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# Hiking Treasures in Egilsstaðir Region

30 WONDERFUL HIKING TRAILS FOR YOU TO EXPLORE



## **Hiking Treasures**

Hiking Treasures in Egilsstaðir Region are 30 wonderful hiking trails for you to explore. The destinations are mountain tracks and peaks, waterfalls, lakes, creeks, canyons, small caves and inlets by the sea side. The Local Touring Club in Fljótshálsa has contributed most of the effort and information to this selection of hiking trails. The GPS coordinates refer to the location of the cylinder at each destination unless otherwise mentioned. Trail length in km is both ways.

## **Collecting stamps**

At each destination a tubular container or cylinder holds information on the site, a visitors' log to sign and a unique stamp made for each location. Hikers can buy specially made cards to bring along on their hike and are for stamping at each destination. Those can be bought in numerous places such as at the Information Centre in Egilsstaðir, at the office of Local Touring Club in Tjarnarás 8, 700 Egilsstaðir or at Egilsstaðastofa Visitor Center by the camping area. That is how hikers can document their arrival to the sites. If hikers fill the card with 10 destinations they can get a certification from the Touring Club.

All visitors of the Hiking Treasures in Egilsstaðir Region are asked to respect its delicate and precious nature when travelling in the area. Do keep in mind the landowners' wishes, walk along marked trails and respect farmers right regarding domestic animals and land for harvesting. Do remember to close gates and be careful with fences. Do leave information about your planned hike, about your plan B, should problems arise, and about your approximate time of return. Try to get in touch if a change of plan occurs.



### Trail difficulty level



Easy path: For the most part good trails with a smooth surface, without any significant obstructions or difficulties.



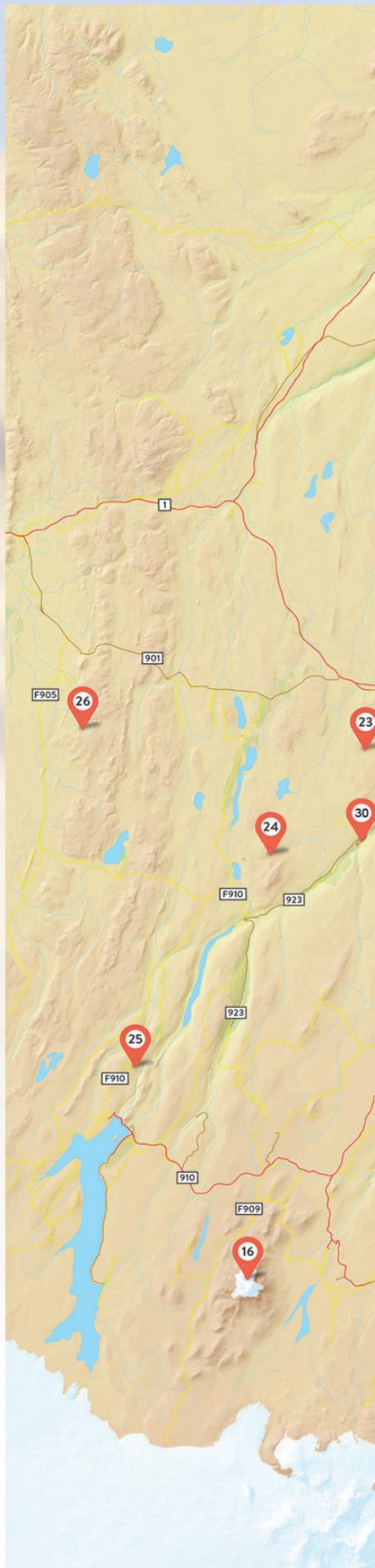
Challenging path: Routes and trails which may include lengthy rough, difficult sections, and obstructions such as unbridged brooks or small rivers, loose gravel, steep sections, and so forth.

