

Westfjords

Iceland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

The Westfjords are a remote peninsula in northwest Iceland, with steep fjords, high cliffs and very few people. The area has some of the quietest roads and the most dramatic coastline in the country.

It suits travellers who want empty landscapes, birdlife and long drives. Allow at least three days. Many roads are slow, and the weather can change quickly.

When to visit

Summer is the main season. Roads and ferries run fully, days are long, and seabirds nest on the cliffs. Many guesthouses and cafés close in winter, and mountain roads can be blocked by snow.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for hiking	0° / 4° Feels like -8°	-3° / -9°	21 rainy days · Dry air · Windy
February	Poor Poor for hiking	-1° / 4° Feels like -9°	-4° / -10°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Windy
March	Poor Poor for hiking	-1° / 4° Feels like -8°	-4° / -9°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Windy
April	Poor Poor for hiking	2° / 6° Feels like -5°	-2° / -7°	15 rainy days · Dry air
May	Poor Poor for hiking	4° / 9° Feels like -1°	1° / -3°	14 rainy days · Dry air
June	Fair Fair for hiking	8° / 12° Feels like 3°	5° / 1°	12 rainy days · Dry air
July	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 14° Feels like 6°	7° / 4°	14 rainy days · Dry air
August	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 13° Feels like 6°	7° / 4°	15 rainy days · Dry air
September	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	7° / 11° Feels like 2°	5° / 0°	19 rainy days · Dry air
October	Poor Poor for hiking	4° / 8° Feels like -3°	1° / -4°	20 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for hiking	1° / 6° Feels like -6°	-2° / -8°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Windy
December	Poor Poor for hiking	0° / 5° Feels like -8°	-3° / -9°	21 rainy days · Dry air · Windy

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

Top sights

- A Látrabjarg is a huge sea cliff and one of the best places in Europe to see puffins, razorbills and other seabirds in summer. It is the westernmost point of Iceland.
- B Dynjandi is a wide waterfall that falls in steps down a mountain slope. A short path leads up past smaller falls.
- Ísafjörður is the main town, in a fjord surrounded by steep mountains. Boats leave from here for the Hornstrandir nature reserve and the island of Vigur.
- Hornstrandir is a protected wilderness with no roads, reached only by boat in summer, for hiking and arctic foxes.



Westfjords – Plan Your Trip
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Where to explore

- Along the south coast of Breiðafjörður, see Snaefellsnes.
- On the fjords: Bolungarvík and Bíldudalur.

Getting there

- **By air**: Domestic flights from Reykjavík land at Ísafjörður Airport. The flight takes about 40 minutes.
- **By car**: The drive from Reykjavík to Ísafjörður is about 450 km and takes 5.5 to 6 hours.
- **By ferry**: A car ferry crosses Breiðafjörður from Stykkishólmur on the Snæfellsnes peninsula to the south coast of the Westfjords. Check the timetable and book in advance in summer.

Westfjords Must-Sees

The Westfjords are defined by the massive Látrabjarg bird cliffs, the westernmost point of Iceland, and the 100-meter-tall tiered Dynjandi waterfall. Visitors can explore the 1912 Garðar BA 64 shipwreck and the unique golden-red sands of Rauðasandur beach. Cultural landmarks include the Museum of Icelandic Sorcery and Witchcraft in Hólmavík and the 1930s Djúpavík herring factory ruins. This remote region features deep glacial fjords like Skutulsfjörður and Álftafjörður, shaped by ancient volcanic activity and maritime history.

