

What's New in Akureyri & surrounding areas 2024



VISIT AKUREYRI

Activities

* Snowmobile tours

Icelandic Adventures are offering snowmobile tours in the highlands/mountains by Akureyri daily at 11.00 and 13.00. The tours are one- or two-hours rides. Tours includes pickup and drop off, gear and a guided adventure tour into the mountains above the town Akureyri.

Web: icelandicadventures.is, Email info@icelandicadventures.is, Phone: (+354) 449 9905

* Whale Watching

Special Tours will be offering tours from Akureyri with a fast-cruising catamaran boat for the first-time summer 2024. Operating from 1st May – 30th September offering tours twice a day at 9.00 and 13.00. The tours are 2-2.5 hrs tours and cost 13.990 ISK

Web: www.specialtours.is, Email: info@specialtours.is, Phone (+354) 560 8800

* Exhibition about the Icelandic Sheep Dog

An exhibition providing information about the Icelandic Sheep Dog is currently under construction at the Lýtingsstaðir farm. The plans are to open it summer 2024.

Web: fjarhundur.is / www.lythorse.is, Email: fjarhundur@fjarhundur.is, Phone (+354) 893 3817

* Forest Lagoon

The Forest Lagoon geothermal spa, opened in spring 2022 on the opposite side of the fjord, in Vaðlaskógur forest, approximately 3 km from Akureyri Town Centre. The facility boasts a 1,300 square-meter complex, including a bistro, two infinity pools with swim-up bars, a cold tub, and a sauna. Accommodating up to 200 visitors at a time, Forest Lagoon is open daily from 10:00 in the morning until 24:00 in the evening. Single admission is ISK 6590.

Web: www.forestlagoon.is, Email: info@skogarbad.is, Phone (+354) 585 0090

* Zipline Akureyri

The company, which opened in 2022, offers an adventurous ride through a stunning river canyon in the heart of Akureyri town. The experience includes five ziplines over a rustling river and steep cliff walls, accompanied by a mix of light hiking and storytelling. The guided tour is conducted in small groups and takes less than 2 hours. The adventure starts and ends at the Zipline Akureyri headquarters by Hlíðarbraut. Please note that it is closed during winter.

Web: ziplineakureyri.is, Email: hallo@ziplineakureyri.is

* Akureyri Riding tours

Located approximately 10 km from Akureyri, just a 10-minute drive away, Akureyri Riding Tours offers short tours lasting 1 hour, suitable for all ages.

Web: www.akureyriridingtours.is, E-mail: akureyriridingtours@internet.is, Phone (+354) 897 5756

* Hidden trail

Hidden trail Lystigarðurinn Akureyri is a slow walk in the botanic garden in Akureyri, a one-hour guided tour by an Icelandic seer. In this walk, the guide tells you about the huldufólk / hidden people, the elves/fairies who live in the park, and all-around Iceland.

Web: huldustigur.is, E-mail: huldustigur@huldustigur.is, Phone: (+354) 8970670



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Activities cont.

* Akureyri Airport Bus & Hop on – Hop off bus

The Akureyri Airport Bus connects Akureyri Airport with the town of Akureyri. The route includes stops at all main hotels in Akureyri and the campsite. Transport is available only upon pre-booking on their website.

Please note that passengers are required to get to the bus stop at the correct time themselves, as the bus does not enter hotels for pick-ups.

Also operating Hop-on & Hop-off bus on cruise days during summer, taxi service and private tours.

Web: www.sysli.is, E-mail: sysli@sysli.is, Phone (+354) 555 2888

* Star Travel – new tour: On Vikings' Path

A day tour to Skagafjörður including highlights such as Troll Peninsula, Hraundrangar Mountain Peaks, Glaumbær Turf Museum, Sauðárkrókur town and 1238: the Battle of Iceland exhibition.

Duration: 7 hours, Price xxxx, departures xxxx

Web: startravel.is; E-mail: info@startravel.is, Phone (+354) 844 8388

Accommodation

* Hótel Hálönd

A self-service hotel situated on the slopes of Mount Hlíðarfjall, with fjord view. The hotel, opened in autumn 2022, consists of two separate buildings with a total of 54 double rooms, each equipped with a sofa bed and private facilities, spanning 26 m². While there is no breakfast or restaurant service, every room is furnished with a fridge, coffee machine, table, and four chairs.

For groups, each building provides a hall with a seating capacity of 40 persons. Additional amenities include a closed drying cabinet on the ground floor for each room, ski/bike storage, and a laundry room. Guests can also enjoy hot tubs outside the hotel.

