

Snaefellsnes Peninsula

Iceland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover

Overview

Snæfellsnes is a peninsula in west Iceland, about two hours by car from Reykjavík. It is often called Iceland in miniature. Within a short distance you find a glacier-topped volcano, lava fields, black beaches, sea cliffs, fishing villages and one of the most photographed mountains in the country.

It suits a long day trip or an overnight stay. The road around the peninsula is easy to follow, and most sights need only a short walk from the car.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is best for long days and open roads. Birds nest on the sea cliffs in early summer. In winter, snow and wind can close roads at short notice, but dark skies give a chance to see the northern lights.

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

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

Top sights



- A Kirkjufell is a steep, cone-shaped mountain beside the village of Grundarfjörður. The view of the mountain with B Kirkjufellsfoss in front is the classic photo of the peninsula.
- C Snæfellsjökull is a glacier-covered volcano at the western tip. Jules Verne used it as the entrance to his novel *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*.
- D Djúpalónssandur is a black pebble beach with old shipwreck remains and heavy lifting stones that fishermen once used to test their strength.
- E Lóndrangar are two tall volcanic rock pillars rising from the coast, seen from a short path.
- F Gatklettur is a natural stone arch on the cliffs at Arnarstapi, where a coastal path leads to G Rauðfeldsgjá, a narrow gorge.
- H Búðir is a lonely black wooden church on the lava coast.
- I Ytri Tunga is a golden shell beach where seals often rest on the rocks.
- J Basalt Cliffs Gerðuberg is a long wall of regular basalt columns near the road.

Snaefellsnes Peninsula – 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

- Stykkishólmur is a small harbour town on the north coast of the peninsula. It has colourful old houses and a car ferry across Breiðafjörður to the Westfjords. Stykkishólmskirkja stands on the hill above town.
- Borgarfjörður, with its lava caves and hot springs, is about 1 hour from Reykjavík on the way to the peninsula.

Where to explore

- Return to Reykjavík for city stays and tours.
- Continue east to Vatnajökull National Park for glaciers and waterfalls.

Getting there

- **By air**: International flights land at Keflavík (KEF). Reykjavík is about 50 minutes from the airport by car.
- **By car**: From Reykjavík drive north on Route 1 through the Hvalfjörður tunnel, then take Route 54 onto the peninsula. The trip to Stykkishólmur or Grundarfjörður takes about 2 to 2.5 hours.
- **By bus**: Regional buses from Reykjavík serve the main villages, but service is limited and many sights are off the route. Tours are common.
- **By ferry**: A car ferry crosses Breiðafjörður between Stykkishólmur and the Westfjords. Check timetables in advance.

Getting around

- A car is the best way to reach the sights. The main road loops around the peninsula.
- Fuel stops and shops are in the villages of Grundarfjörður, Ólafsvík and Stykkishólmur. Fill up before you set off to the western tip.
- Many stops have short paths of 5 to 20 minutes.

Driving

- The loop road is paved. Some side roads to beaches and sights are gravel.
- Fuel and shops are limited at the western tip. Fill your tank in a main village.
- Winter driving needs care. Check road conditions before you leave.

Food & drink

Seafood is the local speciality. Fish soup, fresh catch of the day and langoustine appear on many menus in the fishing villages. Look for small harbour cafés in Stykkishólmur, Grundarfjörður and Ólafsvík.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Skyr
A thick, protein-rich cultured dairy product, technically a soft cheese, eaten plain or with fruit at any meal.

LUNCH

Lamb Soup · Kjötsúpa
A hearty lamb and root vegetable soup, a common home-cooked and café menu staple.

DINNER

Smoked Lamb · Hangikjöt
Lamb smoked over birch or dung, traditionally served at Christmas and often cold in sandwiches.

Fish Stew · Plokkfiskur
A creamy mashed mix of fish, potato, onion, and béchamel, classic Icelandic home cooking.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Rye Bread · Rúgbrauð
Dark, dense, slightly sweet rye bread traditionally baked slowly using geothermal heat.

Dried Fish · Harðfiskur
Wind-dried fish, usually haddock or cod, eaten as a chewy snack often with butter.

Icelandic Hot Dog · Pylsur
A lamb-and-pork hot dog served with raw and fried onion, ketchup, sweet mustard, and remoulade.

DRINKS

Brennivín
An unsweetened caraway-flavored schnapps, nicknamed 'Black Death,' traditionally drunk with fermented shark.

