

# PORT OF ÍSAFJÖRÐUR

[WWW.ISAFJORDUR.IS/PORT](http://WWW.ISAFJORDUR.IS/PORT)







**Ísafjörður and the neighbouring towns all share the same background; they were founded on and grew around fisheries. In the not so distant past, almost everybody's livelihood depended on fish and the question wasn't whether or not you worked in fishing and processing, but whether you did so on land or at sea.**

Later on, with advances in technology, that pattern changed and more and more of the workforce were deployed in related branches, such as machinery services, transport and other logistical aspects of the industry, as well as general service to the public.

By the end of the seventies it became clear that the industry was no longer sustainable, the fleet was far too large and this could not go on for ever. Since then the emphasis has been on quality rather than quantity and massive social changes were to be seen in the years to come.

These changes were painful and still are but ways have been found to counteract; new and innovative ways to fully utilize every single ounce of fish and other resources the sea has to offer, the manufacturing of tools and machinery for food processing in other parts of the world, and last but not least tourism which has been the fastest growing industry the Westfjords have seen since the trawler revolution.

### **Ísafjörður (pop. 2.624)**

Ísafjörður is by far the largest of all the towns in the northern part of the Westfjords; in fact it is larger than all the other ones combined. That said, it isn't large at all if you only look at the statistics, with less than 3.000 inhabitants. But the metropolitan feel you get is unmistakable. Some say that this is because the isolation has forced the inhabitants to become culturally self-sufficient.

The town has a great deal to offer, and you can read more about the town centre on page 15 and walks around town on pages 10-12.

### **Bolungarvík (pop. 894)**

The second largest town of the area, Bolungarvík, is a stone's throw away from Ísafjörður, almost literally. The inhabitants have always been considered hard working, fiercely independent and a bit quirky (like most of the people in the Westfjords to be honest).

Bolungarvík has a lot to offer (see "By car" on pages 13-14) and is towered by Mt. Bolafjall.

### **Súðavík (pop. 145)**

The small hamlet of Súðavík is to be found 20 kilometres south of Ísafjörður. A drive to Súðavík will lead you through the first, and by far the shortest, road tunnel ever built in Iceland, at appr. 50 metres. Note: It is of the utmost importance to honk the horn twice while driving through in order to show respect to the local trolls.

Súðavík has a variety of light industry firms, including a pet food processor, and serves as a service hub for the farmers of Ísafjarðardjúp.



### **Suðureyri (pop. 264)**

Suðureyri is the friendliest fishing village you will ever find. A bold claim, but true. The locals have in recent years been taking steps in underlining what makes this town special — ecological fishing. The fjord itself is among the narrower ones in Iceland, but when you get to Suðureyri it opens up towards the open sea.

Take a closer look at what Suðureyri has to offer in the chapter **"By car"** on page 14.

### **Flateyri (pop. 199)**

Flateyri is a small and charming fishing village a short driving distance from Ísafjörður. Notice the small toy boats floating on the lagoon as you enter the town, made by one man in particular who is at the moment working on a replica of the WWII destroyer Bismarck.

This sets the tone in a way, seeing as the locals are as much into art and craft as they are into fish. See more in **"By car"** on page 14.

### **Pingeyri (pop. 262)**

Pingeyri and the surrounding areas are steeped in Viking history, as it is the setting of one of the most famous of the Icelandic Sagas, Gísli-Saga Súrssonar. For the past thousand years or so, the inhabitants have concentrated on putting food on their table, either by farming or by fishing. In recent years they have been taking up an interesting approach to tourism.

See more in **"By car"** on page 14.

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**Printing and layout** Pixel ehf.





# SERVICES

## Information:



Tourist Information Office. Aðalstræti 7, 400 Ísafjörður, Iceland. Tel: (+354) 450-8060. Email: [info@westfjords.is](mailto:info@westfjords.is)

The Tourist Information Office also operates an info-hut at the harbour while cruise ships are in town.

## Banks

Ísafjörður has two banks, Íslandsbanki and Landsbanki. They are both in the town centre and are open on weekdays from 9:15 to 16:00

## ATMs

ATMs/Cash machines can be found in Íslandsbanki, by the town square, and Neisti shopping centre in central Ísafjörður.

## Public telephones

- Tourist Information Office (Global Call phone cards)
- Neisti shopping centre (coins and credit cards)

## Public transport

Ísafjörður has a public bus system which operates on weekdays only. The system connects downtown Ísafjörður to the various villages and residential areas within the municipality. For schedules and prices, please contact the Tourist Information Office.

## Car rentals

- Hertz (+354) 522-4490
- National (+354) 840-6074
- Avis/Budget (+354) 660-0617

## Taxi

Please ask for assistance at the Tourist Information Office

## Internet access

- Tourist Information Hut at the harbour: Wireless connection + three computers with free access for up to 15 minutes.
- Tourist Information Office: One computer with free access for up to 10 minutes.
- Ísafjörður Library: Wireless connection + computers with free access for 10 minutes, moderate charge for longer use.
- Wireless internet connection is also available at most cafés and restaurants in town.