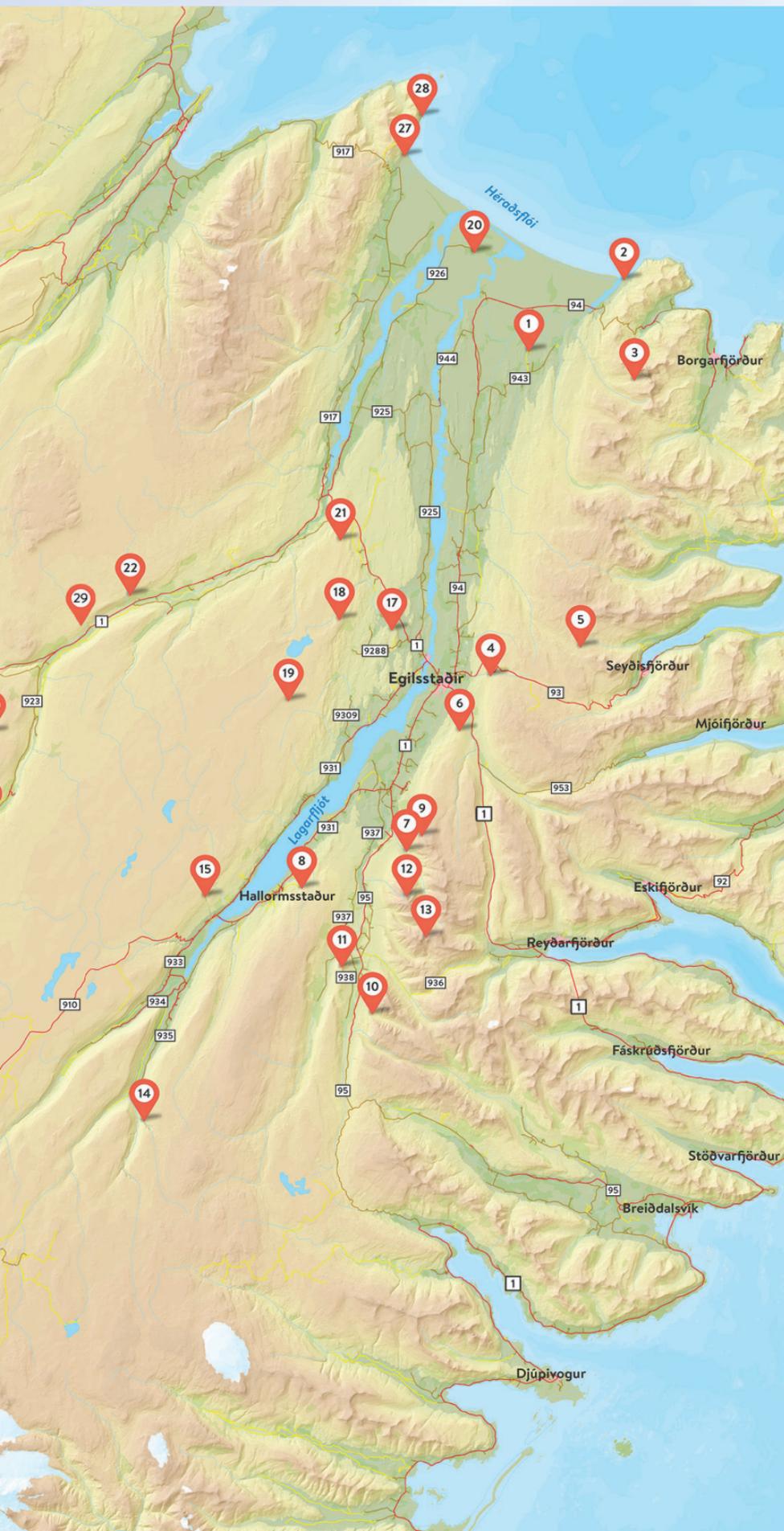


Difficult path: Routes and trails involving obstacles and difficulties, such as sizable unbridged rivers, steep slopes and cliff barriers, which may prove hazardous to the inexperienced or in poor conditions.



- #1 Kóreksstaðavígi
- #2 Stapavík
- #3 Stóruð
- #4 Fardagafoss
- #5 Vestdalsvatn
- #6 Rauðshaugur
- #7 Valtýshellir
- #8 Bjargselsbotnar
- #9 Höttur
- #10 Stuttidalur
- #11 Múlakollur
- #12 Sandfell
- #13 Skúmhöttur
- #14 Strútsfoss
- #15 Hengifoss
- #16 Snæfell
- #17 Hrafnafell
- #18 Rangárhjúkur
- #19 Spanarhóll
- #20 Húsey
- #21 Heiðarendi
- #22 Grjótgarður
- #23 Hnjúksvatn
- #24 Eiríksstaðahneflar
- #25 Magnahellir
- #26 Hvannárgil
- #27 Landsendi
- #28 Þerribjarg
- #29 Ysti- Rjúkandi
- #30 Stuðlagil







# #1 Kóreksstaðavígi

(N65°32.782-W14°10.591) // 1.2 km

Kóreksstaðavígi is a beautiful rock of basalt columns. There the Viking Kórekur is said to have fought his enemies to the death and been buried at the site. One drives past Hjaltalundur and takes the road towards the farm Kóreksstaðir. Park your car in an area close to the sign by the gate leading to the farm. Walk on towards the Kóreksstaðavígi where you will find a cylinder with the visitors' log and stamp. Standing on its top is an enjoyable experience.





## #2 Stapa vík

(N65°36.17-W13°57.97) // 10 km

Hikers leave from a small parking area near the driveway leading to the farm Unaós and walk along the river Selfljót. An ideal stop would be by Krosshöfði landing which in 1902 was made an official trading harbour. You will find the cylinder with visitors' log book and stamp by the old winch in Stapa vík. Merchandise was shipped to Stapa vík until the nineteen thirties. An old trail lies from Krosshöfði through Gönguskarð to Njarðvík.

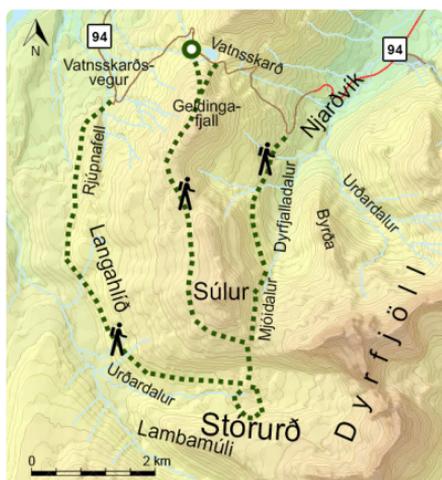




## #3 Stóruð

(N65°30,88-W13°59,79) // 15 km

Hikers start from the facilities cabin in Vatnsskarð (65°33,71-13°59,56) to crossroads (65°31,10-13°59,36) south of Mjóadalsvarp. Hikers are always advised to go by the staked trails. In Stóruð you will find the box with visitors' log book and stamp. Few other trails lead back from Stóruð. You can walk towards Vatnsskarðsvegur (65°33,71-13°59,56) or you can go to Njarðvík (65°33,05-13°58,24). The best time of year to hike to Stóruð is from the middle of July to the middle of September.





## #4 Fardagafoss

(N65°16.06-W14°19.96) // 2 km // 148 m ↑

Walk from the parking area up along the river on the north bank until you get to the Gufufoss-waterfall. When you get to the ravine you will find a chain linked to the cliffs for support. One can get behind the waterfall. A cylinder with visitors' log book and stamp can easily be found up there. You can start this hike in Egilsstaðir town. Walk across the old bridge crossing Eyvindará-river and then turn on to the old gravel road, cross the driveway to Miðhús-farm up towards the parking area.

