

Snæfellsjökull National Park

Snaefellsnes Peninsula · Iceland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Snæfellsjökull National Park covers the western tip of the Snæfellsnes peninsula. It is named after the glacier on top of a volcano, which rises to about 1,450 m. Jules Verne used the glacier as the entrance to the centre of the earth in his novel.

The park has black beaches, sea cliffs, lava fields and craters, all within a short drive of each other.

When to visit

Summer has the best access and the longest days. Winter has fewer visitors, but roads can be icy and daylight is short. The glacier is only for guided or experienced walkers.

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

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

Top sights

- A Snæfellsjökull is the ice-capped volcano above the park. It is often hidden by cloud and is seen best from the north coast.
- B Djúpalónssandur is a black pebble beach with rock arches and old fishing boat wrecks.
- C Lóndrangar are two tall basalt pillars on the coast, with a walking path.
- D Saxhóll is a small red crater that you can climb by steps, with a view of the lava field.
- E Svörtuloft is a lighthouse above sea cliffs where seabirds nest in summer.
- F Vatnshellir lava cave is a lava tube that you visit on a guided tour.



Snæfellsjökull National Park – Plan Your Trip

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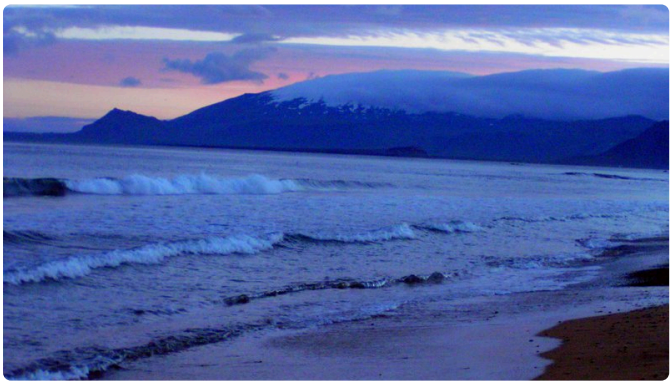
Getting there

- **By car**: The park is about 200 km from Reykjavík, a drive of around 2.5 to 3 hours. A road circles the peninsula.
- **Bases**: Ólafsvík and Grundarfjörður are the nearest towns.
- **Wider area**: See Snaefellsnes.

Snæfellsjökull National Park: The Absolute Essentials

Located on the western tip of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula, this national park is defined by the 1,446-meter Snæfellsjökull stratovolcano. The landscape features diverse geological formations, including the 8,000-year-old Vatnshellir lava tube and the Lóndrangar basalt pinnacles. Coastal highlights include the black pebble beach at Djúpalónssandur, marked by historic shipwreck remains, and the orange Svörtuloft lighthouse overlooking dramatic bird cliffs. Visitors can ascend the Saxhóll crater for views over the surrounding lava fields or explore the historic fishing ruins at Dritvík.





A Snæfellsjökull National Park

The highlight of this park is the volcano of the same name, covered with snow. Makes for a wonderful day out.

Iceland (64.80837, -23.77670)

snaefellsjokull.com/snaefellsjokull-national-park/



B Djúpalónssandur

Djúpalónssandur is a sandy beach and bay on foot of Snæfellsjökull in Iceland.

Iceland (64.75258, -23.90126)



C Lóndrangar Cliffs

The Lóndrangar are a pair of rock pinnacles in Iceland. They are volcanic plugs of basalt, that have been hewn out from softer surrounding...

Iceland (64.73241, -23.78390)



D Saxhóll

A volcanic crater featuring a metal staircase that leads to the summit, providing views over the Neshraun lava fields and the Snæfellsjökull glacier.

Iceland (64.85173, -23.92653)



E Svörtuloft

A distinctive orange lighthouse located on the Skarðsvík cliffs. The site offers views of the rugged coastline and is a prime spot for birdwatching.

Svörtuloftaviti, 356 (64.86371, -24.03904)



F Vatnshellir Lava Cave

An 8,000-year-old lava tube that descends 35 meters underground. The cave features unique mineral formations and is accessible only through guided tours.

