



www.visitakureyri.is

Akureyri

ALL GOOD THINGS IN LIFE



STREET MAP AND INFORMATION



Tourist Information
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Free parking
- with parking disk



Akureyri

– Bustling with life

Akureyri bustles with life all year round. The town's 17.500 residents make it the most populated town by far outside the capital city area. Akureyri is an entrepreneurial and service centre for all of North Iceland.

It is also a town of culture and education, building on a firm foundation. Two of Iceland's largest fisheries companies operate there, and the tourist industry is always growing in importance. Akureyri is a popular destination for short and long stays. The town itself has much to offer, and many interesting and beautiful places are close by. A variety of activities can be found, e.g. whale safaris, river rafting, sailing, biking, riding and hikes.





How to get there

Akureyri

There are many ways to reach Akureyri. Iceland Express flies directly from Copenhagen to Akureyri during the summer (www.icelandexpress.com). Iceland Express, Icelandair (www.icelandair.com) and other airlines offer flights to the Keflavík International Airport in the south of Iceland from many European airports as well as the U.S.A.

A ferry connects Iceland with Denmark. The ferry arrives once a week to Seyðisfjörður in East Iceland (www.smyril-line.com).

After arriving at the international airport in the south, there are several ways to get to north Iceland. Air Iceland (www.airiceland.is) flies daily and frequently from Reykjavik Municipal Airport to Akureyri. The flight takes about 45 minutes. A scheduled bus operates daily between Reykjavik and Akureyri along the main Ring Road No.1; the trip takes about 6 hours. By private car the travel time is around 4.5 to 5 hours.



Activities & culture

NATURE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

Wide mountain ranges surround Akureyri where the biosphere and landscape are extremely diverse, and vegetation in many places is especially lush. The town also has interesting natural features and many intriguing plants are seen on the hills of Akureyri. The Akureyri Botanic Garden is known far and wide for its varied plants and colourful flowers. Most of the Icelandic flora can be found there as well as over 6000 foreign species. The Garden was founded in 1911 and is today one of the most visited places in town, by both locals and visitors.

HIKING

Within and close to Akureyri are many interesting recreational areas and hiking paths. In this regard the paths along the rivers Glerá and Eyjafjarðará are popular together with the nature conservation area Krossanesborgir and the woodland Kjarnaskógur, where one also finds playgrounds, rest spots and barbecue facilities. Another popular hike is to the peaks of Mt. Súgur (1213 m.a.s.l.). Historical walks through the Old Town are offered whole year around.

Mountain hikes as well as ski tours during winter are organized by mountain guides and Touring Clubs (www.ffa.is, www.naturalis.is and www.glerardalur.is).

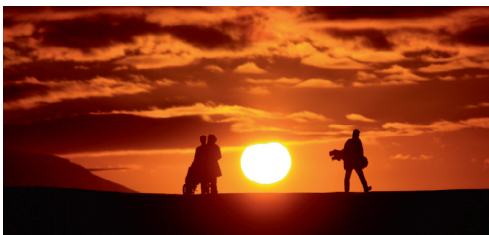
SWIMMING

The Outdoor Swimming Pool Sundlaug Akureyrar is one of the most popular pools in the country. Open daily during all seasons, from early morning until evening. The pool area has two 25 meter outdoor swimming pools heated with geothermal water to around 27-28.5°C, a 12 meter indoor pool, geothermal hot pots with temperature of around 38-42 °C, a Turkish bath, waterslides, a children's pool and a playground. Another 16.6 meter indoor pool is located in the Glerá School Sports Centre (around 31 °C).



GOLF

Akureyri has the northernmost 18-hole golf course in the world, called Jaðarsvöllur. An annual golf tournament called The Arctic Open is held each year at the end of June. The tournament is played in the midnight sun of the summer solstice (www.arcticopen.is). The Golf course is open daily from 9:00 to 22:00 from mid-May till the end of September. During high season other opening hours are possible upon request.





SAILING AND FISHING

Akureyri provides good conditions for sailing and fishing in the Eyjafjörður Fjord. Nökkvi Sailing Club organizes sailing courses for children and rents boats and kayaks. Various boat trips are offered with the oak boat Húni and deep-sea fishing with the boat Haffari, departing from the harbour in town centre.

