

*Welcome*



HOTEL  
GEYSIR



## GEYSIR

Pure, untamed nature, unbridled space, from the midnight sun where the hot springs flow and home to one of the world's most powerful geysers.

## DEAR GUEST,

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the entire team to welcome you to Hotel Geysir. We are delighted you have chosen to stay with us.

Hotel Geysir is the newest addition to our family-run hotel on the doorstep of the geothermal area of Geysir and Strokkur in the historic Haukadalur Valley. One of the greatest natural attractions of Iceland is the Great Geysir, which the hotel is named after, and it is an utterly spectacle.

The geothermal field surrounding the one truly Geysir is the definitive geyser, having given its name to the geological phenomena. The Strokkur, another famous geyser located nearby, gives a performance every few minutes, shooting a tower of water and steam 30 meters into the air.

Walking about this natural wonder, one experiences the intensity of the forces of nature. Night time offers a fascinating view of the bubbling hot springs and the Northern Lights. In this unique environment, a pot of boiling water takes on new dimensions.

The farmer's son from Haukadalur, Sigurdur Greipsson, founded a sports school at Haukadalur, which he operated with his wife Sigrun Bjarnadóttir for a period of 43 years. Today Hotel Geysir is run by the descendants of Sigurdur Greipsson, Mabil and Sigurdur along with their mother Sigridur Vilhjaldsdóttir.

The Geysir Centre, which is directly opposite the geothermal area of Geysir and Strokkur, consists of a building complex with restaurants, hotels, a souvenir store, the Hekla outdoor store and Geysir fashion store. Right beside the hotel is a golf course and the area offers many different opportunities for entertainmen, including fishing, hiking, Haukadalur woods and Langjökull glacier tours, highland tours and river rafting. Gullfoss waterfall is only 10 minutes away by car.

We want you to enjoy our high level of service, comfort and hospitality during your stay. Our team of professionals are here to look after your every need, so please relax and allow yourself to be indulged.

There are many amenities for you to enjoy whilst staying with us and with this in mind we have compiled this guest directory of services and facilities.

Finally, if we can assist you in making your stay more comfortable and enjoyable, please contact us at your convenience.

*Sincerely,*  
**Mábil Másdóttir**  
*Hotel Geysir manager*

## AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION & OTHER TRANSPORTATION

We offer transportation to the airport or anywhere our guests request to be transported to, for a special price for hotel guests. Please contact our reception for booking and further information.

## AMBULANCE

Please call 112.

## ATTRACTIONS & SIGHTSEEING

SEE PAGES  
18 - 21

Please speak to our reception for further assistance regarding local attractions.

A detailed list of attractions can also be found on our website: [www.geysircenter.is](http://www.geysircenter.is)

## ATM & BANKING

An ATM can be found outside the service centre opposite of Hotel Geysir.

Landsbankinn bank is in Reykholt, around 15 km from Geysir.

## BUSINESS CENTRE

Ipad with internet access are available in our computer facility in the reception area.

## RECEPTION

Our reception is open 24 hours a day.

## CHECK IN & CHECK OUT

Check in is at 15:00 and check out is at 11:00 am.

We would appreciate it if you adhere to this time in order to facilitate incoming guests. Should you wish to keep your room after this time, please contact the reception, every effort will be made to accommodate your needs.

## FLOWERS, CANDY & CHAMPAGNE

If you would like to order fresh Icelandic flowers, please contact our reception who will be delighted to organise this for you. Please note that flowers needs to be booked within 24 hours notice.

We also have a selection of Icelandic candy as well as champagne or other drinks for those special occasions.

## GOLF

We have a golf course next to our hotel and also several other golf courses are available in the area. Please contact our reception for further information.

## LIGHTS IN THE ROOM

The main light in the room has a dimmer, just press the button to dim the light.

## DRINKING WATER, THIRSTY?

Tap-water in Iceland is very high quality and you can drink it without any hesitation.

## LUGGAGE STORAGE

We will be happy to store your luggage. Please contact reception.

## MAPS

A hiking map for the Haukadalur woods is available in the reception.

## PARKING

Parking is available free of charge for hotel guests.

## SMOKING & VAPING

For the comfort and enjoyment of all our guests, we like kindly to inform you that there is no smoking nor vaping allowed inside the hotel nor on the balconies. A charge of 40,000 ISK applies for smoking in the room or inside of the hotel.

## OH NO, IT'S RAINING!

Please come to the reception and we will be happy to lend you an umbrella.

## SHOPPING

### GEYSIR STORE

Uniquely balanced between tradition and modernity, Geysir takes its inspiration from Nordic city life and culture as well as Iceland's history of crafts and knitwear. The brand's ambition is to design everyday clothing with character; pieces that tell a story through every thread. With locally sourced yarns mixed with quality fabrics from around the world, each item can be perfectly woven into any wardrobe. The Geysir Store is located in the Geysir service centre, right opposite the hotel.

### 66°N

Founded in 1926 to brave the elements

66°North was founded in 1926 by Hans Kristjánsson with the purpose of making protective clothing for Icelandic fishermen and workers braving the North Atlantic elements. Hans was passionate about creating garments that would hold up to the harsh conditions fishermen faced while trawling the Icelandic seas, so he moved to Norway to learn how to tailor and sew fishermen's clothing. When Hans moved back to Suðureyri he founded Sjóklæðagerð Íslands (Fishermen's clothing factory of Iceland) now better known as 66°North. 66°North derives its name from the latitudinal line of the Arctic Circle which touches Súgandafjörður where the company was founded in 1926.

