

Faroe Islands

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Best Places to Stay

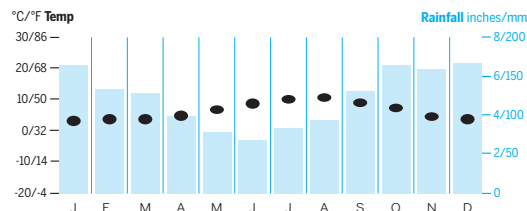
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Why Go?

The Faroes (Føroyar) form an 18-piece jigsaw puzzle of majestic grass-coated rocks jutting out of the frothing North Atlantic swells. Midway between Iceland and Scotland, this is a largely undiscovered slice of Scandinavia where multi-coloured cottages and grass-roofed wooden churches add focus to grandly stark, treeless moorlands. Terms like 'remote' and 'wind-swept' often feel inadequate as you ramble along cairn-marked footpaths criss-crossing craggy layer-cake mountains and skirting some of Europe's tallest sea cliffs. Yet even the tiniest, once-remote hamlets are now linked by an extraordinary series of road tunnels. And layered over the islands' fascinating Old Norse culture is a savvy modern society whose tight-knit rural communities are remarkably alive with art and music. Even if the weather proves uncooperative, this self-assured little demi-nation is likely to surprise and delight even the most cynical traveller.

When to Go

Tórshavn



Jun Days are dreamily long; most hotels and museums are open but tourist numbers are low.

Jul & Aug The main tourist season, with traditional boat races and festivals, notably Ólavsøka.

Sep-May Rain abounds, and much infrastructure is shut, but meditative tourists are welcome.

Connections

In summer there's a twice-weekly flight to London Stansted. Otherwise the only connections are to/from Denmark and Iceland either by air or using the comfortable Norröna car ferry (once or twice weekly).

ITINERARIES

Two Nights/Three Days

Take a boat ride along the Vestmanna bird cliffs. Drive to Gjógv with side trips to Saksun and Eiði outbound, returning via Funningur, Elduvík and Kirkjubøur. Spend the last night in Tórshavn strolling the historic Tinganes district and exploring the lively pubs.

Ten Days

Fly in on a Wednesday afternoon, walk or cycle from the airport to Sørvágur, then the next morning take the boat to Mykines. After a day with the puffins, hop on the Friday helicopter to Kirkja, walk to Hattarvík and return by ferry the same afternoon to Klaksvík. After an excursion to Kallur, walk up to Klakkur in the evening. Head for Suðuroy via Tórshavn, then on Wednesday at lunch-time take the helicopter from Froðba to Skúvoy. Having seen the skuas, jump on the last ferry-bus combo trip back to Tórshavn. Spend the last days as per the short itinerary above. Be sure to prebook the transport.

Essential Food & Drink

- » **Turrur fiskur** Dried, pounded fish.
- » **Skerpikjøt** Jamon-style wind-dried mutton.
- » **Grind og spik** Whale meat and blubber, traditionally popular though availability is now sporadic.
- » **Seyðahøvd** Sheep's head.
- » **Seabirds** Puffins and guillemots (and their eggs) occasionally find their way onto local plates.
- » **Tap water** Fine to drink.
- » **Alcoholic drinks** Klaksvík-based **Föroya Bjor** (www.bjor.fo) creates several decent brews, including rich, dark Black Sheep (5.8%). Not stocked in supermarkets or grocery shops.

AT A GLANCE

- » **Capital** Tórshavn
- » **Area** 1399 sq km
- » **Population** 48,700
- » **Country code**
+298
- » **Languages** Faroese, Danish
- » **Currency** Faroese króna and Danish krone (Dkr)

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	Dkr5.48
Canada	C\$1	Dkr5.28
Europe	€1	Dkr7.46
Japan	¥100	Dkr6.16
New Zealand	NZ\$1	Dkr4.03
UK	UK£1	Dkr8.38
USA	US\$1	Dkr5.03

Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room**
Dkr650–800
- » **Two-course evening meal** Dkr220–350
- » **Museum entrance**
Dkr20–50
- » **Beer** Dkr35–50
- » **Tórshavn transport ticket** free

Resources

- » **Official website** (www.faroeislands.com)
- » **Village by village** (www.faroeislands.dk)
- » **Tourist board** (www.visitfaroeislands.com)
- » **Philatelic service** (www.faroestamps.fo)
- » **Hoppa listings** (<http://hoppa.com/eu/nor/fo>)
- » **Comprehensive transport info** (www.ssl.fo)