



Reykjavík

Photo: Boyloso/Shutterstock.com



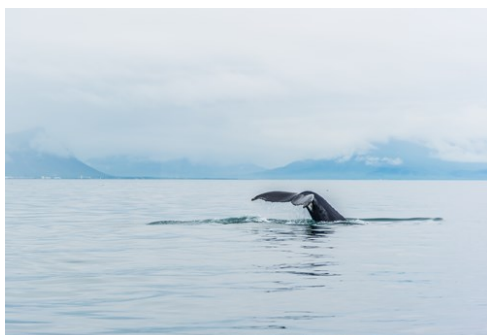
Puripat Lertpunyaroj / Shutterstock.com

Visitors to Reykjavík are thrilled by the pure energy at the heart of Iceland's capital city: be it from the boiling thermal springs, the natural green energy, or the lively cultural scene and fun-filled nightlife.

The world's northernmost capital, it's framed by the majestic Mount Esja, which keeps a watchful eye on the city, and the blue waters of Faxaflói Bay. On a sunny day, the mystical Snæfellsjökull glacier appears crystal-like on the western horizon, while mountainous moonscapes spread to the southeast.



Dennis van de Water / Shutterstock.com



AMJonik.pl / Shutterstock.com

Events



Iceland National Day — Jun...

The celebrations take place all over the capital area. The programme include...



Iceland Airwaves

The festival is regarded as the biggest celebration of music in Iceland and ...



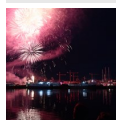
Reykjavik International Fi...

A major independent film event designed to enrich local cinema culture with ...



Reykjavik Pride

This colourful event brings tens of thousands of people into the city centre...



Reykjavik Culture Night

Each year thousands of residents and visitors share a delightful day of fun,...

Top 5



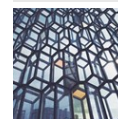
Hallgrímskirkja — The Chur...

Hallgrímskirkja is an iconic part of Reykjavík's skyline and at 74.5 metres ...



Iceland Airwaves

The festival is regarded as the biggest celebration of music in Iceland and ...



Harpa

One of Reykjavík's most iconic landmarks and a must-visit while in Iceland i...



Sun Voyager

On the waterfront, only a few minutes from Harpa sits the most famous sculpt...



The Blue Lagoon

The Blue Lagoon is without a doubt the most well-known geothermal spa in Ice...

THE CITY



Johann Helgason / Shutterstock.com

The city of Reykjavík has a fascinating history that stretches back over a thousand years. The site was first inhabited in the eighth century by a band of hardy Norsemen. Since then Vikings, monks, sailors, musicians, fishermen, politicians, writers, artists and all manner of folk have played their part in shaping the rich history and culture that makes Iceland's capital such a vibrant and fascinating place.

Visitors leave Reykjavík with a renewed sense of vigour that can be attributed to Iceland's pristine air and unique energy, evident all around the city — from the geothermal vents steaming in the midnight sunshine to the great open spaces that adorn the area with a stunning natural landscape. Many year-round activities and events can fill the diary of any interested traveller.

Reykjavík is also home to the world's oldest parliament — the Alþingi, which was founded in 930 AD. However, today the city is the epitome of a modern European capital with a world-class infrastructure, excellent transport links to Europe and North America, and 200,000 welcoming Icelanders helping you enjoy your stay.

Reykjavík is renowned for an array of features: a big art scene, sight-seeing and nightlife; annual

film and music festivals; and numerous shops, museums and restaurants. There's no other city like the world's most Northerly capital, situated at a relatively short distance from the Arctic Circle.

Iceland is a pretty isolated place, and that makes Reykjavík a fairly expensive place to hang out. The economist once put it as high as 14th place for its high cost of living. Though if you're coming from New York, Paris, Hong Kong or Tel Aviv — the pain of sticker shock won't bother you.

Visitors from all round the globe also enjoy whale and wildlife watching, relaxing in one of the many thermal spas and pools (such as the famous Blue Lagoon), viewing spectacular sights such as the Imagine Peace Tower (a spectacular tribute to John Lennon) or the Hallgrímskirkja, and touring the amazing countryside — all with the beautiful snow-covered Mount Esja in the background.

Reykjavík is home to some superb hotels, guest houses and other cozy kinds of accommodation for visitors. Information on tours, trips and things to do during your stay can be easily found in this brochure or at the Reykjavík Tourist Information Centre.

However long your stay here, you won't be short of things to do in Reykjavík.

TOP 11



Andreas M / unsplash.com

Reykjavík's compact city centre is a friendly and colourful network of small streets with historic buildings, a wide selection of boutiques, designer shops, and cafés and restaurants that serve attractive dishes made of the freshest ingredients. Find the perfect souvenir, enjoy a gourmet meal or lose track of time in a modern gallery. Check out our Top 11 things to do in Reykjavík.

If you have more time on your hands we encourage you to go beyond the trendy "101" postcode of the Reykjavík city centre and view some of the intriguing sites that the Reykjavík Capital Area offers, including Viking and elf territories, museums displaying both nature's wonders and cultural icons, some excellent new thermal pool facilities and top bird watching sites.

Hallgrímskirkja — The Church of Hallgrímur



Hallgrímskirkja is an iconic part of Reykjavík's skyline and at 74.5 metres tall, it is one of the tallest structures in the country. The gigantic church on the hill was a controversial project, but Icelanders have come to embrace their monumental tower in all its brutalist glory. The

concrete mountain which took over 40 years to construct was inspired by the unusual columnar basalt formations along Iceland's coast.

You can admire the building inside and outside, go to the top of the tower to catch the view or attend an organ concert.

The church is named after Hallgrímur Pétursson — a 17th-century minister and poet who wrote the 'The Passion Hymns'. The book remains popular to this day.

Photo: f11photo / Shutterstock.com

Address: Hallgrímstorg 1, 101 Reykjavík

Opening hours: Daily 10am-5pm

Phone: +354 510 1000

Internet: www.hallgrimskirkja.is/en

Email: kirkjuverdir@hallgrimskirkja.is

Iceland Airwaves



The festival is regarded as the biggest celebration of music in Iceland and boasts an unrivalled line-up of established and up-and-coming artists.

Photo: Danny Howe/ unsplash.com

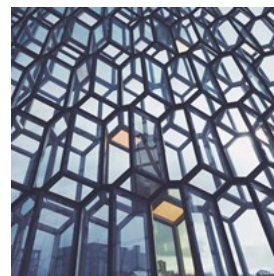
Phone: +354 558 4400

Internet: www.icelandairwaves.is

Email: info@icelandairwaves.is

More Info: Usually takes place in the first week of November

Harpa



One of Reykjavík's most iconic landmarks and a must-visit while in Iceland is Harpa, the city's concert hall and conference centre, as well as home to the Icelandic Opera and the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra.

Located by the old harbour, near the centre of Reykjavík, this striking bit of contemporary architecture boasts a glass facade, which covers the entire building featuring honeycomb panels, which change colours during the day as they reflect the sky and the ocean. At night, a light show makes the building look even more magical.

Photo: Lance Anderson/Unsplash
Address: Austurbakki 2, Reykjavík
Opening hours: Daily noon–4pm
Phone: +354 528 5050
Internet: www.harpa.is/en
Email: harpa@harpa.is

Sun Voyager



On the waterfront, only a few minutes from Harpa sits the most famous sculpture in Iceland, the Sólfarið or the Sun

Voyager. Made of steel and resembling a Viking ship — although this was not the artist's intention — the Sun Voyager is, according to its creator Jón Gunnar Árnason, an ode to the sun, a dreamboat symbolising the promise of undiscovered territory, the dream of hope, progress, and freedom.

This is also one of the best spots for a picture in Reykjavík, with Mount Esja providing the perfect backdrop.

Photo: Yanshu Lee/Unsplash
Address: Sæbraut, Reykjavík

The Blue Lagoon



The Blue Lagoon is without a doubt the most well-known geothermal spa in Iceland. The signature milky-blue water makes a stark

contrast to the surrounding black lava fields and creeping grey moss. The spa is located in a lava field near Grindavík and is supplied by water used in the nearby Svartsengi geothermal power plant. The water temperature stays at 39°C year-round, snowfall or sunshine.

Most visitors make the spa their first or last stop, since it's conveniently located only 15 minutes from the Keflavík International Airport (and around a 30 minutes from the capital city). If you are buying a tour, it makes most sense to combine the spa visit with the Golden Circle day trip.

Photo: McKay Savage/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)
Address: Norðurljósavegur, Iceland
Phone: +354 420 8800
Internet: www.bluelagoon.com
More Info: Booking ahead is crucial.

