

# What's New in Akureyri & surrounding areas 2018/2019



AKUREYRARSTOFA

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## Activities

\* **Arctic Fox Travel:** Super jeep tours – multiple tours for 1-4 persons such as to Laugarfell Hot Springs (summer) and a Play Day in the Snow (winter). Also customized tours. Address: Petursborg, 601 Akureyri. Phone +354 823 9296. Web: <https://arcticfoxtravel.is>

\* **Black Beach hot tubs:** Two big hot tubs situated on the black sand beach by Hauganes. Open 24/7. Relying on donations of 500 ISK to further develop the services. Web: <http://www.ektafiskur.is/veitingahus/sandvikurfjara/>

\* **Geosea** – Geothermal baths, filled with hot seawater rich in minerals. Located in Húsavík, 93 km from Akureyri. Max capacity 160 pax. Address: Vitaslóð 1, 640 Húsavík. Phone: +354 464 1210. Web: [www.geosea.is/en](http://www.geosea.is/en)

\* **Iceland Photo Travel** – A travel company and tour guide that specializes in photo tours from Akureyri, nature, scenery, northern lights etc. Address: Brekkusíða 4, 603 Akureyri, Email [info@icelandphototravel.is](mailto:info@icelandphototravel.is), Phone: +354 896 6001, Web: [www.icelandphototravel.is](http://www.icelandphototravel.is)

\* **Akureyri walk and visit** – Guided walks in Akureyri and home visits with authorized tour guides. Tour duration 2- 3 hours. Phone +354 623 9595, Web: [www.walkandvisit.is](http://www.walkandvisit.is), Email: [walkandvisit@walkandvisit.is](mailto:walkandvisit@walkandvisit.is)

\* **Akureyri Love Bike** - Bike Tours in Tricycle (Rickshaw). An ecofriendly means of transport. All tours are guided by the driver & on board are available binoculars, warm blanket and Free Wi-Fi. Tour duration 1 – 2 hrs. New 2019 guided bicycle tours. Phone: (+354) 680 4976, FB: Akureyri Love Bike Tours, Email: [akureyrilovebiketours@gmail.com](mailto:akureyrilovebiketours@gmail.com)

\* **Arctic Trip – 2 NEW TOURS:** Grímsey Snorkeling Day Tour (including ferry, guides, transport, snorkeling gear and light refreshments (5 hrs., 15 May -10 August) & Sightseeing & Sea Bird Egg Collecting (2.5-3 hrs., 15 May-5 June)

Arctic Trip is offering variety of tours, with an emphasis on the northernmost spot of Iceland – the island of Grímsey. Phone: +354 848 1696, Web: [www.arctictrip.is](http://www.arctictrip.is), Email: [info@arctictrip.is](mailto:info@arctictrip.is)

\* **SBA Norðurleið Bus Company: New tour Kerlingarfjöll – stopover in the highlands.** Available 18 June to 6 September. The Kjölur route including a stopover in Kerlingarfjöll – an area great for hiking in colorful landscape. Phone (+354) 550 0700, Web: [www.sba.is](http://www.sba.is), Email: [mailto:sba@sba.is](mailto:mailto:sba@sba.is)

\* **Hop on – Hop off bus** The bus is run on cruise ship days with ships larger than 1000 passenger. Departures every 1 hour, each round takes 45 minutes with 11 stops along the route. Video with information in English (will also be in German summer 2019) about the town on board. Phone (+354) 571 2282, Web: [www.fabtravel.is](http://www.fabtravel.is); Email: [info@fabtravel.is](mailto:info@fabtravel.is) Price ISK 2000 (day ticket).

\* **Akureyri Activities** – Bike Tours Akureyri offer different guided biking tours, from 2 – 4 hours as well as tailor maid tours on Cube Stere Hybrid 500 SL bikes with a 500w motor so the biking will be an easy task. Web: [akureyriactivities.is](http://akureyriactivities.is), Email: [info@akureyriactivities.is](mailto:info@akureyriactivities.is)



AKUREYRARSTOFA

RÓSENBERG, SKÓLASTÍG 2, 600 AKUREYRI, SÍMI: 460 1000  
[akureyrarstofa@akureyri.is](mailto:akureyrarstofa@akureyri.is), [www.visitakureyri.is](http://www.visitakureyri.is)

