

# Welcome to Reykjanes Peninsula

Your adventure in Iceland starts here



# This is Reykjanes Iceland



In this brochure you'll find information about the Reykjanes Peninsula, which is useful whether you're exploring the geothermal areas, looking for culture, or on excursions out in the middle of nature.



# Leisure and activity

## Hiking And Adventure

People tend to be naturally curious and in Reykjanes there is so much to explore and study. So much here will satisfy this appetite for knowledge. Choose from a range of outdoor activities - hiking, four wheel driving adventures, jeep tours and mountain climbs, either with a guide or on our own, and you'll get to a place that you want to learn about. You can also walk in the footsteps of our forefathers, listening to them whisper their stories.



## Health And Wellness

The gifts of the Earth are often overlooked, but in Reykjanes you can find cosmetics and health products made with natural sources. The beautiful Blue Lagoon is also known world-wide for its medical benefits. Indeed, health is tightly woven into the fabric of life in Reykjanes. Apart from more traditional sports and recreation, you'll also find four golf courses the area and in one of them you can join the ranks of the few who can drive golf balls between continents.



## Education

We love telling stories, and if you want to know, we will share. Interesting locations are easily accessible and the storytelling skills of our staff members at the Geopark are inspirational.

## Biodiversity

Birdwatchers won't have to go far for good bird watching spots. Just like nature, whose best and most rare plumage can be seen in Reykjanes, rarer bird species are more often spotted here than elsewhere in the country.





# THE REYKJANES GEOPARK PROJECT

## THE PROJECT

The Geopark Project is a collaboration of the Reykjanes municipalities. Geoparks are areas of great interest in terms of culture, science and research, to name a few, and also boast of extraordinary landscape features.



## BETWEEN CONTINENTS

The Reykjanes peninsula is situated where two worlds meet – Europe and North-America. Geologically speaking that is.

You won’t experience this fusion of places as clearly anywhere else in the world. Maybe that’s why thousands of pilgrims are drawn to this place.



Maybe some primal force of nature is pulling people here, just like it’s pulling the peninsula apart, little by little.



## A PENINSULA STILL BEING BORN

If the Earth is mature, then Reykjanes is only in its infancy. Everything is new here when compared to the planet itself as the steaming earth so prominently shows us. Fire, lava and even ice are what built, shaped and formed this landscape and the lava fields remind us of the turmoil and fluctuation that formed them, but that that are now covered with moss, full of tales.

## INTERESTING LAVA FORMATION

Maybe Reykjanes looks like the moon. Maybe like something else. But it’s certain that this extraordinary landscape sets fire to the imagination. Fuelling this fire is the pillow lava, curious rock formations that step onto the stage of folklore in the shape of elves and trolls and outlaws.

## GEOTHERMAL

Geothermal activity is more than just a monument of the turmoil that shaped this country. Its power is also harnessed for electricity production and to heat our houses. Yet, the surroundings of hot springs and mud springs, climate and vegetation and even erosion are an ever- changing canvas of unanticipated, beautiful colour combinations.



## DID YOU KNOW

The submarine ridges are the world’s most extensive natural phenomenon. They are about 46,000 miles long in total and rise thousands of feet above the ocean basin in places. Sometimes magnificent ridge volcanoes emerge from the sea as well as even the ridge itself, like in Iceland. The Reykjanes peninsula is a part of the Mid- Atlantic Ridge, which is about 6,200 miles long. In comparison, the distance from Reykjanes to Beijing is about 5,000 miles.



# REYKJANES GEOPARK

## REYKJANES JARÐVANGUR

### MAINLY GEOLOGY

- 1. Arnarsetur
- 2. Brennisteinsfjöll
- 3. Eldborgir undir Geitahlíð
- 4. Eldvörp
- 5. Festafjall / Hraunsvík
- 6. Grænadyngja / Trölladyngja
- 7. Grænavatn / Gesastaðavatn
- 8. Hafnarberg
- 9. Hafnarsandur / Sandvíkur  
(Brú milli heimsálfa / Bridge Between Continents)
- 10. Háleyjabunga
- 11. Hrafnagjá
- 12. Hrólfsvík
- 13. Hrútagjárdyngja
- 14. Hvassahraunskatlar
- 15. Katlahraun
- 16. Keilir / Keilisbörn
- 17. Krýsuvíkurberg
- 18. Lambafellsgjá
- 19. Méltunnuklif
- 20. Ósar
- 21. Rosmhvalanes
- 22. Sandfellshæð
- 23. Skálafell
- 24. Sog
- 25. Stampar
- 26. Sundhnúksröðin
- 27. Sveifluháls
- 28. Valahnúkamöl
- 29. Ögmundarhraun

