

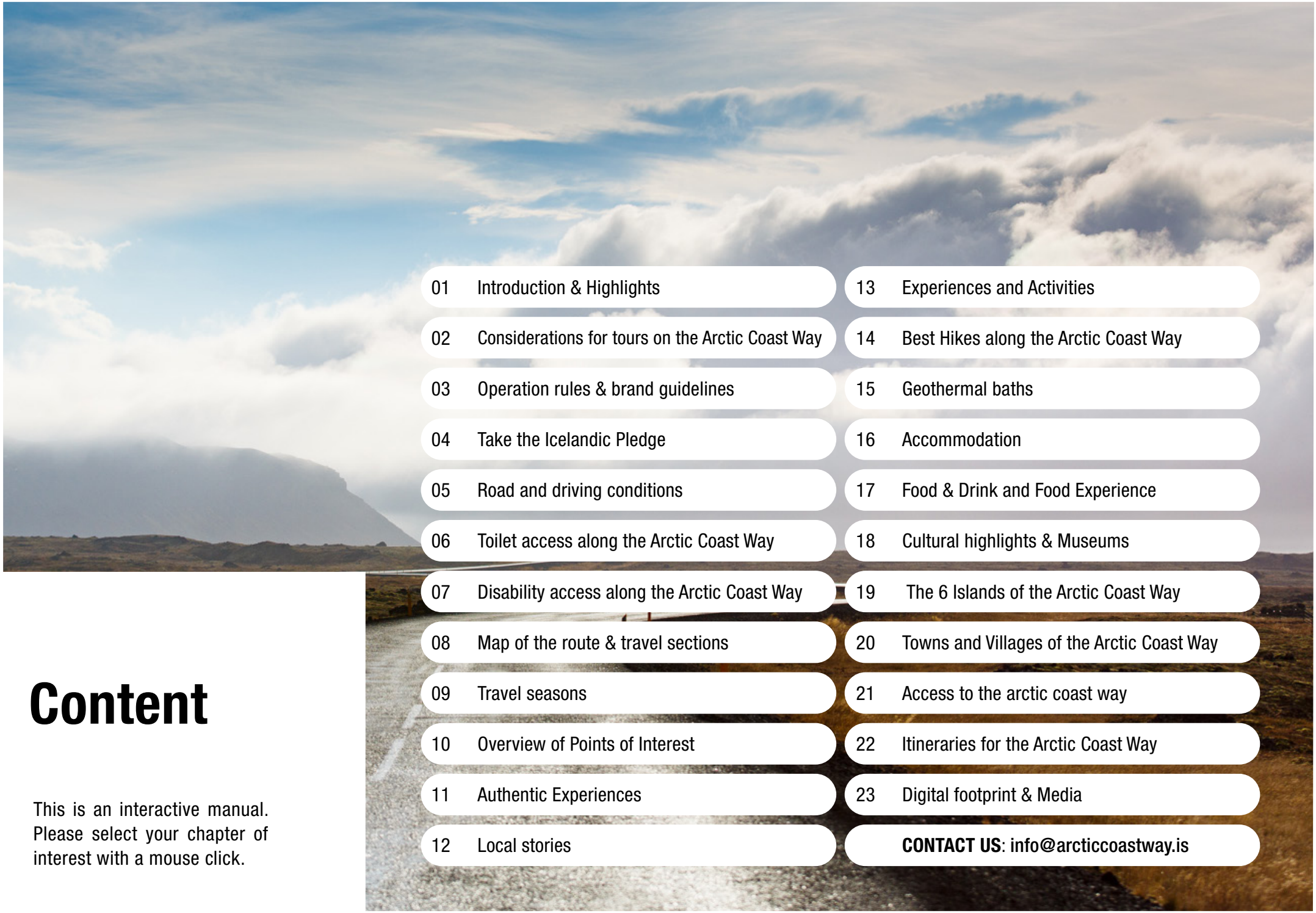
Arctic Coast Way

Trade Manual for tour organisers

2023

Arctic Coast Way
Norðurstrandarleið

Visit North Iceland
THE ARCTIC NORTH



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This is an interactive manual. Please select your chapter of interest with a mouse click.

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CONTACT US: info@arcticcoastway.is

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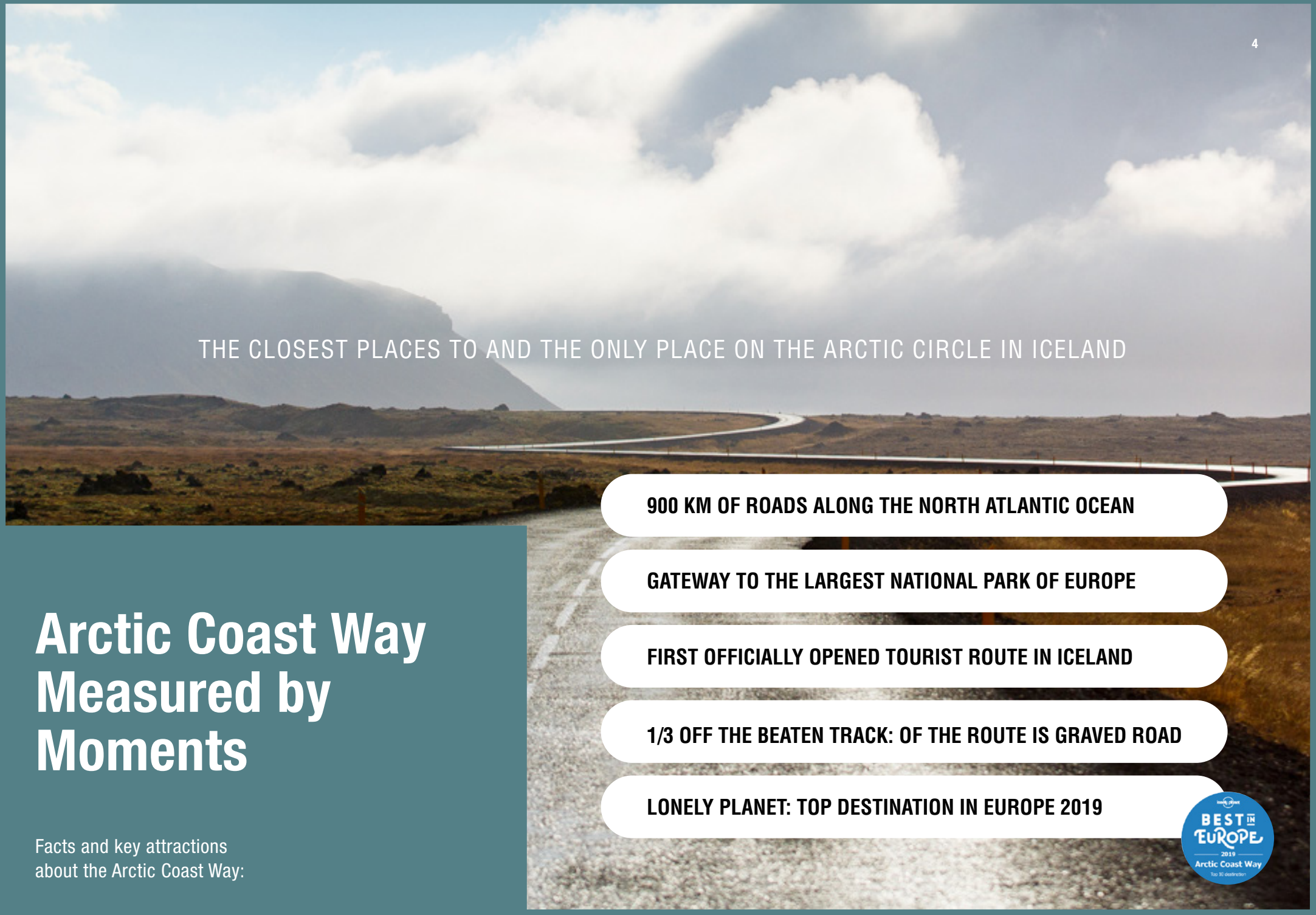


INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Arctic Coast Way. This touring route takes you off the beaten track to the coastal landscapes in North Iceland close to the Arctic Circle. Get inspired by the wonders of the route and familiarize yourself with the spirit of the Arctic Coast Way.

The Arctic Coast Way in Iceland's far North captivates you along 900 km of road with its rugged, untouched nature, and takes you through vast otherworldly landscapes between sea and mountains.

It connects you to its authentic coastal villages and people, whose stories and culture are shaped by life on the edge, so close to the Arctic Circle. It surprises you with its ever-changing moods of remote tranquillity, vibrant energy and magical light all year round. you are set free to slow down, and discover a different way of life. You will leave uplifted, refreshed, fulfilled with unique memories of this awe-inspiring place.



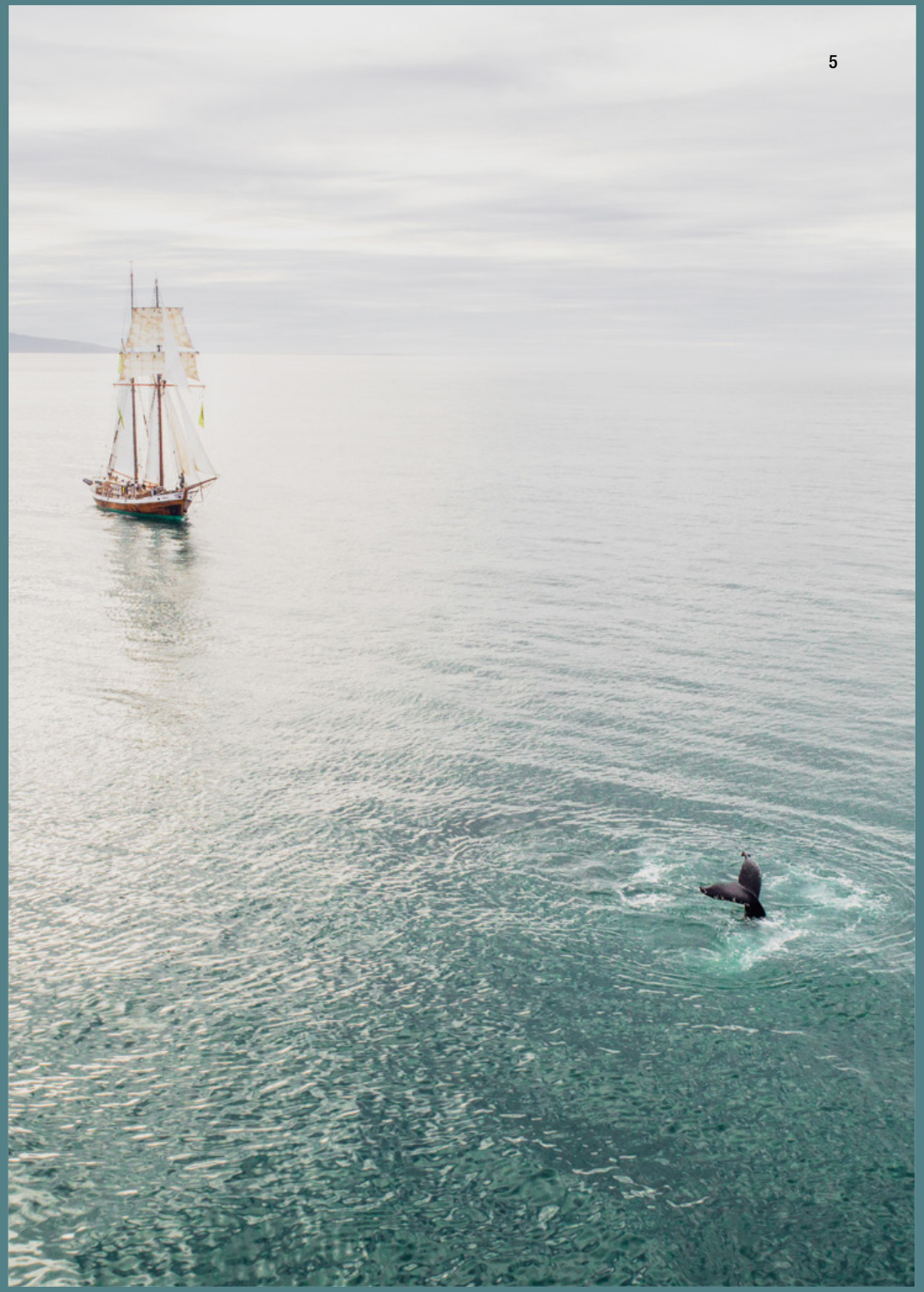
Arctic Coast Way Measured by Moments

Facts and key attractions about the Arctic Coast Way:

- 900 KM OF ROADS ALONG THE NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN
- GATEWAY TO THE LARGEST NATIONAL PARK OF EUROPE
- FIRST OFFICIALLY OPENED TOURIST ROUTE IN ICELAND
- 1/3 OFF THE BEATEN TRACK: OF THE ROUTE IS GRAVED ROAD
- LONELY PLANET: TOP DESTINATION IN EUROPE 2019

108 points of interest

- 30 MIDNIGHT SUN VIEWPOINTS
- 17 NORTHERN LIGHTS VIEWPOINTS
- 13 BEACHES
- 10 REACHABLE LIGHTHOUSES
- 8 SEA STACK FORMATIONS
- 30 REST AREAS
- 38 EXCELLENT BIRD WATCHING PLACES ON THE BIRDING TRAIL
- 5 SPOTS FOR WHALE WATCHING
- SOME OF THE BEST SEAL-WATCHING LOCATIONS IN ICELAND
- 24 CULTURAL SITES & MUSEUMS
- 18 DIFFERENT OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
- GEOTHERMAL POOLS





Arrive with time on your hands and enjoy a different rhythm of life!

The Arctic Coast Way leaves the much-travelled routes behind and guides visitors off the beaten track to explore the northern edge of Iceland, so close to the Arctic Circle.

The Arctic Coast Way invites tourists to become travellers and takes them on a journey in a spirit of adventure and exploration. Arctic Coast Way travellers will go further than most other tourists simply by leaving the ring road. Narrow and often gravelled roads ring six peninsulas; one is uninhabited, three have only a few farms and small settlements, offering endless space and a sense of freedom, tempting you to go "off the grid".

The Arctic Coast Way is not just about driving but welcomes you to a route with stories and experiences round every bend or corner and over every hill. It inspires visitors to immerse themselves in the energy of elemental nature and to fill their days with all kinds of activities, ranging from soft adventure to personal challenges and observing outstanding wildlife habitats.

The Arctic Coast Way connects to a different way of life dominated by its relationship to the sea and its position so far North – from the early Viking period to present day fisheries and villages dotted along the coastline. Contrasts in daily life are apparent, from remote fishing villages to the Capital of the North and connect visitors to the spirit of people who value traditions while living to the pulse of modern times.

The Arctic Coast Way invites you to slow down and unwind. Those who are open to tasting a variety of experiences come alive when they step outside and feel elation at the stops in between their destinations –or unexpected breaks dictated by weather, which is such a powerful element in the region where the icy ocean meets volcanic land. They feel the freedom of breathing to the rhythm of waves and wind, and while away the time listening to stories told by the locals.

The Arctic Coast Way is never the same! Here are about 900 km waiting to be explored; the journey, however, is not measured in milestones but in unexpected moments that will make visitors wish to return again and again. The dramatic change in luminosity from midnight sun to northern lights and the seasonal palette of colours from pristine winter white to autumn's blaze of hues offers visitors a new route every time with new adventures and a new story waiting for them.

2



CONSIDERATIONS FOR ORGANISING TOURS ALONG THE ARCTIC COAST WAY



The Arctic Coast Way differs from many other driving routes

Important considerations, especially for organising group tours are:

1 Off the beaten track is not a mere phrase, but a crucial fact. It re-quires attention and consideration as it leads to remote areas, sometimes with less infrastructure and challenging road and weather conditions. We recommend, therefore, travelling as self-driver or in small groups, with small buses, **always 4WD** vehicles and careful planning to allow yourselves plenty of time.

2 Arctic Coast Way offers many hotels along the entire route. But density differs in the regions. **Charming accommodation** in family-based guesthouses and on farms offers a good chance to meet the locals and observe their way of living.

3 As some of the areas are quite remote the infrastructure is **not open all year round**. But most of the providers are willing to open on request especially for groups. Please contact providers in advance when you plan a trip in off peak seasons.

4 We recommend **local guides** as they are familiar with weather and road conditions and can also tell the endless stories about how life is different up here, so close to the Arctic Circle.

5 The Arctic Coast Way project is in its initial stages and the period of development and improvement has just started. The infrastructure along the route will be **continuously improved** in the coming years.

6 Please **follow these signs** on your drive along the Arctic Coast Way.

7 The Arctic Coast Way goes off the beaten track to discover hidden gems. But it is easy to **add some of the famous highlights of North Iceland**. In Ásbyrgi and Húsavík it is easy to combine the Arctic Coast Way with the **Diamond Circle** with its highlights of Lake Mývatn and Dettifoss. After doing this extra loop, one can easily return to the Arctic Coast Way.

8 The Arctic Coast Way is developed as a long **detour from Ring Road No.1** and can be included in a circle tour around Iceland. But we recommend considering **a tour limiting yourself to North Iceland**, including the entire Arctic Coast Way and all of the countless attractions, besides the Arctic Coast Way itself.

3



OPERATION RULES & BRAND GUIDELINES

Operation rules and brand guidelines have been established to help you understand the usage of the brand Arctic Coast Way. To preserve the quality of the brand for the benefit of all who trade under it, the brand Arctic Coast Way and its logo is a registered trademark.



All trades using the name of the Arctic Coast Way and its logo have to respect the operation rules and brand guidelines!

Operation rules are set up for Icelandic operators, incoming agencies and overseas operators who are not located along the Arctic Coast Way and do not meet the membership criteria.

PLEASE CONTACT US:

- if you need help planning your tour
- if you have questions about the usage of the Arctic Coast Way Brand
- to get the Brand Guidelines
- to get the logo
- to get free photos for your marketing



OPERATION RULES

Authentic Tours, which run under the name Arctic Coast Way and/or use the logo have to:

- include a substantial portion of the route of the Arctic Coast Way (see Day-Tours and Multiday-Tours)
- include a substantial portion of Arctic Coast Way products, services and experiences
- fulfil the brand values and promise of the Arctic Coast Way
- respect nature, wildlife and culture and encourage sustainable conduct
- have a qualified guide who can tell visitors about coastal landscapes and how nature and the ocean influenced life and culture close to the Arctic Circle

1. Day Tours

Day Tours have to include 75% of the road distance on the Arctic Coast Way.

2. Multiple Day Tours

Multiple Day Tours have to include 50% of the travel days on the defined route of the Arctic Coast Way.

Tours, that include parts of the Arctic Coast Way:

Multiple Day Tours that only include parts of the Arctic Coast Way and spend less than 50% of the travel days on the defined route, need to have at least two full days on the Arctic Coast Way route to be allowed to use the name and logo in the relevant day itineraries, but not in the title of the tour. Please ask Visit North Iceland for permission to use the logo.

Please take the Icelandic Pledge:
www.inspiredbyiceland.com/icelandicpledge/

4



TAKE THE ICELANDIC PLEDGE

The Arctic Coast Way welcomes its visitors to an unforgettable journey in the spirit of adventure and exploration and takes them through an unspoiled natural environment along the coast of North Iceland. In order to maintain the integrity of the route as adventure, but not as a danger, and to preserve the unspoiled natural beauty, we encourage our visitors, our partners and each business trading under the Arctic Coast Way logo to inform their customers about the Icelandic Pledge from Inspired by Iceland.



THE ICELANDIC PLEDGE

I PLEDGE TO BE A RESPONSIBLE TOURIST

WHEN I EXPLORE NEW PLACES, I WILL LEAVE THEM AS I FOUND THEM.

I WILL TAKE PHOTOS TO DIE FOR, WITHOUT DYING FOR THEM.

I WILL FOLLOW THE ROAD INTO THE UNKNOWN, BUT NEVER VENTURE OFF THE ROAD.

AND I WILL ONLY PARK WHERE I AM SUPPOSED TO.

WHEN I SLEEP OUT UNDER THE STARS, I'LL STAY WITHIN A CAMPSITE.

AND WHEN NATURE CALLS, I WON'T ANSWER THE CALL ON NATURE.

I WILL BE PREPARED FOR ALL WEATHERS, ALL POSSIBILITIES AND ALL ADVENTURES.

5



ROAD AND DRIVING CONDITIONS

Driving the Arctic Coast Way is different from what you might be used to. It is a real off the beaten track route that guides you through beautiful remote landscapes. This does not only mean leaving the crowd behind but going on a tour in the spirit of adventure and exploration. The conditions of the Arctic Coast Way, the roads, the weather, and remoteness, require you to make space for some extra time in your itinerary.



DRIVING THE ARCTIC COAST WAY MEANS:

- Leaving the wide roads and following narrow roads through remote areas with less infrastructure.
- Leaving the paved roads and driving considerable distances on gravel roads (about 1/3 of the entire route).
- Please stay on the roads. Leaving the road means off-road driving, forbidden by law, incurring considerable fines to offenders. Help to protect sensitive moss and vegetation.

