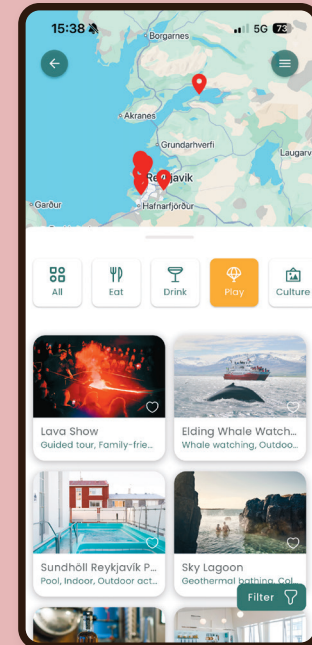


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Eat & Drink

Iceland's tap water originates from a glacial source and is naturally filtered through lava fields. So it's pure, free and drinkable.

1 Fancy Sheep Truck

Located by the stunning Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon, this charming food truck offers unique hamburgers, including a special Icelandic lamb burger. With fresh, local ingredients and creative recipes, it also features delicious vegetarian options. Experience street food done right. Jökulsárlón | 835 8823 | FB

2 Pakkhús Restaurant

Located in a stylish converted warehouse by the harbor in Húsavík, often called the capital of langoustine in Iceland. Here you'll find local ingredients, such as langoustine, fresh fish, lamb, and a dessert called Skyr Volcano! Try the local beer called Vatnajökull made from glacier water and hints of thyme. Krosseyjarvegur 3, Höfn | 478 2280 pakkhus.is

3 Bragðavellir Cottages & Restaurant

Two brothers who returned home to Djúpvogur to build something of their own: first campsite and cottages then a restaurant in a converted barn they call Hlaðan. They're growing slowly by choice, focusing on local and authentic experience. The cooking stays deliberately simple — lamb from a cousin in Berufjörður, fish from the local boats, soup from mushroom foragers themselves. Bragðavellir, Djúpvogur | 4788240 bragdavellir.is

4 Hótel Framtíð

A cozy restaurant overlooking the small harbor and colorful fishing boats. It's perhaps not surprising that the popular daily special is always the "catch-of-the-day," whether it is cod, trout, halibut, redfish, plaice or haddock. Apart from their good but small menu they also make pretty awesome pizzas. Vogaland 4, Djúpvogur | 478 8887 hotelframtid.com

5 Berunes Restaurant

Chef Róbert Ólafsson, known from Reykjavík's Forréttabarninn, leads the kitchen at this family-run country lodge restaurant. The menu changes with what's best from land and sea, paired with quality wine or ale from local breweries. Reservations recommended. And if dinner turns into a late night, there are rooms and a campsite on site. Berunes | 869 7227 | berunes.is

Local Shops

The best way to ensure communities reap the benefits of tourism is by supporting local businesses.

6 Bakkabúð Design Store

If you're looking for an authentic souvenir of your time in Iceland, look no further. Bakkabúð in the enchanting village of Djúpvogur offers a fabulous range of marvelous mementos, lovingly crafted by local artists, alongside a mix of chic Scandinavian designer brands. Find unique keepsakes that will make you smile when you remember your magical visit to Iceland! Bakki 2, Djúpvogur | 478 2288 | FB

Culture

Art, museums & exhibitions

7 Petra's Stone Collection

Reportedly the world's largest private mineral collection, gathered from the mountains of East Iceland by one woman over a lifetime. Her grandchildren now care for the collection in her former home and garden, keeping alive the legend of a woman who literally moved mountains. Come for the stones, stay for the locally roasted coffee and home-baked bread and pastries. Fjarðarbraut 21, Stöðvarfjörður 475 8834 | steinapetra.is

8 The Eggs In Merry

Thirty-four stone egg replicas, each one a different bird that nests around Djúpvogur, arranged along the harbor by acclaimed artist Sigurður Guðmundsson. What started as a public art installation has become one of the town's most visited landmarks. Vikurland, Djúpvogur

Play

9 Local Guide of Vatnajökull

Why just look at a glacier when you can climb one? Since 1991, Local Guide, a third generation family-operated business, has been offering top-notch, sustainable small group tours of the Vatnajökull glacier. Specializing in glacial hikes in the summer and exploring mesmerizing ice caves in the winter. Carbon neutral, highly seasoned guides, paired with deep knowledge of the area, they will ensure you'll experience the absolute best. Freysnes & Jökulsárlón | 894 1317 localguide.is

