



#visitwesticeland



Deep fjords, lush green valleys and plenty of simmering geothermal pools make this the perfect place for those who enjoy getting wet while traveling off the beaten path.

Illustrated by Elisabet Brynhildardóttir



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

EAT & DRINK

Restaurants, Bistros, Cafés & Bars

1 THE OLD FARMHOUSE CAFÉ

Step into Icelandic history at this charming café, run by local sheep farmers in a beautifully restored farmhouse. Enjoy homemade soup, traditional baked treats, and browse farm-made wool crafts and meat products from the Brjánslækur farm. Don't miss the geology exhibit downstairs or the guided hike through the nearby protected Sur-tarbrandsgil canyon. A great stop before or after the ferry to Stykkishólmur —just 500 meters from the harbor. **Brjánslækur, Patreksfjörður (rural)** 824 3108 | brjanslaekur.is/kaffihusid

2 THE FRENCH CAFÉ

Surrounded by the spectacular natural beauty of Rauðasandur beach, this charming café invites you to savor its famous French chocolate cake, sip coffee, hot chocolate or wine, and soak in the wild beauty of the Westfjords. With a simple menu and a veranda right on the seashore, it's an unforgettable stop. Open June to August—pure Icelandic serenity with a French twist. **Kirkjubhakkur 451, Rauðasandur** | 848 4984 | FB

3 VEGAMÓT BÍLDUDAL - BISTRO
Famous for its golden, crispy fish and chips, this laid-back stop offers mountain views, passing ships, and a relaxed vibe. Enjoy a juicy burger with homemade sauces on the patio, then browse the old-school mini market under the same roof, stocked with crackers, ice cream, wine, and road-trip essentials. A local meeting place that's as welcoming as it is satisfying. **Tjarnarbraut 2, Bíldudalur** 456 2232 | FB

4 FISHERMAN BISTRO & SHOP

"We love fish" is the heart and soul of this family-owned bistro & shop in Súðureyri, a quaint fishing village where sustainably certified fish arrives fresh from the harbor boats. Not a fish fan? No problem! They also whip up scrumptious vegetarian dishes and even a juicy hamburger. Complete your meal with some delicious coffee and cake. Plus, don't miss their mouth-watering range of food products—perfect for those on the go! **Aðalgata 15, Súðureyri** | 450 9000 | fisherman.is

5 HEYDALUR RESTAURANT

A country hotel, operated by Stella and family, providing a farm-to-table dining experience. Lunch and dinner is served in a renovated barn, serving fresh fish, lamb or the vegetarian options. In an ultimate nod to sustainability, aquaponics are used for trout farming and vegetable growing. Be sure to stop by the greenhouse swimming pool for a post-dinner soak! Open all year round. **Mjóifjörður** | 456 4824 | heydalur.is



SHOP LOCAL

Food & other favorites

6 URÐUR WOOL

Just off the beaten track lies this brand-new gem—a store tucked in a renovated sheep barn along the stunning Klöfnings road. A young, passionate couple transforms undyed Icelandic fleece from local farmers into traceable yarn. The wool is hand-sorted by shade to preserve the sheep's rich color diversity. Biodegradable and natural, the yarn reflects Iceland's woolly heritage at its best. **Rauðbarðaholti 2, Búðardalur (rural)** 867 2646 | urdurull.is

7 FISH SHED

A local gem—this self-serve Fish Shed is open 24/7, offering fresh fish, fish balls, dried fish, fish soup, and sourdough bread if you're lucky. Just write down your purchase and pay via transfer or drop cash in the honesty box. Everything is neatly packed, well-labeled, and kept cool, perfect for your next meal. **Strandgata, Tálknafjörður** 862 2723 | 893 272

8 KERTAHÚSIÐ - CANDLES & MORE

A delightful shop and workshop, run by a young local couple crafting handmade candles inspired by Icelandic nature and architecture. Discover lighthouses from all over Iceland, nostalgic Westfjords houses, and volcano-shaped creations, all cast in wax. By request, join a scented candle workshop using handpicked herbs. The shop also features Icelandic jewelry and beautifully curated local design pieces to light up your home. **Aðalstræti 20, Ísafjörður** | 456 4545 | kertahusid.is

