flowing lava over the lake causing an explosion of steam and gases which broke the surface in the same manner as a volcanic eruption would do.



Dimmuborgir (GPS unit: N65 35.486 W16 54.759): Exploring and walk in the labyrinth of this peculiar lava formations where caves, arches and other shapes excite your imagination! Dimmuborgir consist the remains of a collapsed lava tube however the legend has it that this is the place where Satan landed when he was cast away from heaven.



Solfataras of Námaskarð/ Hverarönd (GPS unit: N65 38.660 W16 48.249): a must-see! This is one of Iceland's largest sulphurous hot spring areas. Please do not stray from marked paths due to risk of foot burns from breaking through the clay.



Víti Crater (N65 02.774 W16 43.374): road nr.863 from Námaskarð. There you could take a walk to the Leirhnjúkur area, where a series of volcanic eruptions took place from 1975 – 1984 (1 ½ – 2 hours).

For more detailed information on all the attractions of the area, we recommend a visit to the Tourist Information Center in **Reykjahlíð (GPS unit: N65 38.457 W16 54.683)** and www.visitmyvatn.is/en.

Other suggestions for this area:

Restaurant Vogafjós: In the area you will find Vogar Farm. The Vogafjós restaurant is located inside the cowshed and you will find a wide variety of home-made food and products. If you haven't had lunch yet or you are looking for an early dinner, this could be a great option!
<https://www.vogafjosfarmresort.is/>



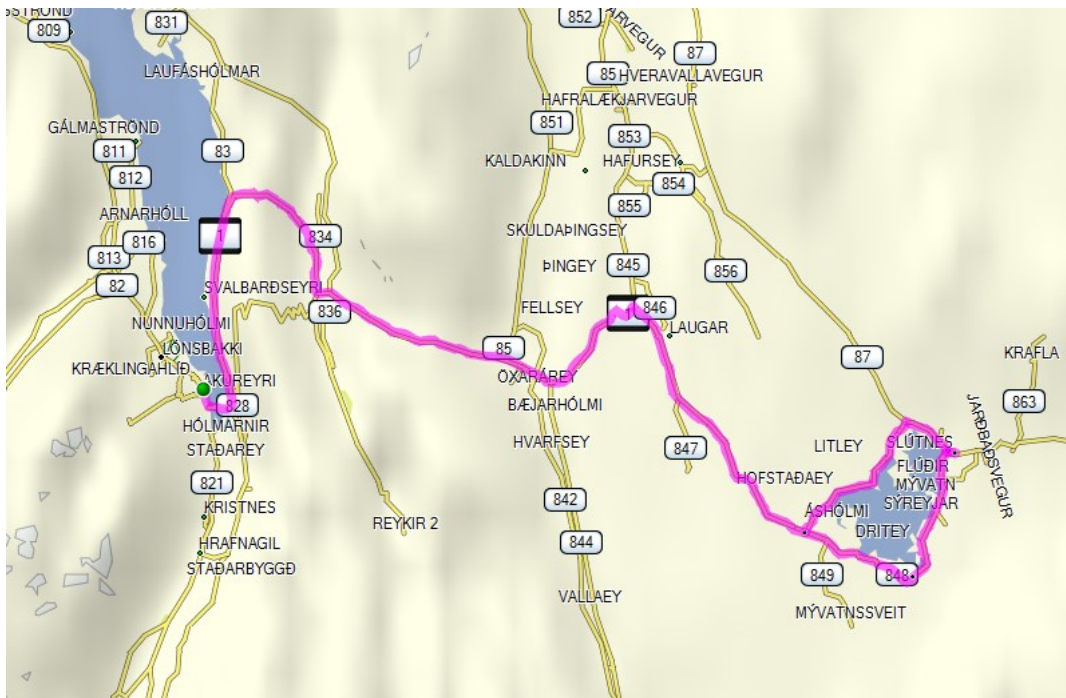
Mývatn Nature bath - Jarðböðin (GPS unit: N65 37.500 W16 50.520): Although the lagoon is man-made the water flowing through it is geothermal and the temperature is between 36-40°C. Book your entrance now and enjoy a relaxing moment before returning to your hotel.
<https://www.myvatnnaturebaths.is/>



Overnight in Mývatn area (see the exact address on your hotel list).

Driving distance: Around 120 km

Driving time: Around 2 hours



Highlights of this day:

Goðafoss waterfall, Lake Mývatn, Skútustaðir, lava formations of Dimmuborgir, Námskarð Mývatn Nature baths

DAY 8: MÝVATN – TJÖRNES PENINSULA – EGILSSTAÐIR AREA

- Start your day by visiting the charming fishing village of **Húsavík (GPS unit: N66 02.293 W17 20.641)**. From Mývatn follow either road **nr.1** until you reach Laugar and then take road **nr.845** towards Húsavík or follow road **nr.87** (gravel road) towards the village. Húsavík is often known as the capital of whale watching in Iceland so we recommend a whale watching tour here!

Our suggestion for this area**Whale Watching Tour in Húsavík:**

You can choose between different types of Whale and Bird Watching tours on traditional sailing ships where you get the opportunity to enjoy the wild nature and discover the sailor in you. The operator running these tours always endeavors to preserve the national maritime heritage by renovating and restoring Icelandic oak fishing-boats. One of their boats Opal runs on a carbon-free system. You can find out more information on tours and schedules at www.northsailing.is.



If you book „North Sailing Whale Watching“ online on the website: <http://www.northsailing.is/> - and use the code: **TERRANOVA** you get 10% off!

- From Húsavík continue along the coastline of the Tjörnes peninsula (road **nr.85**) and if the weather conditions are good you can make a short stop at the extremity of the peninsula to enjoy the view and maybe spot some seabirds.

[Our suggestions for this area:](#)

Ásbyrgi (GPS unit: N66 00.105 W16 30.787) - Road nr.85: A horse shoe shaped gorge reputed to be the hoof print of Óðin's eight-legged horse **Sleipnir**. This horse shoe shaped gorge with its impressive rock walls and abundant vegetation is the ideal place to take a walk or have a picnic.



Dettifoss: South from Ásbyrgi on your way to the East Fjords you can make a stop at the mighty Dettifoss waterfall, Iceland's most powerful waterfall. It thunders down 44 meters into a deep gorge and is 100 m wide and here you will literally feel its force trembling beneath your feet.



IMPORTANT: Please read the important note here below before traveling to Dettifoss.

