



**Fjallabyggð**



*Welcome to*  
**SIGLUFJÖRÐUR  
& ÓLAFSEJÖRÐUR**

*A worthy destination*

**SVEITARFÉLAGIÐ  
MUNICIPALITY**

Fjallabyggð municipality came into being as an administrative unit when Ólafsfjörður community and Siglufjörður municipality were united in 2006. The population of Fjallabyggð is 2,000 plus. With the construction of the Héðinsfjörður tunnel, which links the two regional centres, the Tröllaskagi peninsula is an ideal travel destination that has a lot to offer. The distance between Ólafsfjörður and Siglufjörður is only 15 km. The population centres of Fjallabyggð municipality maintain a flourishing cultural activity and these places are known for their dynamic and vibrant extracurricular activities. There are interesting galleries and artist studios in Fjallabyggð that you can visit. Every summer there is a host of different kinds of performances and events taking place, including music, poetry, history, creative projects, the traditional Herring Festival and sports to name a few. There are many interesting sights and activities for tourists and for those who are interested in outdoor activities in Fjallabyggð. During the winter Fjallabyggð is an excellent place for skiing and a dream-come-true for those who like the outdoors. You can try out slalom skiing, cross-country skiing, ice skating, or drive around on a snowmobile or jig fishing in Lake Ólafsfjardarvatn.

**MUSIC & FESTIVALS**

There are numerous festivals held in Fjallabyggð each summer. One of them is The Fisherman's Day festival at the end of May/beginning of June. The Blue North Music Festival is held at the end of June in Ólafsfjörður, and the first weekend in July the Folk Music Festival is held in Siglufjörður. "Reitir", is an international cooperative project by creative people performed by the Althýduhús (Folk House) in Siglufjörður in the beginning of July. The Herring Festival (Sildaraevintýrid) is held in Siglufjörður during the Bank Holiday Weekend, which is the first weekend in August and is the most travelled weekend in Iceland and later in the month there is the Music Festival Berjadagar (Berry picking Days) in Ólafsfjörður which is a traditional music festival. In September and October the poetry festival "Haustglaedur", or Indian Summer is held by the Poetry Centre of Iceland and the youth association Glói.



**SWIMMING - SPORTS**

There are two sport-centres in Fjallabyggð. Ólafsfjörður town has a 25 metre outdoor swimming pool, 2 hot tubs, a swimming pool slide, a wade pool with mushroom waterfalls, a sitz bath and a gym. Siglufjörður town has a 25 metre indoor swimming pool, a sauna and a hot tub (outdoor) as well as a gym.

There are two 9-hole Golf Courses in Fjallabyggð. One in Siglufjörður and the other in Ólafsfjörður. Ólafsfjörður fiorth is enjoying an ever increasing popularity among those interested in in sea-surfing and sea-swimming, which the area is very well suited for.

There are two ski areas in Fjallabyggð, the Skardsdalur ski area in Siglufjörður and the Tindaöxl ski area in Ólafsfjörður. The ski area in Skardsdalur can easily be considered one of the country's best ski areas and the ski-hills in Ólafsfjörður is one of the best slalom ski-trails. In Ólafsfjörður there is a cross-country ski trail that has lights along the trail and access is also available to skiers during the summer-season. Mountain skiing is becoming ever more popular leisure sport and better conditions for this sport than in The Fjallabyggð are or in Tröllaskagi can hardly be found.



One of the things that characterize Fjallabyggð is the voluminous bird life year-round. Lake Ólafsfjardarvatn is listed in the Nature Conservation Register because of its peculiarity as a nature wonder. There is freshwater floating on top of salt water and this actually functions as a hothouse glass cover on top of the lower water layers. On account of the physical properties of the lake many distinct species of fish are caught there. It is popular to walk or bike around the lake which is a distance of around 13 km.

The main attraction is fishing by jigging lines or angling in Ólafsfjörður Lake and Ólafsfjörður River and the lively birdlife at „Leirurnar“ in Siglufjörður and the many hiking trails in mountains and valleys. What makes the attraction for the tourists stronger is the nearly untouched and peaceful nature of Héðinsfjörður. In Iceland - different locations and nature sites are known under a myriad of placenames and as an example there are registered around 1300 placenames and nature sites in Héðinsfjörður and Siglufjörður.

**THE MIDNIGHT SUN & THE NORTHERN LIGHTS**

As the most northern populated part of Iceland. Fjallabyggð is the perfect location to enjoy the midnight sun during the summer and to see the northern lights in the winter. There is no better place to see the magnificent northern lights than here in Héðinsfjörður where the air is clean and there is no light pollution to interfere with the magnificent view of the northern lights. When the weather conditions are right you can see the northern lights and the stars during bright winter nights. This provides a unique opportunity for photographers to take photos of one of the wonders of the world which is the northern lights.



