

ARCTIC COAST WAY TRADE MANUAL FOR TOUR ORGANISERS



West coast of Tjörnes peninsula

September 2020



**THE ARCTIC
COAST WAY
IN ICELAND'S
FAR NORTH
CAPTIVATES
YOU ALONG
900 KM
OF ROAD**

Melrakkaslétta península

A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a vast, rugged mountain range covered in snow under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a dark, sandy beach curves along a body of water, with a small cluster of buildings and a road visible. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**WITH ITS
RUGGED,
UNTOUCHED
NATURE, AND
TAKES YOU
THROUGH VAST
OTHERWORLDLY
LANDSCAPES
BETWEEN SEA AND
MOUNTAINS.**

Fljót on Tröllaskagi península



**IT CONNECTS YOU
TO ITS AUTHENTIC
COASTAL VILLAGES
AND PEOPLE,**

Sauðárkrókur town in Skagafjörður

WHOSE STORIES AND CULTURE ARE SHAPED
BY LIFE ON THE EDGE, SO CLOSE TO THE
ARCTIC CIRCLE.



In the harbor of Siglufjörður on Tröllaskagi peninsula

A group of about ten people are sitting on a concrete pier, facing away from the camera towards a large body of water. They are all in a yoga pose, with their hands pressed together above their heads. The background features a vast, calm lake and a range of rugged, mountainous terrain under a soft, hazy sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

**IT SURPRISES YOU WITH ITS EVER-CHANGING
MOODS OF REMOTE TRANQUILLITY,**

VIBRANT ENERGY AND



Whale watching in Eyjafjörður

**MAGICAL LIGHT ALL YEAR
ROUND.**



Midnight sun on Langanes peninsula



**YOU ARE
SET FREE
TO SLOW DOWN,
AND
DISCOVER
A DIFFERENT
WAY OF LIFE.**

Horse tour near Húsavík on Tjörnes peninsula

A person in dark winter clothing stands on a snowy beach, looking out at the ocean under a dark sky filled with vibrant green Northern Lights. The scene is illuminated by the aurora and some distant lights on the shore.

**YOU WILL
LEAVE
UPLIFTED,
REFRESHED,
FULFILLED —**

Northern lights in Fljót on Tröllaskagi

**WITH
UNIQUE
MEMORIES
OF THIS
AWE-INSPIRING
PLACE.**

Beach near village Kópasker

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1 INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Arctic Coast Way. This new 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.



Málmey island in Skagafjörður

ARCTIC COAST WAY – MEASURED BY MOMENTS

FACTS AND KEY ATTRACTIONS ABOUT THE ARCTIC COAST WAY:



ARCTIC COAST WAY – MEASURED BY MOMENTS



ARCTIC COAST WAY – MEASURED BY MOMENTS

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 ON THE ARCTIC COAST WAY



Whale Watching Hauganes in Eyjafjörður

ARCTIC COAST WAY IS DIFFERENT FROM MANY OTHER DRIVING ROUTES. ESPECIALLY FOR ORGANISING GROUP TOURS SOME CONSIDERATIONS ARE IMPORTANT:

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 requires 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.

Seals on Vatnsnes peninsula

OPERATION RULES & BRAND GUIDELINES

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.

! Please let us know if you organise an authentic Arctic Coast Way Tour. We are happy to publish and promote these tours on the Arctic Coast Way website.

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.

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.

Please take the Icelandic Pledge:

www.inspiredbyiceland.com/icelandicpledge/



Fontur lighthouse on Langanes peninsula



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.

East coast of Tröllaskagi peninsula

ROAD AND DRIVING CONDITIONS

We recommend taking a 4WD vehicle. There are many gravel roads along the route and a 4WD vehicle offers better safety all year round.

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.

! PLEASE CHECK ROAD AND WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING YOUR TOUR ALONG THE ARCTIC COAST WAY ON: SAFETRAVEL.IS AND ON ROAD.IS



West coast of Vatnsnes peninsula

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

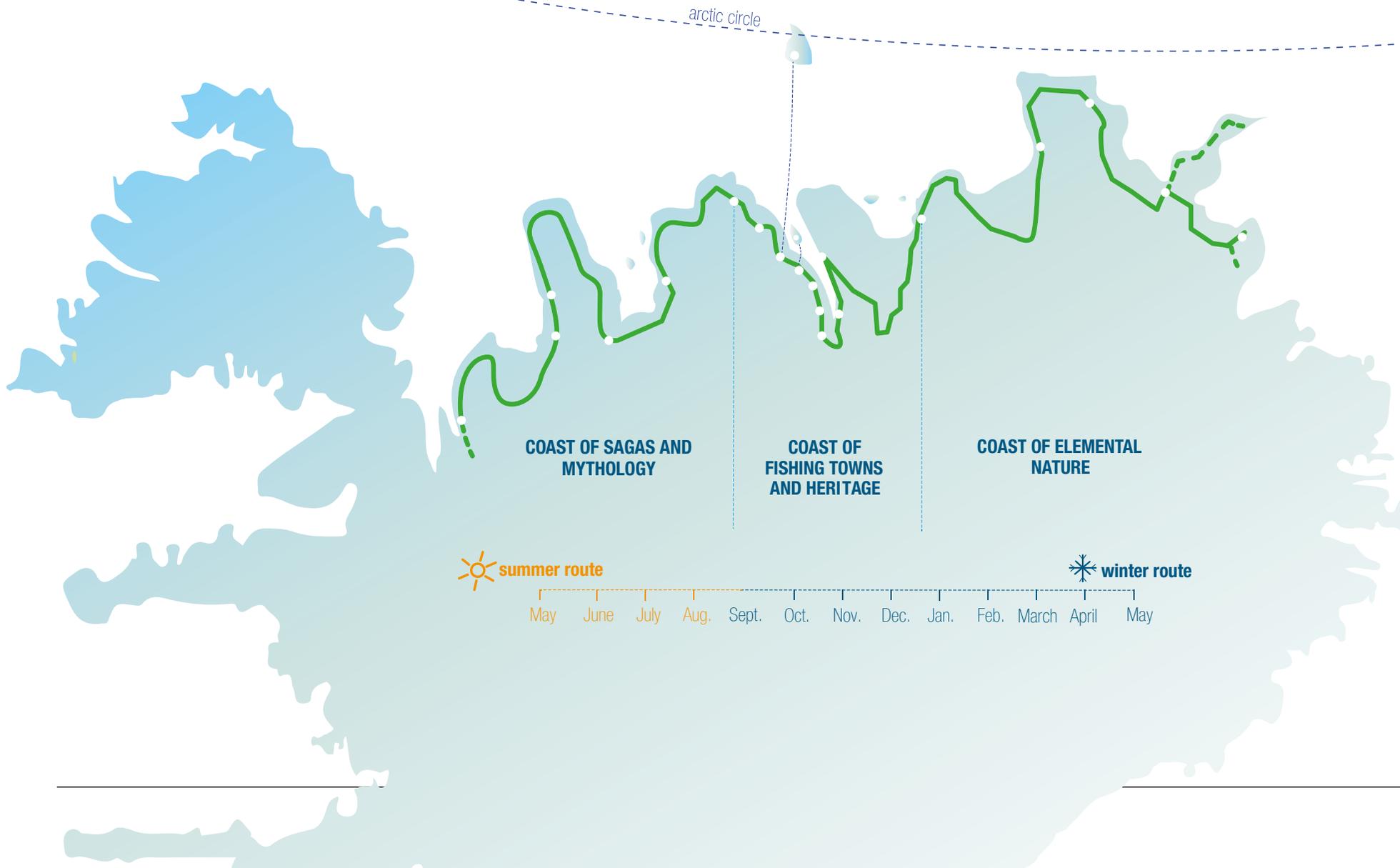
Road 870 around Melrakkaslétta

Detour on road 869 on Langanes peninsula

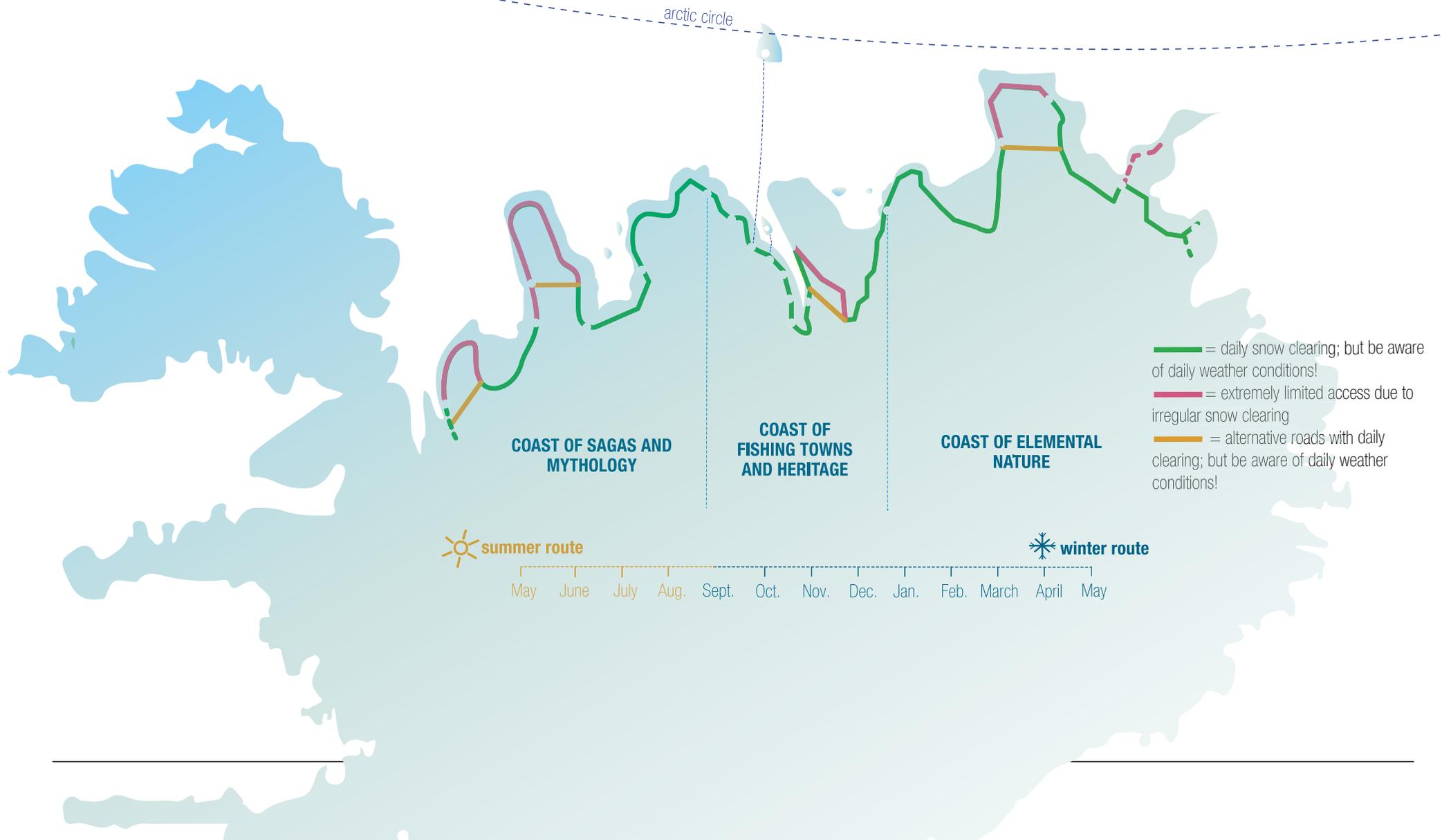
ARCTIC COAST WAY IN SNOWY AND WINTER CONDITIONS:

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.

ROAD AND DRIVING CONDITIONS | SUMMER ROUTE



ROAD AND DRIVING CONDITIONS | WINTER ROUTE



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.

