

WELCOME



go whale watching!

TO THE EXCITING WORLD OF GENTLE GIANTS – HÚSAVÍK ICELAND



Here's what makes the difference when put to the test: Owners, captains and management with decades of experience on the North Atlantic seas and ancestral roots in the history of Húsavík and Skjálfandi Bay. Real roots through the centuries - not to be found elsewhere.

Tours & Excursions

GG1: Whale Watching

GG2: Fishing

GG3: Bird Watching

GG4: Whales & Horses

SALES MANUAL 2010



Whale watching – the original stuff



Tailor made & Hiking tours can even be arranged upon request



Whales & horses – 2 in one



Birdwatching – Flatey Island – Puffins and more



Private Tours & Boat Charters make your own trip with us



Fishing – catch your own meal 100% catching guarantee

Bookings & Info

Tel. +354 464 1500

www.gentlegiants.is

info@gentlegiants.is

MEMBER OF ICEWHALE THE ICELANDIC WHALE WATCHING ASSOCIATION

A Gentle Giant Family!

Our Gentle giant family is a close-knit group. At sea, we rely on each other. Onshore we play, but we also chip in for our local community. The locals are only a few thousand years of evolution away from our whale friends after all! So one thing we do is support the Völsungur team, easily the best soccer team in the arctic and yet another reason for Húsavík to be proud.



Three of the owners from our 5th generation in the bay: Sædís Helga (14), Aþena Lind (12) & Sylvia Dís (7) shown here testing out the Zodiac.

When it comes to achieving and making goals . . . We are there!

Gentle Giants is a proud sponsor and supporter of the local football-team Völsungur . . .



Our Company
Gentle Giants Whale Watching Ltd.
Proudly supports UNICEF



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THE TRULY ORIGINAL AND EXPERIENCED FAMILY COMPANY

Gentle Giants Whale Watching

In 2001 eleven individuals from Húsavík with a vast experience of running companies in various fields of activity and business, decided to establish a new company in the tourist and travelling industry in Húsavík. An old wooden oak-boat, which had originally been built as a fishing- and whale hunting boat, was renewed and restored for the purpose of sailing with visitors around the Skjálfandi Bay, searching for whales, not for hunting but watching. A lot of effort was put into the company and it became a great success among our visitors. Ever since then, Gentle Giants has had a great staff to rely on and its amount of customers has been rapidly increasing, year by year.



These have included people who started working in the tourist-industry in Húsavík in 1982, taking travellers out to Skjálfandi Bay for organised nature sightseeing-trips, to watch whales and birds and for fishing. This people have a real ancestral connection to the bay and all its surroundings.

Today, Stefán Guðmundsson and his family are the owners of the company. Stefán is also the managing director, marketing manager and occasionally a captain. Several more boats have also been added to the companies fleet.

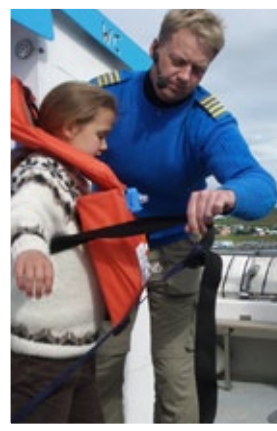
Profile of Stefán Guðmundsson:

Born in Húsavík, 1967. Hometown: Húsavík and Flatey on Skjálfandi bay. Stefán's ancestors grew up in Húsavík, Flatey, Flateyjardalur and Náttfara- vík on Skjálfandi bay. He comes from a long line of fishermen who originally went to sea in rowing boats and then later motorboats.

Education: Elementary school leaving certificate Húsavík, 1 year at college in Húsavík, 1 year as an exchange student in the USA. 2 years at the Navigation College in the Westman Islands, Master of fishing vessels – unlimited, with honours.

One year at Navigational College Reykjavík, Chief Mate of Coast Guard vessels - unlimited, Master of Merchant & Passenger vessels – unlimited on coastal voyages. Various courses in Crowd & Crisis Management, Search and Rescue, STCW & Medical at sea. Three years at the Technical College in Reykjavík, graduate in industrial management in the fisheries sector, specialising in marketing and management.