DISTANCES WITH GRAVEL ROADS ARE:

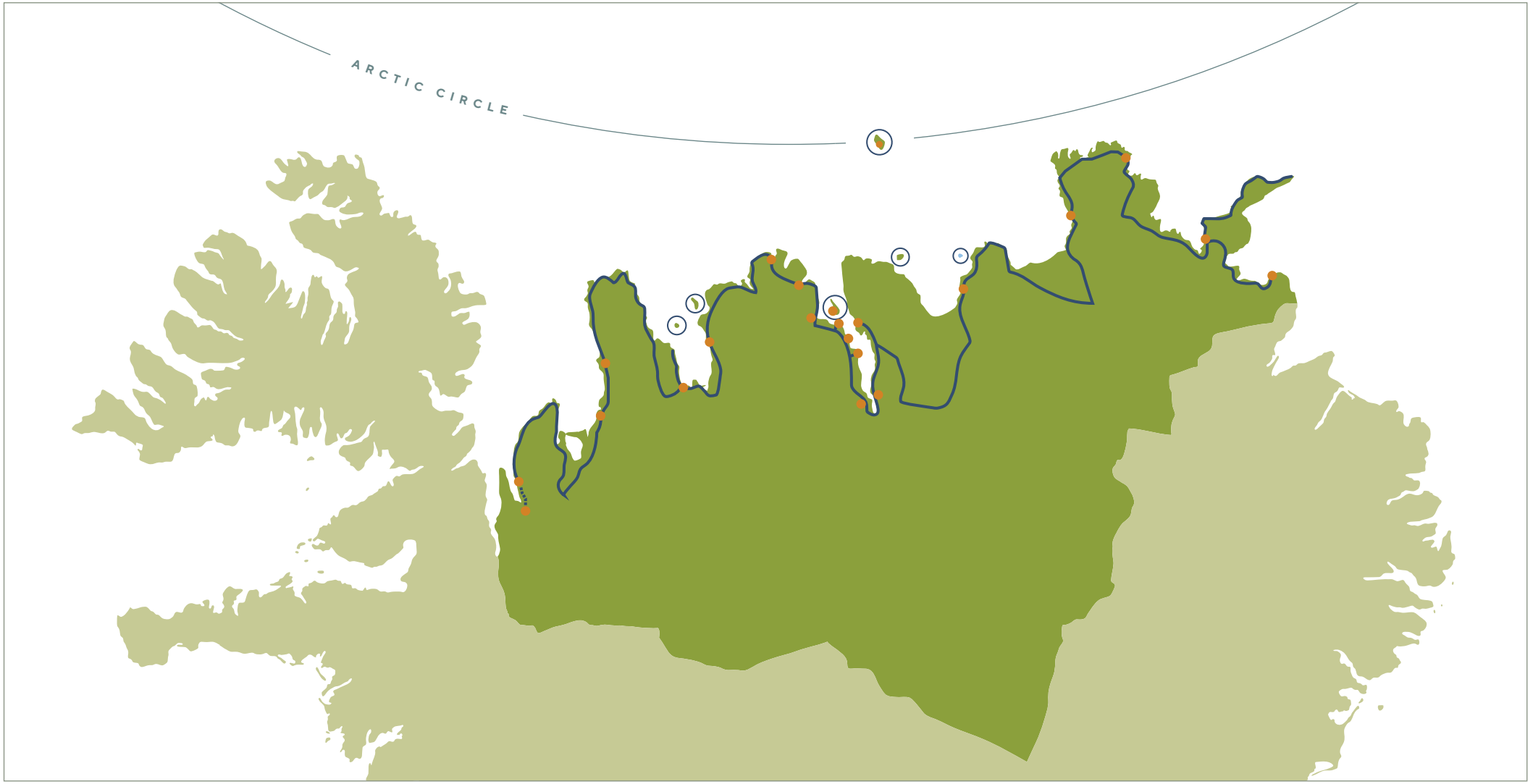
- Road 711/716/717 from Hvammstangi around Vatnsnes
- Road 745 from Skagaströnd around Skagi to road No. 744
- Detour on road 748 west side of Skagafjörður
- Road 835 through the Fnjóská valley north of Akureyri
- Road 870 around Melrakkaslétta
- Detour on road 869 on Langanes peninsula

ARCTIC COAST WAY IN SNOWY AND WINTER CONDITIONS:

In snowy conditions, several parts of the Arctic Coast Way only permit extremely limited access. As the name of the route indicates, it is close to the Arctic. Here in the far North snowfalls can occur between September and May. Always check daily weather and road conditions. When travelling in winter, make sure you have enough time and flexibility as weather conditions can be challenging and snowstorms or heavy snowfalls can even close the main roads which are usually cleared every day.

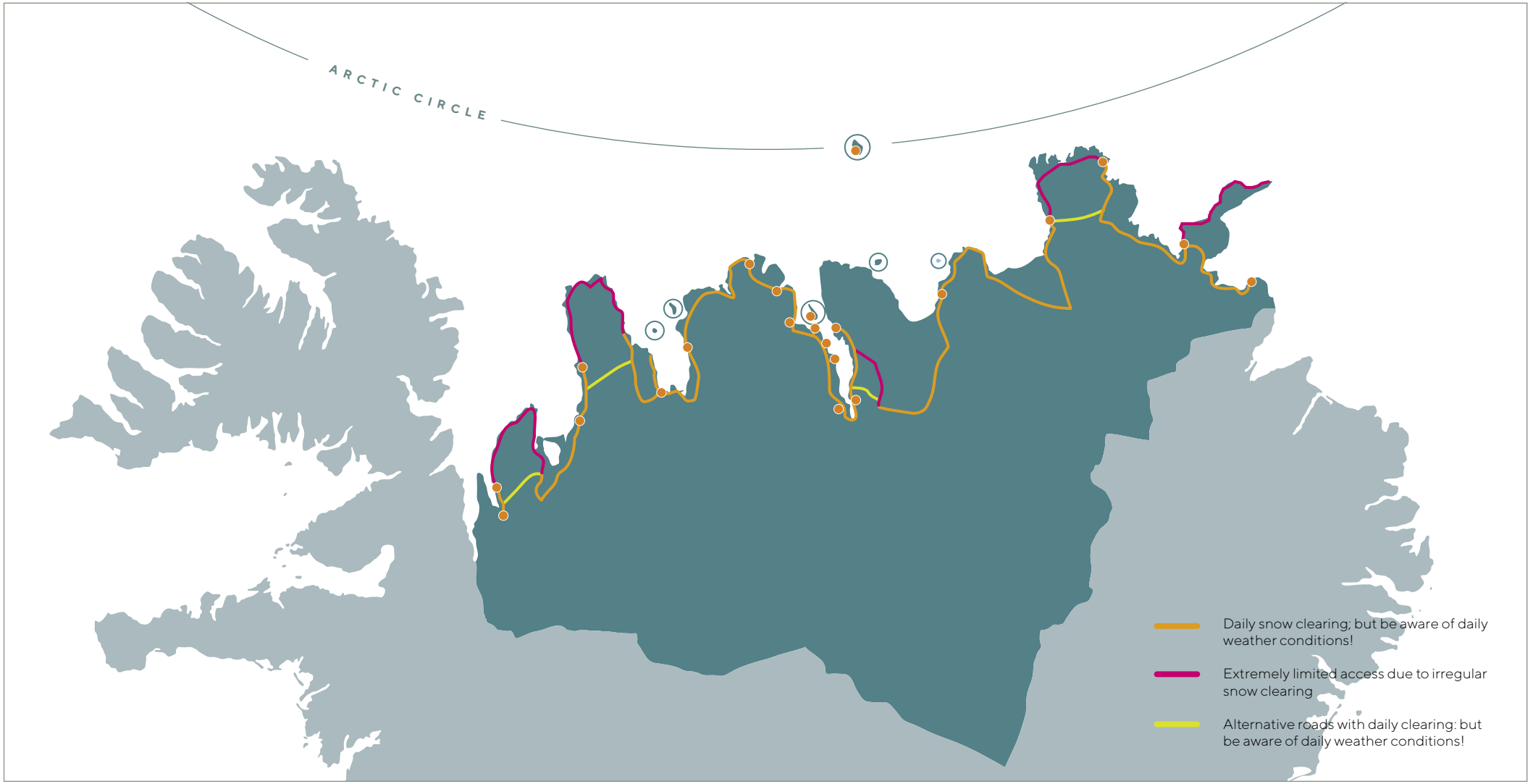
Summer route

ROAD AND DRIVING CONDITIONS



Winter route

ROAD AND DRIVING CONDITIONS



6



TOILET ACCESS ALONG THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

There is toilet access at a moderate distance all around the Arctic Coast Way. But the situation differs from what you might be used to in other countries. Toilets are mostly offered by private companies for their customers. You are welcome to use these toilets as long as you are a customer. Please respect this service and encourage your guests to respect it as well.

7

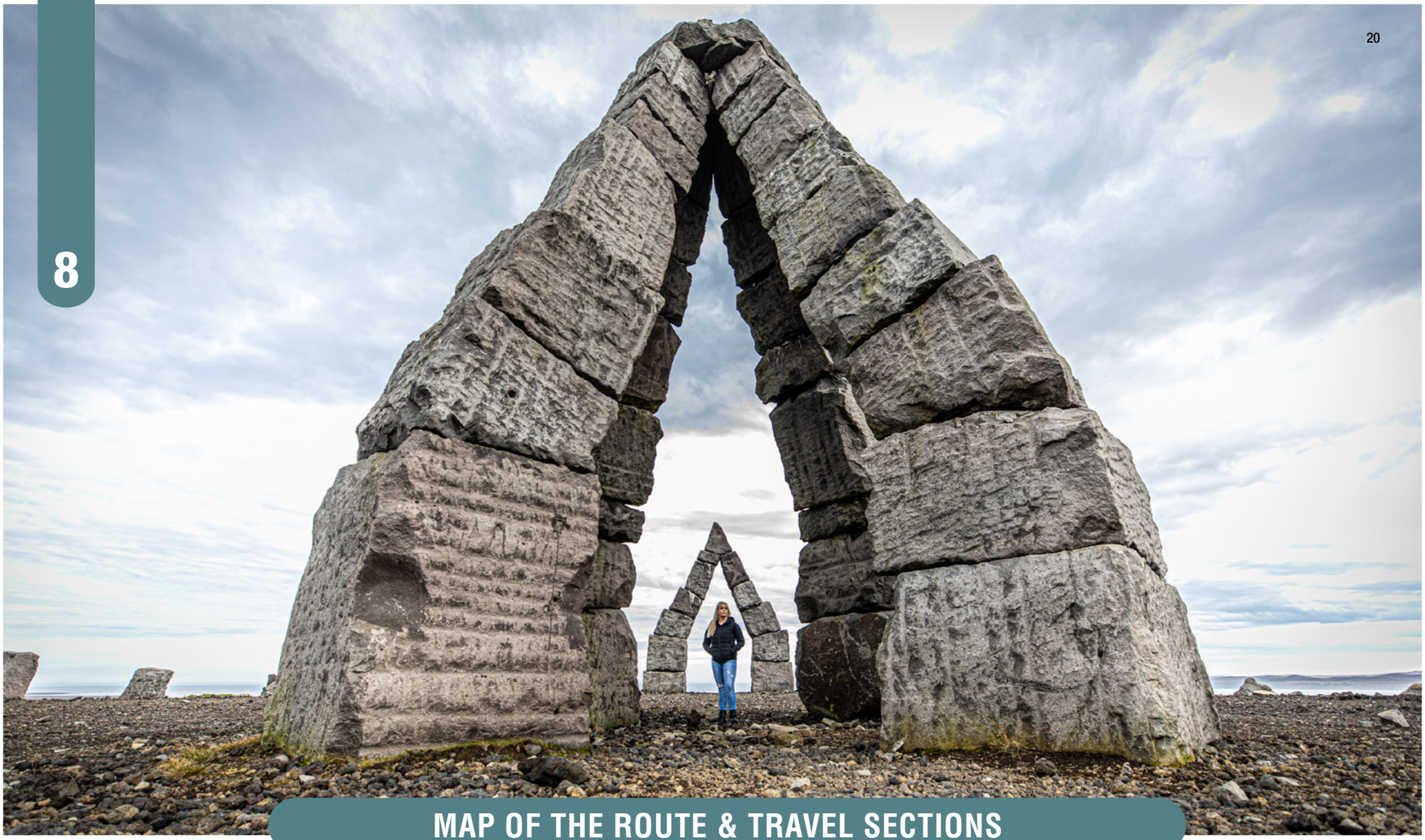


DISABILITY ACCESS ALONG THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

The Arctic Coast Way guides its visitors to untouched and remote nature, which is often hard to access for disabled persons. Along the paved roads there are many options to stop a bus and access a paved parking space to enjoy panoramic landscape views. But access to paved walking paths through attractive areas is unfortunately not yet on offer. Nevertheless, there are options for disabled persons to experience the Arctic Coast Way.

Please find this symbol in the overviews of Chapters 12, 15, 16 and 17 and contact the providers for detailed information.

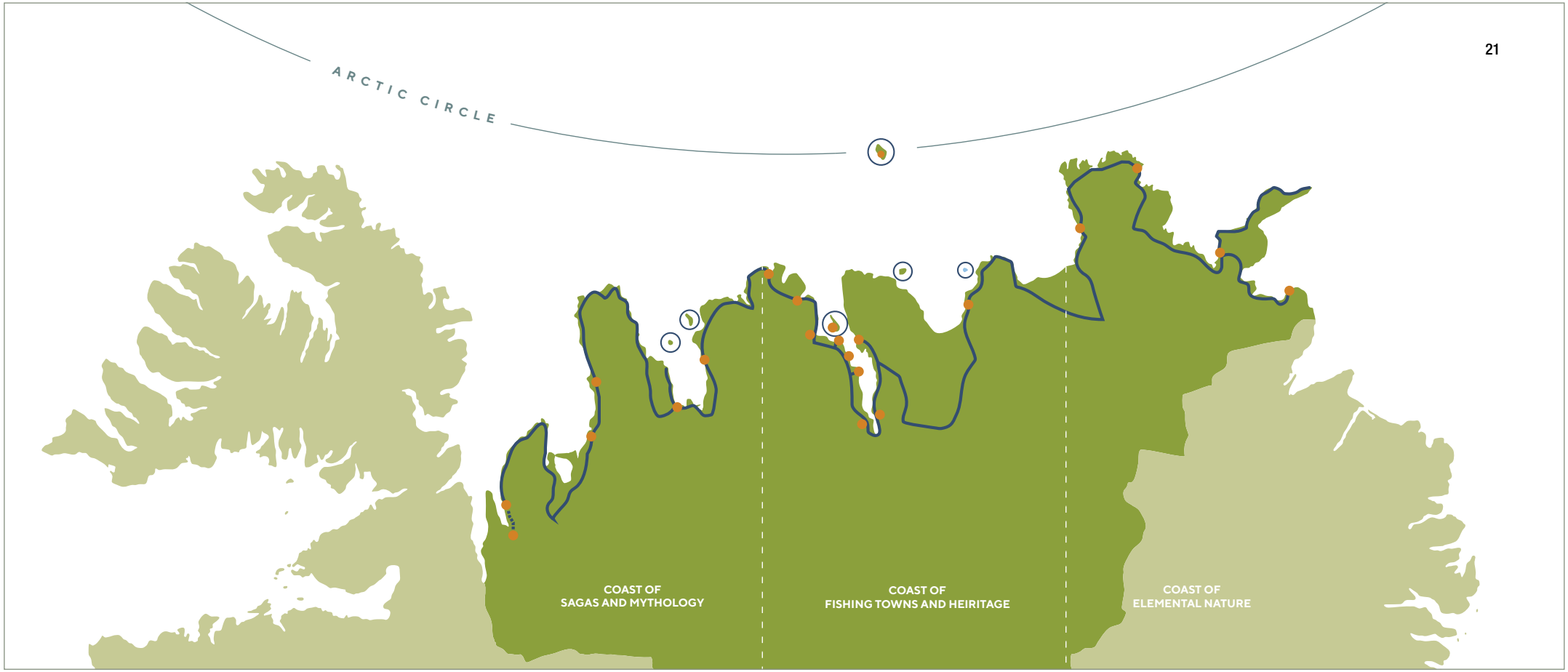
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MAP OF THE ROUTE & TRAVEL SECTIONS

With 900 km of route, the Arctic Coast Way offers a tour in the spirit of adventure and exploration and invites you to slow down and unwind.

Even though the best way is to experience the whole route you might need to decide which part of the route you take as there is so much to see and do along the Arctic Coast Way. It is broken into three zones, each with its own character and uniqueness.



COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

The western part of the Arctic Coast Way is an area with an atmospheric coast and high mountains offering excellent habitats to discover Arctic Wildlife with seals and birds. Here Icelandic horses roam in a fertile land of stories, sagas, myths and histories.

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

At the heart of the Arctic Coast Way is a coastline rich with culture and activities – the capital of North Iceland and a string of fishing towns, harbours and ports are linked by a breathtaking route of cliff roads, mountain tunnels, glacial river, ferries and bridges across fjords. This is the gateway to Grímsey Island and the Arctic Circle.

COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

Leave the tourists behind and become a traveller through this compelling, mysterious landscape that changes dramatically with the seasons – from its summer residents and millions of birds to the emptiness, darkest skies and absolute silence of winter. Whenever you come you will find find deep peace, solitude and contemplation inspired by distant views and the echoes and footprints of nature and history.

9



TRAVEL SEASONS

Besides summer, autumn, winter and spring are also ideal seasons to discover the attractions of Arctic Coast Way, each in its own distinctive fashion. But as snow may appear in early autumn (September, October), be a near-certainty in winter (November – March) and to be expected in springtime (April-May) you must be aware of challenging weather and road conditions and build flexibility into your schedule with some extra days. In snowy conditions, it is not possible to travel the entire Arctic Coast Way, but you can follow the winter route alternative! Please check out the map to the route for snowy weather on page 25.



Summer

Summer is the season of best road conditions and the entire route is accessible. This is also the season of high-est temperatures, although cold days may be expected as the route is close to the Arctic Circle. Most activities are available, except winter sports, and there may be limitations due to daily weather conditions. Many events and festivals occur in all towns along the route. As this is the main season, advance booking is required.

Autumn

Usually all roads remain open, but single days with snowy conditions may occur. The weather is often excellent, albeit with lower temperatures than in summer, but still with a lot of sun and long days to fill with activities and experiences. September brings in the season of the Northern Lights. Nature changes its colours and offers blueberries and mushrooms during hikes. Important cultural events such as the sheep round-ups dominate daily life in the countryside.

Winter

This is the season of challenging road and weather conditions, but nevertheless of great beauty and tranquillity. Travelling in the winter months requires careful planning and consideration of time. Winter is marked by diverse cultural experiences and you can enjoy excellent and traditional food around Christmas and New Year. As an extra bonus, it is also the high season for Northern Lights.

Spring

Usually, all roads are open, but unstable weather conditions can still bring temporary snowfalls and closed roads. The first fresh green vegetation is beginning to appear after the long winter frosts and the migrating birds are arriving. This is also the lambing season, the farmers' busiest time of year. The sun arrives and the days get longer at a rapid rate. Late winter (March) into spring is the main season for national and international skiers and many visitors enjoy the opportunity to tackle the white slopes in the light of the midnight sun.

10



OVERVIEW OF POINTS OF INTEREST

VIEWING THE MIDNIGHT SUN:

These locations offer some of the best views of the Midnight Sun. Some are accessible by car; others by walks and hikes.

NORTHERN LIGHT SPOTTING:

The viewpoints are reachable by car and selected with safety in mind. Caution; some of the best spots may be inaccessible in winter conditions.

LIGHTHOUSES:

There are 27 lighthouses along the Arctic Coast Way, nine of which are reachable either by car or by hiking.

BEACHES:

There are countless beaches along the Arctic Coast Way and some of them are accessible with parking options for the car.

SEA STACK FORMATIONS:

Focus on locations with spectacular rock shapes and contours along cliffs and out at sea. Hvítserkur on Vatnsnes is the most famous of those – and there are several more to discover.

REST AREAS:

These are accessible by car and offer parking options to leave the car, enjoy the views and take photos. Several are equipped with tables and benches for taking a picnic while viewing the ocean.

Points of Interest along the Arctic Coast Way

Along the entire route, you will find places which invite you to stop the car, take a break to enjoy landscapes and connect to the specific wonders of the Arctic Coast Way. These Points of Interest include different categories:

For more detailed descriptions, please consult the interactive map of the homepage:

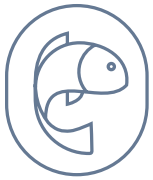
www.arcticcoastway.is



MIDNIGHT SUN VIEWPOINTS

COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

Hamarsá	65°31′32.3161″	20°57′50.9925″
Hvítserkur	65°36′13.584″	20°38′21.1482″
Borgarvík	65°28′24.8034″	20°35′46.0077″
Skúlahorn	65°39′1.7931″	20°18′20.6983″
Horn, old town, Blönduós	65°39′34.6644″	20°18′9.5″
Spákonufellshöfði	65°49′42.7994″	20°19′14.7174″
Kálfshamarsvík	66°1′4.1″	20°25′41.2″
Parking at crossroads to Grettislaug	65°45′48.5″	19°39′39″
Grettislaug	65°52′56″	19°44′15″
Furðustrandir	65°44′47.6432″	19°32′55.9378″
Hofsós Basalt Columns	65°53′44.56″	19°24′35.1167″
Höfðahólar	65°59′29.4466″	19°24′19.4293″



COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Strákagöng	66°11′7.3879″	18°55′40.711″
Ólafsfjarðargöng	66°04′24.1″	18°32′10.3″
Grímsey Orbis et Globus	66°33′57.3143″	18°1′7.4704″
Háaborð Hrísey	65°59′14.6″	18°21′43.7″
Fálkafell Akureyri	65°39′51″	18°09′21.4″
Grenivík “Where the road ends“	65°56′50.3146″	18°11′3.8796″



COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

Laxamýri	65°58′1.4124″	17°24′21.3743″
Húsavíkurfjall	66°3′42.0876″	17°20′31.691″
Mánárbakki Camping	66°11′60″	17°6′19″
Eyjan Ásbyrgi	66°1′28.552″	16°30′0.4001″
Kópaskersviti	66°18′22.6264″	16°28′3.4381″
Hestfjall/Hvalvík	66°22′53.9856″	16°30′30.0806″
Hraunhafnartangi	66°31′27.5661″	16°1′59.1014″
Heimskautsgerði	66°27′35.8379″	15°57′54.0328″
Raufarhafnarviti	66°27′14.1721″	15°55′58.8695″
Lambanes	66°15′51.4181″	15°10′20.5432″
Skoruvíkurbjarg	66°23′8.849″	14°51′7.4045″
Bakkafjörður Old Harbour	66°2′19.487″	14°48′19.1612″

Please always carefully check road and weather conditions!
Several roads do not have a daily snow clearing service. Please find more detailed descriptions in the interactive map of the homepage
www.arcticcoastway.is

VIEWING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

Skúlahorn	65°39′1.7931″	20°18′20.6983″
Horn old town Blönduós	65°39′34.6644″	20°18′9.5″
Blanda Delta	65°39′44.8494″	20°17′37.339″
Spákonufellshöfði	65°49′42.7994″	20°19′14.7174″
Parking Crossroads to Grettislaug	65°45′48.5″	19°39′39″
Furðustrandir	65°44′47.6432″	19°32′55.9378″
Staðarbjörg	65°53′44.56″	19°24′35.1167″
Höfðahólar	65°59′29.4466″	19°24′19.4293″

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Strákagöng	66°11′7.3879″	18°55′40.711″
Friðlandshringur Hrisatjörn	65°57′17.4″	18°31′54.8″
Grímsey out of town	66°31′40.8″	17°58′55.8″
Hrísey out of town	65°58′40.6″	18°22′19.2″
Grenivík “Where the road ends”	65°56′50.3146″	18°11′3.8796″
Laxamýri	65°58′1.4124″	17°24′21.3743″

COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

Heimskautsgerði	66°27′35.8379″	15°57′54.0328″
Raufarhafnarviti	66°27′14.1721″	15°55′58.8695″
Bakkafjörður Old Harbour	66°2′19.487″	14°48′19.1612″



Please be aware that some of the lighthouses are only reachable by walking or hiking

