

2019-2020

AKUREYRI

& THE NORTH GUIDE



MUSEUMS & GALLERIES
WINING & DINING

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EVENTS
TOURS & ACTIVITIES

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO AKUREYRI

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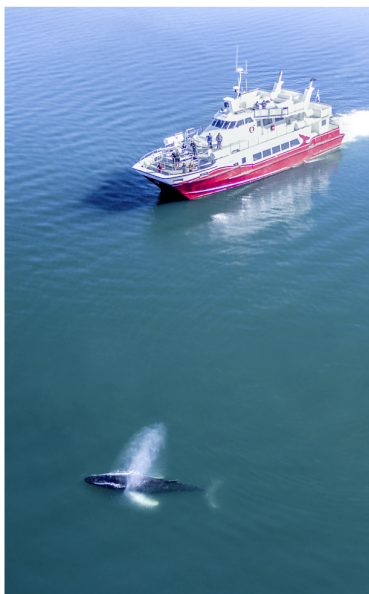
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WELCOME TO AKUREYRI

As you get acquainted with Akureyri, you'll notice how steep some of the streets are. Starting out as a tiny harbour village by the sea, it only had one direction to grow, uphill! The result is a town filled with spectacularly picturesque views in every direction. The town panorama is impressive, with Akureyri church on the steepest hill as a crowning jewel. The view from the church steps isn't bad either, offering a stunning view of Eyjafjörður fjord and the surrounding mountains.

AKUREYRI AT A GLANCE

Akureyri is a popular tourist destination both for short and long visits. The town offers a wide range of activities and interesting places to visit e.g. notable museums, the world's northernmost botanical garden, a great swimming pool, 18-hole golf course, the best skiing area in the country and good hiking trails. To top it all off, the public bus system in Akureyri is completely free of charge, making it easy to get between these attractions!

THE CAPITAL OF THE NORTH

Akureyri is also great base camp if you're interested in exploring the many natural wonders of the north of Iceland. The area surrounding Akureyri has waterfalls, volcanic areas and canyons, as well as numerous exciting activities, such as rafting, hiking, caving, whale watching and horseback riding. You can enjoy the culture and bustling life of the town, while still being just a short drive from some of the most magnificent sights Iceland has to offer.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Akureyri is a great place for the lover of the outdoors. Those fond of hiking or cycling can enjoy Akureyri's many trails and routes; take a scenic walk along Glerá river, Mt. Sútur is great for a hike, and in winter, Hlíðarfjall is one of the best places in the country to go skiing. Strolling by the harbour or along the coastal path offers an invigorating breeze from the ocean while Kjarnaskógur forest will fill you with peace and serenity.

Akureyri has two geothermal swimming pools; perfect for kids and great for striking up a conversation with locals. Finally, the famous Mývatn Nature Baths, the North's answer to the Blue Lagoon, are only about an hour's drive from town.

Perhaps the most important attraction of Akureyri and the north is the people. The locals are friendly and proud of their town. Even stopping at a red light will bring a smile to your face, as the red light is in the shape of a heart.



AKUREYRI IN FACTS & FIGURES

In 1863, more than 50 years before women got the right to vote, a woman in Akureyri voted in the municipal elections. Her vote was accepted because of a loophole due to a translating error in the originally Danish law.

Akureyri is only about 90km south of the Arctic Circle.

Akureyri sits at the head of the longest fjord in Iceland, Eyjafjörður.



Since Akureyri is so far north, it's a prime spot to experience the midnight sun. Around the summer solstice, the sun doesn't even set for the whole 24 hours.



Many of the older houses in town have a quilted texture, unlike the usual ridges of corrugated iron you'll most often see. The houses are tiled with prepressed iron plates imported from America in the 1930s.

Akureyri is the second largest urban area outside the Reykjavik capital area with a population of around 18,800.

The Botanical Garden contains almost all plants that grow in Iceland along with several species from other countries, including Greenland.

In Akureyri, stopping at a red light is much more pleasant than elsewhere; the red lights are heart-shaped! Stopping for a selfie in the middle of traffic is dangerous but you'll find a heart-shaped red light by the tourist information centre in Hof, for a safe but still envy-inducing Instagram moment.





A SHORT HISTORY OF AKUREYRI

The history of the area where Akureyri is now, stretches back to the 9th century when the Norse Viking Helgi magri (Helgi the thin) and his wife, Þórunn Hyrna, settled in the area. Despite centuries of settlement, the name Akureyri isn't mentioned until several years later, in 1562.

In the 16th century, the town of Akureyri started out as a handful of buildings belonging to Danish merchants trading their wares in Iceland in the summer. They weren't allowed to live there the whole year round until 1778. A few years later, Akureyri was recognised as an official market town, although the town didn't really start to blossom until the mid-19th century.

Since then, Akureyri has become an important hub of commerce, production, arts, culture and education for the north of Iceland. The town has produced poets and artists, politicians and businesspeople who have put their stamp on Iceland as it transformed from a Danish colony to a successful independent nation. The history of Akureyri is embedded into the town itself, its buildings and streets. The buildings represent different stages of time in history, from the charming houses of the old town, through the more modern centre and all the way to some of the most recent buildings on the north side of town.

If you're interested in learning more about the history of Akureyri, a trip to Akureyri Museum is a must. Akureyri also has preserved some of the houses of notable poets who lived in town. You can visit the house of Jón Sveinsson, Nonni, the author

of several autobiographical children's books about growing up in Akureyri and poet Davíð Stefánsson. Finally, taking a historical walk through the town centre and the oldest part of town is a great way to get to know the spirit of Akureyri. Check out the tourist information office in Hof for more information on the historical walk!





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DOWNTOWN AKUREYRI

Downtown Akureyri is best enjoyed on foot. Taking a stroll through the town centre is perfect if you're looking to stop by a shop, a café or a restaurant. If you want to get acquainted with the roots of the town, walking through the old town and stopping by a museum or two will give you a glimpse of days gone by.

THE CENTRE

This is the beating heart of the town, where you'll find the greatest density of cafés, restaurants and shops – everything from handmade sushi to the latest in Icelandic music. Although most of the shops line Hafnarstræti and Skipagata, if you wander out into the residential areas, you'll find some smaller shops, bistros and galleries. Here you'll also find bus stops, taxi stands and booking centres.

GLERÁRTORG MALL

Located just a few minutes' walk from the town centre, is Akureyri's shopping mall, Glerártorg. Built in the year 2000, Glerártorg offers a selection of local fashion stores, cafés, restaurants, outdoor and sports stores, a supermarket and much, much more. Glerártorg is definitely the place to be for the avid shopper in Akureyri.

THE ART STREET

The centre of cultural life in Akureyri is on Kaupvangsstræti, which curves through Grófargil in the middle of Akureyri, nicknamed Art Street. The buildings in Art Street used to house industrial operations but when they gradually moved elsewhere, it freed up a lot of housing that turned out to be ideal for the artistic crowd. The newly renovated Akureyri Art Museum, the Akureyri School of Visual

Arts, small galleries and shops and the multipurpose Deiglan, among others, have now taken up residence there instead.

THE OLD TOWN

Strolling south from Akureyri's centre is a walk through the town's history. The narrow strip of land between the water and the mountains is the birthplace of Akureyri with picturesque rows of old wooden houses in every colour of the rainbow. Stopping for ice cream in Brynja, one of the oldest shops in Iceland, is practically a requirement for every visit to Akureyri. You can also see the oldest building in Akureyri, Laxdalshús, built in 1795, and have a chance to visit several museums such as the former home of author Jón Sveinsson (Nonni) and Akureyri Museum, giving a glimpse into what life was like in days gone by.





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Hafnarstræti

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Apótekarinn⁺

Dalvík

11:00–17:00 weekdays

DALVÍK
Apótekarinn⁺

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AKUREYRI

Apótekarinn⁺

Apótekarinn⁺



THE ISLANDS OF EYJAFJÖRÐUR

Eyjafjörður directly translates as Island Fjord. The islands in question are Hrísey and Grimsey and both of them are worth a visit!

HRÍSEY

Hrísey, the pearl of Eyjafjörður, is known for its beautiful nature, diverse birdlife, and pleasant walking paths. A good way to get to know the island is to take the ever-popular tractor-drawn sightseeing tour.

The communities and culture that develop on the islands off the coast of Iceland are fascinating. Close-knit and close to nature, surviving off the land and the sea has given the people unique opportunities as well as challenges. You can learn about the history of the people of Hrísey on the island by visiting the exhibition on shark fishing at the house of Shark Jörundur. While the adventures of the shark fishers are exciting, Hrísey also has a museum documenting

a more domestic side to life. Holt, the memorial museum of Alda Halldórsdóttir showcases a typical Icelandic home in the 20th century, where the old way of life and the new meet.

Hrísey is the second largest island off the coast of Iceland and it has been continuously inhabited since the settlement of Iceland in the 9th century. It has some options for accommodation, so you can spend a night or two on the island to really immerse yourself in the culture. There's also a restaurant if you don't feel like cooking and a lovely swimming pool. The island's famous for being a bird-watcher's heaven; since there are no natural predators on the island, it's become a bird sanctuary with 40 native species of birds, including ptarmigan, arctic tern and eider duck. The ptarmigan is particularly common there, a bird in the grouse family, impressive in its snowy white winter costume, and one of the few species with feathers on their legs.

To get to Hrísey, there's a 15-minute ferry ride from Árskógssandur (35km from Akureyri) and the ferry goes every two hours. For more information, check out www.hrisey.is.



GRÍMSEY

Grímsey is the northernmost settlement in Iceland, situated 41km north of the mainland. It's so far north that it's on the Arctic Circle, 66° north! An outdoor artwork celebrating the Arctic Circle was recently unveiled on the island, marking the exact spot where the Arctic Circle crosses it. It's called Orbis and Globus and consists of a three-metre sphere, which is meant to be moved around the north end of the island with the movements of the Arctic Circle.

Despite being so far north, Grímsey's summers are generally mild and the island has a rich vegetation. People have been living on the island for at least eight centuries and today, around 60 people live there. Up to 60 species of birds and one of the biggest puffin colonies in Iceland make Grímsey ideal for bird-watching. The comical-looking puffin, with its multi-coloured beak and jaunty walk, is a welcome sight when it arrives in the spring. Puffins are a symbol for summer on the island, since they only stay on land from mid-April to early August. If you're interested in hiking around the island, sailing or even snorkeling with puffins, check out the selection of Grímsey tours available.

For the history enthusiast, there's Grímsey church, built in 1867 and renovated in 1932. Grímsey lighthouse is another notable building, built in 1937. On the eastern side of the island, you can see the dramatic coastline where the islanders climb down the sheer rock cliffs with a rope, at great personal risk, to collect eggs for themselves and their families in early spring. The island also has some beautiful basalt column formations.



The island is small but it still has two guesthouses for curious travellers who want to spend some time exploring the island. There's also a shop where you can get all your necessities as well as a restaurant, if you don't feel like cooking on your own.

To get to Grímsey, you can take the ferry from the village of Dalvík (a 30-minutes drive from Akureyri), or take a flight from Akureyri. The ferry takes three hours and has five departures a week during summer and four during winter. For scheduled flights, consult www.grimsey.is. Sightseeing flights and tours are also available, with a stop on the island to cross the Arctic Circle before heading back to Akureyri.

Taking a refreshing boat trip is ideal for families, particularly on sunny days, but going by flight will get you there much faster.

For more information on things to do, services and transportation, go to www.grimsey.is.



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HIGHLIGHTS OF AKUREYRI

Check out the map on pages 94-95 for the locations of all these places!

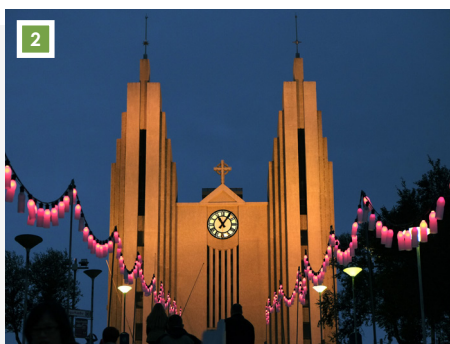


THE BOTANICAL GARDEN

The garden is one of the northernmost botanical gardens in the world and is equally popular with locals and visitors. The public park was opened in 1912 and the botanical section in 1957. Currently, there are about 6,600 foreign species and over 400 native species, which makes the Botanical Garden an excellent choice for those wishing for a break from the daily stress.

AKUREYRI CHURCH

Akureyri church is one of the most recognisable landmarks in town. This Lutheran church was designed by renowned architect Guðjón Samúelsson and the bas-reliefs on the nave balcony are by sculptor Ásmundur Sveinsson. The church steps are a particular highlight. Walking up the 100+ steps should be on everyone's checklist of things to do when visiting Akureyri.



AKUREYRI THERMAL POOL

One of Akureyri's most popular attractions, the Akureyri Thermal Pool is a great place to take your family, group, significant other or just yourself. Whether you're relaxing in the warm water or splashing around with the kids, you're bound to leave the pool feeling energised and refreshed. Recently renovated, the hot tubs, outdoor pools, and brand-new waterslides ensure everyone can find something to their liking.

AUTHOR HOMES

Akureyri has been home to many a respected poet and author in Iceland. Some of the more celebrated ones have earned the honour of having their homes preserved as a museum. They are Jón Sveinsson, better known as Nonni, author of autobiographical children's books and Davíð Stefánsson, one of the most popular poets of the 20th century. Even if you're not familiar with their work, their homes are still worth the visit for their historical value.



HOF CULTURAL CENTER

The conference centre and concert hall known as Hof is Akureyri's newest landmark. Its halls host everything from parties and exhibitions to theatrical events as well as meetings and receptions. Inside, you'll find the tourist information centre, as well as a bistro and a design shop, for those looking for some cool Nordic design. It's located only minutes away from downtown and its unique design means that you'll recognise it as soon as you see it.

