

Northeastern Region

Iceland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

The Northeastern Region is the north of Iceland between Eyjafjörður and the Langanes peninsula. It has Akureyri, the main town of the north. It also has lake Mývatn, large waterfalls and some of the best whale watching in Iceland.

Many visitors drive the Diamond Circle. This route links Goðafoss, Mývatn, Ásbyrgi, Húsavík and Dettifoss.

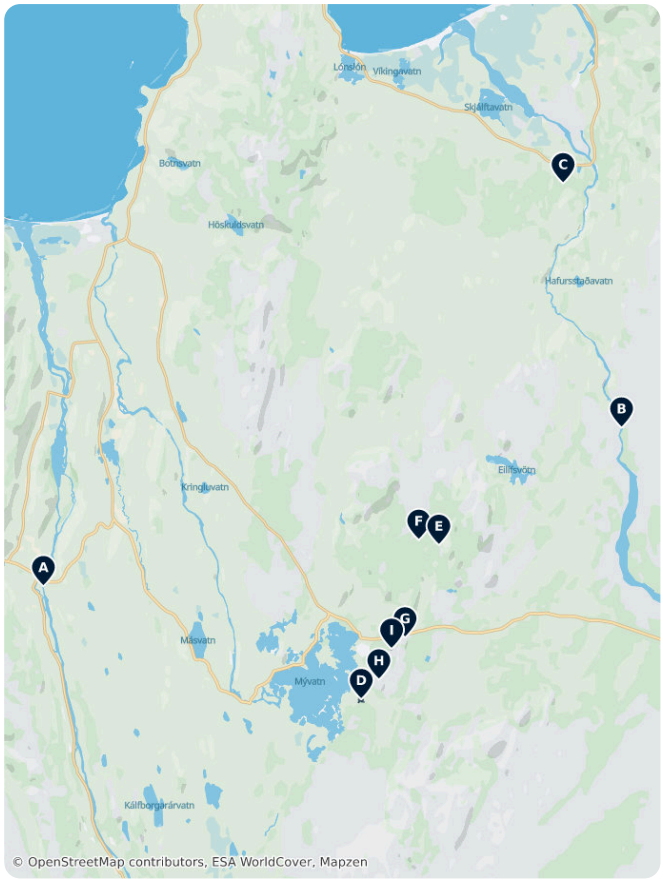
When to visit

Summer has long light nights and the best weather for driving. Whale watching runs from spring to early autumn. Winter is cold with snow and a good chance of northern lights. Some roads, such as those to Dettifoss, can close in winter. Check Road conditions (Vegagerðin).

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for aurora viewing	-1° / 5° Feels like -7°	-6° / -13°	21 rainy days · Dry air
February	Good Good for aurora viewing	-1° / 5° Feels like -7°	-6° / -14°	19 rainy days · Dry air
March	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	0° / 5° Feels like -6°	-6° / -13°	21 rainy days · Dry air
April	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	2° / 6° Feels like -3°	-4° / -11°	17 rainy days · Dry air
May	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	5° / 10° Feels like 1°	0° / -6°	17 rainy days · Dry air
June	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 16° Feels like 7°	5° / 0°	16 rainy days · Dry air
July	Fair Fair for hiking	13° / 17°	7° / 4°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for hiking	12° / 16°	7° / 3°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Poor Poor for hiking	8° / 13° Feels like 4°	4° / -2°	20 rainy days · Dry air
October	Fair Fair for aurora viewing	3° / 9° Feels like -2°	-1° / -8°	23 rainy days · Dry air
November	Good Good for aurora viewing	0° / 6° Feels like -5°	-4° / -12°	21 rainy days · Dry air
December	Good Good for aurora viewing	-1° / 5° Feels like -7°	-6° / -13°	21 rainy days · Dry air

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2); NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5; NASA POWER (MERRA-2); NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Godafoss Waterfall is a wide waterfall beside the Ring Road. It is easy to reach and has paths on both banks.
- B Dettifoss is one of the most powerful waterfalls in Europe. The canyon around it is rough and open.
- C Ásbyrgi is a horseshoe-shaped canyon with forest and cliffs. Paths lead to a pond at the base.
- D Dimmuborgir is a field of lava rock formations near Mývatn.
- E Víti Crater is a crater with a small lake, and F Leirhnjúkur is a lava field with steam vents. Both are near G Námafjall, a geothermal area.
- H Hverfjall is a large crater that you can walk around.
- I Myvatn Nature Baths is a geothermal spa with views over the lake.
- Húsavík is known for whale watching, and Akureyri is the main town of the north.