LIGHTHOUSES

COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

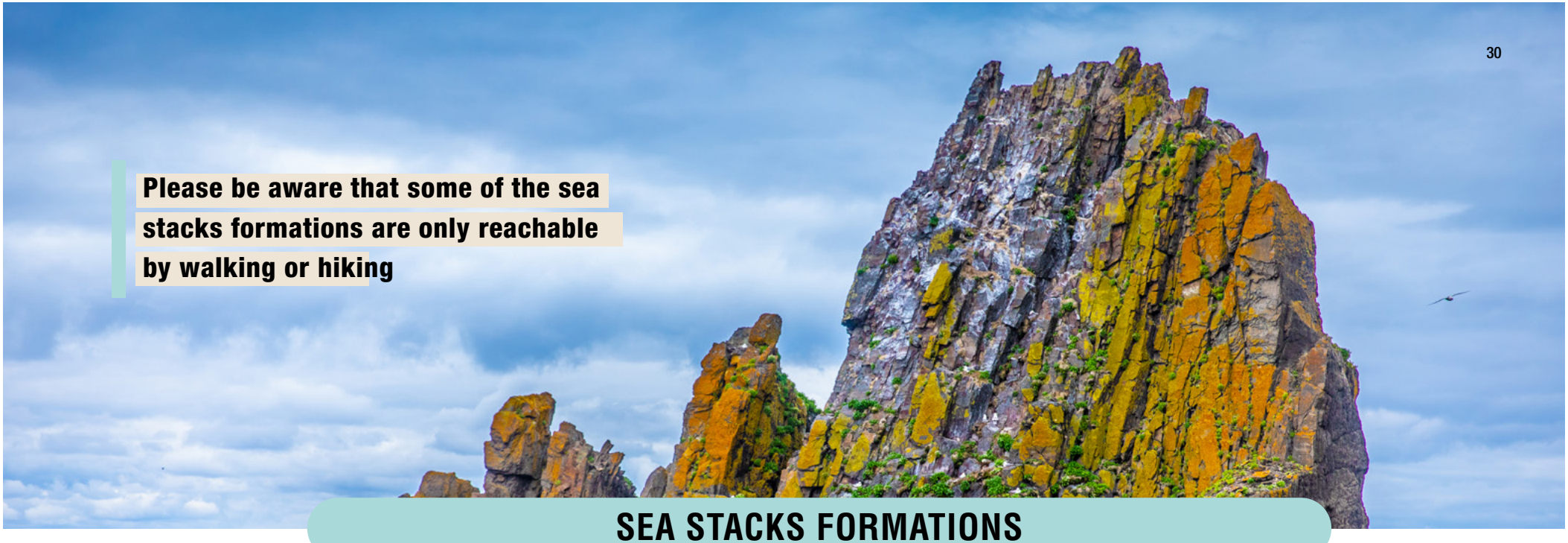
Kálfshamarsvík (Walk)	66°1′4.1″	20°25′41.2″
Hegranesviti (Hike)	65°44′47.6432″	19°32′55.9378″

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Selvíkurviti (Hike)	66°9′33″	18°51′59.3″
Grímsey	66°31′40.8″	17°58′55.8″
Svalbarðseyri	65°44′37.4″	18°5′25.4″
Húsavík	66°03'07.8"	17°21'43.4"

COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

Kópasker (Walk)	66°18′22.6264″	16°28′3.4381″
Hraunhafnartangi (Walk)	66°31′27.5661″	16°1′59.1014″
Raufarhafnarviti	66°27′14.1721″	15°55′58.8695″
Fontur	66°22′42.5866″	14°32′5.4898″



Please be aware that some of the sea stacks formations are only reachable by walking or hiking

SEA STACKS FORMATIONS

COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

Ánastaðastapi	65°28′53″	20°59′1.6″
Hvítserkur (walk)	65°36′13.584″	20°38′21.1482″
Bolabás (walk)	65°40′15.5568″	20°17′40.0225″
Kálfshamarsvík (walk)	66°1′4.1″	20°25′41.2″
Hofsós	65°53′44.56″	19°24′35.1167″

COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

Hestfjall, Hvalvík	66°22′53.9856″	16°30′30.0806″
Rauðanes (hike)	66°14′34.0915″	15°42′38.534″
Skoruvíkurbjarg	66°23′8.849″	14°51′7.4045″



Please find more detailed descriptions
in the interactive map of the homepage
www.arcticcoastway.is

ACCESSIBLE BEACHES

COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

Svalbarð	65°35′5.3″	20°55′26.4″
Hvítserkur	65°36′13.584″	20°38′21.1482″
Kálfshamarsvík	66°1′4.1″	20°25′41.2″
Borgarsandur	65°44′42.9″	19°37′45.6″

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Strönd í Ólafsfirði	66°4′36.0514″	18°39′38.8864″
Sandurinn á Dalvík	65°58′11.19″	18°31′33.8336″
Strönd í Hauganesi	65°55′20.9″	18°18′14.4″
Sæborgarfjara Hrísey	65°58′40.6″	18°22′19.2″
Svalbarðseyri	65°44′37.4″	18°5′25.4″

COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

Fjallahöfn	66°7′27.2493″	16°56′51.7768″
Hraunhafnartangi	66°31′27.5661″	16°1′59.1014″
Við Lambanes	66°15′51.4181″	15°10′20.5432″
Skálar	66°19′43.1443″	14°45′46.744″



REST AREAS

COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

Norðurbraut Vegagerðin	65°21′9.4741″	20°53′3.185″
Hamarsá Vegagerðin	65°31′32.3161″	20°57′50.9925″
Hvítserkur Vegagerðin	65°36′13.584″	20°38′21.1482″
Borgarvirki Vegagerðin	65°28′24.8034″	20°35′46.0077″
Sveinsstaðir Vegagerðin	65°30′15.9643″	20°22′35.2769″
Horn in Blönduós	65°39′34.6644″	20°18′9.5″
Kálfshamarsvík	66°1′4.1″	20°25′41.2″
Furðustrandir Vegagerðin	65°44′47.6432″	19°32′55.9378″
Grafarós Vegagerðin	65°53′24.2331″	19°23′52.3074″
Höfðahólar Vegagerðin	65°59′29.4466″	19°24′19.4293″
Lónkot Vegagerðin	66°0′15.0918″	19°23′48.4711″
Haganesvík	66°3′51.8646″	19°9′19.544″



COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Bakkatjörn Vegagerðin	66°9′40.5948″	18°54′12.3864″
Skútudalur Vegagerðin	66°7′56.4″	10°54′17″
Héðinsfjörður Vegagerðin	66°6′17.2″	18°49′07.6″
Ólafsfjörður Vegagerðin	66°04′41.11″	18°37′48.9″
Ólafsfjarðargöng Vegagerðin	66°04′24.1″	18°32′10.3″
Friðlandshringur Hrísatjörn	65°57′17.4″	18°31′54.8″
Séra Friðrik Vegagerðin	65°56′57.13″	18°28′26.5″
Grenivík “Where the road ends“	65°47′56.9″	18°3′28.1″
Útsýnispallur	65°41′16.4″	18°3′5.9″

COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

Fornustaðir Vegagerðin	66°6′2.2195″	19°4′12.4825″
Laxamýri Vegagerðin	65°58′1.4124″	17°24′21.3743″
Gónhóll Vegagerðin	66°3′44.2847″	17°20′31.9715″
Hringsbjarg Vegagerðin	66°8′14.4492″	16°57′0.7009″
Ásbyrgi	66°1′33.3″	16°29′47.9″
Við Kópasker Vegagerðin	66°16′12.8515″	16°24′31.8759″
Raufarhafnarviti	66°27′14.1721″	15°55′58.8695″
Vegagerðin Hófsskarð	66°17′53.8644″	15°53′27.4042″
Skálar	66°19′43.1443″	14°45′46.744″

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AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

The Arctic Coast Way brings unspoiled nature and interesting culture to its visitors in North Iceland, close to the Arctic Circle. There are countless activities and experiences where you can discover awe-inspiring landscapes and immerse yourself in a different way of life. But some experiences offer authentic activities and an unforgettable tour on the Arctic Coast Way.





Seaside bites and Icelandic cuisine

Meet other food lovers in this half-day workshop and taste and learn about Icelandic cuisine and its connection with Iceland's unique natural history. Your hosts share their expertise and teach you all about using natural and wild food and the raw ingredients that can be found in northern climes. They will explain how food, in bygone days, was preserved for the long winter and how modern Icelanders still use this traditional food with a modern twist.

Inga Elsa Bergþórsdóttir and Gísli Egill Hrafnsson, your hosts, are real all-rounders with a passion for Icelandic food culture and heritage, cooking, graphic design and photography. Their beautifully designed books on Icelandic food and food history have received excellent critiques and have been nominated for literary prizes in Iceland and abroad. Their latest book La Cuisine Scandinave was published in France, the Netherlands and Germany.

This exciting food tour starts at Brimslóð Atelier in Blönduós and makes a first stop at the small and sheltered cove of Selvík in Húnaflói, where seals can often be seen. Upon arrival on the beach, Inga and Gísli will cook and offer a taste of seafood prepared over open fire with various local ingredients. If conditions are right, seaweed will be collected, as well as seawater to be boiled down to make salt over open fire. The return journey features another stop to forage for more ingredients.

The next stop is at Brimslóð, Inga and Gísli's splendid guesthouse and restaurant beside the sea, with its magnificent views across the open North Atlantic Ocean to the Westfjords peninsula beyond. There, the group will round off the day, working together in the well-equipped kitchen to prepare a light three-course meal, using some of the ingredients gathered during the day and sourced from the Brimslóð garden.

Please contact:

brimslodguesthouse.is
ibergthorsdottir@gmail.com





Take a step back in time to the Herring Era

The Herring Era Museum is the country's largest maritime and industrial museum, where visitors have the opportunity to get to know the herring fishery and processing industry that underpinned Iceland's economy for much of the twentieth century. The herring industry was so important that it was seen as an adventure, as the country rose up from centuries of poverty to build a modern society.

Three different museum buildings provide visitors with an insight into the magnificent and captivating herring industry. The Róaldsbrakki is a Norwegian herring station dating back to 1907. Most of this building is as it was in the past, when herring girls lived in the building throughout the summer. Gråna is an example of a small herring factory of the 1930s and visitors can see the workings of the reduction industry, which has long been seen as Iceland's first major industry. The Boathouse seeks to recreate a portion of a herring port, with the fleet alongside one evening in 1950 and allows visitors to mull over what it must have been like to walk the quaysides around the middle of the last century. By the end of the tour, our guide will offer a taste of herring, along with rye bread from the local baker – and a little Brennivín to wash it down with.

Please contact:
sild.is | safn@sild.is





Arctic snorkelling with puffins

Puffins are often referred to as “clowns of the sea”, and one of the collective names for them is a “circus” of puffins, which seems appropriate. This eccentric species with their colourful bills is high on the wish-to-see list of most visitors to the Nordic countries. But on Grímsey Island, the only community in Iceland located on the Arctic Circle, you have the unique chance to witness the bustle and commotion of these agile little “clowns” not only in the air, but also under water, as they are perfect divers. Snorkelling in the ocean by the Arctic island is a unique adventure and – depending on the weather – you might even snorkel across the Arctic Circle! The ocean around Grímsey is crystal-clear and the aquatic surroundings of the island are full of life, with a great kelp forest on the bottom which is home to many different fish species such as cod, haddock, star fish, plaice and pollock. Whales are usually not far away either. Puffins are summer guests and the chance to encounter them is limited to the summer months from mid April to mid August.

Please contact:
arctictrip.is | info@arctictrip.is





From Cod to Baccalá

Learn first-hand all about salted cod that always played an important role in Icelandic culture, both as a product for export and a commodity that has become a popular ingredient in many cuisines around the Atlantic, West Africa and the Mediterranean. Join a group in our traditional Icelandic oak boat and sail out to the rich fishing grounds of Eyjafjörður near the village Hauganes. The guide will tell you all about fishing in olden and modern times. But then it is your turn to cast the lines and hook your own catch of Atlantic cod or haddock.

Soon the air will be filled with seagulls wanting to share your catch of the day. On the way out to the fishing grounds and back to the village we have a good chance of spotting whales.

Back on land, you can visit Ektafiskur, a true pioneer in preparing ready-to-cook salted cod products.

The manager, Elvar, is the self-proclaimed “King of the Salted Codfish” and a third-generation salted codfish producer, as his grandfather established the factory in 1940 and evolved the methods that have been put into practice ever since.

At Ektafiskur you can join the Food and fun factory tour (min 6 pax) where you will hear stories about this interesting company and of course taste rotten sharks and local snaps.

Then there is no better way of ending your day than to try salted cod at Baccalá Bar.

Please contact:
ektafiskur.is | whales@whales.is





Whales and Sails

Set sail towards the spectacular landscape of Skjálfandi Bay on an Icelandic wooden schooner and explore the feeding grounds of the largest animals on Earth! This authentic 3-hour whale-watching tour gives you the unique opportunity to learn about the traditional sailing culture while the professional crew shares stories and knowledge about the whales and wildlife of Skjálfandi Bay, Húsavík. Humpback whales and minke whales are frequent visitors of the Bay, and chances are you will see playful dolphins and a pod of pilot whales – even the mighty blue whale is no stranger to the Bay! Imagine the unforgettable experience of sailing among these magnificent creatures on a beautiful and authentic sailboat. During the tour, you will get the chance to assist the crew in hoisting sails and hauling ropes and learn the key terms and techniques while sailing like a true Viking. On the way back to the harbour of Húsavík after a memorable whale-watching tour, the crew treats you with a steamy cup of hot chocolate and freshly baked cinnamon buns.

Please contact:
northsailing.is / info@northsailing.is





Coastal culture and Norse mythology

On this day tour you will experience the Arctic region in all its various aspects and discover the northernmost parts of the Icelandic mainland which are among the least explored frontiers on the traveller's map. You will come close to the Arctic Circle and fall under the spell of stories from Norse mythology when you visit the Arctic Henge and listen to stories about fishing in Raufarhöfn, the so-called Arctic Village. Taste the local food such as fresh fish straight out of the Arctic waters. On the Melrakkaslétta peninsula where time seems to have stopped, you will experience the special natural atmosphere of the subarctic zone.

We meet you in Raufarhöfn, a small seaside village on the Arctic circle zone and one of the northernmost communities in Iceland. A guided walk takes you back in time, to when Herring was the name of the game in Raufarhöfn for many years. Find the hidden marks of old glory and listen to the stories that will take you back to the old days.

Leaving true history, you will drift into mystic legends surrounding the distinctive Arctic Henge that acts as a huge sundial and thrills every visitor, although still under construction. Located on a small hill, the Henge overlooks 360 ° of unbroken horizon and wild nature – perfect for capturing the sunrays between the aligned gateways. Future scenes of coming sculptures will be described, and tales will be told about the wisdom of the Edda, about Norse mythology concerning dwarfs and their role. With these impressions and interpretations of nature we drive out to the subarctic and natural environment of Melrakkaslétta peninsula, where a hike is required to finally reach the northernmost place on the mainland – the lighthouse Hraunhafnartangi, only 3 kilometres from the Arctic Circle.

Please contact:
travelnorth.is | info@travelnorth.is



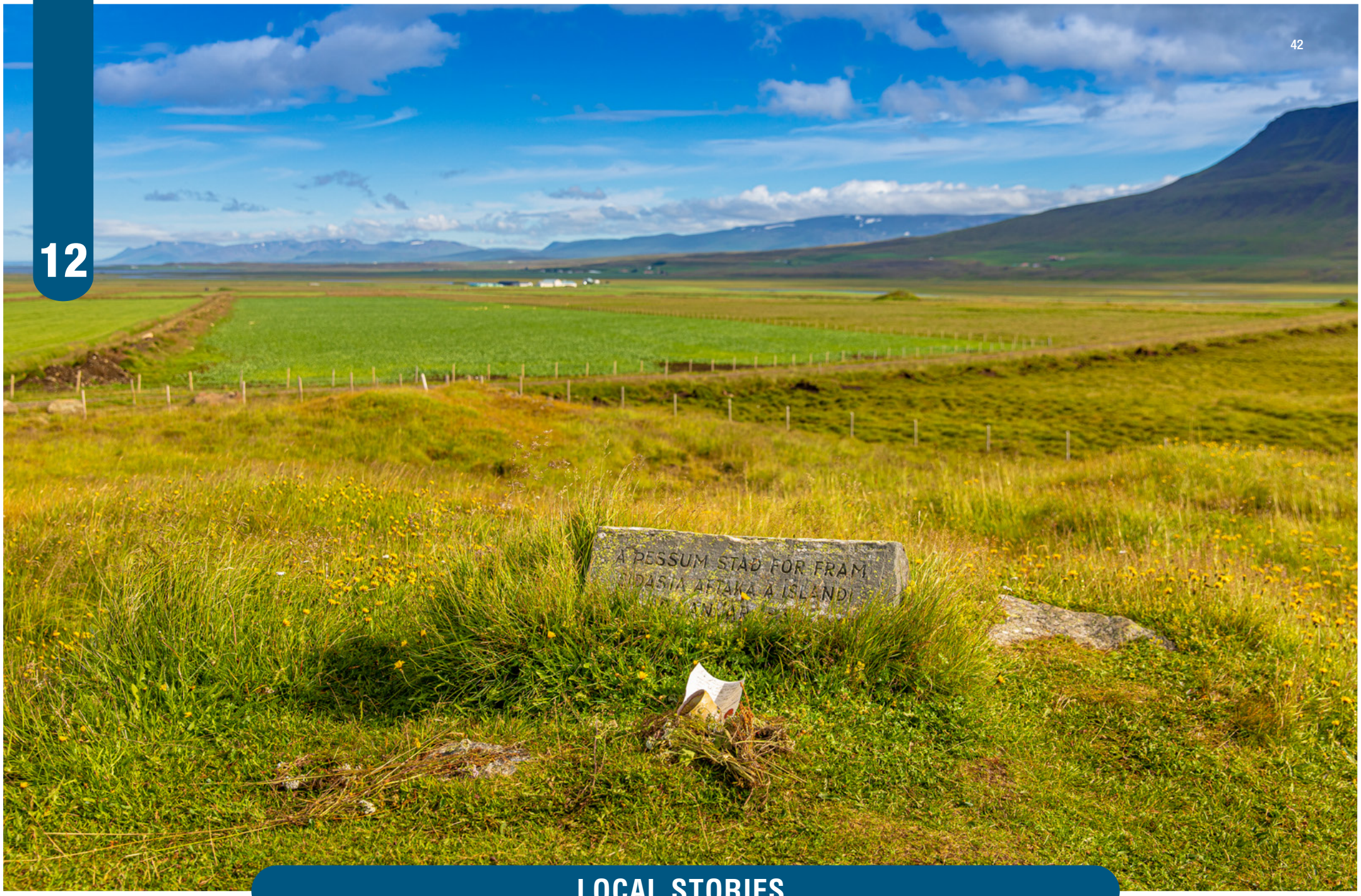


Meet Icelandic sheep and learn about sustainable food

Join your hosts who run a sustainable farm in one of the most remote corners of Iceland; as far as it is possible to be from Iceland's capital, and experience for 2 days a different rhythm of life. Spring in Iceland is a very special time of the year with its seasonal highlight of lamb-ing, the busiest time of the year for a farmer, but also very rewarding with all the newborn lambs bleating for care and attention. From the long winter break the island awakens into new life: the lambs are born, the sun is back, shining practically 24/7, and migrat-ing birds arrive filling both day and night with their vibrant voices. Mirjam and Sverrir, your hosts, will share the pattern of their daily life with you. You visit the sheep with their lambs and perhaps have the chance to bottle-feed one of these home-bred lambs and find out the traditional ways of sheep farming. You can observe (and perhaps assist in) the training of sheepdogs, learn all about sustainable products, and enjoy helping the farmers to prepare traditional meals with products from the farm.

Please contact:
ytralon.is | mirjam@ytralon.is

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LOCAL STORIES

The Arctic Coast Way connects you to its rough and unspoiled nature and takes you to diversified landscapes between seaside and mountains. It captivates you with its peaceful coastal villages and authentic people, whose stories and culture are formed by the live at the ocean close to the Arctic Circle. You are free up to slow down and leave feeling uplifted and fulfilled with unique memories.

Feel the freedom of breathing with the rhythm of waves and wind while listening to stories of the locals.

https://www.arcticcoastway.is/en/stories

Þrístapar | The last execution in Iceland

"Agnes Magnúsdóttir and Friðrik Sigurðsson had been sentenced to death for the murder of two men in the night of 14 March 1828, Natan Ketilsson, farmer at Illugastaðir, and Pétur Jónsson from Geitaskarð. The district commissioner, Björn Blöndal, had a place called Þrístapar prepared for the execution. He chose it because it was elevated and easily accessible, so that 150 people could gather around and witness the event. The spectators were asked to stand in three lines and encircle the place of execution and no one was allowed to look away. The farmers who were unable to attend had to send farmhands in their stead.

Friðrik rode to the execution on his horse, dismounted it and greeted the onlookers, district commissioner Blöndal and Guðmundur, the executioner. Friðrik was a young man, not even 20 years old, and he arrived singing to his own execution. Guðmundur performed his duty and after one strike Friðrik's head rolled off. The spectators probably stood so close that they were splattered with his blood.

Agnes was in a completely different state of mind. She was downhearted when she arrived and felt as if she had not been given the chance to speak up for herself and protest her treatment. She left this world feeling that her case was unresolved. She was very discontent when she died. She may still be discontent, to this day, and of the opinion that no one was willing to listen to her while she was alive. In 1828, poor maids had no advocates. They were supposed to sit and stand according to their master's command. One has to put oneself in their shoes—what is a young woman to do when trapped as a housemaid with men who control absolutely everything? It's impossible to get away. It is known that both Agnes and Sigríður, another maid at the same farm, had tried to escape Illugastaðir. But at that time, the masters held the absolute power, and the maids were insignificant.

In that time, criminals could not be buried in sacred ground, so they were buried close to the place of execution. In compliance with the law, their heads were put on spikes. But the following morning, the heads were gone. No one knew what had happened to the heads. But the fact was that Guðrún, the housewife at Þingeyrar, had sent a young farmhand to collect the heads and bury them in a grave in the Þingeyrar cemetery, which had recently been dug. She found the thought of leaving the heads unburied to be unbearable.

Many years later a man came to see my grandfather, who lived at Sveinsstaðir where Þrístapar is located. He said that he had been given permission to dig up the remains of Agnes and Friðrik and asked my grandfather to help him. My grandfather told him that this would be difficult as he didn't know the exact location of the graves. He had lived at Sveinsstaðir his whole life and had often thought about the graves but didn't know where they were.

The man said that he had information about the location of the graves. He had been sent by Agnes Magnúsdóttir herself and that she had delivered a message through a woman by psychography. The man added that Agnes had revealed that the farmhand from Þingeyrar had truly gone out the night after the execution but had lost his courage and instead of carrying the heads the 6-km-distance to Þingeyrar, he had buried them close to the coffins. "He was unable to remove my head from the spike, so he broke it," she elaborated in the psychography.

