

ICELAND

A wide waterfall cascading into a rocky riverbed in a valley. The water is white and frothy, contrasting with the dark, mossy green cliffs on either side. The foreground is filled with smooth, grey river stones. The sky is a pale, overcast blue.

**THE BEST WATERFALL
HIKES & WALKS**

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<https://thephotohikes.com>

All the maps in this book are based on **open** data from the **Icelandic Institute of Nature Research**, www.natt.is

Trail markups added by Marco Battini.

INTRODUCTION

Iceland is often called the *Land of Fire and Ice*, but one thing many visitors notice is that it's also a land of Waterfalls. Waterfalls are everywhere. They tumble off of cliffs, through valleys, and appear beside roads so often that you rarely travel more than a few dozen kilometers without encountering one. They are a constant presence in Iceland's ever-changing landscape, and one of its greatest sources of beauty.

There is something undeniably special about waterfalls in Iceland, too. Many of them are so strikingly beautiful that they look like they belong in a painting or on a movie set. But they're not backdrops or special effects—they are real places you can stand in front of. They are real places on Earth.

That's exactly how I felt the first time I visited Skógafoss many years ago. And it's how I still feel today when I visit a beautiful waterfall in Iceland for the first time. No matter how many you've seen, that sense of awe and discovery never really goes away.

And there are many waterfalls to see. According to the Icelandic database, there are more than 1,600 known waterfalls in Iceland—and visiting all of them would be a lifetime commitment.

Even without trying to see them all, visiting many waterfalls takes time. For travelers who don't live in Iceland, it would require several trips spread over many years. Even visiting only the waterfalls featured in this book would take most visitors years to complete. I know this because I've visited all of them—and many more that didn't make it into these pages.

With that in mind, I created this book as a curated collection of what I believe are the best waterfall walks and hikes in Iceland.

Its main purpose is to help anyone planning a trip to Iceland or returning visitors to decide what to include in their itinerary, what to skip, and when it's best to visit certain places.

At the same time, this book is also an invitation to slow down and simply look. Through the many photographs, I hope to share the quiet power and varied beauty of Iceland's waterfalls — the way light, weather, and season transform them, and how each one carries its own mood and beauty.

More than anything, though, this book is meant to help you discover new locations, experience Iceland beyond the obvious stops, and create memories that will stay with you long after your journey ends.

And if you are preparing for your first trip to Iceland, you may find yourself planning your next visit before you even leave the island. If you are a returning traveler, you probably already know this—you'll likely be back again soon.

Either way, I hope this book can be a trusted companion and a source of travel inspiration on your journey through Iceland.

STRÚTSFOSS



Vehicle	2WD
Distance	7.5 km
Hike Time	1.5-2 Hours
Difficulty	Easy
Elevation Gain	270m
Season	Spring to Autumn

Strútsfoss is a beautiful waterfall nestled deep within a narrow canyon. While it's not possible to get very close to the waterfall, the hike offers several excellent viewpoints along the way. Information about its height varies, but according to most sources, Strútsfoss is one of the tallest waterfalls in Iceland, with a total height of about 120 meters, split into two drops of approximately 20 m and 100 m.

How to get there: Reaching Strútsfoss requires a significant detour from the Ring Road, though it is relatively close to Hengifoss.

From Egilsstaðir, take Road 931 (the same road used to access Hengifoss) and follow it to the end, past the bridge, where it becomes Road 935. This is a dead-end road. At the end, you'll find a small information board marking the trailhead to Strútsfoss, where you can park.