ART STREET

The street leading down from Akureyri church is colloquially known as Listagilið (Art Street) in Akureyri, since it's home to several artist workshop and studios, as well as the newly renovated Akureyri Art Museum. The buildings that line the street used to house factories and industrial operations but have since been taken over by local artists and Akureyri Art Museum. Their work continues to enrich the vibrant cultural scene of Akureyri.



THE MUSEUM CHURCH

The biggest artefact in the collection of Akureyri Museum is the black-tarred church that stands on the hillside below the museum. The church was moved there from Svalbarð on the east side of Eyjafjörður fjord and was originally built in 1846. Very different from the architecturally impressive Akureyri church, this simple wooden church, with a lone white cross indicating that it is a house of worship, is a great example of churches built in the countryside in the 19th century.

HIGHLIGHTS AROUND AKUREYRI

8



HLÍÐARFJALL

Hlíðarfjall is one of the best skiing areas of Iceland. The hallmarks of Hlíðarfjall are high-quality snow, extensive cross-country trails and exciting ski slopes with breathtaking views of Eyjafjörður fjord. Equipped with snowmaking machines and fully floodlit main runs, Hlíðarfjall promises great conditions all through winter, open from the end of November till early May.

KJARNASKÓGUR

South of Akureyri is Iceland's most visited forest, Kjarnaskógur. The recreational area has a 7km lighted trail in addition to a vast network of backcountry trails, as well as a 10km long designated mountain bike trail and cross-country skiing options. There are two playgrounds, picnic areas, barbecue facilities, a volleyball course and restrooms, making Kjarnaskógur the perfect outdoor area for nature lovers.

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10



GLERÁRDALUR & MT SÚLUR

The mountain Súlur rises above the town in the southwest. Hiking to the peaks and back again takes about 5-6 hours and the hiking trail is popular with locals. There are two peaks; the highest one reaching about 1,213m. The peaks are mainly made of light rhyolite (liparite) which is a volcanic material, created during volcanic eruptions around 8-9 million years ago.

KROSSANESBORGIR

Krossanesborgir nature reserve centres on rock formations, made of basalt, formed about ten thousand years ago, by glacial action during the Ice Age. With diverse birdlife in the area, Krossanesborgir is a bird-watcher's paradise. Over 27 different birds or about 35% of all Icelandic bird species nest in the area, including a large number of ptarmigan. They can be viewed from a bird-watching cabin.

11



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AKUREYRI ALL YEAR ROUND

When visiting Iceland, it's important to take the weather and the seasons into account. Iceland in the summer is a completely different beast from Iceland in the winter and Akureyri is no exception. Each season has its own charms and season-specific activities!

SPRING

As spring arrives, the **Botanical Garden** is where you want to be when Akureyri's flora starts bursting into life. Inhabitants of Akureyri also start blooming as many dig up their running shoes, drag out their bikes for a ride or fire up their barbecues. If you want to join in the excitement, head to the Akureyri **thermal swimming pool** to join the spring fever!

After a good soak in the geothermal water, a nice walk through the historic centre of town will give you a feel for the town's history. It can still get a bit nippy in spring in Iceland, so if the weather doesn't exactly match your sunny mood, head to **Akureyri Museum** and learn how this town in the north developed.

Akureyri in springtime is also an ornithologist's paradise, with the rich variety of migratory birds returning to the area to lay their eggs. Particularly good places for **bird-watching** include Krossanesborgir, the estuary of the river Eyjafjarðará and the islands on the fjords, Grímsey and Hrísey. Grímsey is home to one of the biggest puffin colonies in Iceland and in Hrísey, ptarmigan and arctic terns are quite common.

SUMMER

Summer is the most popular season to visit Akureyri and for a good reason! The nature surrounding the town puts on a grand show and the weather is on its best behaviour.

Favourite summertime activities include golfing, visiting the **Botanical Garden**, dropping in at **Akureyri Museum** or the newly renovated **Akureyri Art Museum**. Nothing beats sitting outside a **café** on a sunny day soaking up the rays. To encounter nature at close range, hop on a boat for a **whale watching tour**. Feeling more active? **Hike** up the magnificent Mt. Súllur! In the mood for relaxing? A long soak in the **thermal pool** will leave you refreshed.

There are enough museums in town to quench your thirst for knowledge, such as **Into the Arctic**, an exhibition on the history of the arctic. If you're up for a drive through the countryside, the area surrounding Akureyri has some terrific museums as well, such as the **Herring Era Museum** in Siglufjörður or the **Sundry Museum** in Eyjafjardarsveit.

Akureyri is one of Iceland's northernmost towns, only 90km south of the Arctic Circle, making it the perfect spot to experience the



midnight sun. Sunglasses at night are par for the course in the weeks around the summer solstice!

Summer is also a great season to visit Akureyri as it feels like there's always something going on. Summer celebrations include the **Vaka Folk Festival**, **National Day**, **Hiking Week**, **Arctic Open golf tournament** and **Gásir Medieval Days**, to name but a few.

AUTUMN

Akureyri has a lively cultural life with an impressive yearly theatre and concerts programme. Not only does the town have the only professional theatre outside of Reykjavík, it's also filled with concert venues big and small. You can catch everything from Iceland's top bands playing at intimate venues like **Græni Hatturinn** to the North Iceland Symphony Orchestra at **Hof** concert hall and cultural centre.

Akureyri Cultural Night, celebrating Akureyri's official anniversary in late August, sets the scene for the festivals of the autumn in Akureyri. Other events include **AI**, a performance art festival organised by the Akureyri Art Museum, featuring both young and established artists.

The **Akureyri Art Museum**, the **Akureyri Museum** and the **Toy Museum** all offer a great way to spend the day. If you want to learn more about the local culture, art and the artists who make it, stroll down **Art Street** or visit **Flóra**, a souvenir shop/cultural events venue/artist workshop.

WINTER

Akureyri truly becomes a winter wonderland in the winter season, when the snow covers everything, and the **northern lights** twinkle over the Arctic Circle. Northern lights excursions are one of the most popular wintertime activities, with the season lasting from the end of August until the end of March.

For everyday pleasure, soaking in the hot tubs at the **Akureyri swimming pool** is great when it's cold outside, but for excitement, activities such as **snowmobiling**, **winter horseback riding** and even **dogsledding** are popular options. Mt. Hlíðarfjall, arguably the best **skiing and snowboarding** resort in the country, is only a five-minute drive from the city centre and within the city, you can go **skating** at the skating rink.

Cross-country skiing and **hiking** in Kjarnaskógur is popular, the best time of year being from roughly November until the end of April. For those on the hunt for a slightly less conventional outing, there's **snowshoeing** and **heli-skiing**.

For the extremely adventurous, there's the option of **arctic diving**! These extreme types will not want to miss the **Iceland Winter Games** in March or **AK Extreme** in April. In addition, there is a full in-town calendar of concerts, plays and exhibitions.

Finally, being in Akureyri on **New Year's Eve** is something not to be missed. Not that you can miss it if visiting, the town practically explodes with colourful fireworks!



TRANSPORTATION

GETTING TO AKUREYRI

Air Iceland Connect offers multiple daily scheduled flights between Reykjavík and Akureyri. The airport is located about 3km south of the town centre and, unless you're travelling very light, we recommend getting a taxi from the airport or renting a car.

Strætó, the public bus system, has scheduled departures to and from Akureyri two times a day, but only once on Thursdays. Check out www.bus.is or download the Strætó app for more information.

During summer, a daily highland route is available with SBA Norðurleið between Reykjavík and Akureyri over the Kjölur route, see www.sba.is.



GETTING AROUND AKUREYRI

Akureyri by bike – Renting a bicycle is a great way to get to know Akureyri. There are a number of paths along the coast (including Glerárgata to the north and Drottningarbraut to the south) that will take you around the Akureyri area.

Another popular attraction is Kjarnaskógur woodlands and valley, a lush, green, nature reserve close to the centre. Here you find the first tailor-made mountain bike path in the country, inaugurated in the summer of 2008. The round trip is about 12km.

Akureyri by bus – The Akureyri Citybus is free of charge and will take you anywhere you need to go in town. Just figure out the route you want to take and step on the bus!

Maps are available at the tourist information centre in Hof. Most bus stops with a shelter also include a route map.

Taxis – If you need to get around after the buses stop running, or the buses don't suit your needs, you can always take a taxi. You can stop by the taxi station in the town centre or call for a cab (+354 461 1010).



STRÆTÓ'S OPERATING HOURS

Daily from 06:25 to 23:03 on weekdays and from 12:49 to 18:36 on weekends and holidays. Schedules during weekends depend upon time of year, for further information check www.bus.is or call +354 462 4929. There is no bus service on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

GETTING FROM AKUREYRI

Norlandair operates flight services within the vicinity of Akureyri and also to East Greenland. For trips to Grímsey island, on the Arctic Circle, contact Norlandair. Go to www.grimsey.is for more information.

If you want to get to the islands of Hrísey or Grímsey, you could take the ferry or a day tour from Akureyri. Ferries leave from Dalvík or Árskógssandur. Go to www.hrisey.is or www.grimsey.is for more information.

Strætó also runs to some of the towns in the Eyjafjörður and Tröllaskagi areas, including Dalvík, Siglufjörður, Húsavík and Blönduós. The buses run a few times a day, giving you the opportunity to explore the town but still get back to Akureyri at the end of the day. Get more information at www.bus.is.

While there is no fare for buses inside the town limits of Akureyri, the buses taking you out of town will charge a modest sum for the fare. It's a great option if you feel like exploring the north but aren't comfortable with driving in unfamiliar circumstances.

VADLAHEIÐI TUNNEL

If you're headed east from Akureyri, you might encounter the Vaðlaheiði tunnel. Recently opened, the tunnel not only shortens the way to Mývatn and Húsavík, it also makes the route safer, especially over the winter months. You won't find any toll booths flanking the tunnel, the toll is paid online. Simply register your vehicle's license plate online at www.tunnel.is or in the app and choose whether you want to pay for a single trip or get prepaid trips at a discounted rate.



INFORMATION

AIRPORTS/AIRLINES

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Norlandair

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Ferry Sævar to Hrísey

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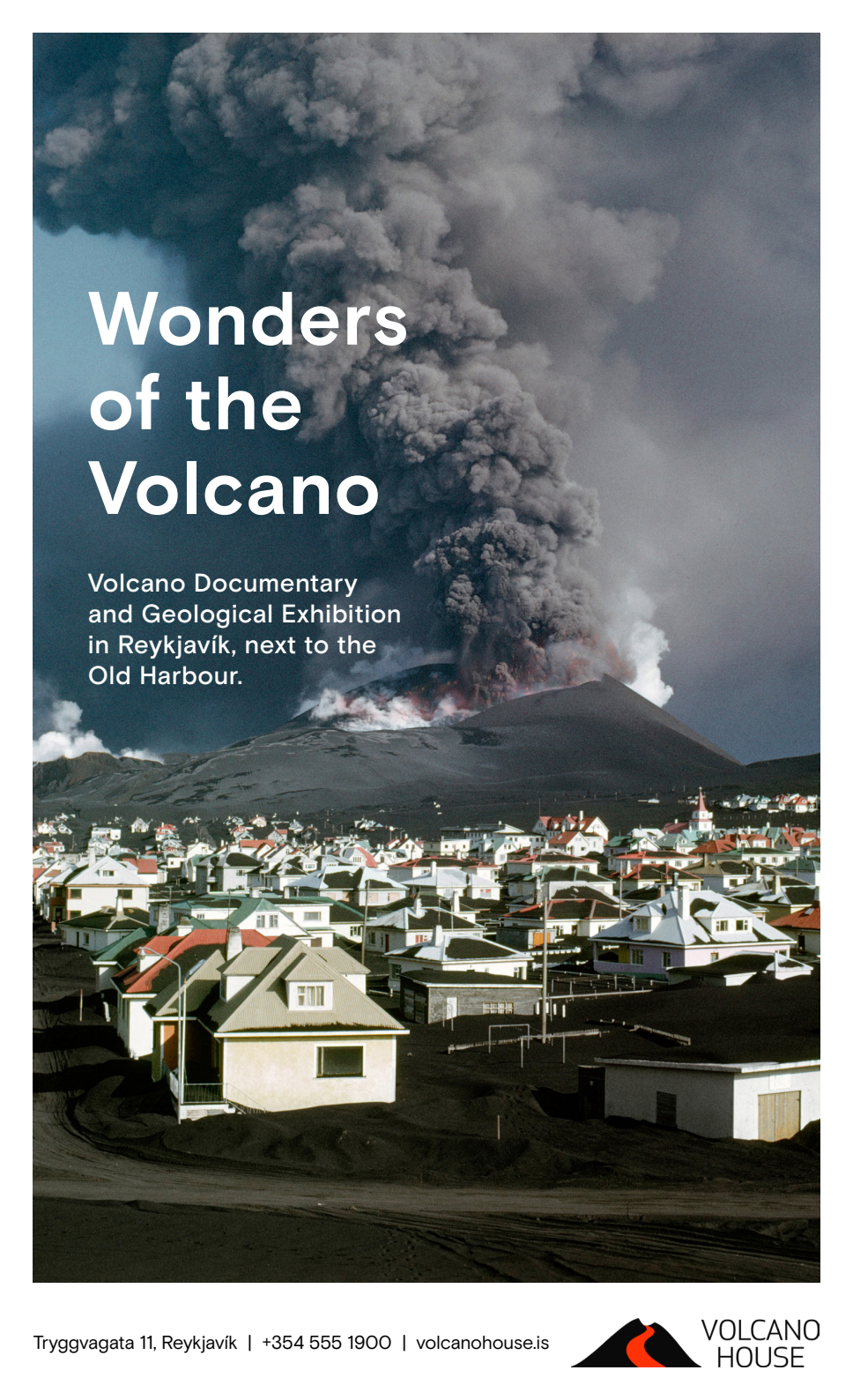
1862
nordic bistro

Hof Cultural Center · 1862.is
Tel. 354 466 1862 · 1862@1862.is

*Akureyri Art Museum*

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

For such a small town, Akureyri has an abundance of entertaining and engaging museums. Whether you're interested in modern art, personal history, industrial history, folk art, or literature, Akureyri's museums have something for everyone. For further information on exhibition schedules, opening hours and more museums of interest, refer to www.visitakureyri.is or stop by the official tourist information centre at Hof Cultural Centre.