See Iceland's Northern Lights



Watching the northern lights or aurora borealis dance across the sky is, without a doubt, on the bucket list of most travellers visiting Iceland.

Although there are no guarantees that you will see them on your visit, with luck and some planning, there is a high chance of catching this spectacular display.

You can spot the northern lights in the Icelandic skies from late August through May, but the

peak season to witness this stunning natural phenomenon is between October and April.

Photo: Joshua Earle/Unsplash

Take a Walk with a Viking



Walking tours are great options if you want to quickly orient yourself in a new city within 2–3 hours and meet a couple of fellow travellers. Your Viking guide will make sure you don't walk past any hidden gems and tell you stories of the Vikings, elves and modern-day Icelanders.

Some tours might include lunch, others — booze. It's up to you how to stay warm.

Photo: Alexey Stiop / Shutterstock.com

The Golden Circle Route



Simply put, Iceland's famous Golden Circle is a popular route between three of the island's most visited attractions.

Usually done as a day trip, the route starts in Reykjavik and takes you south and inland, to the Þingvellir National Park. There you enter the Geyser geothermal area with the Strokkur Geyser being most eager of the bunch. Finally, you arrive at to the 32-metre tall Gullfoss waterfall in the canyon of the roaring Hvítá river.

Many tour agents and travellers themselves like to make extra stops along the way to see a geothermal power plant or spend a few hours at one of the spas.

You could rent a car and drive between the

landmarks at your own speed. In summer, you could even use the long daylight hours to avoid the crowds that tend to come earlier in the day. If you can pick your own route, don't miss the Kerid Crater Lake — a scenic lake that occupies a 3,000 years old volcanic crater that you can easily reach on foot.

Photo: sarah thz/unsplash.com

Internet: www.nordicvisitor.com/blog/driving-golden-circle-how-to-guide

Perlan — The Pearl



Perlan is an otherworldly creation with a viewing platform and a revolving restaurant on top of water storage tanks. Apart from the glass

domed restaurant, the complex hosts an exhibition space, a planetarium and an observation deck.

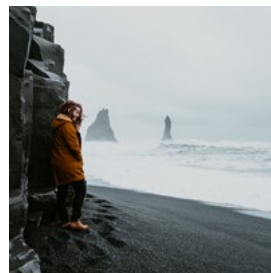
Photo: Aivolie / Shutterstock.com

Address: Perlan, Öskjuhlíð, Reykjavík

Phone: +354 566 9000

Internet: www.perlan.is/en-gb

Reynisfjara Black Beach



The onyx black sand of Reynisfjara is formed from volcanic activity in Iceland: when lava

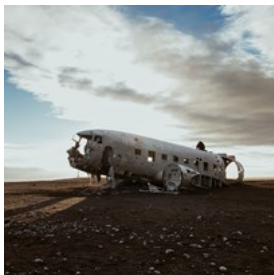
collides with the ocean, it rapidly cools and shatters into small fragments of basalt. With its enormous basalt stacks (features in Game of Thrones and once believed to be petrified trolls), roaring Atlantic waves and stunning vistas, Reynisfjara is widely considered to be the most beautiful example of Iceland's black sand beaches.

The sea stacks along the shore are home to thousands of nesting seabirds like puffins, fulmars and guillemots — a must-see for birdwatchers.

A visit to Reynisfjara is included in most tours of southern Iceland. Driving here is a good option, too, since it's only about 180 km from Reykjavík.

Photo: Rebecca Harris/unsplash.com

DC3 Plane Wreck



The Super DC-3 aircraft crashed into Sólheimasandur back in 1973, thankfully leaving its seven crew members unharmed. Since then the

empty husk of a plane has been left exposed to the elements, rusting away in constant humidity and cracking from constant freezes and thaws. The wreckage is a particularly beloved spot by local and visiting photographers thanks to its sparse and wild surrounding black sand landscape and its incredible visual contrast to the aircraft's gnarled metal carcass.

To visit the plane wreck, you can join organised hiking, horse riding or ATV riding tours, take a bus or get there by yourself. Remember, that driving over the sands is considered to be driving off-road and carries heavy fines.

Lastly, the wreck is located pretty close to the village of Vik made famous after a popular Netflix series *Katla*.

Photo: Bogdan Pasca/unsplash.com

DO & SEE



ATGImages / Shutterstock.com

Glaciers, geysers, hot springs, and volcanoes are the exotic attractions that have drawn tourists to Iceland for a long time. Reykjavík itself has recently become one of the world's greatest weekend destinations and hosts visitors from across the world. Reykjavík also offers splendid architecture, fantastic shopping, and a raft of cultural delights with Iceland's amazing natural wonders just around the corner.

Hallgrímskirkja — The Church of Hallgrímur



Hallgrímskirkja is an iconic part of Reykjavík's skyline and at 74.5 metres tall, it is one of the tallest structures in the country. The gigantic

church on the hill was a controversial project, but Icelanders have come to embrace their monumental tower in all its brutalist glory. The concrete mountain which took over 40 years to construct was inspired by the unusual columnar basalt formations along Iceland's coast.

You can admire the building inside and outside, go to the top of the tower to catch the view or attend an organ concert.

The church is named after Hallgrímur Pétursson — a 17th-century minister and poet who wrote

the 'The Passion Hymns'. The book remains popular to this day.

Photo: f11photo / Shutterstock.com

Address: Hallgrímstorg 1, 101 Reykjavík

Opening hours: Daily 10am-5pm

Phone: +354 510 1000

Internet: www.hallgrimskirkja.is

Email: kirkjuverdir@hallgrimskirkja.is

Harpa



One of Reykjavík's most iconic landmarks and a must-visit while in Iceland is Harpa, the city's concert hall and conference centre, as well as home to the Icelandic Opera and the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra.

Located by the old harbour, near the centre of Reykjavík, this striking bit of contemporary architecture boasts a glass facade, which covers the entire building featuring honeycomb panels, which change colours during the day as they reflect the sky and the ocean. At night, a light show makes the building look even more magical.

Photo: Lance Anderson/Unsplash

Address: Austurbakki 2, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Daily noon-4pm

Phone: +354 528 5050

Internet: www.harpa.is/en

Email: harpa@harpa.is

Sun Voyager



On the waterfront, only a few minutes from Harpa sits the most famous sculpture in Iceland, the Sólfarið or the Sun Voyager. Made of steel

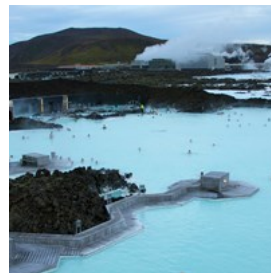
and resembling a Viking ship — although this was not the artist's intention — the Sun Voyager is, according to its creator Jón Gunnar Árnason, an ode to the sun, a dreamboat symbolising the promise of undiscovered territory, the dream of hope, progress, and freedom.

This is also one of the best spots for a picture in Reykjavík, with Mount Esja providing the perfect backdrop.

Photo: Yanshu Lee/Unsplash

Address: Sæbraut, Reykjavík

The Blue Lagoon



The Blue Lagoon is, undoubtedly the most well-known geothermal spa in Iceland. The signature milky-blue water makes a stark contrast to the surrounding black lava fields and creeping grey moss. The spa is located in a lava field near Grindavík and is supplied by water used in the nearby Svartsengi geothermal power plant. The water temperature stays at 39°C year-round, snowfall or sunshine.

Most visitors make the spa their first or last stop since it's conveniently located only 15 minutes from the Keflavík International Airport (and around 30 minutes from the capital city). If you are buying a tour, it makes most sense to combine the spa visit with the Golden Circle day trip.

Photo: McKay Savage/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: Norðurljósavegur, Iceland

Phone: +354 420 8800

Internet: www.bluelagoon.com

More Info: Booking ahead is crucial.

See Iceland's Northern Lights



Watching the northern lights or aurora borealis dance across the sky is, without a doubt, on the bucket list of most travellers visiting Iceland.

Although there are no guarantees that you will see them on your visit, with luck and some planning, there is a high chance of catching this spectacular display.

You can spot the northern lights in the Icelandic skies from late August through May, but the peak season to witness this stunning natural phenomenon is between October and April.

Photo: Joshua Earle/Unsplash

Take a Walk with a Viking



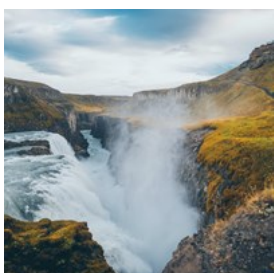
Walking tours are great options if you want to quickly orient yourself in a new city within 2-3 hours and meet a couple of fellow travellers. Your

Viking guide will make sure you don't walk past any hidden gems and tell you stories of the Vikings, elves and modern-day Icelanders.

