

Glacier Lagoon

Eastern Iceland · Iceland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Jökulsárlón, the Glacier Lagoon, is a lake full of icebergs on the south coast. Chunks of ice break off the Breiðamerkurjökull glacier tongue and drift slowly toward the sea. The ice is blue, white and black with volcanic ash.

It is one of the most visited places in Iceland. Allow at least one to two hours, and more if you take a boat tour.

When to visit

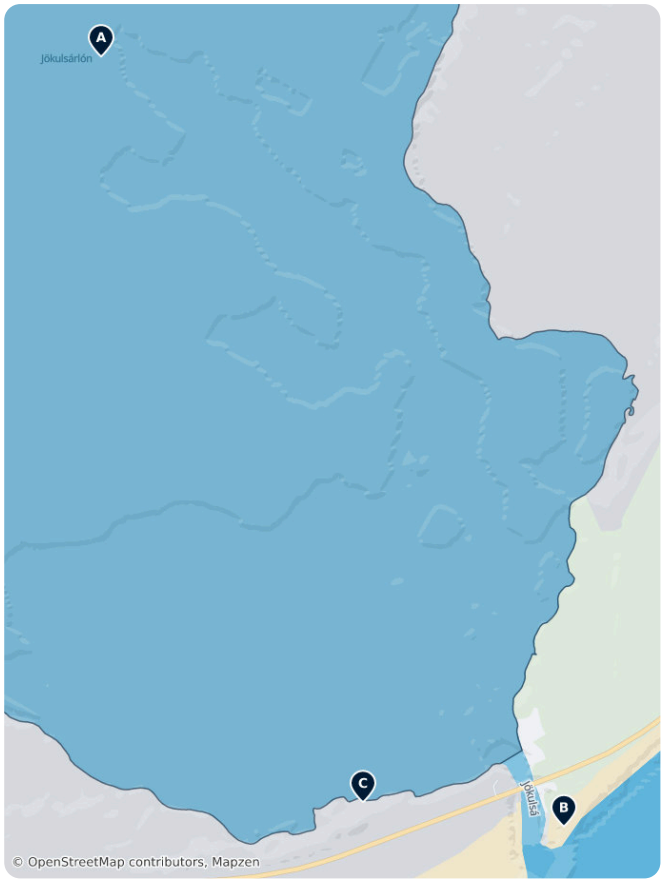
Summer has long days and boat tours run often. Winter has fewer boats, short days, and ice formations on the nearby beach, with a chance of northern lights.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 6° Feels like -5°	-4° / -11°	20 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 6° Feels like -5°	-4° / -12°	19 rainy days · Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 6° Feels like -4°	-3° / -11°	20 rainy days · Dry air
April	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 7° Feels like -2°	-1° / -8°	Dry air
May	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 9° Feels like 2°	2° / -3°	Dry air · Calm winds
June	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	9° / 12° Feels like 6°	5° / 2°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	10° / 13°	7° / 5°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	10° / 12°	7° / 4°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	8° / 11° Feels like 4°	5° / 0°	21 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 8° Feels like 0°	1° / -5°	20 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 7° Feels like -3°	-2° / -9°	19 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 6° Feels like -5°	-4° / -11°	20 rainy days · Dry air

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

Top sights

- A Jökulsárlón is the lagoon itself. You can walk along the shore and take a boat tour among the icebergs.
- B Diamond Beach is across the road, where icebergs wash up on black sand after they pass through a short river to the sea. Do not stand on the ice, and watch the waves.
- C Iceland lagoon - south panoramic view is a view over the lagoon toward the glacier.



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Getting there

- **By car**: The lagoon is directly beside the Ring Road. From Höfn it is about 1 hour. From Reykjavík it is a drive of around 5 hours.
- **By bus**: Long-distance and tour buses stop here in summer. Winter service is limited.
- **Nearby bases**: Höfn and the farms around Skaftafell have the most places to stay.

Glacier Lagoon Essentials

Jökulsárlón is a deep glacial lagoon in Vatnajökull National Park, characterized by large icebergs calving from the Breiðamerkurjökull glacier. These ice fragments drift through a short channel into the Atlantic Ocean, where many wash up on the black volcanic sands of Breiðamerkursandur, also known as Diamond Beach. The area serves as a habitat for seals and various seabirds. Facilities include a visitor café, while the surrounding glacier provides access to seasonal ice caves.





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 Jökulsárlón Café



Service building located at the edge of the lagoon, providing light meals, hot drinks, and snacks for visitors.

(Unnamed Road), Iceland (64.04853, -16.17921)

Mar-May Mo–Su	09:00–18:00
Jun-Sep Mo–Su	09:00–19:00
Oct-Feb Mo–Su	09:00–17:00

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D Ice cave



Natural glacial formation located within the Vatnajökull glacier system, allowing for the observation of deep blue ice structures.

(64.11214, -16.23731)

E Diamond Beach East Side



The eastern section of the Breiðamerkursandur outwash plain, located across the bridge from the main lagoon parking area.

(64.04304, -16.18233)

DATA SOURCES

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