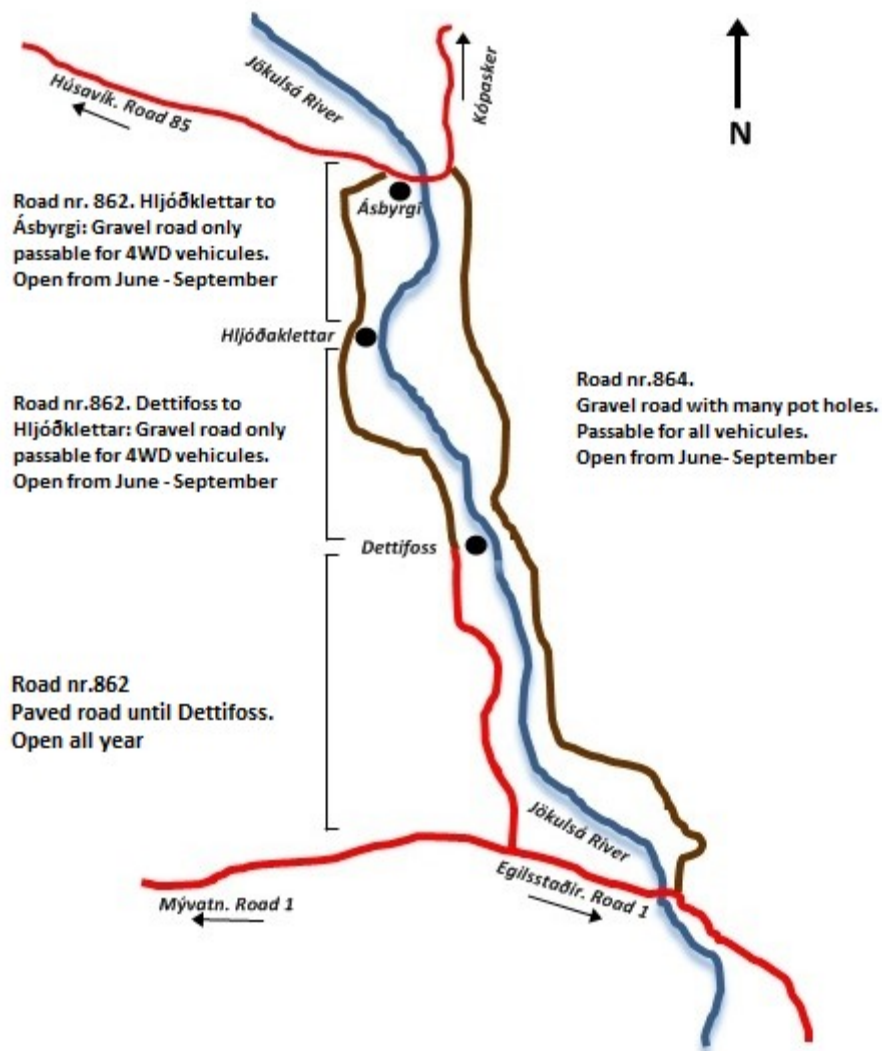
If you intend to visit **only Dettifoss (not drive to Húsavík, Ásbyrgi and along Tjörnes peninsula)** we recommend road **nr.862** to reach the waterfall, after driving along road **nr.1** through Lake Mývatn. This route may be the only way to visit the waterfall outside of summer months (see explanation below).

Important note regarding road conditions to Dettifoss Waterfall:

Road nr.864: This is an uneven gravel road with many pot holes. It is essential to adapt your driving speed according to the road conditions which means that the driving time will be longer. Road **nr.864** is closed during winter time due to snow or wet conditions (muddy road) and does not open until early summer (end of May). Although this road is not exclusively intended for four-wheel drive vehicles, the presence of the many pot holes calls for the usage of a good car. Please note there will be no gas stations between Ásbyrgi and Egilsstaðir (190 km).

Road nr.862: This road will only take you as far as Dettifoss (coming from Mývatn). From Dettifoss to Ásbyrgi the road is under maintenance and therefore only passable for 4 wheel driven cars. The new, paved road to Dettifoss (red on the picture next page) is passable for all vehicles and open all year around. In the winter time the road is not in service every day and is often closed during snowy periods. Please note there will be no gas stations between Mývatn and Egilsstaðir (164 km).

Please note that from the parking space, you have to walk approximately 30 minutes to reach the waterfall (1,5 km each way).



Please check road conditions on www.road.is every day during your stay in Iceland.

- After visiting Dettifoss continue driving south until you reach road **nr.1**. Turn left on road **nr.1** (direction Egilsstaðir) and drive across the desert highlands of East Iceland, through the lunar landscape of Möðrudalur highlands, until you reach the fertile valley of Hérað where the village of Egilsstaðir lies.



[Our suggestion – detour in this area:](#)

Möðrudalur farm (GPS unit: N65 22.505 W15 53.099) – On your way to Egilsstaðir (road nr.1) turn right onto road nr.901. Möðrudalur is one of the most isolated farms in Iceland where there is an inviting old-fashioned café called Fjalladýrð. After your stop drive back to road nr.1 and continue in the direction of Egilsstaðir.



- **Egilsstaðir (GPS unit: N65 15.702 W14 24.028)** is the main town of East Iceland and is situated on the shore of **lake Lögurinn**. Lögurinn is a 35 km long lake, the third biggest lake in Iceland. If you are in for a detour, you could visit **Hallormsstaður Forrest**.



[Our suggestion for Egilsstaðir area:](#)

Hallormsstaður (GPS unit: N65 05.756 W14 44.485) – road nr.931 - **the biggest forest in Iceland!** The place is quite unique in the way that you might get lucky and see wild reindeer going around in the nature. You have the choice of several walking paths and if connecting with nature is what you are looking for you are then at the right spot.



Skriðuklaustur (N65 02.460 W14 57.146) – road nr.931, later road nr.933.

Skriðuklaustur is a centre of culture and history in Fljótsdalur. It houses the Institute of Gunnar Gunnarsson, displaying books and artifacts connected with the authors life and work. Klausturkaffi is located in the mansion as well where you can buy delicious refreshments.
<http://www.skriduklaustur.is/>



Hengifoss waterfoss (GPS unit: N65 06.322 W13 51.298) - Road nr.931: falling from its 128m height, the waterfall is not only the beauty of the area. As a matter of fact, the rock which surrounds it has several colorful layers which are testimonies of the volcanic eruptions in the Tertiary period. We recommend to walk to the top (30-40 minutes – one way) and see, on the way, the Litlanesfoss, a small but magnificent waterfall.



Other suggestion for this area:

Seyðisfjörður (GPS unit: N65 15.623 W14 00.620) – road nr.93 from Egilsstaðir

This fjord is without a doubt one of the most impressive fjords of the country. The 700 habitants' village is rich in history, art and has an interesting architecture: the Norwegian heritage is traced through the multicolor wooden houses which date from the yearly 20th century. You can take a walk on the many trails all around the village or just by the river Fjarðará to end the day in a relaxing tone.



LungA Art Festival is a yearly event held in Seyðisfjörður in the mid-July for a week. It is first and foremost a festival with the purpose of encouraging people's creativity and to enjoy art and culture. The week ends off with a celebration, exhibitions and concerts.