Rest area in Grenivik village

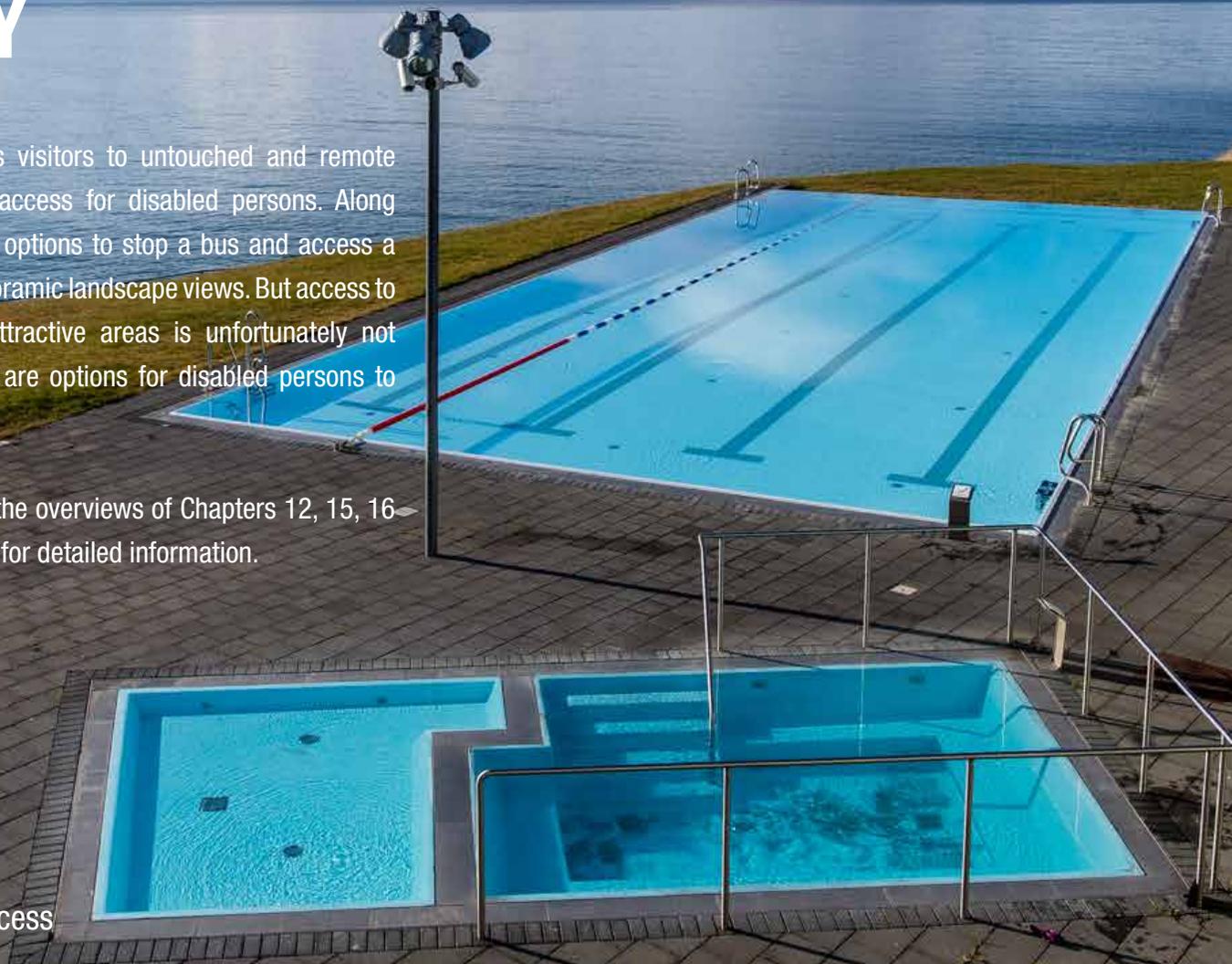


7 DISABILITY ACCESS ALONG THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

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.

Swimming pool in Hofsóss with disability access

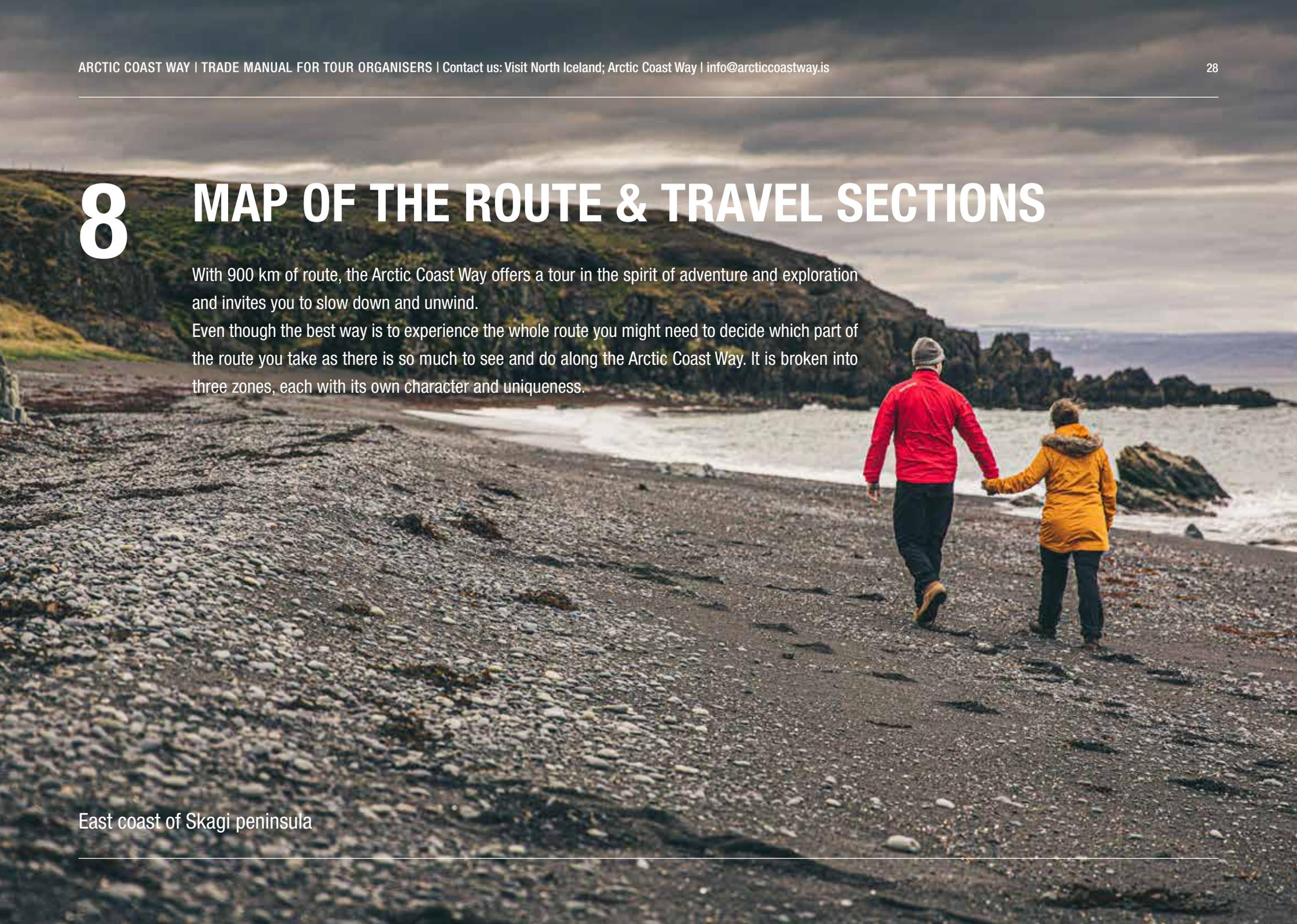


8 MAP OF THE ROUTE & TRAVEL SECTIONS

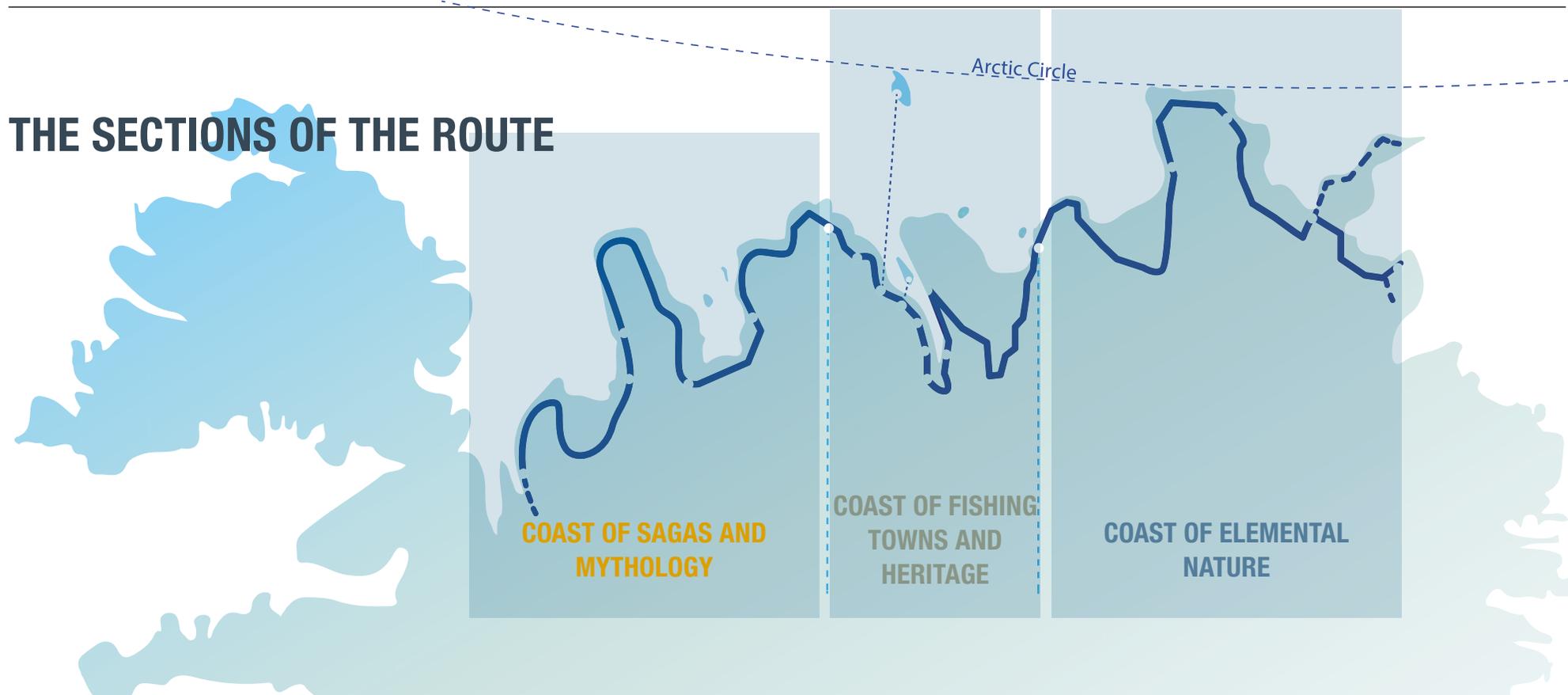
With 900 km of route, the Arctic Coast Way offers a tour in the spirit of adventure and exploration and invites you to slow down and unwind.

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.

East coast of Skagi peninsula



THE SECTIONS OF THE ROUTE



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 deep peace, solitude and contemplation inspired by distant views and the echoes and footprints of nature and history.

MAP OF THE ROUTE & TRAVEL SECTIONS

! THERE ARE MANY MORE EXPERIENCES, ACTIVITIES AND SITES TO SEE ALONG THE “COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGIES”. PLEASE FIND A COMPLETE LIST IN CHAPTER 12.

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS TO EXPERIENCE SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGIES:

The Burial Rites Tour, Hvammstangi (www.northwindtours.is, www.sealtravel.is)

The book Burial Rites is based on the story of Agnes Magnúsdóttir and her final days before becoming the last woman to be executed in Iceland. This unique tour tells her moving story and visits the authentic sites and the wild Icelandic nature behind the novel. Your experienced local guide will explain the real course of events.

Museum of prophecies (Spákonuhof) and a hike on Mount Spákonufell, Skagaströnd: (www.sagatrail.is/en/museums/museum-of-prophecies/)

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, prophetesses and fortune telling and visitors have the opportunity to have their fortune told. A hike up Mount Spákonufell offers not only magnificent views, but also a close connection to the story of Þórdís.

