

FLJÓTIN.

Since 1959, **Northwest Iceland has extended** from Hrótafjörður Bay and Hrótafjörður river east to Hvanndalsbjarg between Héðinsfjörður and Ólafsfjörður. Its south border lies through Hofsjökull glacier, Kjölur and the watershed on the heaths. According to a new constituency plan for 2003, Siglufjörður belongs to the Northeast constituency.

Húnavatn is the district bordering on Húnaflói Bay, which opens out towards the Arctic Ocean. Its boundaries to the south are in the interior, over the Kjölur highland pass, Hofsjökull glacier and the watershed on the heaths separating it from Borgarfjörður.

Three fjords leading inland from Húnaflói Bay divide the district and create its distinctive peninsulas. Heggstaðanes projects between the fjords Hrótafjörður and Miðfjörður, and Vatnsnes between Miðfjörður and Húnaflói. The western part is characterized by low valleys bordered by ridges of hills, while the landscape rises towards the east of the district with deep valleys penetrating all the way to the Highlands. Several large lakes (lagoons) are close to the shore. Many rivers flow through the Húnavatn district, and salmon runs are common. The main rock type is basalt, with rhyolite in some places. Large dolerite lava fields occur in the north of the district, the product of eruptions during Ice Age interglacials. Geothermal activity occurs in various places.

Húnavatn is green countryside, with grass and marshland but with few shrubs and no trees. Above all it is an agricultural district, with many horses as well as sheep. There are few natural harbours.

Skagafjörður fjord and valley stretch from the Arctic Ocean to the Highlands, its borders defined by rivers originating in the glaciers of the Highland interior. It is one of the

NORTHWEST ICELAND

cradles of Icelandic history, playing a leading role in the events of the 13th century civil war and in cultural developments for centuries afterwards.

To its northeast, the district spreads into several valleys that cut into the Tröllaskagi massif, which separates it from Eyjafjörður. The low and wide valley named after the fjord likewise branches out into deeper valleys and chasms, and merges into the vast plateau of the Highlands. There are several islands in the fjord itself, the best known of which are Lundey, Málmei and Drangey.

Austari- and Vestari-Jökulsá, two rivers fed by Hofsjökull glacier, merged to form the meandering, gravelled Héradsvötn river which dominates the main valley floor. Several lakes are also found.

Basalt is the main rock type in Skagafjörður, although dolerite and palagonite are also found. Geothermal activity is very widespread.

The main activity on the coast is fishing, while traditional farming is practised in the fertile pastures and wetlands with their grass and sedge. There is a considerable amount of horse breeding.

Tourist Information in Northwest Iceland

Staðarskáli T. 451-1150
 Hvammstangi-The Icelandic Seal Center T. 451-2345
 A-Hún. Klausturstofa by Þingeyrakirkja church **Varmahlíð** T. 455-6161
 Sauðárkrúkur-Minjahúsið T. 453-6870
 Hólar í Hjaltadal T. 455-6333

- WEST-HÚNAÞING -

Húnaþing vestra or **Vestur-Húnavatnssýsla**, as the region was known prior to the merger of municipalities in the area, is 2,580 square kilometres in size. It is bordered by Hrítafjörður and Hrítafjarðará on Holtavörðuheidi heath to the west, whereas in the south the border is near the watershed on Arnarvatnsheiði heath. The Gljúfurá river divides it from Austur-Húnavatnssýsla district in the east. Population 1,122.

☞ **The Local Museum** for Húnavatn and Strönd. The museum is located at Reykjaskóli school in Hrítafjörður. School dormitories are operated in winter. The museum has various notable artefacts on display from the Strönd and Húnavatnssýsla district. There is a special exhibition about shark fishing in Húnaflói Bay, an area of great productivity in the 19th and part of the 20th centuries. A shark fishing vessel, Ófeigur from Ófeigsfjörður, is on display. Ófeigur is a 10-oar vessel that was constructed solely from driftwood. An old sitting room is also on display along with many interesting artefacts related to farm-ing life in times long past.

☞ **Bjarg in Miðfjörður** is located a short distance east of Miðfjarðará river, the place where Grettir Ásmundarson grew up. A memorial to Grettir's mother, Ásdís, stands there decorated with relief pictures depicting events from the Saga of Grettir. There is an annual celebration of Grettir taking place at Bjarg on the second weekend of August.

☞ **Illugastaðir at Vatnsnes** is an excellent location for spotting seals, as a lovely walking path leads from the parking lot down to the seashore. A small country cafe and campground are operated there during the summer. The path is closed from April 30 until June 26, during the eider nesting season. Illugastaðir are also known for being the home of homeopath Natan Ketilsson (1795-1828) and the site of the "Illugastaðir murders" that led to the last executions in Iceland in 1830, when Agnes Magnúsdóttir and Friðrik Sigurðsson were executed for the murder of Natan and Pétur

Jónsson. The site contains, among other things, the ruins of Natan's workshop.

☞ **Hvítserkur** is a mass of igneous rock intruded into a fissure in older rock, about 15 metres high, situated on the seashore at the base of the western part of Hrítafjörður fjord. Kittiwakes and fulmars live on Hvítserkur. An old story has it that Hvítserkur is a petrified troll that intended to stone Þingeyrarklaustur cloister, but dawn arrived before he could succeed. At Sigríðastaðaós, just south of Hvítserkur, there is a pleasant site for watching seals.

☞ **Borgarvirki**. Off of route 717 to the east, one can take a short walk up the Borgarvirki butte that rises 177 m from the ridges between Vestuhópur and Víðidalur. Borgin is columnar basalt about 10-15 metres high. The top is a circular depression that opens to the east, where a stone wall has been constructed with an entrance opening. There are ruins in the depression but no definite proof indicating the purpose of this structure. Some folklore surrounds it. Viewing dial.

☞ **Kolugljúfur** is the name of the gorge in Víðidalur river in front of Víðidalstunga. It is over one km long and about 40-60 m deep. The river drops into the gorge in two scenic waterfalls named Kolufossar falls.

☞ **Hveraborg** is a thermal area at Tvídægri. Part of the hot spring emerges in Síká river, where it is possible to bathe in two natural hot pots. There is a lodge, and marked trails lead from the deserted farm, Fosssel.

☞ **Vatnsnes**. Marked walking trails lead from west to east over Mt. Vatnsfjall, between Káraborg above Hvammstangi, where there is a good view, and Grundar. A marked seal-watching spot is at Svalbarði. The coastal landscapes are very diverse, and in bright weather the view to Strand is beautiful. A marked trail leads to Hvítserkur, a short distance from Ósar, where the chances of seeing seals are very good. Arctic tern nesting area.



HVÍTSEKUR.

☞ **Gauksmýri**. Only a short distance to the bird-watching lodge at the pond. A special path for disabled people which leads to a bird watching house.

FACILITIES IN WEST-HÚNAÞING

Local Tourist Information: Staðarskáli, Hrítafjörður, ☎ 451-1150/fax 451-1107, Info year round.

Accommodation:

502. ***Guesthouse Staðarskáli, ☎ 451-1150.

503. Youth Hostel Sæberg, ☎ 451-0015.

509. Guesthouse Brekkulækur, ☎ 451-2938,

brekka@nett.is www.abbi-island.is

512. **Hótel Edda, Laugarbakki, ☎ 444-4920, summer hotel.

