



ICELANDIC
LAMB

Naturally Delicious

Icelandiclamb.is

PLAY – CONTINUE

26 MÝVATN ACTIVITY - HIKE AND BIKE

Join an enthusiastic husband-and-wife team for unforgettable day tours around the magical landscapes of Lake Mývatn. Whether you fancy hiking, fat biking, or snowshoeing through lava fields and craters, each adventure is personal and locally rooted. Popular tours include a relaxing soak in the Mývatn Nature Baths. If needed, they will pick you up, so be prepared to become part of the extended family.

Reykjahlið, Mývatn | 853 7515
myvatnactivity.com

27 SAFARI HORSE RENTAL

Family-run horse and sheep farm offering guided riding tours to otherworldly landscapes around Lake Mývatn. Perfect for beginners or experienced riders, Icelandic horses transport you through pseudocraters and lava formations while enjoying lakeside vistas and native birds. Winter visitors have the unique opportunity to ride on ice, and special season farm visits let children cuddle or bottle-feed young lambs.

Álftagerði 3, Mývatn | 864 1121 |
safarihestar.is

28 GEOSEA GEOTHERMAL SEA BATHS

Reconnect, decompress and heal: Geosea's own words to describe the experience of bathing in geothermally heated, mineral-rich seawater - words which will seem prophetic once you visit. Simply gaze out across the ocean from a cliff-top vantage point, let stress melt away in the steam room, or indulge yourself at the swim-up bar. An affordable luxury that everyone deserves. Vítaslóð 1, Húsavík

464 1210 | geosea.is

29 GENTLE GIANTS

Situated in beautiful Húsavík, nicknamed the "Whale Capital of Iceland," Gentle Giants offers whale watching and other exciting seafaring adventures, focusing on the big whales as well as puffins, sea angling and more. Here your chances of seeing whales are up to 99%. The family has a 150 years history in the bay. You will definitely feel safe.

Harbor side, Húsavík | 464 1500
gentlegiants.is



PDO ORIGIN LABEL

Icelandic lamb can proudly boast the "Protected Designation of Origin" label. PDO is the highest level of geographical indication for food and wine products in Europe. Just as you can only call a sparkling wine "Champagne" if it is produced in the Champagne region of France, the same now goes for Icelandic lamb!



EAT & DRINK

Restaurants, Bistros, Cafés & Bars

1 NORTH RESTAURANT

Fine dining restaurant, founded by internationally acclaimed chef Gunnar Karl Gíslason. Renowned for its vibrant and simply delicious dishes prepared from the finest local ingredients with sustainability and maximal usage at heart. While bursting with originality, the ever-changing menu pays tribute to local traditions, nature, and the farmers who have worked the land for generations.

Hafnarstræti 67 | 454 5070
northrestaurant.is

2 EYJA WINE BAR & BISTRO

In this bright yellow historic house with a chic, softly lit, and cozy vibe a young local couple have created a sanctuary for food and wine lovers! Let the knowledgeable staff help you pair small plates or the sought-after catch of the day, highlighting seasonal ingredients, with the perfect wine to complement your mood.

Hafnarstræti 90 | 863 8002 | eyjaak.is

3 KETILKAFFI

Enjoy watching the world go by with a cup of Icelandic micro-roasted coffee in this bright, minimalist café located inside the Akureyri Art Museum. They serve breakfast and brunch all day, every day, along with a beloved fish soup accompanied by fresh-baked sourdough, and don't miss their famous lemon cake. Everything is made from scratch in-house, with care and creativity.

Kaupvangsstræti 8 | 869 8378
ketilkaffi.is

4 BERLIN CAFÉ

You don't have to be an early bird to enjoy breakfast or brunch at this friendly café. Classics like eggs and bacon, avocado toast with salmon, and waffles are served up until late afternoon. For lunch, taste their popular Indian Chicken salad. Enjoy it all with freshly made smoothies and superbilly coffee.