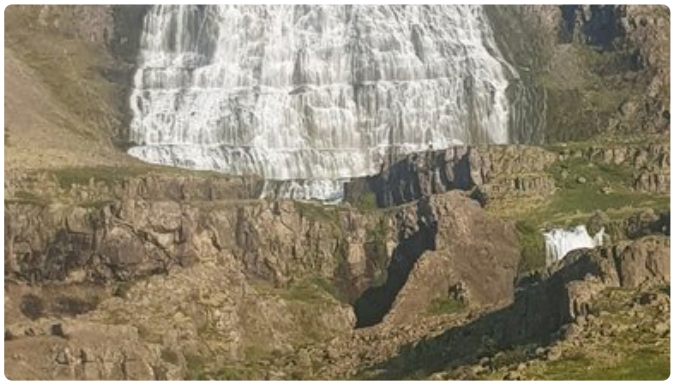




A Látrabjarg Cliffs

Látrabjarg is a promontory in the Westfjords of Iceland, and the westernmost point in Iceland.

Örlygshafnarvegur, 451, Iceland (65.50233, -24.52980)



B Dynjandi

The primary landmark of the Westfjords, this protected area features a series of seven waterfalls cascading 100 meters down a mountain face.

(Unnamed Road), 465, Iceland (65.73642, -23.20861)

C Dynjandi

A massive tiered waterfall measuring 30 meters wide at the top and 60 meters wide at its base, resembling a bridal veil.

Iceland (65.73252, -23.19859)



D Museum of Sorcery and Witchcraft

Located in Hólmavík, this museum exhibits 17th-century Icelandic folklore, occult practices, and the infamous 'necropants' (nábrók).

Höfðagata 10, 510 Hólmavík, IS (65.70654, -21.66539)

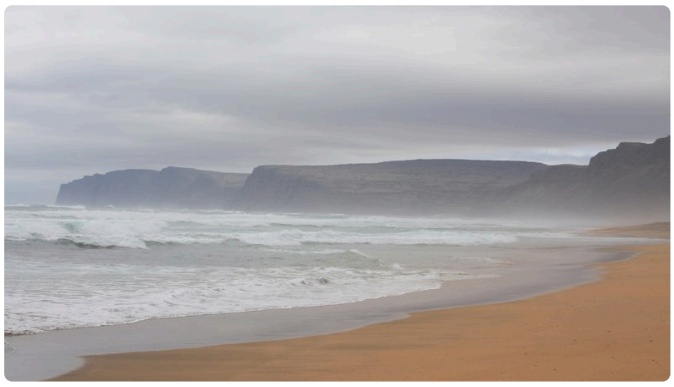
galdrasyning.is, +354 897 6525



E Djúpavík Herring Factory

Once the largest concrete building in Iceland, this 1930s industrial ruin now serves as an exhibition space and historical site in the remote Strandir region.

Strandavegur, 524, Iceland (65.94422, -21.55622)



F Rauðasandur

A 10-kilometer stretch of coastline known for its unique red, orange, and golden sand, contrasting with Iceland's typical black volcanic beaches.

Iceland (65.46684, -24.03695)



G Garðar BA 64

Iceland's oldest steel ship, built in Norway in 1912 as a whaling vessel, now rests as a rusted landmark on the shores of Skápadalur.

(Unnamed Road), 451, Iceland (65.51677, -23.83685)



H Vatnsfjörður

Vatnsfjörður is a nature reserve located north-west of Breiðafjörður on the Hjarðarnes coast of northwestern Iceland.

Iceland (65.54312, -23.14196)



I Gilsfjörður

A southern fjord separating the Westfjords from the rest of Iceland, crossed by a causeway completed in 1997.

(65.43535, -21.81240)



J Álftafjörður

The name Álftafjörður is Icelandic for "swan fjord", and there are some fjords by this name in Iceland. The best known of these are:

Iceland (66.01111, -23.00280)



K Þorskafjörður

A shallow fjord in the southern Westfjords known for its high tidal range and mentions in the Icelandic Sagas.

Iceland (65.54605, -22.20561)



L Skutulsfjörður

The deep fjord housing the regional capital of Ísafjörður, surrounded by steep mountains including the prominent Eyrarfjall.

Iceland (66.08067, -23.10818)



M Fossfjörður

A small fjord featuring an abandoned farm and several seasonal waterfalls cascading down the steep mountain walls.