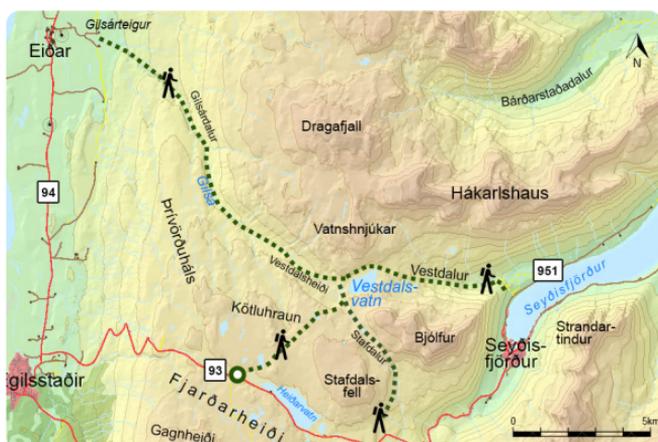




# #5 Vestdalsvatn

(N65°17.050-W14°07.551) // 11 km

A great trail for hiking which involves crossing Vestdalsheiði mountain range, from Hérað to Seyðisfjörður. Walk from the sign in Fjarðarheiði and head towards the western part of the mountain Bjólfur. You will see the lake when you get near the mountain. This is a nice walk in rolling hills. When you get to Vestdalsvatn you can choose between three routes if you don't want to take the same route back. Down Vestdalur by a staked trail to Seyðisfjörður; down Gilsárdalur valley down towards Gilsárteigur farm or go west of Bjólfur mountain down to Stafdalur valley. The cylinder with the visitors' log book and stamp is where Gilsá river runs out from the lake. You will need to cross the river if you choose to walk from Fjarðarheiði.

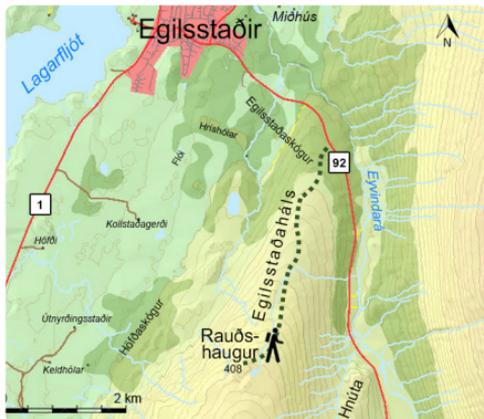




# #6 Rauðshaugur

(N65°12.77-W14°23.01) // 8.4 km // 300 m ↑

Rauðshaugur is a rock or a hill protruding from the farm Höfði and can be seen widely from Hérað. According to legend it is the burial heap of farmer Rauður or Ásrauður in the sagas and from there two similar heaps can be located, the burial heap Bessahaugur in Fljótsdalur and the heap Ormarshaugur in Fell. Legends has it Rauður was buried with all his riches. People are said to have tried digging into the pile of rocks but always had to give up because of a burning vision of the homestead in Ketilsstadir. Walk from the sign by Fagrídalur road (N65°14.590 -W14°21.156) along the trail on Egilsstaðaháls towards Rauðshaugur.

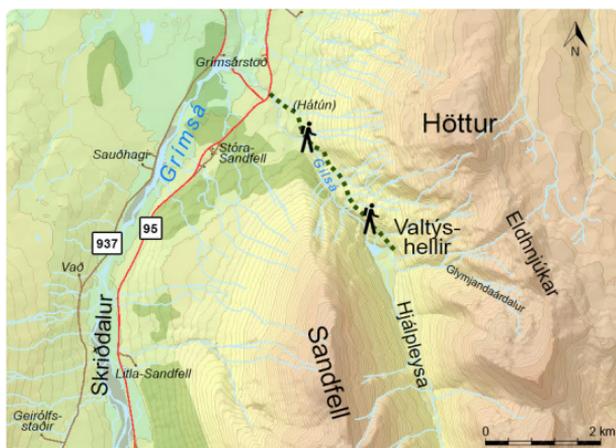




# #7 Valtýshellir

(N65°06.410-W14°28.517) // 9 km

Walk from the sign by road no 95 road east of Gilsá river (N65°08,172-W14°31.133), pass the ruins of Hátún which used to be a large farm in the early ages. It is said to have had 18 doors on iron hinges and latches. Remains of old rock fences are visible. In the 19th century an ancient sword was discovered there but it was promptly melted down and the metal casted for horseshoes and other necessities. Walk on further and along a flat grassy pasture named Kálfavellir. Valtýshellir is a small cavity further on behind some rubble north of Hjálpleysuvatn lake. The visitors' log and stamp is by the cave.





# #8 Bjargselsbotnar

(N65°05.465-W14°43.031) // 4.5 km // 230 m ↑

Walk from the sign near Hússtjórnarskóli schoolhouse in the woodlands of Hallormsstaður and follow a light green marked trail that passes through an area where half the mountain slid forward some 10.000 years ago. You'll ascend up to Bjargselsbotnar, inwards to Bjarg and Þverbjarg to Illaskriða or The Cruel Landslide. From there you follow the trail to the Leirtjarnarhryggur ridge. There you can find a cylinder with visitors' log and a stamp.

