

Kerlingarfjoll

Southern Region · Iceland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Kerlingarfjöll is a mountain range in the centre of Iceland, on the highland route called Kjölur. It is known for its coloured rhyolite peaks and strong geothermal activity.

The area has a mountain base with huts and a campsite, and a network of walking trails. It is a quiet alternative to the busier highland areas.

When to visit

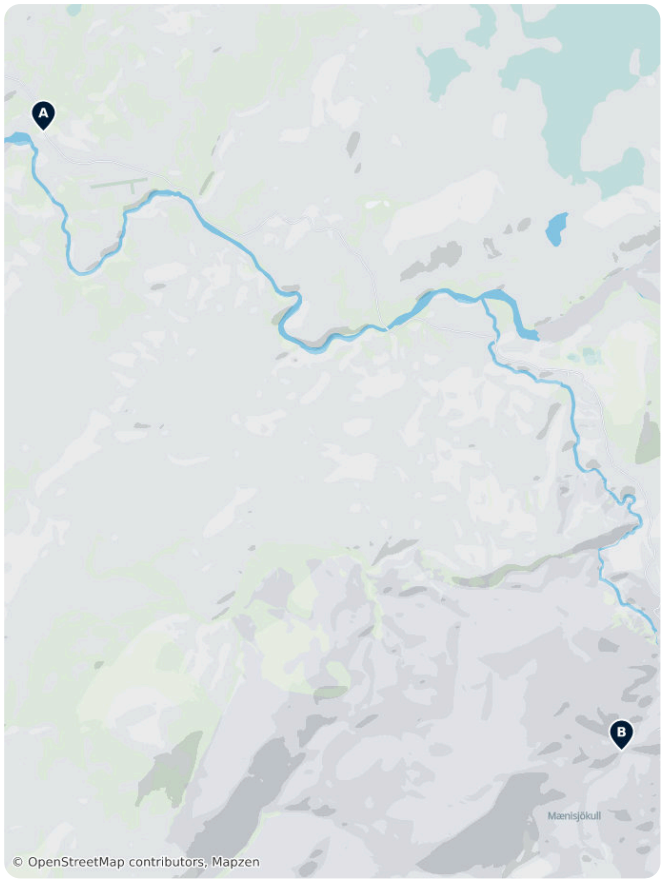
The highland roads are open in summer only, usually from about late June to September, depending on snow. Weather is cool and changes quickly.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for hiking	-7° / -2° Feels like -16°	-12° / -20°	22 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for hiking	-7° / -2° Feels like -16°	-12° / -21°	20 rainy days · Dry air
March	Poor Poor for hiking	-6° / -2° Feels like -15°	-12° / -21°	21 rainy days · Dry air
April	Poor Poor for hiking	-4° / 0° Feels like -11°	-9° / -18°	19 rainy days · Dry air
May	Poor Poor for hiking	-1° / 2° Feels like -8°	-6° / -12°	18 rainy days · Dry air
June	Poor Poor for hiking	2° / 7° Feels like -3°	-2° / -7°	17 rainy days · Dry air
July	Poor Poor for hiking	5° / 8° Feels like 0°	0° / -3°	20 rainy days · Dry air
August	Poor Poor for hiking	4° / 7° Feels like -1°	-1° / -4°	20 rainy days · Dry air
September	Poor Poor for hiking	1° / 4° Feels like -5°	-3° / -8°	22 rainy days · Dry air
October	Poor Poor for hiking	-3° / 2° Feels like -10°	-7° / -14°	21 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for hiking	-6° / 0° Feels like -14°	-10° / -19°	20 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for hiking	-7° / -1° Feels like -16°	-12° / -21°	21 rainy days · Dry air

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

Top sights

- A Kerlingarfjöll are mountains of red, yellow and white rock with snow and steaming ground.
- B Hveradalir is the main geothermal valley, with hot springs, steam vents and mud pools. Stay on the marked paths, as the ground is hot.
- Snækollur is the highest peak of the range, at about 1,480 m, and is reached on a long hike.



