

## About Seyðisfjörður

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The long, calm, deep fjord of Seyðisfjörður twists and turns 17 kilometres from its mouth to the head of the fjord, where the town of the same name shelters beneath Mt. Strandartindur and Mt. Bjólfur. In the valley above the town, the river Fjarðará cascades from the edge of the heath above in innumerable beautiful waterfalls, down to Lón (the lagoon) at the head of the fjord. A road leads up from the fjord, along by the river, to the Hérað district, 26 km away across Fjarðarheiði heath. Once a hazardous place to travel, the heath is now crossed in a mere half-hour by a high-quality road, commanding splendid views of the surrounding area. The route (Stafirnir) down into Seyðisfjörður by the Fjarðará river is one of Iceland's most spectacular roads.

[Picturesque town in a splendid natural setting](#)

Seyðisfjörður is regarded by many as one of Iceland's most picturesque towns, not only due to its impressive environment, but also because nowhere in Iceland has a community of old wooden buildings been preserved so well as here. Poet Matthías Johannessen called Seyðisfjörður a "pearl enclosed in a shell."

The community, like so many others in Iceland, owes its origins to foreign merchants, mainly Danes, who started trading in the fjord in the mid-19th century. But the crucial factor in the evolution of the village was the establishment of the Icelandic herring fishery by Norwegians in 1870-1900. The Norwegians built up a number of herring-fishing facilities, and in a matter of years the little community grew into a boom town. It received its municipal charter in 1895.

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