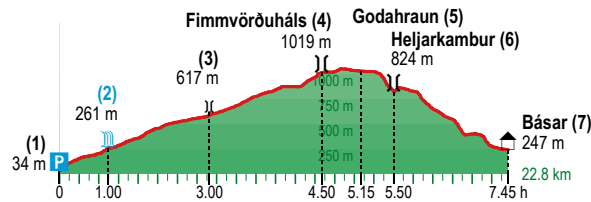


**TOP 1** **Skógar – Fimmvörðuháls, 1019 m – Þórsmörk** **7.45 hrs**

**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.: Þásar – Húsadalur): be sure to get an update on the state of the bridges!

**Accommodation/refreshment:** Skógar: campsite and hotels. Þórsmörk: Þásar 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 (Þásar hut) and then climb back down (about 5 hrs).

The mighty Skógafoss.



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 **Þásar hut (7)**.