CULTURE

Art, museums & exhibitions

9 THE SEAMONSTER MUSEUM

This visit will add a new dimension to your imagination! Tales of sea monsters have been an important element in Icelandic folk culture for centuries and it is said that the shores of Arnarfjörður are a sea monster hotspot! The beasts come to life in a hands-on multimedia display and through first-hand accounts of eyewitnesses. They even have "tangible evidence" for their existence! Coffee and homemade treats on the premises. **Strandgata 7, Bíldudalur** | 456 6666 | skrimslis.is

PLAY

Activities

10 HÓLAR FARM MINI ZOO

Come visit all the cuddly animals living at this friendly farm, petting zoo, and sanctuary. You'll get the chance to meet, pet, and even feed all kinds of farm animals, including dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, pigs, sheep, goats, and the unique Icelandic horse. We recommend bringing some fruit and veggies as extra treats for your new furry friends. Open June to August. **Hólar, Búðardalur (rural)** | 897 1674 | FB

11 WESTFJORDS ADVENTURES

Wish to enjoy the magnificent, unspoiled beauty and solitude of the Westfjords? Your adventure starts with this leading tour operator, with quality and environmental certification from VAKINN, offering various tailor-made travel services and leisure activities. Whether you're into hiking, biking, exploring the region's rich wildlife, seeking an adrenaline kick, or some peace and tranquility,

your wish is their command. Head off from their Patreksfjörður base, Keflavik Airport, Reykjavik Domestic Airport, or anywhere you prefer—it's up to you! **Pórgsgata 8a, Patreksfjörður** 456 5006 | westfjordsadventures.com

12 HEYDALUR KAYAKS AND HORSES

Adventure lovers will be thrilled with the activities offered at Heydalur farm. Choose between horseback rides or kayak trips to see seals, and maybe if you're lucky, even whales! Heydalur is also perfectly located for hiking, bird watching and fishing. At the end of the trip, have a bite at their restaurant or jump into the greenhouse pool, open 24 hours! **Mjóifjörður** | 456 4824 | heydalur.is

POOLS & TUBS



Every town has a pool, but we, the picky locals, like it the viking way, rough, natural and remote.

13 LAUGARNESLAUG - POOL

This charming small pool naturally heated by a hot spring was built for swimming lessons by the local youth association back in the day. Relax in the geothermal hot pot only steps away from the ocean, overlooking the stunning fjord. It's the perfect place for sea dipping during high tide and for overall rejuvenation. Open from morning to late evening. **Laugarnes by Birkimelur** 846 9474 | FB

14 POLLURINN

The old hot pots on the mountain slope above Tálknafjörður have been given a facelift, thanks to the clinker from the collection tube. The pots have an amazing view of the fjord and you can change clothes in a small hut. **Sveinseyri, Tálknafjörður**

15 REYKJAFJARÐARLAUG

An old low-key pool in Arnarfjörður with a small changing room, which is visible from the main road. Just above the pool is a hot natural pot to soak in. **Road 63 (Stands by the branch from Reykjavík to neðri.)**

16 HÖRGSHLÍÐARLAUG

Stone concrete, small pool at sea level, on the east side in Mjóafjörður. Great to cool off in the sea and then relax in the hot pool. There is a small hut to change clothes and a belly to put in money. **Mjóifjörður, Ísafjörðardjúp**

17 KROSSNESLAUG

Exceptionally beautifully located swimming pool with hot water from the mountain slope. The view is magnificent, the bird life is lively and occasional seals regularly pop up on the sea surface. **Krossnes, Strandir**

18 DRANGSNESPOTTARNIR

By the main road there are three hot tubs located on the beach where you can sit in the warmth and enjoy the view of the sea and the pier. Changing facilities and free donations. **Aðalbraut, across from Drangsness Primary School**



WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH

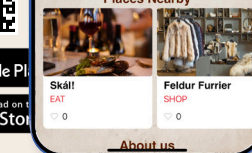
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NAT

14 RAUÐ

A beach with spanning beckons you out sunbathe. **Road 614**

15 LÁTR

Not for the unfathomable western cliff of all largest birds. **Road 612**

16 DYNJ

This festival of 100 me on a cake, different types and surroundings. **Road 60**



- Support local businesses
- Go Green
- Find the hidden gems
- Create meaningful experiences

