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Cycling in the Faroe Islands



1



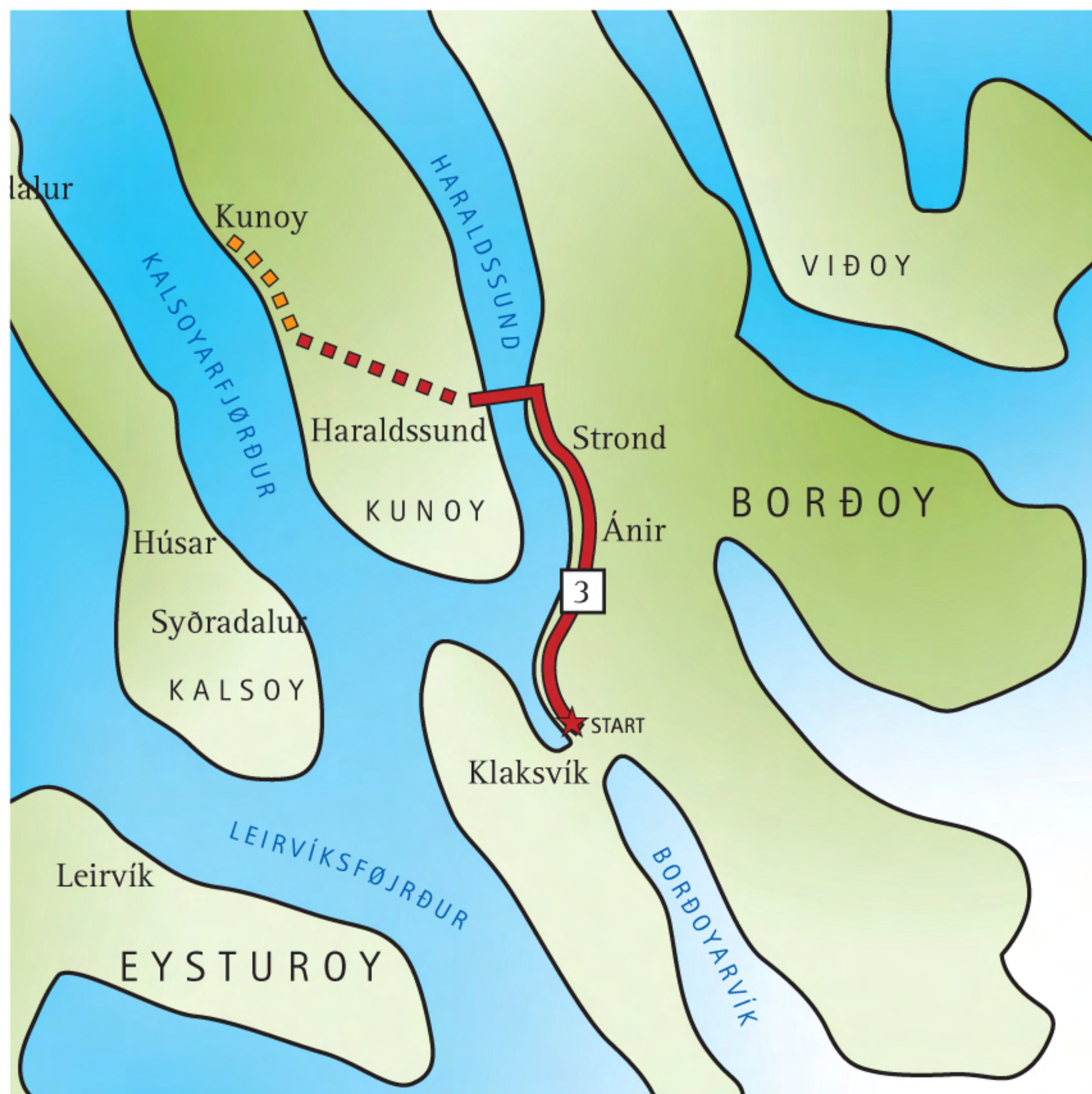
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Skálafjørður–Selatrað



From *Skálafjørður* you cycle along the western shore of the fjord. The road is even and easy and not very trafficated. This is a peaceful and relaxing ride along the longest fjord in the Faroes and you can stop and rest in the villages of *Skáli* and *Strendur*. You then continue around *Raktangi* and head north. Admire the fantastic views of the fjords *Tangafjørður* and *Kollafjørður*. This route takes you past the idyllic villages of *Kolbanargjógv*, *Morskranes* and *Selatrað*. You have a view of the village of *Hósvík*. Across the water. On the return journey you can enjoy the views of *Nólsoy*, *Flesjarnar* and *Eystnes*, before you once again cycle around *Raktangi* and away from *Skálafjørður*.