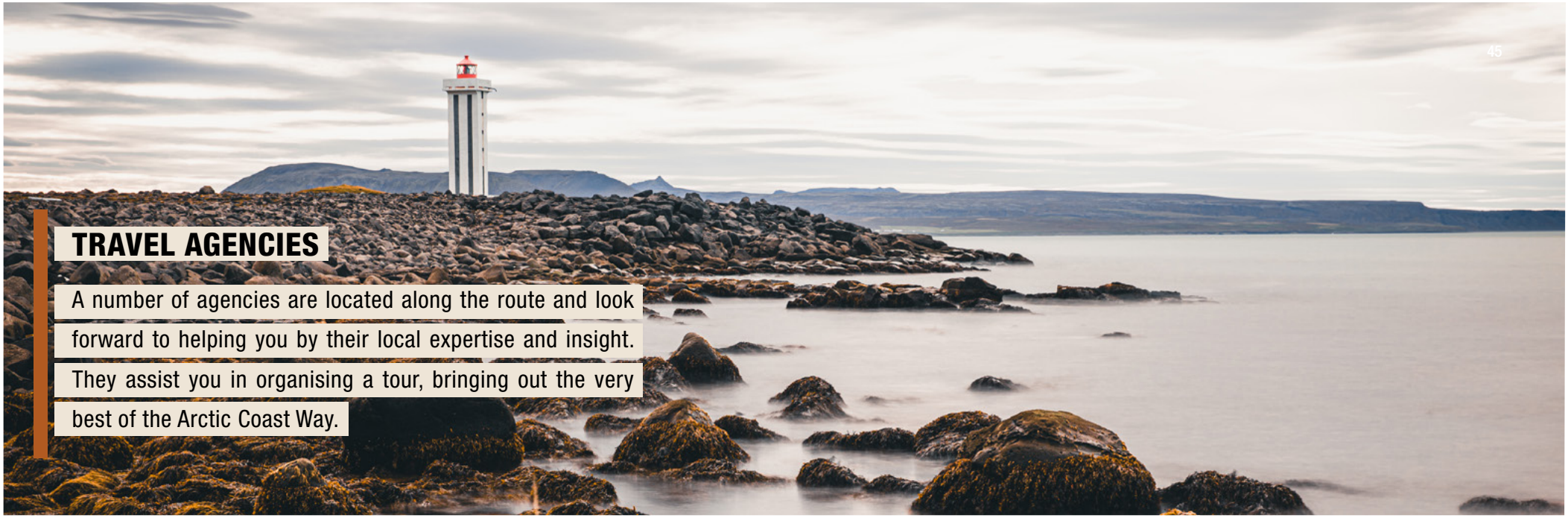
They started digging: The man, my granddad and my dad, who was 19 at the time. It only took them 15 minutes to find the graves by ramming an iron pole into the ground. They found pieces of wood and underneath them, the bones of Agnes and Friðrik, which had been inside the wooden coffins. When they continued digging, they found two skulls, and next to one of them, a 10-cm-long wooden stick. Their remains were excavated and buried in sacred ground at Tjörn on Tjörnes, 104 years later.

It is remarkable how Agnes made sure to have her and Friðrik's remains dug up; how she delivered the message through a woman by psychography, stating that she would like their remains to by buried in holy ground. Agnes even pointed out the location of their heads, close to the place of execution. Even the greatest sceptics who refuse to believe in life after death find it hard to object in light of this overwhelming evidence."

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EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES



TRAVEL AGENCIES

A number of agencies are located along the route and look forward to helping you by their local expertise and insight. They assist you in organising a tour, bringing out the very best of the Arctic Coast Way.

COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

Seal Travel	Hvammstangi	sealtravel.is info@sealtravel.is
Arctic Hotels	Sauðárkrókur	arctichotels.is info@arctichotels.is
Helluland	Sauðárkrókur	helluland.is info@icelandhorsetours.com

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Sporttours	Dalvík	sporttours.is sporttours@sporttours.is
Arctic Trip	Grímsey	arctictrip.is info@arctictrip.is
No.17	Svalbarðsströnd	no17.is No17@no17.is
Travel North	Húsavík	travelnorth.is info@travelnorth.is
Saltvík	Húsavík	saltvik.is saltvik@saltvik.is
Sóti summits	Siglufjörður	sotisummits.is info@sotisummits.is





There is no better method to experience the Arctic Coast Way than leaving the car and immersing yourself in the unspoiled nature or cultural sites along the route. The list of experiences and activities offers options for all tastes!

SPECIALIZED DAY TOURS

Several tour operators along the Arctic Coast Way can help you with specialized day-tours to specific topics like birding, geology or cultural events, but also for various outdoor activities.

MIDNIGHT SUN TOURS

The midnight sun is one of the wonders the Arctic regions offer their visitors. The warm golden light can be discovered on your own, especially from the "Arctic Coast Way Midnight Sun" viewpoints but you should not miss the magic and tranquillity experienced on the guided midnight sun tours, during hikes, kayak tours or whale watching tours.

NORTHERN LIGHT TOURS

From September to April is the time to see the dancing lights of Aurora Borealis. Their splendour is best seen in absolute darkness. Guided tours take you to those places and also ensure your safety in snowy conditions. No matter whether on tours by car or on a sailing boat the magic is always the same.

WHALE WATCHING

The coast of North Iceland offers magnificent options to encounter the friendly giants of the ocean. Humpback whales are the most common species, but there are many more varieties and even the giant of the oceans, the blue whale,





is a regular guest here in the North. Most whales visit north Iceland during the summer, but we also have a large number of permanent residents. There are modes of sailing to suit every taste, for example traditional old oak boats, zodiacs and closed boats with options to sit inside.

BOAT TOURS

Leaving the mainland by a variety of boat tours offers a splendid option to experience the shores of the Arctic Coast Way from a new perspective, thus revealing new hidden gems. Most of the tours connect with the charm-ing islands along the Arctic Coast Way, beckoning visitors to explore their rich birdlife, amazing nature wonders and each one offering individual stories of remote life close to the Arctic Circle.

GUIDED HIKES

There are countless options for hikes along the route of the Arctic Coast Way. Many are marked, although a large number is unmarked as yet, but nevertheless easy to follow as they trace their way through the landscape. We highly recommend going on hikes with a guided tour where an experienced guide will show you the way through hidden trails, help in difficult landscapes and tell you countless stories of nature and culture along the trails.

HORSEBACK TOURS

Without the strong Icelandic horses there would probably have been no settlement in Iceland. These amazing animals are still close to the Icelandic way of life and there is no better option to connect to tradition and experience nature at the same time. A tour along the shore or even on a black sand beach is a very special experience.

BIRDING AND PUFFIN TOURS

The Arctic Coast Way includes some of the best birding locations in Iceland which are part of the Birding Trail (find more information here: www.northiceland.is/birding). You can either stop at the birding locations yourself or go on a guided birding tour. The best places to see the puffins are Drangey Island, Grímsey Island, Lundey Island and Langanes. It is also an unforgettable experience to observe the arctic gannets on Langanes and the handsome harlequin ducks in Blönduós. These are just some few examples of the rich birdlife along the Arctic Coast Way.





KAYAKING

There are several options to discover the coast along the Arctic Coast Way, for example on a guided Kayak Tour. Being out on the ocean offers a new perspective to nature along the shore and you can reach places which are not accessible by car or hikes. The clear waters around Iceland allow deep views into the ocean. You can encounter sea birds – and maybe even dolphins or whales.

ARCTIC SNORKELLING

Snorkelling in the ocean by the Arctic island of Grímsey is a unique experience. The ocean has been a rich fishing ground for centuries and the area around the island is full of life with a great kelp forest on the bottom, the home of many different fish such as cod, haddock, star fish, plaice and pollock. The puffins and whales are usually not far away either. But keep in mind, puffins are summer guests and come to Iceland about the middle of April – the middle of August.

ARCTIC DIVING

Diving in the ocean by Grímsey Island is an exciting way to discover the magnificent surroundings below the surface. Experience the wonders of fauna and flora in this hidden world at the Arctic Circle.

JET SKIING

An adventurous way to experience spectacular views of the coast around Ólafsfjörður. The tours take you through unspoiled nature past the headland of Ólafsfjarðarmúli and Hvanndalabjarg, the highest precipice in Iceland.





SEA ANGLING

Experience the exciting feeling of catching your own meal on the North Atlantic Ocean. The distance to the rich fish-ing grounds is pretty short. Angling connects you to fish-ing as an important part of life in Iceland and offers the option to try the great quality of Icelandic fish. Check out the tours from various operators; some connect angling with whale watch-ing, others offer options to prepare your catch in restaurants in towns, or even with locals.

WOOL & KNITTING

Sheep´s wool is an important traditional product in Iceland and Icelanders still love to wear their woollen sweaters. You can learn all about this fascinating natural material and how to process it.

WALKING WITH ELVES

Some believe in them, some do not. But elves and other natural creatures are a well-known part of Icelandic life. Take a walk with a local guide to learn everything about elves, their homes and their ways and maybe you will encounter them – who knows!

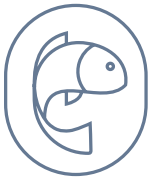
SPA & WELLNESS

Iceland‘s peaceful and pure nature gives the perfect frame for various offers in the field of Spa, Wellness, Wellbeing and Yoga. The landscapes, the clean air and water and the sound of silence invite everyone to slow down and to recharge your batteries.

COAST OF
SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

DAY TOURS		Sealtravel	Hvammstangi	**sealtravel.is**	info@sealtravel.is
		Arctic Hotels	Sauðárkrókur	**arctichotels.is**	info@arctichotels.is
BOAT TOURS	♿	Drangey Tours	Sauðárkrókur	**drangey.net**	drangey@drangey.net
PUFFIN TOURS		Drangey Tours	Sauðárkrókur	**www.drangey.net**	drangey@drangey.net
SEA ANGLING	♿	Drangey Tours	Sauðárkrókur	**www.drangey.net**	drangey@drangey.net
HORSEBACK TOURS		Helluland	Sauðárkrókur	**helluland.is**	info@icelandhorsetours.is
WOOL & KNITTING		Kidka Wool Factory	Hvammstangi	**kidka.com**	shop@kidka.is
		The Icelandic Knit Fest	Blönduós	**textilmidstod.is**	textilcenter@textilcenter.is





COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

DAY TOURS	Arctic Sea Tours	♿	Dalvík	**arcticseatours.is**	book@arcticseatours.is
	Whale Watching Akureyri		Akureyri	**whalewatchingakureyri.is**	info@whalewatchingakureyri.is
	Sporttours		Akureyri	**sporttours.is**	sporttours@sporttours.is
	No.17	♿	Akureyri	**no17.is**	No17@no17.is
	Ferðamálafélag Hríseyjar		Hrísey	**hrisey.is**	hrisey@hrisey.net
	Travel North		Húsavík	**travelnorth.is**	info@travelnorth.is
	Gentle Giants	♿	Húsavík	**gentlegiants.is**	info@gentlegiants.is
	North Sailing		Húsavík	**northsailing.is**	info@northsailing.is
	Sóti summits		Siglufjörður	**sotisummits.is**	info@sotisummits.is
WHALE WATCHING	Arctic Sea Tours	♿	Dalvík	**arcticseatours.is**	book@arcticseatours.is
	Whales Hauganes	♿	Hauganes	**whales.is**	whales@whales.is
	Whale Watching Akureyri		Akureyri	**whalewatchingsakureyri.is**	info@whalewatchinakureyri.is
	North Sailing		Hjalteyri, Húsavík	**northsailing.is**	info@northsailing.is
	Gentle Giants	♿	Húsavík	**gentlegiants.is**	info@gentlegiants.is

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

BOAT TOURS	Arctic Sea Tours	♿	Dalvík	arcticseatours.is	book@arcticseatours.is
	Arctic Trip		Grímsey	arctictrip.is	info@arctictrip.is
	North Sailing		Húsavík	northsailing.is	info@northsailing.is
	Gentle Giants		Húsavík	gentlegiants.is	info@gentlegiants.is
GUIDED HIKES	Ferðamálafélag Hríseyjar		Hrísey	hrisey.is	hrisey@hrisey.net
	Arctic Trip		Grímsey	arctictrip.is	info@arctictrip.is
	Sóti summits		Siglufjörður	sotisummits.is	info@sotisummits.is
PUFFIN TOURS	Arctic Trip		Grímsey	arctictrip.is	info@arctictrip.is
	Gentle Giants		Húsavík	gentlegiants.is	info@gentlegiants.is
	North Sailing		Húsavík	northsailing.is	info@northsailing.is
NORTHERN LIGHTS TOURS	North Sailing		Húsavík	northsailing.is	info@northsailing.is
ARCTIC SNORKELING & DIVING	Arctic Trip		Grímsey	arctictrip.is	info@arctictrip.is
HORSEBACK TOURS	Saltvík		Húsavík	saltvik.is	saltvik@saltvik.is

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

KAYAKING	Gentle Giants		Húsavík	gentlegiants.is	info@gentlegiants.is
SPA & WELLNESS:	Beer Spa		Árskógssandur	bjorbodin.is	bjorbodin@bjorbodin.is
	Geo Sea		Húsavík	geosea.is	geosea@geosea.is
	Forest Lagoon		Akureyri	forestlagoon.is	info@forestlagoon.is
	North Sailing I Gong & Sailing		Húsavík	northsailing.is	info@northsailing.is
	Gentle Giants I Yoga Retreats		Húsavík	gentlegiants.is	info@gentlegiants.is
	Iceland Yurt & Gaia Temple, Meditation & Soundhealing		near Akureyri	icelandyurt.is	info@icelandyurt.is



COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

ELVES WALK	Hidden Trail Botanical garden		Akureyri	**bryndis.is**	bryndis@bryndis.is
SEA ANGLING	Whales Hauganes		Hauganes	**whales.is**	whales@whales.is
	Arctic Trip		Grímsey	**arctictrip.is**	info@arctictrip.is
	Gentle Giants		Húsavík	**gentlegiants.is**	info@gentlegiants.is
JET SKI	Fairytale at sea		Ólafsfjörður	**fairytale.is**	daddi@fairytale.is
TRACTOR TOURS	Ferðamálafélag Hríseyjar		Hrísey	**Hrisey.is**	hrisey@hrisey.net



COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

DAY TOURS	Travel North	Húsavík	travelnorth.is	info@travelnorth.is
	Ytra-Lón Farm Lodge	Þórshöfn	ytralon.is	mirjam@ytralon.is
	Sandur Guesthouse	Þórshöfn	sandurguesthouse.com	knveitingar@gmail.com
GUIDED HIKES	Ytra-Lón Farm Lodge	Þórshöfn	ytralon.is	mirjam@ytralon.is
BIRDING	Ytra-Lón Farm Lodge	Þórshöfn	ytralon.is	mirjam@ytralon.is
	Travel North	Húsavík	travelnorth.is	info@travelnorth.is
KAYAKING	Sandur Guesthouse	Þórshöfn	sandurguesthouse.com	knveitingar@gmail.com
MIDNIGHT SUN TOUR	Sandur Guesthouse	Þórshöfn	sandurguesthouse.com	knveitingar@gmail.com



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BEST HIKES ALONG THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

There are endless options for hiking tours along the Arctic Coast Way. This is the perfect way to immerse oneself in unspoiled nature, to experience the sounds of nature or even the opposite, the absolute silence, a gift of nature which, sadly, has been lost in our modern time. Most of the recommended hikes are accessible to persons with normal to good physical fitness and the landscape is well suited for walking. For some hikes, we strongly recommend a local guide, as the trails follow difficult landscapes and need special attention and orientation.

COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY



Hrútey island and the river Blanda | Blönduós

Short hikes on excellent footpaths invite you to discover a wide variety of vegetation and an abundant birdlife. Hrútey Island is an excellent place just to stop and take a break as there is a clearing with benches and picnic tables.

Sea Cliff Bolabás | Blönduós

A short and easy hike takes you from the harbor along the coast to a number of pretty sea cliffs. At the end you reach the cliff of Bolabás. The tour offers amazing views over the bay with the mountains of the Westfjords on the horizon.

Mount Spákonufell | Skagaströnd

The mountain is 639m high and the trail is marked. The North Route starts at road 745 near the crossroads to Skagaströnd. The entire walking distance is 7 km. The summit offers magnificent views over Skagi peninsula and the ocean.

Spákonufellshöfði | Skagaströnd

A beautiful coastal walk of about 2 km that starts near the harbour of Skagaströnd. The trails are marked.

Kálfshamarsvík | Northwest coast of Skagi

An interesting short walk takes visitors through the ruins of the once flourishing settlement of Kálfshamarsvík and to the lighthouse. The cliffs display spectacular basalt columns.

Mountain Tindastóll | Sauðárkrókur

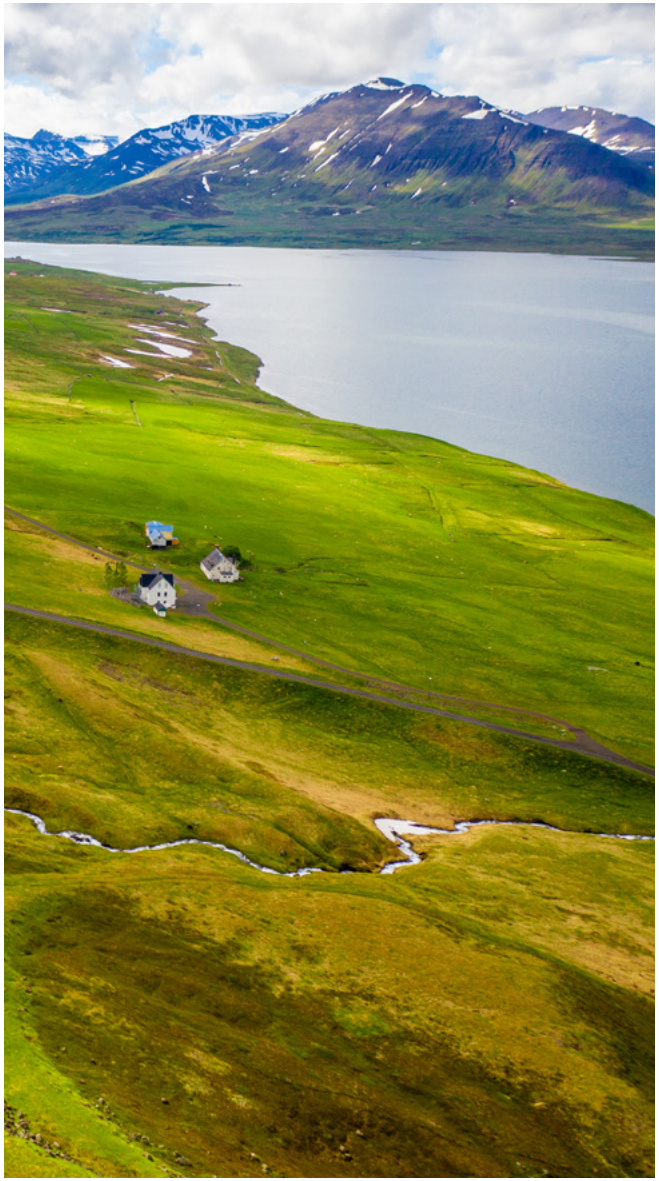
A marked trail leads up the 650m high mountain that offers stunning views over Skagafjörður bay. Hiking distance is about 6 km and the trail starts at road 744 where a sign points to the parking lot.

Hegranes lighthouse | Sauðárkrókur

A short and easy hike of about 4 km takes you to the Hegranes lighthouse. It is a very charming place and offers amazing views over the long black beach near Sauðárkrókur and the beautiful fjord of Skagafjörður with all its islands and the high mountains on either side.

to experience the sounds of true nature

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE



Selvíkurviti | Siglufjörður

This easy hike follows the coast on the opposite side of Siglufjörður to the lighthouse of Selvíkurviti. The entire hiking distance is about 5 km.

Héðinsfjörður | Fjord between Siglufjörður and Ólafsfjörður

Before the tunnels were opened, Héðinsfjörður was one of the most remote fjords and hard to reach. Now a marked trail starts right at the parking area on road 76, and the round trip is about 5 km. The hike can be described as easy and takes visitors through a beautiful fjord and along a lake to a beach strewn with driftwood.

Melrakkadalur | Dalvík

An easy, scenic hike of 2 km takes the visitor to the small "Fox-Valley" with extensive views over the area around Dalvík.

Böggvisstaðafjall | Dalvík

This mountain is part of a natural resort. The marked hike starts at the church in Dalvík and the entire route is 8 km long. The highest point reaches 778m and offers fantastic views over Dalvík, the fjord of Eyjafjörður and Hrísey Island.

Hrísey Island

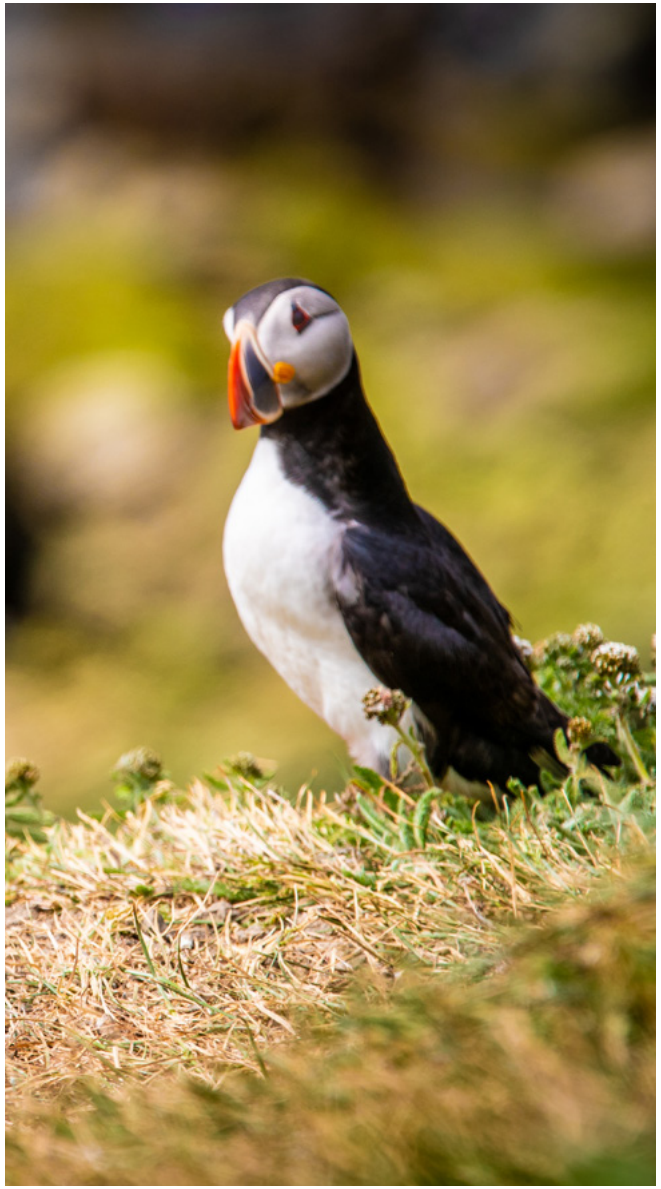
There are several marked circle trails on the island guiding visitors to unspoiled nature spots with a rich birdlife and opening up amazing views toward the high mountains on either side of Eyjafjörður. The trails are between 2.3 km and 5 km and start in the island's small fishing village.

Grímsey Island

Several easy trails of varying lengths start in the island's small village, offering visitors the option to cross the Arctic Circle and see the sculpture "Orbis et Globus". This trail is 3.8 km. The longest trail circles the whole island, giving endless opportunities to encounter puffins and discover the steep cliffs on the North side of the island.

Krossanesborgir | Akureyri

Several easy hikes along marked circular paths guide the visitor through this natural reserve near Akureyri. This location is characterised by numerous basalt rock formations, about 5-10 million years old. Rich vegetation finds shelter in amongst these rocks – around 200 different plant species. The area is also inhabited by diverse birdlife – over 27 differ-ent bird species, or about 35% of the total number of avian species in Iceland have been found to nest here.



