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Visitor's GUIDE

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YOUR GUIDE TO

- Dining ■
- Shopping ■
- Culture ■
- Tours & Activities ■
- Countryside & Accommodation ■
- Cafés, Bars & Nightlife ■



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I C E L A N D

From the Publisher



Having travelled to many countries, or 47 to be exact, one learns to appreciate Iceland and Reykjavik more and more: the

open spaces, the clean air, the mountains and the unspoiled nature, all a few minutes' drive from the capital. Also the great quality and variety of **restaurants**.

The **thermal swimming pools**, which are heated with geothermal energy, are one of Iceland's most valuable resources and are one of the things I miss most when abroad. They can be visited all year round and are perfect for relaxing. You have not discovered Iceland until you have visited the

thermal swimming pools!

In this guide you will find information about **selected companies**. It is our hope that this guide, the website and app will help you to get the most out of your stay in Iceland.

According to research conducted by the Icelandic Tourist Board, **97% of visitors** are satisfied with their stay in Iceland. We hope you will be one of them. On behalf of **NETIÐ, marketing- & business consultancy** and **Visitor's Guide**, we wish you a very good time in Iceland!

Hákon Pór Sindrasón
Managing Director
M.Sc. in Business Administration



Visitor's GUIDE

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-  www.visitorsguide.no
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-  www.visitorsguide.dk
-  www.visitorsguide.es
-  www.visitorsguide.fr

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Comprehensive **information folder**, since **1997**, with samples of restaurant menus, information on tours & recreation, shopping and cultural venues. Available in **6 languages**.



Visitor's Guide on the web

Useful travel data on Iceland and other destinations, articles, information on our customers, links and pictures of Iceland. **www.visitorsguide.is** & an **App** from 2013



Visitor's Guide in your pocket

Get the most of your stay with this indispensable **travel guide**. Including a selection of articles and practical information plus maps and discount coupons.



Visitor's GUIDE

Publisher

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Reykjavik

Reykjavik

WELCOME CARD

AVAILABLE FOR
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The Reykjavik Welcome Card offers great value for your money by giving you **free admission** to all of Reykjavik's **thermal pools**, a great **many museums** and other **attractions**, unlimited travel on Reykjavik buses, **discounts** at shops and restaurants and free Internet access.

YOU CAN BUY THE CARD AT:

- 10-11 Supermarket - Austurstræti, Barónsstígur & Laugavegur, 101 Reykjavik
- Reykjavik Tourist Information Centre - Aðalstræti 2, 101 Reykjavik
- Icelandic Travel Market - Bankastræti 2, 101 Reykjavik
- Trip.is - Laugavegur 54, 101 Reykjavik
- Sterna Tour Desk - Harpa Music and Conference Hall, by the Waterfront
- Hafnarfjörður Tourist Info Centre - Strandgata 6, 220 Hafnarfjörður
- Loft Hostel - Banastræti 7, 101 Reykjavik
- Your Perfect Day - Icelandair Hotel Nordica & Natura
- Reykjavik City - Sundlaugavegur 34, 104 Reykjavik
- Downtown Hostel - Vesturgata 17, 101 Reykjavik
- Grand Hotel - Sigtún 38, 105 Reykjavik
- Volcano House - Tryggvagata 11, 101 Reykjavik
- Hótel Hafnarfjörður - Reykjavíkurvegur 72, 220 Hafnarfjörður
- Reykjavik Campsite in Laugardalur - Sundlaugarvegur 32, 104 Reykjavik
- Reykjavik Backpackers - Hostel Laugavegur 28, 101 Reykjavik
- Reykjavik Art Museums - National Museum of Iceland & Maritime Museum.



FREE ADMISSION TO:

REYKJAVÍK CITY BUSES www.bus.is

Hlemmur, 105 Reykjavík tel. 540 2700. The Reykjavík Welcome card provides unlimited free travel within zone 1. Schedules and other information are available at tourist information centers and on www.bus.is

REYKJAVÍK CITY THERMAL POOLS (7)

See pages **158 - 159**

Free admission to all 7 thermal pools in Reykjavík

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND www.natmus.is

Suðurgata 41, 101 Reykjavík tel. 530 2200
May 1st - September 15th, open daily 10:00-17:00
Sept 16th - April 30th open Tuesdays -
Sundays 11:00-17:00

NATIONAL ART GALLERY www.listasafn.is

Tryggvagata 17 - 101 Reykjavík
tel. 515 9600 | Open daily 11:00-17:00, closed Mondays

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHUS

www.artmuseum.is - Tryggvagata 17, 101
Reykjavík tel. 590 1200

Open daily 10:00-17:00, Thursdays 10:00-20:00

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - KJARVALSSTADIR

www.artmuseum.is - Flókagata, 105 Reykjavík
tel. 517 1290 | Open daily 10:00-17:00

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - ASMUNDARSAFN

www.artmuseum.is - Sigtún, 105 Reykjavík
tel. 553 2155 | Open May 1st - September 30th daily
10:00-17:00, October 1st - April 30th daily 13:00-17:00

THE SETTLEMENT EXHIBITION

www.reykjavik871.is - Aðalstræti 16, 101 Reykjavík
tel. 411 6370 | Open daily 10:00-17:00

ÁRBÆJARSAFN, THE REYKJAVÍK CITY MUSEUM

www.arbaejarsafn.is - Kistuhylur, 110 Reykjavík
tel. 411 6300 | Open daily during summer 10:00-17:00.
During winter season (from September 1st - May 31st)
visits by guided tours only. Guided tours every day during
the week at 13:00 or by appointment.

VÍKIN - THE REYKJAVÍK MARITIME MUSEUM

www.sjomjinjasafn.is - Grandagarður 8, 101 Reykjavík
tel. 517 9400 | Open June 1st - September 15th daily
10:00-17:00 from September 16th - May 31st Tue.
- Sun. 11:00-17:00

REYKJAVÍK ZOO AND FAMILY PARK

www.mu.is - Hafrafell v/Engjaveg, 104 Reykjavík
tel. 411 5900 | Open daily from 10:00 until 17:00 during
winter, during summer we are open until 18:00.

THE FERRY TO VÍÐEY ISLAND www.elding.is

Skarfabakki Pier, 104 Reykjavík tel. 533 5055
Information on schedule on their website or
at your nearest Tourist Information Center.

FREE INTERNET ACCESS at the Tourist Information
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GET DISCOUNTS AT:

HARPA **25% disc. off the guided Harpa tour**

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tel. 528 5000

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www.volcanohouse.is

AURORA REYKJAVÍK

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www.aurorareykjavik.is - Grandagarður 2, 101 Reykjavík
tel. 820 1658 - info@aurorareykjavik.is

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10% discount off tours

tel. 863 4592 | www.seasontours.is
Vættaborgum 112, 110 Reykjavík

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Skólavörðustígur 19, 101 Reykjavík
tel. 552 1890

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www.elding.is - Ægisgarður 7, 101 Reykjavík
tel. 555 3565

ÍSHESTAR **15% disc. off Lava tour at 14:00**

www.ishestar.is - Sörlaskeið 26, 220 Hafnarfjörður
tel. 555 7000

ICELAND EXCURSIONS www.grayline.is

25% disc. off AH10 Greater Area Reykjavík Sightseeing

Hafnarstræti 20, 101 Reykjavík tel. 540 1313

THE ICELANDIC PHALLOLOGICAL MUSEUM

10% disc. off the admission

www.phallus.is - Laugavegur 116, 101 Reykjavík
tel. 561 6663

SAGA MUSEUM **10% disc. off the admission**

www.sagameuseum.is - Grandagarður 2, 101 Reykjavík
tel. 511 1517

HÚFUR SEM HLÆJA **20% discount**

www.hufursemhlaeja.is - Skólavörðustígur 18,
101 Reykjavík tel. 552 6466

SPECIAL TOURS **10% disc. off tours**

www.specialtours.is - Geirsgata, 101 Reykjavík
tel. 892 0099

More info about discounts in the culture chapter and coupons
section. All information and discounts can be found in
the brochure that comes with the Welcome Card.

More Tips and Recommendations

- **Drink tap water**; it is **fresh** from the spring and free. You will find that Icelanders are very proud of it and many consider it **the best** in the world.

- Be prepared for any kind of **weather**. The country's geographical location makes the weather highly changeable, see **vedur.is**.

- **Icelandic beer** is made from the pure **Icelandic water**. There are many brands that are brewed in the country.

- **Bónus** and **Krónan** are **the lowest price supermarkets**. The former chain has shops in the Reykjavik **city center**. The price at the 24/7 shop 10 - 11 is much higher.

- Buy **prepaid card** for you mobile, for example from Vodafone.

Thereby you can make **local calls** at much lower price and **use apps** and more at **vodafone** much lower cost.

- The **Reykjavik Welcome Card** offers you unique budget access to the city's extraordinary cultural scene and vibrant city life.

Available for up to 24, 48 or 72 hours, the card gives you admission

to all of Reykjavik's famous thermal pools, a great many museums, galleries and other attractions, with unlimited travel on Reykjavik city buses and the ferry to Videy Island.

The Welcome Card also entitles you to **discounts** at selected shops and restaurants, plus free internet access at the official tourist information centre.

A 48 hour card pays for itself after only one trip to the pool, two museum visits and a trip to Videy Island.

Prices for the Reykjavik Welcome Card 2014 are as follows:

Hours:	-24	-48	-72
ISK.	-2.900	-3.900	-4.900

A Children's Card - Children up to 18 years old get free admission to all museums. However, there is a child's fee for the City Buses, the Thermal Pools, to the Reykjavik Zoo and Family Park and the Ferry to Viðey Island. Price for a Children's Card is less or for: 24/ 48 / 72 only 1.000 / 2.000 / 3.000 ISK.

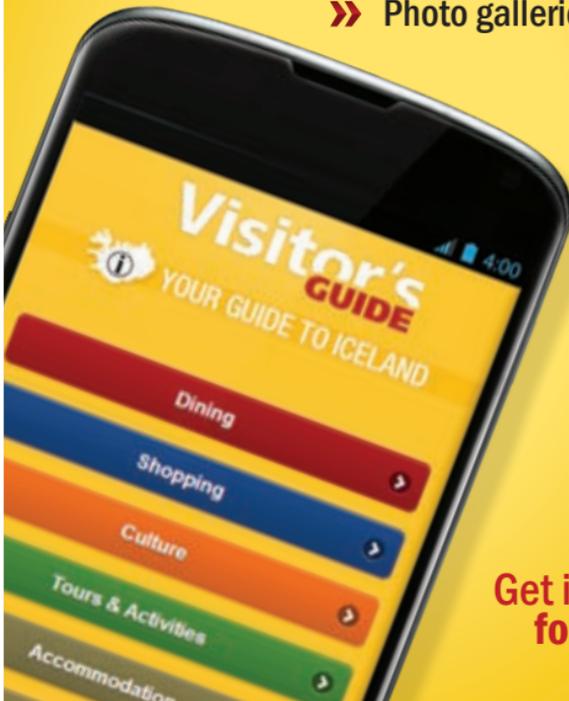


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From the Mayor



Dear guest

There is nothing extreme about Reykjavík. It is neither isolated nor over the top. It just fits. I have been to many

cities; London, New York, Hong Kong and Paris. These are fine cities but too big. There is often a bad smell in Manhattan and London is too spread out. Everything's on the wrong side. Paris is beautiful but difficult at times.

Once I took a cab in Manhattan. The driver was from Ghana and had lived in Reykjavík, 20 years ago. He missed it. I urged him to move back and take his yellow cab with him. Yellow cabs could become popular here and he would have plenty to do - there would only be one.

All cities have their sounds. Car horns, garbage men, sirens and arguments. People argue constantly, especially in



*Dagur B. Eggertsson
City Councillor*

The pools indicated him as the new city Mayor, when the book was printed.

Paris and Manhattan. Some just argue with themselves, which can be funny. Reykjavík has a sound too. In the day-time it is the laughter of children, on weekends drunk people laughing and talking. Laughter is our sound.

If our city was a human being it would probably be a cheerful, intelligent dwarf. It's small and cosmopolitan. In some mysterious way America and Europe are entwined in the streets of Reykjavík. I hope you will experience something unique here and that your heart will warm up whenever you remember the cheerful dwarf you once met near the North Pole.

Welcome

Jón Gnarr



City Hall by Tjörnin, The Pond

Welcome To Iceland



NETID – Visitor's Guide and Restaurants.is Team

Hákon Þór Sindrason - *Managing Director & Publisher*

Daniel Agnarsson - *Distribution & Projects (part time)*

Gunnar Bold - *Website & Technical Manager*

Hermann Baldursson - *Shareholder & Board member*

Gunnlaugur Ragnarsson - *Accountant & Consultant NETID*

NETID, marketing- and business consultancy, has published Visitor's Guide yearly since 2000 and it has become one of the most respected and popular tourist publications in Iceland. The guide promotes more than 100 carefully selected companies from all areas of the hospitality

industry. The material in the book is partly based on suggestions from hospitality industry workers and research among tourists in Iceland. We have worked as consultants for various companies and organisations, such as the City of Reykjavík. Have a good time.

Comprehensive provider of information for travellers



Visitor's Guide Book - Published since the year 2000.

Visitor's Guide Website - Information, articles, maps and much more.

Visitor's Guide Web Book - From our website, you can browse the latest interactive version of the book.

Information Folder - Available since 1996 in hotel lobbies, many guest-

houses and information centers, in 6 languages.

Smartphone App - Interactive guide which utilises GPS functionality in your phone to find goods and services.

Social Media - Find us on Facebook and Twitter.



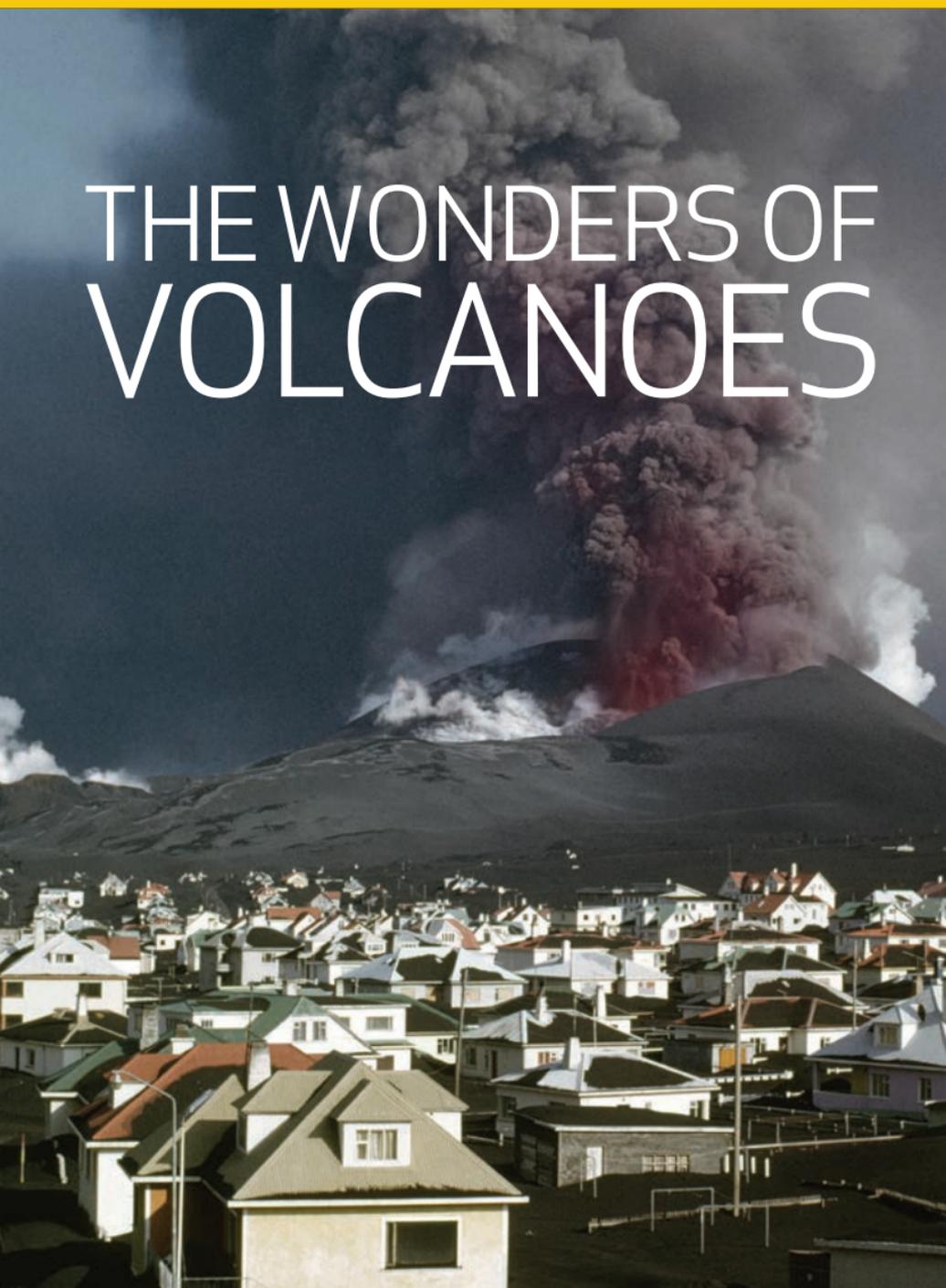
Restaurants.is Website & Smartphone App

- Almost all restaurants in Iceland in one place.



Visitor's Guide

THE WONDERS OF VOLCANOES



Volcano House features two documentaries chronicling two of Iceland's most famous volcanic eruptions of the last 40 years.

Vestmannaeyjar 1973, Eyjafjallajökull 2010 and other volcanoes

Showtimes

English: 10:00-21:00 every hour on the hour

German: 18:00 from June 15th to September 15th

Open every day

▶ Vestmannaeyjar 1973

The eruption in Vestmannaeyjar began without warning on the night of January 23rd, 1973. 400 homes perished under ash and lava and nearly 5,000 people had to flee to the mainland in matter of hours.

▶ Eyjafjallajökull 2010

The most famous volcano eruption in recent times; the eruption that caused much disruption in air travel over large parts of Europe. This powerful documentary made specially for Volcano House was filmed and directed by the Emmy-nominated Icelandic film maker, Jóhann Sigfússon.

Geological Exhibition
you may touch

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volcanohouse.is



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Reykjavík City and the Surrounding Towns

The Greater Reykjavík Area is the city of Reykjavík and the surrounding towns of Kópavogur, Garðabær, Hafnarfjörður, Seltjarnarnes and Mosfellsbær. Covering an area of about 300 km² the Greater Reykjavík Area is home to almost 65% of the population of Iceland.

Reykjavík

Reykjavík is a dynamic city which has over the past years grown in size and population and is merging with its neighboring towns. However, the towns around Reykjavík have their own independent Councils, sports teams, good golf courses, thermal swimming pools and cultural identities.



Kópavogur

Directly south of Reykjavík is the town of Kópavogur, which has in recent years seen a lot of development. There you will find Salurinn Concert Hall, Gerðasafn Museum and Smáralind shopping mall. There are

two good thermal swimming pools to choose from (further information on Kópavogur in our [Culture chapter](#), and a [map](#) at the back of the book).

Garðabær

Further south is Garðabær, or “Garden Town” in English.  With its long leafy streets and IKEA mega-store, it is a relatively calm neighborhood far from the hustle and bustle of Reykjavík city.

Historic sites of interest include Hofstaðir Archeological Park, Krókur, the Design Museum of Iceland and the Bessastaðir where the President resides. There is also a large 66°North clothing store in the town (further information and a [map](#) in the [Culture chapter](#)).

Hafnarfjörður

South of Kópavogur and Garðabær we reach the town of Hafnarfjörður. Situated in its downtown area, the Hafnarfjörður Museum offers a view of Iceland as it once was. Viking Village restaurant continues this theme with traditional Icelandic food presented in a historic setting. For the more adventurous traveler, Íshestar offers horse-riding tours in the nearby area (information on Hafnarfjörður including a [map](#) in the [Culture chapter](#)).



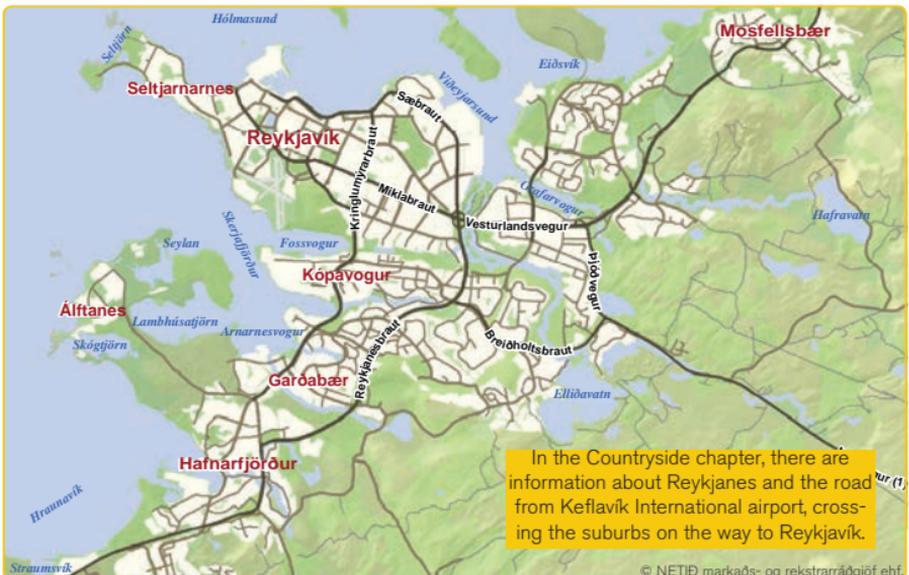
Seltjarnarnes

To the west of Reykjavík is the town of **Seltjarnarnes**. Mostly residential, this town has evolved into a rather up-scale suburb of Reykjavík. The beach at **Gróttá** is popular for walking and its lighthouse.

Mosfellsbær

Finally, to the northeast we have **Mosfellsbær**. The **Álafoss** store offers hand-knitted clothing and knitting supplies. Around 10 minutes from the town center towards **Thingvellir** is **Gljúfrasteinn Museum**, the former home of Iceland's Nobel laureate Halldór Laxness. (See the [Culture chapter](#), and the [map of Iceland](#)).

Public transportation in the Greater Reykjavík Area is made easy through a **network of bus lines** with express routes from the City Center. A trip from Reykjavík to the surrounding towns will take about 10-20 minutes. The fare is **350 ISK** per person, one way. Alternatively day or week passes may be purchased at the larger bus terminals or the **Reykjavík Welcome Card**. The card, which can be recommended, gives **free admission** to city buses, many museums and more (for selected bus routes, see the [Tours and Activities chapter](#)).



Practical Information

Emergency

Emergency	112
Doctor on call	1770
Police	444 1000
Dentist	575 0505
Pharmacy	533 2300

Information

Telephone directory	118
Overseas directory	1811
Weather	902 0600
Road conditions	1777
Tourist information	590 1550
Reykjavik City	411 1111
International flights	505 0100
Domestic flights	570 3030
City buses	540 2700
Taxi Hreyfill/Bæjarleidir	588 5522

Lost Credit Card

VISA	525 2000
MasterCard	560 1600
AMEX	575 5900
Diners (US)	1 800 234 6377

Lost and found

Left luggage (intl. airport)	425 0226
Lost property (police)	444 1000

Currency

Monetary unit is Icelandic Krona (ISK).
 Currency exchange at the international airport and at all major banks.
 1 USD = 115 ISK / 1 EUR = 155 ISK
 approx. rates in May 2014

Opening Hours

Banks	Mon-Fri 09-16
Shops	Mon-Fri 09-18, Sat 10-16
Supermarkets	Daily 10-19
Convenience Stores	24/7
Liquor Stores	Mon-Thu 11-18 Fri 11-19, Sat 11-18

Kringlan Mall

Monday-Wednesday 10-18:30
 Thursday 10-21 – Saturday 10-18
 Friday 10-19 – Sunday 13-18

Smáralind Mall

Monday-Friday 11-19, Saturday 11-18
 Thursday 11-21, Sunday 13-18

Post Office

Mon-Fri 09-17
 in City Center Pósthússtræti 5

Reykjavik Excursions Flybus

tel. 580 5400 - sales@re.is
 Buses go from Keflavik Airport 40 minutes after each flight arrival. Returning buses leave from the BSÍ Bus Terminal 2.5 hrs. prior to flight departure. **Ask for pick up at your hotel reception.**

One way/Return ticket: 1,950/3,500
 With hotel pick up: 2,500/4,500
 Children 0-11: free of charge
 Children 12-15: half price

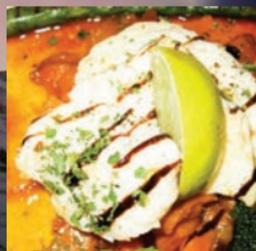
Iceland Excursions - Airport Express

tel. 540 1313
 Complimentary pick up from all major hotels in the capital area. Transfers must be booked in advance for guaranteed departure.
 One way/Return ticket: 2,400/4,400

Starting in Autumn 2014 **NETID & Visitor's Guide** will introduce and start lectures for tourists

The focus will be on **dinner and lectures**: **Northern Lights** one of Iceland's most mysterious wonders. Other lectures, on matters such as Iceland and its geology, Icelandic economy and more. Depending on the group, the dinner can be held in various restaurants with different budget options.

For more information about the lectures, ask at your reception or visit our website www.visitorsguide.is



Visitor's
GUIDE
www.visitorsguide.is

Sponsor a Child in Need



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

If you think Icelanders are cold-hearted like the weather – think again. Over 5% of Icelandic homes sponsor an orphan or an abandoned child. Many children in our world need help and have no one to depend on but themselves. By becoming a SOS Children's Villages sponsor, people take an active role in improving the life of a child by paying a fixed amount each month (around 3,500 ISK). With this support a child in need gets an opportunity for a prosperous future that would otherwise not be possible.



NETID marketing- & business consultancy / Visitor's Guide supports a child in North-India among other donations to the SOS Children's Villages. Our Managing Director, Hakon Thor, visited one of the SOS villages while in Jordan in February 2011. It was situated in a suburb of the capital, Amman*. The children -- girls and boys of different ages live together in

a house as brothers and sisters. The mother, builds emotional ties that last a lifetime.



From our visit to a SOS village in Jordan

This village of 12 houses was founded in 1983 and is the first of three SOS villages in Jordan. On our visit to two of the homes in the village we saw how happy and content the children were in such a caring environment. Some of them spoke quite good English and have very positive ambitions for their future; when asked what they wanted to become when they were older, their answers were: a doctor, policeman and a teacher. See more pictures from the visit to a SOS village in Jordan & also Cambodia on www.visitorsguide.is



From our visit to Cambodia 2012

- See an article about the visit on our website

1703 The first complete census is made in Iceland. At the time there were 50,358 people divided between 7,622 homes.

How Much Things Cost

Restaurants / Cafés / Bars ISK

Hamburger and fries	from 900
Soup of the day	from 800
Hot meal of the day	from 1,400
Appetizer	from 800
Main course	from 1,600
Dessert	from 800
Set menus	from 4,900
Wine bottle	from 3,500
Coffee	from 350
Beer	from 700
Tap water	Free

Groceries ISK

Milk	120
Coca-Cola 1/2 - 2litre	120-250
Hot dog	350
Bread	250-500
Snack bar	100+

Souvenirs ISK

Woollen pullover	from 9,500
Woollen hat	from 1,200
Woollen mittens	from 1,200
Woollen socks	from 1,200
Silver necklaces Viking theme	from 3,000

Recreation & Activities ISK

Cinema, one ticket	1,350
Ticket to a symphony	2,500-4,000
Nightclub entrance	0-1,000
Massage (60 min)	from 6,000
Spa treatments	from 6,000
Museums	0-1000
Thermal swimming pools	500-600

Transportation ISK

Petrol, 1 liter	around 255
Flybus to the airport	1,950
- with hotel pickup	2,500
Airport Express - with hotel pickup	2,400
Taxi to the airport (1-4 pax, 08-17)	*11,500
Taxi to the airport (1-4 pax, 17-08)	*13,500
Taxi to the airport (5-8 pax, 08-17)	*15,500
Taxi starting fee (1-4 pax)	660
Bus from Reykjavík to Akureyri	7,700
City bus, single ticket	350
City bus, 1-day card	900
City bus, 3-day card	2,200

* Approx price

Day Tours ISK

Reykjavík sightseeing	from 5,400
Reykjavík hop on/off	from 3,500
Gullfoss and Geysir	from 8,400
Blue Lagoon (summer price)	from 6,400
Jeep safari	from 19,500
Whale watching tour	from 8,500

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On the website restaurants.is you will find information on all restaurants in Iceland. With the powerful and quick search engine, the guest can search for a restaurant of the type, cuisine, postal number, price class and other additional criteria. The guests can rate the restaurants and leave their comments. A great number of recipes are posted on the web, and you can join the mailing list.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN YOUR VISITOR'S GUIDE

COMPANIES PRESENTED



The companies and advertisers in this book have been chosen to represent the best of what Iceland and Reykjavik has to offer. **Advice from hotel receptions, other travel-associated staff and local people** where influential in the final selection.

RECYCLING



We promote recycling to help protect the environment. Please don't throw the book in the trash, rather **leave it behind in your hotel room or reception** after your stay. Visitor's Guide is printed on environmental friendly paper.

LOCAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Repeated market research has shown that Visitor's guide is the **most respected guide among the staff of hotels and guesthouses**. Ask at the reception if further information is needed.

WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK

Please send us an e-mail to netid@netid.is or contact us through www.visitorsguide.is - quality management. You can **rate the restaurants** you visited during your stay at www.restaurants.is in 8 languages.

Visitor's Guide is proud to sponsor **SOS Children Village**



NETID
markaðs- og rekstrarráðgjöf



Travel stories from around the world



2 weeks in Cuba

On the whole the travels in Cuba were very good, offering adventure and information, and would offer some ideological remedy both for fundamental left wingers in politics, as well as those furthest to the right. What mainly stands out is how good, cheerful, smiling and helpful most Cubans were that I met.



13 days and 13 nights in Israel

The visitor left Israel with the memory of a great experience - we would rather use that word than fun. People were generally welcoming, but of course it helped a lot that one of the main purposes of the trip was to write about the trip and Israel. I had the habit of presenting our publications, website and documents, which gave a very positive input for discussion. People were quite curious about Scandinavia

– the most common question being isn't it very cold there now? Our publications therefore helped to open discussion with people. The visitor can feel that something is pulling him to go back there and to this region quite soon. I am proud to have therefore created a new slogan on the last evening (although after 2 glasses of red wine) for our international brand.

**"You are never alone with
- the Visitor's Guide"**



Daytrip to Jordan

The Visitor Guide went on a daytrip from Israel to Jordan. We crossed the border at Eilat and went to the ancient city Petra. It was memorable to cross the border to a very different world. One of the Indiana Jones movies was shot in Petra. The drive from the border to Petra was almost 3 hours, crossing a desert and mountains. It was great to look over the Dead Sea and to see Israel from that aspect.

See also travel stories and pictures from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Israel & Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam. Also, from the Canary Islands.

Write your own travel story and send us on
www.visitorsguide.is



One month prior to departure:

- Passport validation time.
- Credit cards validation time.
- Drivers licence validation time.
- Insurance validation time.
- Check your travel insurance also the coverage if you rent a car.

One week prior to departure:

- Check mobile phone connection.
- Check suitcases (locks and labels), rucksacks and other bags.
- Pay the bills and credit cards.
- Take clothes to the dry-cleaners.
- Keys for those who need to enter the house.
- Haircut, dentist and other – cancel appointments.
- Magazines and/or Newspapers (cancel for the period).
- Make a copy of the passport to keep in the luggage.
- Get the air ticket.
- Get foreign currency.
- Get the destination address.
- Get all pin numbers needed.
- Check the rate for calling to/ from the country you are going to. In most cases it is cheaper to receive calls.

One day before departure:

- Water the plants.
- Refrigerator, take out products that will go out of date.

Necessities:

- Passport.
- Air tickets.
- Hotel voucher.
- Destination address.
- Foreign currency.
- Credit cards.
- PIN numbers.
- Drivers licence.
- Insurance policy.

Clothes:

- Underwear.
- Pajamas.
- Socks (one pr.day).
- Pants and sweat pants.
- Suit/dress.
- Sweaters (sweat, common).
- Shorts.
- T-shirts.
- Swim suit.
- Warm coat.
- Wind and waterproof outfit.
- Slippers.
- Sports shoes.
- Hiking boots.

Visit our travel websites for the full list.

-  www.visitorsguide.is
-  www.visitorsguide.fi
-  www.visitorsguide.no
-  www.visitorsguide.se
-  www.visitorsguide.dk
-  www.visitorsguide.es
-  www.visitorsguide.fr



Salmon dish from Lækjarbrekka restaurant.

Always rise
to an early meal,
but eat your fill before a feast.
If you're hungry
you have no time
to talk at the table.



Your Guide to **Dining**

About the Restaurants

Considering the small size of the capital, there is an excellent choice of gourmet restaurants available. In Reykjavík, everyone will find a restaurant catering to their taste – whether Icelandic, Asian, Japanese, Italian, Nordic, French or fusion cuisine. We have **specially chosen** restaurants, ranging from medium priced all the way to high end. Many of the restaurants on this list employ **award winning chefs**, who have won praises for their innovative cooking and overall skills. Using only the **best raw materials** available, such as **Icelandic mountain lamb** and **freshly caught fish**, they create masterpieces that you will always remember.

Good to know

- You can ask for a **children's menu**, when dining out with little ones.
- **Tipping is not customary** in Iceland since service is included in the price.
- All restaurants, cafés and bars in Iceland are **non smoking**.
- It is better to **reserve a table in advance** for the weekends.

Some of the restaurants have a **review/ article** in addition to their advertisement. This is indicated by the **letter R**.

There are more reviews in the **cafés and bar chapter**, mostly for budget places.

The restaurants are listed in **alphabetical order**. You can also see **their postcode**, most of them are in **101 R (Reykjavík)**, city center.

Argentína

i 2

Barónsstígur 11a, 101 R, tel. 551 9555

Classy steakhouse with coal-grilled lamb, beef and fish courses. Cognac room.

Austur-Indíafélagið

R i 26

Hverfisgata 56, 101 R, tel. 552 1630

The northernmost Indian restaurant in the world! Newly renovated.

Bambus

L 9

Borgartún 16, 105 R, tel. 517 0123

Just opened: Asian cuisine with freshly cut Icelandic produce. Located next to Höfði only 10 minutes walk from downtown (in the Icelandic wallstreet).



INFORMATION FOLDER AT YOUR RECEPTION

For more information and menu samples from a variety of restaurants, see our information folder at your reception.

INFORMATION IN 6 LANGUAGES



i More in our Information Folder **L** Lunch is served **i** Map reference **R** Reviews

1000 The Icelandic people peacefully decide to convert from heathen religion to Christianity, not so much for spiritual reasons as for political ones.

Caruso

R i L 4

Pinghóltsstræti 1, 101 R, tel. 562 7335

Mediterranean restaurant in a charming old building. Popular by locals.