513. Langafit, Laugarbakki, ☎ 451-2987/892-8487.

513. Laugarbakki 2x1 gisting,

☎ 696-3667/451-2266,

2x1guesthouse@gmail.com www.vertinn.is

514. Gauksmýri Lodge, ☎ 451-2927, fax 451-3427,

gauksmyri@gauksmyri.is www.gauksmyri.is

525. Youth Hostel Ósar, ☎ 862-2778, summer only.

526. Borgarvirki, ☎ 451-2290/696-9696.

527. Neðra-Vatnshorn, ☎ 451-2928/866-5994.

528. Víðigerði, ☎ 451-2592, vidigerdi@vidigerdi.is

529. Dæli, ☎ 451-2566, daeli@daeli.is www.daeli.is

Camping Sites: 503. Sæberg, ☎ 451-0015.

513. Laugarbakki, ☎ 451-2987.

520. Hamarsbúð, ☎ 451-2696.

521. Illugastaðir, ☎ 451-2664/894-9695.

529. Dæli, ☎ 451-2566.

Restaurants: Staðarskáli, ☎ 451-1150.

Folk Museum at Reykir, ☎ 451-0040, coffee, light refreshments.

Hótel Edda, Laugarbakki, ☎ 444-4920.

Gauksmýri Lodge, ☎ 451-2927.

Víðigerði, ☎ 451-2592.

Café Sveitó, Dæli, ☎ 451-2566.

Geitafell Seafood Restaurant, Vatnsnes, ☎ 861-2503/893-3380.

Swimming Pools:

501. Geothermal spa Hveraborg at Síká river, Hrítafjörður.

503. Hot tubs at Sæberg, Hrítafjörður, ☎ 451-0015.

513. Hot tubs at Laugarbakki, ☎ 451-2987.

525. Hot tub at Gauksmýri, ☎ 451-2927.

529. Hot tub at Dæli, ☎ 451-2566.

Leisure and Sport:

Gauksmýri Lodge, ☎ 451-2927, horse riding, riding lessons, horse show and longer tours,

gauksmyri@gauksmyri.is www.gauksmyri.is

Brekkulækur Travel Service, ☎ 451-2938, Horse riding

and hiking trips, www.abbi-island.is

Angling in lakes at Arnarvatns and Tvídægri heaths,

☎ 782-7578.

For Motorists: Filling station, pay-at-the pump facility, Laugarbakki and Víðigerði.

Bank: ATM in Staðarskáli.

Handicrafts: Folk Museum at Reykir School, ☎ 451-0040,

handverk innblásið frá munum safnsins.

Leirhús Grétu, Litli Ós, ☎ 451-2482/897-2432.

Handverkhúsið Langafit, Laugarbakki, ☎ 451-2987/892-8487.

Spes – Country Market, Grettisból, Laugarbakki,

spes.sveitamarkadur@gmail.com

Museum:

Folk Museum at Reykir, Hrítafjörður,

☎ 451-0040/863-4287. Open daily June 1-Aug. 31 from

10-18 or by arrangement, byggdasafn@emax.is

www.simnet.is/reykirmuseum

Places of Interest:

Illugastaðir at Vatnsnes, ☎ 451-2345/894-0695,

walking path to seal-watching area, a diverse bird habitat.

Camping site and toilets. Guided tours on request, must

be booked in advance, info@selasetur.is www.selasetur.is

Gauksmýrartrjörn, thriving with bird life, 30-40 species,

walking trail for disabled people, bird-watching house.

Events:

Calendar of events, further information:

☎ 455-2515, hunathing@northwest.is

June: Buffet on the beach in Vatnsnes, Hamarsbúð.

July: The Great Seal Count at Vatnsnes.

July: Icelandic Museum Day celebrated at the Folk Museum

at Reykir.

August: Grettir Festival at Laugarbakki and Bjarg, Miðfjörður.

Strongman competition, history walk at Bjargi, etc.

Sept. and Oct: Sheep and horse round-up. Unique

atmosphere when the sheep are brought home in

neighbourly celebration.

Oct.: Gala celebration of meat at Vatnsnes, Hamarsbúð.

Further info, ☎ 451-2345, info@selasetur.is

www.northwest.is.



Chalcedony

Chalcedony is widely found in the country, for instance in Skagafjörður. It is a variety of quartz, a fibrous mass of tiny crystals, which are formed in holes and fractures in the bedrock. It is translucent with a vitreous or waxy luster, most often white or light grey. Chalcedony usually forms thin layers or small lumps, often with rock crystals on the surface. Rock crystal is a clear, macroscopic crystal made of quartz. Because quartz is both chemically stable and very hard it does not erode as easily as other matter.

Húnaþing vestra Seals and sagas



Iceland's hidden treasure



Illugastaðir

Camping, Café, sealwatching, history
Open from June 26 - August 31.

Tel. 894-0695
gummijo@simnet.is

Sealwatching is not possible
from April 30th to June 20th
due to eider nesting.



Ferðapjónustan Dæli

Accommodation, meals
and recreation.

Víðidalur, 531 Hvammstangi

Tel. 451-2566
daeli@daeli.is
www.daeli.is



Spes heritage based market

Grettiðból Laugarbakki
Viking crafts, viking games,
local food

June - August
Tel. 894-6776

spes.sveitamarkadur@gmail.com



KIDKA Wool Factory Shop

in Hvammstangi

Höfðabraut 34, +354 451 0060

kidka@simnet.is

Mo - Fr 8 - 18

and also on request



Leirhús Grétu

ceramic workshop

Litli Ós, on the road to Hvammstangi

Tel. 451-2482 / 897-2432

Mon-Fr 13 - 18 (15.6. - 20.8.)

Sat. 13 - 16

21.8. - 14.6. Fr 13 - 18 or on request



The Icelandic Seal Center

Exhibition and Tourist information

Brekkugata 2, Hvammstangi

Tel. 451-2345 / 898 5233

www.selasetur.is

selasetur@selasetur.is

Open daily 9 - 18



Gauksmýri Lodge

Horses, birds, hotel, restaurant.

Tel. 451-2927 / 869-7992

Fax 451-3427

gauksmyri@gauksmyri.is

www.gauksmyri.is



Sealwatching

Scheduled boat tours:

from May 15th to the end of
August. Sealwatching daily at
10:00 and 13:00- Sea angling at
16:00. Midnight Cruises at 23:00



Vertinn

Norðurbraut 1, 530 Hvammstangi
Hotel, restaurant, bistrobar, internetcafe
Tel: 451 2266 / 696 3667 Home: 451 2211
vertinn@hotmail.com
2x1guesthouse@gmail.com
vertinn.is - Excellent choice in Hvammstangi



Bardúsa

Trade museum and crafts gallery

Brekkugata 4, Hvammstangi

Tel. 451-2747

summer 19. 5. - 12. Sept.

Mon - Fr 10 - 18, Sat/Sun 11 - 17



The Folkmuseum at Reykir

Exhibitor on shark fishing, an old
farmhouse living room (& bedroom),
objects from old agricultural society
Open daily: June 1st - August 31st

Tel. 451-0040

www.simnet.is/ofeigur



Kaupfélag

Vestur-Húnavetninga

Only 6 km from road 1.

Supermarket, clothing, gift items, etc.

Hardware store, liquor store.

Strandgata 1, 530 Hvammstangi

Tel. 455-2300 www.khv.is



Hlaðan kaffihús

Café by the harbour

Brekkugötu 2, Hvammstangi.