Iceland (65.62537, -23.53724)

N Heyárfoss

A waterfall located near the village of Reykhólar that flows into the Breiðafjörður bay.

(65.46114, -22.24567)

O Göngumannafoss

One of the smaller cascades located within the Dynjandi waterfall series, situated below the main falls.

(65.73524, -23.20393)

P Strompgljúfrafoss

A waterfall forming part of the tiered Dynjandi sequence in the Dynjandisá river.

(65.73424, -23.20353)

Q Hrísvaðsfoss

A tiered cascade located along the hiking trail leading up to the massive Dynjandi waterfall.

Dynjandavegur, Ísafjarðarbær, Iceland
(65.73566, -23.20581)

R Hæstahjallafoss

One of the intermediate waterfalls in the Dynjandi system, located just below the primary tier.

(65.73348, -23.20072)

S Bæjarfoss

A lower-tier waterfall within the Dynjandi protected area, visible from the primary hiking path.

(65.73660, -23.20790)

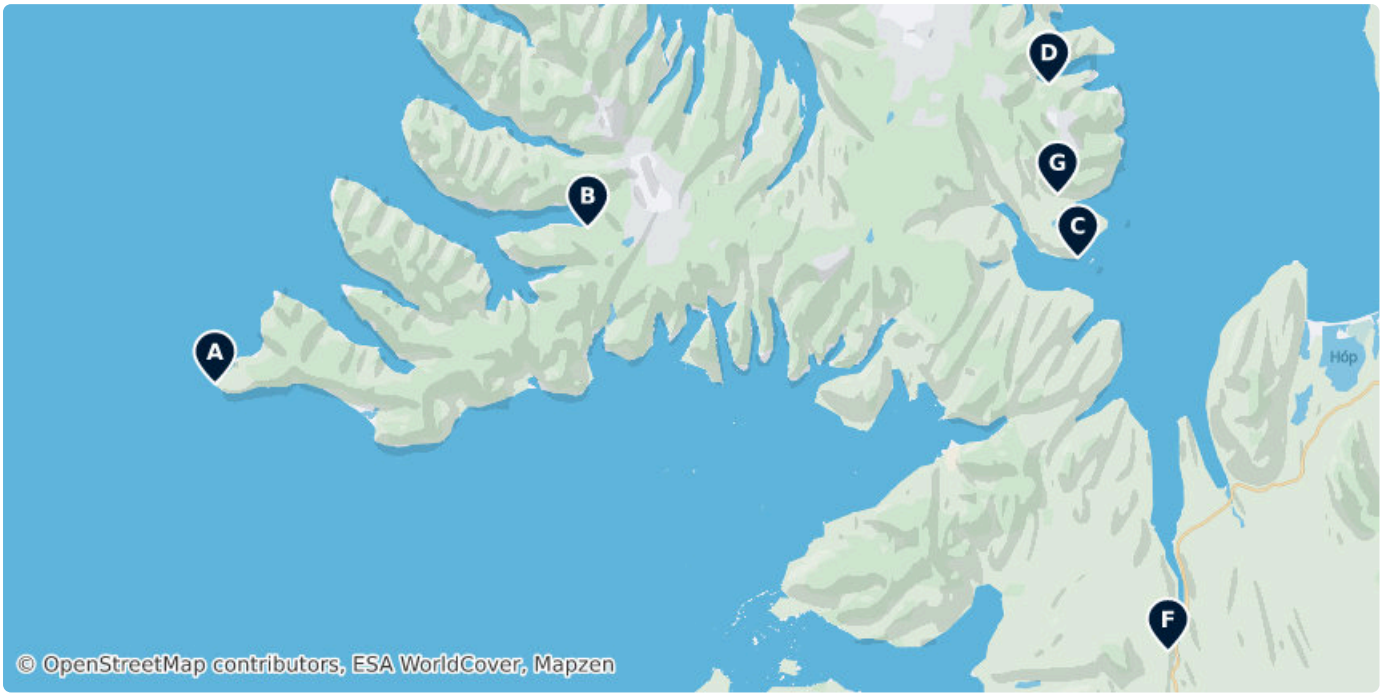
T Hundafoss

A waterfall in the Dynjandi series, named 'Dog's Fall,' located near the base of the mountain.

