

FAROE ISLANDS 1. - 5. JULY 2019

This time a trip to the Faroe Islands, which is located approximately halfway between Norway and Iceland. It is an [autonomous territory](#) within the Kingdom of Denmark. We traveled with [SAS](#) via Copenhagen. The plane departed on the morning of July 1st, so to avoid leaving early in the morning from Kongsvinger, we traveled to Gardermoen the day before. We parked the car at [Gardermoen Parkering](#).



We stayed overnight in [Park Inn by Radisson Oslo Airport Hotel West](#). It is located right next to Gardermoen Parkering.



It was time for a glass of wine and a look at the news on the PC before the restaurant opened.



I had grilled scampi as an appetizer.



Nam.



As a main course I had the tenderloin with vegetables and grated potatoes.

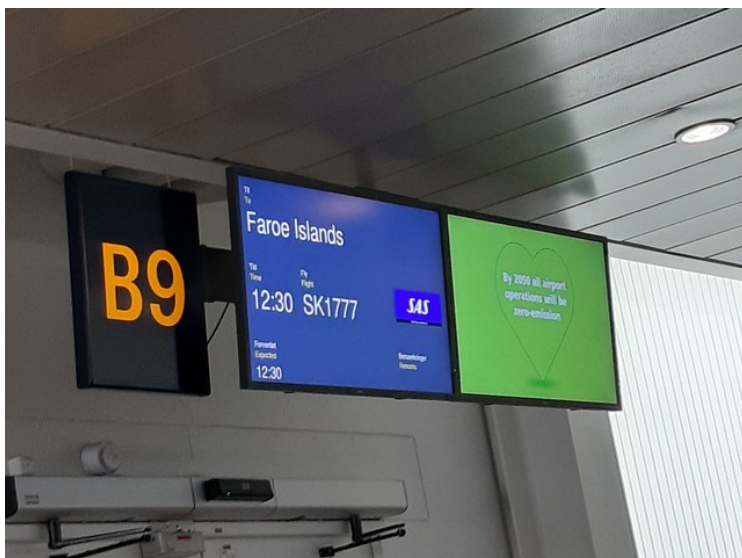


Anne Berit had salmon.

The next day we took the Shuttle bus S33 to the airport. The plane departed at 10.00 and was at Kastrup at 11.10. Here was some waiting time. The plane departed at 12.30 and was in the Faroe Islands at 13.45.



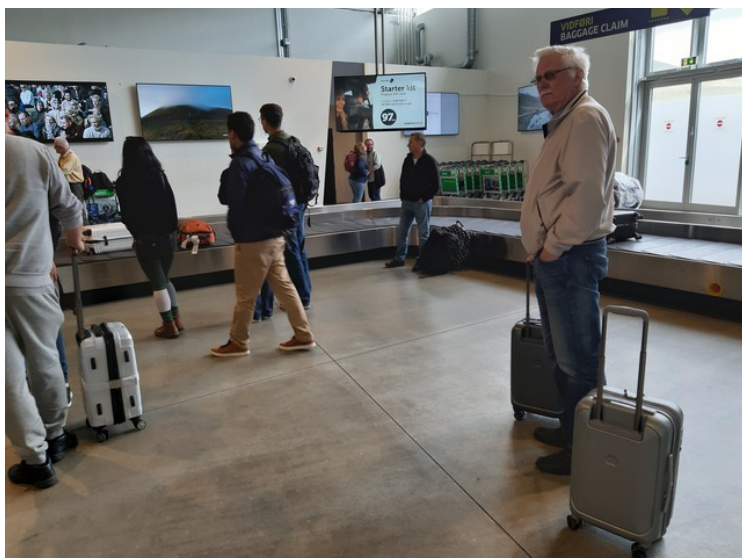
Here we are at Kastrup. I check if the plane is on route.



At the gate for boarding.



Then we are on the Faroe Islands.



Waiting for the suitcase.