Fish Company / Fiskfélagið

i L 5

Grófartorg, Vesturgata 2a, 101 R, tel. 552 5300

Variety of meat and fish courses with emphasis on the fish.

Fjalakötturinn

i L 7

Aðalstræti 16, 101 R, tel. 514 6060

Light courses, fine French cuisine and some traditional Icelandic pastries. A la carte in the evening.

Geysir Bistro Bar

L 29

Aðalstræti 2, 101 R, tel. 517 4300

An ideal place to sit down in a cozy environment and watch the bustling life rushing by while enjoying quality food and friendly service at a reasonable price.

Grillhúsið

L 27

Tryggvagata 20, 101 R - Sprengisandur, 108 R - Kringlan, 103 R, tel. 527 5000

One of the city's favourite Rock'n'Roll Steakhouses. Offers a diverse menu of steaks, burgers, Tex Mex food and more at affordable prices.

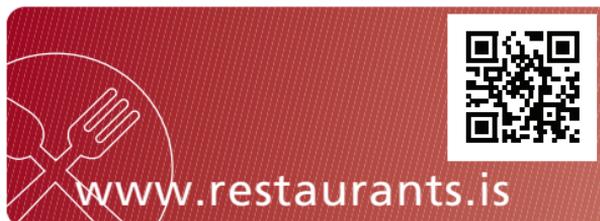
**Grillió**

i 10

Hagatorg, 101 R, tel. 525 9960

First class restaurant with a stunning view over Reykjavík and the Faxaflói bay. Award-winning chefs that prepare excellent dishes.

continued on page 32



Lækjarbrekka Steeped in Tradition

In a building from 1834 in downtown Reykjavík, is one of the oldest and most traditional restaurants in Reykjavík. Lækjarbrekka offers **Icelandic cuisine** that consist mainly of **fish and lamb**. The interior is old-fashioned and it is like taking a step back into early 20th century Reykjavík.

The menu is diverse, with lunchtime menus focusing on light and fresh dishes including soups, salads and fish. In the evening, variety is the name of the game. Some of the more popular dinner menus are the three or four course feast menus; the **Seafood Feast**, the **Mountain Lamb Feast** and the **Icelandic Feast**. It is easy to recommend the Seafood Feast. The starter, a lobster soup with a taste of cream and cognac, is delicious. The same can be said of the main course,

Icelandic arctic char. The feast finishes off with a delicious raspberry mousse skyrfoam called Eyjafjallajökull.

If you'd rather go for individual courses the chef's selection of four appetizers is a good start. Continue with the **grilled Icelandic lamb filet** and don't skip the dessert: highlight of the evening, the Icelandic "skyr" - a non-fat milk product with blueberry sorbet. Absolutely great. For those who dare, try the Icelandic shark.

The dishes are beautifully presented and range from 7,300 ISK for a 3 course feast. Lækjarbrekka leaves you with a feeling of an enjoyable culinary experience.



Longer version on www.visitorsguide.is

*Experience real
Icelandic cuisine*



Lækjarbrekka
Restaurant

Bankastræti 2, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: (+354) 551 4430
info@laekjarbrekka.is
www.laekjarbrekka.is



Let's be friends!



/laekjarbrekka vurl.is/i

Fiskfélagið Fish Company

In a picturesque setting in the heart of Downtown Reykjavik, you'll find the restaurant Fishcompany, one of the latest additions to Reykjavik's restaurant flora. It's located in the cellar of a lovingly renovated building, dating from the 19th century, surrounded by the remains of the capital's older harbour.



Once inside, Fishcompany projects a special, rustic atmosphere to its guests, with its tile floors, stone walls and wooden furniture. Add window panes from the Free Lutheran Church in neighbouring Hafnarfjörður, china from Norway and Tom Dixon-designed chairs to the mix and the guests are quick to realize that they are in for an enjoyable evening.

If you'd rather go for individual courses the chef's selection of four appetizers is a good start. Continue with the

grilled Icelandic lamb filet and don't skip the dessert: highlight of the evening, the Icelandic "skyr" - a non-fat milk product with blueberry sorbet. Absolutely delicious!

The restaurant offers a variety of courses, fish and meat alike, with emphasis on fish as the name entails. The guest can also take an adventurous journey with the restaurant's "Around menu". He can either choose the best of meat and fish from Iceland, enhanced by herbs and spices from all over the world, or he can join the Chefs of the Fishcompany for a trip around Iceland.

The latter journey, which was our choice for the evening, offers an enjoyable ride, courtesy of langoustine from the Westman Islands, fresh salmon from Stykkishólmur in the West, leg of lamb from Húsavík in the North and rhubarb ice cream originating in the South. The restaurant keeps a host of wines in stock from around the globe to accompany the food, along with a variety of Icelandic bottled beers.

Finally, Fishcompany's services matched its quality of culinary experience, ensuring that we left more than satisfied in search of other adventures.



A DELICIOUS 4 COURSE MENU AROUND ICELAND

JOIN THE CHEFS OF THE FISHCOMPANY FOR A TRIP AROUND ICELAND. THE BEST AND FRESHEST INGREDIENTS FROM ALL OVER THE ISLAND WILL TANTALIZE YOUR TASTEBUDS IN A TRIP SURE TO LIVE LONG IN YOUR MEMORY.



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+354 552 5300
INFO@FISHCOMPANY.IS
WWW.FISHCOMPANY.IS

About the Restaurants

Kol

R L X

Skólavörðustígur 40, 101 R, tel. 517 7474

Close to the church Hallgrímskirkja, Kol (Coal) offers trendy, fresh food made of quality produce. This restaurant combines casual fine dining with Icelandic



characteristics in beautiful modern surroundings.

Kopar

L 3

Geirsgata 3, 101 R, tel. 567 2700

A brand new restaurant, by the old harbour, emphasising Icelandic cuisine. Fine dining with rustic atmosphere. Has two floors and a very good view over the harbour. Open for breakfast, lunch, daytime and dinner.

Kringlukráin

L 6

Kringlan 4-12, 103 R, tel. 568 0878

In the mall old and classic restaurant, emphasizing good food and professional service. Happy hour daily between 16 and 18.

Icelandic ICE CREAM

map 12

Kringlan | Smáralind | Garðabær | Háaleitisbraut |

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About the Restaurants

Lækjarkreppa

R i L 13

Bankastræti 2, 101 R, tel. 551 4430

Icelandic cuisine in one of the oldest and most traditional restaurants in Reykjavík. The old fashioned interior from 1834 makes for a pleasant surrounding. Most popular for their seafood and lamb.

Lifandi Markaður

R L 9

Borgartún 24, 101 R, tel. 585 8700

Fákafen 11, 108 R, tel. 585 8715

Hæðarsmári 6, 201 Kópavogur, tel. 585 8710

Two restaurants, one centrally placed in Reykjavík, the other next to Smaralind Mall in Kópavogur. Both offer a nice, healthy meal and delicious juices or smoothies. An organic grocery store is on the premises.

Restaurant Reykjavík

R L

Vesturgata 2, 101 R, tel. 552 3030

Seafood buffet every evening and a menu with a perfect range of Icelandic specialities. Good lunch offers.

Seafood Grill

R i L 17

Skólavörðustígur 14, 101 R, tel. 571 1100

Grilled fish, meat and vegetables. An award winning chef.

Sushi Samba

R 15

Pinghóltsstræti 5, 101 R, tel. 568 6600

Just off the main shopping street, Sushi Samba offers a fusion of Icelandic, Japanese and South American cuisine and



exotic cocktails.

Tapas Barinn

i 18

Vesturgata 3b, 101 R, tel. 551 2344

The tradition of Spain mixed with Iceland's finest ingredients. Popular place among Icelanders.

Tapas House

R i L 16

Ægisgarður 2, 101 R, tel. 512 8181

In a charming old wooden house you can feast on many different tapas courses, order various feasts such as the Lobster feast and "Tivoli" feast, which consists of 7 courses. Open for lunch during summer.

Trío

L 24

Austurstræti 10, 101 R, tel. 544 8746

Near Ingólfstorg, Trío restaurant offers modern Northern European cuisines, including Icelandic cuisines, using quality ingredients from across the country. Open for lunch during summer.

Vegamót

R i L 21

Vegamótastígur 4, 101 R, tel. 511 3040

A popular bar and bistro with a relaxed atmosphere. Diverse menu, reasonable prices.

Viking Village

i 25

Strandgata 55, 220 Hafnarfjörður,

tel. 565 1213

Viking feast with food, drinks and live music, served in a hall resembling those of the middle ages. The Viking Village is not only a restaurant; it plays a role in many cultural events as well. 15 minute drive from Reykjavík. See more about Hafnarfjörður in the Culture chapter.

Caruso A Warm Hearted Restaurant



The restaurant Caruso has long been a favourite among tourists and Icelanders alike. We went to find out what it is that makes the place so popular. To start with, the restaurant is excellently located on three floors in a charming old house in the heart of the city, on the main shopping street. The interior is cosy and rustic, and has a Mediterranean feel to it. On the second floor is an inviting sitting room and on the third floor groups of up to 60 people can be seated. Small statues, live flowers, candles and plastered walls create a unique feeling. The menu is extensive, and has something for all tastes, with pizzas, pastas, as well as meat and fresh fish dishes, not to forget Icelandic lamb! The wine list has a good choice of reasonably priced wines from around the world. A good variety of liquors completes the list.

On the evening that we visited Caruso, it was bustling with life, as usual. We were warmly welcomed as we arrived, and escorted to a table that faces the street. Our waitress was friendly and knew her way around the menu. Our favourites of the appetizers were the tuna and beef carpaccios, and of the main dishes we especially liked the calf, which was perfectly tender and of good quality. As desserts, we tried two versions of chocolate cakes, which were both very tasty. The espressos that fulfilled our meals were just right.

Caruso is a good choice for all looking for a lively and warm-hearted atmosphere. The service is attentive, friendly and prompt. The waiters/waitresses speak several languages. Portions are generous and tasty. No wonder that the place is so popular!



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RISTORANTE Caruso

map
4

Caruso is in one of the oldest buildings in Reykjavík built in 1892. A wood burning pizza oven, fresh flower arrangements, live guitar music and excellent food make Caruso the best place for a special night on the town.



Pinghóltsstræti 1 | Tel 562-7335 | www.caruso.is

Kol restaurant Coal Cookery and Cocktails

Situated near the top of the old fashioned shopping street Skólavörðustígur and the beautiful church Hallgrímskirkja, Kol (Coal) offers trendy, fresh and exciting food integrated with Icelandic traditions. Kol also prides itself on its good quality cocktails, in which all syrups and juices are homemade.

The lounge is comfortable with impressive art pieces. Downstairs there are some quite nice seats facing the cookery where one can observe the chefs preparations through an open window. The designer's vision for the roomy restaurant was a modern style with an international vibe. The house is newly built and has a small garden where dining is possible.

Our party of three decided to try out the "tasting menu" for the whole table. This menu changes regularly according to availability of ingredients. There

were nice choices for starters and finger food, with many different seafood dishes among them. Among the finger food, a minke whale tataki dish called the "Grín Piece" was the winner at our table. The items of the tasting menu were beautifully presented on top of ice and stones. The Catfish was an excellent main course and the Nut Steak and Lamb Tenderloin were really tasty dishes from a coal oven, served in quite satisfactory portions. The desserts were good, and our young waiters were very friendly and knowledgeable about the dishes. When ordering we were asked about food allergies, which is a nice novelty. Kol combines fine dining with Icelandic characteristics in beautiful modern surroundings, creating a memorable evening. We thoroughly enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere.



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KOL

KITCHEN • BAR



The concept of the restaurant is "casual fun dining" and we prepare what we would call a simple honest, "feel good", comfort food, where we take on the classics with a modern twist.

SKÓLAVÖRDUSTÍGUR 40 • 101 REYKJAVÍK • TEL.+354 517 7474 • KOLRESTAURANT.IS

Vegamót Restaurant

Vegamót is an elegant but casual restaurant and bar on two floors. It is situated just off the main shopping street, Laugavegur, close to a big bookstore. It is a popular place with a relaxed atmosphere, serving quality meals at attractive prices.

There were 3 of us and we chose the following dishes: Fish of the day - a perch in a smoked chili sauce, lamb in a red wine sauce and seafood tagliatelle with lobster and tiger prawns. Two of us shared a delicious chocolate cake dessert served with ice cream. The portions were big and tasted good. A meal like that costs

only around 9,000 ISK total. They also have very good lunch offers.

Vegamót can be described as a place with great food, great prices and a great atmosphere. They serve Icelandic beer and at weekends the place transforms into a night club where top DJs turn their tricks.

VEGAMÓT

BISTRO I BAR



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*Great food,
great price,
great atmosphere.*
Come for our famous fresh fish of the day

map
21

Open Mon-Thu 11-01, Fri-Sat 11-02, Sun 12-01
Kitchen is open until 23:30 Friday and Saturday

VEGAMÓT
RESTAURANT | BAR

Vegamótastígur 4 | Tel. 511 3040 | vegamot.is

Some other Recommended Restaurants

3 Frakkar - *Baldursgata 14* - Fish, whale meat.

Steikhúsið - *Tryggvagata 4-6* - At the Old Harbour, steaks and good set menus.

Uno - *Hafnarstræti 1-3* - Italian, pizza, various.

Saffran - *Dalvegur 4, Kópavogur & Bæjarhraun 16, 220 Hf.* - Indian, light courses.
Also at Glæsibær near Laugardalur valley.

Snaps Bistro - Bar - *Óðinstorg* - Blend of rustic atmosphere, fine dining and a bar with reasonably priced beer. The bar closes at midnight on weekends.

Fish Market - *Aðalstræti 12* - Icelandic food prepared with a modern twist, using ingredients sourced directly from the nation's best food producers. Good lunch offers.

The Pearl - *Öskjuhlíð, 105 R, tel. 562 0200* - Fine dining in a revolving restaurant. Splendid view over the city.

More reviews and information in the Budget Dining and Cafés & Bars chapter.

Countryside Restaurants

Fjöruborðið

R **i** **L** **S**

Eyrarybraut 3, Stokkseyri, tel. 483 1550

A seaside restaurant famous for its lobster. 40 minutes drive from Reykjavík.

Potturinn

L **103**

Norðurlandsveggi 4, 540 Blönduós, tel. 453 5060

Potturinn Restaurant is a comfortable restaurant by the ring road, north west Iceland. Their broad menu includes meat, fish and vegetarian dishes from superb raw ingredients. The same owners also have a nice café Árbakkinn nearby, and in Blönduós there is a great thermal swimming pool.

Vitinn Restaurant

L **100**

Vitatorg 3, 245 Sandgerði, tel. 423 7755

A nice and homely restaurant in a small village Sandgerði, close to the international airport. The name Vitinn takes its from the village lighthouse. Serves among else a crabfeast from the catch of the day, and a lunch buffet. The village also has a nice thermal swimming pool and a museum.

See Countryside chapter for more information on these restaurants and other recommended restaurant around the country

I More in our Information Folder **L** Lunch is served **M** Map reference **R** Reviews

1343 Sister Katrín, found guilty of selling her soul to the devil, is the first person to be burnt on a stake in Iceland.

Seafood Grill



It was in 2010 that a young lad from Húsavík, a little fishing town in the north, was awarded the title "Chef of the year 2010". The young chef, Gústav, and Master chef, Lárus Gunnar Jónasson spent months traveling around Iceland looking for the real taste of Icelandic food. Along the way they found a few things that are now key items decorating their new restaurant.

An old freezing plant from Ísafjörður in the West Fjords, now serves as a backdrop for the bar at Restaurant Sjávargrillið. All around the restaurant



you will find driftwood that the two friends, Lárus and Gústav, found on their travels.

On the road Gústav came up with a menu like no other: Gústav's Interpretation of the collective grill taste of his homeland, Iceland. Take a look at our menu. It will be our pleasure to fire up the old grill when you honor us with a visit.

IDEAS AS FRESH AS THE FISH

map
17

After years of study, strings of awards and having led kitchens of some of Reykjavík's most esteemed restaurants, Gústav still sees him self as a kid from up north, with a life long passion for fish.



WWW.SEAFOODGRILL.IS

SKÓLAVÖRÐUSTÍGUR 14 - 101 REYKJAVÍK - 571 1100

Sushisamba Icelandic ingredients - with a twist... —

The restaurant is situated in a little side street off Laugavegur. It offers Japanese and South American delicacies made from fresh Icelandic ingredients, in a vibrant atmosphere, a fine example of the quality of Icelandic food. You can choose from their menu of creative Icelandic dishes and world- renowned handmade sushi among other things.

The dining party's first choice was the "Icelandic Feast Menu", which is very popular, where Icelandic ingredients are presented in a new, original way in Japanese, Peruvian and Brazilian cuisines together with a wide selection of food from the Icelandic countryside and seaside. The first dishes were arctic char and minke whale, followed by The Reindeer Mini Burger and lamb fillet, all introduced with a special Japanese and South American twist. We found those dishes to be highly imaginative and very tasty as well as being elegantly presented. The Reindeer Mini Burger and the White Chocolate "Skyr" Panna Cotta dessert were unique and especially delightful.



Next we tried out the "Best Sellers Menu" with a splendid Grilled Beef Tenderloin and Sushisamba's world-renowned sushi, where the taste of fresh Icelandic seafood really comes through, adding to the varying soft and rich flavours of the dishes. These creative cuisines were pleasing in both taste and appearance, especially the Cuban Lobster Cigar. Furthermore, we can recommend the appetizing Tuna and Salmon Uramaki Sushi Rolls.

The service was quick and very good. Sushisamba is popular with visiting international celebrities. Among its famous guests are Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes. When you want to indulge yourself, this top quality lively restaurant is a good choice.



sushi samba

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Icelandic feast - a unique experience

The Sushisamba experience is an unique fusion of Iceland's freshest produce, elevated by Japanese and South American cuisine.



Our kitchen is open
17.00–23.00 sun.–thu.
17.00–24.00 fri.–sat.

Starts with a shot of the Icelandic national spirit “**Brennivín**”

Arctic char with cucumber and coriander

Smoked puffin with yuzu mayo

Minke whale with celeriac purée

Reindeer burger with portobello mushroom

Icelandic free range lamb fillet with cinnamon potato

And to end on a high note

“Skrýr” panna cotta with white chocolate and raspberry sorbet

Sushi Samba
Þingholtsstræti 5 • 101 Reykjavík
Tel 568 6600 • sushisamba.is

The Sayings of the Vikings

Hávamál are words of wisdom which served as spiritual provisions for the Vikings on their long journeys over rough sea to discover new lands. These sayings are more than a thousand years old and give a valuable insight into the Viking way of thinking.

In short, **Hávamál** is the **Viking guide on how to live**. **Hávamál** tells one how to treat guests and how to behave. It advises about the art of living, friendship, money, happiness, eating, travelling, and even positive thinking. **Hávamál** reveals how to use power and explains phenomena such as foresight and agility as well as

dwelling on the nature of secrecy, extravagance and moderation.

Hávamál has often been compared to the old **Chinese book Tao** (the Way), which contains the wisdom of the east. In this same manner the **Hávamál** is described as “The wisdom of the North”.

In the **beginning of each chapter** in this guide, you can read examples of **Hávamál**. For those wishing to learn more about the sayings of the Vikings, ask for a book on translated **Hávamál wisdom** at any of the bookstores or souvenirs shops.



In front of the Viking Village hotel



From the Viking Festival in Hafnarfjörður



INFORMATION FOLDER AT YOUR RECEPTION

For more information about the **Viking Village**, see our information folder at your reception or tourist information center.

INFORMATION IN 6 LANGUAGES



**"You haven't
been in Iceland
if you haven't
been to us"
Don't miss it!**

**Viking feasts every night
– live entertainment**

For booking and
further information:
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www.vikingvillage.is
vikings@vikingvillage.is

Strandgata 55 Hafnarfjordur



**VIKING
village**

Fjörúkráin

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Tapashouse Icelandic Seafood Tapas

Tapas House is situated in the charming, renovated wooden Zimsen building in Reykjavík's Old Harbour. The spacious and plainly decorated restaurant spans two floors, with a great view over the ocean and the port.

Explore a menu that covers a wide range of tapas plates, a great lobster soup and various feasts such as the Lobster feast and "Tivoli" feast, which consists of 7 courses.

The chefs should be praised for their experiments and originality, combining traditional tapas courses with Icelandic ingredients and you will find both "tapas from the sea" and "tapas from the land" with an emphasis on Icelandic meat and fish.

The location of the restaurant is great and they are also open for lunch during summertime. Enjoy good service from the friendly staff at this restaurant.



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Icelandic Seafood Tapas

With over different 80 courses to choose from, you can get acquainted with all the best fish in one night at the Tapashouse. We are located by the old harbour and have a splendid view of the sea with the mountains in the background.



Lunch is now on the menu!

OPENING HOURS THU-SAT 11:30-1:00 SUN-WED 11:30-24:00



The Tapashouse

By the old harbour in Reykjavík

Tapashúsið - Ægisgarður 2 - Sölfellshúsið - 101 Reykjavík
+354 512 81 81 - info@tapashouse.is - www.tapashouse.is

Some other good restaurants without an ad in the book
More info on www.restaurants.is

KOLABRAUTIN RESTAURANT

L

Harpa, 101 R, tel. 519 9700

A modern restaurant located in the Harpa Concert Hall with a great view over the harbor. Icelandic ingredients prepared by an age old Mediterranean traditions. Large wood fired oven, in which all the meals are cooked, welcomes you when you enter the restaurant.

Lobster House / Humarhúsið

L

Amtmannsstígur 1, 101 R, tel. 561 3303

A cosy restaurant in a old building from the 19th century. Specializing in Icelandic cuisine, mainly seafood and lobster. Open for lunch except Sundays. Same owners for 20 years.



I More in our Information Folder **L** Lunch is served **T** Map reference **R** Reviews



*A new restaurant by the old
harbour. At Kopar we choose local
products, both from land and sea,
to create an adventurous menu.*



Kopar | Geirsgata 3 | 101 Reykjavík | Tel 567 2700
info@koparrestaurant.is | koparrestaurant.is

Statistics about Iceland

Population in January 2014

Iceland	325,700
Reykjavík City	121,230
Kópavogur	32,308
Hafnarfjörður	27,357
Ákureyri (<i>Capital of the North</i>)	18,103
Westman Islands	4,267
Ísafjörður (<i>in the West Fjords</i>)	3,639
Egilsstaðir (<i>in the East</i>)	2,300
Grímsey Island (<i>in the North</i>)	.86

Life Expectancy

Country	Men	Women
Denmark	75.6	80.4
France	77.1	84.1
Germany	76.0	82.1
Iceland	78.8	82.6
Japan	78.7	85.6
Norway	76.5	83.3
Sweden	78.4	83.0
UK	76.2	81.3
USA	75.6	80.8

Number of Tourists 1980-2013

2013	807,000
2012	672,000
2011	566,000
2010	494,800
2008	502,000
2006	422,300
2004	360,400
2002	277,900
2000	302,900
1995	190,000
1990	141,700
1980	65,900



A family by Tjörnin (the pond)

Number of Students at University 2013

Year	Students	Men	Women
2012	19,089	37.8%	62.2%
2011	20,162	38.5%	61.5%
2010	18,391	37.6%	62.4%
2009	17,738	36.4%	63.6%
2008	16,662	35.6%	64.4%
2007	16,394	35.4%	64.6%
2006	15,647	35.7%	64.3%
2004	16,277	36.5%	63.5%

Main Nationalities Visiting Iceland in 2013

Scandinavians	18%	French	6%
Americans	15%	Dutch	3%
British	17%	Italians	2%
Germans	10%	Finnish	2%

Through KEF

People of Foreign Nationalities

Living in Iceland in 2013

1. Poland	9,371
2. Lithuania	1,389
3. Philippines	1,385
4. Germany	993
5. Thailand	935
6. United States	714
7. United Kingdom	689
8. Denmark	655
9. Sweden	324

All airports and Smyril Line. Excluding cruise ships - approx. 100,000 in 2013

Source: Statistics Iceland and the Icelandic Tourist Board

1602 The Danish trade monopoly in Iceland begins.

Restaurant Reykjavík

Wander downtown, near the harbour, and you cannot miss the distinctive yellow frontage of Restaurant Reykjavík. Bright and sunny, it's a great spot to eat, drink, and watch the world go by. Evenings there are cosy affairs, with first class musicians performing regularly, while during the day you'll find tasty lunch options.

This beautiful building dates back to the 1860s. The unofficial gateway to the city, it has always been a bustling scene of fishermen, traders and travellers. Today, a delicious menu includes the acclaimed **seafood buffet** (from 6pm). Hugely popular amongst

tourists and locals, it features fresh Icelandic seafood. The chefs strive to use the best materials Icelandic nature has to offer. The fish courses include Bacalao – traditional salted cod with garlic-fried potatoes – and the heavenly salmon and scallop duet, with a touch of fennel. Tender beef and lamb creations are also a big hit, along with the great 'Tasting Menu'.



SEAFOOD BUFFET

Every day
from 18:00



... or take a look at our menu with a variety of Icelandic delicacies

ICELANDIC
Specialties
SPECIALITIES

map 22



**RESTAURANT
REYKJAVÍK**

Tel +354 552 3030
restaurant@restaurantreykjavik.is
www.restaurantreykjavik.is
Vesturgata 2 - 101 Reykjavik

Local Food and Gourmet Learn Our Secrets

During the summer the **Icelandic sheep** live free in the **mountains** and highlands, feeding on fresh grass and wild herbs. Most of the villages lie on the coast and benefit from fisheries – this is the key to the outstanding food quality in Iceland. Local chefs utilize fresh products from the farms and the fishermen. The farm produce includes organic vegetables grown in the clean and unspoiled nature.

The “**Beint frá býli**” project enables you to buy products straight from the farms. You will know exactly where your food comes from and the freshness will be guaranteed. If you want to buy organic food, this is a great way to go about it.

The delicious **Icelandic lamb** is simply a must in the visitors dining experience, maybe with a “**brennivín**” schnapps as an appetiser. For

seafood, one could recommend trout, salmon, cod and char. The national dessert, **skyr**, is also something you might want to try. Most of the restaurants presented in this book offer both great lamb and variety of seafood.

In the shopping street Skólavörðustígur, the delightful sit-in Ostabúðin - Delicatessen sells cheeses, sausages and more. Heilsuhúsið Health Food Stores specialises in natural foods and organic health products for the body and soul. **Lifandi markaður** is a restaurant and a boutique in the street Borgartún, specialising in healthy organic food, shakes, juices and teas - a haven for the vegetarians.

Reykjavík has been praised by many people, who appreciate quality food, and we hope you will join that group.



*Always
on the top!*

*Sigurður, our head chef,
represents Iceland in the
Bocuse d'Or* and we are
immensely proud of him.*

Grillið
RESTAURANT



*We offer only the freshest
ingredients available,
prepared in a light and
modern manner with an
emphasis on creativity and
exciting flavour combinations.*

*The outstanding view from
the top of the Radisson BLU
Saga Hotel where Grillið
Restaurant is located makes
your visit unforgettable.*

** The Bocuse d'Or is a world chef
championship and is one of the world's
most prestigious cooking competitions
taking place in Lyon in January 2015*



Recipes from Iceland

Stewed Fish (Plokkfiskur)

Boil fish in lightly salted water. Remove from water when done. Melt butter in a saucepan, add the flour and stir. Pour in cream and milk and stir well until mixture is well thickened. Add onion and potatoes cut in pieces. Season with salt and pepper. Finally add fish and mix everything thoroughly. Serve with rye bread.

300 g (11 oz) fish
3 tbsp chopped onion
2 dl (7 oz ⁷/₈ cup) milk
1 dl (3¹/₂ fl oz ¹/₂ cup) cream
40 g (1¹/₃ oz) flour
40 g (1¹/₃ oz) butter
100 g (3¹/₂ oz) boiled potatoes
Salt and Pepper

Icelandic Pancakes (Pönnukökur)

Beat together eggs, milk and vanilla. Mix the dry ingredients. Add them to the egg mixture and blend thoroughly. Keep in a fridge for 1 hour. Melt butter and whisk with the dough. Keep the pancake pan fairly hot, pour on the batter. Roll about to cover the pan and make the pancake thin. Bake for a moment, then turn it over and bake the other side for a short while. Transfer to a plate. Sprinkle with sugar or serve with jam and whipped cream.

130 g (4¹/₂ oz) flour
6 dl (1 pt 2⁵/₈ cups) milk
3 eggs
¹/₂ tsp salt
¹/₂ tsp sugar
¹/₄ tsp vanilla essence
40 g margarine

Traditional Meat Soup (Kjötsúpa)

Put meat in cold water, add salt and bring to the boil. Remove froth and reduce temperature. Boil at low heat for 45-50 minutes. In the meantime, peel vegetables and cut into fairly large pieces. After 20 minutes of boiling, add vegetables, rice and herbs. Serve meat in the soup or separately.

400 g (14 oz) lamb best end of neck
7.5 dl (1¹/₃ pt 3¹/₄ cup) water
1 onion
2 potatoes
200 g (7 oz) Swedes/rutabaga
200 g (7 oz) carrots
1 tbsp rice
1 tbsp herbs
1 tbsp salt

Source: The New Icelandic Cookbook

TRIO

RESTAURANT



544-TRIO
544-8746

A new and sophisticated restaurant
in the heart of the city.

Taste diverse dishes and cocktails
in an enjoyable environment.

Austurstræti 8-10

Austur Indíafjelagið

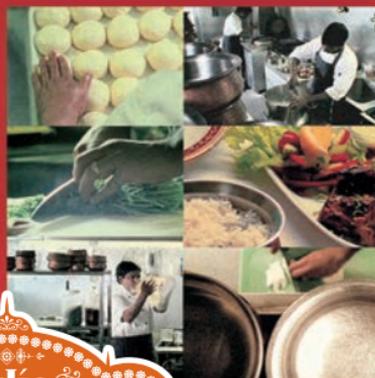
Austur-Indíafjelagið is the oldest and the best Indian restaurant in Iceland. A local favorite since 1996, it is definitely not your usual 'run off the mill' Indian restaurant. The spices are skillfully blended by professionals and paired with the freshest and best of the Icelandic ingredients, resulting in sublime creations, which keep you returning for more. This has been the key to this popular restaurant's success. Packed with locals, it is not unusual to sight or be seated next to the likes of the President of Iceland and other celebrities. Even Harrison Ford went on record calling it the best Indian restaurant that he has tried.



The menu offers a wide variety of regional dishes. We started with the Lobster Kalimirchi which was generously spiced with black pepper and Kozhi Ularthiyathu – chicken prepared in South Indian style. Having polished

them off in no time, we sat back enjoying the relaxed atmosphere. With high expectations and excitement we could hardly wait for our dinner to be served. For our main course, we had chosen a combination of lamb, chicken, seafood and vegetarian courses. Since all the food is served family style, we were able to mix and match and experience several different delicacies. We were not disappointed! We specially recommend the Hariyali Salmon and the Lamb Boti Kebab. Both were very fresh and were marinated and grilled to perfection. Accompanied with homemade chutneys and tasty naan breads, we experienced a culinary journey into exotic India. We rounded off our dinner with spiced Indian Masala Chai.

Service is friendly and attentive. They surely know how to guide you through the menu, be it the food or wine list and ensure you have a memorable experience. With our stomachs full and with complete satisfaction, we rolled out of India into the streets of Reykjavik. We carried with us the joy of the symphony of spices playing in our mouth. It is no surprise why Austur-Indíafjelagið continues to capture the taste buds of those who dine there. Reservations recommended.



INDIA'S FINEST CUISINES IN THE NORTH

"This Indian restaurant is so good, it would make more than one starred European chef grow green with envy."

LOUIS VUITTON CITY GUIDE

"This is hands down the best non-European restaurant in Iceland"

FROMMERS

"A true taste sensation, the chef whips up sublime creations. (may we heartily recommend the Salmon Tikka) The atmosphere is relaxed and the service friendly."

LONELY PLANET Best of Reykjavík

HVERFISGATA 56 · 101 REYKJAVÍK · TEL. 552 1630

www.austurindia.is

Fish Company “They play with food”



A recipe from the kitchen of the Fish Company restaurant and, in fact, a good reason to visit the place. If you can't find rhubarb, substitute your local vegetables that are in season.

Cod fillet in birch oil with warm bell pepper salsa and rhubarb

(serves 4, serve with small fried potatoes or mashed potatoes)

Vesturgata 2a,
Grófartorg,
101 Reykjavík
Tel. 552-5300

Fish

1 kg fresh cod fillet
350 g salt
150 g sugar
Rind of 1 lemon
6 pcs cardamom
3 tbsp Icelandic birch tea

Directions: Mix sugar, salt, lemon rind, cardamom and birch tea. Marinate the fish for eight hours in the mixture. The fish is then rinsed well, patted dry and cut up into four even pieces. It should then be pan-fried on one side and cooked in an oven at 180°C for 4-5 minutes.

Birch oil

1 L oil, 3 tbsp birch tea, 1 tbsp birch seeds.

Directions: Mix all ingredients in a saucepan and heat the oil to 60°C. The pot is then covered with cling film and the oil allowed to set for about an hour to allow the birch to steep in the oil (use fresh birch seeds if possible)

Warm salsa (vinaigrette)

1 red bell pepper, 3 spring onions, 2 celery stalks, 6 tbsp birch oil, 2 tbsp vinegar (white wine/apple), 2 tbsp water, 2 tbsp sugar.

Directions: Heat vinegar, water and sugar in a saucepan until the sugar has dissolved. The diced vegetables are then added together with the birch oil and given a light stir. The salsa is then ready.

Rhubarb

1 pcs Icelandic rhubarb, 500 mL water, 400 gr sugar.

Directions: Peel and cut the rhubarb into 2 cm pieces. Bring the water and sugar to a boil, turn off the heat and add the rhubarb. Put the lid on but keep a close watch on the rhubarb. When the rhubarb has softened, still a bit firm, but not mushy, it is removed from the saucepan and stored until it is served.

Taste the best of Iceland in one amazing meal

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Icelandic Gourmet Feast



Includes Brennivín
and 7 delicious tapas

Starts with a shot of the infamous Icelandic spirit Brennivín

- Smoked puffin with blueberry "brennivín" sauce
- Icelandic sea-trout with peppers-salsa
- Lobster tails baked in garlic
- Pan-fried blue ling with lobster sauce
- Grilled Icelandic lamb Samfaina
- Minke Whale with cranberry-sauce
- White chocolate "Skr" mousse with passion coulis

The only kitchen
in Reykjavík open
to **23:30** on weekdays
and **01:00** on weekends



RESTAURANT - BAR

Vesturgata 3B | 101 Reykjavík | Tel. 551 2344 | www.tapas.is

Icelandic Water The Best in the World? _____

Icelanders have the good fortune of having access to an almost limitless and inexpensive supply of natural hot and cold water. In addition, Icelanders can be proud of the quality of drinking water, which is one of the purest in the world. The cold water from the tap is pure spring water, without any additives such as chlorine.

According to an OECD report from 2001, Icelandic drinking water is of high quality and without traces of contaminants or heavy metals. Stringent quality control measures ensure consistent quality and safety of the water. In fact, Reykjavík Water Works, now a part of Reykjavík Energy, was the first Nordic company to receive the ISO 9001 quality standard.

