

How to get there

Ferry Sæfari:

Scheduled trips all year between Dalvík and Grímsey. A 3 hours sailing each way. The stop in Grímsey varies from two to five hours depending on the weekday and season.

1. June – 31. August: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday
1.-30. September & 15. January – 31. May: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

1. October – 14. January: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Note that changes can occur so check the ferries webpage for details, departure times and to book tickets: en.samskip.is/domestic/saefari/
Phone: (+354) 458 8970 or email: saefari@samskip.com.

Airline Norlandair:

Scheduled flights between Akureyri and Grímsey all year. Check homepage for departures that vary throughout the year and additional flights which occur to the schedule below.

1. June – 31. August: Tuesday and Sunday
1. - 30. September: Tuesday, Friday and Sunday
1. October – 31. May: Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

Flight time is 25 minutes. Stop in Grímsey 1.5 - 2 hours depending on which day it is.
Phone: Norlandair: (+354) 414 6960. Website: www.norlandair.is.
Booking/schedules: book.norlandair.is

Sightseeing flights:
Are provided by Circle Air (www.circleair.is) and Norlandair (www.norlandair.is)

Events

Annual events in Grímsey:

- Summer Solstice Festival. Around June 20th each year. An annual festival, celebrating the longest day of the year at Summer Solstice and the movement of the marker/artwork Orbis et Globus according to the movement of the Arctic Circle.
- Fiske-Celebration. 11th of November. The birthday celebration of the islands patron, Mr. Daniel Willard Fiske. It is celebrated with an auspicious cake-buffet.

For further information visit www.visigrimsey.is.

Useful information

Accommodation

Guesthouse Gullsó

Open all year. Phone: (+354) 467 3190. Email: gullsol@gullsol.is. Website: gullsol.is

Guesthouse Básar

Open all year. Phone: (+354) 467 3103. Email: basar@gistiheimilidbasar.is. Website: www.gistiheimilidbasar.is

Guesthouse Sveinsstaðir

Open all year. Phone (+354) 8481696. Email: info@arctictrip.is

Bike rental & Jet Ski tours

Mountain bikes, adult bike in size small and medium.
Email: munninehf@gmail.com. Website and booking: www.arcticgrimsey.is.

Campsite

Right next door to the pool. Phone: (+354) 467 3155.
Email: sund@akureyri.is.

Coach rental

Bus transport within Grímsey for up to 40 persons.
Phone: (+354) 848 1696. Email: info@arctictrip.is

Restaurant

Restaurant Krían is open in the summer time, otherwise upon request.
Phone: (+354) 4673112 & (+354) 898 2058

Arctic Hot Dogs is a food wagon open during summer time.
Phone: (+354)770 5441. Email: munninehf@gmail.com.
Website: www.arcticgrimsey.is.

Shop

Búðin Supermarket. Opening hours daily (whole year): 15.00 – 16.00.
Extended opening hours may occur during summer.
Phone: (+354) 8982058.

Swimming pool and a hot tub

Open all year Mon/Tue/Wed at 20.00 – 21.30 & Sat 14.00 – 16.00.
Phone: (+354) 467 3155. Email: sund@akureyri.is along with coffee and light refreshments. Open during ferry stops in summer and otherwise upon request. Phone: (+354) 467 3190

Travel Agency

Arctic Trip offers sightseeing, guided walks, tours and more.
Phone: (+354) 8481696. Email: info@arctictrip.is.
Website and booking: www.arctictrip.is.



Arctic Circle Express

May – September

Included in tour:

- Scenic flight
- Arctic taste sampler on the island
- Guided tour by a local
- Badge and „arctic circle crossing“ certificate



Tel: +354 588 4000
circleair@circleair.is
www.circleair.is



Útg. júlí 2020. Ábyrgð: Akureyrarstofa. Hönnun: STÍLL Prentun: Ásprent. Myndir: Friðbjólfur Helgason og María Helena Tryggvadóttir.



SÆFARI SUMMER SCHEDULE

Book your trip at: www.saefari.is/en

Valid from 1. June - 31. August 2021

	From Dalvík	Arrival	Arrival time	Departure	Arrival time in Dalvík
Monday	09:00	Grímsey	12:00	17:00	20:00
Wednesday	09:00	Grímsey	12:00	17:00	20:00
Thursday	09:00	Grímsey	12:00	14:00	17:00
Friday	09:00	Grímsey	12:00	17:00	20:00
Sunday	09:00	Grímsey	12:00	16:00	19:00
Tuesday	13:15	Hrísey	13:45	14:15	14:45
Thursday	18:00	Hrísey	18:30	19:00	19:30

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& more information:
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GRÍMSEY

ISLAND ON THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

2021-2022 





Grimsey – The unique Arctic Island

Grimsey is situated on the Arctic Circle 41 kilometres off the North coast of Iceland. It is 5.3 square kilometers and 5.5 kilometres long. The island is formed by volcanic rock which in places creates beautiful basalt pillars. On the East side the island rises to 105 meters above sea level but is lower on the West side by the island's harbour and village. On a clear day there are spectacular views from the island over to the Icelandic mainland. Grimsey has been inhabited since the Viking settlement of Iceland. Its abundant resources of fish and birds were widely renowned. A legend ties the name of the island to a settler named "Grimur" who sailed from the "Sogn" district in Norway, but there may be other explanations for the name which also occurs in Scandinavia and the UK. In the past the island was owned by monasteries on the northern mainland and the island's farmer tenants had to pay them the annual rent in dried cod.