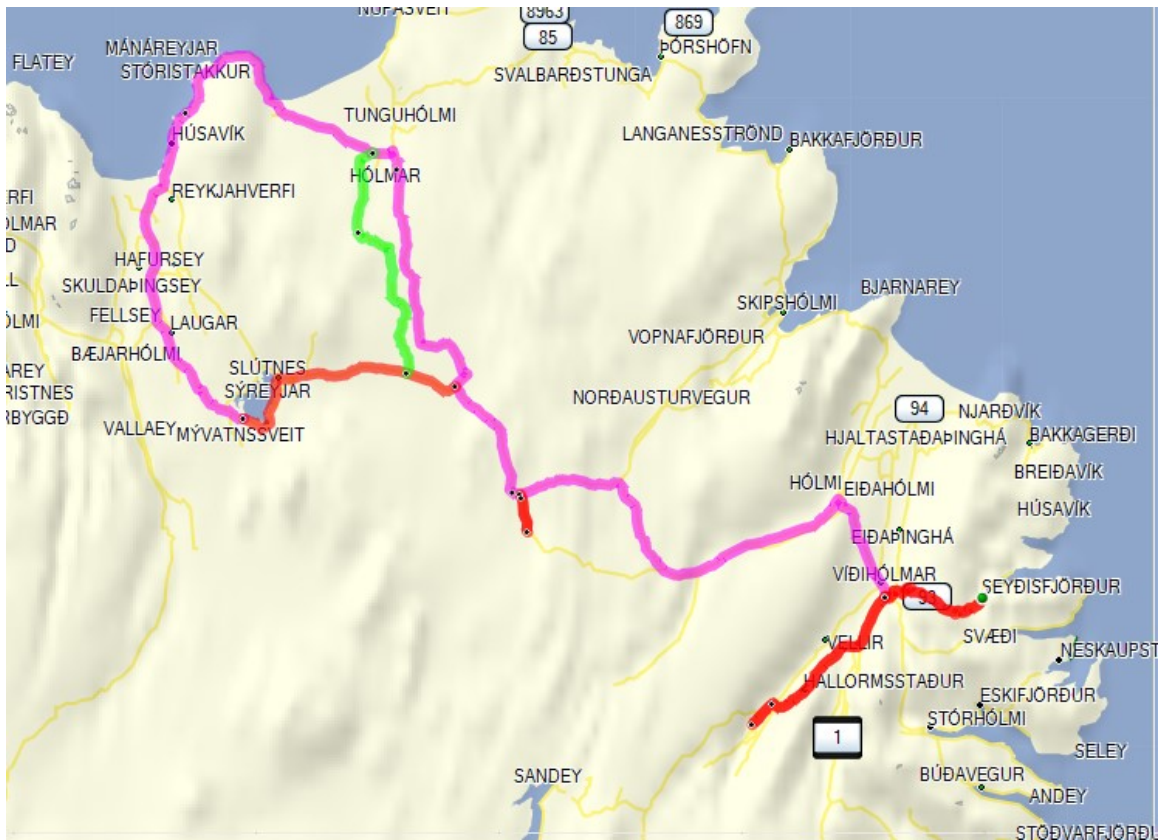
<https://www.facebook.com/lunga.festival/>



Overnight in Egilsstaðir Area (see the exact address on your hotel list).

Driving distance: Between 310 km and 460 km

Driving time: Between 4 hours 35 minutes and 6 hours 50 minutes



Highlights of this day:

Húsavík, Tjörnes peninsula, Ásbyrgi, Waterfall Dettifoss, Egilsstaðir, Hallormsstaður, Seyðisfjörður

DAY 9: EGILSSTAÐIR – EAST FJORDS – HÖFN AREA

- Now it is time to discover the East Fjords with their small fishing villages and high mountains.
- Before heading east, you can spend some time in **Borgarfjörður Eystri**, one of Iceland's east fjord, where lies the village of **Bakkagerði (GPS unit: N65 31.551 W13 48.949)**. Borgarfjörður Eystri is not only known for its hiking trails leading to deserted fjords and coves but it is also known for being the capital of Elves's world for as the Queen of Elves lives there. To visit Borgarfjörður Eystri follow road **nr.94** from Egilsstaðir (partly gravel).

**Our suggestion for this area:**

Hafnarhólmi island in Borgarfjörður eystri (GPS unit: N65 32.295 W13 45.296) – road nr.947 from Bakkagerði. The island is an excellent place to go birdwatching. You can get very close views of species such as Puffin, Fulmar, Kittiwake and Common Eider. In recent years the local authorities and the landowners have worked hard to develop birdwatching and recreational facilities for visitors. <http://puffins.is/>

