



# The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

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**Editorial | Anna Andersen**

## Cheers! Skál! Bottoms up! Anna's 42nd Editorial

So far, there really hasn't been much to celebrate this year. We didn't win the Eurovision Song Contest. Only a third of us are happy with the government. Thousands have protested in front of parliament. Our teachers went on strike. Our airport employees went on strike. Our pilots went on strike. And none of them were entirely successful. Yet, according to a report by Arion bank called 'Er kominn tími til að taka fram kampavínið?' ("Is It Time To Bring Out The Champagne?"), the bubbly stuff has made a comeback.

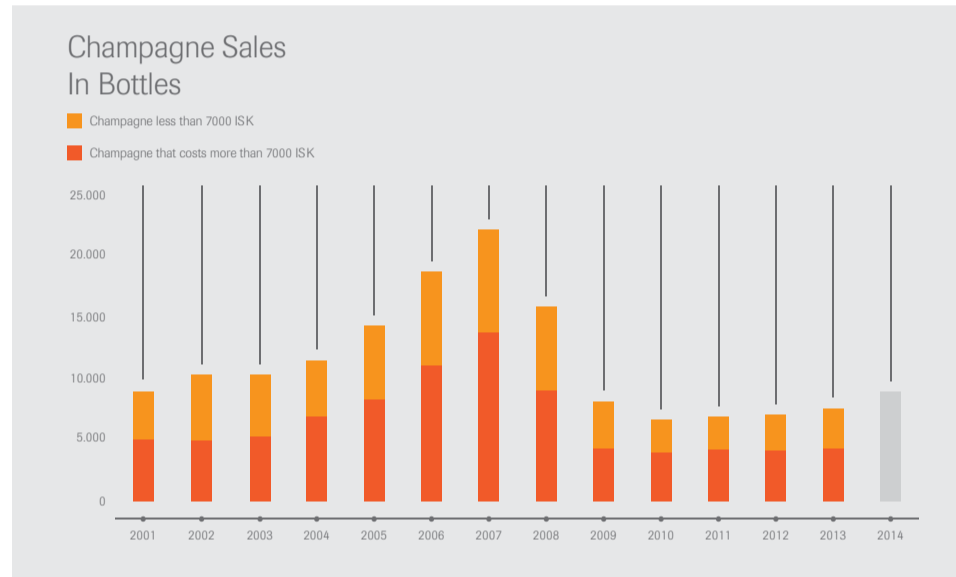
Of course, as the report suggests, the rise in champagne consumption probably says more about the economy and people's faith in it than it does anything else. "Most people consider champagne a luxury good and therefore it is one of the first things that households, which could previously afford it, cut down on when times are tough," the report reasons. "At the same time, sales rekindle when households are optimistic about the future." Thus, the bank sees champagne sales as a reflection of the current state of the economy as well as an indicator for its future.

This perhaps explains why sales peaked in 2007 (at 22,106 bottles). After all, we thought we were living the dream, and enjoying (albeit briefly) the

world's highest standard of living, according to the U.N.'s annual Human Development Index report. Then, unfortunately, the bubble burst in 2008, and we had to come to grips with the fact that we perhaps couldn't afford to indulge in that Veuve Clicquot (not that there was much to celebrate anyway...). The so-called kreppa set in and champagne sales fell 70% over the next three years, down to 6,624 bottles in 2010 (which was incidentally the year Ne-Yo released his (sort of) hit single "Champagne Life").

Apparently though, things are looking up now. Sales have increased steadily over the last few years, and there was a 17% jump in sales during the first four months of this year compared to the same period last year. But whether or not it's time to bring out the champagne depends on whether you simply enjoy living like every day is your birthday (indulging in "them fast car nights and them big boat days"), or if you see it as celebratory drink (although the fact that we just voted a xenophobic party into the Reykjavík city council hardly deserves a toast).

On another note, champagne clubs are on the decline. In the last year, 101 Reykjavík saw two of them close down, as it turns out they were actually



## What's The Deal With Those Crazy Icelandic Letters Yo?

# Þ þ Æ æ Ö ö

### Here Is Your Kreisí Æcelandic Frase For Þis Issue!

"Sæl frú mín góð! Hvar er eiginlega þetta Bláa lón sem allir eru að tala um?"

We thought we'd explain. We're ripping the idea off from the Icelandic magazine. Go read that magazine if you can. It's free.

We like spelling things using Icelandic letters like 'æ' and 'þ' and also those crazy accents over the vowels. Like Icelandic's inflight magazine—IcelandairInfo—says, the Icelandic language can use accents on all of the vowels, making them look all unique, like this: á, é, í, ó, ú, ö, ý (the accent also changes the pronunciation of the letters. The á in "kjáni" sounds quite different from the a in "asni", for instance). We also have an additional three letters. As IcelandairInfo notes:

fronts for strip clubs (and stripping has been illegal in Iceland since 2010). Today, there is just one such club left, in 108 Reykjavík, and it apparently sells "a glass of champagne" for 6,000 ISK (dubious, right?) and access to a "secluded VIP area" for 1,000 ISK/minute with a minimum of 10 minutes (suspicious, no?).

Lest we forget that these seedy institutions still exist, we decided to include this particular club in our fourth annual Bar Guide, in which we review and rate every single bar in 101. Now, shall we go fall into it or "eigum við að detta í það?" as they say in Icelandic?

### Music | Free



**Myndra**  
**Distant Lover**

Download the FREE track at [www.grapevine.is](http://www.grapevine.is)

The first 20 seconds of "Distant Lover" give little insight into its edgy, restive and bittersweet nature, but wispy, fluttering guitars soon reveal the dichotomy at its heart. Both Linus Lárpera's breezy vocals and his distant lover's calm body movements juxtapose with the song's skittish and asynchronous drumbeat, as well as the nervous thoughts that linger on within both. Furthermore, luscious, ethereal synths in the song's break give it a relaxing 'sentimental sunset drive' feel as Linus's wordless murmurings on the chorus give the impression of him (and by proxy, you) leaving sentimental troubles behind. It's cathartic without being angst, sentimental without being self-indulgent and music to lull as well as enlighten. So drag out that list of ex-sweethearts and dial into Myndra's "Distant Lover."

**æ** (often written as ae) is pronounced like the i in tide.

**ð** (often written as d) is pronounced like the th in there

**þ** (often written as th) is pronounced like the th in think"

Greetings, madam! Where can I find this Blue Lagoon that everyone keeps talking about?

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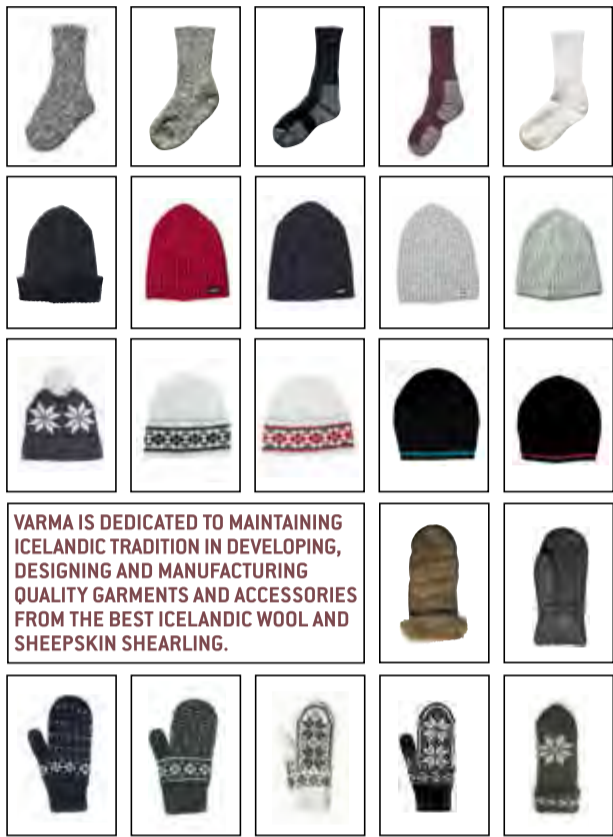
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## Sour grapes & stuff

### Most Awesome Letter of the Issue

Hello Grapevine,

I was reading your latest issue on my iPad and couldn't help but notice your cover photo of your beloved mayor... err... your loved mayor... err... let's just say your mayor, Jón Gnarr walking on water. A photo that was inspired by the Peter Sellers film Being There.

Well this was a pretty cool photo for me because I work at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, which is a 175,000 square foot house built in 1895. We have 43 bathrooms, 101 bedrooms, a gymnasium, an indoor swimming pool, and a stable. It was built by one of the Vanderbilt's and is a popular tourist attraction here in the mountains. Right about now, you most likely are asking yourself "What the hell is your point?". Well it was here at Biltmore where Being There was filmed.

Here is Peter Sellers walking on the lagoon behind the house:



### MOST AWESOME LETTER FREE GRAPEVINE TEE HEE HEE!



**HOLY MOLY!** We've got a **NEW PRIZE** for the **MOST AWESOME LETTER**. And boy, is it fancy! We are treating whoever sent this issue's **MOST AWESOME LETTER** to one of **ARCTIC ADVENTURES'** wonderful **RAFTING** daytrips on **HVÍTÁ** river. And they get to bring a friend, too! Such great, good fortune, right? They get to raft down a raging river surrounded by all the wonderful glacial majestic pristine unspoilt beautiful pure nature Iceland has to offer, getting a dose of adrenaline along with a generous serving of natural wonder. Who knows, they might even run into some elves (note: they probably won't run into any elves). To claim the prize, drop us a line at [publisher@grapevine.is](mailto:publisher@grapevine.is). And **DON'T PANIC** if you didn't win, you can totally book that rafting trip from [www.adventures.is](http://www.adventures.is) - or try to write a wonderful letter so you can snag next issue's prize. **LETTERS@GRAPEVINE.IS**



So I thought to myself, what better place to read your magazine, then at the Lagoon? So I did.

Have a great day!

Bryan

Hey Bryan,

Thank you for your nice letter! We had no idea that 'Being There' was filmed at the Biltmore Estate, but that's a fun fact! And we're glad you could enjoy the issue by that beautiful lagoon...

For those of you who missed our last issue, you can find a .pdf and issuu version on our website, [www.grapevine.is](http://www.grapevine.is).

All the best,  
The Grapevine

Would you be willing to run an ad to help me find my penpal from fifth grade? Her name was Andrea Avarstadottir or something like that. She was from Reykjavik. I can't remember the proper spelling as it has been more than 20 years since we wrote. I was connected with her through my teacher in Havre, Montana USA. Thank you for any help you can offer.

Sarah McKinney

Dear Sarah,

Here's to hoping that somebody reading our issue can help you out. Right off the bat we can tell you that her last name is probably not Avarstadottir, as it's not really an Icelandic name, but you're probably close! She could certainly be called something like Andrea Ævarsdóttir (there's one living in Reykjavik) or Arnardóttir (there's one living in Mosfellsbær and her middle name is Anna), or Arnarsdóttir (there's

one living in Akranes and her middle name is Ýr), or even Árnadóttir (there are three of those, one living in Reykjavik, another in Hafnarfjörður and the third in Akranes).

In case you want to try phoning any of them, you can find their numbers at [www.ja.is](http://www.ja.is) (that's our phonebook and most people are listed).

We hope you reconnect!  
Grapevine



Dear friends,  
Now we desperately need your help and we want to test the power of Facebook! These young women came to our shop in Reykjavik, Iceland, on Saturday the 31st

of May 2014.

They left their camera which contains a lot of photos and we want to try to get it back in their hands.

Attached are photos of the women in Iceland and a photo of a graduation at Cornell which might help us find the owner.

It would mean a lot if you shared this post so we can find the cameras owner! Thank you,  
Kraum

We want to help, Kraum, and we want to test the power of the printed word, too. Anyone know who these travelers are? Lotsa karma points if you can help us return a camera and prove that the written word isn't dead at the same time.

Optimistically,  
The Grapevine



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# The Truth Is Out There

## The Truth Committee reviews proof of Iceland's legendary Lake Worm

Words by Larissa Kyzer

Photo by Barbara Gancarek-Śliwińska



Amidst municipal election projections, heated whaling debates, and a run of contentious labour strikes, an altogether different kind of story made headlines last month when East Iceland's solemnly titled 'Truth Committee' announced that it needed more time to complete its target objective. Namely, to review submissions from people claiming proof of the existence of the Lagarfljót Worm—Iceland's (slightly less formidable) answer to the Loch Ness Monster. But in mid-May, just over two years since its establishment, the committee announced that its work was not complete and officially requested that the governing town council grant it just a few more months to complete its investigation.

Although there are a number of variations on the legend, the basic story goes that 'The Worm'—now an immense serpent-like beast—was once just a normal worm-size worm. A young girl who lived in the area received a gold ring from her mother, and was told to secret it away in a chest with a worm (sometimes a slug, sometimes a snake) for protection. Then, she was told, the worm and the gold would grow together. But the worm grew much too big, much too fast, and the frightened child pitched the chest, beastie and all, into Lake Lagarfljót. This apparently suited The Worm just fine, as it just kept on growing.

Now gigantic and quite hungry, The Worm quickly became a problem for locals, devouring anyone who tried to cross the water and occasionally even slinking ashore and spitting its horrible poison about. So several magicians (generally said to be Sami mystics) were called in to destroy the beast in exchange for the monster's gold if they were successful. Unfortunately, the magicians were unable to kill The Worm, but they were able to restrain its head and tail on the bottom of the lake so that it would never rise again. But every now and then humps of the monster's back can be seen undulating over the surface of the

water, sightings of which are said to be bad omens.

### The Worm Resurfaces

That's the legend, and you'd be hard-pressed to find many who would recite that tale as a strictly factual account. Nevertheless, sightings of The Worm date back as far as 1345 and, as a former Grapeviner/resident of the area once noted, "numerous sightings [have been] recorded since, many of them in the 20th century and mostly by people who have generally proven to be reliable. And sober." In fact, sightings of The Worm have been so common that

in 1997, the surrounding municipality of Fljótsdalshérað decided to host an open competition, offering 500,000 ISK (roughly 4,400 USD) to anyone who came forward with irrefutable evidence of the creature.

The competition generated a lot of interest and garnered a number of submissions—photographs and even several original paintings. But none of these passed muster as 'irrefutable evidence' and eventually the competition was all but forgotten and the prize was left unclaimed.

Fast forward then fifteen years to

a February morning in 2012, when a farmer named Hjörtur Kjerúlf stood at his kitchen window and filmed (what appeared to be) The Worm slithering through ice floes along the surface of the lake. This thirty-second home video got two and a half million views within days of being posted to YouTube (nearly five million today), made international headlines from Japan to the UK, and brought news crews, monster hunters and myth-debunking types from Russia and The US among others.

It was around this time that a neighbour recalled the bygone competition and suggested that Hjörtur submit his video for consideration. "He sent an official letter to us," recalls Stefán Bogi Sveinsson, the president of the Fljótsdalshérað town council. "Here is the video. So...I'd like to have my prize money now."

### The Committee Assembles

This was a bit of an unexpected wrinkle for the town council—for one, that prize money hadn't just been waiting patiently in a safe for 15 years. Moreover, after hearing that Hjörtur's video had been submitted as evidence, two other people came forward with photographs that they wanted considered as well. But rather than try to deflect these claims, the council decided to embrace them—to reopen the competition but this time, to do it with a little more flair. "We decided to make it quite grand," Stefán explains. "To set it up quite scientifically."

Thus was born the Sannleiksnefnd um tilvist Lagarfljótsormsins, or the Truth Committee on the Existence of the Worm of Lagarfljót, a thirteen-member board of illustrious volunteers including several town councilmembers, an environmentalist and photographer, a tourism promoter, a landscape architect and forestry professional, a biologist, an ethnologist, a pastor, and a former member of parliament. There's also a self-described "Worm enthusiast," a specialist in "mysterious phenomena," and the chairman of the Félags áhugmanna um skrimslasetur, or the Association of Amateur Monster Researchers.

There seem to have been more than enough willing volunteers to establish the Truth Committee, but all the same, many members—as locals who have grown up with this story—have had their doubts about the existence of the creature. "It's difficult to live with this legend," Stefán says. "It's not really something you like to admit you believe

in, but you don't want to slam the door on it, either."

Moreover, it was very important that the playful ceremony surrounding the committee not be misinterpreted as irony or mockery. "People around here have seen it," Stefán says. "Quite a lot of people. So when we formed the committee, the resolution at the town council meeting had to state for the record that we had no reason to doubt the existence of The Worm. Officially, we don't not believe."

The committee was given the rest of the municipal term—until June 2014—to review the submissions and come to a conclusion about their validity. "Of course, time passes," Stefán says, noting that suddenly their deadline was in sight, but no real "end game" had been established. But announcing their findings at a regular town meeting seemed a little anticlimactic, everyone agreed, so they decided to request an official extension on the life of the committee so that they might "end it properly" at the Ormsteiti, or aptly named "Worm Party"—the municipality's summer festival, held annually in August.

### The Truth Will Out

The Truth Committee didn't have any trouble getting the town council to approve its three-month extension, although Stefán notes that one council member did go on record saying that she didn't think that a Truth Committee was really necessary. "Her father saw the worm, and she is convinced that it exists," Stefán says. "So she doesn't understand why we needed to do this."

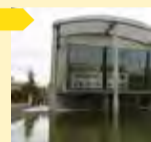
Still, the question of how exactly the committee will go about verifying Hjörtur's video, or the other two photos, remains. "To be quite frank," Stefán says, "we don't really know." But however the evidence is assessed, the committee will put the matter to a vote and the winner (or winners, as the case may be) will be announced at the Worm Party in August. Stefán says that locals have gotten into the spirit of the competition and think of the final announcement as something to look forward to. All the same, many members of the community are of the mind that the competition results are a bit of a foregone conclusion. "Almost everyone has seen the video, although not as many know about the photographs," Stefán says. "They say, 'it's obvious you have the evidence—just give him [Hjörtur] the cash prize.' But as a committee, we have to be thorough."



By Larissa Kyzer



With the municipal elections on June 1, many politicians scrambled at the end of May to tilt public approval in their favour, even if it meant appealing to some voters' worst tendencies. Five days before the elections, polls showed that the **Progressive Party was not predicted to earn a seat on the city council.** But following **Sveinbjörg Birna Sveinbjörnsdóttir's statement that if she were elected she'd revoke the plot of land intended for Reykjavík's first mosque,** party support rose from 5.3% to 6.8%—which would be just enough for the Progressives to get that seat, and they actually wound up getting two. (See page 8 for more on the elections.)



As it happened, voter turnout was at a record low for the election, with just under 63% of those eligible casting their ballots in Reykjavík. As predicted, the Social Democrats—led by Reykjavík's **soon-to-be mayor Dagur B. Eggertsson—won the largest share of the vote (31.9%), earning them five seats on the city council.** The Social Dems will likely form a four-way coalition with Bright Future (two seats), the Left-Greens (one seat), and the Pirates (one seat).

Following the election, **Jón Gnarr remarked that he was worried that results were evidence of disturbing nationalism and xenophobia.** "We have seen this movement become more powerful in Europe, with a great deal of fear and suspicion of foreigners," he said. "This has shocked me and I find it tedious. I would find it awful if Icelanders went in the same direction. It would make me ashamed as an Icelander." (See page 10 for more.)

Although clearly, issues related to the rights and treatment of foreigners are far from being resolved here, but some positive changes might finally be afoot. At the end of May, **parliament approved a series of significant changes to how asylum applications will be handled in Iceland.** For one, a three-person committee will be appointed to review asylum applications instead of these being handled by the Directorate of Immigration or the Ministry of the Interior. The committee will be appointed for five years, and two of the appointed members will be from Iceland's Human Rights Office. These changes come at a particularly good time: Iceland has **just agreed to accept refugees fleeing the crisis in Syria**—particularly injured and ill children and their families.

At the national level, many are hopeful that the Progressive Party's Household Debt Relief package will bring some positive relief for homeowners struggling with mortgage debt. **The Household Debt Relief package went into effect this month,** allowing individuals to access their own tax-free, private pension holdings in order to pay down up to four million ISK in debt. People can apply for these debt write-offs via the Icelandic/English website [leidretting.is](http://leidretting.is) until September 1.

Continues over





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Iceland | For Dummies

# So What's This City Election I Keep Hearing About?

Words by Kári Tulinius @Kattullus

Illustration by Inga María Brynjarsdóttir

**O**h, you heard about it? It seems like a lot of people did not. Turnout was at an historic low for all municipal elections around Iceland, including Reykjavík. Since 2002, the population of the city proper has grown from 110,000 to 120,000. At the same time total votes cast have gone from 69,000 to 57,000. Nationwide only 66 percent of eligible voters cast their ballot, which is the lowest electoral participation in 60 years.

**That doesn't sound so bad, that's almost as many as the votes cast in the Eurovision Song Contest every year.**

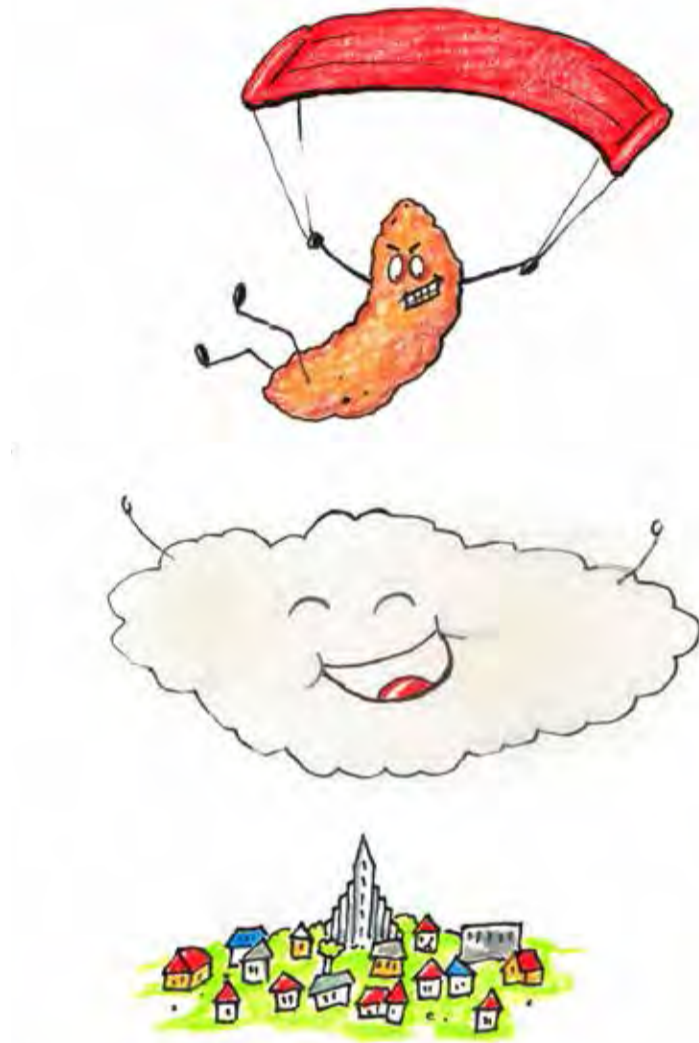
Reykjavík gave its douze points to the Social Democratic Alliance and its top dog, the genial, floppy-haired Dagur B. Eggertsson. For the first time, the Social Democrats got the most votes of any party in the city, with five out of fifteen members on the City Council. Three other parties who are, generally speaking, on the left, also received enough votes to get candidates on the council, Bright Future got two and the Left-Greens and the Pirate Party one each, and these parties will likely form the new majority coalition. All in all, it was a great day for the left.

**If I know my left-wingers right they've found a turd lining on that happy cloud.**

Yes, the 10 percent received by the Progressive Party. Traditionally they have been strongest in the countryside, and did not manage to get any candidates into Reykjavík's city council last time around. So they went from having no members to having two.

**Ah, so they ran a really good, professional election campaign?**

Oh no, not at all. Their initial top candidate quit because it looked like the party would get barely any votes. Then they were going to draft in an old par-



liamentarian and minister whose post-political career was to be a spokesman for agricultural products and tell lewd jokes at business shindigs. He decided not to run the night before he was to be formally announced, leaving the party flapping in the wind like a Welcome Home Daddy balloon when daddy has decided he likes his other family in Selfoss better.

**But then they found dynamic new leadership team who connected with the people of their city?**

The person they found to lead their list, Sveinbjörg Birna Sveinbjörnsdóttir, did not actually live in Reykjavík. She lives in the bordering municipality of Kópavogur. At first she seemed

like nothing so much as another milestone in the most hapless run for office that Iceland had ever witnessed. No one really paid attention to her until she started to talk about how Muslims should not get to build a mosque in Reykjavík. She proposed that a citywide referendum would be held to decide if a local Muslim congregation should be allowed to build their mosque. Freedom of religion does not mean much if the majority can decide who is allowed to demonstrate their faith.

**Some people desire power more than they want to love their neighbour.**

Some members of her party criticised her. Hreiðar Eiríksson, the person in

fifth place on the party list, withdrew his support. The chairwoman of the Progressive Party's parliamentary caucus, Sigrún Magnúsdóttir, said that the opinions of Sveinbjörg Birna did not reflect the views of the party and went against its tenets. Progressive Party MP and Minister of Foreign Affairs Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson reposted Sigrún Magnúsdóttir's words on his Facebook page. While these people were a credit to their party, the Prime Minister and party leader Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson declined to comment until after the election, when, to be fair, he did say that he thought that Muslims should be allowed to build a house of worship in Reykjavík.

**Good thing he waited until after the election or else racists might have been discouraged by his words to go vote for his party.**

The devil, as they say, is in the details. The Prime Minister specified that the mosque would need to fit in with its surroundings, which is not the full-throated support for freedom of religion that is ideal to hear from the head of government. This is even more worrisome in light of an article written by Guðrún Bryndís Karlsdóttir, a candidate who lost her seat on the Progressive Party list in a reshuffle. According to her one of the main things discussed during the run-up to the election was how she felt about Muslims. One of the ways her opinion was tested was how she reacted when one party official made a dick joke about Muslims. Apparently it was a disappointment when she did not laugh. Which reminds me of an old joke. What do you call a racist Icelandic politician? A dick.



– Continued –



Alternative modes of transportation continue to be a hot topic, and we may very well see some

big developments in carless travel in the near future. For one, the town of **Reykjanesbær's Environment and Planning Department has applied to construct a bike path to the Keflavík airport**, about five kilometres away. This path is hoped to improve commuting options for the 750 Reykjanesbær residents who work at the airport, as well as "tourists who increasingly opt to cycle from the airport, down Reykjanesbraut and on to Reykjavík."

More locally (but perhaps less practically), **Reykjavík resident Eysteinn Þ. Yngvason applied to operate a fifty-seat train alongside the Reykjavík harbour**. The train would run at walking speed and stop at various points around the old harbour. If the application is successful, the train could be running by early June.

Also on the move was **Sigríður Sörensdóttir, who opted to take a four-day horse trip rather than be forced to celebrate her 90th birthday**. "I decided to go on this trip so I wouldn't have to throw a party or participate in all that birthday hassle," she told reporters, noting that she also has a ten-day riding trip planned for July.

**Guðríður Guðbrandsdóttir, who turned 108 last month**, was also reflective on her own birthday, saying that the biggest change she's experienced since her birth in 1906 was the introduction of electricity, and that the worst part of growing old was seeing her friends, 10 siblings and three children pass away. However, being only one of four Icelanders (all women) to reach 108, Guðríður did have some tips on how to live a long life: be cheerful and easy-going.

Elsewhere, the Pig Farmer's Society of Iceland came under fire for illegal practices this month, namely for **castrating pigs without the use of anaesthetic**. The Animal Protection Association of Iceland called for a boycott of Icelandic pork until the practice was abolished and, following a public outcry, **the association issued a statement that it would immediately adopt more humane methods**, using local or general an-

Continues over



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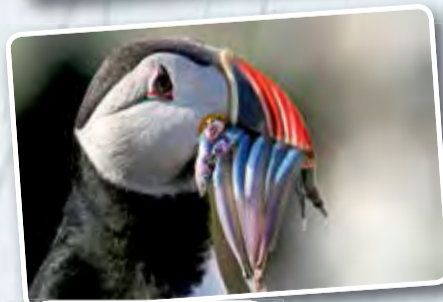
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# Masters Of Peace And Harmony

The Progressive Party went hunting for xenophobic votes



**Haukur Már Helgason** is a writer and filmmaker, born in Reykjavík 1978. His critical writings have appeared in The London Review of Books and Lettre International. His first documentary film, 'Ge9n,' premiered in 2011. Helgason resides in Berlin. @haukurmar

Out with the new, in with the old: Municipal elections were held in Iceland last Saturday with a record low voter turnout. The big shock: A week before the election, the Progressive Party decided to go all populist-right-wing xenophobe.

Once again, the 98-year-old farmers' party seemed to be vanishing as a force in city politics, as polls measured its following at 3–5%. On May 22, however, a week before the election, the party's top candidate in Reykjavík, Sveinbjörg Birna Sveinbjörnsdóttir, posted the following Facebook status: "Many people have approached me to ask what position I have on the designation of a land plot for a mosque..." The day after, when pressed about the matter by the media, she made her position clear: the allocation should be cancelled, and a general referendum should decide whether a mosque will be built in Reykjavík or not.

Unlike most other Nordic countries, the Icelandic State has not severed its ties to its Lutheran-Evangelical National Church. As of 2009, about 80% of the population were members of the denomination. Due to traditional intimacy between Church and State, legislation still decrees that municipalities in Iceland must donate land to churches. As religious variety has grown, the law has, in later years, been interpreted in accordance with the constitutional decree of religious freedom, as applicable to all religious groups. In recent years, Reykjavík has thus donated land to Buddhists, Nordic Paganists, the Russian-Orthodox Church and so on.

Meanwhile, a Muslim congregation, which applied through the same procedure in 2000, was kept waiting for years. When nothing seemed to have happened in 2007, the European Commission against Racism and

Intolerance declared its concern that this was a possible sign of prejudice within the City's institutions. Finally in 2013, the Reykjavík City Council, led by Jón Gnarr, designated a modest plot for a mosque. The appointed plot has finally been handed over and The Association of Muslims in Iceland has opened a competition for its design.