Skipagata 4 | 772 5061
berlinakureyri.is

LOCAL SHOPS

5 SJOPPAN – DESIGN

The cutest design shop in Iceland and possibly the smallest one in the world, 3,5 m², is located at Akureyri's Art Street called Listagilið. Ring the bell and the owner and designer Almar will appear in the small window, oncall for design thirsty shoppers 24–7. You'll find everything from notebooks, posters, jewelry, socks, candy, candles, and more.

Kaupvangsstræti 21 | 864 0710
sjoppanvoruhus.is

6 BLÓÐBERG – FASHION



The ultimate Icelandic design boutique. Erna, the owner, has mastered the art of cool and cozy with her selection of Icelandic design essentials. From snug wool sweaters and socks to keep toasty warm to locally made ceramics, and fur accessories for those chilly winters. Stop by for one-of-a-kind gifts from Icelandic brands.

Skipagata 12 | 822 5258 | FB

CULTURE

Art, museums & exhibitions

7 THE ICELANDIC AVIATION MUSEUM

Ever wondered what it's like to fly a plane in Iceland's challenging weather? Then this museum is for you! Located in an airplane hangar, the museum illustrates Iceland's aviation history through photographs and artifacts, model aircraft displays, and restored helicopters and aircrafts you can climb into. It's fun and free for children.

Akureyri Airport | 461 4400 | flugsafn.is

8 NONNAHÚS MUSEUM

The world-acclaimed 19th century author and Jesuit priest Jón Sveinsson, usually referred to as Nonni, is among the nation's most beloved historical figures. Built in 1850, his childhood home in Akureyri, has now been carefully remodeled into a memorial museum, allowing a fascinating glimpse into small town life in the period.

Aðalstræti 54 | 462 3555 | nonni.is

9 FLÓRA - CULTURE HOUSE SIGURHÆÐIR

In a historical timber building, nestled on a lush green hillside overlooking the picturesque fjord, Flora offers a fresh and unique blend of history, creativity, and tranquility. Housing studios for artists, exhibiting contemporary art and mediating Icelandic cultural heritage. Adding to its charm, you'll find a shop where you can indulge in mini luxuries such as soaps, furs, yarn, and other locally made art and goods. Take it all in while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee.

Eyrafarlandsvegur 3 | 661 0207
florafloa.is

PLAY

Activities, pools & spa

10 FOREST LAGOON

Tucked away in a hillside forest just outside Akureyri, this dreamy spot offers a serene soak with stunning fjord views. Relax in mineral-rich geothermal pools, where a constant flow of fresh spring water minimizes the use of chlorine. Sip drinks from the in-water bars, unwind in the Finnish sauna, or brave the cold plunge. Pair your bath with a guided e-bike tour, or nourish yourself at the cozy bistro.

Vaðlaskógur | 585 0090
forestlagoon.is

11 KJARNASKÓGUR – FOREST

South of Akureyri is Iceland's most visited forest park, with the first trees being planted in 1950. Under this young forest canopy is an outdoor paradise with recreation to suit everyone. Great campsite too.

Road 831



12 BOTANICAL GARDEN

The garden showcases diverse plant species, both native and exotic, thriving in a subarctic climate. Established in 1912, it offers beautifully landscaped grounds and a serene environment, ideal for nature lovers and botanical enthusiasts.

Eyrafarlandsvegur | 462 7487
lystigardur.akureyri.is

13 ELDING WHALE WATCHING

This EarthCheck certified family business with 20 years of experience will take you from harborside to heaven-on-earth on the ocean. Get up close with the whales in their specially made RIB boats for a uniquely intimate experience, or join their classic tour on the modified high speed whale watching ship.