1238 The Battle of Iceland, Sauðárkrókur (www.1238.is)

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. This is an immersive exhibition that goes a step beyond the regular history museum. Welcoming people of all ages, the exhibition offers its guests to see and take part in history through virtual reality.

Drangey Island and Grettis Saga, Sauðárkrókur (www.drangey.net)

A trip to Drangey is a unique experience, combining sightseeing, birdwatching, sailing and hiking with personal service and guidance. While hiking you can get close to the puffins that frequently sit placidly within a few metres of the path. During the hike, our tour guides tell the ancient stories of Grettir the Strong, a Viking who lived on the island in exile and more recent ones of how the island's resources have been harvested from past to present.

Icelandic Emigration Centre, Sauðárkrókur: (www.hofsos.is)

The Emigration Centre was founded in 1996 and is dedicated to commemorating Icelandic emigrants to North America and to promoting connections between their descendants and the people of Iceland. The Centre now offers four exhibits in three separate buildings.

MAP OF THE ROUTE & TRAVEL SECTIONS

! THERE ARE MANY MORE EXPERIENCES, ACTIVITIES AND SITES TO SEE ALONG THE “COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE”. PLEASE FIND A COMPLETE LIST IN CHAPTER 12.

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS TO EXPERIENCE FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE:

The Herring Era Museum of Iceland, Siglufjörður (www.sild.is)

It is Iceland's largest maritime museum and the only Icelandic museum which has won the European Museum Award. The exhibition takes visitors back to the time when Siglufjörður used to be the centre of the herring fisheries in Iceland. The herring played a huge role in the nation's economy and industry, in some years providing as much as 44% of the national export income. Today the museum consists of three main museum buildings. Salting demonstrations are offered upon request or by advance booking.

The Great Fish Day, Dalvík (www.fiskidagurinnmikli.is)

The Great Fish Day is an annual festival in Dalvík, held on the second Saturday of August. Fish producers and other members of Dalvík community invite guests to a seafood buffet between 11.00 and 17.00 at the harbour in Dalvík. The purpose of this generous offer is to bring as many people as possible together to taste fish and enjoy a good day in Dalvík. The Great Fish Day has been a very successful event and during the first eight years a total of 200,000 guests have taken part in this fabulous village feast.

Ektafiskur (traditional saltfish and rotten shark), Hauganes (www.ektafiskur.is)

Ektafiskur is one of the main producers of salted codfish in consumer packaging in Iceland and is a true pioneer in preparing ready-to-cook salted cod products, as a result of which the company received an innovation award in 2005. The manager of Ektafiskur— self-proclaimed ‘King of the Salted Codfish’, is 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. Ektafiskur invites visitors to experience how the process works; from catching the cod to the moment – months later – when the finished product is shipped to Italy or Spain – or served on your dish 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 a special brew.

Sea Angling Tours, Dalvík, Hauganes, Grimsey and Húsavík

(www.arcticseatours.is, www.whales.is, www.gentlegiants.is, www.northsailing.is)

Experience the exciting feeling of catching your meal on the North Atlantic Ocean. The distance to the rich fishing grounds is pretty short. Angling connects you to fishing 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 watching, others offer options to prepare your catch in restaurants in towns or even with locals.

MAP OF THE ROUTE & TRAVEL SECTIONS

Whale Watching Tours, Dalvík, Hauganes, Hjalteyri, Akureyri, Húsavík

(www.arcticseatours.is, www.whales.is, www.whalewatchingakureyri.is, www.gentlegiants.is, www.northsailing.is)

Watching whales has become one of the most common activities among foreign visitors to North Iceland and an important modern base of life in the old fishing towns. Húsavík and Eyjafjörður were among the first places in the country that offered whale-watching excursions. The number of species, along with favourable weather and sea conditions, make North Iceland one of the best Icelandic areas for spotting whales. Most of the whales only stay during summer, but many just love to stay here all year round.

Sea bird egg collection, Grímsey Island (www.arctictrip.is)

Sea birds and their eggs played a crucial part in the diet of the old times in Iceland. For a few weeks every year brave men, only secured with a rope, climb down the steep bird cliffs to collect the eggs. This old tradition is still practised on Grímsey Island and visitors can watch this climbing event and, of course, taste the sea birds' eggs.

Hrísey Island Tractor Tours: learn all about life on a little island (www.hrisey.is)

Get on board this “vehicle of the countryside” and discover the little island under the guidance of a local person and listen to “first-hand stories” about daily life in a remote traditional fishing village. Visit the House of Hákarla (Shark) Jörundur, focusing on the famous 19th century shark hunting; an essential chapter in the island's heritage.



Sea bird egg collecting on Grímsey island

MAP OF THE ROUTE & TRAVEL SECTIONS

Fishing Museum, Grenivík (www.sjominjasafn.grenivik.is)

This small, but charming museum provides interesting impressions and insights relating to the fishery in the region around Grenivík. Most of the objects are original and from this region, but some have been collected from other places. The view from the museum across the bay of Eyjafjörður is amazing and invites you to stop, especially in the newly opened viewing and rest area “The end of the road” right beside the museum.

Flatey Island Tour, Húsavík (www.gentlegiants.is)

Flatey is not just of amazing beauty and rich in birdlife but offers options to step back in time and get a feeling of what life was like on a remote island far out in the ocean. Many residents in Húsavík have houses on Flatey, which, although uninhabited since 1967, once supported a lively village. The 100 or so inhabitants made their living in typical Icelandic fashion, through farming and fishing. The conditions were hard and there was no electricity or fresh-water supply on the island. Despite its robust community, once electricity and hot water arrived on the mainland, Flatey could not compete with the surrounding neighbourhoods, and the residents gradually began to move away.

Whale Museum, Húsavík (www.whalemuseum.is)

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 visitor to the history of whaling in Iceland, which is relatively 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 museum’s latest pride is the skeleton of the largest mammal ever to have lived on the planet – the blue whale.



The Herring Era Museum of Iceland,
Siglufjörður

MAP OF THE ROUTE & TRAVEL SECTIONS



THERE ARE MANY MORE EXPERIENCES, ACTIVITIES AND SITES TO SEE ALONG THE “COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE”. PLEASE FIND A COMPLETE LIST IN CHAPTER 12.

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS TO EXPERIENCE ELEMENTAL NATURE:

Birding, Geology and Shore Excursion around Tjörnes, Melrakkaslétta and Langanes (www.travelnorth.is)

These specialised day tours take you to the best places to experience the rich birdlife, with about 80 species (in the season May-July) - areas which are regarded as among the best in Iceland for bird spotting. Here, untouched nature provides a large number of diverse habitats. Also, the geology of the region offers several remarkable sites and some hidden gems accompanied by impressive stories.

Guided hikes, birding and insights into sustainable farm life; Þórshöfn/Langanes (www.ytralon.is)

Mirjam and Sverrir run Ytra Lón Farm Lodge. They share a passion for nature and make their living from sheep herding and everything their abundant landholding provides, such as eiderdown, Siberian driftwood and trout fishing in river and lake. In their attempts to be self-sustainable they try to use as many of their own farm products as possible. Guests are welcome to learn, share and enjoy this way of life. On guided tours, both hikes and birding, they share, in an unforgettable way, their knowledge and passion for the wild nature which they call their home.

Kayaking, Þórshöfn (www.sandurguesthouse.com)

This is a fabulous way to experience the magic of the ocean and to capture different views of the amazing coast around Þórshöfn. Experience the feeling of freedom by paddling in the clear waters and meet the sea birds and maybe even dolphins and whales. Sit-on-top kayaks suit both beginners and all normal, sportive people.

Exhibition of the National Park and hikes, Ásbyrgi (vatnajokulsthjodgardur.is)

Ásbyrgi is the gateway to the largest national park in Europe, the Vatnajökull National Park. Here, the Visitor Centre offers an excellent exhibition focusing on the northern area of the National Park. Several hikes invite you to discover the area characterised by the famous horseshoe canyon and the island Eyjan that offers amazing views toward the ocean.



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.

TRAVEL SEASONS

SUMMER

Summer is the season of best road conditions and the entire route is accessible. This is also the season of highest 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.



Puffin on Grímsey island

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



A fence for the sheep round-up on Vatnsnes peninsula

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:

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 Rock 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.

! FOR MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS, PLEASE CONSULT THE INTERACTIVE MAP OF THE HOMEPAGE:
WWW.ARCTICCOASTWAY.IS



Kálfshamarsvík lighthouse on Skagi peninsula

MIDNIGHT SUN VIEWPOINTS

Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Hamarsá	65°31'32.3161"	20°57'50.9925"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Hvítserkur	65°36'13.584"	20°38'21.1482"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Borgarvík	65°28'24.8034"	20°35'46.0077"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Skúlahorn	65°39'1.7931"	20°18'20.6983"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Horn, old town, Blönduós	65°39'34.6644"	20°18'9.5"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Spákonufellshöfði	65°49'42.7994"	20°19'14.7174"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Kálfshamarsvík	66°1'4.1"	20°25'41.2"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Parking at crossroads to Grettislaug	65°45'48.5"	19°39'39"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Grettislaug	65°52'56"	19°44'15"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Furðustrandir	65°44'47.6432"	19°32'55.9378"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Hofsós Basalt Columns	65°53'44.56"	19°24'35.1167"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Höfðahólar	65°59'29.4466"	19°24'19.4293"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Strákagöng	66°11'7.3879"	18°55'40.711"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Ólafsfjarðargöng	66°04'24.1"	18°32'10.3"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Grímsey Orbis et Globus	66°33'57.3143"	18°17.4704"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Háaborð Hrísey	65°59'14.6"	18°21'43.7"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Fálkafell Akureyri	65°39'51"	18°09'21.4"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Grenivík "Where the road ends"	65°56'50.3146"	18°11'3.8796"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Laxamýri	65°58'1.4124"	17°24'21.3743"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Húsvíkurfjall	66°3'42.0876"	17°20'31.691"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Mánárbakki Camping	66°11'60"	17°6'19"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Eyjan Ásbyrgi	66°1'28.552"	16°30'0.4001"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Kópaskersviti	66°18'22.6264"	16°28'3.4381"

! FOR MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS, PLEASE CONSULT THE INTERACTIVE MAP OF THE HOMEPAGE WWW.ARCTICCOASTWAY.IS



Arctic Henge on Melrakkaslétta

MIDNIGHT SUN VIEWPOINTS

Coast of Elemental Nature	Hestfjall/Hvalvík	66°22'53.9856"	16°30'30.0806"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Hraunhafnartangi	66°31'27.5661"	16°1'59.1014"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Heimskautsgerði	66°27'35.8379"	15°57'54.0328"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Raufarhafnarviti	66°27'14.1721"	15°55'58.8695"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Lambanes	66°15'51.4181"	15°10'20.5432"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Skoruvíkurbjarg	66°23'8.849"	14°51'7.4045"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Bakkafjörður Old Harbour	66°2'19.487"	14°48'19.1612"



VIEWING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Skúlahorn	65°39'1.7931"	20°18'20.6983"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Horn old town Blönduós	65°39'34.6644"	20°18'9.5"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Blanda Delta	65°39'44.8494"	20°17'37.339"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Spákonufellshöfði	65°49'42.7994"	20°19'14.7174"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Parking Crossroads to Grettislaug	65°45'48.5"	19°39'39"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Furðustrandir	65°44'47.6432"	19°32'55.9378"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Staðarbjörg	65°53'44.56"	19°24'35.1167"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Höfðahólar	65°59'29.4466"	19°24'19.4293"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Strákagöng	66°11'7.3879"	18°55'40.711"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Friðlandshringur Hrisatjörn	65°57'17.4"	18°31'54.8"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Grímsey out of town	66°31'40.8"	17°58'55.8"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Hrísey out of town	65°58'40.6"	18°22'19.2"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Grenivík "Where the road ends"	65°56'50.3146"	18°11'3.8796"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Laxamýri	65°58'1.4124"	17°24'21.3743"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Heimskautsgerði	66°27'35.8379"	15°57'54.0328"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Raufarhafnarviti	66°27'14.1721"	15°55'58.8695"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Bakkafjörður Old Harbour	66°2'19.487"	14°48'19.1612"



Hvítserkur on Vatnsnes peninsula

! 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.