Today the company makes functional clothing without compromise for all kinds of outdoor activity. Fishermen's and workwear clothing is still a fundamental element in the operation but now there is much wider selection of protective clothing for all occasions than in the beginning of the company.

66°North has provided the Icelandic search and rescue team with protective clothing since 1928. This successful collaboration traces the evolution of outdoor clothing; from anoraks made from oil-borne canvas to the award winning Snæfell Jacket, made with revolutionary synthetic materials.

# ROOMS

The following is a list of services available in your room. Please contact reception for further information.

## INTERNET ACCESS - WIFI

Complimentary guest internet access is available throughout the hotel. To connect to our wireless internet choose HotelGeysir and enter the password **Strokkur2019** & we would also love if you would tag us on instagram hotel\_geysir. There is also Ipad available in the reception area.

## WAKE-UP CALLS

To book your wake-up call, please contact the reception

## NORTHERN LIGHTS CALL

Hotel Geysir welcomes Northern Lights travelers with the auto-aurora wake-up call service. We can alert our guests who have signed up for the service when auroras appear during the night.

## DO NOT DISTURB

If you do not wish to be disturbed, please hang the sign provided on the door handle outside your room.

## ELECTRICAL

There is a USB charger next to your bed as well as an electrical socket. For USA-standard appliances you can contact reception.

## HAIRDRYER

The hairdryer is located on the shelf inside the bathroom

## COFFEE & TEA MAKING FACILITES

We have provided your room with coffee and coffee machine from Sjöstrand.

Sjöstrand's stainless steel coffee and espresso machines have a classic Swedish design. The timeless design and quality of their products have been carefully developed for long service life and to blend in with most environments.

Sjöstrand's motto is sustainability, function and taste. Their products are simple to use – with one touch of a button and you can enjoy your espresso just the way you like it.

Sjöstrand's coffee and coffee capsules contain 100% organic coffee. Their capsules are home compostable and gentle on the environment. Sjöstrand has launched the world's first home-compostable coffee capsule. The capsule – which is produced with bio, hydro and solar energy – contains 100% organic coffee and biodegrades in garden compost within 23 weeks.

It is an important innovation – as regards both the quality of the coffee and the future environment for coming generations.

If you require additional supplies, please contact our reception.

## COFFEE TYPES

**No1:** Powerful dark espresso with a smokey hint of dark chocolate and a pleasant rich aftertaste.

**No3:** Well balanced lungo coffee with a gentle tone of sweet citrus and mild aftertaste.

**No4:** Decaf coffee with sweet citrus acidity balanced by notes of dark chocolate.

## THE MACHINE

- 1 Fill the watertank with cold and fresh tapwater.
- 2 Switch ON and wait for the buttons to stop blinking.
- 3 Insert a coffee capsule of your choice and pull the handle down 90°- until it clicks.
- 4 Press the large or the small cup.
- 5 Enjoy!

## TELEPHONE

All guests bedrooms are equipped with direct-dial telephones. Dial 6 + room number to call another room inside Hotel Geysir.

To make other calls inside Iceland, just call the phone number, outside Iceland choose the 00 + phone number.

## TELEVISION

Your television comes with Bluetooth capabilities, which means they can wirelessly connect to phone and other devices. Connect your phone through the Bluetooth to use your television to play music or connect headphones so you can have a private screening.

## COT BEDS

Baby cots and rollaway beds are available upon request. An additional charge for rollaway beds may apply.

## OUR BEDS

The bed is in our opinion the most important piece of furniture in the room. That is the reason we choose Jensen beds; they represent the very best of Scandinavian design and are held to the highest standards of quality.

Most of the Jensen products carry the Swan label, out of consideration both for you and the environment. Any product labelled with the Swan has to satisfy strict requirements regarding the product's environmental impact throughout its lifespan – from raw materials to disposal or recycling.

## LAUNDRY

Laundry service is available. The laundry bag and forms are located in the wardrobe along with full instructions.

## WHEELCHAIR

A wheelchair is available if required during your stay.

## SAFETY DEPOSITS

There is a safety deposit box available to all our guests in the wardrobe in each bedroom. Please see instructions provided.

We recommend that all valuables are secured.

## TOILETRIES

You will find specially selected toiletries in your bathroom. We provide you with Sóley, natural and organic shampoo, conditioner and shower gel, made in Iceland from wild herbs. The woman behind Sóley Organics is Sóley Elíasdóttir. Sóley has chosen to focus on her family's tradition of harnessing the healing properties of Iceland's native herbs. Sóley's great-great-grandmother, Thorunn, was a particular inspiration to her in this. Thorunn, or Grasa-Thorunn (Herb-Thorunn) as she was better known, was a famous healer and midwife. There are many stories about the lives she saved using her knowledge of herbs. There is even a story that claims that she was the first woman in Iceland to wear trousers! All of which is made in Iceland with fresh mountain water, wild Icelandic herbs, carefully selected oils & carriers, environmentally friendly packaging and not a single harmful chemical agent.

Sóley products are so harmless and natural you could eat them (but we can't promise they'll taste good!).

If you need anything of the following you can request it in our reception: Shaver, shoe brush set, toothbrush, cotton buds, cotton pads, slippers and shower cap

## FIRE SAFETY

### EMERGENCY EXIT

There is an emergency plan located on the back of your front door. All emergency exits are illuminated. Please note your nearest exit.

### FIRE

If the fire alarms sound, please proceed to the nearest exit and go to the assembly point located in front of the hotel.