Oddeyrarbót 2 | 497 1000 | elding.is



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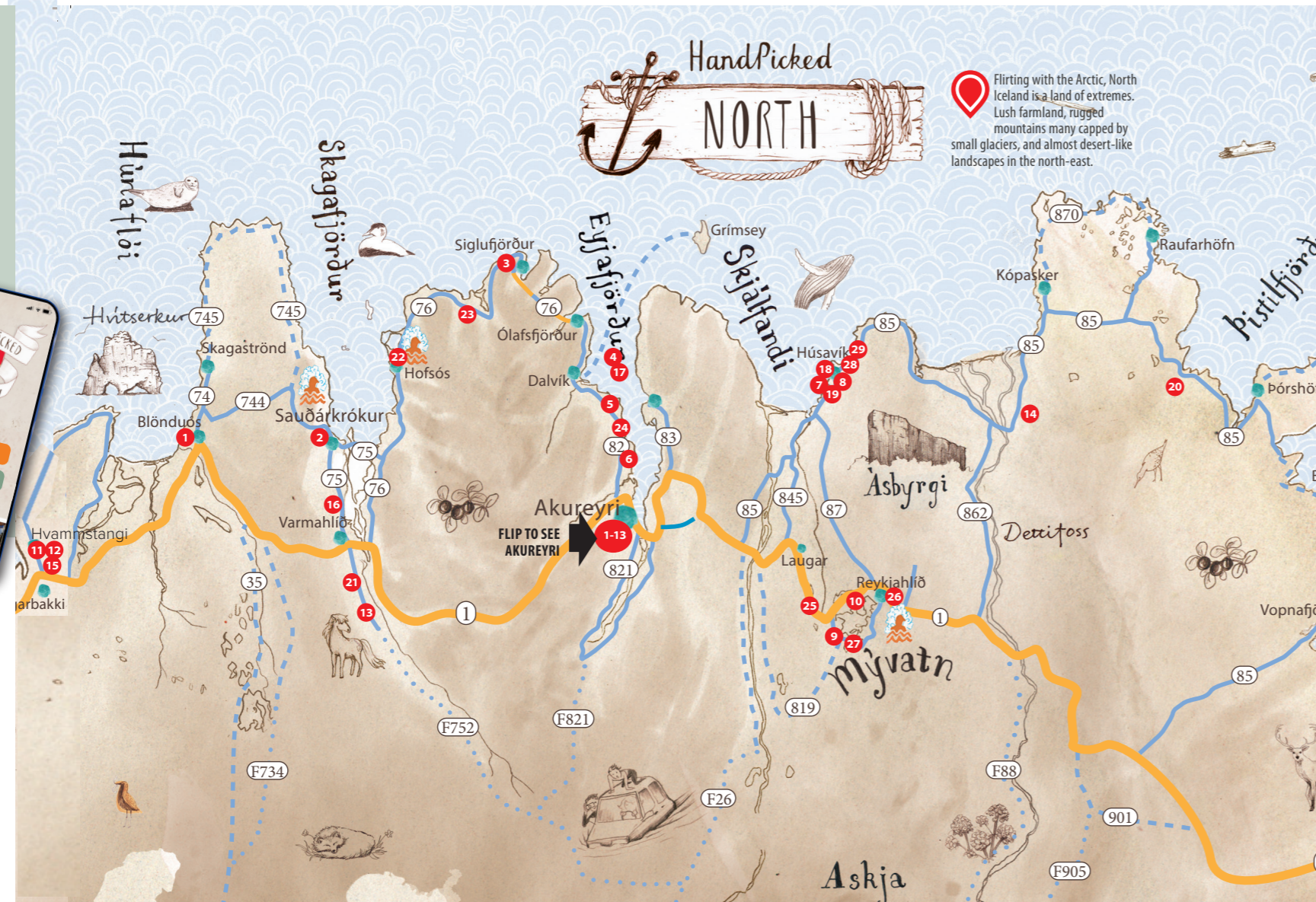
HANDPICKED ICELAND
Includes our favorite places around the whole country and Reykjavík.

PICKY LOCAL!

Hi, I'm Gigi, and I'd be happy to be your go-to friend, helping you make the most out of your time in Iceland. For over 14 years, my picky friends and I have been exploring, testing, and sharing unique local experiences through HandPicked. These are the places we truly love—and for good reason.