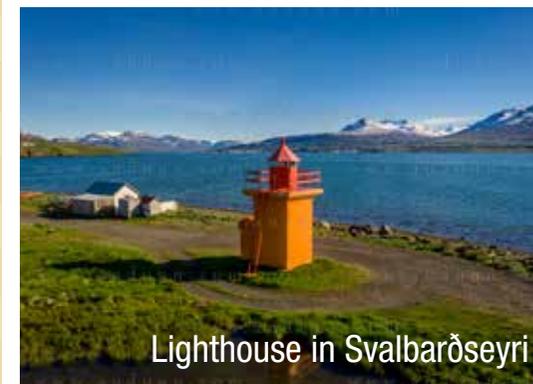
REACHABLE LIGHTHOUSES

Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Kálfshamarsvík (Walk)	66°1'4.1"	20°25'41.2"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	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"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Grímsey	66°31'40.8"	17°58'55.8"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Svalbarðseyri	65°44'37.4"	18°5'25.4"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Húsavík	66°03'07.8"	17°21'43.4"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Kópasker (Walk)	66°18'22.6264"	16°28'3.4381"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Hraunhafnartangi (Walk)	66°31'27.5661"	16°1'59.1014"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Raufarhafnarviti	66°27'14.1721"	15°55'58.8695"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Fontur	66°22'42.5866"	14°32'5.4898"

SEA ROCK FORMATIONS

Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Ánastaðastapi	65°28'53"	20°59'1.6"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Hvítserkur (walk)	65°36'13.584"	20°38'21.1482"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Bolabás (walk)	65°40'15.5568"	20°17'40.0225"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Kálfshamarsvík (walk)	66°1'4.1"	20°25'41.2"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Hofsós	65°53'44.56"	19°24'35.1167"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Hestfjall, Hvalvík	66°22'53.9856"	16°30'30.0806"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Rauðanes (hike)	66°14'34.0915"	15°42'38.534"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Skoruvíkurbjarg	66°23'8.849"	14°51'7.4045"

! PLEASE BE AWARE THAT SOME OF THE LIGHTHOUSES ARE ONLY REACHABLE BY WALKING OR HIKING.



Lighthouse in Svalbarðseyri

! PLEASE BE AWARE THAT SOME OF THE SEA ROCK FORMATIONS ARE ONLY REACHABLE BY WALKING OR HIKING.



Ánastaðastapi on Vatnsnes peninsula

ACCESSIBLE BEACHES

! PLEASE FIND MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS IN THE INTERACTIVE MAP OF THE HOMEPAGE WWW.ARCTICCOASTWAY.IS

Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Svalbarð	65°35'5.3"	20°55'26.4"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Hvítserkur	65°36'13.584"	20°38'21.1482"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Kálfshamarsvík	66°1'4.1"	20°25'41.2"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	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"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Sandurinn á Dalvík	65°58'11.19"	18°31'33.8336"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Strönd í Hauganesi	65°55'20.9"	18°18'14.4"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Sæborgarfjara Hrísey	65°58'40.6"	18°22'19.2"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Svalbarðseyri	65°44'37.4"	18°5'25.4"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Fjallahöfn	66°7'27.2493"	16°56'51.7768"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Hraunhafnartangi	66°31'27.5661"	16°1'59.1014"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Við Lambanes	66°15'51.4181"	15°10'20.5432"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Skálar	66°19'43.1443"	14°45'46.744"



Lambanes shore on Langanes peninsula

REST AREAS

Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Norðurbraut Vegagerðin	65°21'9.4741"	20°53'3.185"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Hamarsá Vegagerðin	65°31'32.3161"	20°57'50.9925"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Hvítserkur Vegagerðin	65°36'13.584"	20°38'21.1482"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Borgarvirki Vegagerðin	65°28'24.8034"	20°35'46.0077"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Sveinsstaðir Vegagerðin	65°30'15.9643"	20°22'35.2769"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Horn in Blönduós	65°39'34.6644"	20°18'9.5"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Kálfshamarsvík	66°1'4.1"	20°25'41.2"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Furðustrandir Vegagerðin	65°44'47.6432"	19°32'55.9378"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Grafarós Vegagerðin	65°53'24.2331"	19°23'52.3074"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Höfðahólar Vegagerðin	65°59'29.4466"	19°24'19.4293"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Lónkot Vegagerðin	66°0'15.0918"	19°23'48.4711"
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	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"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Skútudalur Vegagerðin	66°7'56.4"	10°54'17"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Héðinsfjörður Vegagerðin	66°6'17.2"	18°49'07.6"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Ólafsfjörður Vegagerðin	66°04'41.11"	18°37'48.9"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Ólafsfjarðargöng Vegagerðin	66°04'24.1"	18°32'10.3"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Friðlandshringur Hrísatjörn	65°57'17.4"	18°31'54.8"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Séra Friðrik Vegagerðin	65°56'57.13"	18°28'26.5"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Grenivík "Where the road ends"	65°47'56.9"	18°3'28.1"
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Útsýnispallur	65°41'16.4"	18°3'5.9"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Fornustaðir Vegagerðin	66°6'2.2195"	19°4'12.4825"



Skoruvíkurbjarg on Langanes peninsula

REST AREAS

Coast of Elemental Nature	Laxamýri Vegagerðin	65°58'1.4124"	17°24'21.3743"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Gónhóll Vegagerðin	66°3'44.2847"	17°20'31.9715"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Hringsbjarg Vegagerðin	66°8'14.4492"	16°57'0.7009"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Ásbyrgi	66°1'33.3"	16°29'47.9"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Við Kópasker Vegagerðin	66°16'12.8515"	16°24'31.8759"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Raufarhafnarviti	66°27'14.1721"	15°55'58.8695"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Vegagerðin Hófsskarð	66°17'53.8644"	15°53'27.4042"
Coast of Elemental Nature	Skálar	66°19'43.1443"	14°45'46.744"



Höfðahólar rest area in Skagafjörður

11 HERO EXPERIENCES

The Arctic Coast Way brings to its visitor unspoiled nature and interesting culture 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 and exclusive activities and adventures rarely found anywhere else. They are the cream of the crop for an unforgettable tour on the Arctic Coast Way.



Above Eyjafjörður

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 an award-winning enterprise and Iceland's largest maritime and industrial museum, aiming to recreate Siglufjörður's days of the herring boom, when it was the fishing capital of Iceland. You will have a chance to join the herring girls in their bright yellow skirts as they gut and pack herring into wooden barrels, gossiping and shouting to the dockworkers. Should you feel like trying, we have extra skirts and knives, and our expert herring girls will show you how to properly process herring! Our local accordion player will make sure to set the right atmosphere, playing traditional fishermen's songs as the herring girls sing along - followed by a dockside ball where we can all join in and dance! Afterwards there is an informative tour around the Museum's three different buildings with a local guide to give you an insight into the magnificent and captivating herring industry. The last treat of the tour will await you in the Boathouse; here you can sample different types of herring and the Icelandic rye bread from the local baker - all washed down with Brennivín, the traditional Icelandic schnapps!

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



STRONG WOMEN, HIDDEN TROLLS, AND LOCAL FOOD

Join a half day experience with an authentic taste of local food while you listen to storytelling and singing by local people in Ólafsfjörður, a little fishing village located on Tröllaskagi - the Troll Peninsula.

Ida welcomes you in her charming Kaffi Klara - a cosy Coffee and Guesthouse in Ólafsfjörður and shares her two passions with you: local food and hidden stories. Kaffi Klara is located in the old post and telephone office and is a place where stories and authentic food come together.

Follow Ida on a walk through her hometown, telling you stories about the women in history and serving you tastes of local pastries. Women in Iceland carried the strong burden of daily life while men were away fishing for many months. The women solved these hard challenges with courage, creativity, and vision. They were often ahead of their time – and of course, were also responsible for food and cooking in a country where often harsh nature made it hard to get enough food on the plate. Ólafsfjörður is typical of many of the very remote villages in Iceland. Dive into history and see these little villages with new eyes by learning the very special issues and problems they had to solve in their effort to become sustainable communities. Since Ólafsfjörður is known as the town of trolls you can be sure of having some encounters with them on your walk. In the museum Pálshús you hear troll rhymes and tales and old traditional songs presented by locals – you might even learn to sing with us. We end the tour at Kaffi Klara where Ida offers a real Arctic Coast Food Experience based upon local ingredients and old traditions but with her own modern twist to it – just as women have done throughout history.

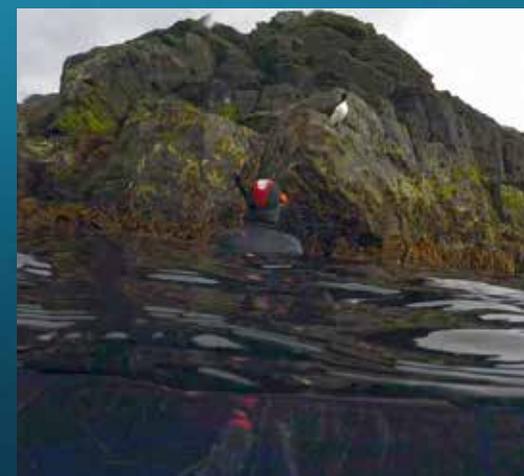
Please contact: kaffiklara.is | gistihusjoa@gmail.com



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 – FROM THE OCEAN TO YOUR PLATE

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 which has become a popular ingredient in many cuisines around the Atlantic, West Africa and the Mediterranean. Join a small 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. If you are interested, the guide can teach you how to fillet the fish. 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 follow your catch into Ektafiskur, a true pioneer in preparing ready-to-cook salted cod products, as a result of which the company received an innovation award in 2005. 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. After catching the cod and learning how to process it into bacalao you take the last – and very delicious step; enjoying a tasty dish of salted cod in the Baccalá Bar.

Please contact: ektafiskur.is; adalsteinn@whales.is

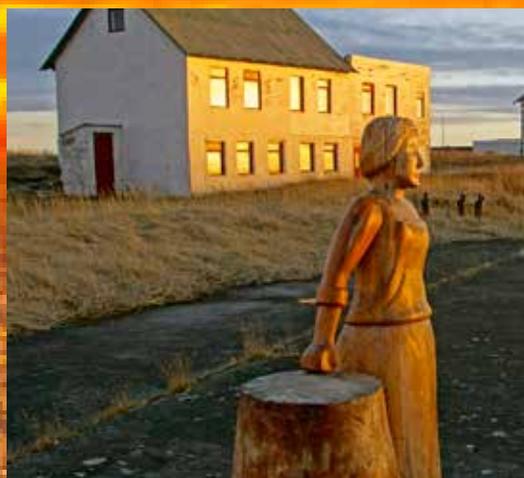


SAILING THE EDGE OF THE ARCTIC

Enjoy living and sailing for three days and two nights on board Opal, Iceland's award-winning, electrically powered vessel and its largest sailing ship. Set sail from Húsavík harbour to explore the remote islands and the majestic coastline, at the edge of the Arctic, witnessing the summer solstice from the vantage point of the Arctic Circle. Our experienced crew will guide you in your quest for the hidden treasures and historical settlements of North Iceland. All meals on board are cooked by our very own Arctic Chef and are inspired by local traditions and ingredients. The journey will be full of exploration and experiences; like learning how to sail a traditional tall ship. World class whale watching will enchant you along the way. Cross the Arctic Circle on Grímsey Island, visit the deserted island of Flatey, swim in the Arctic Sea, soak in the on-board hot tub and step ashore to explore Viking settlements and sites of abandoned farms. Hike through history by threading your way along remote valleys. Catch your own meal and barbecue this on board. Sail alongside the majestic bird cliffs of Grímsey.

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.

