

# Dettifoss, Selfoss og Hafragilsfoss

Northeastern Region · Iceland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic




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## Overview

Dettifoss is one of the most powerful waterfalls in Europe. It lies in northeast Iceland, on the glacial river Jökulsá á Fjöllum, in a wide canyon of black rock. Two more falls, Selfoss and Hafragilsfoss, are on the same river.

The area is part of Vatnajökull National Park. A visit takes about two hours, or longer if you walk to all three falls.

## When to visit

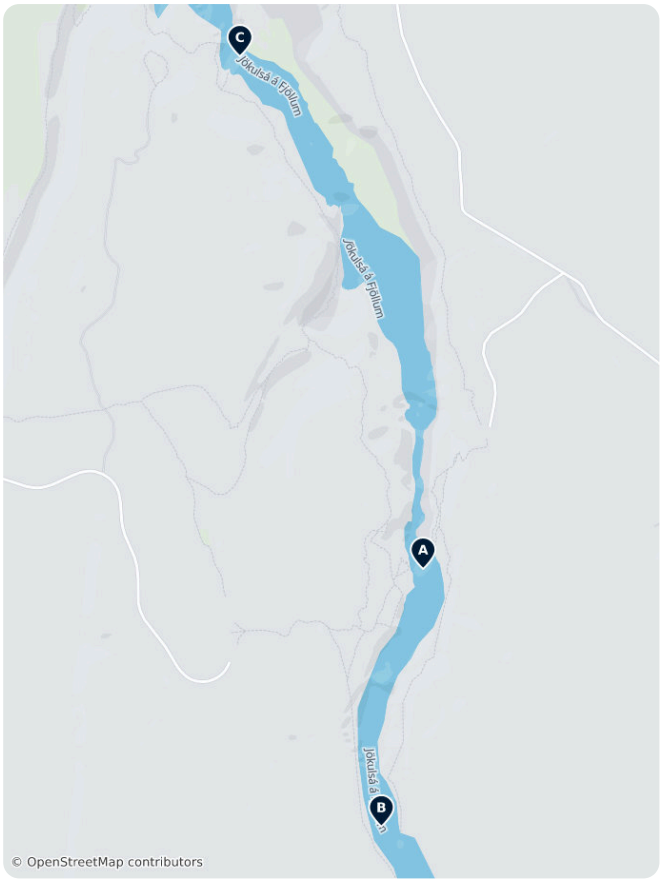
Summer is the easiest time. The river is full in summer from glacier melt. Roads to the falls can be closed from late autumn to spring, and paths can be icy.

| MONTH | CONDITIONS | DAY °C avg / max | NIGHT °C avg / min | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | -3° / 2°<br>Feels like -10° | -8° / -15° | 19 rainy days · Dry air |
| February | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | -3° / 2°<br>Feels like -10° | -8° / -15° | 17 rainy days · Dry air |
| March | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | -2° / 2°<br>Feels like -9° | -8° / -15° | 20 rainy days · Dry air |
| April | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | -1° / 3°<br>Feels like -7° | -6° / -13° | 16 rainy days · Dry air |
| May | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | 3° / 10°<br>Feels like -3° | -2° / -8° | 16 rainy days · Dry air |
| June | Poor<br>Poor for hiking | 8° / 14°<br>Feels like 4° | 3° / -2° | 16 rainy days · Dry air |
| July | Fair<br>Fair for hiking | 11° / 16°<br>Feels like 7° | 5° / 2° | 18 rainy days · Dry air |
| August | Fair<br>Fair for hiking | 10° / 15°<br>Feels like 6° | 5° / 1° | 17 rainy days · Dry air |
| September | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | 7° / 12°<br>Feels like 1° | 2° / -3° | 18 rainy days · Dry air |
| October | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | 2° / 7°<br>Feels like -5° | -2° / -9° | 21 rainy days · Dry air |
| November | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | -2° / 3°<br>Feels like -8° | -6° / -13° | 20 rainy days · Dry air |
| December | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | -3° / 2°<br>Feels like -10° | -8° / -15° | 20 rainy days · Dry air |

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

## Top sights

- A Dettifoss is about 100 m wide and falls about 45 m into the canyon. A path leads to the edge on both sides of the river.
- B Selfoss is a wide, low waterfall a short walk upstream from Dettifoss.
- C Hafragilsfoss is a waterfall downstream, reached on a walk of about 1 to 2 hours return.