Experience: Started going to sea with his father and grandfather at the age of 5, for fishing. Has over 35 years of experience, including being Captain of fishing vessels. Has sailed and operated the past 20 years around the coast of Iceland throughout the year, dealing with rough North-Atlantic winter storms. Active board member and participant in professional fishing business. Captain and guide on passenger vessels on Skjálfandi bay from 1982.



The company has a strict environmental policy. Always emphasising on taking care of the environment in all stages, respecting it for present time and future, like our ancestors did in the past and living in peace and perfect harmony with nature. Gentle Giants Whale Watching is always focusing

on the relaxing, adventurous quality of life that can be found in our wild nature, Iceland's natural beauty, and our family's ancestral roots in the history and environment around Húsavík, Skjálfandi Bay, and Flatey Island.

Owners and staff of Gentle Giants proudly offer its Truly Original Quality - Wild Business and Natural Happiness. A unique and more personal experience.

On behalf of the company – GG Staff



SIGLINGASTOFNUN
GG boats and staff are fully licensed by the Icelandic Maritime Administration



GG staff is trained in Safety & Survival by The Maritime Safety and Survival Training Centre of Iceland.



Our passengers are fully insured by VÍS Insurance Ltd.



Gentle Giants Whale watching is a member of The International Blue Flag eco-label.



Gentle Giants Whale watching is a member of SAF - The Icelandic Travel Industry Association.



ice whale
THE ICELANDIC WHALE WATCHING ASSOCIATION



Authorised by Icelandic Tourist Board



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Tours and Excursions 2010



97-99%
sightings the
past years

GG1 • WHALE WATCHING

Experience the traditional tour from Húsavík. Our birthplace is often recognised by visitors as the Whale Watching Capital of Europe. It is a unique adventure at sea – watching the wonders of nature in the beautiful surroundings of Skjálfandi Bay, sheltered with the stunning mountains of Vík; a place where our roots lie, where our ancestors used to live in peace and joy for centuries, living in total harmony with the unpredictable and untamed nature of the North-Atlantic.

We have added several NEW departures – for your convenience.

TIMETABLE 2010

May 1st. - May 31st.	June 1st. - June 30th.	July 1st. - Aug 10th.	Aug 11th. - Aug 31st.	Sept 1st. - Sept 10th.	Sept 11th. - Sept 30th	Oct 1st. - Oct 31st. Sat. – Sun.
		08:45	08:45			
09:45	09:45	09:45	09:45	09:45	09:45	09:45
	12:00	12:00	12:00			
13:15	13:15	13:15	13:15	13:15		
		15:15	15:15			
	16:45	16:45	16:45			
	20:15	20:15				

Other tours, excursions and time schedules will be arranged upon your request in our Information & Ticket Office. Early booking is recommended. *We reserve the right to change time schedules should weather or other conditions change – for your safety and comfort.

RATES: Adults: EUR 47
Children 7-15: EUR 20
Children 0-7: FREE

SEASON: May 1st – Oct 31st Each tour will take approx. 3 hours.

Included: A specialised guide, light refreshments which consists of HOT chocolate and an Icelandic traditional twisted doughnut, called KLEINA – and WARM extra clothes if needed.



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Mr & Mrs Feel Good



We care about our passengers' feelings. That is why we offer them protective clothing on board – free of charge. Nice warm overalls in bright safety colours, specially designed for our excursions in a wide range of sizes. We

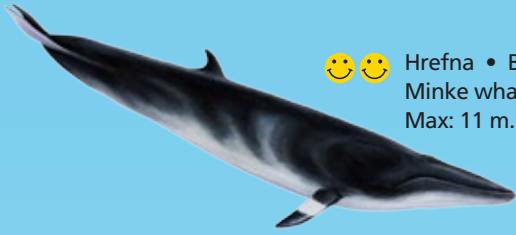
also offer every passenger on board our boats, in every trip, light refreshments: Complementary HOT chocolate and the traditional Icelandic twisted doughnut called KLEINA to keep you warm and nourished. We want our passengers to have a great experience and FEEL GOOD!!