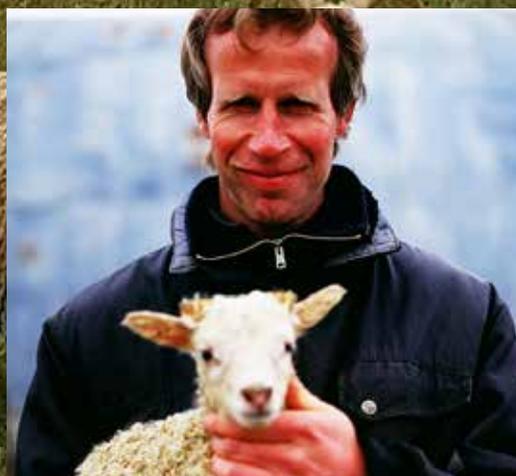
Leaving true history, you will drift into mystic legends surrounding the distinctive Arctic Henge that acts as a huge sundial and thrills every visitor, although still under construction. Located on a small hill, the Henge overlooks 360 ° of unbroken horizon and wild nature – perfect for capturing the 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 1.5 days a different rhythm of life. Spring in Iceland is a very special time of the year with its seasonal highlight of lambing, 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 migrating 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



12 EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES



Jet skiing in Eyjafjörður

EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES

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.



Whale watching in Skjálfandi Bay

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.

EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES



Seal watching on Vatnsnes

SEAL WATCHING

The seal watching tours in Hvammstangi are unique in Iceland. Around Vatnsnes peninsula you find some of the best places to observe these amazing creatures. On board the traditional oak boats an experienced guide helps you to encounter the seals in their natural habitat, both in the water and on land.



Guided hike near Grenivík

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 charming 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.

EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES

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.

STAND-UP PADDLING

Standing on the board is not just fun, but a great opportunity to experience the fjord in the spirit of freedom. You become a part of the nature and meet sea birds and sometimes even dolphins or whales.



Horseback tours in Skagafjörður



Kayak tours in Eyjafjörður

EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES

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.

SNOWSHOEING

When snow covers the mountains, it is time to try a snowshoes tour which is the perfect way to discover winter wonders without sinking too deep into the snow. The silence of winter, the untouched blanket of snow, and Northern Lights are real Arctic wonders!

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!



EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES

SEA ANGLING

Experience the exciting feeling of catching your own meal on the North Atlantic Ocean. The distance to the rich fishing grounds is pretty short. Angling connects you to fishing 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 watching, 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.

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.



Gaia temple in Eyjafjörður



Angling on Langanes peninsula



Knitting in Blönduós

EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES ALONG THE COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

DAY TOURS	Sealtravel	Hvammstangi	sealtravel.is info@sealtravel.is
	Arctic Hotels	Sauðárkrókur	arctichotels.is info@arctichotels.is
	Lambagras Cultura	Hofsós	lambagrascultura.is lambagrascultura@lambagrascultura.is
SEAL TOURS	Seal Watching	Hvammstangi	sealwatching.is info@sealwatching.is
	Sealtravel	Hvammstangi	sealtravel.is info@sealtravel.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
GUIDED HIKES	Lambagras Cultura	Hofsós	lambagrascultura.is lambagrascultura@lambagrascultura.is
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



Angling near Blönduós

EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES ALONG THE COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

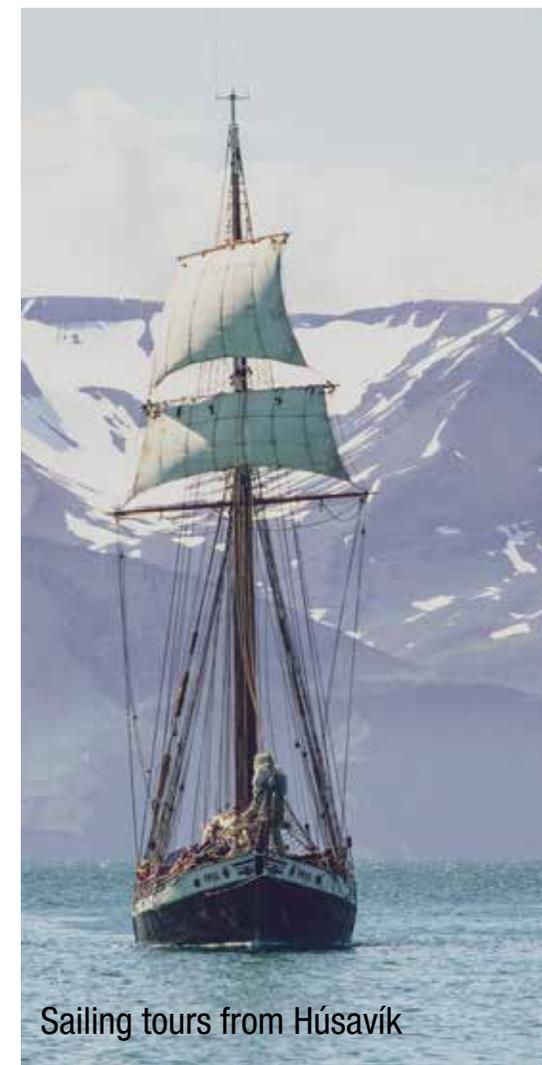
DAY TOURS	Arctic Sea Tours 	Dalvík	arcticseatours.is arcticseatours@adventures.is
	Whale Watching Akureyri	Akureyri	whalewatchingakureyri.is info@whalewatchinakureyri.is
	Ice 1 – Akureyri Luxus Travel	Akureyri	ice1trips.is info@ice1trips.is
	Sporttours	Akureyri	sporttours.is sporttours@sporttours.is
	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



Tractor Tours Hrísey

WHALE WATCHING	Arctic Sea Tours		Dalvík	arcticseatours.is arcticseatours@adventures.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
BOAT TOURS	Top Mountaineering		Siglufjörður	topmountaineering.is gesturhansa@simnet.is
	Arctic Sea Tours		Dalvík	arcticseatours.is arcticseatours@adventures.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	Wide Open		Akureyri	wideopen.is info@wideopen.is
	Top Mountaineering		Siglufjörður	topmountaineering.is gesturhansa@simnet.is
	Ferðamálafélag Hríseyjar		Hrísey	hrisey.is hrisey@hrisey.net
	Arctic Trip		Grímsey	arctictrip.is info@arctictrip.is

EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES ALONG THE COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE



Sailing tours from Húsavík

MIDNIGHT SUN TOURS	Wide Open	Akureyri	wideopen.is info@wideopen.is
	Whale Watching Akureyri	Akureyri	whalewatchingakureyri.is info@whalewatchingakureyri.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
SNOWSHOEING	Wide Open	Akureyri	wideopen.is info@wideopen.is
HORSEBACK TOURS	Saltvík	Húsavík	saltvik.is saltvik@saltvik.is
KAYAKING	Top Mountaineering	Siglufjörður	topmountaineering.is gesturhansa@simnet.is
	Gentle Giants	Húsavík	gentlegiants.is info@gentlegiants.is
STAND-UP PADDLING	Venture North Akureyri venturenorth.is	Akureyri	info@venturenorth.is
SPA & WELLNESS:	Beer Spa	Árskógssandur	bjorbodin.is bjorbodin@bjorbodin.is
	Geo Sea	Húsavík	geosea.is geosea@geosea.is

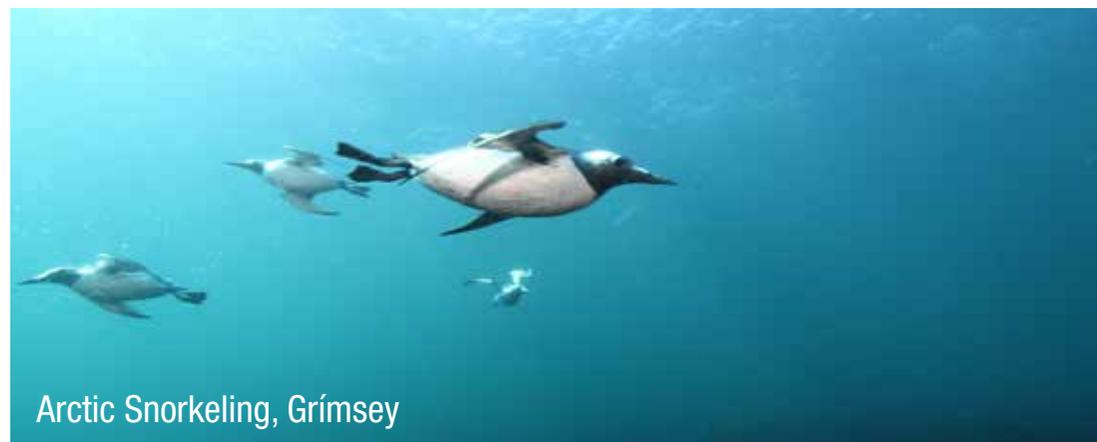
EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES ALONG THE COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE



The Beer Spa in Árskógssandur

	North Sailing Gong & Sailing	Húsavík	northsailing.is info@northsailing.is
	Gentle Giant Yoga Retreats	Húsavík	gentlegiants.is info@gentlegiants.is
	Iceland Yurt & Gaia Temple, Meditation & Soundhealing	near Akureyri	icelandyurt.is info@icelandyurt.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 on Sea	Ólafsfjörður	fairytale.is daddi@fairytale.is
TRACTOR TOURS	Ferðamálafélag Hríseyjar	Hrísey	Hrisey.is hrisey@hrisey.net
ELVES WALK	Arnarnes Álfasetur	Akureyri	arnarnesalfasetur.com info@arnarnesalfasetur.is

EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES ALONG THE COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE



Arctic Snorkeling, Grímsey

EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES ALONG THE COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

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



Learning about farm life in Ytra-Lón

13 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.

Héðinsfjörður on Tröllaskagi peninsula

BEST HIKES ALONG THE 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.

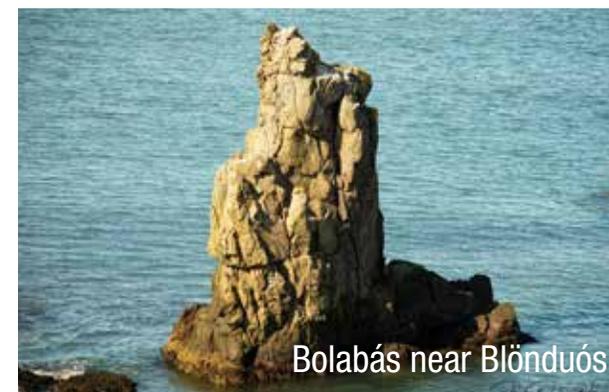
HEGRANES LIGHTHOUSE (SAUÐÁRKRÓKUR)

A short and easy hike of about 4 km takes you to the Hegrans lighthouse. It is a very charming place and offers amazing views over the long black beach near Sauðár-

krókur and the beautiful fjord of Skagafjörður with all its islands and the high mountains on either side.

DALALEIÐ (NORTHWEST PEAK OF TRÖLLASKAGI TO SIGLUFJÖRÐUR; GUIDED TOUR)

This marked hiking trail crosses over the high mountains from one coast to the other. The hiking distance is about 6 km and reaches heights of about 520 m. We recommend taking a guided tour as the trail leads up into alpine landscapes and you also need transport options as it is a one-way hike. Please contact: Top Mountaineering, gesturhansa@simnet.is



Bolabás near Blönduós

BEST HIKES ALONG THE 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.

SIGLUNES (ABANDONED SETTLEMENT ON THE NORTHERN EDGE OF TRÖLLASKAGI; ONLY ON OFFER AS A GUIDED TOUR)

A guided tour takes visitors by boat to the abandoned settlement of Siglunes and drops you off in the atmosphere of the old times when people tried to live in this remote corner of the world. The long hike back is about 15 km and follows alpine landscapes through the mountains.

Please contact: Top Mountaineering, gesturhansa@simnet.is

STRÁKAR (SIGLUFJÖRÐUR; GUIDED TOUR)

This challenging and steep mountain tour proceeds along the mountain Hvanneyrarhyrna to the peak Strákar at an altitude of 625 m. A guide helps you through these difficult

landscapes. Nevertheless, this challenge is worth taking as the view of the coastline is spectacular and unique, taking in more than 50 named peaks from surrounding mountains.

Please contact: Top Mountaineering, gesturhansa@simnet.is

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.



Above Eyjafjörður

BEST HIKES ALONG THE COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

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.

For guided tours, please contact:

Arctic Trip, info@arctictrip.is

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 different bird species, or about 35% of the total number of avian species in Iceland have been found to nest here.

