

# Breiddalur (Breiðdalur)

## Ice climbing topo for the Breiddalur valley in the Eastfjords

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### General

The Breiddalur valley is located in the southern part of the Eastfjords in Iceland. It's the next valley north of the large fjord Berufjörður.

The first registered ice climbing ascents were made in 2007 - Hreindýrafoss (route C1) and Chocolate Chaud (route A7) but the majority of the routes were ascended during a large ice climbing festival in 2008, held by the Icelandic Alpine Club ([www.isalp.is](http://www.isalp.is)).

A small village, Breiddalsvík, is located at the coast on the northern edge of the valley. A supermarket and other basic services can be found there.

### How to get there

From Reykjavík, there are two main ways to get to Breiddalur.

a) drive highway 1 (the ring road) to the east - along the south coast, through Selfoss, Hvalsvollur, Vík, Höfn and other towns. The road is paved all the way but during the wintertime it can get icy and even blocked. The driving distance is around 600km so it takes 7-10 hours depending on weather, traffic and road conditions.

b) take a flight to Egilsstaðir airport from Reykjavík domestic airport (1 hour flight) and rent a car there. From Egilsstaðir take either the road across moor Breiddalsheiði (highway X) if conditions are good, or drive along the coast through the towns of Faskrudsfjörður, Stodvarfjörður and Breiddalsvík (highway X).

A 4x4 (preferably an SUV or larger) is highly recommended during iceclimbing ventures in Iceland.

NB Follow the road service's updates on current road conditions ([www.vegagerdin.is](http://www.vegagerdin.is)).

### Accommodation

There is a youth hostel in Berunes, a few km into the Berufjörður fjord ([www.berunes.is](http://www.berunes.is)). From there it's a 20-40min drive to the climbing sectors.

The luxurious fishing lodge of Breiddalur ([www.strengir.is/breiddalsa/](http://www.strengir.is/breiddalsa/)) can accommodate larger

groups (up to 20-30 people). It's located 10min from the Trollhamrar sector.

### The climbing

The current topo accounts for 25 routes in the Breiddalur area. The difficulty of the routes ranges from WI3 up to M10, with lengths ranging from 15m up to 100m+. The grade distribution is illustrated in the graph on the next page.

Most of the routes are north facing and are therefore not likely to get sunbaked as the days grow longer after the winter solstice. The Trollhamrar and Palsklettar sectors are at an elevation of 200-300m and are therefore not as sensitive to thaw as the Flogugil sector which is at the valley floor.

There is still potential for some new routes in the area, a number of lines in the WI4 range in the Palsklettar sector and some hard mixed climbs in the Flogugil sector along with isolated lines and variants of already established ones.

There is more potential for first ascents in the nearby Berufjörður fjord and these two areas can easily be climbed while staying in either Berunes youth hostel or the Breiddalur fishing lodge.

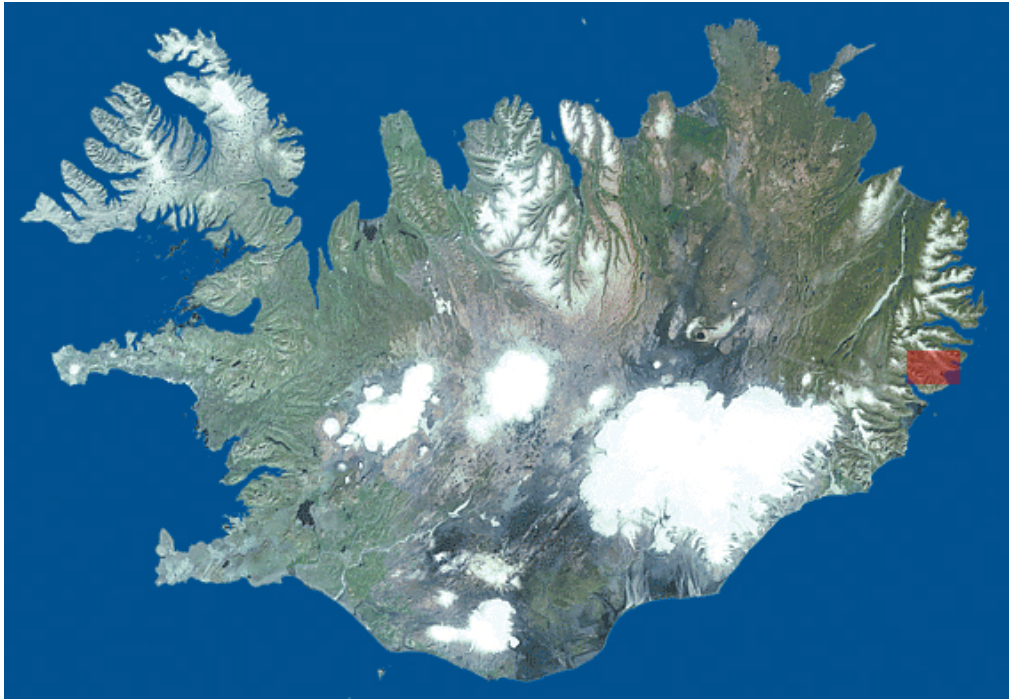
The route Chocolate Chaud, M10 in the Flogugil sector is the most famous route in the area. It was featured on the cover of the magazine *Alpinist* (winter 2007/2008, issue 22).

