

Walking trails in Nes

Introduction

As you come over the *Almannaskarö* pass from the east, the lowlands of Nes open up before you surrounded by ice-capped mountains stretching west to Öraefjallskull. On a tongue of land reaching out into the shallow waters of Hornafjörur and Skarðsfjörur sits the little town of Höfn. Outlet glaciers from the Vatnajökull icecap creep down the valleys, spewing out glacial torrents that flow to the sea through the treacherous currents of Hornafjarbærás at the mouth of the fjords. The farms hug the lower mountainsides, with most clustered around Nesjähverfi in the centre of the district.

Nesjähverfi has grown into a little settlement of about 100 people, with the community centre and sports hall Mánagarður, primary and secondary schools, a shop and other services. In recent years much plantation work has gone on in the area, e.g. on Skögey, to help contain sand drift and soil erosion.

Route descriptions

1. Horn - Papós

Starting point: *Horn* or *Papós*.

Route description: 2-3 hours in spectacular nature between mountains and shore. Fairly easy walking, though with some areas of rocks and boulders to cross. The route can be taken in either direction and is marked part of the way. Start from the buildings at *Horn* above Stokksnes or the ruins at *Papós*. Around Horn there are old military installations from the Second World War and in the mountainside above the bay is the cave *Kolbeinshellir*. At Hafnartangi, at about half way, you can see an old landing place and seals basking on the rocks.



Walking at Horn

Photo: Stefán Ó

2. Papós - Kex - Horn - Papós

Starting point: *Papós*.

Route description: 4-5 hours, with varied landscape of mountains and shore. Manageable for most people, but with some steep screes to cross, etc. Starting from the old trading post at *Papós*, go up the valley Kastárdalur and down the steep screes from the Kex pass to the old farm at *Horn*. Then go east by the marked path under the mountain to *Hornsvík* and on past *Horn* to *Papós*.



Endalausíðalur

Photo: Brynja H.

3. Endalausíðalur - Laxárdalur
Starting point: Efri-Fjörður farm in Lón district, or the eastern side of upper Laxárdalur valley.
Route description: 4-5 hours, max. height 343 m. From Efri-Fjörður, follow the sheep tracks up the valley Endlausíðalur to the watershed. As you approach Laxárdalur, keep to the western side of the valley, with the small valley Loklausíðalur and the peak of Árnanesmúti to your right. After the shoulder at Eyjahlás, follow down the east side of *Laxárdalur*, past the lava hummocks of Seltraum and the lakes, Selvatn and Rimavatn to Selmýrarhyggur. Under the ridge here is the settlement farm *Hólmur* and west of the river the mountain *Meðalfell*. From here there is a road 2 km down to the main road at Seljavellir.



A view to the glacier

Photo: Brynja H.

4. Skarðsdalur - Skálátindar - Bergárdalur
Starting point: Main road 1 in Skarðsdalur valley.
Route description: 3-5 hours, challenging walk; steep in many places and for experienced walkers only. **This route should only be taken in good visibility and on no account in foggy conditions.** Start from the main road by the stream running out of Færðalur. Follow the stream about half way up the valley and then make your way up the slope with the gap Ýxnaskarö to your left. When you get to a little grassy hollow turn west under the first of the Skálátindar peaks (Ýti-Skál, 812 m). The climb to the top is steep but fairly easy and there are wonderful views in all directions. Continue west, under the next peak and on to Inni-Skál. Here there is another stiff climb, then cross the saddle behind the third peak at about 700 m. *Bergárdalur* valley now opens up before you and there is a choice of various ways down (see route 5).

5. Bergárdalur

Starting point: The waterfall Bergarfóss (Migandisfoss).
Route description: 2-4 hours, quite hard going. There is a track from the Höfn junction to Bergarfóss and up along the east side of the stream Bergá. Before you set off, or on the way home, take the opportunity to walk behind the falls - but take care: the rocks can be very slippery! Start off along the track up the valley. Where the track ends, turn north. You can make a detour up onto the *Dorkelskarö* saddle for the view or continue under Miðfelli, over upper *Bergárdalur* valley (route 5a) and then down the moors at Bergarheiði back to your starting point. Alternatively, instead of going under Miðfelli, there is a fine view from the top of Miðfelliðindur (route 5b); the climb is easier if you set off from Bergarfóss up the Bergarheiði moors until you get to the top of *Bergárdalur* and from there head directly for the top.