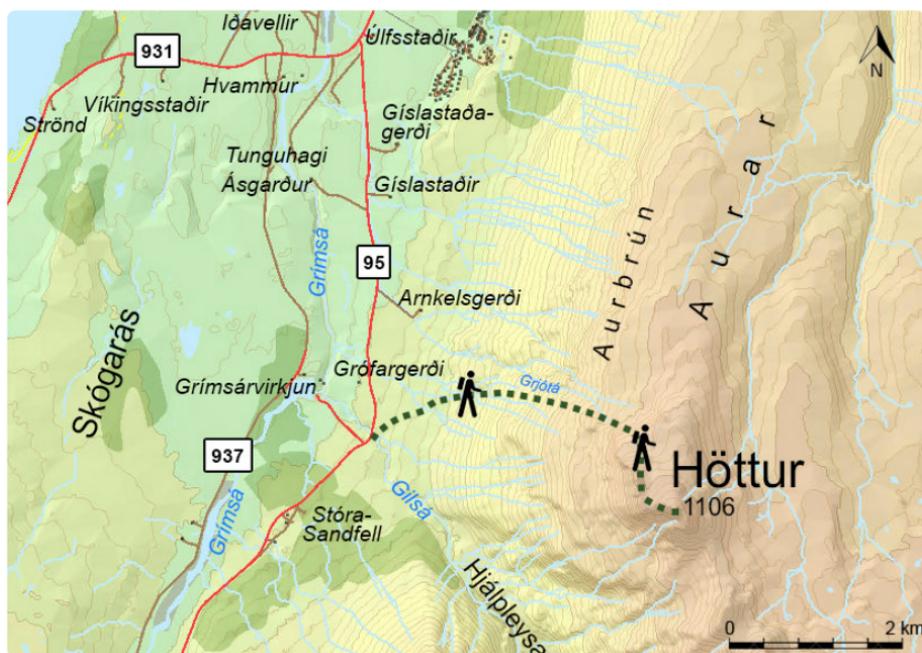




# #9 Höttur

(N65°07.63-W14°27.25) // 10 km // 1000 m ↑

Höttur (Hátúnahöttur) is a beautiful mountain which lies in the mountain range between Vellir and Fagridalur and is favoured by many who live in Egilsstaðir. Walk from the sign by road nr 95 east of Gilsá river (N65°08,172-W14°31.133), towards Grjótá river by Víðihjalli and up along the river. Onwards and up to Hattarhólar, turn inland and ascend to the top of Höttur (1106 m).

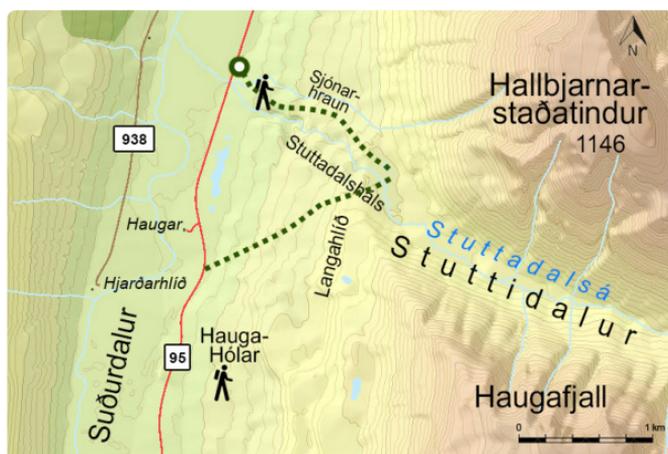




# #10 Stuttidalur

(N64°59.173-W14°35.217) // 4 km // 100 m

Walk from the sign by road nr. 95 close by Haugaá river. Go through a gate and then walk by the fence approx 600 m. Keep on walking the staked trail. Stuttidalur lies east between Hallbjarnarstaðatindur and Haugafjall. The cylinder with visitors' log and a stamp is by the pond a short distance by Sjónarhraun. If you prefer a different route back the one way is crossing the river and passing through Haugahólar hills on the way to your starting point. Haugahólar hills were formed by a huge landslide, one of the largest ever from Haugafjall, and lie between Stuttidalur and Vatnsdalur.

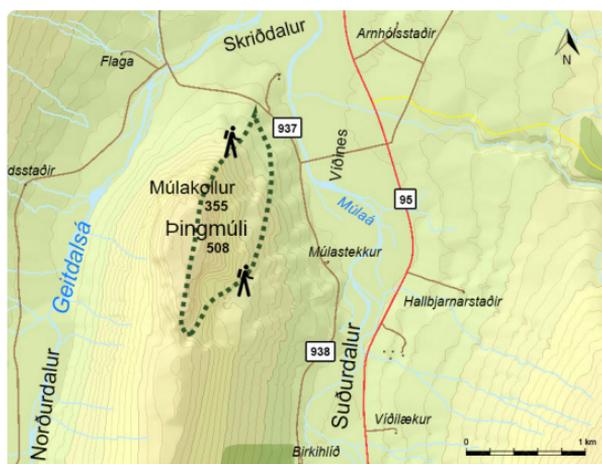




# #11 Múlakollur

(N65°01.624-W14°38.049) // 6 km // 400 m ↑

Pingmúli divides Skriðdalur into Norðurdalur and Suðurdalur. The homestead at Pingmúli was a place of gathering for the Thing in Eastern Iceland for centuries. The northernmost part of the mountain is called Múlakollur. Walk the ridge from the sign straight up. When you reach Múlakollur's top it is pleasant to walk onwards and along the top and descend on the east side a bit south of Múlastekkur. One can also ascend by walking up from Múlastekkur.

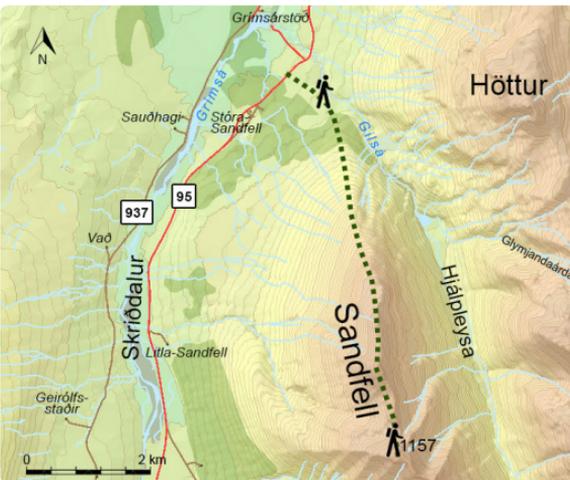




# #12 Sandfell

(N65°05.637-W14°30.298) // 14 km // 1050 m ↑

Sandfell is an impressive looking rhyolite mountain in the shape of a ridge and reminds one of a tent because of its even slopes which are mostly free of cliffs and by its two darker peaks. The path starts by road no 95. A little distance from the Gilsá river you will find the sign where you start. Walk the trail towards a fence then turn and walk up along it, then upwards by the trail on the northern ridge straight to the top which reaches 1157 m.

