

Akranes

Western Region · Iceland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Akranes is a harbour town on a peninsula north of Reykjavík, across the Hvalfjörður fjord. It is a quiet town with a long fishing history, a golden beach and two lighthouses on the point.

It is an easy trip from the capital and a good stop on the way to the west of Iceland.

When to visit

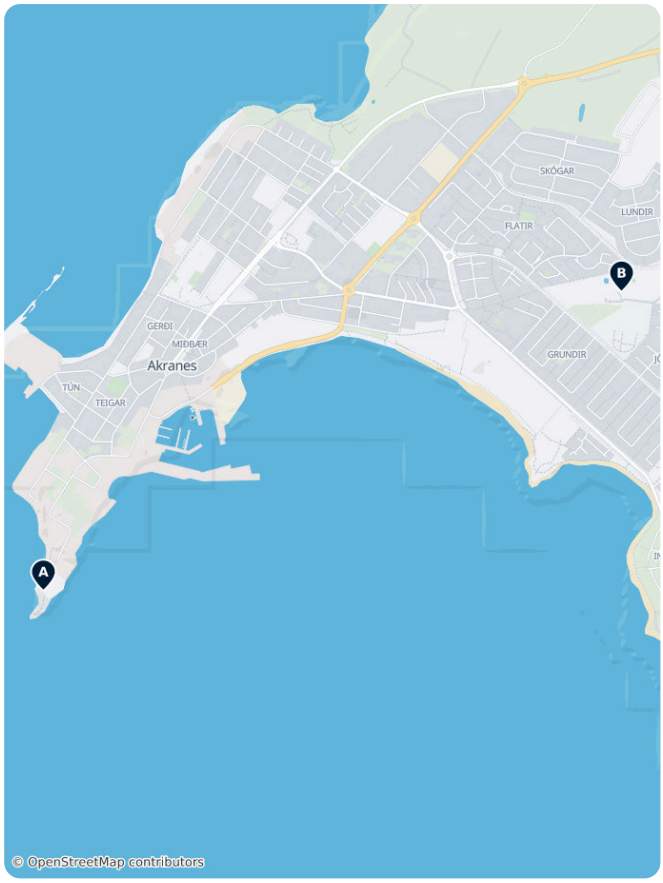
Summer is best for the beach and the shore path. Winter is dark and windy, but the lighthouses and the sea are dramatic.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	0° / 6° Feels like -5°	-4° / -13°	19 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	0° / 6° Feels like -5°	-4° / -14°	17 rainy days · Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 7° Feels like -4°	-3° / -11°	18 rainy days · Dry air
April	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 10° Feels like 1°	0° / -7°	17 rainy days · Dry air
May	Poor Poor for hiking	9° / 14° Feels like 5°	3° / -2°	16 rainy days · Dry air
June	Good Good for hiking	12° / 16° Feels like 9°	7° / 3°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for hiking	14° / 18°	9° / 6°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for hiking	13° / 17°	8° / 5°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Poor Poor for hiking	10° / 14° Feels like 6°	6° / 1°	18 rainy days · Dry air
October	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 10° Feels like 1°	1° / -4°	16 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 8° Feels like -3°	-2° / -10°	16 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	0° / 7° Feels like -5°	-4° / -14°	17 rainy days · Dry air

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

- Ⓐ Old Lighthouse stands on the point beside a newer lighthouse. The area has sea views and a shore path.
- Ⓑ Byggðarsafnið is a local museum at Garðar, with exhibits on the history of the region.
- Langisandur is a long sandy beach in the town, with a hot tub on the shore.



