



## MEMBERSHIP AND OPERATION FOR THE ARCTIC COAST WAY

**The criteria for membership and the rules for operation aim to guarantee the quality of our promise to the visitors and the credibility of the brand Arctic Coast Way.**

The Arctic Coast Way sends out a **promise to its visitors**:

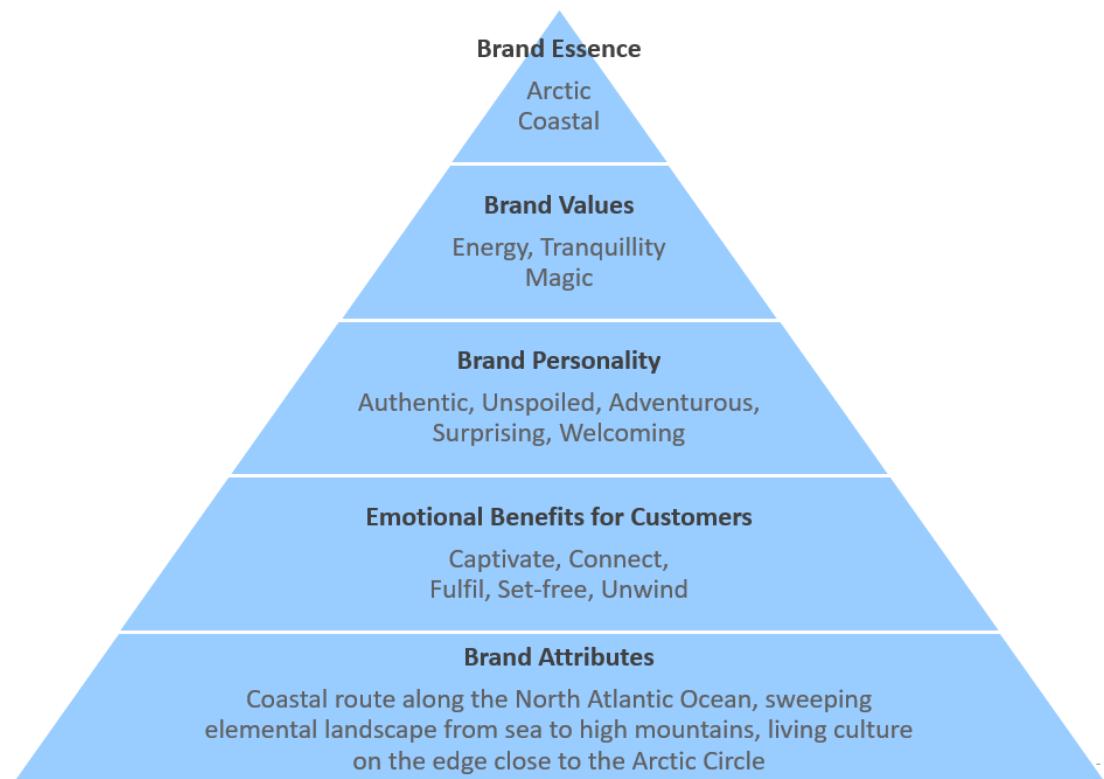
The Arctic Coast Way in Iceland's far North **captures you** with its rugged, untouched nature and takes you through vast otherworldly landscapes between sea and mountains.

It **connects you** to its authentic coastal villages and people, whose stories and culture are shaped by life at the edge, so close to the Arctic Circle.

It **surprises you** with its ever-changing moods of remote tranquillity, vibrant energy and magical light all year round.

**You are** set free to slow down, to discover a different way of life.

And **you will leave uplifted, refreshed, fulfilled** – with unique memories of this awe-inspiring place.



## MEMBERSHIP:

is open for **Icelandic tourism providers along the route of the Arctic Coast Way who fulfill the membership criteria**. Just members are allowed to trade under the registered trademark Arctic Coast Way. Icelandic Tourism providers are businesses that cater for both the domestic and international visitors, e.g. activity provider, accommodation, restaurant and food places, exhibitions, museums and events. Municipalities can also become members.

**Members of Markaðsstofa Norðurland**, which **do not fulfill the geographical criteria** (see A.2.) can't become members of the Arctic Coast Way.

## OPERATION RULES:

are set up for **Icelandic operators**, which are not located along the Arctic Coast Way and are not members of Markaðsstofa Norðurlands and for **incoming agencies** and **overseas operators**.