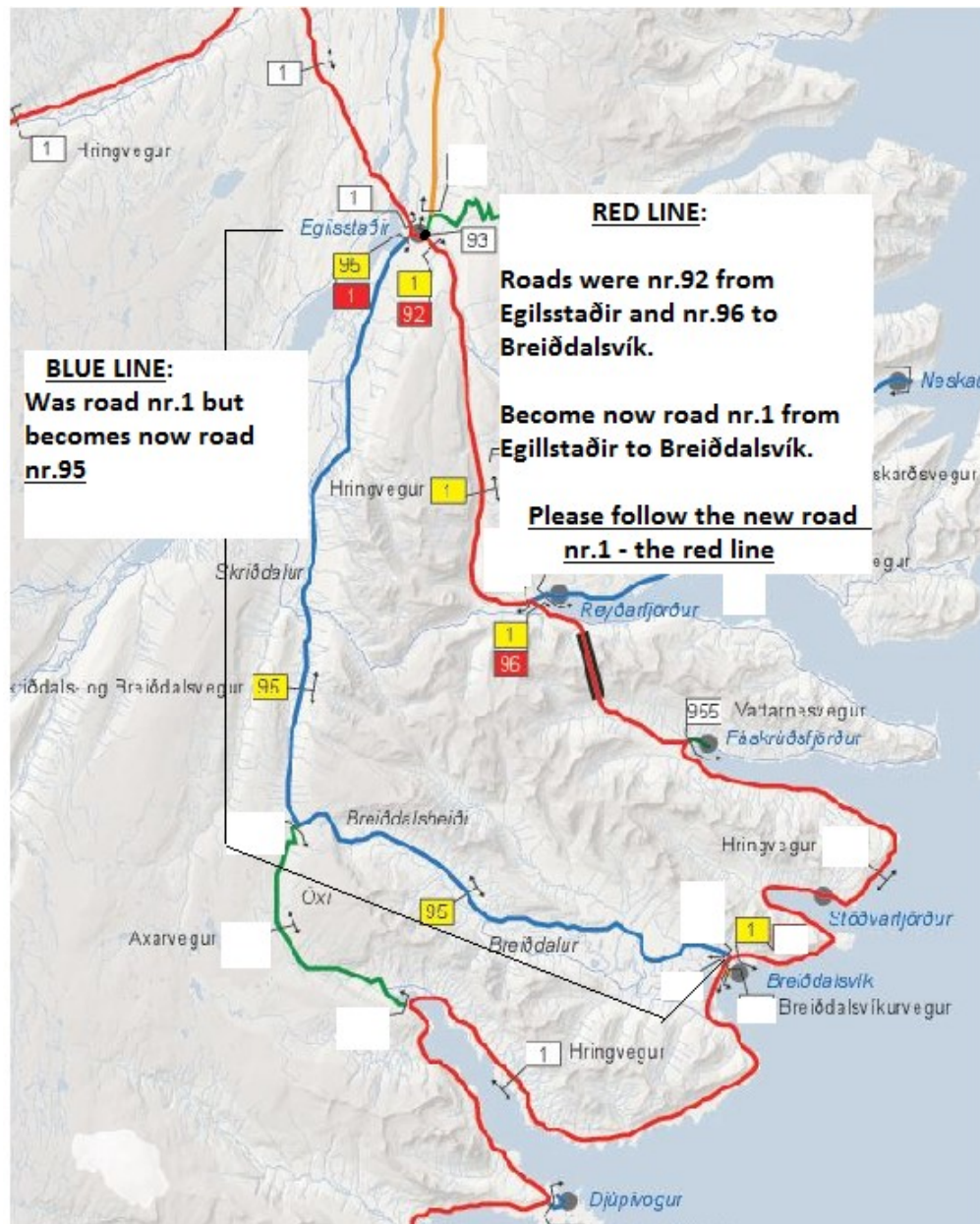


- From Egilsstaðir follow road **nr.1** south in direction of Reyðarfjörður.

Please note that due to recent changes, the roads numbers have changed on the east coast of the country but do not reflect onto the paper version of the map of Iceland which you have. The new roads numbers are as follow:

The road nr.92 from Egilsstaðir to Reyðarfjörður and the road nr.96 from Reyðarfjörður to Breiðdalsvík are now one road marked nr.1.

The road from Egilsstaðir towards Breiðdalsheiði is now road nr.95.



- **Reyðarfjörður (GPS unit: N65 01.942 W14 12.927)** - A part from being the longest and the widest fjord of the east (over 30km), the fjord was occupied by the British forces during the World War II. Visible traces of past are still there as a reminder of that time (old barracks, small shelters etc.)

Our suggestion for this area:

War museum in Reyðarfjörður: Small, traditional museum which takes you by surprise. Set up in an old army camp, the museum offers artefact's exhibitions, Old Húna's uniforms in display among others. A short video gives you an insight into the life of the young soldiers but also the locals is very informative and an eye-opener. Open 13:00-17:00 from June – August.



<http://stridsarasafn.fjardabyggd.is/english/>

Military occupation day, 1st July: A yearly celebration where people dress up in uniforms to commemorate the arrival of the first British troops in 1940.

- From Reyðarfjörður you can continue through the new tunnel to Fáskrúðsfjörður village (road nr.1), or take the more panoramic route by following the old road nr.955 along the coast (partly gravel road – not in service).

- **Fáskrúðsfjörður (GPS unit: N64 55.796 W14 00.686)** is known for its French heritage and you can learn all about it if you visit the French Museum in town. You will even notice that the street signs are in French!



Our suggestion for this area:

French Museum: it is composed of 2 different buildings, the “**Doctor’s House**” and the “**French Hospital**” which were built in 1900 by the French fishermen. The history of the place is traced through the bound between the France and Iceland during a fishing operation where, at peak seasons, up to 400 ships took shore at Fáskrúðsfjörður. Open 10:00-18:00 from 15th May – 15th September.



- From Fáskrúðsfjörður continue your drive on road **nr.1** to **Stöðvarfjörður (N64 49.956 W13 52.238)** village. Stöðvarfjörður is a neat small town on the northern side of the fjord by the same name. The locals sustain themselves by fisheries, aluminium industry, tourism and art. Like most of the eastern fjords, it is surrounded by spectacular mountains. On the north side there is the towering mountain Steðji and the nearby mountain Hellufjall. To the south of the fjord is the majestic mountain Súlur. The area is renowned for its natural beauty.



Our suggestion for this area:

Petra's private Stone collection - Stöðvarfjörður (GPS unit: N64 50.123 W13 52.841):

Petra was a lady that collected stones since she was a child and gathered over time an incredible amount of rare and beautiful minerals. Take a look at her remarkable collection! For opening hours please visit: www.steinapetra.is



- After passing through the small village of **Breiðdalsvík (N64 47.494 W14 00.150)** keep on following road **nr.1**. As you continue you might want to make a stop in the village of Djúpivogur, located in a charming setting. Then you continue along the fjords towards Southeast Iceland; at times the road hangs precariously high on the mountain slopes.

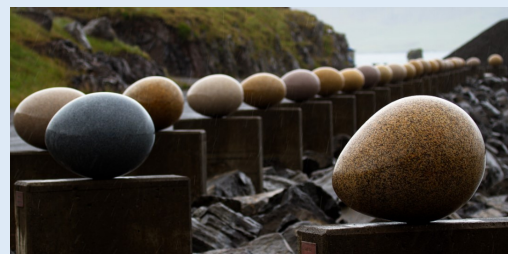


Please note that between Breiðdalsvík and Djúpivogur villages the road turns from asphalt to gravel for approx. 10 km.

Our suggestion for this area:

Eggin in Gleðivík – Djúpivogur (GPS unit: N64 39.373 W14 17.044)

Do not miss the outdoor sculpture, Eggin í Gleðivík, by the world-famous Icelandic artist Sigurður Guðmundsson, consisting of 34 eggs. The artwork is on the coast, about 1 km from the center of the village, in a convenient walking distance.



- Follow road **nr.1** in the direction south towards Höfn. Right before arriving in Höfn you will drive through the tunnel under the **Almannaskarð** Pass. The tunnel replaced the narrow and steep Almannaskarð pass which was regularly closed during the winter because of snow, impeding traffic to and from the east of Iceland

Detour - Our suggestion for this area:

Vestrahorn and Stokksnes (GPS unit: N64 15.235 W14 59.599)

Vestrahorn is one of the most photographed mountain in Iceland. Located on the Stokksnes peninsula, its steep reaches a flat lagoon and small black dunes create a natural wonder. It has interesting birdlife and if you get lucky you might be able to spot seals.



*Just before arriving in the town of Höfn, after driving through the tunnel of Almannaskarð, you take road **nr.888** on your left. Please drive carefully as the road is an unmarked dirt road.*

- Drive to the town of **Höfn** following road **nr.99** (GPS unit: N64 15.094 W15 12.665). Höfn is well known in Iceland for its delicious fresh lobster and we recommend ending the day with a seafood dinner at one of the town's restaurants. You even might end up tasting a lobster pizza!