There is only one airport in the Faroe Islands. It is located on an island called [Vágur](#) and is called [Vágur Airport](#). It was built by British forces during World War II and the first aircraft landed there in the fall of 1942. After the war it was abandoned and it was not re-used until 1963.



Here is the car, which we rented from [62°N](#). It was a Nissan Quasquai.



Here I have got into the car and adjust the seat while Anne Berit takes a picture of me from outside. All kinds of reflections in the window.

A little about the Faroe Islands:

[The Faroe Islands](#) consist of 18 islands of volcanic origin.

Cloud formation around the high mountains and fog occurs frequently. The islands are mostly grassy with many wildflowers. There is no natural tree growth.

Fisheries and aquaculture are the main trade routes in the Faroe Islands. Sheep farming has little commercial significance after the fishery was industrialized.

Over 400 species of vascular plants, over 400 species of mosses and about 250 species of lichens have been recorded. The vegetation is dominated by grass meadows which at high altitude goes into mountain vegetation. Moorland with russet and blueberry is common, there is also some scrub vegetation with willows and juniper. The national flower of the Faroe Islands is marsh-marigold.



The Faroe Islands are here



Flag



Coat of arms

A little about the history of the Faroe Islands:

The first inhabitants of the Faroe Islands were Irish monks who probably arrived there in 625. The first Vikings came there in 795 and it is believed that the first settlers came just after the year 825.

To maintain law and order, the [Althing](#) was established in the year 900 according to patterns from the Norwegian things at that time. The Althing, with its current name, Lagthing, the world's oldest legislative assembly, is also older than the Icelandic [Althing](#).

In 1035, Leivur Øssursson took possession of the Faroe Islands for the Norwegian king [Magnus the Good](#). This marks the end of both the Viking era in the Faroe Islands and in the independence of the Faroe Islands.

In 1380, Norway and its colonies, the Faroe Islands, [Orkney Islands](#), [Shetland](#), Iceland and [Greenland](#), enter into a union with Denmark. 17 years later, in 1397, the [Kalmar Union](#) is formed, which includes [Sweden](#).

At [the Treaty of Kiel](#) in 1814, Denmark had to give up Norway to Sweden, while the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland remained in the Danish realm.

In 1816, the Faroese Lagting was abolished by order of [the Danish King Frederick VI](#) after being in existence for 900 years.

On March 26, 1852, [Frederick VII](#) signs the Law of the Restoration.

On April 12, 1940, the Faroe Islands were occupied by England.

Following new negotiations, a law on internal self-government within Denmark was passed in 1948. Faroese was approved as the official language, the Faroe Islands received their own banknotes, [the Faroese krone](#) and the office of lawman (lieutenant, Prime Minister of the Faroe Islands) was again introduced.

[The National Day](#) is July 29, which coincides with the millennial national holiday Ólavsøka.



Then we started the sightseeing. We first drove a couple of kilometers west to [Sørvágur](#). It is the main center of [Sørvágur municipality](#) and has about 1000 inhabitants. Here is a fishing port and fillet factory.



Here we drive on the main road through Sørvágur.



Sheep graze up the slope.



Here we look back at Sørvágur.
There is a ferry from here to Mykines in the summer.



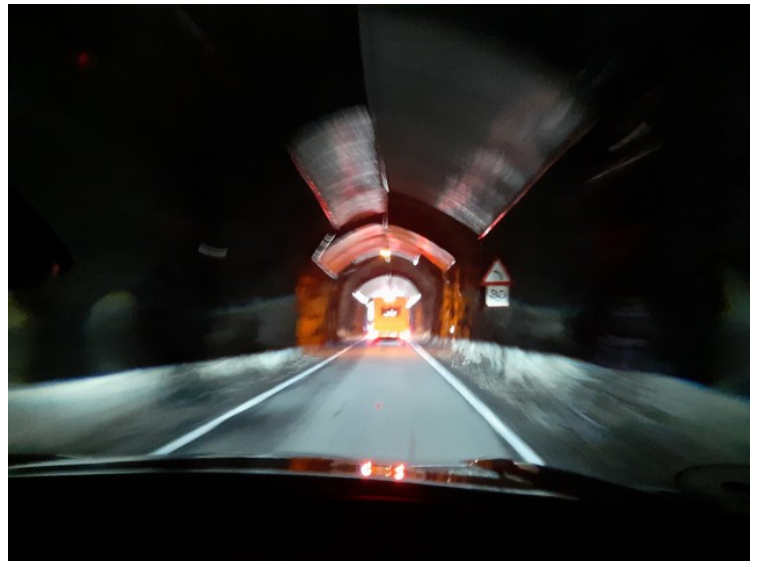
Here we look further ahead.
To the left Tindhólmur and straight ahead we see [Mykines](#).
Mykines is the westernmost island in the Faroe Islands.
In the early 1900s, this was one of the largest settlements,
but in 2013 there were only 13 permanent residents.
The island is known for large bird cliffs.