Laxárdalsrétt, sheep pens

Photo: Hulda S.

6. Fríðsæld - Bergarfóss - Laxárdalur
Starting point: Fríðsæld, or the mouth of *Laxárdalur*
Route description: 2-3 hours fairly easy walking under the mountains. The walk follows part of an old national route. Start from Selmýrarhyggur (see route 7) or from Fríðsæld, east of the



farm Dýnjandi, a little west of the road up to the *Almannaskarö* pass. Nearby are *Dýsjarklettur* and, below the main road, *Fimmhundraðady*. About half way along is the waterfall Bergarfóss (see route 5).

7. Laxárdalur

Starting point: Selmýrarhyggur, reached by a road (2 km) from the main road west of Seljavellir.
Route description: 2-3 hours easy walking on the flat. Walkers should take care on the way back not to disturb the sheep; they are liable to bolt down the valley into the bogs. Set off up the east side of *Laxárdalur* valley, skirting round the east side of Rimavatn and past *Selvatn* to Seltraum, the lava outcrops up from the lake. Then go due west, crossing Laxá, and back along the river meadows and gravels. Cross back over the stream above or below the gully Laxárgljúfur. On the way home, look in at settlement site *Hólmur* under the ridge at Selmýrarhyggur. For those wanting a longer walk, the way is quite easy up to the top of the valley and then back following the river.

8. Meðalfell

Starting point: The Laxárdalur road, west of Meðalfell

Route description: Half an hour up *Meðalfell*, a pretty little hill at the mouth of *Laxárdalur* valley. The hill is easily accessible and climbed from the west and offers fine views over the fjords and lowlands. A little north and east of *Meðalfell* there is a beautiful little gully, Laxárgljúfur, with fish darting between the stones.

9. Krossbæjarskarö

Starting point: Laxárdalsrétt, the sheep pens on the west side of the mouth of *Laxárdalur* valley
Route description: 2-4 hours, quite hard going in places. Head north up the path and sheep tracks into the *Krossbæjarskarö* gap. Either keep up above the west side of Þverá or stay down by the course of the stream, where there are many unusual rock formations. The reds and whites of the screes stand out dramatically against the black cliffs. The area is marked by volcanic intrusions, as in the gully of Þverá itself. The gully is easy to walk along, but towards the top the screes are quite steep and need care to cross. The route up above the gully is even and easy the whole way but involves crossing the gully Meinigil. Above the gully the grassy uplands of *Krossbæjarskarö* take over. At the watershed, head for the small hill Smáhöll and take a rest and enjoy the spectacular views to the west. Then head north in the direction of the peak Krossbæjartindur, then bear west and come down to Borgarstúfur, a beautiful rock face of basalt columns above the farm Lindarbakki.



In Þverárgil

Photo: Hulda S.

10. Ketillaugarfjall
Starting point: Laxárdalsrétt (see route 9)
Route description: About 4 hours. Quite hard going in places; max. height on the way 668 m. Follow route 9 to the watershed on *Krossbæjarskarö*, then turn south up *Ketillaugarfjall*. Take care: the west face of the mountain has sheer drops in many places. To get to the summit it is simplest to come down westwards from the middle peak and skirt around the rocks in the saddle between. From the top there is a particularly fine view over the surrounding lowlands. Returning down to *Krossbæjarskarö*, either take the same route back or follow route 9 north towards Krossbæjartindur and then west, coming down near Borgarstúfur.

11. Ketillaugarfjall

Starting point: Laxárdalsrétt (see route 9)

Route description: About 4 hours. Quite hard going in places; max. height on the way 668 m. Follow route 9 to the watershed on *Krossbæjarskarö*, then turn south up *Ketillaugarfjall*. Take care: the west face of the mountain has sheer drops in many places. To get to the summit it is simplest to come down westwards from the middle peak and skirt around the rocks in the saddle between. From the top there is a particularly fine view over the surrounding lowlands. Returning down to *Krossbæjarskarö*, either take the same route back or follow route 9 north towards Krossbæjartindur and then west, coming down near Borgarstúfur.