Some tours might include lunch, others — booze. It's up to you how to stay warm.

Photo: Alexey Stiop / Shutterstock.com

The Golden Circle Route



Simply put, Iceland's famous Golden Circle is a popular route between three of the island's most visited attractions.

Usually done as a day

trip, the route starts in Reykjavík and takes you south and inland, to the Þingvellir National Park. There you enter the Geyser geothermal area with the Strokkur Geyser being the most eager of the bunch. Finally, you arrive at to the 32-metre tall Gullfoss waterfall in the canyon of the roaring Hvítá river.

Many tour agents and travellers themselves like to make extra stops along the way to see a geothermal power plant or spend a few hours at one of the spas.

You could rent a car and drive between the landmarks at your own speed. In summer, you could even use the long daylight hours to avoid the crowds that tend to come earlier in the day. If you can pick your own route, don't miss the Kerid Crater Lake — a scenic lake that occupies a 3,000 years old volcanic crater that you can easily reach on foot.

Photo: sarah thz/unsplash.com

Internet: www.nordicvisitor.com/blog/driving-golden-circle-how-to-guide

The Icelandic Phallogical Museum



The Icelandic Phallogical Museum houses the world's largest display of penises and penile parts. It's really a one-of-a-kind. It succeeds

in striking the fine balance between casual, bawdy fun and the analytical, scientific seriousness of a museum. At times you'll be a little uncomfortable, other times you'll laugh (it's encouraged), but in the end you'll learn a lot.

The museum stays open longer than most other attractions in the capital, so it makes for a good evening activity and a nice change of pace

compared to most of the other activities we did in Iceland.

Photo: CGP Grey/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: Kalkofnsvegur 2, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Daily 10am-7pm

Phone: +354 561 6663

Internet: www.phallus.is/en

Perlan — The Pearl



Perlan is an otherworldly creation with a viewing platform and a revolving restaurant on top of water storage tanks.

Apart from the glass domed restaurant, the complex hosts an exhibition space, a planetarium and an observation deck.

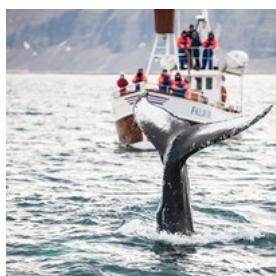
Photo: Aivolie / Shutterstock.com

Address: Perlan, Öskjuhlíð, Reykjavík

Phone: +354 566 9000

Internet: www.perlan.is/en-gb

Whale Watching



Watch minke, humpback and killer whales, seals and dolphins on one of the many whale-watching tours that depart from Reykjavík. You are not

guaranteed a close encounter with these magnificent mammals, but it will be a fun ride either way.

Photo: Denis Kichatof/Shutterstock.com

Tjörnin — The Lake



Tjörnin is a small lake in the city centre. Most visitors to the city pass along its shore, next to the Reykjavík City Hall and several museums.

Locals love coming here to feed ducks and swans.

Photo: RPBaiao / Shutterstock.com

More Info: Tjörnin means "the lake" or "the pond"

Árbær Open Air Museum



Árbæjarsafn is the historical museum of the city of Reykjavík, which aims to give visitors an idea of Icelandic architecture (including the fascinating turf houses) and the lifestyle on the island in the past. If you're lucky, you can catch a free guided tour at 1 pm.

Photo: Palmi Gudmundsson / Shutterstock.com

Address: Kistuhyll, Reykjavík

Opening hours: June-August: daily 10am-5pm.

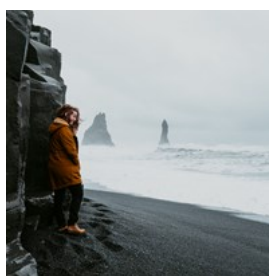
September-May: daily 1pm-5pm. Closed 24-26 Dec and 31 Dec-1 Jan

Phone: +354 411 6304

Internet: www.borgarsogusafn.is/arbaejarsafn

More Info: Pro-tip: enjoy the seesaw!

Reynisfjara Black Beach



The onyx black sand of Reynisfjara is formed from volcanic activity in Iceland: when lava collides with the ocean, it rapidly cools and shatters into small fragments of basalt. With its enormous basalt stacks (features in Game of Thrones and once believed to be petrified trolls), roaring

Atlantic waves and stunning vistas, Reynisfjara is widely considered to be the most beautiful example of Iceland's black sand beaches.

The sea stacks along the shore are home to thousands of nesting seabirds like puffins, fulmars and guillemots — a must-see for birdwatchers.

A visit to Reynisfjara is included in most tours of southern Iceland. Driving here is a good option, too, since it's only about 180 km from Reykjavík.

Photo: Rebecca Harris/unsplash.com

Reykjavík Art Museum



Spread over three different buildings, Hafnarhús, Kjarvalsstaðir, and Ásmundarsafn, the Reykjavík Art Museum

focuses on modern and contemporary art, featuring works of some of Iceland's most famous artists. It is also committed to showcasing new talents.

*1st location - Hafnarhús:

Tryggvagata 17, Reykjavík
Open Mon-Wed & Fri-Sun 10am-5pm, Thu 10am-10pm.

*2nd location - Kjarvalsstaðir:

Flókagata 24, Reykjavík
Open daily 10am-5pm.

* 3rd location - Ásmundarsafn:

Sigtúni, 105 Reykjavík

Open daily May-September 10am-5pm,
October-April 1pm-5pm.

Photo: Jennifer Boyer/cc by 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: Flókagata 24, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Daily 10am-5pm

Phone: +354 411 6420

Internet: listasafnreykjavikur.is/en/visit

Email: listasafn@reykjavik.is

The Settlement Exhibition



The Settlement Exhibition is based on the archaeological excavation of the ruin of one of the first houses in Iceland and findings from other

excavations in the city centre. These archaeological remains turned out to be the earliest evidence of human settlement in the city, with some dating to before AD 871. It's a comprehensive display that covers Iceland's settling, culture, language and genomics.

Photo: Szilas/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

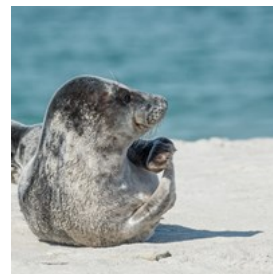
Address: Aðalstræti 16, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Daily 10am-5pm

Phone: +354 411 6370

More Info: Created by the Reykjavik City Museum

Reykjavík Park & Zoo



Along with some 150 animals from 19 different Icelandic species, including seals, foxes and reindeers, the zoo also features an amusement

park with rides and activities, and offers visitors the chance to ride an Icelandic horse. This is the ideal place for a day out with the family.

Photo: wolfgang_vogt / Pixabay.com

Address: Múlavegi 2, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Summer: daily 10am-6pm. Winter: daily

10am-5pm, Wed 10am-8pm

Phone: +354 411 5900

Internet: www.mu.is

Email: postur@husdyragardur.is

Reykjavík Food Walk



If you don't want to settle on just one restaurant, jump head first into Reykjavík's foodie scene with a food tour. You'll stop by several nice eateries ranging from restaurants to food trucks, and sample a selection of traditional dishes and modern street food. Try local cheeses, lamb, artisanal ice cream, and the famous Icelandic hot dogs — an addictively delicious staple. Photo ops and tasty bites will be around every corner.

Photo: LightField Studios / Shutterstock.com

Address: Austurbakki 2, Reykjavík

National Museum



A comprehensive picture of the Icelandic history from the Settlement to the present day. The museum holds up to three thousand objects. Among them you'll find most of the most treasured objects of the Icelandic nation.

Photo: Monkey Business Images / Shutterstock.com

Address: Suðurgata 41, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Daily 10am-5pm. Closed on Mondays in winter

Phone: +354 530 2200

Internet: www.thjodminjasafn.is/english

Email: thjodminjasafn@thjodminjasafn.is

More Info: The Museum offers a free audio guide for your phone as well as free and paid in-person guided tours

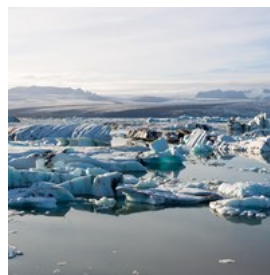
Skógafoss



The Skógá River, in the south of Iceland, forms one of the country's biggest and most majestic waterfalls. Flowing directly from two glaciers, Eyjafjallajökull and Mýrdalsjökull, Skógafoss has a width of 25 metres (82 feet) and a drop of 60 metres (197 feet). Due to the amount of spray it consistently produces, a rainbow is always visible on sunny days. Climb to the top of the Skógafoss waterfall to be rewarded with a breathtaking view over the country's southern coastline.