Visitors to Iceland often ask why the hot water smells of rotten eggs. This is because the hot and cold water come

from two different sources. It is true that the hot water sometimes smells of sulphur, which is due to the geothermal origins of the hot water, making it excellent for bathing, but not drinking. The hot water which is supplied by the geothermal power plants is best experienced in one of the many geothermal swimming pools of the city.

In order to enjoy the unique taste of the pure spring water, just remember to let the cold water run for a while from the tap before tasting, to ensure that no hot water is mixed in. Or if you prefer, you can also buy it in bottles from convenience stores. The Icelandic spring water is safe, refreshing and tastes excellent. It is not without cause that Icelanders say their water is the best in the world!

Budget tip #1 **from Visitor's Guide**

Why buy Icelandic water in bottles?
You get it free everywhere from the tap!



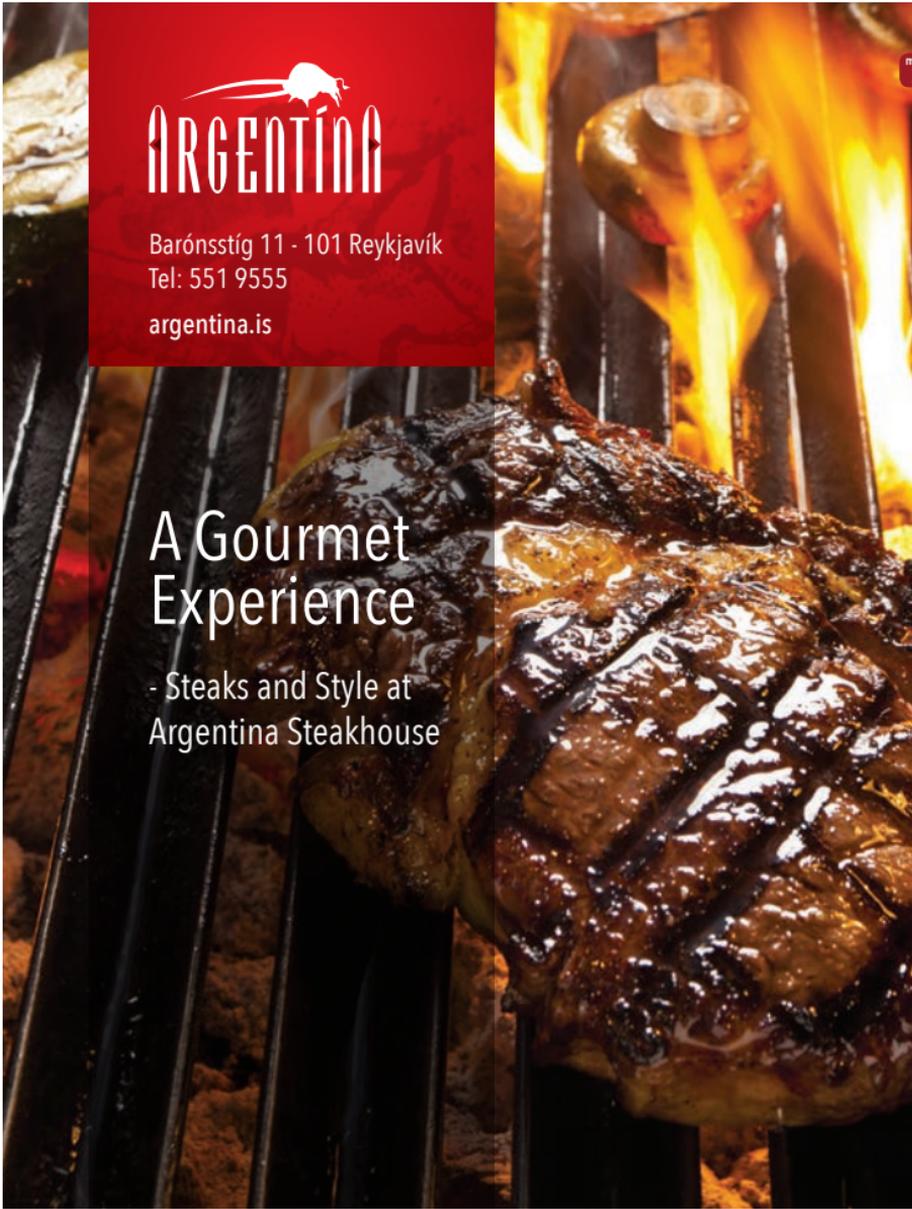


ARGENTINA

Barónsstíg 11 - 101 Reykjavík

Tel: 551 9555

argentina.is



A Gourmet
Experience

- Steaks and Style at
Argentina Steakhouse

map
2

Words and Phrases

Here are some indispensable words and phrases translated from English and German to Icelandic.

English	German	Icelandic
Yes	Ja	Já
No	Nein	Nei
Maybe	Vielleicht	Kannski
Good morning	Guten Tag	Góðan dag
Good evening	Guten Abend	Gott kvöld
Goodbye	Auf wiedersehen	Bless
Thank you	Danke	Takk fyrir
Trip	Ausflug	Ferð
The weather is good	Das Wetter ist gut	Veðrið er gott
It rains	Es regnet	Það rignir
Are you cold?	Ist dir kalt?	Er þér kalt?
This is beautiful	Das ist schön	Petta er fallegt
Mountain	Ein Berg	Fjall
Glacier	Ein Gletscher	Jökull
Landscape	Landschaft	Landslag
Food	Essen	Matur
Drinks	Getränke	Drykkir
Beer	Bier	Bjór
I am a Viking	Ich bin ein Vikinger	Ég er víkingur
I'm on vacation	Ich bin auf Urlaub	Ég er í frí
You are cute!	Du bist süß!	Þú ert sæt(ur)!
What is your name?	Wie heißt du?	Hvað heitir þú?
Where do you live?	Wo wohnst du?	Hvar átt þú heima?
What's your telephone number?	Wie ist deine Telefonnummer?	Hvað er síminn hjá þér?

Advice on pronunciation

ð as 'th' in 'the' // Þ, þ as 'th' in 'thunder' // Æ, æ as 'i' in 'high'

For more information see www.visitorsguide.is

Fjalakötturinn

www.fjalakotturinn.is

Experience relaxed atmosphere in
the heart of the city center and try
our surprisingly adventurous menu



OPENING HOURS

Lunch all week: 11:30 - 14:00

Dinner: Sunday - Thursday: 18:00 - 22:30

Friday - Saturday: 18:00 - 23:00



Aðalstræti 16 / Tel. 514 6060 / fjalakotturinn@fjalakotturinn.is

Fjöruborðið By the Sea

There are several „must-sees“ when it comes to tourist attractions in Iceland – The Blue Lagoon, Gullfoss and Geysir, Pingvellir and a cosy seaside lobster restaurant in the quiet town of Stokkseyri.

For over 15 years Fjorubordid has been satisfying customers from all over the world to great acclaim. It is customary when Iceland receives prominent visitors to take them on a tour of Iceland's most interesting locations and it is not uncommon that such tours end in Fjorubordid. Whether it be famous rock stars and actors, respected politicians and world leaders or members of royalty, Fjorubordid has served them all.



The restaurant is located on the ocean shore (in fact the name roughly translates as the seaside) giving a **splendid view** to set the mood. The restaurant's interiors and surroundings are quite

humble and modest, but can accommodate groups of all sizes.



The main attractions however are the lobster dishes, which Fjorubordid is famous for. The staple Village Lobster is a perennial favourite which is grilled in garlic butter, served with bread and various sauces.

The lobster soup is to die for! – as Fjorubordid's proprietors claim that many Icelanders and visitors risk travelling from the capital during hail storms and risky weather just for a taste of the soup.

The lobster feast is a dining experience you won't soon forget. Up to 400 grams of lobster, lobster soup and some homemade pastries are sure to leave you satisfied, just be sure to bring your appetite.

For more information visit www.fjorubordid.is

by the sea and a delicious lobster at Fjöruborðið in Stokkseyri

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At the seashore the giant lobster makes appointments with mermaids and landlubbers. He waves his large claws, attracting those desiring to be in the company of starfish and lumpfish.



Fjöruborðið
- The Seashore restaurant

Spír ehf.

> Only 45 minutes drive from Reykjavik

Opening hours.

Summer: Mon. - Sun. 12.00 - 22.00

Fall - Winter - Spring:

Mon. - Fri. 17.00 - 21.00

Sat. - Sun. 12.00 - 21.00

Eyrbraut 3, 825 Stokkseyri, Iceland
Tel. +354 483 1550 · Fax. +354 483 1545
info@fjorubordid.is · www.fjorubordid.is

Traditional Icelandic Food

Traditional Icelandic food has its origins in the limited preserving possibilities that Icelanders used to have to cope with in past centuries. To make the food last through the winter it was processed in certain ways, which makes its taste so unique.

Meat was smoked, salted, pickled or allowed to stand in whey for 3 - 4 months. Fish was dried, hanged, salted or smoked. Almost everything from the animal was used. A few examples of the "delicacies" made from the Icelandic sheep are **blood and liver pudding**, **singed sheep heads**, **smoked lamb** and – **ram testicles!**

If you would like to taste some of these special treats you don't need to go further than the nearest grocery store. Try **rye pancakes** (flatkaka), sliced **smoked lamb** (hangikjöt) and

some butter to make a tasty snack. **Smoked salmon** (lax) on cooked **rye bread** (rúgbrauð) is also popular. Other bread toppings include **marinated herring**, **rolled sausage** and **lamb pâtés**.

When going on a camping trip or just driving in the countryside, you could buy some **dried fish** (harðfiskur) at the nearest gas station to eat on the way. It will make the trip more enjoyable and you will feel more like an Icelander! Most people like dried fish, although many don't like the way it smells - but don't let that stop you!

If you appreciate the Icelandic food so much that you want to share it with your friends and family when you get home, you can buy most of the food mentioned in supermarkets or at the **international airport**.



From left to right: dried fish, rye bread, salmon, rye pancakes, sliced smoked lamb and cheese.

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We just love it.

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GEYSIR
Bistro

Aðalstræti 2 | 101 Reykjavík | Tel: +354 517 4300 | www.geysirbistro.is

Enjoy
All your favorites

Steaks, fish 'n chips, burgers,
sandwiches and salads

Grillhúsið

STEAKHOUSE

Grillhúsið - Tryggvagötu 20 - Phone + 354 527 5000 - www.grillhusid.is

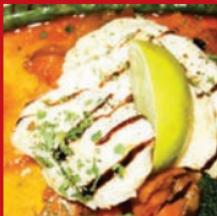
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restaurants.is

All restaurants in Iceland in one place!

Listed below are restaurants with detailed information on our website www.restaurants.is. They all have logo and search words, but some have further information with text and pictures and even a video from the restaurant.

Restaurant	Address	Type
101 Hotel	Hverfisgata 10, 101 Reykjavík	International cuisine
1919 Restaurant	Pósthússtræti 2, 101 Reykjavík	International cuisine
 Argentina *	Barónsstígur 11a, 101 Reykjavík	Steakhouse
Austur India	Hverfisgata 56, 101 Reykjavík	Indian cuisine
Café Loki *	Lokastígur 28, 101 Reykjavík	Icelandic cuisine
Café Paris *	Austurstræti 14, 101 Reykjavík	Bistro
 Caruso	Pinghóltsstræti 1, 101 Reykjavík	Italian & Icelandic cuisine
Culina	Catering service	Various cuisine
East India Company *	Hverfisgata 56, 101 Reykjavík	Indian
 Fish Market *	Aðalstræti 12, 101 Reykjavík	Seafood & fusion
 Fish Company *	Vesturgata 2a, 101 Reykjavík	Icelandic cuisine
Fjalakötturinn *	Aðalstræti 16, 101 Reykjavík	French cuisine
Forréttabarin	Nýlendugata 14, 101 Reykjavík	Icelandic cuisine
Geysir bistro & bar *	Aðalstræti 2, 101 Reykjavík	Bistro
Grill Market *	Lækjargata 2a, 101 Reykjavík	Seafood & fusion
The Grill *	Hagatorg, 107 Reykjavík	Seafood & fusion
Höfnin	Geirsgata 7c, 101 Reykjavík	Icelandic cuisine
Icelandic Fish & Chips	Tryggvagata 11, 101 Reykjavík	Icelandic cuisine
Ísafold Bistro	Pinghóltsstræti 3-5, 101 Reykjavík	Bistro
 Lækjarbrekka *	Bankastræti 2, 101 Reykjavík	Icelandic cuisine
MAR Restaurant	Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík	Icelandic cuisine
Seafood Grill	Skólavörðustígur 14, 101 Reykjavík	Icelandic cuisine
Shalimar *	Austurstræti 4, 101 Reykjavík	Indian & Pakistan
SKY Lounge & Bar	Ingólfsstræti 1, 101 Reykjavík	Bistro
The Steakhouse	Tryggvagata 4-6, 101 Reykjavík	Steakhouse
Sægreifinn	Geirsgata 8, 101 Reykjavík	Icelandic cuisine
 The Tapas bar *	Vesturgata 3b, 101 Reykjavík	Tapas
 Tapashouse *	Ægisgarður 2, 101 Reykjavík	Tapas/Icelandic cuisine
Tian	Grensávegur 12, 108 Reykjavík	Asian cuisine



* Restaurant has an ad and more information in the Visitor's Guide book. See our mobile app for more info, locations and more (only in Icelandic until winter 2014)

YOUR DAY AT CAFÉ PARIS

map
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BREAKFAST from 08:00

BRUNCH from 11:00



**KITCHEN
open to
23:00**

DINNER
menu every night



There is something
for everyone on our menu
with over 50 dishes

 **CAFÉ PARIS**
la vie est belle

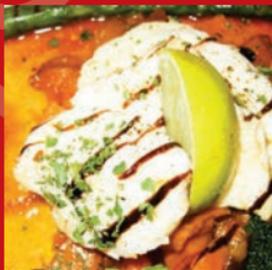
Café Paris
Austurstræti 14 - 101 Reykjavík
Sími 551 1020
cafeparis@cafeparis.is
www.cafeparis.is

restaurants.is

All restaurants in Iceland in one place!

COUNTRYSIDE

Restaurant	Address	Type
South of Iceland		
Einsi Kaldí	Vestmannabraut 28, 900 Vestmannaey.	Icelandic cuisine
Fjöruborðid	Eyrarbraut 3, 825 Stokkseyri	Seafood & fusion
Hotel Rangá *	V/Suðurlandsvegur, 851 Hella	Icelandic cuisine
Hotel Ör	Breiðumörk 1c, 810 Hveragerði	Icelandic cuisine
Kaffi Krús	Austurvegur 7, 800 Selfoss	Icelandic cuisine
Lava restaurant	Svartsengi, 240 Grindavík	Icelandic cuisine
Tryggvaskáli	Tryggvatorg, 800 Selfoss	Icelandic cuisine
Vitinn *	Vitatorg 7, 245 Sandgerði	Icelandic cuisine
North		
Akureyri Backpackers	Hafnarstræti 98, 600 Akureyri	International cuisine
Greifinn	Glerárgata 20, 600 Akureyri	Icelandic cuisine
Múlaberg bistro & bar	*Hafnarstræti 87-89, 600 Akureyri	Icelandic cuisine
Strikid *	Skipagata 14, 600 Akureyri	International cuisine
Gamli Baukur		
Potturinn restaurant *	Hafnarstétt 9, 640 Húsavík	Icelandic cuisine
	Norðurlandsvegur 4, 540 Blönduós	Icelandic cuisine
West		
Hotel Stykkishólmur	Borgarbraut 6, 340 Stykkishólmur	Icelandic cuisine



* Restaurant has an ad and more information in the Visitor's Guide book. See our mobile app for more info, locations and more (only in Icelandic until autumn 2014)

BEST ICELANDIC INCREDIDENTS ASIAN CUISINE

map
19

Good lunch offer
SUSHI



BA
MB
US



Just opposite Höfði
Only 10 minutes walk from downtown

ASIAN CUISINE & LOUNGE
☎ +354 517-0123 / www.bambusrestaurant.is
Address: Borgartun 16, 105 Reykjavik

Classic

at the heart of the shopping mall Kringlan



map
6



**Kitchen
open 11-22**

Kringlukrain
Kringlunni 4-12
103 Reykjavik
Tel: 568-0878
www.kringlukrain.is

Lifandi Markaður Organic Store & Restaurant

An organic grocery store which offers wide variety of high-quality local and organic choices and, at the same time, you can sit down at the in-store restaurant and have a nice meal, delicious juices or smoothies. Among the numerous choices of delicious food

you can select at Lifandi markaður are healthy assortment of bread, fresh fish, organic fruits and vegetables, like Icelandic blueberries and seaweed / "söl", which is an exotic choice to try for newcomers.



1865 The first Caesarean section is performed in Iceland. The child lives but the mother dies a few days later.

Organic Grocery Store and Healthy Restaurant



The **grocery store** offers a wide variety of high-quality **local and organic choices** and, at the same time, you can sit down at the **in-store restaurant** and have a nice meal, delicious juices or smoothies.

Organic • local • natural

LIFANDI
MARKAÐUR

www.lifandimarkadur.is
Borgartúni 24 | Reykjavík
Fákafeni 11 | Reykjavík
Hæðasmára 6 | Kópavogi
Phone: 585 8700

Budget Dining

Would you like to cut back a little on food spending during your stay in Iceland? Many restaurants and bistros offer special offers during lunch hours, the most common one probably being a free soup with a course from today's menu. Some places also have a special lunch menu which has courses less expensive than the à la carte evening menu. **Kringlan** and **Smáralind**, the two largest shopping malls in Iceland, both offer an impressive variety of fast food options. There's everything from world-known American chains to an all Icelandic Booztbar which specializes in healthy fast food. If you prefer a homely atmosphere, visit the affordable Thai restaurant **Núðluhúsið** or the **Vietnamese Pho Restaurant**.

The all time favourite Icelandic fast food is "pylsa" (hot dog), sometimes called the Icelandic national food. We encourage you to follow in the footsteps of former USA president Bill Clinton and leading singer of the band Metallica James Hetfield who both sampled the delicious Icelandic hot dog during their visit.

For eating in quiet in your hotel room, you might opt for places offering home delivery. Most pizza places deliver pizza right to your door and even

offer **2 for 1** deals if you pick up the food yourself. If you're not in the mood for a pizza you could just as well get a delivery of great Indian food from **Shalimar restaurant**, in the city center.

If your accommodation has cooking facilities, why not try out some of the Icelandic recipes in the chapter. You'll find all the ingredients you need in the next supermarket. **The cheapest supermarkets** in Iceland are **Bónus**, **Nettó**, **Krónan** and **Iceland**. While at the supermarket be sure to buy "skyr", a unique Icelandic non-fat dairy specialty. Looking and tasting somewhat like yogurt it's actually a type of fresh cheese. It comes in many flavours and forms and those in a hurry can even grab a bottle of liquid skyr.

Delightful places to visit for a cheap but good bite to eat are **the bakeries**. Most of them offer a wide range of sandwiches as well as the tempting delicious pastry. Follow in the local tradition and ask the bakeries in the center of town for old bread to feed the ducks at Tjörninn, the city pond, a popular activity among Icelandic families during weekends.

Read more about budget dining on our websites www.visitorsguide.is and www.restaurants.is



The Green Choice

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GRÆNN
KOSTUR

Well known down town vegetarian restaurant. The Green Choice speciality is a new dish of the day, every day of the week.

Dish of the day price: **1.890 ISK**

Grænn Kostur
Skólavörðustíg 8b
101 Reykjavík
Phone: 552 2028
www.graennkostur.is

Opening hours:
Mon-Sat. 11:30-21:00
Sun. 13:00-21:00



Budget Dining



See the location of Shalimar, Gamla Smiðjan, Osushi, 73 Restaurant on the map in the Cafés, Bars and Nightlife chapter.

73 Restaurant

Laugavegur 73, tel. 555 7373

A family owned and operated restaurant with a laid back cozy atmosphere.

Austurlanda hraðlestin

Hverfisgata 64 (take-away), Lækjargata 8, Spöngin 21, Kringlan Mall, Hlíðarsmári 8 (Kópavogur), tel. 578 3838

Eat in or Take away – tasty, stylish and comfortable popular Indian restaurant. Nice old renovated building in Lækjargata, good food, but young staff.

Bæjarins Beztu

Close to the harbour. It's the most popular hot dog stand in Reykjavík. You'll recognize it by the queue.

Domino's Pizza

Has several branches in the capital, e.g. in Kringlan shopping mall, also in Skúlagata city center. 2 for 1 deal on take-away pizzas.

Gamla Smiðjan

Lækjargata 8, tel. 578 8555

Veteran Icelandic pizza makers serving wonderful thin-crust pies from quality ingredients. Good offers.

Grænn Kostur

Skólavörðustígur 8b, tel. 552 2028

Serving everything from coffee or light lunch up to full dinner meals with emphasis on fresh- and healthiness.

Metro

The hamburgers are to be found in Kringlan shopping mall, Smárin, Kópavogur and Suðurlandsbraut 56 (Skeifan).



www.gamlasmidjan.is

tel. 578 8555

Lækjargata 8

101 Reykjavik

1 Listed on Downtown Reykjavik map in the Cafés, Bars & Nightlife chapter

1870 The Danish government passes the so-called Statuslaws (Stöðulög) in Iceland, about the relations between Iceland and Denmark.



ICELANDIC Fish, Lamb & Chicken
 in original **PAKISTANI & INDIAN** curries,
TANDOORI dishes, **TANDOORI** Nan breads
 Kebabs, Samosas, Vegetarian specialities,
LUNCH & DINNER OFFERS every day



SHALIMAR



PAKISTANI-INDIAN KEBAB & CURRY CUISINE

AUSTURSTRÆTI 4, Tel. 551 0292 www.shalimar.is

Budget Dining

Núðluskálinn & Noddlestation L

Skólavörðustígur 8 / 21a

2 good fast budget restaurants, for good soups / meals for around 1,300 ISK.

Thai Restaurant / Núðluhúsið L

Laugavegur 59, 2nd floor, tel. 552 2400

A thai restaurant with good prices. Homely atmosphere.

Osushi - the Train L 32

Pósthússtræti 13, Borgartún 29, Reykjavíkurvegur 60, Hj., tel. 561 0562

The sushi comes on a conveyor belt/train and you pay per dish. Prices range from 250-500 ISK. There's sushi made from fresh Icelandic seafood, e.g. salmon, whale and lobster but the classical miso soup and beef tataki are also there. Drinks include green tea, Japanese sake and beer. It's a popular place among Icelanders at lunch time. Take-away is also available.

PHO Vietnamese restaurant L

Suðurlandsbraut 8, tel. 588 6868

Very good Vietnamese food for a fair price, they also offer pickup service in

the Reykjavík area. Close to Nordica hotel.

Shalimar L 33

Austurstræti 4 / tel. 551 0292

A cozy Indian-Pakistani restaurant that offers reasonable lunch and dinner offers, and various à la carte.

Subway L

Sub sandwiches. Branches in Kringlan, Smaralind shopping, Bankastræti downtown, next to BSI bus terminal and elsewhere.

Sægreifinn L

Down by the old harbour. Serves a delicious lobster soup. An ideal place to stop after a whale watching trip.



Welcome
PHO Vietnamese restaurant

- price from 990 isk Suðurlandsbraut 8 - 108 Reykjavík - Tel.:588 6868 - pho.is

L Listed on Downtown Reykjavík map in the Cafés, Bars & Nightlife chapter

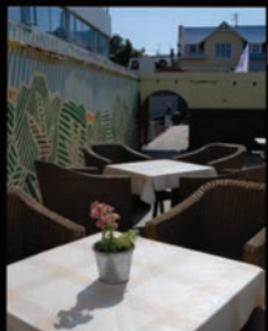
1870+ Many Icelanders migrate to Canada and the United States in search for a better life.

73

Restaurant & Café
Laugavegur 73
tel. 555 73 73
www.73.is

*A family owned and operated
restaurant with a laid back cozy
atmosphere.*

Come enjoy the sun in our backyard.

map
30

restaurants.is

Most restaurants in Iceland in one place!



Now you can find whatever
you crave with our restaurant
smartphone app.

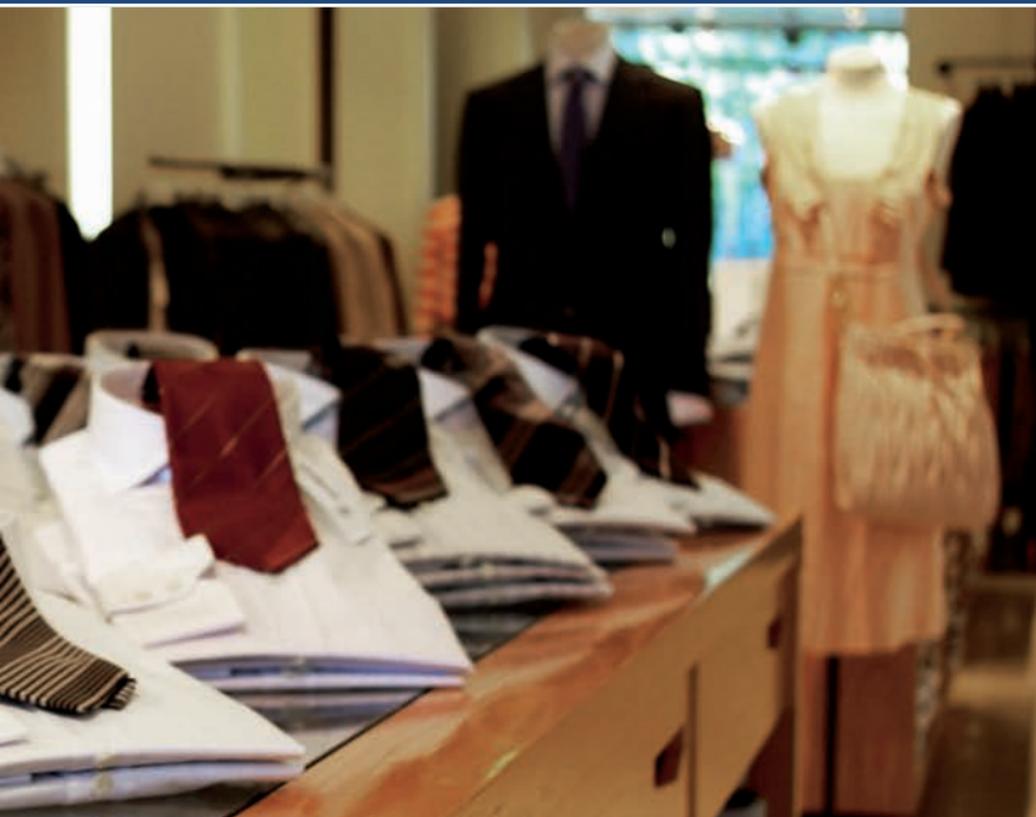
Get it now
on Google Play



*Only in Icelandic until autumn



A true friend
whom you trust well
and wish for his good will:
Go to him often
exchange gifts
and keep company.



Your Guide to **Shopping**





FREE SHUTTLE BUS

Departures from the tourist information center,
Aðalstræti 2

TO KRINGLAN

Monday – Saturday

Every hour

10 am – 5 pm

Sundays

1, 2, 3, 4 pm

FROM KRINGLAN

Every half hour

11:30 am – 4:30 pm

2:30, 3:30, 4:30 pm

May 1st – September 15th 2014

REYKJAVÍK'S LARGEST SHOPPING CENTRE

map
38

TAX FREE
WORLDWIDE

At Kringlan you will discover more than 150 quality shops, a wide range of restaurants and services such as banks and multiplex cinema. All major international brands are represented including: Diesel, Hugo Boss, Karen Millen, Levi's, Mac, Marc O'Polo, Next, Oasis, Topshop, Vero Moda, Zara and many more as well as 66Cintamani and Icelandic designs and souvenirs.

Claim your tax-free cash refund at our service desk for a refund of up to 15% of the VAT.

Kringlan is only 5 minutes from the city centre by car or bus.

Kringlan

Shopping in Downtown Reykjavík

Reykjavík offers excellent possibilities for shopping. Look for **Icelandic design** in fashion, inspired by the country's beautiful nature. It also surprises many that the prices of designer and luxury goods are often considerably lower than on the continent. This is partly because retailers don't have to pay the sky-high cost of prime-spot retail space like in larger cities.

For those who are ready to go up-scale and enjoy the good things in life, it comes as great news that in the past years, Iceland has seen a growing number of designers offering their unique creations (see a list later in the chapter of Icelandic designers). They have often studied abroad and then returned to enrich their country with their unbound creativity, with colors and forms that mix international flair, and yet are firmly rooted in Icelandic culture.

Reykjavík's Main Shopping Streets

The main shopping streets in the city



Corner of Laugavegur and Skólavörðustígur

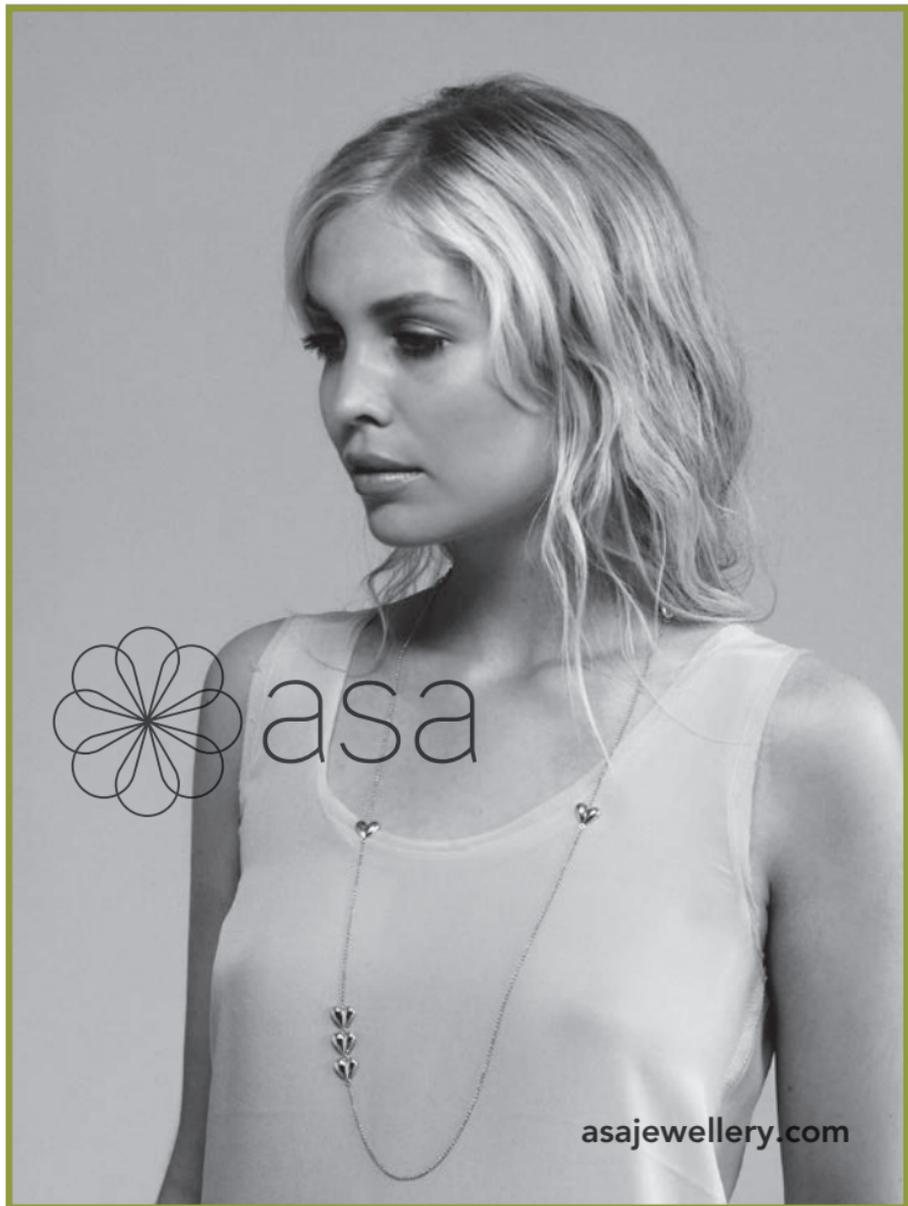
center are **Laugavegur**, **Bankastræti**, and **Skólavörðustígur** (see colored streets on city map) but interesting shops can also be found in **Hafnarstræti**, **Klapparstígur** and **Vesturgata**. And also the old harbour area and fish-packing district home to many **designer's store/open-workshop's**, restaurants, museums and more. This is where stores selling jewelry, fashion design, handicrafts and second-hand abound. We start the coverage on **Bankastræti** and **Laugavegur**.

Many of the shops mentioned have an **advertisement and information** in the chapter, see star (*) after their name.



Skólavörðustígur

© NETIÐ markaðs- og rekstrarráðgjöf ehf.



asajewellery.com

Shopping in Downtown Reykjavík

Laugavegur

Laugavegur is the longest shopping street in Reykjavík 101 and offers the greatest number of shops.

The emphasis is on fashionable goods of all shapes and sizes, as well as some specialty stores, cafés and restaurants. **Eureka** on number 8 has been run by only one employee, Símon Sverrisson, for over 25 years. **Fjallakofi Outdoor Centre** on Laugavegur 11 sells outdoor clothes, and equipment for the outdoor lifestyle.

At Laugavegur 18b you will find **JS Watch Company*** and retail shop. There you could meet watchmaker **Gilbert O. Gudjonsson** one of Iceland's best known watchmakers (see a review and ad in the chapter).

Bankastræti

The street that runs up the hill next to the small white building of the Prime Ministry, and on towards Laugavegur, is the location of two Icelandic

jewelers who, by hand, create unique pieces to wear. **Aurum** on Bankastræti 4 makes finely detailed pieces that are inspired among other by flowers and embroidery.

At number 11 is **Orr*** where the goldsmiths make unique pieces in remarkable variety, all hand made and not cast. They are constantly searching for new inspiration and never want to repeat themselves. See their advertisement on the back cover of this book. In between at number 5 is the world of **66° North outdoor** clothes where the advanced fabrics are used to make clothes that are meant to be comfortable for everyday use, and to withstand the toughest conditions on Earth. On number 9, they also have a shop for **children's clothing**. **ZO-ON Iceland*** is on number 5. It does not matter if it is raining, or shining, they've got the clothes.

Cintamani store and **Ice Wear** also have shops in Bankastræti.

continued on page 90

map
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Orr

designed & made in Iceland

Bankastræti 11. Reykjavík

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BUY
ICELANDIC
PRODUCTS
ONLINE

nammi.is
SINCE 1998

Rich and contrasting Colours

Sjöfn Har.



Sjöfn Har. has exhibited in Iceland, around Europe and in the US. Her paintings can be found in almost 30 countries around the world. She has her own gallery in "Listaskálinn" in Stokkseyri, 45 minutes' drive from the capital Reykjavik. **Sjöfn Har.** graduated both as an artist and an art teacher from the Icelandic Collage of Arts and Crafts and then finished postgraduate studies at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen as a Cand. Phil. in Art. She is present at galleries in Reykjavík / kontakt the artist.