### MAINLY CULTURE

- 30. Básendar
- 31. Drykkjarsteinn
- 32. Gálgaklettur
- 33. Gálgar
- 34. Gunnuhver
- 35. Hafurbjarnarstaðir
- 36. Skagagarðurinn
- 37. Staðarborg
- 38. Útilegumannabyggð í Eldvörpum
- 39. Vígdísarvellir

### GEOLOGY AND CULTURE

- 40. Brimketill
- 41. Eldey
- 42. Hópsnes
- 43. Húshólmi
- 44. Kleifarvatn
- 45. Pattersonflugvöllur
- 46. Reykjanestá
- 47. Selatangar
- 48. Seltjörn
- 49. Seltún
- 50. Snorrastaðatjarnir
- 51. Sogasel
- 52. Svartsengi
- 53. Tjarnir á Vatnsleysuströnd
- 54. Þorbjarnarfell
- 55. Ströndin vestan Grindavíkur

GÖNGULEID / HIKING TRAIL .....  
VEGUR / ROAD —————





# History and culture

## Events

The energy of the environment is reflected in local culture. Culture is thriving in Reykjanes and all kinds of events line the social calendar year round, allowing you to find what most sparks your interest.



## Museums And Exhibitions

Reykjanes is home to a selection of exhibitions and museums, many of which have something to do with culture and heritage. Reykjanes is also famous for its musical heritage and many of Iceland's most celebrated musicians hail from here.

## Knowledge

Yes, we love telling stories. Perhaps it is because of the uncertainty or isolation of times past. Perhaps the power of nature also erupts in local storytelling.

No matter what the reason, locals are happy and even eager to share their stories, not least in museums and exhibitions that can be found behind almost every door.



## Knowledge

Reykjanes is a centre of education, technology and science, where you can work in nature and with nature in a unique setting. All facilities for research, lectures and more are exemplary.



## Heritage

The nature here won't leave you untouched and it certainly didn't leave the community untouched. Coloured by their surroundings, locals are proud of their heritage of fisheries, music and sports, which are a part of their daily lives to this day.



# Everything else

## Restaurants

It doesn't matter where you are – on new ground or old – you'll still need to eat. And what is better than sampling the catch of the day in a waterfront restaurant? You can also introduce your palate to world-class cuisine, but if you require something of the fast food variety your hunting grounds are wide and generous. Or you can go to a café for a story with your cup.



## Accommodation

The sweetest slumber often comes after a long and satisfying day. It is sweeter still if you can lay your head where you most please. Maybe you prefer a hotel, or a guest house, or maybe a hostel or a tent. All of that is available to you in Reykjanes. And if you want to drift off to sleep between mountains or nestled in moss by the lullabies of nature, you can.



## Transportation

You're close to everything here. Getting from one place to the next is simple – use public transportation, or a car, or your feet. Or maybe just fly.



Keflavik International Airport is but a stone's throw away and will take you onwards to the wider world when you've quenched your thirst for stories and nature.

## More Service

We offer all kinds of services. Nearly every kind, as a matter of fact. If you want to give a lecture, write a lecture, do some meditation, film a motion picture or throw a feast, you can. We'll help you.



# Did you know...



Nowhere else in the world can you see an oceanic ridge as well as a plate boundary as close as in Reykjavik. That's something you don't see every day, unless you're in Iceland that is.

The combined length of the main 25 main hiking routes in Reykjavik is about 242 miles. Many of them are ancient roads but others were designed to meet modern requirements.



The Northern Gannet the largest European seabird and often called the Queen of the Atlantic. The island Eldey the largest gannet colony in Europe.



The Keflavik International Airport is Iceland's most important link to the world and is situated in the Reykjavik Peninsula. Daily flights transport passengers all year round to and from a large number of destinations in Europe and North America.

Volcanic activity has shaped unique environmental conditions optimal for harbours. As a result, two of the main fishing ports in Iceland are in Reykjavik.

And what more can you do on a plate boundary? Well, plenty. For example, couples can get married in two continents, or near a hot spring, in the middle of a lava field, or in a quaint country church in Reykjavik, for instance. We will make it happen.





VISIT  
REYKJANES

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