Sími: 451 1150/863 7339.



hladan@simnet.is



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531 Hvammstangi

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brekka@nett.is • www.abbi-island.is



HVAMMSTANGI.

Photo.: Pétur Jónsson.

- HVAMMSTANGI -

Hvammstangi, the largest town in Húnaþing-vestra, is situated on the eastern shore of Miðfjörður fjord that stretches in from Húnaflói Bay. Fisheries and a variety of services for the surrounding area, and tourism, are the towns main economic activities. There is a museum of trade in the town, and an exhibition and research department of the Icelandic Seal Centre. In the mountain above Hvammstangi there is a unique set of cliffs known as Káraborg. The top of Mt. Þræsifell (895 m) offers a view into seven different counties. Population 582.

FACILITIES IN HVAMMSTANGI

Police: Höfðabraut 6, ☎ 451-2364.

Information: year round at *The Icelandic Seal Centre*, ☎ 451-2345/898-5233/fax 451-2356, selasetur@selasetur.is www.selasetur.is www.northwest.is

Accommodation:

Gh. Hanna Sigga, Garðavegur 26, ☎ 451-2407.

www.vidigerdi.is





VÍDIGERÐI
Vidigerði - 531 Hvammstangi
☎ 451 2592 - Fax 451 2593 - vidigerdi@vidigerdi.is

Vertinn, Norðurbraut 1, ☎ 451-2266,
2x1guesthouse@gmail.com www.vertinn.is
Camping Site: At Kirkjuhvamur, ☎ 899-0008.

Restaurant/ Snack Bar:

Kiosk, Hvammstangabraut, ☎ 451-2465.
Vertinn, Norðurbraut 1, ☎ 451-2266..

Leisure and Sport:

Swimming pool and sports centre, Hlíðarv. 6, ☎ 451-2532.

Health Care Centre: Nestún 1, ☎ 455-2100.

Ambulance, ☎ 451-2311 or 112.

Pharmacy: At the Health Care Centre, ☎ 455-2144.

For Motorists: Filling station, garage.

Bank: Sparisjóður, Brekkugata, ☎ 455-7700, ATM.

State Alcohol Store:

Kaupfélag V-Hún. Höfðabraut 6, ☎ 455-2300.

Local Handicrafts: Verslunarmínjasafnið *Bardúsa*, trade museum, Brekkugata 4, ☎ 451-2405.

Wool Factory Shop *Kidka*, Höfðabraut,

☎ 451-0060. kidka@simnet.is

Einar Esrason, Eyrarland 1, goldsmith's, ☎ 451-2811.

The Icelandic Seal Centre, Brekkugata 2, ☎ 451-2345.

Museum/Exhibition: Verslunarmínjasafnið, trade museum, Brekkugata 4, ☎ 451-2405.

Kirkjuhvammskirkja church by the camping site.

The Icelandic Seal Centre, Brekkugata 2, ☎ 451-2345,

An exhibition dedicated to seals around the coast of Iceland, as well as the nature and culture of Vatnsnes, selasetur@selasetur.is www.selasetur.is

Sightseeing/Excursions: Selasigling ehf, ☎ 897-9900, sea angling, seal watching, www.sealwatching.is

Events:

Information on exact dates: ☎ 451-2345, info@selasetur.is

July: Mountain jogging across Vatnsnes mountain.

July: Youth art festival "Fire in Húnaþing"

The Great Seal Count at Vatnsnes.

Calendar of events, further information: www.northwest.is

- EAST-HÚNAVATNSSÝSLA COUNTY -

☞ **Vatnsdalsbólur.** Large and peculiar cluster of hills stretching right across the mouth of Vatnsdalur valley. They are thought to have been formed by a catastrophic landslide from Mt. Viðdalsfjall. The three hillocks called Þristapar on the northern side of the main road were the site of Iceland's last public execution, on January 12, 1830. The block and axe used are preserved at the National Museum in Reykjavík, and the spot is marked with a memorial. Marked hiking trails.


☞ **Pingeýrar.** Church site, for a long time considered one of the best estates in Iceland. The present church, built in 1864-1877, was made from stone transported during winter from Nesbjörg on the other side of Hóp lagoon. Iceland's first monastery was founded at Þingeýrar and remained a major cultural and educational centre until the Reformation in 1550. Many Sagas are thought to have been written there. Facilities and exhibitions are in the new service building near the church. Guided tours of Þingeýrarkirkja church are available.

☞ **Stóra-Giljá.** Farm by the bank of a river of the same name. It was here that the first Christian missionary in Iceland was brought up: Þorvaldur the Widely-Traveller. Just by the Ring Road north of the meadow is a rock called Gullsteinn (Gold-Stone). Þorvaldur's father, Koðrán, refused to be baptised, not wanting to enrage a guardian spirit that he thought lived in the rock. Þorvaldur's fellow missionary is said to have sung hymns until the rock shattered, whereupon his father agreed to be baptised. They began their mission in 981 and Christianity was officially adopted in the year 1000. A memorial was set up beside Gullsteinn in 1981.


☞ **Hof in Vatnsdalur.** Hof is a town in the eastern part of Vatnsdalur valley. Ingimundur Þorsteinsson the Old claimed this land, which leads from Helgavatn lake to Urðarvatn, in the year 900. Ingimundur joined Haraldr Fairhair in Hafursfjörður fjord, and gained his friendship. It then occurred that, in the middle of a winter sacrifice festival, a seer made a prophecy to Ingimundur that he would live in a land called Iceland, become a man of honour and have a great clan in that country. Ingimundur was a chieftain of the Vatnsdala family while he lived. In the pasture outside Hof is a small hillock, Goðhóll, which is said to be the location of Ingimundur's place of pagan worship. A beautiful tree grove has been growing there since 1927 and includes the Icelandic poplar tree.

☞ **Hveravellir.** Geothermal area north of Kjalhraun, one of Iceland's largest geothermal areas with numerous

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www.hof-is.com



HOF Í VATNSDAL
Hof - 541 Blönduós
☎ 452 4077, 844 8649 - hof@simnet.is

hot springs. Hveravellir are located in a hollow between the lava field and Breiðamelur at 650 m. The hot spring Öskurhólshver is situated there. It once made such a loud noise that it could be heard for over a quarter of a mile, according to the travel log of Eggert and Bjarni (around 1760). These springs behave in different ways. Öskurhólshver spouts steam, Bræðrahverir and Eyvindarhver spout little jets of water, and Bláhver and Grænihver are filled with still water. There are numerous deposits from the hot springs and water flows over the edge of them. Eyvindarhver is named after famous outlaw Fjalla Eyvindur who lived here for a while with his wife Halla. There are existing tales of other outlaws seeking shelter there. A ruin known as Eyvindarkofi (Eyvindur's hut) is in a lava crevasse near Eyvindarhver. Around 1 km south of the Ferðafélag mountain hut are stacked rocks known as Eyvindarrétt. The Icelandic Meteorological Office raised a meteorological station on the gravel bed north of Hveravellir in the summer of 1965. People have lived there until 2004, making daily meteorological notifications when automatic equipment was installed.

☞ **Spákonufell.** At 646 metres high, it is one of the most noteworthy and magnificent mountains in these parts. It is named after a seeress called Þórdís who lived on a farm at the base of the mountain in the 10th century. She's the first person to have lived in Skagaströnd. From the top of the mountain you can see far in all directions. A walking path up to the mountain is marked out from the Brandaskarð farm.