Web: www.hotelhalond.is, Email: info@hotelhalond.is, Phone: (+354) 571 8030

* Hotel Akureyri – Hafnarstræti 67

The hotel currently operates in two buildings: Skjaldborg with 19 rooms and Dynheimar with 16 rooms, along with apartments in nearby buildings. In spring 2024, a new building between Skjaldborg and Dynheimar will open, featuring 30 double rooms and 3 suites. The hotel offers a contactless and fast check-in and check-out system. Room details and pin numbers are sent to guests on the day of arrival.

The restaurant North is located on the ground floor of Skjaldborg.

Web: hotelakureyri.is, Email: hotelakureyri@hotelakureyri.is, Phone: +354 462 5600

* Apartments for rent

A new rental company taking care of short term rentals of apartments in Akureyri. They currently offer 25 apartments for rent and will be adding at least 10 in the coming month as well as other options.

Webpage is under reconstruction and will offer booking options within February 2024.

Web: leigulausnir.is, Email: arnar@leigulausnir.is, Phone: (+354) 868 3807



Accommodation cont.

* Hotel Kjarnalundur

The hotel is located by the Kjarnaskógur forest, just a 5-minute drive from the city center, offering a total of 65 rooms. Additionally, there are 6 cabins nearby, accommodating up to 6 persons each. Hotel Kjarnalundur also provides accommodation in Akureyri, including stays in historical buildings:

Hoepners House: 4 apartments (two for six persons and two for four persons)

Tuliniusar House: 3 apartments (for 4, 5, and 6 persons)

Strandgata 9: Apartment for 5 persons (2 bedrooms)

Hafnarstræti 108: Opening in spring 2024 – 15 double rooms with a bathroom

Gilbakkavegur 11: Apartment for up to 14 persons

Church: An old church is being transformed into accommodation – under construction.

Web: Kjarnalundur.is , Email: info@kjarnalundur.is, Phone: (+354) 460 0060

* Centrum Hotel - Hafnarstræti 102

Centrally located at Hafnarstræti 102, Centrum Hotel offers:

14 double rooms with private facilities & 5 studios (three for 1x3 and two for 1x4)

Guests have access to shared kitchen and laundry facilities.

Centrum Hotel also operates a guesthouse next door: Apótek Guesthouse with one 1x1, eleven 1x2 with shared bathrooms, five 1x2 with private facilities, and one apartment for up to 7 persons.

Additionally, Centrum Hotel runs Laugar Hotel in Reykjadalur (under a 10-year contract)

Web: Centrum-hotel.is, Email: reception@centrum-hotel.is, Phone: (+354) 773 6600

* Höfði Lodge

Located approximately 40 km from Akureyri, Höfði Lodge is a luxurious adventure resort set to open in early 2025. Nestled by the village Grenivík, this 5,500 square-meter building offers 40 luxurious rooms, including 4 suites. The resort features a restaurant and rooftop bar, along with amenities such as a gym, spa, and lounge areas. Additional offerings include meeting rooms, helicopter pads, horse stables, indoor golf, and an entertainment room for young guests.

Höfði Lodge will provide a variety of activities, including hiking, biking, kayaking, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding. Perched on a 50-meter-high cliff, the resort offers spectacular scenery with ocean views overlooking the mountains on Látraströnd and the Troll Peninsula.

Web: hofdilodge.com, Email: info@hofdilodge.com, Phone: (+354) 8461674

Restaurants & Cafés:

* MÓI Bistro in Hof Cultural & Conference house

A bistro offering Italian-style food with a great view of the marina. The bistro can accommodate up to 100 people and provides catering and bar services in connection to meetings, conferences, and events in the building

Web: moibistro.is, Email: moi@moibistro.is, Phone: (+354) 857 6377

Restaurants & Cafés Cont.:

* Foodhall Glerártorg Mall

To be opened later this winter.

Web: glerartorg.is, Email: glerartorg@glerartorg.is, Phone: (+354) 461 5770

* Kvíkkí – Lemon – Slæsan Pizza

Salatsjoppa has undergone a name change and is now called Kvíkkí – Lemon – Slæsan Pizza. The restaurant offers a variety of salads, sandwiches, and pizzas.

Web: kvikki.is, Email: kvikki@kvikki.is, Phone: (+354) 4622245

* Jaðar Bistró

Located at the golf course, just 5 minutes from the town center, this restaurant opened in the spring. It is open to the public during the summer and available for groups, meetings, and events during the winter. Email: jadar@jadarbistro.is, Phone: (+354) 846 2485

* Backpackers

The restaurant has been expanded to accommodate up to 90 persons. Open for breakfast daily from 08:00 - 10:00 and lunch/dinner from 11:30 - 21:00 every day.