Our suggestion for this area:

Gamlabúð – Vatnajökull National Park's visitor Centre in Höfn, Hornafjörður

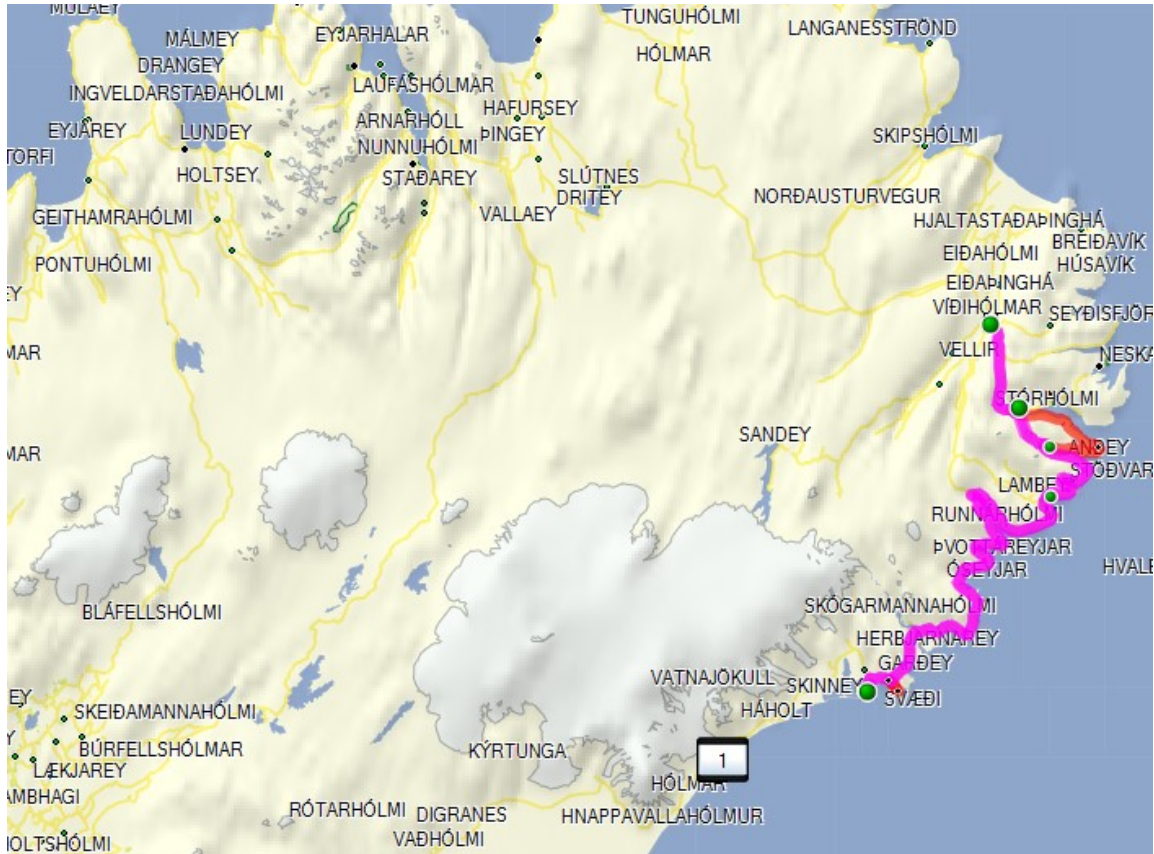
It houses an exhibition about the region's geology, glaciers and culture. With Hornafjörður being an important stop-over for migrating birds, special attention is given to the bird life of the area. There is also a strong focus on climate change and the effect it will have in the future. The visitor Centre has a small shop, with emphasis on books, souvenirs and local products. Open daily from 09:00-17:00.



Overnight in Höfn area (see the exact address on your hotel list).

Driving distance: Between 270 km and 290 km

Driving time: Between 3 hours 50 minutes and 4 hours 10 minutes



Highlights of this day:

East Fjords, Petra's stone collection, Djúpivogur, Almannaskarð, Höfn

DAY 10: HÖFN – GLACIER LAGOON – SKAFTAFELL - VÍK

- Today you drive in direction west following road **nr.1** towards the south coast. During your drive you can enjoy the lovely views of the largest glacier in Europe, Vatnajökull Glacier. Before arriving at Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon you could stop at Hali.

Our suggestions for this area:

Pórbergssetur (GPS unit: N64 07.786 W16 01.079): cultural center with an exhibition dedicated to the great writer Þórbergur Þórðarson (1888 – 1974) who grew up on the farm Hali. The center occupies a prominent purpose built site, easily visible from the road, with its eye-catching row of 2 meters high book spines that line the side of the building. Open daily from 09:00-20:00. <http://www.thorbergur.is/index.php/en>



- The spectacular Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon (GPS unit: N64 02.763 W16 10.645) is a stop you cannot miss when traveling in this area. Enormous icebergs constantly break down from the Vatnajökull glacier and float on the lake.

Our suggestions for this area:

Boat trip on Jökulsárlón: Amphibian boat tour (30-40 min) or Zodiac boat tour which would take you between the icebergs and discover first-hand the amazing bloc of ice floating towards the sea (Tours available from 10:00 – 17:00 from 15th May – 15th September). <http://icelagoon.is/tours/>



- On your way, approximately 25 km before Skaftafell you have the possibility to make an adventurous trip to the bird cliff of **Ingólfshöfði (GPS unit: N63 48.191 W16 38.320)**. A tractor will take you from Fagurhólsmýri over the shallow water to the former island, where the first settler of Iceland spent the first winter in his new homeland. Available from 20th May – 20th August, book your tour in advance: <https://www.fromcoasttomountains.com/>



Please observe that the tour takes 3 hours and that you would have to cut down your program in other places.

- The **Skaftafell National Park (GPS Unit: N64 00.934W16 57.891)** should be your next stop.

Among our suggestions for this area:

Skaftafell National Park (GPS Unit: N64 00.934 W16 57.891): A beautiful area right at the foot of Vatnajökull Glacier which is known for its unique nature and abundant vegetation, like an oasis between the black desert and the glaciers. Here you can choose between many different hiking trails through the park and visit for example the beautiful Svartifoss waterfall (more information about hiking trails in the National Park information center).



Optional activity:

Glacier Hike - “Blue Ice Experience” – on Svínafell Glacier’s tongue - Adventure yourself on the ice of the Svínafell’s Glacier for a 2,5 - 3 hours hike!



Meeting point is at Skaftafell.

You can book your activity directly on site near the information Centre but we recommend you to book in advance with the supplier: <http://www.mountainguides.is/day-tours/glacier-walks/from-skaftafell/blue-ice-experience/>

Please observe that the tour takes 3 hours and that you would have to cut down your program in other places. - Please note that there is a parking fee at Skaftafell.