10 Glacier Journey

Owners and local legends Laufey and Gulli, along with their expert guides, offer unforgettable snowmobile and super jeep tours of Europe's largest glacier, Vatnajökull, in the summer. Don't miss their exclusive winter trip to the Black Beach in a super jeep or their picturesque ice cave tours! They're committed to top-notch service, using state-of-the-art equipment, supporting the local community, and protecting the environment. Víkurbraut 4, Höfn | 478 1517 glacierjourney.is

11 Höfn Local Guide

Specializing in slow adventures, Hulda offers customized tours like the popular two-hour Heart of Höfn walk that winds through the fishing village and ends in a food tasting, as well as kayaking, yoga and mindfulness, and hiking tours. The focus is sustainability with small group sizes and a 'leave no trace' policy. Hafnarbraut 41, Höfn | 864 4952 hofnlocalguide.is

12 Djúpavogskörin – Hot Tub

Take a free dip into a geothermal hot tub just south of Djúpvogur town by the ring road. No changing facilities but hidden behind a rock so don't worry! A borehole provides hot water and some locals have put up two big tubs for people to relax in and enjoy the view of the surrounding fjord. Please make sure to leave no trace behind, even clean up if someone has left some trash. Ring road 1, Djúpvogur (rural)

13 Tinna Adventure

A family from the East, with local knowledge you can't find in a guidebook. In a super jeep they'll take you to waterfalls, valleys, and highland terrain most travelers can't reach on their own. Choose from a wild reindeer experience, a mindfulness hiking tour, or a tailor-made trip built around your interests and schedule. Selnes 28-30, Breiðdalsvík 832 3500 | tinna-adventure.is

Nature

15 Fjallsárlón Glacier Lagoon

Less known and crowded than its famous neighbor, The Glacier Lagoon, here you'll be transfixed on the colossal jagged wall as it descends into the lagoon. You might spot seals if you are lucky. Ring road 1

16 Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon

Lagoon full of colossal, floating icebergs that have broken off from the glacier. Jökulsárlón is the best example of a lagoon formed by glacier melting. The lagoon started forming in the 1930s but now it's thinning by more than one meter a year. Ring road 1

17 The Diamond Beach

Located at the other side of the Ringroad from Jökulsárlón. You won't find any sunbathers at this black beach but rather bits and pieces of the passing glaciers and icebergs from the Glacier lagoon. Ring road 1

18 Þvottárskeiður Beach

A lone black monolith protrudes straight up from this tranquil beach. It's an unexpected and perplexing wonder how it came to be, but engaging nonetheless to watch it interact with the waves. Ring road 1

19 Faldafoss Waterfall

Here you'll find spectacular scenery and solitude since most travelers miss this off the beaten track waterfall. You can easily see the waterfall from the main road, and there is a small parking lot located next to the road. The walk to the waterfall only takes a couple of minutes. Road 939

Did you know?

The East is the only region of the country where reindeer reside. Approximately 80% of Iceland is highlands and wilderness, making it one of the least densely populated nations in Europe. In this quarter of the county, there are 7,000 reindeer and almost 11,000 residents.



Collect them all!

West, North, East, South & Reykjavík



East Iceland

2026 – 2027



HANDPICKED BY PICKY LOCALS

Hi, I'm Gigi!

I only recommend places I'd share with my closest friends — local, honest and genuinely worth your time. Not a top-ten list. Not an algorithm. Just fifteen years of inside knowledge from someone who lives here, and has been called picky more than once.



Got a favorite we missed? Drop us a line. team@handpicked.is.



Local and real.
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Eat & Drink

Restaurants, Bistros, Cafés & Bars

1 Café Sumarlína

This seaside café is a favorite stop for travelers craving comfort. Tuck into hearty burgers, nourishing seafood soup, and homemade pizzas—rumored to be the best in the region. Pair your coffee or hot chocolate with a warm Belgian waffle or their famous chocolate cake, topped with whipped cream.