Tel: (+ 354) 666 9030

e-mail: art41@simnet.is www.sjofnhar.is www.sim.is

map
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JS Watch co. Reykjavík

JS Watch Company Reykjavik is a small Icelandic watch manufacturer and probably one of the world's smallest manufacturers of stylish, quality watches. All the watches are designed and assembled by hand in Iceland. Only highest quality movements and materials are used to produce the watches and every single detail has been given the time needed for perfection. The quantity of watches produced is limited, giving them an exclusive and truly personal feel.

The consistent ingenuity, sophisticated styling and impeccable quality of JS Watch co.'s timepieces has led to commissions for the likes of Tom Cruise, Quentin Tarantino, Jude Law, Yoko Ono,

His Holiness 14th Dalai Lama and His Majesty King Constantine II of Greece. Such high profile admirers seem fitting of a company that truly embodies the notion that Iceland's time has arrived.

The JS Watch co. Watch factory and exclusive retail shop located in the trendy "101" area of downtown Reykjavik provides customers with unique opportunity to meet the watchmakers who assemble and test their timepiece. Quality control is administrated by Master Watchmaker Gilbert O. Gudjonsson who is one of Iceland's best known watchmakers and has more than 45 years of experience.

map
36



Our Master Watchmaker never loses his concentration

JS Watch co.
REYKJAVIK

GILBERT
WATCHMAKER
Laugavegur 62 - tel: 551 4100
www.jswatch.com

Woolen Goods

The all time favorite of visitors is the traditional “lopapeysa”, or woolen sweater – as well as other woolen goods, hats, gloves and scarves.

A great place to shop for woolen goods is in the **Hand-Knitting Association of Iceland***, located with their main shop at Skólavörðustígur 19 and at Laugavegur 64. A co-operative where the participating women hand knit the sweaters for sale. Another good store for woolen goods is the **Álafoss*** outlet in Reykjavík and Mosfellsbær, a town 15 kilometers from Reykjavík (on the way to the north, west and Thingvellir).

Woolen goods, a great variety of merchandise, books, postcards and decorative objects are sold in the souvenir shops. For a good selection of souvenirs and sweaters go to Hafnarstræti where you'll find both the largest **Icelandic gift store - Rammagerðin** at Hafnarstræti 19 with a large selection, as well as of Icelandic arts and crafts, and **The Viking*** at number 3 with a very wide selection of souvenirs and they also have a store at Laugavegur 1. Rammagerðin and The Viking are also located in **Akureyri** in the north, on the main street.

The stylish **Geysir shop** at Skólavörðustígur 16 offers clothes

and accessories from wool, skins, leather and fabric as well as practical things of Icelandic design. They also have a large store at **Geysir in S-Iceland**. They sell among else the popular Icelandic brand **Farmers Market**.



Icelandic woolen sweater

Reykjavík's Flea Market (Kolaportið)

By the harbour, on Geirsgata, you'll find **Kolaportið, flea market**, open every Saturday and Sunday from 11-17 hrs. In many ways Kolaportið is a typical flea market but probably the only one in the world where you get to taste shark!

Shopping in Downtown Reykjavík

Reykjavík's Oldest Area

Aðalstræti is Reykjavík's oldest street where Iceland's settler Ingólfur Arnarson built his farm after 874 AD. The area is still busy to the brim and several crafts artists offer their unique wares to discerning connoisseurs of good taste.



Aðalstræti 10, the city center's oldest building

Kraum is on Aðalstræti 10, in an extension to the Governor's House, the city center's oldest building. The elegant room showcases the works of **120 Icelandic designers** who create clothes, accessories and practical items in all genre of design. They

At Vesturgata 4 is the fashion designer **Gaga Skorrðal**. Iceland's highland is her place and it is easy to see the mountain, the glacier and even volcanic eruption in her clothes, with only one piece made of each.

Vesturgata 4, 101 Reykjavík, www.gaga.is

are specially chosen with the aim of **Kraum** featuring only the very best in Icelandic design.

Across the street in the basement is ceramic artist **Kogga**. Green moss, white lichen and black sand are expressed in the highly acclaimed hand-crafted items using her own unique technique, so the customer takes a small piece of Iceland back home.

Next door to GAGA is **Kirsuberjatréð***, where the original 19th century shelves, in this **historical old house** are filled with colorful and lively clothes, accessories, utensils and decorative pieces for the home. Everything is hand made by the **eleven women** who run this well-known cooperative of artists in several art forms.

The **City Library** with the **Reykjavik Photographic Museum** is only 50 meters away towards the old harbor area, next to the Reykjavik Art Museum.



A gallery run by 12 women artists in a historical old house in the center of Reykjavik

map
37

Glass/Ceramic



Music boxes



Cardigans



Childrenswear



Jewellery



Porcelain



Table decorations

Only 50m
from
Tourist Info!



Textiles



Radishbowl



Fishleather bags



Jewellery design

KIRSUBERJATRÉÐ

VESTURGATA 4 101 REYKJAVIK +354 5628990 www.kirs.is
<http://www.facebook.com/KirsuberjatredIslenskHonnun>

Shopping in Downtown Reykjavík

Skólavörðustígur

Skólavörðustígur is one of the most attractive streets in Reykjavík. It runs from the corner of the main shopping streets **Laugavegur** and **Bankastræti** up to the magnificent Hallgrímskirkja church. In front of the church, is a statue of **Leifur heppni** (the Lucky), an Icelandic/Norwegian explorer who was the first European to set foot in North-America according to the Icelandic Sagas.

Take a walk down the street from the church, admire the charming old houses and browse the windows of stores and galleries. Whether you're looking for **Icelandic design**, souvenirs, woolen goods, photographs of Iceland or exotic arts and crafts, you'll find it here.

Near the top of the street and the church is the artist **Lana Matusa*** at Skólavörðustígur 41. **Lana** has participated in more than 120 international shows. Inspired by the Icelandic nature, the artist creates beautiful high fired ceramics with special lava design – unique in Iceland. Since the store is also Lana's workstudio, customers have direct contact with the artist.

Sjofn Har* (see ad. earlier in the chapter), has relocated to Stokkseyri. She has exhibited widely in Iceland, as well as around Europe and in the US and her paintings can be found in almost 30 countries around the world.

Eggert the furrier's shop at no 38 is the right place to visit when hunting for a specially designed fur coat or hat (expect high price and quality). At no 22 there is a ceramic gallery **Kaolin*** run by 8 local artists. **The Hand-Knitting Association*** at no 19 is good for woolen goods and a **coupon** in the back gives you a discount. If you are hunting for the right tunes, check out **12 Tónar** on number 15, a specialty record store with a selection of Icelandic recordings.

At no. 5 is the **Ófeigur Art Gallery** where model jewelry with a wide variety of inspiration and tailor made Icelandic women's clothing, created by the owner couple, is for sale. The floor above houses an art gallery.

Eldur og Ís at no. 2, sells delicious Icelandic icecream and also tasty crêpes, which among else has given them high ratings on Tripadvisor. The staff is also very friendly.

map
46

oil paintings, ceramic sculptures lava people, unique teapots

Lana Matusa

art ceramic studio gallery

Skólavörðustígur 41, 101 Reykjavík
Tel.: 551 57 99 www.svetlanamatusa.com

The Hand-Knitting Association of Iceland

For centuries, Icelanders have depended on sheep to provide the wool for warm knitted garments that helped them to endure the long, cold winters. So knitting, which used to be first and foremost a necessity, is still a pastime for many and a highly appreciated craft.

Traditional hand-knitted Icelandic sweaters, known in Iceland as “lopapeysa”, are still as popular as ever. They are now a fashionable item to be worn at home or to social gatherings.



Timeless fashion

“Ever since the economic crisis a few years back, there has been a revival in the use of traditional Icelandic materials and craftsmanship and we’ve seen a resurgence in the popularity of the hand-knitted. Back in 1977, a few Icelandic women who had used their knitting to supplement family incomes, decided to join forces. The aim was to establish an organisation that could facilitate better and more extensive

marketing of their products. Thus the Hand-Knitting Association was born. Soon after it was established, the Association opened a store to sell members’woollen goods.



The storefront at Skólavörðustígur 19

Offering a wide selection of traditional hand-knitted Icelandic sweaters, the range of products also includes special designs and a variety of woollen products from leading Icelandic manufacturers. Naturally, with hundreds of active knitters remaining, the main store located at Skólavörðustígur 19, in one of the oldest parts of town, is the main destination for Icelandic wool, patterns and supplies.

“Right from the very start, our motto has been: ‘Buy directly from the people who make them’. We maintain a high standard and each hand-made garment is quality checked before it reaches the shelves of our shops. Our customers can count on the fact that they’re buying quality products made with unique Icelandic materials.”

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map
35

www.handknit.is

Buy directly
from the people
who make them

The Handknitting
Association of Iceland



Skólavörðustígur 19
tel.: 552 1890

Laugavegur 53b
tel.: 562 1890

Radisson **Blu**,
Hótel SAGA
tel.: 562 4788



The Old Harbour Village

The charming Old Harbour was transformed into a dynamic neighborhood when a group of energetic individuals renovated old fishermen's huts to recharge this historic area. Just a few minutes walk from the city center, you will now find delicious seafood restaurants, whale- and bird-watching tours, a documentary cinema hall, stylish design boutiques, arts and crafts, as well as souvenir and coffee shops. Enjoy the view of the ocean, the boats, the bustle of a genuine working harbor and the smell of the sea.

Sædis* is a boutique selling various gifts, shoes and clothes from various artists.

The Old Harbour souvenir shop is treasure-packed with a wide selection of Icelandic crafts and souvenirs.

Among the good restaurants in the area is the **Tapas house*** (see a review in dining) - the **Steakhouse** and two **Icelandic fish and chips** restaurants across the street. The **Seabaron** is popular for its lobster soup and the newest addition in the area is restaurant **Kopar***. A few meters away is **Mar Restaurant**.



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1906 The first Icelandic telecommunications company, Bæjarsíminn, is founded, connecting 15 telephones.



Take a finer piece of Iceland back home

Experience our friendly little
boutique & gallery, located in
The Old Harbour area
in downtown Reykjavík

Handmade jewellery,
leather bags, unique shoes,
lava sculptures & fine art
by independent local artists



sædís

BOUTIQUE
& GALLERY

The Old Harbour | Geirsgata 5b, Reykjavík

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Varma Icelandic Products

Varma - The Warmth of Iceland is a brand of wool products **entirely made in Iceland**. The main focus is on Icelandic wool but other types of wool are also used. Varma is produced by Glófi, one of the **leading manufacturers** of woolen goods and traditional sheepskin products with production facilities in three different locations in Iceland.

Varma offers a wide range of woolen goods, from socks, gloves, shawls and hats to sweaters and cardigans. The company is the only manufacturer in Iceland using sheepskin to produce vests, mittens, hats and collars. Varma

also offers a small home collection with blankets, pillows and cushions.

The collection of Varma is based on **traditional skills and handcraftship**. The items produced are sustainable, eco-friendly and have the classic virtues of traditional **quality and style**. Varma is committed to continuous improvement and development in design and usage of material

with respect for its heritage and tradition.



**IF YOU WANT TO BE SURE
ABOUT ICELANDIC ORIGIN IN
DESIGN AND PRODUCTION,
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Fishpacking District Icelandic Designers & more

About 600 meters walk from the main tourist office, in Aðalstræti, is the old fishpacking district here around 10 companies are situated. You will pass the old harbor area and the whale watching boats, and some good restaurants like the **Tapashouse**. Then walk by the Icelandair Marina hotel and the ship yard, then you can stroll by the coast on a path leading to the **Maritime Museum** (read about the museum in the culture chapter). You can get to the **fishpacking district** by going through the museum lobby and exit on the other side, or go around if it's closed.

Sifka - Gallery and workshop in the Fishpacking district at the harbour. The owner Ragnheiður Guðjónsdóttir is an educated dressmaker and painter. She now designs and makes bags, jewelry and other products.

Krínolín is a designer clothing store located at Grandagarður 37, just across from the harbour. Krínolín is owned by tailor Sigrún Einarsdóttir, she designs, sews and sells the clothes.

The store offers a wide selection of clothes made from lamb skin, rabbit skin, fish leather, high quality wool and other natural materials. She specializes in coats for both men and women.

The name of the store derives from the name of the Victorian-era frames used to prop up heavy dresses.

krínolín
Coats for men & women



**ICELANDIC FASHION
BY THE OLD HARBOR**

Grandagarður 37, 101 Reykjavík
facebook.com/krinolin
krinolin@krinolin.is
www.krinolin.is
 +354 551 0991

map
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1907 Married women in Reykjavík are given eligibility and the right to vote in community elections.



Galleri Grandi at no 33, sells jewelry, paintings and ceramics. There is also an ice cream shop there named Valdís, with waffle forms, icecream (gelato) and sorbet, all of which is homemade. Neighboring shops include Steinunn studio shop and 2-3 other designers. There is also a restaurant and 2 cafés in the area.

Farmers Market
— ICELAND —

With roots in the Icelandic heritage and a fresh, creative take on design, the stylish **Farmers Market** has set out to keep tradition alive. Their flagship store in Iceland is on Hólmaslóð 2. There are also many good stores that sell their products.



From Sifka



Image by Krínólin



Shopping Centres

If you are interested in international brands, shopping centres Kringlan and Smáralind are the places to visit.

Kringlan Shopping Centre



Kringlan Shopping Center in Reykjavík is located a 5-10 minutes drive east from the city center. Over **150 shops** offer an excellent variety of fashion, jewelry, arts and handicraft as well as restaurants and coffee houses, a bar, various services and a cinema. There you will find the outdoor clothes shops **66°North** and **ZO-ON Iceland***

Smáralind Shopping Centre

Smáralind Shopping Centre has

around **90 stores** and is located in the town of **Kópavogur**, a 10-15 minutes drive from the center of Reykjavík. The visitor will find a large variety of clothing stores, several specialty stores, restaurants and coffee houses as well as Iceland's largest cinema, and not to forget, the **66°North** and **ZO-ON** shops.

ZO-ON Iceland



When enjoying the **ICELAND** great outdoors, wearing the proper clothing is most important, especially in Iceland. ZO-ON is a highly popular brand of Icelandic designed outdoor clothing that you can trust.



Smáralind Shopping Centre



Kringlan Shopping Centre

Live it

Outdoor clothing
Icelandic design

Kringlan, shopping center
Bankastræti 10
Factory store, Nýbýlavegi 6
www.zo-on.com

ZO • ON
ICELAND

Tax Free Shopping

As a traveller residing outside Iceland, you are entitled to claim back the VAT on your purchases when you bring them home. When shopping goods for more than **4,000 ISK**, remember to ask for your tax-free receipt to reclaim the VAT. So while shopping, you can save money and make your trip even more rewarding.

Shopping

There are two international tax refund companies, **Iceland Refund** and **Global Refund**. Search for their logo and ask for your Refund Check.



- Your refund amount is the VAT less an administration fee.
- Minimum spending amount (VAT included) is 4,000 ISK.
- Maximum time from check being issued to validation by Customs is 3 months (plus month of purchase).

Customs Verification

If the refund amount on a single check exceeds 5,000 ISK, make sure you get a Customs stamp in the departure hall at Keflavík Airport before your departure. A customs stamp is **not needed** for Icelandic woollen products, or if the refund amount does not exceed 5,000 ISK on a single check.

Collect your Refund

Collect your refund in cash, get it credited to your credit card or mail back the check by using the Refund envelope accompanying the check. Make sure you are well informed of the terms and conditions.

- VAT rates are 25.5% and 7% on books and music.

Refund Locations

Collect your refund at these locations:

- Keflavík airport - Landsbankinn
- Reykjavík airport - Information desk
- Reykjavík harbour - Service center for cruisers
- Seyðisfjörður Port - Smyril Line
- Worldwide Global Refund offices
- The Centre, official tourist information center - Aðalstræti
- Icelandic Travel Market - Bankastræti (September - May, open 9 - 12).
- Kringlan Shopping mall service desk
- Smáralind Shopping mall service desk



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www.lavadesigniceland.is



LAVA DESIGN
Iceland

Retailers in Iceland-**Reykjavík**: Ísbjörninn, Rammagerðin, Íslandia, Puffin, Handknitting Association of Iceland, Radisson Blu Hotel Saga, Woolcano, Eymundsson.

South shore: Geysirshops in Haukadalur, Gullfosskaffi by Gullfoss

Keflavík: Rammagerðin at Keflavík, Stapafell **Akureyri**: Eymundsson.

Icelandic Designers in City Center 101 Reykjavík -

In the recent years, Icelandic design has burst into the scene, with highly talented designers educated in the high centers of creation of the world. They emphasize an approach to modern style and living with a very distinct Icelandic twist. Reykjavík's city center has become their venue with a growing number of small shops,

showrooms and galleries. Many of them sell internationally. See a list of designers on the next page where a * star behind their name means that the shop has an advertisement or further information in this shopping chapter.



On our website www.visitorsguide.is – Your Guide to Shopping we list and describe many designer boutiques including jewelers and fashion designers **Orr, Kraum, 66° North, Lava Design, Sædis, Krínolín, ZO-ON Iceland** and **Ófeigur Art Gallery**.



Icelandic Fashion Designers in City Center

Store	Men/Women/Kids	Address
Andersen & Lauth	M/W	Laugavegur 7
Maya		
Aftur	M/W	Laugavegur 39
Dogma	M/W	Laugavegur 32
EinVera Kalda	W	Laugavegur 35
Rakel Hafberg	W	Laugavegur 37
Kron Kron	M/W	Laugavegur 63b
Hanna	W	Laugavegur 168
Hildur Bolladóttir (Ófeigur art gallery) ...	W	Skólavörðustígur 5
María Lovisa	W	Skólavörðustígur 6b
Rósa Design	W	Skólavörðustígur 10
Geysir Shop	M/W/K	Skólavörðustígur 16
Húfur sem hlæja	M/W/K	Skólavörðustígur 18
Eggert the furier	M/W	Skólavörðustígur 38
Ryk	W	Klapparstígur 35
66° North	M/W	Bankastræti 5
 Spakmannsspjarir	W	Bankastræti 11
Gust	W	Ingólfsstræti 2
STEiNUNN	W	Grandagarður 17
Krínolín *	M/W	Grandagarður 37
Farmers Market studio shop *	M/W/K	Hólmaslóð 2

 Farmers market **retailers:** Geysir - Kraum - Herrafataverzlun Kormáks & Skjaldar - Mýrin - Epal, Harpa. Retailers in the **Countryside:** Geysir, Akueyri - Geysir, Haukadal - Hús handanna - Blue Lagoon - Duty Free Fashion.

This list is subject to changes

* See advertisement elsewhere in this book

Keflavik International Airport

Duty Free Shopping



Enjoy shopping at Keflavik Airport

Keflavik International Airport prides itself on offering a comfortable and relaxing atmosphere for its passengers. The airport has been awarded as the best airport in Europe for its service quality and the Airports Council International recently inducted Keflavik Airport into the Director's General Roll of Excellence.

Well-known brands and Icelandic design

For those looking for a bit of a retail therapy and bringing lasting memories of Iceland back home, the airport is well known for its wide range of duty free stores in departures, selling a range

of items from electrical goods to high street clothing, all at tax and duty free prices. Popular brands such as Burberry and Hugo Boss, can be found at incredible prices, some even 50 percent lower than in the majority of retail stores in Reykjavik. Keflavik Airport duty free zone also specializes in selling and promoting Icelandic products and design. Passengers can pick up a selection of traditional Icelandic delicate, as well as handmade wool jumpers, scarves and mittens.

Unique Tax and Duty free stores

Iceland is almost unique in Western Europe for still being able to sell tax and

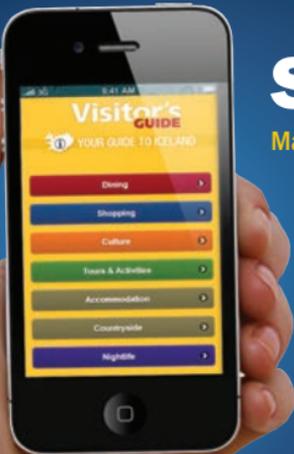




duty-free products to both arriving and departing passengers. This allows arriving passengers to stock up on items such as beer, wine, tobacco and cosmetics at duty free prices.

Come early and enjoy your stay at the Airport

We advise everyone to arrive early to the airport to avoid stress and to make your journey more pleasant. You can enjoy coffee and light meals in quiet surroundings with tasteful and pleasant décor. Furthermore, Keflavik Airport offers free Wifi and charging stations for your phones, laptops and tablets. Transport to and from the airport is provided by Flybus & Grayline and taxi services. Further information about the Airport and all its services and regulations can be found on our website: www.kefairport.com



Visitor's GUIDE Shopping App

Make your shopping more easy with our new App!

- » Simple & easy
- » Find shops that are close to you
- » Directions & contact information
- » Photo galleries



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The Northern Lights

The **aurora borealis**, otherwise known as the Northern Lights, is one of the finest sights in nature. It is caused by electrically charged particles emitted by the sun and interacting with the earth's magnetic field. Some particles (chiefly electrons) are accelerated towards the earth and guided towards two zones, one near the north pole, the other near the south pole. Colliding with the upper atmosphere at very great speeds, the particles cause the air to glow in the beautiful colours of the aurora.

Iceland happens to be in the middle of the auroral zone where the phenomenon is most frequently seen. In fact, some aurora can be seen on almost every clear night in Iceland when the sky is dark enough, but its intensity is extremely variable. A brilliant display can be observed even from a brightly lit street or a hotel window, but to appreciate fully the splendour and exquisite colours of the aurora, you should try to get as far as possible from man-made illumination. In Iceland the aurora is most frequently seen shortly before midnight, from about **21:00 to 01:00** local time (GMT). The brightest auroras are usually seen in the spring and autumn rather than midwinter, but a release of particles from the sun can



The Northern lights

create fine displays at any time. The aurora often forms arcs across the sky in a direction from southwest to northeast, at right angles to a compass needle. Sometimes long rays are seen, converging towards a point near the zenith. This phenomenon is known as the "corona". The aurora is much higher in the atmosphere than any jet plane can fly. The lower border of auroral arcs is generally about 100 km (60 miles) above the earth, while the highest rays can reach 1100 km (600 miles).

Places near to Reykjavík where the aurora may be observed with minimum interference from city lights include **Heiðmörk** (about 10 km away) **Nesjavallavegur** (20 km) and **Krýsuvík** (30 km).

Source: Þorsteinn Sæmundsson, Science Institute, University of Iceland.



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About Icelanders and Living in Reykjavík

Most visitors to Iceland are here for the magnificent glaciers, waterfalls and volcanos, the open wilderness and striking contrasts, the enchanting light and the “emotional landscape”, as the singer Björk, Iceland’s most famous daughter, puts it.

After their stay, these visitors are often in awe that people are actually willing to live in this amazing, yet harsh and unpredictable country. Some are even eager to move to Iceland to get to know the country and its inhabitants better!

What is often excluded in this equation is that Icelanders are in many ways forged by the country they live in. They may appear a bit rough and cold sometimes – even indifferent, but also determined and relentless. Given time, they will reveal themselves as sensitive, kind, poetic, warm, loyal and emotional.

The Icelandic people have shown their ability and determination in adapting, learning and developing. A little more than a century ago, Icelanders were scattered around the island, lived in turf huts and fished only for their own needs. Illiteracy was common and industry and urbanization practically unknown. Today, they are well educated

and the standard of living is among the highest in the world. Icelandic industry is very competitive, be it in genetic research, powerplant engineering or the fishing industry to name but a few.

Icelanders are proud of their country and their capital, Reykjavík, where approximately half of the population resides. While the Icelandic people are rather homogenous – same culture, language, media-access and so on, Reykjavík has surprising variety to offer. One cannot compare the cultural and social surroundings of Reykjavík to those of the small towns across the country, let alone the countryside. Cafés, museums, galleries, cinemas, bars, theatres, nightclubs, concerts – Reykjavík has often been called the capital of the north, and it has become an increasingly popular destination, both in winter and summer.

In short, one could say that Icelanders are a hard-working bunch, somewhere between Europe and America, who have learned to be self-sufficient but still crave for the outer contact and thoroughly enjoy and take pride in living in a postcard.

Read more on www.visitorsguide.is



HESTAR & MENN

Lynghálsi 5 • 110 Reykjavík • Tel:567 3300



www.hestarogmenn.is



From **Árbær Museum** - Reykjavik City Museum

Better weight
than wisdom
a traveller cannot carry.
The poor man's strength
in a strange place,
worth more than wealth.



Your Guide to **Culture**

Cultural Venues



At Árbæjarsafn Museum

The Icelandic nation is rich in cultural tradition. Historical museums, embracing Icelandic heritage from the Viking era up to the 20th century, can

be found both in Reykjavík and in the countryside. Art museums and galleries are also growing in number and when it comes to music, Icelanders are well at home, with a distinguished symphony orchestra as well as numerous progressive pop and rock bands.

Cultural events in Reykjavík are plenty, among the largest ones Culture Night in August and the Airwaves Music Festival in October.

Make sure to explore some of those cultural venues and get to know Iceland and Icelanders on a deeper level.

The Culture House

Hverfisgata 15

(Opens after reconstruction late summer 2014) Icelandic history and culture, with emphasis on independence and governance as well as original manuscripts of the Icelandic Sagas and Eddas.

50



built in 1923 open on Sundays during summertime.

Einar Jónsson Sculpture Museum

Eiríksgrata, opposite Hallgrímskirkja church
Sculpture museum and garden dedicated to the works of Einar Jónsson, one of Iceland's most beloved sculptors.

continued on next page

The Design Museum of Iceland & Garðabær

Garðatorgi 1

The museum is located at Garðatorg in the center of Garðabær and holds three to four exhibitions every year. Historic sites of interest include Hofstaðir Archeological Park which showcases remains of a settlement age farm and Krókur, a small gabled farmhouse

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Reykjavík Welcome Card

Discounts off various tours, shopping and services.



48 indicates free entrance



1 Map reference

1922 Icelandic currency is issued for the first time.

Reykjavík

871^{±2}

Landnámssýningin

The Settlement
Exhibition

map

60



Step into the Viking Age

Experience Viking-Age Reykjavík at the Settlement Exhibition.

The focus of the exhibition is an excavated longhouse site which dates from the 10th century AD. It includes relics of human habitation from about 871, the oldest such site found in Iceland.

Multimedia techniques bring Reykjavík's past to life, providing visitors with insights into how people lived in the Viking Age, and what the Reykjavík environment looked like to the first settlers.

Aðalstræti 16

www.reykjavik871.is

Cultural Venues



Harpa Concert Hall and Conference Centre

Austurbakki 2, ticket sales. 528 5000

Harpa, the new concert hall of Reykjavík, opened in May 2011. Home to the Icelandic Symphonic Orchestra and the Icelandic Opera, Harpa is also equipped to host conferences and art exhibitions as well as small concerts.

Additionally, it features two stores: **12 Tónar**, a music store, and **Epal**, a design store, as well as the restaurant **Ko-labrautin** and the restaurant and café **Munnharpan**. There is also a catering service, **Hörpudiskur**, where the main focus is Icelandic cooking.

The Harpa building was designed by Danish architect firm Henning Larsen

and the Icelandic firm Batteríð.

The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra

Harpa, tel. 545 2500

The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra enjoys the prestigious status of a major orchestra. This is mainly due to excellent reviews on the orchestra's recordings in recent years and its wonderful interpretation of many of the great classical works.



SINFÓNÍUHLJÓMSVEIT
ÍSLANDS

Icelandic Opera

Harpa, tel. 511 6400

The Icelandic Opera in Harpa gives 2-3 performances each year, from September to June.

Árbær Open Air Museum

Árbær was an established farm well into the 20th century, and the museum opened there in 1957. Árbær is now an open air museum with more than 20 buildings which form a town square, a village and a farm. Most of the buildings have been relocated from central Reykjavík.

The museum tries to give a sense of the architecture and way of life and lifestyles in Reykjavík and during summer visitors can see domestic animals. There are many exhibitions and events held at the Museum which highlight



specific periods in Reykjavík's history. If you are interested in history, Árbær Open air Museum is a „must see“ in Reykjavik and also if you just want to enjoy a nice summerday in a beautiful surrounding.

From September to May the Museum is open by arrangement and offers guided tours in English every day at 1pm.



Welcome to Árbær museum

**OPEN-AIR MUSEUM- TRADITIONAL WORK METHODS AND HANDICRAFT
COFFEE SHOP & SOUVENIRS**

Open daily in June, July and August from 10.00am to 17.00pm. Guided tours daily all year around at



13.00 am. Further information at www.reykjavikmuseum.is



ÁRBÆR MUSEUM

Kistuhyl, 110 Reykjavík, Tel. 411 6300

With the Reykjavík Welcome Card you get discounts in various places.

All except two*, are in 101 Reykjavik city center.

Aurora Reykjavík, 10% discount at the Northern Lights Centre

Bío Paradís, 25% off regular ticket price

Elding Whale Watching, 10% off all tours

Handknitting Association, Buy a Sweater – get Varma socks free, Skólavörðustígur 19

Harpa Concert Hall, 25% off the guided tour around Harpa, ROH

Húfur sem hlæja, 20% off

Iceland Excursions, 25% off Greater Reykjavík Area tour AH10, Hafnarstræti 20

Íshestar Riding Tours*, 15% off the Lava Tour at 14.00, Sörlaskeið 26, Hafnafjörður

Reykjavík Bike & Segway Tours, 10% off Classic Reykjavík Bike Tour; Reykjavík Segway Tour & Bike rentals

Saga Museum, 10% off the admission

Season Tours, 10% off Golden Circle Tour, ROH

Smára Tívoli* 5% off Time cards and Tivoli cards. (Tímakort og Tívoli kort) ROH

The Activity Park in Grafarvogur*, Minigolf offer 2 for 1 from June - August

The Icelandic Phallogical Museum, 10% off admission

Volcano design, 10% off all items

Volcano House, 20% off cinema tickets

For full list and more info. see the brochure comes with the Welcome Card.



Reykjavík Art Museum

Reykjavík Art Museum is housed in three unique buildings across the city and holds some of the most distinguished works in Iceland's artistic landscape. The museum is Iceland's largest network of art museums and displays modern and contemporary art by local and international artists. The entrance ticket is valid for all three museums at the same day. **Hafnarhús** houses the permanent collection of works of Erró, one of Europe's most notable pop artists. The temporary shows at Hafnarhús are progressive and experimental. The museum houses a stylish café.

Kjarvalsstaðir houses the works of one of Iceland's most influential and recognised artists, Jóhannes Kjarval. The museum offers a variety of art exhibitions all year round. The museum houses a café with a beautiful view over Miklatún Park. **Ásmundarsafn** is the former home and workshop of the sculptor Ásmundur Sveinsson, one of the pioneers of sculpture in Iceland. The museum serves to preserve his work and life and displays a collection of his sculptures both inside and outside the building. Open daily - www.artmuseum.is

map
54

Visit Iceland's largest network of art museums in three unique buildings

Reykjavík ART Museum

Open Daily

Listasafn Reykjavíkur
Reykjavík Art Museum



One Ticket - Three Museums



Hafnarhús
Tryggvagata 17, 101 Rvk.
Open 10-17
Thursdays 10-20

Guided tour in English available every Friday at 11 a.m. in June, July and August at Kjarvalsstaðir



Kjarvalsstaðir
Flókagata, 105 Rvk.
Open 10-17



Ásmundarsafn
Sigtún, 105 Rvk.
May-Sept. Open 10-17
Okt.-Apr. 13-17

www.artmuseum.is
Tel: (354) 590 1200

Cultural Venues



Hafnarfjörður Culture and Fine Arts Institute & Hafnarfjörður Museum

Strandgata 34 / Vesturgata 8

Hafnarborg, Hafnarfjörður Culture and Fine Arts Institute, features leading artists from Iceland and abroad. Free admission. Gallery café on premises.

Hafnarfjörður Museum has two exhibitions. One traces the town's history from the settlement around 900 AD to the present day; the other is a toy exhibition aimed specifically at children. Admission is free.

Kópavogur Art Museum & Salurinn Concert Hall

56

Hamraborg 4-6, tel. 570 0440 & 570 0400

Kópavogur Art Museum (Gerðarsafn) is the largest art museum in Iceland outside Reykjavík with three exhibition halls.

Numerous exhibitions are held annually, displaying all kinds of artists, both from Iceland and overseas. Salurinn, the Kópavogur Concert Hall, was the first specially designed concert hall in Iceland. A great variety of concerts are held there featuring music from the renaissance period to modern days.

National Gallery of Iceland

57

Frikirkjuvegur 7

Icelandic visual art and contemporary exhibitions.



National Museum of Iceland

58

Hringbraut 41

Comprehensive picture of the history of Iceland. Situated in the university area. Kaffitár café on the ground floor.



The Nordic House

Sturlugata 5, tel. 551 7030

With the beautiful surroundings of the University area, designed by architectural- and designer legend **Alvar Aalto** in 1968, The Nordic House is nice to visit. Among other things it serves as a venue for performance and visual arts exhibits, houses a cultural library with books, music and more.

The Icelandic Phallogical Museum

Laugarvegur 116

Situated just by Hlemmur bus station. The museum contains a collection of 285 penises and penile parts belonging to almost all the land and sea mammals that can be found in Iceland, including that of *Homo sapiens*.



The Recycled House

Laugarnestangi 65

The Home of **Hrafn Gunnlaugsson**, the director of the legendary viking film 'The Raven flies'. His house, which is only 100 meters away from **Sigurjón Ólafsons** museum (see below) and a mere 15-20 minute walk from the city center, is like an adventure house from a movie! The film is well known in Europe especially among Swedes. It is even common to meet a Swede who quotes "thetta er tungur hnifur" from the film, which means: "it's a heavy knife". The spot, Laugarnestangi is great for birdwatching. The area is about 10 minute walk north from Laugardalur thermal swimming pool.

The Settlement Exhibition

60

Aðalstræti 16

Exhibition of the newly discovered remains of the oldest relics of human habitation in Reykjavik. Located next door to Hotel Reykjavik Centrum.



Saga Museum

Grandagarður 2

Icelandic sagas brought to life in recreations of key moments in Icelandic history. Café on the premises.

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum

Laugarnestangi 70

Exhibition on sculptures, sketches and drawings by **Sigurjón Ólafsson**.



The Whale Museum

Fiskislóð

The largest whale museum in Europe (opens in August 2014). Located at Grandi in a 1700 square meter housing. The exhibition has 23 life size whales on display.

Other recommended museums of interest outside Reykjavík

The Settlement Centre in Borgarnes

Western Iceland

The Saga Centre in Hvalsöllum

Southern Iceland

The Folk Museum at Skógar

Southern Iceland

The Icelandic Emigration Centre in Hofsós

Northern Iceland

The Herring Museum in Siglufjörður

Northern Iceland

For more museums and museums in Akureyri, see *Countryside & Accommodation* chapter

Vikin Reykjavík Maritime Museum



Iceland's past, present and future are closely tied up with fishing and seafaring; they dominate the atmosphere of seaside villages all around the island and are closely intertwined with the character of the nation. Therefore it is impossible to truly get to know Iceland without getting to know its fishing history. The Maritime Museum's exhibitions reveal the Icelandic maritime history. One of the museum's main exhibitions illustrates the development from rowing boats to modern trawlers and the other main exhibition tells of trading vessels and routes and the construction of Reykjavik Harbour. Apart from these main exhibitions, guests can browse through various visiting exhibitions.