Start:	Petrol station in Skálafjørður
Distance:	45 km
Cycling time:	4 hours
Route:	Return via same route as outbound journey
Views:	Skálafjørður, Tangafjørður, Streymoy, Nólsoy

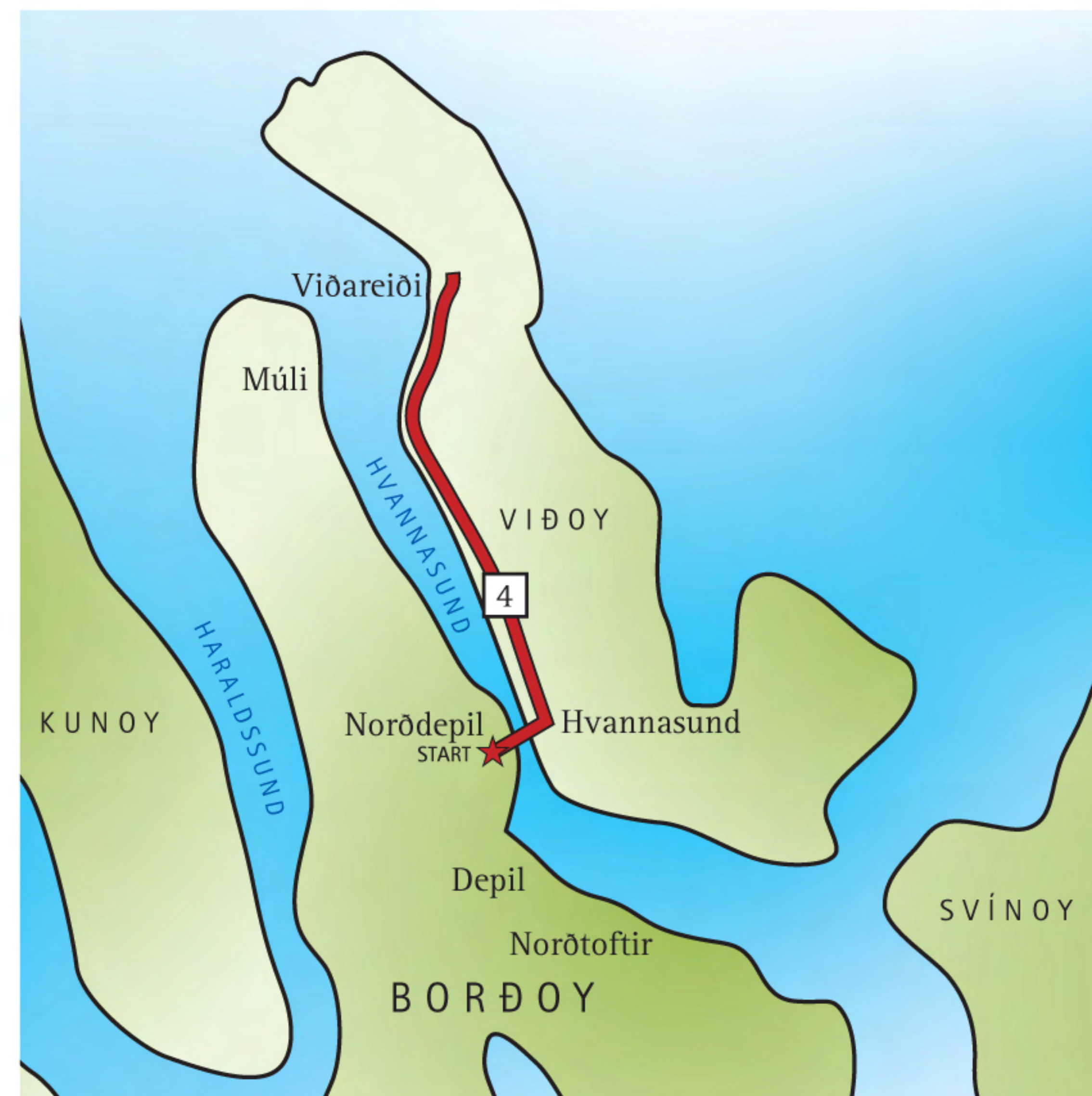


3 Klaksvík–Haraldssund/Kunoy

Turn left as you leave the ferry terminal and head down *Nólsoyar Páls Gøta* as you cycle out of town towards the tunnel to *Árna-fjørður*. Turn left at the signpost, and head for the village of *Ánir* and carry on towards *Strond*. On the other side of the dam are the village of *Haraldssund* and the tunnel to *Kunoy*. We recommend that you catch the bus through the tunnel to *Kunoy*, from where you can enjoy magnificent views of *Kalsoy*. Savour the tranquillity as you rest for a while in the idyllic plantation.

Tall and steep mountains are characteristic for the northern islands in the Faroes. The islands of *Borðoy*, *Viðoy* and *Kunoy* are connected by dams and the villages by small, dark tunnels. *Under no circumstances should you attempt to cycle through the tunnels!* Each route is about 20 km long. The area around the town of *Klaksvík* offers great opportunities for both easy and more challenging cycling trips. We recommend the route along *Niðan á Háls*, which takes you up to the mountain above the town. From here there are stunning views of the town, bays and fjords and the neighbouring islands.

Start:	Ferry terminal in Klaksvík
Distance:	20 km
Cycling time:	1,5 hours/2 hours
Route:	Return via same route as outbound journey
Views:	Borðoy, Kunoy, Haraldssund, Kalsoy



4 Norðdepil–Viðareiði

