

## 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 • **Skaftafell**

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-Skaftafellssýsla, an island formation on the sandy south coast.
- Eldey**, Reykjanes, island rock off the south west coast.
- Esjufljótt**, 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-Skaftafellssýsla, 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-Skaftafellssýsla
- Dverghamrar**, Síðu, Vestur-Skaftafellssýsla
- Dynjandi**, Waterfalls in Arnarfjörður
- Eldborg**, Geitahlíð, Grindavík
- Eldborg**, Hinnapadalur
- Grábrotkargir**, Norðurárdalur
- Háalda**, Austur-Skaftafellssýsla
- Helgustaðanáma**, Suður-Múlasýsla
- Hraunfossar** and **Barnafoss**, Hvítá, Borgarfjörður
- Hveravellir**, thermal area
- Jörundur**, cave in Lambahraun at Hlíðufell
- Kattarauga**, Kornsá in Vatnsdalur, A-Húnavatnssýsla
- Kirkjugöf**, Kirkjubæjarklaustur
- Lakagigar**, Vestur-Skaftafellssýsla, 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-Pingeyarsýsla
- Steðji**, Hvalfjörður
- Surtarbrandsgil**, Brjánsklaur
- Teigahorn**, Berufjörður, Suður-Múlasýsla
- Detlifoss**, **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 Reykjavík city, ski resort
- Boggvastaðafjall**, Dalvík, ski resort
- Hrútey**, Blanda, Austur-Húnavatnssýsla
- Ósland**, Austur-Skaftafellssýsla
- 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	stætt, bauernh.	ville	fattoria, paese
bjarg	river bank	flúðifer	bord rive	argine
borg	cliff rock	gesteinsblock	rocher	città
botn	city/crag	cité, ville	ciité, 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	vallée, 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
eyri	sandspit/delta	sandbank	della de sable	della
fall	mountain, hill	berg	montagne	montagna
fjall	mountain, hill	berg	montagne	montagna
fjörður	fjord	flúð	fiord	fiordo
fjöt	large river	flúð	fleuve	grande fiume
foss	waterfall	wasserfall	cascade	casata
gata	road, street	straße, weg	ruie	strada, via
gigur	crater	krater	fossé	cresta
gil	gorge, ravine	schlucht	gouffre	gola
gjá	chasm, fissure	kluft	fossé	abisso
grunn	shoal, shallow	fanggrund	base	poco profondo
háls	ridge	hals	crête	roccia
hamar	crag	bergwand	rocher	roccia
heiði	heath, moor	heide	butte, colline	brughiera
hlið	mountain side	berghang	coteau, versant	fianco della mont.
hnjúkur	peak	berggjafel	piton	cima, vetta
höfði	promontory	lap	cap	crista
höfn	harbour	hafn	port	porto
höll	rounded hill	hugel	butte, colline	collina
holmur	islet	holm	îlot	piccola isola
holt	stony hill	steiniger hugel	colline	collina rocciosa
hraun	lava field, lava	lava	lave	lava
hryggur	ridge	rucken	échine	cresta
hver	hot spring	heisse quelle	geyser	geyser
hvoli	hill	anhöhe	colline	collina
jökull	glacier	gletscher	glacier	ghiacciaio
jökulsá	glacial river	gletschermilch	rivière glacial	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	ruiselle	piccolo fiume
laug	thermal spa	varme quelle	bassin	sorgente calda
lón	lagoon	lagun	laguna	laguna
melur	barren plain	kiesfläche	champ du pierre	ghiaia
múli	spur	maul	presquale	sperone
mýri	mouth	mundung	buccal	bocca
mörk	swamp	marais	palude	palude
nes	forest, woods	wald	foresta	foresta
nupur	point	sporne	vetta	vetta
oddi	spur peak	sporne	vetta	vetta
os	point	sporne	vetta	vetta
os	estuary	flúðmundung	della de fiume	scogliera
os	reef	cote, récif	sabbia	sabbia
sandur	sand(s)	landzunga	península	península
skagi	peninsula	paß	percée, trouée	passo di una mont.
skar	mountain pass	schäre	écueil, récif	piccola roccia/isola
skógur	shrubland	wald	bois	foresta
sletta	plain	ebene	plaine	planura
staður	place	ort	place	posto
stapi	bluff, crag	tafaleg	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, lago
vað	tongue of land	landzunga	langue de terre	lingua di terra
varða	ford	furt	passe	guado
vatn	calm	vegveiser	monument	monumento
vegur	lake	see	eau	lago
vik	road, track	veg	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 <b>how</b>	y - as in <b>she</b>
é - as in <b>yeah</b>	þ - as in <b>Thursday</b>
í - as in <b>he</b>	æ - as in <b>my</b>
o - as in <b>so</b>	ö - as in <b>duck</b>
u - as in <b>who</b>	

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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.

