

Hafnarfjörður

Reykjavík · Iceland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Hafnarfjörður is a harbour town about 10 km south of Reykjavík. It sits on a lava field, and the old centre has small wooden houses by the harbour. Local tradition says elves and hidden people live in the rocks.

It is a quiet alternative to the capital, with a small town feel, a Viking festival in summer and easy access to the geothermal area of Krýsuvík.

When to visit

Summer has the longest days and the Viking festival in June. Winter is dark, and Christmas lights fill the town centre. Hiking in the geothermal area is best in summer, when paths are dry.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 6° Feels like -6°	-2° / -9°	22 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 6° Feels like -6°	-3° / -9°	19 rainy days · Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 6° Feels like -5°	-2° / -9°	20 rainy days · Dry air
April	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 8° Feels like -1°	0° / -6°	18 rainy days · Dry air
May	Poor Poor for sightseeing	8° / 12° Feels like 3°	3° / -1°	16 rainy days · Dry air
June	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 15° Feels like 7°	6° / 3°	16 rainy days · Dry air
July	Fair Fair for hiking	13° / 16°	8° / 6°	17 rainy days · Dry air
August	Fair Fair for hiking	12° / 16° Feels like 9°	8° / 5°	18 rainy days · Dry air
September	Poor Poor for hiking	9° / 13° Feels like 5°	5° / 1°	21 rainy days · Dry air
October	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 9° Feels like 0°	2° / -3°	19 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 7° Feels like -3°	-1° / -6°	19 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 7° Feels like -6°	-2° / -9°	21 rainy days · Dry air

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

Top sights

- Hellisgerði is a small park in the lava with paths and shaped rocks, linked with the folk tales of hidden people.
- The harbour and the old town have small museums and cafés.
- A Krýsuvík is a geothermal area with steam vents and mud pools, south of the town. B Seltún is the main boardwalk area.
- C Krýsuvíkurbjarg is a line of sea cliffs on the south coast with birds in summer.
- D Þríhnúkagígur is a volcanic crater where you can descend into the empty magma chamber on a guided tour.



Hafnarfjörður – Plan Your Trip

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Getting there

- **By bus**: Frequent city buses run from Reykjavík. The trip takes about 20 to 30 minutes.
- **By car**: The town is about 10 km south of Reykjavík, around 15 minutes by car.
- **By air**: Keflavík International Airport (KEF) is about 30 minutes away by car.

Hafnarfjörður Essentials

Hafnarfjörður, built on a 7,000-year-old lava field, is defined by its geothermal activity and folklore. The town center features sites like Hellisgerði and Álfaborg, central to Icelandic stories of hidden people. Nearby, the Krýsuvík area showcases boiling mud pools at Seltún and the dramatic Krýsuvíkurbjarg bird cliffs. Visitors can explore the interior of the dormant Þríhnúkagígur volcano, discover the Leiðarendi lava tube, or visit the Viking Village and Hafnarfjörður Museum to learn about local history and maritime heritage.





A Krýsuvík

Krýsuvík is an area in Southwest Iceland at about 35 km from Reykjavík.

(Unnamed Road), 240, Iceland (63.88644, -22.06657)

visitreykjavik.is/krysuvik-geothermal-area



B Þríhnúkagígur volcano

Þríhnúkagígur is a dormant volcano in the volcanic system of Brennisteinsfjöll near Reykjavík, Iceland.

Iceland (63.99844, -21.69893)

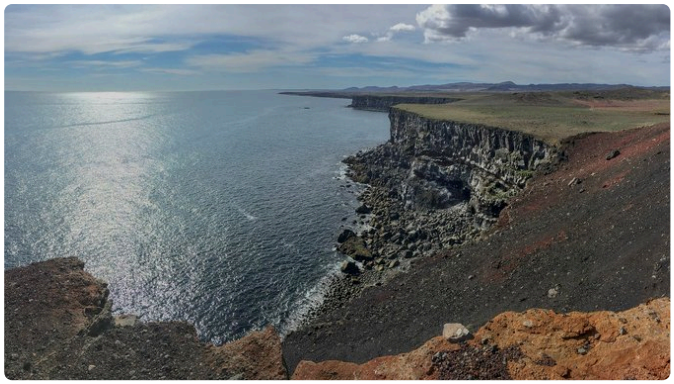
insidethevolcano.com



C Seltún

Geothermal area featuring boiling mud pools, steam vents, and mineral deposits in shades of yellow, red, and green. Wooden walkways lead through the high-temperature landscape.