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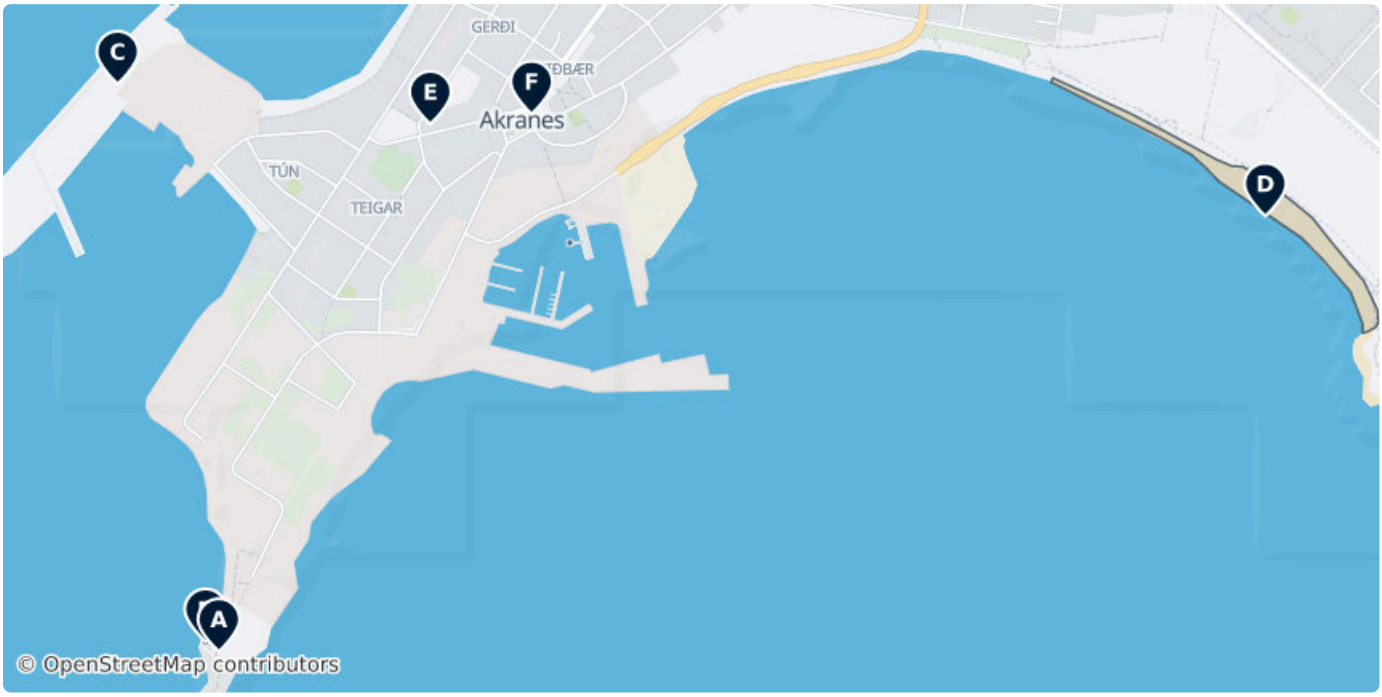
Getting there

- **By car**: The drive from Reykjavík is about 50 km and takes around 45 minutes. The road goes through the Hvalfjörður tunnel, which has a toll.
- **By bus**: Regular buses run from Reykjavík.
- **Nearby**: Hvalfjörður is across the water, and Snaefellsnes is about 1 hour further north.

Akraneskaupstaður Essentials

Akraneskaupstaður features a unique pair of lighthouses at Breiðin: the smaller 1918 structure and the larger 1947 tower which is open to visitors. The town is home to Langisandur, a rare golden sand beach in Iceland that holds Blue Flag certification. Maritime history is visible at the harbor through the rusted "Ghost ship" wreck. The central Akraneskirkja church and local spots like Lesbókin Café offer insight into the community's architectural and social life on this West Iceland peninsula.





A Akranes Lighthouse

Built in 1918, this smaller concrete lighthouse stands at Breiðin. It is frequently used as a gallery for photography and local art exhibitions.

(Unnamed Road), Akranes 300, Iceland
(64.30866, -22.09446)

B Akranesviti

Constructed in 1947, this larger lighthouse is open to the public. Visitors can climb to the top for panoramic views of the North Atlantic and Snæfellsnes Peninsula.

(Unnamed Road), Akranes 300, Iceland
(64.30882, -22.09495)

Mo–Su	10:00–16:00



C Ghost ship

The rusted remains of the steel ship Höfrungur AK 91, resting on the shoreline near the town's harbor as a landmark of local fishing history.

Akranes, Iceland (64.31767, -22.09817)



D Langisandur

A Blue Flag-certified golden sand beach, rare in Iceland. It is a popular location for sea swimming and features a scenic walking path along the coastline.

Akranes, Iceland (64.31558, -22.05609)

E Akraneskirkja

A white Lutheran church centrally located in town, featuring traditional Icelandic concrete architecture.

(64.31704, -22.08671)

akraneskirkja.is



F Lesbókin Café

A local café known for its cozy, book-themed interior and selection of light meals and pastries.

(64.31720, -22.08299)

Mo–Su 09:00–18:00, 10:00–18:00

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DATA SOURCES

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