Þengilhöfði | Grenivík

This small headland provides magnificent views over Eyjafjörður. A short hiking loop of about 4 km starts at Höfðabrekka near the town of Grenivík and leads up to the peak of 275 m altitude.

Laufáshnjúkur | Kræðufell | Ystuvíkurfjall

Right behind Laufás Turf House Museum are several peaks that offer incredible views. Two hikes lead to Laufáshnjúkur (674m) and Ystuvíkurfjall (572m). Experienced hikers in prime physical condition can tackle a long hike (about 17km) starting at Laufás and including the three neighbouring peaks, Laufáshnjúkur, Kræðufell (747m) and Ystuvíkurfjall. Participants need to organise a pick-up for the return journey to Laufás or book a guided tour.

the perfect way to immerse oneself in unspoiled nature

Mount Kaldbakur | Grenivík

This mountain, rising up behind Grenivík, is suitable for experienced hikers only, or with a guided tour, as the peak towers up to 1177m and includes several dangerous and exposed alpine rock cliffs.

Látraströnd | Grenivík

This amazing and easy return hike follows the coast north of Grenivík and surprises the traveller with amazing views and emotive ruins from earlier periods of settlement. It is up to you how long you follow the trail as it leads 21 km towards the north.

Húsavíkurfjall | Húsavík

Comfortable hiking route leading up the mountain beside Húsavík along a solid but steep car track. Stunning views of the scenery around Húsavík and Skjálfandaflói bay. The return tour is 6 km.

Fjord to fjord Tour

This magnificent hiking tour explores two of the most pristine fjords in the north of Iceland, just below the Arctic Circle. After a scenic route from Akureyri following the coastline of Eyjafjörður, you leave the asphalt for a bumpy mountain road with numerous small streams you must ford. You hike from one fjord to another traversing mountain passes.

COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE



Eyjan Ásbyrgi

The hiking route leads from the camping ground in Ásbyrgi on to the steep hill in the centre of the horseshoe canyon which was an island during floods that washed away the surrounding ground some 3000 years ago. The route is 5 km in length.

Snartarstaðanúpur | near Kópasker

An easy route with 2 x 3 km distance goes from Hvallág up along the cliff to Mígindishnúta, leaving only a short, though fairly strenuous, way to the peak. Although only 284 m high, the summit provides an expansive view, in good visibility even to Grímsey island. It is possible to continue south down the mountain. Across easy terrain one can walk all the way to Kópasker (6.5 km). With sheltered spots and holes through cliffs, the shoreline south of Hvalvík is beautiful, but care needs to be taken in some places to avoid being stranded by the tide.

Kópasker tectonic graben

Several sites in the vicinity of Kópasker show clear signs of the impact of a major earthquake which shook the area in 1976, causing significant damage. These sites are connected with a tour organised by the Earthquake Center.

Hraunhafnartangi

This easy walk follows a 4WD track along a coastline characterised by rich birdlife to the lighthouse of Hraunhafnartangi, the northernmost point of Iceland. The walk is 2x1.7 km.

Raufarhöfn

Two short marked footpaths invite the visitor to discover Iceland's northernmost village; one leads to the lighthouse on Höfði headland and the other takes you up to Ásinn ridge where pausing at a rest stop provides a panoramic view of Raufarhöfn and Þistilfjörður.

Fossá | near Þórshöfn

It is an easy walk from the water tanks on Brekknaheiði south to Fossá river and following its course down to the highway. Superb view over the village and Þistilfjörður.

COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE



Hrollaugsstaðir to Skálar | East coast of Langanes

For about 15 km the trail follows the amazing coastline of east Langanes with sunbathing seals, bird cliffs, a graveyard and the ruins of old farms; also, perhaps, a chance of spotting whales. The trail terminates at the abandoned village of Skálar. Ytra Lón Farm Lodge offers pick-ups and drop-offs with a stopover at the bird-cliffs of Skoruvík.

Langanes and surroundings

The owners of Ytra-Lón Farm Lodge offer a 5 day package tour with hikes to the hidden gems of Langanes and its surroundings. A perfect way to enjoy the scenery and become acquainted with the way of life in these parts, guided by local people.

Rauðanes | in Þistilfjörður between Raufarhöfn and Þórshöfn

Numerous beautiful rock formations, sea stacks and cliffs are found around the peninsula Rauðanes. An easy marked hike circles the peninsula. The loop is about 6km.



GEOTHERMAL BATHS

No matter what the season or weather, taking a break in the hot geothermal waters of the swimming pools and the natural pools all along the Arctic Coast Way is not only an amazing way to relax and gather energy, but also an important part of experiencing the daily life of people living so close to the Arctic Circle.

Please familiarise yourself with opening times as they differ from village to village and from season to season.



COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

Geothermal swimming pool Hvammstangi,		+354 451 2532
Geothermal swimming pool Blönduós		+354 452 4178
Geothermal swimming pool Sauðárkrókur,		+354 453 5226
Geothermal swimming pool Hofsós	♿	+354 455 6070

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Geothermal swimming pool Siglufjörður,		+354 464 9170
Geothermal swimming pool Ólafsfjörður,		+354 464 9250
Geothermal swimming pool Dalvík,		+354 460 4940
Geothermal swimming pool Hrísey,		+354 461 2255
Geothermal swimming pool Grímsey,		+354 461 3155





COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Beer Spa Árskógssandur		+354 4142828 I **bjorbodin.is**
Geothermal hot tub Hauganes,		
Geothermal hot tub Hjalteyri,		
Geothermal swimming pool Akureyri,	♿	+354 461 4455
Forest Lagoon, Vaðlaskó	♿	+354 585 0090 I **forestlagoon.is**

COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

Geothermal swimming pool Svalbarðseyri		+354 461 2074
Geothermal swimming pool Grenivík		+354 414 5420 I +354 863 4279
GeoSea Geothermal Sea Baths, Húsavík		+354 464 1210 I **geosea.is**
Geothermal swimming pool Húsavík		+354 464 6190
Geothermal swimming pool Raufarhöfn,		+354 465 2254
Geothermal swimming pool Þórshöfn		+354 468 1515

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ACCOMMODATION

You will find accommodation of all categories along the Arctic Coast Way, although availability of hotels is limited in some areas. Guesthouses and farm accommodations offer not only an individual atmosphere, but also the option to establish contact with owners and local people. In remoter areas accommodation is not open all year round, therefore please contact in advance to request the options to stay. Most providers are willing to open to receive groups even when officially closed.

Please find more detailed information on www.arcticcoastway.is and the provider's homepage.



COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

Hotel Laugarbakki	♿	Near Hvammstangi	Hotel with private facilities, hot tub and restaurant	hotellaugarbakki.is hotel@laugarbakki.is
Ósar Hostel	♿	Vatnsnes Peninsula at Hvítserkur rock formation	Hostel and Cottages	facebook.com/osarhostel osar@simnet.is
Brimslóð Atelier Guesthouse		Blönduós	Guesthouse with shared facilities and restaurant	brimslodguesthouse.is ibergthorsdottir@gmail.com
Salthús Guesthouse		Skagaströnd	Guesthouse; private facilities and kitchen	salthus.is salthus@salthus.is
Grand-Inn Bar & Bed	♿	Sauðárkrókur	Guesthouse with a bar	www.facebook.com/pg/GrandinnBarandBed grandinnbandb@gmail.com
Hotel Tindastóll & Annex		Sauðárkrókur	Hotel with private facilities and a hot pool	arctichotels.is info@arctichotels.is
Hotel Mikligarður		Sauðárkrókur	Hotel with private facilities	arctichotels.is info@arctichotels.is
Northwest Hotel		near Hvammstangi	Hotel with private facilities and a restaurant.	www.facebook.com/vidigerdi northwesthotel@outlook.com



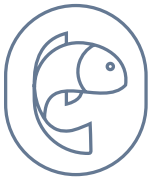






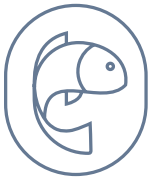
COAST OF
SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

COAST OF FISHING
TOWNS AND HERITAGE



COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Guesthouse Mikligarður		Sauðárkrókur	Guesthouse with shared and private facilities	**arctichotels.is** info@arctichotels.is
Sóti Lodge		Fljót	Guesthouse with private facilities and restaurant	**sotilodge.is** sotilodge@sotilodge.is
Brúnastaðir Guesthouse and Farm		Fljót	Different types of accommodation	**brunastadir.is** brunastadir@brunastadir.is
Sigló Hotel	♿	Siglufjörður	Hotel with private facilities, hot tub and restaurant	**siglohotel.is** siglo@keahotels.is
Siglunes Guesthouse		Siglufjörður	Guesthouse; shared and private facilities, restaurant	**hotelsiglunes.is** info@hotelsiglunes.is
The Herring House		Siglufjörður	Guesthouse with four elegant rooms and two cabins located in the garden	**theherringhouse.is** info@theherringhouse.is
Kaffi Klara Guesthouse		Ólafsfjörður	Guesthouse with shared facilities; located above the Kaffi Klara	**kaffiklara.is** gistihusjoa@gmail.com
Hotel Dalvík Aurora Leisure	♿	Dalvík	Hotel with private and shared facilities	**hoteldalvik.com** info@hoteldalvik.com



COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Dalvík Hostel		Dalvík and Siglufjörður	Different types of accommodation with hostel and cottages, some with hot tub	**dalvikhostel.com** vegamot@vegamot.is
Básavík Guesthouse		Grímsey	Guesthouse with shared facilities	**gistiheimilidbasar.is** basar@gistiheimilidbasar.is
Ytri Vík Lodge		Near Hauganes	Guesthouse with kitchen and hot tub and fully equipped log cabins with private hot tub	**sporttours.is** sporttours@sporttours.is
Akureyri Berjaya Hotel	♿	Akureyri	Hotel with private facilities, restaurant and a terrace with fireplace	**icelandhotelcollectionbyberjaya.com** akureyri@icehotels.is
Hotel Natur	♿	Near Akureyri	Hotel with shared and private facilities, hot tub and sauna, restaurant; hall to accommodate events, 12 m high sightseeing tower	**hotelnatur.com** hotelnatur@hotelnatur.is
Iceland Yurt & Gaia Temple		Near Akureyri	Sleeping in yurts; meditation & soundhealing	**icelandyurt.is** info@icelandyurt.is
Safnasafnið		Near Akureyri	Apartment at the Icelandic Folk and Outsider Art Museum.	**safnasafnid.is** safnageymsla@simnet.is
Grenivík Guesthouse		Grenivík	Guesthouse with private facilities and hot tub	**grenivikguesthouse.is** info@grenivikguesthouse.is









COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

Saltvík	♿	Húsavík	Guesthouse with private and shared facilities	**saltvik.is** saltvík@saltvik.is
Tungulending		Tjörnes peninsula	The guesthouse with shared facilities and kitchen is located in a remarkable coastal environment	**tungulending.is** mail@tungulending.is
Camping 66.12 north	♿	Tjörnes peninsula	Campsite located on the beautiful coast of Tjörnes	**www.facebook.com/camping66.12/** manarbakki@gmail.com
Camping Ásbyrgi		Ásbyrgi	Camping in the National Park with good facilities	**vjp.is** asbyrgi@vjp.is
Garður Guesthouse	♿	Between Ásbyrgi and Kópasker	Guesthouse with shared facilities, kitchen	**gardurguesthouse.is** info@gardurguesthouse.is





COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

Nordic Natura	♿	Between Ásbyrgi and Kópasker	Fully equipped studios with organic focus	nordicnatura.is heimahagarehf@gmail.com
Dettifoss Guesthouse		Between Ásbyrgi and Kópasker	Guesthouse with shared facilities; kitchen access	dettifoss@gmail.is
Kópasker Hostel		Kópasker	Hostel with kitchen; shared facilities	hostel.is/hostels/kopask-er-hi-hostel hostel@kopasker.is
Nest Guesthouse		Raufarhöfn	Guesthouse with shared facilities and kitchen	nesthouse.is info@nesthouse.is
Hotel Norðurljós		Raufarhöfn	Hotel with private facilities and restaurant with focus on local products	hotelnordurljos.is info@hotelnordurljos.is
Grásteinn Guesthouse		Close to Þórshöfn	B&B guesthouse with private facilities	grasteinnguesthouse.is info@grasteinnguesthouse.is
Ytra Lón Farm Lodge		Þórshöfn/Langanes	Farm lodge with studio apartments, hot tub; food for guests; focus on self-produced ingredients	ytralon.is mirjam@ytralon.is
Sandur Guesthouse		Þórshöfn	Guesthouse with all types of rooms; breakfast options	sandurguesthouse.com knaveitingar@gmail.com
Happy Cove Guesthouse		Bakkafjörður	Guesthouse by the seaside with shared facilities and kitchen	happycovetravel.is jod.emm@gmail.com

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FOOD & DRINK AND FOOD EXPERIENCES

Icelandic food stands for pure and fresh ingredients and you should not miss out on delicious meals with fresh fish, lamb and vegetables from Iceland. Several places also offer the option to experience traditional Icelandic meals which gives a special insight into the way of life here in North Iceland.
For dining with groups, we recommend contacting the establishment in question in advance to ensure availability and opening times. North Iceland takes pride in its growing numbers of micro-breweries and you should not miss out on tasting the local beers!

Please find more detailed information about menus and opening times on www.arcticcoastway.is and on the providers' homepages.



TASTE THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

North Iceland is the biggest agricultural area of Iceland and we are pround of our products. An authentic taste of local food is a delicious way to connect to the culture, lifestyle and traditions of a country. The initiative of Taste the Arctic Coast Way focuses on those hand-picked food locales along the route whose passion and conviction is to deliver the authentic and unique taste of Iceland to customers' plates by using locally produced ingredients. Those establishments work with farmers, fishermen and various food producers in offering tasty dishes, supporting sustainability and strength-ening the rural region and its food heritage.

If you like to try out some more delicious stopovers we strongly recommend taking a detour from the Arctic Coast Way and following the Helgi Magri Food Trail into one of Iceland's richest agricultural areas, Eyjafjörður, in the neighbourhood of Akureyri.

Don´t miss to collect individual recipes from restaurants participating in "Taste the Arctic Coast Way". In this way you can preserve your unique memories of local delicacies and take them back home with you. You can collect recipes at each location in your personal digital passport.

Please find more information:
www.arcticcoastway.is/taste

TASTE THE Arctic Coast Way Norðurstrandarleið



COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

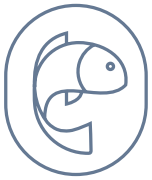
Hotel Laugarbakki	♿	Laugarbakki	Restaurant emphasising fresh food from the region. Serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.	laugarbakki.is hotel@laugarbakki.is
Brimslóð Atelier Guest-house		Blönduós	Restaurant with Nordic cuisine; key ingredients from local sources.	brimslodguesthouse.is ibergthorsdottir@gmail.com
Grand-Inn Bar and Bed		Sauðárkrókur	Bar	www.facebook.com/pg/Gran-dinnBarandBed grandinnbandb@gmail.com
Grána Bistro	♿	Sauðárkrókur	Bistro in the museum “1238 The Battle of Iceland”; menu with local food, coffee and beverages.	1238.is info@1238.is
Northwest Hotel		Víðigerði	Restaurant of the hotel.	www.facebook.com/vidigerdi
Sóti Lodge		Fljót	Restaurant in the Lodge. Breakfast and dinner, with an optional packed lunch available.	sotilodge.is sotilodge@sotilodge.is
Brúnastaðir		Fljót	Farm with food shop of self-produced products; cheese	brunastadir.is brunastadir@brunastadir.is











Restaurant Hotel Sigló	♿	Siglufjörður	Restaurant with harbour view.	keahotels.is/siglo-hotel siglo@keahotels.is
Siglunes Guesthouse		Siglufjörður	Restaurant with Moroccan-style food from local Icelandic ingredients; every day a new menu.	hotelsiglunes.is info@hotelsiglunes.is
Kaffi Klara	♿	Ólafsfjörður	Café and lunch with focus on local ingredients; events; old phones with stories about Ólafsfjörður.	kaffiklara.is gistihusjoa@gmail.com
Gísli, Eiríkur, Helgi	♿	Dalvík	Café and fish soup for lunch; meals for groups upon request; events and concerts.	www.facebook.com/bakkabraedurkaffi vegamot@vegamot.is
Verðbúðin	♿	Hrísey	Café and restaurant with local ingredients.	hrisey.is/en/service/restaurant-cafe verdbudin66@simnet.is
Baccalá Bar	♿	Hauganes	Restaurant from Ektafiskur (Saltfish company) with a broad menu and focus on saltfish.	ektafiskur.is/en/baccalabar/ elvar@ektafiskur.is
Vellir		Dalvík	Farm with food shop of self-produced products; food tastings for groups.	facebook.com/vellir/ bo@vellir.is
Kaldi Beer Spa	♿	Árskógssandur	Restaurant with a variety of meals and beer related foods and bar and with all beers brewed by the local brewery Kaldi.	bjorbodin.is bjorbodin@bjorbodin.is
Kaldi		Árskógssandur	Brewery with tours. Brewery tour on request.	bjorbodin.is bjorbodin@bjorbodin.is

Hamborgarafabrikkan	♿	Akureyri	Restaurant with a focus on all kinds of burgers.	fabrikkan.is
Aurora Restaurant	♿	Akureyri	The restaurant of Icelandair Hotel Akureyri. It aims to use only locally grown, fresh ingredients all year round.	aurorarestaurant.is akureyri@icehotels.is
Hotel Natur	♿	Near Akureyri	Restaurant with a broad country style buffet.	hotelnatur.com hotelnatur@hotelnatur.is



COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

Kaupfélagið		Raufarhöfn	Restaurant and Café.	facebook.com/kaupfelagidRaufarhofn/ klif1947@gmail.com
Hotel Norðurljós		Raufarhöfn	Restaurant	hotelnordurljos.is info@hotelnordurljos.is
Ytra Lón Farm Lodge		Þórshöfn/Langanes	Breakfast and dining for guests focusing on local ingredients from the farm; groups can request meals without accommodation.	ytralon.is mirjam@ytralon.is
Báran		Þórshöfn	Restaurant and Bar focusing on local ingredients. Breakfast, lunch, coffee and dinner.	baranrestaurant.is





FOOD EXPERIENCES AND FOOD FESTIVALS

Food experiences give you the chance to discover the pure and fresh ingredients of the North coast under the guidance of local food lovers who share their passion and knowledge about local ingredients, harvesting and cooking in the Icelandic way. More and more food festivals take place in summer and autumn and have a strong connection to food heritage in North Iceland. Farmers and chefs are proud of their products and celebrate the pureness and freshness of the local ingredients.

Brimslóð Atelier Guesthouse	Blönduós	The hosts share their special knowledge and experience of Icelandic cuisine and its connection to Iceland's unique natural history. Participants will learn about using natural and wild food and the raw ingredients found in northern climates. They will learn about traditional Nordic preservation and storage methods and get hands-on experience of preparing ingredients and cooking a meal.	**brimslodguesthouse.is** ibergthorsdottir@gmail.com
Réttir Food Festival	The area between Hvammstangi and Skagafjörður	This food festival takes place during 10 days at the end of August in many different locations. It is a fabulous occasion to taste and learn all about local food.	**rettir.is/** rettir@rettir.is
Rural Show -Agricultural & Farmers' Festival	Skagafjörður	This is an annual agricultural fair held in August. The displays include farming machinery, farm animals, booths of local businesses, local farmers' market stalls and agriculture related presentations from Icelandic companies. The fair also features ram judging, a calf show and children's entertainment, to name but a few.	**Visitskagafjordur.is** skagafjordur@skagafordur.is
Kaffi Klara	Ólafsfjörður	Cultural food adventures including learning from a local person to cook delicious dishes with ingredients from local sources along the Arctic Coast Way	**kaffiklara.is** gistihusjoa@gmail.com
Vellir	Dalvík	Groups are shown around the farm and learn how to harvest local products and, of course, they have the chance to taste everything on offer	**facebook.com/vellir/** bo@vellir.is



FOOD EXPERIENCES AND FOOD FESTIVALS

The Great Fish Day	Dalvík	This family festival is held for a weekend in August. Fish producers and other members of the local community invite guests to a sea food buffet at the harbour in Dalvík. The reason for this generous offer is to get many people together to taste fish and enjoy a good day. While appreciating the free fish, guests can enjoy various entertainments at the harbour.	**fiskidagurinnmikli.is**
Ektafiskur	Hauganes	The saltfish factory invites visitors to experience how the process works; from catching the cod to the moment when the finished product is shipped to Italy or Spain – or served on your plate in Ektafiskur's restaurant, Baccalá Bar. Those brave enough could join "The Rotten Shark club of Hauganes" – by tasting fermented shark, then washing it down with the traditional schnaps Brennivín.	**ektafiskur.is/en/baccal-abar/** elvar@ektafiskur.is
Arctic Trip	Grímsey	A local guide takes you to the bird cliffs and you can watch the local cliff climbers collecting sea bird eggs, an important and traditional part of the diet, especially in olden days. Afterwards you learn how to boil and eat the eggs.	**arctictrip.is** info@arctictrip.is

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CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS & MUSEUMS

You should not miss the many opportunities to ex-perience the various aspects of cultur-al life along the Arctic Coast Way. The rough land and the cold ocean strongly influenced the way of living here close to the Arctic Circle – and still do.
Most of the places offer a guided tour for groups. Please book your tour in advance to ensure a guide is available.