MOUNT SÚLUR (AKUREYRI)

Súlur is Akureyri's symbolic mountain. There is a popular walking path up to the twin peaks, the marked hike takes about 5-6 hours there and back. The starting point is from a parking lot in the valley Glerárdalur. The taller peak is about 1213 meters and offers a spectacular view over Akureyri and Eyjafjörður.



BEST HIKES ALONG THE COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

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 (GUIDED NEAR GRENIVÍK)

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.

Please contact Wide Open: wideopen.is, info@wideopen.is

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.

Please contact Wide Open: wideopen.is, info@wideopen.is

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 (GUIDED)

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.

Please contact Wide Open: wideopen.is, info@wideopen.is



BEST HIKES ALONG THE 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 (66°22.4016°29.27) 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 (GUIDED TOUR)

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. Please contact: skjaltasetur.is; earthquake@kopasker.is

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.

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.



BEST HIKES ALONG THE COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE



Lambanes beach on Langanes peninsula

FOSSÁ (NEAR ÞÓRSHÖFN)

It is an easy walk from the water tanks (66°11.47 -15°18.55) on Brekknaheiði south to Fossá river and following its course down to the highway. (66°11.33 -15°19.64). Superb view over the village and Þistilfjörður.

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. Please contact: Ytra-Lón Farm Lodge: mirjam@ytralon.is

LANGANES AND SURROUNDINGS (GUIDED)

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.

Please contact: Ytra-Lón Farm Lodge: mirjam@ytralon.is

14 GEOTHERMAL POOLS

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.

Geothermal pools in Hauganes, Eyjafjörður

GEOTHERMAL POOLS

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 Hofsvík 	+354 455 6070
COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE	Geothermal swimming pool Siglufjörður,	+354 464 9170
	Geothermal swimming pool Ólafsvík,	+354 464 9250
	Geothermal swimming pool Dalvík,	+354 460 4940
	Geothermal swimming pool Hrísey,	+354 461 2255
	Geothermal swimming pool Grímsey,	+354 461 3155
	Beer Spa Árskógssandur	+354 4142828; bjorbodin.is
	Geothermal hot tub Hauganes,	
	Geothermal hot tub Hjalteyri,	
	Geothermal swimming pool Akureyri, 	+354 461 4455
	Geothermal swimming pool Svalbarðseyri	+354 461 2074
COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE	Geothermal swimming pool Grenivík,	+354 414 5420 or +354 863 4279
	GeoSea Geothermal Sea Baths, Húsavík,	+354 464 1210; geosea.is
	Geothermal swimming pool Húsavík	+354 464 6190
	Geothermal swimming pool Raufarhöfn,	+354 465 2254
	Geothermal swimming pool Þórshöfn	+354 468 1515



Geo Sea Bath Húsavík

15 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.

Guesthouse Tungulending on Tjörnes peninsula

ACCOMMODATION COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

Hotel Laugarbakki	♿	Near Hvammstangi	Hotel with private facilities, hot tub and restaurant	laugarbakki.is hotel@laugarbakki.is
Hotel Hvammstangi	♿	Hvammstangi	Hotel with private facilities and free access to the public swimming pool	hotelhvammstangi.is info@hotelhvammstangi.is
Sólgarður Apartments		Hvammstangi	Apartments	solgardurapartments.is unnval@gmail.com
Ósar Hostel	♿	Vatnsnes Peninsula at Hvítserkur rock formation	Hostel and Cottages	facebook.com/osarhostel osar@hostel.is
Brimslóð Atelier Guesthouse		Blönduós	Guesthouse with shared facilities and restaurant	brimslodguesthouse.is ibergthorsdottir@gmail.com
Salthús Guesthouse		Skagaströnd	Guesthouse; private facilities and kitchen	salthusid.is salthus@salthus.is
Grand-Inn Bar and 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



Salthús Guesthouse



Sóti Lodge

Guesthouse Mikligarður	Sauðárkrókur	Guesthouse with shared and private facilities	arctichotels.is info@arctichotels.is
Puffin Palace Guesthouse 	Sauðárkrókur	Guesthouse with shared facilities and kitchen	puffinpalace.is info@puffinpalace.is
Sóti Lodge	Fljót		sotilodge.is sotilodge@sotilodge.is

ACCOMMODATION COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Sigló Hotel	Siglufjörður	Hotel with private facilities, hot tub and restaurant	siglohotel.is siglohotel@siglohotel.is
Siglunes Guesthouse	Siglufjörður	Guesthouse; shared and private facilities, restaurant	hotelsiglunes.is info@hotelsiglunes.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
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	gistheimilidbasar.is basar@gistheimilidbasar.is
Wave Guesthouse	Hrísey	Guesthouse with shared facilities and kitchen	waveguesthouse.is info@waveguesthouse.com



Hotel Sigló



Kaffi Klara

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
Arnarnes Paradís	North of Akureyri, close to Hjalteyri	B&B guesthouse with shared facilities and restaurant; focus on organic ingredients	arnarnesalfasetur.com info@arnarnesalfasetur.is
Our Guesthouse	Akureyri	Guesthouse with apartments and rooms with private and shared facilities	ourguesthouse.is ourakureyri@gmail.com
Acco Luxury Apartments	 Akureyri	Apartments	acco.is info@acco.is
Icelandair Hotel Akureyri	 Akureyri	Hotel with private facilities, restaurant and a terrace with fireplace	akureyri@icehotels.is info@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

ACCOMMODATION COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE



Árból Guesthouse	Húsavík	Guesthouse; shared facilities	arbol.is arbol@arbol.is
Skjálfandi Apartments	Húsavík	Apartments	arbol.is arbol@arbol.is
Saltvík	 Húsavík	Guesthouse with private and shared facilities	saltvik.is saltvik@saltvik.is

ACCOMMODATION COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE



COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

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
Hotel Skúlagarður	Near Ásbyrgi	Hotel with private facilities and restaurant	Skulagardur.com info@skulagardur.is
Camping Ásbyrgi	Ásbyrgi	Camping in the National Park with good facilities	asbyrgi@vjp.is vjp.is
Garður Guesthouse	 Between Ásbyrgi and Kópasker	Guesthouse with shared facilities, kitchen	gardurguesthouse.is.is info@gardurguesthouse.is
Nordic Natura	 Between Ásbyrgi and Kópasker	Fully equipped studios with organic focus	nordicnatura.is heimahagarehf@gmail.com

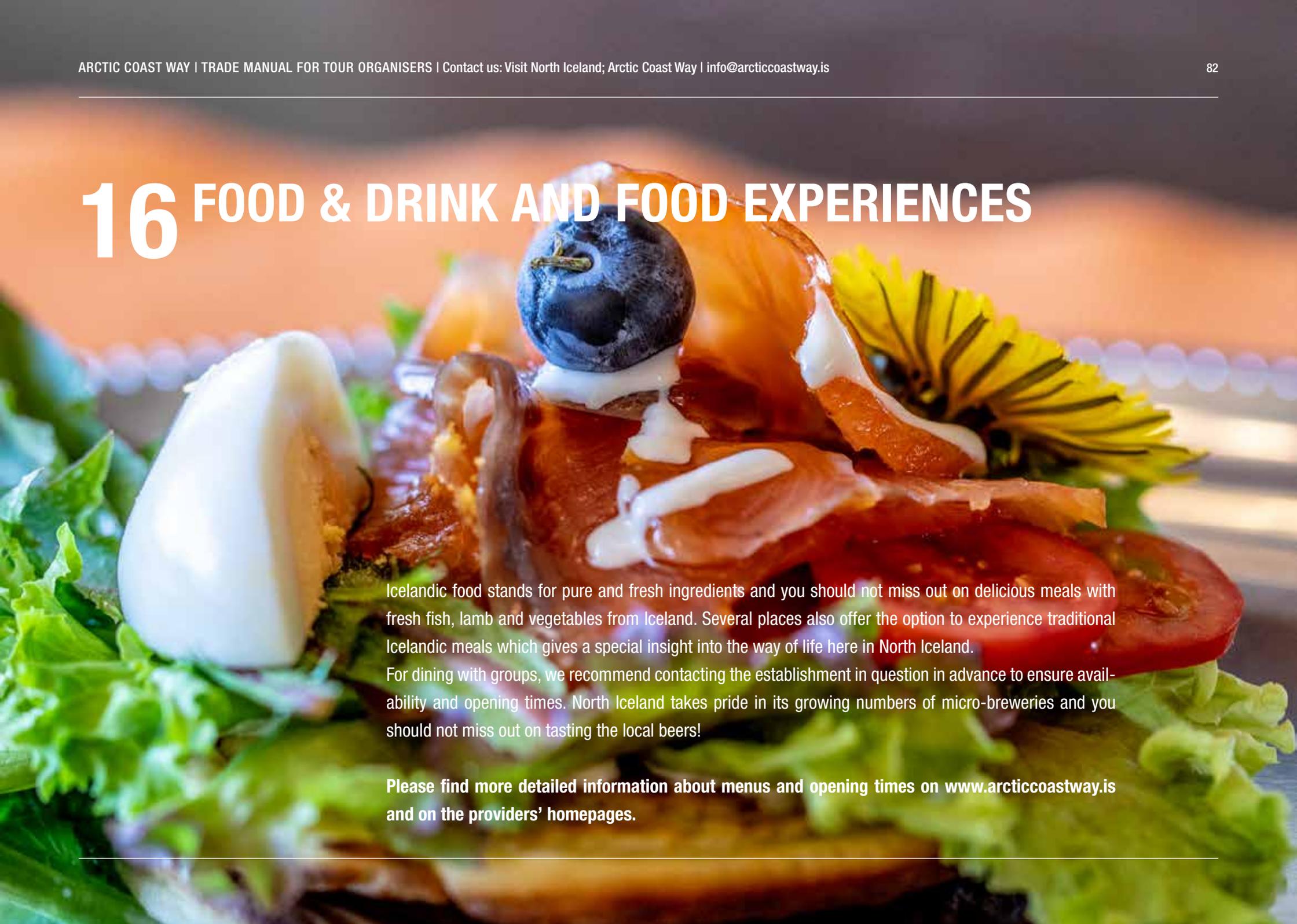


Dettifoss Guesthouse	Between Ásbyrgi and Kópasker	Guesthouse with shared facilities; kitchen access	dettifoss@gmail.is
Kópasker Hostel	Kópasker	Hostel with kitchen; shared facilities	hostel.is/hostels/kopasker-hi-hostel hostel@kopasker.is
Sólsetur Guesthouse	Raufarhöfn	Guesthouse with shared facilities and optional breakfast	klif1947@gmail.com
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
Skólabakki Guesthouse	Bakkafjörður	Guesthouse with shared and private facilities; restaurant	skolabakki.is info@skolabakki.is.is

ACCOMMODATION COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE



16 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 proud 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 strengthening the rural region and its food heritage.**

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

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.



