

Eastern Iceland

Iceland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Eastern Iceland is a quiet region of long fjords, steep mountains and small fishing towns. Its main town is Egilsstaðir. The south end of the region reaches the glacier lagoon area near Höfn.

Fewer visitors come here than to the south coast. It suits a slow road trip with waterfalls, hikes and sea views.

When to visit

Summer is the easiest time to visit, with long days and open mountain roads. Autumn and winter bring snow, and some passes can close. Check Road conditions (Vegagerðin) before each drive.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for hiking	1° / 5° Feels like -6°	-3° / -10°	18 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for hiking	1° / 5° Feels like -6°	-4° / -10°	16 rainy days · Dry air
March	Poor Poor for hiking	1° / 6° Feels like -5°	-3° / -10°	18 rainy days · Dry air
April	Poor Poor for hiking	3° / 8° Feels like -3°	-1° / -8°	16 rainy days · Dry air
May	Poor Poor for hiking	6° / 12° Feels like 1°	2° / -3°	16 rainy days · Dry air
June	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 15° Feels like 6°	5° / 1°	16 rainy days · Dry air
July	Fair Fair for hiking	12° / 16°	7° / 5°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for hiking	12° / 15° Feels like 9°	7° / 4°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Poor Poor for hiking	9° / 13° Feels like 5°	5° / 1°	18 rainy days · Dry air
October	Poor Poor for hiking	5° / 9° Feels like 0°	2° / -4°	20 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for hiking	2° / 7° Feels like -4°	-1° / -8°	19 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for hiking	1° / 6° Feels like -5°	-3° / -10°	19 rainy days · Dry air

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

Top sights



- A Jökulsárlón is a lagoon full of icebergs from the glacier. Boat trips run in summer.
- B Diamond Beach is a black beach where pieces of ice wash up. It is across the road from the lagoon.
- C Stokksnes is a black-sand cape below the Vestrahorn mountain. Access is by a private road with a fee.
- D Hengifoss is a tall waterfall in a striped canyon. A hiking path leads to it from the car park.
- E Fardagafoss is an easy roadside waterfall near Egilsstaðir.
- Stuðlagil is a canyon of basalt columns in the river valley inland from Egilsstaðir. Viewing platforms are on both sides.
- Seyðisfjörður is a small town in a steep fjord, known for its colourful wooden houses and an arts scene.
- Höfn is a harbour town known for langoustine. Lónsöræfi is a remote hiking area.

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Getting there

- **By air**: Egilsstaðir Airport has domestic flights from Reykjavík. The flight takes about 1 hour.
- **By car**: The Ring Road passes through the region. From Reykjavík it is about 8 to 9 hours by road to Egilsstaðir.
- **By ferry**: A ferry from Denmark, via the Faroe Islands, arrives at Seyðisfjörður. Check the timetable.
- **By bus**: Intercity buses run along the south coast to Höfn. See Strætó.

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

Eastern Region's Absolute Essentials

The Eastern Region of Iceland features the expansive Vatnajökull National Park, home to the Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon and the basalt columns of Svartifoss. Along the coast, the black sands of Breiðamerkursandur collect icebergs from the Breiðamerkurjökull glacier, while the Stokksnes peninsula offers views of the Vestrahorn mountains and a replica Viking village. Inland, the region holds the 128-meter high Hengifoss waterfall and the turquoise waters of Stuðlagil canyon, framed by one of the world's largest collections of basalt columns. The historic town of Seyðisfjörður and the fjords of Borgarfjörður Eystri define the area's remote eastern coastline.





A Diamond Beach

Black sand beach known for glacial ice chunks that wash ashore from a nearby glacier lagoon, creating a striking contrast between ice and volcanic sand.

Iceland (64.04379, -16.17634)



B Jökulsárlón

Glacial lagoon known for large floating icebergs and deep waters near a major Icelandic glacier.

Iceland (64.07844, -16.22389)



C Black Waterfall

Waterfall featuring distinctive basalt columns that resemble organ pipes, surrounded by unique geological formations.