☞ **Kálfshamarsvík.** Small bay on the northwest shore of Skagafjörður, and just outside are beautiful columnar basalt formations. Kálfshamarsvík was a fishing centre at the turn of the century, but was hit by the great depression and abandoned by 1940.

☞ **Geitaskarð Langidalur-Laxárdalur.** An ancient trail taking 3 hours to walk lies from Geitaskarð in Langadalur into Laxárdalur, which was also part of the route to Skagafjörður. The trail has been marked properly and a horse track can still clearly be seen. The most difficult part is up the Skarðsbrekkur slopes where the trail starts. There is a watershed at the westernmost point of the pass, with two lakes and sizeable sedge marshes. East of these are some ruins of an old sheep cote (Sel), where Brunnárdalur cirque opens to the south/southeast. The terrain is rather difficult and should be avoided; instead, the best route is to head east and follow the horse track to Laxá river in Laxárdalur. The same route is taken on the way back, although the hike can be extended by going south along the western bank of Laxá to Strjúgsskarð pass, which was also once a much-travelled place for crossing into Laxárdalur.

545 www.hotelhunavellir.is





HÓTEL HÚNAVELLIR
Húnsstaðir 2 - 541 Blönduós
☎ 453 5600, 898 4685 - Fax 452 4665 - info@hotelhunavellir.is



PÍNGEYRAKIRKJA.

Photo.: Pétur Jónsson.

FACILITIES IN EAST-HÚNAVATN COUNTY

Local Tourist Information:

in service building by the Píngeyrakirkja church.

Accommodation: 536. *Stóra-Giljá*, ☎ 452-4294.

537. *Hvammur II* in Vatnsdalur, ☎ 452-7174,

haukur74@mmedia.is

539. *Hof* in Vatnsdalur, ☎ 452-4077/844-8649,

hof@simnet.is www.hof-is.com, hof@simnet.is

545. *Hótel Húnavellir*, ☎ 453-5600/898-4685,

info@hotelhunavellir.is www.hotelhunavellir.is

550. *Geitaskarð*, ☎ 452-4341.

552. *Dalsmynni Community Center*, ☎ 452-7155.

553. *Community Centre Húnaver*, Svartárdalur, ☎ 452-7110.

555. *Áfangi* by Kjalvegur, ☎ 452-4660.

Camping Site: 553. *Húnaver*, ☎ 452-7110.

545. *Húnavellir*, ☎ 453-5600.

Restaurant: *Hótel Húnavellir*, ☎ 453-5600/898-4685,

info@hotelhunavellir.is www.hotelhunavellir.is

Swimming Pool: 545. *Húnavellir*, ☎ 453-5600.

Leisure and Sport:

There are numerous possibilities for horse riding and

trout and salmon angling in the area. For information

contact the Tourist Info Centre at Blönduós, ☎ 452-4520.

Places of Interest: *Píngeyrakirkja*, built in 1864-1877.

Blanda Power Plant, ☎ 455-6700, guided tours by app.

Events: June 24-26, Family Festival of Accordion

Music Lovers at Húnaver.

In Sept. visitors are invited to participate in the

sheep and horse round-up in Austur-Húnavatnssýsla.

Further info: www.northwest.is www.nordurland.is

- BLÖNDUÓS -

Blönduós stands on both sides of the Blanda river. Its main economic activity is various services for the local area, in addition to fishing and light industry. Services for travellers have been growing in recent years. Upstream from the bridge is Hrótey island, a park that was protected in 1975. Traditional knit and wool-making products are displayed at The Handicraft Museum; a section is named after Halldóra Bjarnadóttir (1873-1981), Iceland's oldest-ever woman. The museum displays a collection of home-made woollens and textile objects, beautiful national costumes, and the ancient instruments used to make them. A sea ice centre

Samkaup úrval ☎ 455-9022
Open Mon.-Fri. 9-19
Húnabraut 4 Sat. 10-18 Sun. 13-17

www.gladheimar.is

www.gladheimar.is

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☎ 820 1300, 690 3130, 693 3130 - gladheimar@simnet.is

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www.gladheimar.is

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Blönduós

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landsvirkjun@lv.is or Tel.: 455 6700.

Further info. www.landsvirkjun.is



Textile Museum

Open from 1 June to

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Info: Tel. 452 4067 - textile@textile.is - www.textile.is



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Sea Ice Exhibition Centre in Blönduós

Exhibition in Hillebrandtshús, the oldest timber house in Iceland.

Tel. 452 4848 | ferdamal@simnet.is

Open daily: June 1 - August 31 from 11 to 17

Tourist Information Centre and Blönduós Camp Site

First-class camp site. Tel. 820 1300.

infoblonduos@northwest.is | www.northwest.is



SKAGASTRÖND.

Photo.: Sigurður Sigurðsson.

is located in Hillebrandtshús in the oldest part of town, providing information about sea ice from various different perspectives. Population 842.

FACILITIES IN BLÖNDUÓS

Police: Hnjúkabyggð 33, ☎ 455-2666.

Tourist Information Centre: By the camp site, ☎ 452-4520/820-1300, ferdamal@simnet.is www.northwest.is

Accommodation:

Hótel Blönduós, Aðalgata 6, ☎ 452-4205/898-1832, *Guesthouse*, Blöndubýggð 10, ☎ 892-3455.

Guesthouse Blönduból, Blöndubýggð 9, ☎ 892-3455, www.osinn.is

Gladheimar Chalets, Brautarhvamur,

☎ 820-1300/690-3130, gladheimar@simnet.is

Borsteinshús / apartment, Aðalgata 11, ☎ 864-6140.

Camping Site: By Ring Road no. 1, ☎ 820-1300.

Restaurants/Snack Bars:

Hótel Blönduós, Aðalgata 6, ☎ 452-4205.

Skálinn, shop and restaurant, ☎ 467-1010.

Við Árbakkann, coffee house, Húnabraut 2, ☎ 452-4678,

info@vidarbakkann.is www.vidarbakkann.is

Potturrinn og Pannan, restaurant, ☎ 453-5060,

info@pot.is www.pot.is

Ljón norðursins, Café, Pub, Blöndubýggð 9, ☎ 892-3455.

Leisure and Sport: Swimming pool, Húnabraut,

☎ 452-4451. Golf at *Vatnahverfi*, 9 holes, ☎ 452-4980.

Gladheimar, ☎ 820-1300, goose and ptarmigan hunting, angling.

Hospital/Pharmacy: Health Care Centre, ☎ 455-4100.

Pharmacy, ☎ 452-4385.

For Motorists: Filling station, garage, tyre repair.

Banks: *Arion Bank*, Húnabraut 5, ☎ 455-2800, ATM.

Post Office: Hnjúkabyggð 32, ☎ 580-1200.

State Alcohol Store: Aðalgata 8, ☎ 452-4501.

Museums/Exhibition: *Heimilisiðnaðarsafnið*, Textile

Museum, ☎ 452-4067, open June 1 - Aug. 31 daily from

10-17, or by arr., textile@simnet.is www.simnet.is/textile

Sea Ice Exhibition Centre - Hillebrandt House, the oldest

wooden house in Iceland, ☎ 452-4848, open June 1 -

Aug. 31 daily from 11-17.

Eyvindarstofa at Restaurant *Potturrinn og pannan*, an

exhibition dedicated to *Fjalla-Eyvindur* (Eyvindur

of the Mountains), the most famous Icelandic outlaw.