Northeastern Region – Plan Your Trip

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Getting there

- **By air**: Akureyri Airport has domestic flights from Reykjavík. The flight takes about 45 minutes.
- **By car**: The Ring Road runs through the region. Reykjavík to Akureyri is about 5 hours by road.
- **By bus**: Intercity buses run to Akureyri. See Strætó.
- **Nearby**: Húsavík is about 1 hour from Akureyri by car, and Dalvík is about 40 minutes.

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

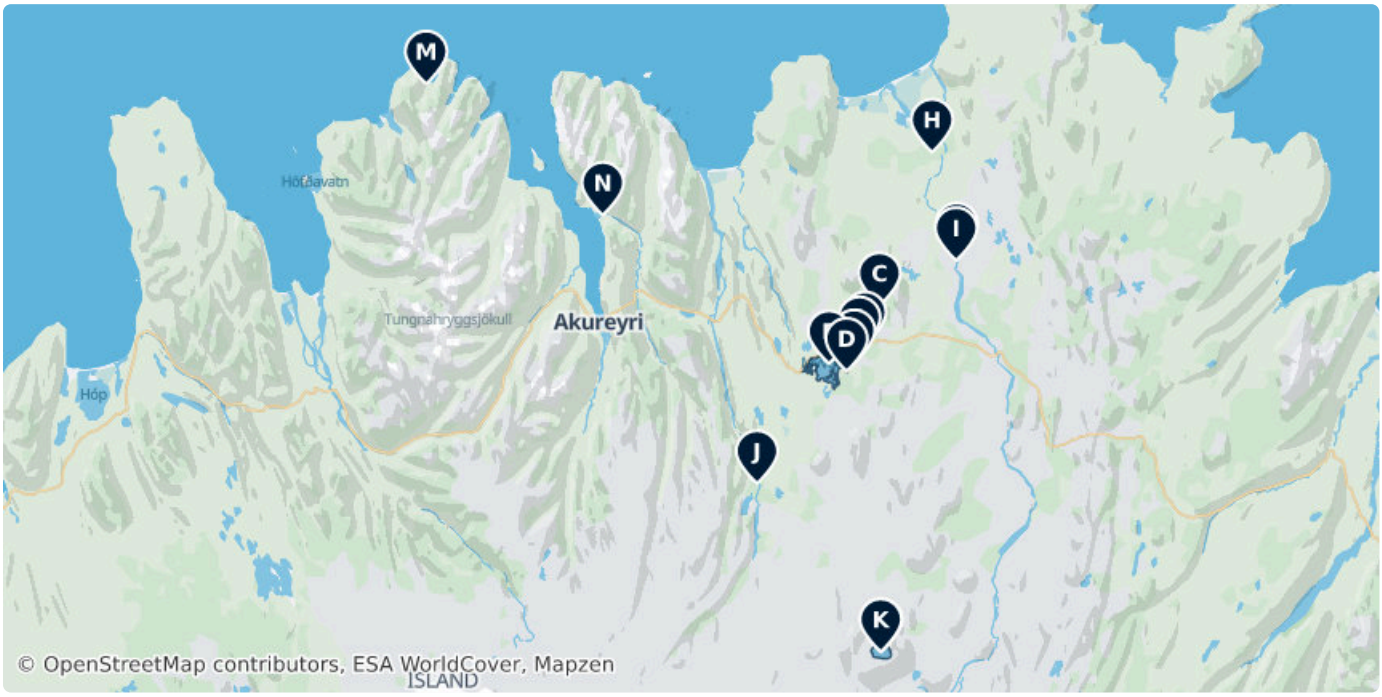
Icelandic

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Northeastern Iceland's Essential Wonders

Northeastern Iceland features diverse geological formations, from the 44-meter-high Dettifoss—Europe's most powerful waterfall—to the horseshoe-shaped Ásbyrgi Canyon. The Mývatn region contains mineral-rich geothermal baths, the Dimmuborgir lava fields, and the Hverfjall tephra cone. Geothermal activity is concentrated at the Námafjall sulfur springs and Krafla's volcanic caldera. Further inland, the remote Askja caldera holds the deep Öskjuvatn lake. Cultural history is preserved at the Siglufjörður Herring Era Museum and the 19th-century turf houses at Laufás.