Web: akureyribackpackers.com, Email: akureyri@backpackers.is, Phone: (+354) 5719050

* LYST - coffee | food | wine | chocolate

Located in the Botanical Gardens, LYST took over when Café Laut closed in 2022. Offering breakfast, lunch, coffee, croissants, cakes, snacks, cheeses, nature wine, Icelandic beer, and more. The seating capacity is 50, and the establishment is open year-round.

Facebook: LYST – Lystigarðurinn, Email: lyst@lystak.is, Phone: (+354) 8691369

* Majó

A small restaurant located in the oldest house in Akureyri, Laxdalshús. It is a family-run establishment with art on display by one of the owners. Specializing in sushi and Asian-inspired food, Majó operates with sporadic opening hours, with a calendar available for two months at a time. Special openings can be arranged for groups ranging from 14 to a maximum of 34 persons.

Web: www.majoiceland.com, Email: majoiceland@gmail.com, Phone: (+354) 7920925

* North

A restaurant situated in Hotel Akureyri with a seating capacity of 20. Open for breakfast daily from 7:00 to 11:00 and for dinner on Wednesdays to Saturdays from 18:00 to 00:00

Web: northrestaurant.is, Email: north@northrestaurant.is, Phone: (+354) 454 5070

* Eyja vínstofa & bistro

A wine bar and bistro that opened in one of the old historical buildings in the town center in spring 2022. The restaurant focuses on bistro-style food using Icelandic ingredients,

complemented by a diverse selection of wine, cocktails, and Icelandic beers. With a seating capacity of 50, it provides a welcoming space. Website: eyjaak.is, Email: eyja@eyjaak.is,

Phone: (+354) 8538002

Restaurants & Cafés cont:

* Ketilkaffi

A café located in the Akureyri Art Museum, offering pastries, light meals, soups, cocktails, and wines. With a maximum seating capacity of 40, it is also available for catering events and groups, both within the Art Museum and for external venues. Open year-round. Web: ketilkaffi.is, Email: Ketilkaffi@ketilkaffi.is, Phone: (+354) 869-8447, Facebook: [@ketilkaffi](https://www.facebook.com/ketilkaffi)

* R5 Bar

Has new owners. Web: r5.is, Email: r5@r5.is, Phone: (+354) 412 9933

* Hamborgarafabrikkan & Black Box Pizza

Hamborgarafabrikkan & Black Box Pizza, formerly located on the ground floor of Hotel KEA at Hafnarstræti 87-89, have closed as of December 2023.

* EYR restaurant & Austur PizzaBar

EYR Restaurant & Austur PizzaBar (previously Bryggjan Restaurant), both located at Strandgata 49, have closed as of December 31, 2023. There are plans to convert the building into accommodations.

* Lestur Bistro

In the Library has closed, and a new establishment has not been introduced.

Akureyri Town and Infrastructure:

* Direct International Flights from Britain

EasyJet, the British airline, has initiated scheduled direct flights from Gatwick, London, to Akureyri this winter. The first flight took place on October 31.

Flight Schedule for 2024: Gatwick to Akureyri: Tuesdays and Saturdays until March 30, 2024. Starting from October 29, 2024, flights will also be available on Tuesdays and Saturdays. For more details, visit www.easyjet.com.

* Direct International Flights from Holland

Since 2019, the Dutch tour operator Voigt Travel has been offering flights between Holland (Rotterdam or Amsterdam) and Akureyri. The schedule for 2024 is as follows:

Amsterdam to Akureyri: Saturdays, January 20 to March 16

Amsterdam to Akureyri: Tuesdays, February 27 to March 12

Rotterdam to Akureyri: Thursdays, June 6 to September 5

For more information, please visit voigt-travel.nl/ijsland/akureyri.

* Direct International Flights from Swiss

A new route to Akureyri from Zurich, Switzerland, was introduced in the summer of 2023 and will be available again in winter 2024 by Kontiki Travel, and in the summer of 2024 by Edelweiss Air.

Schedule for 2024:

Zurich to Akureyri (Kontiki): Sundays, February 4 to March 10

Zurich to Akureyri (Edelweiss): Fridays, June 21 to August 30

For more information, please visit www.kontiki.ch/reise/direktflug-zuerich-akureyri-2023-2024 and flyedelweiss.com.