Búðavegur 59, Fáskrúðsfjörður
475 1575 | FB

2 Sesam Breadhouse

Ambitious craft bakery and café making their own sourdough bread and pastries, offering light and affordable lunch. They offer a wide variety of traditional treats and quality coffee. Try the Icelandic "snúður", "kleina" or their solid rye bread. Relaxed and personal, loved by locals.

Hafnargata 1, Reyðarfjörður
475 8000 | sesam.is

3 The Bait Shack

How about enjoying a memorable seafood feast or a drink on a pier overlooking the mountains and sea? This friendly little bistro in a former bait shack by the harbor, serves local seafood with a street-food twist and also hosts events and live music, making it very popular with locals and travellers alike during the summer months. Insider tip: Try the fish & chips!

Egilsbraut 26, Neskaupstaður
477 1950 | beituskurinn.is

4 Kaffi Lára - El Grillo Bar

It started when Grandpa Eyþór opened a fisherman's bar in this century-old timber house that once belonged to Lára, a local legend. Now three generations later, it serves up everything from fall-off-the-bone ribs to fresh local fish and flame-grilled meats, paired with their very own El Grillo beer. Get a front-row seat to the town's history and charm.

Norðurgata 3, Seyðisfjörður
472 1703 | elgrillo.is

5 Frú Nielsen - Eatery & Drinks

Set in the oldest house in town, with a spacious outdoor terrace, this is the new kid on the block: fast, casual, and healthy. Salad bowls, poke bowls, sandwiches, acai and skyr bowls, tacos, and the classic catch of the day. Add a freshly squeezed juice on the side. Morning or night, they've got you covered.

Tjarnarbraut 1, Egilsstaðir | 471 1116
frunilsen.is

6 Fish and Butcher Shop

The inside story



Tucked into Egilsstaðir's industrial area, this no-frills spot serves some of the freshest local meat and fish around, at prices that won't sting. The daily lunch special, fish and chips and your choice of catch. The owner, a former fisherman, makes the sauces himself. Staff will help you pick out fish to take home and tell you exactly what to do with it.

Kaupvangur 23b, Egilsstaðir |
471 1300 | FB | kjotogfisk

7 Eldhúsið Restaurant

For an fine dining experience off the Ring Road, visit the historical Gistihúsið-Lake Hotel Egilsstaðir (est. 1903). Serving traditional cuisine with a contemporary flair, highlighting local ingredients. Give the 3-course farm menu a try, featuring local beef, goat cheese, and skyr. Eldhúsið also has a reputation of having one of the best lamb dishes in Iceland. There is only one way to find out!

Egilsstaðir 1-2 | 471 1114
gistihusid.is



8 Klausturkaffi - Café

Set inside the historic cultural center at Skriðuklaustur, this café draws as much from its surroundings as from its kitchen. The lunch buffet leans on classic Icelandic ingredients and cooking where plockfiskur is a reliable fixture. Afternoons bring traditional homemade cakes and pastries to the buffet that tend to go fast.

Skriðuklaustur, Fljótisdalur
471 2992 | FB

9 Hengifoss Food Truck

For the love of waterfalls and food! Parked right by the Hengifoss trail, this little food truck serves traditional lamb soup, fresh-off-the-iron waffles (Grandma's recipe), and homemade ice cream. Try the only sheep's milk ice cream in Iceland, or if you prefer, vegan or gluten-free options. Swing by from May to October for well-earned treats before or after your hike.

Rd. 933, Egilsstaðir (rural)
666 4476 | saudagull.is/matarvagn/

10 Wilderness Centre Café

The passionate locals share their knowledge and invite you into their open kitchen as part of the family, offering you a full Icelandic kitchen experience. They offer local courses, homemade soups, bread, cakes, and desserts. Here you'll find authentic slow food

and slow tourism at its best!

Fljótisdalur, Egilsstaðir (rural)
440 8822 | wilderness.is

11 HAK Bistro

Sheep farmers who opened a kitchen to serve their own lamb, and no other meat. They'll gladly tell you about their flock and the origins of your meal. The menu changes, but the traditional meat soup, lamb pizza, and mushroom soup are all worth trying — and the carrot cake is what people come back for. Humble space, honest homemade food.