- Continue on road **nr.1** which will now take you across the immense black sandplain of Skeiðarársandur. You could make a stop at **Dverghamrar “Dwarf Rocks” (GPS unit: N63 51.058 W17 51.594)**, a belt of basalt columns that are situated on the left side of the road a few km before Kirkjubæjarklaustur.



- In the small village of **Kirkjubæjarklaustur (GPS unit: N63 47.406 W18 02.932)** you can stop and follow a beautiful hiking trail up along the waterfall Systrafoss. From the mountain edge the view is breathtaking. In a field just east of Kirkjubæjarklaustur you will also find **Kirkjugólf** or **The Church Flor (GPS unit: N63 47.720 W18 02.787)** an 80 m² expanse of basalt rock formation eroded and shaped by glaciers and waves. The result is a curious „tiled floor”.



Detour Nature – Our suggestion for this area:

Fjaðrárgljúfur (N63 46.160 W18 10.195) – A picturesque 100 m deep and 2 km long canyon. The canyon is thought to be formed at the end of the last Ice Age and is of approximately 9000 years old. The Fjaðrá river which has its source in the Geirlandshraun mountain, flows through it.



Please note that the road leading to the canyon is gravel and can become impassable due to mud on rainy days.

Directions to Fjaðrárgljúfur – Only few km past Kirkjubæjarklaustur, turn right on road **nr.F206** (to Lakagígar/Laki). After few minutes’ drive, the road to Laki leads to the right. Do not take the right turn to Laki, instead you should continue driving for few more minutes until you arrive at the spot.

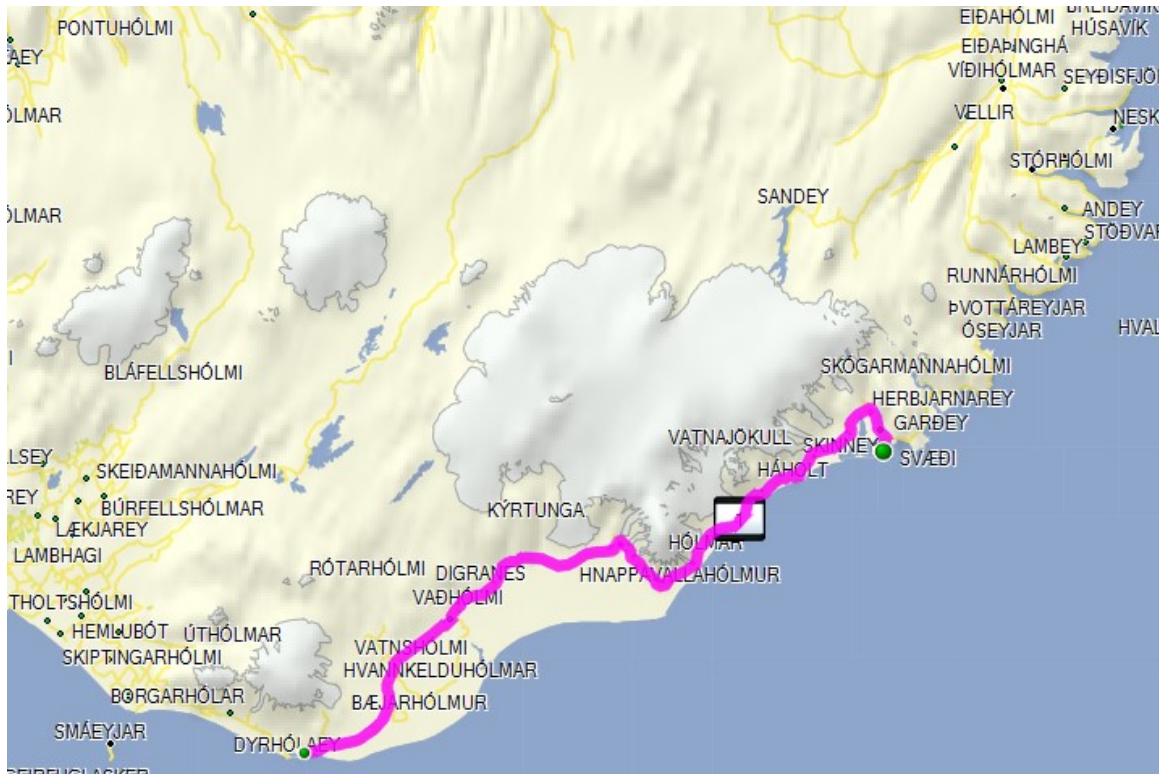
- Your drive takes you now across the enormous lava field **Eldhraun** (Lava of fire), which was formed during one gigantic volcanic eruption in 1783 and the black sand desert of **Mýrdalssandur**.
- After a few kilometers you reach the small village of **Vík** where the black sand of south awaits you. These beaches can also be found in **Reynishverfi** (road **nr.215**), a short drive from Vík.

Please be very careful close to the sea, especially if you stop at Reynishverfi, because of the strong current that can be life threatening; the high waves take careless observers easily out to the open sea!

Overnight in Vík/Skógar area (see the exact address on your hotel list).

Driving distance: Around 285 km

Driving time: Around 4 hours



Highlights of this day:

Vatnajökull Glacier, Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon, Skaftafell National Park, Eldhraun lava field, Vík, Reynisfjara black sand beach



- You can start your day with a walk at the famous sand beach in the small village of Vík or Reynishverfi beach (road nr.215), a short drive from Vík.

Please be very careful close to the sea, especially if you stop at Reynishverfi, because of the strong current that can be life threatening; the high waves take careless observers easily out to the open sea!

Detour Nature – Our suggestions for this area:

Dyrhólaey or “door-hole” – (road nr.218)

This 120 m promontory is named after the massive arch created after sea erosion. The opening has been the spot for daredevil pilots flying in through with small aircrafts! And boats have sailed their way there too.

The cliffs of Dyrhólaey are the home for many bird species and the most colorful of all is the famous puffin.



**Please note that the Dyrhólaey cliff is closed during the breeding season (until the 26th of June approximately) and that the puffins will leave the land around mid-August!*

- Next you can make a stop at **Skógar (GPS unit: N63 31.707 W19 29.879)** where you will see a magnificent waterfall, Skógafoss Waterfall, one of the highest in Iceland.

Cultural suggestions for this area:

Skogar Museum: Skogar Museum in Southern Iceland, is a cultural heritage collection of 15,000 regional folk craft artifacts exhibited in 3 museums and 6 historical buildings. The museum was founded on the initiative of Þórður Tómasson, who curated the museum since its inception until his retirement in 2013, at the age of 92. Please view opening hours at: www.skoqarsafn.is



Detour - our suggestions for this area:

Seljavallalaug natural geothermal pool: in Eyjafjöll (GPS unit: N63 33.554 W19 37.332) - 7 km west of Skógar, road nr.242. Drive carefully as it is a gravel road for the last 5 kilometers. To reach the pool you will have to do an easy hike (around 30 minutes each way) so remember your swimsuit! Please leave only your footsteps after visiting the area and respect the nature!



