

Thingvellir National Park

Southern Region · Iceland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Thingvellir National Park lies about 45 km east of Reykjavík. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the most important place in Icelandic history. Iceland's first parliament, the Althing, met here from the year 930.

The park also sits in a rift valley where the North American and Eurasian plates pull apart. You can walk between two walls of rock. Most visitors come on a half-day trip, often together with Gullfoss and the Geysir area on the Golden Circle.

When to visit

Summer has long days, open roads and the easiest walking. Spring and autumn are quieter, with changeable weather. In winter the paths can be icy and the days are short, but the landscape is very quiet and snow makes it striking.

Silfra, the water-filled fissure, is open for diving and snorkelling all year, because the water stays cold in every season.

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

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

Top sights

- A Þingvellir is the main historic area, in the valley floor near the visitor centre. This is where the Althing met in the open air.
- B Almannagjá is the long gorge on the western side of the rift. The main path runs down through it to the valley floor and is the best place to see the plate boundary.
- C Lögberg is the Law Rock, where laws were recited at the Althing. A flag marks the spot.
- D Öxarárfoss is a waterfall at the end of a short, flat walk from the main area.
- E Þingvallakirkja is a small church beside the old farm, and one of the oldest church sites in Iceland.
- F Silfra Diving is a rift filled with very clear glacial water. Dry-suit diving needs a certificate. Snorkelling trips need no experience, but you must book with a licensed operator.



Thingvellir National Park – 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
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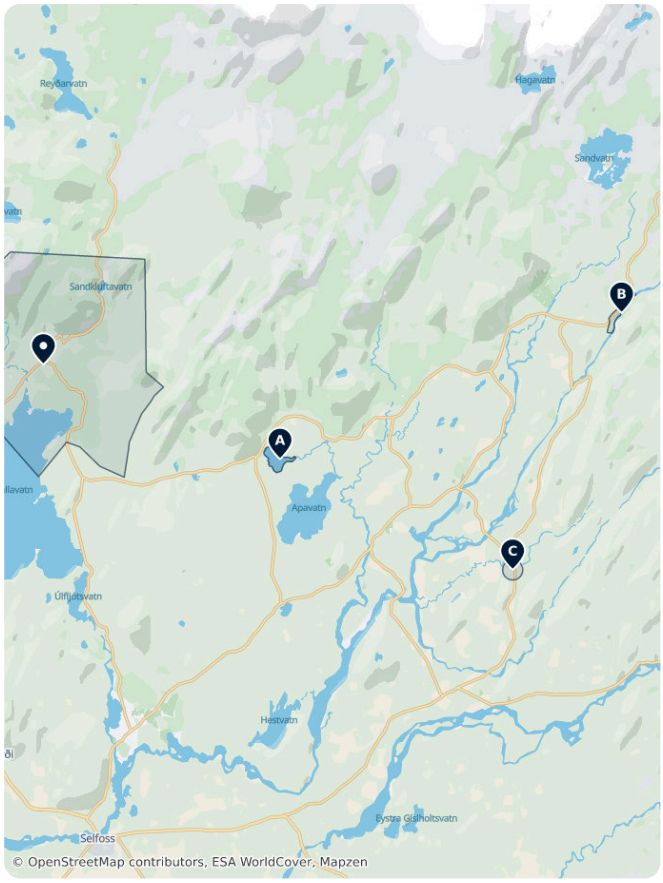
Day trips

- A Laugarvatn is about 25 minutes by car. It has a lake and a geothermal spa.
- B Gullfoss is about 45 minutes by car. It is one of the largest waterfalls in Iceland and the usual next stop on the Golden Circle.
- Geysir, with the Strokkur geyser, is about 50 minutes by car.
- C Flúðir is about 1 hour by car and is known for its greenhouse farms.



Where to explore

- For the Golden Circle, continue to Gullfoss or Laugarvatn.
- For more of the south, see Skógar and Hella.

Getting there

- **By air**: International flights land at Keflavík (KEF). The drive to the park takes about 1 hour 15 minutes.
- **From Reykjavík**: Drive about 45 km east in roughly 45 minutes. Reykjavík is the closest city with tours and car rental.
- **By bus**: Tour buses run daily from Reykjavík. There is no regular public bus into the park, so a car or a tour is the easiest way.

Getting around

- The park has several car parks. Pay for parking at the machines or by app.
- A footpath links the main sights, and the walk from the upper car park through the gorge down to the valley floor is easy.
- Visit the sights in the order that suits your parking. You do not need to drive between them.

Driving

- A car is the easiest way to visit, and you can combine the park with Gullfoss and Geysir in one day.
- Parking is paid at all main car parks.
- Winter roads can be icy. Check road conditions before you leave.

Safety & health

- The rift has steep edges. Stay on the paths and keep children close.
- Silfra water is very cold. Follow your guide's instructions.
- Wind can be strong on the open plain. Dress in layers and wear waterproof clothing.

