

Index of natural wonders

Below is a numerical index to many of Iceland's natural wonders designed to help visitors identifying their nature and position. On the map it self there are numbered spots of different colours matching each of the listed items.

National Parks

Areas considered outstanding in landscape, flora or fauna, or having special historic significance. National Parks fall under the supervision of The Nature Conservation Agency.

North East Iceland • Jökulsárgljúfur

East Iceland • Skafafell

South Iceland • Þingvellir

West Iceland • Snæfellsjökull

Nature Reserves

Areas considered important because of their landscape, flora or fauna. Common to all the reserves is protection of their wildlife and landscape.

- Búðahraun**, Snæfellsýsla. Extraordinary lava field.
- Dyrhólaey**, V-Skafafellssýsla, an island formation on the sandy south coast.
- Eldey**, Reykjanes, island rock off the south west coast.
- Esfjall**, Breiðamerkurjökull, unique mountain range in northern Breiðamerkurjökull in Vatnajökull, with rich vegetation in the midst of the largest glacier in Europe
- Flatey**, Breiðafjörður. It was the most densely populated island on the Breiðafjörður Bay and an official trading post during the Middle Ages.
- Fjalabak** Nature Reserve, is 47.000 hectares and is over 500 meters above sea level. The land is mountainous, sculptured by volcanoes and geothermal activity, covered by lawas, sands, rivers and lakes.
- Geitland**, Borgarfjörður, high country
- Gullfoss**, (The golden waterfall) is Iceland's most famous waterfall dropping 32m into a narrow canyon, 70m deep and 2.5 kilometres long
- Herdísarvík**, Arnessýsla, historic farm and fishing station
- Herðubreiðarlindir** Area, an oasis in the highlands, with countless springs appearing from under the lava
- Hornstrandir** nature reserve, is one of the most remote area of Iceland, with majestic mountains, deep blue fjords and spectacular wildlife
- Hrisey**, Iceland's second largest island, often referred to as the pearl of the North
- Húsafellsskógur**, Borgarfjörður, near camping ground Húsafell
- Kverkfjöll Mountains** and Hvannalindir. The Hvannalindir area is an oasis of vegetation at an altitude of 64 metres
- Ingólfshöfði**, Austur-Skafafellssýsla, high cliff formation on the south east coast where the first settler in Iceland, Ingólfur Arnarson, came ashore and spent his first winter
- Lónsöræfi**, surrounded by high mountain ranges, reaching over 1000 m, on three sides, crowned by snowy peaks and glaciers stretching icy tongues down the valleys.
- Miklavatn**, Skagafjarðarsýsla, lake in Skagafjörður
- Oddaflói**, Rangárvallasýsla, wetland with magnificent bird life
- Skrúður**, Suður-Múlasýsla, is a grassy but rockbound island east of Fáskrúðfjörður with magnificent bird life
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- Snæfellsnes**, protected areas at Budir, Arnarstapi and Hellnar
- Surtsey**, volcanic island formed in an under water volcanic eruption in 1963
- Svarfaðardalsá**, Eyjafjörður, great bird life
- Þjórsárver**, high country heather, richly vegetated, with the highest concentration of heather geese in the world
- Kringilsárrani**, Norður-Múlasýsla, the feeding ground of reindeers
- Landmannalaugar**, a unique pearl of the highlands is situated in a valley between colourful, steep mountains at the high and dark edge of the rhyolite lava field Laugahraun.

Natural monuments

Natural monuments are natural phenomena that are unique, of outstanding beauty or scientific interest. These include waterfalls, volcanoes, hot springs, rock pillars, fossils and minerals.