Wonders of the Volcano

Volcano Documentary
and Geological Exhibition
in Reykjavík, next to the
Old Harbour.



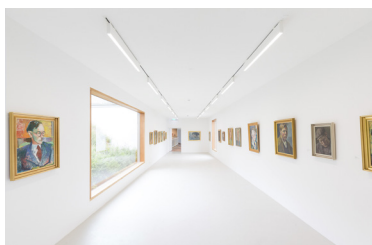


AKUREYRI ART MUSEUM

Akureyri Art Museum is situated in the town centre; in Listagil (Art Street). It aims to promote visual arts and culture in the local community as well as in a wider global context.

The museum hosts diverse art exhibitions showcasing the works of artists, young and old, Icelandic and international, featuring everything from illustrations and photography to performance art and installations.

After extensive renovations, the two buildings that make up Akureyri Art Museum have been joined through a connecting annex. Elegant galleries are now open on the top floor, where diverse and exciting exhibitions are offered. A new entrance allows better access for the disabled, as well as a gift shop and a café. Opportunities to experience art in a new way abound and the museum is already an important element of life in Akureyri.



Kaupvangsstræti 8, Akureyri
 +354 461 2610 | www.listak.is
Entrance fee: 1,500 ISK

Open: May-Sep | Daily 10-17
 Oct-April | Daily 12-17



AKUREYRI MUSEUM

LOCAL HISTORY AND FAMILY FRIENDLY EXHIBITIONS

The museum is in the oldest part of town. It's surrounded by a beautiful garden featuring a 19th-century church, with Nonni's House and the Akureyri Toy Museum just a few steps away. All exhibitions are family friendly, with information and entertainment for visitors of all ages, giving an insight to the local community's past and present through objects and photographs.





Exhibitions 2019-2020:

- Akureyri – The town by the Bay.
- Christmas exhibition.
- Land Ahoy! Historical maps of Iceland 1547-1808 – Schulte Collection.
- Let the Music Play: Musical Stories.

An Akureyri Museum 24-hour pass also includes entrance to Nonni's House, Akureyri Toy Museum, Davíð's House and Laufás Heritage site.

Aðalstræti 58, Akureyri Old Town
+354 462 4162 | www.minjasafnid.is

Open: June-Sep | Daily 10-17
Oct-May | Daily 13-16

18 and over: 1,600 ISK
Groups (10+): 1,360 ISK
Akureyri Museum 24h pass: 2,000 ISK

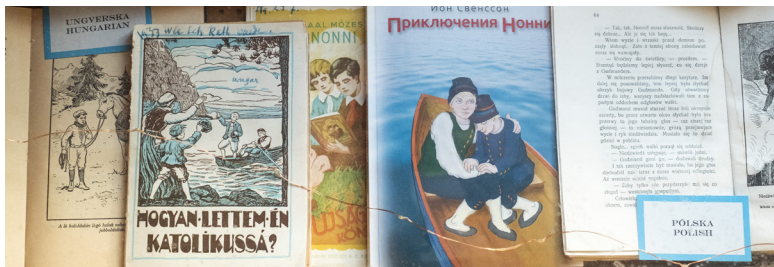
Free bus: no. 5 & 6. On foot: 20 min. from town centre, 10 min. from Botanical Garden

NONNI'S HOUSE

A SMALL HOUSE WITH A BIG STORY

Nonni's House is one of Akureyri's oldest houses, built in the 1840s. It is dedicated to Jón Sveinsson, Nonni, who left the shores of Akureyri at the age of 12 in 1869 to become a Jesuit priest. He wrote children's books based on his childhood memories from Akureyri that were published around the world in over 40 countries. Perhaps in your language?

Nonni's House is a listed building part of Akureyri Museum's 24-hour pass.



Aðalstræti 54, Akureyri Old Town
+354 462 4162
www.minjasafnid.is | www.nonni.is

Open: Jun-Sep | Daily 10-17
Oct-May | Daily 13-16

Adults (18+) 1,600 ISK
Groups (10+) 1,360 ISK
Akureyri Museum 24h Pass accepted - 2,000 ISK

Free bus: no. 5 & 6. On foot: 20 min. from town centre, 10 min. from the Botanical Garden

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For further information contact tunnel helpdesk:

+354 464 1790



TUNNEL.IS
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Great selection of coffee drinks, cakes and sandwiches.

Opening hours: 09:00-23:30

www.facebook.com/blaakannan

Hafnarstræti 96, Akureyri
Tel: +354 461 4600



AKUREYRI TOY MUSEUM

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

Small, almost like a dollhouse, this early 19th-century building is filled with toys from the 20th century, some over 100 years old. Dozens of dolls and toy cars, cardboard games, muppets, action figures... just imagine the toy store of your childhood and become a child again.

The house was owned by the Independent Order of Good Templars who formed the first lodge there in 1884. On the upper floor is the old meeting room of the lodge.

Akureyri Toy Museum is a listed building of which entrance is included in Akureyri Museum's 24-hour pass.



Bjarkarstígur 6, Akureyri

+354 462 4162

www.minjasafnid.is

Open: Jun-Aug | Daily 12-17

Adults (18+) 1,600 ISK Groups (10+) 1,360 ISK.

Akureyri Museum 24h pass accepted: 2,000 ISK.

Free bus: no. 5 & 6. On foot: 20 min. from town centre. 10 min. from the Botanical Garden.

DAVÍÐ'S HOUSE

THE BELOVED ROMANTIC POET

In the green hills of Akureyri is a house with the exciting history and unique atmosphere of the 1960s. Built in 1944 by one of Iceland's most loved poets and writers, Davíð Stefánsson, Davíð's House was the poet's home until his death in 1964. Born on a farm just outside Akureyri, Davíð spent most of his life in Akureyri, working as a librarian alongside his writing. He was one of the most popular poets of the 20th century in Iceland, had a taste for the finer things in life and was an enthusiastic collector of art and books. His apartment stands as a testament to his taste; full of books, art and other personal articles, just as he left it in 1964.

Davíð's House is a listed building of which entrance is included in Akureyri Museum's 24-hour pass.



Bjarkarstígur 6, Akureyri

+354 462 4162 | www.minjasafnid.is

Open: Only accessible with a guide – book at minjasafnid.is or by phone. Guided tours Tuesday-Saturday.

Adults (18+) 1,600 ISK Groups (10+) 1,360 ISK.

Akureyri Museum 24h pass accepted: 2,000 ISK.

5 min. walk from the Municipal Library.

10 min. walk from town centre.



LAUFÁS HERITAGE SITE

STEP INTO THE 19TH CENTURY

Laufás is a breathtaking farmstead surrounded by mountains and a picturesque view of the fjord with history at each footstep. Inhabited since the settlement of Iceland (874-930), it has been a church site since early Christianity in Iceland with a constant lineage of priests and ministers from 1047 to the current day. The heritage site contains a 19th century timber church and a vicarage. It is a maze of interconnected rooms, one of which is a unique bridal room from 1733.

The building has been constantly rebuilt over the centuries. The current version was rebuilt in an ambitious style between 1853-1882 and is an example of the gabled turf/sod farmhouse, although significantly larger than the ordinary houses of the time. The last minister moved out of the building with his family in 1936 and the last inhabitant moved out in 1966.

The church was built in 1865 and among its special items is a pulpit from 1698 with marvellous carvings. The old turf house is part of the National Museum's Historic Buildings Collection.



Laufás Visitor Centre has a cosy atmosphere and offers additional information about nature, wildlife and the history of the area, a souvenir shop and refreshments.

Go for a family-friendly visit – Icelandic ponies visit every Sunday 14-16.

Grýtubakkahreppur, Akureyri

+354 463 3196/895 3172

www.minjasafnid.is

Open: May-Sep | Daily 9-17

In winter open by prebooking

18 and over: 1,600 ISK.

Groups (10+): 1,365 ISK.

Akureyri Museum 24h pass: 2,000 ISK.

30km from Akureyri/20km from Goðafoss.

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KAUPANGI - AKUREYRI / OPEN ALL DAYS 11:30-22:30

THE ICELANDIC AVIATION MUSEUM

The museum is dedicated to aviation in Iceland, its history and development, from the first fumbling attempts at commercial aviation in 1919 to the mid- and late 20th-century airlines, some of which still operate, to the history of medical transport and the Icelandic coast guard. It includes 28 full-sized aircrafts, including airplanes and helicopters, as well as a collection of photographs related to aviation history and other historically significant items.



Akureyri Airport

+354 863 2835
www.flugsafn.is

Open:

Jun-Sep | Daily 11-17
 Oct-May | Sat. 14-17

AKUREYRI INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

The Akureyri Industrial Museum houses artefacts connected from industry of ages past, from margarine makers, printing presses and lathes, to sewing machines and watchmaker instruments.

The museum hosts a great number of tools from the "old factories" which used to produce some of the most familiar Icelandic brands of food and household products. On the top floor of the museum there is a display of the clothes and shoes produced in Akureyri in the past century, which every Icelander over a certain age is very familiar with.



Krókeyri, Akureyri

+354 462 3600/897 0206
www.idnadarsafnid.is

Open:

Jun-Mid Sep | Daily 10-17
 Mid Sep-May | Mon-Sat 13-15

THE ICELANDIC MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM

The Icelandic Motorcycle Museum documents the 100-year history of the motorcycle in Iceland in an 800m² building specifically built for the purpose. Its origin can be traced to the tragic death of Heiðar Þ. Jónsson in 2007, who left behind him his vast collection of bikes and assorted motorbike accessories. The museum details the history of the motorcycle through important bikes and stories of colourful characters and is a must-visit location for all motorbike enthusiasts.



Krókeyri 2, Akureyri

+354 466 3510/866 3500
www.motorhjolasafn.is

INTO THE ARCTIC

Into the Arctic tells the history of life in the arctic. A collection of 11 different exhibitions, Into the Arctic covers different topics, such as the settlement of Iceland, the flora and fauna of the arctic, traditional life in the arctic as well as arctic expeditions through the years. To tell the story of the arctic, they employ photos, videos, a collection of birds, as well as historical artefacts, maps and so on. Everyone should be able to find something to pique their interest and if you need more information on any of the exhibitions, just ask the friendly staff. If you're feeling hungry after exploring the exhibition, you're in luck, Into the Arctic serves a delicious traditional Icelandic lunch every day of the week.



Strandgata 53, Akureyri

+354 588 9050

www.nordurslod.is

Open: Mon-Fri 11-18 | Sat-Sun 11-17

THE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

Amtsbókasafn, the Municipal Library of Akureyri, is one of the biggest libraries in Iceland. It is housed in a beautiful building and offers all regular library services such as lending out books, movies, CDs, audiobooks and such, as well as offering free Wi-Fi and access to computers for a mild fee. You can also read all Icelandic newspapers and the latest copies of more than 70 international and domestic magazines on-site. In the same



building you will find the Orðakaffi café, which serves an Italian lunch, coffee and cakes.



Brekkugata 17, Akureyri

+354 460 1250 |

www.akureyri.is/amtsbokasafn

Open:

Mid-May-Mid-Sep | Mon-Fri 8:15-19

Mid-Sep-Mid-May | Mon-Fri 8:15-19, Sat 11-16

FLÓRA

The nature-friendly concept store Flóra is a treasure trove of design and art, focusing on renewed and recycled artefacts along with things that are produced under friendly circumstances for people and nature. Among the items on offer are books, spices, candles, clothes, and music, along with a host of other items, some one-of-a-kind and only temporarily available. In addition to being a great place to get a meaningful souvenir from Akureyri, Flóra is a great place to get in touch with the local community of artists, as several artists have studios in the building. They work on everything from painting and photography to textile art and goldwork.



Hafnarstræti 90, Akureyri

+354 661 0168 | www.flora.is

Open: Jun-Aug | Mon-Sat 9-19, Sun 13-19
Sep-May | Mon-Fri 10-18

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Hertz



Þrívídd / Three Dimensional / Nói (Jóhann Ingimarsson)



Tílværa / Being Here / Steinunn Þórarinsdóttir

AKUREYRI ART TRAIL

There is no containing the creative spirit of the Icelanders to a museum or a gallery. Spread all over Akureyri is a wide variety of open-air artworks by some of our most revered artists, such as Ásmundur Sveinsson, Einar Jónsson, Elísabet Sigríður Geirmundsdóttir, Nói, Kristinn E. Hrafnsson, Nína Sæmundsson, Ragnar Kjartansson, Ríkharður Jónsson and Steinunn Þórarinsdóttir, to name just a very few.

When you stay in Akureyri, be sure to pick up the Akureyri Art Trail map, which divides the city into six easy walking tours around these not-so-hidden treasures. The more notable pieces include *Outlaws* by sculpture pioneer Einar Jónsson (1900) close to the Botanical



Nonni / Nonni / Nína Sæmundsson

Garden, *The Harp of Prayer* by Ásmundur Sveinsson (1965) in a park, not far from the Akureyri swimming pool, the *Pearl* and *Ode to the Night*, both made by Elísabet Geirmundsdóttir in 1951, and both situated in the old town, and many other important pieces of art.