For your safety, please study the evacuation route and assembly points outlined on the diagram on the back of your front door.

# GEYSIR RESTAURANT

The head chef of Hotel Geysir restaurant is Bjarki I. Hilmarsson.

Master Chef since 1990 and has since been highly involved in all levels of the culinary profession.

Member of the board of the Icelandic Chefs Association from 2000 to 2007 and President from 2006-2007.

Member of the Culinary Team 1991-1995.

Chairman of the Chef of the Year Competition since its inception in 1994.

Previously worked in restaurants in Iceland, France (Nimes and Bordeaux) and Tahiti.

Close cooperation with the Icelandic Culinary Teams and Bocuse d'or candidates from Iceland.

Head Chef at Hotel Geysir since 1993.



## BREAKFAST

Breakfast is located on the first floor of Geysir Restaurant.

Breakfast is everyday:  
07:30 - 10:00 (summer) | 08:00 - 10:00 (winter)

## DINING

Our a la carte restaurant is on the first floor of Geysir Restaurant.

Please contact the reception for bookings.

## ROOM SERVICE

Breakfast, 08:00-10:00 Monday to Sunday, tray charge for room service under 5000 ISK is 1000 ISK. For orders 5000 or higher room service is free of charge.

Our room service menu is available at the restaurant opening hours. Please contact reception for orders.



## GEYSIR BREAD

Each day we bake our local rye bread in the hot spring area and it is buried in the geothermal ground for 24 hours; a perfectly rectangular loaf of rye bread, gently steamed by the heat of the spring.

Served with Icelandic butter and herring.

This is a very old tradition at Geysir which has been performed for ages. In the old days people used to cook all their food at the hot spring area. Icelandic cuisine at its best.

We offer the Geysir bread every day at breakfast as well in our lunch buffet.



## COMPETITIONS

Chicaco 1991, silver and bronze  
Frankfurt 1992, silver and bronze  
Nordic team of the year, 1994, 4th place  
Mouton Cadet in Iceland, 1997, 3rd place

## PUBLICATIONS

1991 - Villibráð og veisluföng úr náttúru Íslands with The Icelandic Culinary Team (Game)  
1993 - Ljúfmeti úr lax og silungi (Delicacy of salmon and trout)  
1995 - A member of Team Iceland, which took part in making the cookbook which was accepted in the Guinness Book of Records as the fastest cookbook ever made. The other teams were from Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland.



## OUR STORY

Haukadalur valley is a historical place the settlers in Haukadalur were Þorbrandur Þorbjarnarson and his son Ásbrandur. Then Hallur Þórarinnsson the mild built his farm here in 1025. The noted Ari fróði Þorgilsson - Ari the Wise (1067-1148), who belonged to the Haukdælir clan, stayed with Hallur for 7 years, from age 7-14. He is the author of Íslendingabók, which details the histories of the various families who settled Iceland, it is actually the first written work of history in Iceland from the Settlement of Iceland until 1118. He is typically referred to as Ari the Wise (Ari hinn fróði), and according to Snorri Sturluson was the first to write history in Old Norse. Ari the Wise is said to have returned back to Haukadalur to write the Book of Icelanders when he was almost 60 years old.

Ari was a part of the Haukdælir family clan and studied in the school in Haukadalur as a student of Teitur Ísleifsson (the son of Ísleifur Gissurason, first bishop of Iceland). There he became acquainted with classical education. His writings clearly indicate that he was familiar with Latin chronicler traditions, but at the same time he is widely regarded as excelling in the Icelandic oral storytelling tradition.

Íslendingabók is the only work that is absolutely proven to have been written by him, but he is accredited with numerous articles of knowledge and is believed to have had a major part in the writing of Landnámabók, which chronicles the settlement of Iceland.

Ari was early on regarded as an important author. In Iceland's First Grammatical Treatise, written around 1160 AD, he is referred to with respect as an exceptional man, since the tradition of writing was not firmly established at the time.

From the 11th century and until the 13th century - for 174 years - the manor of the big Viking clan Haukdælir was located in Haukadalur. The patriarch of the Haukdælir clan was the priest Teitur Ísleifsson at Haukadalur (d. 1111), who was raised by the same Hallur Þórarinnsson as Ari the Wise had stayed with for 7 years. Teitur was the son of the first Icelandic bishop, Ísleifur Gissurarson (1006-1080). So we can for sure say that Haukadalur is a historic place.

Haukadalskirkja church is at Haukadalur forest. It was built in 1842-43 and rebuilt and enlarged in 1939 by Kristian Kirk. It is regarded to be one of the oldest timber churches in Iceland. There has been a church in Haukadalur at least since 1121 (some say 1030) and the current church stands on the same foundations as that church. In Catholic times Haukadalskirkja church was dedicated to God, Virgin Mary, St. Andrew, Bishop Marteinn and St. Barbara.

The farmer's son from Haukadalur, Sigurdur Greipsson, founded a sports school at Geysir in his father's inheritance at Haukadalur, which he operated with his wife Sigrun Bjarnadóttir for a period of forty-three years. We kept the walls of the sports school which is now part of our Geysir Restaurant.

Sigurður Greipsson was a great sports champion and pioneer in the school of sports. We try to honor his memory and the good work he did and we therefore showcase the national sport Glíma at our restaurant Geysir Glíma which is a mix of wrestling and dancing and is very enjoyable to observe. Among other things we showcase the most remarkable and historically famous piece in the history of Icelandic sports and also the oldest, a belt called Grettisbeltið, which has been kept in a bank vault until it arrived here at Geysir.