## "We Have Lived Here In Peace And Harmony..."

From the outset there were some negative reactions to the decision. The most extreme public reaction was a cut-off pig's head left on the designated plot, late last year. The perpetrators are known, but so far police authorities have treated the matter as legitimate protest. The act was in line with a spiteful discourse of hate and prejudice that can be found in various comment threads all over Icelandic media.

Until May 22, however, such voices remained outside mainstream politics, and religious practices were hardly imaginable as a central concern in a political campaign. Overnight, this changed. "I have lived for a year in Saudi-Arabia," Sveinbjörnsdóttir publicised, "and I don't base my opinion on prejudice, but experience." She said Luxembourg is a good role-model: "There are many Muslims there, but no mosque. They see what the situation is like in Paris. There are numerous mosques there. But there is an essential difference there, many Muslims come from old

French colonies and so the French must take all sorts of things into their country." She added: "We have lived here in peace and harmony since the Nordic settlements," referring to Iceland's settlement in the 9th century AD: "... first as heathens, then Christians. ... I just think that while we have a National Church, the municipalities should not donate plots to building houses such as a mosque."

## "Cute"

The Progressive party has always been populist. Mostly, however, their populism has been about handing out money to people. Admittedly, to some more than others—make no mistake about it: the party's main commitment has never been any sort of egalitarianism. But outright xenophobic sentiments belong to a whole different category. Artists, writers, intellectuals and the general public used their respective outlets to express anger, shock and disbelief. The Bishop of Iceland reiterated her support for people's religious freedoms and the building of the mosque.

The party's new agenda even outraged some of its own members. One Reykjavík candidate resigned from the campaign. The Progressive party's youth movement impeached Ms. Sveinbjörnsdóttir in an announcement, and declared no confidence in her leadership in the light of the developments. This declaration's text, which momentarily appeared on the movement's website, reminded candidates of the constitutional principle of equality before the law. Guðfinna Jóh. Guðmundsdóttir, the party's second candidate in Reykjavík, responded by condescendingly commenting: 'cute' on the youth movement's Facebook thread. Half an hour later the declaration itself disappeared from the youth movement's website without explanation.

While those anti-immigrationist fringes that have been without political representation openly declared their full support for the party's new stand, The Progressive Party's chair, Prime Minister Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson, remained tactically silent until the first polls came in. When he took the time to com-

ment he derided "The Progressive Party's opponents" for overreacting, leaving the stage for the Reykjavík avant-garde. Daily newspaper Morgunblaðið took a similar line in an editorial, though one step further, explicitly comparing The Progressives to Britain's UKIP and France's Front National, sympathising equally with all of them for the harsh responses their policies receive from "self-appointed Pharisees" of "political correctness." It is a spiteful little paper, yes, but read by some. In the week between Ms. Sveinbjörnsdóttir's first comments and the election, The Progressive Party's support more than doubled in polls. In the end, the party gained not one but two city council members, with a 10% following among the voting public.

## Toward The Last Ballot

Iceland's immigration policies have never been liberal. A point worth repeating is that through a 20 year period well into the 2000s, a total of one refugee was granted asylum in the country. Until now, however, the public consensus has been that

**"The Progressive Party has always been populist. Mostly, however, their populism has been about handing out money to people. Admittedly to some more than others—make no mistake about it: the party's main commitment has never been any sort of egalitarianism. But outright xenophobic sentiments belong to a whole different category."**

discrimination, let alone outright xenophobia, is shameful. The State does all sorts of things, but once cases of obvious discrimination come under the spotlight, authorities have repeatedly been obliged to reverse decisions and review their practices. It's a slow battle, but on in which we have had solid ground beneath our feet. Once the will to discriminate becomes something less than shameful, a lot of ground has been lost. It remains to be seen if a xenophobic cause is to be included in the party's agenda on the national level.

As mentioned, voter turnout was low. It has been on the decline since 2006, decreasing by about 10% with every election. If this trend continues, the last voter will deliver the very last ballot in 2038. This will, of course, expedite the counting process. We all pray now that when they take that eventual last ballot out of the box and count it, the lone voter will have had the good sense not to vote for the Progressives.

The Progressive Party remains the current leader of Iceland's government.



— Continued —

aesthetic. Eventually, the goal is to stop gelding pigs entirely.

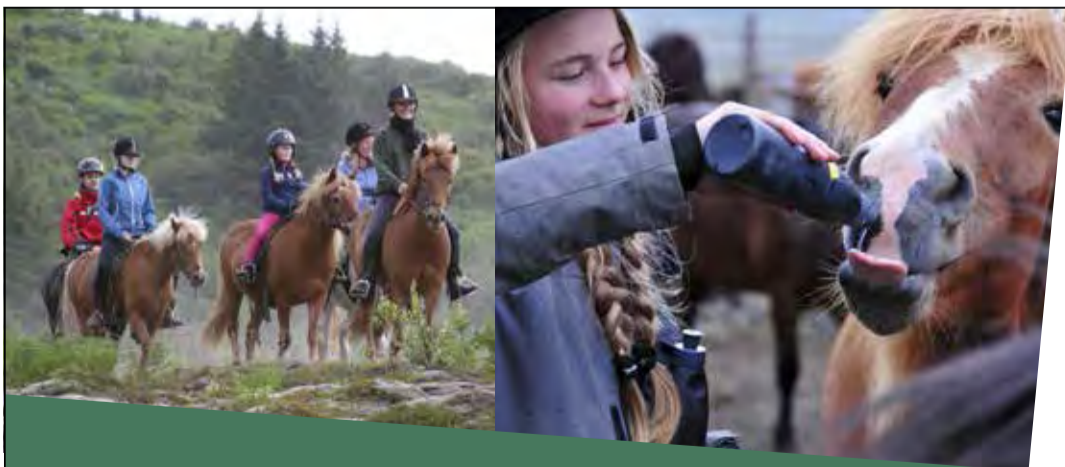
As it happens, reports of animal abuse in Iceland have skyrocketed in recent years. In 2012, 50 possible cases were reported to the Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority. Last year, however, this number jumped to 50 complaints per month. Chief Veterinary Officer Sigurborg Daðadóttir has suggested that this increase is not due to the actual increase of animal abuse cases, but rather an increase in Icelanders' concern about animal welfare.

Case in point: Dalvík resident Ólafur Hauksson was outraged this month when Goggur ("Beak"), a goose he raised from the egg, was dyed blue by unknown assailants. "That's my goose," read the captions on a YouTube video he made of the bird being cleaned. "Her name is Goggur. What the fuck is wrong with you people?"

Shortly after, the City of Reykjavík issued its annual public service announcement asking residents and tourists not to

feed bread to the ducks and swans at Reykjavík's pond. Primarily this is because the bread attracts seagulls, which prey on duck eggs and ducklings. But bread also has virtually no nutritional value for ducks and can lead to significant health problems for the birds. So if you can't control your urge to throw them a snack on your next walk around the pond, you're advised to opt for halved grapes, cracked corn, or thawed (frozen) peas. (Or just go to the Reykjavík Zoo, guys.)

And, finally for the cuddly bit. The nation sighed a collective "aww" in May when a message in a bottle, written by four-year-old Henrik Hugi from Hafnarfjörður, was discovered halfway around Iceland from where it was thrown in the ocean a year ago. "I put this in the sea with the help of my grandmother, grandfather and mom," Henrik's message read, along with his phone number, address, and the date. The bottle was found by county councilperson Andrea Kristín Jónsdóttir in Steingrímsfjörður, in the Westfjords. In a particularly nice twist, Andrea Kristín is herself originally from Hafnarfjörður.



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# Help! I Need A Place To Live!

## The dire state of Reykjavík's rental market

Words by Catharine Fulton

Photos by Nanna Dís

“Room for rent in 101 Reykjavík. 11 square metres. Internet not included. 65.000 kr. per month.”

“Room for 1 person. 50.000 kr. monthly, plus deposit. The room is very small and not very nice, but maybe somebody would like to take it.”

“One room in a shared apartment in a quiet area in Garðabær. 75.000 kr. per month.”

For every one of these ads that pop up on a Facebook page for Iceland's expats there are a dozen posts that read like cries for help. People who are moving to Reykjavík for school, or an internship, or on a whim; people who have lived in this city for years; all needing but having a hard time finding affordable places to live.

And it's no wonder those on the prowl in Reykjavík's rental market are pleading on the internet for an affordable abode. They are few and far between, with many moving toward renting short-term for big profit to tourists rather than offering long-term accommodation at a reasonable rate to city residents.

### Great Minds?

The horrendous state of Reykjavík's rental market was a hot topic in the recent municipal elections, and one of the few speaking points that all parties appeared to agree on.

“It is in shambles,” said the Pirate Party. “It's insecure and unhealthy,” insisted the Social Democratic Alliance, which came out victorious in the May 31 elections.

The Independence party's pre-elections chatter blamed the lack affordable housing on the City not making

enough plots of land available for development. A sentiment conjured by The Progressive party's nationalist leader Sveinbjörg Birna Sveinbjörnsdóttir in attempting to justify her xenophobic argument that a plot of land granted to the Muslim Association of Iceland for building the country's first mosque should be taken back...

### We Can Make A Fortune Renting To Tourists!

No small contributor to the current state in which Reykjavík's rental market finds itself is the tourist boom and the eagerness of enterprising Icelanders to get a piece of the pie. As tourism continues to grow in Iceland it seems that every owner of a home or apartment is getting into the hospitality business, turning their properties into guest houses, and listing their apartments exclusively on sites like Airbnb.

This has led to many long-term renters in 101 finding themselves evicted as their landlords seek to cash in on the flood of tourist dollars into the country.

“It's nothing more than greed,” said Sarah\* of her former landlord's decision to dive headfirst into the tourist rental market, leaving her and her young family with just 8-weeks to find a new place

to live as he rushed to get their long-term rental tourist-ready in time for June 1.

“I know the tourism industry, so I've been hearing for years about people being kicked out so that their landlords can make a quick buck off of tourists. I just never expected that I would be in the same position.”

After three years renting from her landlord, Sarah was entitled to a minimum of six-months notice to vacate the apartment, but given the fact that she shared the premises with her landlord she went along with the eight-weeks notice and moved out. Luckily for Sarah, she and her family were able to find a lovely and spacious apartment in 101 to move into, but others without as flexible a budget would likely not be so fortunate.

There are currently more than 1,000 Reykjavík properties listed for rent on Airbnb, a popular site for renting entire homes, spare rooms, or shared spaces at a nightly rate to travellers. More than 600 of those are in Miðbær and Vesturbær, Reykjavík's central neighbourhoods. Single rooms tend to start at 5,000 ISK nightly, and entire apartments at around 15,000 ISK nightly, depending on the time of year.

While not all 1,000 plus apartments listed on Airbnb in Reykjavík are set aside strictly for tourists—some are legitimately lived in by individuals and

families looking to make some spending money while they'll be away from home anyhow—many listings are properties that have been bought and renovated explicitly for the purpose of renting to tourists. Many “host” profiles even state something along the lines of “I have numerous rentals available throughout 101” imploring would-be guests to be in touch for something that suits their specific needs.

Unless their specific need is a reasonably priced long-term rental, then they're

out of luck.

**“In a market where everybody has traditionally bought a home, but in a time when hundreds are defaulting on their mortgages monthly, development of affordable housing in the city would be a welcome addition.”**



### What's Being Done?

In October 2013, the City of Reykjavík released a housing plan that projected that more than 7,500 residences of various configurations would be constructed in the city by 2022, with an average of 750 being added to the market yearly.

The Social Democratic Alliance, which has been in a coalition government with The Best Party for the past four years, even campaigned on the promise

of adding 2,500–3,000 new apartments to the city in the next four years.

These numbers could very well come to fruition depending on the success of a scheme developed by City Council last year. Called Reykjavíkurrhús (Reykjavík Houses), the scheme would see the city granting plots of land to developers that would, in turn, use that land to build affordable housing for Reykjavík residents.

In a market where everybody has traditionally bought a home, but in a time when hundreds are defaulting on their mortgages monthly, development of affordable housing in the city would be a welcome addition.

### Happy Hunting

It's a jungle out there. With the tourist boom being treated as a gold rush by enterprising developers and property owners, the cost of renting in Reykjavík is going through the roof.

While plans have been set in motion to remedy the situation and provide more options to residents whose incomes are currently being stretched too thin, relief cannot come soon enough.

“It's a shame, so many families are cramming themselves into one-bedroom apartments because they don't want to give up living in the centre, but after having one or two children they can't afford a place with two or more bedrooms in the city,” laments Sarah. “There's just no affordable options left.”

*\* Reykjavík's rental market is small, competitive, and very dependent on connections and word of mouth. For this reason names have been changed.*

Ólafur Arnalds, 1976

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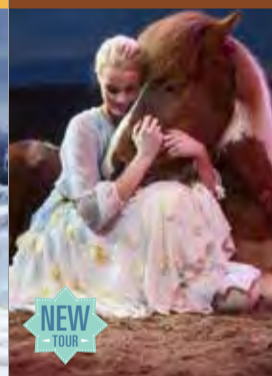
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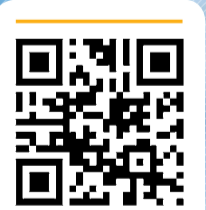


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# Icelandic Bar Life

...Through the eyes of the maternal figure behind Boston and the late Sirkus

Words by Tómas Gabríel Benjamin

@Gabrielandmore

Photo by Nanna Dís

Sigríður “Sigga” Guðlaugsdóttir’s induction into the world of running bars began by chance. She was working part-time at a bar in Boston while she was studying film in the ‘80s when the owners suddenly fired the managers and asked her to take their place. She was hesitant at first, but with time blossomed in the job. After returning home and working in a few bars in Iceland, Sigga fully committed to the life of a bar manager when she purchased Sirkus in 2000. The bar quickly attracted all manner of creative and artistic people, and she ran it successfully for nine years before it was torn down to make room for a new hotel, which has yet to be built.

Today Sigga may be 60 and her voice turned hoarse from smoking, but she’s still going strong. She owns the successful downtown bar Boston, which after eight years, shows no signs of slowing down. Although she brought her son Jóel into the business two years ago and he helps keep it fresh and up-to-date, booking the latest DJs and live bands, she’s still there, working behind the bar. And when we ventured there early afternoon on a Friday to chat with her, it was apparent that the staff was getting ready for the first round of patrons to show up at any moment. Sigga herself was on her first beer.

**In the time that you’ve been running bars, do you feel like the drinking culture has changed?**

Yes, absolutely, and I think for the better. For many people my age the whole point of going out was to drink until you dropped, but the

new generation has a lot of people who have studied abroad and been introduced to a different culture—they go to the bar after work, have two beers and then go home. Then there’s another crowd that doesn’t go downtown until 10 in the evening and stays out late, but they don’t get as drunk as they used to.

**So you think it’s going to keep developing in this direction?**

Oh, I really hope so. [She laughs heartily.] I think it’s simply beautiful to be able to have a few beers during the day, and I don’t think that makes people alcoholics. When I was living abroad it was normal to see people drink beer instead of coffee, which is quite different than what you find with the coffee-obsessed people of Iceland. I personally think you sleep better after having beer than coffee—if I have a cup in the afternoon, I stay awake all night.

**We frequently hear foreigners comment on how lively the Reykjavík bar scene is compared to elsewhere. Do you think there is any truth to those claims?**

Well, we Icelanders of course have the dark winter during which we spend long periods indoors. While this affords us the chance to be creative and artistic, we can’t just rot inside and watch TV. We go downtown to vent, to dance a lot and have plenty of fun so that we can keep working through the week. I think it’s really good that people of all ages do this and enjoy themselves.

**And what do you think about the trend of downtown bars giving way to hotels?**

I think this hotel obsession in Iceland is completely nuts. Seeing building after building being replaced by hotels on Laugavegur is

dreadful. It’s the only main street we have, and the tourists that walk up and down it aren’t here to just see hotels.

It’s not surprising though that so many people want to cash in on the tourism money—the industry is growing rapidly and the industry is barely taxed. Meanwhile, bars purchasing alcohol from wholesalers are paying almost the same price for it as normal people that go to the alcohol store because of how heavily alcohol is taxed.

You used to only have to pay 24.5% VAT, but after the collapse it became 25.5% plus an additional alcohol tax, which means you basically pay the whole price of the product again! I don’t give a damn about spirits, they’re all imported anyways, but locally-brewed beers shouldn’t have to pay this extra fee, the VAT is plenty enough.

How many whale-watching boats are there at the dock right now? There weren’t any a few years ago, and they are there because they aren’t taxed at all. Can you imagine what would happen to them if they suddenly had to pay added taxes? It’s very difficult to run a bar, and that’s why so many are closing down these days. Our Sigmundur [Davíð Gunnlaugsson, Iceland’s Prime Minister] promised to remove this

**“I think this hotel obsession in Iceland is completely nuts. Seeing building after building being replaced with hotels on the main street, Laugavegur, is dreadful.”**

tax if elected, but since coming into office I haven’t exactly see him deliver on his promises...

**I’ve spoken to some of your staff members who say you are frequently the first person in and last person out of the bar. Is that what it takes to keep a bar afloat?**

Yes. Running a bar isn’t for everyone, and it isn’t something you get rich from doing: it’s a 24-hour job that sometimes leaves you just about ready to throw in the towel. I now split the work with my son Jóel, which is good because he’s still young, fresh and hungry.

**Your son currently owns and runs an iteration of Sirkus in the Faroe Islands. Have you considered opening up a Reykjavík branch again?**

Oh yes, yes I would, but only if we could find the right kind of space. It would have to be a small house with a nice garden.

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Hot | Dogs



# Pylsuspjall:

1. Hot Dog Chat
2. A Brief Conversation Held With Strangers Holding Sausages

Words by Larissa Kyzer  
Photos by Laura Clark

## Today's Topic: Iceland's Bar Scene

Welcome to our third edition of Pylsuspjall, a feature in which we accost strangers at the Bæjarins Bestu hot dog stand and ask them questions while their mouths are full.



**What's your name?**  
Dean

**Where are you from?**  
Fairbanks, Alaska (USA)

**What do you think makes these hot dogs so good?**  
Maybe the sauce? There's a sweet sauce to it that seems pretty unique to here. The hot dogs we make are spicier.

**Describe Iceland in three words.**  
Kinda like Europe.

**What are your impressions of Iceland's bar scene? Have you heard much about it?**  
No, I haven't really.

**So, it wasn't an incentive for you to visit, I guess.**  
No, I came because Icelandair has direct flights from Alaska now and I'd never been here before. I went to the Blue Lagoon and the lava tubes, went snorkelling in Silfra, visited the church...

**So you've done quite a lot.**  
Yep, and I leave tonight at midnight.



**What's your name?**  
Þórvaldur

**Where are you from?**  
I live in Breiðholt [a neighborhood in Reykjavík].

**What do you think makes these hot dogs so good?**  
I don't know. But I come here every once in a while and get one because these are the best ones in town.

**Describe Iceland in three words.**  
It's a good place to stay.

**Any particular reason?**  
Well, I was born here. And the freedom and everything.

**What do you think about Reykjavík's bar scene?**  
I don't drink, but it's okay with me. Sometimes it gets out of hand, but I don't live over here, so it's fine.



**What's your name?**  
Alexia

**Where are you from?**  
Reykjavík, Iceland

**What do you think makes these hot dogs so good?**  
[Pauses.]

**Or, why do you think people keep coming back for the hot dogs here?**  
Because they are quick, cheap, and always good—we trust them.

**Describe Iceland in three words.**  
Wow. Okay. World-changing. Does that count as one word? [Interviewer affirms—it's hyphenated.] Crowded. Always awake. [Not one word, but close enough.]

**What do you think about Reykjavík's bar scene?**  
Well, I've worked in a bar for three years, so I'm really into it. I worked at Lebowski Bar for two years and am going to a new bar, Fredriksson, now. It's being built—it'll open in a couple of weeks.

**When you go to other cities, do you notice a difference in the drinking culture compared to Iceland?**  
Yes. People can be relaxed and sit and talk. Not so much here. There're only really a few bars here where you can do that.

**When would you say nightlife gets started here?**  
Midnight.

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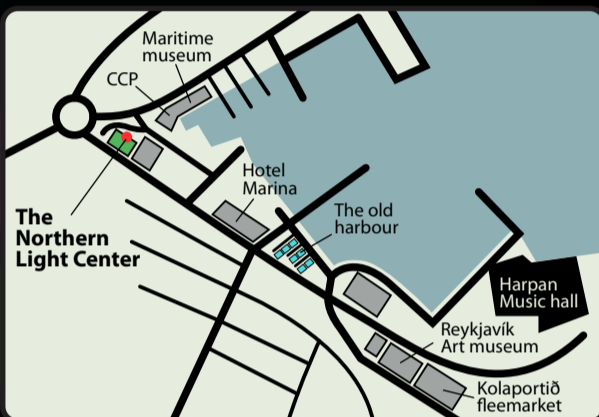
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# The Great ConSkyracy That Wasn't

Real sugar, new recipes, and how Finns are the real gourmands

Words by Larissa Kyzer

Photo by Nanna Dís

Iceland's MS Dairies began exporting skyr to the US's high-end grocery store Whole Foods in 2006, following the yogurt-like product's success in Scandinavia and Switzerland. The arrival of this "real" skyr stateside was big news for American Icelandophiles and those for whom the more prominent, New York-produced "Icelandic-style yogurt" simply didn't compare. But there was rumour of a rather nefarious con-skyracy circulating among imported dairy enthusiasts, namely that the MS Skyr sold in the US was not the same as the skyr that many have come to know and love in Iceland. This obviously called for some serious investigative journalism.

I posted a message on Facebook looking for someone who would be willing to surreptitiously photograph the ingredient label on an MS Skyr package in the US. It was obviously a mystery preying on multiple minds: in less than twenty minutes, I had five American volunteers—one requesting to undertake the assignment while wearing "a trench coat, cool hat and sunglasses"—and even an offer to send pictures of a label in Denmark. I had the photographic evidence I needed within an hour.

A comparison of single-serving MS-brand portion sizes of vanilla skyr proved that while the Icelandic label specifically boasts that it is "sugar-free," the American version contained a whopping 19 grams of sugar. (For reference, different flavours have different sugar quantities—a single serving of US blueberry contains 22 grams of sugar, while there's only seven grams in a single serving of plain US skyr. But the protein allotment stays roughly the same between the two countries' products—16–19 grams in each serving.) "Fat Americans," my mother sighed when I shared my discovery. Many Americans I spoke to voiced this suspicion: MS must simply be pandering to our notorious weakness for adding sugar to literally everything.

Later that week, however, sitting in the inviting, airy office of Heimir Már Helgason, MS Iceland Dairies's export manager, the mystery was immediately—and somewhat anticlimactically—cleared up. "Whole Foods was not so keen on sucralose," he said. "When they started talking about carrying skyr, they came with specifications." In fact, both of the artificial sweeteners that are used in the Icelandic recipe—sucralose and acesulfame-K—are on Whole Foods' list of "Unacceptable Ingredients for Food." (Both of these additives are on the EU's list of "authorised sweeteners" and are clearly listed on Icelandic skyr labels.) Given Whole Food's objections, MS worked with the store to come up with a new recipe that utilised real sugar but

was, in all other respects, identical to the Icelandic recipe. Now, the dairy factory in Selfoss, South Iceland, has separate vats for the skyr that is flown over to the US on a weekly basis. "It's tricky," Heimir laughed.

## Six Things You (Maybe) Don't Know About Skyr

So, it turns out that there's no outrageous plot behind the two different skyr recipes. Americans love their sugar, and Icelanders nearly as much—we just differ about which of the artificial varieties are acceptable (Americans tend toward wholesome high fructose corn syrup, while there are strict quotas on this ingredient's usage in the EU.) Nevertheless, my meeting with Heimir did reveal some unexpected fun facts about this much-beloved "high-protein, virtually fat-free delight":

### 1. Icelanders Are Only Sorta Into Skyr

Although skyr is firmly entrenched in the psyches of many foreigners as something uniquely and popularly Icelandic, Heimir says that "the local market is actually quite stagnant" and has been for some time. The demand for local dairy products dropped so significantly in past years that a term was created—smjörfjall, or "butter mountain"—for excess dairy products languishing on Icelandic shelves. And the surplus continued long enough that local dairy farmers set about actively reducing their dairy cow stock.

### 2. Foreigners, However, Love Skyr

Although MS's research shows that Icelanders' demand for skyr basically never changes, in recent years the local market has grown, which Heimir attributes to the rising number of tourists. Skyr sales



to restaurants and hotels are "booming" he notes, and also points out that the popularity of low-carb, high protein diets have made it "okay again to eat more butter and fat." This, of course, has meant that those farmers who reduced their stocks are now scrambling to meet the increasing demand (it takes at least three years for a young calf to reach milking maturity).

### 3. And Finns Love Skyr More Than Anyone

In the last five years, skyr sales within Scandinavia have increased "tenfold," and are expected to generate 35 million Euro in sales (over 10,000 tonnes of skyr) during 2014. Last year, more than 1,000 tonnes of skyr were consumed in Finland alone, an already staggering quantity that is only expected to increase. And Finns aren't satisfied with the typical array of strawberry, blueberry and vanilla offerings, either—"every three or four months they push us for new flavours," says Heimir. These have included black currant, mango, blood orange, and baked apple. The latter has just made its way into Icelandic markets, but if you have a hankering for any of the other types, you'll have to hop a plane to Helsinki.

### 4. "Traditional Skyr" Is Not As Popular

Responding to a downtrend in sales in 2000, MS turned away from a more traditional skyr production method which utilised a dairy centrifuge. (Hand-powered dairy centrifuges have been in use since the 1860s, and their commercial counterparts are still widely used in dairies today. In fact, the centrifugal method is still employed by Sigg's brand skyr in the US.) Seeking to produce a creamier skyr, MS began to use an ultrafiltration method that concentrates whey proteins while still thickening the skyr. This new-fangled method gives it the

"velvety texture" which has proved more popular among consumers.

### 5. There Are Two Major Brands, But Only One Company

MS Dairies—a cooperative of about 700 family farms around Iceland—has a default monopoly over skyr production in the country, having merged with Norðurmjólk, the only other dairy that produced skyr, in 2007. Before the merger, the Akureyri-based Norðurmjólk produced KEA brand skyr. KEA was made with a different production method and was particularly favoured by people in Northern Iceland. So, in recognition of this popularity, KEA skyr is still produced and sold in its original packaging, even though its manufacturer no longer exists. All MS skyr is now made in Selfoss, in the south, while the former Norðurmjólk factories are being converted for cheese production.

### 6. Not All Skyr Is Vegetarian

This mind-blower was actually uncovered by a former Grapeviner several years ago, but is worth reiterating. Traditionally, skyr is made from 'undanrenna' ("skim milk") that has been heated, curdled with 'ostahleypir' ("rennet"), and then condensed when the whey proteins are separated. (Rennet, for those not familiar, is an enzyme produced in the stomachs of baby mammals, and is extracted once the animal is dead. It's

a common dairy coagulant that is often used in cheese-making.) MS thickens its (MS brand) skyr using ultrafiltration (see Fun Fact #4), and so a coagulant such as rennet is not needed or used. But its KEA brand skyr (Fun Fact #5) is still curdled with rennet, meaning that this dairy treat is not actually vegetarian. However, most consumers would have no way of knowing this without contacting the company directly: in Iceland, it's not required that rennet be listed on food labels.

### Real Skyr

Perhaps most pertinent to those "real" skyr enthusiasts, however, was the discovery that Icelandic skyr need not actually be made in Iceland. Following successful license arrangements in several Scandinavian countries, MS is currently seeking an American partner to produce its skyr in the US (all that fly-

**"Last year, more than 1,000 tonnes of skyr were consumed in Finland alone, an already staggering quantity that is only expected to increase."**



ing back and forth is expensive, and is presumably not great carbon footprint-wise). "Our licensees are using our recipe, getting our technical know-how and using our special Icelandic skyr cultures, which are based on the very old skyr-making tradition, and not accessible to other manufacturers," Heimir says.

In the notable instance of Finland—whose demand for skyr was simply too great to be met by Icelandic producers—all of its skyr is actually produced at a Danish dairy. "We've tried the Danish skyr and we can't tell the difference," says Heimir, "which is kind of sad, really. Because then what makes it Icelandic? The recipe? The cultures?"

Whatever it is, it's delicious.



The logo for AALTO BISTRO features the word 'AALTO' in a stylized, orange, sans-serif font with a blue exclamation point above the 'O'. Below it, the word 'BISTRO' is written in a white, sans-serif font on a blue rectangular background.

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The Nordic House is one of his later works, a hidden gem and features most of Aalto's signature traits. Aalto created almost all of the furnishings in the Nordic house



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## THE GRAPEVINE'S BIG-ASS BAR GUIDE 2014

Now in its fourth year, The Grapevine's bar guide has become an annual tradition—at least for us. Being an able, willing, and discerning group of drinkers, we set about reviewing and rating every single bar in 101 (and even a couple on the fringes) to not only avail ourselves of the city's many options (nearly 70 downtown bars isn't too shabby for a town of this size), but also to take the guesswork out of your next night on the town.

Since we made our last guide, there have been some high profile closures, ranging from Strawberries (0 stars last year), Iceland's last [confirmed] strip club, to Harlem (5 stars last year)—formerly Bakkus, formerly Pýski Barinn—which has now been replaced by Húrri, and hopefully, will stick around a bit longer. But by the time we go to print there's the outside chance that there will be other openings and shutters alike—such is the nature of Reykjavik's protean bar scene.

We don't expect that everyone will agree with everything we've written, but tastes and experiences vary, and well, that's just kinda the way it goes. If you think we've gotten something horribly wrong, we'll accept some constructive criticism. And if you think we got something spot-on, it wouldn't hurt to hear that, too. Either way, keep in mind that places do change from night to night and crowd to crowd, and bar reviewing isn't exactly an exact science (sign us up for classes, if it becomes one, though).