The surrounding area of Akureyri is ideal for salmon and trout fishing, in lakes and rivers. For information about angling visit: www.angling.is/en.

RIDING

There is nothing like experiencing the Icelandic nature on horseback. Riding tours are offered near Akureyri, by Kátur Horse Rental (4 km outside Akureyri), Skjaldarvík (5 km), Pólar Hestar (37 km) and Tvistur (47 km).

EXCURSIONS

Bus companies and local tour operators offer tours to many popular and interesting places nearby, by bus, super jeeps, boats or even aeroplanes.

Destinations like volcanic areas, waterfalls, the Polar Circle, whale safaris, waterfalls, highland tours, local food and farm visits as well as historical sites for further information: www.sba.is, www.aktravel.is, www.nonnitravel.is, www.sagatravel.is, www.extreme.is and www.icelandicoutback.is.

WINTER SPORTS CENTRE OF ICELAND

The area around Eyjafjörður Fjord is one of the best places in Iceland for cross-country and downhill skiing. The Ski Centre in Akureyri is situated on the slopes of Mt. Hlíðarfjall, a 10 minute drive from the town centre. The ski area is 500 to 1000 m above sea level and has 23 runs with a combined total of 15 km. The area has 6 ski lifts and 10 km of cross country tracks. There is also a ski school, ski rental and cafés. Season: December through May (www.hlidarfjall.is). The skating rink in Akureyri is open from September until May. Skates can be rented.

CULTURE AND THE ARTS

The town's museums are a source of lore and entertainment. The exhibitions in the Art Museum are well known for their quality and diversity and have attracted many visitors through the years.

The Folk Museum boasts remarkable exhibits, providing an entertaining perspective on the settlement and the town's history and development.

The Town of Akureyri has fostered some of Iceland's most beloved writers. Their homes have been turned into museums. The best-known house is without doubt Nonnihouse, with exhibits on the life and literature of the writer Jón Sveinsson (Nonni). The homes of Davíð Stefánsson (Davíðshús) and Matthías Jochumsson (Sigurhæðir) are also popular, especially with Icelanders. Other interesting museums are the Aviation Museum and Museum of Industry.

The Akureyri Theatre, the only professional theatre outside the capital city area, the North Iceland Symphony orchestra and the new North Iceland Culture and Conference Centre are very important to the town's cultural life.

THE ARTISTS' ALLEY AND THE SUMMER ART FESTIVAL

Each summer a Culture and Arts festival takes place from mid-June to the end of August. In different performances and exhibitions, both domestic and international artists create a collaborative platform for cultural events in Akureyri. The peak of the festival, which is always on the last weekend of August, is the Arts Vigil. This is a colourful town festival offering all kinds of fun and entertainment until the late hours.

The centre of cultural life in Akureyri is in Kaupvangsstræti, nicknamed Artists' Alley. For a long time, there were extensive industrial operations there, which eventually moved elsewhere, freeing up a lot of housing that perceptive people saw was ideal for all kinds of arts activities. These include the Akureyri Art Museum, the Akureyri School of Visual Arts, and North Iceland artists' studios, smaller galleries, restaurants, a café and large exhibition rooms.



NIGHTLIFE

During the day, Akureyri is quiet, but if you thirst for nightlife, you are in the right place. The liveliest evenings are on Friday and Saturday when the town centre vibrates with life and dancing at the hot spots. Each place has its unique features, and all age groups should find something to their liking. The people of Akureyri know how to have fun, whether in the glow of the midnight sun or during the depths of winter.

Nearby

There are many interesting spots near Akureyri. Here are a few:

EYJAFJÖRDUR FJORD

The entire fjord offers many opportunities for entertainments and sights, e.g., Jólahúsið (10 km) the Christmas House, Safnasafnið (10 km) art museum, Gásir (11 km) remains from medieval trading place, Laufás (30 km from Akureyri), traditional turf houses and museum, Saurbær (35 km) an old turf church, Smámunasafnið (35 km) a museum, Síldarminjasafn Íslands (120 km) The Icelandic Herring Era Museum, Kerling (18 km) hiking to the top of the highest peak of the fjord (1538 m.a.s.l). Riding tours: Kátur (4 km), Skjaldavík (5 km), Pólar Hestar (37 km) and Tvistur (47 km). Golf: Leifsstaðir (3 km), Þverá (10 km), Grenivík (38 km),



Svarfaðardalur (47 km), Ólafsfjörður (61 km), Siglufjörður (120 km). The small fishing villages along the fjord are also recommended: Dalvík (44 km), Grenivík (38 km), Ólafsfjörður (61 km) and Siglufjörður (120 km).