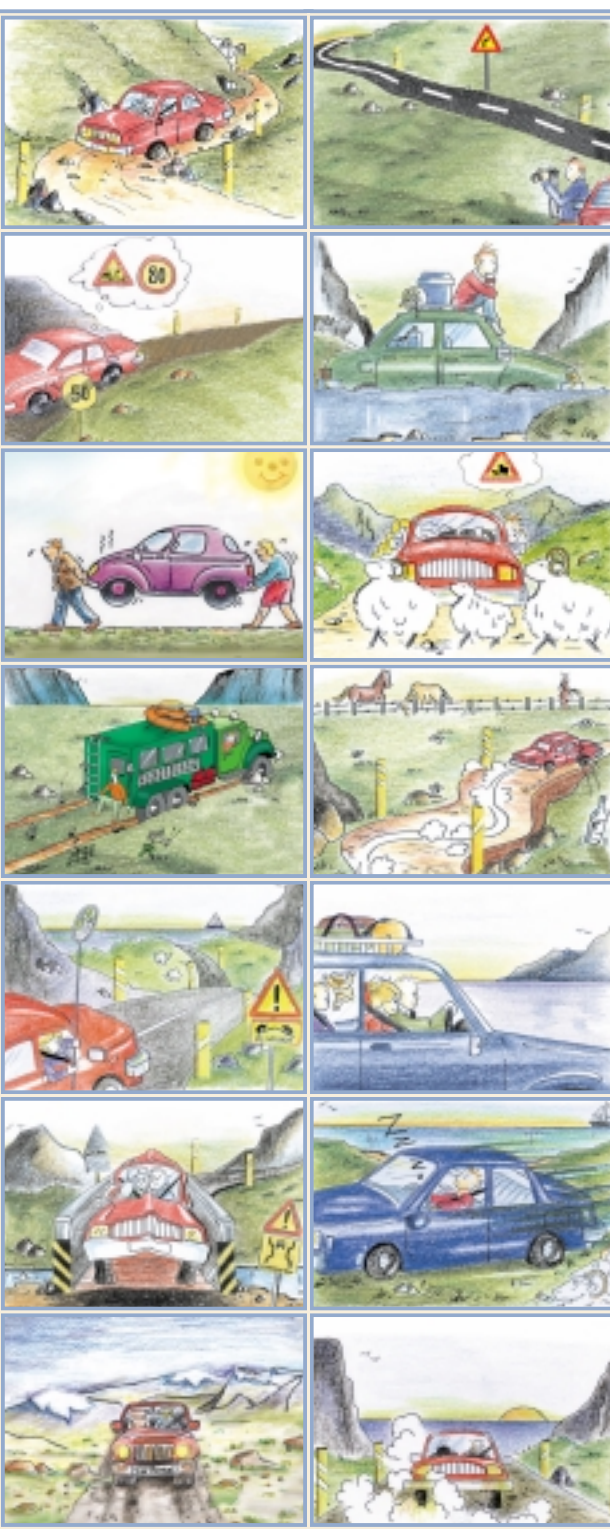
Icelandic highland roads are not meant for ordinary cars, and that includes hire cars. Their insurance does not cover them for driving on highland roads.

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.