Places of Interest and Hikes:

Jonas Travel Group, Blöndubýggð 9, ☎ 892-3455,

excursions, sealwatching, hunting, osinn@internat.is

Angling, hiking paths and horse rentals, contact

the Tourist Information Centre, ☎ 452-4520.

Events: Summer: Handicrafts Exhibition at the *Handicrafts Museum*, golf tournament, Small-town tournament in soccer. Iceland Championship in Off-Road Driving. July: *Húnavaka Festival*. Dance, movies, meetings, markets and conferences at the community centre in Blönduós, ☎ 898-4685. Further information at www.northwest.is

- SKAGASTRÖND -

Skagaströnd is an ancient trading port on the east of Húnaflói bay. English and German merchants traded there in the Middle Ages although few sources verify that until in the 16th century. In 1602 Skagaströnd became one of twenty authorized posts of the Danish monopole merchants. Danish traders named the place Skagestrand, adopting the name of the coastline itself.

Skagaströnd grew considerably in the beginning of the 20th century as it conveniently located near rich fishing banks. When herring migrated to Húnaflói in great quantity in 1940 a big rendering plant was built there which never operated at full capacity as the herring largely disappeared when it was finally completed. Skagaströnd has always owed its existence to fisheries and now it has diverse fisheries and a strong fish market.

Considerable changes have occurred in the economy and village life in the past few years. A new marine biotechnology hotel and the Icelandic Directorate of Labour operate in the village. Skagaströnd boasts the country and western center *Kántrýbær* where there is an exhibition about the country and western 'king' *Hallbjörn Hjartarson*, the history of country and western music and the only country and western radio station in Iceland. *Spákonuhof* museum traces the story of *Þórdís* the prophetess with fortunetelling on offer. More than one hundred artists visit the Arts Center in Nes each year, dwelling for a month at a time and working in a studio established in an old, revamped fish factory. Population 530.

FACILITIES IN SKAGASTRÖND

Police: in Blönduós, ☎ 455-2666, Emergency 112

Accommodation: *Fellsborg* Community Centre,

☎ 452-2720, for groups, sleeping bag acc.

Heimagisting, Hólabraut 25, ☎ 452-2625.

Skálinn near Mt. *Spákonufell*, ☎ 864-4908.

Fellsborg Community Centre, ☎ 452-2720.



The Camping Site and Spákonufell



Musicians at Country Days



Golfing at Háagerðisvöllur



Takeoff

Welcome to Skagaströnd

Skagaströnd is a unique town with a thrifty industry and flourishing and lively culture. The town is surrounded by beautiful and lavish nature.

Behind the town is the mountain **Spákonufell**, (Fortune Teller's Mountain) a noble mountain with character. **Spákonufellshöfði** is a popular area for outdoors activities, there are marked hiking paths and signs about birds and the local flora. Beautiful brochures are available about both destinations where you will find descriptions on hiking routes and all kinds of knowledge about the area.

The Skagaströnd **Golf Course** is about four kilometers out of town. It is exciting and demanding 9 hole course. Further information at www.golf.is/gsk.

Café Bjarmanes is the pride of town, there you can enjoy coffee and light refreshments. Lodging is available at **Snorrabergr**, a cozy summer cottage.

The camping site is both convenient and sheltered. Plenty of space for caravans of all sorts. A wide selection of groceries is available at **Samkaup Úrval**, with good and cheerful service for locals and visitors alike.

Árnes is the oldest house in town and serves as an example about housing and living habits of the early 20th century.

Spákonuhof will open in spring 2011. It will accommodate an exhibition about *Þórdís* the fortune teller, who lived in the latter half of the 10th century and information about fortunetelling and methods used to tell fortunes. Visitors can have their fortunes told and palms read.

Kántrýsetur Íslands is accommodated in the renowned restaurant **Kántrýbær**. It is devoted to the history and music of *Hallbjörn J. Hjartarson*, the one and only 'country king' of Iceland. His radio station devoted to country music is on FM 96,7 and 102,1.



THE MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGASTRÖND

www.skagastrond.is

Snorraberg cottage, ☎ 517-6200/660-0288.

Hafnir, chalet, ☎ 452-4163.

Camping Site: By Hólabraut, ☎ 455-2700.

Restaurant/Snack Bars:

Kántrýbær, Hólanesvegur, ☎ 452-2829.

Söluskáli, Oddagata, ☎ 452-2851.

Café Bjarmanes, ☎ 692-9283.

Leisure and Sport: Swimming pool, Einbúastíg, ☎ 452-2806.

Golf at Háagerði, 9 holes, ☎ 892-5089.

Marked hiking trails to Spákonufellshöfði and Spákonufell, hiking maps available in English.

Health Care Centre: Bogabraut 7, ☎ 455-4100.

Pharmacy: At the Health Care Centre, ☎ 452-2717.

For Motorists: Filling station, garage, tyre repair.

Banks: Landsbankinn, Höfði, ☎ 410-4160.

Post Office: Höfði, ☎ 580-1200.

Museums/Exhibition: Kántrýsetur, Kántrýbær, ☎ 452-2829. The story of the Cowboy of the North, www.kantrý.is
Spákonuhof, ☎ 861-5089; Exhibition of "Þórdís the prophetess". Information about fortunetelling and methods. Árnes, ☎ 455-2700, oldest house in town, a home from the first part of the 20th century.

Events: June 4, Seamen's Weekend Festival.

August: 12-14, Country Festival.

Further information, www.skagastrand.is www.northwest.is

- SKAGAFJÖRÐUR -

Skagafjörður municipality was formed with the merging of 11 rural districts in 1998. Skagafjörður is one of the most historically famous districts in Iceland, particularly for Sturlungaöldin (The Sturlung Era). Population 4,110.

☞ **Arnarstapi.** Hill beside the Ring Road on the edge of Vatnsskarð, offering a good view over most of Skagafjörður. A memorial has been set up there to poet Stephan G. Stephansson (1853-1927), who was born at nearby Kirkjuhól but emigrated to Canada with his parents at an early age and continued to write much-adored poetry in Icelandic. The memorial, made of piled rock, was designed by artist Ríkarður Jónsson (1888-1977) and adorned with three relief works by him.

☞ **Víðimýri.** Church site just east of Vatnsskarð, home of one of the main families involved in the civil war of the 13th century. The turf church dates from 1834 and has been extensively restored to its original form. It is widely considered one of the purest and most beautiful examples of traditional Icelandic architecture.

☞ **Glaumbær** is a church site and vicarage. Snorri Þorfinnsson, son of Þorfinnur Karlsefni and Guðríður Þorbjarnardóttir, who was the first European child born in North America, is said to have lived there in the 11th century. On the site is a turf farm that is part of the National Museum of Iceland's building collection and which houses the first-ever exhibition set up by the Skagafjörður Folk Museum. There are 13 farmhouses in total, dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries.

☞ **Reykir on Reykjaströnd.** Farmland north of Sauðárkrúkur by a low headland. Grettir the Strong came ashore here after swimming 4 miles from Drangey island to fetch fire. He is said to have warmed himself in the hot pool (Grettislaug) on the beach head, which has been re-walled.

☞ **Hegranesþing.** Ancient local assembly site just off the Ring Road by Garður farm, where ruins of booths can be clearly seen. Features in several Sagas.