A Myvatn Nature Baths

Geothermal outdoor thermal baths with mineral-rich waters and scenic views, featuring amenities such as a café and swim-up bar.

Jarðbaðshólum, 660 Reykjahlíð, Iceland
(65.63060, -16.84819)

Mo–Su 12:00–22:00

myvatnnaturebaths.is, +354 464 4411



B Dettifoss

A waterfall with a height of 44 meters and width of 100 meters, known for its powerful water flow and scenic natural surroundings.

Iceland (65.81435, -16.38449)



C Víti Crater

Explosion crater within a volcanic system featuring a striking lake with vivid blue to green colors influenced by geothermal activity.

Iceland (65.71710, -16.75310)



D Dimmuborgir

Dimmuborgir is a large area of unusually shaped lava fields east of Mývatn in Iceland.

Iceland (65.58862, -16.90962)



E Námafjall

In this geothermal area, you can admire colourful sulfur crystals and try to hike a short trail.

Iceland (65.64015, -16.82112)



F Mývatn

This eutrophic lake (meaning of high biological productivity) takes its name from a large number of midges that occupy this area during...

Iceland (65.60322, -16.99376)

visitmyvatn.is/en, +354 464 4390



G Hverfjall Crater

Hverfjall is a tephra cone or tuff ring volcano in northern Iceland, to the east of Mývatn.

Iceland (65.60506, -16.87395)



H Asbyrgi Canyon

Ásbyrgi is a glacial canyon and forest in the north of Iceland, located approximately 38 kilometres east of Húsavík on the Diamond Circle...

Iceland (66.01570, -16.50241)



I Selfoss

Selfoss is a waterfall on the river Jökulsá á Fjöllum in the north of Iceland.

Iceland (65.80542, -16.38802)



J Aldeyjarfoss

The Aldeyjarfoss waterfall is situated in the Highlands of Iceland at the northern part of the Sprengisandur Highland Road.

Aldeyjarfoss, Þingeyjarsveit, Iceland (65.36641, -17.33700)



K Askja

Askja is an active volcano situated in a remote part of the central highlands of Iceland.

Iceland (65.03044, -16.74689)



L Öskjuvatn

Öskjuvatn is a lake in the Highlands of Iceland. Its surface area is about 11 km².

Iceland (65.03063, -16.74390)



M Herring Era Museum

The Herring Era Museum is located in Siglufjörður, Iceland. It is Iceland's largest maritime museum and the only Icelandic museum to have...

Snorragata 15, 580 Siglufjörður, Iceland (66.14745, -18.91335)

sild.is, +354 467 1604



N Old Turfhouse Laufás

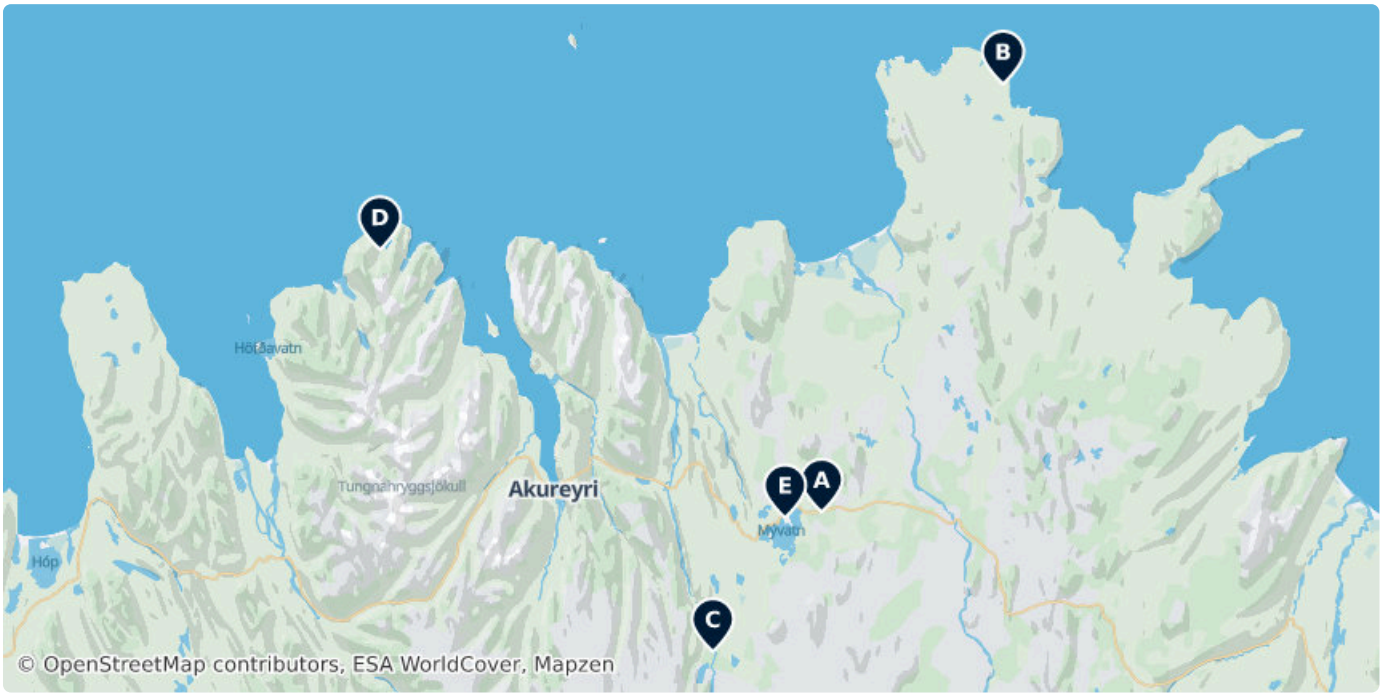
A well-preserved 19th-century farmstead featuring traditional Icelandic turf-roofed architecture. The site includes a timber church built in 1865 and interiors furnished with period tools and household items, illustrating rural life in Northern Iceland.

