

## How to get there

**Ferry Sæfari**, scheduled trips all year between Dalvík and Grímsey. A 3 hours sailing each way. The stop in Grímsey varies from two to five hours depending on the weekday.

1. June - 31. August: Mon/Tue/Wed/Fri/Sun.

1. - 31. September: Mon/Tue/Wed/Fri.

1. September - 31. May: Mon/Wed/Fri.

It is recommended to book tickets for the ferry in advance during the summer months.

Phone: (+354) 450 1050 or email [info@visitakureyri.is](mailto:info@visitakureyri.is).  
[www.visitgrimsey.is/en](http://www.visitgrimsey.is/en)

**Boat Ambassador**, "Arctic Circle Express" tour to Grímsey during June to August. A tour including a visit to the island and crossing the Arctic Circle. Departures from Akureyri Tue/Thu/Sun: 1. June - 10. August at 18:00 and 13. - 31. August at 13:00.

The tour lasts around 6 - 6.5 hours.

Phone: (+354) 462 6800, email [info@ambassador.is](mailto:info@ambassador.is) or [www.ambassador.is](http://www.ambassador.is).

**Airline Norlandair**, scheduled flights between Akureyri and Grímsey all year.

1. - 30. June daily flights.

1. July - 27. August daily, except Wed/Thu.

28. August - 31. May on Tue/Fri/Sun.

Flight time is 25 minutes. Stop in Grímsey 1.5 - 2 hours depending on which day it is.

Phone: Norlandair: (+354) 414 6960 / Air Iceland: (+354) 570 3800  
[www.norlandair.is](http://www.norlandair.is), [www.airiceland.is](http://www.airiceland.is)

Sightseeing flights: [www.circlear.is](http://www.circlear.is); [www.norlandair.is](http://www.norlandair.is)

## Events

Annual events in Grímsey:

- The Summer Solstice. 21st of June. The longest day of the year. Watch the sunset/sunrise within a couple minute of each other.
- The Arctic Run. Takes place each year around mid-September on the island.
- Fiske-Celebration. 11th of November. The birthday celebration of the islands patron, Mr. Daniel Willard Fiske. It is celebrated with an auspicious cake-buffet.

For further information visit [www.visitakureyri.is](http://www.visitakureyri.is).

## Useful information

**Guesthouse Gullsó**

Open all year. Phone: (+354) 467 3190.

Email: [gullsol@visir.is](mailto:gullsol@visir.is) / [gullsol@simnet.is](mailto:gullsol@simnet.is)

**Guesthouse Básar**

Open all year. Phone: (+354) 467 3103.

Email: [basar@gistiheimilidbasar.is](mailto:basar@gistiheimilidbasar.is)

**Restaurant Krían**

Open in the summer time, otherwise upon request. Phone: (+354) 4673112 & (+354) 898 2058

**Shop & Café Gallerí Sól**

Handcrafted souvenirs along with coffee and light refreshments. Open during ferry stops in summer and otherwise upon request. Phone: (+354) 467 3190

**Shop Búðin**

Supermarket. Opening hours in the summer time: Mon/Wed/Fri 12:00-17:00. Tue/Thu 12:00 - 14:00. Sat/Sun 13:00 - 14:00. Open less frequently during winter time. Phone: (+354) 898 2058 & (+354) 7719172

**Tour operator Arctic Trip**

Sightseeing, guided walks, tours and more. Phone: (+354) 848 1696. Email: [info@arctictrip.is](mailto:info@arctictrip.is). Website and booking: [www.arctictrip.is](http://www.arctictrip.is)

**Local Woman's Association**

Meals and buffets for groups along with sleeping bag accommodation. Phone: (+354) 865 5110

**Geothermal pool**

Indoor pool and a hot tub. Open all year Mon/Tue/Wed/Sat. Phone: (+354)897 3123. Additional information at the supermarket

**Campsite**

Right next door to the Community Hall. Information at the supermarket



Regular and charter flights to **Grimsey**



Receive your "Arctic Circle Crossing" badge



Tel: +354 588 4000  
[circlear@circlear.is](mailto:circlear@circlear.is)  
[www.circlear.is](http://www.circlear.is)

Útg. maí 2017. Ábyrgð: Akureyrarstofa. Höfundur: STÍLL. Prentun: Áprent. Myndir: Friðbjörgur Helgason.