Iceland (64.02768, -16.97526)



D Stokksnes

Scenic peninsula featuring black sand beaches, dramatic mountains, and a Viking Village film set. Known for striking landscapes, wildlife, and cinematic history.

(Unnamed Road), 781, Iceland (64.24367, -14.96743)



E Hengifoss

Hengifoss is the third highest waterfall in Iceland, 128 meters. It is located in Hengifossá in Fljótsdalshreppur, East Iceland.

Iceland (65.09515, -14.88966)



F Stuðlagil canyon

A deep canyon in Jökuldalur featuring one of Iceland's largest collections of basalt columns. The turquoise Jökulsá á Dal river flows through the formation, revealed after the construction of a nearby hydroelectric dam reduced water levels and silt.

Iceland (65.16233, -15.30813)

hiticeland.com/places_and_photos_from_iceland/stu%C3...



G Borgarfjörður Eystri

Borgarfjörður eystri is a fjord in east Iceland.

(65.54359, -13.78370)

borgarfjordureystri.is/en



H Seyðisfjörður

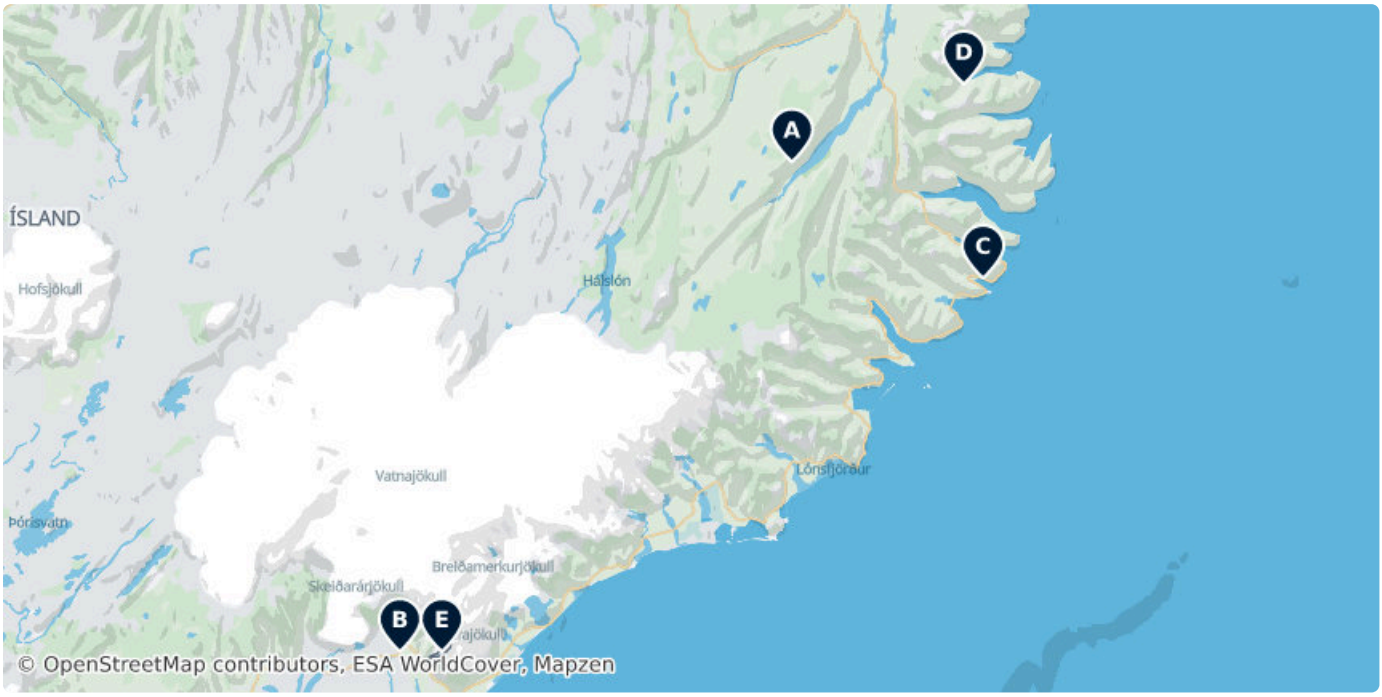
Seyðisfjörður is a town in the Eastern Region of Iceland at the innermost point of the fjord of the same name.