Iceland (63.89525, -22.05552)



D Krýsuvíkurbjarg

Dramatic sea cliffs stretching along the coast. The site is a major nesting ground for thousands of seabirds, including kittiwakes, guillemots, and razorbills.

Iceland (63.83536, -22.10485)



E Viking Village

A themed restaurant and hotel complex featuring traditional wood-carved interiors and Viking-inspired architecture. It serves regional Icelandic cuisine and hosts an annual Viking festival.

1 Víkingastræti, Hafnarfjörður 220, Iceland (64.06520, -21.95596)



F Hellisgerði

A public park set within a rugged lava field, characterized by moss-covered rocks and small caves. Local folklore considers this area a primary home for elves and hidden people.

5 Hellisgata, Hafnarfjörður 220, Iceland (64.07156, -21.95816)



G Leiðarendi Cave

One of the famous lava tube caves near Reykjavik.

Iceland (63.99772, -21.79413)

guidetoiceland.is/travel-iceland/drive/leidarendi

H Aurora Basecamp

An observatory located in a lava field outside the town. It features indoor 'Dark Park' domes designed to simulate the Northern Lights and outdoor viewing platforms.

Bláfjallavegur, 220 Hafnarfjörður, IS (64.01056, -21.93482)

aurorabasecamp.is, +354 777 0708



I Hafnarfjörður Museum

A diverse museum - there are historic houses a toy exhibition and an exhibition about local history.

Vesturgata 8, Hafnarfjordur, Iceland (64.07014, -21.95947)

safnabokin.is/museum/hafnarfjordur-mu... , +354 585 5780

J Álfaborg

A prominent rock formation traditionally known as the 'City of Elves' and the home of the local royal hidden people.

(64.07861, -21.94072)

K Hafnarborg

The town's cultural center and art gallery. It houses a permanent collection of Icelandic art and hosts rotating exhibitions of contemporary fine art and design.

34 Strandgata, Hafnarfjörður 220, Iceland (64.06769, -21.95526)

Mo–Su 12:00–17:00

hafnarborg.is

L Hamarinn

A viewpoint atop a lava cliff offering panoramic views of Hafnarfjörður, the harbor, and the surrounding Reykjanes Peninsula.

(64.06588, -21.95025)

Editor's Choice

Hafnarfjörður's landscape is defined by volcanic activity and cultural folklore. This selection features the subterranean magma chamber of Þríhnúkagígur and the geothermal activity at Grænavatn and Fúlipollur. Cultural sites include Álfaborg, a rock formation central to local elf legends, and traditional fish drying racks illustrating Iceland's maritime history. For observation, Hamarinn provides a vantage point over the town, while Aurora Basecamp offers specialized facilities for viewing the Northern Lights within the surrounding lava fields.





A Þríhnúkagígur volcano

Þríhnúkagígur is a dormant volcano in the volcanic system of Brennisteinsfjöll near Reykjavík, Iceland.

Iceland (63.99844, -21.69893)

insidethevolcano.com

B Aurora Basecamp

Indoor Northern Lights observatory located in a lava field, featuring real-time aurora simulations and outdoor viewing platforms away from light pollution.

Bláfjallavegur, 220 Hafnarfjörður, IS (64.01056, -21.93482)

aurorabasecamp.is, +354 777 0708

C Álfaborg

Prominent rock formation known as the "Elves' Castle," central to local folklore as the home of the Huldufólk or hidden people.

(64.07861, -21.94072)

D Grænavatn

Deep volcanic crater lake known for its distinct green hue caused by high mineral levels and sulfur-loving algae.

(63.88296, -22.05700)

E Fish Drying Racks

Traditional wooden structures used for wind-drying stockfish, representing a centuries-old Icelandic method of food preservation and maritime heritage.

Hafnarfjörður (64.01817, -21.94803)

F Fúlipollur

Active geothermal mud pool characterized by bubbling silt and intense sulfur odors, located near the Krýsuvík area.

(63.89393, -22.05176)

G Hamarinn

Elevated cliffside viewpoint offering panoramic vistas of the Hafnarfjörður harbor and the surrounding Reykjanes landscape.

(64.06588, -21.95025)

DATA SOURCES

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