



Snæfellsjökull National Park and Nearby Protected Areas



Snæfellsjökull National Park

Snæfellsjökull national park lies in the westernmost part of Snæfellsnes peninsula and covers 170 square kilometres. It was founded on 28 June 2001, with the aim of protecting the area's unique nature and important historical relics. A further aim is to facilitate travel around the area and make it accessible to people.

The Snæfellsjökull icecap lies within the national park, and the park is the only Icelandic national park that stretches to the sea. The nature reserves of Búðahraun and of Arnarstapi and Hellnar, and the natural monument of Bárðarlaug also fall under the same management as the national

The natural monument of Bárðarlaug is an ancient water-filled crater located near Hellnar. Its bed was scoured by an ice age glacier. National parks and nature reserves are public property, free for the public to explore and enjoy, but all visitors are requested to follow the park's rules of conduct.

Landscape

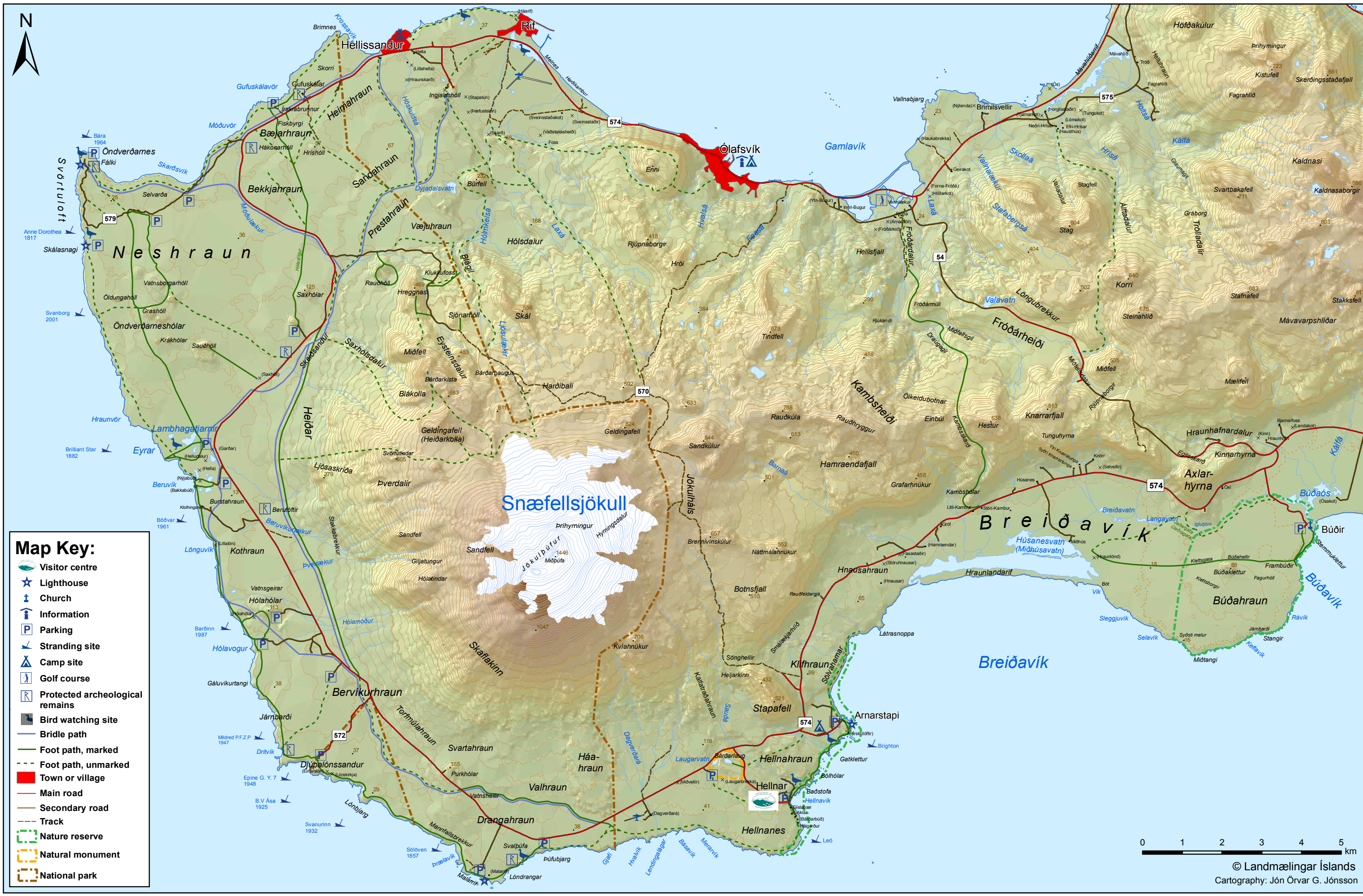
The Snæfellsnes peninsula coast line is very varied. Rocky coasts alternate with black sand beaches, light sand beaches and precipitous sea cliffs that team with sea birds in the nesting season. The lowland within the national park is mostly lava that has flowed from Snæfellsjökull and from smaller

park. Búðahraun lava field lies in the southern part of Snæfellsnes peninsula, and, its eastern part (around 9 square kilometres) was designated a nature reserve in 1977. The lava field harbours some of the most beautiful vegetation in the country, giving shelter to approximately 130 species of plants, including 11 of the 16 species of fern that are found in Iceland. Approximately 0.6 square kilometres of coastal area around Arnarstapi and Hellnar was designated a nature reserve in 1979. Here you will find peculiar rock formations that have been carved out by the surf and have a rare opportunity to inspect flocks of kittiwakes up close.

craters in the lowland. The lava fields are largely covered in moss, and intermittently they contain beautiful hollows where vegetation thrives sheltered from the wind. The lowland in the southern part of Snæfellsnes is an ancient seabed that rose up after the end of the ice age. The cliffs that divide the lowlands and highlands are thus ancient sea cliffs. Snæfellsjökull glacier towers majestically over the area, rising above a number of smaller peaks. One can see clearly how lava streams have run down its sides. The valley of Eysteinsdalur in the North is surrounded by high mountains that beckon keen hikers. Near Jökulháls,



From Eysteinsdalur



Map Key:

- Visitor centre
- Lighthouse
- Church
- Information
- Parking
- Stranding site
- Camp site
- Golf course
- Protected archeological remains
- Bird watching site
- Bridle path
- Foot path, marked
- Foot path, unmarked
- Town or village
- Main road
- Secondary road
- Track
- Nature reserve
- Natural monument
- National park

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