History

The Althing met at Thingvellir from 930 until 1798. Chieftains from across Iceland came each summer to settle disputes and agree laws. Lögberg is the traditional place where the Law Speaker recited the law.

Iceland adopted Christianity at the Althing in the year 1000. In 1944 the republic was declared at Thingvellir.

Country facts

CURRENCY
ISK kr

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Icelandic

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Þingvellir National Park's Absolute Essentials

Explore the geological and historical core of Iceland at Þingvellir National Park. This selection features the Almannagjá rift, where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates diverge, and Lögberg, the site of the world's oldest surviving parliament. Highlights include the Öxarárfoss waterfall, the 11th-century Þingvallakirkja church, and the Silfra fissure, renowned for its crystal-clear glacial waters. The list also includes Þingvallabær, a historic farmhouse serving as an official state residence, representing the site's enduring cultural significance.





A Öxarárfoss

Öxarárfoss is a waterfall in Þingvellir National Park, Iceland. It flows from the river Öxará over the Almannagjá.

Öxarárfoss, Efrivallarvegur, Reykjavik, Iceland (64.26583, -21.11805)

thingvellir.is/english.aspx, +354 552 1730



B Almannagjá

This dramatic gorge marks the edge of the North American tectonic plate. It forms a natural corridor leading to the historic parliament site and showcases the visible rift of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

Iceland (64.25850, -21.12517)



C Silfra Diving

Silfra is a rift formed in the Mid-Atlantic Ridge – the divergent tectonic boundary between the North American and Eurasian plates – and is...

Iceland (64.25519, -21.11694)



D Thingvellir Church

This church dates back to the 11th century. See the collection of old bells here and the cemetery, where two poets are buried.

(64.25740, -21.12111)

kirkjan.is/thingvallakirkja/, +354 897 2221



E Lögberg

Known as the Law Rock, this site served as the focal point of the Alþingi parliament. From this outcrop, the Law Speaker recited the laws of the land to the gathered assembly.

Iceland (64.25954, -21.12254)

F Þingvallabær

A historic farmhouse built in 1930 to commemorate the millennium of the Alþingi. It serves as the official summer residence for the Prime Minister of Iceland and the park warden's office.

(Unnamed Road), Iceland (64.25731, -21.12116)

Iceland's Natural Wonders

Located within and around Þingvellir National Park, these sites showcase the geological meeting point of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. The collection includes the Almannagjá rift valley, the Öxarárfoss waterfall, and volcanic features such as the Gjábakkahellir lava cave and Tintron pseudocrater. Surrounding these landmarks are the prominent peaks of the Botnssúlur range and the subglacial volcano Ármannsfell, offering diverse examples of Iceland's rifting and volcanic activity.





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thingvellir.is/english.aspx, +354 552 1730



B Almannagjá

A massive tectonic rift marking the eastern boundary of the North American plate. It forms a deep gorge where the historic Alþingi assembly met.

Iceland (64.25850, -21.12517)

C Gjábakkahellir

A 364-meter-long lava tube cave formed during an eruption approximately 9,000 years ago, located in the Gjábakkahraun lava field.

Iceland (64.21966, -20.99169)



D Tintron

A rare lava chimney and pseudocrater located within the Gjábakkahraun lava field, formed by volcanic gases escaping through molten lava.

Iceland (64.22049, -20.95510)

E Myrkavatn

A small lake situated in the highlands west of the Þingvellir basin.

(64.32758, -21.24239)

F Selfjall

A mountain ridge located southwest of the main Þingvellir rift area.

Iceland (64.27318, -21.18777)

G Bæjarfell

A mountain peak situated north of the Þingvallavatn lake.

Iceland (64.30506, -21.09907)

H Búrfellsháls

A volcanic ridge located in the western portion of the Þingvellir region.

Iceland (64.29875, -21.25149)

I Orustuhóll

A hill located near the northern shores of the Þingvallavatn lake.

Iceland (64.30520, -21.13992)

J Helluhólar

A series of hills in the volcanic landscape west of Þingvellir.

Iceland (64.29025, -21.21775)

K Búrfell

A prominent mountain located west of the Þingvellir valley.

Iceland (64.30615, -21.21561)

L Stórhöði

A peak located near the southern end of the Almannagjá rift.

Iceland (64.25578, -21.15900)

M Búrfell

A peak within the volcanic system west of the national park.

(64.30771, -21.21560)

N Miðsúla

One of the central peaks of the Botnssúlur rhyolite mountain range.

Iceland (64.34505, -21.15000)

O Syðstasúla

The highest peak of the Botnssúlur mountain range, reaching an elevation of 1,093 meters.

Iceland (64.33667, -21.16083)

P Súlnaberg

A mountain peak forming part of the Botnssúlur range.