There was, as ever, a method to the madness. Observe:

### REVIEWER INSTRUCTIONS:

These are the instructions we gave to our reviewers before they embarked upon their mission.

### DEFINE: BAR

A bar is an establishment that has 'the sale and consumption of alcohol' as its main purpose and goal. It can sell food, but emphasis must be placed on, again, the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages. However, we made a few exceptions, namely for restaurants that also have separate and/or unique bars.

### METHOD

Each reviewer was instructed to drink one beer at each bar reviewed. To ensure that all bars were reviewed under similar circumstances, they were asked to go there between the hours of 23:00 and 1:00 on a djamm ("party") night, so Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. At the bar, they were instructed to take notes in their fancy journalist notebook, which they did not forget to bring (because that would make it harder to take notes). They noted the following:

#### Prices

the price of the cheapest large beer, glass of wine, and 'single + mixer'

#### Music

Type (DJ, playlist, live music) plus genre?

#### Clientele

Who hangs out there?

#### Special features

What does this bar have that separates it from the bunch, if anything?

#### In a nutshell

One brief sentence to sum up the bar.

#### Rating

On a scale of 1 to 5, 5 being the highest.



Music / Genre

Age

Clientele

Special feature

Troubadour Alert

### Our Review Team:

Ágústa Sveinsdóttir, Brynja Huld Óskarsdóttir, Davíð Roach Gunnarsson, Amy Tavern, Einar Steinn Valgarðsson, Hildur María Friðriksdóttir, John Rogers, Jón Loðmfjörð, Larissa Kyzer, Mark C. Asch, RX Beckett, Ragnar Egilsson, Ragnar Jón Hrólfsson, Sigurður Kjartan, Tómas Gabríel Benjamin, Tangja Guðrún Jóhannsdóttir, Margrét Arnardóttir

### 101 Hótel Bar

Hverfisgata 10



A boutique hotel bar, 101 is a place where people who consider themselves important come to meet, dine, wine and eventually get drunk. Some of them might well be as important as they think, bourgeois artists and businessmen alike. The bar recently buffed up its cocktail menu, so its a feast for the 'buds, but the whole idea of 101 is still a bit pretentious; a place where people gain a certain status by going. It's one of the only places in Reykjavik that gives a hint of the 'international hipster'-vibe



The music is mostly banal lounge that's very fitting for the atmosphere. If there's such a thing as "cool lounge," 101 plays it.

Older (40+)

Rich tourists, bachelor parties, suits, lawyers, single middle-aged-ladies, bohemian artists who like cocaine, intellectuals, bobos.

The decor is quite exquisite, the bathrooms make you feel like a millionaire and the service is almost on par with that.

**A utopia for upper-class hipsters, mixology lovers and cool cats in suits.** — SKK

### Austur

Austurstræti 7



Austur is very crowded on Saturday nights; getting inside is nearly impossible for non-celebrities (although you might have a shot if you're willing to wait in line for an hour). If you brave the queue, you'll find this popular nightspot of the young and beautiful filled with patrons in search of a good time.



All the latest hits, usually played by a DJ. They occasionally have troubadours on Thursday nights.

Young (20-30s).

Body building tanning machines (both male and female), people that put a lot of time and attention into their looks, celebrities (usually Icelandic, but the odd Hollywood star occasionally drops by), bankers and other young, rich people.

It's a huge place with mirrors at every corner so you can admire your own and others' beauty (we witnessed the former on multiple occasions). During the day and early evenings, the bar shares its space with Austur Bistro, which serves food and drink specials for groups.

**A hip place for the young and beautiful.** — HMF & TGH

### B5

Bankastræti 5



When we visited, the place was a pretty empty and a bit cold, Coldplay blaring from the radio. A few patrons sat and enjoyed 'Búlla burgers,' served up a little room behind the bar, sipping on Happy Hour beers. At night the atmosphere takes a complete U turn, B5 transforming into an aggressively crowded nightclub with a dress code, a long queue an even longer VIP queue



By day—Coldplay and soft music. Thursdays—troubadours. Friday and Saturday nights—hip hop, top 40, mainstream dance music.

Young (20-30s).

Beauty pageant contestants (male and female), law students, footballers, footballers' wives, bodybuilders, bankers, real estate agents, tabloid stars, tourists, stiletto'd young girls with too much makeup, guys in suits.

While not exactly a part of B5, Búllan (the hamburger joint operated out of the backroom) dictates the bar's daytime atmosphere. At night, the burgers make way for fancy cocktails, a strict dresscode takes effect and the dancefloor gets lively and loud

**The burgers are great, but as a nightclub, B5 is super-aggressive and extremely crowded. Great for folks that like a dress code and waiting in line.** — MA

### Bar 11

Hverfisgata 18



Short of venturing into one of those Casino bum bars on Laugavegur (which this reviewer has done), this is about as grimy as it gets in town. There's nothing sweet about it, but it's mostly just attitude, not stabby. The early evening is not the ideal time for this place, since it's so big that you can feel a bit like the annoying guest who shows up an hour early to a party. As the night progresses and the crowd rolls in, the whole gloomy metalhead novelty punk decor makes a lot more sense.



Straight up balls to the wall classic rock hits and radio-friendly tunes, all the time. They often have live music downstairs.

Young (20-30s).

Punks, metalheads, rockabilly types, Manic Panic addicts, folks with beautiful tattoos, tattoo artists, bikers, leather lovers, kids who live off beer and cigarettes, permanent scowlers, and suburbanites

A basement concert room entirely devoted to (possibly sponsored by) Tuborg, and decked out as a shrine to the beer.

**A little dirt never hurt.** — RX

### Bar 7

Frakkastígur 7



A rock-themed dive bar the size of a small garage. There were two patrons present at our time of visit; one was a vagrant and the other rambled incoherently into his cell phone, holding it like he was Agent Cooper speaking into the dictaphone. During our stay, we also witnessed a steady stream of folks dropping by for takeaway beers as the speakers blared loud rock music.



Macho rock music. Like Slayer.

Young (20-30s).

The underbelly of Icelandic society: bums, young guys on their fourth day of not sleeping, and people who forgot to buy beer at Ríkið before it closed.

Small airplane bottles of strong liquor, beer and an impressive collection of matchboxes on the walls.

**Cheap beer and an interesting view of the bottom of the barrel.** — DRG

### Bast

Hverfisgata 20



Bast occupies a former retail space across from the National Theater, notable for its capacious floor space and high glass ceilings. The greenhouse charm tends to attract larger crowds on clear days (and long sunny nights).



The bartenders control the iPod, and favor contemporary hip-hop. DJs sometimes spin on weekends.

Young (20-30s).

Dazed tourists lured by the strategically placed sign on Laugavegur advertising Happy

Hour until 8pm; Bast bartenders just off their shifts; bartenders from other bars about to go on their shifts.

A light, but substantial, and skillfully-prepared bar menu (we're fans of the veggie burger on grilled flatbread, in particular), big tables on which to spread out your board games, huge sparrow mural, elevated seating and an outdoor deck.

**People who drink in glass houses shouldn't throw stones, but in any case, it's a pleasant place to let caffeine hours bleed into alcohol hours.** — LK

### Bjarni Fel

Austurstræti 20



A very basic British sports bar with about 20 TV sets for watching football. At our time of arrival, the guests seemed to be on the verge of getting rather drunk.



Trashy techno.

Young (20-30s).

British tourists, guys with tattoos, sports enthusiasts.

It has about two dozen tv screens so wherever you sit, you can always see the game. Also, it has a covered smoking patio.

**A very basic and very functional sports bar for all your drinking and shouting-at-the-TV needs.** — DRG

### Boston

Laugavegur 28b



Supposedly this bar is the lair of Icelandic fashionistas, artists and other glittery and creative people. The first floor is always busy and the second has a crazed atmosphere as the tight space forces patrons to communicate and flirt. Late nights, DJs provide the soundtrack for a dance party.



Electro mixed with blasts from the past.

Young (20-30s).

Artists, glittery people, people that used to go to Sirkús, people in their 30s

The large smoking area is quite nice early in the evening, for chatting and smoking.

**The friendly arty drunken crowd awaits you at Boston.** — JL

### Brikk

Hafnarstræti 18



Brikk is relatively new and the ghost of Zimsen is slowly fading away. This place features all kinds of DJ music, but mostly hip hop and house. The dance floor fills up as the night goes on. If you go on a Sunday though, you'll be treated to jazzy chords and splashy cymbals, which is a rarity in Reykjavik these days.



The usual DJs play Fridays and Saturdays, while you can expect to hear live jazz every Sunday night.

Young (20-30s).

Younger college kids coming back to town after a Vísindaferð (a booze-filled field trip), jazz musicians/enthusiasts, hip hoppers

The regular jazz nights.

**On Sundays Brikk transforms into a nice jazz dive; any other day it feels like a sports bar.** — RJH







person. The barman comes up from the restaurant to serve us drinks. He's cordial as heck, if slightly confused to have a pair of closing-time drinkers on a Monday evening.

★ Einar Ben is primarily a restaurant, but it has a kind of hidden pub upstairs. With its nice third-floor views of central Reykjavík, comfortable furniture and decent beer prices, it's a nice surprise.


**More English pub than The English Pub.** ☹ – JR


**English Pub**   
Austurstræti 12A


★★★★☆

English Pub feels very mainstream. It very frequently hosts troubadours who all perform the same pained renditions of troubadour classics like "All You Need Is Love" and "Wish You Were Here." The crowd enthusiastically chants along as if undergoing a spiritual awakening.

 950  1400  1100

 Troubadours, every day, all the time.

 20-30 Young (20-30s).

 Drinkers, foreigners, people that like foreigners, troubadour enthusiasts.


★ The bar has a wheel of fortune where you can win drinks.


**Everyone here loves to get so drunk that the same old Beatles songs sound fresh. Everyone loves a troubadour, and that's why everyone loves English Pub!** ☹ – JL


**Gaukurinn**  
Tryggvagata 22  
★★★★★

I arrived at Gaukurinn just in time to catch a performance from local reggae band Ojba Rasta, who created a groovy atmosphere. With a reputation as one of Reykjavík's foremost live venues, Gaukurinn offers a great rock 'n' roll feel, with dark walls, wooden tables and leather couches. Aside from the frequent concerts, Gaukurinn offers a friendly vibe, good service and a fine selection of beverages.

 900  1300  1000

 Rock 'n' roll, hard rock, and heavy metal are prominent on the playlist, while bands of every genre play shows there.

 20-30 Young (20s - 30s)

 People in their 20s - 30s mainly, fans of rock and heavy metal or anyone who is into the particular band/music that may be playing.


★ Gaukurinn is one of the few Reykjavík venues that offers regular live performances. It was recently renovated, decked out with a great stage and a new and improved sound system.

**An excellent rock 'n' roll bar with a nice feel, plenty of good music and great concerts.** ☹ – ESV

**Gallery Bar (Hótel Holt)**  
Bergstaðastræti 37  
★★★★★

Going to Hótel Holt is a bit like visiting your grandparents, classic Icelandic paintings hang on the walls, the mellow tones of Icelandic oldies fill the AIR and that chair you sit on smells like it has existed twice as long as you have. And that's awesome. Holt is like a gateway into a world that once was, a romantic getaway to the golden times of yesteryear. It's also kind of like going to an art museum for a drink.

 1250  1200  1200

 The music that accompanies your drink at Hótel Holt is much like the drink itself: mellow and lifts your spirits without ever being too




★★★★★

Loft Hostel is a big bright place with a lot of floorspace and a very mixed crowd of young, seemingly hip Icelanders and tourists.

aggressive. Think Sinatra tunes mixed with Icelandic oldies.

 20-30 Older (40+)

 Painters, older gents and ladies, conservative tourists, Scandinavian conference guests, Megas. Happy-hour-hungry middle aged women.


★ Hótel Holt is renowned for its class, it's where your cigar will be lit by a butlerish waiter and the chef will cook your steak wearing one of those ridiculous-looking white chef-hats. It's the real thing. But you sure do pay for it.


**Whether you want to sip on a perfect Old Fashioned or just dress up and get a glimpse of the extravagance of the '50s, Hótel Holt is the place to be.** ☹ – SKK


**Glaumbar**  
Tryggvagata 20  
★★★☆☆

Glaumbar's ownership is as prone to change as Icelandic weather, and each time the beer prices change and a new theme is introduced. This current incarnation seems to still be deciding what to do with itself, but the crowd is still composed of the same drunkards and young kids, with four boys barely past the legal drinking age passed out in separate booths

 850  2000  N/A

 For some reason, the thoroughly uninspired pop music booming from Glaumbar's shoddy sound system got a small crowd dancing. Likely the punters were either too intoxicated to know better or lacking the cognitive functions to do so.

 20-30 Too young (under 20).

 Dudebros, hnakkar, alcoholics, business people with no sense of taste, Julian Assange before he holed up at the Ecuadorian embassy in London.


★ There is an unbalanced foosball table, several TVs showing the latest game, and only one beer on tap (Tuborg). At least the toilets don't have the remnants of impure coke-lines on every surface like they did during Iceland's boom years.

**The place to be if you have no friends or sense of self-worth and just want to get shit-faced.** ☹ – TGB


**Hotel Plaza**  
Aðalstræti 4  
★★★★☆

Situated by a hotel lobby, drinkers at Hotel Plaza can amuse themselves with the sight of tourists passing by wearing their shiny windproof jackets. The crowd is mostly made up of different tourist groups—suited businessmen along with elderly travellers coming in after a long day, dropping their trekking poles to sinking into a nice chat over a glass of wine.

 950  1400  1200

 Everything from '50s style rock to John Grant and Hermigervill, played at a comfortable volume.

 20-30 Older (40+)

 Tourists, hotel guests, businesspeople/bankers.


★ A nice fake fireplace at the sitting area, a small TV showing CNN near the bar, and a large window with a clear view over Ingólfstorg and Austurstræti. The kind-of-fancy lobby look is dominant.


**This is first and foremost a lobby with a relaxed atmosphere, where hotel guests can sit for a drink or two with a close view over Ingólfstorg before heading somewhere else.** ☹ – MA


**Hressingarskálinn (Hressó)**  
  
Austurstræti 20  
★★★★☆

The only word that accurately captures the mood at Hressó on Saturday night is: "drunk!" Intoxicated patrons stumbled around, regularly spilling their drinks everywhere, rendering the floors appropriately sticky. The crowd was clearly in high spirits, cheerful and oblivious, with the not-too crowded dance floor providing the perfect setting to bust all our best moves.

 990  1300  950

 Top 40 music and dance hits ranging from the Backstreet Boys' "Everybody" to the overplayed "Timber" by Pitbull. Hressó also frequently hosts live music..

 20-30 Young (20s - 30s)

 Tourists, recent immigrants, university students, people who

couldn't think of anywhere else to go


★ A massive heated outdoor smoking area.


**If you don't know where to go, then go to Hressingarskálinn.** ☹ – HMF & TGH


**Húrra**  
Tryggvagata 22  
★★★★★

Split up into two main areas by a movable wall, a traditional bar, and then a stage/dance floor area, the venue can easily transform from being a massive music venue, to a small lounge bar. Ah, and they have Einstök pale ale on draft, for cheap. STOP! Review over. Dear Húrra, we forgive your every trespass, past present and future, such as the artwork by Jón Sæmundur and the broken foosball table on the ground floor will not be discussed. Nor will all the dancing, drinking young people.

 800  1000  750

 The live bands that perform at Húrra range from hip hop legends to folk heroes, punk bands to atmospheric electro artists. After their shows, DJs frequently play a good mix of party music, consisting of electro, house and hip hop.

 20-30 Young (20s - 30s)

 Young people, rockers, hip hoppers, pop fans, the hip dancing crowd, couples, downtown figure Hannes (the one who looks like Johnny Cash)

★ The crowded prison-like smoking area did not mix well with our level of intoxication. The stage has in the past (when it was called something else like Harlem or Bakkus) been used by bands, performance artists and poets, and Húrra is continuing that legacy with frequent events that fill us with optimism.

**An excellent rock 'n' roll bar with a nice feel, plenty of good music and great concerts.** ☹ – JL


**Hverfisgata 12**


Hverfisgata 12  
★★★★☆


There are only three ways to refer to the aptly unnamed restaurant: Hverfigata 12, the crazy pizza place or the restaurant with a shelf full of ducks. Serving some of the most bizarre pizzas in Iceland, with toppings such as potatoes and salted salmon, the restaurant is split into five

rooms on three floors, each with its own distinct (and at times nutty) flavour. The interiors are mostly clean dark oak, with paintings reminiscent of the '40's hanging off of every wall. The vibe is great for eating out with friends or family, although it's perhaps not the ideal place to go for a pint. Good luck getting a table without a reservation.

 1000  1400  1050

 The music plays quietly from a custom made playlist, playing faster tunes during rush hour to encourage people not to dally.

 20-30 Older (40+)

 Families with kids, young professionals


★ The place is clean enough for kids to lick the floor (which they undoubtedly do) and has two beers on tap, despite not really being a bar. The selection of cocktails is also decent, with "Björk The Queen" (Icelandic Birch liqueur + sparkling wine) catching our attention.


**A restaurant that puts a lot of effort into making you want to stay after you eat..** ☹ – TGB


**Ísafold Bistro - Bar & Spa**  
Þingholtsstræti 3  
★★★★★

Quite the posh hotel bar, Ísafold has big leather sofas, huge chandeliers and a fake waterfall (!). The staff is attentive and professional, and the cocktail and wine menu is appropriately impressive. Clearly a high-end place for high-end people.

 950  1200  13500

 Electronic lounge music.

 20-30 Older (40+)

 High end tourists, business people and bankers.

★ They gave us free cashews with our drinks. The restrooms feature clean, individual towels.

**A good place to go if you're feeling fancy.** ☹ – HMF & TGH



### Íslenski Barinn

Ingólfsstræti 1  
★★★★★☆☆

The Icelandic Bar recently reopened where Næsti Bar used to be. It's off to a great start with its laid-back atmosphere. An excellent venue for enjoying a good selection of Icelandic beers while sitting down and talking. The décor is old school Icelandic, but not overly so. The staff is polite and personable.

🍺 1000 🍷 1400 🍷 1050

🎵 The music is predominantly (if not exclusively) Icelandic. On weekends they occasionally have troubadours.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

🧑‍🎓 The Icelandic middle class.

★ The food is some of the best in the city for that price range (1,980-3,300 ISK for a main course).

**Old Icelandic with a bit of a twist.**  
☞ – HMF & TGH

### K-Bar

Laugavegur 74  
★★★★★☆☆

Chic and stylized: Korean BBQ joint meets Brooklyn bar meets cosy library. And while there's usually a full crowd, it never feels crowded.

🍺 1100 🍷 1900 🍷 900

🎵 Chipper '70s and '80s funk and radio soul—Stevie Wonder to Deee-Lite and back again.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

🧑‍🎓 Young professional types, date-nighters, backpackers, tourists who enjoy the irony of Korean food in Iceland, ladies on the town.

★ Aside from the fantastic Korean food (Korean Fried Chicken + a beer is a happy hour perk), K-Bar's interior design is a real standout. The touches of purposeful, arty clutter (think decorative plates, vintage suitcases, and clustered globe lamps) pair nicely with the more deliberately cool design elements like hammered copper counters and subway tile walls. Also, a great rotating selection of local drafts and imported bottled beers.

**Good food, good beer, good setting: a great place to make a night of it.**  
☞ – LK

### Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1  
★★★★★☆☆

From 22:00 to 01:00 on weekends, Kaffibarinn is the only reliably lively bar in Reykjavík. This is due to the tourists, who don't realize that Icelandic weekend nightlife never starts before one in the morning. So, if you're up for the InterRail atmosphere of your average Irish pub soundtrack by some good house music, you won't be disappointed. After 01:00, the Icelanders invade Kaffibarinn with their usual gusto, and the bar pretty much lives up to its reputation.

🍺 850 🍷 1150 🍷 800

🎵 A lively bar/club with a cramped, yet impressively lively, dancefloor. You'll enjoy electronic music that's above average in quality (mostly house and tech-house). The bar frequently hosts concerts and events, too.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

🧑‍🎓 Tourists of all sorts early on the weekends, after that a mixed bag of Icelanders leaning towards the downtown artsy types and hard-partying lefties. However, in recent years there has been a proliferation of dude bros.

★ Kaffibarinn has a large-ish smoking area that provides decent shelter from the elements. KB also has an upstairs area, which is almost always closed for some reason, and three bars (if you count the upstairs one), which is unusually many for such a small space.

**An Icelandic club institution that has gotten somewhat touristified.**  
☞ – RE

### Kaldi Bar

Laugavegur 20b  
★★★★★☆☆

If you've not secured a seat at Kaldi by ten you probably won't get one—the bouncers (who seem at odds with the IKEA-chic vibe, honestly) are strict about maximum capacity rules and customers tend to linger. It's a particularly great spot for Happy Hour, but the bar fills up early and the crowd gets yuppier as the evening progresses.

🍺 1000 🍷 1400 🍷 1200

🎵 Think unobtrusive iPod mixes—20s instrumentals, tracks off of Björk's piano jazz album—which will never impede your sparkling conversation. But there's also a piano which anyone, irrespective of talent, can play at a whim. Sometimes this is great. Sometimes this is not so great.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

🧑‍🎓 The suit and stiletto set, beer enthusiasts, middle-age travelers, amateur jazz pianists, Ladies' Nite Outers, smokers, people wearing horn-rimmed glasses and tweed, college students.

★ The rotating beer selection features a variety of seasonal microbrews alongside other local favorites. The covered patio in back is great for bar overflow on a warm(ish) night, or for smokers any time.

**All exposed brick and warm lighting, Kaldi Bar cultivates a sort of Nordic-cosy vibe which is particularly appealing to people who want to kick back with a good beer and good conversation in a place that feels just cool enough.**  
☞ – LK

### Karaoke Sport Bar (formerly Live Pub)

Frakkastígur 8  
★★★★☆☆

During our visit, the bar was empty and smelled like cigarette smoke. However, we've been here often enough to know that the closer it gets to the weekend, the more awesome this karaoke dive gets. Friday and Saturday nights are crowded, a great time to catch performances from wannabe singers.

🍺 800 🍷 1100 🍷 1000

🎵 Karaoke music, for the most part.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

🧑‍🎓 Hen and work parties, people in their 20s-50s who unite over their love of singing.

★ It's a karaoke bar!

**The most popular karaoke bar in downtown Reykjavík.**  
☞ – HMF & TGH

### KEX Hostel

Skúlagata 28  
★★★★★☆☆

KEX is like one of those people who is hot, smart and cool and they know it. They aren't the least bit needy but not at all unfriendly. People are just kind of drawn to them—they have great parties, great style, other really cool friends, they're just a little bit pretentious in that everyone wants to copy what they like. You know your admiration is unreciprocated, but it's like a moth to a flame. It is a total babe-magnet.

🍺 950 🍷 1050 🍷 800

🎵 Unobtrusive indie fare and Icelandic touristcore or subtle live music, like jazz.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

🧑‍🎓 Artists, stylish travellers, contemporary dancers, musicians, beard enthusiasts, food snobs, party animals, regular shmooes.

★ The entire place is a special feature, from its former cookie factory setting, walls covered in vintage art atnd found objects, the old elevator shaft covered with poetry magnets, the smallest barber shop

in town, and of course, their private party and concert room, Gym & Tonic, styled as an actual old timey gymnasium

**.Dear KEX, will you go out with me? Check one: Yes - No - Maybe ☞ – RX**

### Kiki Queer Bar

Laugavegur 22  
★★★★★☆☆

This delightful club is the embodiment of Petula Clark's simple answer to loneliness and despair. The life-bringing music, the bright neon lights, the sensory overload that makes you want to forget all the terrible things happening in the world. (True story: when we arrived, my spouse and I were discussing advancing fascism in Europe and quickly switched to a rousing game of Fuck Marry Kill.) Bullshit attitudes and prejudice begone, dancing like a freak and unbothered people-watching most welcome.

🍺 900 🍷 1400 🍷 1200

🎵 Very hi-NRG dance music from start to finish, running the gamut from obscure and underrated '80s Italo-Disco bands to garishly comical disco remixes of Total Eclipse of the Heart.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

🧑‍🎓 Just-came-out-of-the-closet-and-lovin'-it, middle aged LGBTQ couples, straight women who just wanna dance, token straight guy, Morrissey-type singles standing on their own, Robyn-type singles dancing on their own, stylish tourists

★ Rainbows EVERYWHERE.

**Somewhere over the rainbow, there's another rainbow.**  
☞ – RX

### Kofi Tómasar Frænda (Kofinn)

Laugavegur 2  
★★★★☆☆

This strangely convertible little semi-basement mutates from café during the day, restaurant in the evening, cosy chat-over-beer bar in the early night and wild rager club in the wee hours. At the time we visited, it was in chat-mode, mostly couples having intimate conversations huddled head-to-head over the candle lanterns, a few groups of boisterous friends keeping the place lively at the centre. There's something rather neutral about Kofinn, undistinguishable, that maybe allows it to be such a chameleon without feeling awkward. It doesn't impose anything on the people who come in, and vice versa.

🍺 990 🍷 1300 🍷 1390

🎵 Low-key pop, rock and jazz tunes in the early night. Later on they have DJs tasked with making the crowd dance.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

🧑‍🎓 Absolutely normal every day regular people from all walks of life.

★ It's right on the corner point where Laugavegur meets Skólavörðurstígur, and it's bigger on the inside than it looks from the outside.

**This bar can be whatever you want it to be.. ☞ – RX**

### Lavabarinn

Lækjargata 6  
★★★★☆☆

When we visited, Lavabarinn had more cocktail options than patrons, but it does live up as the night progresses. The bar manages to be tacky in a nicely over the top manner. It is split into a basement where people can dance, a middle floor with a big seating area, and an upstairs VIP room. The VIP room is the real treasure, featuring a divine indoor smoking area.

🍺 950 🍷 1790 🍷 1490

🎵 DJs play a mixture of electro and R&B music.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

🧑‍🎓 Clubbers, dancers, younger and older people

★ An extensive cocktail menu that no one should attempt to get through in one night.

**Lavabar's strengths are its very ambitious cocktail menu and apparent enthusiasm to create a genuine club atmosphere in Reykjavík.**  
☞ – JL

### Le Chateaux des dix/ Tíu Dropar

Laugavegur 27  
★★★★★☆☆

Le Chateau Des Dix Gouttes is located in a small, cozy basement on Laugavegur, the nighttime iteration of one of Reykjavík's oldest cafés, Tíu dropar. The interior is warm and comforting, a casual style that's been perfected over the years. The place went through a small change three years ago, adding a nice selection of wines and beer to the menu, but they still honour Tíu dropar's original concept, serving grandma-style pancakes and old school coffee.

🍺 950 🍷 1250 🍷 800

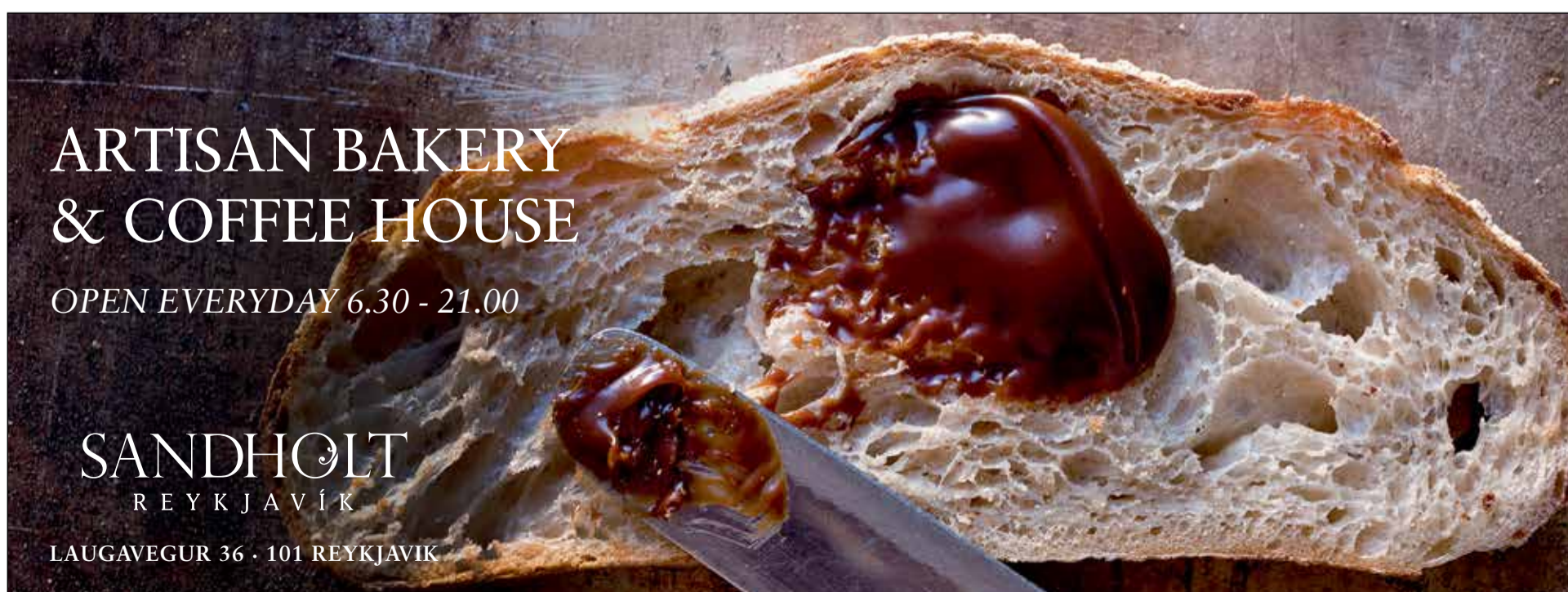
🎵 The bar did not have music when we arrived but every night after 22:00, a live pianist performs.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

🧑‍🎓 Older regulars, young people that like low key bistros

★ Grandma-style decor that goes well with your pancakes.