This is [Tindhólmur](#).
It is the largest islet in the Faroe Islands.
In the back to the right we glimpse Gáshólmur.



A little further out in the fjord we drove past [Bour](#).
This village had 73 inhabitants in 2016.
The image is taken from Google maps.



We continued on towards Gásadalur. Then we had to drive through this tunnel. It was completed in 2004. There is only one driving file, but there are many meeting places, so it was easy to get back and forth. Before, one had to walk a hiking trail from Bøur to reach Gásadalur via land. It is 6.6 km and it takes about 2 hours to walk across the mountain. In 1940 a staircase was built down to the sea. It is very steep.

In addition, the village has a helicopter landing place if anyone needs fast transport, e.g. to the hospital.



Then we came to Gásadalur. In 2009, the village had 22 inhabitants.



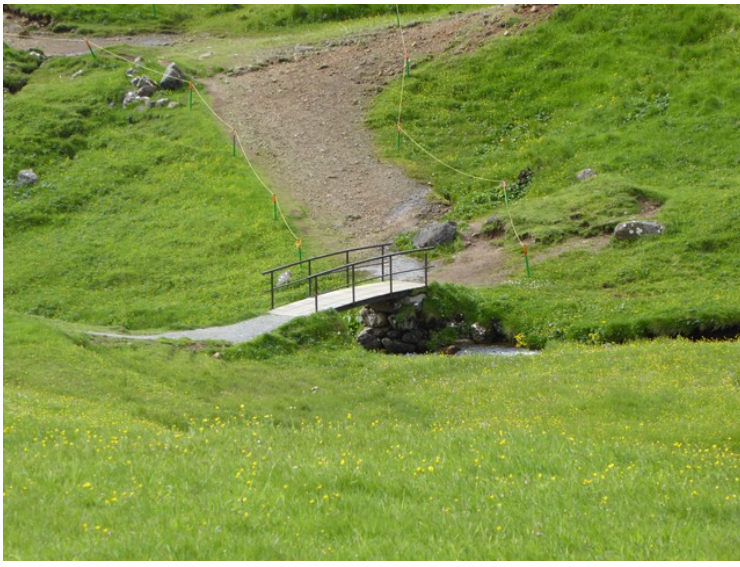
When we got there, there were many tourists. There was a bus and many cars.



It seemed that the most interesting to see here was Múlafossur because everyone was going in direction indicated by the arrow.



Gásadalur.



A small bridge crosses the creek that becomes Múlafossur further down.



Múlafossur



Close-up of the waterfall.



View south. We see the path down towards where the stairs begin. Further out in the sea we see a bit of Tindhólmur and we see the whole of [Gáshólmur](#).



Here the stairs go down. It is stated on the top that it is forbidden to walk in the stairs, but many did not care. The railing was rusty and broken.



Tindhólmur.



There is a lot of good grass to graze here.



Here we are back in Bøur.



Returning to Sørvágur which is at the bottom of [Sørvágsfjørður](#).
The fjord is approx. 3.5km long.



Sørvágs Kirkja



Then we drive past the airport.
When the airport was built, this area was chosen because it was not visible from the sea and thus better protected from German submarines.