- \* **Akureyri Art Museum** – The museum has been renovated and new exhibition halls and a museum store and café added. Entrance price (2018) ISK 1500, Web: [listak.is/en](http://listak.is/en)
- \* **Circle Air** – will offer helicopter services in north Iceland in addition to their more traditional charter and regular air tours. This will be the first time they have helicopters positioned outside the capital area. This is in cooperation with Heli Austria, Austria 's largest helicopter operator. Web [www.circleair.is](http://www.circleair.is), Phone (+354) 5884000 Email: [circleair@circleair.is](mailto:circleair@circleair.is)
- \* **Brúnir Horse** about 20 minutes' drive from Akureyri, in Eyjafjarðarsveit. Emphasis on horse shows. Professional shows where the Icelandic horse is introduced and its history and unique qualities are presented. Also on site, a studio, art gallery and a café with local refreshments. Horseshows available upon request for 7+ persons, bookable online. Web: [brunirhorse.is](http://brunirhorse.is), Phone (+354) 8631470. Email: [brunirhorse@brunirhorse.is](mailto:brunirhorse@brunirhorse.is)
- \* **Arctic Coast Way** – the first touring route in Iceland, the route is being developed in the North of Iceland – following the coast of North Iceland. The route is 800 km “off the beaten track” adventure along the North Atlantic Ocean, including 21 fishing villages and perfect places to see the midnight sun and northern lights. Web: [www.northiceland.is/en/moya/page/arctic-coast-way](http://www.northiceland.is/en/moya/page/arctic-coast-way)
- \* **Kaffi Kú** – about 15 minutes' drive from Akureyri, in Eyjafjarðarsveit. Cowshed and a café, offering a new tour including a guided tour into the shed “Learn, Taste and Feel”. They also are the only shed with live feed of happy cows in Iceland [on YouTube](#).

## Accommodation

### \* **Hótel Akureyri – Hafnarstræti 67**

Hotel Akureyri (est. 1990) which until now has offered 19 rooms will open a new hotel only one house away. The new hotel will be called Hotel Akureyri – Dynheimar and will have 16 double rooms on two floors. Opening date is February 2019. Hotel Akureyri is also planning a 33 room & restaurant addition to its original building, constructions have already started. The planned opening for the 33 room addition is early January 2020.

Phone: +354 462 5600, Email: [hotelakureyri@hotelakureyri.is](mailto:hotelakureyri@hotelakureyri.is), Web: [hotelakureyri.is](http://hotelakureyri.is)

### \* **Hrímland Apartments – Strandgata 29**

Hrímland has 9 vacation homes in the slopes of Mt. Híðarfjall – they are now adding Hrímland Apartments close to Hof. In total 16 studio apartments for 2 persons (Two with handicap access and 1 luxurious – more space). Each apartment has its own heated locker for ski equipment in the basement. The hotel opened in December 2018 with 11 apartments and remaining 5 apartments will open spring 2019. Minimum stay at both vacation homes and apartments is 2 nights. Phone: +354 860 8160, E-mail: [hrimland@hrimland.is](mailto:hrimland@hrimland.is), Website: [www.hrimland.is](http://www.hrimland.is) In order to have a look at the apartments contact Valdimar Sigurgeirsson Phone +354 861 9622.

### \* **Centrum Guesthouse - Hafnarstræti 102**

Two floors 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with total 14 double rooms with private facilities (3<sup>rd</sup> just opened). A shared kitchen for guests on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and soon also laundry facilities. In progress is the 4<sup>th</sup> floor that consists of 5 studio apartments – with a small kitchen, tv-corner, double bed and a sleeping couch (fits 2 – 140 cm). The apartments are 25-30 m<sup>2</sup> most of them will have a balcony. Ready in 2019. No elevator at the moment but is to come. Contact: Carsten Tarnow +354 852 3477. Email: [akureyritownsquare@gmail.com](mailto:akureyritownsquare@gmail.com)