- Your next stop could be at **Seljalandsfoss Waterfall (GPS unit: N63 36.921 W19 59.050)** – road nr.249, a small but extremely picturesque waterfall. You can even walk behind the waterfall! **Be careful as the stones are always wet and very slippery!** (Parking fee).



- Continue your drive on the main road (nr.1) through the small villages of Hvolsvöllur and Hella.

Optional activity – Our suggestion for this area:

Lava Centre – Volcano & Earthquake Exhibition (GPS: N63.7547 W20.2372) - 1 km past Hvolsvöllur village:

The Lava Centre is an interactive, high-tech educational exhibition depicting volcanic activity, earthquakes and the creation of Iceland over millions of years. Examine the various volcanos—eruptions and lava flows, volcanic and rift systems, faults and glacial floods that make Iceland a showcase of volcanism. The centre introduces the Katla Geopark plus Iceland's elaborate monitoring system for surveying volcanos and earthquake zones.



Please view opening hours at: <http://lavacentre.is/>

- Now it is time to visit some of the most interesting and famous areas of Iceland. Once you have driven past Hella, before you arrive in Selfoss, take road **nr.30** on your right and drive towards **Flúðir (GPS unit: N64 07.846 W20 19.287)**

Our suggestion for this area:

Skálholt (GPS unit: N64 07.524 W20 31.543)

If you are interested in a detour on your way to Flúðir you can turn onto road **nr.31** (linked to road **nr.30** and road **nr.35**) and visit the historical site Skálholt which was for many centuries the residence of the bishops of south Iceland and where today you can see a beautiful modern church. Turn back to road **nr.30** and carry on to Flúðir.



Secret Lagoon or „Gamla Laugin“ (GPS unit: 64 8.238 W20 18.557)

The Secret Lagoon is a natural hot spring pool located in Flúðir. The pool has been part of Flúðir's cultural heritage throughout the years and offers a natural and unique Icelandic experience. The temperature of the pool is 38°- 40° all year around which makes it an ideal place to visit, both during summer time and during the winters. The pool is surrounded by several geothermal spots with little Geysir which erupt every 5 minutes for the guests to enjoy. Please view opening hours at: www.secretlagoon.is/



- From Flúðir follow road **nr.359** and road **nr.35** to reach the **Geysir area (GPS unit: N64 18.848 W20 18.133)**. If you are coming from Laugarvatn you follow road **nr.37** until you reach the famous geothermal area of Geysir where the Strokkur hot spring ejects its water column high into the air every 5 – 10 minutes and where numerous small springs are boiling and bubbling.



- After your visit to the Geysir area you can continue some 10 km further (road **nr.35**) to reach the “golden” waterfall, **Gullfoss (GPS unit: N64 19.641 W20 07.164)**, which falls impressively into a deep ravine. It is surely one of the country’s most beautiful waterfalls.



- Now it is time to visit **Pingvellir National Park (GPS unit N64 15.635 W21 07.337)**. From Gullfoss waterfall/Geysir area follow road **nr.35** and **nr.37** towards Laugarvatn and then take road **nr.365** to Pingvellir.

Relaxing dip – Our suggestion for this area:

Laugarvatn Fontana (GPS unit: N64 12.880 W20 43.808): *Situated on the way to Pingvellir, the Laugarvatn Fontana is the perfect place to experience the authentic Icelandic nature while relaxing in the warm geothermal pools and natural steam rooms. The baths vary in depth, size and temperature. The steam rooms are built over natural hot springs which were used in this very purpose since 1929. Fontana is located by the beautiful lake Laugarvatn. Sitting down in the warm bath, you can enjoy the spectacular views which unfolds right before you. Please check www.fontana.is/en for opening hours.*



- **Pingvellir National Park** is a UNESCO world heritage site and one of the geological wonders of the world. At Pingvellir you can see the effects of the tectonic plate movements which have opened various cracks and fissures in the earth’s crust, and it was here that the Icelandic Parliament was founded in the 10th century. Comprehensive information about the history and nature of this unique area can be found in the Visitor’s Center near Almannagjá Fissure. (Parking fee).



- After taking some time to walk around in the unique landscape of Þingvellir you can drive directly to Reykjavík following road **nr.36** over Mosfellsheiði **or** take a detour via the town of Selfoss.

Drive to Reykjavík via Selfoss:

- Follow road **nr.36** in the south direction. When you reach road **nr.1**, you turn right towards Reykjavík. After a short drive you will arrive in the small town of Hveragerði.

Optional activity – Our suggestion in this area:

Horseback riding tour – Eldhestar (GPS unit: N63 59.171 W21 10.193)

Experience fascinating nature while riding on the well-known Icelandic horse. Eldhestar offers riding tours that will take you through scenic landscapes and unique locations between volcanoes, rivers and the ocean.

For more information, please consult their website: www.eldhestar.is



Hike - Our suggestion for this area:

Reykjadalur (GPS unit: N64 01.037 W21 11.738) - at the roundabout in Hveragerði, turn right and follow road nr.376. Continue straight and turn on the left.

2 hours' hike (both ways) to reach a unique geothermal river! The hike starts a little steep to go up the mountain and after an hour or so, you arrive on the spot. Please note that the hike might be difficult for some at the beginning. There are no changing rooms in the area.

