



View of Torshavn

Faroe Islands

Nestling within the Gulf Stream in the North Atlantic, this unique archipelago composed of 18 islands lies c.150 miles northwest of Scotland and roughly midway between the Shetland Islands and Iceland. You are never further than 3 miles from the Ocean and the highest mountain measures 882m above sea level.

You won't find fresher air or a more virgin landscape anywhere else on earth. This is a destination with immense appeal for nature lovers, bird watchers and walkers. The Faroe Islands are a fitting tribute to a unique and friendly local community and a stunning, unspoiled landscape set within a wild ocean.

The National Geographic magazine's panel of experts voted the Faroes the most appealing island destination in the world in its 2007 survey of sustainable destinations. It is easy to see why - this breathtaking archipelago boasts the highest sea cliffs in the world and a unique architectural heritage. Many of its buildings have traditional grass roofs, introduced by the Vikings when the islands were first settled.

The weather in the Faroes is part of the fascination for visitors. The Gulf Stream that encircles the islands tempers the climate, but the weather is changeable; theatrically changing from brilliant sunshine to heavy showers, strong winds and fog within a relatively short space of time.

June, July and August are the best time to visit the islands, with an average temperature of 11°C – warmer if you are sitting in the sun or in a sheltered bay. These are the months for bird watching, when migratory species return to the islands to breed and raise their young.

The summer months are also the time for festivals throughout the archipelago with the Festival of St Olaf in Torshavn, the pinnacle of the Faroese calendar. This annual event which takes place between 28-29 July is a spectacular sight and fills the town with a lively, fun atmosphere. Musical processions, sporting events – including regattas in the harbour, and Faroese dancing take place.

Daily temperatures

Torshavn	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average temperature in °C	5.3	3.9	4.9	7.3	8.4	9.6	11.0	11.6	10.7	8.1	8.1	5.1
Average rainfall (per month) in mm	221	176	211	106	85	17	46	103	128	204	101	180



Calendar of events

During the summer months, the Faroese archipelago hosts a variety of cultural, musical and theatrical events. The highlights of the calendar are detailed below.

12 March:

The arrival of the Oyster-catchers: The arrival day of the national bird is called Graekarismessa and is celebrated throughout the archipelago.

01 June:

Cultural night in Torshavn: For this one night, Torshavn's cultural venues – museums and art galleries – open their doors to visitors – entrance is free of charge; small concerts take place; and shops and eateries are open until late in the evening. A relaxed evening popular with both locals and visitors alike.

19-21 July:

G! Festival: The Faroe Islands have undergone a musical revolution in recent years: the local music scene is now thriving and the ambitious 'G! Music festival' founded by local musician-entrepreneur Jon Tyril has experienced a surge in popularity. An eclectic mix of international and local bands entertain visitors whilst the breathtaking backdrop of vertiginous green slopes and grass-roofed houses remind you that you are in one of the most unspoiled landscapes in the world.

Throughout the year, the Nordic House in Torshavn, a multi-cultural venue, offers a range of events including concerts, exhibitions and theatre performances.

27 July:

Outdoor concert in Torshavn: The concert precedes the national Festival of St Olaf and features performances by a variety of Faroese bands. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear traditional and new Faroese music.

28-29 July:

The Festival of St Olaf: This annual event is a spectacular sight and fills the town with a lively, fun atmosphere.

02-04 August:

Music festival in Klaksvik: The summer festival is held in the centre of Klaksvik and includes a host of international and local artists. In recent years artists have included Westlife, Robin Gibb, Melanie C, Alphabeat, The Scorpions, Brian McFadden and Shakin' Stevens.

June - August (dates to be confirmed):

The summer festival in the Faroe Islands includes a range of musical events, exhibitions, festivals, and sporting competitions throughout the archipelago. Full details of the events taking place can be found at www.nlh.fo.

Special Interest

- **Ornithologists:** The 18 islands of the archipelago are home to an abundance of birdlife including the oyster-catcher, the national bird of the Faroes. Other birds regularly spotted on the outfields and along the coastline comprise Whimbrels, Snipes, Golden Plovers, Arctic Skuas, Great Skuas, Ravens and Crows, Storm Petrels, Gannets and Guillemots.

For any budding ornithologist a visit to the island of Mykines is a must. During the summer months (mid April – mid August) the most westerly of the Faroes' attracts uncountable numbers of Puffin who gather to hatch and rear their young.

- **History:** Life in these remote, weather beaten isles is difficult and survival, for centuries, has depended on the ability to harvest from the sea. Viking settlers, the Danes and even the English – during WWII have occupied the Faroes, each leaving their own unique mark on the landscape. Yet through it all, the Faroese people have retained their time-honoured traditions, language and culture.
- **Walking enthusiasts:** The glaciated landscape of the Faroes Islands with its steep slopes and lush pastureland boasts many walking trails. Unlike the well-maintained paths of England, these trails are often along ancient communication tracks between villages, across open landscape and marked with cairns.
- **Fishing:** The fishing industry is the most important source of income for the Faroes, with Cod, Haddock, Ling, Colefish and Halibut to name but a few of the deep-sea species caught.

To fish in the rivers and streams of the archipelago, in the midst of such a beautiful and peaceful landscape, is a special experience. Species such as Brown Trout, Lake Trout, Sea Trout and Salmon are in abundance, and from 01May-31Aug permits to fish can be purchased from the local tourist offices. Every local has a favourite lake, stream and/or river in which to fish – just ask!