**Old and cozy with a contemporary twist.**  
☞ – RJH



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There are three variations of the Hiking On Your Own passport depending on your preference; Hiking Laugavegur; Hiking Fimmvörðuháls and Hiking Laugavegur & Fimmvörðuháls. You choose between the three options available when you purchase the passport and they determine which routes your passport is valid for. Hiking On Your Own is a great option for individuals and groups alike.



- 9 | 9a Reykjavík – Þórsmörk
- 11 | 11a Reykjavík – Landmannalaugar
- 21 | 21a Reykjavík – Skógar

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★★★★★

Prikid serves as a Cheers-style establishment for everyone involved or interested in the Icelandic hip hop scene.

Hour beer/celebrate that big promotion/have a formal dinner/have a casual dinner/have a nightcap/start the bar crawl].

🍺 950 🍻 1200 🍷 950

🎵 New Icelandic indie rock (touristcore), in the background, retail style.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

👓 Icelandic eyeglass models, professional women traveling in packs, luxury hotel guests in North Face fleeces, foreign hipster entrepreneurs unwinding after a hard day of kicking ass.

★ The bar opens onto Austurvöllur, and floor-to-ceiling windows all along the front offer a lovely view of the patrons sitting at the handful of outdoor tables, desperately sucking the warmth from their cigarettes.

**At least a little bit of everything, for at least a little bit of everyone.**  
☞ – MCA

### Obladi Oblada ☀️

Frakkastigur 10

★★★★☆

We showed up just in time to enjoy the talents of a covers band performing classic rock staples. In line with that, the atmosphere was predictably middle-aged, dad-rocky and nostalgic. The interiors give a cozy at-home vibe: comfy sofas abound while the walls are covered with Beatles posters and paintings. The place is so homey, in fact, that people were actually playing UNO at one of the tables.

🍺 850 🍻 1200 🍷 900

🎵 They often feature live bands that mainly play classic rock covers.

20/30 Older (40+)

👓 The '68 generation, ex-hippies.

★ Lots and lots of Beatles memorabilia.

**A cozy bar for the 40+ crowd that milks a feeling of nostalgia..** ☞ – DRG

### Ölsmiðjan ☀️

Lækjargata 10

★★★★☆

This place looks and feels like a typical British pub. The familiar pub atmosphere is cozy, and the bar's staff and patrons are quite friendly. Ölsmiðjan is a great place to enjoy a few drinks before a long night out.

🍺 700 🍻 1300 🍷 750

🎵 Occasionally Irish folk bands or troubadours will perform on weekends. Usually, Ölsmiðjan's speakers blare classic rock and funk at a comfortable volume..

### Lebowski Bar ☀️

Laugavegur 20a

★★★★☆

Lebowski is a pretty nice place to grab a drink on weekdays or during the early shift on weekends. On weekend nights, the bar fills up with the sort of lively crowd that's best taken in moderation.

🍺 950 🍻 1500 🍷 1100

🎵 Crowd-pleasing '80s, '90s and '00s pop music. Turn off your brain and music taste centers and you might be able to dance.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

👓 Bacon bros, rural guidettes, LAN-dweebs, strays & stragglers, Grapevine columnists, Average Janes, shifty headbutters

★ It's all themed after the film The Big Lebowski. They do good White Russians and the staff is unusually friendly. Happy Hour is 16.00-19.00. A nice little patio upstairs for sunny days.

**If you like The Big Lebowski and aren't too picky about your club mates, you'll probably like this bar.**  
☞ – RE

### Loft Hostel

Bankastræti 7

★★★★★

Loft Hostel is a big bright place with a lot of floorspace and a very mixed crowd of young, seemingly hip Icelanders and tourists. It often plays host to joyful events like live music and poetry readings. Those with a cynical streak might find Loft a little too cheerful, but it is guaranteed to help you make friends and/or enemies if you stay there long enough.

🍺 850 🍻 1200 🍷 1100

🎵 Playlists are a mixed bag of hipster friendly music, while the live bands are often of the indie-pop kind.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

👓 Young hip Icelanders, poets, politicians, musicians, foreigners

★ The balcony has a great view and is perfect for chain-smoking, chatting and drinking on sunny days. They also have a foosball table, which is almost always in use.

**Playful, light, happy and friendly, perfect to make friends and puke over the balcony onto passers-by after drinking too much beer.** ☞ – JL

### Loftið

Austurstræti 9

★★★★☆

Loftið's décor is inspired by fashion design, with a '60's vibe—vintage light bulbs illuminate the bar, mannequins are draped in lovely dresses and a side of each table is edged with measuring tape. Everything about the bar is well thought-out, geared towards customer enjoyment. The windows are large and look down onto the street. The staff is very accommodating. The downside, however, is having to adhere to a strict dress code, and pay more for your drinks.

🍺 1000 🍻 1700 🍷 1200

🎵 We enjoyed an iPod mix of electro and R&B, however they have DJs Thursday through Saturday night.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

👓 The rich and famous, yuppies and their parents

★ Spacious and very clean. Loftið has a fantastic selection of cocktails and we were given free nuts with our beer. Unfortunately, they overcharged us for said beverages and the smoking area leaves a lot to be desired.

**If you've ever dreamed of sitting, dressed up, in a leather arm chair with an expensive cocktail in hand and laughing at the proletariat passing by outside, then this is the place to do so.** ☞ – TGB

### Micro Bar

Austurstræti 6

★★★★☆

Micro Bar poses a problem. While it offers Reykjavík's greatest selection of beer on tap and in bottles, the interior is dull to the point of offence (indeed, the bar is connected to a hotel lobby). If only all that great beer could be enjoyed in a livelier environment.

🍺 900 🍻 1300 🍷 1100

🎵 Random playlists at a low volume.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

👓 Beer enthusiasts, tourists, people looking for variety in their drink selection.

★ Biggest selection of beers on tap and in bottles in Reykjavík.

**If only the interior was as ambitious as the beers.** ☞ – RJH

### Nora Magasin

Pósthússtræti 9

★★★★☆

Nora Magasin's two-tiered space—a bar area with high and low tables, and an elevated dining area—features a decent domestic beer selection, shabby-chic decor, and a nouveau Icelandic bistro menu. All of which makes it the perfect place for [students/tourists/artists/businesspeople] to [grab a casual Happy

Saturday 7th June


9PM – 3AM


# DJ KÁRI

Kaffibarinn, Bergstaðastræti 1, 101 Reykjavík





 Older (40+)

 All kinds. The cheap beer attracts all sorts of down to earth folks.

★ One of the cheapest bars in town.

**Your friendly "local" pub.. ☞ – HMF & TGH**

### Ölstofa Kormáks og Skjaldar Vegamótastigur 4


★★★★★☆☆

During the day, the "beer room" is an ideal spot to sample offerings from the Borg microbrewery, to take in the many granny-sitting-room-style hook-rug wall hangings (the topless couple silhouetted against a Caribbean sunset is a favourite), and to observe the bar owners in their natural habitat on the semi-enclosed porch against the windows of which they rap their knuckles when in need of another round. (Note: never attempt this with any service professional whose paychecks you do not personally sign.) But at night, this cosy bar turns suburban rumpus room, filling with a buzzy crowd of adult professionals including—not that you should get your hopes up, but just, y'know, be prepared—the very occasional middle-aged couple looking for a third.

 900  1300  1100

🎵 Nothing you'll be able to hear once the bar reaches 50% capacity.

 Older (40+)

 Groups of co-workers, media types, socialising couples, anyone young-at-heart enough to be out past bedtime, but old-in-body enough to want to be sitting down.

★ B Furnished-basement vibe, good bottled beer selection, the rare round bar in the center of the room, and did we mention the married swingers?

**Totally having our next key party here. ☞ – MCA**


### Paloma Tryggvagata 22


★★★★★☆☆

A hipster bar that has for some reason been squeezed into a weird Viking-style attic (complete with Viking ship bar), Paloma caters to Iceland's artists, musicians and their hangers-on.

 800  1100  1000

🎵 Pretty random, with the occasional live performance. The DJs mostly swing between alternative and electronic music, occasionally throwing in the odd '80's hit.

 Young (20s - 30s)

 Freelancers, artists, designers, musicians, poets, writers, university students, journalists, anarchists, conspiracy theorists, celebrities etc. A very hardcore 101 crowd.

★ The bar is quite literally a huge Viking ship.

**Very weird, rather cool Viking art fusion. ☞ – ÁS**


### Park Hverfisgata 20


★★☆☆☆☆

The mood at Park was quite calm, befitting the minimalist decor, and not very happening. The crowd consisted of a couple of tourists and some locals in their early twenties, perhaps fifteen people in all. Note that we were there on the early side, in the context of Reykjavík nightlife, so maybe things got going as the evening progressed. This didn't seem likely though, as Park's cheap shots and ten year old music don't seem enough to get a party started. We left as soon as we finished our drinks.

 500  1200  700

🎵 Park offers a playlist of bad mainstream music from the past two decades, although the DJs they book presumably dabble in different styles.

 Young (20s - 30s)

 Students, tourists, people who are there to drink very cheap beer, clubbers.

★ The thing that most identifies Park are the offers of shots (300 ISK) and drinks.

**Discount shots and beers are always an attraction, yet they fail to make a visit to Park worth it. ☞ – BHÖ**

### Prikið


Bankastræti 12


★★★★★☆☆

Prikið serves as a Cheers-style establishment for everyone involved or interested in the Icelandic hip hop scene. Everyone present is destined to either get wasted or dance through the night in the bass-furious space.

 790  1090  890

🎵 Anything from generic overplayed hip hop, to genuinely aggressive grime.

 Young (20s - 30s)

 Hip hoppers, rascals, the petite bourgeoisie, young people, drunk people that like to dance.

★ The ground floor has a big bar and very narrow escape route leading upstairs and to the smoking area, which appreciators of the human condition can enjoy; the colourful and figurative graffiti is presented in such a way that even the bourgeoisie find it delightful. Earlier in the day, you can get nice diner food from the kitchen.

**Friendly-aggressive haven for hip-hop enthusiasts and young people who like smoking in a colorful atmosphere. ☞ – JL**

### Radisson Blu 1919


Pósthússtræti 2


★★★★☆☆

This is an international chain hotel bar, and it feels like it; whether that's a good or bad thing depends on your taste. There's a kind of transient luxury feel to it—tasteful minimalism, monochrome decor, attentive staff.

 1200  1400  1200

🎵 Elvis, muzak, '70s and '80s light soul-pop type stuff.

 Older (40+)

 Business people and hotel guests who are probably also business people.

★ It's attached to a hotel and restaurant, and the people here during our visit were all well-to-do, slightly drunk guests. The bar staff were really pleasant.

**You probably won't drink here unless you're at a conference or a work dinner, but for a certain kind of passing-through anonymity, hotel bars are kinda nice. ☞ – JR**

### Satt Restaurant (Reykjavik Natura Icelandair Hotels)


Nauthólsvík 52


★★★★★☆☆

Satt is wide and spacious, with a cozy and elegant atmosphere. While the bar was sparsely attended at our time of visit, it does get crowded at times, while always maintaining a relaxed atmosphere.

 950  1000  1800

🎵 No music.

 Older (40+)

 Tourists, middle- to upperclass types, a few Icelanders, conference guests and larger groups that rent the halls.

★ This cozy hotel bar doubles as a restaurant, and offers side rooms for conferences, large dinners and the like that are open to the public.

**An elegant and cozy bar with a good selection of drinks and nice service, fine for chilling out with a drink or two. ☞ – ESV**

### Sky Lounge & Bar Centerhotel Arnarhvoll, Ingólfstræti


★★★★☆☆

The light upon entering was actually quite breathtaking, with a red sunset shining through tall windows. There was a large family eating dinner in smart attire, and others dotted around the comfortable looking sofas, including parents and young kids. The place has a nice relaxed sort of evening buzz to it.

 950  1400  1200

🎵 Almost inaudible trip-hop.

 Older (40+)

 Stuffy white people, wealthy Icelanders, smart/casual afterwork types, tourists, dads, mums, business types, Harpa pre-gamers, families.

★ The view is probably the best in Reykjavík, with Harpa and the harbour on one side, and the mountains and cityscape wrapping around below. The barman, unfortunately, was monosyllabic and grumpy.

**A beautiful spot that overlooks the city. Somewhere to have a celebration maybe, or take your parents. So if you are a parent maybe you could just, like, go. ☞ – JR**

### Slippbarinn Mýrargata 2


★★★★★☆☆

Slippbarinn sits in a cosy, super-chill hotel lobby. There is a library, a reception, a restaurant and various nooks to hide in. We keep thinking the word "lifestyle," but we're not sure why.

 750  1000  2000

🎵 FM classics, AOR, soft rock, crooners, soul.

 Older (40+)

 Old people, family dinners, flocks of kids, couples, hotel guests, business people, a smattering of sunbed-tastic footballer-wife types.

★ Swanky as heck, with a focus on the creative, ever-evolving cocktail menu, great service, and a widescreen live webcam feed of Jökulsarlón.

**Great service, good cocktails and fancy food in a slick but relaxed environment. ☞ – JR**

### Snaps Bistro Bar Pórsgata 1


★★★★★☆☆

Snaps is a boiling point in Reykjavík right now, combining the suave coolness of a French bistro with the crudeness of the 101 art scene. Getting a table there on a Friday night is a strenuous task, unless your name is Högni or you're a member of GusGus. But if you manage to squeeze into the bar, you won't regret it.

 950  1350  1190

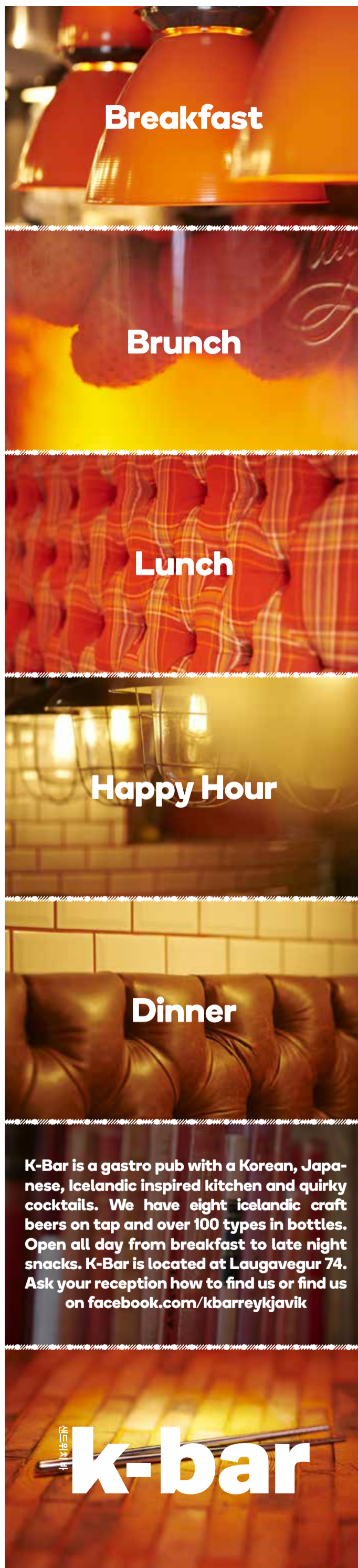
🎵 The music varies from French oldies to rugged '70s retro pop. And occasionally, a random drunkard hammers away on the piano.

 Young (20s - 30s)

 Musicians, mini-celebs, socialites, artists, poets, investor

★ SNAPS is always crowded. It can feel like you're hidden in some Parisian arrondissement, and if you're lucky it can almost get as rowdy and flashy as Sirkús during its heyday.

**If you don't wanna take any chances just go to Snaps—you can't go wrong. ☞ – SKK**



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Brunch

Lunch

Happy Hour

Dinner

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**k-bar**



# fish

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steamed fish  
fish stew  
fish soup



★★★★★

At a given night, if you've not secured a seat at Kaldi by ten you probably won't get one — the bouncers (who seem at odds with the IKEA-chic vibe, honestly) are strict about maximum capacity rules and customers tend to linger.

## Sólón Bistro

Bankastræti 7a

★★★★☆

Sólón has undergone quite a transformation in the last ten years. B5, only two doors down, has replaced it as the haven for fist-pumping real-estate agents waiting in the VIP line, wearing low-cut shirts and lower-cut skirts, trying to sway to the hum of a Justin Timberlake song. Gone are those heady days. Now, Sólón closes at 1 am on weekends, and the atmosphere is very subdued. It's a coffee house, bar...but definitely not a club.

🍺 950 🍷 1250 🍷 990

🎵 I detected a best of Elvis compilation somewhere in the background. Occasional live music.

20/30 Older (40+)

👤 People passing by, people wandering in, people nipping in out of the rain, people who just want a basic cup of coffee, people who want a soup and a beer, people who want to stretch their legs and have a conversation, my mom, tourists.

★ A lovely antique staircase, nice high ceilings, plenty of tables and space, great view for people watching. The service was good and they made a very good basic margarita.

"Meet me up at...eh...I dunno...meet me up at Sólón while we decide." ☹ - RE

## Stofan Café

Aðalstræti 7

★★★★★

Stofan offers a really relaxed atmosphere, like a lived-in house with well-worn furniture, wooden floors and buzzing conversation in Icelandic and English. We were there at 23:00, but it's an equally good spot for a beer at four in the afternoon.

🍺 950 🍷 1350 🍷 1250

🎵 Anything from GusGus to Miles Davis and Nick Drake, mostly great music chosen by the bartenders.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

👤 Locals, the young set, hipsters, tourists, people working on laptops or reading books; all but the latter are trying to reconnect to the shaky wi-fi between sips.

★ For Stofan, the old-fashioned atmosphere, good coffee and well-stocked bar are key.

**It's so comfortable it feels like you're in your own living room. The perfect place for an afternoon beer or a late night drink.** ☹ - AT

## Stúdentakjallarinn

Sæmundargata 4

★★★★★

This student bar is one of Iceland's trendier lounge bars, with a variety of colourful couches, seats and stools arranged around tables. Be warned—the cheap prices and proximity to the university means the place is always humming with activity, whether it is a film screening, live broadcast of some sporting event, a live performance, or just another Friday. You won't always get your favourite table.

🍺 850 🍷 990 🍷 900

🎵 Unless something is being screened or a band is playing, the music consists of someone's iPod playlist being played quietly.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

👤 Students, scholars, mindless philosophers, the hip and smart crowd, expats, locals

★ Stúdentakjallarinn is a not-for-profit establishment and the prices clearly reflect this. The place is wheelchair accessible and the attached kitchen makes wonderful and affordable grub until late. And there's a plant wall..

**Packed during the day, packed in the evening, making sure everyone's university experience includes affordable drinks.** ☹ - TGB

## The Dubliner

Hafnarstræti 4

★★★★☆

While The Dubliner was rather quiet when we stopped by, the usually more busy, particularly during Happy Hour. As the name suggests, it's styled as an

Irish bar, with wood-panelled walls and various tips of the hat to ol' Eire. As a troubadour belted out the usual classic rock hits, a couple played foosbal in the corner.

🍺 1000 🍷 1400 🍷 1000

🎵 Troubadour music, mainly classic rock standards. Sometimes the troubadour will be good, more often he'll be painfully average. In-between, you'll hear rock and pop music from a playlist.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

👤 Locals, tourists, drinkers.

★ The place hosts a troubadour every day. Other amenities include a foosball table, a dartboard and a TV. They sell pizzas during daytime, and may even serve you one at later hours if you ask nicely. During Happy Hours, Tuborg goes for 500 ISK, Gull for 750 ISK and Guinness and Kilkenny for 900 ISK. Wooden benches and tables in the courtyard provide an outdoor seating option.

**A decent Irish bar. The dartboard, foosball table and great Happy Hour prices definitely add to its appeal.** ☹ - ESV

## The Laundromat Café

Austurstræti 9

★★★★★

Laid-back and easy going, Laundromat is a funky, retro-looking kind of place with a large square bar in the middle of the room. The decor consists of retro chandeliers, the walls covered in maps from around the world and pictures of actual New York laundromats. Aside from coffee, beer and wine, Laundromat offers typical diner food; sandwiches, burgers, salads, fries, etc., at semi-reasonable prices. Late evenings at Laundromat are nice and relaxed, but in daytime it gets very crowded and loud, so if you're hungover or dealing with a headache it's best avoided.

🍺 850 🍷 1400 🍷 1000

🎵 A varied mix of indie, jazz, alternative, rock and easy listening. Expect to hear Miles Davis, Joni Mitchell, Bon Iver and Kings

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of Leon along with some nice Icelandic tunes.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

101 Reykjavik crew, students, hipsters, tourists, writers, journalists, expats, all sorts of characters, parents with children

The large window facade makes Laundromat bright and great for people-watching. The laundromat and children's playroom downstairs make it very convenient for parents.

Laundromat is, in general, a lively, funky place, with a young-ish crowd composed of locals and travelling youngsters, great for enjoying a beer and people-watching. ☞ - BHÓ

### Thorvaldsen

Austurstræti 8

★★★★☆

We arrived at Thorvaldsen at two in the morning. The bar was crowded and a DJ spinning lively disco music had managed to get plenty of punters out on the dance floor. A bistro during the day, Thorvaldsen attempts to create a slightly posh atmosphere through modernist decorations.

1100 1500 1500

Mainly disco and pop, with some salsa thrown in.

20/30 Older (40+)

Middle-age people, middle- or upper-middle class types, yuppies.

Uncommonly for Reykjavik bars, Thorvaldsen offers a coat check service. Thursday nights are salsa nights.

A fairly stylish bar/bistro, mainly frequented by people of the older generation. ☞ - ESV

### Uppsalarir

Tryggvagata 22

★★★★☆

Uppsalarir is very warm and inviting. Situated in an old house in the center of Reykjavik, the interior is marked by red brick walls, a wood burner and low ceilings, seating about 30-40. The atmosphere is calm and nice, making it an ideal spot for a low profile work meeting or to catch up with old friends. The daily Happy Hour offers (17:00-19:00) features 2 for 1 off all alcoholic beverages, a great deal.

950 1500 1200

All sorts of nice jazzy fusion/soft rock, from Nina Simone to recent Radiohead albums, from Chet Baker to RJD2. The chill music contributes nicely to the soothing atmosphere.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

Tourists, writers, journalists, poets, people staying at Reykjavik Centrum Hotel

An extremely friendly, helpful staff

Warm and welcoming, relaxed but fancy—I'll definitely start frequenting this place. ☞ - BHÓ

### Veitingahúsið Kolabraut, Harpa

Harpa Concert Hall

★★★★☆

Kolabrautin is mainly a restaurant—there was nobody sitting at the bar area. The colour palette is approximately 18 shades of grey and the interior is inspired by Scandinavian minimalism. Also, there are mirrors in the ceiling and pink neon letters above the bar reading "Scandinavian Pain."

900 1500 1350

Classy lounge-jazz at a perfectly unobtrusive volume.

20/30 Older (40+)

Business people, bankers, fancy tourists, women in fur and men in suits.

★ Located on the top floor of Harpa, it offers a spectacular view over the city and harbor.

A classy lounge bar with sleek design and elegance in abundance. ☞ - DRG

### Vinsmakkarinn

Laugavegur 73

★★★★☆

When we visited, a handful of patrons filled a few of the small establishment's stalls, joyfully chatting as gentle '70s and '80s music played softly in the background. Vinsmakkarinn is for all intents and purposes the spiritual successor to Kaffi Vín, a popular hangout for teens and young people a decade ago. Those kids have grown up and their needs matured accordingly, which Vinbarinn meets with a good selection of beers on tap, different white and red wines on offer each month and regular tasting sessions. It's a great low-key place to go with your buddies and unwind after a long week.

900 1300 1200

Vinsmakkarinn does not emphasize music, the volume just loud enough that you can't hear what the people in the next booth are talking about.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

Suits, people on dates, old fans of Kaffi Vín

The front-facing wall is made entirely out of glass, like a greenhouse. The view is quite boring, but it lets in a lot of gentle, natural light. The bar food on offer is also very extensive and mouth-watering, such as the deep fried Camembert with jam.

Vinsmakkarinn is a great place to meet and catch up with old friends, reminiscent of Kaldi and Micro Bar, with fewer patron. ☞ - TGB

### Vitabar

Bergþórugata 21

★★★★☆

A place where you can simply order a pint of "beer"—what kind? the cheap kind—this is the corner diner you see in your dreams: shuttered windows, green-paneled walls, a chalkboard menu, and bar stools.

700 1000 950

Unobtrusive radio rock hides just underneath the burble of conversation.

20/30 Young (20s - 30s)

Nitehawks, pre-gaming clubbers, post-gaming day drinkers, hungry people, neighbors craving burgers with blue cheese

The bar is quite literally a huge Viking ship.

Tucked away on a quiet neighborhood corner, Vitabar's warm lights and greasy food invite you, hungover or just hungry, to take a load off and carb up. ☞ - LK



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# Over The Edge

On May 17, a massive torfæra rally briefly turned Hella into one of the most action-packed corners of Iceland, attracting 18 drivers and some 3,000 spectators. Organisers used the event to raise money for the local search and rescue team; the drivers used it to raise a whole lot of hell.

## Words

Jonathan Pattishall

## Photos

Nanna Dís

The competition has just begun, but the machismo is already in overdrive. The soft shoulders of the black sand ravine, so typical of the landscape here in southern Iceland, are being churned up by vehicles that resemble the unholy spawn of go-karts and jeeps. A car called Gæran—which means “sheep pelt,” but is also an archaic term for a woman of ill repute, something akin to “hussy”—shoots up from the ravine’s depths. Conquering the last incline at the top of the hill forces the vehicle to go airborne. This it does effortlessly, leaving nothing but flying gravel and dust as proof of its struggle. At the top, Gæran’s driver Helgi Gunnarsson banks to the right, weaves through and occasionally runs over some post markers, descends a dozen metres over the lip of the gully and comes back for more. The crowd cheers as if it were a victory lap, but it’s actually the second ascent needed to clear this particular torfæra course.

Known in English as “formula off road,” torfæra is a motor sport like no other. Souped-up jeeps try to conquer courses on challenging terrains spotted with various natural and man-made obstacles. Completing a course in this particular competition, Sindra Torfæran Hellu, earns a driver 350 points, minus whatever is subtracted for violating the rules, such as when drivers run over post markers or drive in reverse. The hill climbing terrain is a classic torfæra course. However, the engines and tires on torfæra cars are so specialised that they can often drive through mud pits and on water as well, which represent two of the five total terrains that drivers will be attempting today in Hella. How much success they will have on the different courses is influenced by which of

three classes their cars fall into: cars in the unlimited class, which tend to ride paddle tires and don’t have to resemble factory-made vehicles, have more success on water and in mud than cars in the street-legal and modified classes, which ride street-legal or non-paddled tires. At the end of the last event, the driver with the most points in his class is declared the winner.

## Uphill And Downhill

Guðni Grímsson, driver of the undersized car Kubbur (“Cube”), takes his own stab at the hill that Gæran has just cleared. He approaches the top and gets stuck, tires dug down in the loose soil, so he reverses instead. He tries for the summit again and guns it at the wrong point of the ascent. With a paroxysm of acceleration, Kubbur breaks the dirt’s hold and goes vertical. The tires hang freely in the air, the engine block points momentarily toward the heavens. Then the car lands on its ass and flips over onto its back, sliding to a stop in the soil, driver nestled safely in the roll cage. Whiffs of gasoline float all around us on the breeze. There will be no victory lap for Kubbur, but the crowd cheers anyway. This mayhem, after all, is part of the point of torfæra.

Event co-organisers Sigurður Haukur Einarsson and Kári Rafn Þorbergsson both work for the search and rescue team in Hella. They tell me that Sindra Torfæran Hellu has been going on in some capacity since 1973—always as a volunteer-run fundraiser for the search and rescue squad. This, however, is the first major torfæra event in Hella in four years. Between 2010 and 2013, though, the event was cancelled. “The sport was going downhill for a bit,” Sigurður says.



“We didn’t have that many competitors, so we didn’t make that much money off it.” It seems like the four-year hiatus did the trick to whet people’s appetites though. “Last time we held the event, we had five, six hundred people,” Kári tells me. “We sold 3,000 tickets for today.” That makes it one of the largest torfæra rallies in Iceland, according to Kári.

Indeed, as the crowd occupying the opposite bank of the ravine migrates 40 metres to the south to get a better view of the next course, it’s clear that a considerable chunk of the country’s population is here.

## Too Fast

The drivers are on to a timed component, a roughly ichthus-shaped loop that runs down one side of the ravine and up and across the other before doubling back. The fastest driver will earn an additional 350 points, and it’s tempting to pick up speed on the initial descent, but dangers await any driver who goes too fast. Gæran, in keeping with its name’s double entendre, goes too fast. At the

bottom of the hill it does a nosedive, losing precious seconds. Driver Helgi struggles to control his car as the two sloppily slide from left to right, running over post markers.

Other drivers are more careful, staying between the markers as they swing around the apogee. They mostly put up times around 35 seconds. One hell-hound manages it in 30 flat. As Eðvald Orrí Guðmundsson, driver of Þjakkurinn (“The Rascal”), revs the engine and begins down the hill, the announcer has a little fun. “Eddi, the ‘Cool Guy,’” he says. “I hear he’s fast in a lot of things.” It’s crude, but it gets the crowd laughing. Unfortunately, Eddi is not very fast on this course, and will eventually come in at the bottom of his class standings.

Flipping through the event’s info booklet, I see a possible reason why. Þjakkurinn is a modified Jeep Willys from 1966, one of the oldest models participating in the rally. And with only 400 horsepower, it’s on the lower end of the powertrain spectrum. What chance does it stand against a car like Zombie, driven by Aron Ingi Svansson, which was built

in 2014 and has an 800 horsepower engine, plus an additional 250 horsepower when the nitro kicks in? Or Katla, driven by Guðbjörn “Bubbi” Grímsson, which will later use its 1600 horsepower engine to drive 80 km/h down the entire length of a metre-deep creek like a monstrous Jesus lizard? It’s not that simple though, as Sigurður tells me. “The overall winner is normally determined by a mixture of good car and good driver. Mostly it’s up to the driver.” Zombie will prove this point by finishing the day in the lower half of its class standings, despite its preternatural specs.

