

Egilsstaðir

Eastern Iceland · Iceland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Egilsstaðir is the largest town in east Iceland and the regional centre. It lies on the Lagarfljót lake and river, close to forests and mountains, and it has the main airport of the east.

Most visitors use it as a base. The town has shops, services and places to stay, and from here you can reach several well-known sights in the east in a day.

When to visit

Summer has the best conditions for hiking and long drives. Autumn has colour in the forests. In winter the east can be cold and snowy, and the road over the Fjarðarheiði pass to Seyðisfjörður can close in storms.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for aurora viewing	0° / 4° Feels like -6°	-5° / -13°	18 rainy days · Dry air
February	Good Good for aurora viewing	0° / 5° Feels like -6°	-5° / -12°	16 rainy days · Dry air
March	Poor Poor for hiking	1° / 5° Feels like -5°	-5° / -12°	18 rainy days · Dry air
April	Poor Poor for hiking	2° / 9° Feels like -3°	-3° / -10°	16 rainy days · Dry air
May	Poor Poor for hiking	6° / 14° Feels like 2°	1° / -5°	16 rainy days · Dry air
June	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 17° Feels like 8°	5° / 0°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Fair Fair for hiking	13° / 19°	7° / 4°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for hiking	12° / 17°	7° / 3°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Poor Poor for hiking	9° / 15° Feels like 6°	4° / -1°	18 rainy days · Dry air
October	Fair Fair for aurora viewing	4° / 10° Feels like 0°	0° / -6°	21 rainy days · Dry air
November	Good Good for aurora viewing	1° / 7° Feels like -4°	-3° / -11°	19 rainy days · Dry air
December	Good Good for aurora viewing	0° / 5° Feels like -6°	-5° / -12°	19 rainy days · Dry air

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

Top sights

- Lagarfljót is a long lake beside the town. Local legend says a serpent lives in it, called the Lagarfljót worm.
- Hallormsstaður is Iceland's largest forest, a short drive south, with walking paths and a campsite.
- Seyðisfjörður is a small fjord town with colourful wooden houses, about 30 minutes away by car over a mountain pass.
- Hengifoss is a very tall waterfall in a gorge with red layers of rock, about 40 minutes away, with a path of 1 to 1.5 hours each way.
- Stuðlagil is a canyon of basalt columns in the Jökuldalur valley, about 1 hour away.

Egilsstaðir – Plan Your Trip
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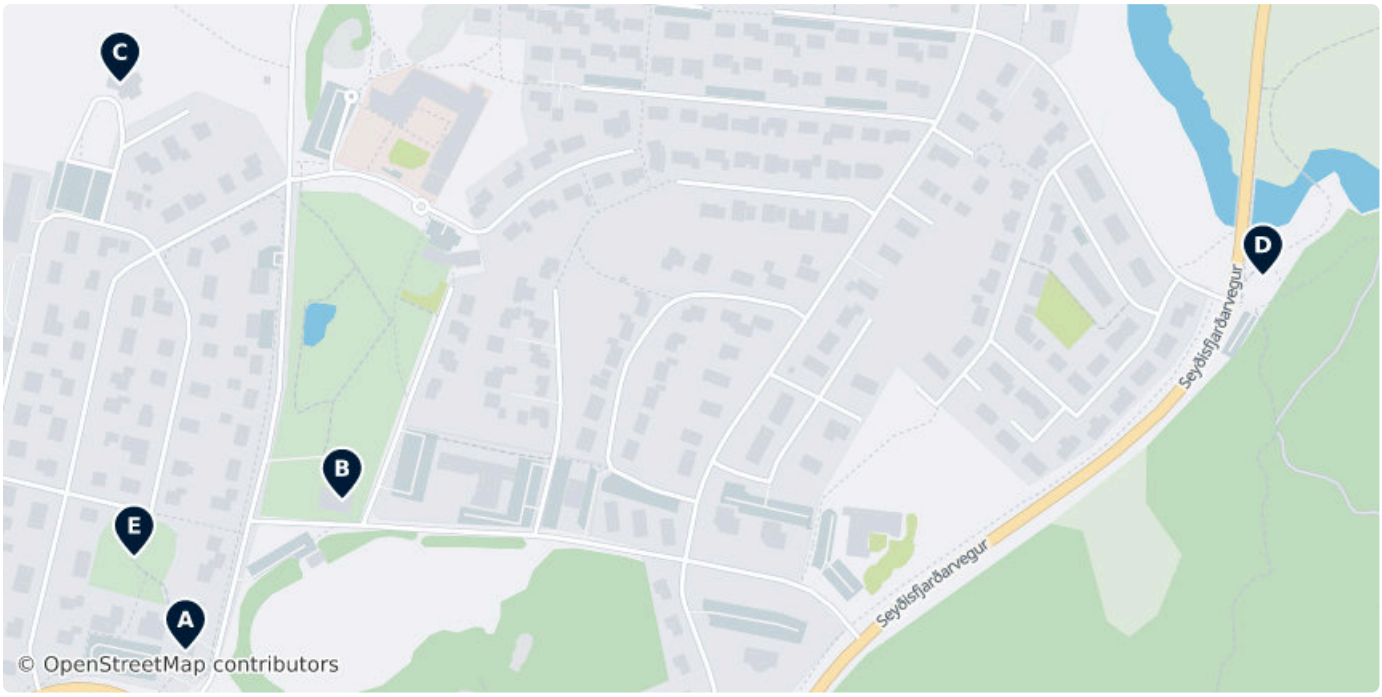
Getting there

- **By air**: Egilsstaðir has an airport with domestic flights from Reykjavík, about 1 hour.
- **By car**: The Ring Road passes through the town. The drive from Reykjavík is about 650 km and takes around 8 hours, so many visitors fly.
- **By bus**: Long-distance buses link the town with Höfn and Akureyri in summer. Check winter timetables.
- **Nearby**: Höfn is about 2.5 hours south.

Egilsstaðir Essentials

As the commercial and cultural hub of East Iceland, Egilsstaðir serves as a gateway to the region's heritage and natural landscapes. This selection includes Safnahús, the regional museum documenting local history, and the modernist Egilsstaðakirkja church. Outdoor spaces like the Selskógur forest and Listigarðurinn garden offer access to rare Icelandic woodlands and local flora, while the historic Nielsen building provides a venue for regional Nordic cuisine.





A Nielsen restaurant

Fine-dining restaurant located in the town's oldest house, built in 1944. The menu focuses on modern Nordic cuisine using seasonal ingredients sourced from East Iceland.

Tjarnarbraut, 700 Egilsstaðir, Iceland (65.26150, -14.39909)

nielsenrestaurant.is

B The East Iceland Heritage Museum

The East Iceland Heritage Museum houses the regional archives and exhibits dedicated to the history, culture, and rural life of the surrounding districts.

Laufskógar 1, 700 Egilsstaðir (65.26262, -14.39630)

minjasafn.is

C Egilsstaðakirkja

A modernist Lutheran church consecrated in 1974, featuring distinctive concrete architecture and serving as a central landmark in the town.

(65.26572, -14.40025)

D Selskógur

A wooded recreation area along the Eyvindará river featuring a network of walking trails through native birch trees and rowan.

(65.26428, -14.37993)

E Listigarðurinn

A small public park and botanical garden showcasing various species of local plants and flowers.

(65.26220, -14.40000)

DATA SOURCES

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