Már, son of Sigurdur Greipsson, along with his wife Sigríður Vilhjálmsdóttir, started building a tourism business at Geysir Haukadal in 1972 and they were devoted to building up the family hotel Hotel Geysir since 1993 and they were a great entrepreneurs in tourism.

Már received the Order of the Falcon in 2005, from the President of Iceland, for initiative in tourism development. Már passed away in 2017 and he will always live in our hearts. Hotel Geysir is still operated by Sigríður Vilhjálmsdóttir, along with her children, Mábil and Sigurdur.

The artwork over the fireplace in the reception is a picture of Sigríður Vilhjálmsdóttir and Már Sigurðsson.





# GEYSIR CENTER RESTAURANTS

## GEYSIR GLIMA RESTAURANT

Geysir Glima is a part of our Geyser family restaurant with a menu offering the freshest fish and meat of the season with a strong focus on local produce. Our chefs use local ingredients of the highest quality and freshness, “beint frá býli” i.e. straight from the farmer. The Icelandic fish is one of the world’s best and we know how to make the best out of it. If that wasn’t enough, you can find gourmet lamb, pork, pizza, panini, salads and light dishes. Each day we offer a soup and salad bar with three delicious varieties of soup: fish soup, vegetable soup and the famous Icelandic meat soup. We also offer a wide range of cakes and freshly grounded coffee from Illy. The perfect way to finish your meal is to try our wide selection of ice cream.

The restaurant is designed by Leifur Welding and is inspired by the Icelandic nature. Seeing is believing.

Sigurður Greipsson, the family ancestor was a famous Icelandic wrestler “glímukappi” and in his honour the restaurant also introduces the only national sport that Iceland has “glíma”. Among the various items on display is “Grettisbeltið”, the most famous historic treasure in the entire Icelandic sports history and also the oldest.



## GEYSIR BISTRO

Geysir Bistro is a fast-service restaurant specialising in an honest and affordable menu. From soups to juicy burgers, all dishes are freshly prepared with the utmost care and the finest ingredients.

Geysir Bistro also offers a great selection of cold beverages and snacks to take away. This is the perfect pitstop for a quick Icelandic bite on your travels.

We are happy to offer a choice of three restaurants and are continually improving our service at the Geysir area.



## HOT SPRING AREA

The name of the largest hot spring in the area, Geysir, was adopted in English as a general name for a hot springs and is written as Geysir.

The Geysir in Haukadalur is without a doubt Iceland's most famous geothermal area and has been a fascinating subject of research for both Icelandic and foreign scientists.

According to geological studies, the formation of the Great Geysir goes back to the final period of the Ice Age.

In other words, the hot springs have existed for over 10,000 years. In this relatively long period, the activity of the Geysir has changed and fluctuated. The first written record of this thermal area can be found in 1294 when an earthquake caused major changes. Earthquakes, in general, influence the behaviour of geysers. For example, the Great Earthquake of 1630 woke the geysers from a 40-year resting period, causing such a massive reaction that renewed earthquakes occurred.

The geysers are one type of hot springs, but such features are very rare in the world - not existing in Europe outside Iceland.

When Geysir was most active, its eruptions spouted scalding geothermal water streams some 60-80 meters into the air. Geysir has risen to 100 meters at its best. Strokkur, another famous geyser located nearby, gives a performance every few minutes, shooting a tower of water and steam 30 meters

into the air. There are many other attractions. For example Blesi, a hot spring with water the colour of turquoise, delights the senses. Other geysers in the area are Sódi (*The Sod*), Smiður (*The Carpenter*), Fata (*The Bucket*), Óperrishola (*The Non-drought-hole, or The Rainmaker*), Litli Geysir (*The Small Geysir*) and Litli Strokkur (*The Small Strokkur*). In the earthquakes 17th and 21st June 2000 great changes could be seen in the thermal area. The hot spring Konungshver (*The King's Hot Spring*) and Blesi (*The Blazer*) started to boil vigorously, up to 0.5-1 m. Óperrishola and Fata also began to erupt. How nature will form the future of Geysir, Strokkur and the other thermal wonders remains to be seen.

A German chemist, Robert Bunsen, came to Iceland in 1846 to inspect Geysir.

He was the first to realise that the eruptions were related to the overheating of the water at depth in the Geysir pipe and as the water flashed into steam the geyser erupted. One of the beauties of the Geysir area is the buff-coloured silica sinter around the hot springs. The sinter is built over the centuries from silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) depositing from the hot water as it cools. In old and eroded mountains one can view the old channels of the thermal water as white veins occupying cracks in the rock. The silica sinter is delicate and although constantly being formed it takes years, reminding us to respect the beauty of this unique area and leave nature to evolve according to its own laws.



# WHAT IS GEOTHERMAL HEAT?

The literal meaning of geothermal heat is the heat in the Earth that exceeds the heat on the Earth's surface. It has long been known that the temperature increases the deeper down we go. Phenomena such as volcanic eruptions and hot springs have always been irrefutable proof of this fact.

The conditions needed for geothermal heat in this narrow definition of the concept is that the Earth's crust is sufficiently hot and that there are enough fissures, cracks and permeable rock to allow water to percolate and carry heat from the deeper warmer strata to the surface. These conditions are present in countries with volcanic activity, like Iceland, where the Earth's plates touch and form, but are unlikely to be in regions other than these. Earthquakes are also irrefutable evidence that the Earth's surface plates are breaking and moving. In the earthquakes in June 2000, water channels in the Earth's crust in South Iceland either widened or narrowed, which was clearly evidenced in many drill holes in the region. So it is no coincidence that there is considerable geothermal heat in the country's main earthquake regions.