### Season

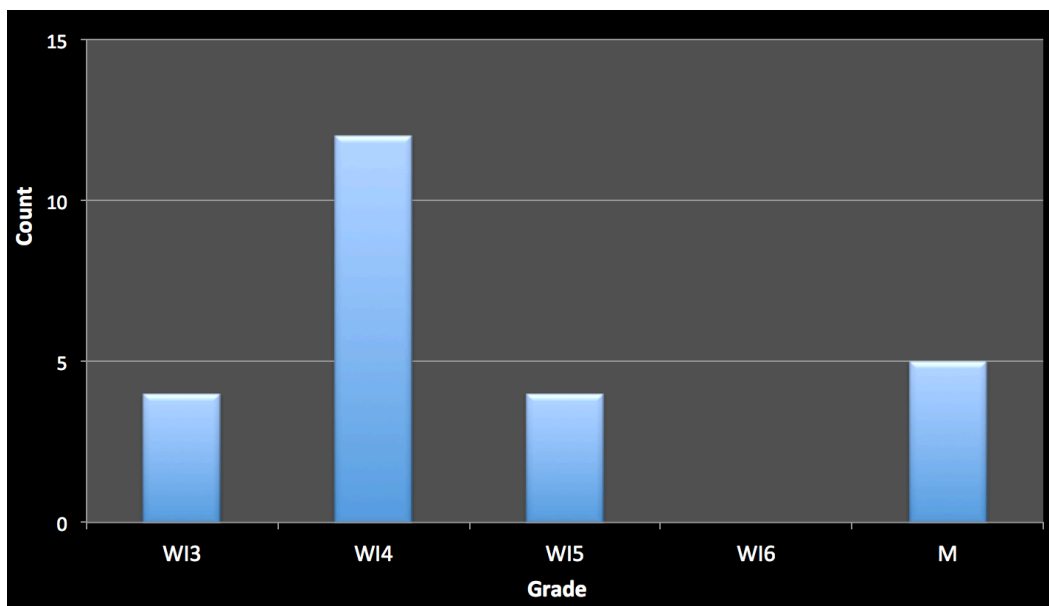
Iceland in general is very unpredictable in terms of ice and weather conditions in the winter.

The best chance of good quality ice is in January/February. February being a better choice due to longer days and more ice buildup (NB the days are very short in Dec/Jan).

March can give good conditions as well with even longer days but the chances of a thaw are starting to turn as spring approaches.



*Breiddalur's location in the Eastfjords of Iceland*



*Grade distribution in the Breiddalur area*

## Flogugil (Flögugil)

This sector is around half way down the Breiddalur valley, a few km west of the Trollhamrar sector, where the river Flogua (Flöguá) enters the flatlands from the mountains.

Seven routes have been climbed on the (steep) left side of the sector and two on the slab on the right. There's still potential for a

handful of new mixed routes. Five of the routes are bolted to some extent.

An international celebrity route is located here: Ines Papert's and Audrey Gariepy's "Chocolate Chaud", M10, established in 2007.

The approach from the main road is around 15min of easy hiking on flat turf.



