

Húsavík

Northeastern Region · Iceland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Húsavík is a small harbour town on Skjálfandi Bay in north Iceland. It is the country's best-known base for whale watching, because several whale species enter the bay. The town is compact and easy to walk, with a working fishing harbour and wooden houses on the hillside.

Medieval texts say the Viking Garðar Svavarsson spent a winter here around 870. In recent years the town also became known as the setting of the 2020 film *Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga*. Its song "Husavik" was nominated for an Oscar. Húsavík suits one or two nights, and it is a good base for Lake Mývatn, Ásbyrgi canyon and Dettifoss waterfall.

When to visit

Whale watching runs in the lighter, warmer months, with long days and cool weather. Humpback, minke and blue whales are all seen in the bay, but no sighting is guaranteed, so check with tour operators about the season.

Winter is dark, cold and snowy. Fewer tours run, and some roads can be icy. Clear winter nights give a chance to see the northern lights. In July the town holds its Sweet Days (Mærudagar) festival.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for aurora viewing	0° / 6° Feels like -6°	-5° / -12°	18 rainy days · Dry air
February	Good Good for aurora viewing	0° / 6° Feels like -6°	-5° / -12°	17 rainy days · Dry air
March	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	1° / 7° Feels like -5°	-4° / -11°	18 rainy days · Dry air
April	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	3° / 9° Feels like -2°	-2° / -8°	15 rainy days · Dry air
May	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	7° / 14° Feels like 3°	1° / -4°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	11° / 18° Feels like 8°	6° / 1°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	14° / 19°	8° / 5°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	13° / 19°	8° / 4°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	10° / 16° Feels like 7°	5° / 0°	18 rainy days · Dry air
October	Fair Fair for aurora viewing	5° / 11° Feels like 0°	1° / -7°	20 rainy days · Dry air
November	Good Good for aurora viewing	1° / 8° Feels like -4°	-3° / -10°	18 rainy days · Dry air
December	Good Good for aurora viewing	0° / 7° Feels like -6°	-5° / -13°	18 rainy days · Dry air

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

Top sights

- **Whale watching tours** leave from the harbour in the town centre. Boats go out into Skjálfandi Bay, and trips usually last a few hours. Book ahead in summer.
- A The Húsavík Whale Museum is in a former slaughterhouse by the harbour. It shows whale skeletons and exhibits on North Atlantic whales. It is a good first stop to learn what you may see at sea.
- B Húsavíkurkirkja is a wooden church from 1907, built from Norwegian timber, in the town centre a short walk from the harbour.
- C The Exploration Museum tells the story of exploration, from Vikings to polar expeditions. It also covers the astronauts who trained in northern Iceland in the 1960s.
- GeoSea geothermal sea baths overlook Skjálfandi Bay, a relaxing stop after a day at sea.



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Getting there

- **By air**: Most international visitors land at Keflavík (KEF) near Reykjavik. The nearest airport with scheduled passenger flights is Akureyri Airport (AEY), about 90 km away. It has domestic flights from Reykjavik.
- **By bus**: Strætó route 79 links Akureyri and Húsavík in a little over an hour. It runs year-round with only a few departures a day, and timetables change by season, so check them on Strætó before you travel.
- **By car**: From Akureyri, take Route 1 through the Vaðlaheiði tunnel, then Route 85 to Húsavík. The distance is about 90 km. A toll applies in the tunnel and is paid online. A car is the easiest way to reach Mývatn, Ásbyrgi and Dettifoss. In winter, check road conditions on Road conditions.