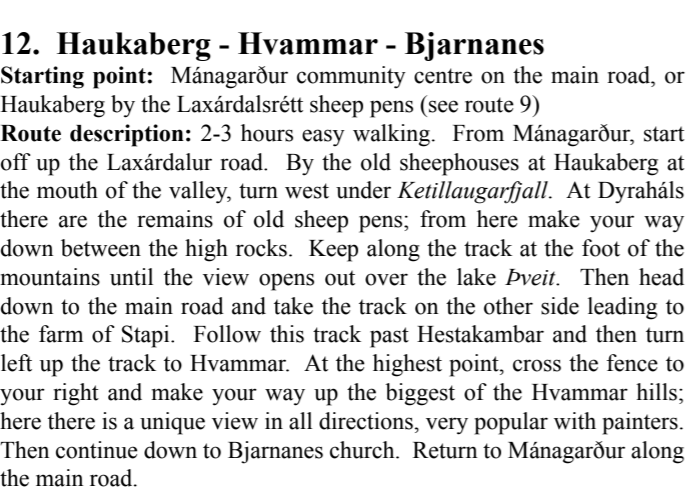


Ketillaugarfjall and Krossbæjartindur

Photo: Jóh. Valg.

12. Haukabergr - Hvammar - Bjarnanes

Starting point: Mánagarður community centre on the main road, or Haukabergr by the Laxárdalsrétt sheep pens (see route 9)
Route description: 2-3 hours easy walking. From Mánagarður, start off up the Laxárdalur road. By the old sheephouses at Haukabergr at the mouth of the valley, turn west under *Ketillaugarfjall*. At Dyrahlás there are the remains of old sheep pens; from here make your way down between the high rocks. Keep along the track at the foot of the mountains until the view opens out over the lake *Þveit*. Then head down to the main road and take the track on the other side leading to the farm of Stapi. Follow this track past Hestakambur and then turn left up the track to Hvammar. At the highest point, cross the fence to your right and make your way up the biggest of the Hvammar hills; here there is a unique view in all directions, very popular with painters. Then continue down to Bjarnanes church. Return to Mánagarður along the main road.



Skögeyjarsker

Photo: Jóh. Valg.

13. Skögey

Starting point: Car park at Skögeyjarsker
Route description: Take the track from the main road past Bjarnanes and on to the car park at Skögeyjarsker. From here there is easy walking in all directions. There are some shallow streams to cross, but the land is everywhere firm under foot, with no bogs or marshes.



Stone arch in Grjóttárgljúfur gully

Photo: Jóh. Valg.

Varied bird life.

14. Stone arch in Grjóttárgljúfur gully

Starting point: Móttúrhavn lavaflow above the farm Krossber
Route description: 1 hour quite easy walking; about 1 km. From Móttúrhavn on the main road, follow the stream Grjóttá up to the stone arch in the gully. Return by the same route.

15. Hoffellsdalur

Starting point: Below the farm at Hoffell

Route description: Fairly easy day's walk, mostly quite even; about 12 km to the sheltered dell at Dalstaftn at the head of the valley, where there is glacial debris from when the ice extended this far down until about a century ago. Start off over the mudflats below Hoffell farm and keep to the west side of the valley the whole way. It is possible to drive as far as the jutting rocks at Klifafangri about 8 km in using the rough track over the river muds. Hoffellsdalur is noted for semi-precious stones and the high, imposing mountains on either side. Towards the bottom of the valley it is worth making a short detour by the screes at Sírnuskrúka and go a little back along the track up the slopes of Austurbirgjur. Above the steep screes up from here is the cave Hellir, formerly used as a sheep shelter; the mouth is almost blocked off, but inside you can walk about and the cave covers over 70 square metres. On the terraces at Klifafjallnar there are remains from when Iceland spar was mined here between 1910 and 1940. The colours of the cliffs at Grasgjáhammur, on the west side towards the top, are seen at their best when the sun shines directly on them. From Dalstaftn, keen walkers can continue up onto Djúfelli, the mountains above, and then either west over Fossaldalsmúti and into the high valley Fossadalur and on to the Hoffellsnúpur mountains, or northeast under the ice of Lambatungnajokull and then down either across the Dalsheiði highlands or through the valley Skyndindur. Those interested should contact people with local knowledge for further guidance.



