



Aquaculture is nowadays the most important industry on the islands.

Food production in the Faroe Islands 3-7 July

Located in the North Atlantic just north of Scotland and approximately mid-way between Norway and Iceland, the Faroe Islands is a modern society that has enjoyed great economic progress in recent years, mostly because of its fishing industry and to a lesser extent because of the increasing number of tourists who want to experience the unique nature, culture and people with their own proud traditions.

It might not seem likely that the Faroese are self-sufficient in most dairy products except cheeses considering their geographical conditions, but they are, and in recent years several state-of-the-art dairy buildings have been built from which milk is delivered to the farmer-owned dairy in the capital Torshavn.

There is also a large sheep population – some think a little too large in relation to grazing possibilities – and there are even Faroese horses.

In other words, there is a lot to experience and gain insight into.

With its location in the often very windswept sea, there are two options to get to the islands, either by ship or by plane. The ferry trip to the Faroe Islands takes about 36 hours each way to and from Hirtshals on the west coast of northern Denmark.

Facts about the Faroe Islands

- Approximately 53,400 inhabitants
- Area 1,399 km²
- A total of 18 islands (one uninhabited), many of which are connected by tunnels or bridges
- Autonomous territory in the Kingdom of Denmark
- Not a member of the EU
- Faroese and Danish kroner have the same value (From different sources)



Flag of Faroe Islands.



Looking down at Búnaðarstovan that is the only research centre and office of agricultural activities in the Faroe Islands.

Briefly about Faroese farming

- 17 dairy farms with a total of approx. 900 cows
- Annual weigh-in at MBM (cooperative dairy located in Torshavn) approx. seven million kg milk
- MBM produces milk products, yoghurt, butter and a small amount of cheese
- Agricultural area approx. 2.15 percent of the total land area
- Agricultural turnover amounts to approximately 1.5 percent of the gross domestic product
- Approx. 70,000 sheep produce approximately 900 tons of meat annually for the domestic market - mainly by home slaughter and subsequent fermentation according to Faroese tradition. In addition, a large amount of wool is produced.
- Production of vegetables for the domestic market and own consumption (From different sources)

The alternative is to fly with Atlantic Airways, the country's own airline. This only takes two hours from Billund, from where we fly to Vagar, the only airport on the Faroe Islands. From there we have an hour's drive by bus to Torshavn, where we will stay during the entire visit.

One might wonder why the airport is so far away from the city where around half of the Faroese live. The answer is quite simple. It is the only place on the 18 islands where enough space could be created for a sufficiently long runway with the required approach distance.

Introduction to all food sectors

The post-congress tour includes visits to agriculture, aquaculture and processing companies as well as experiencing the unique culture.

At the moment the exact schedule is not finished – but we will visit:

- Búnaðarstovan – the Agricultural Agency
- A dairy farm
- A sheep farm
- The MBM dairy and Raska, that supplies farmers with fertilisers, feed concentrates, etc.
- An aquaculture facility



Rói Absolonsen, a dairy farmer at Viðoy, in one of the newest barns on the islands.



Nearly every family has sheep as part of their unique culture.

- Concurrently with the post-congress tour, the Faroe Islands will host the Circumpolar Agricultural Conference. The schedule for this is not yet ready – follow it here <https://circumpolaragriculture.com/> and here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2069668989966001>

On the post-congress tour you will also experience culture and nature. On the last night we will dine in the 900-year-old Roystovan at Kongsgardurin in Kirkjubøur, which is the Faroe Islands' most important historical site dating back to the Vikings. Throughout the Middle Ages, Kirkjubøur was the episcopal see and thus the country's spiritual and cultural centre.

Briefly about aquaculture

The Faroe Islands' production of Atlantic salmon is exported throughout the world. Salmon from the Faroe Islands is especially popular amongst sushi chefs and is served at top sushi restaurants all over the world.

There are three well-consolidated companies producing salmon in the Faroe Islands. These are Bakkafrost, Mowi and Hiddenfjord. Their plants are fully vertically integrated in the value chain and have traceability from roe to export markets.

The Faroese people have lived off the ocean for centuries and have a deep respect for the ocean and the environment. The Faroese aquaculture industry accounts for more than 40 per cent of the total export value of the Faroe Islands and, with 1.5 tons per capita, is currently the world's leading salmon producer measured relative to the population.

(Source: Visit Faroe Islands)



Local Faroese horses grazing.



On the last night we will dine in this 900-year-old Roystovan at Kongsgardurin in Kirkjubøur.



Some of the locally produced dairy products.



The islands are surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean which means that there are often heavy winds and lots of precipitation all year.

Facts about the post-congress tour

Date: 3-7 July 2022

Transfer from Vingsted to Billund Airport on Sunday, 3 July at 1.30 PM

Return to Billund Airport on Thursday, 7 July at 5.20 PM

Prices* including transfers as indicated in the programme, flights to and from the Faroe Islands, hotel, all meals (no drinks included with lunches and dinners) and all activities mentioned in the programme, are 1500 € in shared double room/1750 € in single room. Not included are travel insurance, visa if needed, eventual Covid 19 tests, own expenses at the hotel, etc.

Tour guide Niels Damsgaard Hansen is a freelance journalist, owner of the travel agency rejsogoplev and former editor-in-chief at FBG Medier.

*Note that due to Danish law the travel agency "rejsogoplev" will reimburse the full payment if the tour has to be cancelled due to Covid 19 pandemic restrictions imposed by the Faroe Islands. In general, their restrictions are the same as those in Denmark.