OTHER MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

IN AKUREYRI

The Public Park and Botanical Garden
Eyrarlandsvegur, Akureyri
www.lystigardur.akureyri.is

Hof Cultural and Conference Centre
Strandgötu 12, Akureyri
+354 450 1000 | www.mak.is

JUST OUTSIDE OF AKUREYRI

The Icelandic Folk and Outsider Art Museum
Svalbærdsströnd, Akureyri
+354 461 4066 | www.safnasafnid.is

The Christmas Garden
Akureyri | +354 463 1433

The Sundry Collection
Sólgarður, Akureyri
+354 463 1261 | www.smamunasafnid.is

IN NEIGHBOURING TOWNS

Grenivík Fishing Museum
+354 698 5610

The Herring Era Museum
Snorrágata 10, Siglufjörður
+354 467 1604 | www.sild.is

The Folk Music Centre
Norðurgata 1, Siglufjörður
+354 467 2300 | www.folkmusik.is

Museum of Natural History
Aðalgata 14, Ólafsfjörður
+354 464 9200 | www.fjallabyggd.is

Hvoll-Local Folk Museum
Karlsraudatorg, Dalvík
+354 460 4928 / 892 1497 | dalvik.is/byggdasafn

Berg Cultural House
Goðabraut, Dalvík
+354 460 4000 | dalvikurbyggd.is/menningarhus

The House of Shark Jörundur
Hrísey | +354 695 0077 | www.hrisey.is

Holt-Memorial Museum of Alda Halldórsdóttir
Hrísey | +354 695 0077 | www.hrisey.is

Húsavík Museum House
Stóragarði 17, Húsavík | +354 464 1860 | husmus.is

Grenjaðarstaður, Old Farmhouse
Grenjaðarstað, Húsavík
+354 464 3688 | www.husmus.is

Húsavík Whale Museum
Hafnarstétt 1, Húsavík
+354 414 2800 | www.whalemuseum.is

Sigurgeir's Bird Museum
Ytri-Neslönd, Mývatn
+354 464 4477 | www.fuglasafn.is

Gljúfrastofa
Ásbyrgi Canyon | +354 470 7100



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www.bautinn.is



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www.pizzasmidjan.is



GEYSIR

WOMEN: Skólavörðustígur 7 & Kringlan. MEN: Skólavörðustígur 16.

HOME: Skólavörðustígur 12. GEYSIR: Hafnarstræti, Akureyri & Haukadalur. Geysir.com



WINING & DINING

Eating in Akureyri is an experience all on its own. Restaurants in town serve everything from fine dining, made with fresh, local ingredients to hearty, traditional fare – the kind your Icelandic grandmother would make. Be sure to check out some of Akureyri's quirkier specialties as well, such as the steak-and-fries pizza!

Star Travel

Personal 4x4 Tour From Akureyri



Northern Lights | Lake Mývatn | Dettifoss
Goðafoss | Nature Baths | Private Tours.



Tel: +354 8677072 | info@startravel.is | www.startravel.is



EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY



Smoked trout on dark, sweet rye bread is Lake Mývatn's special dish and no trip to the north is complete without it. Bonus points if the rye bread was buried in the ground and cooked with geothermal heat!

◀ Akureyri is still a fishing town and the fresh seafood is delicious, don't leave town before you try it!

The Icelandic hot dog is a cultural institution. Every hot dog stand serves the classic hot dog with everything (raw and fried onions, ketchup, mustard and remoulade), but only in Akureyri can you get one with pickled red cabbage.



Akureyri is aptly named the "Béarnaise Capital of Iceland" because the locals put béarnaise sauce on practically everything. An Akureyri speciality is a pizza topped with sliced beef, French fries and a copious amount of béarnaise sauce!

◀ Try some of Eyjafjörður's very own Kaldi beer, brewed at Árskógssandur. If you're still feeling thirsty, Einstök beer and Segull 67 are also brewed here in the north. For a taste of Akureyri beer, drink Viking!

If drinking beer isn't enough, you can also head up to Árskógssandur and bathe in it as well! The Kaldi Beer Spa offers beer-focused spa treatments as well as tasting menus in their adjoining restaurant.

◀ Akureyri also has some international flavours for the discerning palate, you can try Indian, Chinese, Danish, Spanish, Thai and Japanese food with an Akureyri twist.





Akureyri Fish

Fresh fish is their pride and joy but their fish soup and *plökkari* are second to none in taste and style. Try some fermented shark with Icelandic Brennivín to prevent catching a cold. No visit to Akureyri is complete until you visit Akureyri Fish.

Local food - Local beer - Local love
Strandgata 12, Akureyri
+354 414 6050



Lemon

If you're looking for healthy fast food, look no further! Lemon serves deliciously refreshing juices, made on the spot with fresh and nutritious ingredients. If you're feeling hungry, add a tasty sandwich to your order for a healthy and filling meal!

Glerárgata 32, 600 Akureyri
lemon.is



Rub23

First and foremost a seafood restaurant with a broad selection of dishes as well as sushi and some meat dishes, Rub23 has the goal to offer varied, simple but exciting choices for a broad group of customers.

Kaupvangsstræti 6, Akureyri
+354 462 2223
www.rub23.is



Kaffi Torg - Café and Bistro

Located in Glerártorg Shopping Centre, where they serve a varied grill menu and wine. During lunch, every day of the week, they offer prepared hot dishes on a buffet – fish, meat, salad and soup. The café serves a wide range of delicious homemade cakes, bread and coffee drinks

Glerártorg Shopping Centre
Dalsbraut, Akureyri
+354 462 2279 | www.kaffitorg.is



1862 Nordic Bistro

Focuses on dishes of Nordic origin with local food in the leading role. On the menu are open Danish sandwiches, lamb and seafood dishes, coffee, cakes and beverages. They serve a brunch buffet every Sunday and the patio view of Eyjafjörður and the mountains across the fjord is incomparable.

Hof, Strandgata 12, Akureyri
+354 466 1862 | www.1862.is



DJ Grill

DJ Grill is many things, homely and comfortable, yet new and exciting. A great place to sit down with the family, have burgers or sandwiches, as well as steaks and chicken. DJ Grill is a restaurant that can just as well dub as a sports bar or a take-away place that's perfect when you need something quick!

Strandgata 11, Akureyri
+354 462 1800



Bláa kannan café

Good coffee and great atmosphere are the hallmarks of Bláa kannan café. Not only can you get delicious cakes and sandwiches all day long but they also serve a delicious light lunch and soup.

Hafnarstræti 96, Akureyri
+354 461 4600



Akureyri Backpackers

Located in the heart of town, Akureyri Backpackers is a great place to meet other travellers, share stories and enjoy quality food and a great selection of beers. The menu is simple and tasty, with no formalities or fanciness, just simple quality!

Hafnarstræti 98, Akureyri
+354 571 9050
akureyribackpackers.com



Múlberg bistro & bar

Located on one of the most scenic corners in town, Múlberg is where the finest Icelandic ingredients meet bistro cuisine. It offers one of the greatest selections of wines and cocktails in the north of Iceland.

Hafnarstræti 87-89, Akureyri
+354 460 2020 | mulberg.is

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



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Ísbúðin Akureyri- Ice Cream and Coffee

A fantastic ice cream parlour in the heart of Akureyri, where you will find a wide selection of soft ice cream, gelato and slurpees but also coffee drinks and cakes. The parlour is also famous for their freshly made sandwiches with homemade pesto.

Geislagötu 10, Akureyri
+354 461 1112



Hlöllí

With freshly baked bread every day, topped with fresh Icelandic ingredients, Hlöllí has been serving up delicious subs, with its secret sauce, for decades. Whether you're in the mood for lunch or a late night snack after a night of dancing in the Akureyri clubs, Hlöllabátar is the way to go.

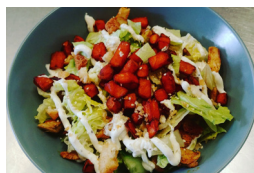
Ráðhústorgi 1, 600 Akureyri
+354 462 7200 | hlollabatar.is



Indian Curry House

If you want some great Indian food in Iceland, go to Akureyri! Since 2007, the Indian Curry House has been serving up delicious authentic Indian food, made with spices imported directly from India. Don't forget to order the naan, made in their tandoori oven, the only one of its kind in the north of Iceland.

Ráðhústorg 3, 600 Akureyri
+354 461 4242



Taste

Taste is a restaurant located at Skipagata 2 that specialises in chicken dishes, although they offer a variety of different food experiences, including vegetarian options, salads, and burgers, as well as their signature secret recipe fried chicken! Get the taste of Akureyri with our delicious and reasonably-priced comfort food right in the heart of Akureyri

Skipagata 2, Akureyri
+354 578 6400



Bakaríð við Brúna

This charming bakery and café not only serves great bread and delicious pastries, it also opens every day at 07:00, making it perfect for an early breakfast, a light lunch or an afternoon coffee. Located behind Glerártorg Shopping Centre.

Glerareyrum 2, Akureyri
+354 461 2700 | bvb@bvb.is



T-BONE

This steakhouse in the heart of Akureyri is the place to go if what you're craving is a really good steak. They offer a choice of cuts, although their favourite is, of course, the T-bone. You can choose from a range of mouth-watering sides but don't forget the sauce, their béarnaise is to die for.

Brekkugata 3, 600 Akureyri
+354 469 4020 | www.tbone.is



Pylsuvagninn

The Icelandic hot dog is a cultural institution and this is a great place to get one! They serve the classic hot dog with everything (raw and fried onions, ketchup, mustard and remoulade), but only in Akureyri can you get one with pickled red cabbage! The Icelandic meat soup is also delicious.

Hafnarstræti, Akureyri
+354 849 8827



Greifinn

World-famous in Iceland for its excellent pizzas, Greifinn is a family-run restaurant where a lot of time and energy is put into providing good service for a wide range of clients. Its good name is known to all those satisfied customers who have visited Greifinn time and again.

Glerárgata 20, Akureyri
+354 460 1600 | greifinn.is



Sushi Corner

Iceland has top-notch seafood, perfect for making top-quality sushi! The sushi is served on a conveyor belt for a fun dining experience, just grab the plates you like as they make their way around the table! If you're in a hurry, Sushi Corner also offers ready-made sushi to take away.

Kaupvangsstræti 1, Akureyri
+354 466 3666

Looking for more?

The What's On Iceland tourist information and booking centres are located in downtown Reykjavík.

Visit us at the start of your journey or contact us throughout it.

www.whatson.is



What's On
TOURIST INFORMATION
& BOOKING CENTRES



Heitur Matur Hrísalundi

If you're interested in a home-cooked meal, Icelandic-style, you won't come any closer than Heitur Matur í Hrísalundi. From Monday to Friday, they offer prepared hot dishes on a buffet – fish, meat, chicken and more. Ideal to take away or to dine on site.

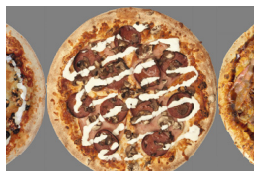
Hrísalundur - Service Centre,
Akureyri
+354 462 2277
Find us on Facebook



Hamborgarafabrikan

Iceland's favourite burger place has a location in Akureyri, of course! The square burgers range from a classic cheeseburger to more imaginative flavours and toppings. Look out for the seasonal off-menu burgers, served with festive or seasonal ingredients. The musically-themed restaurant only plays Icelandic music, so get ready for some classic Icelandic pop and rock hits.

KEA Hótel, Hafnarstræti 87-89
+354 575 7575 | www.fabrikan.is



Sprettur-inn

One of Akureyri's most established restaurants, Sprettur-inn has been serving pizza, burgers and sandwiches to the people of Akureyri for the better part of three decades! The pizzas are some of Akureyri's finest and best of all, they deliver right to your door!

Kaupangi
+354 464 6464
www.spretturinn.is

Restaurants outside Akureyri



Lamb-inn

Lamb-Inn restaurant doubles as hotel, situated in the middle of the stoic Eyjafjarðarsveit. A short ten-minute drive from Akureyri, the restaurant is in a converted sheep shed and serves fresh lamb dishes and home cooking. A family-owned establishment, expect a warm welcome.

Öngulsstöðum 3, Akureyri
+354 463 1500 | lambinn.is



Dalakofinn

Dalakofinn is a family-run restaurant and grocery store in the town of Laugar in Þingeyjarsveit municipality. They offer good hearty meals at fair prices, served with a smile. Try the homemade pizzas, locally sourced burgers and fish, or any of the delicious traditional Icelandic dishes.

Reykjadalur, 650 Laugar
+354 464 3344 | dalakofinn.is



Daddi's Pizza

A small pizzeria, founded in 2009. It's located right next to our reception and very visible from the main road. They serve mouth-watering, delicious pizza made with their secret recipe. Try the local topping – smoked trout from Lake Mývatn with cream cheese and pine nuts.

