



Southwest Iceland & the Golden Circle

Includes ➔

Blue Lagoon	98
Keflavík & Njarðvík (Reykjanesbær)	100
The Golden Circle.....	106
Hveragerði.....	114
Selfoss	127
Hella	132
Hvolsvöllur.....	134
Skógar	138
Landmannalaugar	140
Pórsmörk.....	146
Vík (Vík í Mýrdal)	150
Vestmannaeyjar	153
Heimaey.....	154

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Lindin (p110)
- ➔ Slippurinn (p158)
- ➔ Við Fjöruborðið (p126)
- ➔ Vitinn (p104)
- ➔ Suður-Vík (p152)

Best Places to Stay

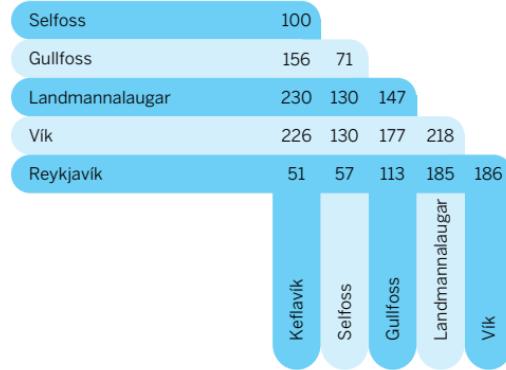
- ➔ Ion Luxury Adventure Hotel (p109)
- ➔ Fljótsdalur HI Hostel (p136)
- ➔ Efstidalur II (p110)
- ➔ Héraðsskólinn (p109)
- ➔ Garðar (p150)

Why Go?

Black beaches stretch along the Atlantic, geysers spout from geothermal fields, and waterfalls glide across escarpments while brooding volcanoes and glittering ice caps score the inland horizon. The beautiful southwest has many of Iceland's most legendary natural wonders, so it's a relatively crowded and increasingly developed area. The Golden Circle (a tourist route comprising three famous sights: Pingvellir, Geysir and Gullfoss) draws by far the largest crowds outside of Reykjavík, but visit during off-hours or venture further afield and you'll find awe-inspiring splendour.

The further you go the better it gets. Tourist faves like the silica-filled Blue Lagoon and the earth-rending parliament at Pingvellir are just beyond the capital. Churning seas lead to the Vestmannaeyjar archipelago offshore. At the region's far reaches lie the powerful Hekla and Eyjafjallajökull volcanoes, hopping Skógar and Vík, and the hidden valleys of Pórsmörk and Landmannalaugar.

Road Distances (km)





NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

Surtsey



Southwest Iceland & the Golden Circle Highlights

- ❶ Marvel at black basalt columns, sea stacks and rocky buttes on **Reynisfjara** (p149), near buzzy Vík
- ❷ Set sail for **Vestmannaeyjar** (p153),

- with its zippy puffins and small town tucked between lava flows
- ❸ Camp in **Pórmörk** (p146), a lush kingdom surrounded by brooding glaciers

- ❹ Explore the **Þjórsárdalur** (p129), a valley of raw terrain and Saga settlements carved by the powerful Þjórsá river
- ❺ Traverse caramel-coloured peaks at **Landmannalaugar**