Geothermally active areas have varying natural surface characteristics. Warm springs, pools, hot springs, fumaroles, mud pots, precipitations of calcium, silicates and sulphur, and colourful soil, particularly in areas of high thermal activity, are all natural indications of geothermal activity. Those are the external signs of the movement of heat through the Earth's crust.

The Geysir area in Haukadalur is without doubt Iceland's most famous geothermal area and has been a fascinating subject of research for both Icelandic and overseas scientists.



# HAUKADALUR

Haukadalur geothermal area was first mentioned in written sources in 1294, when the local hot springs were activated by an earthquake.

According to the legend, one of the few remaining giants of the country after the acceptance of Christianity, Bergthor of Blafell, died. He had expressed his wish to be buried in the cemetery of Haukadalur, where he is said to be resting to this day. You can catch him next to Litli Geysir.

Teitur Isleifsson, the son of the first bishop of the country, is considered to be the forefather of this dynasty. During his time, 'the first' school of the country was established at Haukadalur. Soon the dynasty grew and played a significant role in the Icelandic history. Gissur Thorvaldsson was one of them (see Sturlunga). The land of Haukadalur once stretched all the way up to the crater row Jarlhettur. One of the hot springs in the valley, "Marteinshver", at the foot of the mound behind the former farm, was used for steam baths in the past.

Sigurð Greipsson, the farmer's son from Haukadalur was raised to have an interest in tourism since childhood. Only 13 years old he was sent north to the mountains with horses to retrieve foreign tourists. King Fridrik VIII came to Geysir summer of 1907 so a special King's House was built and stood for a long time. However, Sigurður felt it was necessary to have a proper house for the tourists who came to see Gullfoss and Geysir and founded a sports school in his father's inheritance at Haukadalur. His grandchildren now operates the services at the Geysir area.

# ACTIVITIES

## HIKING IN THE WOODS

Haukadal Forest is the largest national forest in south Iceland and can be found nearby the Geysir area. The forest is great for hiking in a beautiful environment with marked hiking paths that are especially designed for wheelchairs. A church has been in Haukadalur from medieval times. The earliest references to the church are from the year 1121. The church was last rebuilt by Kristian Kirk, owner of the land in 1938, but the style and appearance is from 1842 and it is therefore oldest wooden churches in the country.



## RIVER RAFTING

Hvítá is a beautiful and exhilarating river near Geysir. The river has a perfectly balanced mix of serene canyons and adrenaline-pumping waves and rapids - at one point participants get to jump from a cliff into the river.

## THE HIGHLANDS

Hveravellir is one of the many amazing natural resources in Iceland. The hot spring area, natural hot pool, glaciers and magnificent view are the main attractions. Landmannalaugar is truly a pearl of the interior, and is situated in a valley between colourful mountains at the dark edge of the rhyolite lava field Laugahraun. Many hot and cold springs have created a warm brook where people have bathed for generations. Kerlingafjöll is one of the most powerful hot spring areas in the country with geysers of clay and is the central system of volcanoes that are over 100 km<sup>2</sup> in total area.



## GEYSIR GOLF COURSE

The golf course has nine holes and a driving range, meandering around and between summer cottages. The course was laid out with minimal disturbance to the existing terrain. It is a policy that was shared by all those involved; the developer, the local authorities and the designer. There is no artificial mounding as seen on so many modern courses and the greens entirely rely on hints from the natural undulations that were found on the site.

## BRUARFOSS WATERFALL

Brúarfoss is also called the Blue Waterfall and means Bridge over Waterfall. The river Brúará flows down over 2-3 meters and culminates in a U-shaped slot. The waterfall is very photogenic because of this shape and the blue colour of the water.

The waterfall is about 14.5 km from Laugarvatn, You can drive to Brekkuskógur and walk from there ca. 30 min.



## SLAKKI PETTING ZOO

Located in Laugarás in Biskupstungur, around 20 minutes' drive from Geysir, is the petting zoo Slakki, a large outdoor area, ideal for a special family trip. There you can enjoy the beautiful countryside among Icelandic farm animals such as rabbits, puppies, kittens, turkeys, foxes, goats, geese, ducks, and chickens.

In addition to all the animals, which you can view up close, the grounds have changed the old greenhouses in the environs into an indoor golf facility with a minigolf course on the one hand and a nice restaurant on the other. There they offer all kinds of refreshments and delicacies. A good meeting facility is also available along with amusement arcade for the children.

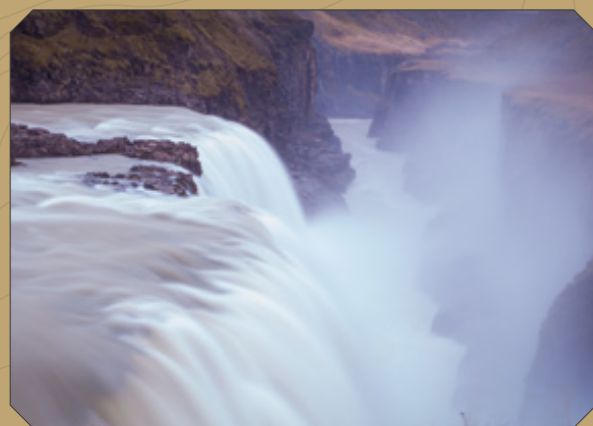
The petting zoo Slakki is an excellent attraction where everyone is sure to enjoy a relaxing day, surrounded by the amazing natural beauty of the southern part of Iceland.