Welcome to Grimsey
– the island on the Arctic Circle

www.grimsey.is



The Village

The present population is around 70 inhabitants. Subsistence farming, bird hunting and egg gathering were formerly of great importance to the locals. This has greatly changed in recent years as the focus has shifted on to modern style fishing methods and fish processing for international markets.

For Grimsey, tourism is a growing industry, giving locals new opportunities for employment. A shop, guesthouses, campsite, gallery, café, restaurant and a swimming pool are some of the facilities on the island. Regular flights from Akureyri and ferry links from Dalvík, year round, makes visiting easy.



Flora and fauna

Grimsey is covered with vegetation which is sculpted by the arctic climate. The scurvy-grass which grows amongst the coastal rocks is very special as it is rich in vitamin C and is known for its medicinal properties. The birdlife is unique with numerous different species and unusually dense populations. The birdlife is flourishing on the island due to a decrease in hunting of the birds and the collection of their eggs. There are unique opportunities for photographers. Seabirds nesting on high cliffs to the East side of Grimsey and on the West coast, one of the biggest colonies of puffins in Iceland with thousand of individuals. The puffins stay out on the open sea during winter but come to their nests after mid April. They fly away after the first week of August. So the best time to watch them in Grimsey is May, June and July.

Culture

Grimsey is renowned for its cultural activities despite its small population. The islanders were well known for their proficiency in chess. In the 19th century. A wealthy American scholar and chess enthusiast, Mr. Daniel Willard Fiske sailed pass the island and was intrigued by the lifestyle of the inhabitants and their love of chess. It prompted him to donate a chess set to every home and he also donated a considerable amount of money to the community to support their future endeavours. The islanders celebrate his memory every year on his birthday on the 11th of November. In the library on the island you can see some of the gifts from Fiske, books, photos and chess set. There is a primary school on the island for children up to 14 years.

The Arctic Circle

The Arctic Circle crosses Iceland only in one place, that is on the island Grimsey. At summer solstice in June each year the sun stays visible there for 24 hours. The position of the Arctic Circle is not fixed and moves northwards along the island. Therefore two symbols for the Arctic Circle can be found on the island. The original one is a kind of a bridge at 66°33'N close to the airport and the new one is a huge concrete sphere, 3 meters in diameter which was inaugurated in September 2017. The artwork will be moved once a year according to the movement of the Arctic Circle. To get there by foot takes about 2 hours (roundtrip) from the village. Partial transport can be arranged (pre-book recommended). Three marked "century stones" can be found on the island displaying the position of the Arctic Circle 1717, 1817 and 1917.

The Church of Grimsey

One of the early Catholic bishops of Iceland, Jón Ögmundsson consecrated a church on Grimsey in the 11th century. It was dedicated to St. Olaf, the patron saint of Norway. The present church was built in 1867. It was extended and renovated in 1932. The altar painting is by a local artist painted in 1878 and it is a copy of a work by Leonardo da Vinci. Pledges and donations made to the church are said to bring good luck. The church is usually open for guests.

Walking paths

The sea facing end of the airstrip is a good place to start a walking tour of Grimsey. The path follows the cliffs of Básavík. From there the path leads to the northern most point of the island and then on to the eastern high cliffs. This path runs all the way to the lighthouse on the southern end of the island. From the lighthouse one should walk towards the harbour at Sandvík, passing by the church. There is plenty of opportunity for wildlife and landscape photography during this hike.

Warning! Please refrain from standing too near the edge of cliffs and high ground bordering the sea, as the nest burrowing puffins might have loosened and destabilised the ground, causing danger of falling over the edge.

Grimsey and Akureyri

In the spring of 2009 the inhabitants of both Grimsey and Akureyri voted to unite their two communities under the town council of Akureyri, won by a great majority. The islands of Hrisey and Grimsey both are now under the council of the town of Akureyri. For further information: www.visitgrimsey.is. Phone: (+354) 450 1050. E-mail: info@visitakureyri.is.

Scheduled flight service to Grimsey



Book your ticket on www.norlandair.is

Arctic Circle Tour:

- Available all year.
- Guided tour.
- Arctic Circle crossing certificate.

Book by phone:
Norlandair: +354 414 6960



www.norlandair.is