

Mýrdalshreppur

Southern Region · Iceland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover

Overview

Mýrdalshreppur is the area around Vík í Mýrdal, the southernmost village on the Icelandic mainland. It is a small village with a famous coastline of black beaches, sea stacks and cliffs, all just off the Ring Road.

Vík is a convenient base for one or two nights on the south coast. The sights are close together, but the weather and the sea can change fast.

When to visit

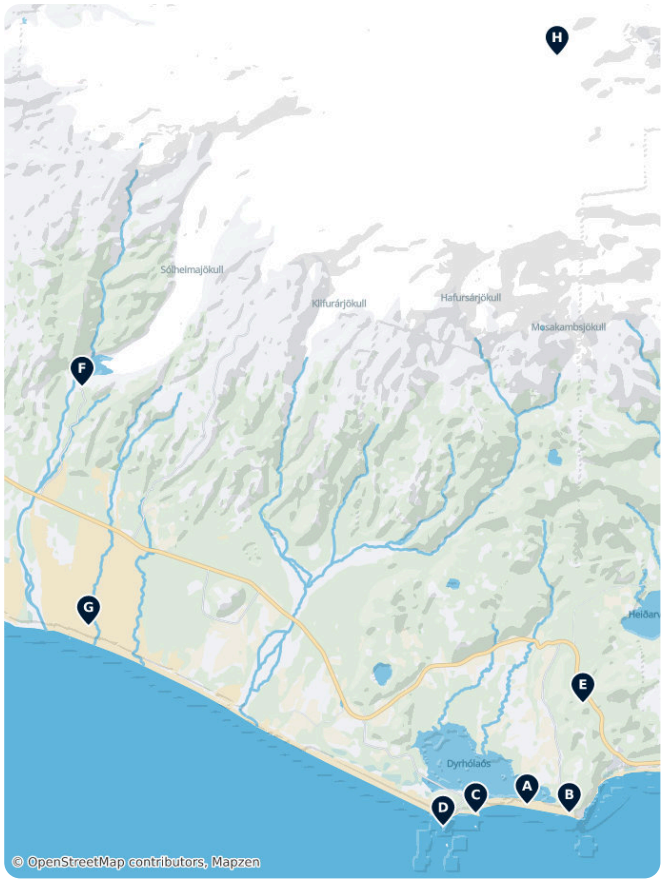
Summer has long days and nesting seabirds, including puffins, on the cliffs. Winter is dark and stormy, with strong wind, but it brings dramatic waves and a chance to see the northern lights.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 6° Feels like -5°	-2° / -10°	22 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 6° Feels like -5°	-2° / -9°	22 rainy days · Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 6° Feels like -5°	-2° / -8°	22 rainy days · Dry air
April	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 7° Feels like -2°	0° / -6°	21 rainy days · Dry air
May	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 9° Feels like 1°	3° / -2°	19 rainy days · Dry air
June	Poor Poor for hiking	9° / 12° Feels like 5°	6° / 3°	18 rainy days · Dry air
July	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 14°	8° / 6°	18 rainy days · Dry air
August	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 13° Feels like 8°	8° / 6°	18 rainy days · Dry air
September	Poor Poor for hiking	9° / 11° Feels like 4°	6° / 1°	22 rainy days · Dry air
October	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 9° Feels like 0°	2° / -4°	21 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 8° Feels like -3°	-1° / -8°	21 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 7° Feels like -5°	-2° / -10°	23 rainy days · Dry air

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

Top sights

- A Reynisfjara Beach is a black sand beach with tall basalt columns and a cave, B Hálsanefshellir Cave. Offshore stand the sea stacks of Reynisdrangar, called C Arnardrangur.
- D Dyrhólaey is a high headland with a rock arch, a lighthouse and wide views over the coast. Puffins nest here in summer.
- E Reynisfjall is the mountain behind Vík, with views over the village and coast.
- F Sólheimajökull is a glacier tongue of Mýrdalsjökull that you can reach on a short walk from the car park. Guided glacier walks start nearby. Do not walk on the ice alone.
- G Wrecked DC-3 Plane is a US Navy plane that crash-landed in 1973 on a black sand plain. It is a walk of about 4 km each way from the car park.
- H Katla is a volcano under the Mýrdalsjökull ice cap. It is monitored closely.



Mýrdalshreppur – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play

Scan to download the app

Day trips

- A Skógar is about 30 minutes west, with Skógafoss waterfall.
- B Kirkjubæjarklaustur is about 1 hour east, near Fjaðrárgljúfur canyon.
- C Þórsmörk is a valley reached by 4x4 vehicles or special buses in summer.