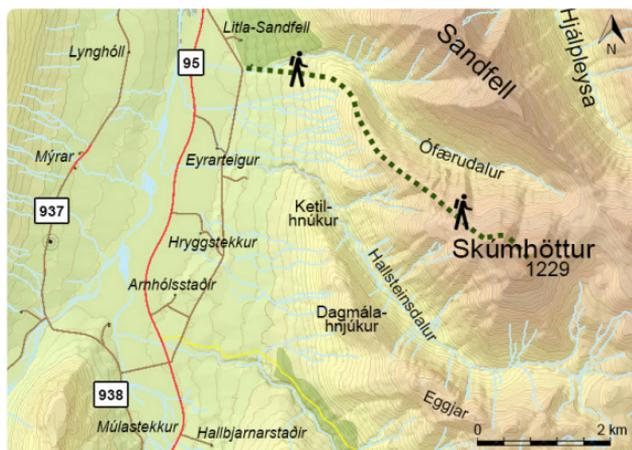




# #13 Skúmhöttur

(N65°02.548-W14°28.848) // 14 km // 1100 ↑

Skúmhöttur is the second tallest mountain in the range between Fljótsdalshérað and Reyðarfjörður. It consists mostly of rhyolite but the peak itself is of darker rock formation. From Egilsstaðir you drive road no 95 until you pass Litla Sandfell farm. Make a left turn and go through the gate and continue until you come to an old bridge by Þórisá river. There is a parking area. Walk from the sign by Þórisá river and along the ridge until you are on the top, 1229 m. A good walk and an interesting mountain.

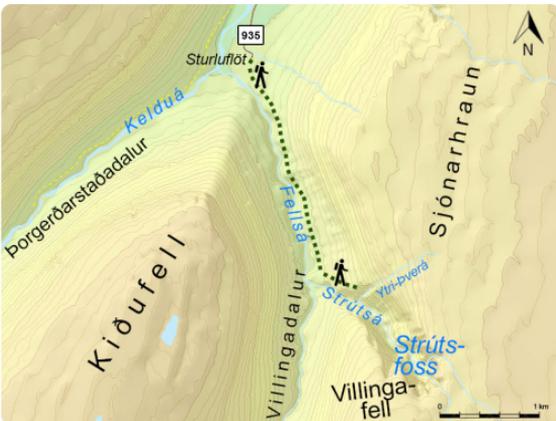




# #14 Strútsfoss

(N64°54.194-W15°02.314) // 8.5 km // 229 m ↑

Start from the sign near Sturluflöt which is the innermost farm in Suðurdalur in Fljótsdalur, east of Kelduá river. Walk along the banks of Fellsá river on the east side of Villingadalur valley. The waterfall can't be seen until one is quite far into the valley once there one can walk along Strútsgil creek. The cylinder with visitors' log and a stamp is to be found up by Strútsgil creek. You can not get to the waterfall except by going into the creek and crossing the river a few times which can be treacherous. Strútsfoss waterfall is on the list of nature reserves.





# #15 Hengifoss

(N65°05.422-W14°53.200) // 4.5 km // 300 m ↑

Hengifoss is one of the highest waterfalls in Iceland, 128 meters, in Hengifossá river. One can reach the waterfall from both sides of the river though it is more common to walk up from the parking area by the riverside. On the way up one gets a view of one of the tallest steeples or pillars of rock by Litlanesfoss waterfall. The cylinder with visitors' log and stamp is at the end of the trail.





# #16 Snæfell

(N64°47.846-W15°33.631) // 14 km // 1030 ↑

Iceland's highest mountain, outside of glaciers, 1833 m high. Start from the sign by the parking area approx. 1.5 km south of Snæfellsskáli hut. It is a long moderately difficult walk yet the trail is fairly smooth. The trail is staked and suitable only for experienced hikers. The mountain is the highest part of a volcanic center. The cylinder with visitors' log and stamp is on the mountains' top. If it is covered or hidden by snow there is a stamp in the Snæfellsskáli hut.

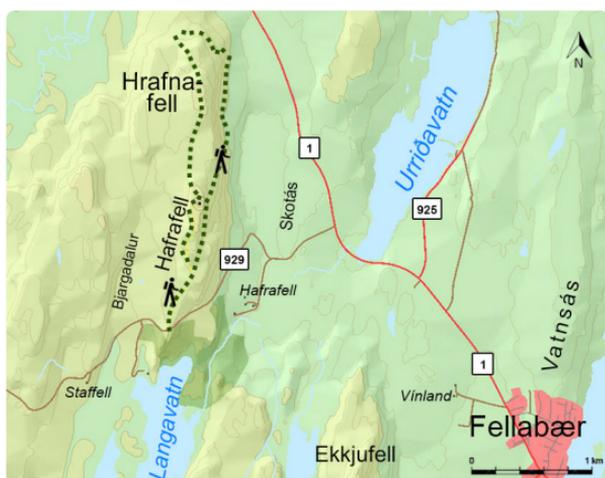




# #17 Hrafnafell

(N65°18,304-W14°29,098) // 2.6 km // 80 m ↑

Drive the gravel road up to Fjallssel farm and to the highest spot south-west of Hrafnafell. Walk from the sign by the road towards the antennas on Hrafnafell where you can find the cylinder with the visitors' log and stamp. Do walk on to Hrafnafellsrött (N65°18.02-W14°29.23) which is man-made of rocks and stones, between cliffs slightly to the east of the trail. It is also very nice to descend east of Hrafnafell and see Kvíahellir cave (N65°18,359-W14°29,063). If you take the circle the walk is 5.8 km long and a red trail.