COAST OF
SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

Icelandic Seal Center	♿	Hvammstangi	Charming museum about the life of seals. Offers information about seal watching in the area.	**selasetur.is** selasetur@selasetur.is Guided tours are available
KIDKA Wool Factory	♿	Hvammstangi	KIDKA is a knitting and sewing company that produces knitwear out of Icelandic wool for its own clothing line. Its name stands for beautiful, high-quality wool products which are fashionable, comfortable and genuinely Icelandic.	**kidka.com** shop@kidka.com
Icelandic Textile Center		Blönduós	The Icelandic Textile Center aims to promote and develop Icelandic and international textiles. It collaborates on research projects in areas important to the region and encourages cooperation, education, and innovation in the field of textiles, textile art and design. Housed under the roof of a historical building of a former Women's College, the Textile Center Residency provides visiting students, scholars, and artists with working spaces to conduct their artistic practice, research, and study-trips within textiles.	**textilmidstod.is** textilecenter@textilecenter.is







COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

Þrístapar	♿	Between Hvammstangi and Blönduós	A historic site where the last executions took place in Iceland. Friðrik Sigurðsson and Agnes Magnúsdóttir were executed for the murder of Natan Ketilsson and Pétur Jónsson. This story recently attracted international attention with the publication of the book "Burial Rites" by Hannah Kent.	It is a public location close to the route on Highway 1. For guidance about the story of Agnes, we recommend booking a tour with an operator (see chapter 18)
Textile Museum		Blönduós	The museum, the only one of its kind in Iceland, exhibits a unique collection of homemade wool and textile items and shows beautiful Icelandic national costumes and artistic embroideries together with tools and equipment used to produce them.	http://textile.is/ textile@textile.is guided tours are available
Museum of Prophecies	♿	Skagaströnd	The exhibition focuses on Þórdís the fortune-teller, the first named inhabitant of Skagaströnd, who lived there in the late 10th century. The exhibition features all kinds of interesting information about prophecies and fortune telling and visitors have the opportunity to hear about their own fortune. A hike up on Mount Spákonufell offers not only magnificent views, but a close connection to the story of Þórdís.	sagatrail.is/is/museums/museum-of-prophecies/ dagny@marska.is Guided tours are available
1238: The Battle of Iceland	♿	Sauðárkrókur	The exhibition revolves around the most famous part of the Icelandic Sagas – The Sturlung Era (1220-1264); the bloodiest and most violent period in Icelandic history. It is an immersive exhibition that goes a step beyond the regular history museum. Welcoming people of all ages, the exhibition offers its guests a chance to see and take part in history through virtual reality.	1238.is info@1238.is Guided tours are available
The Icelandic Emigration Center		Hofsós	The Emigration Center was founded in 1996 and dedicated to commemorating Icelandic emigrants to North America and promoting connections between their descendants and the people of Iceland. The Center now offers four exhibitions in three separate buildings.	hofsos.is hofsos@hofsos.is

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

The Icelandic Herring Era Museum	Siglufjörður	The Herring Era Museum is Iceland's largest maritime and industrial museum, where visitors have the opportunity to learn about the herring fishery and processing industry that underpinned Iceland's economy for much of the twentieth century.	sild.is I safn@sild.is Guided tours and group offers are available
Local Museum Hvoll	Dalvík	The local museum stages various exhibitions relating to the history, nature and culture of the near surroundings of Dalvík.	dalvikurbyggd.is/hvoll hvoll@dalvikurbyggd.is
Culture House Berg	Dalvík	The house shows a beautiful architecture and invites with various exhibitions and events through out the year and locates also the library.	dalvikurbyggd.is/berg berg@dalvikurbyggd.is





COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

House of Shark Jörundur	Hrísey	An exhibition about the history of the island and the history of shark fishing in Iceland in earlier centuries.	**hrisey.is** I hrisey@hrisey.is Guided tours are available
Ektafiskur	Hauganes	Ektafiskur (Real fish) is one of Iceland's main producers of salted cod fish in con-sumer packag-ing. The company is a true pioneer in preparing ready-to-cook salted cod fish products and received an innovation award in 2005.	**ektafiskur.is** elvar@ektafiskur.is Guided tours available
Akureyri Art Museum	Akureyri	The Museum opened its galleries on August 29th 1993 and is the oldest of those three establishments. For the past two decades it has been the flagship of the Art Street and has played a prominent role in the cultural life of Akureyri as the first institution outside Reykjavík to concentrate solely on visual arts.	**listak.is** listak@listak.is Guided tours are available
Akureyri Museum	Akureyri	**In the oldest part of Akureyri, stands the Akureyri Museum. Here you will find many interesting and well set up exhibitions, which are recom-mended for adults and children alike.**	**akmus.is** akmus@akmus.is
Davíðshús	Akureyri	Commemorates the life and work of the writer and poet.	**minjasafnid.is** minjasafnid@minjasafnid.is





Nonnahús – Jón Sveinsson memorial museum	Akureyri	The museum, in one of the oldest houses in Akureyri, was established to honour the memory of the writer and priest Jón Sveinsson, known as Nonni. He became famous for his books about his childhood which were translated into several languages.	**nonni.is** nonni@nonni.is
The Icelandic Folk and Outsider Art Museum	Svalbarðsströnd	The Icelandic Folk and Outsider Art Museum is a unique art museum in Iceland, initially collect-ing artworks by all major contemporary folk artists and autodidacts in Iceland, whose works form the core of the collection, while also gradually acquiring an excellent collection of art by professional artists.	**safnasafnid.is** safngeymsla@simnet.is
The Húsavík Whale Museum	Húsavík	The Museum has over 8 exhibition rooms and is one of only a few museums in the world solely dedicated to whales. It introduces the history of whaling in Iceland which is brief in comparison to other whaling histories, although whaling has been conducted around Iceland for centuries. The Museum has 11 whale skeletons on display. The latest exhibition item in the museum is a skeleton of the largest mammal ever to have lived on the planet – the blue whale.	**whalemuseum.is** info@hvalasafn.is Guided tours are available





COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Laufás Heritage Site	Between Akureyri and Grenivík	The atmospheric and picturesque heritage site of Laufás is full of history with its large farmhouse and beautiful 19th century church. It has been the home of priests since at least 1047 until 1935 with the current priest still living on the premises. The current buildings date from the middle of the 19th century, furnished with historic household items and clothes.	**minjasafnid.is** minjasafnid@minjasafnid.is Guided tours are available
Húsavík Museum	Húsavík	Everyday ephemera jutted up next to squiffy-looking stuffed rodents, this is a great place to delve deeper into Iceland´s history and learn how-on-earth people survived in such challenging conditions all those years ago.	**husmus.is** safnahusid@husmus.is
Mánárbakki	North peak of Tjörnes peninsula	The local museum at Mánárbakki was opened on June 18th 1995 in a house named Þórshamar that was moved there from Húsavík. Recently, the museum was enlarged by the addition of a house named Lækjarbakki, built in a traditional Icelandic style, where items featuring daily life in Iceland are on display.	**manarbakki@gmail.com**





COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

Earthquake Center	Kópasker	At the Earthquake Center, the emphasis is set on the tectonic activity in the ’70s and ’80s which resulted in a heavy earthquake in Kópasker 1976 but also the volcanic eruptions at Lake Mývatn which is famous as “the Krafla fires.	skjalftasetur.is earthquake@kopasker.is Guided tours are available
Snartastaðir	Kópasker	The museum was opened in 1991 in an old school building and has around 2000 objects on display. The exhibition is characterized by two different collections. One is a large amount of all sorts of handicrafts. The other collection is the library of the couple from Leirhöfn that donated their 9000-volume library.	husmus.is safnahus@husmus.is
The Arctic Henge	Raufarhöfn	Set in Raufarhöfn, one of the most remote and northernmost villages in Iceland where the Arctic Circle lies just off the coast, the Arctic Henge (Heimskautsgerðið) is under construction. Similar to its ancient predecessor, Stonehenge, the Arctic Henge is like a huge sundial, aiming to capture the sunrays, cast shadows in precise locations and capture the light between aligned gateways.	arctichenge.com
Sauðaneshús	Langanes	The vicarage at Sauðanes is the oldest stone house in Þingeyjarsýslur. It was built in 1879 from gray basalt. Today, Sauðaneshús houses the exhibition “Að sækja björg í björg” that showcases how life was in Langanes during the time that Sauðaneshús was inhabited and how the vicarage was essentially the center of the community in the area.	husmus.is safnahus@husmus.is

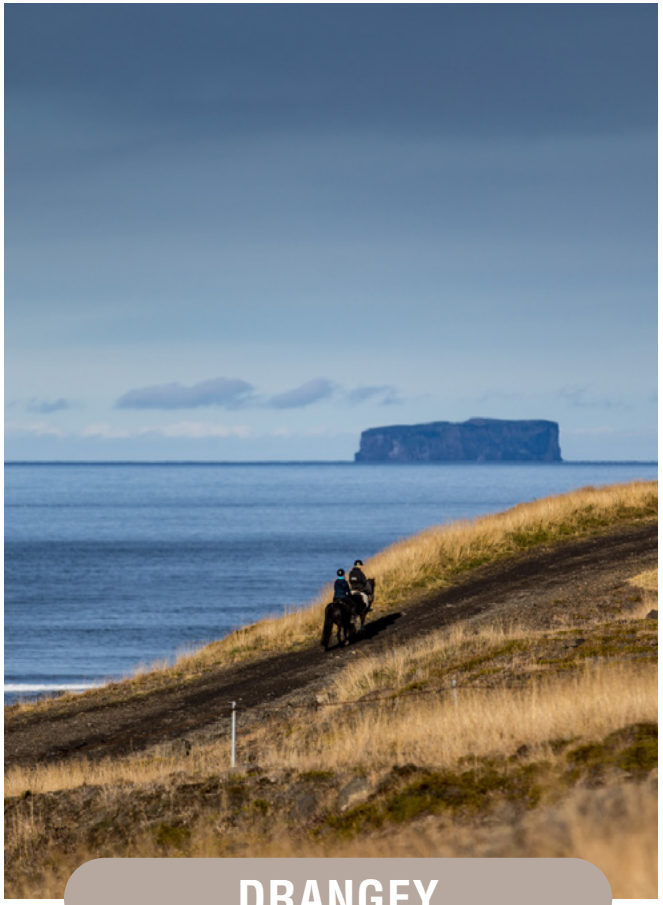


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THE 6 ISLANDS OF THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

Six islands belong to the Arctic Coast Way. Five of them are connected by means of boat tours or public ferries. The Arctic Coast Way already guides its visitors out to remote and untouched locations, but a visit to the islands takes you to extraordinary environments of pristine nature and a life far out in the North Atlantic Ocean.



DRANGEY

COAST OF
SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

Steep cliffs, excellent views over Skagafjörður, puffins and sea birds, important settings of events in the Saga of Grettir the Strong; uninhabited

Drangey Tours
www.drangey.net
drangey@drangey.net



MÁLMEY

COAST OF
SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

Currently not accessible, uninhabited



GRÍMSEY

COAST OF FISHING
TOWNS AND HERITAGE

The only place in Iceland on the Arctic Circle; best spot to see the midnight sun; excellent for watching puffins and other seabirds; accommodation, shop and restaurant, Arctic Trip.

www.arctictrip.is
info@arctictrip.is



HRÍSEY

COAST OF FISHING
TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Beautiful village and landscape with rich bird life and flora. Amazing views of Eyjafjörður; accommodation, shop and coffee houses.

Ferðamálafélag Hríseyjar
www.hrisey.is/en | hrisey@hrisey.net

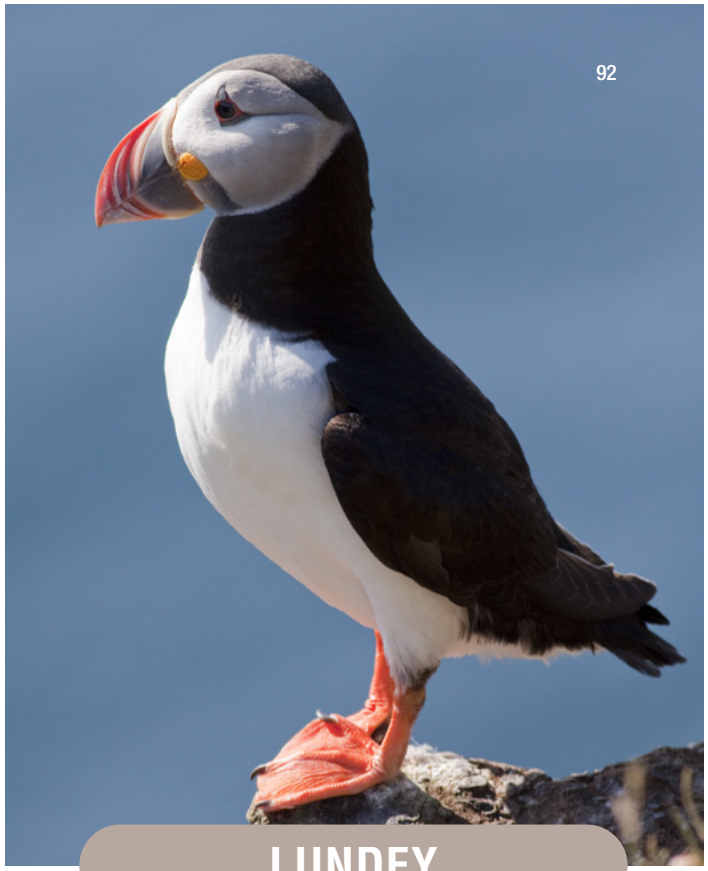


FLATEY

COAST OF FISHING
TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Extraordinary location for experiencing nature, puffins and other seabirds; an abandoned village with many stories of the old way of life. Uninhabited, accommodation

Gentle Giants | www.gentlegiants.is
info@gentlegiants.is



LUNDEY

COAST OF FISHING
TOWNS AND HERITAGE

This tiny island is a nature protected area and not accessible. Nevertheless, it is an outstanding experience to view the constant commotion and hustle and bustle of thousands of puffins living around the island.

Gentle Giants | www.gentlegiants.is
info@gentlegiants.is

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TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

Even though the Arctic Coast Way connects to unspoiled and wild nature, visitors will encounter 21 towns and villages all along the route, each with its own character and individual stories to tell. They are all witness to a different way of life far out in the North. Not all villages offer restaurants and coffee houses all year round but most are very willing to welcome groups in the off-peak season if booked in advance.



HVAMMSTANGI

Hvammstangi town, on the eastern coast of Miðfjörður, is the centre for seal watching in the Vatnsnes peninsula, starting at The Icelandic Seal Center, and there are seal watching tours by boat. The town's commercial history spans more than 100 years and among services is the important wool factory KIDKA, likely to be of special interest to visitors.

- accommodation
- campsite
- grocery store
- restaurant
- café
- fuel station
- swimming pool
- health care centre



BLÖNDUÓS

Blönduós is on the eastern coast of Húnaflói Bay and a popular stop-over for travellers on Highway 1. The town is a convenient base for tours in the Húnaflói area and straddles the river Blanda, surrounding Hrútey Island. Hrútey, protected as a country park, is blessed with a wide variety of vegetation and birdlife. A trusty pedestrian bridge takes you over to the island which is an excellent spot for outdoor exercise or a relaxing break.

- accommodation
- campsite
- grocery store
- restaurant
- café
- fuel station
- swimming pool
- health care centre



SKAGASTRÖND

Skagaströnd, known as Iceland's Country Town, is on the east coast of Húnaflói Bay. Walking paths on the headland Spákonufellshöfði and the mountain Spákonufell provide a stunning view of sea and shoreline. The local Museum of Prophecies, offers an exhibition, storytelling and fortune telling, focusing on Þórdís the fortuneteller, the first named inhabitant of Skagaströnd. The main economic activity used to be fishing, and the village still boasts an important fishing and commercial port.

- accommodation
- campsite
- grocery store
- fuel station
- swimming pool

COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY



SAUÐÁRKRÓKUR

Sauðárkrókur is the largest town in northwest Iceland, located along the southwest shore on the innermost part of the fjord Skagafjörður. The Tindastóll ski area is popular during wintertime and among other attractions are the Tannery Visitors' Centre and the Battle of Iceland Exhibition. Skagafjörður is often named the Cradle of Icelandic horsemanship and boasts the highest rate of horses per capita in Iceland.

- accommodation
- campsite
- grocery store
- restaurant
- café
- fuel station
- swimming pool
- health care centre
- car rental



HOFSÓS

Hofsós, on the eastern shore of Skagafjörður, was once the main trading centre in Skagafjörður and has over 400 years of history. In the lower town near the harbour is The Emigration Center, an exhibition about the mass migration of Icelanders to North America in the late 19th century. The geothermal swimming pool is sometimes referred to as "an infinity pool" because of its stunning design with an undisturbed ocean view.

- campsite
- restaurant
- grocery store
- swimming pool

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE



SIGLUFJÖRÐUR

Siglufjörður town is located beside a fjord of the same name, on the Tröllaskagi Peninsula. Harbour conditions are very good and Siglufjörður has always been a fishing town. For years it was the largest herring centre in Iceland. The Icelandic Herring Era Museum is the largest maritime and industrial museum in Iceland. An 11 km long tunnel was opened in the autumn of 2010, which connects Siglufjörður directly to its sister town of Ólafsfjörður and to the Eyjafjörður region, creating a very popular tourist destination. The ski area in Siglufjörður is often referred to as "the Icelandic Alps", providing visitors with steep slopes and a unique ocean view.

- accommodation
- campsite
- restaurant
- brewery
- café
- grocery store
- fuel station
- swimming pool
- health care centre

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE



ÓLAFSFJÖRÐUR

Ólafsfjörður is located beside a fjord of the same name that cuts into the Tröllaskagi Peninsula, between Skagafjörður and Eyjafjörður. Ólafsfjörður was first settled in the beginning of the 19th century, when increased emphasis on fishing drew people to its sheltered natural harbour. Now the ocean is attracting a growing number of surfers enjoying the waves and skiers looking for cross-country skiing or off-piste adventures.

- accommodation
- campsite
- restaurant
- café
- grocery store
- fuel station
- swimming pool



DALVÍK

Dalvík is a fishing town, on the west coast of Eyjafjörður, famous for its annual event the Great Fish Day. The area is known for its trails and hiking trips where professional guides are available all year around. Recreation is versatile throughout the year. Tourist Information is located in Berg Culture House in the centre of Dalvík. Besides hiking, there is whale watching, bird watching, sea angling, skiing. The ferry to Grímsey sails from Dalvík harbour.

- accommodation
- campsite
- restaurant
- café
- grocery store
- fuel station
- swimming pool



ÁRSKÓGSSANDUR

The small village is located on the west coast of Eyjafjörður. The economy is based on fishing and fish processing. Scheduled ferries ply to Hrísey Island from the harbour at Árskógssandur. Recreation on offer includes hiking and a tour to the local brewery Kaldi and the famous Beer Spa.

- restaurant
- brewery
- fuel station
- spa

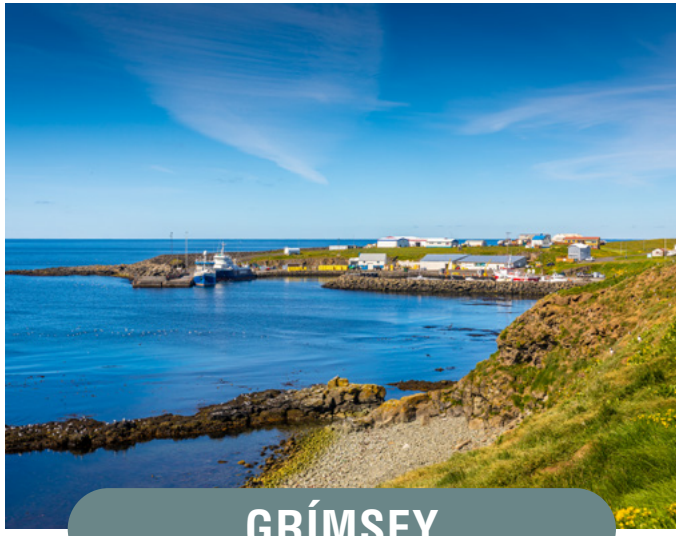
COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE



HRÍSEY

The island of Hrísey, “the pearl of Eyjafjörður”, with its small fishing village is a popular natural attraction. The island has a rich birdlife and several hiking paths. Among tourist attractions on the island is a tractor sightseeing trip in a hay wagon and a museum about shark fishing and local history. Hrísey is also known as a tranquil energy point where you can recharge your batteries with the mysterious power emerging from the great Mount Kaldbakur on the mainland. Scheduled ferry crossings from the village Árskógssandur.

- accommodation
- campsite
- restaurant
- café
- grocery store
- swimming pool



GRÍMSEY

Grímsey Island is the northernmost settlement in Iceland and those who go there can actually cross the Arctic Circle which passes straight through the island and be rewarded with a certificate confirming their achievement. The small island is 41 km off the north coast of Iceland and the economy there is mainly based on fisheries. Grímsey is one of the best locations to enjoy the midnight sun during summer and is ideal for bird watching, where the main attraction is the puffin. A ferry from Dalvík and flights from Akureyri connect Grímsey to the mainland.

- accommodation
- campsite
- restaurant
- grocery store
- swimming pool



HAUGANES

The charming village of Hauganes is located at Árskógsströnd on the western shore of Eyjafjörður. This small traditional fishing village offers surprising experiences such as whale watching, a tour to a traditional saltfish processing company and the Bacalá Bar. Those interested in camping will find an attractively located campsite near the beach, as well as the highly popular hot tubs down by the black beach of Sandvík.

- campsite
- restaurant
- hot tubs



HJALTEYRI

Hjalteyri is on the western shore of Eyjafjörður. This used to be one of the centres of the herring industry in the early 20th century. Nowadays, art exhibitions and performances in the old herring factory have become popular.

hot tub
restaurant



AKUREYRI

Akureyri is the largest town town outside the capital area and frequently called the Capital of the Shining North, with reference to the midnight sun in the summertime and northern lights during winter. This is the service base for North Iceland and bustles with rich cultural life all year round, and flourishing restaurants and cafés. The town itself is a popular tourist destination and a good starting point for day tours and excursions. Up to eight domestic flights and two scheduled buses a day ensure good communications between Akureyri and Reykjavík. A stroll through the picturesque old town and its lovely centre is popular, visiting the flourishing botanical garden or one of the many museums in town. Above Akureyri is Hlíðarfjall, Iceland's most popular ski resort.

accommodation
campsite
restaurant
café
grocery stores
fuel station
swimming pool
health care centre
hospital
car rental
airport



SVALBARÐSEYRI

Svalbarðseyri is situated on the eastern shore of Eyjafjörður, overlooking Akureyri. It is a predominantly agricultural community, associated with farming and related food industries. The main tourist attractions are the Icelandic Folk and Outsider Art Museum, hikes along the shore and up the mountains and the vantage points overlooking Akureyri.

- accommodation
- swimming pool

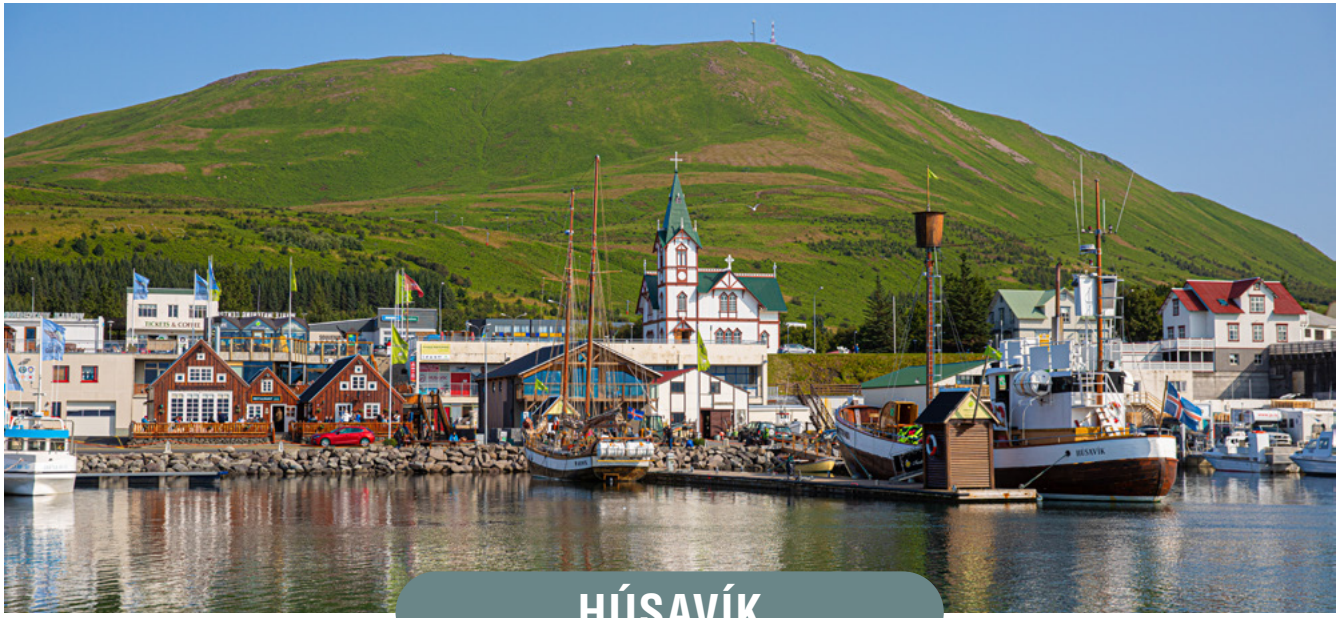


GRENIVÍK

Grenivík is located in a cove of the same name on the eastern shore of Eyjafjörður. The small fishing village, which began to develop during the first decade of the 20th century, grew significantly after a new harbour was constructed in 1965. Grenivík is a great destination for hikers.