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Send me a line gudbjorg@handpicked.is | [Handpickediceland.is](https://handpickediceland.is)



When traveling in winter, it's always a good idea to check for winter openings.

EAT & DRINK

Restaurants, Bistros, Cafés & Bars

1 BRIMSLÓÐ ATELIER

At the edge of the Atlantic ocean, wild herbs, berries, and other heritage ingredients are the order of the day. With a three-course set menu, communal seating and an exceptional view, you'll experience the ultimate in refinement, hospitality, and dining. The hosts are globally published food authors committed to using natural resources in a sustainable manner. Dinner starts at 19:30. Book your seat in advance.
Brimslóð 10A, Blönduós | 899 1199
brimslodguesthouse.is

2 SAUÐÁRKRÓKSBAKARÍ — BAKERY

This charming and historical bakery in Sauðárkrúkur's old town center is known for its excellent selection of bread and traditional pastries that will melt in your mouth. Here, the welcoming staff will prepare your grilled or cold sandwich of choice, the perfect combination with the soup of the day. Enjoy your meal in the cozy seating area — or even on the outdoor patio on a sunny summer's day.
Aðalgata 5, Sauðárkrúkur
455 5000 | saudarkroksbakari.net

3 SIGLUNES GUESTHOUSE

At the heart of Siglufjörður, you'll find a Moroccan master chef creating the most wonderful mélanges of fresh Icelandic ingredients with Moroccan tradition. Delicious starters, main courses of various Moroccan tajine, and mouth-watering desserts will leave you fulfilled. Enjoy a nightcap in their retro-style lounge for a good night's sleep.
Lækjargata 10, Siglufjörður | 467 1222
hotelsiglunes.is

4 VERBÚÐIN 66 — BISTRO

Family ties run deep at this seaside eatery where multiple generations work together. Rumor has it they make the best fish & chips around. You be the judge, but if paired with the local Kaldi beer, we are certain that it must be true. The good-natured spirit of this place will make you feel part of the family in no time.
Sjávargata 2, Hrísey | 467 1166 | FB

5 KALDI BREWERY

The first microbrewery in Iceland, founded by a local couple in 2006, continues to be a favorite among many beer enthusiasts. Stop by and see how they use ingredients sourced from the Czech Republic with pure Icelandic spring water to create their special brews. With no sugar added and no preservatives, Kaldi produces a high-caliber beer that is now available for you to take on the go.
Öldugata 22, Árskógssandi | 466 2505
bruggsmidjan.is

6 EYRI RESTAURANT

Get off the beaten path and be rewarded by this cozy restaurant's focus on local, organic ingredients and stunning fjord views. Located in a historic fishing village, the restaurant knows how to cook fish! The menu changes based on the seasons and approaches traditional Icelandic cuisine with a high-end twist

on fish, lamb, beef, and vegan dishes.
Hjalteyrarvegur, Hjalteyri | 888 9604 | eyrirestaurant.is

7 NAUSTIÐ

A homey, family-run seafood restaurant in the heart of Húsavík, specializing in freshly caught local fish, locally sourced ingredients and food made from scratch. We recommend their delicious seafood soup and fish skewers or their divine grilled langoustine sandwich. Top off the experience with a homemade cake. Take-away is available if you are in a hurry.
Ásgarðsvegur 1, Húsavík | 464 1520 | FB

8 HÚSAVÍK ÖL

Housed in the old milk factory, this beloved microbrewery uses seasonal ingredients to curate a diverse selection of craft beer. Refresh yourself with full-flavored and crisp lagers, ales or hoppy IPAs from their sociable taproom or outdoor patio. The tap-list is ever changing with both traditional and newer styles. Expert brewers teach visitors the brewing process and package their finest selections in cans to grab and go.
Héðinsbraut 4, Húsavík | 789 0808
[Instagram](https://instagram.com)