Look for the sticker

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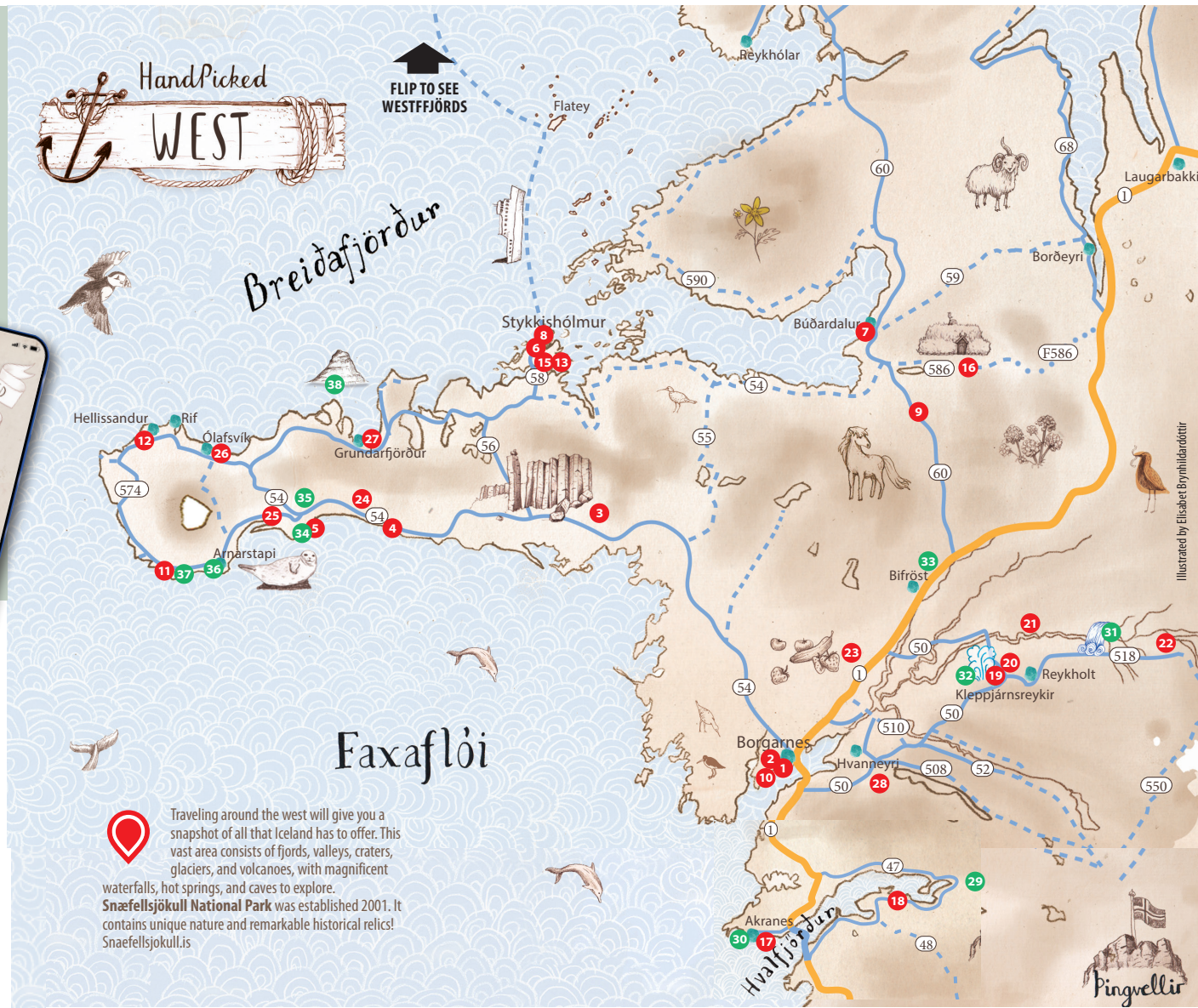
HANDPICKED ICELAND
Includes our favorite places around the whole country and Reykjavík.

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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HandPicked
WEST

FLIP TO SEE
WESTFJÖRÐS

Breiðafjörður

Faxaflói



Traveling around the west will give you a snapshot of all that Iceland has to offer. This vast area consists of fjords, valleys, craters, glaciers, and volcanoes, with magnificent waterfalls, hot springs, and caves to explore.
Snæfellsjökull National Park was established 2001. It contains unique nature and remarkable historical relics!
Snæfellsjokull.is



SNÆFELLSNES Peninsula is the first community in Iceland (1998) to achieve eco-certification from Earth Check.