## HORSE RIDING

There are several options for horseback riding near Geysir, both for those who are experienced as well as those who have no experience and for all ages. Please contact our sales office for information.

The Icelandic horse is a unique breed of smallish horses that came to Iceland with the first settlers from Norway 1100 years ago. Archeological digs in Europe have revealed that it is descended from an ancient breed of horses that is now extinct outside of Iceland, where it has been preserved in isolation.



## GULLFOSS - THE GOLDEN WATERFALL

Just ten kilometers from the hotel you'll find the most frequently photographed waterfall in Iceland, Gullfoss.

A bare factual description of the "Golden Waterfall" should include that it falls 32 meters in two stages, with water coming from the glacial river Hvítá, which has its source underneath the glacier Langjökull, and flows after 133 kilometers into the Atlantic.

It is always the case that there are a variety of descriptions given to this unique experience. The most frequently used adjectives used are probably "magnificent" and "enormous", and these generally in the same breathe. "Wow" would also suffice. Whoever sees Gullfoss with their own eyes, with the mass of water crashing with impressive power into a deep dark crevasse, producing a loud and intimidating roar, while at the same time a beautiful rainbow is created by the sun on spraying water, will not be disappointed.

## THINGVELLIR NATIONAL PARK

No one place epitomises the history of Iceland and the Icelandic nation better than Þingvellir by the river Öxará.

At Þingvellir – literally "Parliament Plains" – the Alþing general assembly was established around 930 and continued to convene there until 1798. Major events in the history of Iceland have taken place at Þingvellir and therefore the location is held in high esteem by all Icelanders.

Today Þingvellir is a protected national shrine. According to the law, passed in 1928, the protected area shall always be the property of the Icelandic nation, under the preservation of the Alþing.



## DIVE IN SILFRA

The dive between the two continents! There are two main reasons why the Silfra rift is an absolutely world-class diving site. First of all you will be diving in a fissure between the American and Eurasian continents. It's the place where the continental plates meet and drift apart around 2cm per year. Secondly the visibility that you will experience will rarely be surpassed, if ever. 100m+! The Silfra water is as pristine as water can get and you can even drink it at any time during the dives.

## FRIDHEIMAR

At Friðheimar, they grow tomatoes all year round, despite Iceland's long, dark winters, under artificial lighting in greenhouses. They welcome visitors to see their greenhouses, and then enjoy a taste of the crop.

Visit the stable. Their knowledgeable stable-manager welcomes the group in the stable, offers them coffee or tea and tells them all about the Icelandic horse and its history. Their stable manager will then prepare one horse while the group walks around the stable, asks questions and pets the horses. When he's ready he will show the group all 5 gaits and explain them to the group.

## LAUGAVATNS CAVE

Can you imagine what it was like to live in a cave? Well less than 100 years ago a normal Icelandic family did!

The caves have been renovated to how way they looked when the last cave people in Iceland lived there only a century ago.

You can join a guided tour in the caves and where they will bring the story to life with amazing tales about how they lived, their struggles and their happiness. Laugarvatnshellar are two man-made caves located between Þingvellir National Park and Laugarvatn (where Fontana geothermal baths can be found). There are no sources that can determine who made them or when they were made. Some have suggested the caves were made by Irish monks before their settlement in the year 874.

## SWIMMING POOLS

There are several swimming pools around Geysir. They can be found in Reykholt, in Flúðir and also in Minni Borg. If you want to try out a natural hot spring swimming pool you should try the Secret Lagoon or Fontana.

## HOT SPRING SWIMMING POOLS

**SECRET LAGOON** natural hot springs are located in the small village called Fludir and are in the Golden Circle area. It is a natural and unique environment for guests so they can get the true Icelandic feeling. The pool's natural surroundings and steam rising into the air gives the place a magical atmosphere. The warm water stays at 38-40 Celsius all year. In the whole area there are several geothermal spots and a little Geysir which erupts every 5 minutes, showing off for the guests relaxing in the hot spring. During winter, the Northern Lights often provide a great lightshow above the Secret Lagoon. What better way to view the spectacular light show overhead than relaxing in the pool's warm water?



**FONTANA** in Laugarvatn are geothermal baths. It offers a unique experience of the healing powers of the geothermal springs. Soak in a natural pool, listen to the bubbling hot spring in the steam rooms, or, for the adventurous, take a dip in the refreshing lake. Since 1929, locals have been enjoying the healing powers of the natural steam baths by Lake Laugarvatn. Hot, healing steam simmers directly from the ground through grids in the cabin floors of the three traditional steam rooms. The temperature of the steam varies depending on the temperature of the hot spring and weather, usually between 40°C (104°F) and 50°C (122°F). Humidity is very high in the steam room cabins. Grids in the floor of the steam rooms allow guests to hear and smell the boiling natural hot spring right underneath, creating a natural and unique experience.

# WINTER WONDERLAND

## THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Geysir is one of the best places in Iceland to see the Northern Lights.

At Geysir you can see the Northern Lights without light interference. Nothing compares to walking outside in the evening looking at the sky with the dancing Northern Lights above you. It is definitely a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Geysir is an excellent place for those who want to explore the Northern Lights in addition to being next door to the geothermal area. It is amazing to be standing with hot springs all around you and the Northern Lights above you.

