

The first information about a settlement at Skagaströnd comes from the 10th century. Then a prophetess by the name of Þórdís lived there at Spákonufell (Prophetess Hill). She crops up throughout the Icelandic sagas and her reputation was ambivalent as she was skilled in witchcraft. Þórdís was the foster mother of the first missionary of Iceland Þorvaldur Víðförli Koðránsson. Þóroddur the son of Snorri the good also lived there.

The sagas tell that that Þórdís walked up to Spákonufell every day (646 meters over sea level) and combed her hair with a golden comb. It is said that she had hidden her gold in the mountain and put a spell on it so that no one could use it except women which were not baptised and who hadn't learnt any of Gods words. In the time of the trading monopoly Skagaströnd was the main trading center for the people in East Húnavatn County until a store was established at Blönduósi.

The place was long settled by Danish merchants and shop managers with names like Hölter, Duus, Bryde, Berndesen, Schram, Hoephner, Hillebrandt and Knudsen. Port building began in the 1930s and a fish factory was established in 1944 and a herring factory was built in 1946. There were plans to expand the town to about 3000-5000 people however the herring disappeared from Húnaflói and now there are 700 people living at Skagaströnd. People from Skagaströnd (Skagstrendingar) were the first of Icelanders to own trawlers with Freezers in 1982.

Processing is now mainly conducted at sea on board the large trawlers. However at Skagaströnd there is still a large shrimp processing plant. Here high quality products are made for sale in Europe. In Skagaströnd is an outlet from the cooperative shop, there is a health care center, service flats for the elderly, an old folks home, a sports center, swimming pool and hot pots, guest houses, the famous restaurant Kántrýbær and the country and western radio station (FM 96.7 and 100.76), a 9 hole golf course, skiing slopes, a good campsite and much more.

<http://www.exploreiceland.is/destinations/north%5Ficeland/skagastrond/>

Skagaströnd has been a trading centre since the late 15th century. Today it is a thriving fishing port with seafood processing plants. The people of Skagaströnd have quite often shown their pioneering spirit to enhance the property of the village and its surrounding area. They were the first Icelanders to build a fully equipped factory trawler despite facing pessimistic opposition which called the project "dreamboat". Today many of the Icelandic trawlers are factory vessels. One person, Mr. Hallbjörn Hjartarson, "The Icelandic Cowboy", has shown a remarkable initiative in promoting American country and western music. He further runs, at his own expense, a radio station playing only country and western and every year he holds a "Country Festival", which attracts visitors from all over Iceland and from abroad. Actually it can be said that he has made his own culture in Iceland's musical life. Fishing in nearby lakes and rivers is plentiful, which also attracts many visitors. The distance from Reykjavík is 268 km by the Whale Bay tunnel.

<http://www.nat.is/travelguideeng/skagastrond.htm>