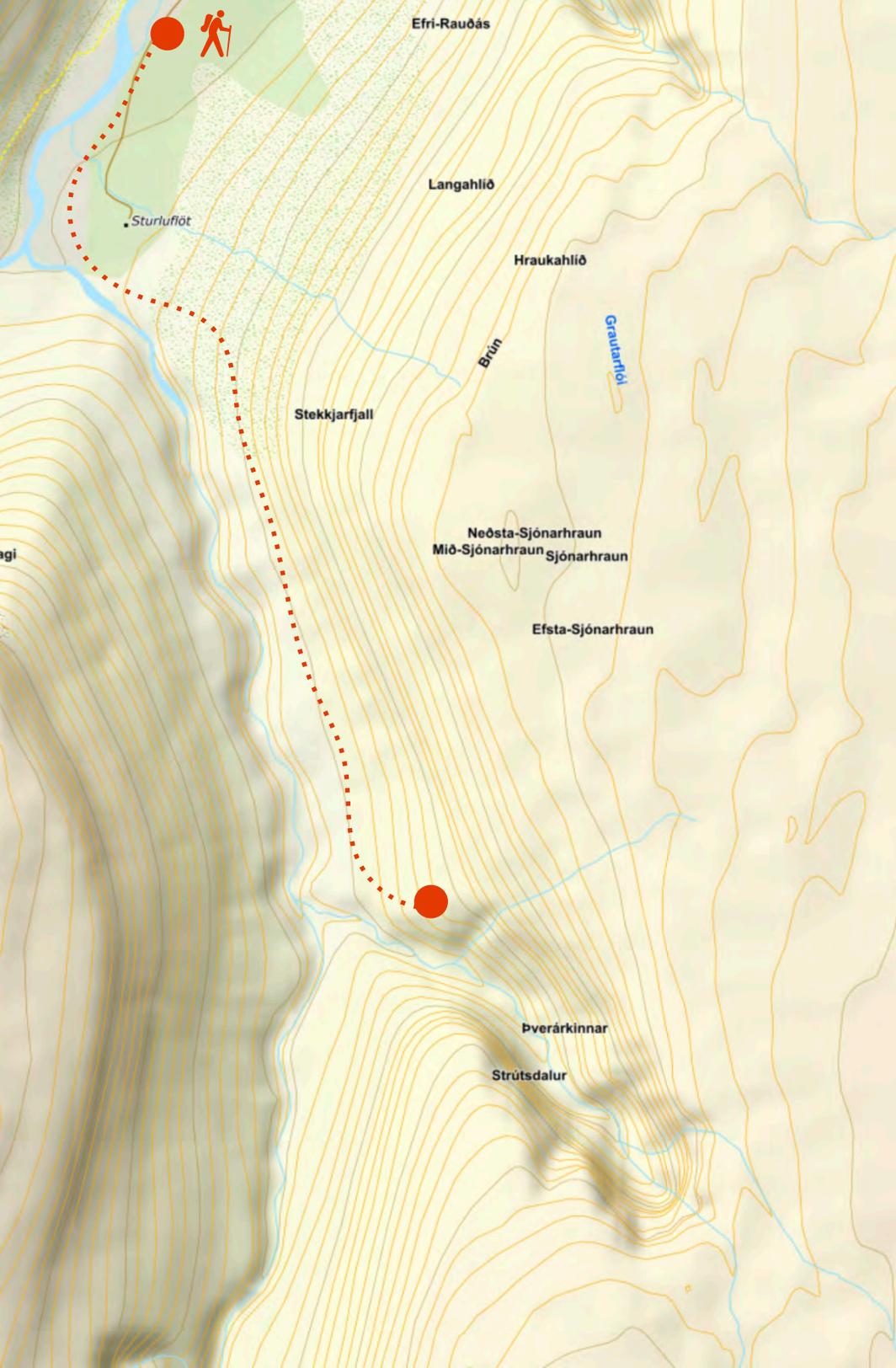
The Trail: The trail is well-marked and easy to follow. In clear weather, it's often possible to spot the waterfall from the parking area. The first section follows an old countryside road, with yellow-painted trail markers visible along the way. The elevation gain is gentle at first. As you continue uphill alongside the Strútsgil River, the gradient gradually increases, and the trail transitions from a dirt road into a proper hiking path.

Along the way, you'll pass a picnic table overlooking the ravine. From there, it's only a short but steeper walk to the main viewpoint. This final section is the most strenuous part of the hike, but it rewards you with magnificent views of both tiers of the waterfall and the deep, dramatic canyon it plunges into.

There are reports of another route that climbs higher up the mountainside, crosses the unbridged river upstream of the falls, and descends on the opposite side of the canyon. However, I was unable to find any clear traces of this trail or reliable accounts of hikers completing this route, and the canyon walls are extremely steep.







Efri-Rauðás

Langahlíð

Hraukahlíð

Brún

Grautarfjöt

Stekkarfjall

Sturlufjöt

Neósta-Sjónarhraun
Mið-Sjónarhraun Sjónarhraun

Efsta-Sjónarhraun

Þverárkinnar

Strútsdalur

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