FOOD & DRINK COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGIES

Hotel Laugarbakki	Laugarbakki	Restaurant emphasising fresh food from the region. Serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.	laugarbakki.is hotel@laugarbakki.is
Brimslóð Atelier Guesthouse	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/GrandinnBarandBed grandinnbandb@gmail.com
KK Restaurant	♿ Sauðárkrókur	Restaurant; menu includes traditional Icelandic food. Fresh fish every day and an Arctic Coast Way tasting option.	kkrestaurant.is kaffikrokur@kaffikrokur.is
Grána Bistro	♿ Sauðárkrókur	Bistro in the museum "1238 The Battle of Iceland"; menu with local food, coffee and beverages.	1238.is info@1238.is
Geitafell	Vatnsnes peninsula	Seafood Restaurant focusing on local ingredients.	geitafell.is Sigrun.j@simnet.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



KK Restaurant



Grána Bistro

FOOD & DRINK COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Kaffi Rauðka		Siglufjörður	Café with broad international menu including traditional Icelandic meals.	siglohotel.is siglohotel@siglohotel.is
Hannes Boy Café		Siglufjörður	Café with broad international menu including traditional Icelandic meals.	siglohotel.is siglohotel@siglohotel.is
Restaurant Hotel Sigló		Siglufjörður	Restaurant with harbour view.	siglohotel.is siglohotel@siglohotel.is
Siglunes Guesthouse		Siglufjörður	Restaurant with Moroccan-style food from local Icelandic ingredients; every day a new menu.	hotelsiglunes.is info@hotelsiglunes.is
Frida Chocolate café		Siglufjörður	Chocolate Café, handmade pralines, and Art exhibition.	frida.is frida@frida.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/bakkabrae- durkaffi/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



Frida Chocolate café



Verbúðin 66

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
Arnarnes Paradís	Akureyri	Restaurant in a guesthouse focusing on organic ingredients.	arnarnesalfasetur.com info@arnarnesalfasetur.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.is hotelnatur@hotelnatur.is

FOOD & DRINK AND FOOD EXPERIENCES
COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE



Icelandic food stands for pure and fresh ingredients

FOOD & DRINK COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

Kaupfélagið	Raufarhöfn	Restaurant and Café.	facebook.com/kaupfelagidRaufarhofn/ Klif1947@gmail.com
Hotel Skúlagarður	 Near Ásbyrgi	Restaurant with focus on home-style cooking and fresh products from the area.	Skulagardur.is info@skulagardur.is
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
Skólabakki	Bakkafjörður	Restaurant	info@skolabakki.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 https://www.facebook.com/sveitasaela
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

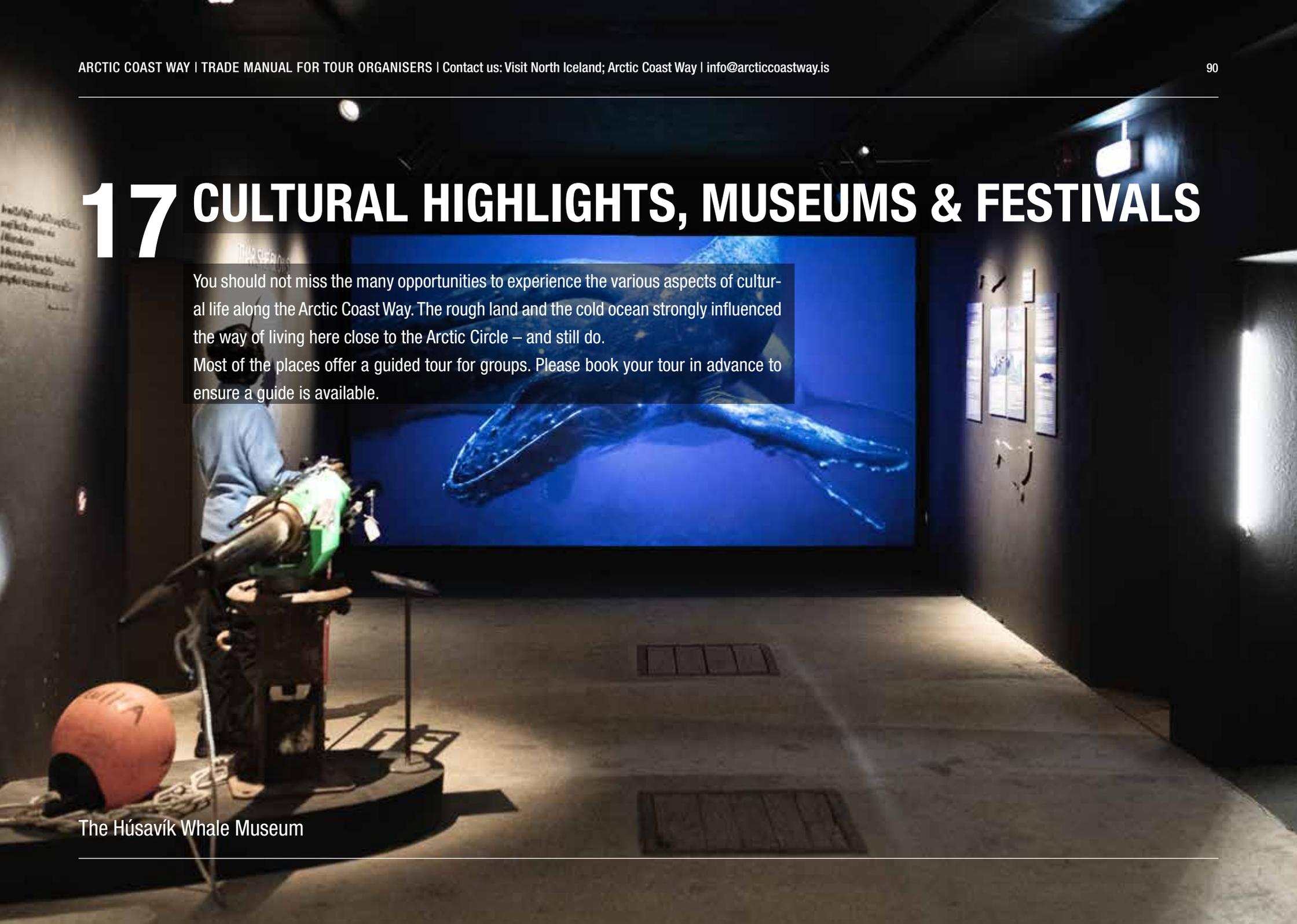
FOOD EXPERIENCES AND FOOD FESTIVALS

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/baccalabar/ 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
Local Food Festival	Akureyri	The Local Food Festival exhibition is held every second year to reflect the strength of the North as the country's largest food production area and the exhibition is, therefore, an ideal presentation platform that companies and individuals in the sector can use to draw attention to their products, cuisine, catering, food tourism and trade associated within this industry.	localfood.is

17 CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS, MUSEUMS & FESTIVALS

You should not miss the many opportunities to experience the various aspects of cultural 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.

The Húsavík Whale Museum



CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS, MUSEUMS & FESTIVALS 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 <i>Guided tours are available</i>
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
Iceland Knit Fest		Blönduós	The Fest is an annual event initiated by the Icelandic Textile Center and inspired by the annual Knitting Festival in Fano, Denmark. Festival activities include many different workshops on a wide range of knitting topics, sightseeing trips to local knitting and textile sites of interest, knitting competitions, markets for knitted products and more.	Textilmidstod.is textilecenter@textilecenter.is <i>Workshops are available</i>
Prístapar		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)

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS, MUSEUMS & FESTIVALS **COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY**

Húnavaka Festival	Blönduós	This annual, colourful town festival is held in July, featuring a varied programme of events. An advertising brochure is published some weeks before the detailed schedule.	info@nwest.is
Textile Museum	Blönduós	The museum, the only one of its kind in Iceland, exhibits a unique collection of home-made 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 <i>Guided tours are available</i>



Textile Museum



Kidka Wool Factory



Puffin and Friends

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS, MUSEUMS & FESTIVALS **COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY**

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
Week of Joy Festival		Skagafjörður	This is a nationally regarded arts and culture festival with lots of history and tradition. It is held at the end of April /beginning of May, and the people of Skagafjörður offer a cultural feast with a range of activities over the whole week.	Visitskagafjordur.is skagafjordur@skagafjordur.is
Puffin and Friends		Sauðárkrókur	Explore the nature of the north. Puffin and Friends 360° is a show about the puffin in Skagafjörður and how global warming has affected its life cycle. The exhibition is unique in the country with a combination of virtual reality, setup and videos.	Puffinandfriends.com contact@puffinandfriends.com
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



CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS, MUSEUMS & FESTIVALS

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 safn@sild.is <i>Guided tours and group offers are available</i>
Fishermen's Sunday Festival	Ólafsfjörður	Held in June, this day celebrates the hard work and sacrifices of the Icelandic fishermen. Concerts, events, boat tours and rowing competitions.	Fjallabyggd.is Visittrollaskagi.is fjallabyggd@fjallabyggd.is
Folk Music Festival	Siglufjörður	A five-day international folk music festival in July. The focus is on Icelandic and Scandinavian folk music as well as world music and folk dances. Up to 19 concerts are held in different locations in Siglufjörður.	siglofestival.com
Boating day Festival	Siglufjörður	During the festival, workshops on music and old handicraft, and lectures on both Icelandic and foreign topics are held.	Fjallabyggd.is Visittrollaskagi.is fjallabyggd@fjallabyggd.is
Blueberry Music Festival	Ólafsfjörður	Free Sea angling: Sightseeing sail out into the stunning fjord for all the family to catch some fish. The catch will be barbecued once we get back on land. Culture, entertainment, sports events and leisure for the whole family. This is held in July.	berjadagar-artfest.com/
Poetry Festival	Siglufjörður/ Ólafsfjörður	The Glói Youth Association and the Association of Poetry Centres annually hold the Poetry Festival "Haustglæður", where nationally renowned poets come to visit Siglufjörður. Held in September/October.	ljodasetur.123.is/ page/31868/&lang=en
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

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS, MUSEUMS & FESTIVALS

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Culture House Berg	Dalvík	The house shows a beautiful architecture and invites with various exhibitions and events throughout the year and locates also the library.	dalvikurbyggd.is/berg berg@dalvikurbyggd.is
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 hrisey@hrisey.is <i>Guided tours are available</i>
Ektafiskur	Hauganes	Ektafiskur (Real fish) is one of Iceland's main producers of salted cod fish in consumer packaging. 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 <i>Guided tours available</i>
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 <i>Guided tours are available</i>
Akureyrarvaka	Akureyri	The Anniversary of Akureyri Municipality is celebrated annually on the weekend closest to the day of establishment which is the 29th of August. It's a celebration including cultural events like exhibitions, visual art, music, science and so on.	visitakureyri.is visitakureyri@visitakureyri.is
Fishermen's Day	Akureyri	This event takes place on the first Sunday in June. Fishing has always been very important to the Icelandic way of living and as Akureyri houses one of the largest fishing companies in Iceland the day is celebrated with various events.	visitakureyri.is visitakureyri@visitakureyri.is
Akureyri Art Summer	Akureyri	This festival takes place in July. The menu includes concerts with pop and rock, classical music, visual art exhibitions, various happenings and outdoor art.	visitakureyri.is visitakureyri@visitakureyri.is

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS, MUSEUMS & FESTIVALS

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Midsummer Magic	Akureyri	In Iceland, Midsummer Night, 24th June is known as “Jónsmessa”. According to Icelandic folklore many strange things happen during this night. Cows gain the power to speak and seals can become human... among other extraordinary events. In Akureyri this day is celebrated for 24 hrs. with various events, some relating to old traditions and folklore.	visitakureyri.is visitakureyri@visitakureyri.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 collecting 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 <i>Guided tours are available</i>

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS, MUSEUMS & FESTIVALS

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

Medieval Festival	Gásir between Hjalteyri and Akureyri	Gásir is one of the largest archaeological sites in Iceland and was the main trading post in North Iceland during the Middle Ages from 1100-1550. On two days in July the medieval days come to life again and a colourful programme of events takes the visitor back in time.	minjasafnid.is/ minjasafnid@minjasafnid.is
Laufás Heritage Site	Between Akureyri and Grenivík	The atmospheric and picturesque heritage site of Laufás is full of history with its large farm-house 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 <i>Guided tours are available</i>
Mærudagar Candy Days	Húsavík	The town's festival is held the last weekend in July as a time for everyone to come together and enjoy Húsavík. There is something for everyone: art exhibitions, open-air theatre performances for kids of all ages, a parade, a golf tournament, a market and a small carnival at the harbour and there is live music all over town.	visithusavik.is info@visithusavik.is
Húsavík Museum	Húsavík	Everyday ephemera juttet 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

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS, MUSEUMS & FESTIVALS 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 but also the volcanic eruptions at Lake Mývatn which are famous as "the Krafla fires". The earthquake in 1976 caused large-scale damage to buildings in the village and part of the land nearby gave way to create two new lakes. This was one of many events in the following decade which were symptomatic of heightened seismic activity in the region. Hikes around the Center bear ample witness to the impact of the earthquakes on the surrounding landscape.	skjalftasetur.is earthquake@kopasker.is <i>Guided tours are available</i>
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



The Arctic Henge in Raufarhöfn

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS, MUSEUMS & FESTIVALS COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