- accommodation
- campsite
- restaurant
- grocery store
- fuel station
- swimming pool

COAST OF FISHING
TOWNS AND HERITAGE



HÚSAVÍK

Húsavík, on the eastern shore of Skjálfandaflói bay, provides a variety of services for neighbouring communities. According to Landnámabók, (Book of Settlements), Húsavík was the first place in Iceland to be settled in 870 AD. The most famous landmark in town is the wooden church built in 1907. Húsavík is known for whale watching tours in Skjálfandi Bay and often referred to as the Whale Watching Capital. Up to 23 species of whale, including the blue whale, as well as large colonies of puffins can be found in the bay. The Húsavík Whale Museum exhibits a 22m long skeleton of a blue whale. GeoSea, newly opened sea baths, using geothermal seawater, spectacularly located on the cliffs, offer magnificent views of the bay.

- accommodation
- campsite
- restaurant
- brewery
- café
- grocery store
- fuel station
- swimming pool
- car rental
- airport

COAST OF
ELEMENTAL NATURE



KÓPASKER

Kópasker is a fishing village on the eastern shore of Öxarfjörður. The village is a service centre for the farms in the area and the economy revolves mainly around meat processing and nearby fish farming as well as fisheries. In Kópasker visitors have good access to seals in their natural environment and the name of the town actually refers to baby seals.

- accommodation
- grocery store
- fuel station

COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE



RAUFARHÖFN

Raufarhöfn, the northernmost village in Iceland, sometimes referred to as the Arctic Circle Village, is on Melrakkaslétta Peninsula with the Arctic Circle lying just off shore. The fishing industry has been the village's main economic activity and during the herring years in the middle of the 20th century this was a flourishing community. Today, Raufarhöfn is adapting to changing times with an increased focus on catering for tourists. The Arctic Henge, a unique stone sculpture with a stunning ocean view is under construction and already well worth visiting.

- accommodation
- campsite
- restaurant
- café
- grocery store
- fuel station
- swimming pool
- healthcare centre



ÞÓRSHÖFN

Þórshöfn is a fishing village on the eastern shore of the fjord Þistilfjörður, providing services to the surrounding countryside. There are direct flights and scheduled bus tours to Þórshöfn from Akureyri all year round. Visitors can enjoy guided walks, adventure guides for children focusing on the surrounding area or a visit to Rauðanes in Þistilfjörður where marked hiking trails have been laid out. Þórshöfn is a gateway to the bird watchers' paradise, Langanes, with special focus on the cliffs of Skoruvíkurbjarg and Fontur where you find a bird watching platform „at the end of the world".

- accommodation
- campsite
- restaurant
- grocery store
- fuel station
- swimming pool
- car rental
- airport



BAKKAFJÖRÐUR

Bakkafjörður is a small fishing village on the south coast of the fjord of the same name. A good harbour makes fishing from small vessels and fish processing the main economic base.

- accommodation
- camp site
- grocery store
- swimming pool

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ACCESS TO THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

There are several options to access and travel the Arctic Coast Way. The entire route can, for example be included in the circle around Iceland along Highway 1. We recommend, however, considering a tour with a focus on North Iceland. You can easily combine the Arctic Coast Way with a detour along the Diamond Circle, a detour to the highlands or many other highlights of North Iceland and thus complete a perfect two-week programme without hitting the same road twice.



AIRPORTS ALONG THE ROUTE

There are 3 airports along the route: Akureyri, Húsavík and Þórshöfn. Two airports are apart from the route, Vopnafjörður and Egilsstaðir, but are good gateways to quickly reach the route.

FERRY TO SEYÐISFJÖRÐUR

Taking your car on the ferry Norrøna from Denmark via the Faroe Islands to East Iceland is a convenient method of accessing the Arctic Coast Way .

CAR RENTALS ALONG THE ROUTE

Our partner Höldur Europcar offers car rental stations in several places along the Arctic Coast Way: Þórshöfn, Húsavík, Akureyri, Siglufjörður, Sauðárkrókur.

There are also other car rentals in Keflavík, Egilsstaðir and Vopnafjörður which can be used as gateways to the route.

OPTIONS TO ACCESS THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

- **Bringing your own car to Seyðisfjörður and reaching the Arctic Coast Way in Bakkafjörður**
- **Driving around Iceland along Highway 1 and accessing the Arctic Coast Way as a detour in Bakkafjörður or Hvammstangi**
- **Taking a flight to Egilsstaðir, Þórshöfn or Vopnafjörður, renting a car and reaching the Arctic Coast Way at its east end; then dropping the car off in Keflavík**
- **Adding the Diamond Circle by a detour to the Arctic Coast Way**
- **Taking a flight to Akureyri or Húsavík and completing a large figure of eight ∞loop including the Arctic Coast Way and almost all other highlights in the North.**

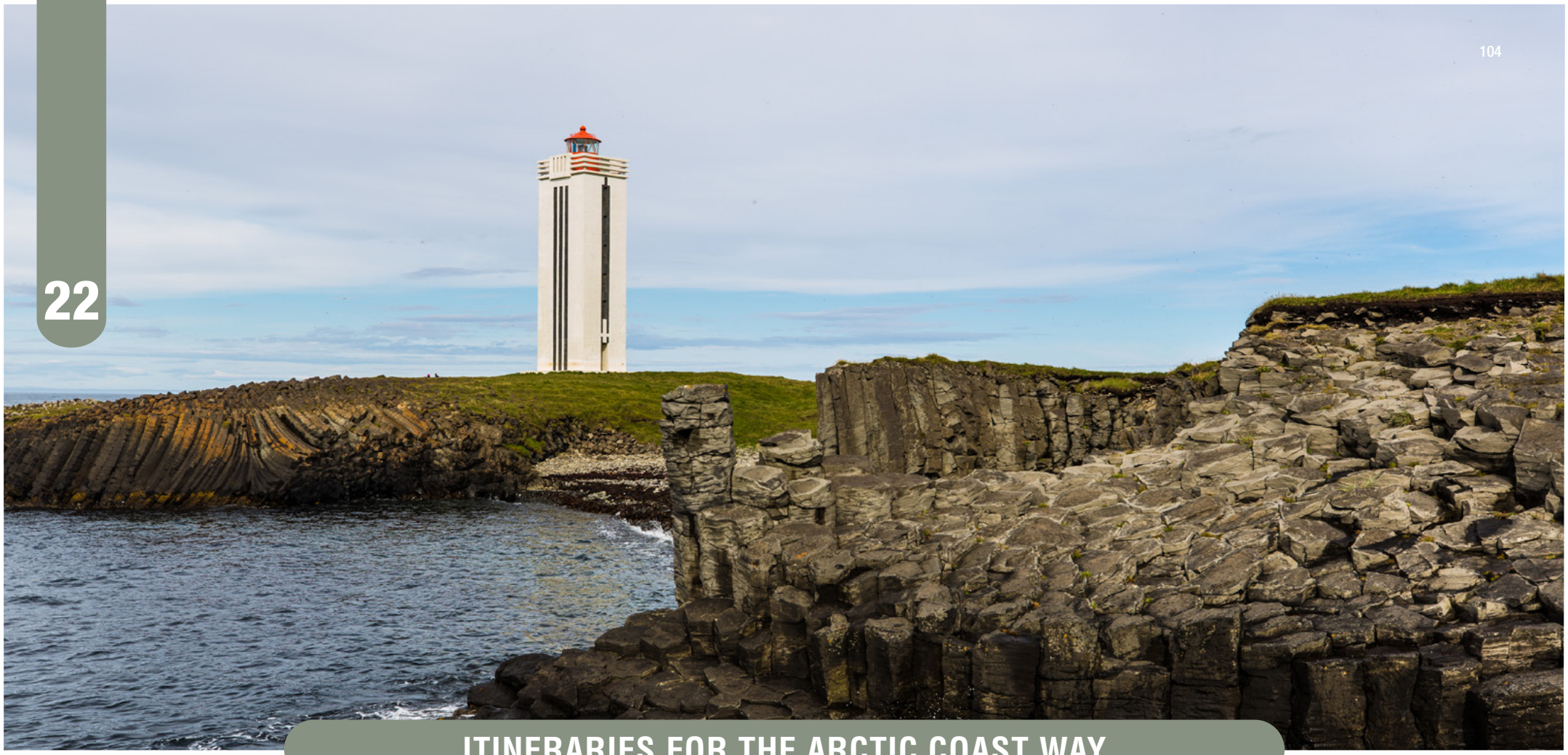
HÖLDUR car rental

is partner of the Arctic Coast Way

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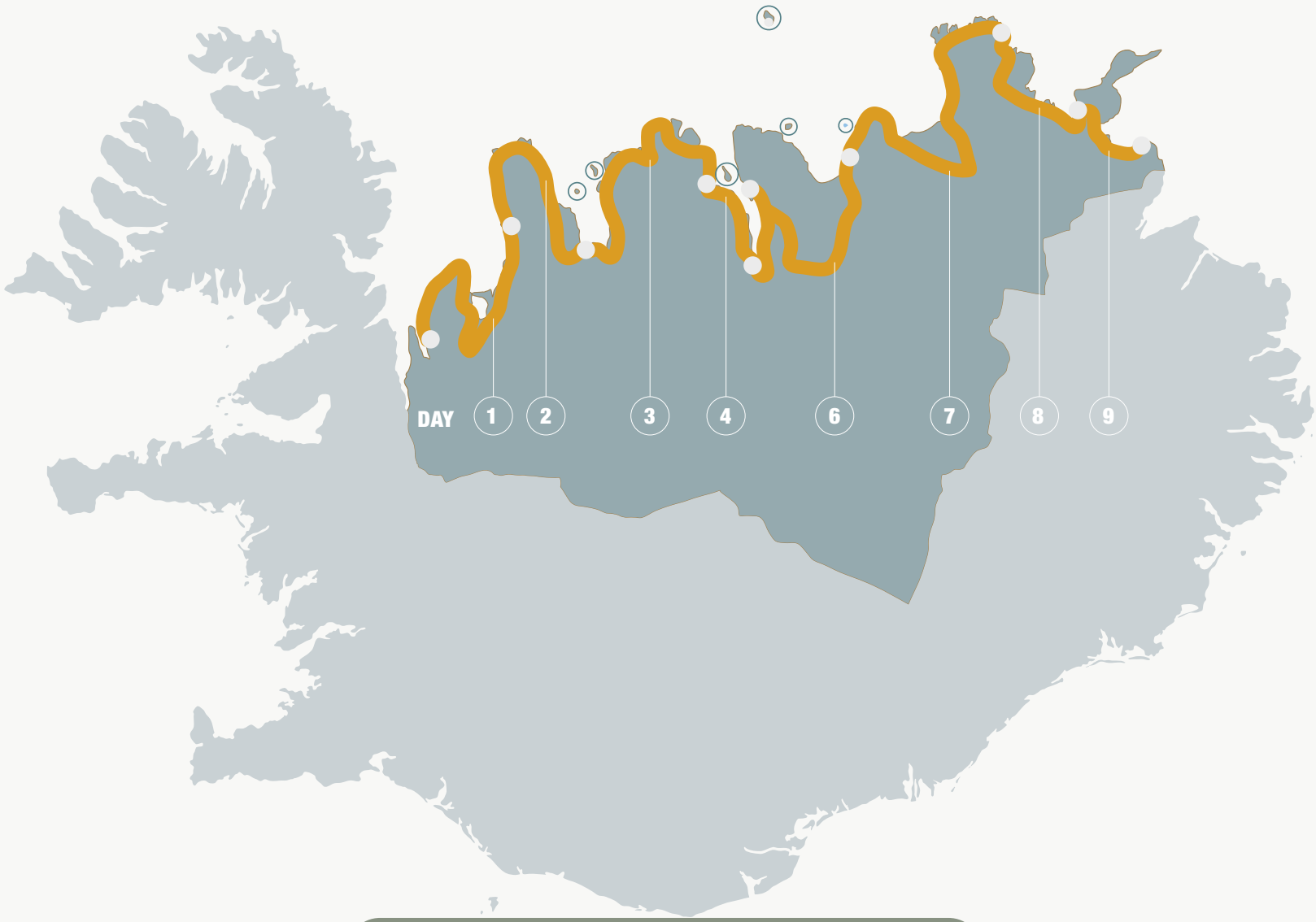


ITINERARIES FOR THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

Give yourself ample time when you plan a trip along the Arctic Coast Way. The varied conditions of the Arctic Coast Way, the roads, the weather and remoteness, call for a flexible schedule. **Experiencing the entire route and its islands will take about 12 days.**

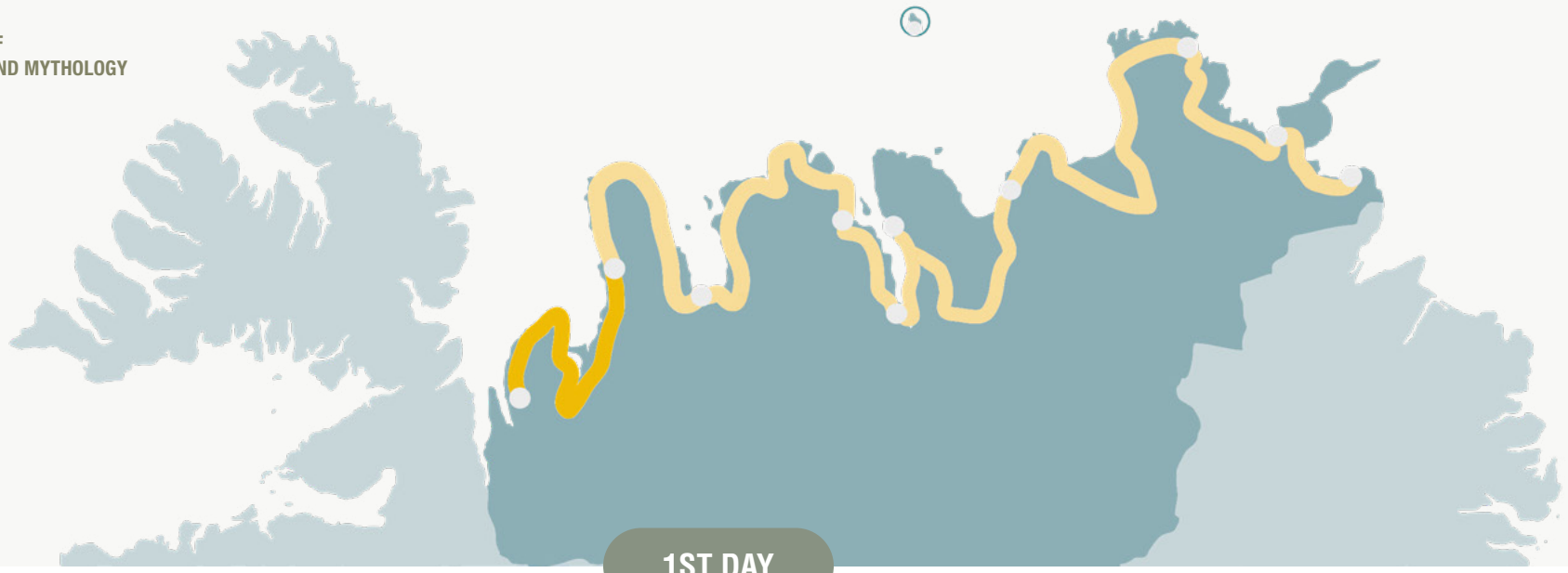
Spring, autumn and winter are beautiful seasons to discover the Arctic Coast Way. But as snow can fall in these seasons you must be aware of challenging weather and road conditions and give your schedule flexibility. In snowy conditions it is not possible to travel the entire Arctic Coast Way, but you can follow the winter route alternative!
Please check out the map to the route for snowy weather in chapter 5.

The suggested itineraries and timeframes are calculated on the basis of road distance and stops along the route. When you plan to visit the islands, you need to add extra time. There are countless options to enjoy various outdoor activities and cultural experiences along your route to really immerse yourself in the magic of the Arctic Coast Way. Please adjust your schedule accordingly.



THE ENTIRE ARCTIC COAST WAY

The following suggestion starts from the west. For coming from the east, please just turn the days around.
About 8 days plus extra time for experiences and activities.



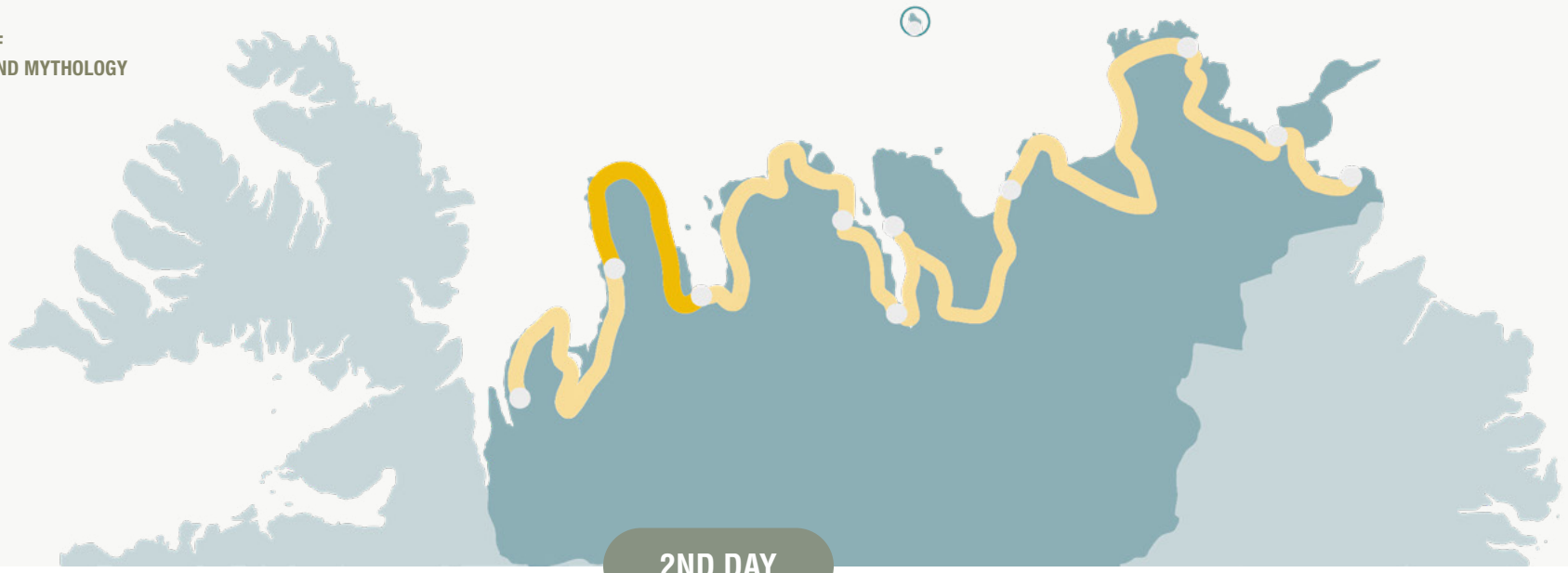
1ST DAY

Hvammstangi to Skagaströnd with peninsula Vatnsnes:
Wildlife habitats and spectacular rock formations

Take your stops at:

The town of Hvammstangi; walks for seal watching at Svalbarð and Illugastaðir, rock formation Ánastaðastapi, rock formation Hvítserkur, natural rock fortress Borgarvirki; the town of Blönduós, rock formation Bolabás, island Hrútey and bird watching along river Blanda; the town Skagaströnd and walks along peninsula Spákonufellshöfði or even a hike on Mount Spákonufell; swimming pools in Blönduós and Skagaströnd.





2ND DAY

Skagaströnd to Sauðárkrókur including the peninsula Skagi:
Into subarctic landscapes accompanied by a deep feeling of seclusion

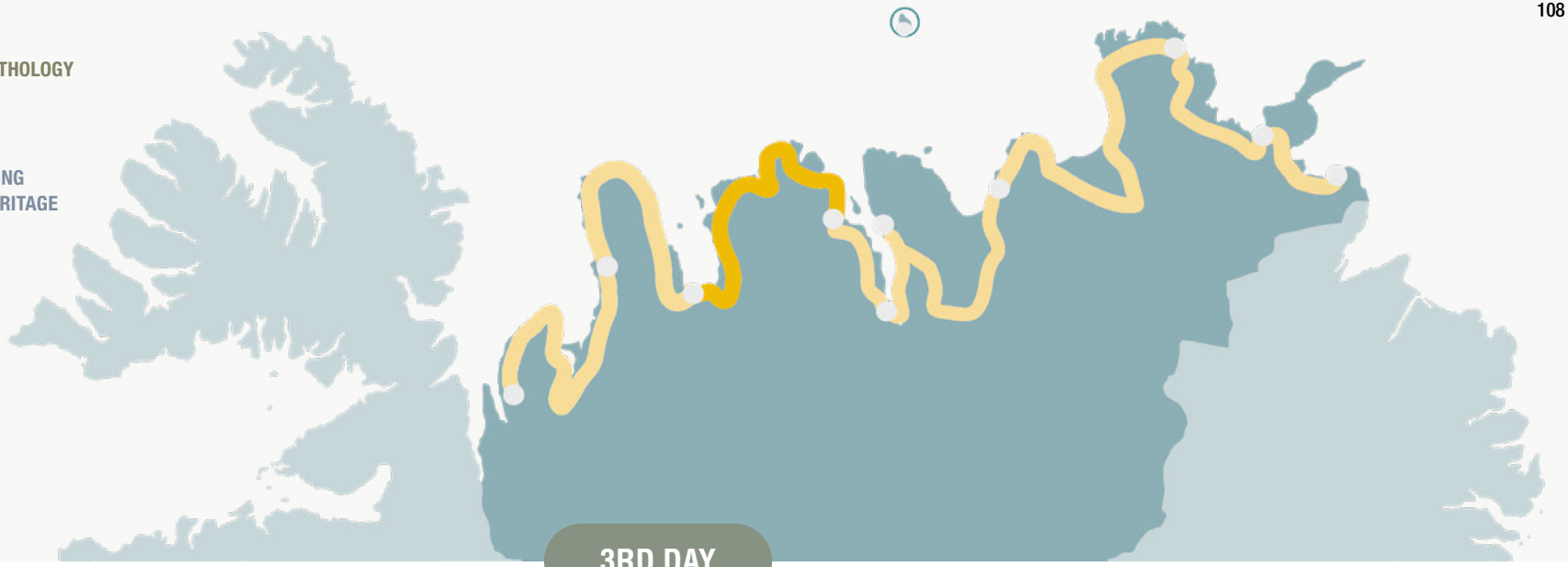
Take your stops at:

lighthouse and rock formation of Kálfshamarsvík, view over the islands in Skagafjörður on the east side of Skagi and driftwood beaches, Selsvík, the bay of the largest sea battle in Iceland, rich birdlife with eagle spotting opportunities; the town of Sauðárkrókur, black beaches east of Sauðárkrókur; hiking around Sauðárkrókur, swimming pool in Sauðárkrókur.



