

AKUREYRI TOWN

What to see, what to do

AKUREYRI

With reference to the midnight sun in the summertime and the Northern Lights during winter, Akureyri town is also known as the Capital of the Shining North. It is the biggest town outside the capital area and is the service base for North Iceland.

The town is a popular tourist destination both for short and long visits and is a good starting point for day tours and excursions. It offers a wide range of activities, flourishing restaurants and cafés, and bustles with a rich cultural life all year round.



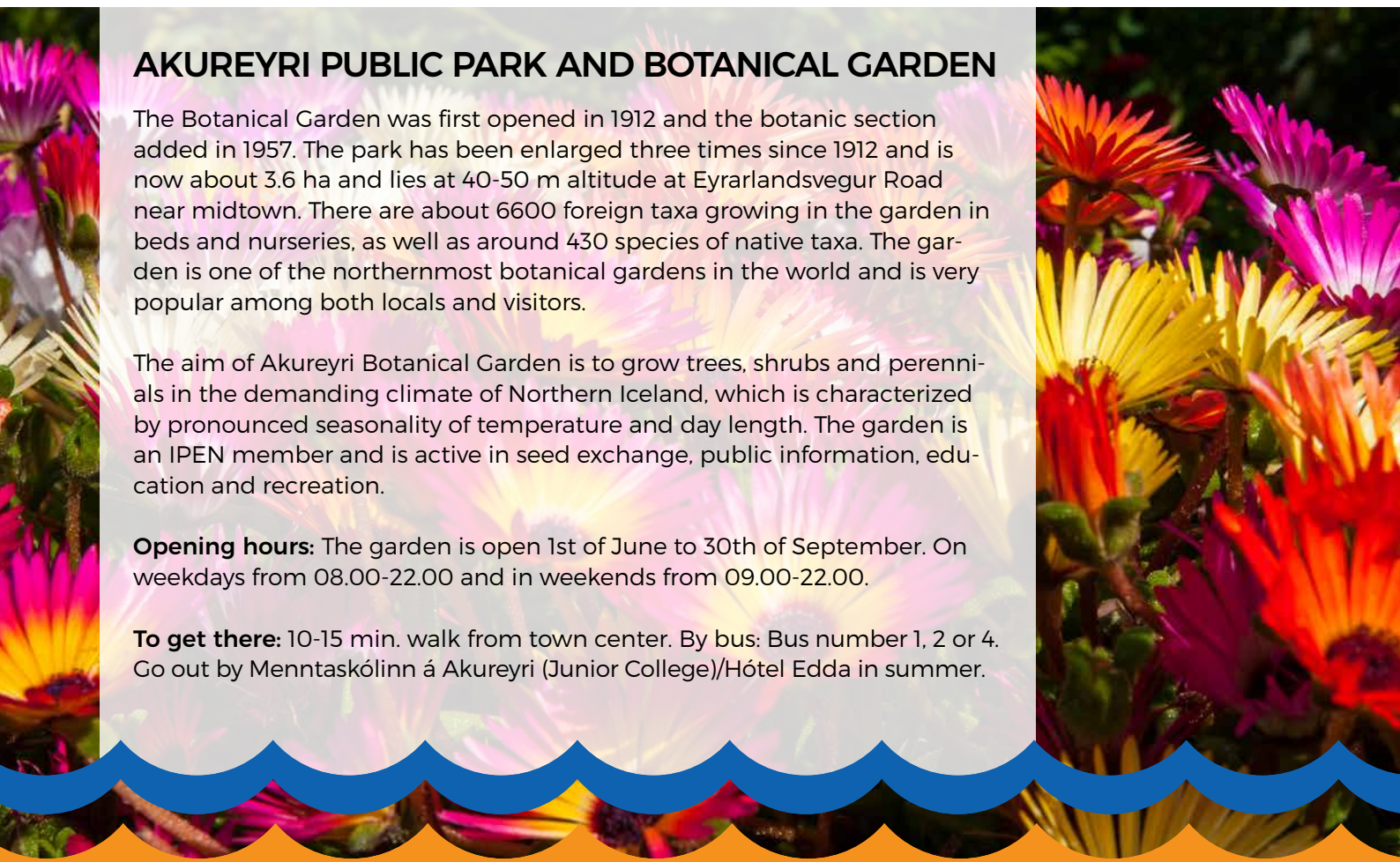
AKUREYRI PUBLIC PARK AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Botanical Garden was first opened in 1912 and the botanic section added in 1957. The park has been enlarged three times since 1912 and is now about 3.6 ha and lies at 40-50 m altitude at Eyrarlandsvegur Road near midtown. There are about 6600 foreign taxa growing in the garden in beds and nurseries, as well as around 430 species of native taxa. The garden is one of the northernmost botanical gardens in the world and is very popular among both locals and visitors.