(65.73613, -23.20734)

Iceland's Natural Wonders

Iceland's Westfjords region contains some of the island's most remote geological features. This selection includes Látrabjarg, Europe's largest bird cliff and Iceland's westernmost point, and Dynjandi, a massive tiered waterfall. Geothermal activity is represented by the coastal hot tubs at Drangsnes and the historic Gvendarlaug pool. These sites showcase the rugged coastline, dramatic fjords, and volcanic heat that define the oldest part of Iceland's landscape.





A Látrabjarg Cliffs

Látrabjarg is a promontory in the Westfjords of Iceland, and the westernmost point in Iceland.

Örlygshafnarvegur, 451, Iceland (65.50233, -24.52980)

B Dynjandi

A series of seven waterfalls with a total height of 100 meters, widening at the base to 60 meters in a distinctive trapezoidal shape.

Iceland (65.73252, -23.19859)



C Drangsnes Hot Pots

Three geothermal tubs situated on the rocky shoreline of the village, offering views of Grímsey Island and the Steingrímsfjörður fjord.

IS (65.68819, -21.44819)

Mo–Su

Open 24/7

D Djúpavíkurfoss

A narrow waterfall cascading over the cliffs overlooking the abandoned herring factory and the remote village of Djúpavík.

Iceland (65.94163, -21.55141)

E Djúpavíkurfoss

A narrow waterfall cascading over the cliffs overlooking the abandoned herring factory and the remote village of Djúpavík.

(65.94235, -21.55099)



F Norðlingafoss

Waterfall located in the remote landscape of the Westfjords region.

Haukadalsskarðsvegur, 500, Iceland (65.10345, -21.12580)

G Gvendarlaug hins góða

A medieval stone pool and adjacent modern swimming pool, named after a 13th-century bishop who blessed the geothermal waters for their healing properties.

Kotbýlið, 510, Iceland (65.78105, -21.52049)

laugarholl.is/heitar_laugar/

Icelandic Christian Heritage

The Westfjords of Iceland host a collection of remote churches that reflect the region's spiritual history and architectural evolution. From the sturdy stone walls of Þingeyrarkirkja, hand-built in the 1860s, to the traditional wooden structures of the late 19th century, these sites served as vital community hubs in isolated fjords. This list spans historic parishes like Vatnsfjörður, modern landmarks in Hólmavík, and tiny rural chapels that have withstood the harsh North Atlantic climate for generations.



A Óspakseyrarkirkja

Traditional wooden church built in 1939, located in Bitrufjörður.

Óspakseyrarvegur, Strandabyggð, Iceland (65.45964, -21.43740)

B Breiðavíkurkirkja

Concrete church completed in 1960, situated near the golden sands of Breiðavík.

Breiðavík, Vesturbyggð, Iceland (65.54869, -24.35055)



C Suðureyrarkirkja

Built in 1937, this church serves the fishing village of Suðureyri.

(66.12860, -23.52235)

D Staðarkirkja

Wooden church built in 1884, located at the historic Staður farm in Hrútafjörður.

(65.14690, -21.05429)

E Hólmavíkurkirkja

Modern concrete church consecrated in 1968, featuring a distinctive angular design overlooking the harbor.

(65.70641, -21.66991)

F Þingeyrarkirkja

Remarkable stone church built between 1864 and 1869 by local farmer Ásgeir Einarsson.

Kirkjugata, Þingeyri 470, Iceland (65.87945, -23.49312)

G Vatnsfjarðarkirkja

Consecrated in 1912, this church stands on a historic site known for its medieval heritage.