Catch the bus from the ferry terminal at *Klaksvík* to *Norðdepil*. *Under no circumstances should you attempt to cycle through the two tunnels!* From *Norðdepil*, cycle across the dam from *Borðoy* to *Viðoy*, then carry on through the village of *Hvannasund* towards *Viðareiði*. The tall mountains and steep cliffs are a magnificent sight. As you approach *Viðareiði* you can see the deserted village of *Múli* on the opposite side of the fjord. Another impressive sight is the village of *Viðareiði*, set at the foot of the 844-metre high mountain of *Villingadalsfjall*. Behind is Europe's highest cliff, the 750-metre high *Enniberg*. The views from the village are stunning, with the islands of *Borðoy*, *Kunoy* and *Kalsoy* in the west and *Fugloy* and *Svínoy* in the east. Take the time to visit the local church and go for a stroll around the village.

Start:	Bus stop in Norðdepil
Distance:	20 km
Cycling time:	2-3 hours
Route:	Return via same route as outbound journey
Views:	Múli, Borðoy, Kunoy, Kalsoy, Fugloy, Svínoy



5 Skálafjørður-Toftir-Agnið

This is an ideal route for cyclists looking for an easy ride. Follow the eastern shore of the long, beautiful fjord of *Skálafjørður*. When you reach the roundabout in *Runavík* you turn right and travel around the headland of *Saltnes*, from where you'll have views of the village of *Strendur* across the water. Continue south through the village of *Toftir* and turn onto the narrow lane *Agnið*, which winds its way across the countryside with lots of hairpin bends. If you look towards the southwest you can see the outskirts of *Tórshavn* and *Argir* with their new residential areas, while to the south the unique island of *Nólsoy* rises out of the sea. To the east is the ocean, as far as the eye can see. On the way back to *Runavík* the road takes you past *Toftavatn*, a beautiful mountain lake with a rich bird life. This is an ideal spot for a peaceful rest.

