



Gøtugjógv – Lydia Hansen climbs the mountain that rises behind her house every day of her visits home, regardless of the weather. She always misses the mountains when she's away studying in flat Denmark. "If you go running on the street, you can't compare it to walking in the mountains. I like it a lot."



Tvøroyri – Súsanna Bærendsen and Sirið Højgaard relax at Sirið's home while Súsanna's daughter Lilja lies on the floor. The two young women have been best friends all their lives, but are set to go in two different directions now that Súsanna has become a mother at 19 and Sirið is considering a move to Denmark for university.



Smyril Line – The ferry from the island of Suðuroy to the Faroese capital takes two hours. It's a scenic ride for tourists, passing several small and spectacularly shaped islands along the way, but for the locals its just another form of public transportation.



Nólsoy – Birita Hansen (far left) grew up on the small island of Nólsoy with two sisters and two brothers. Now her sisters live in Denmark and her brothers in Iceland, and only she remains behind. Birita is also considering a move to Denmark, but struggles with mental illness and does not work. Her mother (far right) has never left the Faroe Islands, and sees her Danish-speaking grandchildren only when they come to visit over summer break.



Nólsoy – Óluva (far right) and Sylvia Hansen (second farthest right) and watch their children play on a small tractor while they wait for the ferry to come to Nólsoy with their brothers and Sylvia's husband on board. It will be the first time the whole family, split between three countries, is together in several years. Sylvia cherishes her summer returns to the Faroes but can't imagine coming back there to live full time. Óluva is unsure of what she will do in the future, but finds it easier to live as a single mother in Denmark and thinks that her son would have a hard time transitioning to the Faroes.



Klaksvík – Young people are often ambivalent about the experience of growing up in the Faroes. It can be boring or isolating at the same time that it is safe and fun. They know everyone when they walk around the town, limiting their ability to act crazy because they know word will get around – and to their parents. At the same time, they feel safe and free to do what they want and make their own fun.



Argir – Durita Midjord, a young lesbian woman living just outside of the capital, catches a smoke on her balcony together with her housemate Birgita. Midjord says that the Faroes still have a long way to go to catch up with other Northern European nations on LGTBQ awareness and rights, but feels that things are moving in the right direction.



Tórshavn – Jóna Venned (right) and Durita Midjord laugh at vulgar graffiti near the mall. Jóna will be leaving soon to move abroad for her college education, but plans to return. She says that while the Faroe Islands is a conservative society, a lot has changed in the last two generations. Her grandmother believes that women should do more housework than men and that women shouldn't drink alcohol, but Jóna says she and other college-aged Faroese basically believe in gender equality.



Varmakeldugarðurin – Bára Joensen cuts hay on her farm. As a child, Bára hoped to become an electrician when she grew up, and asked her uncle to take her as an apprentice. He refused, saying it wasn't a job for a woman. Bára now works as a farm wife, a mother of three and a part-time tour guide.



Nólsoy – Many women return to the Faroe Islands to have children, because they want them to grow up in the same environment as they did, speaking Faroese and immersed in Faroese culture. The Faroe Islands is also considered to be a very safe place for children, and they often play outside, roaming freely day and night without adult supervision.



Fuglafjørður – Antonio Nile met a Faroese man on an online dating website, and after he came to the Philippines to visit her, she returned the favor with a trip to the Faroe Islands. She planned to return to the Philippines after a vacation, but they ended up getting married right away, so she has not been back home in two years and now has a young son. She says she wants him to grow up feeling Faroese, but so far she has not learned to speak Faroese or developed a taste for Faroese cuisine. She misses her friends and family back home, but finds the Faroe Islands beautiful and has many friends. In her village alone, there are more than a dozen Filipino immigrants, all women married to Faroese men.



Norðragøta – Most Faroese will work in a fish factory at some point in their lives – be it during a gap between high school and college, on summer vacations, or as a permanent position. Noomi Dalbø Jacobsen (right) plans to pursue higher education, but is still trying to decide what direction to go in and is working at the fish factory in the meanwhile. She loves the Faroe Islands but will probably leave at least for a while, and has dreams of opening an orphanage in Africa, where she has travelled to volunteer in the past.



Tórshavn – The annual Culture Night turns dozens of public spaces throughout the Faroese capital into concert and event venues. The image most foreigners and Danes have of the Faroe Islands is of the smallest villages, picturesque but isolated. However, a large percentage of Faroese people live in larger towns, such as Tórshavn, Klaksvík, or the well-connected larger villages of Vágur, Streymoy, and Eysturoy, where they can easily drive or take the bus to shops, restaurants, cultural events, and the international airport, making their lives similar to those of people elsewhere in Northern Europe.



Klaksvík – Mimmy Vágsheyg runs her own business, a cafe called Fríða in Klaksvík, the second largest town in the Faroes. A woman running a business is still a rarity in the Faroe Islands, and even more impressive because Vágsheyg is a single mother. She lived abroad in Denmark and Iceland for several years, and didn't plan to return until she unexpectedly was offered a restaurant management job in the Faroes. Now that she is living in the Faroes, she wants to help change the society into a more open, modern, and egalitarian one and is constantly working on new projects.



Copenhagen – Krista Vágshøj is a young Faroese woman currently living and working in Copenhagen. She says she is there only for her career development, spends most of her time with other Faroe Islanders, and hopes to return to live in the Faroes full time. She buys bottled water in Denmark because she misses the purer taste of the tap water back home on the islands.



Copenhagen – Despite having lived for many years in England and Denmark and being ethnically Korean, Heidi Dalfoss says she is “Faroese with a capital F”. She doubts whether she will ever return to the Faroes to live full time, and has assimilated thoroughly into Danish society, but speaks Faroese to her dog and likes to wear Faroese jewelry on special occasions or “just whenever I want to feel really Faroese.”