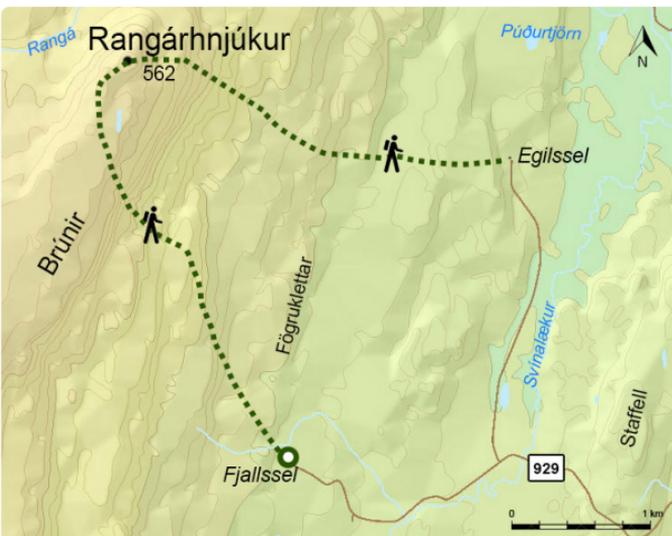




# #18 Rangárhjúkur

(N65°19.410-W14°35.498) // 11 km // 500 m ↑

Walk from the sign by the gate to Fjallasel farm, there you take an old road up above the farm. When you arrive up turn off the road to the right and walk onto Rangárhjúkur where you will find the cylinder with the visitors' log and stamp. On the way back it is a good idea to walk down to Egilssel farm and walk on towards Fjallssel farm. Then you will pass Dansgjá which is a peculiar creek or ravine through tall cliffs west of Staffellsbjörg cliffs right off the road and marks the borders of the farms.





# #19 Spanarhóll

(N65°15.588-W14°41.446) // 14 km // 473 m ↑

Spanarhóll is in the north end of Fjórðungsháls, 591 m high. You drive to the south up Fell to the farm Refsmýri. Walk from the sign by Þorleifará river and up along the river, about 0,5 km. Then you turn from the river and walk towards Hlíðarsel and onwards up the canyon above the ruins up on Fjórðungur on the Fell heath. From there the way to Spanarhóll is easily hiked. There are four hills and people should walk towards all of them. One can also hike to Spanarhóll hill by going up by the Ormarsstaðir river or from Fjallssel up to the edge, and then inland. The cylinder is on top of the biggest hill. At the hill, lore has it that there is presence of elves or hidden people.

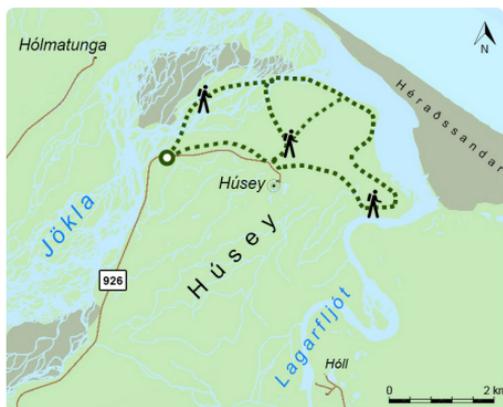




## #20 Húsey

(N65°38.775-W14°14.670) // 6 km

Walk on to the plains out of the Húsey farm, out by Héraðsflói bay. One can choose between different distances to hike from 6 km or a 14 km hike. There are a lot of birds and seals in the area. Walk from the sign which is located north of the farm Húsey to the river/sea side. On the riverbank is the cylinder with the visitors' and stamp.

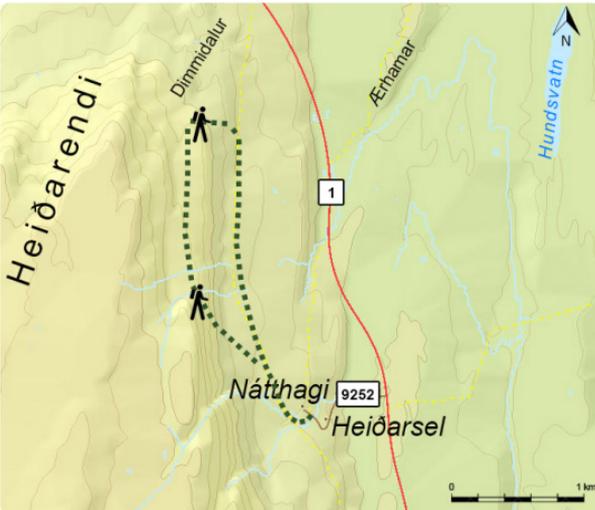




# #21 Heiðarendi

(N65°23.085-W14°33.819) // 6.8 km // 200m ↑

Take the driveway up to and above Heiðarsel farm and turn to left before you come to the farm Nátthagi. Walk from a sign by the old road above Nátthagi. Walk up to the top and further on to the right where you get to the cylinder with the visitors' log and stamp. It is pleasant to walk on from Heiðarendi descend and walk back by the old gravel road.

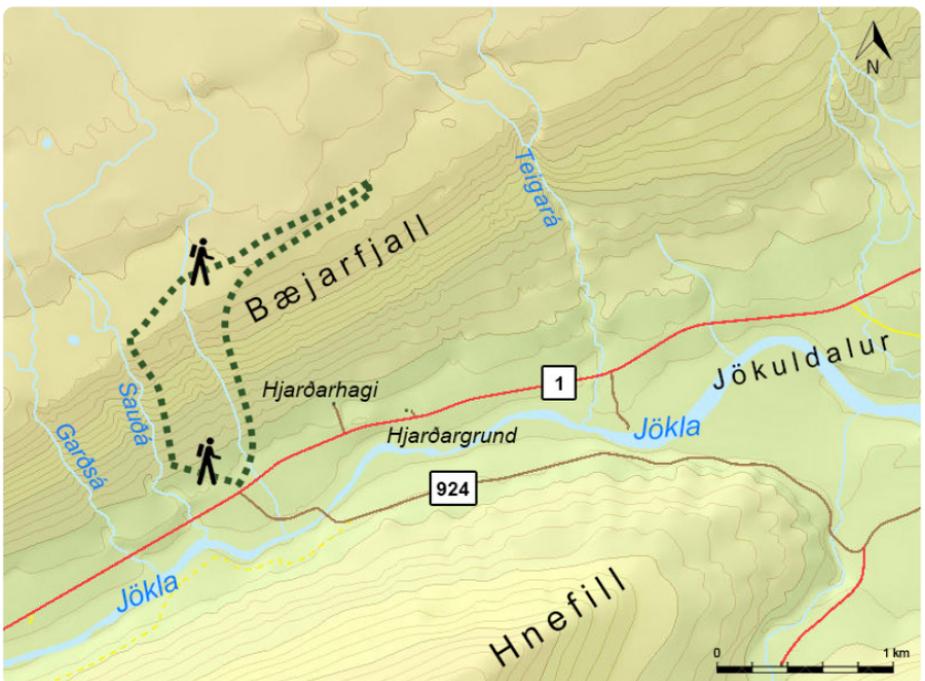




## #22 Grjótgarður við Hjarðarhaga

(N65°21.391-W15°00.061) // 7.6 km // 300m ↑

A walk of about two and a half hours, fairly short but quite steep. Park your cars at the crossroads to Hnefilsdalur. Walk from the sign, located by the main road (no 1), a marked path up along the river Sauðá up to the edge of the slope to the stone wall or fence. Follow the fence until you've reached the cylinder with the visitors' log and stamp. Keep on towards Teigará to the cairn and then walk back for a bit down a staked horse riding trail through Hestagil creek. The purpose of the stone wall is unknown but thought to have been a fence for farm animals.