## Bicycle rental

- Vesturferðir/Vest Tours, Ísafjörður (+354) 456-5111
- Kagrafell, Ísafjörður, (+354) 862-8623
- Simbahöllin, Þingeyri (+354) 869-5654

## Kayak rental

Kayak tours and rentals are available in Ísafjörður, Flateyri, Ögur and Heydalur. Please contact the Tourist Information Office for further information.

## Golf

- Ísafjörður: Nine-hole course, plus a six-hole practice course.
- Þingeyri: Nine-hole course.
- Bolungarvík: Nine-hole course on a double system which serves as 18 holes.

## Horse riding

Þingeyri and Heydalur. Please contact the Tourist Information Office for further information.

## Fishing

Sea angling and freshwater angling are possible in the Ísafjörður area. Sea angling is offered in Suðureyri, Flateyri, Bolungarvík and Súðavík. Gear is rented on location. Freshwater angling is on offer, for example, in Bolungarvík. Gear is not available for rent. Please contact the Tourist Information Office for further information.

## Swimming pools



Ísafjörður municipality has four swimming pools for you to relax in and enjoy. The geothermal pool in Suðureyri is outdoors with two hot tubs, a play pool for the children and a steam bath.

Þingeyri, Flateyri and Ísafjörður each have an indoor pool with a hot tub and a sauna. Added to that, Bolungarvík has an indoor pool with two outdoor hot tubs, a waterslide and a sauna.

## Arts and craft



Craft stores and art galleries can be found in all the towns and villages in the area:

Ísafjörður:

- Karitas, Aðalstræti 20
- Rammagerð Ísafjarðar, Aðalstræti 16,
- Hvesta, Aðalstræti 18
- Gullauga/Ískelda, Hafnarstræti 4
- Hótel Ísafjörður, Silfurtorg 2

Suðureyri:

- Á milli fjalla, Aðalgata 15
- Hárverk, Sætún 5

Flateyri:

- Purka, Hafnarstræti 11
- Sæból, Ingjaldssandur

Þingeyri:

- Gallerí Koltra, Vallargata 1

Bolungarvík

- Drymla, Skólagata 3-5
- Also at the Ósvör Maritime Museum

Súðavík

- Víkurbúðin, Grundarstræti 3
- Melrakkasetrið, Eyrardalur 1

## Public toilets

- Ísafjörður harbour (green cabin)
- Tourist Information Office

## Domestic flights

Air Iceland offers two to three daily flights between Ísafjörður and Reykjavík. See [www.airiceland.is](http://www.airiceland.is)

## Pharmacy

The pharmacy is located next to the Tourist Information Office.

## Emergency telephone:112





Westfjords Maritime- and Heritage Museum

# MUSEUMS

## Westfjords Maritime- and Heritage Museum

The Westfjords Maritime- and Heritage Museum is located very close to the harbour where cruise ship passengers disembark. The museum building is one of four 18th century houses which have been renovated and are now amongst the town's most popular spots to visit. The museum focuses mainly on fish and the fishing industry, which have been vital for this area ever since Iceland was settled. The Westfjords Maritime- and Heritage Museum won the "Best Icelandic Museum Award" in 2008.

## Ísafjörður Culture House / Old Hospital



This elegant building was erected as a hospital in 1925, designed by one of Iceland's most distinguished architects, Guðjón Samúelsson. In 1989 the hospital was moved to a new building, but in 2003 the Old Hospital was reopened, now as a culture house with a library, archives, photo collection, art collection and more. Ísafjörður Culture House usually has at least one exhibition open, sometimes even more. Admission is free.

## The Old Blacksmith's Workshop, Þingeyri



The Old Blacksmith's Workshop was founded in 1913 and was the first of its kind in Iceland. It is still operating in its original shape, now as a living museum. An amazing atmosphere for all ages.

## The Nonsense Museum, Flateyri

The Nonsense Museum in Flateyri is a venue for passionate collectors to publicly display their collections of hats, pens, boxes, uniforms, sugar cubes or whatever else they have managed to amass, often through several years or even decades of relentless work. The museum was opened in 2012 and was an immediate hit amongst visitors and locals alike.

## Old Bookshop/Merchant's House, Flateyri

Flateyri is a fishing village some 20-30 minutes drive from Ísafjörður. In 2011, the old village bookshop, as well as the merchant's home, was opened as a museum. In the cozy atmosphere of the bookshop you can learn about the history of the village and buy second hand books, priced by weight. The merchant's home is accessible from the Old Bookshop.

### International Doll Museum, Flateyri



If you stop at the Purka hand craft and café in Flateyri, make sure you don't miss the International Doll Museum, located in the same building. The museum contains some 200 dolls, dressed up in national costumes from all around the globe.