Kerlingarfjoll – Plan Your Trip

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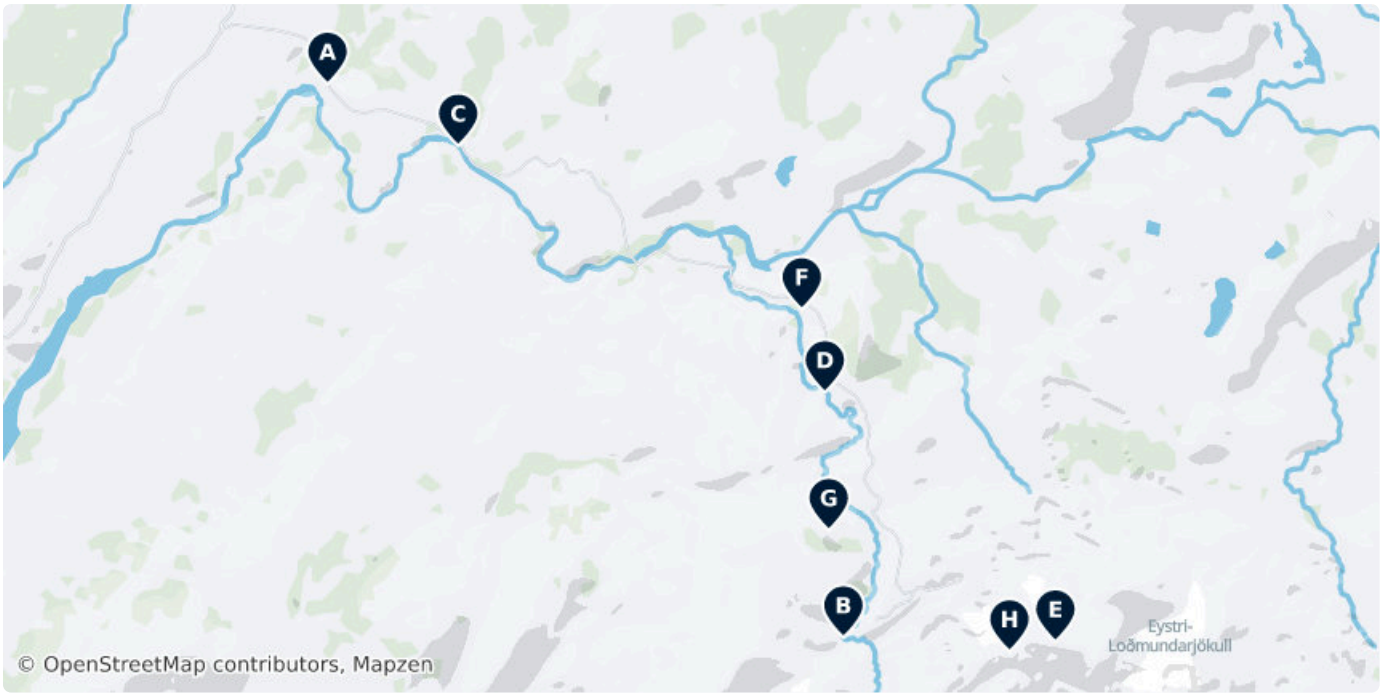
Getting there

- **By car**: A 4x4 is needed on the Kjölur route and on the branch road into the range. Check road conditions first.
- **From the Golden Circle**: The route starts near Gullfoss. The drive takes around 2 hours from the falls.
- **By bus**: Highland buses run in summer. Check the timetable.

Kerlingarfjöll Essentials

Kerlingarfjöll is a 1,477-meter-high mountain range in the central highlands of Iceland, characterized by its distinctive rhyolite composition and intense geothermal activity. The area features Hveradalir, a valley filled with fumaroles, boiling mud pots, and steam vents. Key summits include Snækollur, the highest peak, and Fannborg. The Jökulfall river flows through the region, creating the broad Gýgjarfoss waterfall. The Highland Base serves as the primary hub for year-round access to the hiking trails and natural hot springs situated within the Ásgarður valley.





A Kerlingarfjöll

Mountain range.

Kerlingarfjallavegur, 801, Iceland
(64.71047, -19.43275)

B Hveradalir

Geothermal valley featuring steaming vents, boiling mud pots, and orange rhyolite hills. Accessible via hiking trails from the Highland Base.

(64.64417, -19.28820)

C Gýgjarfoss

Waterfall on the Jökulfall River located along the F35 Highland Road. It drops approximately five meters over a wide, rocky ledge.

(64.70308, -19.39616)

D Sundlaug

Natural geothermal hot spring located in the Ásgarður valley. Fed by local hot water sources, it features a man-made stone enclosure.

(64.67355, -19.29339)

E Snaekollur

The highest peak in the Kerlingarfjöll range, reaching 1,477 meters. Offers panoramic views of the Hofsjökull and Langjökull glaciers.

Iceland (64.64369, -19.22878)

F Highland Base

Year-round accommodation hub offering lodge rooms, huts, and a campsite. Includes a restaurant and serves as the primary trailhead for the Hveradalir area.

(64.68350, -19.29985)

highlandbase.is

G Hveradalshnúkur

Rhyolite mountain peak overlooking the Hveradalir geothermal area, known for its steep slopes and vibrant mineral coloration.

Iceland (64.65703, -19.29234)

H Fannborg

Prominent 1,428-meter peak often covered in snow patches. It is situated between the Hveradalir geothermal area and the Snækollur summit.

Iceland (64.64249, -19.24168)

DATA SOURCES

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