- Askja**, Óðaðahraun, is a large oval volcanic depression in Dyngjufjöll, close to 50 square kilometers (20 square miles) in size. One of the largest ash and pumice eruptions in Icelandic history occurred there in 1875.
- Bárðarlaug**, Breiðavík
- Dima**, Lóni, Austur-Skafafellssýsla
- Dverghamrar**, Síðu, Vestur-Skafafellssýsla
- Dynjandi**, Waterfalls in Arnarfjörður
- Eldborg**, Geitahlö, Grindavík
- Eldborg**, Hinnapadalur
- Grábrotkargir**, Norðurárdalur
- Haalda**, Austur-Skafafellssýsla
- Helgustaðanáma**, Suður-Múlasýsla
- Hraunfossar and Barnafoss**, Hvíta, Borgarfjörður
- Hveravellir**, thermal area
- Jörundur**, cave in Lambahraun at Hlíðufell
- Kattarauga**, Kornsa in Vatnsdalur, A-Húnavatnssýsla
- Kirkjugöf**, Kirkjubæjarklaustur
- Lakagigar**, Vestur-Skafafellssýsla, is a 25 km (15.5 mile) long row of volcanic craters extending up to Vatnajökull glacier. In 1783 the greatest volcanic lava eruption in human history started in Lakagigar, covering 565 square kilometres (221 square miles).
- Skógafoss**, Eyjafjöll. According to legend there is a cave behind the waterfall, where a treasure chest of the local settler, Þrasi is hidden.
- Skútustaðagigar**, Suður-Pingeyjarsýsla
- Steðji**, Hvalfjörður
- Surtarbrandsgil**, Brjánsklaur
- Teigahorn**, Berufjörður, Suður-Múlasýsla
- Detifoss**, Selfoss and Hafragilsfoss, waterfalls in the Jökulsá canyon which is 25km long and up to 120m deep.

Country parks

Are areas protected upon request of local government and mandated by them. The parks are primarily intended for recreational purposes and open to the general public.

- Alfaborg**, Borgarfjörður eystri, Norður-Múlasýsla
- Bláfjöll**, Near Reykjavik city, ski resort
- Boggvastaðafjall**, Dalvík, ski resort
- Hrútey**, Blanda, Austur-Húnavatnssýsla
- Ósland**, Austur-Skafafellssýsla
- Rauðhólar**, Reykjavík
- Reykjanesfölkvangur**, on the Reykjanes peninsula
- Sþákonufellshöfði**, Austur-Húnavatnssýsla

Map dictionary

Most Icelandic place-names, both of towns, villages, and natural features in the landscape, mean something. This compact dictionary of the most common names appearing on the Map of Iceland is designed to help visitors identifying and understanding them.

Each of these words might stand alone or be attached to a specific name e.g. borg = a city or Reykjavíkurborg = Reykjavík city. The last part of a place name is usually the name of the geographical feature, e.g. Þingvellir (vellir is the plural of völlur = plain), Þjórsá (á = river), Akrafjall (fjall = mountain), Selfoss (foss = waterfall).