### Jón Sigurðsson Memorial Museum, Arnarfjörður



Jón Sigurðsson, the leader of the Icelandic independence movement in the 19th century, was born at Hrafnseyri in Arnarfjörður in 1811. He spent most of his adult life in Copenhagen, where he tirelessly worked to help Iceland regain its independence from Denmark. A firm believer in the power of the word over the sword, Jón Sigurðsson fought a peaceful battle, with eloquence and arguments. When the Icelandic republic was established in 1944, it was done on his birthday, June 17. Jón Sigurðsson's birthplace has now been turned into a museum to honor his legacy. Located not far from the beautiful waterfall Dynjandi, the museum is around 90 minutes drive from Ísafjörður.

### Ósvör Museum, Bolungarvík



In the old Icelandic society there were no towns or villages; the people lived on farms in the countryside. Fishing was, however, important and it was most often done during autumn and winter, while there was a "low season" in the countryside. Then, farmers and their laborers would migrate from the farms to the fishing stations by the seaside, where they spent several weeks living in small huts, fishing every day from their small and open rowing boats in freezing weathers. Due to its

location close to rich fishing grounds, Bolungarvík became a fishing station as soon as Iceland was settled. Ósvör Museum is a remake of one of the fishing huts that were erected in Bolungarvík. The museum curator meets visitors dressed up in fisherman's clothes, and educates them about the life and work of the fishermen of the earlier centuries.

### Westfjords Natural History Museum, Bolungarvík

The Natural History Institute in Bolungarvík conducts various researches on the Icelandic nature, focusing mainly on zoology, botany, archaeology, ecology and geology. It also operates a beautiful museum with stuffed birds and mammals such as mink, fox, seal and a polar bear. Added to that, the museum displays a large collection of rocks plus temporary exhibitions of various kinds.

### Arctic Fox Centre, Súðavík



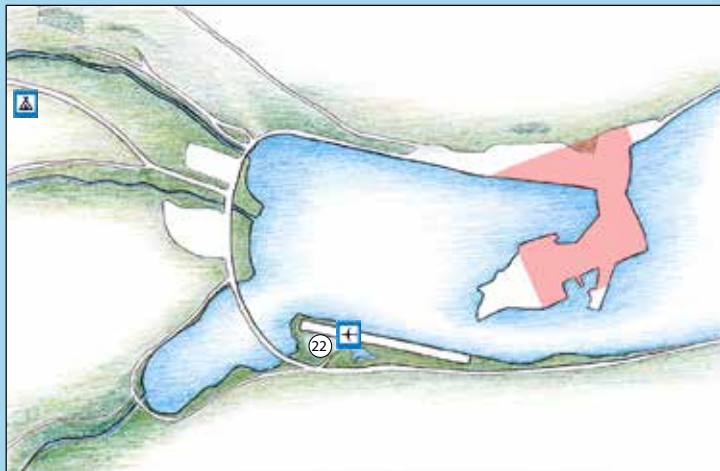
The arctic fox is an original inhabitant in Iceland, having settled here at least 2000 years before the first human settlers came. The fox can be found all over the island, but it has a sanctuary in the Hornstrandir Nature Reserve, where it is protected from hunters. The Arctic Fox Centre in Súðavík is an exhibition and research institute dedicated to the fox. Visitors will learn a great deal about this extraordinary animal, and even see some live ones outside the museum building. A waffle and a cup of coffee at the museum café are a sure way to perfect the visit.






### Litlibær Farm, Mjóifjörður



If you drive from Ísafjörður along road 61, you will find Litlibær in just over an hour. Litlibær, which actually means Small Farm, is true to its name. It is difficult to imagine that this beautiful but tiny house once was the home to more than 20 people. The National Museum of Iceland has recently renovated the building, which is now open for the public to visit. The waffles served there are amongst the best you can find, and don't forget to stop and watch the seals, sleeping just off the coast very close to Litlibær.