9 SKÚTAÍS ICE CREAM

For many, tasty ice-cream makes a trip go from good to great with one chilly lick. Auður — a food scientist — and her colleagues at Skútaís want to take you beyond even that with their farm-fresh artisanal offerings. Among the 15 flavours to choose from, find what's considered by some to be the best ice-cream in the country at Skútustaðir farm.
Skútustaðir 2b, 660 Mývatn | FB

10 VOGAFJÓSS FARM RESTAURANT

Enjoy your meal while watching cows through glass windows at this authentic family-run cow shed, or soak in the breathtaking views over the Mývatn area. Vogafjós serves up local and home-

made food, like mozzarella cheese from their own cows' milk, beef carpaccio, Beef burgers, arctic char, and bread baked in the underground bakery, using the geothermal heat of nearby geysers to name a few. And don't even get us started on their scrumptious cakes!
Vogafjós, Mývatn | 464 3800
vogafjosfarmresort.is

SHOP LOCAL

11 GALLERÍ BARDÚSA

Not only a craft store but a Trade Museum dedicated to a local businessman who ran one of Iceland's very first road shops from 1920–1970. Vintage items paint a portrait of the past while a handicraft gallery sells goods from local craftspeople. You'll find the classic handknitted lopapeysa sweaters, candles, jewelry, ceramics and more.
Brekkugata 4, Hvammstangi
845 0586 | FB

12 KIDKA KNITWEAR

Find an authentic souvenir from this knitting and sewing factory that produces high-quality knitwear from 100% Icelandic wool. Traditional Nordic patterns and modern fashion trends inspire in-house designs of sweaters, blankets, and accessories. Organic and carbon-neutral, the clothing production supports local communities and honors Icelandic heritage. Visit the factory shop and get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the craftsmanship happening just beyond the glass.
Höfðabraut 34, Hvammstangi
451 0060 | kidka.com

13 RÚNALIST GALLERÍ - STÓRHÓLL

Immerse yourself in Iceland's farming heritage and shop directly from the goat farmer herself, Sigrún Helga. Discover natural and hand-colored wool from sheep and goats, lamb and goat meat,

eggs and so much more. While you're there, make friends with the goats, ducks, dogs and cats. After petting the animals and having a good chat with Sigrún Helga, you'll leave with a heart that's a bit lighter!

Stórhóll, Varmahlíð | 823 2441
runalist.is

14 GILHAGI WOOL SHOP

At this authentic sheep farm, you'll discover a small wool-mill and a farm shop surrounded by beautiful woodland and snow-capped hills. Gilhagi processes their own wool, as well as wool from nearby farmers in harmony with the environment. Selling hard to find natural color yarn and other local products. A perfectly secluded spot for a short stay and taking in the tranquility.
Gilhagi, Kópasker (rural) | 865 2138
gilhagi.is

CULTURE

Art, museums & exhibitions

15 ICELANDIC SEAL CENTER

More than just cute faces—learn the true story of Iceland's seals at this non-profit, Green Key-certified center in Hvammstangi, the only place in Iceland dedicated to seal research. Explore engaging exhibits (including one on walrusess!), browse the gift shop, and get local tips at the information center. Your visit directly supports vital research, helping protect a population at risk.
Strandgata 1, Hvammstangi | 451 2345
selasetur.is

16 GLAUMBÆR TURF FARM EXHIBITION

Step into the past and learn about Icelandic life in the 18th and 19th centuries at this well-preserved turf farm that is now a museum. Well into the 20th century, Icelanders lived in turf houses,

now globally praised for their innovative and sustainable use of nature's resources. The Viking age ruins and two renovated 19th-century timber houses are not to be missed — nor are the museum café's refreshments, giving you a taste of a bygone era.