## MUSEUMS, CENTRES AND STUDIOS

### DIVERSE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT – HIKING TRAILS AND MOUNTAIN CLIMBING

Fjallabyggd is an area of spectacular natural beauty where the beauty of the mountains and the fjords is awe inspiring and where the opportunities for outdoors activities and recreation are almost inexhaustible. Travellers who visit Fjallabyggd will not be disappointed. The closeness to nature is always within reach, whether you want to go on a hike, play golf, try ocean swimming, go skiing, surfing or angling in the lakes, rivers or the ocean.

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There are many interesting trails in Fjallabyggd that have been demarcated and plotted in recent years. These trails are of different length and are variably demanding so that everyone should be able to find something to his or her liking. Maps and descriptions of these trails and hiking routes are to be found on Fjallabyggd's website.



The Herring Era Museum is one of the largest marine memorabilia and industrial history museums in Iceland. Three different buildings introduce us to the historic herring fishing of earlier decades as well as the processing of the herring or the "silver of the ocean". The Róaldsbrakki house is a Norwegian herring processing house from 1907. Every Saturday in July there is a salting show where the salt-curing of herring is performed which is included in the entrance ticket to the museums. The Grána-build- ing contains a museum of the history of the fish rendering industry that used to called the first large scale industry in Iceland. The boat house contains boats, large and small that are moored at the piers. The Herring Era Museum was the winner of the Icelandic Museum Award 2000 when this award was granted for the first time and the museum was also the winner of the European Museum Award 2004, and of the Micheletti Award when the museum was elected as the best new innovative museum in the world of contemporary history, industry and science in Europe for that year. See further [www.sild.is](http://www.sild.is)



The Folk Music Centre of the Rev. Bjarni Thorsteinsson was opened in the summer of 2006. The Folk Music Centre is located in a building called the "Maddömu-húsið" or the Madam House, where the rev. Bjarni Thorsteinsson (1861-1938), composer and collector of folk music, lived at the end of the 19th century. The role of the Folk Museum Centre is the preservation and publicizing of Icelandic folk music and folk dances by recordings, exhibitions, performances and the annual folk music festival in Siglufjörður. The Rev. Bjarni Thorsteinsson's career as a collector of folk music is recounted for the audience attending the museum and an account is given of who his sources were and of those who assisted him in the collection from various places in Iceland. See further at [www.folkmusik.is](http://www.folkmusik.is)



The Icelandic Poetry Centre has a library containing a large number of poetry books and other books related to poetry and poesy. See further at <http://ljodasetur.123.is>



The Art Museum of Fjallabyggd Municipality The museum houes around 130 paintings and sculptures by artists like Kjarval, Erró, Thorvaldur Skúlason, Nína Tryggvadóttir and Alfred Flóki and artworks by some foreign artists as weel.the best known of them is Salvador Dali. For further info see [www.listasafn.fjallabyggd.is](http://www.listasafn.fjallabyggd.is)



The Ólafsfjörður Museum of Natural History is primarily a bird collection and includes more than 100 species of birds. The Museum possesses most of the bird species to be found in Iceland, but there is also a collection of birds' eggs, a small plant collection, foxes in their dens, a billy goat, crabs, rare fishes from Lake Ólafsfjardarvatn, a polar bear that was shot and killed in the Grimsey Island Strait and many other items.



THE ICELANDIC POETRY CENTRE The Centre provides an opportunity for the visitors to get acquainted with the currents and movements in Icelandic poetry from the settlement era to the present and visitors will also be able to study noteworthy books and objects and various other items connected with Icelandic poetry. The Centre

### CAMPING SITE ÓLAFSEJÖRDUR

The Camping Site in Ólafsfjörður is by the Sports Centre. There you will find a small pond with a lot of bird lie and small sand lance swimming around which the younger children are very interested in catching.

### CAMPING SITE SIGLUFJÖRDUR

The camping site at Siglufjörður is located in the town centre at the square and the marina. All services, recreational facilities and museums are in 5 -10 minutes walking distance. South of the snow avalanche barrier ("Stóri boli" or Big Bull) a special area is to be found for those who want peace and quiet and from there the golf course, the horse stables and the bird nesting grounds are only a short distance away. There is an approximately 10 minutes' walk to the downtown area where there is a building with access to showers and washing machines for tourists and others.

The Information Centre in Siglufjörður is operated in conjunction with the opening hours of the Public Library which is situated in the town hall. In Ólafsfjörður the Information Centre is located in the café "Kaffi Klara" right in the center of the town.



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www.fjallabyggd.is · info@fjallabyggd.is · Phone: 354-464 9100  
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