Docked to a pier is the **Coast Guard cruiser Ódinn**, which participated in



the Cod Wars against Britain in the latter part of the 20th century. Ódinn was also used effectively as a rescue vessel, towing nearly 200 vessels to safety and saving the crews of grounded or sinking ships. At the **Museum Café Bryggjan**, which offers traditional Icelandic delicacies, guests can sit outdoor and sip their drinks while they gaze at the old harbour. From the city center to the museum is less than 10 minutes nice walk.





As one wave arises,
another is sure to follow

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Welcome to the **MUSEUM BY THE SEA**

WELCOME

OPENING HOURS:

Summer (June 1 – September 14)

Daily 11am – 5pm

Winter (September 15 – May 31)

Tuesdays – Sundays 11am – 5pm

In an authentic atmosphere,
the Museum opens the
exciting world of Icelandic
fisheries and coastal culture.



POKRI Þronnup



MARITIME MUSEUM | GRANDAGARÐI 8 | REYKJAVÍK | TEL. +354 517 9400
WWW.SJOMINJASAFN.IS

Main Events and Holidays in Reykjavík and Iceland

JANUARY

January 1, New Year's Day - A day to relax after the festivities of New Year's Eve. Almost everything is closed.

FEBRUARY

Porrablót - Food & drink festivities held in the old winter month of "Porri". People gather to sing songs, drink and eat traditional Icelandic food.

Winter Lights Festival - An annual 3-day event that brightens up the dark hours.

Food & Fun Festival - Annual week-long festival featuring well-known foreign chefs visiting Iceland to compete with their counterparts.

MARCH - APRIL

Easter - Holy Thursday marks the start of the Easter holidays for Icelanders, who enjoy a 5-day weekend where businesses, banks, government institutions and most shops are closed.

APRIL

Dead Week - High school students, preparing to take their graduate exams, celebrate by walking around the streets dressed in all kinds of costumes.

First Day of Summer - The first Thursday after April 18, a public holiday. Celebrated with parades all around the country.

MAY

May 1, Labour Day - A public holiday in Iceland that is celebrated by an annual parade in the city centre.

Reykjavík Art Festival - An annual 3-week festival promoting Icelandic, Scandinavian

and international culture. A variety of exhibitions, concerts, theatre, dance and opera performances.



17th of June at Arnarhóll

JUNE

1st weekend, Festival of the Sea - Annual event based on an old Icelandic tradition to honour those who make their living from the sea. Includes numerous cultural activities, parades, arts and crafts activities for kids, food fairs and sailing competitions.

3rd week, Viking Festival - A week long festival, held in and around the Viking Village in Hafnarfjörður. Swordfighting, craftsmen at work, magic, music and real Vikings.

June 17, National Day - This is the day Icelanders celebrate independence. Parades and festivities for people of all ages all around the country.

June 21, Summer Solstice - The longest day of the year. On this day the sun rises at 02:54 and doesn't set until 24:04!

JULY

1st weekend - Second largest travel weekend in the country. Travelers enjoy camping in the Icelandic countryside or visiting summer houses.

continued on next page

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Tips for the Traveler How to Enjoy Your Day Out

- Our **budget day** suggestions include buying the **Reykjavík Welcome Card** using it to take a sightseeing tour on the city buses, a dip in one of the many thermal pools and a stroll around the museums of the city. We also suggest checking out Hallgrímskirkja, Harpa concert hall and Perlan. Dine at one of the restaurants listed in the **Budget Dining** section.

- Our **mid-range** suggestions include taking a city sightseeing tour with **Reykjavík- or Iceland Excursions**, going horseback riding or whale watching. We also suggest taking a

dip in the thermal pools (even have a **massage** in Laugardalur thermal pool) and, after dining at one of the many fairly priced restaurants in the city listed in the Dining chapter, checking out the famed nightlife.

- Our **luxury day** suggestions include trying one of the glacier super jeep tours or **Laugar Spa**. You might want to look at Reykjavík from above through either a sightseeing or a helicopter flight offered by **Eagle Air**. End the day at one of the city's gourmet restaurants and then check out the nightlife.

Longer version on www.visitorsguide.is

It is part of Icelandic culture to visit the **thermal swimming pools**. They are warm, **all year round** and offer hot tubs and sauna.

Many people visit them daily regardless of the weather. Whether it is a

sunny day in summer or a cold day in winter you will feel warm and recharged afterwards.

The **Reykjavik Welcome Card** gives you free admission to the pools.



Main Events and Holidays in Reykjavík and Iceland

AUGUST

1st weekend, Bank Holiday - A holiday commemorating the traditional shop-keeper's summer break. Celebrated wildly by those young at heart with music and camping festivals all around the country.

2nd weekend, Gay Pride - Thousands of people gather in a large, international parade to march through the streets of the city. Includes an outdoor concert with Icelandic and international artists, along with dances and other activities. The parade was originally invented to fight for gay people's rights.

3rd weekend, Reykjavik Marathon - Thousands of people of all ages from all over the world take part and run through the streets of the city.

3rd weekend, Reykjavík Cultural Night - The celebration takes place in the city centre with the participation of many artists, cultural institutions, shops and cafés. The evening ends with a big firework display down by the harbour.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

Reykjavik Film Festival - Icelandic and international films are screened with emphasis on artistic films.

Reykjavik Jazz Festival - Nationally and internationally recognised artists play in different venues across the city.

NOVEMBER

Iceland Airwaves - A four day music festival bringing bands from all over the world to Reykjavík to play in small venues all around the capital.

DECEMBER

December 1, Independence Day - On this day in 1918, Iceland was officially declared an independent nation. A school holiday in Iceland.

December 21, Winter Solstice - The shortest day of the year. The sun rises at 11:22, grazes the horizon and sets at 15:30.

December 23, Þorláksmessa - This day pays tribute to one of the few indigenous saints of Iceland, St. Þorlákur. Christmas preparations reach high point and shops are open until 11 PM.

December 24, Christmas Eve - At 6 PM the church bells toll to mark the beginning of Christmas. Many people go to church and a Christmas mass is broadcast live on radio. After having Christmas dinner, Icelanders sit down to open their presents.

December 25, Christmas Day - A public holiday reserved by many Icelanders for the purpose of visiting family and friends and sitting down to meals of festive fare.

December 31, New Year's Eve - Icelanders say goodbye to the old year with an enormous fireworks display which illuminates the sky around midnight.



A lively New Year's Eve celebration

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1935 Production and trade of alcoholic beverages, except beer, are allowed again in Iceland after being banned since 1915.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND

Along with the permanent exhibition that features Iceland's history from settlement to present day the museum offers a variety of exhibitions during the year, e.g. on Icelandic silver and photography.



ÞJÓÐMINJASAFN ÍSLANDS
National Museum of Iceland

www.thjodminjasafn.is
Suðurgata 41 / 101 Reykjavík

Origin of Icelanders and the Icelandic Language

Iceland was first populated in the **9th century** by settlers mainly from **Norway**, a number of whom took **Celtic slaves** and wives from **Ireland** and **Scotland** en route. There is evidence to suggest that the island's existence had been known for centuries, however vaguely, and **Irish monks** may have come here to meditate and worship in solitude.



The recorded discoverer of Iceland was the viking sailor **Naddoður** who on his way from Norway to the already settled Faeroe Islands in **850** got lost and drifted to the east coast of Iceland. Naddoður named the country **Snæland** (Snowland). A Swedish Viking **Garðar** also accidentally drifted to Iceland. He sailed around the coast, confirmed that this was an island and named it **Garðarshólmi** (literally Garðar's Island). The first Scandinavian who deliberately sailed here was **Hrafna-Flóki** (Raven-Flóki). He gave the island its current name upon spotting some drift ice in the fjords during his winter-long stay.

Subsequently the first permanent settler left the shores of Norway with his family, slaves and livestock. This was **Ingólfur Arnarson** who made his home in Reykjavík. The rest is history as they say, presented in world-class exhibits in the **National Museum of Iceland**, the **Reykjavík 871±2 Settlement Exhibition** and the **Culture House**.

During the Viking Age the North-Germanic language, Old Norse, was spoken by Scandinavians in their homelands and overseas settlements. Regional differences increased up to the 13th century and accelerated in the 14th century. Changes appeared in Icelandic pronunciation that were not heard in the other Scandinavian languages and the grammar became considerably simpler outside Iceland.

Written Icelandic has changed relatively little since the 13th century. As a result of this, and of the similarity between the modern and ancient grammar, modern speakers can still understand, more or less, the original **Sagas** and **Eddas** that were written some eight hundred years ago. This ability is sometimes mildly overstated by Icelanders themselves, most of whom actually read the Sagas with updated modern spelling and footnotes - though otherwise intact.

Five Statues in Central Reykjavík



Christian IX
King of Denmark and Iceland 1863-1906, situated in front of the Government Offices of Iceland

Ingólfur Arnarson
The first man to settle in Iceland, situated on the top of Arnarhóll



Pallas Athena
A Greek goddess of wisdom, situated in front of Menntaskólinn í Reykjavík



Friðrik Friðriksson
Founder of YMCA in Iceland (KFUM og KFUK), situated in front of the restaurant Humarhúsið



Hannes Hafstein
The first Prime Minister of Iceland, situated in front of the Government Offices of Iceland

Art in Iceland

Just over a hundred years ago, the first Icelandic painters graduated from the Royal Academy of Fine Art in Copenhagen. This fact may explain why most Icelandic art can be labelled as "modern art".



A painting by Jón Stefánsson

Of this first generation of Icelandic painters, Jóhannes S. Kjarval is perhaps the best known. His contemporaries include Þórarinn B. Þorláksson, Ásgrímur Jónsson, Jón Stefánsson and Kristín Jónsdóttir. Well known Icelandic artists of the past few decades were Louisa Matthíasdóttir and Nína Tryggvadóttir who both worked in America.

Others of that same period include Gunnlaugur Scheving, Gunnlaugur Blöndal, and Þorvaldur Skúlason.

Reykjavík offers a plethora of galleries for art lovers.

The National Gallery of Iceland features primarily Icelandic art. **Reykjavík Art Museum** offers three venues with different emphasis: The Ásgrímur Jónsson Collection is named after the artist and features his work. **Kjarvalsstaðir** is a good place to admire the work of Jóhannes S. Kjarval, although a variety of other interesting exhibitions can be found there as well.

The Harbour House features the works of Erró, possibly Iceland's best-known contemporary painter. The works of sculptors **Einar Jónsson**, **Ásmundur Sveinsson**, and **Sigurjón Ólafsson** also have their respective galleries, each of which definitely merits a visit. Another gallery worth a visit is **Gerðarsafn**, the art museum in Kópavogur.

Art Gallery Fold, located at Rauðarárstígur 14-16, is by far the largest sales gallery in the country, with an exemplary variety of works by over 200 artists from every generation. There the emphasis is on fine art in convenient sizes, suitable as gifts.

For more information: www.listasafn.is, www.listasafnreykjavikur.is, www.skulptur.is, www.gerdarsafn.is



GALLERÍ FOLD

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of quality Icelandic art

LISTMUNASALA

fold

Art Gallery Fold

www.myndlist.is

Rauðarársfígur 14 · near Hlemmur Bus Station · Tel. +354-551-0400

Vikings and the Discovery of America

Icelandic seafarers discovered America around the year 1000, sailing on open ships with one sail. They conquered the waves of the Atlantic by primitive means of navigating, sailing mostly by the sun and stars and the flight of seabirds.

The story surrounding this is in part a family drama. It begins with **Eiríkur Rauði** (Eric the red), a troublesome man who was exiled from both Iceland and Norway "because of some killings". He settled **Greenland in 985**, followed by several hundred Icelanders. That same year, an Icelandic merchant named **Bjarni Herjólfsson** was sailing for Greenland, but got blown off-course and reported seeing land to the west.

In the year 1000, **Leifur Heppni** (Leifur the lucky), son of Eiríkur Rauði, went to explore the land that Bjarni had sighted. He discovered an area he named **Vínland**, "a land of mild climate, self sown wheat and grapes". Leifur was the first European to set foot on the continent of North America.

Leifur's brother, **Porsteinn**, attempted to go there with his wife **Guðríður Þorbjarnadóttir**, without succeeding. After Porsteinn's death, Guðríður and her new husband, **Porfinnur Karlsefni**,



Replica of one of the ships the Vikings used

returned to **Vínland** to form a settlement. Their son **Snorri** was the first European born in America. Initially the Vikings conducted peaceful trade with the native American tribes, but eventually conflict broke out. This drove the Icelanders back to Greenland, and successful voyages to **Vínland** are not reported after that.

In the year 1477, a young Italian sailor visited Iceland. Scholars believe he heard rumours of **Vínland**, giving him a daring idea of his own to pursue. The name of this man was **Christopher Columbus**, and the rest, as they say, is history.



Visitor's GUIDE

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- » Directions & contact information
- » Photo galleries



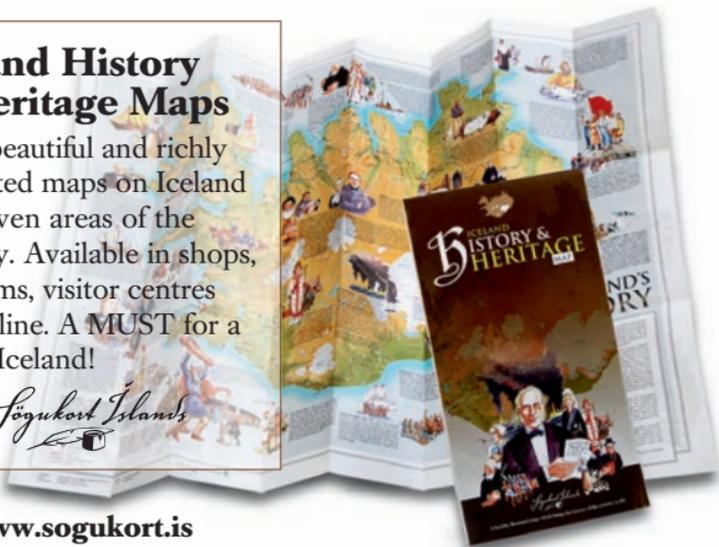
Get it now for free

Iceland History & Heritage Maps

Eight beautiful and richly illustrated maps on Iceland and seven areas of the country. Available in shops, museums, visitor centres and online. A MUST for a trip in Iceland!

Sögukort Islands

www.sogukort.is



map
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Six good reasons to enjoy Kópavogur



Salurinn Concert Hall

Tel: 570 0400
www.salurinn.is



Natural History Museum

Opening hours:
Mon-Thu: 10:00-19:00
Fri: 11:00-17:00 · Sat: 13:00-17:00
Sundays: Closed

Tel: 570 0430
www.natkop.is



Kopavogur Art Museum Gerdarsafn

Tel: 570 0440
www.gerdarsafn.is



Reykjavik Centre
Reykjavík

3 km from Reykjavik Centre
Bus No. 1
runs to Kópavogur
from Reykjavík

Kópavogur



Kópavogur
Culture and Nature

SKAPARINN AUGLÝSINGASTOFA

Public Library

Opening hours (except holidays):

Mon-Thu: 10:00-19:00

Fri: 11:00-17:00

Sat: 13:00-17:00

Tel: 570 0450

www.bokasafnkopavogs.is



Kópavogslaug

Borgarholtsbraut 17

50 m outdoor pool

Aquatic Centre

Salalaug

Versöllum 3

25 m outdoor pool

Indoor & Outdoor Pools,

Hot Tubs, Jacuzzi,

Steambaths, Waterslides
and Childrens Pool

Opening hours (summer):

Mon-Fri: 6:30-22:00

Sat-Sun: 8:00-20:00

Tel: 570 0470



Kópavogur Church

October 1st - April 30th:

8:00-18:00

Tel: 554 1898



See fold-out map of Kópavogur

www.visitorsguide.is

map
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WHAT TO DO IN

**GARÐABÆR**

MUSEUM AND HISTORY

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

Open: 12-17, closed Mondays.

Tel: 512 1525 • Garðatorg 1 • 210 Garðabær.

Kraum design shop is situated in the museum.

www.honnunarsafn.is **Bus:** no1.



1

HOFSTADÍR ARCHEOLOGY SITE

Historic park. Remains of a Viking-Age-longhouse.

Multi-media touch screen display. Free entrance.

Open 24 hours. Kirkjulundur • 210 Garðabær.

www.gardabaer.is, www.sagatrail.is **Bus:** no1/24.



2

KRÓKUR AT GARÐAHOLT

A small gabled farmhouse built in 1923.

Open on Sundays in June-August: 13-17.

Free entrance. www.gardabaer.is

Bus: no23.



3

4

GARÐABÆR THERMAL POOL

Friendly outdoor pool, steambath.

Open: Mon-Fri 6:30-21, Sat-Sun: 8-18.

Tel: 565 8066 • Ásgarður • 210 Garðabær

Bus: no 1.



5

ÁLFTANES THERMAL POOL

The country's only wave pool, a 10m high,

80m long waterslide. **Open: Mon-Fri 6.30-20,**

Sat-Sun 10-18. Tel: 550 2350 • Breiðamýri •

225 Garðabær **Bus:** no23.



Grafilla & 13

SWIMMING POOLS

Garðabær



GARÐABÆR

Kópavogur
Reykjavík

Kópavogur

Hafnarfjörður

Keflavík
40 km



map 55
**HOW TO
 SPEND
 A DAY IN**



**THE TOWN
 IN THE LAVA**
 BÆRINN
 Í HRAUNINU



TOWN OF ELVES
 ÁLFABÆRINN



HAFNARFJÖRÐUR

HAFNARFJÖRÐUR



Just a **short distance from Reykjavík**, but with a personality all of its own and a friendly community, known as **the town in the lava** and the home of the **mysterious and friendly elves**.

A **relaxing walk** around the harbour area would be a good choice.

Free parking and museum admissions

There are also many **design shops** worth visiting.

www.visithafnarfjordur.is

Tourist information: Weekdays: Hafnarfjörður Service Centre, Ströndgata 6 (Town Hall), Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., tel. (+354) 585 5500. Weekends: Hafnarfjörður Museum, Vesturgata 8, tel. (+354) 585 5780.



Only 15 min
 with **BUS 1**
 from Reykjavík

www.straeto.is

Icelandic Names

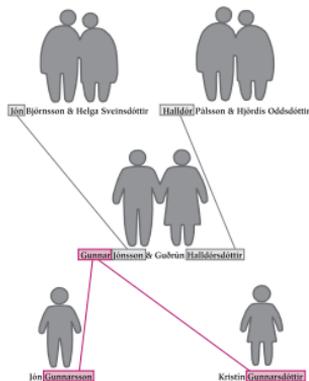
Most Icelanders still follow the ancient tradition of deriving their last name from the first name of their father. If a man is called Leifur Eiríksson his name is Leifur and he is Eiríksson (the son of a man called Eiríkur). A woman called Þórdís Haraldsdóttir has the personal name Þórdís and is Haraldsdóttir (i.e. Harald's daughter).

If Þórdís Haraldsdóttir marries Leifur Eiríksson she does not become Eiríksson, like her husband. She continues to be Þórdís Haraldsdóttir.

If Þórdís and Leifur have a son, he would have Leifsson as a last name, and their daughter would have Leifsdóttir as her last name.

We have to keep in mind that

Eiríksson, Leifsson and Haraldsdóttir are not really names as such, but patronymics, which refer to their fathers. For this reason Icelanders always have to be referred to by their given names. The patronymic is never used alone.



Iceland Top 10

Breathtaking landscapes, glaciers, waterfalls and hot springs; the Viking heritage and rich medieval culture, or the vibrant night-life and abundance of creative artists. Whatever reason brought you to Iceland there are several things above others that will **make your stay unforgettable**. We have listed a few of Iceland's treasures that no visitors should miss.

- 1 The Golden Circle
- 2 Thermal Swimming Pools
- 3 Glacier or highland jeep tour
- 4 Historic and heritage museums
- 5 Whale- and birdwatching
- 6 Sightseeing flights
- 7 The Blue Lagoon
- 8 Art museums and galleries
- 9 Hiking and riding tours
- 10 Fine dining

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Parliament of Iceland

Alþingi, Iceland's parliament, was established in 930, marking the beginning of an independent nation-state in Iceland. It is the world's oldest existing national assembly. Its main objective was to set new laws and rule on judicial matters but without any central executive body, making this republican government system unique at that time.

From 930 to 1798 Alþingi convened annually at **Pingvellir** around mid-June, usually for 1-2 weeks, attracting chieftains, farmers, merchants, craftsmen and travellers. From the assembly's centre point the Law Speaker recited current laws, the public was addressed on important matters and controversial issues were settled.

In 1262-1264, when Iceland pledged allegiance to the **Norwegian crown**, Alþingi endorsed its executive power to the king but maintained its legislative authority. Later Iceland came under the power of the **Danish kingdom** and (in 1662) endorsed its independence and legislative authority to the Danish king, leaving only judicial power to the national assembly.

Alþingi continued its role until 1800 when it was abolished. 44 years later, it was revived for advisory purposes



The Parliament at Austurvöllur

only by the king's decree. In 1874, Alþingi regained legislative authority on domestic matters and taxation rights when Iceland obtained its first constitution.

In **1918**, Iceland was recognized as an independent and sovereign state within the kingdom of Denmark. Alþingi obtained full legislative authority but left foreign affairs to the Danish crown. In **1940**, this political connection broke and the Icelandic government took over foreign affairs and guard of Iceland's territorial waters.

In 1944 the Republic of Iceland was established and since then, Alþingi has been the nation's highest institute of legislative authority.

Literature of Iceland

The roots of Icelandic literature can be traced to the ancient Viking heritage, which was passed on by oral tradition until it was committed to calfskin manuscripts in the early 12th century. An important source about this heritage is the **Codex Regius**, written down around 1270, and now preserved at **The Culture House**. It contains the **Poetic Edda**, a unique record of the Nordic mythology, as well as the most comprehensive body of ancient heroic legends which are known only in fragments from other parts of Europe. The ancient world view is also portrayed in the **Prose Edda** by **Snorri Sturluson** (1179-1241), who is the most important Nordic writer of the Middle Ages. Equally important in medieval

Icelandic literature are the **Icelandic Sagas**. These accounts are largely set in 930-1030 - the period often referred to as the **Saga Age**. **Njáls Saga** and **Laxdæla Saga** are examples of the magnificent literary achievement of this genre, with its epic accounts of conflicts and feuds, love and fate.

With the introduction of printing in the 16th century, Icelandic literature split into two areas: the official domain dominated by the Church and the popular domain. In the 19th century, romanticism introduced new visions to poetry. Its best known champion is **Jónas Hallgrímsson** (1807-1845), often dubbed "the great poet of art".

Halldór Laxness (1902-1998) is the best known Icelandic writer of the 20th century - he was awarded the **Nobel Prize for Literature** in 1955. His incredibly diverse oeuvre spans an enormous range of literary forms, but he is best known for novels such as **Independent People** and **Iceland's Bell**. With the ascent of Laxness, Icelandic became a language of world literature once again, as the Academy acknowledged when it awarded him the **Nobel Prize** "for his vivid epic power which has renewed the great narrative art of Iceland".



At the fireplace at Gljúfrasteinn

Longer version on www.visitorsguide.is

Gljúfrasteinn

LAXNESS MUSEUM

Laxness

map
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Gljúfrasteinn was the home of author Halldór Laxness, winner of 1955 Nobel Prize for literature.



SAFNARÁÐ
The Museum Council of Iceland

Audio tours of the house are available in Icelandic, English, German, Swedish and Danish

An illustrated guide in French is also available

Concerts every Sunday during the summer

Multimedia presentation

The house is situated in the beautiful Mosfellsdalur valley, a short distance from Reykjavik and only 20 minutes way to Þingvellir (Thingvellir National Park) and the Golden circle



www.gljufasteinn.is
facebook.com/Laxness.museum
twitter.com/Gljufasteinn



Glacier walk with Icelandic Mountain Guides on Sólheimajökull glacier, south Iceland

He is truly wise
who's travelled far
and knows the ways of the world.
He who has travelled
can tell what spirit
governs the men he meets.



Your Guide to **Tours & Activities**

Tours and Activities in Iceland

Traveling in Iceland offers plenty of opportunities for action and adventure. Whether you like to explore the remote landscape on foot or sit in a **mountain jeep**, there should be something to fit your expectations. Action seekers could also try something more extreme; **glacial hiking**, **snow scooters**, **snorkling**, **diving**, **seakayaking**, **river rafting** or **riverjet** on one of the glacial rivers. For those wanting to enjoy Iceland on a more relaxing note a visit to the **Blue Lagoon** or one of the **thermal pools** is a fine choice, perhaps combined with a hot stone massage or a volcano treatment at a **spa** in **Reykjavík**. Spending a day **outdoors** in **Reykjavík** is an excellent idea as well, walking through **Laugardalur valley** and treating the children with a visit to the **Reykjavík Zoo & Family Park**.

Experiencing Icelandic nature will also include some of its animals. Icelanders take pride in their small but strong horses and **riding tours** are offered to suit anyone. **Whale watching** tours



River rafting with Arctic Rafting in Jökulsá Austari in Skagafjörður N- Iceland.

provide a chance for close encounters with these magnificent creatures and in the spring and summer the air along the coast is swarming with nesting birds. Paying a visit to the neighboring towns (see Culture chapter), **Kópavogur**, **Garðabær** and **Hafnarfjörður**, may also be a great combination of action and a cultural experience.

In this chapter we have compiled information about all these things and more. Check out the map of **Laugardalur valley**, suggestions for **walking tours** in **Reykjavík** and see what our recommended tour companies have to offer. Get ready to enjoy Iceland to the max!



INFORMATION FOLDER AT YOUR RECEPTION

More about **Tours and Activities** in our **information folder** and on our **website**. Thermal pools, **Reykjavík Excursions**, whale watching with **Elding**, car rental, taxi and more. Great photos on www.visitorsguide.is

INFORMATION IN 6 LANGUAGES



Reykjavík Excursions certified quality

Reykjavik Excursions - Kynniserðir, founded in 1968, one of the largest tour operators in Iceland. It was the first Icelandic tour operator to be granted the **ISO 14001** certification for environmental management from the British Standards Institution (BSI).

Reykjavik Excursions is a fully licensed tour operator and travel agent, operating coach fleets with vehicles of various sizes, all equipped with **free Wi-Fi**.

As Iceland's only member of the Global Passenger Network, Reykjavik Excursions is on the forefront in promoting the highest of standards in coach operations.

For 35 years RE has operated the **Flybus airport shuttle**, between the capital and KEF Airport serving all arriving and departing flights.

Our day tours allow you to experience Iceland at its most stunning and exotic. Should you have special requirements,



**Reykjavik
Excursions**
KYNNISFERÐIR

our dedicated team of planning experts are there to listen to your needs and **tailor-make tours** to fit your requirements. Should you want added flexibility and freedom, our "Iceland On Your Own" scheduled bus network is probably just the thing for you. Alternatively, you may want to hire one of our coaches or 4x4 mini-buses, with a driver, to take you where you want to go. Back in Reykjavík, our **Hop On - Hop Off** double-decker buses are very popular, and allow you to comfortably take in the city's main sights.

Reykjavik Excursions looks forward to serving you.

Give us a call (+354 580 5400), drop by at the BSÍ Bus Terminal in Reykjavík or simply visit www.re.is.



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**Reykjavik
Excursions**
KYNNISFERÐIR

Iceland is Warmer Than You Think

Iceland enjoys an **oceanic climate**. This normally means **mild winters and fresh summers** but the warm **Gulf Stream**, which flows along the island's southern and western coasts, makes the climate much milder than one would expect considering the name and location of the country. However, the Gulf Stream also has its downside; it brings the milder Atlantic air mass in contact with the colder arctic air making the weather in Iceland rather unstable and often windy.

In spite of frequent changes in the weather, temperatures stay relatively stable. In fact, the mean **winter temperature in Reykjavík** is higher than in various cities with more southerly locations, such as Stockholm, Oslo or Helsinki. Reykjavík is cooler than many, but not half as cold as you probably expected!

Daily Average
Temperature
in January '14

City	°C
London	7
Paris	3
Reykjavík	2
Copenhagen	1
Berlin	0
New York	0
Stockholm	-3
Oslo	-3
Helsinki	-5
Moscow	-8



Boys sunbathing on Nauthólsvík Beach, Reykjavík

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Our VisitorsGuide Travel Websites

Our website, www.visitorsguide.is, contains a lot of useful and interesting information about Iceland, the possibility of booking worldwide accommodation and more. You may also view and download the newest Visitor's Guide book as we aim to update them there twice a year. You can download maps of Iceland, Reykjavík, Kópavogur, Garðabær, Hafnarfjörður and Akureyri. There are various pictures from river rafting, riding tours and from many places in the countryside. Also many articles and practical information.

Among the Tours and Activities companies listed on the website and app are Air Iceland, Eagle Air, the horse rentals; Eldhestar and Icelandic horse, Elding, Special Tours and

Gentle Giants – Whale Watching, Icelandic Mountainguides, Iceland Rovers Icelandic Travel Market, Reykjavík Excursions, Reykjavík Thermal Pools, Sixt and Sterna Bus lines. Many of those have information in 6 languages & pictures.

Our Visitor's Guide trademark and websites are now also in Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, France , Italy, Spain and more. On these websites it is possible to book accommodation, view pictures from the capitals and more.

Visit our travel websites and book your accommodation

Visitorsguide.is

- Various companies with registration on our website

Company	Address	Type
Glymur hotel & restaurant	Hvalfjörður, 300 Akranes (W)	Accommodation
Hrafninn - guesthouse	Brekkugata 4, 600 Akureyri (N)	Accommodation
Lava Hostel	Hjallabraut 51, 220 Hafnarfjörður (R - area)	Accommodation
Sporttours	Melbrún 2, 621 Dalvík (N)	Tours - Accommodation
Trex - Travel Experiences	Hestháls 10, 110 Reykjavík (R)	Tours

W - West N - North R - Reykjavík



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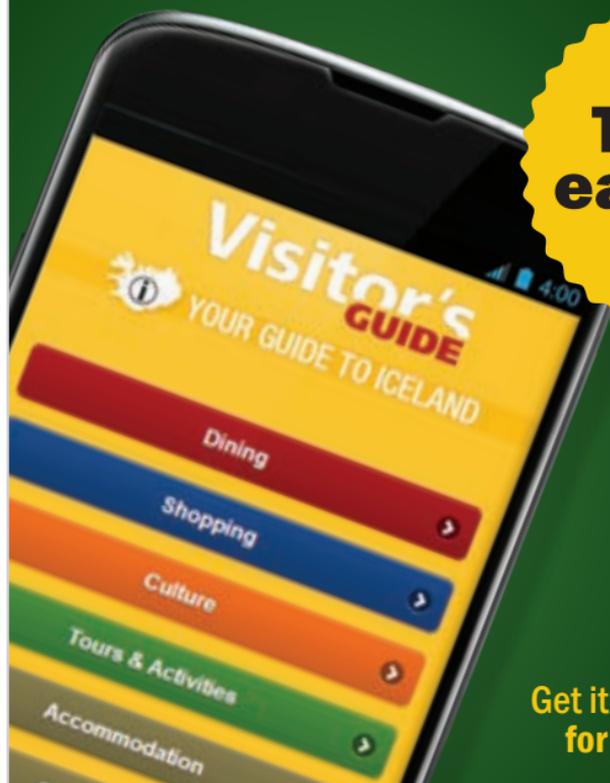
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1971 The first Icelandic manuscripts are brought back to Iceland from Denmark, after being kept there since the 18th century.

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 swimming pools



Reykjavík
 24

ÁRBÆJARLAUG Fylkisvegur. Tel: 411 5200

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Fridays.....	6:30 - 20:00
Weekends.....	9:00 - 20:00*

BREIÐHOLTSLAUG Austurberg. Tel: 557 5547

Monday - Thursday.....	6:30 - 22:00
Fridays.....	6:30 - 20:00
Weekends.....	9:00 - 19:00**

GRAFARVOGSLAUG Dalhús. Tel: 411 5300

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Fridays.....	6:30 - 20:00
Weekends.....	9:00 - 19:00**

KLÉBERGSLAUG Kjalarnes. Tel: 566 6879

Weekdays.....	10:00 - 22:00***
Weekends.....	11:00 - 17:00**

* June to August, Sept to May, open until 18
 ** June to August, Sept to May, open until 18
 *** 8. June - 21. August

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Monday - Thursday.....	6:30 - 22:00
Fridays.....	6:30 - 20:00
Saturdays.....	8:00 - 16:00
Sundays.....	10:00 - 18:00

VESTURBÆJARLAUG Hofsvallagata. Tel: 411 5150

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Fridays.....	6:30 - 20:00
Weekends.....	9:00 - 20:00*

Thermal pools and baths in Reykjavík are a source of health, relaxation and pureness. All of the city's swimming pools have several hot pots with temperatures ranging from from **37° to 42° C** (98° - 111° F). The pools are kept at an average temperature of **29° C** (84° F).



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Reykjavík Highlights

Reykjavík has a unique atmosphere, created from a combination of nature, rich cultural and artistic vibes and the spirit of the people that live there. Here are a few suggestions on how to capture the true feel of Reykjavík living.



Relaxing in Laugardalur Valley swimming pool

Thermal pools

Visiting a geothermal pool is essential while staying in Iceland. Whether it is under the stars on a cold winter day or on a sunny afternoon in midsummer, relaxing in the warm water is revitalizing and a great way to unwind. The **hot tubs**, which can be found at any thermal pool, are an ideal place to meet the locals. The larger thermal pools also have attractions such as **steam rooms** and **water slides**.

Late night walks

Despite its reputation for wild nightlife, Reykjavík is in general a peaceful and safe city. Streets and walk paths are well lit and apart from the very centre most neighbourhoods are calm and quiet at night. Stroll along the coast on summer evenings and enjoy the **midnight sun**, or search for the **northern lights** on frosty winter nights.

Outdoor cafés

On warm summer days the squares in central Reykjavík are buzzing with life. Sit down at an outdoor café in **Austurvöllur** and watch the comings and goings while enjoying a cup of coffee.



The Pearl (Perlan)

Viewpoints

The top of **Hallgrímskirkja church tower** and the viewing platform at **Perlan** provide two of the most magnificent views of the city and surroundings.

Whale watching

Sailing out from **Reykjavík old harbour** you will see the city from a whole new angle at the same time as experiencing the ocean and its fauna. Make sure to stop by at the old harbour in Reykjavík, where many companies offer trips. Or visit exhibition on whales and birdlife located onboard a fishing vessel.



The Icelandic horse

Riding tours

What better way to get in touch with the nature than to go just outside the city limits and enjoy the Icelandic horse and **diverse landscapes** at the same time. Most riding tours companies offer pick up and drop off at hotels and guesthouses.

Museum walk

Since many museums are located in the city centre, you can easily visit more than one in the same day. An increasing number of museums rely on interactive material to explain their topics, bringing life to the exhibitions and making them more enjoyable than ever before. **Reykjavík Welcome Card** gives **free entrance** to numerous museums.