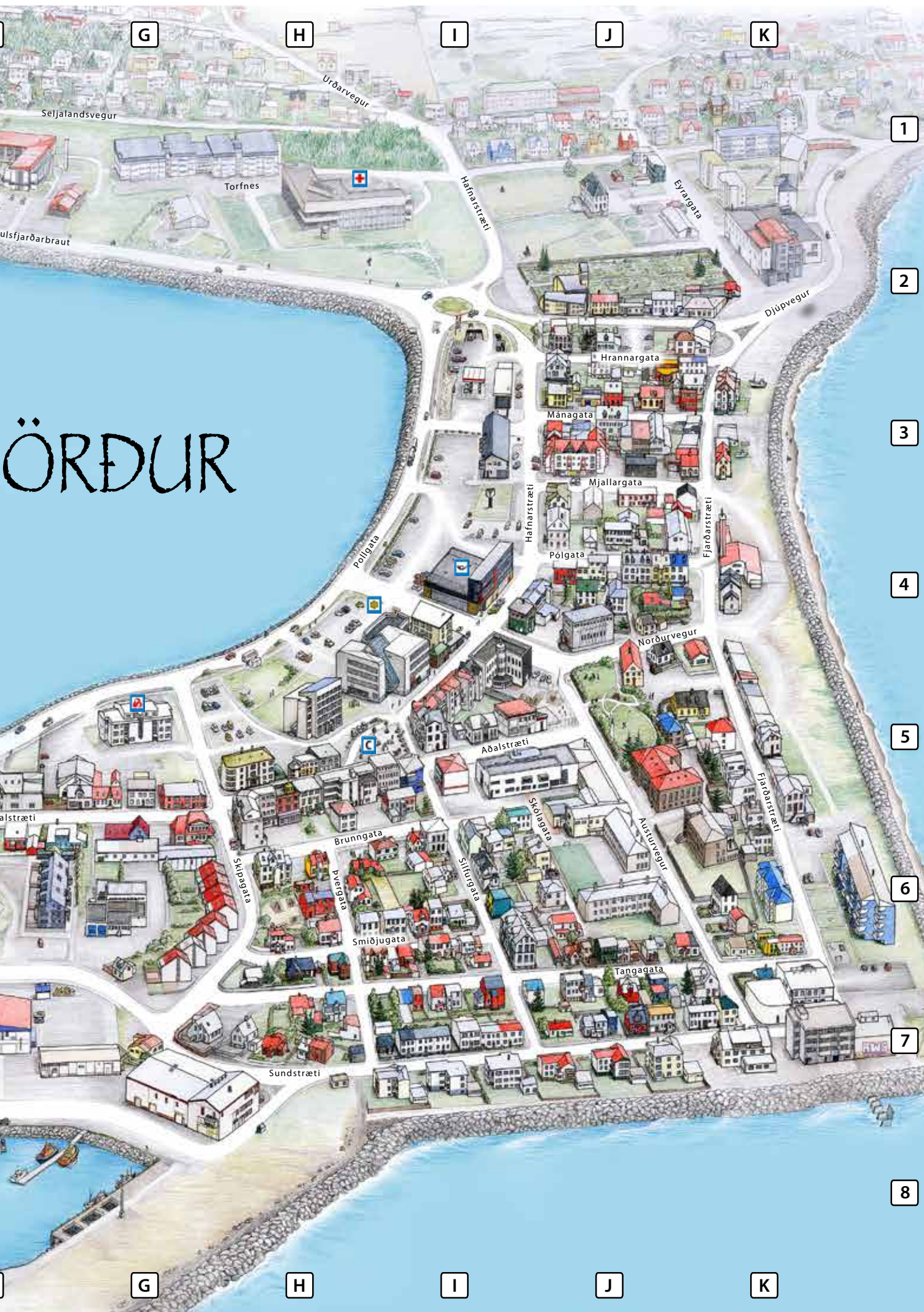
-  H4 Police station
-  G5 Pharmacy
-  H1 Hospital
-  I4 Post office
-  H5 Centrum
-  F5 Tourist information
-  B3 Airport
-  A5 Camping sites
-  F5 Toilets

ÍSÁFJ





# ÖRÐUR







# ON YOUR OWN

## Walks

### Old Town



Right in the town centre, just a few minutes' walk from the harbour you will find the Old Town, with its narrow streets and wooden 19th century houses.

Ísafjörður is amongst the oldest towns in Iceland, although still in its infancy compared to the ancient cities in other countries. For centuries, Ísafjörður merely served as a church site and a meeting point, where foreign merchants and local farmers did their trade. It only started developing into a real town in the 19th century, and even

then the people had to make way for a higher ranked creature, the codfish. Salted codfish was by far the country's most important export product. It was exported dried, and the drying method was quite simple: spread the fish on the ground and let the sun and the wind do the rest. This obviously required a fair bit of land, so the best part of the spit on which Ísafjörður stands, was reserved for the cod. Therefore, the houses were squeezed tight to each other, as you can see in the Old Town.

The main streets, Hafnarstræti, Aðalstræti and Silfurgata (which all meet at the town square Silfurtorg) were the homes of the better-off people, while the commoners built their small houses on the streets there behind. They would build their houses as small as possible, and then make extensions as the number of children grew.

The Old Town is within a comfortable walking distance from the harbour. Just walk to the Tourist Information Office, which takes some 5-7 minutes, and then continue along the main street (Aðalstræti) for some four minutes until you come to the town square. There,

take a right hand turn to Silfurgata to enter the Old Town.

The Old Town, the centre and in fact the main part of Ísafjörður are mostly flat and relatively easy to explore in a wheelchair.

### Uptown



Uptown Ísafjörður offers a nice walk with a beautiful waterfront, historic buildings and a peaceful, friendly small town atmosphere. From your ship, walk to the Tourist Information Office, some 5-7 minutes from the harbour. From there, continue along the street Pollgata on the waterfront. When you come to the roundabout, continue going straight ahead, go past the hospital and enter the botanical garden Jónsgarður, the home of the Whale Bone Arch. This



five meters high structure is made from the jaws of a blue whale, the biggest animal on the planet, and has become one of the symbols of the town. From the garden, there is only a two minutes walk over to the beautiful Old Hospital, which now houses a library, archives, photo collection and an art gallery. Admission is free.