Hákonarstaðir, Efra Jökuldal
865 0026 | FB

12 Sireksstaðir Farm Bistro

For a true farm-to-table experience, book a table at Hjá Okkur (Our Place) A bistro serving locally grown and thoughtfully prepared food. The lamb is raised on the farm and the fish is wild, caught in a nearby lake. Open during the summer and by appointment during the fall and winter. Care to stay? Ask for a room or a cottage.

Sireksstaðir, Vopnafjörður
848 2174 | sireksstadir.is

Local Shops

Food & stuff

13 Hús Handanna - Craft and Design

A lifestyle store with a careful eye for products that are good for people and the planet. The range spans local makers, Icelandic designers, and Nordic producers — all chosen with the same standard. Expect craftsmanship, local delicacies, cool clothing and design objects worth bringing home. The kind of shop where you come in for one thing and leave with three.

Miðvangur 1-3, Egilsstaðir
471 2433 | hushandanna.is

14 Blóðberg Boutique



You'll find the ultimate Icelandic design boutique in an artfully black and white painted house in this small but creative village. Erna, the owner, has mastered the art of cool and cozy with her curated selection. From trendy wool sweaters to locally made ceramics, pur accessories and more. Stop by for one-of-a-kind gifts from Icelandic brands.

Norðurgata 5, Seyðisfjörður
822 5258 | FB

15 Stuðlagil - Local Craft

The canyon brings people here. What keeps them longer is often found inside this small craft store. Almost everything on sale comes from farms and families in the surrounding valley, handknitted lopapeysa, wool socks, gloves all made by people who actually live here. Ask the staff about the makers. It turns a souvenir into something with a story worth bringing home.

Jökuldalsvegur, Grund | 866 0046
studlagil.is

Culture

Art, museums & exhibitions

16 Sláturhúsið Cultural Center

While focusing on performing arts, this vibrant cultural hub also hosts ambitious and inspiring art and photo exhibitions, often centering on pressing topics such as climate change. It encourages guests to ponder and connect ideas of the past and the future while celebrating the knowledge of our ancestors and the tradition

of craftsmanship in modern mass-manufactured society.
Kauptungur 9, Egilsstaðir
897 9479 | slaturhusid.is

17 Skriðuklaustur Culture & History Centery

A unique family house and story-telling space of Gunnar Gunnarsson, one of Iceland's most celebrated writers and his wife, Franzisca. Built in 1939 by the ruins of a 16th-century monastery that doubled as a hospital. Exhibitions, personal tours, and multimedia guides tell his story, and kids can trail the character gifts from Icelandic brands.

Skriðuklaustur, Fljótisdalur
471 2990 | skriduklaustur.is

18 Wilderness Center - Exhibition

A creative exhibit that recreates fascinating tales of history, culture, and nature from the Icelandic outback. The founder was a film director and historian who carefully designed the experience to immerse visitors in a world of outlaws and roaming reindeer, where the forces of nature rule. Located on the edge of Northern Europe's biggest wilderness, an attraction in itself.

Fljótisdalur | 440 8822 | wilderness.is

19 Bustarfell Museum

One of the best preserved turf houses in Iceland. Take a journey through the history of farming and changes in lifestyle from the late 18th century to the mid-20th century. The farm has been owned by the same family since 1532, and they still live on site. You can get traditional cakes and coffee at the café.

Bustarfell, Vopnafjörður (rural)
855-4511 | bustarfell.is

Play

20 Fjarðaferðir - RIB Tours

Set out on a RIB boat adventure and experience the wild beauty of East Iceland from the sea. With a local guide at the helm, explore Páskahellir cave, the towering Nípan cliff — a bustling puffin colony, the fiery Rauðbjörg cliffs, and finally cruise past the remains of an old whaling station offering a glimpse into the local history.

Egilsbraut 26, Neskaupstaður
519 5000 | fjardaferdir.com

21 Finnsstaðir - Horse Rental

Quality and an enjoyable experience are the hallmarks of this family-run horse rental. Known for well-trained horses, skilled guides, and beautiful riding paths. They cater to experienced riders and beginners alike. Back at the farm, there's a petting zoo and a nine-hole footgolf course. A spacious rental house means you can stay on if you're not ready to leave.

Finnsstaðir, Egilsstaðir (rural)
892 1803 | finnsstadir.is

22 Laugavalladalur Bath

An oasis west of river Jökulsá á Dal, where you can enjoy a hot geothermal stream and shower under a warm waterfall where the stream runs into the valley's main river. Located 20 km north of dam Kárahnjúkar. Free but the temperature may vary.