Hoffellsjökull

Photo: Asmundur G.

16. Hoffellsjökull glacier

Starting point: West of Hoffell farm

Route description: 1-3 hours, fairly easy walking. Drive to the west side of Hoffell; well-equipped vehicles can get across the muds right up to the glacial moraine west of the Geitafellsbjörg cliffs, but this means crossing a river and others should leave their cars near the fur farm buildings and walk from there. Follow either the foot of the mountains or the track. From the ridge of moraines there is a fine view of the glacier and the large lake of melt water in front of it. Walk along the moraine to where the river Austurfljótt flows out of the lake, then back the same way. The moraine marks the point to which the ice extended early in the 20th century; until 1947 trucks were backed right up against the glacier and ice was hacked off onto them to be taken to Höfn to ice fish.



At Geitafell

Photo: Jón H.

17. Geitafell - Efstafellsgil
Starting point: Under Geitafell
Route description: 1-3 hours. Follow route 16. Just before the glacial moraines, turn northeast under the face of Geitafellsbjörg and continue on to the flat, grassy area under Geitafell; this area was once used for gatherings and stone tables of gabbro have been set up for picnickers. The same local gabbro now graces the walls of the Central Bank in Reykjavík. From here, follow the track up Geitafell to the impressive Efstafellsgil ravine. Return by the same route. It is possible to continue this way up to the Hoffellsnúpur mountains by crossing the ravine; this can be dangerous and anyone interested should consult local experts for guidance.



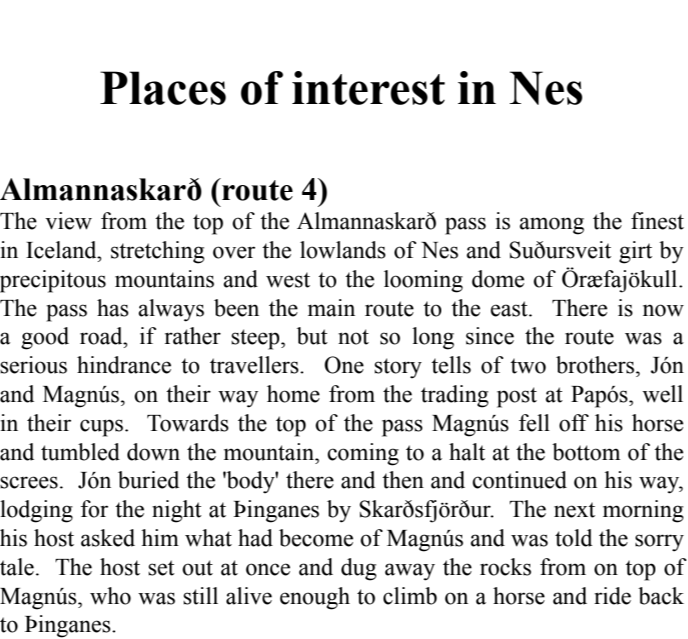
Efstafellsgil

Photo: Jón H.

18. Geitafell - Efstafellsgil - Geitafellsindur
Starting point: The grassy plain under Geitafell (route 17)
Route description: 5-7 hours, fairly hard walking and steep in many places. Follow routes 16 and 17 to Geitafell and the Efstafellsgil ravine. Continue up along the ravine to the ridge, then up and along the ridge to the summit of Geitafellsindur (1016 m), from where there are magnificent views.

19. Skögey

Starting point: At the eastern end of the Hornafjarðarfjöt bridge
Route description: 1-3 hours easy walking along the flood wall on the east bank of Hornafjarðarfjöt. At Sandshraun at the southern end of the wall there are a viewdiall and expansive views. It is also possible to drive along the wall.



Bergárdalur/Porkellskarö (routes 4 - 6)
Bergarfjall lies north of Skarðsfjörður, bare and barren with sheer cliffs and heavy screes. The mountain is composed of scoriaceous basalt, a very rare rock type in Iceland. At the bottom of the little mossy valley Bergárdalur the river Bergá plunges over a waterfall called Bergarfóss or Migandisfoss. It is possible to walk behind the falls, but great care must be taken as the rocks can be slippery. At the top of the valley is the saddle Porkellskarö where, it is said, Farmer Þorkell of Hólar once killed a trollwoman.