This is [Miðvágur](#). The place has just over 1000 inhabitants and is thus among the largest places in the Faroe Islands. We see the tower at Miðvágs Kirkja.



View further north in the direction of Sandavágur.



Here we are approaching [Sandavágur](#) with about 800 inhabitants.



[Sandavágur Kirkja](#).

The church is known for a rune stone. The inscription on the Sandavágur stone states that the Norwegian, Torkil Onanderson from Rogaland, was the first to settle on the site. The stone is believed to date from the 13th century.



Kids play on the beach below the church.



There is a tunnel between Vágur and Streymoy. It is called [Vágatunnilin](#) and it is the second longest tunnel in the Faroe Islands. It was completed in 2002.



We went for a detour to [Vestmanna](#).



On January 1, 2015, Vestmanna had 1,214 inhabitants, making the village the largest settlement on Norðstreymoy. Vestmanna is one of the best natural harbors in the Faroe Islands. Fisheries, aquaculture and the maritime industry have replaced agriculture as the village's most important livelihood.

Half of the Faroe Islands hydropower is produced in Vestmanna

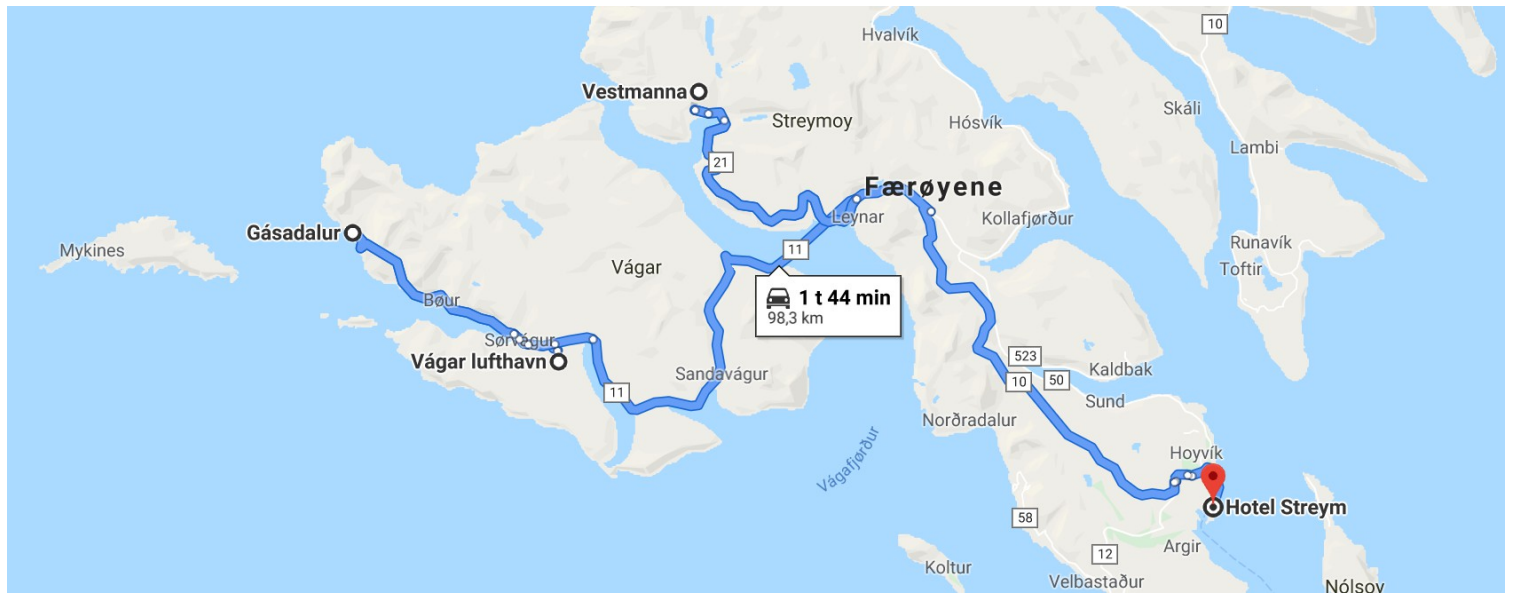
Many tourists come to the village to visit the bird mountains on the northwest coast, Vestmannabjörgini.