Snaefellsnes Peninsula – 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

Safety & health

- Stay well back from cliff edges at Arnarstapi and Lóndrangar. Waves and wind are strong.
- Do not climb onto Snæfellsjökull without a guide. Crevasses are hidden under the snow.
- Leave nesting birds undisturbed.

Country facts

CURRENCY
ISK kr

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

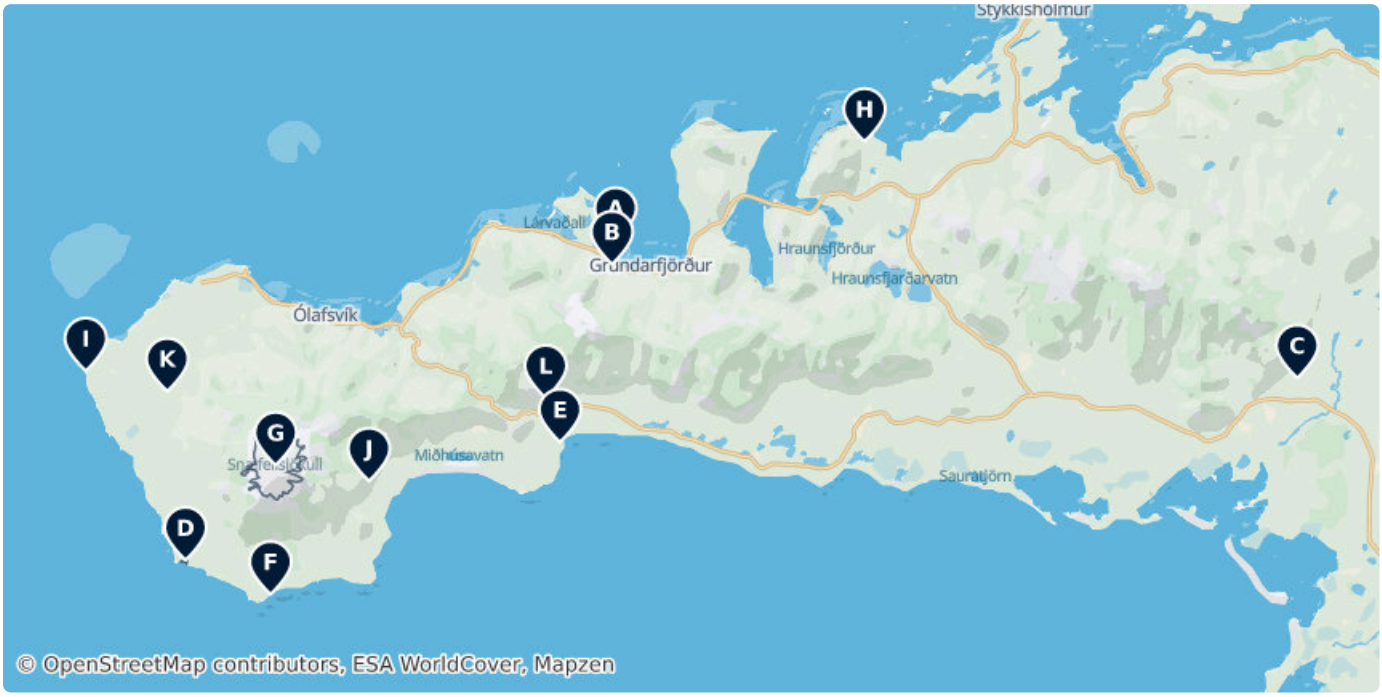
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Icelandic

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Snæfellsnes Unmissables

Snæfellsnes features the 700,000-year-old Snæfellsjökull glacier-capped volcano, famously cited in Jules Verne's 'Journey to the Center of the Earth'. The peninsula contains a high concentration of Iceland's geological hallmarks, including the hexagonal basalt columns of Gerðuberg, the twin volcanic plugs of Lóndrangar, and the symmetrical Kirkjufell mountain. Cultural sites include the 19th-century black wooden church at Búðir and the Bjarnarhöfn farm, which remains a primary producer of traditional fermented shark meat using centuries-old drying methods.





Ⓐ Kirkjufell Mountain

Kirkjufell is a 463 m high hill on the north coast of Iceland's Snæfellsnes peninsula, near the town of Grundarfjörður.

Iceland (64.93995, -23.30748)



Ⓑ Kirkjufellsfoss

Waterfall.

(Unnamed Road), 350, Iceland
(64.92616, -23.31236)



C Basalt Cliffs Gerðuberg

Come and admire the majestic basalt columns that resemble the wall of a rock castle.

