

Breidafjordur

Iceland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover

Overview

Breiðafjörður is a wide bay in western Iceland. It lies between the Snæfellsnes peninsula and the Westfjords. The bay holds thousands of small islands and skerries.

It has rich birdlife and a quiet coast. Most visitors see it from Stykkishólmur or by ferry.

When to visit

Summer is best. Bird tours and ferries run most often then, and puffins nest on the islands. Winter has short days, snow and strong wind. Ferry timetables are reduced in winter.

Road conditions (Vegagerðin)

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	-2° / 3° Feels like -9°	-5° / -12°	20 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	-2° / 3° Feels like -9°	-6° / -12°	18 rainy days · Dry air
March	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	-2° / 3° Feels like -9°	-5° / -12°	18 rainy days · Dry air
April	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	1° / 6° Feels like -5°	-3° / -9°	15 rainy days · Dry air
May	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	4° / 9° Feels like -1°	0° / -5°	15 rainy days · Dry air
June	Poor Poor for hiking	8° / 12° Feels like 3°	3° / 0°	12 rainy days · Dry air
July	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 13° Feels like 6°	6° / 3°	14 rainy days · Dry air
August	Fair Fair for hiking	9° / 13° Feels like 5°	5° / 2°	15 rainy days · Dry air
September	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	6° / 10° Feels like 1°	3° / -2°	19 rainy days · Dry air
October	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	2° / 7° Feels like -4°	-1° / -6°	18 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	0° / 5° Feels like -7°	-4° / -10°	17 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	-2° / 4° Feels like -9°	-5° / -12°	18 rainy days · Dry air

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5; NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land; NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Kirkjufell is a steep, rounded mountain near Grundarfjörður. It is one of the most photographed peaks in Iceland.
- B Stykkishólmskirkja is a modern church on a hill in Stykkishólmur. It has wide views over the bay.
- C Helgafjell is a small holy mountain near Stykkishólmur. Tradition says you may make wishes if you climb it in silence.
- D Eiríksstaðir is a reconstruction of the farm of Erik the Red, in the Dalir region.
- Boat tours from Stykkishólmur show the islands, seabirds and sea life.
- Flatey is a small island with old wooden houses. It can be reached by ferry.



Breidafjordur – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

Getting there

- **By car**: Stykkishólmur is about 2 hours from Reykjavík. Snæfellsnes is the closest main peninsula.
- **By ferry**: A car ferry crosses the bay between Stykkishólmur and Brjánslækur in the Westfjords. It stops at Flatey. Book ahead in summer.
- **Nearby**: Vesturbyggð is on the Westfjords side of the bay.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Iceland at a glance:

