

Bakkagerði, East Iceland, Iceland

A tiny fjord hamlet cradled by jagged rhyolite mountains, Bakkagerði draws expedition ships with its world-class puffin colony, elf folklore, and some of Iceland's most dramatic hiking.

Tender only (Zodiac/tender boat)

Typical call: 5-7 hrs

Icelandic Króna (ISK) / cards widely accepted

Icelandic (English spoken by most locals)

Best May–Aug for puffins

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender port — ships anchor offshore; Zodiacs/tenders to the small harbor quay

Best For: Puffin watching, hiking Stóruð & Víknaslóðir trails, elf folklore

Walk to center: Tenders land at Hafnarhólmi marina (puffin islet 5-min walk); village center is ~5 km / 3 mi away

Don't Miss: Hafnarhólmi puffin platforms and Álfaborg (Elf Rock) viewpoint

Getting around: Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Puffin Watching at Hafnarhólmi** — A wooden walkway leads to a small islet where thousands of Atlantic puffins nest May–August.
 - Stóruð — The Giant Boulders** — A dramatic hike to a glacial boulder field surrounded by vivid rhyolite peaks and a turquoise lake.
 - Víknaslóðir — Abandoned Fjord Trails** — Multi-stage hiking routes across once-inhabited fjords now returned to wilderness.
- Álfaborg Elf Rock & Village Walk** — Climb the easy trail up Álfaborg — a basalt rock said to house the Elf Queen — for panoramic views, then explore the village church featuring an...
 - RIB Boat Safari — Seabirds & Seals** — Zodiac or RIB tours around the fjord offer views of puffins from the water, plus chances to spot harbour seals, harlequin ducks, and white-tailed...

BEST WALKS

- Harbor to Hafnarhólmi Puffin Islet** Easy · ~20 min return · flat path — From the tender landing at the harbor, follow the path north along the waterfront to Hafnarhólmi.
- Village to Álfaborg (Elf Rock)** Easy · ~45 min return · gentle trail — Walk from the village center to Álfaborg, a prominent basalt rock formation.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		39°	31°	14d
Jun		52°	43°	13d
Aug		54°	46°	14d
Sep		51°	44°	18d
Oct		44°	37°	20d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:17AM–8:35PM · Aug 4:37AM–9:19PM · Sep 6:17AM–7:21PM · Oct 7:50AM–5:29PM

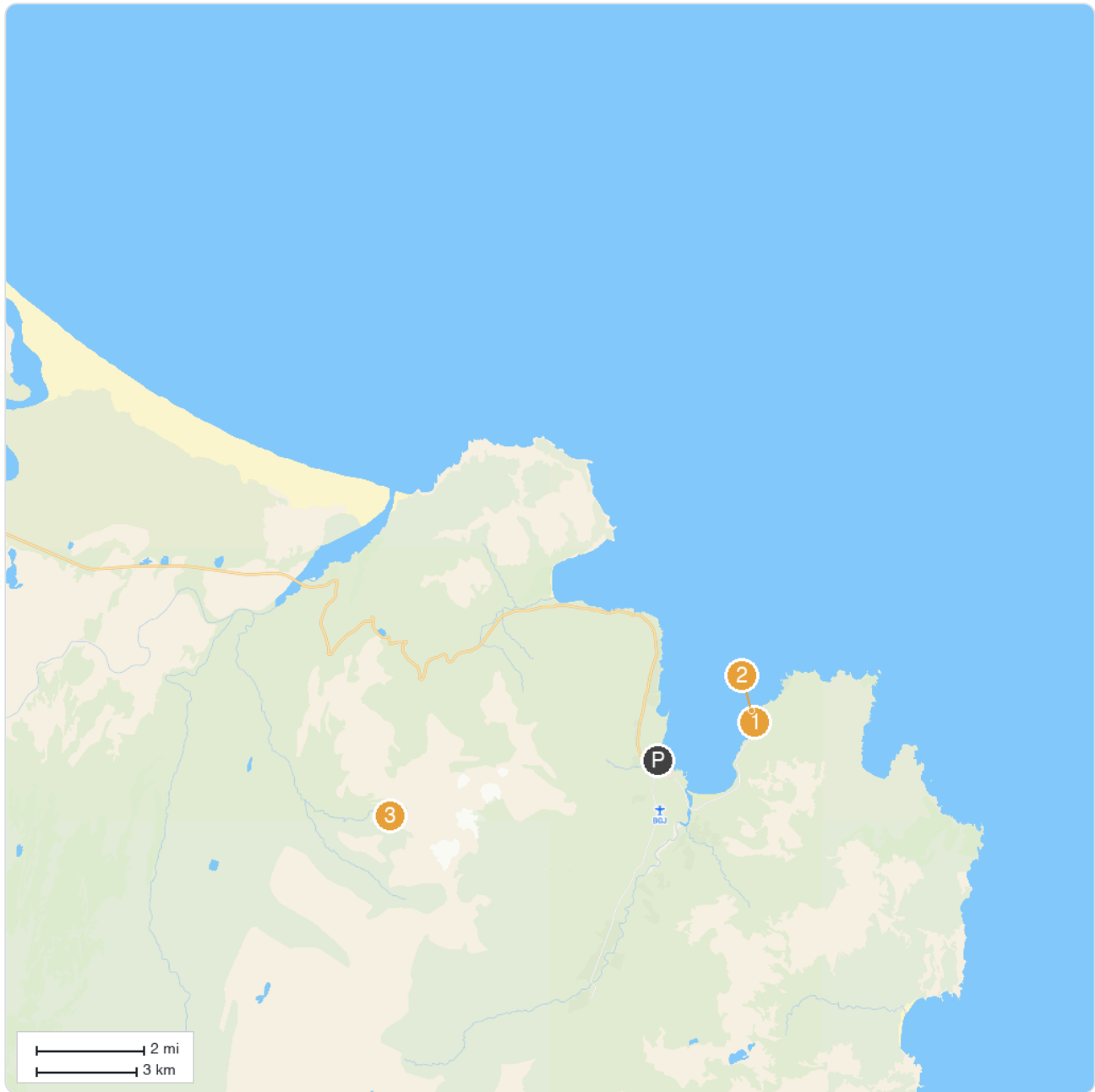
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Tender logistics first: Your ship briefs you on tender times — pay attention. Weather can cancel or delay tenders in Borgarfjörður Eystri with little notice.
- Puffin season matters: Best sightings are mid-May through mid-August. Outside this window, puffins may be gone or very scarce.
- Stóruð needs planning: The Giant Boulders hike is 5-6 hours and requires good footwear — sign up via ship excursions or pre-arrange a local guide. Don't attempt it alone without a map.
- Cards work, cash is scarce: Álfacafé accepts cards. There is no ATM in Bakkagerði — bring ISK or rely on card payment.
- Layer up: East Iceland weather is unpredictable year-round. Pack waterproof and windproof layers even in summer — conditions can change within hours.
- Very limited services: Bakkagerði has one café, one small guesthouse, and minimal shops. This is a remote expedition stop, not a resort port.

Bakkagerði, East Iceland, Iceland — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Puffin Adventures Guided boat tours to see puffins up close.

2 Hafnarhólmi A small island known for its large puffin colony.

3 Stóruurð A unique natural area with turquoise ponds and giant boulders.

P Cruise port / terminal