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Whales of Skjálfandi Bay

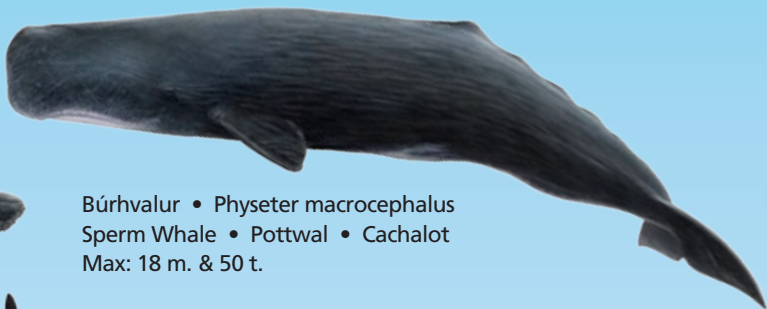


😊😊 Hrefna • *Balaenoptera acutorstrata*
Minke whale • Zwerqual • Petit rorqual
Max: 11 m. & 10 t.



😊 Steypireður • *Balaenoptera musculus*
Blue whale • Blauwal • Rorqual Bleu
Max: 33 m. & 190 t.

Hnúfubakur • *Megaptera novaeangeliae*
Humpback Whale • Buckelwal • Megaptère
Max: 17 m. & 48 t.



Búrhvalur • *Physeter macrocephalus*
Sperm Whale • Pottwal • Cachalot
Max: 18 m. & 50 t.



😊😊



😊 Háhyrningur • *Orcinus Orca*
Orca / Killer Whale • Schwertwal • Orque
Max: 10 m. & 9 t.



😊 Hnýðingur • *Lagenorhynchus albirostris*
White-beaked dolphin • Weißsnauzendelphin
• Lagènorhynque á bec blanc
Max: 3,1 m. & 350 kg.

😊 Grindhvalur • *Globicephala melas*
Pilot Whale • Grindwal • Globi cèpale noir
Max: 8 m. & 5 t.



😊 Sandreyður • *Balaenoptera borealis*
Sei Whale • Seiwal • Rorqual du Nord
Max: 19,5 m. & 26 t.

Langreyður • *Balaenoptera Physalus*
Fin Whale • Finnwal • Rorqual common
Max: 26 m. & 78 t.



Leifturhnyðingur • *Lagenorhynchus acutus*
Atlantic White-sided dolphin • Weißseitendelphin
• Lagènorhynque á flancs blancs
Max: 2,8 m. & 230 kg.

😊 Andarnefja • *Hyperoodon ampullatus*
Northern bottlenose Whale • Nördlicher
Entenwal • Hyperoodon boréal
Max: 9 m. & 7,5 t.



😊 Hnísa • *Phocoena*
Harbour porpoise • Schweinswal • Marsouin common
Max: 1,9 m. & 80 kg.



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😊 Most common Whales in Skjálfandi Bay

Tours and Excursions 2010



**100%
CATCH
GUARANTEE!**

GG2 • FISHING CATCH YOUR OWN MEAL

Experience the real feeling of catching your own meal out on Skjálfandi Bay's rich fishing-grounds. Distance to the fishing-grounds is very short and the captain will find fish for you to catch. At the end of the trip your catch, which will probably be cod or haddock, **can be filleted by the captain**, taken with you for your own cooking or, upon a special request, cooked afterwards in restaurants. Due to our experience as professional fishermen, and since we have historically strong roots around the bay from our ancestors, on this tour we provide you with a **100% CATCH GUARANTEE!** Yes we do, believe it or not. And your meal will also be as fresh as possible.

RATES: Adults: EUR 69

Children 0–12 years: 50% off

Each tour takes 2 – 3 hours.

Included: A specialised captain – fishing equipment /rods & light refreshments which consists of hot chocolate and the traditional Icelandic twisted doughnut, called "KLEINA."

SEASON: April 1st - Oct 31st Daily at 10:00 & 18:00

If other time schedules or arrangements are needed, contact us at our Information & Ticket Office.

* minimum number of 4 required.



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Tours and Excursions 2010



GG3 • FLATEY ISLAND

PUFFINS • BIRD WATCHING • WHALES

On your way to Flatey Island, experience the beautiful surroundings of Skjálfandi Bay. Flatey Island is a natural haven for birdlife and is extremely rich and diverse. It therefore attracts many people and tourists each year. The island offers more than 30 different species of birds during the breeding season.