Vogar, 660 Mývatn
+354 773 6060 | vogahraun.is

Other Restaurants

Aurora - Icelandair Hotel
Þingvallastræti 23. 518 1000

Bautinn Hafnarstræti 92.
462-1818 | bautinn.is

Berlin Skipagata 4. 772-5061

Bryggjan Strandgata 49.
440 6600 | bryggjan.is

Grillofnn
Kaupvangsstræti 23. 897 0326

Hótel Kjarnalundur
Kjarnalundur. 460 0060.
kjarnalundur.is

Into the Arctic Strandgata 53.
588 9050. nordurslod.is

Kaffi Ilmur
Hafnarstræti 107b. 571 6444

Krua Siam Strandgata 13.
466 3800. kruasiam.is

Pizzusmiðjan
Hafnarstræti 92. 461-5858

Nanna-Seafood Restaurant
Hof – Strandgata 12. 466 1862 /
nannarestaurant.is

Orðakaffi – Library
Brekkgata 17. 661 4638

Salat Sjoppa Tryggvabraut 22.
462-2245. salatsjoppa.is

Sjanghæ Strandgata 7.
562-6888. sjanghae.is

Centrum Kitchen & Bar
Hafnarstræti 102. 773 6600

Strikið
Skipagata 14. 462 7100. strikid.is

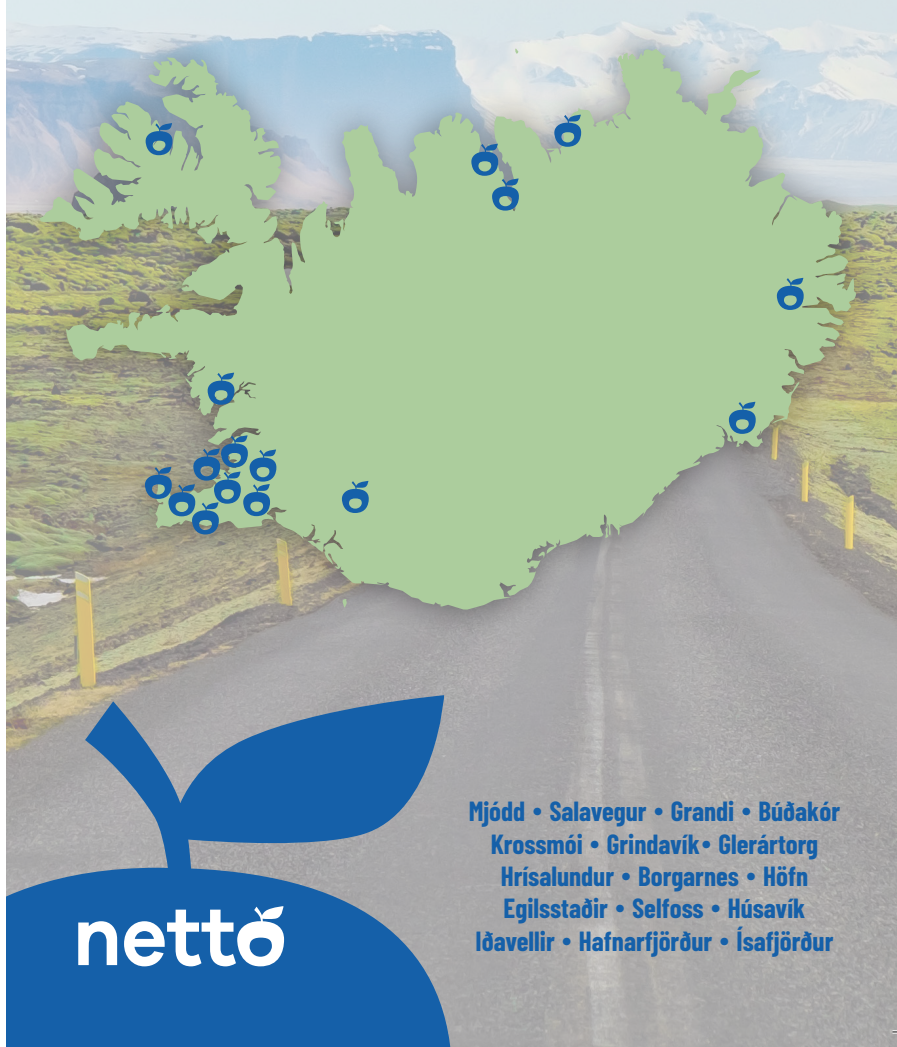
Nóa Seafood Restaurant and Bar
Hafnarstræti 22. 461 2100.
www.noa.is

Verksmiðjan Restaurant
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www.verksmidjanak.is

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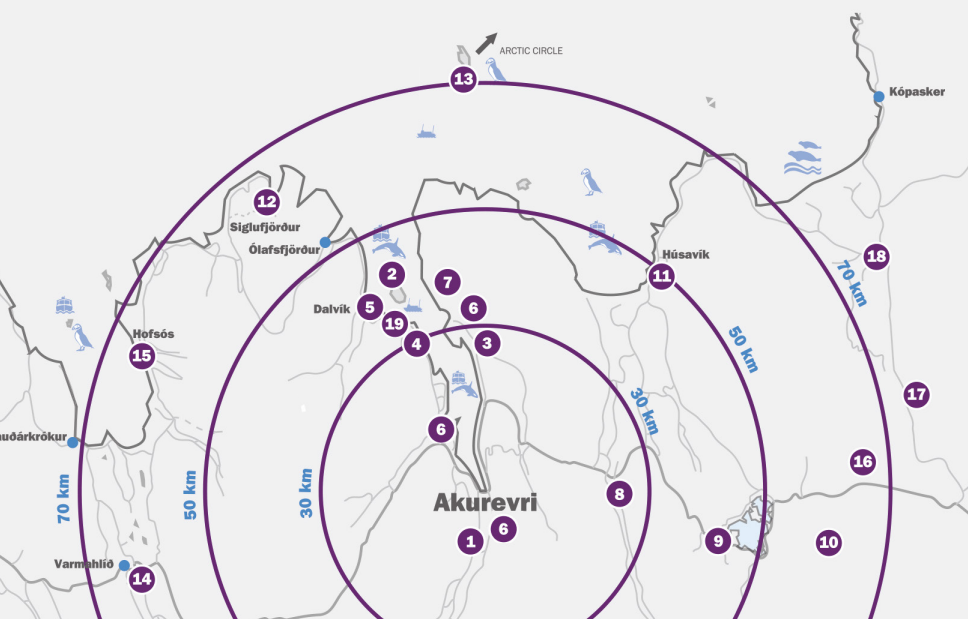


DAY TOURS, ACTIVITIES AND ADVENTURES

Blessed with close proximity to some of Iceland's most magnificent natural wonders, Akureyri is a perfect base for numerous different excursions.

Whether you want to head west to the Tröllaskagi, Siglufjörður and other quaint little towns, or to the east, to Lake Mývatn, Húsavík and some of the most stunning waterfalls you'll ever see, everything starts with Akureyri.

INTERESTING PLACES & ACTIVITIES NEARBY AKUREYRI



1 THE CHRISTMAS GARDEN

Christmas is not just in December anymore! In the Christmas Garden, you'll hear Christmas tunes and smell the sweet smell of Christmas every day of the year!

2 HRÍSEY ISLAND

The island is known as the pearl of Eyjafjörður. If you want to get to know the island, take the popular guided tractor tour!

3 THE OLD RECTORY AT LAUFÁS

Walking into the gabled turf farmhouse at Laufás feels like taking a step back in time.

4 BOAT EXCURSIONS

Whether you want to take a ferry ride out to Hrísey island, go whale watching in Eyjafjörður, or just get a taste of beer from the local brewery, Kaldi, Árskógssandur is your destination.

5 DALVÍK FISHING VILLAGE

Dalvík is a traditional Icelandic fishing village, with rows of colourful boats bobbing gently in the harbour and a stunning mountain range backdrop.

6 HORSE RENTALS

Riding an Icelandic horse through the beautiful nature in the north is an unforgettable experience.

7 SNOWCAT TRIPS

Taking a snowcat up Mt. Kaldbakur not only gives you a chance to



The Christmas Garden



Goðafoss



Lake Mývatn

admire the view at the top but you can choose whether to get a ride back down or ski down the slope!

8 GOÐAFOSS WATERFALL

Legend has it that after Iceland converted to Christianity, the local chieftain threw his carved idols of the Norse gods into Goðafoss, the waterfall of the gods.

9 LAKE MÝVATN

The birdlife and nature in Lake Mývatn and the surrounding area is completely unique! The landscape is brimming with natural wonders and the whole area is a birdwatcher's paradise!

10 NATURE BATHS

The nature baths by Mývatn are a great way to relax after a long day of travelling. Soaking in the milky blue waters surrounded by Iceland's volcanic landscape might just be the highlight of your trip.

11 MUSEUMS AND WHALE WATCHING

Húsavík is not just a charming town, it also has some of the best whale watching tours in Iceland due to its proximity to the open ocean.

12 THE HERRING ERA MUSEUM

The herring era was a fascinating period in Icelandic history, and a visit to this impressive museum is sure to entertain as well as educate!

13 GRÍMSEY ISLAND

Grímsey is the northernmost part of Iceland and the only part which

crosses the Arctic Circle. Visiting the island is a great chance to have a real arctic experience!

14 RAFTING

A thrilling boat ride on a river consistently voted one of the best rafting rivers in the world is an adrenaline junkie's dream!

15 THE ICELANDIC EMIGRATION CENTRE

Hofsós is one of the oldest trading centres in Iceland and the Emigration Centre tells the story of the substantial number of Icelanders who emigrated to North America.

16 THE KRAFLA AREA & VÍTI CRATER

The alien landscapes of the geothermal area around Krafla are impressive but seeing lake Víti in all its glory is even better!

17 THE NATIONAL PARK: DETTIFOSS

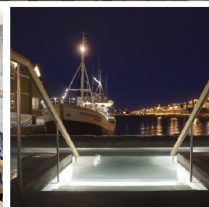
Iceland has a lot of impressive waterfalls but Dettifoss is one of the most majestic manifestations of nature's power Iceland has to offer.

18 THE NATIONAL PARK: ÁSBYRGI

Legend has it that the horseshoe-shaped valley of Ásbyrgi was created when Óðinn's eight-legged horse Sleipnir stepped down, leaving his hoofprint in the young land.

19 THE BEER SPA

Bathing in geothermal spas is fine but did you know that there's a spa in Árskógssandur where you can bathe in beer?



VISIT THE ROMANTIC SIGLÓ HÓTEL

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SIGLUFJÖRÐUR AND TRÖLLASKAGI

The colourfully named Tröllaskagi (Troll-Peninsula) is the area immediately west of Akureyri.

ÁRSKÓGSSANDUR

The route northwest from Akureyri takes you through Árskógssandur, where you have a chance to taste the locally-brewed **Kaldi beer** and take a dip in their **Beer Baths Spa!** You can also take the ferry to **Hrísey island**, a birding haven with a charming fishing village.

DALVÍK

Further north is Dalvík, great for whale watching and home to the **Hvöll Folk Museum**. The museum is well worth a visit, featuring an exhibition on Jóhann the giant (2,34m) as well as a natural museum, complete with a stuffed polar bear. Here you can go **horseback riding** or hop on the ferry to **Grimsey island**, located on the Arctic Circle, also renowned for bird-watching.

SIGLUFJÖRÐUR

Drive on through the tunnel to the charming fishing town of Ólafsfjörður. The next tunnel will take you to the stunning, uninhabited Héðinsfjörður valley. The following destination is Siglufjörður, a historic fishing town which rose to prominence

during the 1950s when there was an astounding upswing in herring fishing. If you want to learn more, you can visit **Síldarminjasafnið (the Herring Era Museum)**, an impressive museum with exhibitions in three buildings by the harbour. There's also the **Folk Music Centre**, and an endless list of outdoor activities such as **fishing, skiing, and hiking**. Siglufjörður is also a great place to enjoy the local culture with some **seafood** and a beer at one of the restaurants by the harbour.

HOFSÓS

Heading southwest from Siglufjörður, down the other side of the peninsula, you will come to Hofsós, which was an important trading town in ages past. You can visit the old tarred-timber warehouse built in 1777, pay homage to the exodus of Icelanders to Canada at the **Icelandic Emigration Centre**, or view some impressive **basalt column rock formations** at the nearby black sand beach. Whatever you do, don't miss the **Hofsós swimming pool**, where you bathe

in hot geothermal water while looking out over the ocean and nearby mountain ranges.

SAUÐÁRKRÓKUR

You might even venture as far west as Sauðárkrúkur, though it may be getting late at this point. In and around the town, you can visit the **Glaumbær folk museum** and a reconstructed traditional turf house, or visit the **Tannery Visitor Centre**. In addition, you have the option of **horseback riding, bird-watching, golfing**, or even a boat trip to the dramatic **Drangey island**, famous for its birdlife.



VARMAHLÍÐ

Finally, in the nearby Varmahlíð area, there are companies offering **rafting** experiences on both the east and west side of Jökulsá river. One is family friendly but the other is not for the faint of heart.

HELI-SKIING!

Heli-skiing is probably the most thrilling and most luxurious activity you can do in Iceland.

Taking a helicopter up to mountain peaks where humans rarely step and skiing down the untouched slopes of the magnificent mountains of the Tröllaskagi is an experience you'll never forget. Relaxing in a hot tub after a long day of skiing underneath the northern lights or the midnight sun is the icing on the cake!



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SUMMER OPENING

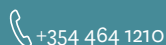
From 1. May - 30. September
From 10:00 - 24:00
Guests are able to enter the baths until 23:30.

WINTER OPENING

From 1. October - 30. April
From 12:00 - 22:00
Guests are able to enter the baths until 21:30.



Vítaslóð 1
640 Húsavík, Iceland
Look for the yellow lighthouse.





LAKE MÝVATN

Lake Mývatn is a unique location. It's an environmental paradise with vibrant birdlife and natural phenomena, surrounded by geothermal heat and natural wonders. There are more species of ducks at Mývatn than any other place on earth, in addition to many other migratory birds.

IN THE AREA OF LAKE MÝVATN

On the way to Mývatn from Akureyri, stop at **Goðafoss** (the Waterfall of the Gods). The waterfall is not just a beautiful natural wonder, it's also where local chieftain Þorgeir threw his carved idols after ruling that Icelanders should convert to Christianity in the year 1000 AD. From there, you can go south of Lake Mývatn until you get to the **pseudocraters** of Skútustaðir – a unique geological phenomenon. Stop by the bizarre lava pillars of Kálfaströnd en

route to **Dimmuborgir** (Dark Castles), a set of lava formations that resemble an Elvish city – complete with cathedral and all. This is one of the most popular places to visit in the north of Iceland and there are marked **hiking trails** of varying difficulty which will lead you around the most beautiful spots in the area. In December, the area is crawling with Yula Lads, Iceland's 13 mischievous versions of Santa Claus. All along the lake Mývatn route, you will have great opportunities for bird spotting.