Iceland (64.85951, -22.36624)



D Djúpalónssandur

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

Iceland (64.75258, -23.90126)



E Búðir

A 19th-century black wooden church rebuilt in 1848. It stands isolated within the Búðahraun lava field on the site of a former 1703 structure.

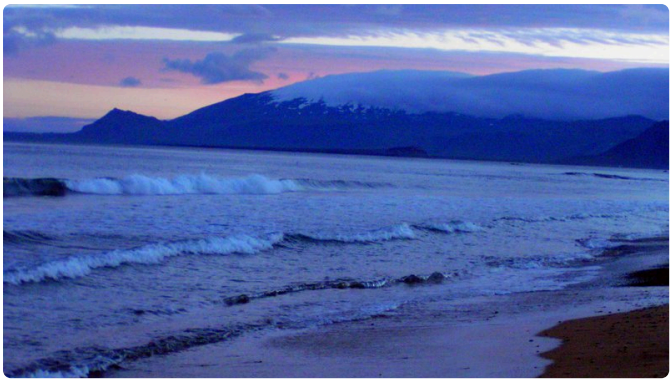
Búðavegur, 356, Iceland (64.82191, -23.38416)



F 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)



G 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/



H Bjarnarhöfn Shark Museum

This farm produces hákarl, which is fermented shark meat, a traditional local dish.

Bjarnarhöfn, 340 IS Stykkishólmur, Iceland (64.99785, -22.96354)

Mo–Su 09:00–18:00

bjarnarhofn.is, +354 438 1581



I Svörtuloft

A bright orange lighthouse situated atop 4-kilometer-long black lava cliffs on the westernmost tip of the Snæfellsnes peninsula.

Svörtuloftaviti, 356 (64.86371, -24.03904)



J Rauðfeldsgjá

A deep, narrow mountain cleft in the Botnsfjall cliffside. A small stream runs through the gorge, which is accessible via a short hike and features in the Icelandic Bárðar saga.

Iceland (64.79912, -23.64785)



K Saxhóll

A 100-meter-high volcanic crater featuring a metal staircase that leads to the rim. It offers views of the surrounding Neshraun lava field and Snæfellsjökull glacier.

Iceland (64.85173, -23.92653)



L Bjarnarfoss

A tall waterfall dropping 80 meters over basalt cliffs. It is visible from Highway 54 and features a path leading to the base of the upper falls.

Iceland (64.84769, -23.40379)

Icelandic Peaks and Calderas

The Snæfellsnes Peninsula contains a diverse collection of geological formations, ranging from the iconic basalt layers of Kirkjufell to the rhyolite slopes of Drápuhlíðarfjall. This selection includes the historic Helgafell, ancient volcanic craters like Syðri-Rauðamelskúlur, and the pyramidal Stapafell near the Snæfellsjökull glacier. These sites showcase Iceland's volcanic history through distinct caldera rims, scoria cones, and erosion-carved ridges that define the region's rugged skyline.





A Kirkjufell Mountain

Kirkjufell is a 463 m high hill on the north coast of Iceland's Snæfellsnes peninsula, near the town of Grundarfjörður.

Iceland (64.93995, -23.30748)

B Drápuhlíðarfjall

A 527-meter mountain known for its colorful rhyolite and diverse mineral deposits, including jasper and lignite.

Iceland (64.97430, -22.72170)



C Helgafell

Helgafell may refer to:

Iceland (65.04262, -22.72804)



D Helgafell

Helgafell is a small mountain on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula of Iceland. The mountain is 73 metres high.

Iceland (65.04239, -22.72895)

E Hólahólar

A cluster of ancient volcanic craters arranged in a natural amphitheater within the Snæfellsjökull National Park.

Iceland (64.78553, -23.92778)



F Búðaklettur

A volcanic plug rising 88 meters from the Búðahraun lava field, surrounded by diverse vegetation.

Iceland (64.81118, -23.42395)

G Syðri-Rauðamelskúlur

A group of red scoria cones forming part of a volcanic fissure system on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula.

1 Syðri-Rauðimelur, 311, Iceland (64.87159, -22.29386)

H Gráakúla

A volcanic crater located within the Berserkjahraun lava field.

Iceland (64.95742, -22.90047)

I Rauðháls

A volcanic ridge and crater characterized by red scoria, part of the Rauðamelsmúlar volcanic area.

Iceland (64.85025, -22.22852)

J Ytri-Rauðamelskúlur

The northernmost scoria cones in the Rauðamelsmúlar volcanic chain.