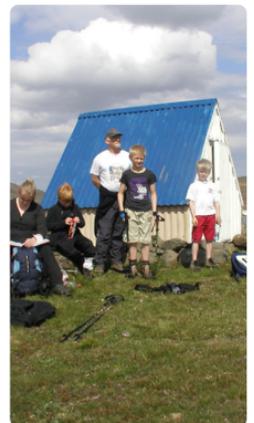




## #23 Hnjúksvatn

(N65°14.333-W15°15.887) // 6.5 km // 300 m ↑

Hnjúksvatn is a lake on the heath across from Merki farm. Walk from the sign by road no. 923 along Hnjúksá river to Binnubúð hut by Hnjúksvatn. By the hut you will find the cylinder with the visitors' log and stamp. The midwife, Brynhildur Stefánsdóttir built this hut for those who wished to visit and enjoy the highlands.

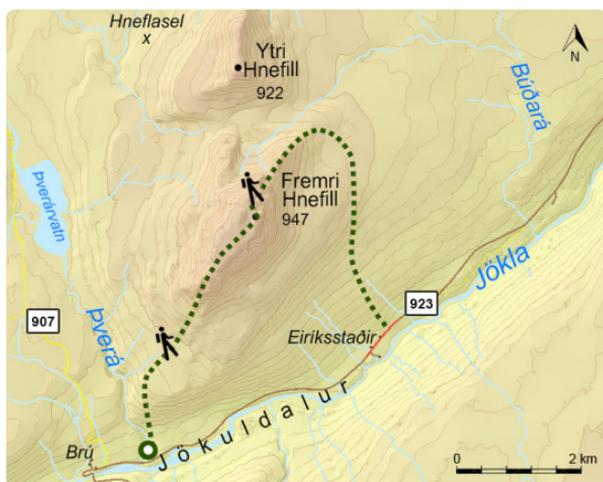




## #24 Eiríksstaðahneflar

(N65°08.617-W15°28.195) // 10 km // 650 m ↑

Walk on from the sign by the river Þverá south of Eiríksstaðir farm and on to Fremri Hnefill - top (947 m) where you will find the cylinder with the visitors' log and stamp. From there descend north of Fremri Hnefill down to Eiríksstaðir. If one wants a longer hiking day one can cross over to the top of Ytri Hnefill and even visit the ruins of the abandoned farm, Hneflasel (since 1875).

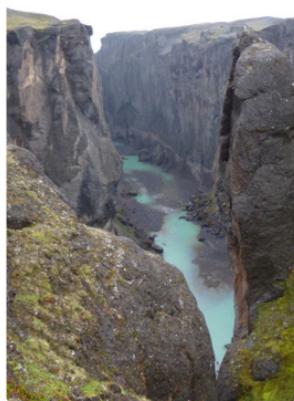
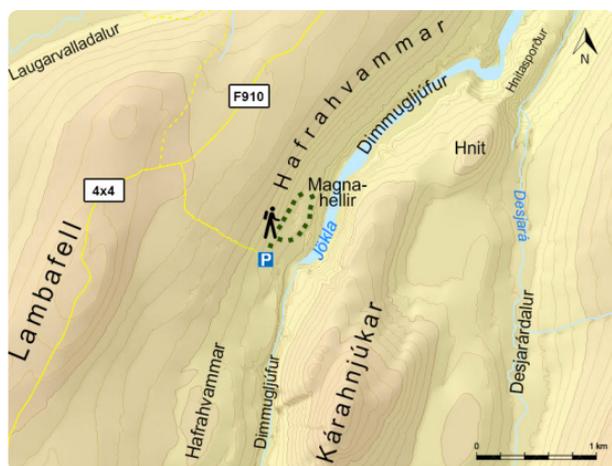




# #25 Magnahellir

(N64°99.252-W15°71.683) // 1.5 km

Drive north of Kárahnjúkastífla reservoir along a road (fit for SUV) on Lambafell to crossroads by Laugavellir. Drive down to a parking area by Dimmugljúfur canyons. There you will find a sign containing information and the starting point of the trail running through Hafrahvamar canyon and Magnahellir cave where you will find the cylinder with the visitors' log and stamp. The farmers in Eiríksstaðir used to keep their sheep in the slopes by Jökulsá river close to the cave called Magna cave which derives its name from the farmer named Magni who was the first one to keep his sheep there in winter.

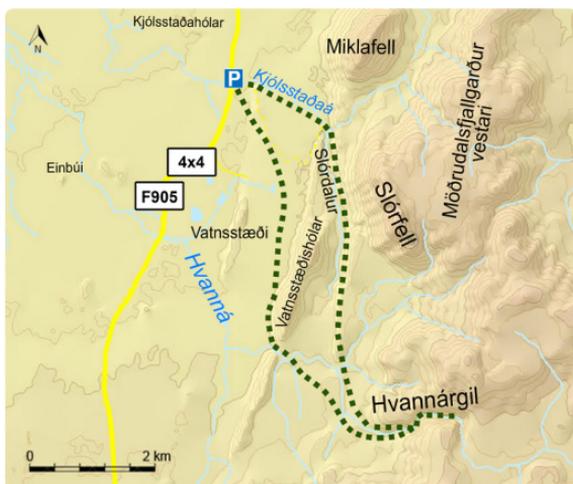




# #26 Hvannárgil

(N65°16.868-W15°47.418) // 14 km

Walk from the sign by road F905. A circular trail from Kjólstaðaskora then Vatnsstæði, inside the lowest Hvannárgil creek through all three creeks to the end of the highest. The highest creek is spectacular and ends in a waterfall. The cylinder with the visitors' log and stamp is in the highest creek. Walk back down Slórdalur.





