

REYKJANES

ICELAND

At first glance Reykjanes' fascinating landscape seems to come straight from a science fiction movie. Geologists explain this by its location at the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where North American and Eurasian tectonic plates drift away from each other.

GEOLOGY

Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark is located in southwest Iceland close to the capital, Reykjavik. Here, new crust is created and volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, the most recent in the 14th century, are far from fantasy. On the Reykjanes Peninsula, the rift volcanic system forms a fissure swarm that extends across the land creating volcanic craters, lava fields, and fissure eruptions. It is considered one of the most active volcanic areas in Iceland and the region is also prolific in geothermal activity featuring hot springs, geysers, and mud pools.

Gunnhver mud pools and steam vents give visitors a unique encounter with geothermal activity. Located near *Reykjanes Lighthouse*, this area derives its name from a female ghost, Gunna, who once caused great disturbance until she met her demise by falling into a trap set by a priest. The

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