CURRENCY

ISK kr

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

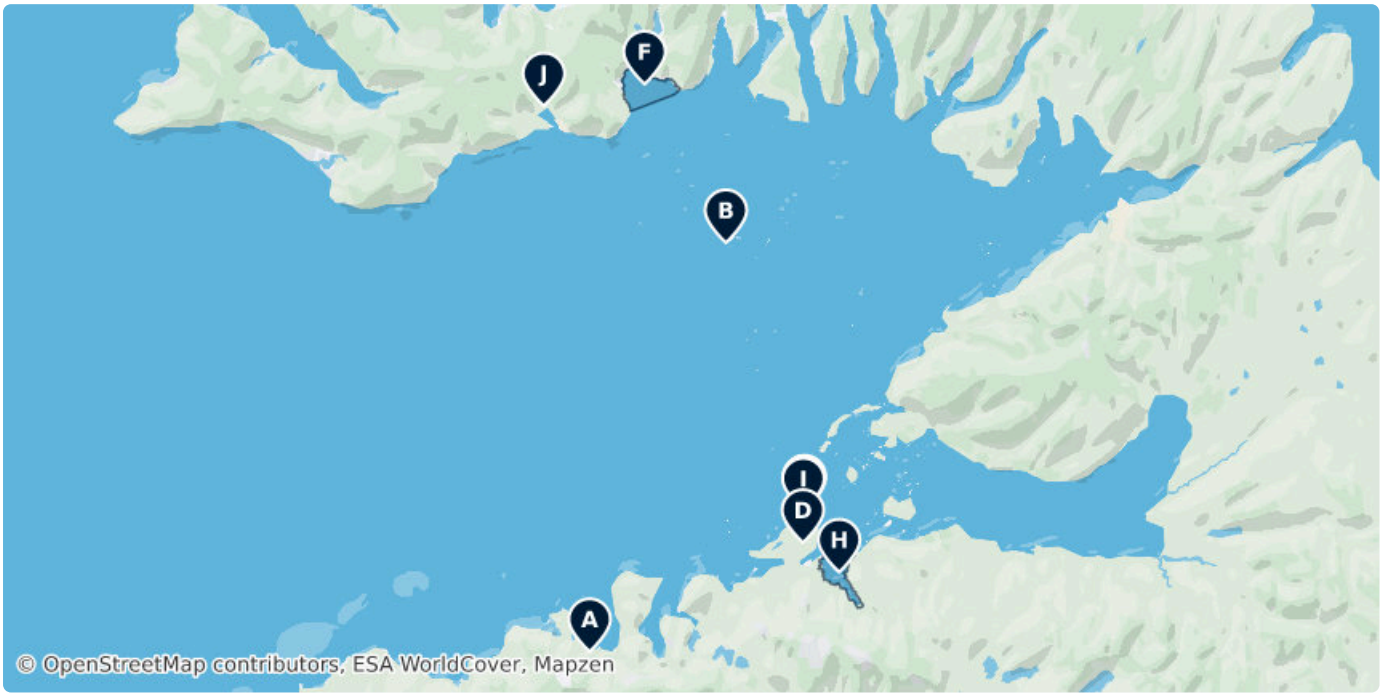
Icelandic

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Breiðafjörður Essentials

Breiðafjörður is a sprawling bay characterized by thousands of small islands and rich biodiversity. This list highlights the iconic Kirkjufell mountain and the historic village on Flatey Island, accessible via the Baldur ferry. Explore the regional history at Stykkishólmur's Norwegian House, climb the sacred Helgafell for its legendary wishes, or visit the Vatnsfjörður nature reserve. The area is a hub for maritime travel and geothermal bathing, offering insights into Iceland's volcanic geology and coastal heritage.



A Kirkjufell

Distinctive 463-meter peak known for its symmetrical shape and layers of volcanic rock formed by glacial erosion.

Snæfellsnesvegur, 350 Grundarfjarðarbær, Iceland (64.92209, -23.28560)

B Flatey

Largest island in the bay, home to a preserved 19th-century village. It features the oldest library in Iceland and a church with murals depicting local life.

Breiðafjarðarferjan Baldur, Iceland (65.37100, -22.92923)



C Stykkishólmur

Ferry Baldur crosses Breidafjördur Bay daily from Stykkisholmur on the Snæfellsnes peninsula to Brjanslaekur in the north.

Sæbraut, Stykkishólmur 340, Iceland (65.07954, -22.72566)

seatours.is/our-ferries/baldur/



D Helgafell

Helgafell may refer to:

Iceland (65.04262, -22.72804)

E Súgandisey

Basalt hill overlooking Stykkishólmur harbor, connected to the mainland by a causeway. A red lighthouse sits at the top, offering views across the islands.

Stykkishólmur, Iceland (65.08030, -22.72332)



F Vatnsfjörður

Vatnsfjörður is a nature reserve located north-west of Breiðafjörður on the Hjarðarnes coast of northwestern Iceland.

Iceland (65.54312, -23.14196)

G Seatours

Tour operator providing bird-watching cruises and seafood excursions where scallops and sea urchins are harvested from the seabed for immediate tasting.

3 Smiðjustígur, Stykkishólmur 340, Iceland (65.07775, -22.72351)

seatours.is, +354 433 2254



H Álftafjörður

Scenic fjord on the northern Snæfellsnes Peninsula, named for the large numbers of swans that gather in its waters.

Iceland (65.00993, -22.63344)

I Norwegian House

The Snæfellsnes Regional Museum, housed in a timber building from 1832. Exhibits display period furniture, local artifacts, and the history of Stykkishólmur.

Hafnargata 5, 340 (65.07720, -22.72694)

norskahusid.is, +354 433 8114

J Sundlaugin Birkimel

Geothermal facility in the Westfjords featuring a traditional outdoor swimming pool and a natural stone hot tub located on the beach.

(65.51964, -23.40533)

Natural Wonders

This collection highlights the geological diversity of western Iceland, spanning the Snæfellsnes Peninsula and the southern Westfjords. It features the 463-meter high Kirkjufell, known for its distinct conical shape, and the historical Helgafell mountain. The list includes the Vatnsfjörður Nature Reserve, a site of early settlement, alongside numerous fjords such as Hvammsfjörður and Gilsfjörður, which define the jagged coastline of the Breiðafjörður bay.



A Kirkjufell

A 463-meter high mountain on the north coast of the Snæfellsnes peninsula. It is characterized by its distinct conical shape and proximity to the Kirkjufellsfoss waterfall.

Snæfellsnesvegur, 350 Grundarfjarðarbær, Iceland (64.92209, -23.28560)



B Helgafell

Helgafell is a small mountain on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula of Iceland. The mountain is 73 metres high.

Iceland (65.04239, -22.72895)



C Vatnsfjörður

Vatnsfjörður is a nature reserve located north-west of Breiðafjörður on the Hjarðarnes coast of northwestern Iceland.

Iceland (65.54312, -23.14196)



D Álftafjörður

A narrow fjord located on the northern side of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula.

Iceland (65.00993, -22.63344)



E Gilsfjörður

A fjord in northwestern Iceland that separates the Westfjords from the mainland. It forms an extension of the Breiðafjörður bay.

(65.43535, -21.81240)



F Hvammsfjörður

A large fjord forming the innermost part of Breiðafjörður. It is characterized by numerous small islands and significant tidal currents.