## #27 Landsendi

(N65° 43.352-W14°23.300) // 5 km

Walk from the sign by the road no 917 towards Ker (before crossing the mountain road Helliheiði) (N65°42.52- W14°24.41), and from there to Landsendahorn cliff. There one can enjoy a magnificent view of Móvíkur. Above them are 200-300 meters high cliffs and hanging rocky slopes called Móvíkurflug. The rock consists mostly of rhyolite of many colours but mostly yellowish, light brown or greenish grey. The cylinder with the visitors' log and stamp is at the end of the trail.





# #28 Perribjarg

(N65°45.336-W14°20.990) // 10.7 km

Drive the main road up Hellið mountain and when you've reached where you are about the highest part, take an off-road trail to the right from there until you've reached Kattárdalsdrög. The trail leads to Kattárdal valley. There is a sign where you can park your car and start walking. The trail is staked to the edge of the cliffs above Múlahöfn harbour. From there (65°45.144 - W14°21.964) lies a trail below the edge, down a rocky slope down to Múlahöfn. It is surrounded by cliffs and huge pillars of rock on two sides. This harbour was declared an official trading harbour in 1890 but was only used once. From the harbour, walk north to the outer point. From there one can see Perribjarg and Langisandur shore. The cylinder with the visitors' log and stamp is by the trail leading down to the beach.

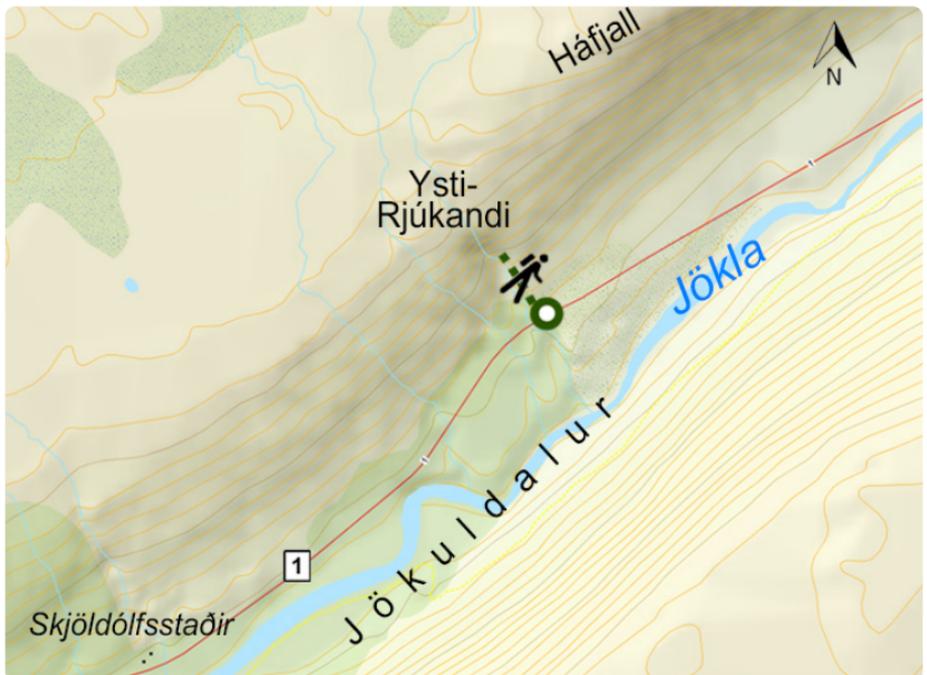




# #29 Ysti- Rjúkandi

(N65°19.58.8" - W15°04.41.6) // 500m

Ysti Rjúkandi, often called Rjúkandi is a waterfall in Jökuldalur. The water descends a series of rock steps and its height from the first crest down is about 138 meters. There is a good access from the road, paved parking and the hiking only takes a few minutes from the starting point to the viewpoint by the waterfall. To get to the cylinder with the visitors' log and stamp, you need to walk up the slope to the waterfall's edge.

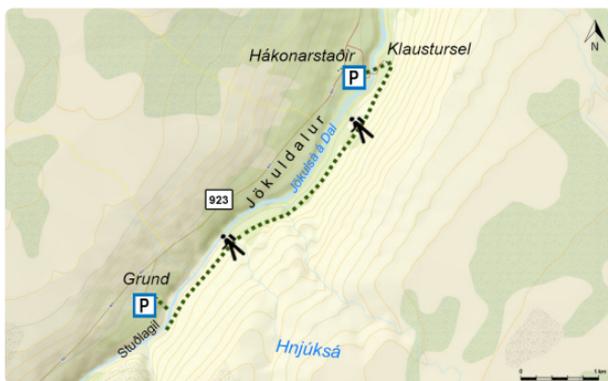




# #30 Stuðlagil

(N65°09.51.3-W15°18.23.80) // 10 km

Stuðlagil is one of the most stunning sight in the country which merged from under the river Jökulsá just a few years ago, when its level fell and revealed this wonder of nature. Stuðlagil hosts one of the largest number of basalt rock columns in Iceland. There are two options how one can get to the canyon. From the farm Grund (road 923) there is approx. 250 meters walk to the viewpoint where you can look down on the diverse dark colored columns and the contrast with the clear blue color of the river. You can also park your car on the parking lot at the farm Klaustursel. The hike is approx. 5 kilometers one way but this way takes you closer to the canyon. Please bear in mind that the nature on this part is very delicate and keep on marked paths to respect the nature and the birds living there.





# AUSTURLAND

EAST ICELAND

# VISIT EGILSSTAÐIR



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