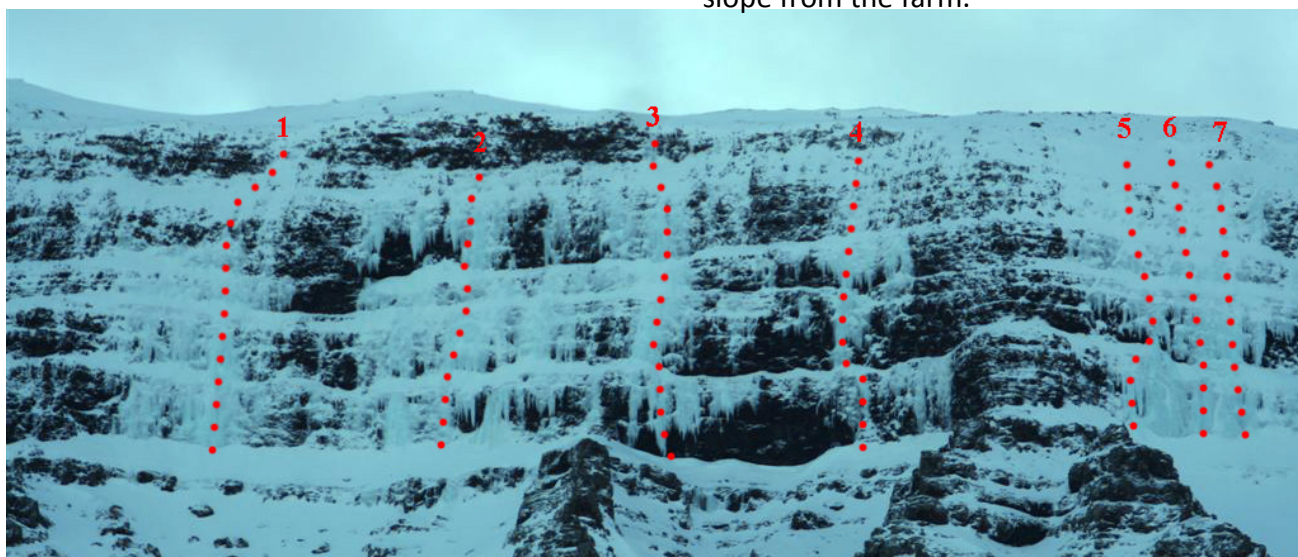
- A1. Litlir sætir strákar (Little Pretty Boys).....WI3, 15m**  
Skarphéðinn Halldórsson, Guðlaugur Ingi Guðlaugsson, Smári Stefánsson, feb 2008
- A2. Allir mínir sjúku órar (All my Sick Delusions).....WI3+, 17m**  
Skarphéðinn Halldórsson, Guðlaugur Ingi Guðlaugsson, Smári Stefánsson, feb 2008
- A3. Leiðsluboltinn (2 bolts) (The Lead Bolt).....M5, 20m**  
Róbert Halldórsson og Sigurður Tómas Þórisson, feb 2008
- A4. Byrja hér (4 bolts) (Start Here).....WI5, 25m**  
Páll Sveinsson og Guðjón Snær Steindórsson, feb 2008
- A5. Krókóðílamaðurinn (4 bolts) (The Crocodile Man).....M6, 30m**  
Róbert Halldórsson og Sigurður Tómas Þórisson, feb 2008
- A6. Drög að sjálfsmorði (5 bolts) (A Draft for a Suicide).....M7, 35m**  
Róbert Halldórsson og Sigurður Tómas Þórisson, feb 2008
- A7. Chocolate Chaud (x bolts)..... M10, 40m**  
Ines Papert og Audrey Gariepy, feb 2007

## **Trollhamrar (Tröllhamrar)**

This sector is located above the farm Randversstadir, about half way down the valley. A very impressive sector with routes ranging in difficulty from WI3 to WI5, 80-100m in length.

Most of the obvious lines were ascended during an ice climbing festival in 2008 but there is still potential for some new variants or lines with less ice to offer.

The approach is around 45-60min up a steep slope from the farm.



- B1. Vegur vискunnar (The Road to Wisdom).....WI4+, 110m**  
Páll Sveinsson, Guðjón Snær Steindórsson, feb 2008
- B2. Launaþrællinn (The Slave of Salary).....WI4+, 80m**  
Sigurður Tómas Þórisson, Róbert Halldórsson, feb 2008
- B3. Stálin stinn (Firm Steel).....WI5/M6,100m**  
Róbert Halldórsson, Sigurður Tómas Þórisson, feb 2008
- B4. Svartur Afgan (The Black Afghan).....WI5, 80m**  
Sigurður Tómas Þórisson, Róbert Halldórsson, feb 2008
- B5. Gredda nærri banvæn (Horniness nearly).....WI4+, 90m**  
Skarðhéðinn Halldórsson, Guðlaugur Ingi Guðlaugsson, feb 2008
- B6. Paradísarfuglinn (Bird of Paradise).....WI5, 90m**  
Daníel Guðmundsson, Ásbjörn Hagalín, Trausti Ingvarsson, feb 2008
- B7. Gerðist snemma þaukunnugur gatinu (Not fit for translation :).....WI5, 90m**  
Skarðhéðinn Halldórsson, Guðlaugur Ingi Guðlaugsson, feb 2008
- B8. Flagð undir fögru skinni (Prettier on the Outside).....WI3, 60m**  
Ágúst Þ Gunnlaugsson, Daði Snær Skúlason, Smári Stefánsson, feb 2008