Bjarnanes (routes 12 og 13)
Bjarnanes was the ancient paragonage of Nes, with a church to the Virgin in pre-Reformation times. The present church is an unusual and striking building, consecrated in 1976. Half inside, half outside the walls of the old graveyard below the church lies the grave of 'Killer Kolbeinn' (see *Hornsvík*). Early in the 15th century, the owner of Bjarnanes was a powerful chieftain called Teitur Gunnlaugsson. Teitur fell out with the unpopular Danish bishop, Jón Gerðsson, who had



been appointed to consolidate royal power in Iceland. In 1433 Teitur and Others attacked the bishop at the cathedral at Skálholt, stuck him in a sack, and drowned him in a nearby river.



Bjarneskirkja

Photo: Jóh. Valg.

Dýsjarklettur (route 6)

'Five Hundred Pool', by the road junction under *Almannaskarö*, is said to get its name from a battle between the men of Nes and the men of Lón to the east, when those killed were buried under the cliffs.

Fimmhundraðady (route 6)

'Five Hundred Pool', in the bogs under *Almannaskarö*. The story goes that a rich lady was once riding by and fell into the pool; the horse, its trappings and her attire were so valuable they were said to be worth 500 dollars. Neither lady nor horse was ever seen again, but for many years after the place was said to be haunted.

Fjósaklettur (route 15)

'Byre Rock', beneath the hay meadow at *Hoffell*. One day when the cows were being watered at a pool nearby a bull appeared out of the rock. One of the cows was in season, and in time bore a calf normal in all respects except that it lacked a tail. When it was let out in spring it made off and was never seen again. But from time to time lowing sounds were heard from inside the rock, and many years later a grey, tailless cow was seen there which was said to be this calf, now in the possession of the bull's owner.

Hoffell (route 15)

The Book of Settlements relates that Hoffell was founded by one Auðunn the Red, who built a great temple there; the name means 'Temple Fell'. It is said that when Iceland became Christian in the year 1000 the gods fled from Hoffell into an outcrop of rocks nearby called Goðaborg. For many centuries up to 1894 Hoffell was a separate parish; the current church, in the traditional style of farmers' churches, dates from 1981.

Hoffellsfjöll (route 15)

Impressive mountains rising to 1275 m, narrow at the top, barren and with cliffs, screes and steep ravines. The area appears to be an ancient volcanic centre and various rare rock types have been found, including marble, Iceland spar, opal, jasper and other semi-precious stones. Iceland spar was mined in upper Hoffellsdalur on and off between 1910 and 1940; the largest stone found weighed 175 kg. In ancient times there was an occasional route between Hoffellsfjöll and Fjótisdalur in the east of Iceland - it is, for instance, mentioned in the Saga of the Sons of Droplaug - but it appears to have finally fallen into disuse as the glacier advanced in the 17th century.



At Horn

Photo: Sigurður Mar

Horn, Vestra-Horn (routes 1, 2)
Horn was the settlement farm of Hrollaugur, Earl of Møre in Norway. The site is very impressive, with pink and grey screes leading up from the farm to the towering peaks and faces of the Vestra-Horn headland. Geologically, Vestra-Horn (454 m) is rare for Iceland, being composed of unstratified plutonic rock, mostly gabbro but with some granophyre. At the eastern end a strange-shaped, isolated outcrop called Bramhorn juts out into the sea. As well as excellent grazing, Horn enjoyed rich benefits in the form of driftwood, seals, eiderdown and eggs. The farm was finally abandoned in 1984.

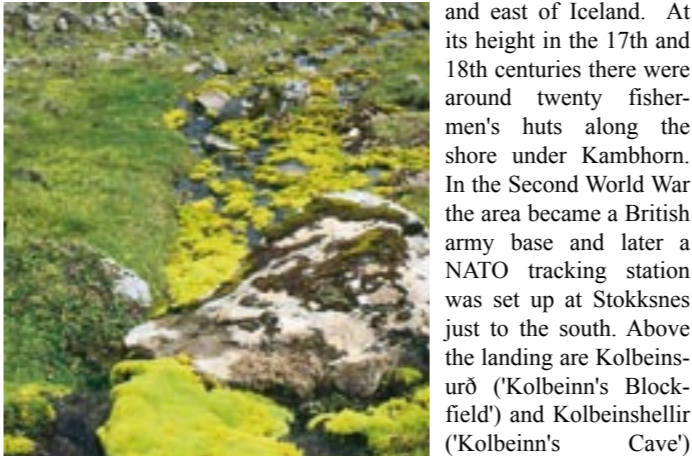


At Hafnarvík

Photo: Brynja H.