☞ **Drangey.** Sheer rock pillar almost 200 m high, rising from the middle of Skagafjörður fjord. In olden times it was called "the pantry of the people of Skagafjörður," because the locals caught birds and gathered eggs. It is known that some 200,000 birds were caught there one spring. Grettir the Strong and his brother Illugi spent three years in self-imposed exile on Drangey, which can only be ascended at one spot, until they were killed by their enemies. The outline of their refuge can still be seen.

☞ **Flugumýri.** Church site in Blönduhlið, at the foot of Mt. Glóðafeykir. It was the home of one of the main families involved in the 13th century civil war, when 25 people were burned to death at a wedding celebration in an act of vengeance.

☞ **Örlygsstaðir.** Ruins just above the Ring Road by Víðivellir in Blönduhlið, site of the largest battle in Icelandic history on August 21, 1238. Almost 3,000 people from three clans clashed there, and 56 died. The battle marked the decline of the Sturlung family (whose most famous member was Saga writer Snorri Sturluson) in the power struggle which brought anarchy to Iceland and eventually cost the nation its independence, when Norwegian rule was accepted in 1261.

☞ **Miklibær.** Church site known from both historical records and folklore. The present church is modern, consecrated in 1973. Poet Bólu-Hjálmar (1796-1875) is buried in the cemetery.

☞ **Bóla.** Farm in Blönduhlið, best known for its association with poet Hjálmar Jónsson (Bólu-Hjálmar) who lived there from 1833-1843 in appalling poverty, which is the subject of much of his verse. A memorial to him has been erected there. Above the farm is Bólugil gully, which features in folk tales.

☞ **Ábær.** Stone church way inland in Austurdalur, Skagafjörður, consecrated in 1922. The area has become uninhabited and the church has no parishioners, but a service is still held there once a year for people with local roots.

FACILITIES IN SKAGAFJÖRÐUR

Accommodation:

558. Gil, ☎ 453-6780.

558. Brennigerði, ☎ 453-5521.

559. Stóra-Vatnsskarð, ☎ 453-8152.

560. Steinsstaðir Travel Service, ☎ 453-8812/899-8762,

561. Bakkaflöt, ☎ 453-8245.

562. Lýtingsstaðir, ☎ 453-8064, farm cottages,



Skagafjörður

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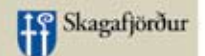
Skagafjörður invites you to delight in the adventure of a lifetime. Sailing down a glacier river, horseback riding trip, trekking a mountain, luxuriating in awesome nature or enjoying other leisure activities that the district offers.

History, singing, cheer and good food are always close at hand in Skagafjörður.

Visit us or contact the **Tourist Information Centre** at Varmahlíð, it's open year-round.

☎ +354 455 6161 info@skagafjordur.is

Welcome to Skagafjörður!



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lythorse@simnet.is www.lythorse.com
563. Sölvanes, ☎ 453-8068.
564. Himnasvalir – Egilsá, ☎ 453-8219/770-8219/892-1852.
565. Syðsta Grund, Akrahreppur, ☎ 453-8262.
566. Flugumýri, ☎ 453-8814/895-8814.
567. Keldudalur, chalets, ☎ 453-6233/846-8185.
567. Keldudalur, Leifshús, ☎ 453-6533/893-6231.
568. Glæsibær Travel Service, ☎ 453-5530/892-5530.
569. Hofsstæðir Lodge, ☎ 896-9414.
569. Hofsstæðir, ☎ 453-6555, farm acc.
569. Hofsstæðasel, the old farm, ☎ 896-9414.
574. Lónkot, ☎ 453-7432.
575. Akrar í Fljótum, ☎ 467-1054.
576. Sólgarðaskóli í Fljótum, ☎ 467-1040/1054.
580. Bjarnargil Travel Service, ☎ 467-1030.

Camping Sites:
560. Steinsstaðir Travel Service, ☎ 453-8812.
561. Bakkafliot, ☎ 453-8245. 574. Lónkot, ☎ 453-7432.
The camping sites in Varmahlíð, ☎ 455-6161.
Laufún by Varmahlíð ☎ 453-8133.

Restaurant/Snack Bars:

Áskaffi at Glaumbær, ☎ 453-8855.
Bakkafliot, ☎ 453-8245.
Sölva-Bar, Lónkot, ☎ 453-7432.

Swimming Pools:
560. Steinsstaðir, ☎ 453-8812.
561. Bakkafliot, ☎ 453-8245.
542. Sólgarðar, ☎ 467-1033.

Leisure and Sport:
Golf at Lónkot, ☎ 453-7432, various events over summer, art shows and country market.
Hestasport, ☎ 453-8383, horse rental. info@riding.is
www.riding.is
Paintball, ☎ 453-8383.
Ski area Tindastóll, ☎ 453-6664.
Lýtingsstaðir, ☎ Road no. 752), ☎ 453-8064, horse rental, riding tours, info@lythorse.com www.lythorse.com
Flugumýri ☎ 453-8814, horse shows, riding tours, Varmilækur, ☎ 898-7756/453-8021,
The Icelandic Horse Show.
Arctic Adventures ☎ 562-7000, river rafting, info@adventures.is www.adventures.is
561. Bakkafliot, ☎ 453-8245/899-8245, river rafting. bakkafliot@islandia.is www.bakkafliot.com
Marked hiking trails to Mælifellshnjúkur, Tindastóll, Molduxi, and Hólabyrða mountains and to Cape Þórðarhöfði.
Organized riding tours and horse rentals, contact the Tourist Information Centre at Varmahlíð, ☎ 455-6161.

Museum/Churches:
Glaumbær, Regional Folk Museum, ☎ 453-6173. Open daily June 1 - Sept 20 from 9-18, or

by arrangement; exhibitions also at Minjahúsið, Sauðárkrókur, and The Icelandic Emigration Center at Hofsó. Glaumbær church, info on opening hours at Glaumbær museum. Víðimýri church, ☎ 453-5895. One of Iceland's oldest turf churches, open June 1 - Aug. 31 from 9-18 or by arrangem. www.glaumbaer.is bsk@skagafjordur.is
Gröf and Sjávarborg Churches.
Skagafjörður Museum of Transport, Stóragarði, ☎ 845-7400/848-7817, open daily June 17 – Sept. 1 from 13-18 at other times by arrangement.

Events:
May 1-8, Week of Culture in Skagafjörður.
June 24 -26, „Pancake Days“ in Skagafjörður.
June 26 – July 3, National Horse Festival, Vinheimamelar. www.landsmot.is
Sept 24, The renowned round-up at Laufskálarétt. “Tekið til kostanna” in the riding hall at Sauðárkrókur, International horse show.
Further information at www.visitskagafjordur.is

- VARMAHLÍÐ -

Varmahlíð, a village in Skagafjörður municipality southeast of Reykjarhóll, still exists on local services and catering that began in 1931. A school, services to the agricultural industry, shops and tourist services are also important to the economy. Greenhouse market gardening and reforestation are other activities in this geothermal area that provides heating for houses. Skagafjörður natural history museum is located in Varmahlíð. A delightful outdoor recreation area may be found in the Reykjarhlíð forest, above the town. The Varmahlíð area offers diverse leisure activities, such as river rafting, horse riding and horse shows. Population 137.

FACILITIES IN VARMAHLÍÐ

Tourist Information Centre: ☎ 455-6161, open daily June 1 – June 14 and Aug. 16 – Sept. 1 from 9-17, open daily June 15 – Aug. 15 from 9-19, Sept.-May from 10 - 15, further info at www.visitskagafjordur.is
upplysingar@skagafjordur.is

Accommodation:
Hótel Varmahlíð, ☎ 453-8170, info@hotelvarmahlid.is www.hotelvarmahlid.is
Laufún, ☎ 453-8133.
Hestasport-Summerhouses, ☎ 453-8383, info@riding.is



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HORSEMEN IN SKAGAFJÖRÐUR.