We offer guided excursion in the beautiful nature of the island. The island is home to the Arctic Tern and the Puffins, which you may watch up close. This is an excellent and different experience. From there we head back to Húsavík and sail by the awesome mountains of Vík. We may even be able to do some whale watching on our way back if nature allows us! We are also happy to make adjustments to this tour to accommodate any special requests.

FLATEY ISLAND is situated in Skjálfandi Bay, only 14.7 nautical miles NW from Húsavík. The island is about

2.5 km long and 1.7 km wide. It is a low-lying island and its highest peak only rises about 22 metres above sea level! That's why it's called "Flat Island." Flatey Island was settled early in historic times and the number of inhabitants increased during the first decades of the 20th century. In 1942 the population reached its highest number, 120 people.

The inhabitants of Flatey Island mostly earned their living from fishing. The fishing grounds around the island are extremely good, and rich in species such as cod and lumpfish. The island is fertile and well vegetated, so



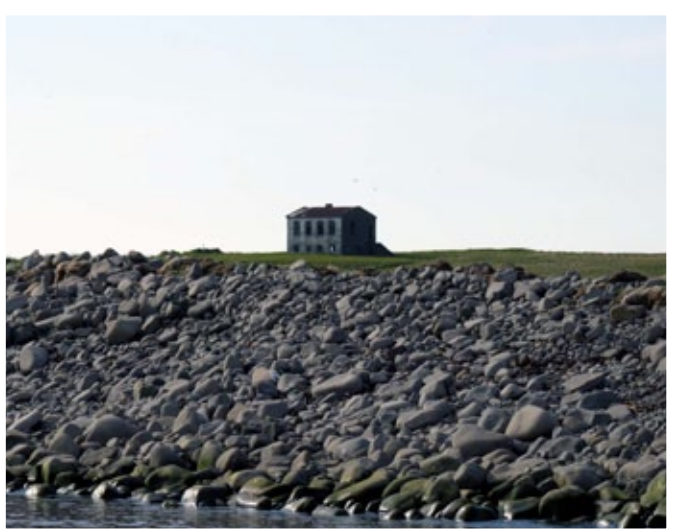
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the islanders also practised agriculture, mostly for their own needs, and each home kept a cow, a few sheep, hens etc. Several structures were built in Flatey Island while people lived there:

- A schoolhouse was built on the island in 1929.
- The first lighthouse was built in 1913 and rebuilt in 1963.
- A church was built on the island in early years, but was shut down in 1884. However, in 1960 a new church was consecrated.
- A radiotelegraph was put up on the island in 1931.

The community on the island was very active when the population was at its highest. However, it was hard for a small community like Flatey Island to compete with other communities which grew faster as electricity and hot water was brought to each home. People started leaving the island and moving to places like Húsavík, and in 1967 the last inhabitants left. It hasn't been permanently inhabited since. However, many people and tourists visit the island during the summertime. Most of the old homes are kept and maintained as summerhouses



RATES: Adults: EUR 125

Children 0–12 years : 50% off

Each tour takes 5 – 6 hours.

Included: A specialised guide, light refreshments which consists of hot chocolate and the traditional Icelandic twisted doughnut, called "KLEINA" – and WARM extra clothes if needed. Ask for tailor-made tours and arrangements in our Information & Ticket Office.

SEASON: June 1st - August 10th.

Trips made upon request.

Contact us for further information

* minimum number of 6 required.



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Tours and Excursions 2010



GG4 • WHALES & HORSES

Experience the combination of traditional Whale Watching and the Icelandic horse. Explore the countryside close to Húsavík on an Icelandic horse with the ultimate horse-people on your side. The riding trip begins in Saltvik, which is just four minutes by car from Húsavík harbour, and can be taken either before or after your whale watching tour.

RATES: Adults: EUR 98

Children 0-12 years: 50% off

Each tour will take approx. 3 hours on the boat and approx. 2 hours on the horse.

Included: A specialised guide, light refreshments which consists of hot chocolate and a traditional Icelandic twisted doughnut, called „KLEINA“ – and WARM extra clothes if needed.

SEASON: May 1st. – October 31st.

See our Whale Watching timetable for daily tours or contact us for further information.

Tailor made tours and other arrangements can be made by contacting our Information & Ticket Office.



