



## AKUREYRI, ICELAND

Iceland's Capital of the North blends culture, history, and natural beauty. The country's second-city serves as a gateway to the northern region, with whale watching, hiking and the Northern Lights. Check out the heart-shaped stop lights, installed to boost morale after the 2008 financial crash.

### KEY INFO

**Currency:** Icelandic Krona (1 USD = 138.88 ISK) **Languages:** Icelandic (98% speak English)  
**Population:** 19,220 (377,533 Iceland) **Drive on the:** Right  
**Emergency #:** 112 **Pharmacy:** Lyfja Akureyri, Glerárgata 34, 600 Akureyri   
**Drinking water:** Tap water is drinkable **Protection:** Standard health precautions  
**Time Zone:** GMT **Wi-Fi:** Port  
**ID Requirements:** Photo ID/Passport (non-EU) **Post Office:** Pósturinn, Geislagata 3, 600 Akureyri 

### PORT LOCATION

Ships dock in the Oddeyrí district to the north of the city. The port is about 500m (5-minute walk) from the centre.

**Getting Around:** The town centre is 500m from the terminal, making it an easy walk to town. Walking is the ideal way to explore Akureyri. There are additionally free city buses that loop the town. The main bus stop is located between the town square and the taxi station ([click for more bus information](#)).

 [Click here for map](#)

**Taxis:** Available. Main company is BSO Taxi. Accepts cash and card payment.

**Tourist Bus:** There is a [Sightseeing Bus](#) (45-min loop | 11 stops | 6,000 kr | starts at port | [map](#))

**Tourist Information:** At port and in Hof Cultural Centre

**Port Facilities:** Tourist Information, Wi-Fi, Shop, Taxis

**Port Address:** Akureyri Cruise Terminal, Gránufélagsgata 51, 600 Akureyri, Iceland 

### AKUREYRI HIGHLIGHTS



**Akureyri Botanical Garden:** One of the northernmost botanical gardens in the world, featuring a collection of Arctic plants, in a 3.6-hectare park dating back to 1912. Onsite café for refreshments.



8a-10p (Mon-Fri), 9a-10p (Sat-Sun) | Free | 2km from port (6-min drive, 30-min walk) |  | 

**Akureyrarkirkja:** White concrete Lutheran church, with beautiful stained-glass windows, and a large pipe organ. A northern sibling to Reykjavik's Hallgrímskirkja.





3p-6p (Mon-Fri) | Free | 1.3km from port (5-min drive, 20-min walk) |  | 

**Akureyri Museum:** Local history museum with gardens, a 19<sup>th</sup> Century church, and the childhood home of author Jón Sveinsson. 11a-5p | Free | 2.8km from port (6-min drive, 40-min walk) |  | 

**Icelandic Aviation Museum:** Located in a large hangar at Akureyri Airport, with photos, videos, artefacts, models, and historic aircraft. 11a-5p | 1800 kr | 5km from port (8-min drive) |  | 

**Menningarhúsið Hof:** Cultural centre with performance and exhibition space. Distinctive circular building. 9a-4p | Price unknown | 750m from port (10-min walk) |  | 

For more: [www.visitakureyri.is/en](http://www.visitakureyri.is/en), [www.northiceland.is](http://www.northiceland.is)

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## SPA AND RELAXATION HIGHLIGHTS

**Forest Lagoon:** Geothermal spa nestled in the Vaðlaskógur forest just round the bay from the city centre. The two pools are both kept at roughly 40°C, plus there's a cold pot (11°C/51.8°F), large sauna and forest bistro. Towels can be rented. 9a-12a | 6900 kr | 4.4km from port (7-min drive) | [🌐](#) | [📄](#)

**The Beer Spa:** A unique experience of bathing in bathtubs filled with beer, water, hops, and yeast. Believed to have cleansing effects on the skin and other positive health benefits. Towels and bathrobes provided. 12p-9p | from 14,900 kr | 35km from port (30-min drive) | [🌐](#) | [📄](#)

## NATURAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Godafoss:** Known as the 'Waterfall of the Gods', this is one of Iceland's most spectacular waterfalls. 12m-high, with lots of viewing points. 35km from port (30-min drive) | [🌐](#)

**Lake Mývatn:** Volcanic lake with rich birdlife and stunning natural beauty – known for geothermal activity. 75km from port (1-hr drive) | [🌐](#)

**Dettifoss:** Europe's most powerful waterfall, located in Vatnajökull National Park. A 100m-wide wall of water charges 44m down, from the Jökulsá á Fjöllum river to the Jökulsárgljúfur canyon. 134km from port (1-hr 47-min drive) | [🌐](#)

## SOMETHING TO EAT OR DRINK

**Hákarl (Fermented Shark):** a rather stinky traditional delicacy, made from Greenland shark.

**Hangikjöt (Smoked Lamb):** served sliced, with potatoes in béchamel sauce and green peas. Hot or cold.

**Kleina:** traditional Icelandic doughnut. Deep-fried twisted pastry, usually seasoned with cardamom.

**Brennivín:** Nicknamed 'black death', this clear, unsweetened Icelandic schnapps is considered the national drink of Iceland.

**Icelandic Beer:** Legendary local brew, **Viking Beer** dominates the market. Alternatively, nearby **Einstök Ölgerð** [📄](#) brews award-winning ales, with pure Icelandic glacial water.





## LOCAL SOUVENIRS

**Lopapeysa** (Icelandic wool sweaters) are a classic keepsake from a visit to Iceland – and also really handy while you're here thanks to their water-resistance and breathable quality. **Handcrafted jewellery** is also a popular memento of a visit to Akureyri. Iceland is known for have one of the highest rates of book publishing per capita of any country, so perhaps a **book by an Icelandic author** might be a good gift for an avid reader back home. Books are translated into several foreign languages.

## LOCAL LINGO

<b>Hello</b>	Halló	<b>Please</b>	Vinsamlegast ( <i>lit. kindly do...</i> )
<b>Goodbye</b>	Bæ	<b>Thank you</b>	Takk
<b>Toilet/Restroom</b>	Klósett	<b>Cruise Ship Port</b>	Skemmtiferðaskips Höfn

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