Photo: Nuno Antunes/Unsplash

Jökulsárlón Glacier Lake



Jökulsárlón is a glacial lagoon, bordering Vatnajökull National Park in southeastern Iceland. Its still, azure waters are dotted with icebergs. In winter, the fish-filled lagoon hosts hundreds of seals. You can see them gracefully zooming between the ice, while skuas dominate the skies.

The Glacier Lagoon flows through a short waterway into the Atlantic Ocean, leaving chunks of ice on a black sand beach. Boat tours will take you all the way from Reykjavík, along the southern coast and into the lagoon.

Photo: Stig Nygaard/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Snæfellsjökull National Park



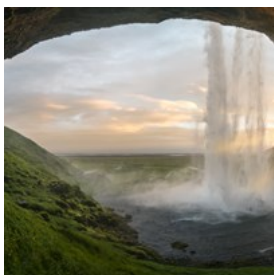
Snæfellsjökull National Park is found on the tip of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula. It is named after its famous, glacier-peaked volcano.

Snæfellsjökull's twinpeaks is visible across Faxaflói Bay from Reykjavík on clear days.

The coastline is also worth a visit. The beaches of Djúpalónssandur and Skarðsvík have mesmerising geology and interesting histories. The Lóndrangar basalt cliffs are perhaps the most dramatic and picturesque sight.

Photo: Attila Geréb/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Seljalandsfoss



The Seljaland river originates underneath the Eyjafjallajökull glacier — the same glacier that covers the eponymous volcano that shut down

European air travel back in 2010. The river makes a 60-metre drop that creates the spectacular Seljalandsfoss. This waterfall can be fully encircled in the summer and photographed from numerous angles.

Seljalandsfoss is also usually visited alongside the nearby Skógafoss. Many tours depart from Reykjavík or you can drive yourself since the waterfall is conveniently located next to the Ring Road.

Photo: Joshua Sortino/unsplash.com

DC3 Plane Wreck



The Super DC-3 aircraft crashed into Sólheimasandur back in 1973, thankfully leaving its seven crew members unharmed. Since then the

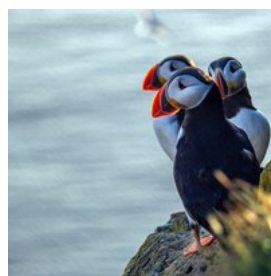
empty husk of a plane has been left exposed to the elements, rusting away in constant humidity and cracking from constant freezes and thaws. The wreckage is a particularly beloved spot by local and visiting photographers thanks to its sparse and wild surrounding black sand landscape and its incredible visual contrast to the aircraft's gnarled metal carcass.

To visit the plane wreck, you can join organised hiking, horse riding or ATV riding tours, take a bus or get there by yourself. Remember, that driving over the sands is considered to be driving off-road and carries heavy fines.

Lastly, the wreck is located pretty close to the village of Vík made famous after a popular Netflix series Katla.

Photo: Bogdan Pasca/unsplash.com

See Puffins in Their Natural Habitat



Home to the largest puffin population in the world, Iceland is the perfect place to get up close and observe these small, adorable birds in

their natural habitat.

The best time to spot puffins in Iceland is between May to mid-August, and here are some of the best places to see them in the country: Akurey and Lundey (Lundey actually means

Puffin Island), Westman Islands, Borgarfjörður Eystri, Látrabjarg, Ingólfshöfði Nature Reserve, Tjörnes Peninsula, Dyrholaey Peninsula, Grimsey Island, and Papey Island.

Photo: Michael Blum/Unsplash

Horseback Riding



The Icelandic horses are sturdy and very strong, the direct descendants of the horses first brought to Iceland in the Viking Age. Horse riding tours are available in beautiful nature sites on the lava-laden outskirts of Reykjavík. The trips can be from one hour to a whole day or even longer.

Photo: Fabian Burghardt/unsplash.com

Thermal pools

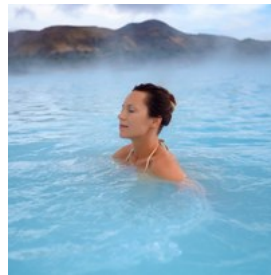


Famously, Iceland is the land of ice and fire. The island sits on one of the earth's 'hot spots,' and the abundant geothermal activity results in numerous waterfalls, lakes, and hot springs all over the island. The Blue Lagoon is the most famous place to lounge around in the hot water, but there are many other less popular and less crowded locations. Rent a car and go for a ride to Myvatn Nature Baths, the Secret Lagoon, GeoSea Sea Baths, Seljavallalaug, Grettislaug or the spectacular Hoffell Hot Tubs just to name a few.

Photo: Michael James/unsplash.com (cropped)

Internet: www.guidetoiceland.is/best-of-iceland/the-5-best-hot-springs-in-iceland

Nauthólsvík Geothermal Beach



Nauthólsvík and is one of the few places in Iceland where you can take a dip in the sea, which, in most of the other locations, is normally too cold for

swimming. Here you can find a thermal beach in a small cove where hot water flows out into the sea and allows Icelanders and tourists to swim in the Atlantic. There are two hot tubs to if 15°-19°C in summer still too chilly for your.

Photo: Nejrion Photo / Shutterstock.com

Address: Nauthólsvík, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Mon & Wed 11am-2pm / 5pm-8pm; Fri 11am-2pm; Sat 11am-4pm

Phone: +354 511 6630

Internet: www.nautholsvik.is/en

Email: ylstrond@reykjavik.is

Lake Mývatn



Mývatn is a volcanic lake with an area of 36.5 square kilometres in northern Iceland. Travellers head here to see the unique

otherworldly landscape riddled with volcanic craters, natural hot springs (some suitable for bathing), boiling mud pots and fumaroles. The area's wealth of flora and fauna is marvellously picturesque.

The only settlement in the area is called Reykjahlíð and it has all the amenities you can expect from a small town, including an information centre for tourists. Cafes, restaurants, guesthouses and campsites are spread along the long coast of the lake.

Photo: Khamkéó Vilaysing/unsplash.com

More Info: Lake Mývatn is a part of the Diamond Circle

route. This route frequently passes through Húsavík, the canyon of Ásbyrgi and Dettifoss waterfall. Goðafoss waterfall and the Hljóðaklettur rocks may also be included.

DINING



watermelonart / Shutterstock.com

Foodies will find plenty to keep them happy when dining in the nation's capital. Reykjavík has an astounding variety of restaurants, offering both traditional and international cuisine.

Icelandic cuisine is characterised by an imaginative use of pure Icelandic ingredients such as fresh fish and seafood, organic lamb and wild game.

Be sure not to miss the Icelandic hot dog. The highly acclaimed "city's best" can be found at the "Bæjarins Bestu" hot dog stand on Tryggvagata near Reykjavík Harbour.

Lækjarbrekka



Lækjarbrekka is a classic restaurant in one of the oldest buildings in the city. A true Reykjavík institution but it won't break the bank any more than anywhere else. Specialities include Icelandic seafood, lamb and other traditional dishes.

Photo: vvoe / Shutterstock.com

Address: Bankastræti 2, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Daily from 11:30am

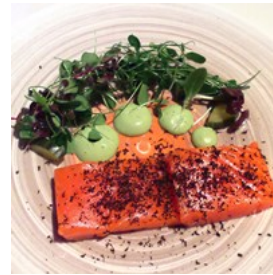
Phone: +354 551 4430

Internet: www.instagram.com/laekjarbrekka

Email: info@laekjarbrekka.is

More Info: Sits right on top of The Icelandic Punk Museum

Forréttabarin



Forréttabarin specialises in starters and is located close to the Old Harbor. It's young and trendy, and not overrun with tourists. Artic char is recommended by pretty much every guest. Add langoustine soup and skyr mousse to that for a very traditional and superb dinner.

Photo: Karen Bryan / Flickr.com(image cropped)

Address: Nýlendugata 14, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Daily 4pm-11pm. Kitchen closes at 10pm

Phone: +354 517 1800

Internet: www.forrettabarinn.is

Email: info@forrettabarinn.is

More Info: Happy hour daily 4pm-7pm

Gló



Gló Restaurant is one of the most popular healthy food restaurants in Iceland. It takes pride in always using the freshest ingredients and buying as much as possible from Icelandic farmers.