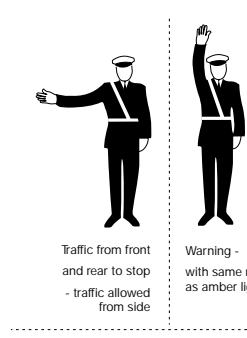
## Warning Signs



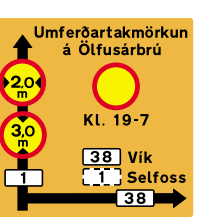
## Prohibition signs



## Police hand signals



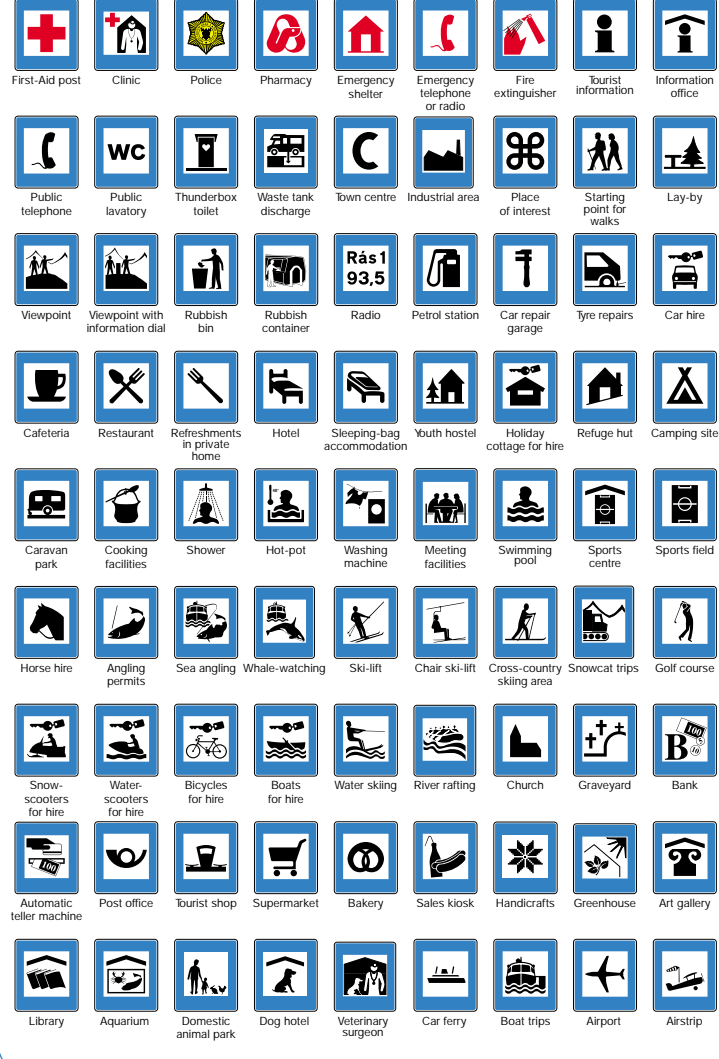
## Provisional signs



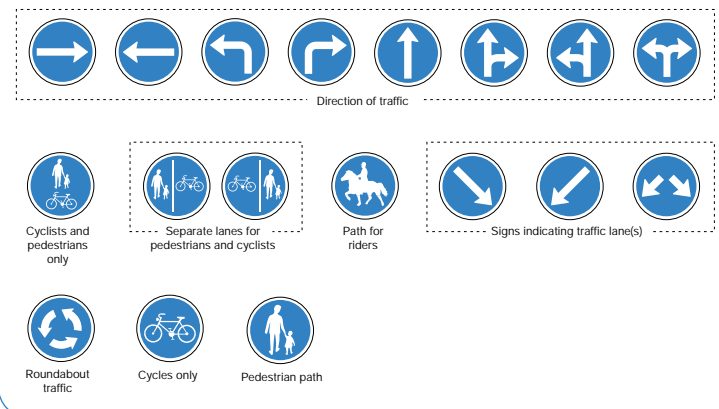
Provisional signs are intended to warn drivers of temporary changes in the road system. They contain information applying to the area in question.

PEOPLE WHO RESPECT TRAFFIC SIGNS CAUSE

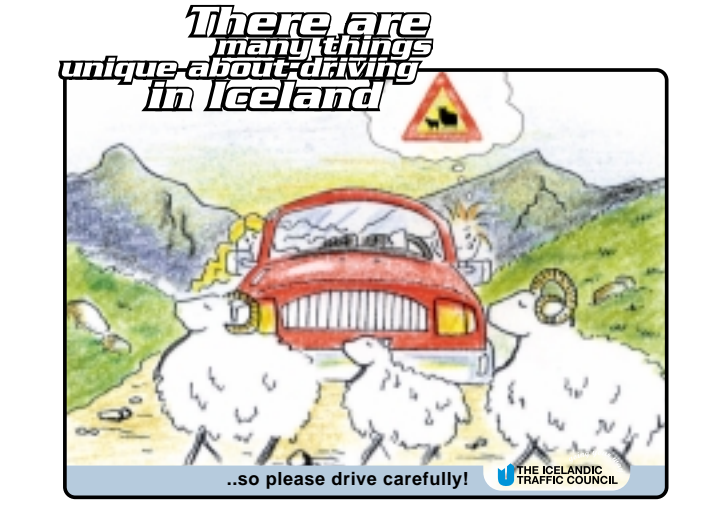
## Service signs



## 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
- Places of interest
- Museums
- Natural monuments
- Nature reserves
- How to drive in Iceland
- Traffic, service and information signs
- Tips on history, culture and geography
- Chosis & trails
- Heritage sites
- National parks

## This map features



## MAP of ICELAND

2005 - 2006

