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Saksun Tjørnuvík

Saksun is one of the most beautiful and distinct places in the Faroe Islands. The trip to the lovely neighbouring village of Tjørnuvík is an unforgettable experience

The route starts at the parking lot below Dúvugarðar, located on the north-easterly side of the great gorge in Saksun. Dúvugarðar is a several hundred years-old listed farmhouse, which now functions as a museum.

Walk about 50 metres and turn right when you have crossed the bridge at Skipá, and walk about 2-300 meters uphill through the infield along the river.

When you get into the outfield, climb the first hill - about 30 vertical metres, around the same height as the start of the waterfall. From here, you need to look diagonally upwards towards the northeast. On the hill in the horizon you see a cairn about one kilometre away. Use it as a landmark. During the first 200 metres, you walk in roughly the same height and then reach the path that leads up to the cairn.

Saksun is one of the most beautiful places in the Faroe Islands. The place is simply wonderful, with a beautiful lagoon surrounded by sand in the fjord. The tall mountains give the area an air of mystery, but not least unimaginable beauty. The fjord used to be a

good natural harbour, but after a heavy storm in the 1600s, the fjord was blocked with sand.

On the way up to the cairn, the path may be indistinguishable in some places, but when you reach the cairn itself **1**, there is a cairn path all the way to Tjørnuvík. The cairns will lead you in a more easterly direction towards the area Frammi í Dal, where the river, Gellingará, meanders down through the valley. There is a special tranquillity here that ensures peace of mind and a smile on your face.

You now come to Tjørnuvíksskarð and the path goes slightly uphill. On Tjørnuvíksskarð **2**, there is a beautiful view to the north of Eysturoy. From here, you see the characteristic rock pillars, Risin and Kellingin (Giant and Witch). The story of these two is that they were sent to the Faroe Islands to drag the islands to Iceland. The giant was standing in the sea, while his wife climbed up the mountain Eiðiskollur to tie the Faroe Islands together so that the giant could pull the islands away. She then set off so hard that the north of Eiðiskollur cracked. The preparations took



longer than expected, and as the two were about to go back home to Iceland, the sun rose and turned the pair to stone.

Here, you also have a view of Slættaratindur and Gráfelli, which - with their respective heights of 880 and 856 meters - are the two tallest mountains in the Faroe Islands.

Follow the cairns all the way down to Tjørnuvík. The densely settled village is a very beautiful and

FACTS

Duration: Two and a half to three hours

Distance: Six to seven km

Difficulty: Moderate. Somewhat difficult from Saksun and up to the first cairn

Maximum height: 522 m

Children: The route is suitable for children

Surface: Grass path. In some places stones and rocks the first leg. Then cairn path, mostly with grass surface

Map: 312

charming part of the Faroe Islands. Tjørnuvík is known for its special hymn singing, the Kingo-songs, which is an ancient hymn tradition that originates from the Danish hymn writer Thomas Kingo. The village has a choir that performs Kingo hymns. Tjørnuvík also has a nice sandy beach and striking waves that attract many visitors.



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Hvalvík Vestmanna

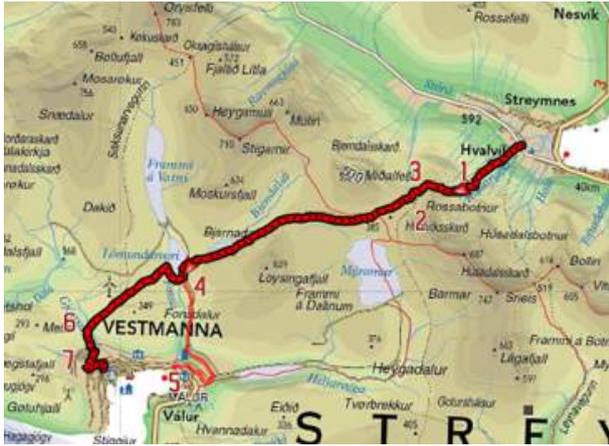
On this wonderful route from Hvalvík to Vestmanna, see breathtaking mountains and lakes while also getting an insight into the Faroese electric power development

The tour begins at Myllá, which runs north of the Mission House in Hvalvík. Walk along the river, through a gate and through the old cattle path. There is a path along the river's north side. About 200 metres from Hvalvíksgjógv ❶ is the first cairn.

When you have passed Eggjarmúli ❷, there is a fine view through Saksunardalur, the longest valley in the country. From here, follow the SEV electricity line all the way to Vestmanna. SEV is the national electric power company. The first mechanical digger

purchased to the Faroe Islands came to Hvalvík. It was called the Hvalvíksskúgvín. On one occasion, the people from Vestmanna wanted to borrow it for some work and it was carried up over Hvalvíksskarð along this path.