Photo: sarsmis / Shutterstock.com

Address: Fákafen 11, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 11am-8pm, Sat 11am-4pm, Sun closed

Phone: +354 553 1111

Internet: www.glo.is

Email: glo@glo.is

Kopar



Kopar focuses on Icelandic ingredients from both land and sea. The dining room has a fantastic view of the Esja mountain — a symbol of

Reykjavik — and the old harbour with ships coming and going. The fresh quality products used guarantee a dining experience that reflects the great Icelandic produce. You can enjoy a pre-drink on the terrace by the harbour or sit outside after dinner with coffee and cognac.

Photo: Tim Regan / Flickr.com(image cropped)

Address: Geirsgata 3, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 11:30am-3pm / 5pm-10pm; Sat noon-3pm / 5pm-10pm; Sun 4pm-10pm

Phone: +354 567 2700

Internet: www.koparrestaurant.is

Email: info@koparrestaurant.is

Kolabrautin Ristorante



Literally called "The Coal Trail", this modern restaurant uses the best Icelandic ingredients to prepare traditional Mediterranean recipes —

an interesting concept. The view from Kolabrautin on the top floor of Harpa is fascinating and adds a magical touch to your evening, along with the enticing a la carte menu and ambitious wine list from the New World.

Photo: DrawsAndCooks / Pixabay.com

Address: Harpa Concert Hall, Austurbakki 1, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 5:30pm-10pm

Phone: +354 519 9700

Internet: www.kolabrautin.is/en

Email: info@kolabrautin.is

Grillmarkaðurinn — The Grill Market



Grillmarkaðurinn is a gorgeous restaurant with an emphasis on Icelandic cuisine and dishes served straight off the sizzling grill. The produces used

are of finest quality, seasonal and straight from the Icelandic farms.

Photo: Audrey / Flickr.com(image cropped)

Address: Lækjargata 2a, Reykjavík

Phone: +354 571 7777

Internet: www.grillmarkadurinn.is/en

Email: info@grillmarkadurinn.is

Ítalía Veitingahús



Ítalía is one of the oldest Italian restaurants in Reykjavik and offers a varied menu of Italian specialities in a cozy atmosphere. It is

centrally located in the heart of Laugavegur main street and offers moderate prices.

Photo: stockcreations / Shutterstock.com

Address: Laugarvegur 11, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 11:30am-10pm, Sun 4pm-10pm.

Kitchen closes at 9pm

Phone: +354 552 4630

Internet: www.italia.is

Email: italia@italia.is

Tapas Barinn



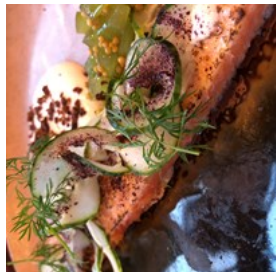
Tapas Barinn offers traditional Spanish tapas together with 'Icelandic'-style tapas, in a warm setting in the city centre.

Photo: Mateusz Gzik / Shutterstock.com

Address: Vesturgata 3b, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 5pm-11pm, Fri & Sat 5pm-midnight
Phone: +354 551 2344
Internet: www.tapas.is/en
Email: tapas@tapas.is

Fiskmarkaðurinn — The Fish Market

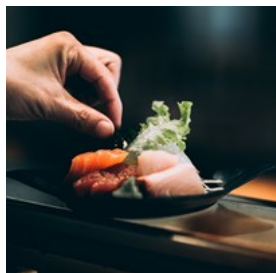


Fiskmarkaðurinn is housed in one of the oldest buildings in Reykjavík's city centre. Head Chef Hrefna Rósa Sætran of the Icelandic National Culinary team has designed a menu using the freshest fish and meat of the season, cooking it simply in modern style.

Guests can watch each dish being prepared in the open kitchen, which has the country's only robata grill, or sit at the raw bar where the chefs create exotic dishes.

Photo: Rentn / Flickr.com(image cropped)
Address: Aðalstræti 12, Reykjavík
Phone: +354 578 8877
Internet: www.fiskmarkadurinn.is/en
Email: info@fiskmarkadurinn.is

Sushi Social

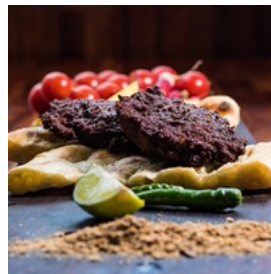


Sushi Social offers a unique fusion of Japanese sushi and South American grill combined with the freshness of Icelandic ingredients. The menu is created to fully capture and draw from those influences and offers a wide array of great selections, exciting small courses, new style sushi and even an amazing steak platter — perfect for two.

Photo: Kyle Head / Unsplash.com
Address: Þingholtsstræti 5, Reykjavík
Opening hours: Sun-Thu 5pm-11pm, Fri & Sat 5pm-midnight

Phone: +354 568 6600
Internet: www.sushisocial.is/?lang=en
Email: sushisocial@sushisocial.is

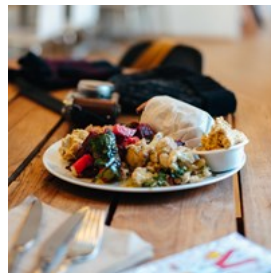
Gandhi Indian Restaurant & Bar



With fresh Icelandic ingredients and spices personally imported from India, this restaurant's creations are simply fabulous. The chicken curries are excellent, as is Raita and the mushroom appetizers.

Photo: GOLDINPIC / Pixabay.com
Address: Bergstaðastræti 13, Reykjavík
Opening hours: Sun-Thu 4pm-10pm, Fri & Sat 4pm-11pm
Phone: +354 511 1691
Internet: www.gandhi.is
Email: gandhi@gandhi.is

Snaps Bistro Bar



Snaps is a French bistro that is great for breakfast, lunch or dinner, or just having a glass of something with good friends. It's located in Downtown Reykjavík. Vegan options are quite good.

Photo: Andrew Lazarus / Flickr.com(image cropped)
Address: Óðinstorgur, Reykjavík
Opening hours: Kitchen: Mon & Wed 11:30am-10pm, Thu-Sat 11:30am-11pm. Brunch: Sat 11:30am-4pm
Phone: +354 511 6677
Internet: www.snaps.is/en

Austur-Indíafélagið



Reykjavik's premier Indian restaurant. Offers a unique combination of Indian traditions and Icelandic ingredients. Celebrities such as Harrison Ford have dined here and given the place rave reviews.

Photo: tookapic / Pixabay.com

Address: Hverfisgata 56, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Fri & Sat 6pm-11pm, Sun-Thu 6pm-10pm

Phone: +354 552 1630

Internet: www.austurindia.is

Email: austurindia@austurindia.is

Kol



Impeccably designed in modern concrete and warm earth tones, furnished by designer Tom Dixon, Kol offers a premium dining

experience with bottomless brunch, an exquisite tasting menu. The cuisine focuses on feel good comfort food with a twist on classic dishes.

Photo: OKuznechikova / Shutterstock.com

Address: Skólavörðustíg 40, Reykjavík

Phone: +354 517 7474

Internet: www.kolrestaurant.is/en

Email: info@kolrestaurant.is

CAFÉS



StockSnap / Pixabay.com

Reykjavík boasts a great café culture, with residents regularly meeting up with friends and family for coffee, cake, and little talks. An Icelandic hot chocolate is a great way to warm those cold bones after a day spent exploring the city. Many cafés also host live music and entertainment.

Interesting fact: if you see several prams stationed outside a café in the dead of winter with the little ones still inside — worry not. Wrapping babies up and letting them rest outside is common practice in Iceland.

Kaffitár



One of Reykjavík's most popular coffee companies, serving some of the best coffee in the country. The company owns different locations.

Find their first coffee shop in downtown Reykjavík.

Photo: Viktoriia Photographer / Shutterstock.com

Address: Bankastræti 8, Reykjavík

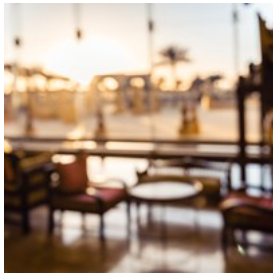
Opening hours: Daily 7am-4pm

Phone: +354 420 2732

Internet: kaffitar.is

Email: gudrundr@kaffitar.is

Mokka Kaffi



For a retro coffee-house atmosphere, head to Mokka — Reykjavík's oldest coffee bar. It has not changed since its opening in 1957. Warm

leather benches, lots of wood and soft fabric paneling make it one of the coziest places in Reykjavík.