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

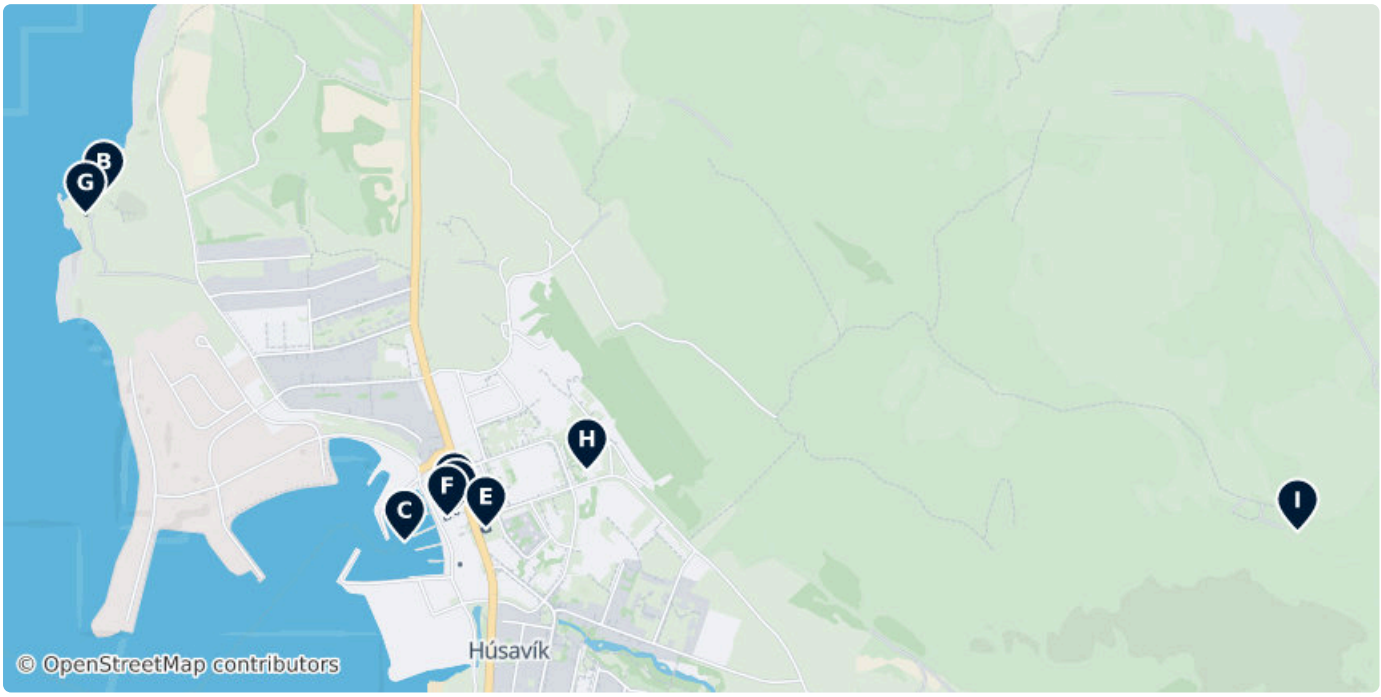
Icelandic

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Húsavík Essentials

Húsavík, known as Iceland's whale watching capital, centers around its historic harbor where traditional wooden boats depart for Skjálfandi Bay. The town features the 1907 Húsavíkurkirkja church, a distinctive wooden structure, and the Geosea geothermal baths, which utilize heated seawater. Cultural sites include the Safnahúsið museum's maritime and natural history exhibits, while the 417-meter Húsavíkurfjall mountain and the bright orange Húsavíkurviti lighthouse provide vantage points over the Arctic coastline.





A Gentle Giants

Whale watching operator utilizing traditional Icelandic oak boats and modern RIB speedboats for marine wildlife tours.

Hafnarstétt 7, 640 (66.04630, -17.34375)



B Geosea

Geothermal sea baths featuring infinity pools filled with mineral-rich, heated seawater overlooking Skjálfandi Bay.

Vitaslóð 1, 640 (66.05262, -17.36129)

May-Sep Mo–Su	10:00–24:00
Oct-Apr Mo–Su	12:00–22:00

geosea.is, +354 464 1210



C Húsavík Port

The town's central maritime hub, serving as the departure point for whale watching tours and traditional fishing vessels.

Iceland (66.04554, -17.34624)



D North Sailing

Tour operator known for its fleet of restored wooden schooners and eco-friendly electric boats. Includes an onsite cafe.

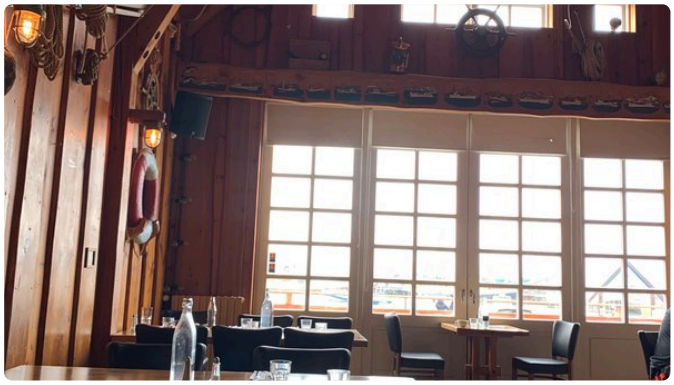
Hafnarstétt 11, 640 (66.04615, -17.34365)



E Húsavíkurkirkja

Cross-shaped wooden church built in 1907. Designed by Rögnvaldur Ólafsson, it is noted for its unique white and green facade.

Stórigarður, 640 Húsavík, Iceland (66.04582, -17.34217)



F Gamli Baukur

Harbor-side restaurant located in a reconstructed wooden building, specializing in local Icelandic seafood.

Hafnarstétt, 640 Húsavík, Iceland (66.04604, -17.34410)

Mo–Su	11:30–22:00

G Húsavíkurviti

A 12-meter-tall bright orange lighthouse built in 1956, situated on the cliffs north of the town center.

Húsavíkurviti, 640 (66.05220, -17.36221)

H The Culture House

Regional museum featuring maritime history, local archives, and a significant collection of Icelandic bird specimens.

17 Stórigarður, Húsavík 640, Iceland (66.04699, -17.33711)

Jun 01-Aug 31 Mo–Su	10:00–18:00
Sep 01-May 31 Mo–Sa	10:00–18:00, 10:00–14:00

husmus.is

Húsavíkurfjall

A 417-meter mountain overlooking the town, offering hiking trails with views of the bay and the Kinnarfjöll mountains.

(Unnamed Road), 640, Iceland (66.04575, -17.30155)

DATA SOURCES

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