Icel.	English	German	French	Italiano
alda	ridge	landrücken	onde	onda
a	river	flúð	rivière	fiume
as	small hill	anhóe	colline	piccola collina
baeki	town farm	stæti, bauernh.	ville	fattoria, paese
bjarg	river bank	flúðifer	bord rive	argine
borg	cliff, rock	gesteinsblock	rocher	città
botn	city,crag	cité, ville	citè, ville	fondo
brekka	bottom,end	grund, boden	fond	pendio
brú	slope	hang	versant, pente	ponte
bunga	bridge	brücke	pont	collina
dalur	peak, hill	eruhöng	bomber	collina
djúp	valley	tal	valleée, val	valle
drag	long inlet	tiefe	profondeur	bala
drangur	watercourse	flúðbett	bergspitze	corso d'acqua
dynja	rock column	dome	rocher isolé	roccia
eidi	dome	isthmus	fossé	cupola
ey	isthmus	landenge	serment	inabitato
eyri	island	insel	île	isola
fall	sandspill,delta	sandbank	della de sable	della
fjall	mountain,hill	berg	montagne	montagna
fjörður	mountain,hill	berg	montagne	montagna
fjöt	fjord	flúð	fiord	fiordo
foss	large river	wasserfall	fleuve	grande fiume
gata	waterfall	straße, weg	cascade	casata
gígur	road,street	krater	rocher	roccia
gjá	crater	schlucht	gouffre	gola
grunn	gorge,ravine	kluft	fossé	abisso
háls	chasm,fissure	fanggrund	base	poco profondo
hamar	shoal, shallow	hals	crête	roccia
heiði	crag	bergvand	rocher	brughiera
hlið	heath,moor	heide	butte, colline	franco della mont.
hnjúkur	mountain side	berghang	coteau, versant	cima, vetta
höfði	peak	berggjafel	piton	crista
höfn	promontory	lag	cap	porto
höll	harbour	hafn	port	collina
holmur	rounded hill	hugel	butte, colline	piccola isola
holt	islet	holm	îlot	collina rocciosa
hóll	stony hill	steiniger hugel	colline	collina rocciosa
hraun	lavafield,lava	lava	lave	cresta
hryggur	ridge	rucken	échine	geyser
hver	hot spring	heisse quelle	geyser	colline
hvoll	hill	anhöhe	colline	glaciera
jökull	glacier	gletscher	glacier	glaciera
jökulsá	glacial river	gletschermilch	glaciera	fiume glaciale
kirkja	church	kirche	église	chiesa
klettur	rock, cliff	felsen, klippe	rocher	roccia
kvísl	small farm	kleines gehöft	petit ville	piccola fattoria
lakur	small river	flúðarm	ruisseau	piccolo fiume
laug	thermal spa	varme quelle	baie	ruscello
lón	lagoon	lagun	bassin	sorgente calda
melur	barren plain	kiesfläche	laguna	planura
múli	spur	maul	champ du pierre	ghiaia
mýri	mouth	mundung	buccal	sperone
mörk	swamp	moor	marais	bocca
nes	forest, woods	wald	bois	palude
nupur	point	landspitze	peninsule	foresta
oddi	spur peak	stieile	pic, cime	sperone
os	point	landzunge	pointe	vetta
os	estuary	flúðmundung	delta de riviere	punta
os	reef	cote, rific	delta di un fiume	scogliera
sandur	sand(s)	sand	sable	sabbia
skagi	peninsula	landzunge	peninsule	peninsula
skar	mountain pass	paß	percée, trouée	passo di una mont.
skógur	skerry	schäre	écueil, récif	piccola roccia/isola
skógar	shrubland	wald	bois	foresta
slétta	plain	ebene	plaine	planura
staður	place	ort	place	posto
stapi	bluff, crag	tafberg	rocher	roccia
stræti	street, road	straße	ruie	strada, via
strönd	beach, shore	côte, rive	côte, rive	costa, spiaggia
tangi	mount. peaks	gífel	pic, cime	punta di una mont.
tindur	narrow penin.	gífel	peninsule	peninsula stretta
tjörn	summit	gífel	pic, cime	cima, vetta
tunga	pond	teich	pièce d'eau	stagno, pezzo
vað	tounge of land	landzunge	langue de terre	lingua di terra
varða	ford	furt	passe	guado
vatn	calm	vegveiser	monument	monumento
vegur	lake	see	eau	lago
vik	road, track	weg	route, voie	strada, tracciato
vik	grassy spot	wiese	place herbe	posto erboso
vökur	small bay	bucht	crique, anse	piccola bala
völlum	inlet, creek	bucht	crique, anse	piccola bala
völlum	plain	feld	champ, terrain	campo
völlum	wilderness	hóchland	desert	deserto

Tips on Pronunciation of Icelandic words

This guide is designed to help you read and pronounce special Icelandic characters.

á - as in how	y - as in she
é - as in yeah	þ - as in Thursday
í - as in he	æ - as in my
o - as in so	ö - as in duck
u - as in who	

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There are many things unique about driving in Iceland

Many rural roads in Iceland are gravel roads not suited to fast driving. Please drive carefully and show other road-users consideration at all times. When you meet another car, slow down, and pull out to the side of the road.

The general speed limit is 50 km/h in urban areas, 80 km/h on gravel roads in rural areas and 90 km/h on hard-surfaced roads. Please note: special warning signs indicate danger ahead, such as sharp bends, but there is generally no separate sign to reduce speed.

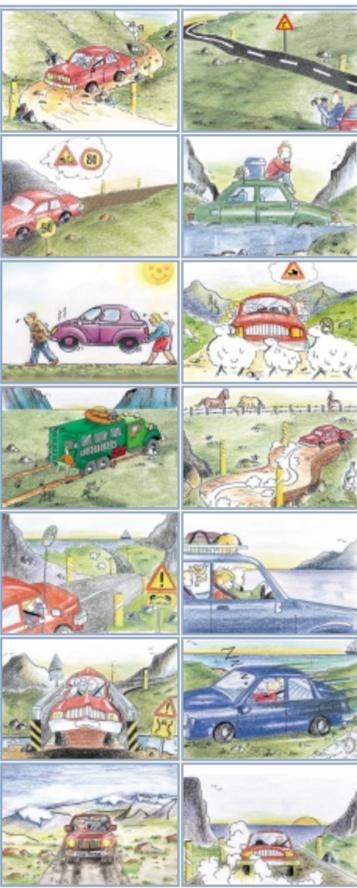
Icelandic highland roads are not meant for ordinary cars, and that includes hire cars. Their insurance does not cover them for driving on highland roads.