Glaumbær, Varmahlíð
453 6173 | glaumbaer.is

17 THE HOUSE OF SHARK JÖRUNDUR

A day trip to Hrísey is well worth it. An island in the middle of Eyjafjörður is home to this charming little museum featuring an exhibition about the history of the island and of shark fishing in earlier times. We also recommend a visit to the swimming pool, the energy hot spot and a nice meal at Verubúin 66.
Norðurvegur 3, Hrísey | 695 0077
hrisey.net

18 HÚSAVÍK WHALE MUSEUM

Húsavík is known as the whale capital of Iceland and this museum covers all things whales! Learn about the history of whaling, biology and enjoy whale inspired art, but the real highlight is the stunning displays of 13 whale skeletons —and they're real! With a museum store and a kid corner, everyone will enjoy the visit, especially before or after a whale watching tour.
Hafnarstétt 1 | 414 2800 | hvalasafn.is

19 HÚSAVÍK MUSEUM

Just five minutes from the harbor, this gem of a museum weaves together folk tales, maritime heritage, and natural history—all under one roof. Explore award-winning exhibits on Icelandic life, from beautifully preserved boats to a rather impressive polar bear. There's even a special room for curious kids. Give yourself an inspiring hour in Húsavík.
Stóragarði 17, Húsavík | 464 1860
husmus.is

20 THE ICELANDIC LEADER - SHEEP CENTER

Far from the crowds, this humble yet fascinating museum and research center honors the extremely rare Leader Sheep, which only exists in Iceland. Life-size dioramas present the physical traits of this intelligent flock leader, while a small shop sells handmade goods from the sheep's horns, skins, and wool. Visit during summer (or call ahead during winter) for the annual art exhibition and grab a traditional Icelandic treat from the small café.

Svalbarði, Þórshöfn | 852 8899
forystusetur.is

PLAY

Activities, pools & spa

21 BAKKAFLÖT RIVER RAFTING

Adrenaline junkies should take note of this family-run tour company that will have you rafting down a glacial canyon with experienced guides from Nepal. Choose between the more gentle family tour or the extreme river rafting experience. Along the way you'll visit a geothermal hot spring and for the truly adventurous, there's cliff jumping! Afterwards you can soak in hot tubs and have a meal at their restaurant.
Tungusveit, Varmahlíð | 453 8245
bakkafloet.is

22 THE POOL IN HOFÓS

A modern outdoor swimming pool situated in the town of Hofós, one of the oldest trading posts in northern Iceland. The pool is set by the seaside with breath-taking views over Skagafjörður's natural treasures. You almost feel at world's end when gazing over the pool's edge. Superb facilities and hot tubs where you can relax and enjoy the view.
Suðurbraut, Hofós
455 6070 | FB

23 LANGHÚS HORSE TOURS

This family-run horse farm offers small-group riding tours for all skill levels—informative, relaxed, and personal. With small groups, rider safety and horse welfare are top priorities. Horses have limited daily rides and enjoy long seasonal breaks. Choose from tours like Viking, Black Beach, or Family Time, and an indoor geothermal mineral bath or waffle lunch can be added to enhance your experience.
Langhús, Fljót | 847 8716
icelandichorse.is

24 WHALE WATCHING HAUGANES

With over 30 years of experience and a prime location in Eyjafjörður, this whale watching tour offers one of the highest chances to see whales, often just minutes from the harbor. Set out on a traditional oak boat into calm fjord waters, where humpbacks, minke whales, and white-beaked dolphins frequently appear. As a carbon-neutral and responsible operator, their deep respect for nature is matched by true expertise.
Hafnargata 2, Hauganes | 867 0000
whales.is

25 SNOW DOGS

Dog lovers will delight in meeting a pack of Siberian Husky sled dogs for a dog sledding adventure, a cart ride, or a visit to the kennel to give the pups plenty of belly rubs. Located on a family-owned farm close to Lake Mývatn, these tours offer a once in a lifetime experience and plenty of canine cuddles.
Vallholt | 847 7199 | snowdogs.is

26 MÝVATN ACTIVITY - HIKE AND BIKE

FLIP TO SEE MORE