Kárahnjúkar road

23 Eastfjords Adventures

Not many operators in East Iceland can take you where this team goes. Hidden waterfalls, private farmland, and abandoned corners most travelers never reach. The guides know Seyðisfjörður and its history the way only

locals do. Choose from e-bikes, hiking, or jeep tours, or let them tailor-make the day. Only small groups, all year-round.

Ferjuleira, Seyðisfjörður | 832 4781
eastfjordsadventures.is

24 Puffin Adventures

Knowing exactly where the puffin colonies gathered, the founders swapped commercial fishing for small-group RIB boat adventures, sailing among towering cliffs and captivating wildlife. They take you close enough to the puffins to look them in the eye, and if you are lucky they fly alongside the boat. Operating during puffin season, May through August.

Puffin Marina, Borgarfjörður Eystra
puffin.is

25 Fjord Bikes

You don't need to be an experienced mountain biker like Árni, the owner and guide. On a powerful e-bike, with him leading the way, you ride through one of Iceland's more remote fjords. Colorful rhyolite mountains, valleys full of sheep and birds, open sea on the descent. Easygoing routes or tougher trails, your choice. Small groups. Bike rentals available too.

Campground, Borgarfjörður Eystra
770 0791 | fjordbikes.com

26 Vök Baths

Iceland's only floating geothermal pools sit just minutes from Egilsstaðir, off the shores of Lake Urriðavatn. With the lake surrounding you on all sides, boundaries between water and sky dissolve. The setup is as considered as it looks: sustainability runs through everything here, and there's a pool bar and bistro when you're ready to surface.

Lake Urriðavatn, Egilsstaðir (rural)
470 9500 | vokbaths.is

Nature

27 Wilderness Center - Tours

Offering a variety of experiences at the edge of the largest, uninhabited wilderness in Northern Europe. Tours include a midnight horse riding adventure and a hike to an abandoned farm. Explore life in the outback in the same sustainable manner as our forefathers, or try a jeep adventure in the highlands!

Fljótisdalur, Egilsstaðir (rural)
440 8822 | wilderness.is

28 Eiderdown Comforters - Tour

From a wild duck's nest to luxury eiderdown comforters. Over roughly three hours, the farmers themselves walk you through every stage: the nesting grounds where the ducks are watched over and protected, how the eiderdown is gathered once the ducklings leave the nest, to the cleaning process. A craft Icelanders have practiced for centuries. If you get charmed you can take one home.

Ytri-Nýpur, Vopnafjörður | 893 1437
eiderdowncomforters.com

29 Selárdalslaug - Pool

A small, modest swimming pool, beautifully located on the banks of the salmon-rich Selá River. It opened in 1950 and was built mostly by volunteers. The pool features a hot tub, a cold tub, indoor showers, and locker rooms with good accessibility for individuals with disabilities. There is something about overlooking one of the greatest salmon fishing spots in Iceland from a warm swimming pool!

Selárdalur, 3 km north of Rd. 85
473 1499

30 Gerpir

To have a look at the easternmost tip of Iceland, a drive to Vöðlavík is required and a short hike. There you can enjoy a wild and uninhabited stretch of nature.

Road 958

31 Páskahellir

A small cave eroded by the thrashing ocean stands by the seaside of Neskaupstaður National Reserve. Poking through are holes that were formed by prehistoric trees destroyed by lava flow.

Bakkavegur, Neskaupstaður

32 Hallormsstaður Forest

Iceland's largest and oldest forest with numerous hiking routes and marked trails, open spaces and playgrounds. While in this beautiful area, make sure to visit Atlavík beach.

Road 931

33 Hengifoss Waterfall

The second-highest waterfall in Iceland and it is particularly picturesque. Known for red clay strata patterns created by sediments from a forest destroyed by flowing lava. It takes 40–60 minutes to walk from the parking lot to the waterfall.

Road 933

34 Stuðlagil

Thanks to the Kárahnjúkar Hydropower Plant, the water levels dropped in the glacial river Jökulsá á Dal, revealing the stunning Studlagil basalt columns canyon. A photographer's dream!

Road 923

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Road 923



Flip to see South East

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