Just a two minutes' walk from the Old Hospital, you will find the church, which is open during office hours. This modern construction was inaugurated in 1995, but the old church, which dated from 1863, was destroyed in a fire in 1987. The main altar piece, "The Birds of the Sky" was designed by artist Ólöf Nordal. It consists of 746 clay-birds, many of whom were made by the people of Ísafjörður at an "open house" with the artist.

From the church, follow the street Hafnarstræti back towards the harbour. Just after you leave the church, note the street on your left hand side called Sólgrata, or "Sun street". Due to the northerly latitude and the towering mountains all around, the sun does not shine on Ísafjörður for some two months, from late November until late January. It is a tradition to welcome the sun back with a little pancake festival on the day it shines on Sólgrata – Sun street – again.

From the church you can walk to the town square in only a few minutes. Most of the shops, restaurants and cafés in town are on or close to the square. From there, you can walk back to your ship in around eight minutes, or you can do a little detour and walk the streets of the Old Town (as described in the previous section), before embarking on your ship again.

## Avalanche wall

**Total distance: 9-10 km**



If you look to the west from the harbour, you may see a long wall-like structure which stretches 200-300 meters up the hill across the fjord. This man-made barrier was built to protect the area from avalanches, but during the summer it serves as a scenic hiking trail.

From the harbour, follow the street Pollgata past the Tourist Information Office and along the waterfront until you come to a roundabout. Continue straight past the hospital to the botanical garden Jónsgarður (harbour – botanical garden approx. 15 minutes). From the garden, walk up a small hill and take the first left hand turn, onto the street Seljalandsvegur. Continue along this street for around 1,5 km. On the way, you will have a nice view over the harbour. Note also the mountain on the other side of the fjord, with the cirque Naustahvilt, another popular viewpoint (see a separate section below). Soon you will come to a long hill, leading up to the cross-country ski area. Although this is a road, it is usually free from car traffic during the summer. The hill itself is around 2 km long and might take up to an hour to walk. On the way you will be treated to a beautiful view over the town and the fjord, and if you are traveling in the late summer or very early autumn, look for some crowberries and bilberries right next to the road. You are allowed to pick and eat those delicacies as you wish.

Around half-way up you will walk through a very short tunnel leading through the avalanche wall. Continue along the road, while enjoying the view over the valley Tungudalur. See the golf course, the summer cottages and the pitches which are the venues for the annual Mud-Soccer European Championships.

You will now come to an intersection. To see the cross-country ski area and even continue further to the mountains, keep going straight up. Otherwise turn right towards the old ski lodge, a white building which you will easily see. From there you will enjoy a fantastic view over Ísafjörður and the surroundings. For your return it is easy to find the way up to the top of the avalanche wall and then simply walk along it back down the hill. Note, though, that the track is quite

rough up there so please watch your step, even though you are enjoying the view. When you come to a track which goes across the avalanche wall, turn left towards town. You can then follow this track back to the road you walked on earlier, or you can take it down towards the coast, where you will find another track which will take you straight back to town.

## Long walks/ bike/e-bike

### Tungudalur Valley

**Minimum total distance: 10 km**



Tungudalur is a small, but beautiful valley, some 4,5 km from the harbour. The valley has a golf course (clubs can be rented at the club-house), camping ground, a picturesque little waterfall and the pitches where the annual Mud-Soccer European Championships are played. The valley also offers beautiful hikes and an abundance of berries to pick in August and early September.

The shortest way to Tungudalur is to follow the street Pollgata past the Tourist Information Office, along the waterfront until you come to the roundabout. Then turn left and follow the coast for some three kilometers (there is a walking path besides the road). Then you will find a right hand turn (a little bit before you come to the Bonus supermarket) which takes you to the valley. Walk past the golf course to the camping ground. There you will have the little waterfall on your right hand side.

There is a small path leading up the waterfall, the walk is relatively easy and only takes some ten minutes each way. It is also nice to take the bridge across the river and follow a trail which goes through a small forest. Once you come

out of the forest, you can carry on up to the downhill ski lodge. From there you will find a trail, just below the highway, which takes you back towards the Mud Soccer pitches and the camping ground. This little circle usually takes 30-45 minutes to walk.

Those who are fit can follow the river Buná up to the waterfall and then continue up to the cross-country ski area at Seljalandsdalur. From there you can enjoy some beautiful view over the town and the fjord. Note that the walk along the river gets quite rough after the waterfall and there is not always a visible path. Walking beyond the waterfall is, therefore, only recommended for those who are fit and experienced hikers. After reaching the ski area, you can follow a gravel road back towards town, or walk down along the avalanche wall, as described in the section above.