Sæfari can also be rented for private trips



## Sæfari Ferry Summer Schedule

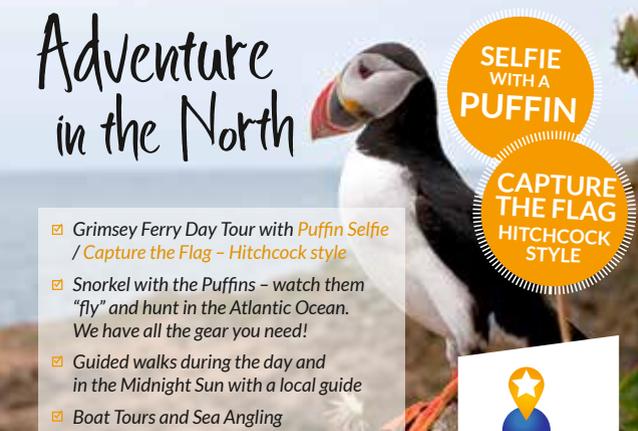
Valid from 1. June - 31. August 2017

|                  | From Dalvík | Arrival | Arrival time | Departure | Arrival time in Dalvík |
|------------------|-------------|---------|--------------|-----------|------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | 09:00       | Grímsey | 12:00        | 17:00     | 20:00                  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 09:00       | Grímsey | 12:00        | 14:00     | 17:00                  |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 09:00       | Grímsey | 12:00        | 17:00     | 20:00                  |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 09:00       | Grímsey | 12:00        | 17:00     | 20:00                  |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 09:00       | Grímsey | 12:00        | 16:00     | 19:00                  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 18:30       | Hrísey  | 19:00        | 19:30     | 20:00                  |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 13:15       | Hrísey  | 13:45        | 14:15     | 14:45                  |

Book your trip at [www.saefari.is/en](http://www.saefari.is/en)

Tel. +354 458 8970

**samskip**



**Adventure in the North**

- SELFIE WITH A PUFFIN
- CAPTURE THE FLAG HITCHCOCK STYLE

- Grímsey Ferry Day Tour with Puffin Selfie / Capture the Flag - Hitchcock style
- Snorkel with the Puffins - watch them "fly" and hunt in the Atlantic Ocean. We have all the gear you need!
- Guided walks during the day and in the Midnight Sun with a local guide
- Boat Tours and Sea Angling