Photo: Borphy / Shutterstock.com

Address: Skólavörðustíg 3a, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Daily 9am–6pm

Phone: +354 552 1174

Internet: www.mokka.is

Email: mokkakaffi@gmail.com

Café Babalú



This cafe is an institution in Reykjavík: in addition to offering great hot chocolate, sweets and vegetarian food, it boasts an outstanding

alternative decor, teeming with wall art, pop culture quotes and vintage-style furniture.

Photo: rawpixel / Unsplash.com

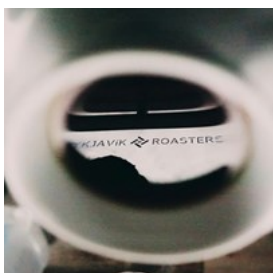
Address: Skólavörðustígur 22a, Reykjavík

Phone: +354 555 8845

Internet: www.babalu.is

Email: cafebabalu@hotmail.com

Reykjavík Roasters



Carefully crafted espresso drinks worthy of the snobbiest hipster. Minimalist design, great playlists often played on a rustic record player.

There are three venues of this chain dotted around the central area of Reykjavík, the one

next to Hallgrímskirkja being the most popular.

Photo: Public Domain / www.piqsels.com

Address: Kárastígur 1, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Mon–Sat 8:30am–5pm, Sun 10am–5pm

Phone: +354 517 5535

Internet: www.reykjavikroasters.is/en

Mikki Refur



Mikki Refur bravely opened its doors in November 2020. The place wraps you up in the cozy interior with warm lights and lots of wood,

marble bistro tables and deep green tiles. They will brew your an excellent cup of coffee from freshly roasted beans, serve satisfying bistro food with a glass of wine — always ready to surprise you with something new! Their classic French madeleines are simply amazing dunked into cappuccino.

Photo: Sincerely Media/unsplash.com

Address: Hverfisgata 18, Reykjavík

Internet: www.mikkirefur.is

Klambrar Bistro



Inside the Kjarvalsstaðir Art Museum hides a cozy Norwegian style cafe with huge windows overlooking an open park where locals walk their

dogs, play frisbee and stroll around. Their coffee is hot and strong, cakes delicious and soups leave you with a warm feeling inside. Naturally, best combined with a visit to the art gallery.

Photo: Nathan Dumlao / unsplash.com

Address: Reykjavík Art Museum Kjarvalsstaðir, Flókagata 24, Reykjavík

Phone: +354 411 6425

Internet: www.klambrarbistro.is

12 Tonar



This independent record shop stocks a wide selection of Icelandic music. The helpful staff can help you find the perfect audio souvenir of

your visit. The venue also houses the Smekkleysa ('bad taste') indie music label. Plus, you here you can get coffee and beer, live gigs and specialist literature.

Photo: Wokandapix / Pixabay.com

Address: Skólavörðustíg 15, Reykjavík

Phone: +354 511 5656

Internet: www.12tonar.is

Email: 12tonar@12tonar.is

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Melinda Nagy / Shutterstock.com

Walking through the Reykjavík city centre during the day, and doing the same after hours when the party is well under way, are two completely different experiences. Reykjavík is well known for its vibrant nightlife, with trendy bars and clubs open until the early hours of the morning. Whether you are interested in listening to live music or dancing the night away, you are sure to find something to your liking.

Bars & Clubs — The distinction between cafes, pubs, bars and clubs is far from clear in Reykjavík, with many daytime cafes turning into

tightly packed bars and clubs as the night goes on. Many are open until late (five in the morning) and it is not uncommon to spend all night in town on Friday and Saturday nights. Most bars and clubs are in the compact downtown area which makes it easy to test many different places.

Live Music — Reykjavík has a very eclectic music scene which goes far beyond what you might have heard about Björk and Sigur Rós. The scene is made up of a large number of genres, with everything from hardcore punk rock and indie to chamber music and hip-hop. You can take in a concert almost every night of the week.

Gaukurinn



Iceland's oldest pub is going strong, featuring live rock concerts from a mix of mainstream and underground bands.

There's something going on almost every night, including stand-up comedy shows and karaoke parties. Gaukurinn has been stable in the Icelandic music scene since forever and many of Iceland's biggest artists started out here

In recent years Gaukurinn has established itself as a safe haven for the queer/alternative/drag and other artists in Iceland.

Photo: Free-Photos / Pixabay.com

Address: Tryggvagata 22, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 4pm-1am, Fri & Sat 4pm-3am

Phone: +354 588 1556

Internet: www.gaukurinn.is

Email: rekstrarstjori@gaukurinn.is

Solon

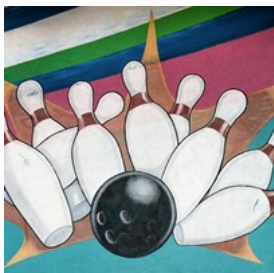


Most party goers know Solon as a weekend party place with DJ's and wild dancing. On top of that, it's a cafe, bistro, restaurant and bar.

Depending on the time of day, you can drop in for the perfect cup of coffee, a drink or a dinner, and then stay for the music and dancing.

Photo: Mikey Harris/unsplash.com
Address: Bankastræti 7a, Reykjavík
Phone: +354 562 32 32
Internet: www.solon.is

Lebowski Bar



Naturally, Lebowski Bar is dedicated to The Dude from the famous Coen brothers movie. The outrageous 90s retro interior has lots of rugs,

colourful bar stools and diner-style tables, a bowling lane and pop-culture paraphernalia galore. The food menu is American inspired with showstopping burgers, draft beers and 20 types of White Russian.

Photo: Tim Mossholder / unsplash.com
Address: Laugavegur 20a, Reykjavík
Phone: +354 552 2300
Internet: www.lebowskibar.is/en
More Info: Happy Hour daily 4pm-7pm. Quiz night every Thursday at 9pm

Prikið



A 50s-style diner during the day and a nightclub on weekends. Used to be the oldest continuously running traditional coffeehouse on the street,

but caters now to a younger clientele.

Photo: Free-Photos / Pixabay.com
Address: Bankastræti 12, Reykjavík
Phone: +354 551 2866
Internet: www.prikid.is
Email: prikid@prikid.is

Beer & Booze Tour



Icelandic craft beer — bet you won't find it anywhere back home. Now, with a beer tour, you can sample 10 different brews and learn

about the history of Icelandic beer from the Vikings to present day. You'll be a part of a small and intimate group, so you'll fit right in at one of the bars in Reykjavík. It's a perfect ending to a long day of exploring the city.

Photo: Brittany Stokes/unsplash.com

Kaffibarinn



Kaffibarinn is a hip bar with a bohemian atmosphere with casual DJ nights and local beers. It was featured in the film 101 Reykjavík and is

part-owned by Damon Albarn of Blur/Gorillaz fame.

Photo: Stuart Monk / Shutterstock.com
Address: Bergstaðastræti 1, Reykjavík
Opening hours: Daily 3pm-late
Phone: +354 551 1588
Internet: www.facebook.com/kaffibarinn
Email: kaffibar@gmail.com

EVENTS



basiczto / Shutterstock.com

Lovers of arts and culture are in for a real treat in Reykjavík. From the Icelandic sagas to contemporary art, Reykjavík has a buzzing culture scene. A constant flow of innovative musical happenings, theatrical performances and culture events keeps locals and visitors entertained all year round.

English is taught as a second language from an early age in Iceland and pretty much every Icelander is a fluent English speaker. You'll find it easy to make new connections since the language barrier is virtually nonexistent.

Iceland National Day — June 17th



shows and street happenings.

The celebrations take place all over the capital area. The programme includes family-oriented entertainment, concerts, outdoor play sets, variety

Photo: Daria Medvedeva / Shutterstock.com

Phone: +354 411 6000

Internet: www.17juni.is

Email: 17juni@reykjavik.is

Iceland Airwaves



The festival is regarded as the biggest celebration of music in Iceland and boasts an unrivalled line-up of established and up-and-coming artists.

Photo: Danny Howe/ unsplash.com

Phone: +354 558 4400

Internet: www.icelandairwaves.is

Email: info@icelandairwaves.is

More Info: Usually takes place in the first week of November

Reykjavik International Film Festival (RIFF)



A major independent film event designed to enrich local cinema culture with international ground-breaking films, and to present Icelandic film making to a larger audience.

By the way, have you ever watched a film from a pool? This is your chance!

Photo: Aneta Pawlik/unsplash.com

Phone: +354 411 7055

Internet: www.riff.is

Email: riff@riff.is

More Info: Takes place in late September — early October every year

Reykjavik Pride



This colourful event brings tens of thousands of people into the city centre to show solidarity and have fun with the LGBT community in

Reykjavík.