Art galleries

On the main streets there are plenty of art galleries where you can look at beautiful artwork and maybe even find some **local treasure** to bring back home.



Live music at an Icelandic club

Live music

The Icelandic music scene is famously active and has brought forward artists such as Björk and Sigur Rós. Bands frequently perform in **pubs and bars** so stay alert for information about what is on each night. Even if you are not there for the music, these are great venues to meet locals before the nightlife really kicks off.

Fine dining

Reykjavík has numerous restaurants with both local and international cuisine, and dining standards are **generally high**. What's better than ending a good day with a delicious meal at one of the city's finest restaurants.



Delicious sushi

Laugardalur Valley

Reykjavik
Botanical Garden

Washing Springs

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Whale Watching

Whaling has a long history in the coastal waters around Iceland. After centuries of overexploitation, mostly conducted by the Basks in early centuries and Norway in the late 19th century, whaling was halted in 1989. Whale watching in Iceland is a relatively new tourist attraction. The first regular trips started in 1995, and since then there has been a tremendous growth in the whale watching business.

There are few places in the world where you can find as many species of whales so close to shore as in Iceland. These include the **Minke-, Humpback-, Sei-, Fin and Blue whales**, as well as several species of dolphins and the famous **Killer whales** (Orcas). In fact, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has rated Iceland as one of the **top ten** whale watching destinations in the world!

Whale watching is operated all year round from Reykjavík but in other areas it is most often limited to the summer months. The high season is in summertime when the migrating whales return to the Icelandic waters to feed and blend in with the resident whales. Whale watching now is operated all year by Elding and Special Tours. Whales can be seen on short trips from the south, west and the north coast of Iceland. **Húsavík**, a small town on the north-east coast of Iceland, has been recognised as the whale watching capital of Europe. There you can find the Husavik Whale Centre, an information centre on cetaceans and marine wildlife. Whale watching trips are also available from **Reykjavík, Keflavík, Snæfellsnes and Eyjafjörður**. Also Gentle Giants in Húsavík, Ambassador in Akureyri and Arctic Seatours from Dalvík, 30 minutes from Akureyri.



Killer Whale (Orca)

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WHALE WATCHING

map
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Icelandic Birds

Any summer visitor to Iceland cannot help but notice the sheer abundance of birds in the country. Iceland only has around 75 regularly breeding species but over **350 species** have been recorded, many of which are very rare vagrants. The country is particularly rich in **seabirds, waders** and **wildfowl**. A visit to Iceland's vast seabird colonies is a highlight of any trip. One of the most famous birds is the **Puffin**. By late summer, Iceland has over 10 million Puffins and the world's largest Puffin population is in the **Westman islands**.

Although most Icelandic birds are of **European origin**, the island is also home to three North American species. The Great Northern Diver, Harlequin Duck and Barrow's Goldeneye, which breed nowhere else in Europe, are the species most highly sought after by European birdwatchers. Many of Iceland's birds are strictly protected by law, including the rare **White-tailed Eagle**, Gyr Falcon and Grey Phalarope. Around the coasts you can see the



Red-necked Phalarope

Eider Duck, whose down locals have harvested for centuries.

Although many species reside in Iceland throughout the year, a great number migrates south in the autumn and returns to breed the following spring. Some species, particularly certain geese and waders, stop in Iceland to feed on their way to and from breeding grounds in the High Arctic. The Lesser Black-backed Gull is the first to arrive in February/March but Icelanders see the arrival of the **Golden Plover** in April as the harbinger of spring. By **mid-May** all migrants have returned and the air is filled with the calls of Snipe, Whimbrel and a whole host of other fascinating birds.

Videy

Videy island is the birdwatcher's paradise, just few minutes away from Reykjavík city. On this small island a remarkable number of birds breed in summertime and the ponds on the **isthmus (Eiðið)** and **Pórsnes** headland are especially interesting places. The beach is also beautiful and there the difference between low and high tides is apparent. Fine **walking paths** have been laid out on the island so it is easy to get around. Further information on www.videy.com

Source: Jóhann Óli Hilmarrsson, Icelandic Bird Guide

1974 The last bridge over rivers in Skeiðarársandur in the southeast is finished and the first road around the island thus completed.

Sunrise and Sunset in Reykjavík

Month	Average Temp.	Average Rain	Average Sunshine	Day	Sunrise	Sunset
	(°C)	pr. 24 hours (mm)	pr. 24 hours (hrs.)			
January	1.0	2.7	0.8	15.	10:54	16:21
February	0.7	2.9	2.4	15.	9:22	18:03
March	1.9	2.6	3.6	15.	7:45	19:29
April	4.3	2.6	5.3	15.	5:55	21:02
May	7.0	1.3	7.9	15.	4:12	22:38
June	10.5	1.2	6.6	15.	2:57	24:01
July	12.1	1.4	6.2	15.	3:41	23:24
August	11.5	2.0	6.0	15.	5:19	21:43
September	8.9	3.3	3.9	15.	6:51	19:53
October	4.8	2.6	3.3	15.	8:18	18:08
November	2.6	2.6	1.4	15.	9:56	16:27
December	1.1	3.4	0.5	15.	11:16	15:30
Average (Year)	5.5	2.4	4.0			

Source: University of Iceland Almanac 2013 (p. 6-50 & 82) and The Icelandic Weather Bureau.



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map 89

Arctic Adventures

Go home with a story worth sharing!

From spewing volcanoes and vast glaciers to rugged coastlines and raging rivers, Arctic Adventures is Iceland's premier eco-friendly adventure tour operator. Founded on unmatched standards in safety and equipment, and operated by a professional team of qualified guides, Arctic Adventures has been sharing a passion for the Icelandic wilderness with their guests for **almost 30 years**. With seven base camps scattered around Iceland's great outdoor playground, they are the local specialists just about everywhere adventure is to be found. Their full adventure menu includes glacier hiking, river rafting, trekking, sea kayaking, caving, snowmobiling, super-jeep safaris, snorkeling, surfing, quad biking, and so much more.



Glacier hiking

Offering everything from day tours to multi-day expeditions, for

first-time adventurers and wilderness junkies alike, there is something to explore all year round. Set off on the adventure-of-a-lifetime and discover a wilderness like none other.



Fjord serenity

You can find the Arctic Adventures head office in the heart of downtown Reykjavik, at Laugavegur 11. Their river rafting operations are located in Skagafjörður, North Iceland, and in Drumboddsstaðir on the shores of the Hvítá river in South Iceland. From Skaftafell in Vatnajökull National Park, a vast wilderness awaits on the doorstep of Europe's largest glacier. From Ísafjörður, explore the remote coastlines of the Westfjords by sea kayak.

For more information check out the full adventure menu at www.adventures.is.



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The Icelandic Horse

The Vikings arrived in Iceland more than a thousand years ago, bringing their **small Nordic horses** with them. Today, because of isolation, the breed remains pure. Strong and muscular, these horses are surefooted enough to handle the roughest Icelandic terrain. Small and gentle, with great stamina, speed and intelligence, they are the perfect riding companions. They are **friendly, willing**, docile animals that take obvious pleasure in carrying their riders across grassy plains, up and down rocky slopes, through rivers and over fields of rough lava, offering travellers a great way to enjoy the splendours and nature of Iceland.

The Icelandic horse is **unique** in many ways. The **colour palette** of the Icelandic horse is so wide, that any colour found in horses around the world can also be found in the Icelandic horse. The colours vary from white to black, from palomino to silver dappled and everything in between. The Icelandic horse is also renowned for its **five gaits**, the most popular being the "tölt". It is a four beat gait with light flowing movement, which is easy and comfortable to ride. The other gaits are **walk, trot, gallop** and **flying pace**. We encourage you to try riding the



Eldhestar tour around Hekla

Icelandic horse during your visit. Horse rentals offer tours both for **beginners** and more **experienced riders**, ranging from 2 hours to a full day. For enthusiasts, we highly recommend the longer tours.

There is no better way of experiencing the magnificent nature of Iceland than on the back of an Icelandic horse.

Eldhestar, a company specializing in horseback riding tours. Offer various **longer tours** for 2-7 days, such as the Volcano Contrasts (2d), Þórsmörk (4d) and Around the Glaciers (7d). All transport and accommodation as well as safety gear is included in the price. Eldhestar has **experienced guides** who speak a variety of languages.

BOOK TOURS DIRECTLY ON THE WEBSITE OF THE COMPANIES (OR BY PHONE) IN THIS CHAPTER - THEY OFTEN HAVE ONLINE DISCOUNT.

1976 The last "Cod War" between Iceland and Britain takes place. Iceland wins sovereignty over its fishing grounds.

Riding in Iceland with Eldhestar

map
77see map of
Iceland

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Taste the Saga at Egils Brewery



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Visitors to the guestroom at the oldest brewery in Iceland have the opportunity to experience a new and innovative way to get to know the Icelanders and their history.

The tour, "Taste the Saga" offered by Iceland Excursions (AH150), takes the guests through Icelandic drinking culture

and age old beer traditions come to life.



The tour, which is operated on Fri-Sat. at 6pm, is fairly inexpensive and includes transportation, beverages and snacks. You will see an advertisement from Ölgerðin on the back of the Iceland map.



Íslenski Hesturinn The Icelandic Horse

The horse rental, which is located in Reykjavík, is placed as the number one thing to do in Iceland on the travelling website TripAdvisor. The service is provided by Begga Rist and her



staff and highly praised by the customers. Begga is an educated tour guide which speaks seven languages. Understandably they are very pleased to receive these fantastic comments. Begga says that it touches her to read that the visitors have written things like; "Memories for a lifetime" - "A truly unique experience, highly recommended" - "The highlight of my trip, an absolute must do" - "Experienced riders loved this place".

Congratulations to ÍSLENSKI HESTURINN – THE ICELANDIC HORSE.

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Nr 1 to do in Iceland



map 83

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Icelandic Mountain guides



The Icelandic outdoor is a great playing field for all sorts of outdoor adventures and its glaciers are a wonderland of forms and colors offering unique experience of nature. Icelandic Mountain Guides has a great selection of guided adventure tours to both the highlands and glaciers of Iceland. The company has been in constant operation since 1994, offering tours for groups and individuals that suit almost any age or fitness level. Icelandic Mountain Guides is recognized for its innovation in outdoor activities, client safety and for



Glacier Walk on Sólheimajökull glacier with Icelandic Mountain Guides.

upholding an active environmental policy. Besides a great variety of day tours from Reykjavík Icelandic Mountain Guides offer the award winning Glacier Walks on Sólheimajökull glacier every day all year around and from Skaftafell in Vatnajökull National Park every day all year round.

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map 85
see map of Iceland



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**ICELANDIC
MOUNTAIN GUIDES**

Icelandic Travel Market

Icelandic Travel Market is next door to restaurant **Lækjarbrekka** right in the city centre. They provide information and recommendation for travelling in Iceland. You can for example

book a car for hire, horse rental tours, adventure jeep tours with **Iceland Rovers**, glacier walks with **Icelandic Mountain Guides** and book day tours with **Reykjavik Excursions**.



From Eyjafjallajökull glacier



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View from Valahnúkur in Pórsmörk national forest
Photo by Börkur Sigurbjörnsson

Top 10 Volcanic Eruptions in the past 100 years —

1	Grímsvötn	1910	Ash haze in nearby areas for six months
2	Katla	1918	Great floods from Mýrdalsjökull glacier
3	Askja	1921-1923	Four eruptions in three years
4	Hekla	1947-1948	Thirteen month long eruption
5	Surtsey	1963-1967	Underwater eruption
6	Hekla	1970	Ash carried all the way to Northwest Iceland
7	Heimaey	1973	Four hundred homes destroyed
8	Kröfluelðar	1975-1984	Nine successive eruptions
9	Gjálp	1996	Floods from Vatnajökull glacier
10	Eyjafjallajökull	2010	Airplanes grounded around the world because of the volcanic ash
11	Grímsvötn	2011	Heavy ash fall in south east Iceland, some flights delayed

1989 The notorious “beer ban” abolished and beer sold again in Iceland after 74 years of prohibition.



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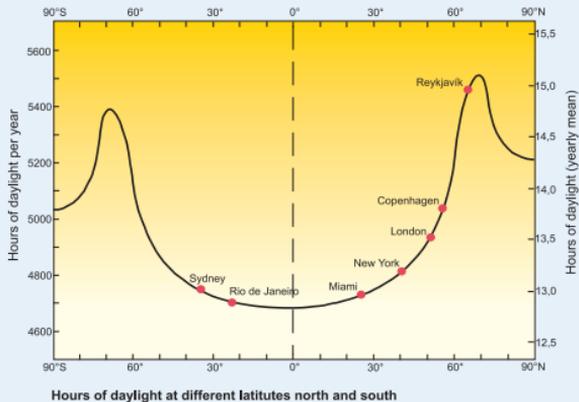
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More Daylight in Iceland than in Florida

When people think of Iceland they usually imagine it being cold and dark. It is true that during winter it can get rather cold and daylight is scarce but we more than make up for it in the summer.

As seen in the graph above, Iceland (Reykjavík) has an average of **14.9 hours of daylight each day**. This is more than in most places in the world and about two hours more than **Miami** in the sunny state of Florida! Thus Iceland gains more daylight in the summer months with its famous **midnight sun** than it loses during winter.



Looking at the graph one observes a difference between the north and south hemispheres, the north having more hours of daylight. This is because the earth's orbit is not quite circular, causing the sun to dwell longer over the northern hemisphere than the southern one.

Source: The Icelandic University Almanac, 1996



The Hot Spring at Landmannalaugar, South Iceland

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Entertainment in Greater Reykjavík

When arriving to a new place it's important to know what entertainment it has to offer. In the Greater Reykjavík area there are plenty of things to do if sought after.

During **winter** people can take a bus or go on rented cars to one of Iceland's **ski resorts** at the **Blue mountains** (Bláfjöll), where it is possible to rent ski gear.

There are also plenty of indoor activities such as 7 movie theatres/cinemas or the **Bowling Palace** in the famous Öskjuhlíð hill. Other indoor activities involve **The Climbing Center**, **The ice skating rink**, **Snooker** and **pool places**. Or just enjoy a refreshing drink over a soccer match at a nearby pub.

In the **summer time** there are plenty of activities to choose from in the Greater Reykjavík area, especially on a good day. Some very good **golf courses** are around where it is popular to start the 18 holes late in the evening and be golfing in the midnight sun in the remarkable 24 hour June daylight.

Other outdoor entertainment in The Reykjavík area are **ATV Quad biking**, **Go-Kart tracks**, **sailing in Nauthólsvík**, (geothermal white sand beach) **aerobatics**, **skydiving** or **caving**. Many special occasions occur over the year. So keep your eyes open for **music festivals**, **concerts**, **travelling carnivals** or other kinds of **funfair**.

Longer version on www.visitorsguide.is

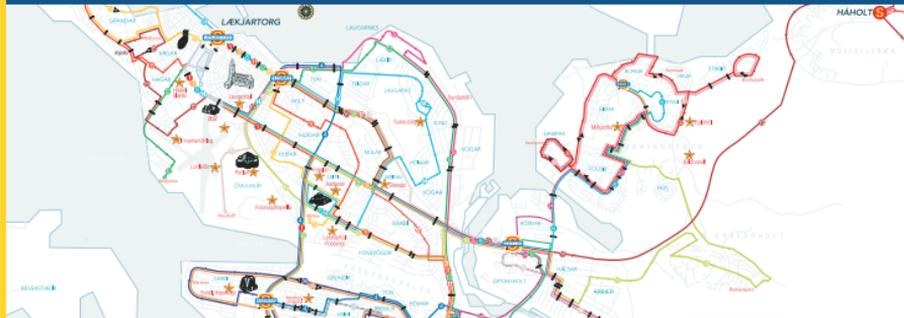


From the Reykjavík Climbing Center

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Bus Routes

To Selected Locations



Destination

City Centre

Route no. 1 3 6 11 12 13 14

Árbær Folk Museum

5 12 19 24

Flybus / BSÍ Bus Terminal

1 3 6 14 15 19

Domestic Air Terminal (Air Iceland/Eagle air)

15 19

Kjarvalsstaðir Museum

1 3 6 11 13

Kringlan Shopping Mall

1 2 3 4 6 13 14

Smáralind Shopping Centre

2 24 28

Laugardalur Valley

2 14 15 17 19

The Pearl

18

Ægisíða Outdoor Area

11 12 13

Akureyri & the north* from Mjódd bus terminal

57

Hveragerði** / Selfoss***

51 52

* You pay 2 fares ** You pay 3 fares *** You pay 4 fares

Main Terminals

City Centre

Route no. 1 3 6 11 12 13 14

Hlemmur

1 2 3 4 5 6 11

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1 from Hlemmur and City Centre

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Reykjavík On Foot or Bike

There is no better way to discover the wonders of Reykjavík than exploring it on foot. A stroll along the city streets will reveal both its history as well as a flourishing modern culture.



The Government offices, downtown Reykjavík

Reykjavík "CLASSIC"

(2 - 3 hrs. / 2.4 km.)

Starting at **Lækjartorg square**, follow **Austurstræti** to the corner of **Pósthússtræti**. There you take a right turn and continue down to **Reykjavík old harbour** where you can observe the fishermen working.

Continue west passing the **Grófin** area, a cluster of beautifully restored buildings, and through to **Aðalstræti**, the oldest street in Reykjavík.

At the square opposite the **Salvation Army building**, turn right and follow **Túngata** to find the **Catholic Church** at **Landakot**. Proceed on **Hávallagata** to **Garðastræti** and take a right turn to **Kirkjustígur** to enjoy the **old cemetery**, filled with beautiful sculptures and gravestones.

Leaving the cemetery, follow **Suðurgata** to **Skothúsvegur** and enjoy a little detour around the **City Pond**. Continue along **Fríkirkjuvegur** and make a stop at the **National Art Gallery** which is well worth seeing. Proceed towards the city centre, to the **City Hall** and from there to the **Alþingi Parliament House** and **Dómkirkjan church**.

Walk onwards to **Lækjargata** and continue in the direction of the **Lækjartorg square**. Pass the giant outdoor chess board, the statue **Vatsnberinn** and **Bernhöftstorfan**, a set of renovated buildings which house gourmet restaurants. Proceed to the statue of **Ingólfur Arnarson**, the first settler in Iceland, on the top of **Arnarhóll**. End the tour at **Harpa concert hall**.

continued on next page



Sólfríð at Sæbraut. Artist: Jón Gunnar Árnason

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Reykjavík on foot/bike

← This side up

- Start here
- 🚲 Grand tour
- 🚶 Classic tour
- ★ Interesting places (stops in the tour)

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Reykjavík On Foot or Bike



Höfði in Borgartún

Reykjavík "GRAND TOUR"

(5 - 6 hrs. / 4.3 km.)

Starting at **Lækjartorg square**, follow Lækjargata towards the pond and head for the **City Hall** where you can take a look at a giant relief map of Iceland. Continue from the City Hall to **Dómkirkjan church** and the **Parliament House**.

From there walk towards **Aðalstræti**, which was the first, and in fact the only street in the early days of Reykjavík. This is the oldest part of the city and here you can find some of its **oldest houses and trees**. On the right side of the street is an old well which used to be one of the city's main water sources until the establishment of the Water Works in 1909. The tiny square opposite the **Salvation Army Building** used to be a cemetery and you can still see some old gravestones there.

Proceed to the **Grófin area**, past

Restaurant Reykjavík and continue down to **Reykjavík harbour** where you will find an old steam locomotive which was used to transport building materials for the harbour when it was under construction.

Walk on along the harbour, take a look at the fishermen landing their catch and follow the footpath by the seaside leading to "**Sólfarið**", a beautiful sculpture and an excellent viewpoint.

Continue to **Höfði**, the famous meeting place of Reagan and Gorbachev in 1986. Walk up Höfðatún until you reach Laugavegur street and follow it down to **Hlemmur Bus Terminal**.

Proceed up Rauðarárstígur until you find **Kjarvalsstaðir museum** where you can enjoy the classics of Icelandic art. Find your way from Kjarvalsstaðir museum to **Hallgrímskirkja church** and go up the tower to get the best view of the city.

Continue down **Skólavörðustígur** and Bankastræti towards the **Government house**, which used to serve as a prison. The tour comes to an end at **Arnarhóll** under the statue of Ingólfur Arnarson, the first settler in Iceland.



Biking routes & photo albums
on www.visitorsguide.is

Those who want to explore more than just the central area do not have to go far to see quite another side of Reykjavík. Within the city limits you can find diverse outdoor areas where you can enjoy walking, jogging, hiking, rollerblading, swimming and watching the birdlife or the sunset in beautiful surroundings.



Enjoying a sunny day at Nauthólsvík Beach

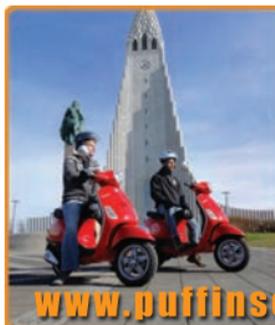
Ægisiða - Nauthólsvík (1.5 - 2 hrs.)

Start your walk at **Landakotskirkja** and walk from there along Hofsvallagata down to the coast at **Ægisiða**. Follow the path past the old fish huts and various other reminders of the city's fishing heritage. Continue past the **domestic airport** all the way to **Nauthólsvík**, a beautiful little beach with white sand where you can bathe in the heated seawater, or maybe, if you are adventurous, paddle out in a kayak into the sunset.

Öskjuhlíð - Perlan (1 - 1,5 hrs.)

Öskjuhlíð hill played an important role during the Second World War when the British Army used it as a military location. Today it is still important but now as an **outdoor resort** for anyone who likes a good walk in pleasant surroundings. It offers excellent paths, benches, an **artificial geyser** and amongst the trees you can still find some traces of the army "settlement", shelters and trenches.

After having enjoyed the surroundings for a while you can treat yourself to a nice cup of **coffee at Perlan** and take a look at the city from the **viewing point** at the top or go bowling at the bowling center on the other side of the hill.



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Family and Children's Day Out in Reykjavík

The Reykjavík Park and Zoo

Laugardalur by Engjavegur, 104 Reykjavík.



(See map of Laugardalur in this chapter)

This is a great place for children. The zoo houses Icelandic animals, the wild as well as the domestic ones.

The Reykjavík Botanical Garden

Laugardalur by Holtavegur 32, 104

Reykjavík. (See map of Laugardalur in this chapter)

Open from March 15 to October 1 from 8-22 on weekdays and from 10-22 on weekends. Free admission.

Árbær Folk Museum

Kistuhylur 4, 110 Reykjavík.



www.arbaejarsafn.is

The museum is open in June-August between 10 and 17 but during winter a one hour guided tour is available on mon, wed, and fri. between 13-14.

Reykjavík's Thermal Swimming Pools



Enjoy one of the seven thermal pools in Reykjavík. -Also in Kópavogur, Hafnafjörður, Mosfellsbær and in Álftanes, with long waterslides and a wavepool.



The Pearl

Öskjuhlíð, 101 Reykjavík.

Built in 1991 on top of six big thermal water tanks, each one holding 4 million liters of water. There is a viewing deck encircling the dome that gives a perfect view of the mountain range and the ocean around the capital area. On the ground floor is the Saga museum, where Icelandic history comes to life. Only 50 meters away is a man-made spouting hot spring, built for education and fun.

Other Options

Go to a cinema, visit Möguleikhúsið Theatre at Hlemmur, go bowling in Öskjuhlíð or skating at the Reykjavík Skating Rink (Skautahöllin) in Laugardalur. Also available are various playgrounds, horse rentals and swimming pools and the thermal beach in Nauthólsvík. You can also rent a bike, electric bike, rollerblades or fishing rods at Reykjavík old harbour and try the bike paths or go feed the ducks at the Reykjavík Pond.

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About Iceland

Iceland looks like a tiny spot on the world map, but considering its size (app. 103,000 sq. km) the country has an incredibly diverse landscape, dominated by mighty **glaciers** and **mountains**, desolate **highlands**, fertile **river valleys**, **volcanoes** and **lava fields**.

Iceland is located on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge dividing the European and American continental plates, slowly pushing the two in separate directions. The ridge runs through the whole country, resulting in volcanic eruptions, geothermal activity such as geysers and hot springs, as well as occasional earthquakes.

Hundreds of volcanoes dot the landscape, although not all of them are active. The most famous ones include **Hekla**, which was once believed to be the entrance to hell, **Katla** on the **Mýrdalsjökull** glacier, **Eyjafjallajökull** glacier and **Krafla** in North-Iceland. All of them have erupted within the last century, most recently the now famous **Eyjafjallajökull**. On average there is a volcanic eruption every five years. **Lava fields** cover some **11% of the island**.

Geothermal power is harnessed for heating purposes and the production of electrical power. In fact more than **90% of Icelandic homes** are heated in this way. Fossil fuels are used only for

transportation, while hydropower is the main source of electricity. As a consequence Icelanders can enjoy a clean, pollution free environment.

Approximately 11% of the total area of the country is **covered by glaciers**. The largest one is **Vatnajökull**, which is up to a kilometre thick. **Langjökull**, the second largest one, is easily reached on a day's tour from Reykjavík by super jeeps. The glacial meltwater ends in rivers, some of which offer possibilities for river rafting whereas others give rise to beautiful waterfalls, such as the famous **Gullfoss waterfall** in the **Hvítá** river. Many of the spring fed rivers and lakes offer fabulous chances for **fish-ing salmon**, trout and arctic char.



Enjoying a hiking trip to Fimmvörðuháls

Iceland is renowned for its natural beauty, and not without a cause. It is certainly worthwhile to go and explore, either on your own or on some of the organized tour options available. Just pick your choice and get going!

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Activities in the Countryside

Laugarvatn Fontana

Hverabraut 1, Laugarvatn,

S-Iceland, Tel. 486 1400

Wellness center – steam baths – geothermal pools – a Finnish style sauna – a hot tub.



Pólarhestar *

Grýttubakki II, 601

Akureyri

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Gentle Giants *

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N-Iceland, Tel. 464 1500

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– sea angling tours – a family company.



Ambassador *

Akureyri Harbour,

Eyjaþjóður,

Tel 462 6800

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IN THIS CHAPTER - THEY OFTEN HAVE **ONLINE DISCOUNT**.

See the Countryside chapter for more information about the companies marked with a star *



Laugarvatn Fontana

Silfra Snorkeling and Diving

The Silfra rift in Þingvellir National Park **only 40 minutes** from Reykjavik, is a magical place you don't want to miss out on your stay in Iceland. In a few years, diving- and snorkeling in Silfra has become one of the most popular attractions – for a good reason. It's one of very few places on earth where you can **drink the water** you are diving-and snorkeling in.

The glacial ground water is so clear that it provides you with the best possible underwater visibility, more than 100 m. This gives you the feeling of

flying in space in this rift between the North American and Eurasian plates. Because of the water's transparency and geological location, Silfra has been rated as **one of the world's top 5** diving sites.

DIVE.IS - Padi Dive Center Iceland, has had the pleasure of taking SCUBA divers and snorkelers to Silfra for **more than 15 years**, creating a memory that will last a lifetime. For those who want more, the Silfra tour can be combined with lava caving or a tour of the **Golden Circle**.

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map 70



IHB: Gullfoss waterfall

No man should call
himself clever
but manage his mind.
A sage visitor
is a silent guest.
The cautious evades evil.
Never a friend
more faithful,
nor greater wealth, than wisdom.



Your Guide to **Countryside &
Accommodation**

International Airport and the Road to Reykjavík —

"It's like driving on the Moon!" This is the remark given, almost without exception, on the 49 km (30 mile) **flat road**, with alien lava formations, between **International airport** and **Reykjavík**. Yet, the area has more to offer than meets the eye.

Just by the airport lies the town Reykjanesbær, which was called "**Beatles town**" during the sixties because of its many nationally popular rock-bands. On the outskirts of town is the new museum **Viking World** where the ship **Íslendingur** stands, a fully seaworthy replica of a Viking age ship. Beside is the old turf farm of **Stekkjakot**.

The name of Reykjanes means Smoky Ness, and originates from the geothermal activity of the area. Reykjanes is mostly flat land, but the picturesque mountain range approaches. Pillars of steam rise up before the **Mt. Thorbjörn** (243 m), coming from a geothermal power plant, and a well known tourist attraction, the **Blue Lagoon**. Behind the mountain lies the town **Grindavík**, with a cultural center and a museum dedicated to natural resources salted cod. The premium export of Iceland throughout the centuries.

The trip goes on through the large

lava field dating from about 7000 B.C. From its center, 23 km from the airport, rises the stratovolcano **Mt. Keilir** (379 m). About 35 km from the airport you reach the town **Hafnarfjörður** with its **Viking village** and a large **aluminum smelter** on the outskirts. Drive straight and follow the signs for **Reykjavík** (turning for "Reykjavík A" meaning you'll end up in the east part of the city). Turn right when seeing signs with **Reykjavík** and **Garðabær**. The drive leads through the suburb towns of **Gardabær** and **Kópavogur**. When entering the capital its two striking monuments come in sight: the **Pearl** and **Hallgrímskirkja church**. You also see the city mountain **Mt. Esja** (914 m) gracefully adorning the setting.

Welcome to Reykjavík!



Having a good time in the Blue Lagoon

Longer version on www.visitorsguide.is



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map
100
see map of
Iceland



Mats

Háifoss

The writing about the countryside and each region is usually from west to east. You can see Shell & Orkan petrol stations on the map of Iceland.

Top 10 Highest Waterfalls

1	Glymur	190 m	West
2	Háifoss	122 m	South
3	Hengifoss	110 m	East
4	Dynjandi	100 m	West
5	Seljalandsfoss	65 m	South
6	Skógafoss	62 m	South
7	Dettifoss	44 m	North
8	Gullfoss	31 m	South
9	Hrauneyjafoss	29 m	West
10	Hjálparfoss	13 m	South

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Destinations in the Countryside

The Icelandic countryside is beautiful and the landscape varies from one place to another. It can be a real energy boost to go outside the capital city area. In addition to Gullfoss, Geysir, Pingvellir and the Blue Lagoon, there are many interesting sites to visit close to Reykjavik. (Approx. driving time from Reykjavik in brackets)

Mount Esja (20 min) bus no. 15,57

Presiding over the city, Mt. Esja is popular with hikers. Several trails of varying difficulty lead up to the top.

Heiðmörk (15 min)

A protected outdoors and hiking area just outside Reykjavik. Specific sites of interest include the Búrfell volcano and **Mt. Helgafell**. The landscape is dominated by birch covered lava fields, summer cottages and planted trees, such as fir and pine.

Hafnarfjörður (15 min) bus no. 1

A cosy old town just outside Reykjavik. Famous for its **Viking Village & Restaurant**, and an alleged elf population that is said to be the biggest in Iceland. Maps and walking tours to see the residences of the elves are available at the local tourist information centre. **Íshestar Riding centre** offers riding tours every day all year round.

Nesjavellir (40 min)

Geothermal area and power plant. Great view to Lake Pingvallavatn. Ion Hotel is located close by.

More info and photos from these destinations on www.visitorguide.is

Hveragerði (40 min)

This greenhouse village, with little more than 1000 inhabitants is worth recommending. It has a lot of **geothermal energy**, so-called "hverasvæði", and the best known geyser in the area is called "Grýla". There is a good tourist information office in Hveragerði to help you explore the main sights. The town's thermal swimming pool, with its excellent natural sauna, is considered one of the best in the country.

In town you will also find Hotel Örk, a good country hotel. They have an outdoor swimming pool with hot tubs and a geothermal sauna, as well as a 9-hole golf course. The restaurant "Árgerði" features a menu specializing in Icelandic lamb and other Icelandic dishes. The children's menu is good and moderately priced.

Only 4 minutes from Hveragerði is **Eldhestar horse farm** (see Tours and Activities). They offer various trips and also have a **hotel** and a restaurant for hotel guests. In Hveragerði there is also guesthouse & restaurant Varmá.

continued on next page

Heimdallur Has incredible sight and hearing; guards the rainbow bridge that lies into the land of the Gods.

Accommodation in the Countryside

The Icelandic countryside has many possibilities for accommodation. In small towns along the road there is usually a **hotel**, **guesthouse** or a **youth hostel** to be found. Many nice countryside hotels are located close to tourist attractions, such as **Hotel Geysir** on the Golden Circle and **Hotel Gígur** by Mývatn. The **Edda Hotels**, **Hringhotels**, **Icelandair Hotels** and the **Fosshotels** (see map of Iceland) have specialized in countryside accommodation and operate all around the country. Note that many hotels in the countryside are only open during the summer season. Apart from the usual hotels, many **farmers offer**



Children playing at Ísólfsskáli

accommodation to travelers in their homes or small **guesthouse facilities** and old schools have often been changed to serve the same purpose. There are also youth hostels all around the country. For a closer connection to nature you might want to camp out, and **camping sites** are easy to find, especially in agricultural areas.

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Destinations in the Countryside

Stokkseyri & Eyrarbakki (45 min)

Small villages by the seashore of South Iceland. In Stokkseyri a ghost museum, northern light museum and a hunting museum! Kayaking is available in summer. **Fjöruborðið restaurant** is famous for its lobster feast. At Eyrarbakki there is the House, the **Árnesinga Folk Museum** and the restaurant Rauða húsið.

Akranes (40 min)

Only 10 km from the end of Hvalfjörður tunnel is the town of Akranes. The setting is picturesque, **Mt. Akrafjall** on one hand and Langisandur Beach on the other. There's an interesting **Museum Area** with four museums, among them a well praised folk museum and a museum of Icelandic stones. There is a nice **lighthouse** there with a **great view**. Open to the public every day during summertime.

Borgarnes (1 hour)

Largest town in West Iceland. Many sagas have their setting in this area. The most notable one is the saga of Egill, a fierce viking, and from Borgarnes you can take guided tours to follow "Egil's trail" around the vicinity. The **Settlement Centre**, is an exhibition on sagas and the settlement of Iceland.

Snæfellsnes Peninsula (2.5 hours)

The area is renowned for its mysterious aura. In Jules Verne's book "The Journey to the Centre of the Earth" Snæfellsnes volcano/glacier was

where the travellers began their descent. It is also the site of Iceland's newest national park.

Hvolsvöllur (65 min)

Saga museum (see p. 208) gives you a good insight into the saga of Njáll.

Nearby is **Hotel Rangá** (tel. 487 5700), a 4-star hotel beautifully situated on the riverbank of "Rangá", a popular fishing river. They also have a good restaurant. A 18-hole golf course is within 5 minutes driving distance. A horse rental is approximately 15 minutes away.

Flúðir (75 min)

A nice greenhouse village with good hiking possibilities and lots of summer houses, located 35km from Gullfoss and Geysir. **Icelandair Hotel Flúðir** and also **guesthouse Grund** offer accommodation. An 18 hole golf course, a thermal pool with sauna and hot tubs, a camping site and a good country pub named **Útlaginn** (the Outlaw) all await visitors. There is also a very good **camping area**, where it is possible to bathe in the warm river.