Now, you arrive at a cairn, stacked on a large stone called Kellingarsteinur. At the next cairn, after Kellingarsteinur ❸, the path divides. The path south goes to Kvívík and the path north goes to Vestmanna. Follow the latter.



On top of Hvalvíksskarð, you see over to Mýrarnar and one of the first dams built by SEV in the early 1960s. There is also a small private windmill park. To the south is the mountain range Egilsfjall, Goturshálsur, Sátan and Skælingsfjall and on Vágar, you can see Reynsatindur and Heldarstindur.

Loysingafjall is just in front of you. There is an account of a girl in Vestmanna who disappeared from the town and could not be found. The next day, a shepherd found her high up on Loysingafjall. She said that a man in white clothes had led her by the hand and fed her. No one knew this man.

The cairns and SEV-line take you to the left side of Bjernðalsgjógv 4. Be careful when the path turns south, as it is steep downwards.

There are now two possible ways down to Vestmanna. The path divides by the dam at Fossá. You can follow the road and go down Á Fjørð 5 or go over the first dam, follow the cairns to Vestmanna along Gjógvará 6 and down along Miðalsbrekka 7.

Another story is about a young milkmaid who disappeared in the river at Gjógvará. She had tripped and fallen and was carried down the large waterfall. There was no thought of her coming out alive from the fall. When people at home heard the news, they immediately went out to search. But they found no body. The girl was not dead. Naked, in a bad state, she was lying in the cleft, clinging to a stone. She could hear people calling for her, but she did not dare to call out because she was afraid of Huldufólk (Hidden People) (page 58) and trolls. Not until the day after,

FACTS

Duration: Three and a half hours if you go down into Vestmanna from Á Fjørð, or four hours if you go down at Gjógvará

Distance: 10 km

Difficulty: Moderate. From Hvalvík it is a little difficult to walk up the mountain. Otherwise, the path is easy to walk along

Maximum height: 385 m

Children: Not suitable for children under about eight years. Be careful with children at Bjernðalsgjógv

Surface: Grass cairn path. In some places, stones and rocks

Maps: 310, 311 and 411

when the river had settled down, did she dare to approach the houses. It was a miracle that she survived the incident.

Before the Faroe Islands got its first subsea tunnel between Streymoy and Vágar in 2002, the ferry port of Vestmanna was the hub for traffic to and from the airport in Vágar.



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Kolfjarðardalur Leynar

Travel back millions of years in time on this route past tall cliffs and beautiful lakes

This route begins at Búnaðarstovan (the National Agricultural Centre) in Kolfjarðardalur. Three rivers run down to Kolfjarðadalur by Búnaðarstovan. The trip begins at the middle river, Brekká **1**, which flows north of Búnaðarstovan. Walk along the river and keep the cairn in sight as a landmark.

Turn northwards by the first cairn after crossing the old mountain road, Oygjarvegurin **2**. At the next cairn, you arrive at Skælingsvatn **3**. The lake has had other names, one of which is Nykatjörn (Nix's pond). In earlier times, people noticed that something alive and abnormally large lived in the lake, and the general opinion was that it must be Nykur (Nix) (page 58). Nykur is a creature that lives in lakes and is said to resemble a horse. There are reports of people who went to catch it and caught a huge trout in their nets. In this way, they got rid of Nykur and the name Nykatjörn. The lake is also called Tjörnin á Brekkunum. At the lake, three outfields meet: Norðari Skælingshagi, Hagin Uttan Fyri Húsini in Leynar and Heygshagi in

Kollafjørður. Several paths also meet here. They are the old paths coming from the south: Oygjargøtan, the path you are walking from Kolfjarðadalur to Leynar, and the path to Skælingur. Be careful that you don't take the wrong one.

Here, you should take a small detour off the path and walk a few hundred metres south to the rocky plateau, Stórareyn **4**, which has a great, geological scenery. Sit on the plateau and enjoy the view. Feel the silence, the heat from the rocks, and travel back millions of years to when this place was first created.

The mountain north of Skælingsvatn is called Sátan. Here, you can see the geological formation Streymoyarsyllin (The Streymoy Sill) and often Fulmars on the mountain cliffs.

South of you is Skælingsfjall. It was first thought that it was the highest mountain in the Faroes, but when the height was measured with modern gauge



equipment, it showed the mountain to be 100 m lower than the highest. It is custom to climb Skælingsfjall on Jóansøukvöld (Midsummer Night) to see the sunset, and then the sunrise a few hours later.