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MEMBER OF ICEWHALE - THE ICELANDIC WHALE WATCHING ASSOCIATION

Gentle Giants Proud Fleet

BOAT CHARTER - 4 BOATS

Experience private & tailor made tours and private destinations – all by yourself in cooperation with our crew. Ideal for individuals, families and groups.

Give us an idea – any idea is a good one; we want to please you with our service & experience.

RATES FOR: 3 hours

1 m/v Sylvia

Built: 1976 in Akureyri
Tonnage: 30
Length: 17,5 m
Beam: 4,3 m
Capacity: 70 pax
EUR 2.205.

2 m/v Faldur

Built: 1978 in Westman-islands
Tonnage: 26
Length: 14,5 m
Beam: 4 m
Capacity: 45 pax
EUR 1.855.

3 m/v Athena

Built: 2000 in Hafnarfjörður
Tonnage: 8
Length: 9,5 m
Beam: 3 m
Capacity: 24 pax
EUR 922

4 m/v Axel - Zodiac

Model: 2007
Length: 4,5 m
Beam: 2 m
Capacity: 8 pax
EUR 175
*pr. hour

Specialised for sea angling & smaller groups in various activity

Only as a working boat nr. II - ideal for camera work, diving & coastal transport / beaches.

Note: Tailor made refreshments available at reasonable prices.



Be your own boss
**RENT
A BOAT**
with captain included



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Environmental Policy

Our environmental policy reflects the owners' long-time experience and commitment to all aspects of conservation, protecting the environment and treating nature with respect. This is our answer to the increasing demand from our customers and global organisations for companies like Gentle Giants Whale Watching who support and contribute to the eco-system and sustainable tourism – worldwide.

- GG is willing to fulfil every customer's needs, without threatening nature's present and future possibilities.
- GG only operates traditional Icelandic fishing boats which have been renovated for its current purpose. We make a special effort to protect and maintain vessels with cultural and historical importance.
- GG uses environmentally friendly products and eco-labels are preferably used for repair and maintenance of hulls and engines.
- GG uses recyclable products and the use of single use products is avoided as much as possible.
- GG puts a great emphasis on delivering all hazardous and toxic waste such as oil, paint and used batteries to assigned official collecting sites.
- GG notifies immediately the relevant authorities, about any accidents that might cause environmental damage from our boats or from others.
- GG staff is updated regularly about the environmental policy of the company to include all new aspects of protecting the environment.
- GG puts effort in energy efficiency, regarding the output and speed of our engines, in order to minimise pollution and disturbance in wildlife. Special precaution is taken near whales and breeding birds.
- GG always shows great caution when leaving and entering the harbour area.
- GG believes that principles in sustainability refer to 3 major factors; the environmental factor, the economical factor and social cultural aspects of tourism development. A suitable balance must be established between these factors in order to reach a long-term optimal use of nature's resources in the ecological process.
- GG informs passengers on the vessels of the high importance of protecting the environment in the area, its outstanding marine wildlife, stunning scenery and the air that we breathe... We are a proud member of the International eco-label Blue Flag.



On behalf of Gentle Giants Whale Watching
Stefán Guðmundsson – General Manager.

Húsavík – Our Hometown



Húsavík is a town in northern Iceland, located on the eastern shore of Skjálfandi Bay. It was first settled in 870 AD by a Swedish Viking, Gardar Svavarsson. According to the Book of Settlement, he is said to have circumnavigated Iceland, discovering it was an island. Gardar spent one winter in Húsavík before returning back to Sweden, leaving one of his men, Nattfari, behind. He stayed in Iceland with his slaves until he died and is therefore considered to be the first Nordic settler in Iceland. The name Húsavík is indeed one of Iceland's oldest local names.

Húsavík has always been a fishing village, like most of the towns on the coast of Iceland. The first sources of fishing and fish processing are from the late 19th century. Today 70% of the export income comes from the ocean. Agriculture and farming have also been important. Moreover, Iceland's first Co-op was established in Húsavík in 1882, serving the town and its surroundings. The inhabitants of Húsavík haven't only got a big heart, but a warm one too. In the region a lot of geothermal heat can be found and it has for a long time been utilised to grow vegetables and plants in greenhouses, as well as heating up houses. The utilisation of the geothermal heat offers a variety of opportunities and faces a bright future.