**Arctic Coast Way route follows:**

1-72-711-717-716-1-74-745-744-748-75-76-77-76-82-808-82-809-82-811-82-1-83-835-1-85-870-874-85-869-85-91-85



## A. MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

### 1. Eligibility

- ✓ Members are licenced businesses and are members of Markaðsstofa Norðurlands
- ✓ Members have a clear connection to the North Coast of Iceland (see A.2)
- ✓ Members need to guarantee at least a continuously communication (email and phone) all year round and aim for opening times all year round
- ✓ Members enhance their enterprise in sustainability

- ✓ Members attend the annual Arctic Coast Way workshop to exchange experience and enhance networking

## 2. Geographical position

The geographical position highlights the coastal feeling and coastal impressions of the visitors:

- ✓ Participating **villages** are on the route
- ✓ **Businesses (operator, accommodation, food places, exhibitions, events, etc.)** can become members, if they are:
  - on the defined route of the Arctic Coast Way
  - or on the seaside of the defined roads
  - or in a shorter distance to the route ( $\leq 4\text{km}$ ) preferable with offering a view to the ocean
- ✓ **Products and Experiences** have to focus on (see A.3.1) the coast or on/in the ocean
- ✓ **Operators** who are in the defined area of the Arctic Coast Way cannot become members if they do not offer any activities/tours at the coast

## 3. Products and Experiences

These three words describe different levels for offers along the Arctic Coast Way. They all have to highlight nature and culture at the coast (see A.2.)

### Definition:

**Products:** are all kinds of offers which highlight the nature and culture at the coast

**Arctic Coast Way Experiences:** are coastal experiences providing an authentic, memorable connection to the place and its environment, nature, culture and people. They meet the Arctic Coast Way experience guidelines and so will help to bring the Arctic Coast Way promise to life.

Arctic Coast Way members are encouraged to use the Toolkit to develop individual experiences. This will connect them better to the brand and help to strengthen the Arctic Coast Way brand.

### 3.2. Day Tour/Multiple Day Tour

Day tours and Multiple day tours must follow the operation rules (see B.)

## 4. Marketing and information

- ✓ Members carry parts of the marketing costs to ensure a sustainable and strong marketing for the Arctic Coast Way in a long-term perspective (see A.5.)
- ✓ Members support the marketing of the Arctic Coast Way brand by including the logo and the name in their individual marketing, e.g. on Tripadvisor or booking.com (e.g. Guesthouse X on the Arctic Coast Way)
- ✓ The logo of the Arctic Coast Way shows the membership, but just tours/products which fulfil the criteria (A.3) get the logo behind
- ✓ Members are not allowed to use the ACW logo on self-painted road signs

## 5. Cost List for the marketing of the ACW

Members of the Arctic Coast Way contribute to the marketing costs of the project with an annual fee.

### 5.1. Service and costs

The Arctic Coast Way needs to ensure a sustainable and strong marketing in a long-term perspective, for a benefit for all who trade under it. Therefore members carry parts of the marketing costs. The listed costs might change as the project is in development and influencing factors will change with the time, e.g. the number of members, increasing numbers of marketing materials. The costs are always calculated on the minimum needs and, of course, without profit. Changes in the costs will be announced.

Annual costs for participation in marketing for the ACW for 2026.  
Payment is split into 4 tranches/year. Payment for 2026 starts in May.

Size of company	Annual costs 2026
1-2 employee	28.365
3-4 employee	42.619
5-6 employee	78.253
7-10 employee	99.634
≥11 employee	141.112

	All Members
Homepage	Development and hosting of a ACW homepage Member appear in according categories/menus
Logo	Get the ACW logo for their marketing
Interactive map	Position in the interactive map on the homepage

<b>Official Tourist Guide from MN</b>	The guide will include a chapter about ACW; members are not listed, but get the ACW logo behind their field in the other chapters of the guide
<b>Operation manual</b>	Development of an operation manual for distribution to overseas operators; Members are listed in according chapters
<b>Visit North Iceland map</b>	ACW is marked in the map
<b>ACW map</b>	Creation, Update and print of an ACW map
<b>Image photos</b>	General motives about landscapes, hikes, wildlife, activities
<b>Tool Kit for experience development</b>	Free use of the tool kit
<b>Press, medias</b>	Included in the general press and media efforts for the ACW
<b>Trade shows 1</b>	Representing the project on Mannamót, Mid-Atlantic, Vestnorden with flyer and banner

## 6. Application process

- ✓ A registered membership occurs through an application process with an application form
- ✓ Businesses must be able to demonstrate:
  - their MN membership and license
  - their geographical position
  - how their products stand to the brand values
  - how they include sustainability in their business and operations
- ✓ A cooperation contract will be signed

## 7. Changes

As the Arctic Coast Way is a growing project and dedicated to a long-term development there might come changes in the membership criteria due to new development in the project. Members will be informed about all changes.

## **B. OPERATION RULES**

**Tours, which run under the name Arctic Coast Way have to:**

- ✓ include a substantial portion of the route of the Arctic Coast Way
- ✓ include a substantial portion of the Arctic Coast Way services, products, services and experiences
- ✓ stand to the brand values and promise of the Arctic Coast Way
- ✓ respect nature, wildlife and culture and enhance a sustainable conduction
- ✓ be with a qualified guide who can tell about coastal landscape and how the nature and the ocean influenced the live and culture close to the Arctic Circle

### **1. Day Tours**

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

### **2. Multiple Day Tours**

Multiple Day Tours have to include 50% of the travel days on the route of the Arctic Coast Way. They have to include a substantial number of accommodations and restaurants listed on the Arctic Coast Way website and in the operation manual.