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Akureyri Town and Infrastructure cont:

***Akureyri Airport**

The terminal building at Akureyri Airport is undergoing a 1100 m² expansion, scheduled to be opened in spring 2024. A new apron has been put into use, significantly enhancing the airport's capacity. The upcoming terminal will feature a duty-free shop, a restaurant, and customs and police facilities.

*** Parking Akureyri**

Free parking in the town center has been discontinued. Two parking zones, P1 and P2, are now in place. The hourly charge is ISK 200 in parking zone P1 and ISK 100 in parking zone P2. Charges apply from Monday to Friday, between 10:00 and 16:00. Payments can be made through mobile apps like Easypark and Parka, as well as credit cards at three pay stations. For more details, visit <https://www.akureyri.is/en/services/transportation/parking>

*** Akureyri for conferences, meetings, and incentives**

Akureyri for conferences, meetings, and incentives now has a new webpage with all the information you need regarding events for groups in one place. Visit www.radstefna.is for details.

*** Hlíðarfjall Ski lifts**

In 2023, a new chairlift was installed, extending 1100 meters further up the mountain. As of now, the area boasts a total of 8 lifts, including 2 chairlifts, 1 T-lift, 4 disk-lifts, and an overbuilt conveyor belt. Notably, the main chairlift remains operational during the summer months (July to early September) to accommodate hikers and bikers, as it has in previous summers.

*** The Camping site 'Þórunnarstræti**

The campsite in the center of town has been permanently closed. Instead, the Camping Hamrar near Kjarnaskógur forest (a 5–10-minute drive from the town center) has been expanded and enhanced to accommodate all camping visitors in the town, including during the winter.

*** The Vaðlaheiði Tunnel**

The Tunnel, which opened in 2019, passes through the mountain opposite Akureyri. Improving safety and reduced the driving distance between Akureyri and the East of Iceland, To pay for a single trip through the tunnel, visit www.tunnel.is. Payment can be made up to 24 hours before or a maximum of 24 hours after driving through the tunnel. It's crucial to note that if the toll is not paid, car rentals will be notified and will charge the credit card for the tunnel fee plus their service fee.

Please be aware that it's not possible to buy a single trip if more than 24 hours have passed since the tunnel was used, as the rental company would have already paid for the trip. The limit for paying the toll has been increased from 3 hours to 24 hours. For further information and payments, visit tunnel.is.

Akureyri Town and Infrastructure cont.:

*** Hiking and Biking trails**

For an overview of all hiking and biking trails in Akureyri and its surrounding areas, visit www.visitakureyri.is. The website provides detailed descriptions, photos, and maps for each trail. For more info: visitakureyri.is/en/see-and-do

*** Grocery store Krónan**

The first Krónan grocery store in Akureyri opened on December 1, 2022. This low-price store also features two takeaway restaurants: Rub23 Sushi, offering sushi dishes, and Wok On, serving rice and noodle dishes. Additionally, there are three Bonus stores, Hagkaup, two Netto stores, and three 24-hour stores (Krambúð and Extra).

*** Shopping Center Norðurtorg**

Norðurtorg, situated in the northern part of town along main road 1 to Reykjavík, opened late 2021. The shopping center includes a Jysk household goods store, Bonus grocery store, Sports Direct, and Ilva furniture store. Plans for spring 2024 include the opening of Liquor Store (ÁTVR).

*** Grímsey island**

- A new church is currently under construction to replace the one that burned down in autumn 2021. The new church is expected to be fully completed in 2024, serving as a venue for exhibitions, church services, and events.

- Iceland's Only Train Experience: The only train in Iceland operates in Grímsey (driving on roads), providing transportation and sightseeing tours on the island. With a maximum capacity of 50 persons, each tour takes about 1.5 hours. Phone: +354 898 2058, Email: svafar77@gmail.com

- A permanent exhibition highlighting the story of Willard Fiske and showcasing some items from his gift to the islanders is now available at the Grímsey airport terminal. Visitors can view the exhibition during arrival and departure times of flights.

- The campsite near the Grímsey pool has undergone improvements, offering enhanced facilities for guests, including a grill house and benches.

- For more information visit www.visitgrimsey.is

*** Hrísey island**

- New hiking trail "the red trail" will be completed spring 2024 – aprox 6.5 km

- A new community grill house is now available for everyone in the center of the village.

- The House of Shark-Jörundur, an exhibition depicting the island's history and shark fishing, underwent renovations and reopened in autumn 2022. An additional information board outside the house narrates its history.

- For more information visit www.hrisey.is