The Westman Islands

(30 min. by plane, 20 min. by ferry from Bakki) Climb Eldfell volcano that erupted in 1973 for a superb view. Unique nature and **birdlife**. One of the best places to see puffins in summertime. Impressive rock cliffs and lava structures take one's breath away. A brand new Volcano museum opened summer 2014.



South Iceland Influenced by Nature's Powers



Many of the country's best known tourist attractions are in South Iceland. No wonder, since the area has a wealth of natural wonders and historical sites. Hot springs and **geothermal heat** make their impact on culture in the area, as well as on the rich history of the region.

South Iceland stretches from **Pingvellir** in the west to the black sands and glacial rivers on the western ridges of **Vatnajökull**. Pingvellir, a World Heritage Site, is only a half an hour's drive from the capital and from there the **Geysir** hot spring area and waterfall **Gullfoss** can be reached within an hour. Together these three form the



Heimaey, black lava from the 1973 eruption is well visible

Golden Circle, the most popular day tour in Iceland (see article). This area is strongly influenced by geothermal heat, most visibly in the "greenhouse villages" **Hveragerði*** and **Flúðir***, where plants that would not survive in the Icelandic climate are grown. In this same area is the ancient bishopric **Skálholt**, which was a leading educational institution in Iceland for centuries. Most of what has been preserved of medieval manuscripts was originally kept there. A little further east you will come to **Pjósárdalur valley**, the site of a flourishing Settlement Age community that was destroyed by an enormous volcanic eruption of **Mount Hekla** in 1104. After extensive archaeological research in the 1970's a medieval farm was reconstructed there, which is open to the public in summer.

In recent years many ambitious museums have been opened in South Iceland. The town **Stokkseyri** has three museums: The **Ghost Centre**, the **Icelandic Wonders** museum, which features material on elves, trolls and the Northern Lights, and a hunting museum. The **Geysir Centre** at Geysir has a multimedia exhibition on natural forces, where you get to feel an earthquake and see how it looks

South Iceland Influenced by Nature's Powers

inside an ice cave. Yet another interesting museum is the **Saga centre** in Hvolsvöllur, an exhibition on one of the most beloved Icelandic sagas, *Njála*.

The area around **Mýrdalsjökull glacier** is in many ways a notable one. To the north of the glacier lies **Pórmörk**, a natural paradise with more vegetation than most of the Icelandic highlands. On your way there, just a nudge of the main road, you pass a curious waterfall, **Seljalandsfoss**, that falls in such a manner that you can walk behind it. On the southern side of Mýrdalsjökull there is another beautiful waterfall, **Skógafoss**, near which one of the most complete local heritage museums in Iceland is situated.

Further to the east, vegetation gradually diminishes. This area is frequently flooded by glacial rivers from Vatnajökull which is therefore hard to cultivate, so it is characterized by wide, black sands. Off the south coast lie the **Westman Islands**, yet another witness to Earth's powers. In 1973 an eruption shook the largest and only inhabited island, so the entire population had to be evacuated. Later, many returned and built up a new village on the island. The lava that flowed in this eruption is still flaming hot, just a few centimetres under the surface.



Pingvellir in autumn

Recommended restaurants in South Iceland

- Tryggvaskáli, Selfoss
- Við Fjöruborðið, Stokkseyri
- Menam, Selfoss
- Icelandair hótél, Flúðir
- Hótél Edda, Skógar: dinner only

Five great things to do in South Iceland

- Explore geological wonders at **Pingvellir**, where the land is slowly gliding asunder.
- Visit some **museums** and learn more about the Icelandic heritage.
- Visit a **greenhouse** and see how Icelanders grow their vegetables.
- Walk behind the **waterfall Seljalandsfoss**.
- Take a hike through magnificent landscapes in **Pórmörk**.

For more information on what to do in South Iceland, visit www.south.is



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The Golden Circle The Best of Iceland in One Day

The Golden Circle is without doubt one of the most popular tourist destinations in Iceland, and not without reason. The tour consists of the **Gullfoss** waterfall, the **Geysir** hot springs and **Pingvellir** national park, all of which are famous in their own right, but can easily be enjoyed in the course of one day, making an ideal day tour.



Strokkur in the Geysir area

Gullfoss, or the "Golden Waterfall" as the name implies, is located in the Hvítá river. The falls cascade 32m down in two stages. Often, colorful rainbows created by the sun on the spraying water can be enjoyed. In winter, massive ice formations decorate the falls.

The geothermal field in Haukadalur is a natural wonder of hot springs and boiling mud pools. The "Great Geyser" even gave its name to this spectacular phenomenon. Today, the Geysir itself erupts seldom, but nearby **Strokkur** sends up a column of water and steam up to 30 meters high every few minutes to the delight of onlookers,

who strive to catch the moment on film.

A UNESCO World Heritage site, **Pingvellir national park** is of immense historic and symbolic importance to Icelanders. It was long the site of the **original Alþingi**, or national parliament of the settlers, and the setting for many of the most important events in the **history of the island**. The park is also renowned for its geological significance. Complete the day by going back to **Laugarvatn** and enjoying the amenities there, such as **Fontana**, local restaurants and staying at one of the various places that offer accommodation.

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Þór Strongest of the Gods and their defender against evil forces; God of thunder and rain.



Three Sisters (Studio Apartments)

Address: Ránargata 16 & Ægisgata 4, 101 Reykjavik

Website: www.threesisters.is

E-mail: threesisters@threesisters.is

Phone: 565 2181

Rooms: 16 studio apartments

Open: All year

Other Info: Relaxing environment and easy walking distance from the heart of Reykjavik and the main shopping district, Laugavegur. Free wireless internet.



BB44 Guesthouse

Address: Borgarholtsbraut 44, 200 Kópavogur

Website: www.bb44.is

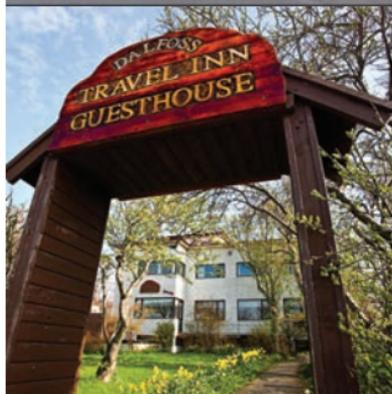
E-mail: info@bb44.is

Phone: 554 4228

Rooms: 20

Open: All year

Other Info: Nice and cosy guesthouse located in a quiet family house area. Free parking & internet. Nice garden with Jacuzzi and sauna. Car rental on site.



Travel Inn (BSÍ 2 min.)

Address: Sóljargata 31, 101 Reykjavik

Website: www.dalfoss.is

E-mail: dalfoss@dalfoss.is

Phone 561 3553

Rooms: 12 & studio apartments

Open All year

Other Info: Free parking & wireless internet. Car rental for guests, 3 minutes from fly-bus terminal.



Fontana - Laugarvatn



LAUGARVATN

Geothermal Baths

An hour's drive from Reykjavik is **Laugarvatn**, a 2km² lake and a village of the same name. The area is a popular summer-house area and there are a number of services in the area, such as 2 **Edda hotels**, **Dalsel youth hostel**, restaurants, stores, a campsite, gas station and a post office. The newest service is *Fontana*, a **wellness center** that is based on the region's long tradition of hot spring bathing and respects

the nature and history of the area. It has three steam rooms, called "Gufan", a Finnish-style sauna named "Ylur", three outdoor mineral baths, "Lauga", "Sæla" and "Viska", and a hot tub as well as the beach and the lake ("Ströndin" and "Vatnið").



Saga Center - Hvolsvöllur

At the **Saga Centre** in Hvolsvöllur guests are invited into the **medieval world** of Iceland. The exhibition covers **ocean travel** and navigation, religion, Viking cosmology, and the literary art of the sagas. 40 km from Hvolsvöllur on the way east is **Eyjafjallajökull** erupts - visitor centre **Porvaldseyri**. We recommend a visit there, where they have a film of the eruption, also **stunning photographs**, souvenirs and more. It is open may-september.



map
8
see map of
Iceland

*by the sea and a delicious lobster
at Fjörubordid in Stokkseyri*



Saga/et



> Only 45 minutes drive from Reykjavik

Eyrbraut 3, 825 Stokkseyri, Iceland
Tel. +354 483 1550 · Fax. +354 483 1545
info@fjorubordid.is · www.fjorubordid.is

Freyja Most beautiful among the Gods; Goddess of love and fertility.



West Iceland on the Doorstep of the Capital



West Iceland is one of Iceland's hidden treasures, right at the doorstep of the capital. In **less than one hour's drive**, travelers will find themselves amongst Iceland's diverse nature, landscapes, culture and cuisine with some extraordinary experiences on offer. Moreover, the roads to West Iceland are never closed, even in wintertime!

The region stretches between the fjords **Hvalfjörður** in the south and **Hvamsfjörður** in the north. The road along **Hvalfjörður** takes you through a beautiful and tranquil area that boasts the highest waterfall in the country, **Glymur**, 198 m high. Nearby is an old whaling station which is now in operation. This route used to be a part of the main road but has become a detour after the **Hvalfjörður** tunnel, which runs under the fjord, was opened in 1998. Most people now choose to take the direct route through the tunnel. To the left is **Akranes**, a town where you can walk along the beach to a **light-house**, visit a museum and visit a good

restaurant or a café. There you will come to the **Borgarfjörður** area, imbued with history and culture. This is a captivating region where glaciers, waterfalls and lava-fields catch the eye. Cave exploring, visiting hot springs, hiking or relaxing in one of the swimming pools are among the options for travelers in the area. **Borgarfjörður** is also rich with history since many of the most famous settlers and Vikings lived and died there. The heartland of the Sagas is in **Reykholt** where **Snorri Sturluson**, who wrote many of them, lived.

A trip around the **Snæfellsnes** peninsula is an unforgettable experience.



Bird Cliffs at Arnarstapi in Snæfellsnes

© NETID markaðs- og rekstrarráðgjöf ehf.

West Iceland on the Doorstep of the Capital

Sandy beaches, lava fields, substantial birdlife, small fishing villages and, of course, the spectacular **Snæfellsjökull** glacier, can all be enjoyed in a day. Boat trips from **Stykkishólmur**, the largest settlement on the peninsula, takes you out to the **Breiðafjörður** bay for a unique approach to birds and whales and a great view of the many islands there. You may also enjoy walking the streets of one of the small villages, or hiking between cliffs and sandy hills along the coast of the peninsula. North of Snæfellsnes you will come to **Búðardalur** and the **Dalir** area. This is a beautiful agricultural region, where the **Viking heritage** is kept alive and celebrated.

There is a wide variety of accommodation and many activities to try out in West Iceland. Furthermore, since it is so close to the capital it is ideal for day-trips and can be visited without great expense.



Jóhann Ísberg

Snæfellsjökull

Recommended restaurants in West Iceland

- **Hótel Glymur**, Hvalfjarðarsveit
- **Restaurant Galito**, Akranes
- **Restaurant at Settlement center** in Borgarnes
- **Hótel Búðir**, Snæfellsnes
- **Narfeyrarstofa**, Stykkishólmur

Five great things to do in West Iceland

- Visit **Reykholt**, home of Iceland's most distinguished saga writer.
- Take a boat trip on **Breiðafjörður**.
- Taste shark meat at the homely shark museum in **Bjarnarhöfn**, Snæfellsnes.
- Visit **The Settlement Centre** in **Borgarnes** and enjoy the Vikings history of Iceland.
- Go hiking or try a snow mobile on **Snæfellsjökull** and be mystified by its power.



Jóhann Ísberg

Sandy Beach at Búðir, Snæfellsnes

To take a closer look at what West Iceland has to offer, visit the website www.west.is



AKRANES AND HVALFJORDUR



The perfect day trip

Akranes and Hvalfjordur are at the doorsteps of the capital area. **Hvalfjordur**, with its diverse geography, steep mountains, long shores and vast birdlife, makes the area excellent for any outdoor activity. Hiking in Botnsdalur valley, to Iceland's tallest waterfall Glymur, will make it a day to remember.

Akranes town, offers wide variety of services and things to explore and discover. Visit the museum complex at Gardar, go up to the lighthouse at Breid and experience the great view over the whole Faxaflói bay. For those who are tough enough can even take a swim in the sea outside Langisandur shore with the local sea swimming group.



For further information visit: www.visitakranes.is



The Westfjords Untouched Nature and Rich Birdlife



The Westfjords are a neck of land extending from the rest of the country in the north-west of Iceland. This is the oldest part of the Icelandic landmass, 14-15 million years old, which is yet relatively young compared to rocks elsewhere on the earth. Glaciers have been a major force in shaping the land and there are glacier-eroded valleys and cirques all around the region.

In the Westfjords there are various highlights that visitors should aim for. Amazingly beautiful, untouched nature is a main feature of this area, along with rich birdlife and great opportunities for bird watching. The area around **Reykhólar** in the southern part of the Westfjords is one of the places where

visitors have excellent access to Icelandic birds. This region also offers the best possible chance to sight the rare and beautiful **White-tailed eagle**. In the Westfjords is also **Látrabjarg**, the **largest bird cliff** in the North Atlantic, where visitors will surely be enchanted by the swirling cacophony of birdlife. It is reckoned that a million birds of various kinds nest on this cliff. At the foot of Látrabjarg is the largest Razorbill colony in the world, and here you will find **Puffins** easier to approach or more fun to watch. The Westfjords are at close proximity to the islands on **Breiðafjörður**, where birdlife is also vivid. A ferry sails from **Brjánslækur** across the bay to Stykkishólmur in Snæfellsnes, stopping by in the island **Flatey** where the small town still has the air of an early 20th century settlement.

In the **southern part of the fjords**, there are 3 small towns; Patreksfjörður, Tálknafjörður and Bíldudalur, which



Rúnar Óli Karlsson

Mountain view between Arnarfjörður and Dýrafjörður

Loki Half-God; clever, but mischievous and arrogant and often causes trouble among the Gods.



has among else a youth hostel, a Seamonster museum and **Eaglefjord travel** which among else offers sea-angling tours. A very recommended sight to visit is the powerful and scenic waterfall **Dynjandi**, located by the fjord Arnarfjörður.

Ísafjörður, the largest town in the Westfjords, is located at the deepest of the fjords, Ísafjarðardjúp. On this fjord lie two islands, **Vigur** and **Æðey**, most notable for rich Eider duck nesting and the only windmill in Iceland. Boat tours go from Ísafjörður to these islands in the summer. From Ísafjörður you can also take a boat with the company Westtours to the **Hornstrandir** nature reserve. This is the northernmost part of the Westfjords and offers pure wilderness to all visitors. Although fairly populated in earlier days, these fjords are now left to nature's firm grip. South to **Hornstrandir** is the **Strandir** region, where the landscapes and small villages in Djúpavík and Norðurfjörður, together with the magical **witchcraft museum** in **Hólmavík**, make a unique impression.

Travelling to the Westfjords you will journey through the whole range of Icelandic flora from the shore and meadows, through birch and willow, to mossy moors. On a stroll amidst the driftwood on the shore one can see

birds and seals and then an occasional arctic fox around the deserted farmsteads.



An old fisherman by his boat at Ösvör in Bolungarvík

Recommended restaurants in the Westfjords

- Tjörúhúsið (museum area), Ísafjörður
- Café Riis, Hólmavík
- Hótel Djúpavík Árneshreppur, Strandir.

Five great things to do in the Westfjords

- Watch the birdlife at Látrabjarg Cliff.
- Take a look at the powerful waterfall Dynjandi.
- **Sea Angling** in Arnarfjörður.
- Sail to the **Hornstrandir** nature reserve and explore its complete wilderness.
- Visit the witchcraft museum in **Hólmavík** and Strandir.

Further information about this area can be found at www.westfjords.is

North Iceland History, Horses and Landscapes



North Iceland is the region from the fjord **Hrútafjörður** to **Langanes** peninsula. The main attraction of the more densely populated western part is its history and heritage, while the eastern part of this area features majestic highlands and powerful glacial rivers and waterfalls. The largest town in North Iceland is **Akureyri** in **Eyjafjörður**.

Húnavatnssýsla and Hvammstangi

The westernmost village in the North is **Hvammstangi**, 197 km from Reykjavík. It has a fine **seal museum**, a swimming pool, a restaurant (mainly open in the summer) shops, bank and various



other services. In the **Kidka factory shop** you can buy woolen products made in **Hvammstangi** at very competitive prices. It is worth a drive around the **Vatnsnes** circle where, among other things, you get the opportunity to watch seals in their natural environment or take boat trips to watch seals. These trips take about two hours. Driving 57 km further east you reach **Blönduós**, where the local restaurant **Potturinn** is an ideal stop, for Icelandic lamb, above the restaurant is an interesting museum as well as two others in the village

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Iceland

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Höður A blind God; brother of Baldur and deceived by Loki into killing him.



NORTH WEST ICELAND

map
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Iceland

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IN AND AROUND
BLÖNDUÓS



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North-West Iceland

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Tel. +354-453-5080

not to forget a good thermal swimming pool.

Skagafjörður & Museums and Sagas in the North

Skagafjörður is an agricultural and farming area where the biggest town is **Sauðárkrókur**. Northwest Iceland and especially Skagafjörður is Iceland's traditional area when it comes to horse breeding and training, so it is most appropriate to try some **horseback riding** at one of the many farms in this region. North-Icelanders are very proud of their heritage and there are many folk museums in the region. The largest ones are **Glaumbær** in Skagafjörður and the **Akureyri Museum**, but the smaller ones

are often just as interesting, covering local heritage in each area. Noteworthy exhibitions in the area include the **Textile Museum** in Blönduós, displaying traditional textile crafts from Icelandic homes and the **Icelandic Emigration Centre** in Hofsós (in Skagafjörður) which tells the story of Icelanders who moved to America in the 19th century. Also worth seeing is the **Herring Museum** in lovely town Siglufjörður. The history of Northwest Iceland includes many dramatic tales. One of those is **Grettis saga** which tells of the famous outlaw Grettir "the strong" who hid in the island **Drangey** in the 11th century. There are trips to the island from near Sauðárkrókur.



Another historic site in Skagafjörður is the old bishopric Hólar in Hjaltdalur where there is now an academy for tourism, marine biology and horse training. The eastern part of North Iceland has many natural wonders, including Dettifoss, Ásbyrgi and Mývatn.

The town of Húsavík is the center of whale watching in the North - see Húsavík and Mývatn articles further in the chapter.

restaurants.is

All restaurants in Iceland in one place!

Various restaurants in Akureyri and the north

Restaurant	Address	Type
North		
Akureyri Backpackers	Hafnarstræti 98, 600 Akureyri	International cuisine
Greifinn	Glerárgata 20, 600 Akureyri	Icelandic cuisine
Múlberg bistro & bar	* Hafnarstræti 87-89, 600 Akureyri	Icelandic cuisine
Strikid *	Skipagata 14, 600 Akureyri	International cuisine
Gamli Baukur	Hafnarstétt 9, 640 Húsavík	Icelandic cuisine
Potturinn restaurant *	Norðurlandsvegur 4, 540 Blönduós	Icelandic cuisine



* Restaurant has an ad and more information in the Visitor's Guide book. See our mobile app for more info, locations and more (only in Icelandic until autumn 2014)



Siglufjörður

The lovely town Siglufjörður lies between Skaga- and Eyjafjörður and is an ideal stop / break from Road One, when driving east or west. The town has an interesting museum and some five restaurants among else in old renovated buildings. There are a number of guesthouses, including the friendly hostel Hvanneyri and a pool.

Beyond the mouth of Eyjafjörður, right on the Arctic Circle, lies the island Grímsey with the northernmost settlement in Iceland. The island can be reached by ferry from a pier near the village Dalvík, 45 km from Akureyri.



Folk museum at Eyjafjörður

Recommended restaurants in North Iceland

- Hannes Boy, Siglufjörður.
- Brekka, Hrísey.
- Salka, Húsavík.
- Myllan/Hótel Reyhlið, Mývatn.

Five great things to do in North Iceland

- Try horse-back riding in Skagafjörður, the stronghold of the Icelandic horse or at Skjaldarvík near Akureyri (see discount coupon).
- Whale watching in Húsavík, Akureyri or Dalvík.
- Feel the power of waterfalls Goðafoss and Dettifoss and walk along the majestic gorges of Jökulsá.
- Visit Lake Mývatn and walk between the rocks at the enigmatic site Dimmuborgir.
- Visit Grímsey, the northernmost settlement in Iceland, and cross the arctic circle.

For more information about north Iceland, visit www.nordurland.is

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Iceland

Akureyri Capital of the North

Akureyri, capital of the North, is an important center of services, culture and commerce. The town has around 18.000 inhabitants. Its facilities which serve the whole northern part of the country include a **university** and a large **hospital**. There is an interesting choice of **good restaurants** in the town as well as a rich cultural life with many **museums**.

The town is situated in Eyjafjörður among a vista of scenic mountains. One of those is Mt. Hlíðarfjall which has some of the best **ski slopes** in Iceland. Akureyri is home to the northernmost **18-hole golf course** in the world and offers the opportunity to play an unforgettable round of golf in the midnight sun. A visit to the town's popular **thermalpool** is a must. Other activities in town include **whale and bird watching**, bicycling and hiking. Near the town centre is a renowned **botanical garden**, with a nice café.

Hof cultural center, a big building at the harbor, houses major events as



well as the official **tourist information** and a restaurant. The Akureyri Church, with its two towers, is next to the so-called "Art Canyon" where the eminent **Akureyri Art Museum** is located. Other noteworthy museums in town are the Akureyri and Industry museums in the picturesque old town as well as Nonnahús and Sigurhæðir which celebrate famous writers from Akureyri.

Getting There: Air Iceland (www.airiceland.is) has scheduled daily flights



Rooftop view from Strikið restaurant

from Reykjavík (45 min.). There are also buses (6hrs.) all year from Strætó (www.straeto.is) as well as Sterna and SBA-Norðurleið (summer only) operating on the route between Akureyri and Reykjavík. In summer it is possible to drive the highland road of Kjölur. SBA bus company operates scheduled tours from Akureyri to the north-east and east during summer time.

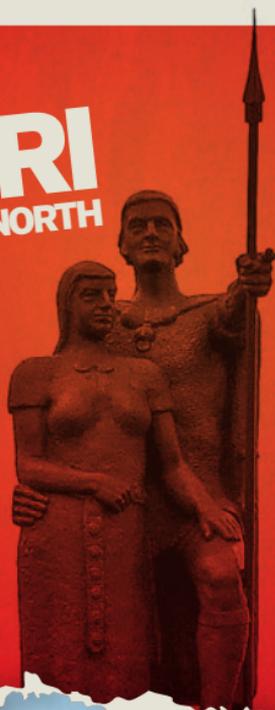
See photoalbums on www.visitorsguide.is

For more information check out www.akureyri.is and www.nordurland.is



AKUREYRI

CAPITAL OF THE SHINING NORTH



www.visitakureyri.is

Hof Cultural and Conference Center | 600 Akureyri | Tel. 450 1050 | info@visitakureyri.is

map
2

see map of
Akureyri

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www.bryggjan.is



Recommended Restaurants & Cafés in Akureyri

1862 Nordic Bistro

Culturehouse Hof, tel. 466 1862

Specializing in Danish open sandwiches and Nordic bistro.

L

Bryggjan

Strandgata 49, tel. 440 6600

Situated in a nice old house, with an ocean view. Varied menu and fair prices.

L

2

Bautinn

Hafnarstræti 92, tel. 462 1818

Good value for money, friendly service.

L

Greifinn

Glerárgata 20, tel. 460 1600

Family restaurant, popular by locals and famous for its pizzas, also Icelandic lamb and fish. Good lunch offers and buffet.

L

5

Bláa kannan

Hafnarstræti 96, tel. 461 4600

A nice café on the main street.

L

Kung Fu

Brekkgata 3, tel. 462 1400

Next to the main square. Offer among else good sushi. The service is friendly and personal.

L

Pósthúsbarinn / nightclub

Skipagata 10

A popular bar next to Strikið restaurant and Bryggjan. Located in an old post office that creates a special atmosphere.

continued on next page

Restaurants market with * have more information, pictures and reviews on www.restaurants.is

múlberg

BISTRO & BAR



Opening hours:

Sun-thu 11:00-23:00 / Fri-sat 11:00-01:00 / Kitchen 11:00-22:00

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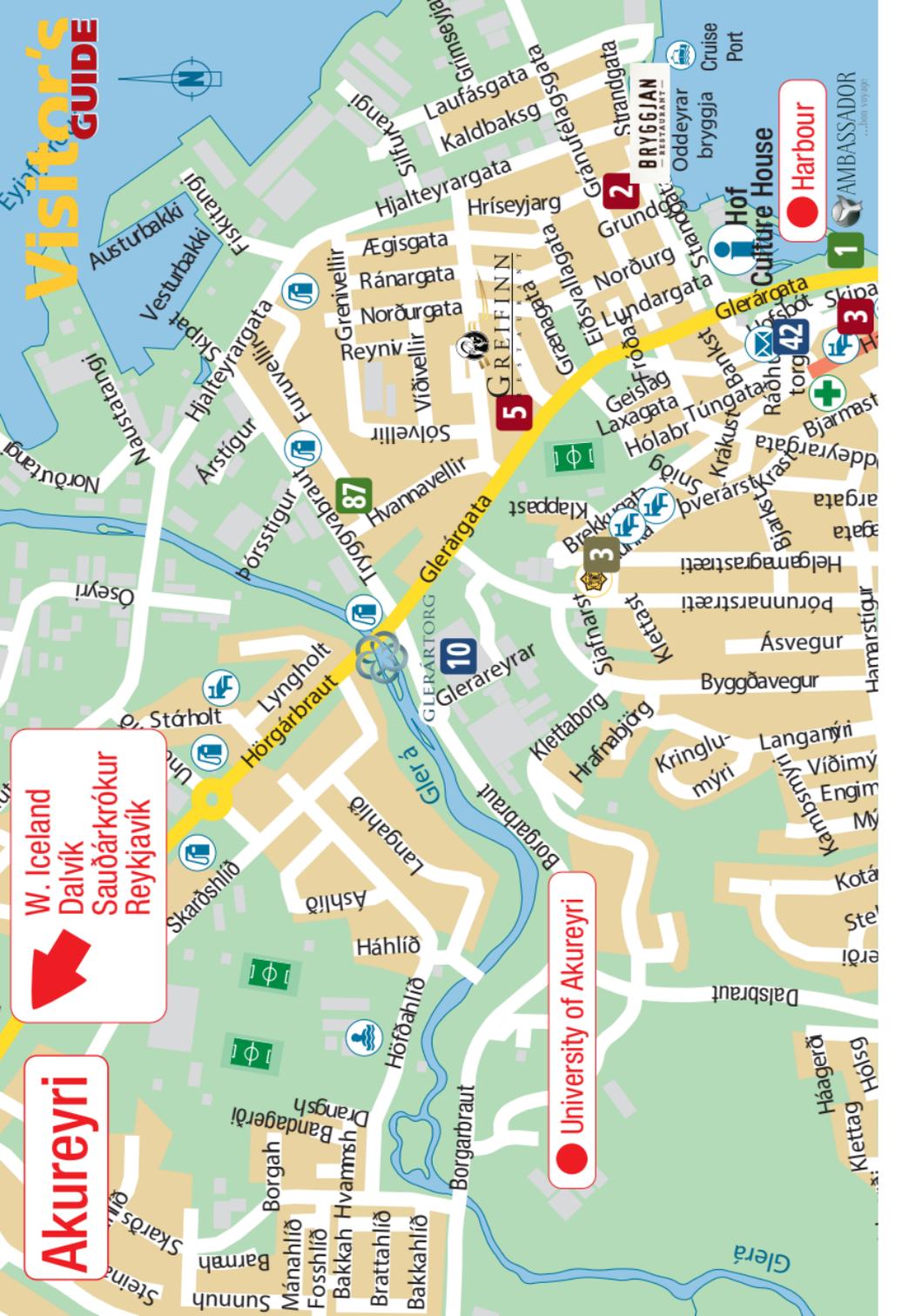
Múlberg Bistro & Bar | Hótel Kea | Akureyri

W. Iceland
Dalvík
Sauðárkrúkur
Reykjavík



Akureyri

University of Akureyri



Harbour

AMBASSADOR

Hof Culture House

BRYGGJAN

GREIFINN

Glerárgata

University of Akureyri

W. Iceland
Dalvík
Sauðárkrúkur
Reykjavík

Akureyri

University of Akureyri

Hlíðarfjall Skiing Resort 4 km

Leisure Park

**E. Iceland
Myvatn
Husavik
Egilsstaðir**

**Kjarnaskógur
Domestic Airport**

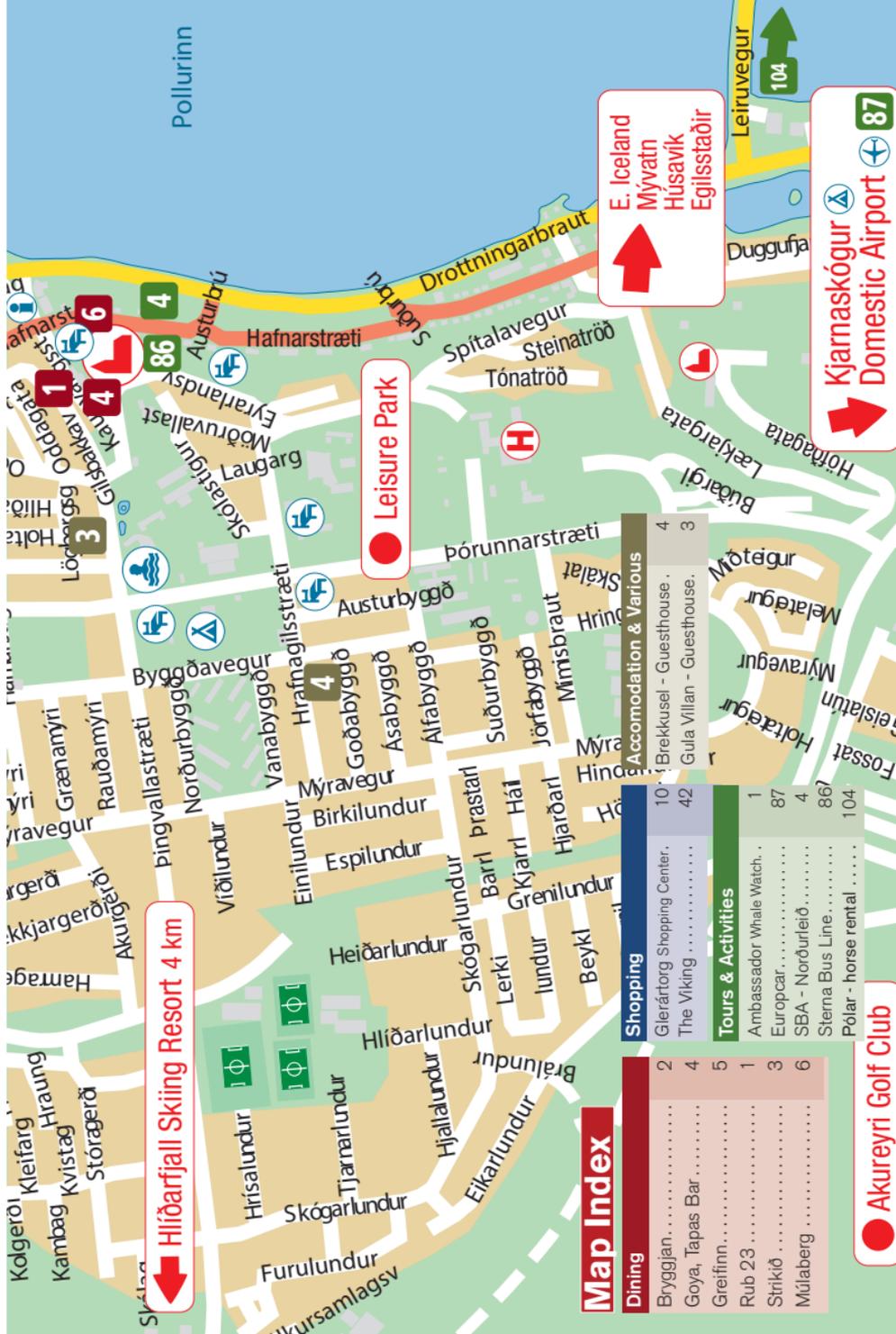
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Akureyri Golf Club



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Akureyri

glerartorg.is

Welcome to Glerártorg

— Shopping center —



GLERÁRTORG

Glerártorg is the main shopping center in Akureyri, only 1,2 km from main city center. Convenient and cosy with 43 shops, supermarket, restaurants and services.



Recommended Restaurants & Cafés in Akureyri

Múlberg bistro & bar

Hafnarstræti 87-89,
tel. 460 2017

Located on one of the most scenic corners in town. Where Icelandic ingredients meet bistro cuisine under French, Italian and Danish influences. Great selection of wines, spirits and cocktails.

L 6

Rub 23

Kaupvangsstræti 6, tel. 462 2223

Situated in a very nice old house in the center of town. The guests can choose their own mixture of spices. Also a su-

L 1



shi bar.

Goya, Tapas bar

Kaupvangsstræti 23, tel. 519 7650

Restaurant that offers various tapas plates, lamb, beef, pork and more.

4

Strikið*

Skipagata 14,
tel. 462 7100

Offers a great view over Eyjafjörður and Akureyri. Nice service and open from noon until evening. Reasonable prices.

L 3



Brekkusel

Address: Byggðavegur 97, Akureyri

Location: 2 km from city center

Website: www.brekkusel.is

E-mail: info@brekkusel.is

Phone: 461-2660/ 895-1260

Rooms: 10

Open: All year

Other Info: Free parking, free wireless internet and self catering kitchen. Rooms with and without private bathroom and sleeping bag accommodation.

map
4



BOOK TOURS DIRECTLY ON THE WEBSITE OF THE COMPANIES (OR BY PHONE) IN THIS CHAPTER - THEY OFTEN HAVE ONLINE DISCOUNT.

Local Food and Gourmet and the Countryside

Food ingredients are as fresh as they get in the local communities where they originate, and the proximity to the sea, clean air and clear water gives you the opportunity to learn about the origins of Icelandic food.

In the **North** region the capital of the north, Akureyri, with its many cafés and restaurants, has a variety of gourmet dishes for visitors to choose from. Among the good restaurants with local food is **Strikið**, which has an award-winning chef. They have, for example, char from Haukamýri, Icelandic cod, lamb and auk from the island of Grímsey. West of Akureyri, **Skagafjörður** is known for its outstanding local food, marketed under the logo "Food Chest Skagafjörður", guaranteeing that it comes straight from the farmer or the fishing boat.



The restaurants in the **Westfjords** region pride themselves on offering high quality food, with the logo "Vestfirðir – Local food". The fishing villages, on this long coastline, offer their products, and fish and seafood is popular. On **Snæfellsnes peninsula** in **West** Iceland there are many cafés and restaurants worth visiting, serving a selection of food from the countryside and seaside.

In the **East** Iceland there is diverse gourmet food available for visiting guests. Reindeer and geese are hunted there, providing excellent ingredients for game dishes. Apart from the superb quality of the dairy products, fine berries and herbs from the mountains are used in the local cuisine. "Austfirskar Krásir – local food" is the logo for local food there.