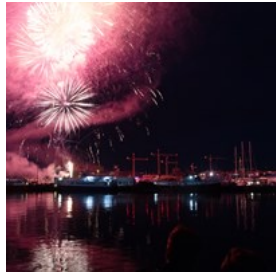
Photo: Gyorgy Demko / Shutterstock.com

Internet: www.hinsegindagar.is

Email: pride@hinsegindagar.is

More Info: Usually held in early August

Reykjavik Culture Night



Each year thousands of residents and visitors share a delightful day of fun, food and festivities, all topped-off with a sensational evening of music and fireworks.

Photo: [thorgilsv / Shutterstock.com](#)

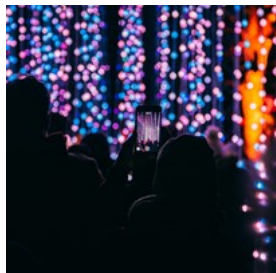
Phone: +354 411 6000

Internet: www.culturenight.is

Email: menningarnott@reykjavik.is

More Info: Usually held around August 20th

Winter Lights Festival



The festival celebrates both the winter world and the growing light after a long period of darkness. The programme is a mixture of art and industry, environment and history, sports and culture.

Photo: [James Baldwin/Unsplash.com](#)

Phone: +354 411 6000

Internet: www.winterlightsfestival.is

Email: vetrarhatid@reykjavik.is

More Info: This event takes place the first weekend in February each year.

Design March



Iceland's most important annual design festival, covering all fields of design: architecture, graphic design, fashion, furniture and product

design.

Photo: [Sigridstock / Shutterstock.com](#)

Phone: +354 771 2200

Internet: www.designmarch.is

Email: info@honnunarmidstod.is

Children's Cultural Festival



One of the largest festivals held by the City of Reykjavík, with around 150 free events for children. The festival places emphasis on participation, focusing particularly on the child as an artist.

Photo: [2xSamara.com / Shutterstock.com](#)

Phone: +354 411 6000

Internet: www.childrensculturefestival.is

Email: barnameningarhatid@reykjavik.is

More Info: Takes place in early April

Festival of the Sea



This is an event honouring the sea and fishery in Iceland, with a diverse programme of events from Saturday morning until Sunday afternoon.

Photo: [Jay Yuan / Shutterstock.com](#)

Internet: www.hatidhafsins.is/english

Email: web@hatidhafsins.is

Hafnarfjörður Viking Festival

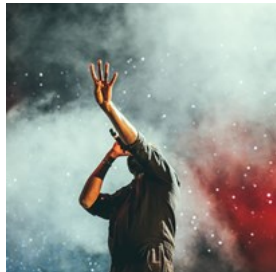


The oldest and largest event of its kind in Iceland. Hafnarfjörður has been a playground for Vikings demonstrating through the years most aspects of the Viking culture.

Photo: [Anna Kepa / Shutterstock.com](#)

Phone: +354 565 1213
Internet: www.fjorukrain.is
Email: booking@vikingvillage.is

Secret Solstice



An Icelandic music festival showcasing both established artists and exciting up-and-coming talent over three days in the 24-hour midnight sun of the summer solstice.

Photo: StockSnap / Pixabay.com
Phone: +354 776 2750
Internet: www.secretsolstice.is
Email: info@secretsolstice.is
More Info: Held in late June every year. Check the organizer's Facebook page for related smaller events

Reykjavík Marathon



The race consists of six different distances, enabling people of all age groups and fitness levels to find a suitable run for them. Register early, the entry fee will increase as it comes closer to the race.

Photo: Matito / Flickr.com(image cropped)
Phone: +354 535 3700
Internet: www.rmi.is/en

Illumination of the Imagine Peace Tower on Viðey Island



Every year Yoko Ono invites guests on a complimentary ferry trip to the island to take part in a beautiful illumination ceremony on John

Lennon's Birthday.

Imagine Peace Tower is lit annually

- 9th October - 8th December
- 21st - 31st December
- 18th February
- 20th - 27 March

Photo: badahos / Shutterstock.com
Internet: www.imaginepeacetower.com
Email: wish@imaginepeacetower.com

Lighting of the Oslo Christmas Tree



For decades the lighting of the Oslo Christmas Tree has marked the beginning of our Christmas preparations and has become an important tradition for Icelanders.

Photo: AnnieSpratt / Pixabay.com
Internet: www.visitreykjavik.is/lighting-oslo-christmas-tree-0

Advent Festival



A Christmas season with displays of enchanting Northern Lights, thirteen Santa Clauses (Yule Lads), Christmas markets, and

culture-inspired events and activities, including concerts at Hallgrímskirkja.

Photo: Roberto La Rosa / Shutterstock.com
Internet: www.guidetoiceland.is/history-culture/christmas-and-new-year-s-eve-in-iceland

SHOPPING



Johann Helgason / Shutterstock.com

Reykjavík's are known for their innovative design style. Walk up Laugavegur or Skólavörðustígur, the city's main shopping streets, and you'll spot arts and crafts galleries, music and bookstores, jewellery shops and much more. One-of-a-kind Icelandic jewels often incorporate local semi-precious stones or pieces of lava rock. Locally created fashion products are fascinating and varied, from handbags made of fish skin to a delicate woollen tops.

On weekends, you will find the Flea Market (Kolaportið) by Reykjavík Harbour overflowing with bric-a-brac and Icelandic delicacies, such as fermented shark, dried fish, tons of liquorice and much more!

You can also find electronics, camping equipment, book shops, record stores and gift shops around Reykjavík, plus several shopping malls handily located on the outskirts of the city.

Downtown Shopping



Reykjavík's main shopping street, Laugavegur, runs through the city centre. On Laugavegur, its side streets and on the neighbouring street Skólavörðustígur, you will

find everything from designer labels to streetwear, plus jewellery, arts and crafts, quirky souvenirs and unique Icelandic design products.

Photo: Rawpixel.com / Shutterstock.com

Address: Laugavegur, Reykjavík

Kolaportið – The Coal Port Flea Market



On weekends Kolaportið, Iceland's only flea market, overflows with bric-a-brac and Icelandic delicacies, such as fermented shark, dried fish, tons of liquorice and much more! Find unique souvenirs, nice Icelandic knits, antiques, or just wander around.

Photo: Nikola Đuza / unsplash.com

Address: Tryggvagötu 19, Old Harbour, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Sat & Sun 11am-5pm

Internet: www.kolaportid.is

Kirsuberjatréd – The Cherry Tree



A top-notch gallery for unique Icelandic design artworks and giftware, including clothing, ceramics, jewellery and handbags made from fish skin, music boxes, digitally-printed textiles inspired by an artist's childhood dreams, and much, much more.

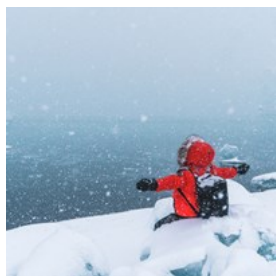
Photo: Prokrida / Shutterstock.com

Address: Vesturgata 4, Reykjavík

Phone: +354 562 8990

Internet: www.kirs.is

66° North



Originally a manufacturer of protective gear for Icelandic fishermen, 66° North offers high quality and versatile outdoor clothing. You'll likely need some good gear to explore the island's harsh environment in comfort, plus you'll have the best and most practical souvenir from your trip.

Photo: @shawnanggg / unsplash.com

Address: Bankastræti 5, Reykjavík

Phone: +354 535 6680

Internet: www.66north.is

Email: 66north@66north.is

SPAKS – Spaksmannsspjarir



natural materials.

A true modern classic, Spaksmannsspjarir offers original Icelandic fashion design for women, inspired by Icelandic nature and made of

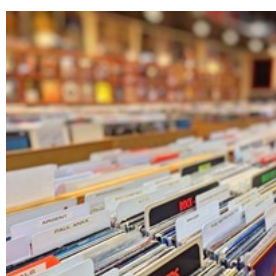
Photo: Roxana Jifcovici / Shutterstock.com

Address: Háaleitisbraut 109, Reykjavík

Phone: +354 551 2090

Internet: www.spaks.is

12 Tonar



This independent record shop stocks a wide selection of Icelandic music. The helpful staff can help you find the perfect audio souvenir of your visit. The venue also houses the Smekkleysa ('bad taste') indie music label. Plus, you here you can get coffee and beer, live gigs and specialist literature.

