



North Iceland

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Why Go?

Iceland's mammoth and magnificent north is a geologist's heaven. A wonderland of moonlike lava fields, belching mudpots, epic waterfalls, snowcapped peaks and whale-filled bays – this is Iceland at its best. The region's top sights are variations on one theme: a grumbling, volcanically active earth.

There are endless treats to uncover: little Akureyri, with its surprising moments of big-city living; windy fjordside pastures full of stout Viking horses; fishing villages clinging tenaciously to life at the end of unsealed roads.

Prepare to be enticed by offshore islands populated by colonies of seabirds and a few hardy locals; lonely peninsulas stretching out towards the Arctic Circle; white-water rapids ready to deliver an adrenalin kick; national-park walking trails to reach unparalleled views; unhyped and underpopulated ski fields; and underwater marvels that woo divers into frigid depths.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Vogafjós (p265)
- ➔ Gísli, Eiríkur, Helgi (p241)
- ➔ Kaffi Kú (p258)
- ➔ Sjárvarborg (p225)
- ➔ Naustið (p274)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Skjaldarvík (p248)
- ➔ Dalvík HI Hostel (p241)
- ➔ Kaldbaks-Kot (p274)
- ➔ Hallandsnes (p248)
- ➔ Apartment Hótel Hjalteyrir (p242)

Road Distances (km)

Akureyri	389				
Siglufjörður	384	76			
Húsavík	476	92	168		
Reykjahlíð (Mývatn)	478	100	176	54	
Þórshöfn	613	235	311	142	172
Reykjavík					
Akureyri					
Siglufjörður					
Húsavík					
Reykjahlíð (Mývatn)					

Arctic Circle

GREENLAND
SEA



North Iceland Highlights

1 Akureyri (p242)

Discovering northern Iceland's version of urban living in the country's second city.

2 Grímsey (p260)

Crossing Iceland's only slice of the

Arctic Circle on this bird-filled and troll-infested island.

3 Mývatn (p259)

Wandering around lava castles and pseudo-craters before a soak at the Nature Baths.

4 Húsavík (p270)

Holding your breath as whales emerge from the deep.

5 Hverir (p269)

Stepping through stinky, other-worldly scenes in this lunar landscape.