

A-Z of Borgarnes and its surroundings	Webpage	Description / fun fact (local recommendations)
		Welcome to Borgarnes, the place the Icelandic Sagas were written. You can get yourself to the town where the Sagas actually happened. The entire town celebrates Egil's brilliance with various references and street names from the Settlement era. If you are not so interested in rich history, let this friendly town welcome you with its scenic paths around the beautiful seashore, great restaurants and thermal pools.
Attractions	Bjossarolo - playground West Iceland	Bjössaróló – recycled & handmade playground.
	Skallagrímgarður, public park in Borgarnes West Iceland	Skallagrímgarður: Botanical garden and BBQ facilities
Bakery	Geirabakarí	Geirabakarí is the legendary bakery from the Secret life of Walter Mitty. Best imaginable view and fantastic carbs. We suggest the <i>Snúður með hörðu súkkulaði</i> or <i>Gulrótarrúgbrauð</i> . The first one is a semi-sweet pastry famous in Borgarnes and way beyond. The latter is the carrot-ryebread that is just so wonderfully hearty.
Healthcare Doctor	www.hve.is	Heilsugæslustöðin Borgarnesi Borgarbraut 65, 310 Borgarnesi +354 432 1430 If critical, a duty doctor can be contacted using the following number: +354 513 1700. Always dial 112 for emergencies.
Library	Safnahús Borgarfjarðar	Bjarnarbraut 4, 310 Borgarnesi, www.safnahus.is

		The local small library provides books, access to boardgames and regular interesting exhibitions.
Museum and Exhibitions	The Agricultural Museum of Iceland West Iceland	The Agricultural Museum of Iceland presents the agricultural heritage and seeks to explain the history of Icelandic agriculture. The museum has an extensive collection of farm artifacts. For example, the first horse-driven equipment and the first tractors imported to Iceland, as well as the more modern artifacts of current times. The museum has Iceland's largest collection of farm machinery which goes back to 1880. The visitor center for birdlife in Andakill is part of the museum. The museum offers guidance on the history of Hvanneyri, agricultural education and information on agriculture in Iceland today, besides a visit to Hvanneyri church, one of the most beautiful old churches in the countryside.
	Reykholt in Borgarfjord West Iceland	Reykholt is one of Iceland's significant settlement areas and most notable historical sites. It houses a cultural centre and a church in a tiny but beautiful village with a fascinating history. Reykholt is most famous for being the home of Iceland's best-known author, Snorri Sturluson, during the years 1206-1241. An ancient geothermally heated pool, Snorralaug, is named after him. It is one of the few things preserved whole from Iceland's medieval period. Snorrastofa is a cultural centre and institute for research in medieval studies. It offers historical exhibitions and guided tours and lectures. Music recitals are held in the church of Reykholt. Visit Reykholt's website www.snorrastofa.is
	Landnámssetur – The Settlement center	Local restaurant and museum, covering the Sagas in a great way. Brákarbraut 13 - 15, 310 Borgarnes Tel: +354 437 1600 https://www.landnam.is/eng/ Open all year: from 10am to 9pm
	Safnahús Borgarfjarðar	Borgarfjörður Regional Museum: Regular exhibitions and events.

<p>Nature & surroundings</p>	<p>Deildartunguhver hot spring West Iceland</p>	<p>Deildartunguhver in Reykholtssdalur is the highest-flowing and most powerful resource of hot water in Europe and is widely known for its rapid flow rate of 180 litres (380 pints) per second.</p> <p>The water at Deildartunguhver hot spring emerges at a constant 97 degrees Celsius (207 degrees Fahrenheit), making it incredibly dangerous for those who venture too close. Thankfully, there are a number of wooden walkways and observation points that lead you around the hot springs without putting you at any risk. Due to the sheer energy bubbling under Deildartunguhver, much of the water is used to heat Icelandic homes. One pipeline spans 34 kilometres (21 miles) to Borgarnes, whilst another travels 64 kilometres (40 miles) to Akranes, making it the longest pipeline in Iceland, and the water is about 78 - 80 degrees when it reaches Akranes. If you take a shower anywhere within a 64 km radius of the spring, you have already bathed in the hot water from this powerful spring.</p> <p>All Icelandic hot water comes from hot springs such as this, except in some parts of the Westfjords, which are now geologically much older than the rest of the country and thus less active. This is a fantastic example of how Icelanders efficiently use the geothermal energy provided and is one of the major reasons why Iceland has such an excellent reputation for green energy.</p>
	<p>Hraunfossar, lava waterfalls in Borgarfjord West Iceland</p>	<p>The two waterfalls, Hraunfossar and Barnafoss, are about a 60-75 minutes' drive from our home.</p> <p>Hraunfossar, or the <i>Lava Falls</i>, is, in fact, a series of tiny cascades that trickle through an old lava field.</p> <p>Rather than being a narrow rapid, Hraunfossar is a wide series of trickling waterfalls, flowing from a plateau of lava rock. Seeing the drama of one, followed by the peace of the other, is an excellent example of how Iceland's</p>

scenery is ever-changing, and completely different spectacles can exist within mere metres of each other.