Hornafjarðarfjöt (route 19)
Glacial river feeding Hornafjörður. Though short, the river carries a huge flow and was a serious bar to communications until the bridge (255 m) was opened in 1961. The river has been further tamed by flood walls built in connection with the bridge and later plantation work on *Skögey*. In former times there were two fording places, the inner route from Viðborðsbróndr to *Hoffell* by way of Svínafell and the outer route from Hólar, over Skögey to Bjarnanes.

Hornsvík, Kolbeinshellir (routes 1, 2)
Up until around 1900 Hornsvík, the little bay under the Vestra-Horn headland, was a winter fishing centre, used both by locals and itinerant workers from the north and east of Iceland. At its height in the 17th and 18th centuries there were around twenty fishermen's huts along the shore under Kambhorn. In the Second World War the area became a British army base and later a NATO tracking station was set up at Stokksnes just to the south. Above the landing are Kolbeinsur (Kolbeinn's Block-field) and Kolbeinshellir ('Kolbeinn's Cave') named after a renowned outlaw from the north, 'Killer Kolbeinn', a figure known from folktales and a former fisherman at Hornsvík. His body lies in the churchyard at Bjarnanes. There was said to be sea monster living off Horn - quite small, low at the front and thick at the rear,



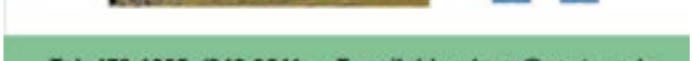
Moss

Mynd: Brynja H.

with a head the size of a dog's - which preyed on seals basking on the nearby rocks.

Hólmur (routes 3, 7)

Late in the 19th century an ancient burial was uncovered at Hólmur at the mouth of Laxárdalur. As well as human bones, various objects were found, including three glass beads. The site was further



investigated in 1902 by Daniel Braun, who wrote: "It was shown beyond doubt that a man had been buried towards the south of the ridge, 3-4 feet above the floodplain. Other finds included a breastplate and traces of a thin layer of coal under and around the bones. In an extension to the north there was a horse burial, or perhaps just a horse's head. There were also several horse's teeth. There are no records of brooches or the like. It cannot be shown for sure whether this was a man's or woman's grave." More detailed archaeological research in recent years has suggested that Hölmur was a settlement farm and that the burial site was a kind of place of sacrifice, or perhaps a duelling site.

Ketillaugarfjall, Skeggy (routes 6-12)

Skeggy, a small island in Skarðsfjörur, is said to be named after a man called Skeggi who had himself buried there, with his gold, under an upturned boat. Some time later some local men attempted to rob the grave, but as soon as they started digging the farm at Þinganes appeared to burst into flames. After his death, Skeggy's wife Ketillaug is said to have disappeared up into the mountain Ketillaugarfjall with a pot full of gold, saying she would be easy to find once his body had been laid out. Some versions of the story say that to find the gold you have to walk up the screes backwards, in bare feet, and that if you look behind you on the way the gold will disappear and your efforts will be in vain.

Kex (route 2)

The pass Kex between Kexishamar and Kambhorn was once the usual route for foot-travellers between Horn and Papós; the name means, more or less, 'hard going'. It is said that British soldiers stationed at Horn during the Second World War used the pass to keep track of enemy movements.

Kolbeinshellir (see *Hornsvík*)

Krossbæjarskarö (routes 9-11)
The saddle between *Ketillaugarfjall* and Markindur. In the river course at the bottom there is a wide variety of unusual geological formations and rare rock types.