HRÍSEY ISLAND (35 KM)

The island of Hrísey is a natural pearl in the middle of Eyjafjörður Fjord. The island has a small fishing village with a population of around 200. To get there drive toward Dalvík to Árskógsandur, where a ferry crosses to Hrísey. The trip takes about 15 minutes. There are several hiking paths on the island, a rich bird life, museums, an outdoor swimming pool, a small hotel, camping site, restaurant, café and shop. Popular guided tractor trips are offered daily during summer. www.hrisey.is



WOODS: VAGLASKÓGUR (34 KM) AND LEYNINGSHÓLAR (40 KM)

The second biggest natural woodland in Iceland, Vaglaskógur, is to be found east of Akureyri, in Fnjóskárdalur Valley. The woodland is a popular camping, hiking and picnic area. Another small natural woodland is Leyningshólar, in the valley south of Akureyri.

GRÍMSEY ISLAND (100 KM)

The island is the northernmost part of Iceland and is situated on the Arctic Circle. There are about 95 inhabitants, and the main occupation is industrial fishing. The island can be reached by ferry from Dalvík (3hrs) or by airplane from

Akureyri. It is a popular tourist destination during the summer where the midnight sun and the rich bird life are the main attractions (www.grimsey.is).



THE LAKE MÝVATN AREA - MÝVATNSSVEIT (90 KM)

Mývatnssveit is a volcanic area east of Akureyri. It is situated on the Mid-Atlantic ridge, which is an active volcanic belt. The lake and its surroundings are well known for rich bird life and unique volcanic formations. The area has many interesting paths and sights, e.g., the fissure Grjótagjá with geothermal water, the peculiar lava formations in Dimmuborgir, the pseudo craters Skútustaðagígar, the explosion crater Hverfjall and the boiling mud pools at Námaskarð. The new lagoon The Nature Baths in Mývatn offers a fabulous bath in an adventurous environment.



THE WATERFALL GODAFOSS (40 KM)

Close to the main road between Akureyri and Mývatn is one of Iceland's most beautiful waterfalls. The river, which has several other waterfalls, originates on the north side of the Vatnajökull Glacier. The blanket of lava surrounding the river is more than 7000 years old. Godafoss "the waterfall of the Gods" is named after a historical event when pagan statues were thrown into the falls when Christianity was introduced in Iceland.



HÚSAVÍK (90 KM)

Húsavík is a fishing village, east of Akureyri. It is known mainly for the Húsavík Whale Centre (museum) and its popular Whale Watching Tours. The town has a beautiful wooden church, which is its symbol, and several museums, e.g., The Maritime Museum and The Icelandic Phallological Museum.

Bits of *history*

AKUREYRI - THE TOWN IN THE FJORD

No clear historical reference is made to Akureyri until 1562. The town's name is ancient, related to the cultivation of fields (akur), but its growth was initially closely tied to

trading and the export of agricultural products. In 1787 the trade monopoly for Iceland was abolished, and Akureyri was one of six trading towns in the country to get market town rights when this happened. Danes or merchants related to Danes generally handled the trade since Iceland was under the Danish crown. During their long stay, Danes contributed many things to the people of Akureyri, such as potato gardens, forestry, architecture and culture.

The original "Akureyri" is a small gravel bank below Búdargil formed from the deposits of a creek flowing through the gully. The market town's first settlement was built there, and the town's oldest house, Laxdalshús at Hafnarstræti 11, can still be found at this location. The house was built in 1795.

Akureyri gained municipal rights in 1862 when its population had reached 300 and since then the number of inhabitants has been growing steadily. In 2008 and 2009 the two islands in the fjord, Hrísey and Grímsey became a part of Akureyri municipality. Today the town counts 17500 inhabitants.

For more information, www.akureyri.is/english.





THE VIKING

FAMILY BUSINESS FOR 50 YEARS

THE VIKING : INFO

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