## A True Victory Lap

Snáðinn (“Lad”), on the other hand, is at the top of its class standings at the end of the day. Driver Jón Vilberg Gunnarsson tells me he taught himself how to drive by watching his dad, who competed in the sport for 10 years and was once a champion in his own right. Jón is a precocious 31 year old—torfæra being something of an older man’s game—and has only been on the circuit for





## Torfæra

Torfæra is native to Iceland. It evolved out of the experimentation of off-road driving enthusiasts in the 1960s, who modified their vehicles to better suit them to the local landscapes. According to Guðbjörn "Bubbi" Grímsson, a veteran of torfæra rallies in both Iceland and Norway, the emerging sport was quickly seized upon by search and rescue teams, which saw them as a good opportunity to raise funds. The first rally was held in Reykjahlíð (Mosfellsdalur) on May 2, 1965. The rules of competition changed throughout the initial decades and were eventually codified in their present form in 1987. In 1992 a rally was held in Sweden, marking the first torfæra event outside of Iceland; the sport has since gained popularity throughout Scandinavia.

three seasons. The first two, he won the championship in the street-legal class. Presumably bored and in need of a challenge, he switched to modified this year and today in Hella he won first place by amassing roughly five times as many points as the next closest driver in his class. After the award ceremony I ask what he thought of the courses. "They were technical," he says. "I had never driven on water or on mud, so that was new." His car, parked next to us, is covered in more filth than a motorised pigpen. "At one point there was so much mud kicked up that I couldn't see where I was going," he says. "I suppose I guessed right."

"These are not machines to be trifled with, and yet torfæra is about trifling with them to the limit."



I wonder aloud if he'd be willing to take one last drive in Snáðinn today with me in tow. "Why not," he shrugs. One of Jón's crew team gives me an oversized jumpsuit to wear and I climb aboard like a deflated marshmallow, instantly absorbing the mud covering every inch of the vehicle's interior. As he revs the engine, Jón gives me some ominous advice. "I'll take it easy out there, but if anything happens, whatever you do, keep your arms inside the car."

Before I can change my mind about all this, he floors the pedal and we shoot off from the car pit, past the few remaining fans and back toward the ravine. Jón is heading for the hill course. I start praying under my breath. Under the hood the engine is roaring, even though Jón is clearly following his promise to take it easy. These are not machines to be trifled with, I think to myself, and yet torfæra is about trifling with them to the limit. We approach a path that bears right, descending gradually down into the ravine. Instead of following it, Jón breaks slightly and drives dead ahead, over the lip. The nose of the car plunges,

our angle of decline instantly dropping from almost nothing to 60°. Jón breaks, banks right and accelerates across the hill. We're skidding along an open black gash in the earth at an impossible angle and no law of physics amenable to human logic is keeping us here—just a 600 horsepower engine (750 with nitro!) and a batshit crazy driver with a brand new trophy to his name.

After a few seconds in this precarious state, Jón hops us back up onto the path. We weave down to the bottom and begin the ascent up the other side. This is the real course, the hill that drivers were flipping their cars on earlier in the day. As the sheer lip of the ravine looms ahead of us, I think of Jón's warning and impulsively cross my arms tightly across my chest. But my fears are misplaced. The engine heaves us over every outcropping and incline in our way, no matter how steep. With the give of the suspension, we rock and swerve to the top of the ravine. Then Jón loops back around to the lip in preparation for the descent and the return to the car pit. He glances my way. "Cool, right?" "Really cool," I answer, pale as death, hands still clinched tight.

We pause for a brief moment on the edge. I look down at the black hill we're about to brave—the steepest yet—and my stomach drops. Then I look up at the hill opposite, where the crowd of thousands had been mere hours earlier. The parking lot is almost empty now, but the torfæra drivers and their crews, along with the event organisers, are still hanging around in the pit. God bless those search and rescue professionals, I think to myself. I sure hope they raised some funds today.

And then Jón starts tapping the gas.



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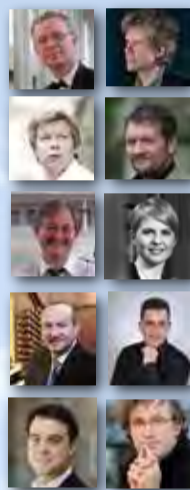
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Saturday at 12 noon and Sunday at 5 pm with international concert organists



14.6. 12 noon	Björn Steinar Sólbergsson, Hallgrímskirkja Reykjavík
15.6. 5 pm	Björn Steinar Sólbergsson, Hallgrímskirkja Reykjavík
21.6. 12 noon	Hannfried Lucke, Lichtenstein- Salzburg/Austurríki
22.6. 5 pm	Hannfried Lucke, Lichtenstein- Salzburg/ Austurríki
28.6. 12 noon	Pétur Sakari, Helsinki, Finnland/ Finland
29.6. 5 pm	Pétur Sakari, Helsinki, Finnland/ Finland
5.7. 12 noon	Thierry Escaich, París Frakkland / France
6.7. 5 pm	Thierry Escaich, París Frakkland / France
12.7. 12 noon	Andreas Meisner, Altenberg Þýskaland / Germany
13.7. 5 pm	Andreas Meisner, Altenberg Þýskaland / Germany
19.7. 12 noon	Alessandro Bianchi, Cantu, Ítalía/ Italy
20.7. 5 pm	Alessandro Bianchi, Cantu Ítalía/ Italy
26.7. 12 noon	Lára Bryndís Eggertsdóttir Reykjavík, Ísland/ Iceland
27.7. 5 pm	Lára Bryndís Eggertsdóttir Reykjavík, Ísland/ Iceland
2.8. 12 noon	Maurice Clerc, Dijon Frakkland / France
3.8. 5 pm	Maurice Clerc, Dijon Frakkland / France
9.8. 12 noon	Eyþór Franzson Wechner, Ísland/ Iceland
10.8. 5 pm	Eyþór Franzson Wechner, Ísland / Iceland
16.8. 12 noon	Axel Flierl, Dillingen, Þýskaland/ Germany
17.8. 5 pm	Axel Flierl, Dillingen, Þýskaland/ Germany

## THE INTERNATIONAL ORGAN SUMMER IN HALLGRÍMSKIRKJA 2014

JUNE 14 – AUGUST 17



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### Lunchtime concerts

on Thursdays at 12 noon

19. 6. 12 noon	Helga Þórdís Guðmundsdóttir, Víðistaðarkirkja/Iceland
26. 6. 12 noon	Guðmundur Sigurðsson, Hafnarjarðarkirkja/Iceland
3. 7. 12 noon	Kári Allansson, Háteigskirkja & Anna Jónsdóttir soprano, Reykjavík/Iceland
10. 7. 12 noon	Steingrímur Þórhallsson, Nes Kirkja & Halveig Rúnarsdóttir, soprano, Reykjavík
17. 7. 12 noon	Sigrún Magna Þórsteinsdóttir, Akureyrarkirkja/Iceland
24. 7. 12 noon	Jón Bjarnason, Skálholt Cathedral/Iceland
31. 7. 12 noon	Stéphane Rigat, orgel & Olivier Gillet trumpet, Marseille/France
7. 8. 12 noon	Eyþór Ingi Jónsson, Akureyrarkirkja/Iceland
14. 8. 12 noon	Gunnar Gunnarsson, Frikirkjan í Reykjavík/Iceland



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INTERVIEW

# Reykjavík's DJ Queen

## Andrea Jónsdóttir says silence is too loud

She must be the coolest 65-year-old in Iceland. Long, flowing silver hair. Black coat, black trousers, black 'With the Beatles' shirt. George Harrison pin on her left, John Lennon pin on her right. Between the two, a huge 'peace' necklace. Now top that off with a Pirate Party pin. Andrea Jónsdóttir is a well-known DJ in town. Every weekend you'll find her sitting on a shelf at the back of Dillon Whiskey Bar flipping through binders full of CDs and blasting classic rock song after classic rock song. You might also recognise her voice from the National Radio where she's hosted a number of shows. Consider her the oldest and wisest bar guide ever.

**Words**  
Atli Bollason

**Photo**  
Hörður Sveinsson

### Tell Me About Yourself

I was born in Selfoss in 1949. When it was time to go to high school I didn't want to live in a dorm so I moved to Reykjavík to attend Menntaskólinn í Reykjavík. I actually just attended my 45-year high school reunion the other day. I lived at Nýlendugata with three other girls. I felt like they were old ladies even though they were only two years older. When they came home from work on Friday they'd bought a half-bottle of vodka to share between the three of them. That wouldn't be considered much today, I think.

They went to the dances at Hótel Saga and sported bouffants pretty much every weekend. I never joined them; it wasn't my cup of tea. They liked The Beatles and all, they weren't particularly old-fashioned, but something changed with my generation. The Beatles belong to us—the class of '69. The speeches at my reunion largely revolved around The Beatles. Because they changed everything—music and mentality. It was a liberation.

### How did you party back then?

I grew up during the 'sveitaball' [country-

style dance] era. I started going to those at 14. IDs weren't introduced in Iceland until I was 16. I don't mean the old-fashioned sveitaball with accordion. I'm talking about gigs with Hljómar and Mánar and other rock bands.

I'd go by myself and meet up with other girls from the Selfoss area. This was considered brazen, because the reputation of sveitaball attendees wasn't exactly flattering. But it was completely untrue. Some people were drunk, others not really and some not at all. I learned to drink anything—lukewarm brennivín

mixed with coke or preferably brennivín with appelsín [orange soda].

During verslunarmannahelgin [bank holiday, first weekend of August] in 1968 we went to an outdoor festival. The buses were searched for booze so some people would bury their bottles on the festival site a few days early. I was working at the milk factory and the engineers came up with an even smarter scheme. You signed up for vodka or rosé, and then they canned the booze in the middle of the night and labelled it 'UHT Milk.' Once you arrived at the campsite you could pick up your 'milk' without a problem.

### That's crazy! So you didn't get plastered in the city?

In those years I preferred going to Selfoss. In Reykjavík, you had to stay indoors. But at a sveitaball you could go outside. And people were generally more free spirited in the country. See, in the sixties and

seventies, the clubs in Reykjavík would have dress codes. You couldn't wear these trousers or those shoes or that jacket. People tried hard to make people wear their parents' clothes.

**"I was working at the milk factory and the engineers came up with an even smarter scheme. You signed up for vodka or rosé, and then they canned the booze in the middle of the night and labelled it 'UHT Milk.'"**

But I think Reykjavík is wonderful. I wouldn't live anywhere else. I still think it's a beautiful city—although this may be changing. There are too many hotels for my taste. Right now, there's a beautiful tree on Grettisgata that they're tearing up. I don't blame Samfylkingin [The Social Democrats] for those awful towers in Borgartún, but I feel like they're following that path and I don't appreciate it.

### You don't like how the city is developing?

I like how the city has developed, but I'm afraid of all these hotels. And now the hotels are even complaining about noise coming from the bars! I find these people stupid...I don't know who they



**Landsvirkjun**  
National Power Company of Iceland

## It's pretty windy up there

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**Búrfell:** Interactive exhibition every day 10am–5pm

**Kárahnjúkar:** Guided tours Wed & Sat 2pm–5pm

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**Krafla:** Geothermal exhibition every day 10am–5pm

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[www.landsvirkjun.com/visitus](http://www.landsvirkjun.com/visitus)



are; the nouveau-riche maybe, they want to build hotels but it's like they've never experienced anything in the city. I don't know where they come from. I feel like they're driving away the forces that make this city attractive.

There's a hole next to Harpa. They can put a hotel there. That should be enough.

They should cancel their plans for NASA. I really miss that place. We haven't seen the effects of its closure yet, but young bands have fewer opportunities to perform now. Not everyone can afford to play in Harpa, you know. I think the large number of bands from Reykjavík is in part due to the number of great venues we had.

**What other places do you miss?**

I miss Sirkus. It was to be torn down in a fit of greed, but the house is still standing. I like places that are—I don't want to say shabby—but cabinesque. Unpretentious. Not to say that I don't want the toilets to be clean and tidy. But places that don't pretend. Places that don't redecorate every few months and think they can blame poor attendance on the décor.

Like Prikið, it's beautiful. And Rósenberg is a great live venue. But it's pretty small and no replacement for NASA. I like Kaffibarinn, too. I've enjoyed a few concerts at Ellefan. And I mustn't forget Boston! I used to DJ there and it's like the sister-bar to Dillon; we borrow ice from there.

See, I understand and respect the old Independence Party, but I can't understand nor forgive them for letting libertarians take the reins. Why didn't they just found their own party? With libertarianism, certain ideas were suddenly presented as unquestionable truths. For example, why can't the State run anything anymore? So they can pocket profits! They don't care for the people.

I feel that the people are entitled to at least one State-run bank. The bank shouldn't speculate or dabble in finance. This should be mandatory in a democracy. Then the others can just do whatever they feel like without us taking responsibility. This is the least they could do.

The State should run the things that matter. Like telecommunications, banking and public transport. If these

things are privately owned there is always a group of shareholders who get paid while the staff makes minimum wage. Do we call this ethical?

I think we should take a few steps back. A State should never do speculative business. But we must sit down and decide exactly what we want the government to take care of. And whoever wants to improve on that or develop it is free to do so—on his own terms.

I don't like it when the hippie generation is blamed for our bankruptcy. I don't remember [former Prime Minister] Davíð Oddsson being a hippie. I don't have anything against him; he's just a funny guy who I went to high school with, but he probably should've taken the arts route instead of politics. I think he would have been a popular writer. I was happy to hear that [former city councillor] Gísli Marteinn had quit politics. I told him: You're not the type. You're just a cheerful

guy who loves to ride bikes and do good deeds.

**Okay, let's switch gears. When did you start going out in Reykjavík?**

Before the eighties, people would mostly attend dances or concerts. We didn't have many bars. There was a gay café on Laugavegur called Kaffi gestur that I liked. It was sort of like the predecessor of 22 [legendary gay bar at Laugavegur 22]. It wasn't only attended by gay people, but arty and liberal people in general.

**Did the gay scene help develop the bar scene? Were you involved?**

I think so. The gay men in particular. Where you don't have gays you have less colour because they tend to be very creative and imaginative. Rock'n'roll and queers.

Now, it's generally acknowledged that people are different. I think that's great. I was on a radio programme 20 years ago where my sexual orientation was discussed among other things. Once I was off the air I realised I had never talked about it with my parents. So I called my sister and said, "Don't mom and dad definitely know that I'm a lesbian?" She said she thought so. So I called my mother and told her about the programme and the lesbian thing and she said, "that's fine." And I asked her if dad knew and then she called me back and said he had said,

"Why is she asking us? It's her life." They were both born in 1919, very left wing and liberal.

So I never really came out. I never announced anything. Contrary to what young people are told today, sex isn't the only thing in the world. Sex is just a part of you. The notion that everything revolves around sex is horseshit. Some people want a lot of it, others less. You're not obliged to be interested in sex.

**So the bar scene didn't get pumping until we legalised beer in 1989?**

When beer was legalised, some people said we'd drink less. But it's obvious that we drink more. However, our drinking is more relaxed. I don't know about the rates for alcoholism, but I definitely prefer it this way. I'm lucky because I've never liked getting hammered. But drug use has increased. It seems to come in waves.

**When do you remember taking note of drug use for the first time?**

There weren't really any drugs until punk arrived. They existed of course, but I never would have thought that it would become an industry to grow and sell marijuana in Iceland. I went to London in 1970, but only ever fell asleep when I smoked hash so I haven't developed an interest in that. I've never learned to smoke cigarettes either. Some drugs are hard to see or notice. People may have been using ecstasy or mushrooms but you'd only think they were crazy or drunk on vodka.

**What's your drink of choice?**

Sometimes I tell people that drinking is my job. And if I'm to be completely honest I don't think I would bother DJing sober. But you can't get too drunk. That's when you stop paying attention to where you put back the CDs and then you won't find anything at the next gig. I like to have a gin and tonic early in the evening. But I try not to drink a lot of soda because it's not good for your teeth. I like white wine too or whiskey or an apple schnapps. Or just brennivín. I can be extremely social when I'm playing. But as soon as my shift is over I want to go home and be by myself. I'll still listen to music, though. For me, the silence gets too loud after a while.

**For how long will you keep on DJing?**

I said that I'd do it while I could make my way up onto the shelf where I sit and DJ. But they just said, "Don't worry, we'll lift you up there!" I don't know. I enjoy my work. Sometimes I feel like I should've become a teacher. See, often there's a common thread, a musical context or personal connection. Maybe this is bragging, but I feel like I'm teaching rock history. Especially early in the evening. Later on, everyone just wants to hear something like Bonnie Tyler's "Total Eclipse of the Heart."

**ANDREA**

Andrea was born in 1949, the same year as Iceland joined NATO.

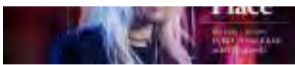
She's been DJing at Dillon "for over ten years."

She plays there every Friday and Saturday until 3 AM.

She'll play "Hit Me Baby One More Time."

She likes punk for the rockabilly and disco for the arrangements.

She is "not the cocktail type."



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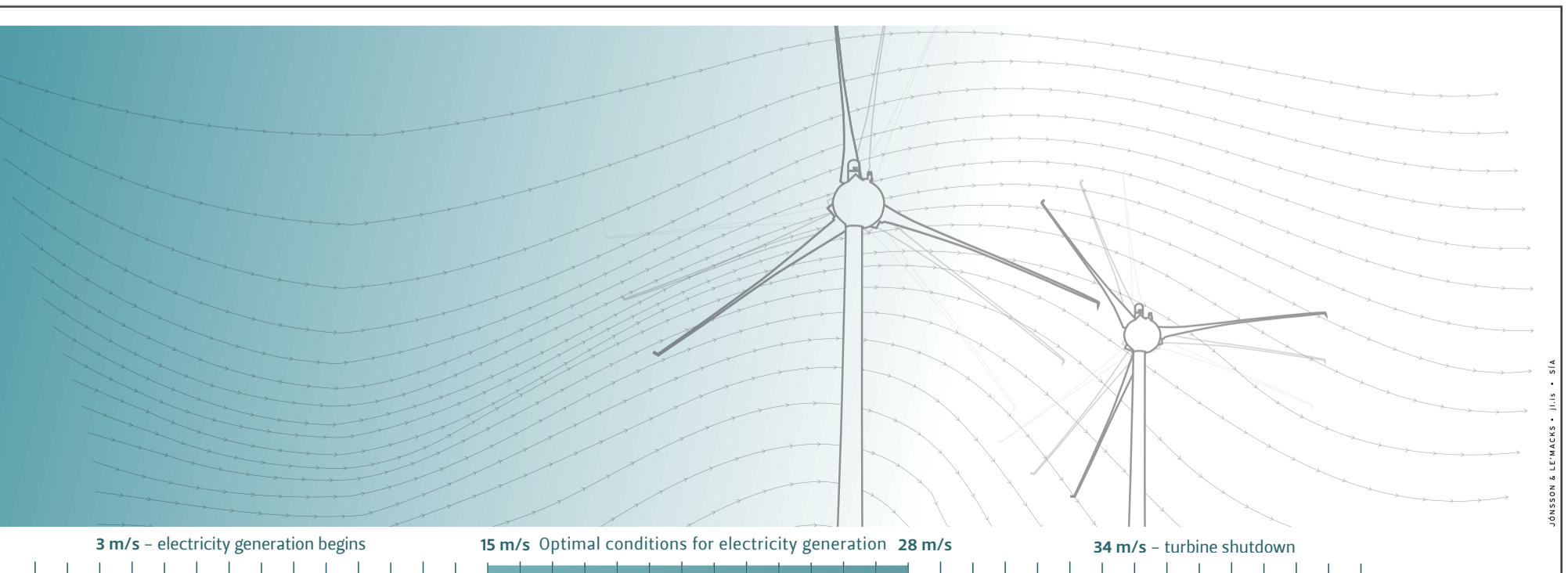
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	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00		
				10:00	10:00	10:00				
13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00
				14:00	14:00	14:00				
			17:00*	17:00	17:00	17:00	17:00*			
				20:30**	20:30					

\* From 15 May to 15 September  
\*\* From 15 June to 31 July

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[www.elding.is](http://www.elding.is)



# Planet Of Sound



## Straumur

The Straumur radio show airs on X977 Monday evenings at 23:00

[www.straumur.is](http://www.straumur.is)

**Words**  
Óli Dóri & Davíð Roach

**Photos**  
Nanna Dís

The great summer of concerts begins with a bang on June 11 with the legendary American indie band **Pixies** playing at Laugardalshöll. We were fortunate enough to catch them the last time they rolled into town exactly 10 years ago when they played two packed shows at the Kaplakrika stadium in Hafnarfjörður. We're hoping that they put on an equally great show and that the summer of 2014 is as exciting as 2004 was for concerts.

About a year since releasing their debut album 'Ali,' **Grisalappalísa** are back with a vengeance and a new single titled "ABC." Clocking in at 2:22 minutes, it's a short romp boasting an up-tempo ska-like beat and a whole lot of saxophone. The accompanying music video is a colourful feast in which the shirtless, suspender-wearing vocalist Gunnar Ragnarsson pulls out some new-wave dance moves on a surface that seems to be a gigantic piece of ham.

The track reminds us quite a bit of the English ska band Madness, and Grisalappalísa do indeed seem to be heading into poppier territory. "ABC" has the same energy and style that made their debut album such a treat, which bodes well for their new album, titled with tongue firmly in cheek 'Rökrétt framhald' (roughly translating to "Logical Step Forward," a music review cliché used to describe sophomore albums). It will come out on Iceland's Independence Day, June 17.

Right on the heels of that celebratory release date is the brand new **Secret Solstice Festival**, which takes place June 20–22 at various stages in the Laugardalur area in 105 Reykjavík. The festival, which focuses on electronic dance music and hip hop, will see more than 150 local and international acts. Some of the highlights are trip hop legends Massive Attack, star rapper ScHoolboy Q, dubstep maestro Skream, and British garage-house brothers Disclosure, who will play a DJ set. (We rated Disclosure's 'Settle' the second best album of 2013.)

Speaking of electronic dance music, the Akranes trip hop group **Worm Is Green** is gearing up to release their fourth LP 'We Are Only Shadows' on July 6. We've been enjoying the album, which is their poppiest to date—full of glossy electronic beats mixed with chilling vocals. So there's that to look forward to as well.



**Straumur** has been active since last summer, with writers **Óli Dóri** and **Davíð Roach** documenting the local music scene and helping people discover new music at [straumur.is](http://straumur.is). It is associated with the radio show Straumur on X977, which airs every Monday evening at 23:00.

# Viðey Island

“ Really hidden treasure off Reykjavik. Well worth a visit. Biffajk taken from TripAdvisor



## Summer Schedule 15 May - 30 September

From Elding (Ægisgarður) to Viðey										
	11.50								14.50	
From Harpa to Viðey										
		12.00							15.00	
From Skarfabakki to Viðey										
10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15			
From Viðey to Skarfabakki										
		12.30	13.30	14.30	15.30	16.30	17.30	18.30		
From Viðey to Harpa and Elding (Ægisgarður)										
	11.30				14.30			17.30		

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Skjaldborg Patreksfjörður

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Patreksfjörður, a small town in Iceland's remote Westfjords, is home to the Skjaldborg documentary festival. Every June since 2007, filmmakers and audiences have gathered there to watch documentaries of all shapes and sizes over the weekend-long festival.

**Words**

Óskar Bragi [@OskarBragi](https://twitter.com/OskarBragi)

This year, twenty-one films will be screened. Some are feature length; others are shorts. Some are premiering and others are works in progress. The screenings take place at the Skjaldborgarbíó theatre, from which the festival takes its name. The building, which is located at Aðalstræti 27, dates back to 1934 and originally served an important function as the meeting place for Skjöldur ("Shield," the Independent's Party's local political society). In 1980, the premises underwent a dramatic makeover into a state of the art film theatre. Today it proudly boasts a 35mm film projector along with digital projection, and comfortably seats 180 occupants.

By now in its eighth incarnation, the festival has established itself as a meeting place for filmmakers and a rich breeding ground for Icelandic documentaries. We talked to the festival's director, filmmaker Hafsteinn Gunnar Sigurðsson (writer/director of 'Á Annan Veg' ("Either Way"), to find out more...

Icelandic documentaries. The festival was created out of that need, as there weren't any platforms that focused entirely on Icelandic docs. When we started out we thought we might only be able to run the festival every other year because of a lack of titles, but surprisingly we were proven wrong. Today we receive way more films than we can possibly screen.

**Why Patreksfjörður? How did this all begin?**

I started the festival with my friends Hálfðán Pedersen [production designer] and Huldar Breiðfjörð [writer]. None of us are actually from Patreksfjörður, but we discovered the place through Hálfðán's parents, who own a house there.

*"I actually don't know what we will have this year. Salmon, maybe? No, definitely. There will definitely be salmon."*



Beyond the theatre itself, it's the nature and the "stemning" that draws us to Patró [short for Patreksfjörður]. It's a comfortable, laid back place, out of the city's hustle and bustle. Due to the seclusion, I find that attendees tend to form a special bond over the weekend.

**Does Iceland really need an entire festival devoted to Icelandic documentaries?**

Yes, there is very much a need for a festival devoted entirely to the premieres of

**What type of films can attendees expect to see at this year's festival?**

The festival proudly embraces all kinds of cinema—everything from high-budget docs made by seasoned filmmakers to

smaller and less traditional works by first timers. This year you will find films about everything from Thai sea gypsies to the Icelandic eccentric, Þórður frá Dagverðará.

**What are you most excited about this year?**

There are loads of films that I'm very excited about, and I can proudly say that this is an exceptionally good year.

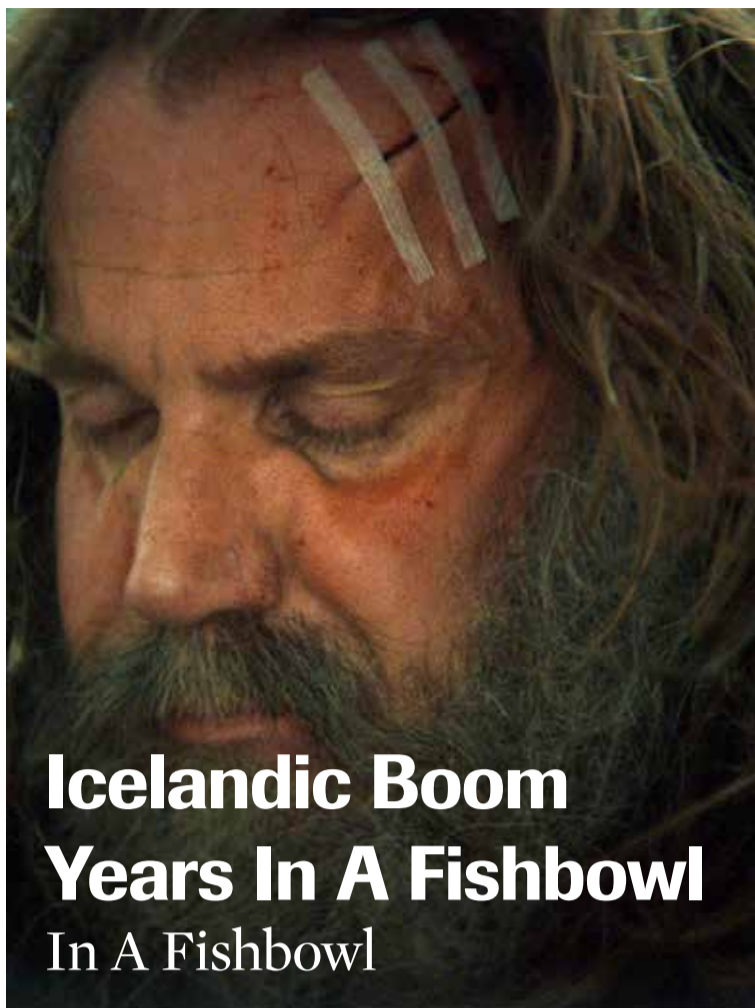
**Who is your honorary guest, Victor Kossakovsky, and why did you invite him?**

Victor Kossakovsky is a Russian documentary filmmaker. We invited him because he is an important and forceful presence in world cinema. He often assumes the role of editor, cinematographer, writer and director on his films. He started his own film production company in St. Petersburg, Kossakovsky Film Production, with the objective of creating a cinema of poetry and reality. In a very innovative and original way, the renowned filmmaker looks to achieve a sort of profound poetic clarity and a philosophical vision in mostly banal and everyday situations. He tries to surprise the spectator with his subtle humour and sense of drama. His various documentary films are all anchored in brilliant ideas, which he develops into intimate, completely uncompromising cinema.

**Does this year's seafood banquet have anything special in store? Is there a fish-dish that the festival-goer must try?**

The seafood banquet is one of the main events at the festival and the local fish companies are kind enough to support us. The menu is a bit different every year, but it's always outstanding. I actually don't know what we will have this year. Salmon, maybe? No, definitely. There will definitely be salmon.





## Icelandic Boom Years In A Fishbowl In A Fishbowl

Words  
Ásgeir H Ingólfsson



Vonarstræti is playing in Laugarásbío, Háskólabío, Smárabío and Borgarbío [www.midi.is](http://www.midi.is)

'Life in a Fishbowl' deals with a rather recent past that is strangely forgotten, or at least often misrepresented. The scene is Reykjavík during the boom years of 2005 and 2006—a time we've tended to exaggerate post-crash. We now tend to portray this as a time when everybody was drinking gold-dust champagne and eating caviar, but this wasn't really the case. The reality of those boom years is more accurately depicted by this film, which deals with three characters—two of them only occasionally crashing the party—even if they will, of course, eventually pay for it and have to clean up the mess.