CAVES

Moving west from Lake Mývatn you could stop by **Grjótagjá**, a hot spring inside a lava cave, which was featured memorably on the hit TV series *Game of Thrones*. Alternatively, you could take a guided tour to the fascinating **Lofthellir lava cave** – it's so deep that the temperature's always below freezing, resulting in ice stalactites.

VOLCANIC AREAS

Many places around Mývatn are affected by the geothermal heat in the ground below. Plants don't grow there but the ground itself takes on diverse colours and textures, in some cases even bubbling and steaming. From the lake, there's a short drive to the **geothermal area** of Mt. Námafjall, with its bubbling mud cauldrons and steaming fumaroles, and the explosive crater of **Víti** (Hell) in the Krafla volcanic area. You



can also take an hour-long hike around **Leirhnjúkar**, an 18th-century lava field, which is grotesquely beautiful.

JÖKULSÁRGLJÚFUR NATIONAL PARK

If there's still time left, you could enter the **national park** where glacial rivers have carved great canyons in the land. They've created such gems as **Dettifoss**, the most powerful waterfall in Europe, which was the backdrop for the epic opening scene of the movie Prometheus. If you're feeling remarkably ambitious you could go all the way to **Ásbyrgi Nature Reserve**, a stunning horseshoe-shaped valley, far from civilisation, which, according to legend, derived its shape from the hoofprint of Sleipnir, the eight-footed horse of Óðinn.

Whether you make your day shorter or longer, you should end your day with a relaxing dip in the **Mývatn Nature Baths** – a geothermal pool with a unique mineral composition and a mountain view. The milky blue waters are reminiscent of the more famous water in the blue lagoon and the views are no less gorgeous.



DALAKOFINN

Dalakofinn is a family owned restaurant on the ring road in Laugar in Reykjadal. We have a diverse and tasty menu at a fair price. Stop by.

www.dalakofinn.is



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HÚSAVÍK AND BEYOND

Húsavík is an easy day trip from Akureyri and offers a number of attractions that make it well worth the visit. The town itself is a charming little fishing village of fewer than 2,500 people. Often called Iceland's whale watching capital, the most popular reason to visit Húsavík is to take a whale watching cruise. In addition, the town has a beautiful old wooden church, built in 1907, a surprising number of great museums considering its size, and, of course, a charming local culture.

WATCH THE WHALES

Although you can go **whale watching** in most large towns in Iceland, Húsavík has the benefit of being only a short sailing time away from

the open sea, where more species of whales reside rather than in fjords and bays. You can see blue whales, the largest mammals on earth, who live mostly in the ocean north of the country. Add to this the possibility of going **puffin watching**, and the rich birdlife, and you will see why Húsavík is many a nature lover's idea of paradise.

ENTERTAINING AND EDUCATIONAL

In addition to wildlife, the town has many interesting museums. The **Whale Museum** is a 1,600m² hall which houses exhibitions on whaling and marine ecosystems, featuring real whale skeletons. A stone's throw away, you can find the **Húsavík Folk Museum**, whose exhibition on the culture, nature and animals in the area will give you a rare glimpse



© North Sailing Húsavík



© North Sailing Húsavík



into life in the north in days gone by. The Folk Museum is unusual in its display and curation, arranging the natural (including stuffed birds, a fox and polar bear) and historical specimens (including tools, clothes and kitchenware) together in a thematic and aesthetic way.

For a quirkier look at Icelandic culture, stop by the **Exploration Museum**. Its exhibitions tackle everything from astronauts visiting Iceland to prepare for the moon landing to the early explorers who discovered Iceland and settled there.

After a long day of watching whales and exploring museums, taking a dip in the

GeoSea Geothermal Sea Baths on the outskirts of town is a refreshing luxury. The recently opened sea baths have an incomparable view of the mountains and Skjálfandi bay.

NATURAL BEAUTY

It's easy to spend a whole day taking in the atmosphere at Húsavík and wandering down to the harbour to enjoy one of the excellent local restaurants. If you want to make more of your day, you might consider detouring to **Goðafoss waterfall** en route or driving to Aðaldalur valley where you can visit **Grenjaðarstaður Folk Museum**, which resides in a traditional Icelandic turf house dating back to 1865.

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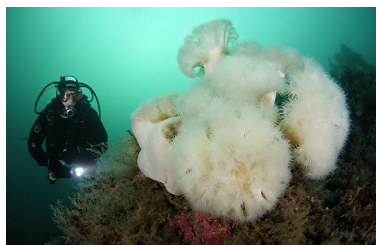
ACTIVITIES AND DAY TOURS

LOFTHELLIR LAVA CAVE

Explore Lofthellir Lava Cave, located close to Lake Mývatn – a world of unique ice formations and darkness. The cave boasts magnificent natural ice sculptures that occur naturally because of the freezing temperature at such depth. The total length of the cave is about 370m with a ceiling height of, at its highest point, about 15m. As you travel back to Lake Mývatn, you can take the opportunity to see some of the other fantastic sceneries in the same area, such as Dimmuborgir (Dark Castles), one of Iceland's most popular natural tourist attractions.

DIVING IN THE NORTH

Scuba diving in Iceland is a magnificent experience and every plunge into its icy waters is different than the previous one. Iceland has a fascinating variety of marine life, such as sea snails, crabs, all kinds of fish, jellyfish, sponges and starfish. Lucky divers may see seals, and maybe even whales!



© Wolfgang Pölzer

A two-hour drive from Akureyri is the first protected underwater area in Iceland, the geothermal cone Strytan in Eyjafjörður fjord. It's the only one of its kind that you can scuba dive to as others are only found at 3,000m or deeper. Around 100l/s of freshwater flow from the cone at 72°C.

SEA ANGLING

Eyjafjörður (Fjord of Islands) one of the longest fjords of the country, is truly the place for some deep-sea fishing excitement. The fishing grounds are near the departure spots and the surroundings are majestic. Boats are well equipped for deep-sea angling and the tackle awaits you on board. The only risk is that your catch might be too much to carry home!

VISIT GEOTHERMAL ENERGY PLANTS

The steam columns from the geothermal plants at Krafla and Bjarnarflag (Mývatn) are a magnificent sight. A visit to either of the two green energy plants will give you



© Saga Travel



a feeling for the power in Iceland's nature. Your way back to town takes you past nature landmarks such as Lake Mývatn, with its unparalleled beauty, and Goðafoss, the scenic waterfall with historic connections to Iceland's conversion to Christianity in the year 1000.

WHALE WATCHING AND BOAT TRIPS

The north of Iceland is a great area to get in touch with the giants of the ocean, whales. The clean, clear waters are full of life, whales, as well as other creatures of the sea, mainly birds, with the puffin being the most sought after. Akureyri and nearby towns of Dalvík and Húsavík are all great for whale watching, especially for seeing the giant humpback whales. Other whales one could expect to see are minke whales, fin whales as well as an assortment of dolphins and porpoises.

RAFTING

Akureyri is very close to the best rafting rivers in Iceland. There are two, the east side of Jökulsá river and the west side of Jökulsá river, the east river generally regarded as one of the top five rafting rivers in Europe – some even claim it's simply the best. This is an action-packed river, not for the faint of heart but sure to provide a great time. Day trips are available but also three-day expedition style trips, going straight from Hofsjökull glacier, the source of the river, running every rapid

on the river. The west side of Jökulsá river is an adventure suitable for families and kids as young as six years old. It has a riverside hot spring that's used for mixing hot cocoa on the trip, so despite being less demanding than the east river, it promises enjoyable family fun.

SNOWMOBILING

Some of the biggest adrenaline rushes one can imagine come from the thrill of riding a snowmobile. Incredibly powerful machines, yet surprisingly easy to manoeuvre, a ride on a snowmobile (or a ski-doo if you like) is bound to be one of the highlights of your visit to the north.

You don't need any specific experience to confidently ride, though be sure to drive carefully, as these are really powerful machines! Note: a driver's license is needed!

HORSES

The Icelandic horse is a one-of-a-kind breed. Bred in isolation on the island since the age of settlement, the horse retains many desirable qualities that horses in other parts of the world have lost, most notably, a fifth gait, known as tölt. Riding an Icelandic horse through the unspoiled nature of Eyjafjörður, just like the Vikings did, is the perfect way to explore Iceland. There's a riding tour for everyone, short tours for beginners and longer ones for experienced riders.



© Viking Rafting



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and very well organised.
Amazing skeletons! One
of the best museums I
have ever visited.“

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skeletons in the world
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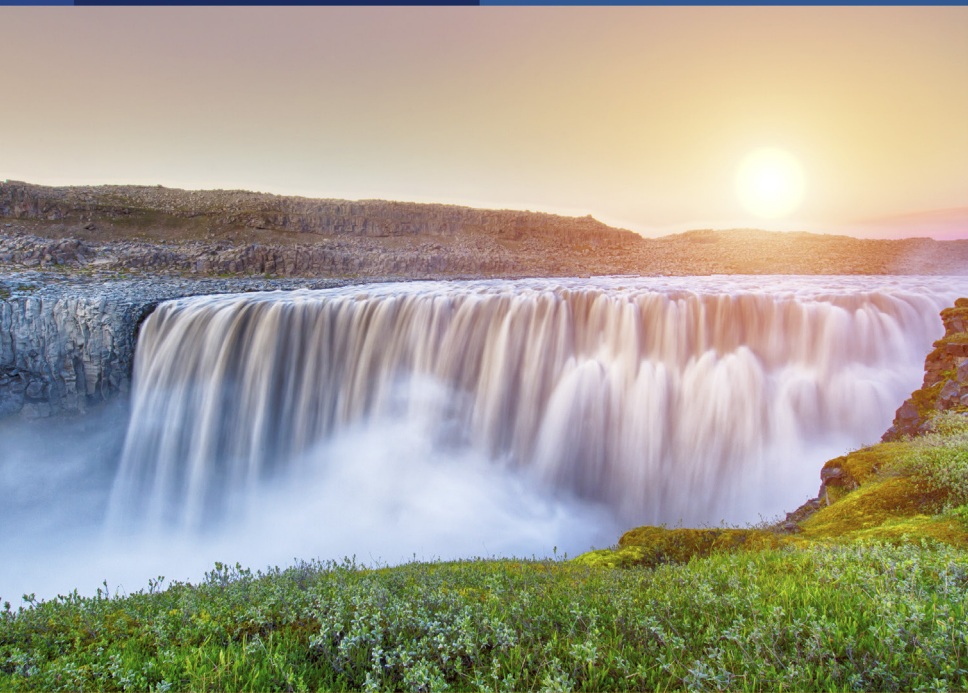


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Lake Mývatn Excursion

This 9 hour tour to one of the loveliest spots in Iceland focuses on the most attractive features of the area. Visit Goðafoss waterfall, the geothermal fields in Hverarond explosion crater of Víti and the Mývatn Nature baths.

Price 17.100 ISK



Reykjavík - Kjölur - Akureyri

The highland route (Akureyri 610 and 610A).

Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from June 19th to September 6th.

Price o/w 18.000 ISK



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THINGS TO DO

The foodie, the outdoorsman, the thrill-seeker, the bird lover, the music fan, the historian: no matter what you're interested in, Akureyri has a wide range of activities and day tours to suit any visitor.

Have fun visiting Akureyri and make sure you make the most of your trip!



THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

The northern lights are one of the most spectacular shows on earth and can be seen from September through April on clear nights. While you don't need to come to the north of Iceland to see the northern lights, Akureyri is especially good for northern lights viewing, due to the high mountains on both sides of the fjord. They keep the clouds away – essential for seeing the elusive lights!

WHAT CAUSES THE NORTHERN LIGHTS?

It's electricity that does it – and the sun. Tiny particles from electronic storms on the sun (solar wind) get trapped in the earth's magnetic field. While rushing around in their magnetic trap, some particles escape into the earth's atmosphere. When they hit molecules in the atmosphere, these impacts cause the molecules to glow, thus creating the auroras.

WHAT ARE THEY LIKE?

The northern lights are best described as translucent sheets or ribbons of lights, dancing across the sky. They're most often a shade of bluish green, but sometimes tinged with pink or purple. While it's easy to describe what they look like, the experience of witnessing the northern lights is much harder to put into words. Standing in the arctic darkness underneath the twinkling stars while the northern lights flutter above, is something everyone should get to do, at least once in their life.

HOW CAN I SEE THEM?

As the northern lights are a natural phenomenon, they're not a reliable attraction. Sometimes they appear, sometimes they don't. Still, there are some things you can do to increase the likelihood of seeing the lights. You need to get out of the lights of Akureyri, which overshadow the delicate lights. Also, for the lights to be visible, the night needs to be clear and cloudless, since the lights originate above cloud level. Finally, be prepared, check out the northern lights forecast at en.vedur.is/weather/forecasts/aurora.

Taking a guided tour to see the lights is a popular option. Knowledgeable guides bring you to the best viewing spots in the beautiful landscapes surrounding Akureyri, tell you everything they know about the magical lights, and if you don't see any lights, you usually get to go again for free.

WELCOME TO THE NORTH

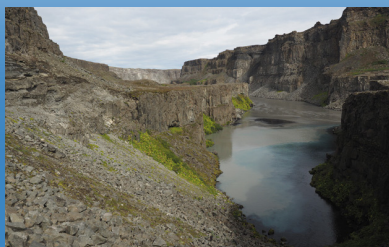
The northern part of Vatnajökull National Park consists of the Jökulsárgljúfur canyon, offering variety of hiking and camping options, and the wilderness surrounding the Askja caldera. Stop by at the visitor centre in Ásbyrgi to learn about the park and ensure an enjoyable visit.



Asbyrgi



Dettifoss



Jökulsárgljúfur



Vesturdalur



Askja



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Having the kids along should be a source of pleasure, not of stress. Luckily, Akureyri is a family-friendly destination and finding tours, activities and restaurants that cater to families of all ages is easy.