## Restaurants & Cafes

- \* **Pizzasmiðjan** – pizza restaurant with 60 seats in center of Akureyri, opened beginning February 2019. Address: Hafnarstræti 92, Phone +354 461 5858, Email: bautinn@bautinn.is
- \* **Verksmiðjan** – a family restaurant (menu: steak, burgers and Pizzas etc.) in 2 levels. On 1st floor 50 seats and 2nd floor 100 seats. The second floor has booths and traditional table settings as well as big screens for displaying different sport events and more. Will open May 2019. Address: Glerártorg shopping mall, Gleráreyrar. Phone +354 861 6966 Email: verksmidjanak@verksmidjanak.is / kiddik77@gmail.com FB: Verksmiðjan Akureyri
- \* **Indian Curry House** – Restaurant and Take-away Restaurant which specializes in Indian cuisine, seats 30. Address: Ráðhústorg 3, Phone +354 461 4242
- \* **Gil Coffee Shop - Akureyri Art Museum** – Café in the Art Museum, seats 30. Address: Kaupvangsstræti 8. FB: Gil kaffihús
- \* **Hælið Café:** Café Specializes in homemade pastries and historical atmosphere concerning the story of the White Plague. Winter opening: Weekends 14-18, Summer opening: Daily 11-18. Seats 35. Address: Kristnes 5, 601 Akureyri, Phone +354 863 6428, Web: haelid.is.
- \* **Into the Arctic Restaurant** by the harbor – open daily. Icelandic homely meal during lunch time. International cuisine in the evenings. All licenses. Seats 83. Address: Strandgata 53, Phone +354 588 9050, Web: nordurslod.is
- \* **Sushi Corner** Restaurant and Take-away Restaurant which specializes in sushi, seats 40. Address: Kaupvangstræti 1, Phone: +354 466 3666, FB: Sushi Corner
- \* **Beer Spa Restaurant** – 20 min drive from Akureyri. Offering a variety of meals and beer related food. Seats 55. Address: Ægisgata, 621 Árskógssandur, Phone: +354 4142828, Web: Bjobodin.com/English
- \* **Brúnir Horse** – café (gallery and horseshows), approx. 20 min drive from Akureyri. Offering Coffee and traditional Icelandic cake and pastry as well as soup and bread. Web: www.brunirhorse.is
- \* **Bautinn & La Vita e bella** have new owners – the same as Rub23. Bautinn has new emphasis on their menu and La Vita e Bella is has closed but will reopen in February as Pizzasmiðjan (see above).
- \* **Valdís** – Ice-cream shop, specializes in different and unusual flavors of ice-cream, seats 6 outside, 2 inside, Address: Hafnarstræti 100B, Phone +354 537 7373, Web: www.valdis.is
- \* **Lasagna and more** – Italian Take-away (closed during winter), Address: Hafnarstræti 103, Phone +354 625 7818, Web: www.lasagnatakeaway.com
- \* **Lemon** – is a restaurant in Glerárgata, that just opened another restaurant under the same name in Center of town by the town square. This is a healthy style restaurant with sandwiches and juices made with fresh ingredients. Open 11.00 – 14.00 weekdays and Saturdays evenings from 22.30 – until dawn. The restaurant seats 15 Ráðhústorg 1 s: (+354) 462 5552
- \* **Heitur matur í Hrísalundi:** A Canteen restaurant where you pay according to the weight of the meal you select. Open 11 – 20.00 daily. Seats: 24. Address: Hrísalundur 5, Phone: +354 462 2277, FB: Heitur Matur í Hrísalundi. Email: matsmidjan@matsmidjan.is

## **Akureyri Town and Infrastructure:**

\* **New Tunnel** has been opened through the mountain Vaðlaheiði on the opposite side of the fjord from Akureyri. The tunnel makes the driving between Akureyri and the East of Iceland to e.g. Húsavík, Mývatn and Egilsstaðir much safer and approx. 15 km shorter. The Tunnel which is about 7 km long, has been under construction since 2013 and was officially opened in January 2019. For information about the tunnel and how to pay visit <https://www.veggjald.is/en/pricing>

\* **Hlíðarfjall Ski Area** A new chairlift will be added to the area winter (2019/2020) in connection to the existing chairlift, adding 1100 meters further up the mountain. By then the area will have 8 lifts in total. Web: [hlidarfjall.is](http://hlidarfjall.is)

\* **The Seafront path in Akureyri** - walking/bicycle path along the seaside from airport to town center, a new bridge on the path was opened summer 2018 – called “the Rendezvous Bridge”. Popular e.g. for photography, angling and walks.

\* **Biking and Hiking Path between Akureyri and Hrafnagil** (Christmas house)

A new “paved-path” 7 km has been opened this autumn. Making it easy to bike, hike or take a rickshaw to the Christmas house or to the geothermal pool at Hrafnagil.

\* **Akureyri Geothermal Pool**

Three new slides and tubs/whirlpools as well as the outdoor area has been renovated.