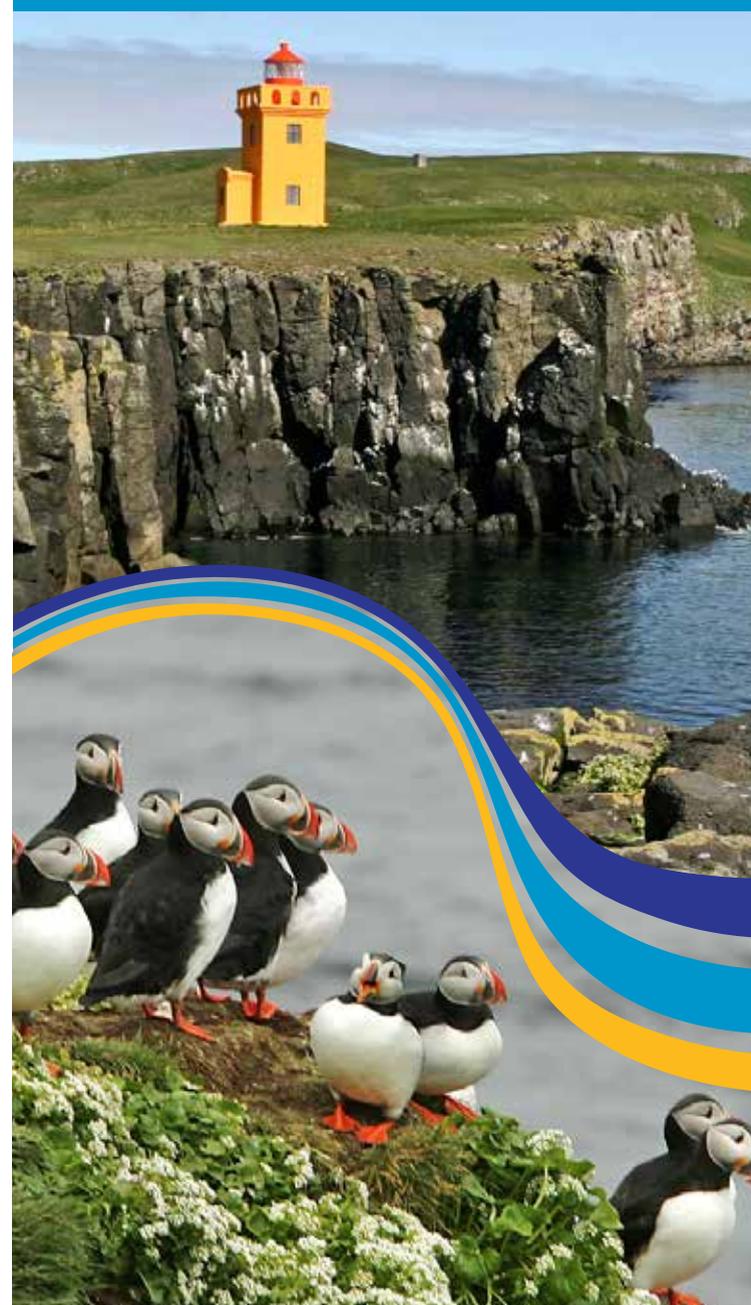
**BOOK ONLINE**  
& more information:  
[www.arctictrip.is](http://www.arctictrip.is)

**Arctic Trip**  
Unlocking the Magnificent Arctic Island of Grímsey  
[www.arctictrip.is](http://www.arctictrip.is)

tripadvisor Arctic Trip arctictrip.is



**GRÍMSEY**  
ISLAND ON THE ARCTIC CIRCLE  
2017-2018



# Scheduled flight service to Grimsey



Book your ticket on [www.airiceland.is](http://www.airiceland.is)

## Arctic Circle Tour:

- Available all year.
- Guided tour.
- Arctic Circle crossing certificate.

Book your Arctic Circle Tour online:  
<https://www.airiceland.is/tours/iceland/beyond-the-arctic-ae>

Book by phone:  
Norlandair: +354 414 6960  
Air Iceland: +354 570 3800



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

## The Arctic Circle

The Arctic Circle crosses Iceland only in one place, that is on the island Grimsey. At summer solstice in June each year the sun stays visible there for 24 hours. The position of the Arctic Circle is not fixed and moves northwards along the island. Therefore two symbols for the Arctic Circle can be found on the island. The old one is a kind of a bridge at 66°33'N close to the airport and the new one is a huge concrete ball that will be put in place in the year of 2017.

## The Church of Grimsey

One of the early Catholic bishops of Iceland, Jón Ögmundsson consecrated a church on Grimsey in the 11th century. It was dedicated to St. Olaf, the patron saint of Norway. It was stated that there should always be two priests at the church who should lead mass daily but twice a day on special occasions. The practice of Christianity is less ardent today but there are records of roughly 50 priests who have served there. The present church was built in 1867. It was extended and renovated in 1932. The altar painting is by a local artist painted in 1878 and it is a copy of a work by Leonardo da Vinci. Pledges and donations made to the church are said to bring good luck.