1 Ferjuleira, Seyðisfjörður 710, Iceland
(65.26334, -14.00234)

visitseydisfjordur.com, +354 472 1551

Iceland's Hidden Gems

Explore East and Southeast Iceland's unique landmarks, from the 128-meter-high Hengifoss waterfall with its distinct red clay layers to the industrial remains of the Gígjukvísl Bridge, destroyed by a 1996 glacial flood. This collection features Petra's mineral museum in Stöðvarfjörður and the Tvísöngur sound sculpture in Seyðisfjörður, designed to resonate with traditional Icelandic vocal harmonies. The list also includes Falljökull, a steep outlet glacier of Vatnajökull characterized by its massive icefall and intricate crevasse patterns.





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Iceland (65.09515, -14.88966)



B Gigjukvisl Bridge Memorial

Twisted steel girders remaining from a bridge destroyed during the 1996 Gígjukvísl glacial flood. The surge was triggered by a volcanic eruption under the Vatnajökull ice cap, illustrating the destructive power of Icelandic jökulhlaups.

Hringvegur, 785, Iceland (63.98455, -16.95956)



C Petra's Stone Collection

Petra Sveinsdóttir's huge stone and mineral collection is the place not to miss if you are a real rock fan.

Fjarðarbraut 21, 755 Stöðvarfjörður (64.83575, -13.88072)

steinapetra.is, +354 475 8834



D Tvísöngur

A sound sculpture by Lukas Kühne consisting of five interconnected concrete domes. Each dome is designed to resonate at a specific frequency corresponding to the five-tone harmony of traditional Icelandic music.

(Unnamed Road), 710, Iceland (65.26781, -13.98186)



E Falljökull

A steep outlet glacier flowing from the Vatnajökull ice cap. It is characterized by a dramatic icefall where the glacier descends rapidly, creating a heavily crevassed and jagged ice surface.

Iceland (63.98476, -16.73782)

Iceland's Natural Wonders

Eastern and Southern Iceland feature diverse geological formations, from the geometric basalt columns of Svartifoss to the 128-meter drop of Hengifoss. The region is shaped by the Vatnajökull ice cap, feeding the iceberg-filled Jökulsárlón lagoon and numerous glacier tongues like Skaftafellsjökull and the steep icefall of Falljökull. These sites showcase volcanic activity through red clay layers and ancient lava flows, alongside dynamic glacial systems that form seasonal ice caves.





A Black Waterfall

Waterfall featuring distinctive basalt columns that resemble organ pipes, surrounded by unique geological formations.

Iceland (64.02768, -16.97526)



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Glacial lagoon known for large floating icebergs and deep waters near a major Icelandic glacier.

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Iceland (65.09515, -14.88966)



D Fardagafoss Waterfall

Near the town of Egilsstaðir, this beautiful waterfall, with a cave hidden behind it, is a perfect hiking spot.

Iceland (65.26877, -14.31388)



E Crystal Ice Cave

Naturally formed cavern within the Vatnajökull glacier, characterized by translucent blue ice walls. Created by seasonal meltwater cycles, its structure and accessibility change every winter.

Iceland (64.08821, -16.34644)

F Skaftafellsjökull

Spurred from the Vatnajökull ice cap, this outlet is accessible via a flat hiking trail from the Skaftafell Visitor Centre. It provides a close view of moraines and ice formations.

(64.06287, -16.85445)



G Falljökull

Part of the Vatnajökull ice cap, this site is distinguished by a steep, dramatic icefall where the ice cascades down the mountainside toward the valley floor.

Iceland (63.98476, -16.73782)



H Fláajökull

Fláajökull is a smaller, slow flowing glacier of Iceland, located on the east side of volcano Breiðabunga in the east of Iceland, in...

(64.36675, -15.67045)

DATA SOURCES

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