Laufásbær, 616 (65.89377, -18.07184)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

Icelandic Hidden Gems

Explore Northeastern Iceland’s lesser-known sites, ranging from the geothermal activity of Námafjall, where sulfur crystals and mud pots dominate the landscape, to the basalt columns surrounding Aldeyjarfoss waterfall in the Highlands. Cultural highlights include Siglufjörður’s Herring Era Museum, detailing the country's maritime history, and Sigurgeirs Bird Museum near Lake Mývatn. The Arctic Henge in Raufarhöfn serves as a modern stone monument and sundial, drawing inspiration from Norse mythology.





A Námafjall

In this geothermal area, you can admire colourful sulfur crystals and try to hike a short trail.

Iceland (65.64015, -16.82112)



B The Arctic Henge - Heimskautsgerðið

A modern stone monument in Raufarhöfn inspired by the Norse poem Völuspá. This massive sundial consists of four stone arches and a central column designed to capture the sun’s rays between the gates during specific seasons.

(Unnamed Road), 675, Iceland (66.46220, -15.96233)

northiceland.is/en/places/nature/arctic-henge



C Aldeyjarfoss

The Aldeyjarfoss waterfall is situated in the Highlands of Iceland at the northern part of the Sprengisandur Highland Road.

Aldeyjarfoss, Þingeyjarsveit, Iceland (65.36641, -17.33700)



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sild.is, +354 467 1604

E Sigurgeirs Bird Museum

Situated near Lake Myvatn, which is home to a huge number of aquatic birds, this museum showcases the largest private bird collection in...

(Unnamed Road), 660, Iceland (65.62882, -16.99500)

fuglasafn.is, +354 464 4477

Iceland's Natural Wonders

Northeastern Iceland and the central Highlands feature a high concentration of volcanic and geothermal landmarks. This region includes Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall, and the Mývatn area, defined by the Dimmuborgir lava formations and Hverfjall tephra cone. The landscape is shaped by active systems like the Krafla caldera and Námafjall sulfur springs. Further inland, the remote Askja caldera contains the deep Öskjuvatn lake, while the Aldeyjarfoss waterfall showcases rare, symmetrical basalt column architecture.





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G Hverfjall Crater

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Iceland (65.60506, -16.87395)



H Leirhnjukur

Geothermal area consisting of a lava field. Walk through the area on a boardwalk and discover various rock formations.

Krófluvegur, 660, Iceland (65.72127, -16.79354)



I Askja

Askja is an active volcano situated in a remote part of the central highlands of Iceland.

Iceland (65.03044, -16.74689)



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Iceland (65.03063, -16.74390)



K Aldeyjarfoss

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Aldeyjarfoss, Þingeyjarsveit, Iceland (65.36641, -17.33700)

L Aldeyjarfoss

Waterfall on the Skjálfandafljót river known for its dramatic backdrop of symmetrical black basalt columns. Situated at the northern entrance to the Sprengisandur highland road.

(65.36653, -17.33603)

DATA SOURCES

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