Photo: Wokandapix / Pixabay.com

Address: Skólavörðustíg 15, Reykjavík

Phone: +354 511 5656

Internet: www.12tonar.is

Email: 12tonar@12tonar.is

More Info: For more music, visit Smekkleysa store at Hverfisgata 32 (Entry from Hjartatorg)

Kringlan



Located just outside the city centre, Kringlan — the second largest shopping mall in Iceland — boasts over 150 shops, restaurants and service outlets, including fashion wear, food stores and gifts. It also includes a multi-screen cinema and a food court. Reykjavík City Theatre is part of the same complex.

Photo: fancycrave1 / Pixabay.com

Address: Kringlunni 4-12, Reykjavík

Phone: +354 517 9000

Internet: www.kringlan.is/english

Email: kringlan@kringlan.is

Smáralind



The Smaralind shopping centre is located in the geographical centre of the Reykjavík Capital Area. It has around 70 shops and other service outlets, including multi-national shopping chains, a variety of fashion stores, supermarkets, gift shops, a multi-screen cinema, and several cafes and restaurants.

Photo: jarmoluk / Pixabay.com

Address: Hagasmári 1, Kópavogur

Opening hours: Mon-Wed 11am-7pm, Thu-Fri 11am-9pm,

Sat 11am-6pm, Sun 1pm-6pm

Phone: +354 528 8000

Internet: www.smaralind.is/english

Email: smaralind@smaralind.is

TOURIST INFORMATION



AJC1 / Flickr.com (image cropped)

Reykjavík is closer than you think. Flight time is 2-4 hours from Europe and 5-6 hours from east coast USA. It is also a compact city which is easy to navigate, whether on your own two feet or by public transport. In addition, magnificent countryside awaits just minutes away from the city centre. Visit the Reykjavík Tourist Information Centre for help in planning your activities.

When exploring Reykjavík, do not be afraid to stop and ask for directions, since people are very friendly and almost everyone speaks English.

Passport / Visa



Iceland can be visited visa-free for up to 90 days by citizens of most European countries, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea,

Taiwan, Malaysia, Israel, UAE and most countries in America. If you are unsure whether or not you need to apply for a visa, we recommend contacting the embassy or consulate in your country. International (non-Schengen) travelers need a passport that is valid for at least 3 months after the end of their intended trip in order to enter the Schengen zone. Citizens of Schengen countries can travel without a

passport, but must have a valid ID with them during their stay.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

Best Time to Visit



In summer you'll find the warmest temperatures (usually in the low 20°C), beautiful green landscapes, and an exciting choice of events

— see our dedicated section for more info. As summer is the most popular time to visit, though, expect crowds of tourists.

A great attraction of Icelandic summers is the midnight sun: darkness lasts for a very short time, especially in June. Head for the countryside, where there are fewer artificial lights, to get the most ethereal views. July and August, the warmest months, are the best for hikers. May to September is the best period to go whale-watching, peaking in June and July.

If you're interested in the Northern lights, visit in February-March or September-October, and remember to pack warm clothes against the less-than-idyllic weather.

Photo: VectorA

Keflavík International Airport (KEF)



All international flights land at the Keflavík International Airport, located near the town of Keflavík, about 50 kilometres from

Reykjavík.

Flybus is the airport shuttle that runs between

the Keflavík International Airport and the city of Reykjavík. The shuttle schedule is coordinated with airline flight schedules. The bus stops at many of the larger hotels in the city to drop off and pick up travellers.

Photo: Juan Garces

Phone: +354 424 4000

Internet: www.isavia.is/en/keflavik-airport

Reykjavík City Airport (RKV)



Reykjavík's domestic airport, situated near the city centre, operates flights to other parts of the country and to Greenland and the Faroe

Islands. All major towns in the country have their own airports. On certain routes, you can also choose to fly one way, and take the bus the other way. For further information on scheduled domestic flights, contact Air Iceland.

Photo: Juan Garces

Internet: www.isavia.is/en/reykjavik-airport

Public Transport



Reykjavík has an excellent bus system. Most buses run every 10-20 minutes, and every 30 minutes in the evening and on weekends. Bus

information is available at the Lækjartorg bus station, at the Reykjavík Tourist Information Centre and online.

A flat fare is charged on the buses. You may need to change buses: ask for a skiptimidi (transfer ticket) on the first bus and you will not have to pay again on the second bus if changing within 45 minutes.

The Reykjavík Tourist Card, available at the Reykjavík Tourist Information Centre in addition to many hotels, museums and other outlets, offers unlimited bus travel for 24, 48 or 72 hours and unlimited access to most Reykjavík museums and thermal baths.

A great way to see all the main sites in one go and with an excellent view, is with the hop-on hop-off city sightseeing bus operated from May to mid-September.

Coaches make regular trips from Reykjavík to various towns and places around Iceland. Tickets are sold at the BSI Coach Terminal, situated close to the city centre. Visit the Reykjavík Tourist Information Centre for information about visiting other parts of the country.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Address: BSI Terminal, Vatnsmýrarvegi 10, Reykjavík

Phone: +354 580 5400

Internet: www.bsi.is

Taxi



Several taxi companies operate in Reykjavík. Taxi ranks are dotted around the city and the taxi companies have phone numbers that you can call

to get a taxi from anywhere in the city. Some have special offers for transport to and from Keflavík International Airport. All taxis have official mileage meters, and taxi fares are charged at standard rates. There is no need to tip.

Photo: Taxi

Address: Hreyfill-Bæjarleidir Taxis

Phone: +354 588 5522

Internet: www.hreyfill.is/en

Car Hire Service



Many visitors enjoy the freedom of renting a vehicle and seeing the sights beyond Reykjavík at their own pace. Cars of all types and sizes can be

rented at Reykjavík's many car rental agencies, both local and major international chains. Special offers may be available in conjunction with flight bookings. Check at the Reykjavík Tourist Information Centre.

It is in general easy and safe to drive in Iceland. However, driving conditions can be different to what visitors are used to at home and special care must be taken when driving in the highlands. Visitors are advised to always seek information and guidance prior to setting off on their journey. Get some safe driving tips here at safetravel.is

Photo: matsabe / Shutterstock.com

Internet: guidetoiceland.is/travel-info/drive-iceland-safely

Pharmacy



Find Lyfja pharmacy in Reykjavík's city center.

Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: Lágmúla 5, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Daily 8am-midnight

Phone: +354 533 2300

Internet: www.lyfja.is/english

Post



Post boxes in Iceland are red and bear the sign "Posturinn". In Iceland, you will find stamps in many souvenir shops, bookstores, and of course

post offices.

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Pósthús Hagatorgi 107, Reykjavík

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 9:30am-5pm, Fri 9:30am-4pm

Phone: +354 580 1000

Internet: www.postur.is

Email: posturinn@posturinn.is

Telephone



The code into Iceland from overseas is +354 plus a seven-digit number. There are no area codes.

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



Iceland follows Northern European electrical standards (50 Hz/220 volts). For the power plugs, you can use adapter types "C" or "F".

These are often labelled as a Northern Europe adapter.

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

Reykjavík: around 131,000

Greater Reykjavík: around 233,000

Currency

1 Icelandic Króna (ISK) = 100 Aurar

Opening hours

The opening hours of most businesses are from 9 am until 5

pm. Some companies and institutions change their work hours to 8 am to 4 pm in the summer months.

Shopping hours are generally from 10 am until 6 pm weekdays (Monday to Friday). On Saturdays, most shops are open from 10 am until 4 pm, while some are closed on Saturdays in summer. Most shops are closed on Sundays, but both shopping centres are open daily.

The following days are public holidays in Iceland. Most shops and businesses are closed on these days, but on many public holidays some food stores remain open.

- New Year's Day: 1 January
- Maundy Thursday: the Thursday before Easter
- Good Friday: the Friday before Easter
- Easter Sunday
- Easter Monday
- May Day: 1 May
- Ascension Day: the Thursday 40 days after Easter
- Whit Sunday: the seventh Sunday after Easter
- Whit Monday: the day after Whit Sunday
- National Day: 17 June
- Summer Bank Holiday: the first Monday in August
- Christmas Eve: public holiday from noon
- Christmas Day
- Boxing Day: the day after Christmas
- New Year's Eve: public holiday from noon.

Internet

www.visitreykjavik.is

Newspapers

The Reykjavík Grapevine – www.grapevine.is

Morgunbladid – www.mbl.is

Dagbladid Visi – www.visir.is

Emergency numbers

Single Emergency Number: 112

Tourist information

Reykjavík Official Tourist Information Centre:

Reykjavík City Hall at Tjarnargata 11

Tel: +354 411 6000

info@visitreykjavik.is

Here you will find detailed info for the whole country, a free booking service, maps, brochures and internet access.

Information is subject to change. Please contact your Lifestyle Consultant for the most up-to-date recommendations.