

Stykkishólmur, Iceland

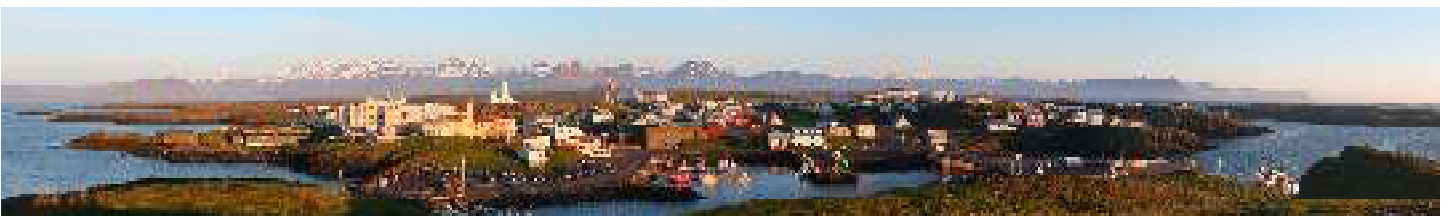


Stykkishólmur is a town and municipality situated at 65°04'30"North, 22°43'30"West, in the western part of Iceland, in the northern part of the Snæfellsnes peninsula. It is a centre of services and commerce for the area. Most of the people make their living from fishing and tourism. It is connected by regular ferry north to Brjánslækur in the Westfjords region, or by road and air to the capital city, Reykjavík, 170 km to the south.

Stykkishólmur can trace its origins to its natural harbour. The favourable position of the town was discovered early and in 1550, a trading post was founded at the site. From that time trading has been at the heart of the settlement's history. In 1828 Árni Thorlacius built a large house for his home and companies, the Norwegian House, which has been

renovated and accommodates the local museum. Today, the most important sector of employment in the town after the fishing industry is summer-time tourism. Residential population of the town is 1,195.

Stykkishólmur features a true subpolar oceanic climate, the least cold of all the polar climates, with cool summers over 10 °C. By Western Australian standards that would seem rather cool, but it is considered by most as the limit of polar climates because of its relative warmth. Highest summer temperatures can reach 20 °C. Winter average temperatures are less cold than cities much further south because of the moderating effect of ocean currents. It is usual to experience lows of -4 °C and the lowest recorded temperature is -19 °C.





The new church of Stykkishólmur perches on the cliff over the bay like a white swan. Due to the curved contours of the building it seems to be all in motion. A continuous wave also runs through the interior. The church was inaugurated on May 6th, 1990, and is a landmark of the small town both from sea and land. The building was designed by architect Jón Haraldsson and the altar piece is painted by Icelandic artist Kristín Gunnlaugsdóttir, showing Mary carrying the child Jesus.