WHAT TO DO

You could go **ice skating**! Take a spin on the skating rink Skautahöllin at Naustavegur 1 is a perfect way to spend the day with your family. In case you didn't bring your own skates, you can always rent a pair.

Speaking of winter sports, Akureyri is also one of the best places in Iceland for cross-country and downhill **skiing**, most notably at Mt. Hlíðarfjall.

For other seasons, the Akureyri **festival calendar** is another thing to keep an eye out for. Firm favourites include The First Day of Summer (April), National Day (June 17) and Medieval Days at Gásir (July).

Swimming in one of the town's thermal pools is a great way to unwind and relax for the parents while the kids splash about in the pool or take several trips on the waterslide!

Going **horseback riding** is bound to be thrilling for any kid old enough to ride and there are plenty of options around Akureyri, ranging from short tours for beginners to longer ones

for people with some experience. If the kids are more interested in other kinds of animals, go on a **whale watching cruise**!





The Christmas Garden



Toy Museum



Mt. Hlíðarfjall ski resort



Whale watching © Saga Travel

WHERE TO GO

How do you feel about Christmas in July? Despite the name, **The Christmas Garden** is open all year round and only a few minutes' drive from the centre of Akureyri. The Scandinavian lifestyle boutique **Tante Grethe's Backyard** is right next door and **Eplakofinn** (The Apple hut) sells coffee and food on sunny days.

Iceland doesn't have a lot of wooded areas but **Kjarnaskógur forest**, just outside Akureyri, is the exception that proves the rule. It's 800ha of forest – complete with two playgrounds, a volleyball field, and plenty of walking paths. The perfect venue for a day out with the family.

If the forest sounds a bit too wild for you, there's also the **Akureyri Botanical Garden**, the perfect spot for a picnic. The garden contains nearly all plants that grow wild in Iceland, along with a host of others, including some that only grow in Greenland.

For a day of adventure, why not take the ferry to **Hrísey island** and spend the day exploring? Guided tractor tours of the island are available and you can visit an exhibition dedicated to shark fishing, or go to Holt, the former home of Alda Halldórsdóttir, now a museum.

Siglufjörður, a town about an hour's drive north of Akureyri is another fun outing. The Herring Era Museum has exhibitions set up to look like scenes from a time gone by. One of these tableaux is a pier, complete with boats from the era. A walk on the pier is encouraged and you even get to climb aboard the boats themselves!

WHEN IT RAINS

Rainy days don't have to be a damper on your trip. Akureyri has a multitude of museums, of which most will appeal to a younger audience as well. **Akureyri Museum** is a great place to start, with its visual history of the evolution of Akureyri. Close by is the **Toy Museum** at Friðbjarnarhús, featuring vintage toys from the 20th century.

Another great museum is **Nonni's House**, the childhood home of Nonni, or Jón Sveinsson. He is the author of several autobiographical children's books about his childhood in Akureyri and the stories of his escapades with his brother Manni in 19th-century Akureyri have been translated to over 30 languages.

For parents of budding engineers, there's also the **Aviation Museum**, filled with airplanes of all shapes and sizes, and another one dedicated to **motorcycles**.

Welcome to Glerártorg

AKUREYRI'S LARGEST SHOPPING CENTER

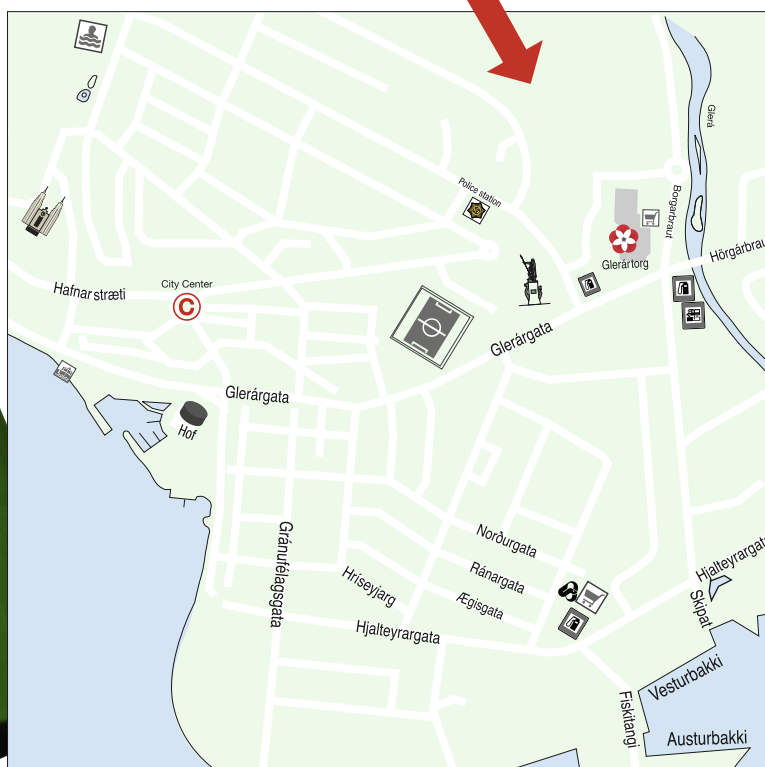
**1ST
STOP**

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hop on
hop off bus





Glerártorg is the main shopping center in Akureyri, only 1.2 km from main city center. Convenient and cosy with 36 shops, supermarket, restaurants and services.



GLERÁRTORG OPENING HOURS

Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 18:30 pm

Saturday 10:00 am - 17:00 pm

Sunday 13:00 am - 17:00 pm



GLERÁRTORG

-af lífi & sál-



SKIING IN AKUREYRI

Iceland is a world-class destination for skiing and some of the best ski slopes can be found in the Tröllaskagi area in northern Iceland. With vertical descents of up to 1,500m, thousands of peaks and slopes for all beginners as well as experienced skiers, Akureyri and the surrounding area are a paradise for skiers and mountaineers.

Hlíðarfjall, the ski area of Akureyri, is situated just 5km outside of town. It's Iceland's most popular and most advanced ski resort. The ski area has a vertical drop of 537m and the longest trail is more than 2.5km long. It is equipped with eight ski lifts and 23 alpine slopes. "Snow cannons" ensure an early opening of the season, which extends from the end of November until early May. For those who want to go skiing during the shortest days of the year, there are floodlights that make night skiing possible.

If the crowds at Hlíðarfjall are too much for you, you'll find some smaller ski resorts in the villages of Dalvík and Siglufjörður. Check out skiiceland.is for more information.

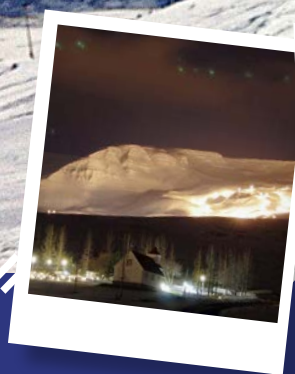


IF TAKING THE SKI LIFT IS JUST TOO MUCH WORK

By the village Grenivík, snowcat tours are offered to the top of Mt. Kaldbakur (1,173m). Aside from the wonderful view from the top, you also get the chance to skip the ride back down and put your skis on instead.

Heli-skiing is also a growing sport in the area with a season running from around mid-March until the beginning of June with generally excellent corn skiing and the occasional powder dump. Throw in a mix of volcanic activity, hot springs, lava fields and a unique culture and you will find that Iceland is a true adventure skiing destination.

Plan your perfect winter holiday!



For 50 years the mountain Hlíðarfjall, only 5 km above the town of Akureyri, has been one of the prime skiing areas in Iceland.

The hallmarks of Hlíðarfjall are high quality snow, extensive cross country trails and exciting ski slopes with breathtaking views over Eyjafjörður bay.



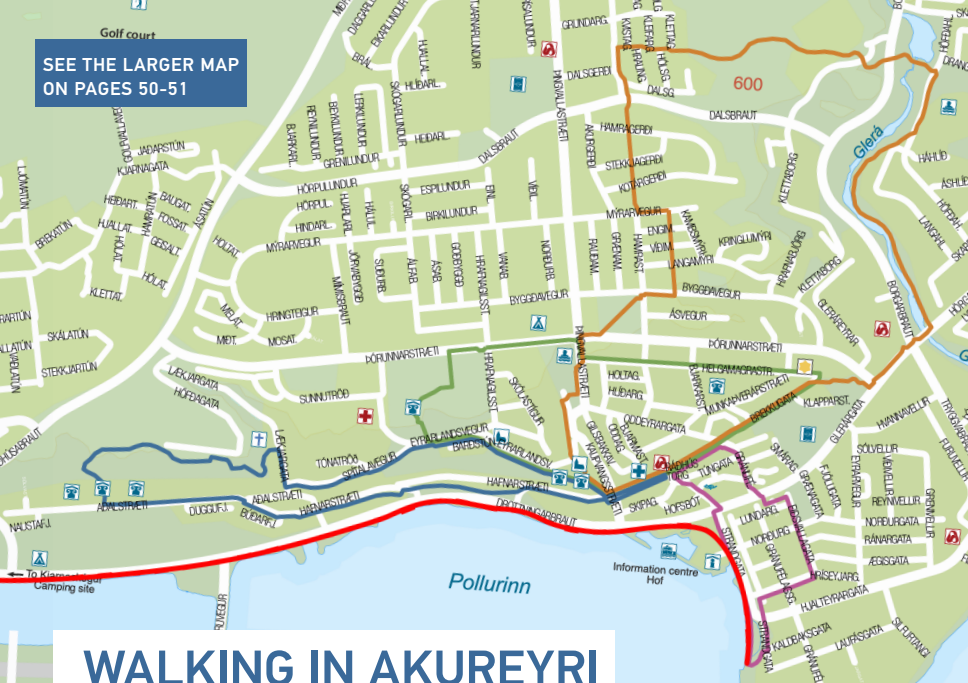
Hlíðarfjall
Akureyri

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SEE THE LARGER MAP
ON PAGES 50-51



WALKING IN AKUREYRI

HISTORICAL PATH (BLUE)

4,1km/2,5mi

The blue path takes you through the historical old town of Akureyri, with its colourful and historic buildings. The birthplace of Akureyri, this area is characterised by the steep slopes and stunning views it has to offer.

Start your walk at Ráðhústorg square. The name translates to Town Hall Square, although the town hall that was planned was never actually built! Walk south, through the centre of town, into the oldest part of Akureyri, with its vividly coloured houses. Walking along Hafnarstræti, you will pass historic buildings, such as the Akureyri theatre, built in 1906, and Sigurhæðir, the former home of poet Matthías Jochumsson (who wrote the national anthem).

You will also come across Akureyri's most famous ice cream shop, Brynja. When you get to Akureyri Museum, stop to admire the childhood home of Nonni, a popular author of children's books, and a 19th-century church. When you pass the museum, turn right and head up the hill. As you walk towards the centre on your way back towards the Ráðhústorg square, you'll walk past the Akureyri park and school. Alternatively, walk towards the sea and take the coastal route back. You'll cross the new Rendezvous Bridge, perfect for a selfie with a view!

THE FIRST SETTLERS & TOWN ARCHITECTURE (GREEN)

2,9km/1,2mi

The first settlers of Akureyri, in the 10th century, were Helgi magri (Helgi the thin) and his wife, Þórunn Hynra. Taking this path past their statues and following the streets named in their honour will give you a feel for modern-day Akureyri.

Starting once again from the Town Hall Square sans town hall, walk up the hill past the Municipal Library, to a hill where statues of the first settlers of Akureyri, Helgi magri and Þórunn Hynra, look over Eyjafjörður. Fittingly, you walk back towards the town along Helgamagrastræti. At the end of the street is the Akureyri geothermal swimming pool, perfect for a refreshing swim.

Continue along Þórunnarstræti till you get to the Botanical Garden. This beautiful park is the northernmost botanic garden in the world and contains several thousand plant species. When you leave the garden, pass the Akureyri school and walk atop the edge of the hill towards Akureyri church. On your way, you'll pass the Akureyri Catholic church.



RIVER AND GARDENS (ORANGE)

5,1 km/3,1mi

One of the best things about cities and towns in Iceland is that you never feel too far from nature. Even walking through the town of Akureyri, the second-biggest settlement in Iceland, you're still able to find plenty of peaceful green areas, rivers and gardens.

Walking up Brekkugata street, you'll find statues of the first settlers of Eyjafjörður perched atop a wild-looking cliff. As you continue over the hill, you get to the Glerá river that crosses through Akureyri. Follow the walking path along the river and take in the wonderful scenery. In the summer, Akureyri often gets the best weather in all of Iceland, making a stroll along the river an absolute delight. Cross the river and pass Akureyri University.

As you walk back towards the town centre, you'll pass through green areas and playgrounds in the residential areas of Akureyri, getting a look at the peaceful Akureyri life. As you get closer to the centre, you pass the Akureyri swimming pool, highly recommended for freshening up after a long walk through nature before ending your walk back at the Ráðhústorg square.

THE SEA & ODDEYRIN (PINK)

1,9 km/0,6mi

If you don't have a lot of time but would still like to get a feel for the town of Akureyri, take this short walk through the old neighbourhood of Oddeyri by the sea. With its charming old houses, outdoor artwork and stunning view of Eyjafjörður fjord and the mountains on the other side, this route will give you a taste of what Akureyri is all about.

Starting at the town square, Ráðhústorg, you walk east, towards the sea. You will pass Hof, the cultural centre, on your right. The circular concert hall is certainly impressive but it has nothing on the view over the Eyjafjörður fjord.

Take a turn to the left and enter the residential neighbourhood. This is one of the oldest parts of town and the delightful old houses are painted in every colour of the rainbow. Many of the houses here feature the classic stone tins that cover many of Akureyri's oldest houses. Walking back through the neighbourhood will get you back to Ráðhústorg square.