## **Palsklettar (Pálsklettar)**

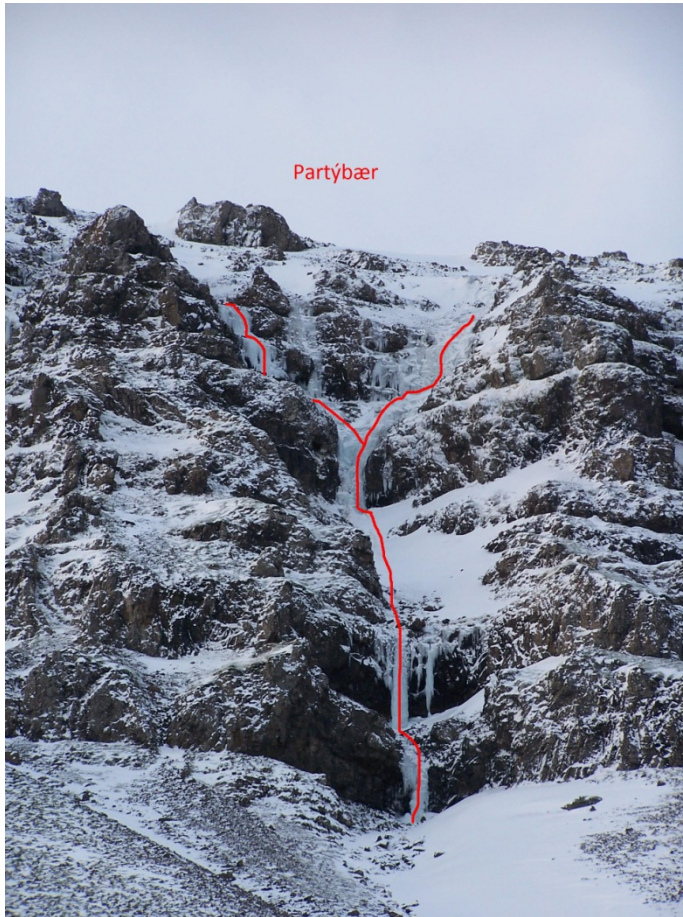
This sector is in the innermost part of the valley, just before you reach moor Breiddalsheidi. The sector contains 10-20 routes, mostly WI4/4+, 60-80m in length. Close to 10 routes were ascended during the ice climbing festival in 2008. However, since

the available overview photos were scarce the location of each route is unfortunately not properly documented.

The approach takes close to an hour from the main valley road.



- C1. Hreindýrafoss (Reindeer Waterfall).....WI3, 80m**  
Einar R Sigurðsson, Peter McFadyen, Richard Edkins des 2007
- C2. Lengi er von (There's still Hope).....WI4, 60m**  
Guðjón Snær Steindórsson, Páll Sveinsson, feb 2008
- C3. Spindrift dauðans (Spindrift of Death).....WI4,60m**  
Guðjón Snær Steindórsson, Páll Sveinsson, feb 2008
- C4. Ókeypis er allt það sem er best (The Best Things in Life are for Free).....WI4, 80m**  
Skarðhéðinn Halldórsson, Guðlaugur Ingi Guðlaugsson, Smári Stefánsson, feb 2008
- C5. Nóttin hefur augu eins og flugan (The Night has Eyes of a Fly).....WI4+, 60m**  
Skarðhéðinn Halldórsson, Guðlaugur Ingi Guðlaugsson, Smári Stefánsson, feb 2008
- C6. No Name.....WI?, 60m**  
Bragi Freyr Gunnarsson, Halldór Albertsson, feb 2008
- C7. Fyrir fallið (Before the Flunk).....WI4, 60m**  
Ásgeir ?, Örvar Dóri Rögnvaldsson, feb 2008
- C8. No Name.....WI?, 60m**  
Daniel Guðmundsson, Ásbjörn Hagalín, Trausti Ingvarsson, feb 2008
- C9. No Name.....WI?, 60m**  
Kári Jóhann Sævarsson, Bernd Kolb og fleiri ??, feb 2008



Partýbær (Party Town), WI4 (?).

East of the Trollhamrar sector (?). An isolated line in a large cliffband roughly halfway down the valley.

A handful of other isolated routes have been ascended in the valley. Their location hasn't been documented in this topo draft however.



Robert Halldorsson climbing The Crocodile Man (route A5) in Flogugil  
Photo: Gudmundur Tomasson