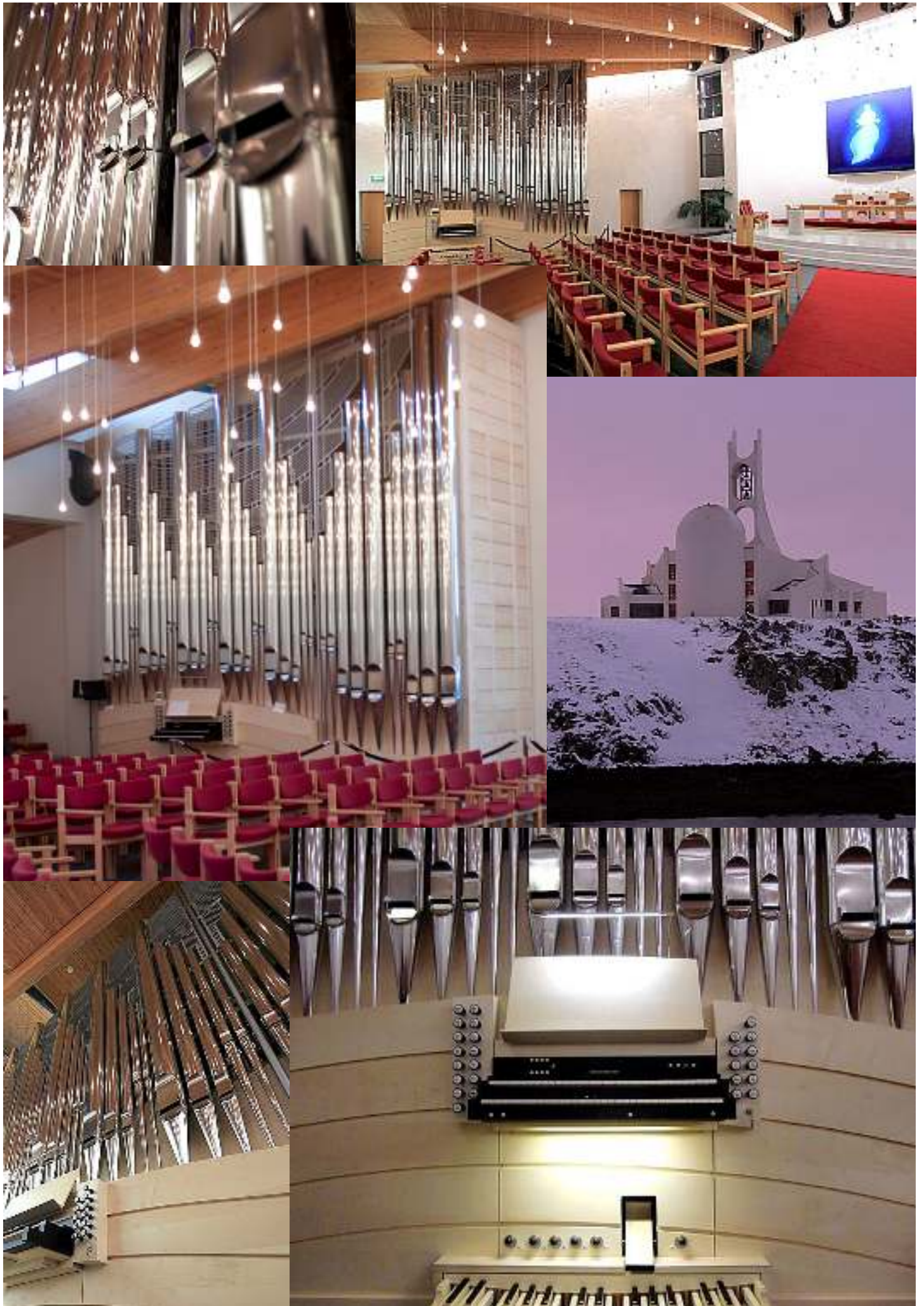
The church is well known for its fine acoustics and musical events are held there on regular basis. A new pipe organ of 22 registers was inaugurated in January 2012, built by Johannes Klais of Bonn, Germany. Recitals are conducted

Above left: Stykkishólmrkirkja
Above right: Kristín Gunnlaugsdóttir altar piece

by The Friends of the Arts Society Stykkishólmrkirkja every summer.

The new organ takes on the architectural theme of movement and turns it into a visible statement of beauty. In stark contrast to the curved exterior of the organ the internal structure follows an imposed straight layout of efficiency and stringency. Mounted directly above the attached console is the Swell, flanked on the right side by the Hauptwerk in the front and the Pedal in the back. The wind supply is housed in the right lower case. The 25 rank organ was built in 2011 and has two manuals and pedals with mechanical action and 22 stops using electric action.







Stoplist:

I. HAUPTWERK C-a3

Bordun	16'
Principal	8'
Dulciana	8'
Rohrflöte	8'
Octave	4'
Waldflöte	2'
Mixtur IV	1 1/3'
Trompete	8'

II. SCHWELLWERK C-a3

Concertflöte	8'
Bordun	8'
Gambe	8'
Vox coelestis	8'
Traversflöte	4'
Nazard	2 2/3'
Doublette	2'
Terz	1 3/5'
Oboe	8'
Tremulant	

PEDAL C-f1

Principal	16'
Bordun	16'
Octavbass	8'
Tenoroctave	4'
Fagott	16'

KOPPELN/COUPLERS

II – I
II – II sub
I – P
II – P



Bruce Duncan

Information and photographs from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>, <https://www.stykkisholmur.is/>, <http://www.stykkisholmskirkja.is/> and <https://www.klais.de>