Orlofshús, chalets by Reykjarhóll, ☎ 453-6880/897-3150.
Camping Site: Varmahlíð ☎ 455-6161
Laufún by Varmahlíð, ☎ 453-8133.

Restaurant/Snack Bar:
Hótel Varmahlíð, ☎ 453-8170.
Co-op store KS, ☎ 455-4680.

Leisure and Sport:
Swimming pool, ☎ 453-8824.
Hestasport, ☎ 453-8383, info@riding.is www.riding.is
Arctic rafting, ☎ 562-7000, river rafting in Austari and Vestari Jökulsá rivers, info@adventures.is www.adventures.is
JRJ Super Jeep Travel, ☎ 453-8219/892 -1852, tours across the Icelandic highland.
Marked hiking path to Reykjarhóll hill.
Motorist Service: Filling station and car wash.
Bank: Arion Bank, ATM ☎ 455-5334.
Local Handicrafts: Icelandic handicraft for sale at the Tourist Information Centre, ☎ 455-6161, upplysingar@skagafjordur.is
Transportation: Sterna, ☎ 551-1166, Scheduled coach service Reykjavík-Varmahlíð-Akureyri and to Sauðárkrókur, www.sterna.is
Suðurléiðir, ☎ 453-6806/892-4433, group coach trips to anywhere in Iceland.
Events:
June 24 -26, „Pancake Days“ in Skagafjörður.



Passing Through Skagafjörður?



Exhibitions in Minjahúsið in Sauðárkrókur open daily June 10 - Aug. 31 at 13- 18 Tel. 453 6870

Exhibitions in Glaumbær open daily June 1- Sept. 15 at 9- 18 Tel. 453 6173

Áskaffi, Tel. 453 8855

www.skagafjordur.is/byggdasafn



www.hotelvarmahlid.is

HÓTEL VARMAHLÍÐ
Varmahlíð - 560 Varmahlíð
☎ 453 8170 - info@hotelvarmahlid.is



RAFTING IN SKAGAFJÖRÐUR.

- SAUÐÁRKRÓKUR -

Sauðárkrókur is the largest town in northwest Iceland and the only town in the Skagafjörður municipality. Located along the southwest shore on the innermost part of Skagafjörður fjord, settlement began in 1871. The town has diverse services and activities on offer, including exhibitions, museums, clubs, shops, restaurants, accommodation, hospitals, auto workshop, sports playing field, volleyball court, swimming pool, and more. The shop Verslun Haraldar Júlíussonar, which has been operated without interruption since 1919, is located in Aðalgata. The Minjahúsið museum is also located in Aðalgata; it exhibits four small workshops from the past, among other things. The slopes above the town are called Nafir and have a series of ancient beach ridges. On the slopes there is also an orientation disk, from which one can enjoy the view over the fjord, and a golf course. East of Sauðárkrókur there is a black sand beach some 4 km long, called Borgarsandur. Slightly to the south, by Áshildarholtsvatn lake, is an area with vibrant bird life and bird information signs. The estuaries of Héraðsvötn, and Miklavatn and Áshildarholtsvatn, just south of Sauðárkrókur, also have a teeming bird life. The number of bird species rivals that of Lake Mývatn. Population 2,635.

FACILITIES IN SAUÐÁRKRÓKUR

Police: Suðurgata 1, ☎ 455-3366.

Local Tourist Information:

Minjahúsið, Aðalgata 16b, ☎ 453-6870, open in summer 14-18, at other times by arrangement, upplýsingar@skagafjordur.is

Accommodation:

**Hótel Tindastóll, Lindargata 3, ☎ 453-5002,

sml@simnet.is www.hotelvindastoll.com

Hótel Mikligarður, Skagfirðingabraut 24, ☎ 453-6300/891-9147,

mikligardur@mikligardur.is www.mikligardur.is

Gh. Mikligarður, Kirkjutorg 3, ☎ 453-6880/891-9147,

mikligardur@mikligardur.is www.mikligardur.is

Camping Site: By the swimming pool, ☎ 455-6161.

Restaurants/Snack Bars: Kaffi Krókur, Aðalgata 16,

☎ 453-6299. Ábær, Ártorg, ☎ 455-7070.

Ólafshús, Aðalgata 15, ☎ 453-6454.

Sauðárkróksbakari, Aðalgata 5, ☎ 455-5000.

Shell-sport, Skagfirðingabraut 49, ☎ 453-6666.

Leisure and Sport: Swimming pool, ☎ 453-5226.

Golf at Hliðarendavöllur, 9 holes, ☎ 453-5075.

Breksport, fitness center, ☎ 453-6363.

Skotfélagið Ósmann, shooting range, ☎ 845-9391.

Ski Lodge, Tindastóll, ☎ 453-6707.

Topphestar- horse rental, ☎ 866-3973/868-1776.

Krókaleiðir, snowmobile rental, ☎ 453-5065.

Hospital: by Spítalastígur, ☎ 455-4000.

Pharmacy: Lyfja, Hólavegur 16, ☎ 453-5700.

State Alcohol Store: Smáragrund 2, ☎ 453-5990.

Motorists: Filling station, garage, tyre repair.

Banks: Arion Bank, Skagfirðingabraut and in

Skagfirðingabúð, ATMs, ☎ 453-5300,

Landsbankinn, Suðurgötu 1, ☎ 410-4161, ATM.

Sparisjóður Skagafjarðar, Skagfirðingabraut 9a, ☎ 455-5555.

Post Office: Ártorg 6, ☎ 580-1200.

www.mikligardur.is




🏠	130	20
🚗	65	1
🏊	0,5	1
🚶	1	1
♿		
@		

H **HÓTEL MIKLIÐGARÐUR**

Skagfirðingabraut 24 / við Sauðárhlið - 550 Sauðárkrókur

☎ 453 6330, 891 9147 - mikligardur@mikligardur.is

www.mikligardur.is



🏠	27	2
🚗	14	0,5
🏊	0,5	0,5
🚶	1	1
♿		
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G **MIKLIÐGARÐUR GUESTHOUSE**

Kirkjutorg 3 - 550 Sauðárkrókur

☎ 453 6880, 891 9147 - mikligardur@mikligardur.is

www.hotelvindastoll.com



🏠	13	10
🚗	10	0,7
🏊	0,7	1
🚶	1	1
♿		
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H **HÓTEL TINDASTÓLL**

Lindargata 3 - 550 Sauðárkrókur

☎ 453 5002 - Fax 453 5388 - sml@simnet.is

Museums/Exhibitions:

Skagafjörður District Archives, Faxatorg,

☎ 452-6640, www.skagafjordur.is/skjalasafn

Skagafjörður District Library, Faxatorg,

☎ 453-5424, www.skagafjordur.is/bokasafn

www.skagafjordur.is/skjalasafn

Skagafjörður District Art Museum, Faxatorg, ☎ 453-6640.

Minjahúsið, Aðalgata 16b, ☎ 453-6870, regional museum.

Eldsmiðja Ingimundar (blacksmith's shop),

Suðurgata 5, ☎ 453-5020.