'Life in a Fishbowl' tells the interlocking stories of Sölvi, an ex-footballer turned bankster (yes, in Iceland the gangsters mostly used to work in banks), Eik, a kindergarten teacher who moonlights as a call girl, and Móri, a writer turned bum. It's a triptych whose celluloid DNA has a lot in common with films such as 'Amores Perros' and 'Magnolia.' And those sorts of interlocking stories lend themselves perfectly to the realities of a micro-society like Iceland, a place small enough to make accidental encounters quite frequent. This means narrative devices that may be contrived in cities of millions function quite normally here—in this little fishbowl, people keep bumping into each other.

In comparison with the aforementioned films, which are quite bleak, 'Life in a Fishbowl' is a bit more optimistic. The film might be a tragedy, but it's a comforting one. This is in line with the Icelandic title of the film, "Vonarstræti," which translates to "Hope Street." The name is not just metaphorical though; this street, which Móri lives on actually exists in the heart of Reykjavík, just by City Hall and the Iðnó theatre.

Director Baldvin Z continues to develop a cinematic style that can be seen in his film 'Jitters'—a style full of dark frames, but with a warm and poetic darkness which protects the characters rather than puts them in jeopardy. It's vaguely realistic and yet is still slightly dreamlike. Baldvin's biggest asset as a

director, though, is simply the respect he has for every single character. This was a true godsend in 'Jitters'—as few genres suffer more from condescending storytelling than the teenage film. In 'Life In A Fishbowl,' the best example is Sölvi's wife, Agnes. She may seem the quintessential trophy wife at first, and her fate is in some ways typical of the stock character she represents, but this particular trophy wife is full of character and wit, so the audience doesn't get a free pass to forgive Sölvi's sins towards her.

But while Eik and Sölvi are well-drawn characters, this film will primarily be remembered for one person. With poet-bum Móri, actor Þorsteinn Bachmann has helped create one of Icelandic cinema's most iconic characters. The film smartly introduces him through the sceptical eyes of disapproving fellow citizens, which means the audience is just as distrustful of him as the other characters are. But Móri never falls into the stock clichés of the bum—this is a real person, despite his alcoholism. Þorsteinn's portrayal is nearly flawless and a continuation of solid character work in films such as 'Stormland' and 'Either Way.' In a sense, he's turning into the Icelandic Alec Baldwin: Both seemed primed for leading man status early on in their careers, but didn't really hit their stride until they shed their leading man skin for the character actor within. And Móri certainly sheds a few skins before the film is over.

**"Director Baldvin Z continues to develop a cinematic style that can be seen in his film 'Jitters'—a style full of dark frames."**

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# Eimverk's Whisky Matures, Its Gin Blossoms

The slow story of Iceland's first single malt whisky and award-winning gin

The first thing I notice as I slip through the warehouse's unmarked door is the smell: somewhere between the sweetness of freshly-baked bread and the earthiness of a turf fire. The space is given over to several large tanks, all of which are adorned with a confusion of pipes, gauges and valves. Against the back wall, barrels and bottles of Flóki Whisky and Vor Gin await distribution.

**Words**  
Kevin Quigley

**Photo**  
Nanna Dís

I have come to meet the brothers Þorkelsson who, along with three other family members, run Eimverk Distillery—producers of Iceland's first-ever single-malt. Having read that they only had the idea to make whisky five years ago, I was eager to hear how they'd arrived at this point. Rather than starting in 2009, however, Haraldur—elder brother and head of the company—takes me back over 1,000 years to the settlement of Iceland and the importance of barley to Iceland's early inhabitants. I am immediately struck by his desire to root the story of Eimverk in the history and landscape of Iceland.

## Sagas And Soil

We congregate around a large barrel upon which rests a smaller 4.5 litre cask of Flóki, their signature single-malt. The limited run of 100 casks has all but sold out, and the release of the bottled first-impression—scheduled for September—has generated a lot of interest. Haraldur's mind, however, is still back in the Viking Era. He tells me that Flóki is named in honour of Hrafna-Flóki, the first Norseman to intentionally sail to Iceland. Although he and his followers grew barley, they used it to make ale rather than whisky. Nonetheless, the spirit of the early Sagas is one with which the Eimverk family all identify: a story of stepping out, of doing something that hasn't been done before.

In true pioneering spirit, the brothers don't focus on the challenges they have faced but rather on the opportunities that the harsh Icelandic climate has afforded them. They explain that the crops grown in this part of the world are lower in sugar than those grown in warmer climes. This means that Eimverk need to use up to 50% more grain in their whisky than if they were using imported grains. Egill, the master-distiller, goes on to explain that the whisky is so sensitive to climate that it will take on the characteristics of the particular summer in which its barley was grown.

Not only does the weather imbue the whisky with a unique palette, but it also elevates its ecological credentials. Since the temperature in Iceland prohibits the proliferation of pests, pesticides are not necessary. Furthermore, the earth very kindly supplies them with the geothermal energy required to power the stills. "Accidentally we made the first green whisky," Haraldur says with a smile.

## Green To Gold

They did not set out to make "green whisky," but "to make a world class whisky in Iceland," the brothers tell me. And if their gin is anything to go by, then they're on the right track. At the 2014 San Francisco World Spirits Competition (the most respected spirits competition in the world, in case you didn't know) Vor Gin picked up a



INTERVIEW

## INFO

The Þorkelsson brothers started making whisky in 2009, and went through 163 separate recipes before settling on their Flóki single malt.

Flóki is Iceland's first attempt at making whisky and it is matured in American Oak barrels previously used by Jack Daniels distillery.

Double Gold Award—which makes it one of the best gins on the planet. Not too bad at all, considering that they only began working on it in the autumn of 2013.

Having already arrived at a good base from which to work, they found themselves free to experiment with a variety of botanicals. Rather than just reaching for whatever exotic spices were available, they decided to make things a little more difficult. They restricted themselves to fruits and herbs available in Iceland 100 years ago with

a view to creating a distinctly Icelandic gin.

The list of ingredients sound like a farmers market enthusiast's wet dream. Amongst them: kale, rhubarb and sweet kelp. Iceland moss is in there too to give it a hint of bitterness.

Not too much, however, as overdoing it would make the gin undrinkable.

Fortunately, the gin is drinkable. Very drinkable. I have been drinking gin for ten years (continually rather than continuously, I might add) and Vor is one of the best I have ever tasted, and

knowing where everything comes from only enhances the experience. "We like knowing the farmer and where our barley comes from," Haraldur says of their ingredients, which are all sourced from small owner-operated farms. "It is a part of our own story and is a story we want to tell."

It is a story that is only just beginning to unfold. After five years of hard work, only now are they at the point of beginning to sell. Haraldur is the first to recognise that profit, however, is not the sole objective. "If we're passionate about something," he says, "we create value: whether in dollars or cents or a life well spent."



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1 Akureyri



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# Home Comforts And Cosmopolitan Culture

A weekend of art, food,  
music and culture in Akureyri

**Words** John Rogers @brainlove

**Photo** Skari

Akureyri, located on Iceland's longest fjord, Eyjafjörður, is often referred to as Iceland's second city, or "the capital of the North." With a population of just under 18,000, "city" is probably pushing it a bit, but Akureyri is a thriving and charming place nonetheless.



## EXPLORING ICELAND, THE FAROE ISLANDS OR GREENLAND IT'S EASY WITH AIR ICELAND





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Down by the water lies a well-preserved 'Old Town,' with various historical houses, the oldest of which dates back to the 18th Century. At the top of a steep stair, an impressive, solemn church looks impassively over the fjord, a stone's throw from the compact downtown area that boasts a modern swimming pool, a range of shops, restaurants and cafes, an old-style cinema, and a steep, winding street nicknamed 'Listagilið,' or "Art Valley," after its galleries and institutions. The town is peppered with curiosities, from small ones like the seemingly legendary Brynja ice cream store, to the hulking Hof building—a round, sculptural hall that's a bit like Akureyri's very own Harpa.

The Akureyri Backpackers hostel is located right in the heart of this area. The ground floor houses a cosy bar with a basement kitchen for those who prefer to cook for themselves, and showers one flight further down. Hitchhikers arrive in packs, heading for the sleeping bag dorms with their backpacks and clattering camping gear in tow, with others showing up fresh from the tiny airport, lugging their wheelie-cases up to the large, peaceful fourth-floor rooms. It's a perfect base to explore the town—homely, spotlessly clean and totally welcoming.

On my first night, the Northern Lights forecast is high. I pop out onto the balcony to see an arc of bright green dancing across the sky, and my heart leaps. Pulling on some woollens and rushing downstairs to go and find a dark spot, I proceed to spend the next hour crunching through the snow in search of a darker viewing point. The mission ends in abject failure, as the coastline has bright streetlights to the town limits, and even in the heart of the Botanical Gardens, where my leg goes thigh-deep into a snow drift, there's a floodlit cafe. I traipse home under the now-dark skies shivering and sopping wet, realising the balcony probably had the best view in town.

### The Life Aquatic

The next morning, I skip the basement shower room and head to Akureyri's wonderful swimming pool instead. With hotpots at 38, 39, 42 or 43 degrees, it's a great place to start the day. There are indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a slide and play-pool for kids, and a fiercely hot steam room. Half of the town seems to fit inside the pool area, with various families and couples socialising, relaxing and chitchatting in the hot water, some for hours at a time. Everyone knows everyone, and I feel some curious glances as a newcomer. I get the feeling that Akureyri's close-knit community perhaps mirrors Reykjavik's recent past.

Making my way back to the high street, I can't help but smile to spy the familiar faces of Mammút on a fly-poster. Having arrived with an empty diary and an open mind, and not knowing a soul in the town, I'd imagined being "alone" here, but it turns out they're playing a show at the Græni Hatturinn venue this very night, right next door to the hostel.

The venue turns out to be a real gem—it's an atmospheric music venue of the type that Reykjavik keeps losing to property developers lately. There are various tiers of table seating, giving an enjoyable revue-bar feel, with a long and well-stocked bar wrapping down the right hand side. The locals have turned out in droves, and dressed up for the occasion. Mammút thrives on the stage of a packed house, turning in a performance that has the throng cheering heartily before getting up their newly purchased vinyl records signed by the band.

The after-party shifts to a charming bar called Götubarinn, which has a piano, open to anyone who wants to sing and play in the middle of a plush basement room. For those seeking a quieter time, there are several lounges and cosy nooks to hide in. The night ends in entertaining sing-alongs and in-depth conversation

with accommodating and tipsy locals, who seem intrigued by my presence, an unexpected e-cig-puffing Englishman, as company for the evening. The atmosphere is one of unrestrained small-town rejoicing, and everyone has a great time, pouring out into the streets glowing and happy.

### Seafood Heaven

Akureyri has a wide variety of places to eat, from cheap bakeries and sandwich shops to sushi bars or fancy restaurants. On my first night, I try Strykið on the sixth floor of a building on the seafront, which offers views across the fjord and a mixed menu that includes sushi, burgers, and traditional fare. I opt for grilled salmon, which is sadly a little bland for the price, cooked face down so the hot-grill texture is wasted on the skin rather than the fish itself. However, the service is good, and I'd have been curious to try a few other dishes.

On the second night, I go to the cringe-worthy-named "Kung Fu" sushi bar, and get a huge plate of salmon and tuna sashimi, maki and nigiri for just 3,000 ISK. It's pretty empty, but they serve an extremely appreciative, peniless drifter while I'm there, which makes me like the place more as I listen to him loudly praising their generosity and chitchatting with the staff as he guzzles down the food.

On the final night, I cave in and try Rub23, the town's gourmet restaurant, which allows diners the chance to customise their meal by picking their preferred meat or fish, and then the flavoured "rub" they'd like applied. The flavours

extend from Coriander & Garlic and Texas BBQ to more exotic concoctions like Moroccan Caribbean. I go for a mouth-wateringly juicy arctic char tempura starter, followed by Creole cod. The bright red dining room, the careful presentation and attentive service are all on the par with excellent food. Rub23 is hard to fault. In this case, you really do get what you pay for.

### A Healthy Harmony

Every month, several of the town's galleries have synchronised openings, and the people of Akureyri come out to socialise, mingle, sip wine and stroll around the new shows. As luck would have it, I arrived on the day of the April openings. In a basement space beneath the city gallery, a show of sculpted music notation-points is opening, with a live performance; at Sjónlístamiðstöðin and across the street is a group show that features artists responding to the cracked paving slabs on Listagilið itself. There's a quite amazing amount of cultural activity to take in for a town of this size, even just scratching the surface over a three-day visit. Setting foot in any of

the galleries leads to many conversations with the overwhelmingly friendly and chatty art folk.

Akureyri is a town that still seems like there's a healthy harmony between visitors and locals, in a way that Reykjavik is perhaps losing from the sheer volume of tourists. For anyone seeking a picturesque and sedate weekend outside of the capital, this little seaside town is a pleasing mix of remoteness, natural beauty, home com-

forts and cosmopolitan culture.

**"Akureyri is a town that still seems like there's a healthy harmony between visitors and locals, in a way that Reykjavik is perhaps losing from the sheer volume of tourists."**



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L E M Ú R I N N

# Danish Surveyors On A Road Trip Around Iceland

**Words**

Vera Illugadóttir

**Photos**

Lemúrin

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STUFFED WITH STUFF

Issue 07

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P.6

“The resolution at the town council meeting had to state for the record that we had no reason to doubt the existence of The Worm. Officially, we don’t not believe.”

The municipality of Fljótshálsa is now investigating the truth behind the Lagarfljót Worm after video “proof” was submitted.



P.18

“Fat Americans,’ my mother sighed when I shared my discovery. Many Americans I spoke to voiced this suspicion: MS must simply be pandering to our notorious weakness for adding sugar to literally everything.”

MS Skeyr has made its way to the United States, a huge milestone on its quest towards world domination. Rumours are circulating of a snag in the plan; a con-skyracy that what is sold in the US is not the same skyr as in Iceland.



P.32

“Then the car lands on its ass and flips over onto its back, sliding to a stop in the soil, driver nestled safely in the roll cage. Whiffs of gasoline float all around us on the breeze. There will be no victory lap for Kubbur, but the crowd cheers anyway. This mayhem, after all, is part of the point of torfæra.”

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# The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

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+ Eating, Drinking and Shopping + Map

Issue 7 - 2014

[www.grapevine.is](http://www.grapevine.is)

Your essential guide to life, travel and entertainment in Iceland

## Prove You Aren't Afraid Of Commitment

**6-8**  
June

**The Ninth Annual Icelandic Tattoo  
Festival**

**Bar 11**

Hverfisgata 18 (E5)

🕒 14:00-22:00

ISK 1,500 festival pass or 700 per day

If you've always wanted tiny skulls on your knuckles, a target on your neck or a full back-piece with a Japanese demon-mask-wearing samurai battling Fu lions during a thunderstorm, then this is the festival for you! Twenty international artists have been confirmed, and if you don't hurry and book an appointment, they might not even have the time to give you a sad little tear under your right eye. Reykjavíkurdætur perform for free on Friday and Morðingjarnir on Saturday.

**TGB**

*Photo by Alisa Kalyanova*





# MUSIC

## CONCERTS & NIGHTLIFE

June 6 - 19

How to use the listings: Venues are listed alphabetically by day. Events listed are all live performances, with troubadours and DJs specifically highlighted. For complete listings and detailed information on venues visit [listings.grapevine.is](http://listings.grapevine.is). Send us your listings to: [listings@grapevine.is](mailto:listings@grapevine.is).

### Friday June 6

**Bar 11**  
22:00 Reykjavíkurdætur

**Boston**  
22:00 DJ KGB

**Bravo**  
22:00 DJ Óli Dóri

**Brikk**  
22:00 DJ Atli Kanill

**Den Danske Kro**  
21:00 Troubadours Roland / Ingi / Tryggvi

**Dillon**  
20:00 Skelkur í Bringu / Döpur / Harry Knuckles

**Café Rosenberg**  
21:00 Varsjárbandalagið

**Celtic Cross**  
22:00 DJ Plan B / DJ Sunna Ben

**Dolly**  
22:00 DJ Árni Kacoon / B2B / Gunni

**Ewok**

**Dubliner**  
21:00 Troubadours Eiki / Ellert

**Gaukurinn**  
21:00 Severed / Future Figment / Angist

**Hressó**  
21:00 Ultra Mega Technobandið Stefán / Úlfur Úlfur / DJ Cyppe / Steini Sax

**Húrra**  
21:00 DJ Styrmir

**Lebowski Bar**  
21:00 DJ de la Rósa

**Park**  
21:00 DJ Ingi Eysteinn

**Prikið**  
22:00 DJ Jay-O

### Saturday June 7

**Bar 11**  
22:00 Morðingjarnir

**Boston**  
22:00 DJ Herra Gott

**Bravó**  
22:00 DJ KGB

**Brikk**  
21:00 DJ Óli Dóri

**Café Rosenberg**  
21:00 Skúli Mennski & Band

**Den Danske Kro**  
21:00 Troubadours Fannar / Hjálmar / Dagur

**Dillon**  
21:00 Smutty Smiff's Rockabilly Night

**Dolly**  
22:00 DJ IntroBeats

**Dubliner**  
22:00 Troubadours Gisle / Ingvar

**Gaukurinn**  
21:00 Ojba Rasta / Amaba Dama / Thiz One, T.Y. & Djásnið / RVK Soundsystem / Cell7 / Kött Grá Pjé

**Harpa**  
10:00 Harpa International Music Academy

**Hressó**  
21:00 Diskólestin

**Húrra**  
21:00 DJ Logi Pedro / Benni B-Ruff

**Íslenski Rokkbarinn**  
23:00 Lotning / Dynfari / Blood Feud / Auðn

**Kjarvalsstaðir (Reykjavík Art Museum)**  
20:00 FRUM Festival

**Nordic House**  
20:00 Myndra Album Release Show

**Park**  
21:00 Emmsjé Gauti

06  
June



**Death Metal Quartet - Severed / Gone Postal / Angist / Future Figment**

### Gaukurinn

Tryggvagata 22 (D3) | ☎ 21:00 | ISK 1,000 ISK

Gaukurinn is hosting an Icelandic death metal quartet that is sure to kick up a few furious mosh pits. Severed's last album was released four years ago, and in that time they have grown more popular, partly through touring relentlessly with an arsenal of songs that slowly simmer to a boil, exploding into quick riffs that leave listeners with whiplash. Gone Postal and the female-led Angist have similarly not released a lot of music, with one album and an EP under their belt respectively. The newest band, Future Figment, doesn't have binders full of songs, but that shouldn't stop them from helping make this night an unforgettable one for metalheads. **AH**

13  
June



**Hits To Scare You Shitless - Skelkur í Bringu / Caterpillarmen**

### Gaukurinn

Tryggvagata 22 (D3) | ☎ 22:00 | ISK 500

Seemingly crawling straight from Icelandic's volcanic underbelly in 2009, noisy punks Skelkur í Bringu provide fierce, compelling and explosive music. Seeing them live is undoubtedly half-terror/half-indulgence, with singer/bassist Steinunn yelping and screaming in an unapologetic and uncontrolled manner on psychobilly tracks such as "Fóstur í Sími." Adding to this is the sheer incalculable approach of Caterpillarmen, who, on songs like "Döðludans" and "Siggi," juxtapose evolving time signatures with discordant, slasher-flick keyboards and noise-rock influences. These ingredients accumulate to produce a seething mass of corrupted and broken music that will frighten as much as it pleases. **LH**



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**Prikið**  
22:00 Houseband / DJ Kocoon

### Sunday June 8

**Boston**  
21:00 DJ Logi Pedro  
**Brikk**  
21:00 DJ Styrmir Dansson  
**Dolly**  
22:00 DJ Kári / B2B / Housekell  
**Gaukurinn**  
21:00 Dynfari / We Made God  
**Hressó**  
21:00 Classic Rock Tribute Night  
**Lebowski Bar**  
21:00 DJ Anna Brá

### Monday June 9

**Den Danske Kro**  
21:00 Troubadour Tryggvi  
**English Pub**  
21:00 Troubadour Ingí Valur  
**Húrra**  
21:00 Live Jazz Music

### Tuesday June 10

**Café Rosenberg**  
21:00 Andrea Ingvars & Friends  
**Den Danske Kro**  
21:00 Troubadour Ingí Valur  
**Dubliner**  
21:00 Troubadour Eiki  
**KEX Hostel**  
20:00 KEX Jazz

### Wednesday June 11

**Bravó**  
22:00 DJ Einar Sonar  
**Café Rosenberg**  
21:00 Halli Reynis & Co.  
**Den Danske Kro**  
21:00 Troubadour Hreimur  
**Dolly**  
22:00 DJ Jukora  
**Dubliner**  
21:00 Troubadour Roland  
**English Pub**  
21:00 Troubadour Alexander  
**Gaukurinn**  
21:00 Foxtrain Safari  
**Laugardalshöllin**  
20:00 The Pixies  
**Lebowski Bar**  
21:00 DJ Jesús  
**Prikið**  
21:00 Vinyl Wednesday: DJ André

### Thursday June 12

**Brikk**  
21:00 DJ Styrmir Dansson  
**Boston**  
21:00 DJ Malaría  
**Bravó**  
22:00 DJ Atli Bollason  
**Borgarleikhúsið**  
20:00 Different Turns Album Release  
Concert  
**Café Rosenberg**  
21:00 Brother Grass  
**Celtic Cross**  
22:00 DJ Plan B  
21:00 Trust The Lies / Aeterna / While  
My City Burns  
**Dolly**  
22:00 DJ Lil Drím Tím  
**English Pub**  
21:00 Troubadours Hjálmar / Dagur  
**Gaukurinn**  
22:00 Sin Fang / Samaris / Arnliótur  
**Harpa**  
19:00 Kristján Jóhannsson / Gissur  
Páll Gissurarson / Garðar Thór  
Cortes  
**Lebowski Bar**  
21:00 DJ Anna Brá  
**Loft Hostel**  
21:00 Amaba Dama  
22:00 DJ Frosti Gringo  
**Mengi**  
21:00 Indriði Ingólfsson  
**Prikið**  
21:00 DJ Danni DELUXE

### Friday June 13

**Boston**  
21:00 Ojba Rasta DJ Set  
**Brikk**  
21:00 DJ KGB  
**Café Rosenberg**  
21:00 Björn Thoroddsen & Egill Ólafsson  
**Celtic Cross**  
22:00 DJ Plan B  
**Den Danske Kro**  
21:00 Troubadours Ellert and Biggi  
Olgeirs  
**Dillon**  
21:00 Thetans  
**Dolly**  
22:00 DJ Logi Pedro  
**Dubliner**  
21:00 Troubadours Eiki / Tjokko  
**English Pub**  
21:00 Troubadours Arnar Hjálmar /  
Dagur  
**Gaukurinn**  
22:00 Skelkur í Bringu / Caterpillar-  
men  
**Húrra**  
21:00 DJ Anna Raket / Ýr Þrastar  
**Lebowski Bar**  
21:00 DJ Raggi H  
**Prikið**  
22:00 DJ Sunna Ben / Moonshine

### Saturday June 14

**Bar 11**  
22:00 Elín Ey  
**Boston**  
22:00 DJ Styrmir Dansson  
**Brikk**  
21:00 DJ Óli Dóri



**Spitting Rhymes And Furious Beats**  
Úlfur Úlfur / UMTBS

**Hressó (E4)**

Austurstræti 20 | ☺ 21:00 | ISK Free

Some genres work better than others together. Mixing death metal and euro disco would probably lead to a catastrophe, but electronic music and hip hop? It's like peanut butter and jelly: a match made in heaven. The joint concert with Úlfur Úlfur and UMTBS should be enough to blow the roof off of Hressó, if only it weren't being held outside. Úlfur Úlfur spit fast lyrics that bounce sharply off upbeat melodies, while UMTBS's repertoire is like cotton candy with joyful, energetic beats that will have the audience bouncing off the walls like kids on a sugar high. Oh, and draft beer is **100 ISK** during the gig! **AH**



**We Want Peace, We Want Love**  
Rototom Sunsplash Launch Party

**Gaukurinn**

Tryggvagata 22 (D3) | ☺ 21:00 | ISK 1,500

Gaukurinn is hosting a reggae party filled with pure happiness to get you pumped up for Rototom Sunsplash, Europe's biggest reggae festival. Sweltering Benacassim may be thousands of miles away from frosty Iceland, but there will be plenty of sunny vibes here. Ojba Rasta bring their wobbly, brass-heavy bass lines, and Amaba Dama their joyful, bouncy reggae goodness with all the beats your head, heart and feet could possibly desire. RVK Soundsystem and DJ Cyppie continue with the message of "One Love," but if at any point these joyful reggae vibes become too much and your legs can't skank any longer, just chill out and wait; the rough rhythms of rappers Cell7, and Kött Grá Þje will get you bouncing all over again, spitting mad rhymes of your own. **LC**

**Café Rosenberg**  
21:00 KK / Maggi  
**Celtic Cross**  
22:00 Dj Egill  
**Den Danske Kro**  
21:00 Troubadours Fannar / Hjálmar /  
Dagur  
**Dolly**  
22:00 DJ Yamaho  
**English Pub**  
21:00 Troubadours Arnar / Hjálmar /  
Dagur  
**Gaukurinn**  
22:00 Kælan Mikla  
Hallgrímskirkja  
12:00 International Organ Summer:  
Björn Steinar Sólbergsson  
**Harpa**  
15:00 Reykjavík Midsummer Music:  
Amihai Grosz / Víkingur Ólafsson  
20:00 Reykjavík Midsummer Music:  
Davíð Þór Jónsson / Pétur Grétar-  
son  
**Húrra**  
21:00 DJ Gullfoss And Geysir  
**Lebowski Bar**  
21:00 DJ Jesús  
**Park**  
20:00 DJ Pétur Örn  
**Víkingur Ólafsson**  
23:00 Reykjavík Midsummer Music:  
Ghostigital / Finnboji Pétursson

### Sunday June 15

**Amihai Grosz / Kathryn Stott**  
20:00 Reykjavík Midsummer Music:  
Mahler Youth Orchestra  
**Bravó**  
22:00 DJ Andre  
**Brikk**  
21:00 Sunnujazz  
**Den Danske Kro**  
21:00 Troubadour Raggi  
**English Pub**  
21:00 Troubadour Danni  
Hallgrímskirkja  
17:00 International Organ Summer:  
Björn Steinar Sólbergsson  
**Harpa**  
12:00 Reykjavík Midsummer Music:  
George Benjamin's "Viola Viola"  
15:00 Reykjavík Midsummer Music:  
Sayaka Sjoji / Bryndís Halla Gyl-  
fadóttir

### Monday June 16

**Brikk**  
21:00 DJ Styrmir Dansson  
**Den Danske Kro**  
21:00 Ingí Valur  
**Dolly**  
22:00 DJ Trifecta

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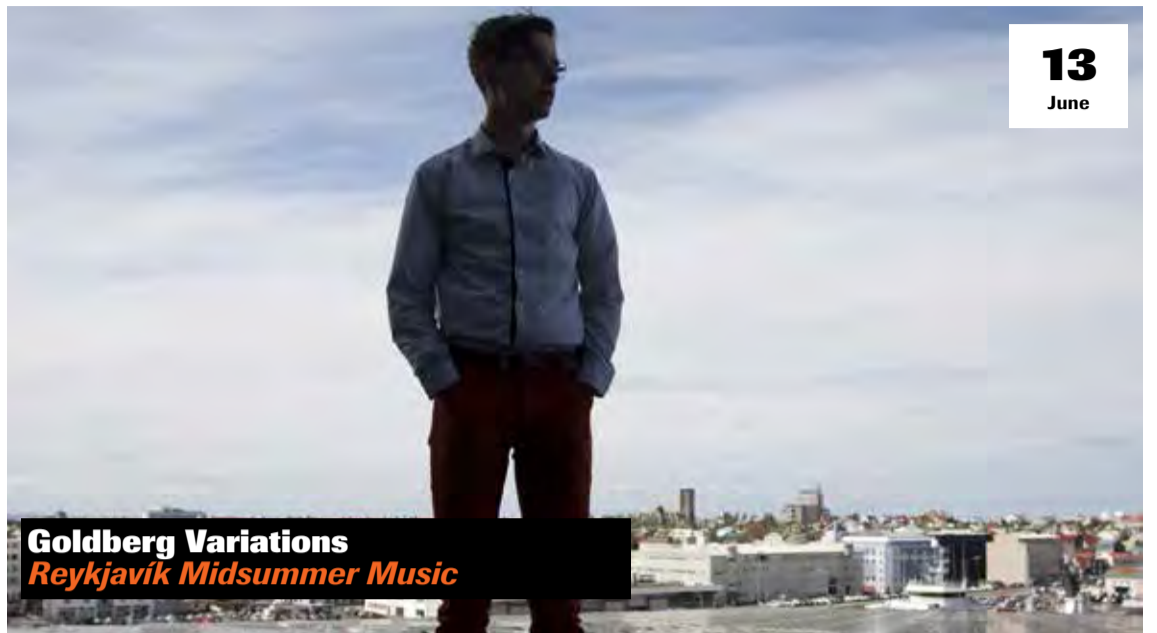


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Tel: 561 0562 / www.osushi.is

# MUSIC

## CONCERTS & NIGHTLIFE

13  
June



**Goldberg Variations**  
*Reykjavík Midsummer Music*

**Harpa**

Austurbakki 2 (C4) | ☺ 20:00 | ISK 3,500

Starting with the fluttering melodic drones present in John Adams' gorgeous, euphoric Hallelujah Junction, The Midsummer Music Festival expresses its commitment to pieces pushing the technical limits of the piano, with performances by Davíð Þór Jónsson, Víkingur Heiðar Ólafsson and Kathryn Stott. The event closes with the Goldberg Variations, a triumph in composition which demonstrates the dynamics of Bach's work. Arm-stretching legato accompanies seemingly endless breaks that endow the Goldberg Variations with a resonant, emotional quality that makes this event absolutely unmissable. **LH**



12  
June

**The Nicelandic Indie Face-Off**  
*Sin Fang / Samaris / Arnljótur*

**Gaukurinn**

Tryggvagata 22 (D3) | ☺ 21:00 | ISK 1,500

Twee-pop artist Sin Fang, aka the "Icelandic Beck," will be performing several of his hits, including songs from his third solo album 'Flowers' (which totally won Grapevine's 2013 Album of the Year award). It is filled with sweeping, blithe and feel-good orchestra/techno resonance—truly a goldmine of modern indie-pop. Joining him are Samaris, whose relaxed indietronica mixes minimalist syncopated beats with an intricate and emotional vocal delivery, as can be heard on tracks such as 'Viltu Vitrast'. Ojba Rasta's Arnljótur will be opening the event, providing infective and unflustered accompaniment to an artistically diverse evening. **LH**



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Tryggvagata 15, 101 Reykjavik  
Opening Hours: Mon–Thu 12–19  
Fridays 12–18, Weekends 13–17  
www.photomuseum.is

**Dubliner**

21:00 Troubadour Roland  
**English Pub**  
21:00 Troubadours Jon / Danni /  
Ingj Valur / Tryggvi  
**Gaukurinn**  
21:00 Skítamóráll  
**Harpa**  
20:00 Reykjavík Midsummer Music:  
Sigrún Eðvaldsdóttir / Pétur Gré-  
tarsson / Pekka Kuusisto  
**Húrra**  
21:00 Retro Stefson Block Party  
**Laugardalshöllin**  
19:00 DJ David Guetta  
**Lebowski Bar**  
21:00 DJ Anna Brá  
**Prikið**  
21:00 DJ Gay Latino Man  
23:00 Reykjavík Midsummer Music:  
DJ Georg Conrad / Mahler Cham-  
ber Soloists

**Tuesday June 17**

**Dubliner**

21:00 Troubadour Eiki  
**Den Danske Kro**  
21:00 Troubadour Tryggvi  
**KEX Hostel**  
20:00 Kex Jazz

**Wednesday June 18**

**Bravó**

21:00 VJ Berglind Festival  
**Café Rosenberg**  
21:00 Krákan (aka. Guðjón Rúðolf)  
**Den Danske Kro**  
21:00 Troubadour Hreimlur  
**English Pub**  
21:00 Troubadour Maggi  
**Harpa**  
19:00 Kristján Jóhannsson / Gissur  
Páll Gissurarson / Garðar Thór  
Cortes  
**Lebowski Bar**  
21:00 DJ Jesús  
**Prikið**  
21:00 Vinyl Wednesday: DJ Steindór  
Grétar

**Thursday June 19**

**Boston**

22:00 DJ Yamaho / Boston Babes  
**Brikk**  
21:00 Intro Beats  
**Den Danske Kro**  
21:00 Troubadour Pétur  
**English Pub**  
21:00 Troubadour Eiríkur / Steini  
**Gaukurinn**  
21:00 Sesar A  
**Húrra**  
21:00 DJ Óli Dóri  
**Loft Hostel**  
20:30 Magnús Leifur & Sveinn  
**Mengi**  
21:00 Eric Boros  
**Prikið**  
21:00 DJ Vrong / LV pier / Marteinn



# ART

## OPENINGS AND ONGOING

June 6 - 19

**How to use the listings:** Venues are listed alphabetically by day. For complete listings and detailed information on venues visit listings.grapevine.is. Send us your listings to: listings@grapevine.is.