Start:	Petrol station in Skálafjørður
Distance:	40 km
Cycling time:	4 hours
Route:	Return via same route as outbound journey
Views:	Skálafjørður, Runavík, Toftavatn, Nólsoy, Streymoy



6 Tórshavn-Saksun

Set out from the central bus terminal in *Tórshavn* along the roads *Yviri við Strond*, *Eystari Ringvegur* and turn right into *Hvítanesvegur* which takes you out of town. Once you reach the small village of *Hvítanes* you'll have views of *Tangaðfjørður* and the longest fjord in the Faroes, *Skálafjørður*. The route continues along the road *Kaldbaksvegur*, and from the power station in *Sund* you can enjoy the views of the fjord *Kaldbaksfjørður*. Continue through the tunnel, and on the other side you will see the fjord *Kollafjørður* and the valley of *Kollafjarðardalur*. At the roundabout, turn right/east and cycle along the shores of the fjord. The road climbs only slightly, which means you can relax and enjoy the amazing views from *Sundalagið*. Turn left/west at *Hvalvík* and follow the old road into the valley of *Saksunardalur* until you reach the village of *Saksun*. This is a lovely village set in magnificent countryside with numerous historical sights.

Start:	Bus terminal in Tórshavn
Distance:	95 km
Cycling time:	10 hours
Route:	Return via same route as outbound journey
Views:	Tórshavn, Kaldbaksfjørður, Kollafjørður, Sundalagið, Selatrað, Saksunardalur, Saksun



7 Tórshavn–Kirkjubøur/Syðradalur

From *Tórshavn* central bus terminal you follow the roads *Yviri við Strond*, *Eystari Ringvegur*, *Marknagilsvegur* and *Landavegur*, at which point you leave *Tórshavn*. The trip starts for real in *Havnardalur*, where you will meet people on horseback and discover the Faroese countryside. Cross the bridge and climb the hill and you find yourself at *Velbastaðhalsur*, from where the views are breathtaking. You can see the islands of *Hestur* and *Koltur* rising out of the ocean with *Sandoy* in the background. Further to the west is the island of *Vágar*. Next stop on the route is the village of *Velbastaður*, and afterwards you continue south to *Kirkjubøur* where you can wander round the 900-year old farm and 700-year old church ruins. If you want to continue a bit further, you can head north up the steep hill to the village of *Syðradalur*.

Start:	Bus terminal in Tórshavn
Distance:	28 km/36 km
Cycling time:	2,5 hours/4 hours
Route:	Return via same route as outbound journey
Views:	Tórshavn, Velbastaður, Hestur, Koltur



8 Skálafjørður–Leirvík/Fuglafjørður

On this trip you follow the eastern shore of the fjord *Skálafjørður*. The road is flat but very trafficated, so take care as the cars drive at high speed. From the village of *Skipanes* you follow the road to the roundabout, where you turn left in the direction of *Gøta* and *Leirvík*. Stop at the mountain pass of *Gøtueiði* to admire the views of the villages of *Syðrugøta*, *Gøtugjógv* and *Norðragøta* as well as *Gøtuvík* further out. This historical site was the home of the famous Viking chief Tróndur í Gøtu a thousand years ago. The road now descends and you can relax and admire the wonderful views. You then pass through *Norðragøta* and further up the valley you turn right and cycle through the tunnel towards *Leirvík*, where it is worth exploring the archaeological artefacts unearthed made by Føroya Fornminnisavn. When you leave *Leirvík*, instead of going back through the tunnel you can turn right/north and follow the old road towards *Fuglafjørður*, a village known for its many cultural events.

Start:	Petrol station in Skálafjørður
Distance:	30 km/42 km
Cycling time:	4 hours
Route:	Return via same route as outbound journey
Views:	Skálafjørður, Gøtueiði, Gøtuvík, Leirvík, Norðoyggjar



As you leave *Bøur* you have views of the small islands of *Tindhólmur* and *Gáshólmur* as well as the island of *Mykines*. Continue along the shores of the fjord towards the village of *Sørvágur*. On the way to *Miðvágur* the route runs along the banks of the Faroe Islands' largest lake, *Leitisvatn/Sørvágsvatn*, and also passes through the small village of *Vatnsoyrar*. It's a fairly short distance from *Miðvágur* to Vágur's third-largest village, *Sandavágur*, which in the old days used to be the residence of the Faroe Islands' Prime Minister. From *Sandavágur* the road climbs for a while and then descends towards the underwater tunnel that leads to the village of *Leynar*. Follow the old road north of the tunnel and cycle along the lake *Leynavatn*. Further down, in the valley of *Kollafjarðardalur*, turn right at the roundabout, then carry on through the tunnel until you reach *Kaldbaksbotnur*. From then on, follow the road along the shore of the fjord *Kaldbaksfjørður*. This route eventually joins the road *Hvítnesvegur*, which leads to *Tórshavn*.