COAST OF
SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

COAST OF FISHING
TOWNS AND HERITAGE



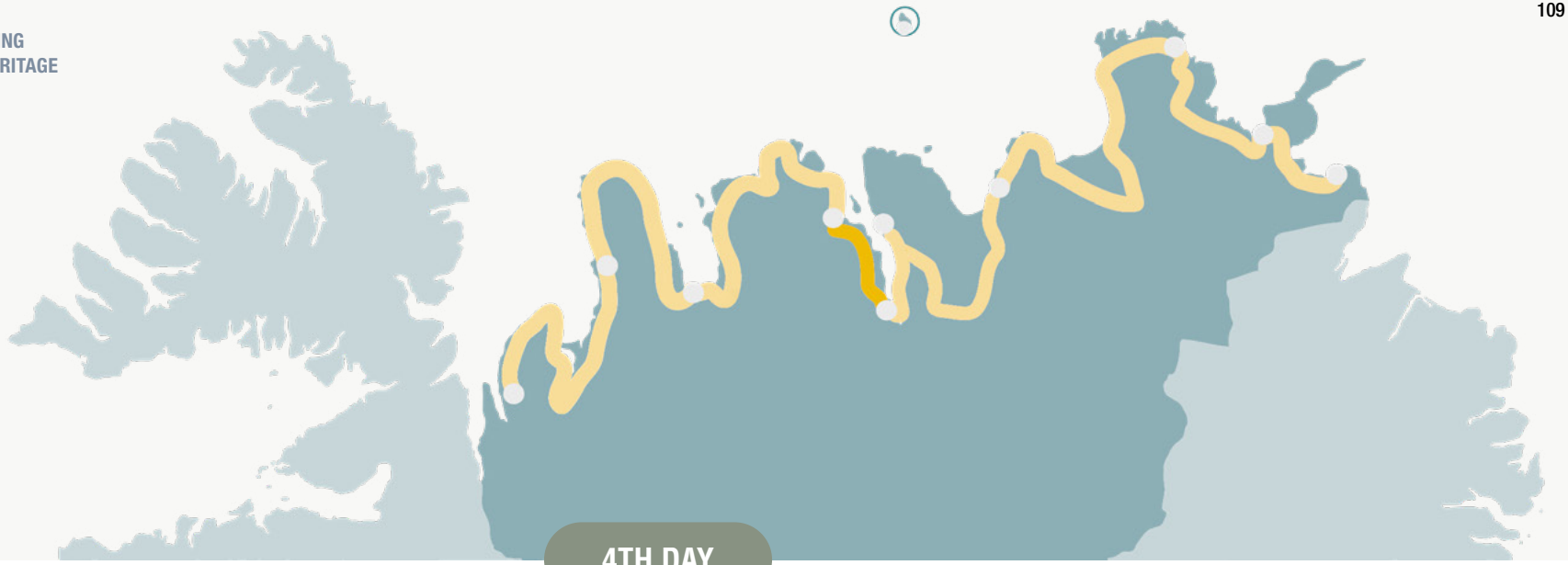
3RD DAY

Sauðárkrókur to Dalvík with Tröllaskagi peninsula:
dramatic mountains and charming towns

Take your stops at:

rock formation Staðarbjörg in Hofsós, swimming pool Hofsós, scenic views over Skagafjörður along the west side of Tröllaskagi, dramatic road winding through steep cliffs to Siglufjörður, 3 tunnels to Dalvík; town Ólafsfjörður, black beach in Ólafsfjörður; Dalvík town (ferry to Grímsey), swimming pools in Siglufjörður, Ólafsfjörður and Dalvík, black beach in Dalvík; many hiking options along this day's route.





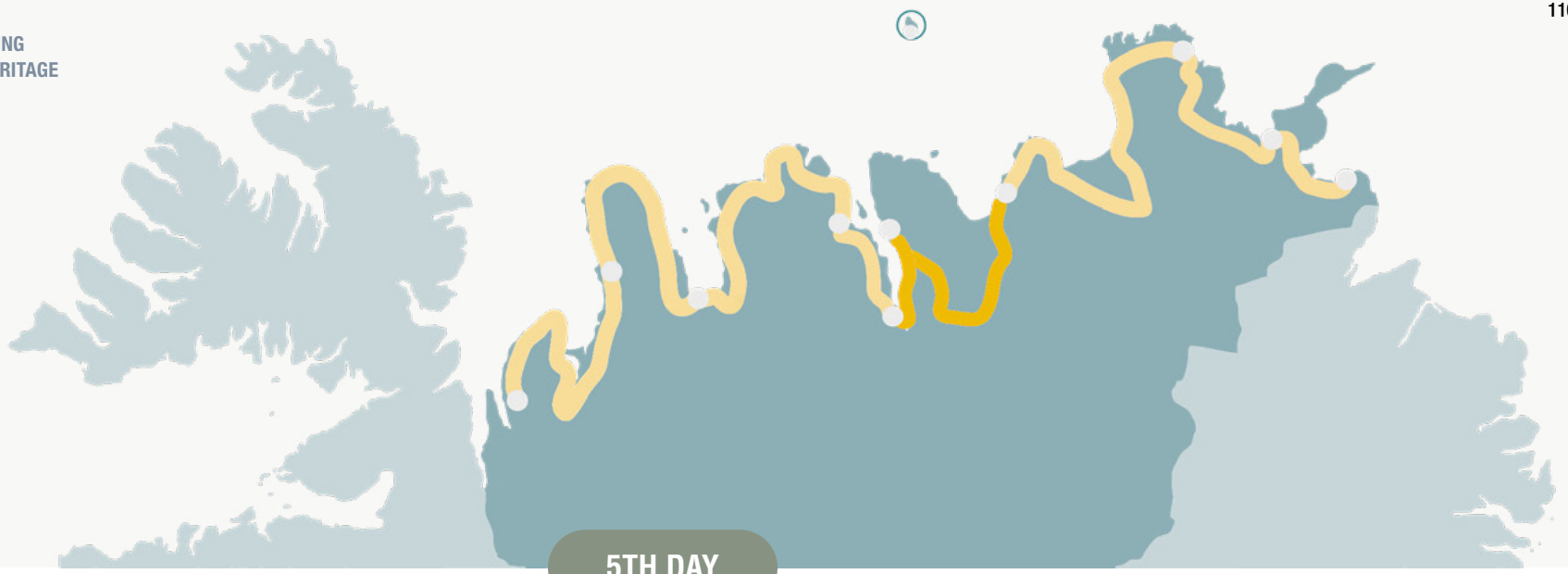
4TH DAY

Dalvík to Akureyri:
along Iceland's longest fjord, to the Capital of the North

Take your stops at:

village Árskógssandur (ferry to island Hrísey); village Hauga-nes with black beach; village Hjalteyri, mediaeval ruins and black beach at Gásir; explore the town of Akureyri – the capital of the North, swimming pool in Akureyri, hot tubs in Hauganes and Hjalteyri, many hiking options along this day's route.





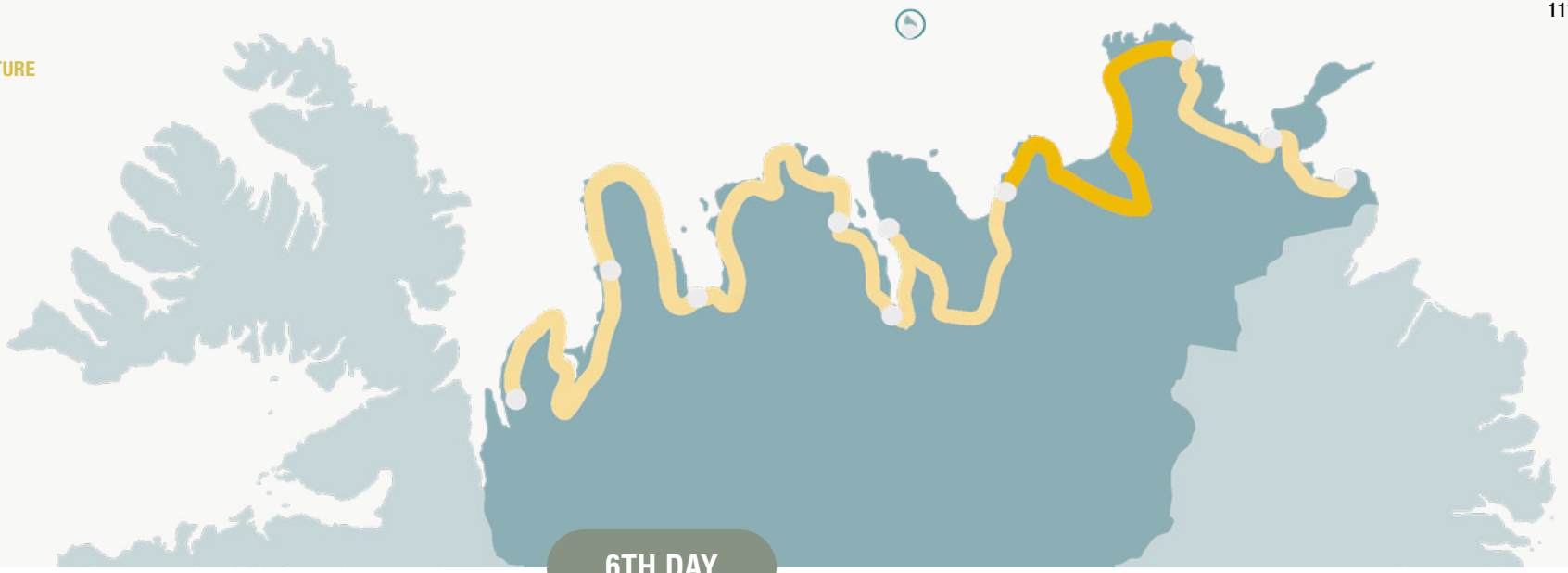
5TH DAY

Akureyri to Grenivík and Húsavík:
around the uninhabited peninsula with lonesome valleys and glacial river

Take your stops at:

village Svalbarðseyri and its charming lighthouse; village Grenivík and the amazing view. Grenivík is gateway to tours into the uninhabited mountain world of peninsula “Fjörður”, swimming pool in Grenivík, good hiking options in Svalbarðseyri and Grenivík, driving through the peaceful valleys of Fnjóskadalur and Aðaldalur, crossing the bridge over the glacial river, Skjálfandafljót, town of Húsavík, swimming pool in Húsavík





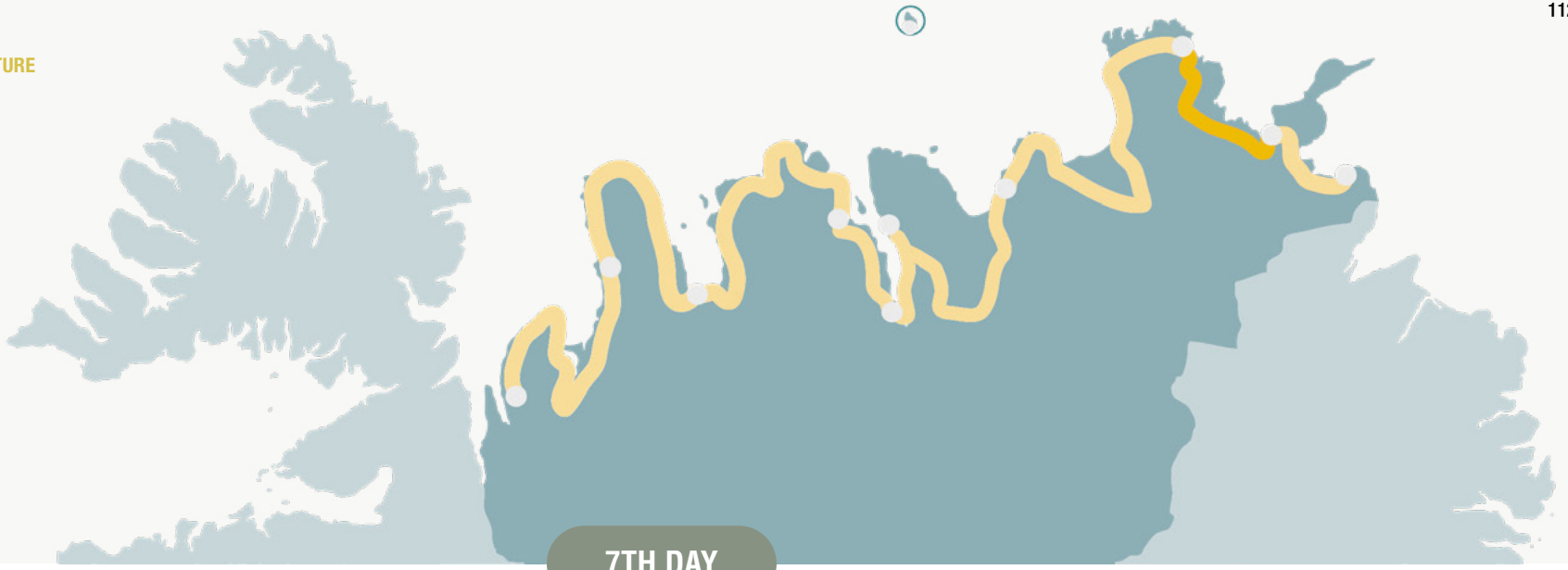
6TH DAY

Húsavík to Raufarhöfn:
from the flourishing town to the northernmost points of Iceland

Take your stops at:

Hringsbjarg viewing platform for a survey of Öxarfjörður, black beach at Fjallahöfn; Ásbyrgi National Park centre and its hiking options; village of Kópasker, take a break at the shore and look for birds and seals, walk to the lighthouse at Kópasker and its beautiful rocks; sea stack formation at Hvalvík, into the wilderness of Melrakkaslétta with abandoned houses, driftwood beaches, rich birdlife and the northernmost point of Hraunhafnartangi; Arctic Henge above the village of Raufarhöfn, Raufarhöfn swimming pool, Raufarhöfn lighthouse.





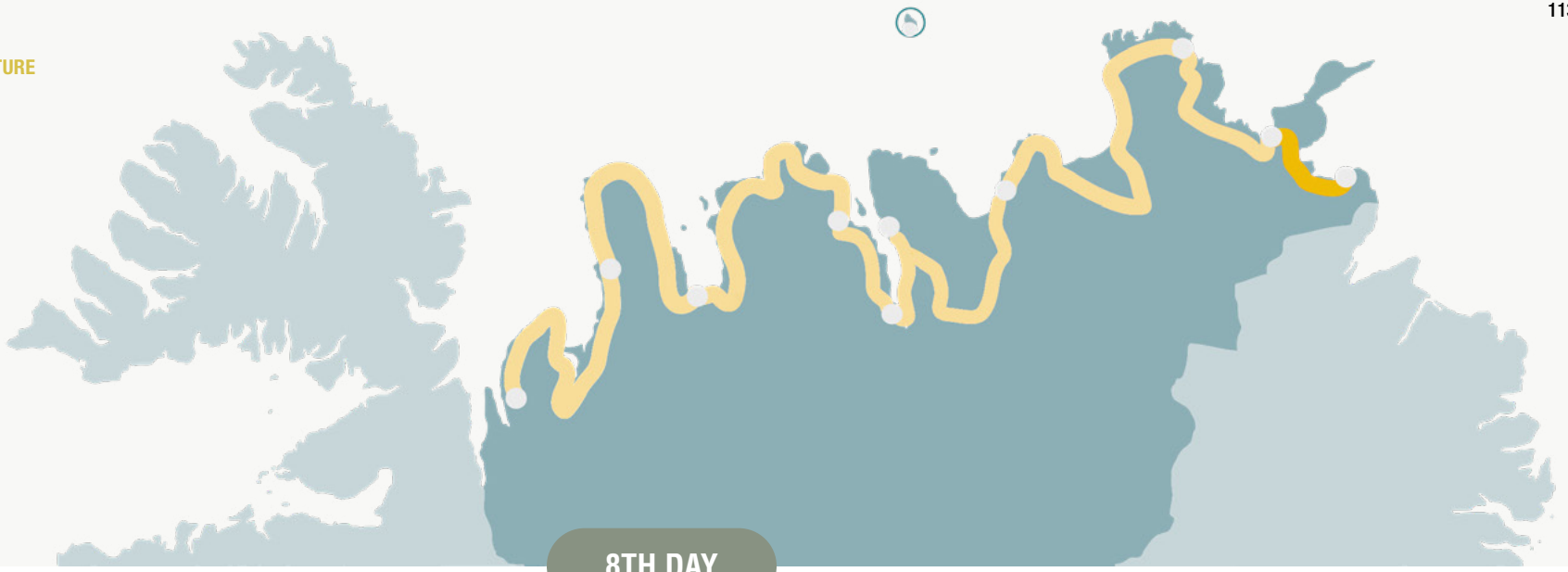
7TH DAY

Raufarhöfn to Langanes:
Wild nature and sheep grazing

Take your stops at:

hike at Rauðanes peninsula; village Þórshöfn with its swimming pool; beautiful beach at Lambanes on Langanes, birding at Lambanes.





8TH DAY

Langanes peninsula to Bakkafjörður:
Remote life in old and modern times

Take your stops at:

discover the subarctic peninsula Langanes, an old shipwreck on the way; birding platform at Skoruvíkurbjarg for gannets and puffins; lighthouse Fontur; the abandoned town Skálar; hike from Skálar along the coast; village of Bakkafjörður.



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DIGITAL FOOTPRINT & MEDIA

Since its opening in June 2019, the Arctic Coast Way has experienced a huge interest in the media:

Sunday Times, The Metro, Telegraph, National Geographic, Die Zeit, Financial Times, Guardian, Terra and many many more have already written about this amazing new driving route.

"You can go hours without seeing another car, and it doesn't escape my attention that one lapse of judgment could result in us plopping into the sea completely unnoticed. But at the same time, this is the route's big plus. Pull up and explore the coastline – maybe to check out an alien rock formation or watch a herd of seals bobbing by a black sand beach – and the tranquility is overwhelming. Stand still for even a second and everything drops away but the sea, the breeze and the terns that flit about unbothered in the sky…."

STUART HERITAGE EasyJet June 2019

"If luxury travel these days is escaping other humans, then losing a phone signal and being at one with your thoughts amid spectacular scenery, the Arctic Coast Way is luxurious indeed."

Evening Standard 2021

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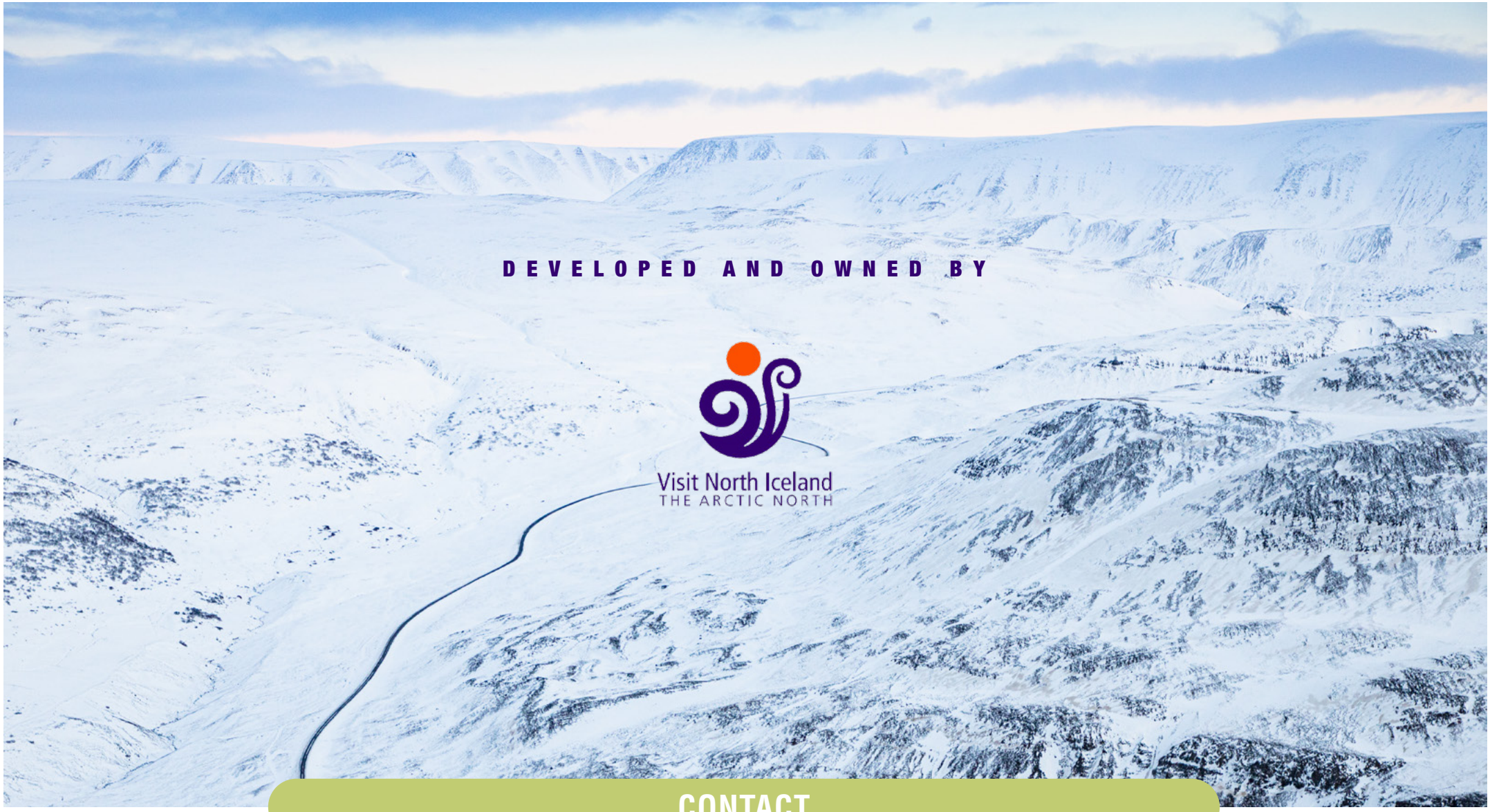
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If you like to use the Arctic Coast Way logo, please get in contact with us

info@arcticcoastway.is



DEVELOPED AND OWNED BY

Visit North Iceland
THE ARCTIC NORTH

CONTACT

We are happy to help you with all questions about the Arctic Coast Way and how to use the registered trade mark Arctic Coast Way in your marketing materials.

Please contact us, if you would like to use the Arctic Coast Way logo or our free pool of photos of the route. We are also happy to assist you plan your itinerary for an Arctic Coast Way tour.

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