## Walking paths

The sea facing end of the airstrip is a good place to start a walking tour of Grimsey. The path follows the cliffs of Bäsavík. From there the path leads to the northern most point of the island and then on to the eastern high cliffs. This path runs all the way to the lighthouse on the southern end of the island. From the lighthouse one should walk towards the harbour at Sandvík, passing by the church. There is plenty of opportunity for wildlife and landscape photography during this hike.

**Warning! Please refrain from standing too near the edge of cliffs and high ground bordering the sea, as the nest burrowing puffins might have loosened and destabilised the ground, causing danger of falling over the edge.**

## Grimsey and Akureyri

In the spring of 2009 the inhabitants of both Grimsey and Akureyri voted to unite their two communities under the town council of Akureyri, won by a great majority. The islands of Hrísey and Grimsey both are now under the council of the town of Akureyri.

The Tourist Information Center of Akureyri, which also serves Grimsey and Hrísey is located in:  
Cultural and Conference Center, Hof  
Strandgata 12, IS- 600 Akureyri  
Phone: (+354) 450 1050  
E-mail: [info@visitakureyri.is](mailto:info@visitakureyri.is)  
For further information: [www.visitakureyri.is](http://www.visitakureyri.is) and [www.grimsey.is](http://www.grimsey.is)



## Flora and fauna

Grimsey is covered with vegetation which is sculpted by the arctic climate. The scurvy-grass which grows amongst the coastal rocks is very special as it is rich in vitamin C and is known for its medicinal properties. The birdlife is unique with numerous different species and unusually dense populations. The birdlife is flourishing on the island due to a decrease in hunting of the birds and the collection of their eggs.

There are unique opportunities for photographers. Seabirds nesting on high cliffs to the East side of Grimsey and on the West coast, one of the biggest colonies of puffins in Iceland with thousand of individuals.

The puffins stay out on the open sea during winter but come to their nests after mid April. They fly away after the first week of August. So the best time to watch them in Grimsey is May, June and July.

## Culture

Grimsey is renowned for its cultural activities despite its small population. The islanders were well known for their proficiency in chess. In the 19th century. A wealthy American scholar and chess enthusiast, Mr. Daniel Willard Fiske sailed past the island and was intrigued by the lifestyle of the inhabitants and their love of chess. It prompted him to donate a chess set to every home and he also donated a considerable amount of money to the community to support their future endeavours. The islanders celebrate his memory every year on his birthday on the 11th of November. In the library on the island you can see some of the gifts from Fiske, books, photos and chess set. There is a primary school on the island for children up to 14 years.



## The Village

The present population is around 80 inhabitants. Subsistence farming, bird hunting and egg gathering were formerly of great importance to the locals. This has greatly changed in recent years as the focus has shifted on to modern style fishing methods and fish processing for international markets.

For Grimsey, tourism is a growing industry, giving locals new opportunities for employment. A shop, guesthouses, campsite, gallery, café, restaurant and a swimming pool are some of the facilities on the island. Regular flights from Akureyri and ferry links from Dalvík, year round, makes visiting easy.



## Grimsey – The unique Arctic Island

Grimsey is situated on the Arctic Circle 41 kilometres off the North coast of Iceland. It is 5.3 square kilometers and 5.5 kilometres long. The island is formed by volcanic rock which in places creates beautiful basalt pillars. On the East side the island rises to 105 meters above sea level but is lower on the West side by the island's harbour and village. On a clear day there are spectacular views from the island over to the Icelandic mainland.

Grimsey has been inhabited since the Viking settlement of Iceland. Its abundant resources of fish and birds were widely renowned. A legend ties the name of the island to a settler named "Grimur" who sailed from the "Sogn" district in Norway, but there may be other explanations for the name which also occurs in Scandinavia and the UK. In the past the island was owned by monasteries on the northern mainland and the island's farmer tenants had to pay them the annual rent in dried cod.

Welcome to Grimsey  
– the island on the Arctic Circle

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