Iceland (64.87612, -22.34366)

K Stapafell

A distinctive pyramidal palagonite mountain located at the southern foot of the Snæfellsjökull glacier.

(64.77460, -23.65585)

L Stapafell

A prominent palagonite peak situated adjacent to the Snæfellsjökull glacier.

Iceland (64.77325, -23.65783)

M Eyrarfjall

A mountain ridge overlooking the fjord near the town of Grundarfjörður.

Iceland (64.99903, -23.17583)

N Úlfarsfell

A peak on the northern side of the peninsula offering views over the Breiðafjörður archipelago.

Iceland (64.97999, -22.61643)

O Eyrarfjall

A mountain ridge located in the eastern part of the Snæfellsnes mountain range.

Iceland (64.98385, -22.56785)

P Kerlingarfjall

A mountain peak situated in the central highlands of the peninsula.

Iceland (64.94756, -22.83558)

Q Hreggnasi

A 469-meter high peak located on the eastern flanks of the Snæfellsjökull glacier.

Iceland (64.86074, -23.86415)

R Einbúi

A solitary mountain peak whose name translates to 'The Hermit'.

(64.84091, -23.58331)

S Grafarhnúkur

A peak located in the mountainous interior above the Búðir area.

Iceland (64.82708, -23.59393)

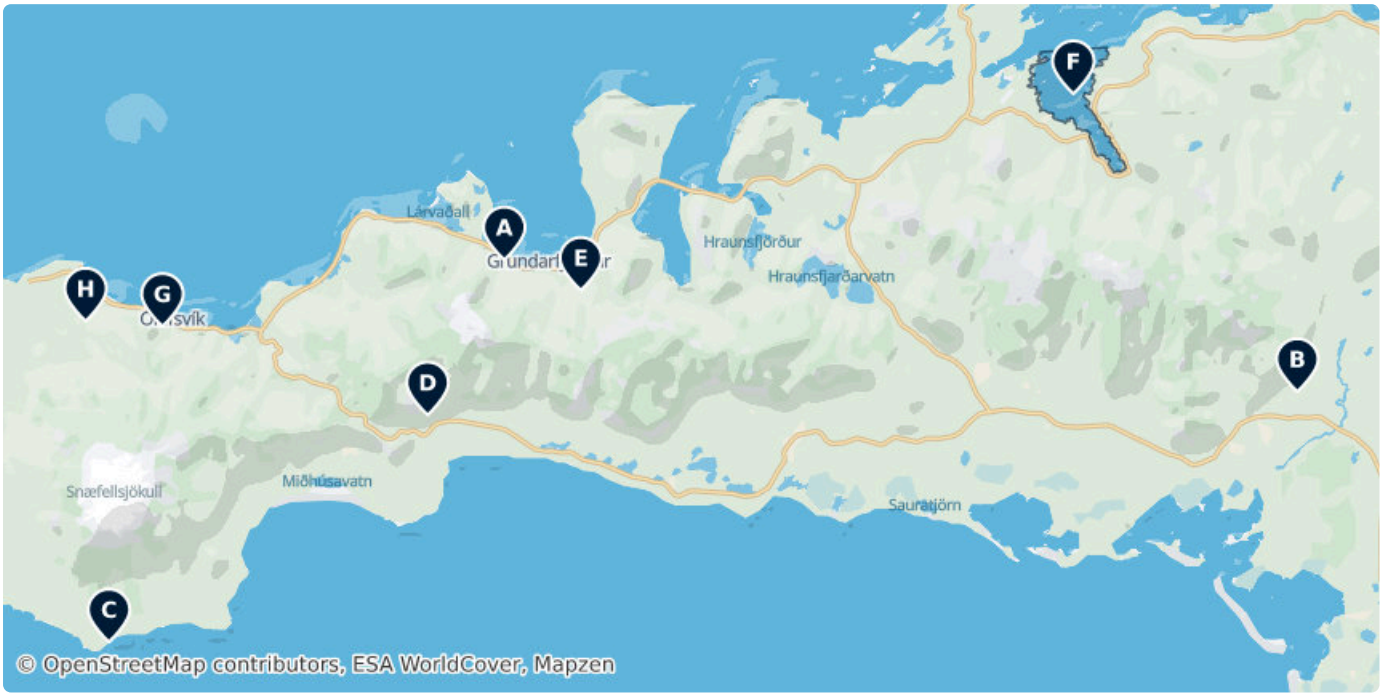
T Hestur

A mountain peak located in the central highlands near the Einbúi formation.