Driving off marked roads is prohibited. It results in irreparable damage to the land and the plant cover which may remain visible for centuries. Drivers who cause damage to the land and the vegetation may be liable to claims for compensation.

There are many blind hills on our roads, some of them without any markings at all. Many of them however, are marked with the warning sign "OTHER DANGER" above the word "BLINDHÆÐ" (BLIND RISE).

Many bridges are too narrow to allow more than one car to cross at a time.

Please ask for information about the various roads and tracks in the highlands, e.g. at the office of Vegagerðin (The Public Roads Administration). Tel.: 1777. Highland roads are often impassable far into summer. Please remember that driving off the established roads and tracks is forbidden in the highlands as well as everywhere else.



Always pay attention to road signs, especially when travelling on unfamiliar roads.

Many rivers in the highlands are unbridged. Therefore, it is important that you make sure that the conditions are safe before you attempt to cross - especially when a vehicle is travelling unaccompanied, i.e. not in a convoy.

Please be prepared for farm animals grazing by the roadside and straying into or crossing the road. Drivers who cause injury or death to such animals may be liable to claims for compensation.

No-one may drive a motor vehicle in Iceland after drinking alcoholic beverages.

All travellers are obliged to use safety belts where they are available.

Beware of getting too tired at the wheel. Iceland may look small on a map of the world, but distances that seem short on the map may take a long time to cover by car. So please take long journeys in easy stages and enjoy them to the full.

Drivers are obliged to drive with headlights on at all times.

Warning Signs



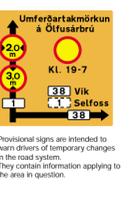
Prohibition signs



Police hand signals



Provisional signs

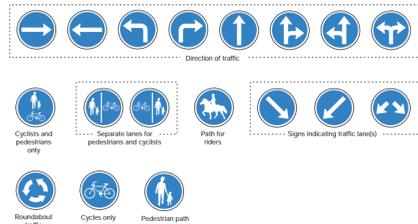


PEOPLE WHO RESPECT TRAFFIC SIGNS CAUSE

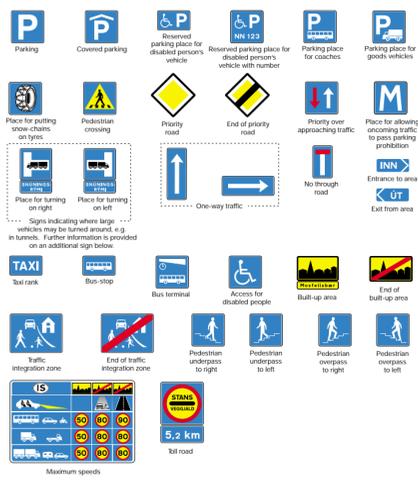
Service signs



Instruction signs



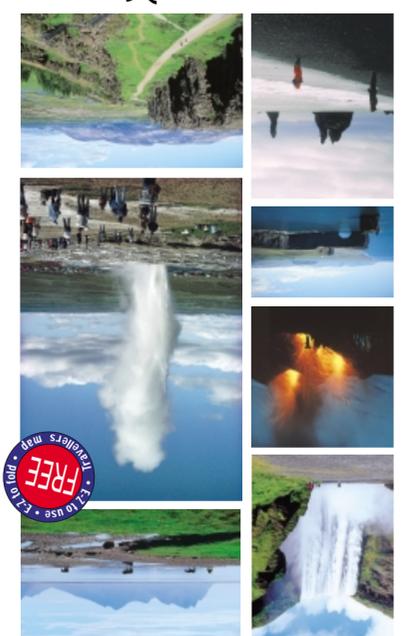
Information signs



Be extra careful when driving on Icelandic roads because pets and domestic animals often roam onto the road. Please be aware that you might be liable for compensation for animals involved in accidents.

- National parks
- Pieces of interest
- Museums
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- Traffic, service and information signs
- Tips on history, culture and geography
- Chosis & trails
- Heritage sites
- National parks

This map features



2005 - 2006
MAP of ICELAND

NATURAL STILL WATER
PURE ICELANDIC

Quench your thirst for Iceland
Can you imagine anything more refreshing than pure Icelandic natural drinking water? Pure Icelandic Stillwater is natural drinking water from Gvendarbrunnur Iceland's most famous spring.