*Here is a great website that provides an aurora forecast: [en.vedur.is/weather/forecasts/aurora/](http://en.vedur.is/weather/forecasts/aurora/)*

It is very precise forecast and we recommend that our guests check out the forecast and when the time comes be ready to watch the Northern Lights dance around Bjarnarfell (The Mountain) like it's the rainbow dancing just for you.

The best time to see the Northern Lights is during September through April in cool weather and a clear sky. Auroras are beautiful, but the invisible flows of particles and magnetism that take place at the same time can damage our electrical power grid and satellites operating in space. This is why scientists are so keen to understand the physics of aurora and solar storms, so we can predict when our technologies may be affected.

## CHRISTMAS BUFFET

We have our famous Christmas buffet from late November until late December. Whether you want to have a good time with your friends and dance the night away or have a lovely family day where the children can meet Santa and chop down a Christmas tree in the Haukadalur forest we have the perfect Christmas holiday for you.



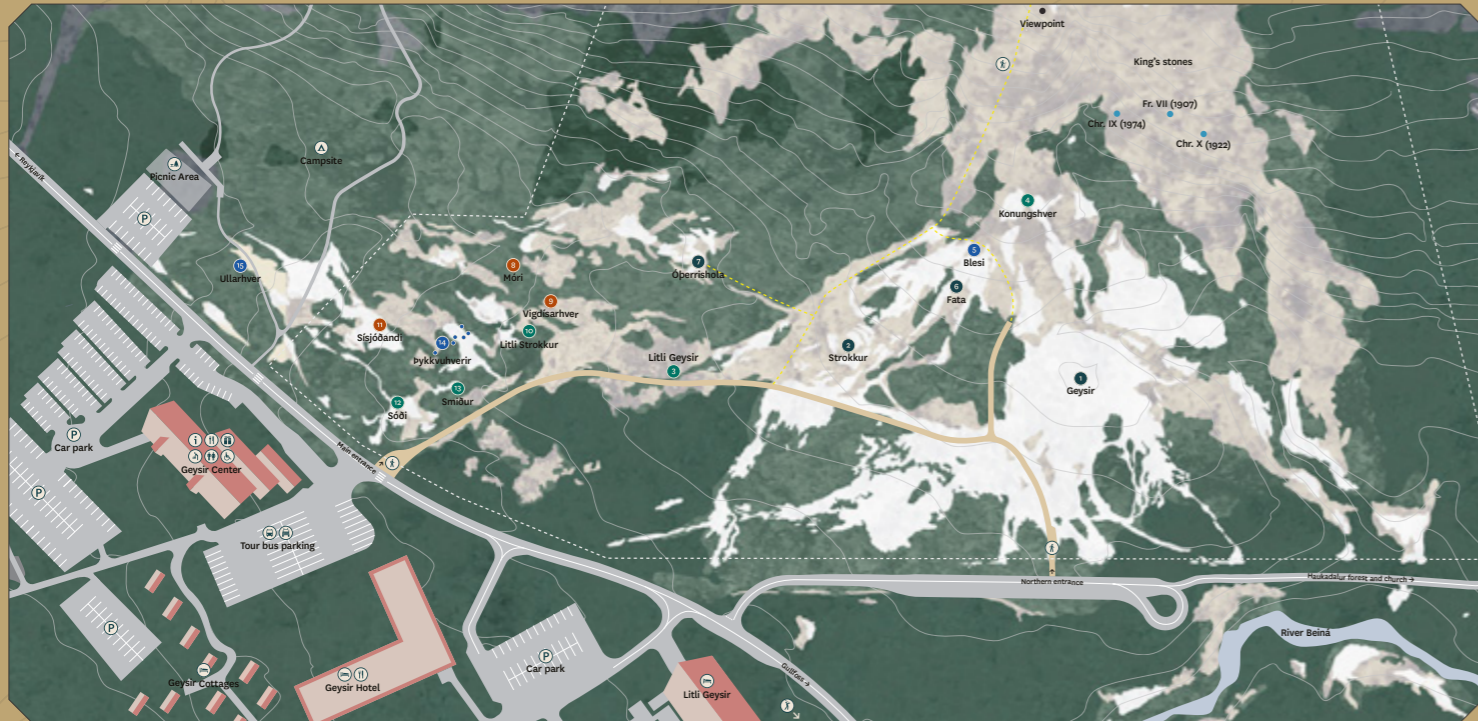
## LANGJÖKULL GLACIER SNOWMOBILE

The Long Glacier (1,355m, 44.60 t) is the second largest in Iceland and it is right next to Geysir. You can go on an exhilarating snowmobile tour across the endless snowfields. Breath-taking scenery, diverse landscapes and a truly unique experience await you.

## SUPER JEEP TOURS ON LANGJÖKULL GLACIER

An unforgettable way to discover of the glacier. Langjökull is Iceland's second biggest glacier; it is several enormous ice-filled volcanic craters, rimmed in by imposing volcanoes and set in the breathtaking Icelandic interior. Enjoy endless snow and stunning views like you have never seen before.

# PLACES OF INTEREST



- |                        |            |               |                         |                                |           |              |
|------------------------|------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Information Centre     | Restaurant | Hotel         | Golf course             | Super jeeps & tour bus parking | Parking   | Hiking trail |
| Toilets                | Shop       | Bus stop      | Camp site               | Petrol station                 | Rest area |              |
| Active geyser          | Hot spring | Viewpoint     | Foot path, hard surface | Foot path, trail               | Fence     |              |
| Dormant/extinct geyser | Mud pot    | King's stones |                         |                                |           |              |

## 1 GEYSIR

Geysir means 'The Spouter' and is the most famous hot spring in the area. The maximum height of eruptions used to be 70-80 m, but now seldom exceeds 30-50 m. When determining the height of an eruption it is the extent of the water, not the steam, which counts. In 2005 the flow of water from Geysir fluctuated between 2.1-3.1 l/s, the mean being 2.9 l/s. That year Geysir erupted up to 10 times every 24 hours or not at all, with an average of one eruption every 6 hours. The height of eruptions seldom exceeded 15 m.