EAT & DRINK

Restaurants, Bistros, Cafés & Bars

1 THE SETTLEMENT CENTER RESTAURANT

A charming, family-friendly restaurant in a historic house in Borgarnes. The cuisine features traditional and national flavors; Icelandic lamb and beef from local farms. At lunchtime, they offer a wellness buffet featuring freshly prepared salads, soups and home-made bread. Don't leave without tasting one of their homemade cakes.

Brákarbraut 13–15, Borgarnes
437 1600 | landnam.is

2 KAFFI KYRRÐ – CAFÉ

"Kyrrð" means tranquility and that's exactly what you'll find at this enchanting family-run café and gift shop, decorated like a cozy living room with oversized sofas. Treat yourself to a selection of cakes, quiches, waffles, and coffee while browsing their selection of candles and tarot cards. The flower-filled patio is especially good on sunny days.

Skúlagata 13, Borgarnes
437 1878 | blomasetrid.is

3 HLAÐAN RESTAURANT

Hlaðan is the culinary centerpiece for the family-run Lava Resort at Miðhraun. Indulge in a diverse array of dishes, from seafood to lamb, soups, and fresh bread, all showcasing traditional flavors. Dine amidst stunning lava fields and majestic mountains for an unparalleled experience. It's a journey through Icelandic culinary heritage and natural beauty.

Miðhraun 2 | 893 3333 | lavaresort.is

4 LANGAHOLT HOTEL

A family-run country hotel offering an ambitious à la carte menu with an astonishing view over Snæfellsjökull. Focusing on locally sourced trout, plaice, cod, as well as other fruits of the ocean, served with home-baked bread and other delicatessens. Afterwards, take a barefoot walk on the magnificent sand beach.

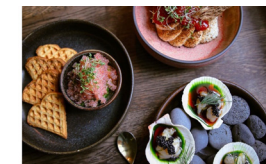
Ytri Garðar | 435 6789 | langaholt.is

5 HÓTEL BÜÐIR

One of Iceland's most beautiful country hotels, located in a spectacular setting, Hotel Büðir boasts one of the best restaurants in Iceland. Known for its fish and lamb dishes, the menu features the best locally available ingredients such as wild herbs, mushrooms and berries, accompanied by selected wines, all presented in a romantic atmosphere.

Büðir, Snæfellsnes | 435 6700 hotelbudir.is

6 SJÁVARPAKKHÚSÍÐ



This charming little restaurant, nestled in a beautifully maintained timber house right by the harbor, specializes in mouth-watering seafood that's locally

sourced and seasonal. They take sustainability to the next level, being one of the few places in Iceland honored with the Swan, a Nordic environmental certification. Dive into the tasting menu to savor the creativity this gem has to offer!

Hafnargata 2, Stykkishólmur | 438 1800 sjavarpakkhusid.is

7 VÍNLANDSSETUR – THE LEIF EIRIKSSON CENTER

In a renovated warehouse, with exposed wooden beams and ample natural lighting, you can enjoy historical exhibition and a café. Learn how the Nordic people in the 10th century ventured west, discovering Greenland and America. Try their hearty soup or freshly baked cupcakes and cakes paired with hot chocolate or coffee.

Büðarbraut 1, Büðardalur | 434 1441 | vinlandssetur.is

SHOP LOCAL

Food & other favorites

8 THE NORWEGIAN HOUSE – SHOP

The first imported Norwegian wood-frame house with two full-sized floors built in Iceland in 1832. Today, the house has a quaint 19th century influenced shop offering beautifully crafted and carefully selected items from local designers and craftsmen as well as homemade candies. The house also serves as the regional museum worth visiting.