#### **A circular route:**

If you have a bike or an e-bike and still want to walk past the waterfall and up the cross country ski area, there is a nice circular route on offer. Leave your bike/e-bike at the car park by the camping ground. Walk up to the waterfall and then further along the river up to the ski area (only recommended for experienced hikers). From there follow the gravel road down the hill. After about 1,5 km you will walk through a short tunnel, and some 100 meters further down you will find a little path on your right hand side. This path will take you across the avalanche wall and back to Tungudalur.

### **Naustahvilt**

**Total distance: 13 km**

Looking to the south from your ship, right across the narrow straight, you will see the mountain Ernir and the cirque Naustahvilt. Although some believe this cirque was carved by the ice age glacier, the truth is that a few years ago a lady giant came walking past Ísafjörður and



sat down on the mountain top to rest. When she stood up again, she left this mark and thus created one of the most popular viewpoints in the area.

Although Naustahvilt is so close to your ship that you can almost reach out and touch it from the deck, the fact is that going there and back is a 13 km long journey. Due to the cold seawater between your ship and the mountain, you have to walk, bike or e-bike all the way around the fjord before you can actually start walking up the mountain towards the cirque.

From your ship, go to the Tourist Information Office and then continue along the street Pollgata on the waterfront. When you come to the roundabout, turn left and simply stay on the road by the coast (there is a walking/biking path besides the road for around half your journey). Soon after you come past the airport you will find a small car park on the right hand side of the road where you can leave your vehicle. The walk up the hill itself usually takes less than 30 minutes, and although there is no real path, it is very easy to find your way and see where other people have walked before you. Note that the soil can be quite slippery when it is wet.

Once you reach the cirque you are treated to a magnificent view over the town and the fjord. Don't forget to sign the guestbook, which you will find in an iron box that has been attached to a large rock, close to the edge of the cirque.

### **Fossavatn**

**Distance: around 20 km**

NOTE: Bring a towel

Fossavatn is a little lake up in the mountains above the valley Engidalur. To get there, go to the Tourist Information Office and then continue along the street Pollgata on the waterfront. When you come to the roundabout, turn



left and stay on the road by the coast (there is a walking/biking path besides the road). After about four kilometers, having passed a Bonus supermarket and a residential area, you come to a corner where you can choose between taking a bridge straight across the fjord, and turning right. You turn right and keep on going for about one kilometer, enjoying the peaceful surroundings, the birds and the seals which you can occasionally see just off the shore. You will then find another right hand turn, leading you onto a gravel road which takes you past a cemetery and a small chapel, and into the valley Engidalur. Walk/bike along the gravel road for around one kilometer and don't be surprised if you meet a few sheep, horses or cows. Having just passed a farm on your right hand side and an abandoned house on your left, look for a small wooden sign with "Fossavatn" written on it. There you will find a trail which takes you some 50 meters or so to a river. You can leave your vehicle by the road or down by the river.

This is where the towel gets useful, because there is no bridge across this river, so you have to take off your shoes and socks and wade across. The river is not wide and usually no more than knee-deep. Note, however, that water levels can rise quickly, for example following heavy rain and also in the early summer when the snow is still melting in the mountains.

Having crossed the river, simply follow the old road (which is almost completely free from car traffic) all the way up to the lake Fossavatn. The elevation is around 400 meters, so take your time and enjoy the beautiful scenery. You will have to cross small rivers two or three more times, but it is usually easy to either jump across them or find stones to step on.

Below, you will see a small hydro power plant, which uses Fossavatn to produce



electricity. Once you come up to the lake, look for an iron box attached to a large rock, not far from a little hut that is there. In this box you will find a guestbook where you sign your name. When it is time to return, it is easiest and safest to take the same route back. If you are there in August or early September you might find crowberries and bilberries, which you are allowed to pick and eat.

## Bike / e-bike

### Óshlíð / Bolungarvík

**Minimum distance 12 km**

NOTE: Landslide hazard

Óshlíð is the name of an old road which used to connect two of our neighbouring villages, Hnífsdalur and Bolungarvík. Following the construction of a new tunnel, the road has been mainly free from car traffic, but has instead become popular amongst bikers and hikers.

To get to Óshlíð you first have to find your way to Hnífsdalur, a small village some 4 km north of Ísafjörður. From your ship, go to the Tourist Information Office and then continue along the street Pollgata along the waterfront. When you come to the roundabout, take the first exit and then turn left onto the street Hrannargata. This short street takes you over to the other side of the spit. There you turn left and simply stay by the coast from thereon. When you come to the highway between Ísafjörður and Hnífsdalur you will find a path for walking and biking on the left hand side of the road. In Hnífsdalur, you have the choice of either going through the village or following the highway past it. Either way, you will soon see the mouth of the tunnel. When you are around 250 meters from the tunnel you find a right hand turn, onto the old Óshlíð road along the coast.