Places of Interest and Hiking:

Cruises to Drangey rockstacks and Glerhallavík cove on a

boat from Sauðárkrókur or Reykir, information at

Fagranes, ☎ 453-6503/846-8150.

Málmeyjarferðir, ☎ 453-7380/892-2881.

Marked hiking trails.

Transportation:

Flugfélagið Ernir, ☎ 453-6888/562-4200,

Alexander Airport, scheduled flight service Reykjavík-

Sauðárkrókur, www.ernir.is

Sterna, ☎ 551-1166. Scheduled coach service,

Sigljuförður-Varmahlíð-Reykjavík-Akureyri, www.stefna.is

Events: May 1-8, Week of Culture in Skagafjörður.

Further information at www.skagafjordur.is





HÓLAR IN HJALTADALUR.

- HÓLAR IN HJALTADALUR -

Hólar is one of Iceland's best-known historical sites. It was the seat of the Bishop from 1106-1801, as well as the main regional centre during that period. The current cathedral at Hólar was consecrated in 1763, and has since been restored to its original state. It is made of red sandstone that was transported from Hólabyrði above the town. A turf farmhouse dates from 1854, and was still occupied until the middle of the 20th century. An agricultural school has been operated at Hólar since 1882. The school's focus has changed over time and it is now an institution of higher learning. The Hólar University College specialises in tourism studies, horse breeding and riding, as well as aquaculture and fish biology. Archaeological excavation has been underway at Hólar in recent years and over 40,000 objects have been discovered. Some of them are exhibited in the old school building. Visitors can take a "walk through history" on a marked trail, and visit an exhibition relating to the Icelandic horse. Population 89.

Hólar in Hjaltadalur. A path marked with signposts has been set up at the ancient Episcopal see of Hólar in Hjaltadalur. Each of the 14 signposts is numbered, referring to a descriptive text in the tour-booklet. This historical tour takes an hour at

an easy pace. The tour can be extended by going half-way up the slopes of Mt. Hólabyrði from Prestssæti (the Priest's seat, signpost no. 11), which takes an hour or two, for a look at a natural bowl deposited by an avalanche. It is called Gvendarskál (Gvendur's Bowl) and inside it stands a rock known as Gvendur's Altar. Both are associated with 12th century Bishop Guðmundur Arason the Good (1160-1237), nicknamed Gvendur, who became a kind of vagrant leading a band of followers. The outline of an ancient wall can clearly be seen in the boulders below the bowl, said to be where the bishop walked when heavy snow filled the valley. Many ancient paths lead from Hjaltadalur and nearby valleys over the Tröllaskagi massif into the neighbouring Eyjafjörður, but hikers should note that they are all rather long, and some have difficult terrain.

FACILITIES IN HJALTADALUR

Local Tourist Information: ☎ 455-6333, fax 455-6301, booking@holar.is www.holar.is

Accommodation: 570. *Hólar Travel Service*, cottages, apartments, rooms w/o bath. ☎ 455-6333, tourist@holar.is www.holar.is

Camping Site: 570. In *Hólaskógur*, the reforestation area, ☎ 455-6333.

Snack Bar: *Undir Byrðunni*, ☎ 455-6333.

Leisure and Sport: Swimming pool, hot pot and sauna, angling pond and horse rental, further information, ☎ 455-6333.

Handicrafts: Souvenir shop in information center in Summer.

Museums/Exhibitions: The Iceland horse heritage museum, ☎ 455-6300, the museum is designed to be an international centre of knowledge and information about the history of the Iceland horse, www.sogusetur.is
Guðbrandsstofnun, ☎ 453-6300/455-6300, www.holar.is/gudbrandsstofnun

Places of Interest and Hiking: Hólar church, guided tour 9-17, ☎ 455-6333, http://kirkjan.is/holadomkirkjal/ History Walk, marked hiking trail. The Hólar Excavation – archaeological excavation at Hólar. At Hólar, the ground stores great relics of Icelandic ecclesiastical and national history.

Events: June 24.-26. „Pancake Days“ in Skagafjörður. August 12-14, The Hólar Festival, concerts in the Hólar cathedral a.m. See Calendar of Events at www.holar.is or in the guest reception.



Food Chest Skagafjörður

Skagafjörður is renowned for its food. This is where diverse forms of agriculture meet a vibrant seafood processing industry. The project Food Chest Skagafjörður is designed to boost culinary tourism in the area and the Food Chest Skagafjörður brand is meant to draw attention to food produced wholly or in part in the Skagafjörður area. Look for the Food Chest Skagafjörður brand – and enjoy what Skagafjörður has to offer!

- HOFÓS -

Hofsós is a small village on the eastern shore of Skagafjörður fjord. At one time it was the region's main trading centre, and is one of the oldest still existing. Þakkhúsið in Hofsós is an old warehouse from the days of the Danish trade monopoly that has been restored and now houses the Skagafjörður Regional Folk Museum. It is believed that trading began there in the 16th century. In addition, a local museum, The Icelandic Emigration Centre, has been opened where the emigration of Icelanders to North America is recounted. There you'll find various exhibitions connected to the migration of Icelanders to America and their way of living on the new continent. The old centre of Hofsós is being rebuilt and has regained the charm of an old bustling commercial community and is definitely worth a closer look. The shoreline at Hofsós is also well worth exploring, particularly because of the very beautiful columnar basalt formations. Population 190.

⚔ **Gröf.** Farm on Höfðaströnd, just south of Hofsós, birthplace of Hallgrímur Pétursson (1614-1674), Iceland's most celebrated religious poet. The small turf church there contains remnants of the oldest place of worship in the country.

FACILITIES IN HOFÓS

Police: at Sauðárkrókur ☎ 453-6666. Emergency: 112

Accommodation: *Prestabakki, Kárastígur, Gh. Sunnuberg*, ☎ 453-7310/893-0220. www.hofsos.is gisting@hofsos.is

Camping Site: By the primary school, ☎ 453-7367.

Restaurants/Snack Bars: Sólvík, ☎ 453-7930.

Leisure and Sport: Swimming pool, hot pot, ☎ 455-6070

Health Care Centre: Suðurbraut 15, ☎ 453-7354.

For Motorists: Filling station, garage, tyre repair.

Bank: *Arion Bank*, ☎ 453-7400.

The Icelandic Emigration Center in Hofsós

Attractive and hospitable exhibits in three imposing buildings by the harbor. The exhibits trace the history of Icelanders' emigration to North America.

Tel: 453 7935 - hofsos@hofsos.is - www.hofsos.is
Open every day from June 1 to September 1



Local Handicrafts: Sólvík, ☎ 453-7930/770-6368.

The Icelandic Emigration Center, ☎ 453-7935.

The Icelandic Flag-sewing Factory, ☎ 453-7366.

Museums/Exhibitions:

The Icelandic Emigration Center in Hofsós, ☎ 453-7935, fax 453-7936. The office is open all year at regular office hours. The exhibitions are open daily June 1 – Sep 1 | 11-18, at other times by arrangement. The Icelandic Emigration Center houses a genealogical and information service, a library and exhibitions on Icelandic emigration to North America, hofsos@hofsos.is www.hofsos.is
Kolkuós ses, www.kolkuos.is

Transportation: *Sterna*, ☎ 551-1166, Scheduled coach service, Sauðárkrókur - Siglufjörður, www.sterna.is

Events: June, Mid Summer Festival. June 24.-26. „Pancake Days“ in Skagafjörður.



HOFÓS.