

Keep going 4km north of town to land's end, called **Grenen**. Here the North and Baltic seas unite, and insidious currents suck away those who swim too far.

## Faroe Islands

Eighteen wet, green, and windy islands out in the North Atlantic between Iceland and Scotland, the Faroes are a self-governing part of Denmark but are culturally and linguistically closer to Iceland than the mother country. Their anomalous political and geographical status has often meant that they've been ignored, left off maps, and relegated to a footnote in reference books. Yet the Faroes are surpassingly beautiful: old, grassy mountains that slope steeply out of the sea, furrowed with fjords and valleys and covered with birds, sheep, and fog. Nearby fishing banks allow the 45,000 Faeroese people a Scandinavianly high standard of living.

The Faroes are accessible by ferry during the summer and by air all year round. From June to August, **Smyril Line**, Jonas Broncksgøta 25, P.O. Box 370, FR-110 Tórshavn, Faroe Islands (tel. 15900; the country code for the Faroes is 298) runs a car ferry stopping at Hanstholm (Denmark) Sat. at 4pm; Tórshavn (Faroes) Mon. at 6am; Lerwick (Shetland) Mon. at 10pm; Bergen (Norway) Tues. at noon; Lerwick again Wed. at 1:30am; Tórshavn again Wed. at 3pm; Seyðisfjörður (Iceland) Thurs. at 8am; and Tórshavn again Fri. at 6am. The one-way fare (no round-trip reduction) from Lerwick to the Faroes is 680kr, from Bergen 1040kr, from Seyðisfjörður 1150kr, from Hanstholm 1320kr (25% discount for students under 26; another 25% off early June and late Aug. sailings.) You can also book via Eurocruises, their American agent (tel. (212) 691-2099) or their British agent, P&O Ferries, P.O. Box 5, P&O Terminal, Aberdeen, Scotland AB9 8DL (tel. (0224) 57 26 15). Weekly summer service also connects Scrabster (Scotland) with Tórshavn (13-14 hr.; leaves Tórshavn Thurs. 10pm, Scrabster Sat. 8pm; from £62 one way, £115 return, 35% off with ISIC). Contact either P&O Ferries or **Strandfaraskip Landsins**, Yviri við Strond 6, FR-100 Tórshavn, Faroe Islands (tel. 14550). **DFDS/Scandinavian Seaways** (tel. in Denmark 33 11 22 55, in North America (800) 533-3755) runs a weekly car ferry from Esbjerg, Denmark to Tórshavn (mid-June to mid-Aug.; 33hr.; leaves Esbjerg Mon. 9pm, Tórshavn Wed. 9:30am; from 1300kr one way, 2300kr round trip, 20% off with ISIC). Flying is a trifle more expensive and is much less hassle. **Danair** (part of SAS) and **Atlantic Airways** fly 2-4 times daily between Copenhagen and the Faroes (one way 1830kr, 25% off if under 26, advance purchase round-trip 2500kr). **Icelandair** also flies 2-3 times per week from Reykjavík to the Faroes.

Once there, the Faroes offer all the modern services you would expect elsewhere in Scandinavia, side-by-side with island calm. You can stay in private homes or at any of six hostels, or camp at seven official sites. **Tórshavn** (pop. 15,000), on the island of Streymoy, is the Faroes' capital and transportation center; all international ferries dock in its harbor, while the airport is a two-hour, 80kr bus-and-ferry ride away. Excellent bus, ferry and helicopter service links Tórshavn to the smallest islands and villages. The **Faroe Islands Tourist Board** office, Reynagøta 17, FR-100 Tórshavn (tel. 16055) opens for all ferry arrivals; write ahead for comprehensive sights and accommodations brochures, or pick them up on arrival.