On the way back we stopped and took a picture of [Kvívik](#). On January 1, 2016, Kvívik had 379 inhabitants. Most of the inhabitants work elsewhere than in their hometown.



Then we checked into the hotel in Torshavn. It's called [Hotel Streym](#). It is located close to downtown and there was parking right outside. However, it was a couple of days that the parking lot was completely full after we had parked.



By then we had driven like this.



This was the view from the room we were given on the second floor. We see the [Nólsoyarfjørður](#)



After check in we went to have something to eat. There was an Asian restaurant on the floor below us, so we just went there. It's called [Seven](#) and they make good and cheap food. We were very happy, so we went there every night.



Of course we had to try the Faroese beer. It's called [Føroya Bjór](#).



The next day, on July 2, we started sightseeing in the city. Here we look at the lighthouse that stands on [Skansin](#). Skansin was built in 1580 and has been one of the strongest fortresses in Northern Europe.



Tórshavn is the capital of the Faroe Islands. The town has a natural harbor in the shelter of the island of Nólsoy. The town grew from the 16th century as a trading center around Tinganes, which had been a landmark since the Norse settlers arrived there in the 8th century. Tórshavn was granted city rights in 1908. Tinganes is now the seat of the Faroe Islands government, while the Parliament, the Løgting, is up in the city.

Unlike many other cities with wooden houses, Tórshavn has never been hit by any major city fire. Therefore, there are many wooden houses from the 14th and 15th centuries.

The town center had 13,326 inhabitants on January 1, 2019, but including Hoyvík and Argir the city had 19,635 inhabitants, and the entire municipality 21,592 inhabitants.



Some pictures from the city.





From the marina.



This is Kongaminnið, the King's memory. An obelisk that was erected in 1882 as a memorial to the first Danish royal visit in 1874.



Kongaminnið stands on a hill, so there are good views all around.





Here I am on my way back to the car.

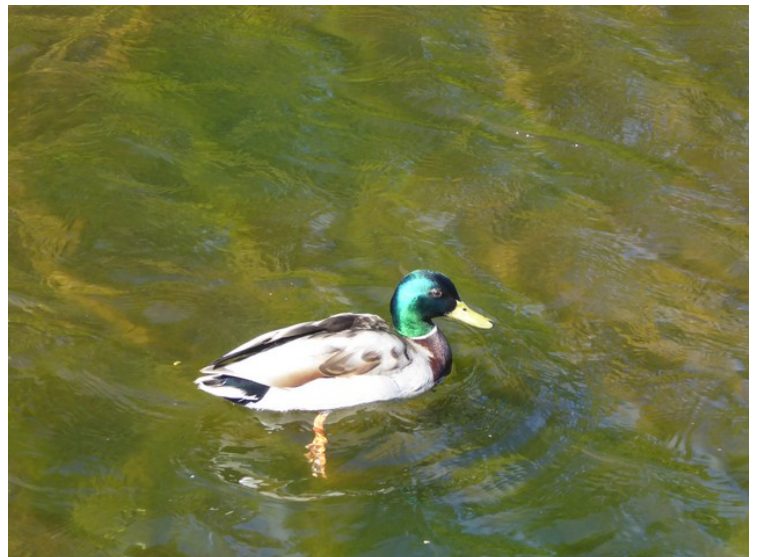


The next stop was at this church called [Vesturkirkjan](#). It was built in 1975. It is 40.9 m high and is thus the tallest building in the Faroe Islands.



There is a small river called Rættará by the church, and a pond has been created in connection with the river.

A statue by the pond.



A duck in the pond.



The next stop was at [Dómkirkjan](#). The church is located in an old part of the city, and it was built in 1788. Only Ólavskirkjan in Kirkjubæur is older.



Just below the cathedral are some stairs called Trappan.