(65.93950, -22.49742)

H Sæbólskirkja

Small wooden church in Ingjaldssandur, originally built in 1923.

(66.05736, -23.70363)

I Staðarkirkja

Wooden church built in 1864, located on the Reykjanes peninsula.

(65.48394, -22.35400)

J Stóralaugardalskirkja

Concrete church built in 1957, serving the Tálknafjörður area.

(65.65967, -23.91438)

K Súðavíkurkirkja

Originally built in Hesteyri, this church was moved and rebuilt in Súðavík in 1963.

(66.02519, -22.99074)

L Múlakirkja

Traditional wooden church built in 1889 in the Skálmarfjörður fjord.

(65.51358, -22.74788)

M Brjánslækjarkirkja

Small wooden church built in 1908 near the Brjánslækur ferry terminal.

(65.52462, -23.20086)

N Patreksfjarðarkirkja

Consecrated in 1907, featuring a classic Icelandic design with a prominent steeple.

(65.59644, -23.98861)

O Staðarkirkja

Wooden church built in 1886, located in Súgandafjörður.

(66.11539, -23.56213)

P Drangsneskapella

Small modern chapel built in 1945 to serve the residents of Drangsnes.

(65.68843, -21.44843)

Q Staðarkirkja

Remote church built in 1892 in the now-uninhabited Aðalvík, within the Hornstrandir Nature Reserve.

(66.32894, -23.05369)

R Staðarkirkja

Historic church built in 1891, located in the abandoned settlement of Grunnavík.

(66.24466, -22.84795)

S Unaðsdalskirkja

Wooden church built in 1897 on the northern shore of Ísafjarðardjúp.

(66.10563, -22.58685)

T Kirkjubólskirkja

Traditional wooden church built in 1886 in Valþjófsdalur.

(66.02489, -23.55813)

U Hólskirkja

Wooden church built in 1863, located in the town of Bolungarvík.

(66.15365, -23.25889)

V Gufudalskirkja

Wooden church built in 1908, located in Gufudalssveit.

(65.56845, -22.42022)

W Prestsbakkakirkja

Wooden church built in 1859, one of the older surviving timber churches in the region.

Prestsbakkavegur, 500, Iceland (65.31515, -21.19289)

X Garpsdalskirkja

Small wooden church built in 1935 in the Garpsdalur valley.

(65.45438, -21.82846)

Y Kaldrananeskirkja

Historic wooden church built in 1851, known for its well-preserved interior.

(65.76186, -21.40562)

Z Selárdalskirkja

Timber church rebuilt in 1861, located in the remote Selárdalur valley.

(65.77759, -24.00406)

AA Árneskirkja

Historic wooden church built in 1850 in the remote Strandir region.

(66.01084, -21.51014)

AB Saurbæjarkirkja

Wooden church built in 1858 at the head of the Rauðasandur beach.

(65.47890, -24.00369)

AC Nauteyrarkirkja

Small wooden church built in 1885 in Nauteyri.

Nauteyrarkirkjuvegur, 512, Iceland (65.91394, -22.34390)

AD Kollafjarðarneskirkja

Wooden church built in 1909, located in Kollafjörður.

(65.60924, -21.39935)

AE Reykhólakirkja

Modern church built in 1963, replacing a much older historic parish structure.

(65.44827, -22.20402)

AF Staðakirkja

Wooden church built in 1855, located at the head of Steingrímsfjörður.

(65.76718, -21.84459)

AG Furufjarðarkirkja

Remote church in the Hornstrandir area, originally built in 1897.

(66.26512, -22.24024)

AH Sauðlauksdalur

19th-century church on a site historically significant for the introduction of potato farming to Iceland.

(65.53645, -23.99837)

AI Árneskirkja

Mid-19th century wooden church located in the parish of Árnes.

1 Árnes, 524, Iceland (66.01176, -21.50885)

AJ Hnífsdalskirkjugarður

Local cemetery serving the coastal village of Hnífsdalur.

(66.10704, -23.10919)

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