Óshlíð is a comfortable road for walking and biking. It is mostly flat although there is a small hill right at the beginning, on top of which you will find a great viewpoint with a panorama picture explaining the names of the fjords and mountains you see.

As you go further along the Óshlíð road

you will enjoy a spectacular scenery, with mountains and cliffs on one hand and the ocean on the other. In distance, across the fjord, you will see a glimpse of the Hornstrandir Nature Reserve.

There is no fixed return point; you just go back when you want to. Should you decide to go all the way to Bolungarvík, the total distance from Ísafjörður is around 15 km. As you enter the small creek where Bolungarvík stands, you will see a little yellow lighthouse, and right next to it you find the Ósvör Maritime Museum, one of the most popular attractions in the area. Bolungarvík also has a natural history museum, a hand craft store and a nice swimming pool. Hard core bikers might be tempted to carry on up to Mount Bolafjall, but this adds some 19 km to the trip, and has an elevation of around 650 meters.

Strictly speaking, it is not prohibited to bike through the tunnel, if you have good lights and reflective clothing. It is, however, not recommended. Biking back along Óshlíð is much more pleasurable and not much longer in time or distance.

NOTE: Always ask about conditions before traveling along the Óshlíð road. During and following rain, there is a danger of rocks and slides falling on the road.

## By car

### Bolafjall Mountain



Above the neighbouring town of Bolungarvík stands a mountain, majestic in its own way and remarkable in the sense that it has a road leading up to the very top. Drive into Bolungarvík, make a left hand turn at a sign saying "Skálavík" and continue for a few miles. Turn right towards Bolafjall. Drive this narrow road to the top (not recommended for those who have a fear of heights) and

enjoy the spectacular view over the nature reserve of Hornstrandir. Watch the nesting birds in the 650 meter cliff and take in a breath-taking look of the horizon. Next stop: Greenland.

Distance from Ísafjörður: 20km, 30 minutes.

### Reykjanes peninsula



The West fjords are the oldest part of Iceland, geographically speaking, and therefore not as geothermal as some other areas. However, there are some exceptions, notably the bottom of Ísafjarðardjúp fjord. The peninsula of Reykjanes is basically one big hot spring and the home to Iceland's biggest public hot tub, a colony of seals and a small geothermal salt factory, as well as a boarding school turned into a hotel.

Nature pools can be found in the vicinity of Reykjanes, but since these are privately owned one should ask for permission before bathing.

Distance from Ísafjörður: 135km, 90 minutes.

### Dynjandi waterfall



The drive over to Dynjandi is a worthwhile attraction in itself. On the way you will drive through a tunnel with an intersection in the middle, over a gentle highland road to Dýrafjörður and another one, quite a picturesque one, on your way to Arnarfjörður where Dynjandi is located.

Dynjandi and the surrounding area offer

hiking trails for those who want to get up close and personal with the waterfall, and the chances of spotting an eagle are high, or at least higher than elsewhere (no promises).

Distance from Ísafjörður: 87km, 100 minutes.

## Bolungarvík – Súðavík

The two neighbouring towns at Ísafjarðardjúp fjord are Bolungarvík and Súðavík. In Súðavík, 20km to the south, you will find for instance the Arctic Fox Centre of Iceland and a renowned American diner (Amma Habbý).

In Bolungarvík, 13km to the north, you will find the Natural history museum which offers a wide range of stuffed animals found in Iceland, either as habitants or visitors, for example a polar bear. In Bolungarvík you will also find Ósvör, a 19th century fishing booth reconstructed and converted into an outdoor maritime museum, and of course the town is en route to Mount Bolafjall (see above).

Distance from Ísafjörður: Súðavík 20km, 17 minutes. Bolungarvík 13km, 12 minutes.



## Flateyri



Drive through the Mt. Þverfjall tunnel and ignore the right hand turn in the middle. This will lead you to the fjord of Öndarfjörður, where you make a right hand turn towards Flateyri.

In Flateyri a small lagoon with toy boats will greet you as you drive past. One can visit an international doll museum or the so called „Nonsense museum“ which has on display various private collections, some ordinary and others a bit weird.

A walk up on the newly build avalanche protection offers a nice view over the town and the fjord.

Distance from Ísafjörður: 22km, 20 minutes.

## Pingeyri

Pingeyri and the fjord of Dýrafjörður are the location of one of Iceland's most famous sagas, Gísla-Saga Súrssonar. No wonder the locals have a whiff of the Vikings about them and hold an annual festival celebrating that heritage.



When you arrive in Dýrafjörður it is well worth a 5km detour to take a look at Skróður botanical garden. Just make a right hand turn when you're getting close to sea level. The garden is a botanical and architectural gem that in 2013 received the international Carlo Scarpa award.

The town itself offers cafés, restaurants and a horse rental, to name a few things. It is also the home of the oldest mechanical shop in Iceland, which celebrated its centennial recently. A tour around the shop reveals how real mechanics used to do things. No spare parts available? Never mind, we'll just make them ourselves out of whatever we can find in the dust bin.