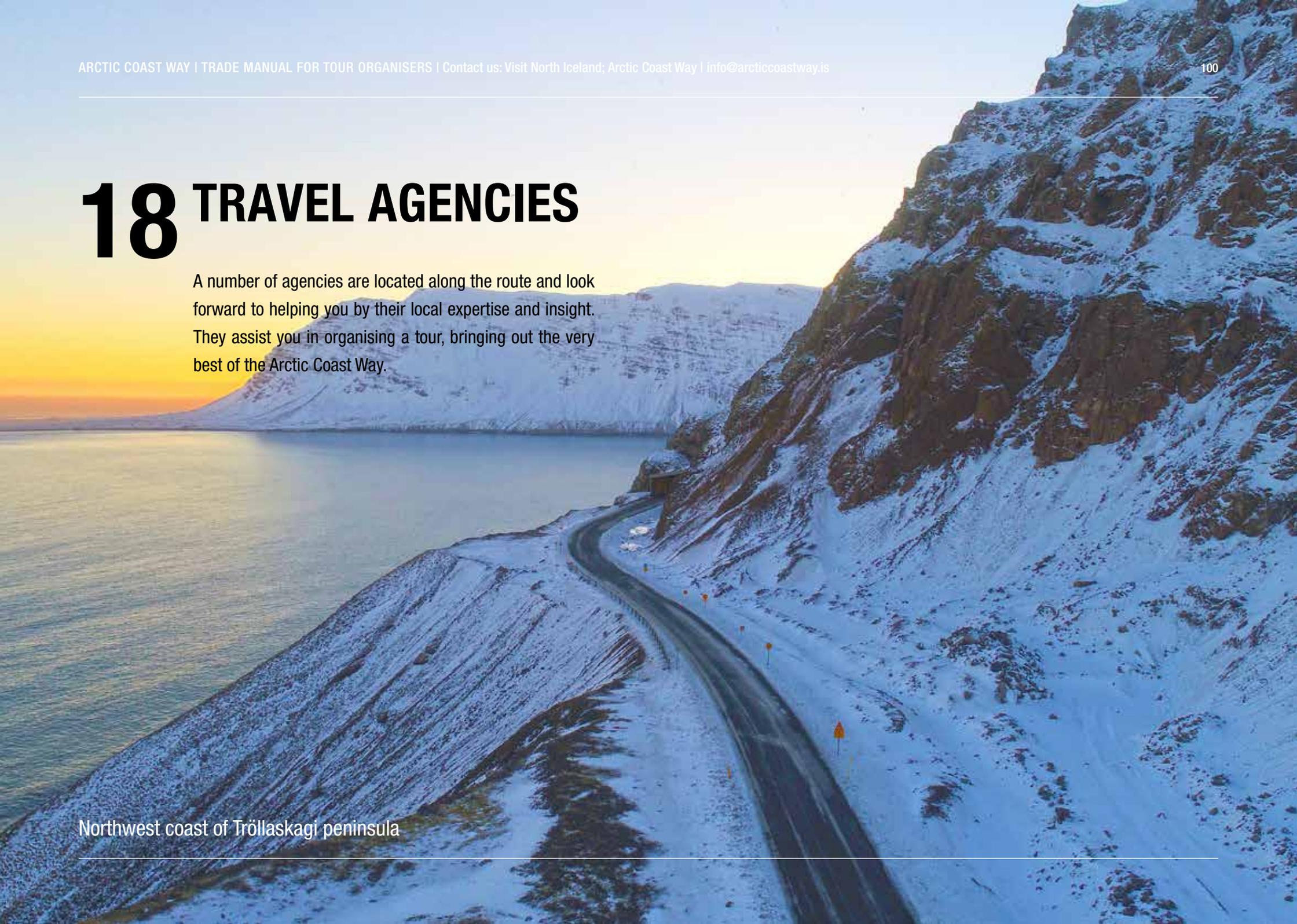
Solstice Festival	Kópasker	The Solstice Festival is held on the weekend closest to summer solstice. A local festival for the family with all kinds of gatherings and events, many of them outdoors to embrace the sun shining day and night. The houses in town are decorated in the color of the sun.	https://www.facebook.com/solstoduhatid2015/
Pier Days Festival	Þórshöfn	Music, dancing, art, fun for the kids, fishing, hiking and much more. The Pier Days are held in mid July in the fishing town Þórshöfn.	https://www.facebook.com/Bryggjudagar-389543291514323/
Culture Festival including the Ram Festival	Raufarhöfn	On these days in autumn (end of September, beginning of October) farmers in the Northeast region come together to show and sell their products. In addition to the ram show a varied programme is on offer, with music and fun.	www.facebook.com/Hr%C3%BAadagurinn-240108736037044/



18 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.

Northwest coast of Tröllaskagi peninsula



TRAVEL AGENCIES

Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Seal Travel	Hvammstangi	sealtravel.is info@sealtravel.is
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Arctic Hotels	Sauðárkrókur	arctichotels.is info@arctichotels.is
Coast of Sagas and Mythology	Helluland	Sauðárkrókur	helluland.is info@icelandhorsetours.com
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Slowiceland	Siglufjörður	slowiceland.com saemundur@slowiceland.is
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Sporttours	Dalvík	sporttours.is sporttours@sporttours.is
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Arctic Trip	Grimsey	arctictrip.is info@arctictrip.is
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Ice 1 – Akureyri Luxury Travel	Akureyri	ice1trips.is & info@ice1trips.is
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	No.17	Svalbarðsströnd	no17.is & No17@no17.is
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Travel North	Húsavík	travelnorth.is info@travelnorth.is
Coast of Fishing Towns and Heritage	Saltvík	Húsavík	saltvik.is saltvik@saltvik.is



Abandoned house on Melrakkaslétta peninsula

19 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.



Grímsey Island



ISLANDS OF THE ARCTIC COAST WAY



DRANGEY

Coast of Sagas and Mythologies

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 Mythologies

Currently not accessible, uninhabited



GRÍMSEY

Coast of Fishing Villages 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 Villages 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 Villages 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 Villages 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

20 TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

Ólafsfjörður

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.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

COAST OF SAGA AND MYTHOLOGY

<p>Hvammstangi</p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> accommodation campsite grocery store restaurant café fuel station swimming pool health care centre
<p>Blönduós</p>	<p>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 Hrótey Island. Hrótey, 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> accommodation campsite grocery store restaurant café fuel station swimming pool health care centre



TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

COAST OF SAGA AND MYTHOLOGY

<p>Skagaströnd</p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> accommodation campsite grocery store fuel station swimming pool
<p>Sauðárkrókur</p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> accommodation campsite grocery store restaurant café fuel station swimming pool health care centre car rental



TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

COAST OF SAGA AND MYTHOLOGY

<p>Hofsós</p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> campsite restaurant grocery store swimming pool
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COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

<p>Siglufjörður</p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> accommodation campsite restaurant brewery café grocery store fuel station swimming pool health care centre
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TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> restaurant brewery fuel station spa



TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

<p>Hrísey</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>accommodation campsite restaurant café grocery store swimming pool</p>
<p>Grímsey</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>accommodation campsite restaurant grocery store swimming pool</p>
<p>Hauganes</p>	<p>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 Baccalá 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.</p>	<p>campsite restaurant hot tubs</p>



TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

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



TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

<p>Grenivík</p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> accommodation campsite restaurant grocery store fuel station swimming pool
<p>Húsavík</p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> accommodation campsite restaurant brewery café grocery store fuel station swimming pool car rental airport



TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> accommodation grocery store fuel station
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> accommodation campsite restaurant café grocery store fuel station swimming pool healthcare centre



TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

Pórshöfn	Pórshöfn 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 Pórshöfn 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. Pórshöfn 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".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> accommodation camp site grocery store swimming pool



21 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.

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, Sauðárkrúkur.

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

HÖLDUR CAR RENTAL IS PARTNER OF THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

holdur.is
holdur@holdur.is

OPTIONS TO ACCESS THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

- 1 Bringing your own car to Seyðisfjörður and reaching the Arctic Coast Way in Bakkafjörður
- 2 Driving around Iceland along Highway 1 and accessing the Arctic Coast Way as a detour in Bakkafjörður or Hvammstangi
- 3 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
- 4 Adding the Diamond Circle by a detour to the Arctic Coast Way
- 5 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.

22 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.

Glerhallavík beach in Skagafjörður

ITINERARIES FOR THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

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: COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

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 Hrutey 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

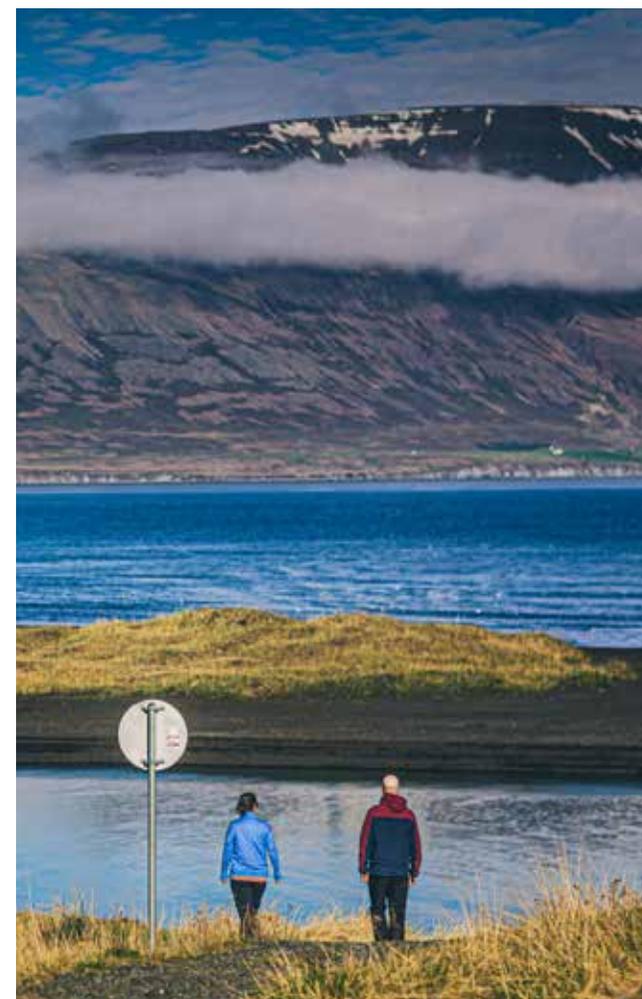
2ND DAY*: COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY

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

***Add half a day to Drangey Island**



ITINERARIES FOR THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

3RD DAY: COAST OF SAGAS AND MYTHOLOGY TO COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

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

Take your stops at:

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



Orbis et Globus sculpture on Grímsey island that marks the Polar Circle



4TH DAY*: COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

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 Hauganes 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

*Add an extra Day to Grímsey and at least half a day to Hrísey **add an extra day to Island Flatey

5TH DAY**: COAST OF FISHING TOWNS AND HERITAGE

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, Skjálfandaflljót, town of Húsavík, swimming pool in Húsavík

ITINERARIES FOR THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

6TH DAY: COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

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 rock 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: COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

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: COAST OF ELEMENTAL NATURE

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

THE ENTIRE ARCTIC COAST WAY PLUS OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF NORTH ICELAND ABOUT 14 DAYS PLUS EXTRA TIME FOR EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES

- Take a flight to Akureyri or Húsavík and rent a car
- Take the Arctic Coast Way travelling west (days 5 to 1 in the itinerary above)
- Add the islands Flatey, Hrísey, Grímsey, Drangey
- Drive back from Hvammstangi on Highway 1 to Akureyri; see Kolugljúfur Waterfall (1 day)
- Add the Diamond Circle with Goðafoss, Lake Mývatn and Dettifoss, then drive to the eastern starting point of the Arctic Coast Way in Bakkafjörður (2 days)
- Follow the Arctic Coast Way from Bakkafjörður to Húsavík or Akureyri (day 8 to 5 in the itinerary above)

23 DIGITAL FOOTPRINT & MEDIA

“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

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.

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If you like to use the Arctic Coast Way logo, please get in contact with us Info@arcticcoastway.is

Please let us know if you organise an authentic Arctic Coast Way Tour. We are happy to publish and promote these tours on the Arctic Coast Way website.

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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Lighthouse in Kópasker