(65.09817, -22.14505)



G Þorskafjörður

A fjord in the southern Westfjords, mentioned in several Icelandic sagas and known for its coastal bird populations.

Iceland (65.54605, -22.20561)



H Grundarfjörður

A fjord on the northern Snæfellsnes Peninsula, framed by Kirkjufell mountain and home to a fishing town of the same name.

(64.95640, -23.26738)



I Króksfjörður

One of the southernmost fjords in the Westfjords region, branching off from the larger Breiðafjörður bay.

(65.47517, -21.98413)



J Gufufjörður

A small fjord located within the Breiðafjörður bay area in the southern Westfjords.

Iceland (65.53925, -22.39763)



K Djúpifjörður

A narrow fjord situated in the southern Westfjords of Iceland.

Iceland (65.54855, -22.31984)



L Skálmarfjörður

A fjord in the southern Westfjords region, part of the extensive Breiðafjörður bay system.

(65.55609, -22.71235)



M Kollafjörður

A fjord in the southern Westfjords, located on the northern side of Breiðafjörður.

(65.57367, -22.51714)



N Berufjörður

A five-kilometer long fjord in the Austur-Barðastrandarsýsla district of northwest Iceland.

(65.49861, -22.08891)

Historic Churches

This collection features a series of historic timber and concrete churches situated along the shores of Breiðafjörður. Most of these structures date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, representing the evolution of Icelandic rural architecture. The list includes significant sites like Skarðskirkja, known for its centuries-old estate history, and various wooden churches built during the 1880s that served as central landmarks for remote farming communities in the Westfjords and Dalir regions.



A Narfeyrarkirkja

A timber church built in 1884, representing the traditional wooden architecture of late 19th-century Iceland.

(65.01324, -22.60472)

B Staðarkirkja

Wooden church dating back to 1864, located on the historic Reykhólar peninsula.

(65.48394, -22.35400)

C Múlakirkja

A small wooden church constructed between 1888 and 1890.

(65.51358, -22.74788)

D Brjánslækjarkirkja

Timber church built in 1908, located at the historic Brjánslækur farm and ferry terminal.

(65.52462, -23.20086)

E Gufudalskirkja

A timber church built in 1908, situated at the head of Gufufjörður.

(65.56845, -22.42022)

F Garpsdalskirkja

Concrete church built in 1935, showcasing the transition from timber to more durable materials in Icelandic church construction.

(65.45438, -21.82846)

G Staðarhólskirkja

Timber church constructed in 1899.

(65.38186, -21.90732)

H Skarðskirkja

Built in 1891 on one of Iceland's oldest estates, this church houses a notable 15th-century altarpiece and is historically linked to the Skarðsbók manuscript.

(65.28051, -22.31216)

I Staðarfellskirkja

Wooden church dating to 1891, located on the Fellsströnd coastline.

(65.12513, -22.18633)

J Reykhólakirkja

A modern concrete church consecrated in 1963, featuring a distinct architectural style compared to the region's older wooden structures.

(65.44827, -22.20402)

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites

IMAGE CREDITS

- Stykkishólmur — "Harbour at Stykkishólmur" by gailhampshire, CC BY 2.0
- Helgafell — "Helgafell, Heimaey, Westman Islands, Suðurland, Iceland" by Diego Delso, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Vatnsfjörður — "Vatnsfjörður in Barðaströnd" by Berserkur, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Álftafjörður — "Iceland, impressions along road 54 on Snæfellsnes peninsula" by Hansueli Krapf, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Helgafell — "Helgafell bei Stykkishólmur. Hier lebte und starb Guðrún, eine der..." by fingalo, CC BY-SA 2.0 de
- Vatnsfjörður — "Vatnsfjörður in Barðaströnd" by Berserkur, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Álftafjörður — "Iceland, impressions along road 54 on Snæfellsnes peninsula" by Hansueli Krapf, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Gilsfjörður — "Gilsfjörður in Iceland" by JuTa, CC-BY-SA-3.0
- Hvammsfjörður — "Hvammsfjörður. Von Fellströnd Richtung Brokey." by fingalo, CC BY-SA 2.0 de
- Þorskafjörður — "Þorskafjörður, séð frá Þorskafjarðarheiði" by Salvor, CC BY 2.5
- Grundarfjörður — "Grundarfjörður, Vesturland, Iceland" by Diego Delso, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Króksfjörður — "Reikhólar, Berufjörthur, Króksfjörthur & Gilsfjörthur" by danish military, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Gufufjörður — "Þorskafjörður" by Geodetic Institute, Copenhagen & Reykjavík, 1933, Public domain
- Djúpifjörður — "Þorskafjörður" by Geodetic Institute, Copenhagen & Reykjavík, 1933, Public domain
- Skálmarfjörður — "Fjords near Vattarnes, Vestfirðir, Iceland" by Diego Delso, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Kollafjörður — "Along Road 60, Westfjords of Iceland, in August 2022" by Hornstrandir1, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Berufjörður — "Vaðalfjöll, near Reykhólar, Westfjords of Iceland, in August 2022" by Hornstrandir1, CC BY-SA 4.0

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 28, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.