

**Höfn in Hornafjörður** is located in the south-east of Iceland. It is in fact a geographically large municipality situated along the coast, on front of the southern part of Europe's largest glacier, Vatnajökull. In spite of substantial territory, the population is only about 2400. Höfn is the largest part of the municipality with around 2000 inhabitants. The economic activities revolve around fish and fish processing. One of the town's main product is the lobster. The region's main itineraries are the national park Skaftafell, Jökulsárlón, Vatnajökull and Lónsöræfi.



From Höfn in Hornafjörður

**Skaftafell** is a national park situated between Höfn and another small town called Kirkjubæjarklaustur. It was founded in 1967. Today the park measures about 1700 km<sup>2</sup> making it the second largest national park in Iceland. In the national park of Skaftafell you can find a glaciertounge called Skaftafellsjökull which is an outlet of Vatnajökull ice cap. The landscape is very similar to the Alps.

Skaftafell is renowned in Iceland for its agreeable climate and the sunny days in summer which is uncommon in the south of Iceland. In Skaftafell there is a natural birch wood called Bæjarstaðarskógur and in the national park you can find many species of birds and some arctic foxes as well.

In the Middle Ages there were some large farms in this area, but they were abandoned after two [volcanic eruptions](#) and the ensuing glacier runs. The two surviving farms now mostly make a living from tourism.



The Waterfall Svartifoss

**Jökulsárlón** is the largest and best-known glacier lagoon in Iceland. It is situated between Skaftafell and Höfn. The lagoon started to appear in 1934-1935 the lake grew from 7.9 km<sup>2</sup> in 1975 to at least 18 km<sup>2</sup> today because of heavy melting of the Icelandic glaciers.

Jökulsárlón is the deepest lake in Iceland, approaching the depth of 200m.

Jökulsárlón is separated from the sea by a short distance, and some say that it actually isn't a lagoon or a lake but a fjord because it is known that it reaches under the glacier and might be one of the deepest fjords in Iceland, and the ocean may eventually transform the lagoon to an inlet of the sea so maybe one day it will be a fjord like a said before. But the main road passes over the narrow isthmus between the lagoon and the sea so there are plans not to let the ocean reach the lagoon.

The lagoon is not far from the 'ring road' and buses that travel between Reykjavík and Höfn usually stop there over the summer time. The lake is filled with icebergs which are calving from Breiðarmerkurjökull glacier. At shore people must watch out for the skuas, which have their nests on the ground around the lake and they can become aggressive. Near Jökulsárlón we have two other glacier lagoons, Fjallsárlón and Breiðárlón.





The glacier lagoon Jökulsárlón

**Lónsöræfi** is a wilderness area in south-east Iceland. The region is characterized by its varied geological formations. These mostly date from a period 5-7 million years ago. The eastern tongues of Vatnajökull also impose themselves on the area. Lónsöræfi, while less known and less accessible than areas such as Skaftafell and Jökulsárlón, is never the less popular with hikers. A transport service from Stafafell farm into the reserve via all-terrain bus is available. The nearest settlements of any kind are Höfn and Djúpivogur.



From Lónsöræfi