Distance from Ísafjörður: 49km, 40 minutes.

## Suðureyri



A drive through Mount Þverfjall leads to the towns of Suðureyri, Flateyri and Pingeyri. Make a sharp right turn in the middle of the mountain to go to Suðureyri, the most friendly and sustainable fishing village in Iceland. At the local shop you can buy some candy to feed the pet cods in the lagoon and afterwards one can visit the local café. A tour around the fish processing plant can be organized for a small fee and a complete 2 hour tour (Food trail) is on offer. You can even learn to cook (and eat) your own four course dinner from the freshest ingredients available.

Distance from Ísafjörður: 23km, 20 minutes.





**The Westfjords Tourist Information Office** in Ísafjörður is conveniently located, only some five minutes walk from the harbour and three minutes from the town centre. There you will be able to get information on walks, organized tours, private tours, taxis, shopping etc. The information office also sells postcards and stamps, as well as a limited selection of books and souvenirs. You can mail your stamped postcards and letters at the office.

The Tourist Information Office has one computer for its customers to use, with free access for ten minutes. Printing, scanning and photocopying can also be done for a moderate price. The office has Global Call telephones for local and international phonecalls. Global Call calling cards can be obtained at the office.

The Westfjords Tourist Information Office operates an “info-hut” at the harbour to assist cruise ship passengers. There you will be able to get “first aid”, such as maps, brochures and general directions. The info hut has three computers with free access for 15 minutes, plus a wireless network for those who bring their own devices.

**The centre of Ísafjörður** offers a wide variety of cafés, pubs, restaurants and bakeries, as well as a range of shops selling clothes, sporting equipment, books, souvenirs, local craft and basically everything you need. One shop is even focused on things made in the Westfjords, and nothing else.

Maps, be they local, Icelandic or from other parts of the world, are either sold at the information centre or the local bookstore.

Batteries and memory cards for cameras are to be found in the bookstore by the town square or in the two phone/electronics stores in the centre of town.

Ísafjörður is a small town and its shopping centre is very compact indeed. It's easy to thread the stores from one end of the town to the other in a matter of minutes, that is if you

don't stop anywhere. It is highly recommended though that you take a look at what the local merchants have to offer, you will be pleasantly surprised with the prices and might easily find goods you won't find anywhere else.

Most of the local eateries offer wireless Internet to customers and the Information office and the library have a limited access to computers for guests.

The hospital is situated just across the road from the library. There you'll also find two dentists, should you need their services. Of course you'll also find the local police downtown.

There is a saying that everything in Ísafjörður takes five minutes. These five minutes add up, though, so you shouldn't have any trouble occupying yourself for a day or so.

## Port facilities Ísafjörður

**Pilot:** Compulsory

**Tidal movements:** 2.3 metres max. / 0,7 metres min.

### Maximum ship dimensions

**Sundabakki** **Length:** 260 metres. **Draft:** 7.8 metres low spring tide. **Airdraft:** No. **Beam:** No restrictions

**Ásgeirsbakki** **Length:** 270 metres. **Draft:** 7.0 metres low spring tide. **Airdraft:** No. **Beam:** No restrictions.

**Limitations:** 150 meters ships. **Draft:** 6.5 meters

### Anchorage

**Available:** Yes. **Pontoons:** Yes, 40 metres, exclusive cruise dock. **Tugboat:** Available 12.5 tonne pull power

### Port services

**Bunkers:** Available by trucks. **Supplies:** Available. **Waste handling:** Yes all kinds of waste, separated by order. **Fresh water:** Yes, 40 metres per ton per hour, health Analyses certificate provided

### Transportation

**Shuttle service:** Available upon request. **Excursion buses:** Yes. **Taxis:** Yes. **Public transport:** Yes, weekdays only

## Passengers' facilities in pier area

**Terminal building for passengers:** No. **Tourist**

**information for passengers:** Yes, information centre in pier equipped with Internet facilities and 250 metres away at Tourist information office, with Internet and telephones.

**Shopping:** Within walking distance and open daily. **Public**

**toilets:** Yes. **Local currency:** Icelandic Króna (ISK).

**Currency exchange:** Yes, in banks open weekdays. **ATM/**

**Cash machines:** Yes, 3 in town area open 24 hours.

**Internet access:** Yes, library, information centre in pier and Tourist information office, some cafés offer wireless. **Guide**

**service:** Yes. **City maps:** Yes. **Public telephones:** Yes.

**Mail boxes:** Yes

### Distances

**City centre:** 0.2 km. **Airport:** 5 km for domestic flight only to Reykjavík (Reykjavík international airport).

### Contact

**Mailing address:** Harbour building | Ásgeirsbakki | 400 Ísafjörður | Iceland

**Tel:** (+354) 450-8080. **Fax:** (+354) 456-4523. **Email:** port@isafjordur.is. **Contact:** Guðmundur M. Kristjánsson, harbour master.