\* **Red heart traffic light**

All red traffic lights in Akureyri are heart shaped and visitors tend to like to catch a photo of them – In order to make it safe for them to catch a photo in a safe way - a red traffic light has been put down by the waterfront close to Hof Cultural House. An ideal spot for taking selfies, safe from the traffic, with Akureyri Church in the background.

\* **History-signs**

Akureyri town has been creating a trail with information boards – telling the towns history and history of buildings and streets. The Trail leads from the Old Town to the Town Center and summer 2018 the trail continued down to the Cruise ship harbor at Oddeyrarbryggja – from the town square at Ráðhústorg along the Strandgata which is the street along the coast line down to the harbor.

\* **New hiking trail along the town’s river Glerá**

A new trail has been constructed along the canyon of the river Glerá along the west side of the river from the new hydropower plant – leading up to a dam in the Glerárdalur valley some 7 km. This trail connects with the current path along the canyon down to the mouth of the river

\* **New map of town** with main highlights of town and most essential infrastructure is now accessible and printable on our website in B/W and in color.

\* **Grímsey island** – a new Symbol for the Arctic Circle A new artwork can be found on the Arctic Circle in Grímsey, showing where the Arctic Circle is each year. The artwork is a 3 meter in diameter globe that will follow the fluctuating North-South part of the Arctic Circle until it leaves the island. Further info on [www.visitgrimsey.is](http://www.visitgrimsey.is) (put up 2017)

## **Akureyri Town and Infrastructure cont:**

\* Bird-trail in Eyjafjörður – A brochure with maps and information about 11 different birdwatching locations within the area of Eyjafjörður. The brochure can be purchased at the Tourist Information in Akureyri and also accessed free of charge at [http://www.visitakureyri.is/static/files/2012-VISIT/pdf/fuglabok\\_ens\\_net2.pdf](http://www.visitakureyri.is/static/files/2012-VISIT/pdf/fuglabok_ens_net2.pdf)

\* Kjarnaskógur Recreation Area - New playgrounds, paths, volleyball fields and restrooms.  
<http://www.visitakureyri.is/en/things-to-do/activities/kjarnaskogur-woods>

## **Transportation**

### **\* Direct Domestic flight between Keflavík to Akureyri**

Air Iceland Connect offers direct domestic flights between Keflavik International Airport (KEF) and Akureyri (AEY) North Iceland in connection to international flights via Keflavik. Flights are available 4 times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Flights are only available in connection with international flights through Keflavik Airport (KEF), a stopover in KEF is not allowed and passengers cannot leave the terminal between flights as customs clearance on arriving passengers is performed at Akureyri. The flight to Akureyri is only available in connection with same-day international flights through Keflavik Airport (KEF). If traveling with Icelandair to Keflavík the baggage is checked in all the way to Akureyri. If traveling with another airline to Keflavík Airport. Then customers need to go to baggage claim, pick up the luggage and check in again to Akureyri at the IGS service desk, just by the baggage belts.

Further information look at: [www.airicelandconnect.com/destinations/iceland/keflavik](http://www.airicelandconnect.com/destinations/iceland/keflavik)

### **\* Direct international flights from the UK**

The British travel agency Super Break started offering flights from various cities in the UK straight to the capital of North Iceland, Akureyri from Jan-March 2018 in total 14 flights. The agency specializes in short breaks and so these trips are either for 3 or 4 nights. This winter 2018 – 2019 Super Break has extended their offer and fly from December 2018 – March 2019. For more information visit Web: [superbreak.com/promotions/incredible-iceland-breaks/](http://superbreak.com/promotions/incredible-iceland-breaks/)

### **\* Direct international flights from Holland**

The Dutch tour-operator Voigt Travel is offering flights to Akureyri as of next summer from 27th. May till 9th. September 2019 and next winter from December 2019 to March 2020. In total there will be seats for 2400 passengers flying from Rotterdam to Akureyri. Flights are on Mondays. For more information visit: <https://www.voigt-travel.nl/ijsland/akureyri>

\* **Ferry to Grímsey island** – More frequent ferry departures between Grímsey and Dalvík. Number of ferry departures increased during winter from 3 per week to 4 and during summer from 3 to 5 per week. Also, price was reduced, was Isk. 4830 for adults (one way) but is now Isk. 3500. Web: [samskip.is/innanlandsflutningur/saefari/english/](http://samskip.is/innanlandsflutningur/saefari/english/) & [visitgrimsey.is/en](http://visitgrimsey.is/en)

## Events

- \* **Summer Solstice Festival Grímsey** Enjoy the midnight sun on the longest day of the year on the Arctic Circle – where the sun does not set in the middle of summer. Events and local cuisine on this northernmost part of Iceland. Web: [www.visitgrimsey.is](http://www.visitgrimsey.is)
- \* **Local food Festival** - Exhibition, Excursions, Food and Fun Pop-up at restaurants held every second year – 16 March 2019.