If you have time to spare, you can continue walking south along the coastal path. Not only can you admire the view of Eyjafjörður fjord and the surrounding mountains but the path features plenty of outdoor artwork as well.



THERMAL POOLS IN AKUREYRI

The popularity of swimming pools is one of the things that surprise visitors to our rocky subarctic island. Thanks to copious amounts of geothermal heat, our swimming pools, especially the hot tubs, keep us feeling warm, toasty and relaxed all through the cold and dark winter, as well as the bright summers. Akureyri is no exception and there are no less than two public swimming pools to be found in town and many more in the surrounding area and towns.

AKUREYRI THERMAL POOL

This is one of the most popular attractions in Akureyri and it's open all year round. The pool area is newly renovated so visitors can expect an exciting visit.

Akureyri Thermal Pool is a watery paradise for the whole family. The area contains two 25m outdoor pools as well as a 12.5m indoor pool. Three new waterslides have been built and are

already popular with the local children. Inside the building is a hot tub and the outdoor area has three hot tubs with varying temperatures, up to 42°C. There's also a refreshing cold tub, a wading pool for the kids and a steam bath. You will also find a hot tub with hydromassage, as well as a new wading pool and sunbathing area. In addition, there's a new play area for children in the surrounding park.

GLERÁRLAUG

When Akureyri Thermal Pool is crowded on a sunny day, or when the weather is looking rainy or otherwise unappetising, Glerárlaus Thermal Pool is a great option.

Glerárlaus Thermal Pool is a great option for those seeking an indoor pool or a little less crowd than can be expected at the bigger Akureyri Thermal Pool. Its outdoor area features two hot tubs, a children's wading pool as well as outdoor dressing rooms.

THERMAL POOLS IN AND AROUND AKUREYRI

Akureyri Thermal Pool

Þingvallastræti 21, Akureyri / +354 461 4455

Open: Summer Mon-Fri 6:45-21, Sat 8-21, Sun 8-19:30

Winter Sat-Fri 6:45-21, Sat-Sun 9-19

Glerárlaus Thermal Pool

Höfðahlíð, Akureyri / +354 462 1539

Open: Summer Mon-Fri 6:45-21, Sat 9-14:30, Sun closed

Winter Mon-Fri 6:45-8 & 17:30-21, Sat 9-14:30, Sun 9-12

Hrísey Thermal Pool

Austurvegi 5, Hrísey / +354 461 2255

Open: Summer Mon-Fri 10:30-19, Sat-Sun 10:30-17

Winter Tue, Wed, Thu 15-19, Fri 15-18, Sat-Sun 13-16

Hrafnagil Thermal Pool

Hrafnagilskóli, Akureyri / +354 464 8140

Open: Summer Mon-Fri 6:30-22, Sat-Sun 10-18

Winter Mon-Fri 6:30-22, Sat 6:30-20, Sat-Sun 11-18

Gímsey Pool

Gímsey / +354 461 3155

Open: Mon-Wed 20-21:30, Sat 14-16

Þelamörk Thermal Pool

Þelamörk, Laugalandi / +354 460 1780

Open: Summer Mon-Thu 11-22, Fri-Sun 11-20

Winter Mon-Thu 17-22:30, Fri 17-20, Sat 11-18, Sun 11-22:3

AKUREYRI THERMAL POOL

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Akureyrar**



www.visitakureyri.is

Opening hours:

Summer (04/06–24/08): Weekdays from 06.45–21.00.
Saturdays from 08.00–21.00. Sundays from 08.00–19.30.

Winter (25/08–03/06): Weekdays from 06.45–21.00.
Saturdays from 09.00–19.00. Sundays from 09.00–18.30.

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ARCTIC COAST WAY

The new coastal touring route of North Iceland

The Arctic Coast Way launches summer 2019 and is the first official touring route in Iceland. Go off the beaten track to discover some of the most remote places in Iceland; a unique adventure following 900km of coastal roads close to the Arctic Circle.

The route includes six peninsulas, taking you from black sandy beaches to spectacular cliffs, along glacial river deltas and fjords to high mountains. Five beautiful islands offer unforgettable experiences and small towns along the way tell unique stories about life on the edge of the arctic.

You could drive the whole route in one go – or slow down and discover the wonders of the Arctic Coast Way. The dramatic shifts of light from midnight sun to northern lights and the seasonal palette of colours from winter's pristine white to autumn's fiery tones offer you a different perspective each time, with new adventures awaiting you.

- More than 20 fishing villages from Hvammstangi to Bakkafjörður.
- The northernmost points of Iceland and the only place to cross the Arctic Circle
- Boat transfer to six islands.
- Excellent places for whale watching, seal watching and birding.
- Stunning coastal hikes and a wide variety of outdoor activities.
- Eight geothermal pools.
- Music and culture festivals.





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EVENT CALENDAR

June 2: Fishermen's Day - Fishing boats stay docked in the harbour so that sailors can spend the day with their families. The whole town gets together to celebrate the hard work and sacrifices of fishermen with live music, boat tours, rowing competitions, children's entertainment and plenty of other events.

June 14-17: Akureyri Motor Events - One of the largest motor sports events in Iceland. It's an annual celebration of all cars, motorbikes and general motor sport vehicles from around Iceland. On the programme are races, drag racing, displays and much more.

June 17: Icelandic National Day - The day the republic of Iceland was founded in 1944. The town is decorated with flags and a celebratory program, suitable for all ages, starts at 13.00 and runs until midnight.

June 18-22: Hiking week - Hiking week is an event celebrating and making the most of the great hiking trails in the area. On the programme are short (two up to three hours) walks suitable for most people. Hosted by the local hiking club and guided by local guides, the hiking week is a perfect opportunity to get to know Iceland's beautiful landscapes up close.

June 19-22: The Arctic Open - Around the time of the summer solstice, one of the northernmost 18-hole golf courses in the world hosts the annual Arctic

Open Golf Tournament. It's an international event which attracts golfers from various parts of the world, eager for a chance to play golf underneath Iceland's midnight sun.

June 21-24: Summer Solstice in Grímsey - The inhabitants of Grímsey, Iceland's northernmost inhabited island and the only part of the country that lies above the Arctic Circle, will celebrate the summer solstice on June 21 with a festival, offering visitors a chance to participate in the celebrations.

June 22-23: Midsummer Magic - Celebrate Midsummer's Night with 24 hours of fun under Akureyri's midnight sun. Music, performance art, and other fun events fill every hour from noon and all through the night! The whole town participates in the festival and the programme features events for the whole family!

June 23-August 23: Akureyri Art Summer - On the menu are pop and rock concerts, visual art, exhibitions, various happenings and outdoor art. Akureyri Art Summer is an ideal platform for artists, young and old, to promote themselves. There's something for everyone!

July 6: Thorvaldsdalur Terrain Run - Terrain running enthusiasts gather in Þorvaldsdalur in Eyjafjörður every year to run the 25km length of the Þorvaldsdalur valley. Runners can expect to run over streams, marshes and lava fields.

July 3-6: Two big Icelandic football tournaments N1 and Pollamót - The N1



tournament is the biggest annual football tournament in Iceland with up to 2,000 participants. The tournament has taken place annually for more than three decades and the whole town fills up with young athletes, their trainers and parents. The "Pollamót" is an annual sporting event held by Ícelandair and Þór football club. The contestants are adults who want to show they haven't lost their touch.

July 3-7: Folk Music Festival - Siglufjörður is home to the Folk Music Centre, and every year, they put on a festival celebrating the traditional music of Iceland. Many of Iceland's best musicians perform at the festival, be they folk, jazz, traditional or classical musicians. Guests can enjoy a variety of workshops and seminars, for children as well as grown-ups.

July 13-14: Hrísey Festival - Enjoy a family-friendly festival at Hrísey, known as the pearl of Eyjafjörður with rich birdlife and excellent hiking trails. Catch the ferry from Árskógströnd for a 15-minute trip over to the island.

July 18-21: Motorbike Days - An annual motorbike meeting taking place in Akureyri in late July. Motorbike club Tíán (The Ten) organises this event, offering a diverse programme to suit everyone with a passion for motorbikes.

July 19-21: Medieval Trading Weekend at Gásir - The old medieval trading site at Gásir is reconstructed over the course of four days. The villagers are dressed in medieval costumes and demonstrate medieval crafts; spinning wool, wood carving, tanning, blacksmithing and much more. Medieval sword fighting takes place daily and guests can join in medieval ball games and archery.

July 24-27: Greifinn's Bicycle Weekend - Various bicycle races and events, suitable for everyone.

August 1-4: Iceland Summer Games - During Merchants' Weekend, Akureyri hosts the 2019 Iceland Summer Games: where all sort of extreme sports, endurance tests and recreational games will take place, for all ages. Guests will have the opportunity to try mountain

hiking, triathlon, sea swimming, biking, sailing and more. The main purpose is to encourage whole families as well as individuals to take part in the games while enjoying the exercise and outdoor activities.

August 1-4: Family festival "Ein með öllu" - During Merchants' Weekend, the town of Akureyri hosts the "Ein með Öllu" family festival: where live music, pop-up amusement parks and theatrical performances fill up the streets of Akureyri together with the sporting events of the Iceland Summer Games.

August 8-11: The Great Fish day - All the fish you can eat! Everybody is invited to a seafood buffet. Fish producers and other members of society invite guests to a seafood buffet to enjoy a good day at the harbour in Dalvík. Don't miss a cruise in the fjord, art shows, street theatre and music of all kinds throughout the day in a beautiful environment with spectacular mountains as backdrop.

August 8-11: Arctic Handcraft and Design - The Arctic Handicraft and Design Iceland festival at Hrafnagil features over 100 designers and craftsmen and their handicrafts, art and design which often are based on old Icelandic traditions and materials. The market is not the only attraction as there are plenty of events such as fashion shows, vintage tractor exhibitions and medieval camps.

August 30-31: Akureyri Town festival - Rich of cultural events, the Birthday of Akureyri celebrations. Annual highlights are: opening ceremony in the Botanical Garden, spooky evening in the old town, concerts in the centre of town and events along Art Street. Every year has a special theme.

October 3-6: Ladies Days - Get pink and shimmery and enjoy Ladies Days with concerts, exhibitions and various events happening around town. Many stores offer various discounts and organise different events.

October 3-6: AI Performance Festival - A four-day performance festival with a variety of performances and theatre-based projects of all kinds.

December 1-23: Advent Festival - December in Akureyri is a Christmassy winter wonderland. Visit the quaint Christmas Garden, only a ten-minute drive from Akureyri, check out exhibitions, concerts, theatre and markets or explore the fantastic winter landscape around Akureyri. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, you can enjoy a traditional Icelandic Christmas dinner at some of the best restaurants in town, and taste local Icelandic delicacies.

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*December 31: **New Year's Eve** -*

In Akureyri, the New Year is celebrated in the traditional Icelandic way, which, of course, calls for an enormous bonfire, great music, dancing and a whole lot of fireworks. The bonfire at Réttarhvatn (way up on Hlíðarfjall ski resort, which is open during New Year) kicks off the celebration at 20:00, and an hour later a wonderful fireworks display follows. In town, there are concerts and dances way into the early hours of the morning, and leading up to the midnight hour, thousands of fireworks will light up the sky above Akureyri, creating a unique atmosphere and welcoming in a New Year.

—EARLY 2019—

*March: **Local Food Festival** -*

This biannual festival is one of the biggest food festivals in Iceland, and celebrates local food culture and ingredients.

*April: **Easter Adventure in Akureyri** -*

Easter in Akureyri is an unforgettable experience. Whether you fancy going to a concert, a trip down the ski slopes of Hlíðarfjall, a swim in one of the best pools in the country or treat yourself to a good meal or drink, Akureyri is the right place.

March/April: Iceland Winter Games - The Winter Games are an international freeskiiing

and slopestyle competition. Outdoor and winter sport activists will find a great variety of events to enjoy or partake in.

*April: **Ak Extreme Snowboarding Competition** -*

For three days, the best snowboarders/skiers in Iceland get together organising this event and hundreds of people turn out to watch the show. The main event is a competition and exhibition of jumps taking place in the centre of Akureyri. Contestants jump from a 16m high ski ramp built for the occasion.

April: Museum Day - The Eyjafjörður area has a rich cultural history and on Museum Day, all the museums in the area organise different events and open their doors to the public, free of charge. The museums in Akureyri are wonderful to visit, of course, but don't forget to explore the other museums in the region, such as the Herring Era Museum in Siglufjörður or the Sundry Collection in Eyjafjardarsveit.

*April: **Donald Duck Ski Competition** -*

Taking place on Mt. Hlíðarfjall by Akureyri at the end of April (since 1976), it is the biggest ski event in Iceland and is for kids at the age of 6-15. Each year about 800 kids from all over Iceland compete in cross-country skiing, alpine skiing and snowboarding. Social events and prize ceremonies are hosted downtown every night.



Grimsey

Siglufjörður

Dalvík

AKUREYRI

Húsavík

Sauðárkrúkur

Hofsós

Hveravellir

Gullfoss / Geysir

Laugafell

Gjögurtá

Flatey

Rauðaskriða

Ystafell

Ljósa-
vatn

Goðafoss

Aldeyjarfoss

Bárðarbun

Bárðarbu

Varmahljó

Varmilækur

Steinsstaðir

Bakkafjöt

Reykir

Flugumyri

Glaumbær

Drangey

Grettislaug

Malmey

Solgarðar

Lónkot

Miklavatn

Ketilás

Heðinsfjörður

Flateyjarfjörður

Kinnarfjall

Laufás

Svabárhóseyn

Dröfn

Ystafell

Ljósa-
vatn

Goðafoss

Aldeyjarfoss

Bárðarbun

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Laugafell

Grund

Saurbær

Hrafnagil

Munkapverá

Illugastaðir

Kalbakur

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