### Opening

#### Art 67

Bjarnveig Björnsdóttir opens a visual art show with several oil paintings.

Opens June 7

Runs until June 30

#### Iceland Academy of Arts

**Everything Is Good Though Nothing Is**

Gylfi Freeland Sigurðsson opens an exhibit in Kaffistofan, the student gallery of the academy, one that focuses on drawings, text works and symbols.

Opens June 7

Runs until June 8

#### Kunstschlager

Þorgerður Þórhallsdóttir's first exhibit uses the process of preservation to examine how events are documented, using footage of her grandfather, pianist Gísli Magnússon, as an example. The home recording of him rehearsing Beethoven's 4th Piano Concerto is intertwined with his performance with the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra, creating a new narrative that elevates the creative process alongside the finished product.

Opens June 14

Runs until June 28

#### The National Museum

##### Land of the Sodium Sun

Photographer Stuart Richardson exhibits a series of photographs on Icelandic streetlights, their locales and the weather.

Opens June 14

Runs until December 31

#### Poka

##### KEEP FROZEN - Aldís Snorraddóttir

Aldís Snorraddóttir's exhibit is the second part of a mixed-media installation and an art work in process. It is a continuation of an exhibition series that started with KEEP FROZEN part zero, a single-channel video piece that has travelled the world, and KEEP FROZEN part one, an installation exhibited at De-Construct in New York. The project also consists of a film and a book about harbour experiences.

Opens May 31

Runs until June 29

### Ongoing

#### Árbær Museum

A guided tour in English through this open air museum, consisting of 20 buildings happens daily at 13:00.

Admission 1,100 ISK.

On permanent view

#### Anarkía

##### Word

Artist Finnboji Helgason uses writing and words to create his paintings, words that represent the elements that compose human beings—Hydrogen, Nitrogen, Carbon and the like. The words may not be apparent to the casual viewer, but they make up the paintings, and the exhibition as a whole is a model study using words.

Runs until June 1

#### Ellipse

"Art is not the perfect but art is the eternal quest, which is the purpose of the creative process," says artist Kristín Tryggvadóttir. Her exhibition attempts to engage the viewer with the forces of nature and the eternal circulation of a continuous displacement of matter which does not disappear but is transformed. All matter has its own space, visible or invisible, and the smallest particle moved away, leaves behind an empty space.

Runs until June 1

#### ASÍ Art Gallery

Eygló Harðardóttir's sculpture exhibit sits in ASÍ's garden and is without a title. This is the second time that Eygló presents an outdoor sculpture like this at ASÍ.

Runs until August 9



### The Tölt of the Horse

Tölt

**Nordic House | Sturlugata 5 (H2)**

Until June 29 ☺ 12:00 - 17:00 | **ISK Free!**

Horses may have been an essential part of life just a century ago, but rarely were they as intertwined into local culture as they were in Iceland where they were first venerated in Norse mythology. Though they are often small compared to other breeds and don't quite live up to their size in the mythic tales (much like film stars off-screen), their role in Iceland's culture matches up in importance. They were tamed for work, pleasure, and represent Iceland's tie to nature. Tölt is a gait unique to the Icelandic horse, and the TÖLT exhibit celebrates this animal with 13 contemporary artists conveying their own take on the beasts. **AH**

#### The Culture House

An exhibit showcasing principal medieval manuscripts, such as Codices Regii of the Poetic Edda, Prose Edda, law codices and Christian works, and the Icelandic Sagas.

On permanent view

#### Child of Hope - Youth and Jón Sigurðsson

Exploring the life of Icelandic national hero Jón Sigurðsson, made particularly accessible to children, families and school groups.

On permanent view

#### Millennium - Phase One

A selection of pieces from the the National Gallery's collection, the exhibit includes a variety of works by Icelandic artists from the last two centuries.

On permanent view

#### The Library Room

The old reading room of the National Library displays books of Icelandic cultural history from the 16th century to the present day.

On permanent view

#### The Einar Jónsson Museum

The museum contains close to 300 artworks including a beautiful garden with 26 bronze casts of the artist's sculptures.

On permanent view

#### Gallery Fold

##### Nikhil Nathan Kirsh

British artist Nikhil Nathan Kirsh showcases a sculpture made in collaboration with Ragnhild Stefánsdóttir, as well as broken and cracked depictions of various parts of the body.

Runs until June 17

#### Hafnarborg

##### Fancy Cake in the Sun

The exhibit displays selected graphic prints and artistic books by Swiss artist Dieter Roth, one of the most important post-war European artists. During his career he worked with various mediums but the exhibition focuses on his contributions to the print world. It is divided into eleven periods covering Dieter's artwork from 1957 to 1993.

Runs until June 9

#### Lusus Naturae

A 3D Installation featuring dream-like and beautiful experiments with time and events through the medium of music, moving pictures and live performance by Ólöf Nordal, Gunnar Karlsson and Þuríður Jónsdóttir.

Runs until June 17

#### Hverfisgallerí

##### Mapping A Piece Of Land

Hildur Bjarnadóttir explores the concept of painting through weaving in her exhibition. She produced her artwork using two methods: colouring the thread with acrylic paint before it is woven, and experimenting with natural plant colouring. Each plant is connected to a specific place, carrying a sort of genetic code about its location as well as the people and fauna that surrounded it.

Runs until June 28

#### i8 Gallery

The series '1s & 0s' (2011-2014) by Ignacio Uriarte comprises 128 sheets of A4 paper, covered in typewritten 1s and 0s. Each sheet is typed on a different typewriter, which produces very different results.

Runs until June 2

#### The Icelandic Phallogical Museum

The museum contains a collection of more than two hundred and fifteen penises and penile parts belonging to almost all the land and sea mammals that can be found in Iceland.

On permanent view

#### Kling & Bang

##### The Five Live Lo-Fi

In the mysterious and ambiguous zone of the creative process, a piece is composed of four different parts, each representing different types of art. Four openings take place over two weeks. Each space, performance and installation is like a voice. In the fourth and last opening the piece reaches its peak, the voices in their spatial, audio, visual and physical surroundings come together and create a magnificent harmony.

Runs until June 22

#### Kópavogur Art Museum

##### 20th Anniversary Exhibition

Kópavogur Art Museum is curating a new exhibition consisting of works from the museum's permanent collection and from the private collections of Þorvaldur Guðmundsson and Ingibjörg Guðmundsdóttir. On display will be selected works by Gerður Helgadóttir, Barbara Árnason, Magnús Á. Árnason and Valgerður Briem and paintings by Jóhannes S. Kjarval. Free admission on Wednesdays.

Runs until July 27

#### Knitting Iceland

Whether you are a beginner or pro, you can come knit at Laugavegur 25, 3rd floor, every Thursday, 14:00 - 18:00.

On permanent view



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## 1½ hour Whale Watching & Puffin Tours from Reykjavík

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## A Guided Walking Tour Dark Deeds in Reykjavík

Every Thursday in June, July and August at 3pm  
This 90 min. walk is at an easy pace  
Join us for a fun introduction to Icelandic crime fiction, ghosts and ghouls  
Starts at Reykjavík City Library in Tryggvagata 15  
Info: www.literature.is  
Free of charge

A fitting warm-up: At 2pm every Thursday we screen *Spirits of Iceland*, a film on Icelandic folklore in the library's 5th floor screening room



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## 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](http://www.thjodminjasafn.is)  
Suðurgata 41 / 101 Reykjavík

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The Icelandic Tourist Board issues licences to tour operators and travel agents, as well as issuing registration to booking services and information centres.

Tour operators and travel agents are required to use a special logo approved by the Icelandic Tourist Board on all their advertisements and on their Internet website.

Booking services and information centres are entitled to use a Tourist Board logo on all their material. The logos below are recognised by the Icelandic Tourist Board.



List of licenced Tour  
Operators and Travel  
Agencies on:  
[visiticeland.com](http://visiticeland.com)

# ART

## OPENINGS AND ONGOING

### Kunstschlager

#### Lust Hour

This exhibition features explicit material from a group of 12 celebrated visual artists, some known for their daring material, others not. The pieces range from secretive erotica to thought provoking philosophical statements. The exhibition is of an adult nature and is not suitable for children.

Runs until June 7

### Living Art Museum

#### Time and Time and Again

Hreinn Friðfinnsson's film 'Time and Time and Again' is based on and inspired by his own life and artworks. It tells the story about two twins that were separated at birth. One was sent to the mountains of Iceland and the other one below sea level in Amsterdam. The different gravity and oxygen levels made them age differently. In fact, the twins are the same person. The story is a metaphor for the dialectic of life and the human condition. The exhibition also shows Hreinn's selection new and older work.

Runs until June 5

### Mengi

#### Myndliðir

Jóhannes Dagsson opens the exhibit 'Myndliðir' ("Fragmented Pictures") which features several oil paintings on canvas.

Runs until June 8

### Museum of Design and Applied Art

#### Ertu tilbúin frú forseti?

The exhibition, 'Are you ready, Madam President,' displays clothing and other accessories from the wardrobe of former Icelandic President Vigdís Finnbogadóttir. The exhibition gives visitors a glimpse into Vigdís's wardrobe preferences and style, and also the personal lives and habits of heads of state.

Runs until October 5

### Kosmos

Dew is a growing group of Icelandic product designers who work with international manufacturers. Their varied designs reflects their powerful creative urge to find innovative uses for materials which often results in unexpected results. Dew's designs seek inspiration in landscapes and the history of traditional craftsmanship, fused together in new and exciting ways.

Runs until June 8

### This Is How I Do It

Hjalti Karlsson, last year's recipient of the Nordic Torsten and Wanja Söderberg prize, is holding an exhibition featuring work specially created for the occasion. Hjalti's work, from newspaper page to moving graphics, from educational exhibition form to the place-specific art installation, shows traces of both classic schooling and Icelandic narrative tradition.

Runs until October 5

### National Gallery

#### Sigurjón Ólafsson Retrospective

The gallery opens a retrospective exhibition of the works of abstract sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson (1908-1982). Sigurjón was one of the most influential Icelandic artists in the postwar era, and was throughout his life in the



### Ends of Eras

'Mirror Of Life' by Ragnar Axelsson (RAX)

### Reykjavík Photography Museum

Tryggvagata 15 (D3) | May 24 - Sep 7 ☺ 10-17 | ISK

Free!

The exhibition features a collection of photojournalist Ragnar Axelsson's best works from the last three decades. Focusing on both the mundane lives of people in the newly independent Baltic States and extraordinary events such as shipwrecks and natural disasters. There are also many pieces from the celebrated collection 'Last Days of the Arctic,' which depict vast changes in the way of life in northern countries due to modernisation and global warming. Ragnar captures moments in the ordinary life of members of these communities that on a daily basis face

forefront of Icelandic sculpture.

Runs until October 29

### The National Museum

#### Inspirations by Ron Rosenstock

The subjects of Ron's black and white photography—land, sky, trees, and glaciers—serve as inspiration for this exhibition. He then digitally edits the images, like photographers of the old used to do in the darkroom, to bring out what he felt like at the time of exposure.

Runs until July 27

### The Making Of A Nation

This exhibition is intended to provide insight into the history of the Icelandic nation from the Settlement to the present day.

On permanent view

### Nordic House

#### TÖLT

Tölt is an art exhibition entirely dedicated to the Icelandic horse, presented through diverse media such as photography, sculpture, video, animation, design and fashion. Contemporary Icelandic artists and designers have been given free reign to create and to present artworks inspired by the Icelandic horse. Each artist conveys his own vision and perception stemming from the horses.

Runs until June 29

### The Old Harbour

#### Iceland Expo Pavillion

Every day from 10:00 to 22:00, Sagafilmis projects a film of Icelandic scenery inside their Iceland Expo Pavillion which provides a unique 360 degree movie experience.

On permanent view

### Reykjavík Art Museum -

#### Ásmundarsafn

#### Selection from the Ásmundur Sveinsson Collection

The exhibition spans Ásmundur Sveinsson's entire career and shows how his artistic vision developed throughout his life. There are both earlier and less developed works, and the later grand masterpieces that praise Icelandic people and nature. The collection shows a number of abstract works that the artist created in the last decades of his life. Ásmundur was one of the pioneers of Icelandic plastic art.

Runs until August 31

### Reykjavík Art Museum -

#### Hafnarhús

#### Erró: The World Today

The Reykjavík Art Museum's already large collection of paintings by Erró has grown considerably in recent years as the artist continues to donate his more recent works. These pieces—including collages, oils, watercolours and enamels—are on display.

Runs until September 28

## Pearls of Icelandic Song

**Concert series with  
Icelandic art songs  
and folk music.**

The programme is  
sung in Icelandic and  
introduced in English.

CONCERTS

JUNE

2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 15, 18,  
20, 21, 24, 25, 27, 28

at 17:00

Information and tickets at  
the box office in Harpa or at  
[WWW.CCCR.IS](http://WWW.CCCR.IS)





The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

# IN YOUR POCKET

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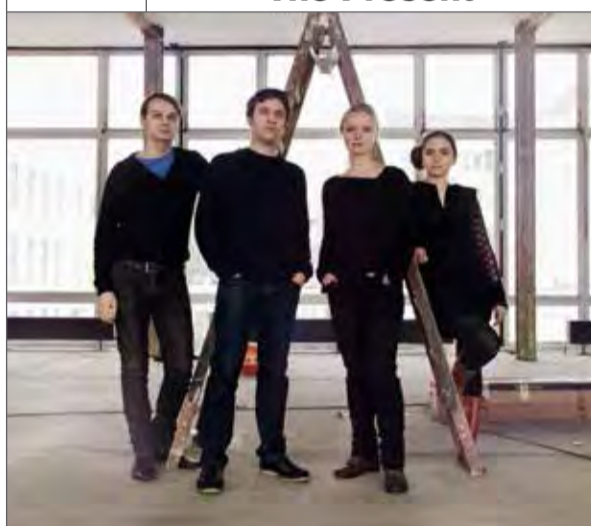



Reykjavík

June 6 - 19

Keep it in your pocket

## Two Weeks

The Grapevine picks the events, places and what to experience in the next two weeks

<b>17</b> June	<b>MUSIC</b> <b>Celebrating The Past In The Present</b>	<b>17</b> June	<b>Warning!</b> <b>Rugrats Everywhere!</b>
			
<b>FRUM Contemporary Music Festival</b> <i>ISK 1,500 ISK</i> Kjarvalstaðir, Flókagata 24 (H8)  20:00		<b>Icelandic National Day</b> <i>ISK Free!</i> All over Iceland  All day	

The annual FRUM Festival serves as an introduction to an undercurrent of music history, one in which groundbreaking, yet somehow 'forgotten,' Nordic composers of the past, 'the Lost,' are looked over and given a modern twist by the throng of current and upcoming composers, or 'the Found.' The festival will be focused on performances of German-Icelandic ensemble "Adapter," whose renditions will undoubtedly provide an unconventional and illuminating testament to the Nordic musical spirit. **LH**

Do you want to take the kids out, feed them lots of hot dogs and the corporate sludge of the consumerist age (aka. Coke) and give them helium balloons that you know they will inevitably lose and cry over for the rest of the day? Well, you're in luck, because that's what pretty much every family will be doing this Tuesday, along with watching parades and clowns doing funny business. If you are, however, without kids, you can join the rest of us in fretting over bouncy castles not being available for adults... **TGB**

*Photo by Steinar Hugli*

**June 11 THE VOICE OF A GENERATION** Have you heard the word? No, it's not a bird, it's **The Pixies!** And they're coming to Iceland, too. If you don't mind forking over **6,700 ISK** and aren't too hung up on **Kim Deal** no longer being with the indie rock supergroup, then you're in for a good time. They're joined by **Mono Town**, too. They perform at **Laugar-dalshöll** at **20:00**.

**1-29**  
June **I Blog**  
**Therefore I Think**

  
**'Sjáum-k Ég Meir Um Munin'**  
*ISK Free!*  10:00-19:00  
Reykjavík City Library, Tryggvagata 5 (D3)

**June 12 THEATRICAL ROCK** Icelandic bands have a tendency to sometimes go a little over the top, but if dramatic is what you want, we don't think you can do any better than **Diferent Turns** whose practicing space has been a theatre! The seven-piece alternative-electro rock band is celebrating their debut concept album, **'If You Think This Is About You... You're Right'** in **Borgarleikhúsið**. Admission is **2,500 ISK**.

**June 19 STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHT** In **1915**, Icelandic women got the right to vote, but **99 years later** we are still far away from equality. With a **persistent wage gap** and **gender-based violence** still prevalent in the country, and atrocities still happening abroad, it's only right that we come together in solidarity and tackle the matters head on. Expect **rallies, meetings** and **activities** downtown.

Ancient Greek philosopher Socrates hypothesised that reading literature dulled the mind. German philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein hypothesised that our language confined the kind of thinking we could do. Canadian philosopher Marshall McLuhan maintained that the medium was the message. Following in their footsteps, Canadian Guy Stewart believes that the advent of a generation raised on the internet also alters their way of thinking. Is he onto something? And is it affecting our memory and perception of time? Check out his literary exhibit to find out his take on the matter. **TGB**



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# MAP

## World's End—Reykjavík Style

By Tómas Gabriel Benjamin

We at the Grapevine do not encourage people to drink to excess, but if you ever wanted to see if you could have 11 drinks in 11 bars in 11 hours on a budget, then we've got great news for you! Most bars in Iceland have a happy hour, and if you align them in the correct order on a Friday, you can get 11 in a row. If you give yourself 15-20 minutes to get from place to place, we reckon you should be able to make it. You'll need to have a friend with you, though, as a few places on the list have a two for one deal. So, have a hearty meal before you set out, pack a snack to nibble on between places, and have fun!

### 1 Sólón Bistro 15:00

Bankastræti 7a | Beer: 650 ISK

Our journey begins at Sólón Bistro where you can order some food along with that beer. Enjoy the opportunity to do some people watching through the massive windows, bask in the sun if the weather is good—but be sure to pace yourself, though, as we have a long journey ahead of us.

### 2 Bar 7 16:00

Frakkastígur 7 | Beer: 350 ISK

This stop has both the smallest bar and the cheapest happy hour on offer. If you don't fancy craft beers or whisky, you can just stay here for a few hours and skip the next few stops and shave off a bit of change, or make it back on the slots machine. Maybe the bar tender will even take song requests.

### 3 Micro Bar 17:00

Austurstræti 6 | Beer: 600 ISK

Micro Bar prides itself on having a great selection of (you guessed it) micro-brew beers, and they routinely rotate what's on happy hour. They don't ever have live performances, and on good days you might get away with sitting outside.

### 4 Kaldi Bar 18:00

Laugavegur 20b | Beer: 650 ISK

Kaldi beer may be brewed far up in the North of Iceland close to Dalvík, but it has a bar dedicated to it in Reykjavík that serves the beer filtered and unfiltered. The place is a real treat for the beer fans of Iceland, and the waiters are super nice. If you are lucky, maybe even DJ Flugvél & geimskip will serve you your beer.

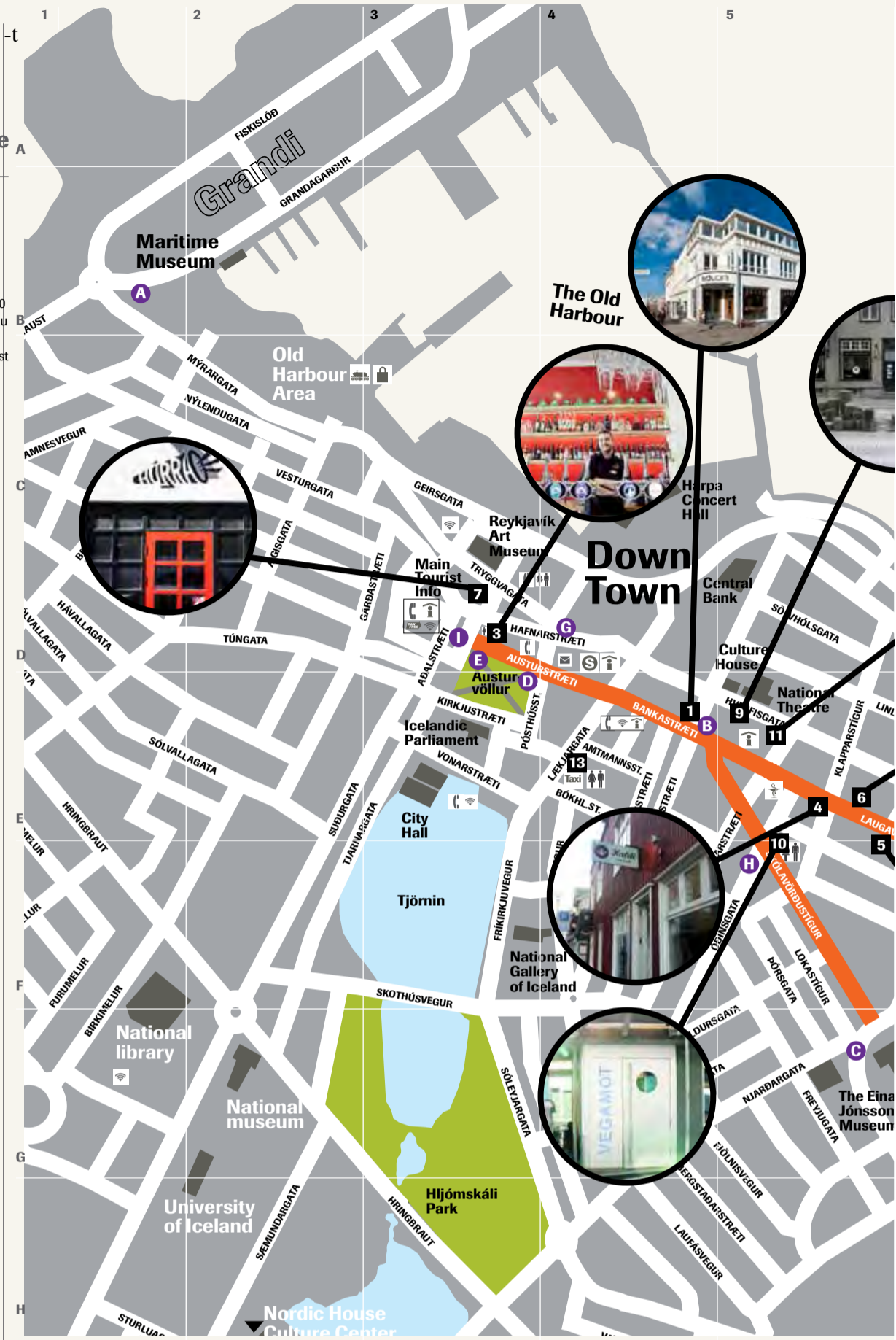
### 5 Dillon 19:00

Laugavegur 30 | Whisky: 550 ISK

This stop features our very first non-beer recommendation, as Dillon isn't just a bar, it's a whiskey bar! Whether you are more for Canadian or Scottish Whiskey, or Irish or US Whiskey, you should be able to get what you want here. Make sure to ask the bartender for recommendations as to whether you should have your drink smooth, with a few drops or on the rocks. If you don't fancy the water of life, you can get a beer instead for the same price.

#### Useful Numbers

Emergency number: **112**  
Medical help: **1770**  
Dental emergency: **575 0505**  
Information: **118**  
Taxi: Hreyfill-Bæjarleiðir: **588 5522**  
BSR: **561 0000**  
**Tax-Free Refund**  
Iceland Refund, Aðalstræti 2, tel: 564 6400  
**Tourist Information**  
Arctic Adventures, Laugavegur 11, tel: 562 7000  
City Centre, Aðalstræti 2, tel: 590 1550  
Iceland Excursions – Grayline Iceland,



### 6 Tíu Dropar 20:00

Laugavegur 27 | Wine: 400 ISK 2-4-1

If you haven't been stuffing your face with junk food between bars, you should order something off of Tíu Dropar's menu. If you don't want to mix berries with barley, fret not, for the cozy French-themed basement café also has beers on tap. Do note you'll have to buy two glasses to enjoy this deal, so bring a friend.

### 7 Húrra 21:00

Tryggvagata 22 | Beer: 500 ISK

Húrra is not just known for hosting a lot of cool live events, but also for having Einstök Pale Ale and Einstök White Ale on tap during happy hour. If that isn't a reason to letting out a hoo-rah, we don't know what is. Check out the downstairs lounge if you want some peace and quiet.

### 8 Roadhouse 22:00

Snorrabraut 56 | Beer: 450 ISK 2-4-1

At this point things must be looking pretty grim, even if you've been stuffing your face with subs, had some cookies at Tíu Dropar and drunk a lot of water along the way. Fret not, for this is an American-style steak house, and they can whip you up something nice and meaty. Do note you'll have to buy two beers to enjoy this deal.

Hafnarstræti 20, tel: 540 1313

**The Icelandic Travel Market**, Bankastræti 2, tel: 522 4979

**Trip**, Laugavegur 54, tel: 433 8747

#### Pharmacies

**Lyf og heilsa**, Egilsgata 3, tel: 563 1020

**Lyfja**, Laugavegur 16, tel: 552 4045 and Lág-múla 5, tel: 533 2300

#### Coach Terminal

**BSÍ**, Vatnsmýrarvegur 10,

tel: 562 1011, www.bsi.is

#### Domestic Airlines

**Air Iceland**, Reykjavíkflugvöllur,

tel: 570 3030, www.flugfelag.is

**Eagle Air**, Hótel Loftleiðir, tel: 562 4200

#### Public Transport

The only public transport available in Reykjavík is the bus. Most buses run every 20-30 minutes (the wait may be longer on weekends) and the price per fare is 350 ISK for adults and children. Multiple day passes are available for purchase at select locations. Complete route map available at: www.bus.is. Tel: 540 2700. Buses run from 07:00-24:00 on weekdays and 10:00-24:00 on weekends. Main terminals are: Hlemmur and Lækjartorg.

#### Opening Hours

**Bars and clubs:** According to regulations, bars can stay open until 01:00 on weekdays and 04:30 on weekends.

**Shops:** Mon-Fri 10:00-18:00, Sat 10:00-16:00.

Sun closed. The shopping centres Kringlan and Smáralind as well as most supermarkets and tourist shops have longer opening hours.

**Swimming pools:** Weekdays 06:30-22:00 and weekends 09:00-17:00, although each pool varies plus or minus a few hours.

**Banks** in the centre are open Mon-Fri 09:00-16:00.

#### Post Offices

Post offices are located around the city. The downtown post office is at Pósthússtræti 3-5, open Mon-Fri 09:00-18:00. Stamps are also sold at bookstores, gas stations, tourist shops and some grocery stores.

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## New In Town



### 12 Lavabarinn

Lækjargata 6a

Where Strawberries used to be, the champagne club currently under investigation for illegal strip shows and facilitating prostitution, there is now Lavabarinn, a champagne and cocktail bar. Now, we know what you're thinking, "another strip club posing as a champagne club?" No worries, our editorial team has scoured the place high and low and found nothing illegal there, except perhaps how potent their (dirty) Hendrix Demise cocktail is. If you're in the mood to go dancing or fancy lounging with the tasty Modern Margarita, then Lavabarinn is the place to be, so long as you don't mind their dress code.



