

# SEVEN **HIGHLIGHTS**

A two-lane road connects Gásadalur in the northwest to the subsea tunnel in the east. Along the way, you'll pass by all of the islands' populated towns and villages, as well as the largest lake in the Faroe Islands.

The relatively flat road and short distances make Vágar an ideal island to explore on bicycle. Visit cafés, shops, and museums, and be inspired by the islands' fascinating culture and history. An extensive network of old cairn paths connects the unpopulated northern part of the island to several starting/ endpoints, ideal for longer hiking trips.

We have picked seven highlights in the region that showcase what makes Vágar and Mykines unique and worth a visit.

**MYKINES** - The bird paradise at

the edge of the world

It is probably not a coincidence that the most renowned Faroese painter, Sámal Joensen-Mikines, was from Mykines. The Faroe Islands' westernmost island features stunning natural beauty with unique, geological features. The variety of birds is wide and includes the large northern gannets and countless puffins. Despite limited access to transportation,

The island has a protected status because of its significant number of nesting birds. Visitors must respect the ecosystem by staying on pathways, allowing the island to preserve its significant natural and cultural qualities.

visitors from near and far travel to

Mykines.

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# GÁSADALUR

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- The last village to receive access by vehicle

In 2006, a mountain tunnel was built, connecting Gásadalur (Faroese for "goose valley") to the rest of the country. The previously isolated village became easily accessible to inhabitants and visitors.

The village's main attraction is the wellknown viewpoint of Múlafossur waterfall, which falls over 30 metres into the North Atlantic Ocean. The view is always spectacular, but more so during a clear sunset evening or when violent storms bend the waterfall in all directions.



### DRANGARNIR

- Weather-beaten giants

Sea stacks are dotted across the most exposed coastlines in the Faroes. Rising from the ocean, these basalt towers are shaped by crashing waves and occasionally crumble and fall under pressure.

Stóri Drangur (large sea stack) and Lítli Drangur (small sea stack) still stand tall. To truly appreciate their magnificent presence, we recommend experiencing them in person on a boat trip or guided hike from Sørvágur.

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- Stay on designated paths at all times It is customary to always keep your voice down when travelling in nature Always bring your rubbish with you Minimise disturbing sheep, wildlife, and nature by walking on designated paths ▶ Keep up the tradition. Gather litter and loose wool on your journey
- don't get lost





#### **RESPECT NATURE AND LOCALS**

You will see signs with guidelines like these while travelling in the Faroe Islands.













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Visit Faroe Islands



#### THE WAR MUSEUM

- The years that changed the island

The Faroese War Museum is in the SORbuilding (Sector Operation Room) and was built in 1942-43 as part of an early warning system for the Allies during World War II. The settings and objects on display come together to tell exciting tales of recent Faroese history.

During World War II, the British army occupied the islands, and most personnel were stationed on Vágar island. Infrastructure remains (abandoned and still in use) tell the story of the scope of the occupation. This chapter of history has also had lasting effects on politics and national identity.



# **SLÆTTANES**

- Trails to an abandoned village

Slættanes was inhabited in 1835. During

roads and electricity drove settlers away;

the last left in 1965. Some houses have

been preserved and are used as holiday

descendants. Slættanes is a perfect time

Several paths lead to Slættanes, making

it an excellent destination for longer

hikes in the unpopulated and remote

parts of northern Vágar.

pocket of pre-modern Faroese society.

homes for former residents and their

the 1950s, more than one hundred

people lived in the village. A lack of

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## **TRÆLANÍPA** - The lake above the ocean

Trælanípa is the name of the cliff on the southern tip of the island. The view from the cliff towards the calm lake, approximately 40 metres above the not-so-calm Atlantic Ocean, is often described as an optical illusion. The lake cascades into the ocean by way of a waterfall called Bøsdalafossur.

The area is home to abundant birdlife and is used as grazing ground for sheep. To protect the natural and cultural landscapes, visitors must stay on the designated hiking paths, starting in Miðvágur.



### **CHURCH OF SANDAVÁGUR**

- Cosy and majestic

The church in Sandavágur village is considered one of the most beautiful in the Faroe Islands. Completed in 1917, it is decorated with a bright-red roof and white corrugated iron boarding. This deviates from the more common timber or concrete facades of other churches in the country.

Next to the church is a statue that pays homage to the well-known, local legend about the "Shepherd from Sondum". Inside the church is an ancient runestone found in the area the same year the church was consecrated.

## **GUIDELINES**

Following these simple yet essential guidelines will give you an enjoyable and unforgettable journey in the Faroe Islands

- Never build or take down ancient cairns - they function as landmarks so you
- Camping is only permitted at designated campsites

- ▶ Check weather forecasts to see if hiking is advisable
- ▶ Equip yourself for all types of weather
- ▶ Beware! It can be cold in the mountain
- Refrain from walking too close to cliffs - no picture is worth dying for
- ► Always hike with others. It's recommended to hike with a local quide
- ▶ Notify someone where you plan to hike. It is advisable to leave your 'safe travel' leaflet
- ▶ Keep informed about seasonal farming and hunting activities

#### DRIVING

All major highways are paved. Many roads and tunnels leading to villages can be very narrow, so please choose a safe speed according to the conditions.

On the map you can see which roads are one-lane roads. To keep traffic flowing, these roads have lay-bys (widened sections formed to one side as to leave the road free for others to pass).

These lay-bys are NOT to be used for parking.

#### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Public transport around the island is efficient and affordable. If you have the time to travel according to the pace of the timetables, you won't need to rent a car.

> Timetable for the buses can be found here:



# VÁGAR AND MYKINES

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ykines are famous for many of the most apes of the Faroe Islands, but there are still and untold stories to be uncovered in the region

THE WEST