Where to explore

- To the west: Skógar and Hella.
- To the east: Kirkjubæjarklaustur.
- By ferry or boat: Vestmannaeyjabær.

Getting there

- **By air**: International flights land at Keflavík (KEF). Vík is about 180 km from Reykjavík, a drive of 2.5 to 3 hours.
- **By car**: Take the Ring Road (Route 1) east from Reykjavík. Vík lies just off the road.
- **By bus**: Long-distance and tour buses stop in Vík all year, with more in summer.

Getting around

- Vík is small and walkable. The beach at Reynisfjara and the headland Dyrhólaey are a short drive away.
- A car is the easiest way to reach the other sights.
- Parking at the beach and the headland is paid.

Driving

- Roads on the south coast are paved and the Ring Road is easy to drive.
- Wind gusts can make doors dangerous when you open them at windy stops.
- In winter, check road conditions before you go.

Safety & health

- **Reynisfjara has deadly sneaker waves.** They can run far up the beach with no warning. Stay well back from the water and never turn your back on the sea.
- Do not climb on the basalt columns or enter the cave when the sea is rough.
- Stay behind the barriers at Dyrhólaey, especially near cliff edges.

Country facts

CURRENCY
ISK kr

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Icelandic

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Mýrdalshreppur's Absolute Essentials

Mýrdalshreppur features some of Iceland's most recognizable coastal and geological landmarks. This region is home to the black sand beach of Reynisfjara with its basalt columns, the Dyrhólaey promontory, and the active Katla volcano buried beneath the Mýrdalsjökull ice cap. Visitors can explore the Sólheimajökull glacier tongue, the 1973 US Navy DC-3 plane wreck on Sólheimasandur, and various sea stacks and caves along the Atlantic shoreline.





A Reynisfjara Beach

Black sand beach known for its striking basalt sea stacks, caves, and coastal views. Part of a UNESCO geological reserve with notable volcanic sand formations.

Iceland (63.40534, -19.07015)



B DC-3 Plane Wreck

Abandoned U.S. Navy DC-3 aircraft wreck lies on a black sand beach, known for its striking and surreal appearance. The site features a relatively intact fuselage set against a dramatic Icelandic landscape.

(Unnamed Road), 871, Iceland (63.45912, -19.36503)



C Sólheimajökull Glacier

An outlet glacier of the Mýrdalsjökull ice cap. It is known for its rugged ice formations and layers of black volcanic ash from past eruptions.

Sólheimajökulsvegur, 871, Iceland (63.53094, -19.36937)



D Dyrhólaey

Dyrhólaey, formerly known by seamen as Cape Portland, is a small promontory located on the south coast of Iceland, not far from the village...

Iceland (63.39883, -19.12663)

south.is/en/moya/toy/index/place/dyrholaey



E Arnardrangur

A 14-meter-high basalt sea stack on Reynisfjara beach. Its name translates to "Eagle Rock," as it was historically a nesting site for eagles.

Iceland (63.40266, -19.10474)



F Reynisfjara Columnes

Distinctive geometric basalt columns formed by the rapid cooling of lava, located at the base of Reynisfjall mountain.

Iceland (63.40273, -19.04181)



G Hálsanefshellir

A sea cave at the base of Reynisfjall mountain, featuring a vaulted ceiling composed of naturally formed basalt columns.

Reynisfjall, 870 Vik, Iceland (63.40263, -19.03999)



H Katla Volcano

Katla is an active volcano in southern Iceland. This particular volcano has been very active historically with at least twenty documented...

Iceland (63.62999, -19.04997)

I Dyrhólaey Lighthouse

The Dyrhólaey Lighthouse is a lighthouse located on the central south coast of Iceland.

Dyrhólavegur, 871 Mýrdalshreppur, Iceland (63.40225, -19.13055)

J Dyrhólafjara

A black volcanic sand beach extending west from the Dyrhólaey promontory, providing views of the Atlantic coast and offshore rock formations.

Iceland (63.41328, -19.17481)

Iceland's Natural Wonders

This selection of geological landmarks in the Mýrdalur region showcases the diverse terrain of South Iceland. It includes the subglacial Katla volcano and its associated glacier tongues, Sólheimajökull and Klifurárjökull. The list features prominent tuff mountains like the 340-meter-high Reynisfjall ridge and the former island of Pétursey, alongside the moss-covered Mælifell. These sites illustrate the region's volcanic history and the ongoing impact of glacial movement on the landscape.





A Reynisfjall

A 340-meter-high tuff mountain ridge overlooking the village of Vík and the Reynisfjara black sand beach. The cliffs serve as a nesting site for Atlantic puffins during the summer.