Start:	Bður
Distance:	53 km
Cycling time:	5 hours
Route:	One way
Views:	Bður, Vatnsoyrar, Leitisvatn/Sörvágsvatn, Miðvágur, Sandavágur, Leynar, Kollafjørður, Kaldbaksfjørður



From the central bus terminal in *Tórshavn* you follow the roads *Yviri við Strond*, *Eystari Ringvegur*, *Marknagilsvegur* and *Landavegur* and you then turn right towards *Havnardalur*, cross the bridge and head for *Velbastaðhálsur*. The views are magnificent; you can see the islands of *Hestur* and *Koltur* rising out of the sea with *Sandoy* as backdrop. Carry on down to *Velbastaður* and the ferry terminal at *Gamlarætt*. Take the ferry to *Skopun*. The hill from the village is challenging, so take it easy in the beginning. The countryside above the village is dotted with lovely mountain tarns. Once you reach the top it's downhill all the way through the valley of *Traðardalur*, along the *Sandsvatn* lake, to the village of *Sandur*. The hill on the other side of the village is long, and you now have two options: either ride along a fairly flat route to the villages of *Skarvanes* and *Skálavík*, or take the route towards *Húsavík* and *Dalur*. All the villages have an interesting heritage and are well worth a visit.

Start:	Skopun
Distance:	44 km (to Dalur)
Cycling time:	4 hours
Route:	Return via same route as outbound journey
Views:	Skopunarfjørður, Skúvoy, Sandsvatn, Sandur, Húsavík, Dalur, Skopun, Skálavík, Skarvanes



11 Drelnes–Fámjin

Take the Smyril ferry from *Tórshavn* to *Suðuroy*. The Faroes' most southerly islands are true gems of outstanding natural beauty, and during the crossing you will understand why. The ferry sails past the islands of *Stóra Dímun* and *Lítla Dímun*, natural sculptures that rise out of the sea. From the ferry terminal at *Drelnes* follow the wide country road along the southern shore of the fjord *Trongisvágsfjørður*. On the opposite shore you can see *Tvøroyri*, at the end of the fjord is *Trongisvágur*, while at the mouth of the fjord is the ancient village of *Froðba*. Continue around *Gálgin* until you reach the farming community of *Øravík*, which in the old days was the meeting place for the local 'thing' or parliament. In *Øravík* turn right and head west up the hill as you climb slowly towards the mountain pass of *Skarðið*, which marks the boundary between *Øravík* and the village of *Fámjin*. The route down to *Fámjin* takes you through crevices and past mountain tarns and rivers. And then, finally, you catch sight of *Fámjin*, arguably the loveliest village in the Faroes.

Start:	Ferry terminal at Drelnes
Distance:	25 km
Cycling time:	3 hours
Route:	Return via same route as outbound journey
Views:	Trongisvágsfjørður, Øravík, Fámjin



12 Tórshavn–Oyggjarvegur–Kollafjørður–Tórshavn

From *Tórshavn* central bus terminal you follow the roads *Yviri við Strond* and *Eystari Ringvegur*, then turn right into *Oyggjarvegur* a bit further up. This route has steep ascents and descents, but hardly any cars, so you can go at full speed down the hills while you admire the views of the sound and fjord. At the mountain pass of *Norðradalsskarð* you have two choices. Either turn left and cycle down to the village of *Norðradalur*. For this option you must be fit, as the return route climbs up some of the steepest hills in the country. Alternatively, you can cycle up to the mountain of *Sornfelli*, from where you have a view of most of the islands in the Faroes. Return to *Oyggjarvegur* and continue to the mountain of *Skælingsfjall*, which is 763 metres above sea level. You then carry on down to *Kollafjarðardalur*. On the return trip to *Tórshavn* you pass through the tunnel at *Signabøur*, and you then follow the roads *Kaldbaksvegur* and *Hvítanesvegur* into town.