**Dettifoss, Selfoss og Hafragilsfoss – Plan Your Trip**

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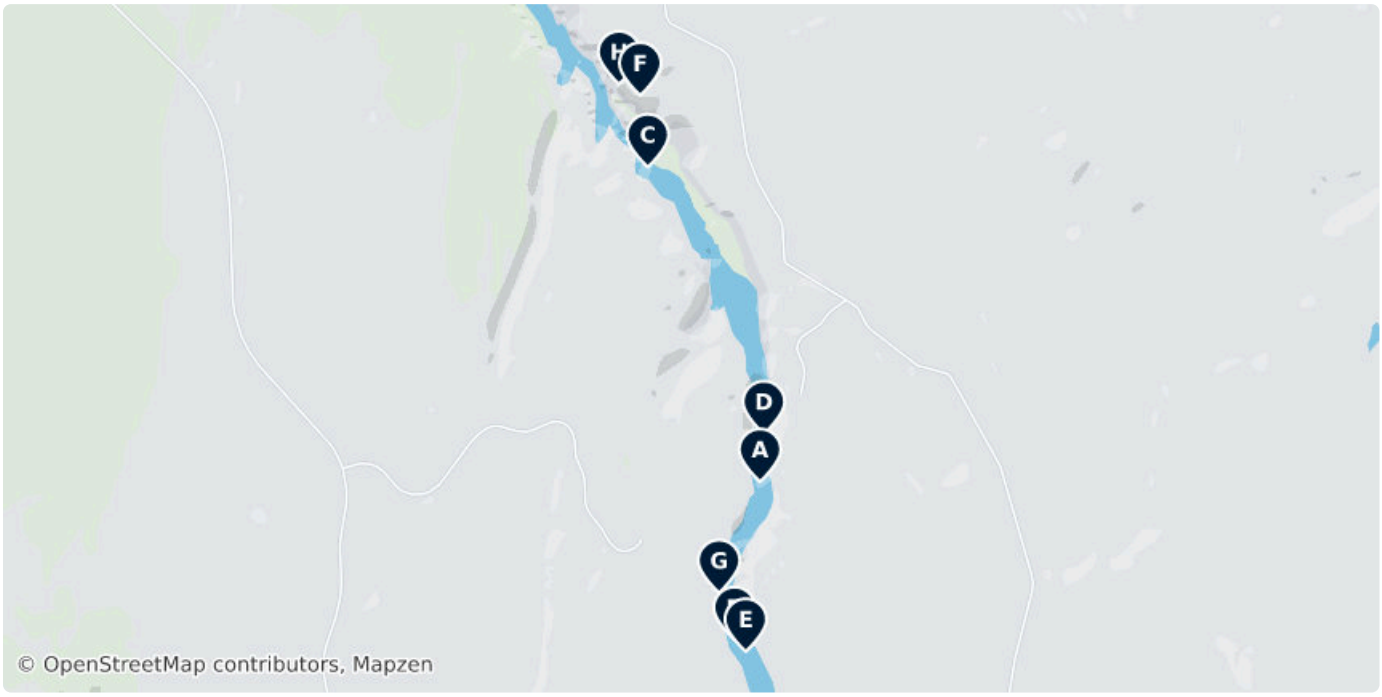
## Getting there

- **By car**: The falls are about 1 hour from Myvatn. The west side is the easier road. The east side road is gravel. Check road conditions before you go.
- **From the coast**: Húsavík is about 1 hour 15 minutes away.
- **By bus**: Few buses run here, mostly in summer. Tours are more reliable.

# Dettifoss, Selfoss & Hafragilsfoss Essentials

Located within the Vatnajökull National Park in Northern Iceland, this trio of waterfalls on the glacial Jökulsá á Fjöllum river showcases the raw power of the Jökulsárgljúfur canyon. Dettifoss stands 44 meters tall and 100 meters wide, discharging an average of 193 cubic meters of water per second. Upstream, the horseshoe-shaped Selfoss features a series of elegant, multi-tiered drops. Downstream, Hafragilsfoss offers a 27-meter drop with panoramic views of the surrounding 120-meter deep volcanic canyon walls.






## A Dettifoss

A waterfall with a height of 44 meters and width of 100 meters, known for its powerful water flow and scenic natural surroundings.

Iceland (65.81435, -16.38449)



## B Selfoss

Selfoss is a waterfall on the river Jökulsá á Fjöllum in the north of Iceland.

Iceland (65.80542, -16.38802)



## C Hafragilsfoss

Hafragilsfoss is a waterfall in Iceland.

Iceland (65.83210, -16.39997)

## D Dettifoss

Observation point on the western bank of the river, providing a close-up perspective of the waterfall's 44-meter drop and the rising mist from the canyon floor.

(65.81704, -16.38398)

## E Selfoss

Viewing area on the western side of the Jökulsá á Fjöllum river, offering a side-profile view of the wide, multi-tiered cascades and basalt columns.

(65.80476, -16.38647)

## F Hafragilsfoss

Elevated viewing area on the eastern rim of the Jökulsárgljúfur canyon, overlooking the 27-meter falls and the ancient volcanic geological formations of the river valley.

(65.83613, -16.40101)

## G Selfoss

Western bank viewpoint situated along the hiking trail between Dettifoss and Selfoss, overlooking the northern edge of the waterfall's horseshoe-shaped basalt ledge.

(65.80809, -16.39016)

## H Hafragilsfoss

Viewing platform on the western side of the canyon providing a panoramic view of the waterfall and the winding river within the deep glacial gorge.

(65.83677, -16.40391)

## DATA SOURCES

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