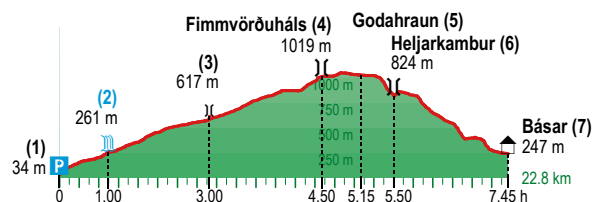


TOP 1 Skógar – Fimmvörðuháls, 1019 m – Þórsmörk 7.45 hrs

An impressive crossing over a col and passing steaming lava

From the Fimmvörðuháls pass, the trail leads directly along the crater of the volcano which erupted in 2010. Afterwards, a breath-taking view of Þórsmörk opens up, sporting its bizarre rock formations, deeply cut canyons with caves and waterfalls, as well as its glacial snouts reaching far down into the deep.



Location: Skógar, 60 m, located on the Ring Road.

Starting point: The car park for the campsite near Skógar, 34 m.

Getting there: Bus connections along the Ring Road in both directions and to all of the huts in the Þórsmörk.

Height difference: 1300 m in ascent, 900 m in descent.

Grade: Long, strenuous walk. Currently, the trail sometimes ascends through deep ash. Well-marked. Some precipitous stretches during the descent are secured by ropes or chains. For routes con-

tinuing from Þórsmörk (e.g.: Básar – Húsadalur): be sure to get an update on the state of the bridges!

Accommodation/refreshment: Skógar: campsite and hotels. Þórsmörk: Básar hut, camping, self-catering; Húsadalur: camping, rooms, simple restaurant.

Alternatives: Extend the walk to 2 days by spending the night in the hut on the Fimmvörðuháls. In summer, a warden is present; 20 beds, kitchen, self-catering. Another possibility is to climb up to the volcano from the Þórsmörk (Básar hut) and then climb back down (about 5 hrs).

From the campsite **car park (1)**; info booth with information board and WC) at first head to the **Skógafoss** and take the trail that ascends to the right steeply along a stepped path and always follows the Skóga river (waterfalls). Narrow secondary valleys are easily crossed and the ascent is a constant one. An hour later, reach an especially pretty **waterfall (2)**; another one that follows crash-

es into a narrow gorge. Take a peek at it and return to the waymarked trail to continue ascending. Pass scores of other waterfalls and some spring water rivulets (be sure to replenish your drinking water), reach a **footbridge (3)** to change over to the other bank. At this point, follow the waymarked trail that more or less runs along the course of the track but is a shortcut. At the end of the access road, reach the newly-built Baldvinskáli emergency shelter. From here, continue ascending to reach the crest of the pass (1019 m). The Fimmvörðuskáli mountain hut lies west of the trail.

From the **pass (4)**, you can spot the volcanic crater and also fresh lava, a leftover from the Eyjafjallajökull eruption. Now descend over a snowfield and then continue, pretty much on the level, heading towards the crater. Now the trail winds through the **Godahraun** lava field (5). Afterwards, enjoy lovely views, followed by a steep descent, then an easy scramble secured with ropes. Now cross over a bottleneck, **Heljakambur (6)**. From here, a difficult trail branches off to Hvannárgil. Our trail leads straight as an arrow over the flat-top mountain **Morinsheiði**. Afterwards, descend moderately along the left flank of a ridge and then over a ridgeline. To the left, a downwards view opens up into the Strákagil; the trail is stepped and secured. Now a last steep descent leads to the valley floor where lush stands of birch suddenly appear. Level with the river, an arrow points the way to the **Básar hut (7)**.



The mighty Skógafoss.