Hafnargata 5, Stykkishólmur | 433 8114 norskahusid.is

9 ERPSSTAÐIR CREAMERY

Drop by this lively family farm for a golden opportunity to taste the many flavors of homemade ice cream and sorbet. They produce and sell old fashion skyr, skyr assorted chocolates, various types of cheese, meat from the farm, and much more. Bring the family along and

explore this kid-friendly farm.
Erpsstaðir, Büðardalur (rural)
868 0357 | FB

CULTURE

Art, museums & exhibitions

10 THE SETTLEMENT CENTER

A very informative and creative two-part multi-media exhibition. With audio-guides available in 15 languages, it tells the "Saga of The Settlement of Iceland" and of Iceland's most famous Viking and first poet Egill Skallagrimsson. A rich history told in a fun and creative way, suitable for all ages!

Brákarbraut 13–15, Borgarnes
437 1600 | landnam.is

11 MALARRIF SALTHOUSE

Elementary school children from a nearby school have transformed an old salt house into an interesting art space. Inspired by the history and the surroundings, using recycled and natural materials. At Malarrif there is also a Visitor Center and a picturesque lighthouse making this place a perfect stop on your journey.

Road 574 | 436 6888 | snaefellsjokull.is

12 THE NATIONAL PARK CENTER

Visitor Center at Hellissandur, nestled in Snæfellsnes National Park is BREEAM environmentally certified. Explore modern architecture and soak in breathtaking views from the rooftop.

Sandhraun 5, Hellissandi
661 1500 | snaefellsjokull.is

13 LIBRARY OF WATER

Library of Water is a captivating art installation by the famous artist Roni Horn. It consists of 24 arranged glass columns filled with Icelandic glacial waters. Perched in a house, high above the village with an extraordinary view

of the bay, it's a perfect setting for this simple yet powerful piece.

Bókhöðustigur 19, Stykkishólmur
865 4516 | stykkisholmur.is

15 NORSKA HÚSÍÐ

The Norwegian House is a landmark two-story house, built in 1832 from timber shipped from Norway. The first floor serves as a regional museum with art exhibits and a gift shop. The furnished upper floor offers a flashback to its heyday and the attic is a treasure trove of antiques and artifacts.

Hafnargata 5, Stykkishólmur | 433 8114 stykkisholmur.is

16 EIRIK THE RED'S VIKING FARM

Step into the Viking Era at Eiríksstaðir, a recreation of Eric the Red's farmstead, the likely birthplace of Leif the Lucky who discovered America. Immerse in the scents, sights, and sounds of a distant past. Rest by the long fire, listen to stories, told by modern-time Vikings, try out some Viking gear and take a priceless selfie! A treat for both the young and old.

Eiríksstaðir, Haukadalur (rural)
899 7111 | eiriksstadir.is

PLAY

Activities, pools & spa

17 GUÐLAUG BATHS

A perfect place to enjoy two hot leisure pools, sea swimming, and stunning views from this award-winning architectural structure. Located on Langisandur Beach, it's Iceland's only natural bathing beach in an urban setting. It has a Blue Flag certification and a protected status because of its unique landscape, nature, and bird life. It's a favorite among locals and a hidden gem. You have access to changing rooms and outdoor showers.

Langisandur Beach, Akranes
833 7736 | gudlaugbaths.is

18 HVAMMSVIK HOT SPRINGS

Soak in the pure warmth of Icelandic nature at Hvammsvík Hot Springs, where eight geothermal pools meet the open ocean and untouched nature surrounds you on all sides. With a steam room, swim-up bar, and sea access for the perfect cold plunge, it's a deeply grounding experience. Afterwards, try the locally loved seafood soup at Stormur Bistro—or let the calming scent of Hvammsvík linger, with their Aroma Therapy, drawn from its native flora.

Hvammsvík, Hvalfjörður | 510 5900 | hvammsvik.com

19 KRAUMA GEOTHERMAL BATHS

Indulge in luxury and relaxation in saunas and several outdoor pools filled with water warmed by one of Europe's most powerful hot springs. Make sure to plunge into the cold tub offering the ideal balance for rejuvenation. The relaxation room with a crackling flame in the fireplace, the modern design, beautiful views, and the sustainable-focused restaurant guarantee a visit you won't regret.

Deildartunguhver, Reykholt
555 6066 | krauma.is

20 STURLUREYKIR HORSE FARM

This family-owned farm has been in the same hands since 1886 and is one of the oldest horse-breeding farms in the world. Meet horses raised and trained on-site, some with bloodlines tracing back to 1930. After a stable visit or a ride through the tranquil countryside, enjoy rúgbrauð baked in a bubbling hot spring—Europe's first natural hot water heating system, still in use today.