The aim of Akureyri Botanical Garden is to grow trees, shrubs and perennials in the demanding climate of Northern Iceland, which is characterized by pronounced seasonality of temperature and day length. The garden is an IPEN member and is active in seed exchange, public information, education and recreation.

Opening hours: The garden is open 1st of June to 30th of September. On weekdays from 08.00-22.00 and in weekends from 09.00-22.00.

To get there: 10-15 min. walk from town center. By bus: Bus number 1, 2 or 4. Go out by Menntaskólinn á Akureyri (Junior College)/Hótel Edda in summer.





THE MUSEUMS AND THE CHRISTMAS HOUSE

When it comes to museums, Akureyri offers a variety of options. **Akureyri Art Museum** has been a flagship for the town's art canyon for two decades. Amongst other museums in Akureyri are **the Museum of Industry**, **the Aviation Museum** and the **Motorcycle Museum of Iceland**.

Akureyri Art Museum has played a prominent role in the cultural life of Akureyri as the first institution outside Reykjavik to concentrate solely on visual arts.

Akureyri Museum focuses on the local history and is a modern family-oriented museum with several exciting exhibitions. The museum is located in the oldest part of town and next to **Nonni's House**, which is a museum dedicated to Jón Sveinsson. Jón, or "Nonni", was a writer and a priest who lived in this house during his childhood in Akureyri.

Into The Arctic is a collection of eleven fascinating exhibitions about the history of the North in words and pictures. The shows lead visitors through the various periods in history, such as the settlement of Iceland, wildlife in the Arctic, crafts and the beach to name a few.

The exhibitions give visitors the opportunity to experience the world through various mediums and live shows while emphasizing the diverse and

informative content. The subjects are presented in various ways such as with displays, video, text and various remarkable artifacts.

The Christmas Garden of Akureyri offers the possibility to get into the Christmas mood all year long. It's only a 10 minute drive from Akureyri and has got something for the whole family. In the beautiful garden surrounding the house are benches and tables, making this an excellent spot for a picnic. The fairytale tower houses the world's biggest Christmas calendar, worth climbing the stairs for.

In the garden one can also find the Wishing Well of unborn children, a place of tranquility and peace.

HOF CULTURAL CENTER

Hof is a cultural building designed for music and other performing arts. The building has two larger conference auditoriums and a comprehensive restaurant service. Hof has first-class facilities for events of various kinds and the best available technical equipment. The building was opened in August 2010.

Hof houses the **Tourist Information Center**. The staff will provide all the information you need about Akureyri.

WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO SEE



WHALE WATCHING FROM AKUREYRI

There are two whale-watching companies operating from the town of Akureyri, located within 500 meters from the cruise piers. The whale-watching boats have a capacity of 150-250 passengers each tour, so booking in long advance is usually not necessary. The conditions for whale watching are extremely good because of the length and size of the fjord - giving a good chance of seeing several whale species on a trip, for example humpbacks, minke whales and dolphins.



TASTE OF ICELAND

This tour of Eyjafjörður offers a most interesting insight into Iceland's varied cultures. The itinerary includes visits to the churches at Munkaþverá and Grund. You can stop at the horse centre at Melgerðismelar, where visitors are introduced to the famous and sturdy Icelandic horse by way of a horseshow. A meal of traditional (and rather adventurous!) Icelandic fare at a restaurant built in the old style of turf, stone and timber is also included. Our final stop will be the charming Christmas Shop.

HERRING MUSEUM – SIGLUFJÖRÐUR

Within a one hour drive from Akureyri you will find a beautiful little town called Siglufjörður, nestled in a dramatic fjord on the very edge of Iceland's steep northern mountains. First and foremost Siglufjörður is known for herring, and here you can visit the Herring Museum. During the drive to Siglufjörður you will get the chance to enjoy breathtaking ocean and mountain views. A day trip to Siglufjörður is well worth your time!

SBA LOCAL BUS COMPANY

SBA is a big and experienced bus company that operates from Akureyri. With a fleet of 70 coaches with seating capacity from 9-74 seats, they can easily handle up to 1,500 passengers at a time. They also offer experienced local guides that will help make your trip memorable.