The **South** region is the most fertile area in the country, famous for its dairy products. Quality trout and salmon are found in the numerous local rivers and lakes in the South. **Geothermal energy** is used to heat the greenhouses as in Hveragerði and Flúðir, producing all sorts of organic vegetables. You can also taste rye bread, geothermally baked in the ground.



On Top of the World

Akureyri rooftop restaurant

www.strikid.is



Check out
www.strikid.is

STRIKID

RESTAURANT • BAR

Skipagata 14 | Akureyri | Tel. +354 462 7100 | www.strikid.is

Summer

map
4

DAY TOURS FROM AKUREYRI

Lake Mývatn - Goðafoss waterfall - Dettifoss waterfall
Húsavík whale watching - Ásbyrgi

see map of
Akureyri



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Gula Villan

Address: Two houses, one at Brekkugata 8, the
other at Þingvallastræti 14

Location: Akureyri Center

Website: www.gulavillan.is E-mail: gulavillan@nett.is

Phone: 896 8464

Rooms: 19

Open: All year

Other Info: Free parking, free wireless internet and fully
equipped self catering kitchen. Rooms for 1
to 5 persons, with private or shared bathroom,
maid up beds or sleeping bag accommodation.
Breakfast available on request.

map
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Akureyri

Museums in Akureyri

Entrance fee to the museums range from free to 800 ISK.

Davíðshús

Bjarkarstígur 6

Home of one of Iceland's most beloved poets.

Sigurhæðir

Eyrarlandsvegur 3

Home of one of Iceland's most pioneer poets. The author of the Icelandic national anthem.

Nonni's house (Nonnahús)

Aðalstræti 54

The museum is dedicated to the writer and Jesuit priest Jón Sveinsson "Nonni".

The Akureyri museum

Aðalstræti 58

Preserves the cultural history of Akureyri and the North.

The Industry museum

Krókeyri 2

Preserves objects related to the history of industry and industrial manufacture.

The Icelandic Aviation museum

Flugvöllum

The history of aviation in Iceland.

The Akureyri Art museum

Kaupvangsstræti 12

Mostly visual art. Main purpose to uphold cultural awareness with ambitious exhibitions. Free entrance.

More information on www.visitakureyri.is



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map 87
see map of Akureyri



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map 42
see map of Akureyri

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map 6
see map of Akureyri

Húsavík the Whale Watching Capital



An hour's drive to the east of Akureyri is Húsavík, a center of whale watching with very high success rates of whale sightings, around 98% to be exact. Húsavík is also homeport of Iceland's only traditional sailing ships, the two-mast schooners Haukur and Hildur. Húsavík has some good **restaurants** that focus on the local seafood, such as **Gamli Baukur**, **Salka** and **Naustið**, to name just a few. There is also a good **thermal swimming pool** with hot tubs and a steam bath.

The **church**, designed by Icelandic architect Rögnvaldur Ólafsson, is over 100 years old and is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful churches in Iceland. The unique **Húsavík Whale Museum** is yet another reason to visit this picturesque town.



Húsavík harbour

Another interesting museum located in Húsavík is the Culture house, which includes a **Maritime museum**. The newly opened **Exploration museum** offers souvenirs from the NASA training site. There are a variety of places that offer accommodation in town, such as 2 hotels, 4 guesthouses and cottages as well as a campground.

Húsavík is conveniently located in the so-called **Diamond circle** and only an hour's drive from some of the other locations in the circle.

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HÚSAVÍK



Mývatn and the Diamond Circle

The **Diamond Circle** is the northern version of the Golden Circle. Stops on the Diamond Circle route include Húsavík, Lake Mývatn, Ásbyrgi, a natural gorge that is said to be the hoofprint of Óðinn's horse Sleipnir, and Jökulsárgljúfur canyon and Dettifoss, in the Jökulsá á Fjöllum river, which is the most powerful waterfall in Europe and the entrance to the huge Vatnajökull Glacier park.

Lake Mývatn is a large, clear lake formed by volcanic lava that is now well grown. There is a rich bird-life around the lake and various

interesting lava formations, such as Dimmuborgir which have a mysterious air about them and were often connected to the devil in popular belief. There is also a large geothermal area around Mývatn and Námaskarð is an interesting spot to visit. Just south of the village, Reykjahlíð, is a bathing lagoon which is nice to visit and relax in after a long day's journey.

We recommend tasting the locally smoked trout or the rye bread which the locals bake by burying it in the warm ground.

Fosshótel Húsavík

A friendly and well equipped hotel in the heart of Húsavík, within walking distance from the harbor

map
90see map of
Iceland**REYKJAVÍK:**Fosshotel Baron
Fosshotel Lind**NORTH ICELAND:**Fosshotel Dalvík*
Fosshotel Laugar*
Fosshotel Húsavík**SOUTH-EAST ICELAND:**Fosshotel Vatnajökull*
Fosshotel Núpár**EASTFJORDS:**

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East Iceland — Deep Fjords and Majestic highlands



In East Iceland you will find many of the features that make Iceland a unique place on a global scale. This part of the country stretches from **Skeiðarársandur** in the south to the **Langanes peninsula** in the north. The landscapes in between are exceptional in many ways; a large part of the area is influenced by the presence of Iceland's largest glacier, **Vatnajökull**, and the coastline consists of deep fjords with high mountains on either side.

The **deep fjords** along the coast are a prominent feature of East Iceland. Most of the settlements in the area are located at the bottom of such fjords, which proved to be convenient locations for harbours serving the **rich fishing grounds** in the area. The fish also attracted foreign fishermen. French boats were particularly prominent off the east shore. This led to much contact and cultural connection between French fishermen and Icelanders in the East fjords. At **Búðir** in **Fáskrúðsfjörður** there is even

a French museum. In recent years, Iceland's largest hydroelectric power plant has risen at **Kárahnjúkar**, north of **Vatnajökull**, and subsequently a large aluminium factory in **Reyðarfjörður**.

Perhaps the most interesting town of the East-fjords is **Stöðvarfjörður**, a small seashore village. It has among other points of interests, the **Petra's stone collection** museum, with a great collection of mineral stones. There's also a church, which serves as a guesthouse.

Vatnajökull glacier has shaped the environs and history of East Iceland for millennia. This glacier is a part of **Europe's largest national park**, established in 2004. The national park also includes the nature reserve **Skaftafell**, with woods that contain some of Iceland's prettiest, highest growing birch. The magnificent waterfall **Svartifoss** is also in **Skaftafell**, falling down a wall of black hexagonal basalt columns. The massive power of the glacier reveals itself where glacial tongues slide south into sands and farmland. One of those tongues includes Iceland's highest mountain, **Öræfajökull** (2110m), the top named **Hvannadalshnúkur**. **Icelandic Mountain Guides** offer trekking to the top. See pictures on our website.

The Fenris wolf A giant hound, son of the Half-God Loki and a giantess; destined to devour Óinn at the end of the world.



South of the glacial border, trapped between the glacier and the sea, is the glacial lagoon **Jökulsárlón**. This is a spectacular site, which intrigues both Icelanders and foreign visitors. Few years ago it was the centre of much attention, when it was used as a filming location for the **James Bond** film *Die Another Day*. Farther north, under the ice cap, volcanoes combine the incredible forces of fire and ice. Among those are **Kverkfjöll**, **Bárðarbunga** and **Grímsvötn**, Iceland's most active volcano that erupts every 5-10 years.

Exploring the glacier through **glacial hiking**, **super jeep tours** and snow scooters is becoming ever more fashionable. The mountains north of the glacier are also popular among hikers, and there are hikers' huts in many places. This area just north of **Vatnajökull**, in the deserted expanses by **Snæfell**, is the primary habitat of reindeer in Iceland.

The largest town in East Iceland is **Egilsstaðir**, situated by a lake in the glacial river **Lagarfljót**. A popular belief claims that a giant sea serpent lives deep down in this lake. Along the shores of the lake lies a beautiful forest, **Hallormsstaðaskógur**. More beautiful scenery can be seen on the way from Egilsstaðir to **Seyðisfjörður** where you get a magnificent view of the river **Fjarðará** which cascades from the edge of the heath in innumerable beautiful waterfalls. At the mouth of **Seyðisfjörður** fjord is **Skálanes**, a nature and heritage centre. There you can explore nature and the wild birdlife at a close range, with birds coming so near that you can almost touch them! In an hour's drive from Egilsstaðir is the small seaside village **Borgarfjörður Eystri**. A good place for trekking in the fjords as you can see on pictures on www.visitorsguide.is.



Reindeer flock in the East Iceland highlands

East Iceland Deep Fjords and Majestic highlands

Recommended restaurants in East Iceland

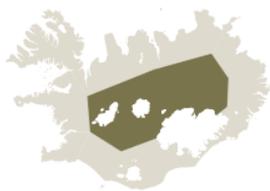
- Guesthouse Egilsstaðir, great Icelandic food, scenic surroundings.
- Hótel Aldan, Seyðisfjörður. Hótel Framtíð, Djúpvogur: Nice harbour view, local fish and meat, the hotel is good.
- Humarhöfnin, Höfn (for lobster): Cosy inside, specializing in local lobster, also fish and meat.

For more information on East Iceland, visit www.east.is

Five great things to do in East Iceland

- **Visit the woodlands in Hallormsstaðaskógur** (15 km. from Egilsstaðir).
- Visit the **villages** in the fjords and experience Icelandic small town life. They all have museums and swimming pools.
- Go hiking in the **highlands of East Iceland** for stunning landscapes.
- Sail among the icebergs on the glacial lagoon **Jökulsárlón**.
- Spend a day in **Skaftafell national park** and enjoy the arctic nature.

Highlands of Iceland



The entire central part of Iceland is uninhabited highlands, with unbound glacial rivers, black sands and the hardy arctic flora. This region has long been a barrier for travellers between the north and south. Two main roads lie across the highlands. The shorter and easier one, **Kjölur**, runs between the glaciers Langjökull and Hofsjökull while the more demanding

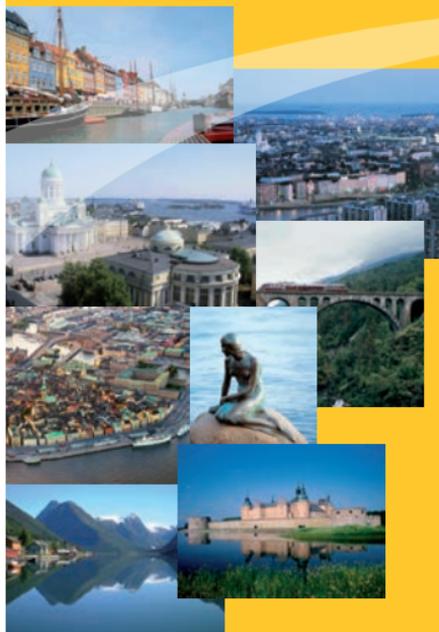
one, **Sprengisandur**, lies between Hofsjökull and Vatnajökull. In earlier times those roads were said to be severely haunted by the ghosts of people that were lost on the way. The highland roads have improved much but are still **only open in summer to well equipped vehicles**, since they run through rough terrain and over unbridged rivers. Although the nature and travelling conditions of the highlands are rough, the area contains many wonderful sites, such as the hot springs and natural baths at **Landmannalaugar** and **Herðubreiðalindir**.

Óðinn Oldest of the Gods, very wise but sometimes tricky; God of wisdom and magic, strategy in warfare, travellers, merchants and poets.



Hotels in SCANDINAVIA

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IHB

Ale
has too often
been praised by poets.
The longer you drink
the less sense
your mind makes of things.

from Hávamál Eddaic poems (AD 700-900)



Your Guide to **Cafés, Bars & Nightlife**

Reykjavík Hot Destination

Reykjavík is famous for its **lovely cafés** and **vibrant nightlife**. It is said that Reykjavík has become one of the **hottest destinations** for nightlife in Europe. We leave it to you to judge whether this statement is true and encourage you to try as many venues as possible. However, in order for you to enjoy your time in Reykjavík to the max, we have compiled a list of **popular hangouts** in town on the next few pages. Choose your mood and pick the venue accordingly – there is something for everyone!



A picture from Kaffitár on Bankastræti

A piece of advice to “first-timers”: Do not expect to see many people downtown early in the evening on weekends. The nightlife does not really start **until close to midnight**, mostly because many people are at private parties until then or even later. One of the reasons for this might be rather high prices for alcoholic beverages. Those who do not go to parties

usually visit cafés and bars instead, before going to the clubs. This is what we advise you to do as well. During daytime you might try out the excellent coffee at Kaffitár, while looking through books and magazines. In the evening, check out the atmosphere at for example Kaffi Sólon, Café Paris, Thorvaldsen or Vegamót, all popular bistros and bars.

The information on this list is **liable to change**. It should however give a very good idea of what each place has to offer. Common price for a meal in a café is around 1,500 ISK. The average **price for coffee** is around 400 ISK, a **small beer** around 600-700 ISK and a **large beer** around 800-900 ISK. Many places have **special offers** during daytime and early evening.

At the bars and cafés which serve food, the kitchens usually close at 10 or 11 PM but some are open well into the night during weekends. Most bars close at 1 AM on weekdays and at 3 or 4 AM on weekends, some nightclubs are open until 5 AM. Most places have **no entrance fee**. Some clubs charge 500-1,000 ISK for entrance, more if they have live concerts.

Hot tips Some clubs offer “bottle table” services; order a bottle and thus reserve a table. Offers such as one beer and one shot for a fixed price are common - ask at the bar.

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and the **FOOD**
comes from
our kitchen



www.kaffitar.is

You find us here:

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Suðurgötu 41 · Kringlan mall · Smáralind mall · Borgartúni 10
Keflavík International Airport · Stapabraut 7, Reykjanesbær



map
16

H2
101 144

H2
101 144

Cafés, Bars and Pubs

There is usually so much going on at night in Reykjavík that it is easy to lose your head, not really knowing where to go or what to look for. Browsing through this list of bars and clubs you might get a clearer idea of where you want to end up. Since June 2007 all cafés, bars and clubs in Iceland are **non smoking** and more and more places are offering wireless internet access for laptops.

101 Bar

Hverfisgata 10

Trendy lounge bar at Hotel 101. Cocktails and ambient music. Ages 25+.



back. Games and books for guests. Offers crêpes, paninis and great homemade cakes.

1919 Lounge

Pósthússtræti 2

A relaxed bar located in the Radisson Blu 1919 Hotel. Specializing in cocktails and wines.



Bjarni Fel sportbar

Austurstræti 20

A sportbar in the center. Next to Café Hressó. 5 screens featuring main sport events, with emphasis on football (soccer). Serves for example a good Caesar Salad.



B5

Bankastræti 5

A modern bar with sleek and stylish architecture. Nice lounge room downstairs. Popular with the younger crowd in Reykjavík. Ages 23+.



Boston

Laugavegur 28b

Popular amongst locals. Ideal to sit down and have a beer. Ages 24+



B5 – Búllan

Inside B5, beyond the bar, you'll find Búllan. The name translates roughly as a "dive" or "joint", despite this they serve high quality burgers.

Babalú

Skólavörðustígur 22a

A cosy café on 2 floors with a laid back atmosphere that takes you some decades



cakes and light dishes. Good organic tea as well. Toys for the Children.

Café Haiti

*Geirsgata 7b
(old harbor),
tel. 588 8484*

Situated at the old harbour. Opening early for breakfast at 7am during summer. Their excellent coffee is roasted at the premises. A relaxing atmosphere in a simple environment.



Café Loki

Lokastígur 28

With a splendid view of Hallgrímskirkja church, Café Loki is the perfect place to take the load off your feet and enjoy some solid homemade Icelandic food.



continued on next page



Café Bar or pub Nightclub Map reference

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2008 The Bank Crisis affects Iceland very heavily, the government takes over the 3 largest banks.

See updated list on
www.visitorsguide.is

Happy Hour

The Happy Hour is traditionally a period between 4 pm and 7 pm on Mondays through Thursdays. It was created to boost business on otherwise slow days and there are special offers on beer, wine and other alcoholic drinks. This is taken one step further in Iceland; Happy Hour is every day. Many places also have offers on cocktails, beer and drinks early evening. The following places in Reykjavík are among those who offer a happy hour daily:



Den Danske Kro*: 16 - 19.



1919 Lounge*: 16-19

Hotel Holt, Bergstaðast. 37: 16 - 19.

101 bar*: 17 - 19.

Center Hotel Þingholt: 17 - 19, Ísafold Bistro is a small hotel bar just off the main shopping street in downtown Reykjavík.

Center Hotel Plaza: 17- 19, A bar right in the city center, next to the tourist information center, that has a popular happy hour.



Kaffi Zimsen*: 17 - 21.

Icelandic Bar*: 16-18.

The Tapas House: 16-18.

Mar Restaurant (Old Harbour): 16-18.

* Has a review in the chapter.



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Cafés, Bars and Pubs

Café Paris



Austurstræti 14

An intimate restaurant serving a variety of light meals along with a selection of main courses. Popular with the locals on a summer's afternoon.

Celtic Cross



Hverfisgata 26

Irish pub, live rock music most weekends. Sitting room in the basement. Ages 20-35.

Den Danske Kro



Ingólfsstræti 3

Friendly bar with live music every day and a happy hour.

Dubliner



Hafnarstræti 1-3

Built to look like an Irish countryside pub. Live music most evenings. Ages 25-50.

English Pub



Austurstræti 12

A popular english themed pub. On weekends their beer&shots wheel of fortune spins constantly. Ages 22+.

Gamli Gaukurinn



Tryggvagata 22

A venue for live music and new bands, live music from Thursday – Saturday with & sometimes other weekdays. Age 22+.

Grái Kötturinn



Hverfisgata 16a

Opens at 7 AM on weekdays. American breakfast.

Hressó



Austurstræti 20

Café, Bar and Bistro that turns into a nightclub in the evenings at weekends. Reasonable prices. Live music on Thursdays and in the weekend. Ages 20-35.

Iðnó



Vonarstræti 3

Theatre café. Beautifully decorated and furnished.

ÍDA Zimsen



Vesturgata 2a

Cosy and relaxed atmosphere in an old wooden house, 30 meters from Tourist information. Light courses and good cakes.

Nora Magasin



Austurvöllur square

Situated beside the Austurvöllur square, offers good meals at affordable prices. Good value for money and a relaxed crowd.

Kaffibarinn



Bergstaðastræti 1

Famous bar. Jet set people, artists and students. Ages 24-40.

Kaffitár



7 locations, see ad earlier in this chapter

A cozy café with a great selection of speciality coffee. Kaffitár bears the Swan, the official Nordic eco-label.

Restaurant Reykjavík



Vesturgata 2

Situated beside The Center. Good buffets and more. Ages 25+.

Kaffi Rosenberg



Klapparstigur 25

Live music venue. Mostly jazz, blues and folk music. A relaxing environment

continued on next page

map
2



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☕ Café ☕ Bar or pub 🕒 Nightclub 📍 Map reference *

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2009 Icelanders protest in Austurvöllur, this is known as the Household Revolution.

Get all the latest updates from the Visitor's Guide website. Including ratings from August 2014.

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International Calling Codes

Country	Time	Code	Country	Time	Code	Country	Time	Code
Austria	+1	43	Greenland	-3	299	Portugal	0	351
Denmark	+1	45	Ireland	0	353	Spain	+1	34
Finland	+2	358	Italy	+1	39	Sweden	+1	46
France	+1	33	Netherlands	+1	31	UK	0	44
Germany	+1	49	Norway	+1	47	U.S.	-5	1

Further information on country- and area codes can be found in the **Icelandic Telephone Directory**. The table shows standard time difference between Reykjavik and the capital of each country. During summer many countries advance the time (+1).



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Cafés, Bars and Pubs

that serves food and great music.

Kaffi Sólon

Bankastræti 7a

Restaurant, café and bar. Nice salads. High ceilings. Ages 22-35.

Kaffi Zimsen

Hafnarstræti 18

A large place, happy hour mon-thu, DJ from midnight



weekends. Ages 20-30

Kjarvalsstaðir

Flókagata

Located at Kjarvalsstaðir art museum. Nice selection of art magazines and good crêpes.

Kex Hostel

Skúlagata 28

Mixed crowd, good for early evening, affordable meals, locals and tourists alike. Age 26+.

Laundromat Café

Austurstræti 9

A fusion café which has it's popular headquarters in Copenhagen. Laundry, light meals and an extensive childrens play area in the basement. Transforms into a trendy bar in the evenings.

Lebowski

Laugavegur 20a

Bar & Grill themed after the Coen brothers movie The Big Lebowski, the interior creates a laid back atmosphere, burgers and white russians!

Lækjarekka

Bankastræti 2

Restaurant

next door to Icelandic Travel Market. Café from 14-17. Light meals and cakes.

Mezzo

Lækjargata 2

On the second floor in Iða, with good view over the old buildings in Lækjargata. Italian-Scandinavian theme, good paninis and coffee.

See updated list on www.visitorsguide.is

continued on next page

Heavenly pizzas!

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www.gamlasmidjan.is

tel. 578 8555

Lækjargata 8

101 Reykjavik



Café Bar or pub Nightclub Map reference

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2009 Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir, leader of the Social Democratic party is elected as the first female prime minister in Iceland.

Downtown Reykjavík

Cafés, Bars & Nightclubs

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B5	3
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Boston	25
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Café París *	2
Den Danske Kro	5
Center Hotel Plaza	23
Dubliner	6
English Pub	11
Hressingarskálinn	7
Icelandic Bar	4
Kaffibarinn	26
Kaffitár *	16
Restaurant Reykjavík * ...	8
Kaffi Sólon	9
Lebowski Bar	14
Lækjarbrekka *	12
Nora Magasin	10
Te & kaffi *	17
Thorvaldsen *	18
Uppsaliir Bar	19
Vegamót *	20
Ölsmiðjan *	1
Ölstofa Kormáks & Skjaldar	22

Budget Dining

73 Restaurant *	30
O'Sushi *	32
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Gamla Smiðjan *	34



Cafés, Bars and Clubs in **Downtown Reykjavík**

* See advertisement elsewhere in this book

Visitor's
GUIDE

www.visitorsguide.is

Cafés, Bars and Pubs

Mimisbar



Radisson SAS Saga Hotel

A quiet café and a bar in one of the biggest hotels in Iceland. Ages 25-60.

Íslenski barinn



Ingólfstræti 1a

A homy bar and restaurant.

Great selection of Icelandic beer. Creative dishes, with Icelandic seafood and meat. You can also get fish and chips and Icelandic sharkl, Friendly service. Ages 22+.



Obladi-Oblada



Frakkastígur 8

A Beatles themed karaoke bar just off the main shopping street.

Prikið



Bankastræti 12

One of Reykjavík's oldest bars/cafés. Live music most Fridays from 21:30 to midnight. Serves good food. Ages 20-30.

Slippbarinn



Mýrargata 2

Situated inside Icelandair hotel Reykjavík Marina, down by the old harbour, great view, popular with locals 30+. Specialices in cocktails and local brewery.

Happy hour daily between 16-18. Age 30+.

Snaps Bistro Bar



Pórsgata 1

New and popular, Snaps manages to be a fine restaurant, cozy cafe and a fun bar, all at once. Good food, reasonably priced beer and excellent coffee.

Súfistinn - Book Café



Mál & Menning bookstore, Laugavegur 18

First and oldest book cafe in Iceland, huge selection of reading material. Everything is home made, healthy soups, sandwiches and cakes. There's also a branch in *Hafnarfjörður*.

Swarta kaffið



Laugavegur 54

A nice café in a cosy old house. Speciality; Soup in bread. Friendly staff.

Te og kaffi



Austurstræti 18,

Laugavegur 27 & Lækjartorg

Excellent coffee, cakes and light dishes. Products from Te og kaffi can be bought in stores as well.

Thorvaldsen Bar



Austurstræti 8

A bar by Austurvöllur square where you can sit outside in good weather. DJ's on weekends. Ages 25-40.

Tíu dropar



Laugavegur 27

By day it's a relaxed place in a homely, old-fashioned basement, serves Icelandic food; brunch, soups, sandwiches and more. In the evening (6pm) it changes into a french vinebar called *Le Chateaux des Dix Gouttes*.

Uppsalir Bar



Aðalstræti 16

Sophisticated but relaxed atmosphere. Light courses and Icelandic pastries. Located at Hotel Reykjavík Centrum. Ages 25+.





Brío was the first beer developed by Borg, the microbrewery of the Ölgerðin Egill Skallagrímsson. Became so popular that the microbrewery could no longer handle the demand; is now made by the larger Ölgerðin's brewery. Was originally developed with the landlords of one specific pub. Has a light, fresh but distinctly hoppy flavour. Very aromatic.

The flavour is largely due to the exclusive use of Mittelfrüh hops, originating from Hallertau in Bavaria. Mittelfrüh hops are prized for their

aromatic qualities and notoriously difficult to grow.

Very few beers are exclusively flavoured with Mittelfrüh hops, which has gathered some international attention for Brío.

Brío has, in its short lifespan, already won several awards. Most impressive is a **gold medal** for best German style Pilsner at the **World Beer Cup 2012**. Simply put, that means that Brío can proclaim itself the best pilsner in the world.



In front of Hallgrímskirkja, Lokastígur 28

Icelandic plate



www.cafeloki.is
tel: 466-2828

Icelandic traditional meatsoup
Icelandic pancakes
Taste of shark & dried fish
Today's special



Enjoy some solid homemade Icelandic food

Icelandic Music



Music has always been important to Icelanders. For the Vikings, music was a tool to learn **long poems** and they developed a special singing-technique for that use. Somewhere between chanting and singing, emphasizing the rhyme in each line, this technique helped people memorize the verses without ever writing them down.

Like the Vikings, Icelanders today are independent and not afraid to take matters into their own hands. But though the Viking attitude might have strengthened Icelandic musicians, the small size of the music scene also helps: It is easier to be heard where few people compete for the attention. The **Sugarcubes** are a fine example of the Do It Yourself-attitude. This band was founded by **Björk** and four other members in 1986, to earn money for their independent record-label **Smekkleysa** (Bad Taste Records). Much to the group's surprise it was

a big hit and ended up as one of the best known Icelandic bands ever. The Sugarcubes retired in 1992, but Smekkleysa is still active and has released albums by such artists as **Gus Gus** and **Sigur Rós**, besides of course, Björk's albums. Following their lead, other record companies begun presenting Icelandic music abroad. Recently, **12 Tónar** have had international success with the solo artist **Mugison** and **Retro Stefson**.

An important venue for young Icelandic musicians is **Músiktilraunir** (battle of the bands), an annual competition with much at stake: a record deal for the winning act.

Another key scene, the **Iceland Airwaves** festival, was started in 1999, aiming to gather upcoming international and local artists in a creative atmosphere. Airwaves is held in October every year and during that time Reykjavík is bustling with music. Today, the festival has outgrown its original intentions, featuring established local artists along with some very big foreign acts.



Páll Óskar, a popular singer and DJ



VEGAMÓT 20

Vegamótastígur 4

A popular bar and bistro with a relaxed atmosphere. Diverse menu, reasonable prices and good food. Lively



From Vegamót

bar in the evening. Ages 21-35.

Vinbarinn

Kirkjutorg 3

Wine bar with a sophisticated ambience. Ages 25-55.



Laekjarbrekka

Icelandic Cuisine

Bankastræti 2 - 101 Rvk
Tel. 551 4430
info@laekjarbrekka.is
www.laekjarbrekka.is

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T THORVALDSEN BAR

Austurstræti 8-10, 101 Reykjavík - tel. +354 511 1413 - thorvaldsen@thorvaldsen.is



www.thorvaldsen.is

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Cafés, Bars and Pubs

Ölsmidjan

Lækjargata 10
On upper floor
in an old stone



house, very good beer price
only around 500 ISK for a
big Polar and other offers.
Popular among tourists &
the young crowd.

Ölstofa Kormáks og Skjaldar

Vegamótastigur 4



For those who want to sit
down, drink beer and meet
people. Ages 22-55.

The **lowest price** for beer in the city
in one of the **oldest buildings**.
Candlelight and a cosy atmosphere.



Sumstípi / HÍTIÐ markaðs- og reka- og þjónustufélag

Ölsmidjan, Tel. 578 0440, Lækjargata 10, 101 Rvk.

Nightclubs

Austur

Austurstræti 7

Posh and popular nightclub
among the young crowd.
Ages 22+.



Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

Popular bar, DJ's all fri/sat
nights. All ages.



Both are also sport bars.
Ages 25+.

Bar 11

Hverfisgata 18

Bar and nightclub, DJ's
on the weekends, a venue
downstairs for live music.
Ages 20-30.



Players and Spot

Bæjarlind 4 & 6, Kópavogur

Two bars and nightclubs,
very close to each other
and nearby the Smaralind
Mall. Popular when bands
are playing at weekends.



Loftið - bar, nightclub

Austurstræti 9

Quite popular among the
30+. Among else focusing
on cocktails. Rather trendy,
but laid back.

See other nightclubs
in the cafés and bars
listing on previous pages.



Beer and Brennivín from Iceland



Even though **beer** was banned in Iceland until 1989, the country has several local breweries that brew native beer brands. The main brands are **Egils** (Gull), from the Egill Skallagrímsson brewery, and **Viking** (Gylltur, Lager and Lite), brewed by Vífilfell, who also offer the **Thule beer**. Brewed from the purest water in the world, Icelandic beer is a good choice in today's varied beer culture. Visitors to the guestroom at the oldest brewery in Iceland have the opportunity to experience a new and innovative way to get to know the Icelanders and their history. The tour, "Taste the Saga" offered by Iceland Excursions

(AH150), takes the guests through Icelandic drinking culture and age old **beer traditions** come to life. The tour, which is operated on Fri-Sat. at 6pm, is fairly inexpensive and includes transportation, beverages and snacks. See an ad from Ölgerðin on the back of the Iceland map.



Brennivín, the Icelandic signature alcoholic beverage (around 40% abv), translates literally into English as "burning spiritus" but is also known as "**Black Death**". When eating Icelandic "**hákarl**", putrified shark meat, Brennivín is often used to mask the meat's taste.



Great brunch on weekends

Kitchen is open until 23:30 Fri. & Sat.

VEGAMÓT

RESTAURANT I BAR

Vegamótastígur 4 | vegamot.is

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Thermal swimming pool
jacuzzi, steam bath, showers
and the place to meet locals

Approx. price \$5 / €4

Adult 600 ISK / Child 130 ISK (2013)

Some also have an indoor pool • www.itr.is
Regular prices shown in 2014. **This is not a discount**



Laekjarbrekka
Restaurant

10% discount

A la carte menu
Monday - Thursday

Bankastræti 2 • Tel. 551 4430 • www.laekjarbrekka.is

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VEGAMÓT
RESTAURANT | BAR

10% discount

on food
Valid every day

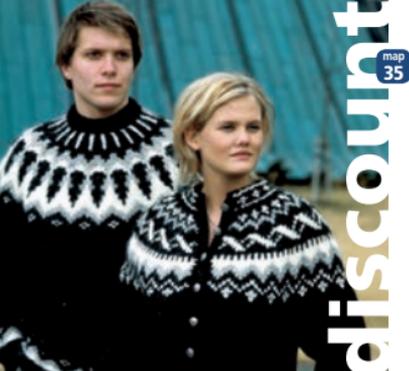
Vegamótastigur 4 • Tel. 511 3040 • www.vegamot.is

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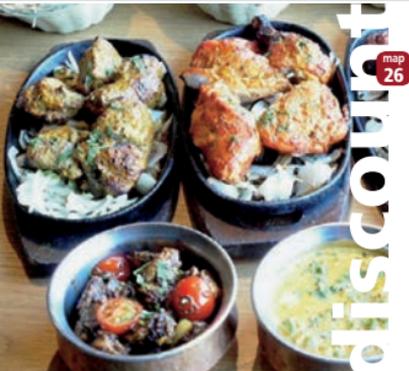
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ASSOCIATION OF ICELAND

Free woolen socks

if you buy for more than ISK 15,200
Discount valid through July 2015

Skólavörðustígur 19 • Laugavegur 64 • Radisson Blu
Tel. 552 1890 • www.handknit.is

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INDIAN RESTAURANT

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on food
Valid every day

Hverfisgata 56 • Tel. 552 1630 • www.austurindia.is

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Reykjavik
Excursions
KYNNISFERDIR

5% discount

on day tour purchases -
marked with RE- numbers

Can only be purchased at BSÍ Bus Terminal

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www.re.is • main@re.is

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sushi samba

10% discount

on menu

Sunday to Thursday

pingholtistræti 5 • Tel. 568 6600 • www.sushisamba.is



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VOLCANO HOUSE

20% discount

Off cinema ticket

Valid every day

Tryggvagata 11 • Tel. 555 1900 • www.volcanohouse.is



RESTAURANT/BAR

10% discount

on food

Sunday to Wednesday

Vesturgata 3b • www.tapas.is • Reservations tel. 551 2344

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map 2

Akureyri

BRYGGJAN

RESTAURANT

10% discount

On food
Sunday to Thursday

Strandgata 45, Akureyri • Tel. 440 6600 • www.bryggjan.is

Please show the coupon before ordering



map 3

Akureyri

STRIKID

RESTAURANT • BAR

Free local testing

complimentary with main course

Skipagata 14, Akureyri • Tel. 462 7100 • www.strikid.is

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Akureyri & other places



THE VIKING

FAMILY BUSINESS FOR 90 YEARS

Get free T-shirt

if you buy for more than ISK 15,000
Discount valid through July 2015

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Hafnarstræti 3 & Laugavegur, Reykjavik • Tel. 551 1250
www.theviking.com

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discount

ARGENTINA

10% discount

A la carte menu
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Barónsstigur 11a • Tel. 551 9555 • www.argentina.is

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Thermal swimming pool
jacuzzi, steam bath, showers
and the place to meet locals

Approx. price \$5 / €4
Adult 600 ISK / Child 130 ISK (2014)

Some also have an indoor pool • www.itr.is
Regular prices shown in 2014. **This is not a discount**



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Reykjavik Welcome Card - Free admission to **museums**, the **thermal pools** and **city buses**
Also **discounts** at various locations - for example

Aurora Reykjavik, 10% off at the Northern Lights Centre

Elding Whale Watching, 10% off, Reykjavik Old harbour (ROH)

Iceland Excursions, 25% off on Greater Reykjavik Area tour AH10

Volcano house, 20% off cinema tickets, **Harpa Concert Hall**, 25% off the guided tour

Handknitting Association, Buy a hand knitted Sweater – get Varma socks free

Also 10 – 15% discount at restaurants: Fish Company, Kopar, Tapas House, Restaurant Reykjavik, Geysir Bistro, Seafood Grill, Ning's, Höfnin, MAR, Einar Ben, Hannesarholt, Rossopomodoro, Lebowski Bar, 10 Dropar Café / Breakfast & Brunch.

See more on **pages 6 - 7** & in the **Culture chapter** on page 120.

This is not a discount



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* Pick-up service from your hotel or guesthouse



A source of health

ONLY*
600 isk.
ADULTS
130 isk.
CHILDREN

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Hot tubs and jacuzzi

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For health and well-being

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Tel: +354 411 5000 | www.spacity.is

*Admission May 2014. Prices is subject to change.



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