



Borgarfjörður eystri received its trade rights in 1895 and around the same time a hamlet started rising where the village of Bakkagerði now stands. In the beginning the houses were small turf buildings, so-called „þurrabúðir“, and at the „bottom“ of the village stands **Lindarbakki**, a beautiful little turf house and a fantastic example of what they looked like. Lindarbakki is a privately owned summer house and a favourite with tourists.

The artist **Jóhannes Sveinsson Kjarval** grew up in Geitavík in Borgarfjörður, his memorial stands above the road there. Kjarval was always very fond of the place and from there he gained inspiration for many of his famous landscapes. The one which is closest to the heart of the locals is without a doubt the altar piece in Bakkagerði Church, a large number of the tourists who come here stop by the church to look at this masterpiece.



There are great facilities for bird watching in Hafnarhólmi; two platforms and a shelter for bird enthusiasts, this is among the best places to view **puffins** and the black-legged kittiwake. The puffin arrives around the middle of April and disappears overnight around the middle of August.



Borgarfjörður does not have a good natural harbour, being short and wide, but a good harbour for small boats has been built at **Hafnarhólmi** on the east side of the fjord. Around 10-12 boats fish from there, the catch is processed at the local Kalli Sveins Fish Factory. In 2003, Borgarfjörður Harbour received the Blue Flag, an international certification of harbours which fulfil certain environmental conditions.



Borgarfjörður is known for its beautiful and rare rocks, picking them is forbidden unless with the landowner's permission. Álfacafé hosts one of the largest jasper stones ever found in Iceland, weighing 2250 kg.



The surrounding countryside is home to some sheep farms and a few horses. There is good grazing for sheep in Loðmundarfjörður and in the inlets south of the fjord, the farmers like to bring their sheep over there. Quite a lot of reindeer can be found in the area, but they're afraid of people and not always easily spotted.



West of Mt. Dyrfjöll is **Stóruð**, one of Iceland's most remarkable natural wonders. It's about two and a half hours hike from the road and it would be wise to set aside a whole day for it, since it is very easy to get carried away by the area's spectacular beauty. It is believed that Stóruð was formed by the ice age glacier scraping the cliffs and tuff boulders falling onto the ice which then transported them along the valley, a distance of up to seven km. There are five different marked hikes to Stóruð and most of them are good to go around the middle of July.

Stapavík is a small inlet south of Héraðsflói Bay. Just west of it is Krosshöfði (Cape Cross), which was the main trading post for the people in the area at the beginning of the 20th century. Stapavík had facilities for unloading goods from boats which were in use until the nineteen forties or until car transport started.



North of Borgarfjörður is Njarðvík. Today there are two farms there, and there is accommodation for tourists. Light-coloured rhyolite is very dominant in the mountains and Mt. Dyrfjöll's black cliff face (1136 m) towers at the bottom of the inlet. The road over Vatnsskarð (Lake Pass) to Njarðvík wasn't built until 1954. Before that, people used a hiking and horse path through Gönguskarð (Walking Pass) from Unaós. The most beautiful natural phenomena in Njarðvík is **Innra-Hvannagil Canyon**. There is a short and easy walk into the canyon and there you'll see diverse rock formations in the rhyolite and unique basalt dykes crisscross the rhyolite screes. At the rapids further upriver, the riverbed is very interesting looking.



There are ten inlets between Borgarfjörður and Loðmundarfjörður, most of which were lived in. They were all deserted around the middle of the last century, the last one was Húsavík in 1974. From north, they are: **Brúnavík**, Hvalvík, Kjólsvík, Svínavík, Breiðavík, Litlavík, Herjólfsvík, Húsavík, Outer-Álftavík and Inner-Álftavík. Glettingsnes Peninsula was also inhabited.

On Húsavík Moor you'll find **Mt. Hvítserkur**, one of the most amazing looking mountains in Iceland. It is made from ignimbrite and formed in a great eruption in an ancient caldera. The light ignimbrite is streaked with dark basalt dykes which form its unique appearance. You can drive up to the mountain in a 4WD car from July.



Loðmundarfjörður is a great nature paradise with much to see. This grassy fjord has been deserted since 1973 but at the outset of the 20th century it had 87 inhabitants on ten farms. There is a decent jeep road to the fjord although it doesn't open until July. It is an estimated one hour's drive from Borgarfjörður.

Borgarfjörður is known for stories of elves and spirits. A large rock is situated near the village, it is called **Álfaborg** (Elf Rock) and the fjord derives its name from it. This is the residence of Borghildur, queen of the Icelandic elves, many myths revolve around her, other inhabitants of the rock and their interactions with humans. There is a good path to the top of the rock and a beautiful view from there of the surrounding area.



Naddi was a monster who lived in **Njarðvík Screes**, an animal below the waist and human above. His home was in a cave and from there he came to kill travellers after dark. He was eventually cast into the ocean by a strong man in Borgarfjörður who later erected a cross in the screes to "get God's protection". The cross is still standing and was last renewed in 2015. It bears an inscription in Latin, which reads:

*Bow down and revere
this effigy of Christ,
you who pass by.
Anno MCCCVI (1306)*



The hiking area **Trails of the Deserted Inlets** (Víknaflóðir) is among the best planned hiking areas in the country with diverse, well-marked hikes and extensive service in the area for hikers. Borgarfjörður Tourism Committee has issued a hiking map available from all tourist agents in Borgarfjörður. Note that the cabins in Breiðuvík, Húsavík and Loðmundarfjörður are open from 20 June - 10 September but otherwise closed. The locals ask you to stick to marked trails and paths, thereby protecting the nature and increasing safety. The phone reception in the inlets is not great, so it is necessary to look at the weather forecast and tell people your plans. It is only allowed to stay overnight in the cabins or the campsites.



Bræðslan Music Festival is held in Borgarfjörður eystri every summer. The festival focuses on a friendly atmosphere, having fun and of course great music. The festival venue is a 40 years old fish factory which for this evening is turned into a wonder world of music. The festival was first held in 2005 and has since then been held annually on the last weekend of July. Only 800 tickets are sold for the concert each year, but an estimated 3000 people visit Borgarfjörður this weekend. Many off-venue gigs take place in the village in the week leading up to the festival, in addition to the main concert in the old fish factory. more info: www.braedslan.is



We hope you'll have a wonderful time in Borgarfjörður eystri and you are most welcome to come again.

More Info: www.borgarfjordureystri.is
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