



## DAILY NEWS

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Brrrrrr. You have approximately 3 km/2 miles of roads on Grímsey, Iceland northernmost inhabited island, latitude 66°32'41.98"N and longitude 18°0'25.52"W, fewer than one hundred people and one Pontiac Trans Am muscle car.

Walking from the airport to town take less than ten minutes. And the young man who owns the Pontiac drove maybe ten times past me, fast. The only long stretch of road in Grímsey is the road to the airport.

And now Pontiac is dead. GM is closing down its production, even though it currently has the best American car on the market, the Australian-designed and built Pontiac G8.

Grímsey is a fabulous place. Sitting on the Arctic Circle with hard-working fishermen, overlooking bird cliffs with millions of seabirds and the midnight sun is something that money can't buy.

Life has the right rhythm on Grímsey and the island boasts of the best cod in the country. Grímsey is one of my absolute favorite places here in Iceland.

And now, since the elections on April 25, Grímsey is a part of Akureyri, the biggest town in north Iceland with a population of just over 17,000 inhabitants. The only settlement large enough outside the capital region to be defined as a "town."

Akureyri is a town with a big heart. Everywhere you go you see big red hearts, in windows, on boats and buildings. A good symbol and elegantly-designed. It was put up after the economy storm, or hurricane to be correct, hit Iceland. Nice.

Just outside Akureyri, on the opposite side of Eyjafjörður fjord, is the best museum in Iceland, Safnasafnid – The Icelandic Folk Art Museum. I went there for the first time last weekend. My wife has been there couple of times and she speaks highly of it. I was impressed too.

There are two restaurants in Akureyri that I can recommend, RUB 23 and Fridrik V. They are located on the opposite sides of Listagilid, the Artists' Alley, Kaupvangsstræti. Simple, tasty and mostly local food.

Speaking of food... I drive a lot and I did the Ring Road in a day and a half a couple of weeks ago. Burgers and hot dogs at the gas stations is what you will get.

**Some are better than others. Like at the small Shell station in Fáskúdsfjörður, east Iceland, they actually have very good burgers, with fried eggs. I know, I've eaten there twice within a short period of time this spring.**

And, just south of Fáskrúðsfjörður, is the only stretch of the 1,500-kilometer long Ring Road that has gravel. A total of 16 kilometers on both sides of the Djúpivogur metropolitan area.

So, is the Ring Road, our main road and only decent road, fit for small cars?

No, no and no in winter. You have lot of mountains to pass and can be faced with icy, snowy and stormy conditions. In summer, yes, but just barely. The road doesn't match up to European standards. Four-by-fours are strongly recommended, 365 days a year.

On the opposite side of the island from Djúpivogur lies Blönduós, which is know for just one thing. Speed police. The police there are ridiculous strict.

So, when you traveling the Ring Road, half-way between [Reykjavík](#) and Akureyri, slow down. SLOW DOWN. Even if you're driving an old Pontiac Trans Am, muscle car. Maybe it's best kept on the small island of Grímsey where you can speed on the Arctic Circle.

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