It seemed to be popular to sit here.



Many people.



In the harbor just below the cathedral stands an oyster fisherman trying to chase away a raven, which represents the Danish trade monopoly. The sculptor is [Hans Pauli Olsen](#).



This is where [Føroya Fiskimannafelag](#) has office. It is a trade union for fishermen in the Faroe Islands. Founded in 1911, it is the Faroe Islands' second oldest union.



View of the southern harbour.



[Hoyvikar Kirkja](#) is from 2007. Queen Margrete laid the foundation stone June 20, 2005. The church bell is made in Tønsberg.



This is the [Norðurlandahúsið](#) (Nordic House). The house was inaugurated on May 8, 1983, and aims to promote Nordic and Faroese culture. Artists from all over the world perform or exhibit here. The Nordic House is known for its unique architecture with the characteristic grass roof. This has been a strong, contributing factor to the fact that grass roofs have been given a renaissance in modern building art on the North Atlantic archipelago.



Stones outside.



Metal sheep.



A sort of a rune stone.



All the Nordic flags.



We drove past [Gundadalur](#). It is an area with many sport facilities. We can see [Tórsvøllur](#), which is the largest football stadium in the Faroe Islands.



Inside Tórsvøllur.
They got artificial grass in 2012.
This image is taken from the web.



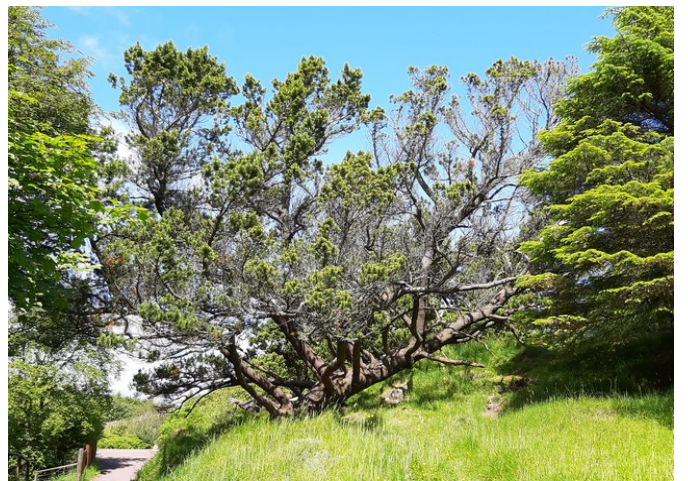
Stylish statue outside the stadium.



Here we are at [Listasavn Føroyar](#). It is the Faroe Islands Art Museum, established in 1989. It got a new building in 1993.

The art museum is located on the outskirts of Viðarlundin, which is the largest park and forest in the Faroe Islands. The park was built in 1903 and expanded in 1969 and 1979, but damaged in a hurricane in 1988. The park is in a sheltered area and much of what is planted does not grow naturally on the islands. For example, all the trees that grow on the islands are planted. Below are some plant pictures.







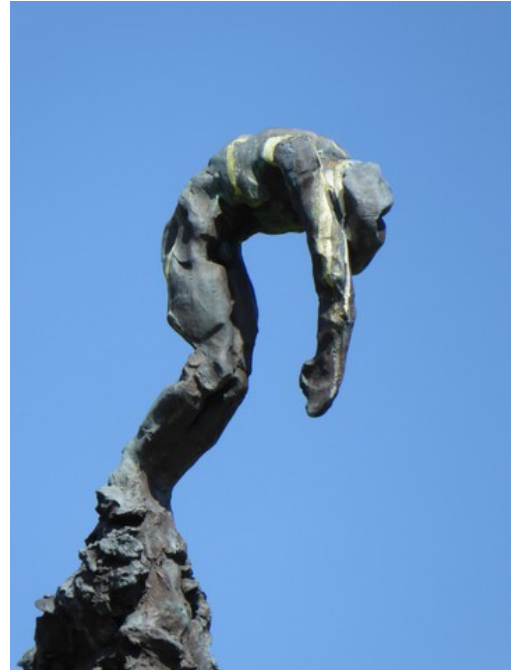
There were several statues in the park. This is called Skuggin (the Shadow). It looks like this on one side.



