

LANDMANNALAUGAR LOOP

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at photos

- 2) RJÜPNAVELLIR
- VIEWPOINT
- 20 min
- Short walk
- color photos!

PRINTABLE PLANNING GUIDE

Your First Trip, One Clear Decision at a Time

Use this practical guide to turn an exciting but overwhelming idea into a realistic, flexible travel plan. Complete each section in order and stop researching once an option meets your priorities.

STRÆTÓ BS.
ADULT
SINGLE

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Nº 00994014

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✓ Start with the framework

Before comparing destinations, decide why you want to travel, when you can leave, how long you can stay, what pace feels comfortable, and what you can realistically spend.

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT TRAVEL DESTINATION

SMART CRITERIA. BETTER TRIP.

The best trips start with a thoughtful choice. Use these key criteria to compare your options and pick the destination that's right for you.

THE RIGHT CHOICE LEADS TO *unforgettable memories.*

01



TRAVEL TIME

Shorter journeys leave more usable time at the destination.

02



LIKELY COST

Include transport, lodging, food, activities, local travel, and baggage.

03



SEASON

Check weather, local holidays, opening periods, and seasonal conditions.

04



GETTING AROUND

Assess public transport, walking distances, transfers, and mobility needs.

05



REAL INTEREST

Prioritize places and activities the traveler genuinely wants to experience.



THE TAKEAWAY



Keep a shortlist of up to **THREE** destinations and select the one that meets the most important criteria.



INFOGRAPHIE Infographic comparing five criteria for choosing a first-trip destination

Plan in the right order



1 **Define your trip boundaries**

Write down your available dates, trip length, preferred pace, main interests, mobility needs, and budget ceiling.

2 **Shortlist up to three destinations**

Choose realistic options rather than collecting an endless list. Compare travel time, likely costs, season, local transport, and activities that genuinely interest you.

3 **Check requirements before paying**

For an international trip, verify passport rules, blank-page requirements, visa or electronic authorization needs, health guidance, customs restrictions, and local transport information for your nationality and destination.

4 **Build the complete budget**

Separate fixed costs from day-to-day spending. Include transport, accommodation, insurance, major activities, baggage, required documents, meals, local travel, and a contingency buffer.

5 **Book the essentials**

Once the destination, dates, requirements, and budget work together, book the primary transport and accommodation, then reserve only the activities that need advance planning.

6 **Create a flexible itinerary**

Choose one or two priority activities per day and leave space for transfers, rest, delays, weather changes, and unexpected discoveries.



PROCESS DIAGRAM Follow this order so each decision makes the next one easier.

Destination decision grid

Criterion	What to check	Warning sign
Total travel time	Journey duration, transfers, arrival time, and return journey	The route uses a large part of a short trip
Likely costs	Transport, accommodation, meals, activities, local travel, and baggage	The budget works only before basic expenses are added
Season	Weather, local holidays, opening dates, and seasonal access	Important activities are unavailable during your dates
Getting around	Public transport, walking distances, transfers, and accessibility	Daily plans depend on complicated or uncertain connections
Personal interest	Specific places, food, nature, culture, or activities you want to enjoy	The destination looks appealing but has no clear priorities

Before you confirm anything

- ☐ **I have chosen dates and a realistic trip length**
Check that the pace matches the time available.
- ☐ **I have compared no more than three realistic destinations**
Use the five criteria in the decision grid.

- ☐ **I have checked current entry requirements**
Use official government, travel-advice, embassy, or consulate sources.
- ☐ **I know the full expected cost**
Separate fixed costs, daily spending, and a contingency buffer.
- ☐ **I have checked non-refundable booking conditions**
Confirm requirements before paying for non-refundable transport or accommodation.
- ☐ **I have recorded confirmations and deadlines in one place**
Use one note or spreadsheet for bookings, tasks, and outstanding decisions.

Final departure check

- ☐ **Travel documents and confirmations are ready**
Keep essential information accessible during the journey.
- ☐ **Money and payment methods are prepared**
Plan how you will access funds while away.
- ☐ **Connectivity is arranged**
Know how you will access maps, messages, and essential travel information.
- ☐ **Medication and health essentials are packed**
Include what you need for the journey and stay.
- ☐ **Luggage matches the itinerary**
Pack for the season, planned activities, and realistic transport between places.
- ☐ **Arrival details are clear**
Know how you will get from your arrival point to your accommodation.

! Do not plan every hour

A flexible plan with confirmed essentials is more useful than an exhaustive schedule. Stop researching when an option meets your priorities instead of reopening every decision.

Entry, health, customs, transport, and seasonal-access requirements can change. Verify current, destination-specific information with official sources before booking or departing.