Barnafoss translates to *the Children's Falls* because of folklore long told about it. Back in Iceland's early days, it was said that a family with two boys lived at the nearby farm of Hraunsás. The parents left home for church one morning, ordering the young ones to remain at home, but with nothing to entertain them, the children soon decided to follow.

They knew a shortcut to the church: a stone bridge, arching over the nearby rapid waterfall, that back then would have had a different name. They started to cross it but found the heights and surging water below dizzying. In a tragic turn of events, neither boy made it across the bridge, and both fell to their deaths.

Though both parents were grief-stricken, the mother veered towards insanity. Some versions of the tale end with her demanding the bridge be torn down. Others say she turned to witchcraft, placing a rune on the bridge that made any who crossed it plummet to their deaths just like her beloved sons.

If the latter version is true, her spell was broken when an earthquake shattered the passage.

While Iceland's tales of magic were, of course, exaggerated as they were passed down in oral tradition, it is very possible that this story is true; Barnafoss would kill whoever fell into it in all likelihood, and many Icelanders scratched runes to spread curses to their neighbours and rivals.

It is, of course, equally possible that, like many Icelandic tales, it was simply created as a way to ensure that young children respected their parents and feared the country's unpredictable nature.

Pharmacy	Apótek Vesturlands,	Digranesgötu 6, 310 Borgarnes (next to Bónus). Open 10-18 weekdays, 10-14 Saturdays and 12-14 on Sundays. www.apvest.is
	Lyfja Hyrnutorgi	Borgarbraut 58, 310 Borgarnes (next to Nettó) Open 10-18 weekdays and 10-14 Saturdays. www.lyfja.is
Restaurants & cafés nearby unique to our region	Blómasetrið – Kaffi Kyrrð Kaffi Kyrrð – The Coffee Shop – Blómasetrið (blomasetrid.is)	Bohemian café and fantastic experience. Skúlagata 13 310 Borgarnes Open every day from 9 to 19:00.
	Landnámssetur – The Settlement Center	Fantastic vegetarian lunch buffet. Brákarbraut 13 - 15, 310 Borgarnes Tel: +354 437 1600 https://www.landnam.is/eng/ Open all year: rom 10am - 9pm
Souvenirs and local shopping	Ullarselið - Wool Centre West Iceland	Ullarselið is a store set up by individuals interested in the utilisation of wool and other natural Icelandic material. The new and old ways of handling this material are used, especially techniques of processing wool by hand. The shop selection places emphasis on a variety of hand-made items, e.g., articles which have been combed, spun, knitted, matted, woven, and check-woven. Local shopping and souvenirs
	Ljómalind Sveitamarkaður í Borgarnesi og á netinu (ljomalind.is)	Local Farmers market - handcrafts and local produce. Local shopping and souvenirs. Ljómalind - farmers market Brúartorg 4 310 Borgarnes
Swimming pools	Íþróttamiðstöð Borgarness	The local swimming pool is really nice with water slides, a kiddy pool and an inside pool, and it has a gym as well.

	Borgarnes swimming pool West Iceland	
	Hreppslaug Swimming pool West Iceland	<p>The Hreppslaug Swimming Pool, built-in 1928, is run by the non-profit youth organization "Íslendingur". Hreppslaug is preserved as a cultural heritage. Water from hot springs close by is led directly into the hot tubs and swimming pool.</p> <p>Hreppslaug is less than 20 minutes' drive away from our home, but it is open during the summer months only.</p>
	Krauma Geothermal - Luxury and Relaxation in Iceland's Natural Hot Springs	<p>Krauma is a fairly new, exciting and fancy spa about 45 minutes away from our home.</p> <p>Deildartunga 3 320 Reykholt í Borgarfirði</p> <p>Open every day from 11:00-21:00</p>
Tourist Information	https://www.west.is/	Located within Ljómalind local market, also online where you can see what is nice nearby https://www.west.is/