Go back to the path where you came from and continue towards Leynar. Further on, you have a view of Vágur to the west, and Koltur to the south. Cairns

FACTS

Duration: One hour

Distance: About three km

Difficulty: Fairly easy. From Kollfjarðardalur to the cairn on the hill is a bit tough. The rest of the trip is easy

Maximum height: 260 m

Children: Suitable for children

Surface: Grass path, in some places stony

Map: 410

lead you all the way down to the village of Leynar. The beautiful village is a popular holiday area, and the beach attracts many people on hot summer days.





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Fyri Vestan; Skeiðsskarð Norðadalur

When you hike along the old path to Norðadalur, you are on the front row of one of the most wonderful and breath-taking sceneries in the country

This trip requires some logistics because there is no bus service to take you to start or end point. You can take a taxi or get someone to drive you. Another possibility, if you have two cars at your disposal, is to park one in Norðadal and drive the other car up to Skeiðsskarð, where the route starts. Note that the “parking lot” on Skeiðsskarð is quite rocky, so drive carefully.

From the flat area on Skeiðsskarð **1**, turn left where you will find a grass/gravel road. Already at this point, the view is spectacular. Millions of years ago, the area was a geological playground, which has resulted in the unique rock formations around you.

Enjoy the view of Vágur with the special Tröllkonufingur (Trollwoman's Finger), which – as far as anyone knows – was first climbed in 2012. To the right is the 767 metre tall Skælingur, which is among the highest mountains in the Faroe Islands. And right above you on the left-hand side, you have the mysterious Sornfelli, which created political friction in the Faroe Islands for many years. In 1963, NATO installed radar

equipment on Sornfelli to monitor air and sea traffic in the North Atlantic. Inside the mountain, there are many rooms and winding corridors where NATO servicemen went about their daily work. Ordinary citizens did not have access to this part of the mountain. The activity in Sornfelli led to protests by activists and politicians. In some years during the 80s, peaceful demonstrations were organised where people demonstrated from Mjørkadalur, located on the other side of Sornfelli, to Tórshavn. Since 2010, there has been no military activity on Sornfelli.

After about one and a half kilometres, you will arrive at an area with large rocks. Here, the path will be a little hard to see, but you will see the path on the other side of the rock piles. You are now approaching Skoradalsegg. Be cautious about 200 metres from Skoradalsegg, where there is a steep area that can be rocky or slippery. **2**

On the other side of Skorðadalsegg, you enter into another world, with grass and relatively few rocks and stones. There is a special peace that is only



broken by the sounds of birds and sheep - and maybe a single boat in the fjord. On the first few metres, the path is a little hard to see, and it may seem like there is no more path. Stick to the path that goes about 50 metres straight ahead and slowly slopes downwards. After about four to five hundred metres, you will find the old path from the village Skælingur.

3

Notice the beautiful cairns, erected with stones from the area. Follow the cairns straight out and up towards Vatndalsegg. 4 The path can be a little steep uphill and difficult, but it is short. The view from Vatndalsegg is worth it. If you are looking for the right place for a coffee break, then this place is highly recommended. Here, you see the beautiful rock formations on Likkureyn and Núgván. Further out to sea are the islands of Koltur, Hestur and further still Sandoy and Suðuroy. And do not forget the lakes in the valley.

The hill, about 50 to 100 metres on the right-hand side of the path, is called Stroyisklettur 5. Legend has it that the residents of Norðadalur and Skælingur were in a dispute over the area in Skorardalur. The farmer in Norðadalur and the farmer in Skælingur fought a battle that the farmer in Skælingur won. The farmer from Norðadalur, whose name was Stroyur, was killed and is said to be buried at the mound, which today bears his name. Skoradalur still belongs to the village of Skælingur today.

FACTS

Duration: Two and a half hours

Distance: Six and a half to seven km

Difficulty: Easy to moderate. A little steep and stony through Áarstíggjur

Maximum height: About 490 m

Children: Suitable for children. However, be extra careful just before Skorardalsegg and Áarstíggjur

Surface: Gravel/grass track, then path partly with cairns. Few places with gravel and rocks, especially at Áarstíggjur

Maps: 409 and 410



The path into the valley and past the lakes is difficult to see. Stay to the left of the big lake and the river along the lake. A little further, the river comes together with another river from the left. There, in front of you, is a little hill. Stick to the left of the hill and tread carefully to the edge where you will find a cairn. Here, you will find Áarstíggjur 6, which is the path towards Norðadalur. Be careful on the path, which can be slippery and rocky.

Continue down towards the road and then left towards the gate.