Iceland (64.34855, -21.12292)

Q Ármannsfell

A large tuya, or subglacial volcano, located north of Þingvellir, named after a legendary settler.

Iceland (64.32657, -21.03260)

R Ármannsfell

Part of the broad subglacial volcanic massif situated north of the national park.

(64.32161, -21.01787)

S Grasdalahnúkur

A peak located within the mountainous region north of Þingvellir.

Iceland (64.33983, -21.05573)

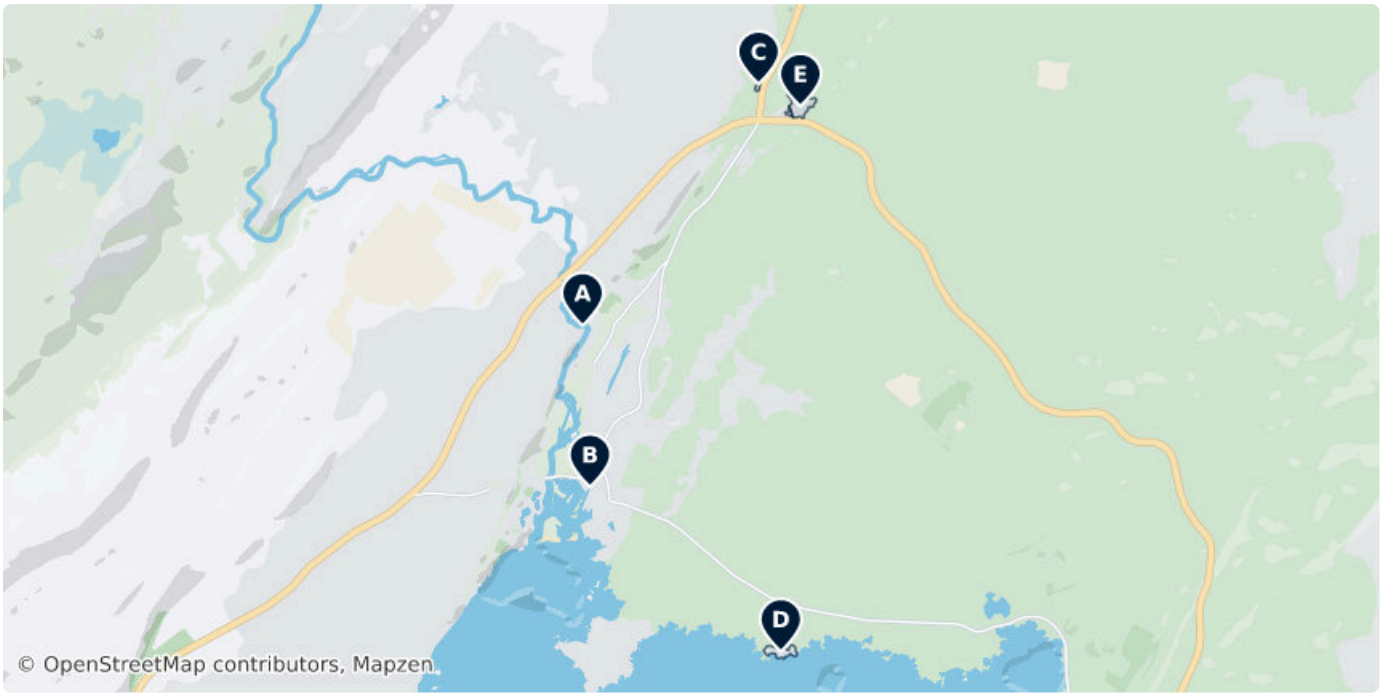
T Lágafell

A peak situated to the northeast of the Ármannsfell volcano.

Iceland (64.34904, -20.95111)

Iceland's Natural Wonders

Þingvellir National Park features a diverse range of outdoor sites centered around the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The Öxarárfoss waterfall cascades over the Almannagjá fault, while the Silfra fissure provides a rare opportunity to dive between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. For overnight stays, the park offers several distinct camping areas: the secluded Hvannabrekka, the lakeside Vatnskot situated at an abandoned farmstead, and the centrally located Þingvellir campsite at Leirar, which provides modern amenities like internet access.





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thingvellir.is/english.aspx, +354 552 1730



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Iceland (64.25519, -21.11694)

C Hvannabrekka

Campsite located within Þingvellir National Park.

Uxahryggjavegur, 801, Iceland (64.28172, -21.09135)

D Vatnskot

Lakeside campsite situated on the grounds of an abandoned farmstead by Lake Þingvallavatn.

(64.24435, -21.08797)

E Nyrðri-Leirar

Camping area located at Leirar, near the national park's information center, offering paid sites and wireless internet access.

(Unnamed Road), 801, Iceland (64.28025, -21.08501)

thingvellir.is/en/service/camping/, +354 482 2660

DATA SOURCES

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