## Activities – new things from last year (2017)

- \* **Grímsey island** - organized tours and bicycle rental. The ferry increased its schedule summer 2017 from 3 to 5 departures weekly (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri and Sun). New also a bus in the island with capacity of 32 pax (seating 23). Web: [www.arctictrip.is](http://www.arctictrip.is) & [www.visitgrimsey.is/en](http://www.visitgrimsey.is/en).
  - \* **Keli Sea Tours** offers whale watching tours from Akureyri as well as custom-made tours on the fjord to watch the sunset, wildlife or go fishing. Address: Akureyri harbor, Phone: +354 546 7000, Web: [keliseatours.is](http://keliseatours.is)
  - \* **Akureyri Whale Watching** Web: [whalewatchingakureyri.is](http://whalewatchingakureyri.is)
    - a) **Whale watching winter** – departure daily - minimum 10 pax.  
Akureyri Classic Whale Watching: dep. at 11.00 (Dec & Jan), dep 13.00 (Feb – Nov)
    - b) **Express Whale Watching - Brewery Tour - Beer Tasting - Beerbath – Spa**  
Perfect for Whale & Beer lovers. Includes a tour with RIB boats, whale watching, a visit to a local brewery and a luxurious Beer Spa. Duration 4-5 hrs. Available 15. June – 30. August.
  - \* **ArtAk Travel** Offering various local tours such as Art & City walk, Cup of tea with the locals, Akureyri City walk with a local guide and Meet the local artist – workshop tour.  
Address: Strandgata 53, Email: [travelartak@gmail.com](mailto:travelartak@gmail.com) Phone: +354 691 4839 Web: [artaktravel.is](http://artaktravel.is)
  - \* **Exhibition “Into the Arctic”** with Arctic Theme in a historic light. Located by the cruise ship harbor at Strandgata 53. The exhibition focuses on the life of people living north of the Arctic Circle and the fate of explorers who raced to the North Pole in the last century. Address: Strandgata 53, Phone: +354 588 9050, Web: [nordurslod.is](http://nordurslod.is)
  - \* **Akureyri Escape** – An adventure game in which players solve a series of puzzles and riddles with means of clues and hints. Max capacity 16 pax. FB: Escape Akureyri
  - \* **Daladýrð** – A petting ZOO in the valley Fnjóskárdalur aprox 30 min drive from Akureyri. A farm where all the Icelandic farm animals can be visited as well as a gallery with woolen cloths. Open daily during summer. Closed winter FB: Daladýrð.
  - \* **Strýtan Diving center** [www.strytan.is](http://www.strytan.is)
- Standup paddle boarding** (SUP) is an offshoot of surfing, where one stands up on the boards and uses a paddle to propel the board through the water. All-Round Inflate-able SUP's can be rented that are perfect for beginners and more experienced adventurers alike. Also, a possibility of a guided tour.
- Whale snorkeling** – This tour includes the opportunity to go whale watching or join in the water with the whales if one feels comfortable enough. Full thought goes to make sure that the whales come first so they won't be disturbed.
- \* **Hrísey island** – A new guesthouse (Wave Guesthouse), Grocery store, Cafe and a Restaurant Verbúðin 66. Web: [hrisey.is/en](http://hrisey.is/en)

\* **Beer Spa** The first of its kind in the Nordic Countries. The spa facilities consist of 7 Bath tubs. Each tub fits for one or two together at a time. A beer draught is available at every tub. The bathtubs are filled with warm beer, water, hops and yeast. A typical visit consists of a 25 minutes bath and a 25 minutes relaxation. Also included an outdoor area with two outside hot water tubs that fits 8-10 people in each. In Árskógssandur, aprox 25 minutes' drive from Akureyri. Web: [bjorbodin.com/English](http://bjorbodin.com/English)



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