Útnesvegur, 356, Iceland (64.74777, -23.81799)

Mo–Su 11:00–15:00

snaefellsjokull.com/attractions/lava-cave



G bird clifs

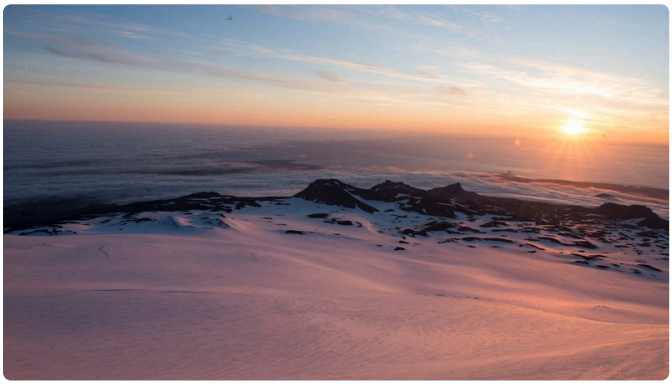
Sheer basalt cliffs located near Malarrif that serve as a significant nesting ground for seabirds like kittiwakes and fulmars.

Iceland (64.73525, -23.77423)

H Dritvík

A secluded cove and pebble beach that once housed a major seasonal fishing station between the 16th and 19th centuries, with ruins still visible today.

Iceland (64.75354, -23.91579)



I Snæfellsjökull

Snæfellsjökull is a 700,000-year-old glacier-capped stratovolcano in western Iceland.

Iceland (64.80699, -23.79190)

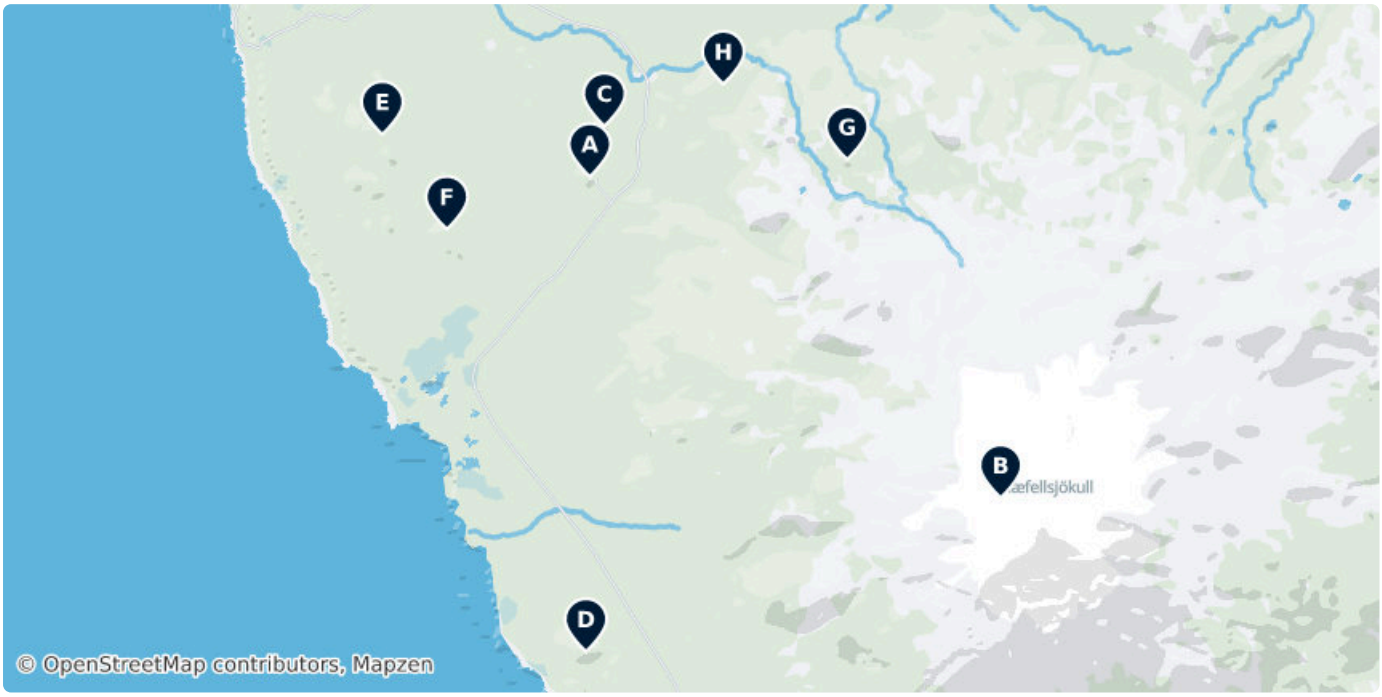
J Írskrabrunnur

An ancient stone-lined well, historically used by local fishermen. The site is associated with early Irish settlers and features a protective whale bone.