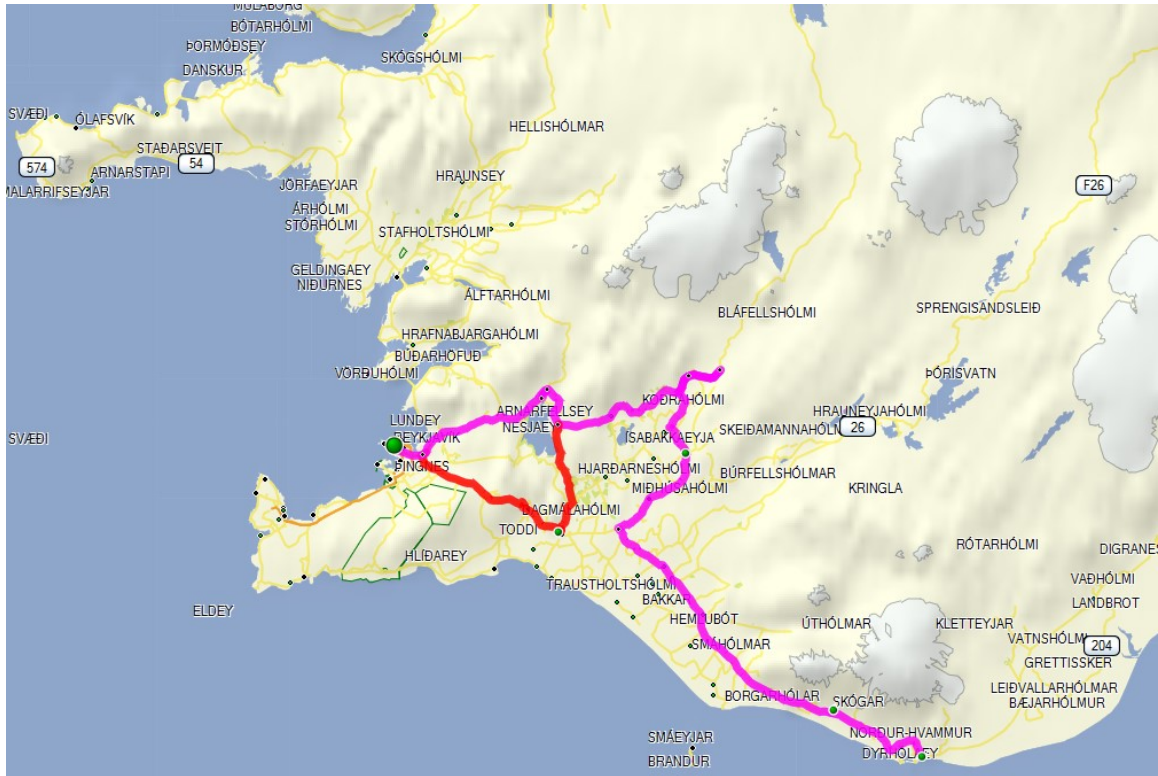


- Continue your drive onto road **nr.1** from Hveragerði towards Reykjavík.

Overnight in Reykjavík (see the exact address on your hotel list).

Driving distance: Between 300 and 350 km

Driving time: Between 4 hours & 30 minutes and 5 hours & 20 minutes



Highlights of this day:

Skógar museum, Waterfall Skógarfoss, Waterfall Seljalandsfoss, Lava Center, Geysir hot spring, Waterfall Gullfoss, Þingvellir National Park

DAY 12: DEPARTURE



- Drive to Keflavík Airport following road **nr.41 (GPS unit: N63 59.789 W22 37.346)**, for return of the rented vehicle and flight back home, or book an extra night in Reykjavík, the vibrant capital of Iceland!
- Reykjavík is Iceland's largest city and often called the capital of the north because of its location. With only approximately four hours of daylight in the wintertime, the city has a mysterious yet dynamic atmosphere, while in summer it is bustling and full of energy, with almost 24 hours of daylight!
- Reykjavík offers a wide range of sights to visit and lots of activities.

Some of our suggestions for Reykjavik:

Take a walk by the lake Tjörnin and visit the town Hall, visit the Austurvöllur square where the Parliament building stands. Go down the main street "Laugavegur" to have a look at the shops and the art galleries. Do not miss the church Hallgrímskirkja and the dome Perlan, a modern building from where you have a magnificent view over the whole city.



Reykjavik museums are absolutely a must-see! the National Museum of Iceland, the National Gallery of Iceland, the Reykjavík Art Gallery (includes 3 different collections), the Settlement exhibition and the outdoor **Árbær museum** will take you through Iceland's history.



Whale Watching excursion: Don't forget to go to the harbor where you can take a Whale Watching tour! See the whales and the dolphins in their natural habitat.

Excite your taste buds: Experience a real taste of Icelandic lobster soup in the many restaurants in town.



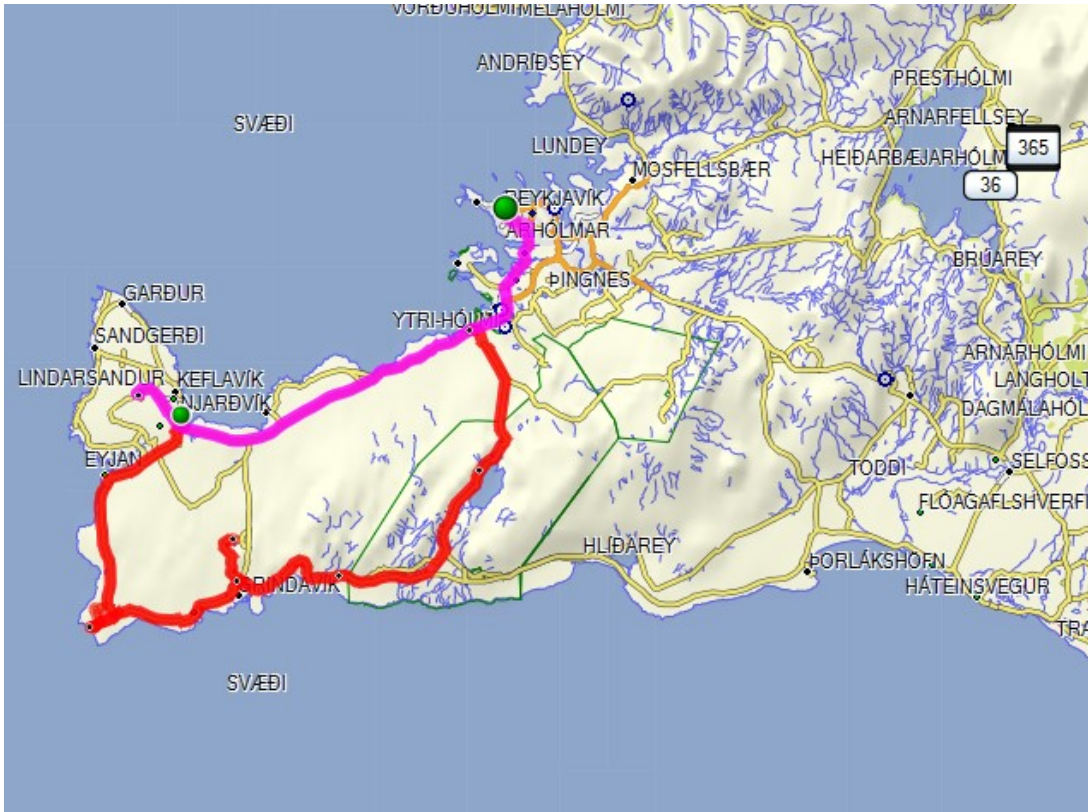
Laugardalur valley: Experience an Icelandic swimming pool with its outdoor hot pots or visit Reykjavik's botanical gardens

Reykjanes peninsula - half-day excursion: If you haven't gone to the Blue Lagoon on day 1 of your stay, you could plan a relaxing moment there and swim in the blue warm waters. Travel around Reykjanes peninsula and visit Krýsuvík and Seltún, Reykjanesviti lighthouse, Gunnhver mud pot and Raufarhólshellir cave. Please view driving route on day 1.



Driving distance: Between 50 and 140 km

Driving time: Between 45 minutes and 1 hour & 40 minutes



Highlights of this day:
Reykjavík, Blue Lagoon, Krýsuvík