## 2 STROKKUR

Strokkur means 'A Churn'. It is the most popular of the various in the area, erupting every 5-10 minutes up to a maximum of 20-35 m. It was reborn in an earthquake in 1789, but declined greatly in another earthquake in 1896. It was artificially reawakened in 1963 by drilling a 40 m hole down through its bottom.

## 3 LITLI-GEYSIR

Litli-Geysir, meaning 'Little Geysir' or 'Geysir Junior', has been active during and after earthquakes, but is now dormant.

## 4 KONUNGSHVER

Konungshver or 'The King's Hot Spring' takes its name from the visit of the Danish king Christian IX to Iceland in the year 1874. During the earthquakes in 2000 it erupted to a height of 2-3 m but soon returned to its dormant state.

## 5 BLESÍ

Blesi is not a geyser now, but has previously erupted to up to 1 m in height. After the earthquakes in June 2000 it started to erupt up to 1-2 m, but stopped after a few days. Blesi ('The Blaze') is a common Icelandic name for a horse with a light coloured patch on its forehead. The hot spring is divided into two halves; one is clear while the other is blue-green from colloidal silica in the water – the dividing bar between the two halves is 'the blaze'.

## 6 FATA

Fata, which means 'Bucket', is a hot spring that used to erupt for long intervals of time. In around 2000 Fata became extinct and the activity was transferred to an adjacent hot spring.

## 7 ÓÞERRISHOLA

Óþerrishola means 'Non-drought-hole' or 'Rainy-weather Pit' as it usually becomes active just prior to wet weather. This is because the pressure of the water-column in the geyser decreases as the atmospheric pressure decreases. If the temperature of the water is near boiling point, the drop in pressure results in an overheating of the water in the pipe and the geyser starts erupting.

Óþerrishola therefore acted as a natural barometer for the farmers in the area; when it became unstable and erupted, they knew they had better gather their hay quickly. It erupts infrequently and rarely higher than 2-3 m.

## 8 MÓRI

Móri is a name for a male ghost or a brown-ish ram. It is a mud pot that does not erupt.

## 9 VIGDÍSARHVER

Vigdísarhver is a hot spring named after a local woman named Vigdís. It is not a geyser.

## 10 LITLI STROKKUR

Litli Strokkur means 'Little Churn'. It does not erupt nowadays.

## 11 SÍSJÓÐANDI

Sísjódandi means 'The Ever-boiling', and was used for washing laundry until almost the middle of the previous century. If the laundry was left too long in the water from Sísjódandi, it became brittle due to the precipitation of silica from the thermal water.

## 12 SÓÐI

Sóði or 'The Slob' will erupt to a height of a few metres, but only if it is treated with soap. After the earthquakes in 2000 it became active for a while.

## 13 SMÍÐUR

Smiður, means 'The Craftsman' or 'Carpenter' (Smith is the English derivative) because a carpenter who was working in the area in 1907 'dug it out'. Smiður erupts small jets of water, and larger ones if treated with soap.

## 14 ÞYKKVUHVERIR

Þykkvuhverir or the 'Bulging' or 'Thick' hot springs are south of Geysir and comprise many non-erupting mud pots and a few hot springs.

## 15 ULLARHVER

Ullarhver is south of the fenced area. Its name 'Wool Hot Spring' comes from the fact that people used to go there to wash wool.

# BERGPÓR Í BLÁFELLI

There was a man (troll) named Bergþór, who lived in a cave in Mt. Bláfell; – he had a wife named Hrefna. When the giant grew older he once went down to Haukadalur valley and asked the farmer at Haukadalur to secure him a grave, where the chime of the church bells and the sounds of the river which runs by Haukadalskirkja Church could be heard. When Bergþór died, the farmer was to go and collect his body from his cave in Mt. Bláfell and bury him in Haukadalur. The payment for his good deed would be found inside Bergþór's kettle. One morning as the country people arrived at Haukadalur they found a huge walking stick by the farm door. The farmer had a coffin made and went up to Mt. Bláfell with several men – they found Bergþór dead in his bed in Bergþórshellir cave. The farmer noticed a big kettle by the bed and checked what was inside. When he only saw leaves inside he believed that Bergþór had tricked him so he left the leaves behind. But one of the men in his group filled his mittens with leaves. When they had descended from the mountain the man who had taken the leaves checked his mittens; they were filled with money! The farmer and his men returned to the cave for the kettle, but they were unable to find the cave again and it has stayed hidden ever since. They returned to the others and carried the body of Bergþór down to Haukadalur; the farmer had him buried north of the graveyard; it has since been called Bergþórsleiði or the Grave of Bergþór.

The ring from Bergþór's walking stick can now be found on the shield on the church door, and the spike of the walking stick is also in the possession of the church.





HOTEL  
GEYSIR

 [hotelgeysir](#)  [hotel\\_geysir / geysirrestaurant](#)

 + 354 480 6800  [geysir@geysircenter.is](mailto:geysir@geysircenter.is)

 [www.hotelgeysir.is](http://www.hotelgeysir.is)