360 Gufuskálar, Iceland (64.90049, -23.94763)

Icelandic Volcanic Wonders

This collection highlights the diverse volcanic formations within Snæfellsjökull National Park on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula. The list features the 700,000-year-old glacier-capped stratovolcano Snæfellsjökull alongside various scoria cones and craters. Notable sites include Saxhóll, which features a metal staircase for rim access, and the Hólahólar crater cluster, which forms a natural amphitheater. These landmarks demonstrate the region's geological history through red scoria formations, ancient lava fields, and dramatic peaks shaped by millennia of activity.

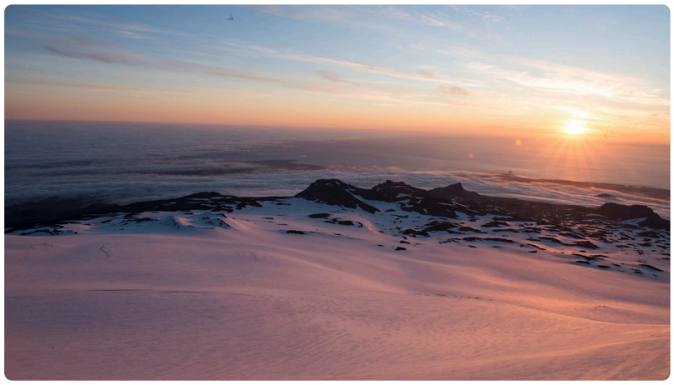




A Saxhóll

A scoria crater formed approximately 3,000 years ago. A metal staircase leads to the rim, offering views of the surrounding Neshraun lava field and the Atlantic Ocean.

Iceland (64.85173, -23.92653)



B Snæfellsjökull

Snæfellsjökull is a 700,000-year-old glacier-capped stratovolcano in western Iceland.

Iceland (64.80699, -23.79190)

C Saxhólar

A series of volcanic craters located on the western tip of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula, part of the Neshraun lava field system.

Iceland (64.85874, -23.92177)

D Hólahólar

A group of craters that form a natural amphitheater. A track allows vehicles to drive directly into the center of the largest crater formation.

Iceland (64.78553, -23.92778)

E Vatnsborg

Volcanic crater and lava formation situated within the Purkhólahraun lava field.

(64.85760, -23.99451)

F Sauðhóll

Small volcanic hill and crater located in the western section of Snæfellsjökull National Park.

Iceland (64.84440, -23.97340)

G Sjónarhóll

Volcanic elevation providing a vantage point over the surrounding lava fields and coastal features of the peninsula.

(64.85411, -23.84221)

H Rauðhóll

Volcanic crater notable for its distinct reddish iron-oxide-rich scoria, located near the base of the Snæfellsjökull glacier.

(64.86459, -23.88277)

Icelandic Coastal Wonders

The Snæfellsnes Peninsula's coastline features diverse geological formations, ranging from the black sands and iron shipwreck remains of Djúpalónssandur to the 75-meter-high basalt pinnacles of Lóndrangar. These volcanic plugs serve as nesting sites for various seabirds. The area's maritime history is marked by the remains of seasonal fishing stations at Dritvík and distinctive navigational aids like the bright orange Svörtuloft lighthouse, perched atop steep lava cliffs, and the white Malarrífsviti lighthouse.





A Djúpalónssandur

Djúpalónssandur is a sandy beach and bay on foot of Snæfellsjökull in Iceland.

Iceland (64.75258, -23.90126)



B Lóndrangar Cliffs

The Lóndrangar are a pair of rock pinnacles in Iceland. They are volcanic plugs of basalt, that have been hewn out from softer surrounding...

Iceland (64.73241, -23.78390)



C Svörtuloft

A bright orange lighthouse situated atop steep black lava cliffs on the westernmost tip of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula.

Svörtuloftaviti, 356 (64.86371, -24.03904)

E Dritvík

A crescent-shaped pebble beach that served as a major seasonal fishing station from the 16th to the 19th century, once hosting up to 60 boats.

Iceland (64.75354, -23.91579)

D Malarrífsviti

A 20-meter-high white concrete lighthouse built in 1946, serving as a navigational aid near the Lóndrangar basalt pinnacles.

Malarrifsviti, 356 (64.72819, -23.80283)

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