Start:	Bus terminal in Tórshavn
Distance:	40 km
Cycling time:	5 hours
Route:	Round trip
Views:	Tórshavn, Nólsoy, Mjørkadalur, Kollafjørður, Kaldbaksfjørður, Eysturoy



13 Tórshavn-Vestmanna

From *Tórshavn* central bus terminal you follow the roads *Yviri við Strond*, *Eystari Ringvegur* and then turn right at *Hvítanesvegur* where you leave town. The route continues onto the road *Kaldbaksvegur*, and at the power station in *Sund* you can stop and enjoy the views of the fjord *Kaldbaksfjørður*. At the end of the fjord, above *Kaldbaksbotnur*, the mountain of *Sornfelli* rises up like a giant shield. The route continues through the tunnel and on the other side you can see the fjord *Kollafjørður* and the valley of *Kollafjarðardalur*. At the roundabout, turn left/west and follow the road up through the valley. Then turn into the old road that runs alongside the *Leynatunnilin* tunnel and the lake *Leynavatn*. From the small village of *Leynar* the route climbs steeply up towards *Høgareyn*. Along the route you pass the villages of *Stykkið* and *Kvívík* which are famous for their Viking graves. Once you reach the top of *Høgareyn* you can enjoy the ride down the hill to *Vestmanna*.

Start:	Bus terminal in Tórshavn
Distance:	80 km
Cycling time:	10 hours
Route:	Return via same route as outbound journey
Views:	Tórshavn, Kaldbaksfjørður, Kvívík, Høgareyn, Vestmannasund



14 Oyrarbakki-Gjógv

From *Oyrarbakki* you head north through the village of *Norðskáli* towards *Eiði*. The road is fairly flat but further ahead you will cycle along the highest road in the Faroe Islands. When you are halfway up you will be able to see the *Risin and Kellingin* cliffs rising out of the ocean. As you climb higher you eventually reach the mountain pass of *Eiðisskarð*. Here you will cycle along the foot of the Faroe Islands' highest mountain, *Slættaratindur* (882 m), before you continue on to the village of *Gjógv*. The road from the mountain pass of *Gjáarskarð* to *Gjógv* offers some impressive views. It is all downhill and you can really speed along the last stretch. However, such an easy ride doesn't come free, and the return route, from *Gjógv* back up to *Gjáarskarð*, is a steep climb. But once you complete the tour, at least you can boast that you are one of the few people who have crossed the *Eiðisskarð* mountain twice in just one day.

Start:	Petrol station in Oyrarbakki
Distance:	55 km
Cycling time:	8 hours
Route:	Return via same route as outbound journey
Views:	Sundalagið, Eiði, Risin og Kellingin, Slættaratindur, Norðoyggjar, Gjógv



15 Drelnes–Sumba

Take the Smyril ferry from *Tórshavn* to *Suðuroy*. From the ferry terminal at *Drelnes* follow the wide country road along the southern shore of the fjord *Trongisvágsfjørður*. Continue around *Gálgin* until you reach the village of *Øravík* and then head out alongside the fjord to *Tjaldavík*, which was the old campsite for the parliament meetings in *Øravík*. The road now climbs up to *Hovsegg*, and if you look north you will see the islands of *Lítla Dímun* and *Stóra Dímun* rising out of the sea. At *Hovsegg* you clearly see the layers of volcanic basalt that characterise the landscape of *Suðuroy*. In the valley below you lies the village of *Hov*. From *Hov* there is a steady climb, but when you reach the village of *Porkeri* it's downhill all the way to *Vágur*. You then cycle around the fjord to *Lopra*. The road from *Lopra* up to *Hestur* is challenging, but once you reach the top you can get off your bike and walk to the edge of the cliff to admire the views of the entire western shore of *Suðuroy*. The journey then continues to the village of *Sumba*. On the return trip you can use the tunnel to *Lopra* and then continue the same way you came.

Start:	Ferry terminal at Drelnes
Distance:	80 km
Cycling time:	8 hours
Route:	Return via same route as outbound journey
Views:	Trongisvágsfjørður, Øravík, Tjaldavík, Hov, Vágfjørður, Hestur, Sumba

