

NATIONAL PARK · ICELAND · SKAFTAFELL

Vatnajökull

at a glance

Iceland's largest national park: icebergs in the lagoon, basalt columns at Svartifoss and ice caves that form anew every winter.

50%

SECOND AREA ON THE SAME DAY
off

Photo: Eric Kilby (CC BY-SA 2.0)

BEFORE YOU GO



Founded on 7 June 2008

When it was founded, Vatnajökull National Park was the largest protected area in Iceland according to the park; today it covers about 15 ...



World Heritage since 2019

UNESCO inscribed the park on 5 July 2019 as "Dynamic Nature of Fire and Ice".



Skaftafell on the Ring Road

Skaftafell lies on Ring Road 1, 70 km (43 mi) east of Kirkjubæjarklaustur and 130 km (81 mi) west of Höfn.



Boat tours May to October

According to the operator, boats on Jökulsárlón usually run from early May to October, depending on weather and ice.



Glaciers with an experienced guide

In front of and on glaciers the park advises caution, suitable safety gear and a guide with glacier experience.



Ice caves only with contracted operators

By law, anyone offering ice cave or glacier tours needs a contract with the park.



Fees and opening hours, up to date

Fees and times change. The park page lists them with source and date:
nationalparksatlas.com/en/iceland/vatnajokull



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Skaftafellsstofa visitor centre | 7 Breiðarlón |
| 2 Gljúfrastofa at Ásbyrgi | 8 Fjallsárlón |
| 3 Jökulsárlón, main car park | 9 Breiðamerkurjökull |
| 4 Jökulsárlón | 10 Svartifoss |
| 5 Eystri-Fellsfjara ("Diamond Beach") | 11 Hundafoss |
| 6 Vestri-Fellsfjara | 12 Magnúsarfoss |

Green: entrances. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors (ODbL).



JÖKULSÁRLÓN



SKAFTAFELL AND SVARTIFOSS



ICE CAVES IN
BREIÐAMERKURJÖKULL

THINGS TO DO

To Svartifoss: 2 hours

Loop trail S2 from Skaftafellsstofa is 5.8 km (3.6 mi) long with 250 m (820 ft) of ascent, past Hundafoss and ...

The lagoon on foot: trail B1

From the main car park up the moraine hill Helguhóll and back along the lagoon: 1.2 km (0.7 mi), about 20 ...

Askja in the highlands

In summer rangers are stationed at Drekagil and Herðubreiðarlindir and lead walks at Askja daily in high ...

Glacial floods shape the land

When a volcano erupts under the ice, glacial floods (jökulhlaup) follow.

[More on the park page](#)

Glacier trail S1

4.1 km (2.5 mi) loop, 1 to 1.5 hours, 80 m (262 ft) of ascent: from the visitor centre to the front of ...

Diamond Beach

At Fellsfjara chunks of ice from the lagoon wash up on the black sand.

Ten central volcanoes

Ten central volcanoes lie under and around Vatnajökull, eight of them beneath the ice; two are among the most ...

A lagoon since the 1930s

Jökulsárlón formed as Breiðamerkurjökull retreated.

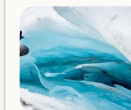
TOURS AND GETTING THERE • AD



DAY TRIP FROM REYKJAVÍK
• 14 HOURS • WITH BOAT
RIDE

From Reykjavík:
Jökulsárlón by amphibian
boat and Diamond Beach
in a day

ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



GLACIER HIKE FROM
SKAFTAFELL • 5.5–6
HOURS

Skaftafell: small-group
glacier hike to the
Falljökull icefall

ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



ICE CAVE + GLACIER HIKE
• 4 HOURS

Skaftafell: blue ice cave
and glacier hike on
Falljökull

ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



KAYAK ON JÖKULSÁRLÓN •
1.5 HOURS

Kayaking among the
icebergs of Jökulsárlón

ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



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