

The Westfjords: 72 Hours in the Wild

A Local's Guide to Dramatic Fjords, Red Sands, and Secret Waterfalls

The Westfjords are for the true adventurer. This region remains the least visited part of Iceland, offering raw nature, steep cliffs, and deep silence. This 3-day loop takes you from the farmlands of the West to the edge of the world.

Local Rule #1: Start by 07:30 AM. The drive to the Westfjords is long and the roads are winding. Every hour of daylight counts.

Local Rule #2: Check Road.is constantly. Even in summer, mountain passes like Dynjandisheiði can be foggy or windy.

Day 1: The Gateway to the Fjords

Route: Reykjavík – Glanni – Hólmavík – Djúpavík/Patreksfjörður

Driving time: Approx. 5-6 hours total.

07:30 | Departure: Head north from Reykjavík towards the Borgarfjörður region.

09:30 | The Hidden Falls: Stop at Glanni Waterfall. This beautiful, multi-tiered fall is located in a lava field and is said to be a home for elves and trolls. It's a peaceful spot for a morning coffee.

11:30 | The Sorcery Coast: Reach Hólmavík. Visit the Museum of Icelandic Sorcery and Witchcraft to learn about the dark and mystical history of the Westfjords.

14:00 | Into the Fjords: Begin the winding drive along the coast. The mountains get steeper and the fjords deeper as you head towards the southern Westfjords.

18:00 | Arrival & Check-in: Settle into your hotel.

Recommended Stay: Fosshótel Westfjords (Patreksfjörður) or Hótel Djúpavík (for a remote, historic feel).

Day 2: The Jewel & The Red Sands

Route: Patreksfjörður – Rauðisandur – Dynjandi – Patreksfjörður

Driving time: Approx. 4 hours.

09:00 | The Red Beach: Drive to Rauðisandur. Unlike the black beaches of the south, this massive beach has red and golden sand. It is incredibly peaceful and feels like the end of the earth.

11:30 | The Rusting Giant: Stop at Garðar BA 64, the oldest steel ship in Iceland, beached on the shore near Patreksfjörður. It's a photographer's dream.

13:30 | The King of Waterfalls: Drive over the mountain pass to Dynjandi. This is the most spectacular waterfall in the Westfjords, cascading down 100 meters like a bridal veil. Take the 15-minute hike up to the base to feel its power.

17:00 | A Soak with a View: On your way back, stop at Patreksfjörður Swimming Pool. It's built on the edge of the fjord with an "infinity" feel.

Day 3: Coastal Cliffs & The Return

Route: Patreksfjörður – Látrabjarg – Reykjavík

Driving time: Approx. 6.5 hours total (Long drive back).

08:30 | The Edge of Europe: Visit Látrabjarg Cliffs. These are the westernmost point of Europe and home to millions of seabirds, including puffins (May–August). The cliffs are 440 meters high and absolutely breathtaking.

12:00 | The Long Journey Back: Begin the drive back south. Stop in the town of Búðardalur for a late lunch.

15:00 | Dairy Stop: Visit Erpsstaðir Dairy Farm for their famous local ice cream to fuel the last stretch of the drive.

19:30 | Arrival in Reykjavík: Return to the capital after a 960km+ journey through the wild Westfjords.

Local Secrets for the Westfjords

Hellulaug: Near the ferry terminal at Brjánslækur, there is a tiny, natural hot spring called Hellulaug hidden on the shore. It's free and offers a great view of the ocean.

Sheep on the Road: In the Westfjords, sheep own the roads. Drive slowly around blind corners!

Fuel Up: Gas stations are far apart. Never let your tank go below half full.

Tunnel Tip: The new Dýrafjarðargöng tunnel makes the drive to Dynjandi much safer and faster than the old mountain roads.