This is how it looks like on the other side.



Another statue,



The top of the statue looks like this.



Yvir og undir vatni. (above and below water)



This is a memorial to Faroese sailors who perished during World War II.



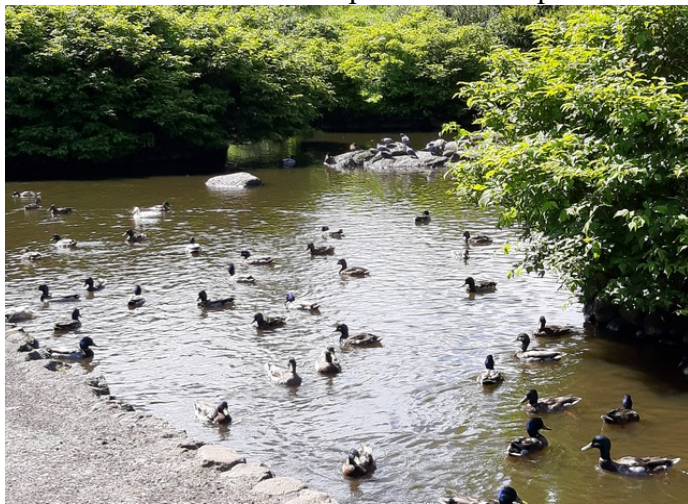
Spegilsmynd



A part of Listasavn Føroyar.



In the middle of the park there is a pond.



Mangy birds.





In the town we spotted these two, Maður við torvleypi og neytakona, a man carrying peat in a special basket and a woman carrying milk.



A monument made by Eyvind Dalsgaard and Jens Peter Kellermann in 1984.



After traveling around in the city, we drove south on the island. Here we arrive at [Velbastaður](#). We can see the small island [Koltur](#). There are only two inhabitants on the island.



Some pictures from Velbastaður. There are exposed dwellings from the Viking Age nearby. The village has 226 inhabitants.



Out in the sea, to the left, we see the island of [Hestur](#). It is slightly larger than Koltur, and it has 17 inhabitants. Fishing is the main industry. There is some sheep farming as well. Ferries goes there from [Gamllarætt](#) ferry dock at Kirkjubøur.



Then we continue south in direction of Kirkjubøur.



Looking down on Kirkjubøur.



Bus stop with mailbox.



View north.



It's pretty steep here.



Large outbuilding.

The history of [Kirkjubøur](#) is considered to go back to the Viking era in the Faroe Islands. The Catholic Church was established in the Faroe Islands, and from the year 1111 the Faroe Islands was a separate episcopal with its seat in Kirkjubøur, Kirkjubøur Diocese. The associated priest's school was of great importance, and was the first and only school of the Faroe Islands until the Reformation in the Faroe Islands in 1538. The future king Sverre of Norway grew up in Kirkjubøur, and attended the priest's school there. Kirkjubøur was once made up of around 50 houses, but most of these were destroyed in a storm that raged sometime in the 1400s or 1500s. Kirkjubøur currently has 76 inhabitants.



The harbor.



The church photographer in action.



[Kirkjubøargarður](#) is the largest royal farm in the Faroe Islands. The farm was the seat of the bishop of Kirkjubøur diocese before the Reformation. It is among the world's oldest inhabited wooden buildings



[Ólavskirkjan](#) was originally dedicated to the Virgin Mary, later to Saint Olav, hence the name. Ólavskirkjan is the oldest church still in use in the Faroe Islands, and was from it was built the Faroe Islands cathedral during the Catholic era (1111-1537).



Nice gate.



[Magnus Cathedral](#).

Construction of the cathedral began about 1300 under [Bishop Erlendur](#), but it was never completed. Today there is only a ruin with the exterior walls left.



View further south from the cathedral.

After that we drove back to Torshavn to have a look at Tinganes.

This was our driving route.