In recent years, yet another trade has grown in Húsavík – the tourist industry. It is the fastest growing sector of the economy. The biggest tourist attraction is whale watching and Húsavík has in fact become known as the whale watching capital of Europe. Thousands of tourists visit Húsavík every year in the hope of seeing the gentle giants of the ocean. In addition to whale watching tours the Whale Centre, established in 1997, provides various information about the life and habitat of whales around Iceland.

The church, built in 1907, is one of the most beautiful churches in Iceland. It is one of the main symbols of the town, located in the heart of the town. The Húsavík district and cultural museum and the Icelandic Palaeological Museum are also located in the town centre and perfectly worth a visit. Around the corner many of Iceland's greatest beauties can be seen – Myvatn, Dettifoss waterfall, Flatey Island, Asbyrgi among all the other wonders of the north.

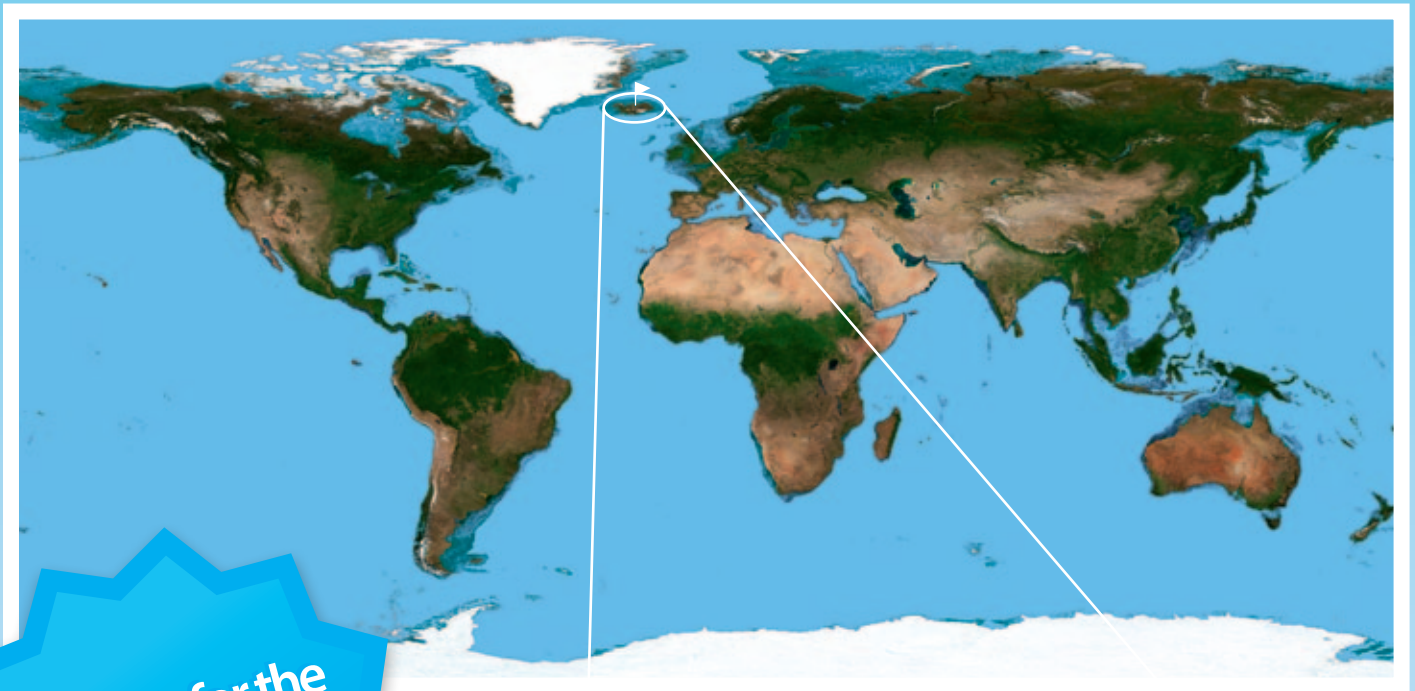
With a total population of 2.680, Húsavík is rich with culture and activities, as well as great facilities for sports. Major events in Húsavík are Mærudagar (Candy days) and Swedish days, local festivals held each year in July.



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Here we are – looking forward to seeing you!



Just look for the
**BIG BLUE
FLAGS**

See ya!

