ISAFJORDUR, ICELAND

The unofficial capital of the Westfjords. Just south of the Arctic Circle, Isafjordur's subpolar oceanic climate means year-round cool temperatures and frequent rainfall. The surrounding natural beauty is lush as a result, and the town has a serene atmosphere on the banks of the Skutulsfjordur fjord

KEY INFO

Currency: Icelandic Krona (1 USD = 138.88 ISK) Languages: Icelandic (98% speak English)

Population: 2,677 (377,533 Iceland) Drive on the: Right

Emergency #: 112 Pharmacy: Lyfja Ísafjörður, Austurvegur 2, 400 Ísafjörður 🚱

Protection: Standard health precautions **Drinking water:** Tap water is drinkable

Time Zone: GMT Wi-Fi: Hotels, Cafés

ID Requirements: Photo ID/Passport (non-EU) Post Office: Pósturinn, Hafnarstræti, 400 Ísafjörður 😯

PORT LOCATION

Ships dock or tender (1NM | 10-15-min). The tender pier is in the small marina at the foot of the town, while the dock is about 200m further south. Both piers are less than 1km from town.

Getting Around: The town centre is less than 1km from the pier and walking around town is the best way to experience Isafjordur. There is no public transport serving the local area, though the national bus service passes through the town. Click here for map

Taxis: Available (best booked in advance). 730 kr + 341 kr/km. Check payment options with driver.

Tourist Bus: There is a Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Bus (from \$39 USD) from Apr - Sep

Tourist Information: Situated one-block from the pier (*) (Click for Tourist Information Brochure)

Port Facilities: Tourist Information, Toilet

Port Address: Isafjordur New Cruise Ship Dock, 3V8J+G7, Ísafjörður, Iceland (?)

Tender Pier, Sindragata 11, 400 Ísafjörður, Iceland 😚

ISAFJORDUR HIGHLIGHTS

Westfjord History Museum: This maritime history museum tells the seafaring history of this northwestern corner of Iceland. Also home to a collection of 220+ accordions - started by a gift of 140 instruments in 2008 by locals Asgeir S. Sigurðsson and Messiana Marselliusdóttir. 11a-5p | 1600 ISK | 400m from port (6-min walk) | 🕎 | 👚

Dokkan Brugghús: Local brewhouse serving up a great range of craft beers, plus a good food menu. 11a-11p | Free | 260m from port (1-min walk) | 🕎 | 🐴

Eyrartúni Museum (Ísafjörður Culture House): A community hub showcasing local art and history. Head inside for the local library, archives, and photography and art museums. 12p-6p (Mon-Fri), 1p-4p (Sat) | Free | 1.3km from port (17-min walk) | 🚱 | 🖆

3D Zebra Crossing: Get your photograph crossing the road at this optical illusion crossing. 24 Hours | Free | 750m from port (10-min walk) | 🚱 | 強

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

One of the most enjoyable and fulfilling activities in this region is hiking. You don't even need a specific route - though there are some trails - as you'll be rewarded with beautiful views and fresh fjordic air whichever direction you walk.

Vigur: Beautiful island in the Isafjordur Fjord. Home to a variety of seabird species (including puffins), plenty of sheep, the smallest post office in Iceland, and the only windmill in the country. 1-hour boat | ③

Arctic Fox Centre: The national centre for research into the Arctic Fox, and the only permanent exhibition dedicated to the species on the planet. They even have an Arctic Fox ambassador (Móri), who they adopted after his parents were killed in an annual Arctic Fox Hunt. 9a-6p | Price Unknown | 21.5km from port (24-min drive) | 🚱 | 🖰

Flateyri: The largest settlement in Önundarfjörður is home to the rather amusing Nonsense Museum, where passionate collectors show off their weird and wonderful collections. Speaking of collections, there's also the dedicated International Doll Museum, exhibiting some 200+ dolls dressed in national costumes from around the world. 22.8km from port (23-min drive)

SOMETHING TO EAT OR DRINK

Plokkpiskur: Fish stew made of boiled cod or haddock with potatoes, very typical of the region.

Harðfiskur: Keep your nose peeled for this strong-smelling, chewy, wind-dried fish snack. Read more

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

LOCAL SOUVENIRS

Lopapeysa (Icelandic wool sweaters) are found all over the country, but in small, remote towns like Isafjordur you're far more likely to be buying something locally made, rather than a mass-produced tourist item. Also consider taking home a packet of Harðfiskur (fish jerky), or even a piece of local art. If you find the Harmonica Museum particularly interesting, there's always a chance you might bag an antique accordion as a memento of your time here.

LOCAL LINGO

Hello	Halló	Please	Vinsamlegast (lit: kindly do)
Goodbye	Bæ	Thank you	Takk
Toilet/Restroom	Klósett	Cruise Ship Port	Skemmtiferðaskips Höfn

For more: westfjords.is, www.isafjordur.is