(Unnamed Road), 871, Iceland (63.43587, -19.03267)



B Katla Volcano

Katla is an active volcano in southern Iceland. This particular volcano has been very active historically with at least twenty documented...

Iceland (63.62999, -19.04997)

C Remundargilsfossi

A waterfall located within the Remundargil canyon, situated to the east of the Mýrdalsjökull glacier.

(63.53674, -18.86466)

D Huldufoss

A waterfall situated in the rural landscape north of the village of Vík í Mýrdal.

(63.57142, -18.95304)



E Pétursey

A 275-meter-high tuff mountain that functioned as an island during periods of higher sea levels. It is located on the coastal plain west of Vík.

Iceland (63.46783, -19.27115)

F Mælifell

A conical tuff mountain rising 200 meters above the Mælifellssandur black sand desert. It is characterized by its thick coating of bright green moss.

Iceland (63.53860, -18.93022)

G Klifurárjökull

An outlet glacier descending from the southern part of the Mýrdalsjökull ice cap.

(63.56047, -19.19404)

H Sólheimajökull

Sólheimajökull is a glacier in southern Iceland, between the volcanoes Katla and Eyjafjallajökull.

(63.56666, -19.29963)

Icelandic Black Sand Beaches

Located in the Mýrdalshreppur region of southern Iceland, these black sand beaches are defined by volcanic sediment and dramatic geological formations. The coastline features the Reynisdrangar basalt sea stacks, the Dyrhólaey stone arch, and expansive fields of dark ash. These sites showcase unique features such as hexagonal basalt columns, sea caves, and views of the Atlantic Ocean. Visitors can observe nesting puffins during summer months and explore the remnants of historic shipwrecks along the shore.





A Reynisfjara Beach

Black sand beach known for its striking basalt sea stacks, caves, and coastal views. Part of a UNESCO geological reserve with notable volcanic sand formations.

Iceland (63.40534, -19.07015)

B Dyrhólafjara

Black sand beach situated beneath the Dyrhólaey promontory, offering views of the massive stone sea arch and the Reynisdrangar stacks.

Iceland (63.41328, -19.17481)

C Sólheimafjara

Extensive black sand beach formed by glacial outwash from the Mýrdalsjökull volcano. It serves as the access route to the Sólheimasandur DC-3 plane wreck.

Iceland (63.45416, -19.36229)

D Kirkjufjara Beach

Coastal area near Dyrhólaey featuring views of the Arnardrangur rock stack. Access is frequently restricted due to dangerous sneaker waves and high tides.

(63.40257, -19.11185)

E Dyrhólafjara

Black sand beach situated beneath the Dyrhólaey promontory, offering views of the massive stone sea arch and the Reynisdrangar stacks.

(63.41107, -19.16361)

F Reynisfjara Beach

Volcanic beach featuring the Hálsanefshellir sea cave and the Reynisdrangar basalt stacks rising from the ocean.

(63.40534, -19.07018)

G Sólheimafjara

Extensive black sand beach formed by glacial outwash from the Mýrdalsjökull volcano. It serves as the access route to the Sólheimasandur DC-3 plane wreck.

(63.45544, -19.36972)

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikidata, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites

IMAGE CREDITS

- Reynisfjara Beach — "Dyrhólaey, Iceland. Eastward view on Reynisfjall mountain and Reynisdrangar..." by pjt56, CC BY-SA 3.0
- DC-3 Plane Wreck — "Iceland" by Hansueli Krapf, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Sólheimajökull Glacier — "A moulin on Solhéimajökull." by Óðinn, CC BY-SA 2.5 ca
- Dyrhólaey — "Dyrhólaey Arch, Vík, Iceland" by timtrad, CC0
- Arnardrangur — "A black beach made of ash near Dyrhólaey Peninslula, Southern Iceland" by Zairon, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Reynisfjara Columnes — "Reynisfjara Basaltsäulen" by Sygic Travel User, CC-BY-SA
- Hálsanefshellir — "Basalt columns, near Vik" by Ainars Brūvelis, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Katla Volcano — "Katla volcano, Heimaey, Suðurland, Iceland" by Diego Delso, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Reynisfjall — "Basalt sea stack in a black lava beach under the mountain Reynisfjall near the..." by Diego Delso, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Katla Volcano — "Katla volcano, Heimaey, Suðurland, Iceland" by Diego Delso, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Pétursey — "Panorama of Pétursey, Iceland." by Ira Goldstein, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Reynisfjara Beach — "Dyrhólaey, Iceland. Eastward view on Reynisfjall mountain and Reynisdrangar..." by pjt56, CC BY-SA 3.0

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 22, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.