

Þorlákshöfn

Southern Region · Iceland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Þorlákshöfn is a small harbour town on the south coast. It is the main port of the area. It is known for fishing and for cold-water surfing.

The town is quiet and practical. Few visitors stay long, but the coast nearby is open and wild.

When to visit

The town can be visited all year. Summer is mild and bright. Winter has strong wind and rough seas. Surfers go out in all seasons in thick wetsuits.

Road conditions (Vegagerðin)

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

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

Top sights

- The coast near the town has some of the best-known surf breaks in Iceland. Only experienced surfers should go in, and local advice is needed.
- Black sand beaches and low cliffs near the harbour are good for short walks.
- The town has a swimming pool with hot tubs.
- The harbour has the ferry quay for services to the Westman Islands.

Þorlákshöfn – Plan Your Trip

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Getting there

- **By car**: The town is about 40 minutes from Reykjavík by road 39 over the Þrengsli pass. The pass can close in winter.
- **By ferry**: A ferry to Vestmannaeyjabær sometimes sails from here when Landeyjahöfn is closed. Check the timetable.
- **Nearby**: Stokkseyri and Hella are along the south coast.

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

Þorlákshöfn Essentials

Þorlákshöfn serves as a vital maritime hub on Iceland's southern coast, most notably as the primary departure point for the Herjólfur ferry to the Westman Islands. The town features a unique links-style golf course set against the backdrop of Mount Hekla and the black sand shores of Thorli beach. Visitors can explore modern Icelandic architecture at the local church, relax in geothermal pools, or visit Hendur í höfn, a combined glass art studio and restaurant focused on regional cuisine.



A Þorlákshöfn

Located near the harbor, this lighthouse serves the town's active fishing fleet and marks the entrance to the south coast's only protected harbor.

Árgil, 815 Þorlákshöfn, Iceland (63.85117, -21.36083)

B Thorli beach

A vast expanse of black volcanic sand known for its powerful surf and views of the southern coastline.

(63.86737, -21.37552)

C Thorlakshöfn Golf Club

A wonderful links-style course with breath-taking scenery, dominated by Hekla. Very challenging and fun to play.

Hafnarsandi, 815 Thorlákshöfn, Iceland
(63.87547, -21.37478)

golfthor.is, +354 483 3009



D Þorlákskirkja

A modern church featuring distinctive contemporary architecture, completed in 1979 to serve the local fishing community.

(63.85234, -21.37715)

E Þorlákshöfn

The main terminal for the Herjólfur ferry, providing the primary sea link between mainland Iceland and the Westman Islands.

(63.86111, -21.37450)

F Sundlaug Þorlákshafnar

Geothermal sports center featuring an indoor pool, outdoor hot tubs, a sauna, and water slides.

(63.85240, -21.38191)

G Hendur i höfn

A local restaurant and glass art gallery offering homemade meals, specialty desserts, and handcrafted glass souvenirs.

(63.85786, -21.37947)

DATA SOURCES

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