



#visitwesticeland



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 Surtarbrandsgil canyon. A great stop before or after the ferry to Stykkishólmur. Brjánslækur | 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. Kirkjuvammur, Rauðasandur 848 4984 | FB

3 Vegamót Bildudal – 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, Bildudalur 456 2232 | FB

4 Vagninn – Pub & Bistro

The oldest operating pub in the Westfjords, which has been running since 1982, plays a significant role in the small community of Flateyri. Not only does it offer good-tasting daily specials, local beer, and a fire pit to gather around outside, but it also attracts some of Iceland's most sought-after musicians and comedians to its tiny stage. Rustic on the outside, cozy on the inside.

Hafnarstræti 19, Flateyri 456 7751 | FB

5 Fisherman Bistro & Shop

"We love fish" is the heart and soul of this family-owned bistro & shop in Suðureyri, 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, Suðureyri | 450 9000 fisherman.is

6 French Touch Café – Bistro / Bakery



Hayat, the French owner, starts making her pastry at 3 AM, then moves on to preparing for the daily brunch and lunch. This is a proper community spot where locals gather over coffee and hearty meals infused with French cuisine. The dish of the day will likely tempt you. And if you're passing through Ísafjörður, her Bar à Croissant is worth stopping for.

Aðalstræti 9A, Bolungarvík 626 4447 | FB

Local Shops

Food & other favorites

7 Urður Wool

Just off the beaten track lies this brand-new gem—a store tucked in a renovated sheep barn along the stunning Klofnings 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

8 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

9 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

10 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, Bildudalur | 456 6666 skrimsl.is

Play

Activities

11 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

12 Wild West Rocky



The trails and beaches you'll cover on this ATV tour are stunningly raw. Mountains, valleys, and coastline that most visitors never reach, including stretches of solitude that are hard to find anywhere else. Run by a family who have spent their lives here and love to share their local knowledge. They'll tailor the day around you, from two hours to eight.

Hafnarstræti 24, Pingeyri | 777 6010 www.is



Pools & Tubs

Every town has a pool, but if you like it natural and remote.

13 Laugarneslaug – Pool

A natural hot spring pool built by the local youth association, right on the edge of the fjord. Hot pot, sea dipping at high tide. Open morning to late evening.

Laugarnes by Birkimelur

14 Pollurinn

Renovated hot pots on the mountain slope above Tálknafjörður, with a fjord view that makes the detour worthwhile. Small changing hut on site.

Sveinseyri, Tálknafjörður

15 Reykjavjarðarlaug

A low-key pool in Arnarfjörður, visible from the main road. Natural hot pot just above it for soaking. Small changing room on site.

Road 63

16 Hörgshlíðarlaug

A small stone pool at sea level on the east side of Mjóafjörður. Cool off in the sea, warm up in the hot pool. Changing hut and honesty box on site.

Mjóifjörður, Ísafjarðardjúp

17 Krossneslaug

Hot water straight from the mountain slope, seals in the water, birds overhead. One of the better-located pools in the Westfjords.

Krossnes, Strandir

18 Drangsnespottarnir

Three hot tubs on the beach by the main road, looking out over the sea and pier. Changing facilities, free entry by donation.

Aðalbraut, across from Drangsnæs Primary School

North Iceland
2026 – 2027

Reykjavík
2026 – 2027

South Iceland
2026 – 2027

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West Iceland
2026 – 2027

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Illustrated by Elisabet Brynhildardóttir



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, which you'll find at this family-run café and gift shop. 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 Hraunsnef – Steakhouse and Nature Baths

The beef and lamb on the menu come straight from the farm, raised just outside the kitchen window. This creative family runs a cattle farm, a country hotel, a steakhouse, and a set of

geothermal pools. The kitchen leans on what the seasons give it: slow cooking and animals that lived well. Enjoy a relaxing soak after the meal.

Hraunsnef, Borgarnes | 435 0111
hraunsnef.is

4 Hlaðan – Restaurant

The family-run restaurant at Lava Resort sits right on the lava fields at Miðhraun in a renovated barn. The menu runs from seafood and lamb to soups and home-baked bread with sweet treats to finish the meal. Charge the car while you're at it, and there's a small spa if you have time to linger.

Miðhraun 2 | 893 3333 | lavaresort.is

5 Hjá góðu fólki – Café & Bistro

This small, homey place was built by husband and wife around a geothermal greenhouse. Áslaug, the wife, does all the cooking, and you'll likely meet her. Try the popular soup crafted from her own recipe, or the thick pan pizzas. The traditional Icelandic cakes won't disappoint either. Nothing here comes from a factory; it's all made from scratch.

Lágafell, Snæfellsnes
892 5667 | FB

6 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

7 Hótel Búðir

One of Iceland's most beautiful country hotels, located in a spectacular setting, Hótel Búðir 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.

Búðir, Snæfellsnes | 435 6700
hotelbudir.is

8 Vinlandssetur – The Leif Eiríksson 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.

Búðarbraut 1, Búðardalur | 434 1441
vinlandssetur.is

Local Shops

Food & other favorites

9 Ljómaling Local Market

Much of what fills the shelves here you won't find in regular stores: skyr from a nearby farm creamery, grass-fed beef, home made jams, hand-knitted wool to name a few. Around 70 small producers get to sell here, and batches are small, so the offering shifts week to week. No mass-produced souvenirs, just things with a real maker behind them.

Brúartorgi 4, Borgarnes | 437 1400
ljomalind.is

10 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

11 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, Búðardalur (rural)
868 0357 | FB

Culture

Art, museums & exhibitions

12 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 Skallagrímsson. A rich history told in a fun and creative way, suitable for all ages!

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

13 Malaríff 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 Malaríff 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

14 The National Park Center

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

Sandhraun 5, Hellisandi | 661 1500
snaefellsjokull.is

15 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

16 Norska Húsið

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

17 Eirik The Red's Viking Farm

Step into the Viking Era at Eiríksskúli, 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.

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

Play

Activities, pools & spa

18 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

19 Hvammsvík 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

20 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

21 Húsafell Canyon Baths



You reach the canyon, where two geothermal pools are hidden, by walking a highland trail with a private guide sharing stories along the way. When you arrive, the baths are empty. When you leave, they're empty again. You'll experience true solitude where respect for nature and the area's heritage is admirable. Small groups of one to sixteen.

Húsafell Activity Center | 435 1551
husafell.com

22 Into the Glacier

Beneath the surface of Langjökull, Iceland's second-largest glacier, lies the world's largest man-made ice tunnel. The guided tour gets deep into this natural wonder — what glaciers actually are and why they matter. The tunnel sits high on the glacier, with views across the surrounding landscape that are hard to put into words. Open year-round, with optional add-ons including snowmobile rides

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 Lýsulaugar 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 Watching

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 Deildartunguhver

33 Grábrók Crater

34 Búðir Beach

35 Bjarnarhösi Waterfall

36 Arnarstapi Beach

37 Lóndrangar Pillars

38 Kirkjufell Mountain

39 Guðrúnarlaug Hot Spring

Flip to see Westfjords