Laxárdalur, Selvatn (routes 3, 6, 7, 8)

Laxárdalur valley cuts into the mountains east of Nesjähverfi. At its top there is only a low saddle to Endlausíðalur leading down into the district of Lón. Towards the top of Laxárdalur there is a little lake called Selvatn in which there lived a 'nicker' or kelpie, a monstrous water-horse. Whenever people set trout nets in the lake overnight they woke the next day to find the nets pulled up onto land and empty. One brave man, who was also gifted with second sight, decided to sit over his nets one night. Later that night he appeared at the farm at Meðalfell, saying he had been chased all the way there by a monster. After this, people gave up trying to fish in the lake.

Meðalfell (route 8)

Small hill and Viking Age settlement farm at the mouth of Laxárdalur valley. The hill is easy to climb from the west and offers fine views over the lowlands and coasts. Work is currently under way to improve the salmon fishing in the river Laxá which runs down past the farm.



Meðalfell

Photo: Sigurður S.

Papós (routes 1, 2)

The name Papós ('Monk's River-Mouth') refers to Irish hermits who must have been settled in the area before the coming of the Vikings in the 9th century. In later times Papós was a seasonal fishing station, and in 1861 it became the first trading post of the district. For a time there was also a school, the first in the county. However, the shallow approaches and offshore reefs made it unsuitable for larger coasters, which needed to be unloaded offshore, and in 1897 the trading centre was disbanded and moved to Höfn.



Papós

Photo: Brynja H.

Prestaklettur (route 15)

'Priest Rock'; a large rock west of the hay meadow at Hoffell, said to have fallen from the mountain above on 18 priests who were holding a conclave there, killing them all.

Rustarnöf (routes 1, 2)

Steep rock face, east of the road just before it turns to the farm at Horn. The name is said to come from a daring man called Rusti who once climbed it. The Craig formerly had eagles nesting on it.

Selvatn (see *Laxárdalur*)

Skeggy (see *Ketillaugarfjall*)

Skögey (routes 13, 19)

Former island where Hornafjarðarfjöt flows into Hornafjörður. Skögey was once fertile and wooded, supporting 18 farms and probably a chapel. It is very different now, barren and stony, with low hills and sands dunes and withered sedges, the result of glacial outbursts and sudden changes in the flow of the river. The story goes that some time after the final disaster some men were on the island when their dog started rooting in a mound of shingle. They discovered the roof of a house, inside which they found a girl and a dog who had managed to keep alive on a little tub of butter; the girl had passed the time carding a clump of wool. But both girl and dog died once they were brought out into the open air. In later years the farmers of Nes used the more fertile parts of Skögey to provide extra hay crops. Since around 1980 determined efforts have been made to replant the area. The building of the Hornafjarðarfjöt bridge cut the flow of water to the mudflats at the north of the island, increasing the danger of sand driftage. To counter this, protective walls was built along the rivers and the mudflats were planted with grasses, so that Skögey is now joining to the mainland. Since 1982 around 10,000 acres have been designated a conservation area and are now largely covered with grasses. The area supports a varied bird life.

Porkellskarö (see *Bergárdalur*)

Þveit (routes 11, 12)

Small lake just north of the farm



The roots of Vatnajökull

In many places there are stunning views to the glaciers over land moulded by the action of ice and water.

Glacier exhibition
 In summer there is an exhibition at Höfn to introduce visitors to the nature of glaciers and their enormous effect on the environment. The exhibition includes information in words and pictures, an impressive film about Vatnajökull, photographs, artwork, and tools and equipment relating to travel and research on the glacier. The material has been produced in co-operation with scientists and local experts.

At places where side roads lead off from the main road there are information boards with material relating to the exhibition, i.e. at Hoffellsjökull, Flajökull, Skalfellsjökull, Jokulsarlon, Fjallsarlon, Kviarjokulsambar, Haada and Svinafellsjökull. The glacier exhibitions at Höfn and Skalfellsstofa give a deeper insight into the glacial features observable at these places and how ice has shaped the landscape.

Skaftafellsstofa
 Skaftafellsstofa, the information and educational centre in the Skaftafell national park, has an exhibition hall with a display tracing the interrelated story of man and nature in the Öretí region and an impressive video showing on the Skeiðará glacial outburst and floods in 1996. Organised walks led by park wardens and conservationists give visitors the chance to experience the awe-inspiring nature of Skaftafell and learn about its history under expert local guidance.