Iceland (64.84043, -23.55591)

Waterfalls and Coastal Gems

This selection highlights the geological diversity of Iceland's Snæfellsnes Peninsula, focusing on volcanic basalt formations and coastal features. It includes the Gerðuberg basalt columns and the Lóndrangar pinnacles, which are remnants of ancient volcanic plugs hewn by the sea. The list features several waterfalls, such as Bjarnarfoss and Svöðufoss, which drop from high basalt cliffs, and the northern Álftafjörður, a fjord defined by its narrow waters and surrounding mountain ranges.





A Kirkjufellsfoss

Waterfall.

(Unnamed Road), 350, Iceland
(64.92616, -23.31236)



B Basalt Cliffs Gerðuberg

Come and admire the majestic basalt columns that resemble the wall of a rock castle.

Iceland (64.85951, -22.36624)



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 Bjarnarfoss

An 80-meter waterfall dropping from basalt cliffs on the southern side of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula.

Iceland (64.84769, -23.40379)



E Grundarfoss

One of the highest waterfalls in the region, falling from a dramatic rock amphitheater near Grundarfjörður.

Iceland (64.91079, -23.22109)



F Álftafjörður

A narrow fjord on the northern coast of Snæfellsnes, framed by steep mountains and known for its diverse bird populations.

Iceland (65.00993, -22.63344)



G Bæjarfoss

A prominent waterfall located on the slopes directly above the fishing village of Ólafsvík.

Iceland (64.89252, -23.72014)



H Svöðufoss

A waterfall framed by symmetrical basalt columns, offering views toward the Snæfellsjökull glacier.

Iceland (64.89523, -23.81186)

DATA SOURCES

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

IMAGE CREDITS

- Kirkjufell Mountain — "Kirkjufell Mountain in Grundarfjörður, Snaefellsness" by Anjali Kiggal, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Kirkjufellsfoss — "Kirkjufellsfoss, a waterfall near the town of Grundarfjordur, Iceland." by Bromr, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Basalt Cliffs Gerðuberg — "Gerðuberg á Snæfellsnesi, Iceland" by TommyBee, Public domain
- Djúpalónssandur — "Djúpalónssandur" by Raul Hernandez, CC-BY-SA
- Búðir — "Búðakirkja" by Jon Gretarsson, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Lóndrangar Cliffs — "Londrangar Cliffs in Snaefellsness" by Anjali Kiggal, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Snæfellsjökull National Park — "Snæfellsjökull National Park" by Martin Kucera, CC-BY-SA
- Bjarnarhöfn Shark Museum — "Bjarnarhöfn Shark Museum" by Michal Okresa, CC-BY-SA
- Svörtuloft — "Svörtuloft" by Raul Hernandez, CC-BY-SA
- Rauðfeldsgjá — "Rauðfeldsgjá by Jenny Brown" by Jenny Brown, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Saxhóll — "Saxhóll" by Hafsteinn Davíðsson, CC-BY-SA
- Bjarnarfoss — "Bjarnarfoss" by Davíð Hafsteinsson, CC-BY-SA
- Kirkjufell Mountain — "Kirkjufell Mountain in Grundarfjörður, Snaefellsness" by Anjali Kiggal, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Helgafell — "Helgafell, Heimaey, Westman Islands, Suðurland, Iceland" by Diego Delso, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Helgafell — "Helgafell bei Stykkishólmur. Hier lebte und starb Guðrún, eine der..." by fingalo, CC BY-SA 2.0 de
- Búðaklettur — "Búðaklettur" by Anselmo Marinho, CC-BY-SA
- Kirkjufellsfoss — "Kirkjufellsfoss, a waterfall near the town of Grundarfjordur, Iceland." by Bromr, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Basalt Cliffs Gerðuberg — "Gerðuberg á Snæfellsnesi, Iceland" by TommyBee, Public domain
- Lóndrangar Cliffs — "Londrangar Cliffs in Snaefellsness" by Anjali Kiggal, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Bjarnarfoss — "Bjarnarfoss" by Davíð Hafsteinsson, CC-BY-SA
- Grundarfoss — "Grundarfoss" by Sygic Travel User, CC-BY-SA
- Álftafjörður — "Iceland, impressions along road 54 on Snæfellsnes peninsula" by Hansueli Krapf, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Bæjarfoss — "Waterfall" by Zelmira Rodriguez, CC-BY-SA
- Svöðufoss — "Svöðufoss" by Tomáš Prokop, CC-BY-SA

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 23, 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.