Sturlureykir, Reykholt | 691 0280 sturlureykirhorses.is

21 HÁAFELL GOAT FARM

Animal lovers, be prepared to stay longer than intended. Playful goats that like to snuggle and a bighearted family who

lives and breathes goats, will charm you in a heartbeat. After learning about the endangered Icelandic goat breed and snapping selfies with the goats, head to the gift shop offering goat themed items like homemade feta cheese, healing creams and soaps to take back home. It's a good idea to call ahead.

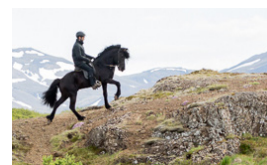
Háafell | 790 1548 | geitur.is

22 INTO THE GLACIER

A once-in-a-lifetime adventure awaits you on Langjökull, Iceland's second-largest glacier. Explore it in an artificial ice tunnel—the largest in the world—and learn all about this amazing natural wonder in a guided tour. The tunnel and caves lie high on the glacier, offering spectacular views. How about adding a snowmobile ride, a northern lights hunt, or a Golden Circle tour to the experience?

Húsafell or Klaki Base Camp
578 2550 | intotheglacier.is

23 HESTALAND - RIDING TOURS



Embark on unforgettable rides through West Iceland's heavenly landscapes with Hestaland. Run by Guðmar Pétursson, a renowned competitive rider and expert trainer, Hestaland offers small group and private rides, emphasizing pre-ride education and quality with premium saddles and diverse excursions, from scenic trail rides to extended, specialized tours like Riding and Knitting. Tailor your adventure to fit your schedule and skill level, whether it's an hour, a day, or more. Or simply schedule a visit to the farm to meet the Icelandic horses!

Staðarhús, Borgarnes | 435 1443 | hestaland.net

24 LYSULAUGAR – NATURAL POOL

A natural pool with hot mineral water straight from the Earth. It has naturally occurring green algae (chlorella), which gives it a green tint and a slimy feeling. But that's just a good sign! Take a healing and rejuvenating dip in this pure, rich mineral water; no chemicals are added.

Lýsulaugar, Snæfellsbær | 433 9917 lysulaugar.is

25 STÓRI KAMBUR RIDING TOURS

Take a horseback riding tour with this family-owned business for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Choose a short one-hour trip, perfect for beginners, and ride along a golden beach with views of Snæfellsjökull glacier. The four-five hour trips, suitable for all levels of riding experience, will take you to waterfalls and across lava fields and mountain passes.

Stóri-Kambur, Snæfellsbær | 852 7028 storkambur.is

26 LÁKI TOURS – WHALE WHATCHING

There are few things in life that top a beautiful summer evening sailing in the Breiðafjörður bay. Láki Tours offer such experiences, presenting the incredible birdlife of the islands in the fjord as well as the opportunity to do a little sea angling and whale spotting.

Norðurtangi 9, Ólafsvík | 546 6808 lakitours.com

27 VESTUR ADVENTURES - KAYAK

Paddle your way to rarely seen views of the iconic Mt. Kirkjufell on a sea kayaking tour from a tiny fishing village operated by a local family. With top-quality gear and friendly, knowledgeable guides, choose from tours like the two-hour classic, the fishing tour, or the magical midnight sun kayak tour. You might get lucky and glide past seals and maybe a puffin.

Sæból 14, Grundarfjörður | 897 0153 vesturadventures.is

28 HREPPSLAUG – GEOTHERMAL POOL

Visit this quaint outdoor pool, built in 1928 and run by the local youth club. Tucked away in the beautiful Skorradalur valley, the pool and hot tubs are fed by natural hot spring water.

Skorradalur, Hvanneyri (rural) | FB

NATURE

29 GLYMUR WATERFALL

30 AKRANES LIGHTHOUSE

31 HRAUNFOSSAR

32 DEILDARTUNGUHVHER

33 GRÁBRÓK CRATER

34 BÜÐIR BEACH



35 BJARNARFOSS WATERFALL

36 ARNARSTAPI BEACH

37 LÓNDRANGAR PILLARS

38 KIRKJUFELL MOUNTAIN

38 GUÐRÖNARLAUG HOT SPRING

FLIP TO SEE
WESTFJÖRÐS