1

## Venue Finder Music & Entertainment

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Amsterdam</b><br>Hafnarstræti 5   D3       | <b>Hressó</b><br>Austurstræti 20   E4          |
| <b>Austur</b><br>Austurstræti 7   E3          | <b>Húrra</b><br>Tryggvagata 22   D3            |
| <b>B5</b><br>Bankastræti 5   E4               | <b>Kaffibarinn</b><br>Bergstraðastræti 1   E5  |
| <b>Bar 11</b><br>Hverfisgötu 18   E5          | <b>Kaldi Bar / Café</b><br>Laugavegur 20b   E5 |
| <b>Bíó Paradís</b><br>Hverfisgata 54   F6     | <b>Kofinn</b><br>Laugavegur 2   E5             |
| <b>Bjarni Fel</b><br>Austurstræti 20   E4     | <b>Lavabarinn</b><br>Lækjargata 6   E4         |
| <b>Boston</b><br>Laugavegur 28b   F6          | <b>Loft Hostel</b><br>Bankastræti 7   E5       |
| <b>Brikk</b><br>Hafnarstræti 18   D4          | <b>Mánabar</b><br>Hverfisgata 20   E5          |
| <b>Bunk</b><br>Laugavegur 28   E5             | <b>Ölsmiðjan</b><br>Lækjargata 10   E4         |
| <b>Celtic Cross</b><br>Hverfisgata 26   E5    | <b>Östofan</b><br>Vegamótastígur 4   E5        |
| <b>Den Danske Kro</b><br>Ingólfsstræti 3   E4 | <b>Paloma</b><br>Naustin 1-3   D5              |
| <b>Dillon</b><br>Laugavegur 30   F6           | <b>Prikið</b><br>Bankastræti 12   E4           |
| <b>Dolly</b><br>Hafnarstræti 4   D3           | <b>Rósenberg</b><br>Klappastígur 25   E5       |
| <b>Dubliner</b><br>Hafnarstræti 1-3   D3      | <b>Stofan Café</b><br>Aðalstræti 7   D3        |
| <b>English Pub</b><br>Austurstræti 12   E3    | <b>Thorvaldsen</b><br>Austurstræti 8   D3      |
| <b>Gamli Gaukurinn</b><br>Tryggvagata 22   D3 | <b>Vegamót</b><br>Vegamótastígur 4   E6        |

## Museums & Galleries

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>ART67</b><br>Laugavegur 67   F7<br>Mon-Fri 12-18 / Sat 12-16                                     | <b>The Nordic House</b><br>Sturlugata 5<br>Tue-Sun 12-17<br>www.nordice.is  |
| <b>Aurora Reykjavík</b><br>Grandagarður 2   B2<br>Mon-Sun 10-22<br>www.aurorareykjavik.is           | <b>Reykjavík Art Gallery</b><br>Skúlagata 30   E7<br>Tuesday through Sunday 14-18<br>www.artmuseum.is   |
| <b>Ásgrímur Jónsson Museum</b><br>Bergstaðastræti 74<br>Mon-Fri through Sept. 1                     | <b>Reykjavík Art Museum - Hafnarhús</b><br>Tryggvagata 17   D3<br>Open 10-17<br>Thursday 10-20<br><b>Kjarvalsstaðir</b><br>Flokagata 24   H8<br>Open 10-17<br><b>Ásmundarsafn</b><br>Sigtún<br>Open 10-17<br>www.listsafnreykjavikur.is |
| <b>The Einar Jónsson Museum</b><br>Eiríksgrata   G6<br>Tue-Sun 14-17<br>www.skulptur.is             | <b>Reykjavík City Library</b><br>Tryggvagata 15   D3<br>www.borgarbokasafn.is   |
| <b>Hafnarborg</b><br>Strandgata 34, Hafnarfjörður<br>www.hafnarborg.is                              | <b>Reykjavík City Museum - Árbæjarsafn</b><br>Kistuhyllur 4<br>Open daily 10-17<br><b>Settlement Exhibition</b><br><b>Reykjavík 871+/-2</b><br>Aðalstræti 17   E3<br>Open daily 10-17   |
| <b>Hannesarholt</b><br>Grundarstígur 10   E5<br>www.hannesarholt.is                                 | <b>Reykjavík Maritime Museum</b><br>Grandagarður 8   B2<br>www.maritime-vv.museum.is  |
| <b>Hitt Húsið</b><br>Gallery Tukt<br>Pósthússtræti 3-5   E4<br>www.hitthusid.is                     | <b>Reykjavík Museum of Photography</b><br>Tryggvagata 16   D3<br>Weekdays 12-19 / Sat-Sun 13-17<br>www.ljosmyndasafnreykjavikur.is  |
| <b>Hverfisgalleri</b><br>Hverfisgata 4   E4<br>www.hverfisgalleri.is                                | <b>Saga Museum</b><br>Perlan, open daily 10-18<br>www.sagamuseum.is   |
| <b>i8 Gallery</b><br>Tryggvagata 16   D3<br>Tue-Fri 11-17 / Sat 13-17 and by appointment. www.i8.is | <b>Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum</b><br>Laugarnestangi 70<br>www.iso.is  |
| <b>The Icelandic Phalological Museum</b><br>Laugavegur 116   F8<br>www.phallus.is                   | <b>SÍM</b><br>Hafnarstræti 16   D4<br>Mon-Fri 10-16<br>www.sim.is   |
| <b>Kirsuberjatréð</b><br>Vesturgata 4   C2<br>www.kirs.is   | <b>Spark Design Space</b><br>Klappastígur 33   E5<br>Mon-Fri 10-18<br>Sat 12-16<br>www.sparkdesign-space.com  |
| <b>Kling &amp; Bang</b><br>Hverfisgata 42   E6<br>Thurs-Sun from 14-18<br>www.this.is/klingogbang   | <b>Wind &amp; Weather Gallery</b><br>Hverfisgata 37   E6<br>Open daily 09-02<br>www.windandweather.is   |
| <b>Knitting Iceland</b><br>Laugavegur 25   E6<br>www.knittingiceland.is                             | <b>POKA</b><br>Laugavegur 25   E5<br>www.thoka.is   |
| <b>Kunstschlager</b><br>Rauðarárstígur 1   G8<br>Mon-Sat from 15-18<br>www.kunstschlager.com        |   |
| <b>Living Art Museum</b><br>Skúlagata 28   E7<br>Tue-Sun 12-17<br>www.nylo.is                       |   |
| <b>Mengi</b><br>Óðinsgata 2   F6  |   |
| <b>Mokka Kaffi</b><br>Skólavörðustígur 3A   E5<br>www.mokka.is                                      |   |
| <b>The National Gallery of Iceland</b><br>Frikirkjuvegur 7   F4<br>Tue-Sun 11-17<br>www.listsafn.is |   |
| <b>The National Museum</b><br>Suðurgata 41   G2<br>Open daily 10-17<br>www.natmus.is                |   |

**MENGI**  
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F



### 9 Bar 11

Hverfisgata 18 | Beer: 500 ISK

At this time on a Friday evening you can expect a dirty rock band to be whipping the crowd up into a frenzy with guitar shreds and machine gun drums. In other words, if you want to avoid spilling your beer, don't go into the pit downstairs—if it seems like a good idea, it's probably the alcohol talking.

### 10 Vegamót

Vegamótastígur 4 | Cocktail: 1,000 ISK

If your eardrums aren't accustomed to rock and fucking roll, do not fret, because the next stop is a hip hop den. If you are still of sound mind, you can also go exploring the complicated floor plan of Vegamót, with your fancy cocktail glass in hand. Just don't get lost, ok?

### 11 Park

Hverfisgata 20 | Beer: 500 ISK

Wait, hang on, did you make it all the way here? That's amazing! This is the end of the line, and also the very latest happy hour in town. Go on, have that last beer, sit down in one of the big booths, and pat yourself on the back and finally allow yourself to pass out, you deserve it buddy!

#### Public Phones

There aren't many public payphones in the city centre. The tourist information centre at Aðalstræti 2, City Hall, Kolaportíð, entrance at Landsbankinn and in Lækjargata. Prepaid international phone cards are recommended for int'l callers.

#### Internet Access

Most cafés offer free wireless internet access. Computers with internet connections are available to use at: Ráðhúskaffi City Hall, Tjarnargata 11 Ground Zero, Frakkastígur 8, near Laugavegur 45 The Reykjavík City Library, Tryggvagata 15

The National and University Library, Arngrímsgata 3  
Tourist Information Centre, Aðalstræti 2  
Icelandic Travel Market, Bankastræti 2  
Reykjavík Backpackers, Laugavegur 28

#### Swimming Pools

There are several swimming pools in Reykjavík. The one in 101 Reykjavík, Sundhöll Reykjavíkur, is an indoor one, located at Barónsstígur. It features a nice sunbathing area and some outdoor hot tubs. Opening hours: Mon-Thu from 06:30-22:00, Fri from 06:30-20:00, Sat from 08:00-16:00 and Sun from 10:00-18:00.

#### Public Toilets

Public toilets in the centre can be found inside the green-poster covered towers located, for example, at Hlemmur, Ingólfstortorg, by Hallgrímskirkja, by Reykjavík Art Museum, Lækjargata and by Eymundsson on Skólavörðustígur. Toilets can also be found inside the Reykjavík City Hall and the Reykjavík Library.

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# Best Of Reykjavík

Every year around the beginning of July, we make a BEST OF REYKJAVÍK ISSUE celebrating some of what makes Reykjavík-life worthwhile, posting some good entries into a hopefully never-ending discussion. The primary purpose of BEST OF REYKJAVÍK is celebration! It's about big-upping stuff, giving mad props to it and patting it on the shoulder. The following are some nice tips we pulled from BEST OF REYKJAVÍK 2013 which you can read in full at [www.grapevine.is](http://www.grapevine.is).



## BEST VEGGIE BURGER HAMBORGARABÚLLA TÓ- MASAR (BÚLLAN)



In this meat lovin' city, a really good veggie burger can be hard to find. Luckily, the burger-grilling stalwarts at Búllan have provided the vegetarian community with a tasty and satisfying option that never leaves one questioning the authenticity of the "veggie" label, and is still greasy enough to feel like you're eating a proper murderburger. Not some old dried out chickpea patty that crumbles as soon as you put ketchup on it. Because vegetarians like junk food too!

Hafnarstræti 9



## BEST CHEAP THRILL THE CITY LIBRARY



This was a really strong winner as the library is not only a thrilling adventure of knowledge, but it's also as cheap as you can get-free (lateness fees not included)! You can only take items out if you are a registered resident of the city, but everyone is welcome to browse, dawdle, skim, analyse and delve deeply into their vast collection of books of all types, in several different languages. There's also a great AV collection, particularly for Icelandic films, and the Reykjavík Museum of Photography is on the top floor. We told you so.

Tryggvagata 15



## BEST ORGANIC FOOD FRÚ LAUGA



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Rauðarárstígur 10

## A GUIDE THAT FUCKS YOU UP

A list of every  
Happy Hour in  
101 Reykjavík

**101 Hótel**  
Every day from 16:00 to 18:00. Beer 470 ISK, Wine 740 ISK.

**Austur**  
Thursday to Saturday from 20:00 to 00:00. Beer 800 ISK, Wine 800 ISK.

**B5**  
Every day from 16:00 to 22:00. Beer 550 ISK, Cider 700 ISK, Wine 550 ISK.

**Bar 7**  
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00. Beer 350 ISK, Shot 450 ISK

**Bar 11**  
Thursday to Saturday from 21:00 to 00:00. Beer 500 ISK.

**Bíó Paradís**  
Monday to Sunday from 17:00 to 19:30. 2 for 1 Beer 1,000 ISK and Wine 1,000 ISK.

**Bjarni Fel**  
Monday to Friday from 21:00 to 23:00. 2 for 1 Beer 990 ISK, shot with soda 1,300 ISK.

**Boston**  
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00. Beer 550 ISK, Wine 550 ISK.

**Bravó**  
Every Day from 17:00 to 21:00. Beer 500 ISK, Wine 750 ISK.

**Bunk Bar**  
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00. 2 for 1 Beer 900 ISK, Wine 700 ISK.

**Celtic Cross**  
Every day from 17:00 to 22:00. 2 for 1 Beer 1,000 ISK. Every Thursday from 17:00 to 01:00. 2 for 1 all draft Beers.

**Den Danske Kro**  
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00. 2 for 1 Beer 950 ISK and Wine 1,200 ISK.

**Dillon**  
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00. Beer, Wine and Whisky each 550 ISK.

**Dolly**  
Wednesday to Thursday from 20:00 to 22:00, Friday to Saturday from 20:00 to 23:00. Beer 500 ISK, Wine 500 ISK.



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**Dubliner**  
Every day from opening until 22:00. 2 for 1 Beer 1,000 ISK, 2 for 1 Wine 1,000 ISK, shot of Jameson 900 ISK.

**Einar Ben**  
Every day from 19:00 to 21:00. Beer 500 ISK.

**Gamli Gaukurinn**  
Every day from 16:00 to 22:00. Beer 500 ISK, single shot 500 ISK.

**Hótel 1919**  
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00. Beer 600 ISK, Wine 575 ISK, Cocktail of the day half price.

**Hótel Holt Gallery Bar**  
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00. Beer 650 ISK, Wine 750 ISK, Cocktail of the day 1,200 ISK.

**Hótel Natura**  
Every day from 16:00 to 18:00. Beer 475 ISK, Wine 900 ISK.

**Hótel Plaza Bar**  
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. Beer 500 ISK.

**Húrra**  
Every day from 17:00 to 22:00. Beer 500 ISK.

**Iða Zimsen**  
Coffee happy hour every day from 8:00 to 10:00. All coffee 300 ISK. Every day from 19:00 to 22:00. Beer 445 ISK.

**Kaffi Kompanið**  
Friday to Saturday from 14:00 to 17:00. 2 for 1 Beer 850 ISK, Wine 700 ISK.

**Kaldi Bar**  
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00. Beer for 650 ISK, Wine for 650 ISK.

**Kiki Queer Bar**  
Thursday from 20:00 to 22:00. Beer 450 ISK, Wine 600 ISK.

**Kolabrautin**  
Every day from 16:00 to 18:00. Beer 450 ISK, Wine 700 ISK, Cocktails from 1,000 ISK.

**Lebowski Bar**  
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00. 2 for 1 Beer 950 ISK, Wine for 1,100 ISK.

**Loft Hostel Bar**  
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00. Beer 500 ISK, Cider 500 ISK, Wine 700 ISK.

**Micro Bar**  
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. Beer 600 ISK.

**Miðgarður Bistro bar**  
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. Beer 500 ISK, Wine 600 ISK.

**Nora Magasin**  
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00. Beer 650 ISK, House Wine 600 ISK.

**Park**  
Friday to Saturday from 22:00 to 02:00. Beer 500 ISK, single shot 400 ISK.

**Prikið**  
Monday to Friday from 16:00 to 20:00. Beer 500 ISK.

**Roadhouse**  
Friday and Saturday from 21:30 to 23:00. 2 for 1 Beer 895 ISK, Wine 895 ISK.

**SKY Bar & Lounge**  
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. Beer 500 ISK, Wine 800 ISK.

**Slippbarinn**  
Every day from 16:00 to 18:00. Beer 500 ISK, Wine 500 ISK, selected Cocktails 950 ISK.

**Stofan**  
Every day from 17:00 to 21:00. Beer 750 ISK.

**Tíu Dropar**  
Every day from 18:00 to 21:00. 2 for 1 Beer 950 ISK, 2 for 1 Wine 800 ISK.

**Vinsmarkkarinn**  
Monday to Saturday from 18:00 to 20:00. Beer 600 ISK, Wine 700 ISK.



LAUGAVEGUR 28b, 101 RVK, 5773200



# ART ONGOING

— continued —

## Your Compound View

The exhibition comprises about 80 pieces from 1970 to 2010, representing three generations of artists. The origins of Icelandic contemporary art can be traced back to the rebellion of the "SÚM generation" (SÚM – Association of Young Artists) against the dominant position of abstract painters in Icelandic art in the early 1960s.

*Runs Until September 7*

## Reykjavík Art Museum - Kjarvalsstaðir Affinities

The exhibition is made up of works which spanning a period of 73 years and are not curated in terms of a historical overview or thematic approach. They are the works of different artists are juxtaposed, two or three together, in order to highlight the similarities or affinities between them. A painting of a door by Þorri Hringsson may in this way be compared with a geometrical abstract by Þorvaldur Skúlason; Þorri objectifies the form, while Þorvaldur rejects all allusion to external reality.

*Runs until September 14*

## Reykjavík, Town, Structure

The exhibition Reykjavík, Town, Structure explores how Icelandic artists perceived the town as it developed into a city over 102 years, from 1891 to 1993. While Reykjavík was not large around the turn of the 20th century, hardly more than a village in international terms, without electricity, mains water or drains, artists frequently made it out to be grander than it actually was. Then in the following years there was a mass migration from the rural areas that greatly expanded the city from 6,000 inhabitants to 119,764.

*Runs until September 14*

## The Seasons In Kjarval's Art

Every season imbues the land with new life, and every cloud sheds new colour upon the mountains. This exhibit focuses on how land and saga merge to become one in the works of celebrated Icelandic artist Jóhannes Kjarval.

*Runs until October 12*

## The Reykjavík City Library

The collection centres around new Nordic literature, both fiction and nonfiction. The library lends out novels, academic publications, audio books and more.

*On permanent view*

## Sjáum-k Eg Meir Um Munin

Canadian artist Guy Stewart's visual art exhibit looks into how people's memory and thoughts are warped by the internet, much like they were by the introduction of the written word and increased literacy.

*Runs until June 29*

## Reykjavík City Museum

### Reykjavík 871 +/- 2: The Settlement Exhibition

Archaeological findings from ruins of one of the first houses in Iceland and other excavations in the city centre.

Open daily 10:00-17:00

*On permanent view*

## Reykjavík Maritime Museum

### From Poverty to Abundance

Photos documenting Icelandic fishermen at the turn of the 20th century.

*On permanent view*

## The History of Sailing

Iceland's maritime history that showcases the growth of the Reykjavík Harbour.

*On permanent view*

## The Coast Guard Vessel Óðinn

This vessel sailed through all three Cod Wars and has also served as a rescue ship to over 200 ships.

*On permanent view*

## Reykjavík Museum of Photography

### The Mirror Of Life

A stunning documentary following Ragnar Axelsson (RAX), a man who made his photographic career capturing the harmony between man and nature in the Arctic. It follows RAX as he visits friends he made in the last few decades: Icelandic farmers, recluses and the great hunters of Greenland. It captures the disappearing landscape and those who inhabit it.

*Runs until September 7*



Iceland Through a Lense - *Snapshots of a Moment: The Photography of Þorsteinn Jósefsson*

## National Museum of Iceland

Suðurgata 41 | Jun 14 - Dec 31 ☺ 10-17 | ISK 1,500 ISK

Þorsteinn Jósefsson (1907-1967) was a writer and journalist, who also took a lot of photographs, amassing quite a collection by the end of his career. This exhibition displays some of his photographs that present an intricate panorama of Icelandic life and the evolving rural landscape in the middle of the last century. Check it out and see if you can correctly identify the hipsters of Þorsteinn's time. **AH**



Find all art listings online  
[listings.grapevine.is](http://listings.grapevine.is)

## Nightlight In Skotið

Henning Kreitel's exhibition 'Nightlight in Skotið' is inspired by the architectural structure of the old city centre of Reykjavík and by the light that surrounds it. When the city center was transformed in the '50s there were few regulations in place about city planning. As such, Reykjavík is characterised by gaps of unused space which lets light interact with the shapes and colors of buildings. Henning captured the different moods of the light-caused scenery compositions.

*Runs until June 24*

## Spark Design Space In Your Hands

Part of Reykjavík Arts Festival, the project "In your hands - three-dimensional creation and technique" is a dynamic cross-discipline workshop of artists, designers, computer engineers and engineers who attempt to revolutionise and explore the the creative processes through 3D printing.

*Runs until June 14*

## Urban Shape

The exhibition by artist Paolo Gianfreco features a series of maps of every European capital. Using Open Street Map (OSM) data, the maps are meant to represent a view of the cities rather than try to capture the reality of them because cities are not static like maps but continuously evolve with time.

*Runs until June 12*

## Týsgallerí

### Bjarni Þórarinnsson

in Icelandic contemporary art as one of the founders of Suðurgata 7, a gallery collective, along with many of the artists of his generation that became influential and important for Icelandic contemporary art. Bjarni has developed a personal language code system called Vísirósir with which he creates flower or mandala-like images with new words and sentences.

*Runs until June 7*

## Prisma

Marta María Jónsdóttir will be presenting her fourth exhibition at Týsgallerí. Working on the edges of abstraction and representation, her works are obscure, featuring bizarre anatomical references. The works are both controlled and spontaneous and feature a mix of chaos, geometry and organic forms creating a dark, but optimistic atmosphere.

*Runs until July 6*

## Volcano House

The exhibition gives a brief overview of Iceland's geological history and volcanic systems with numerous photographs of volcanic eruptions and other aspects of Icelandic nature.

*On permanent view*

## Wind and Weather Gallery

### Still life?

Ragnheiður Káradóttir composed a mixed media art installation for her new exhibition, in which she presents sculptures made from natural materials like wood, clay, fur and fabric. Ragnheiður has a transcendent approach and looks at her work as a dialogue between infinite subconscious states that are interacting non-verbally.

*Runs until June 30*

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## 20th Anniversary Exhibition of the Museum

Works from the Permanent Collection

## Are you ready Madam President?

Gowns of former president of Iceland, Mme Vigdis Finnbogadóttir

## Lusus naturae

Ólöf Nordal, Gunnar Karlsson & Þuríður Jónsdóttir

## Fancy-Cake in the Sun

Dieter Roth

## Kópavogur Art Museum / Gerðarsafn

Hamraborg 4, Kópavogur  
Open 11-17 / Closed on Mondays  
[www.gerdarsafn.is](http://www.gerdarsafn.is)

## Hönnunarsafn Íslands / Museum of Design and Applied Art

Garðatorg 1, Garðabær  
Open 12-17 / Closed on Mondays  
[www.honnunarsafn.is](http://www.honnunarsafn.is)

## Hafnarborg / The Hafnarfjörður Centre of Culture and Fine Art

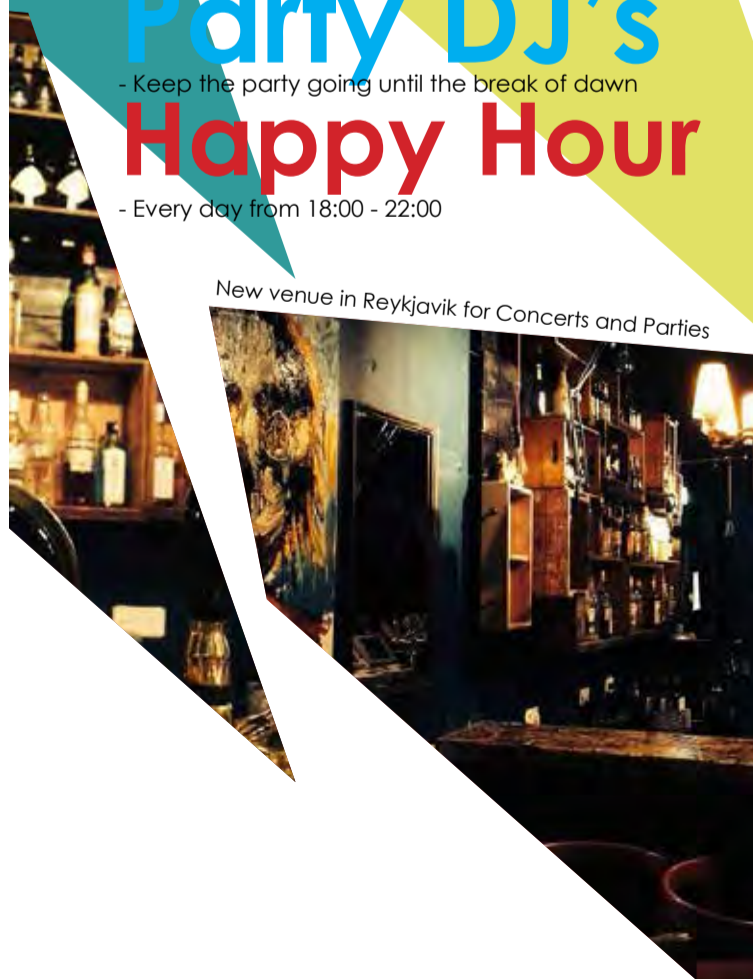
Strandgata 34, Hafnarfjörður  
Open 12-17 / Thursdays 12-21  
Closed on Tuesdays  
[www.hafnarborg.is](http://www.hafnarborg.is)



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# OUTSIDE

REYKJAVÍK JUNE 6 - 19



## The Southern Belles Of Northern Europe

Brother Grass

Græni Hatturinn, Hafnarstræti 96, Akureyri

June 16 at 21:00 | ISK 2,000

Brother Grass is one facet of an ever-increasing affinity Icelandic bands are seemingly feeling towards: traditional American bluegrass music. Their sound melds blues, folk, gospel and with their own distinct melodicism as their renditions of "House Of The Rising Sun" and "Didn't Leave Nobody But The Baby" demonstrate. Hildur, Sandra, Soffía, Ösp and Örn's instrumentation and harmonies combine to make a sound that's emotive during its low beat and laconic and happy-go-lucky in its upbeat. Pop on your Quaker dresses and forget that you're a few hundred miles east of North America before you come down to tuck into some local-grown Americana.

LH

## OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

### North Iceland

#### Akureyri

##### Flóra Creation

Artist Kristín Gunnlaugsdóttir's visual art exhibition focuses on addressing taboos such as women's exploration of their libido and how they, too, see themselves from the male gaze. Expect to see women's genitals from a new point of view.

Runs until August 16

##### Akureyri Art Museum Lily Adamsdóttir

Lily Adamsdóttir opens her first exhibition in Akureyri, utilising Icelandic wool, exploring concepts such as beginning, ending, material, product, cause, consequence, opportunity and beauty. Working with the repetitions in texts, the perception of the movement of fibers are examined. Lily uses various methods such as performance art, video, drawings, textiles and installations in her work.

Runs until June 8

##### Græmi Hatturinn

Ljótu Hálfvitarnir Acoustic folk-punk band Ljótu Hálfvitarnir do what they do best: put on one heck of a show. Don't miss it!

June 6 & 7 at 22:00

##### Dimma

Heavy metal band Dimma have just released their new album, 'Vélráð,' and will undoubtedly pose dramatically as they play through it.

June 13 at 22:00

##### Kaleo

If you like the pop-country band Kaleo, you should hurry up and get tickets because their shows usually sell out quickly!

June 14 at 22:00

##### Brother Grass

Blugress/americana band Brother Grass helps celebrate the national day early with their earthy warm tunes.

June 16 at 21:00

##### KK

Veteran folk musician KK puts on a show on national day.

June 17 at 21:00

#### Hjalteyri

##### Verksmiðjan á Hjalteyri Phishing the Landscape

An exhibition looking at phishing (a form of digital deception) in the context of urban and non-urban landscapes such as the appropriation and 'hacking' of man-made structures formerly intended for other uses, like contemporary 'updates' of landscapes and their content, warping perceptions of identity, history and the use of place.

Runs until June 29

#### Húsavík

##### Húsavík Whale Museum

In the 1,600 square metre exhibition space, you will find skeletons of many species of whales and fascinating information about these large animals.

On permanent display

##### European Film Festival

Three European films will be screened for absolutely free over one day, with the Danish 'Antboy' at 16:00, the Icelandic 'Málmhaus' ("Metalhead") at 18:00 and Belgian 'Broken Circle Breakdown' at 20:00.

June 6

#### Mývatn

##### Sigurgeir's Bird Museum

The collection includes almost all Icelandic birds along with some 100 types of eggs. Various equipment used by the locals for fishing are also on display. The museum provides

education about birds, the ecology of Lake Mývatn and how locals utilised water as a mode of transportation and in everyday life.

On permanent display

#### Skagafjörður

##### The Glaumbær Farm

The first exhibition of Glaumbær Farm opened in 1952, but the farm was functional until 1947. The old turf farmhouse forms the backdrop for exhibitions focusing on rural life in 18th and 19th century Iceland.

On permanent display.

#### East Iceland

#### Egilsstaðir

##### Egilsstaðir

##### East Iceland Heritage Museum

The museum has a collection of 15,000 items from the East of Iceland, some dating back to the middle ages. The museum's exhibition consists of objects from the old rural society in East Iceland, i.e. before 1900, when every household had to be self-sufficient with tools, food and clothing. Visitors are invited to enter a 19th century style "living/sleeping" room of a farmhouse which was moved from the countryside and rebuilt in the museum.

On permanent display

#### Skriðuklaustur

The Institute of Gunnar Gunnarsson runs a museum focusing on the writer Gunnar Gunnarsson and his home. Nearby are the ruins of a 16th century monastery, Skriðuklaustur, which now offers small exhibitions on the culture of East Iceland as well as guided tours through the ruins.

On permanent display

#### Eskeifjörður

##### Randulff's Sjóhús

This beautifully preserved 1890s sea house is now a museum with several items on display that show the atmosphere of East Iceland during the time that herring fishing took off in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Runs until August 31

#### Seyðisfjörður

##### Skaftafell Center for Visual Art Tvisöngur

The site-specific sound sculpture by German artist Lukas Kühne, is embedded in the mountainside above the town in a quiet area with a breathtaking view of the fjord. It offers an acoustic sensation that can be explored and experimented with by the visitor.

On Permanent Display

#### Stöðvarfjörður

##### Petra's Stone Collection

In this small fjord you'll find a collection of rare rocks and minerals, most of which derive from the area. Local enthusiast and collector, Petra Sveinsdóttir, has been gathering the

## THE HOUSE AT EYRARBAKKI

The House at Eyrarbakki



Árnessýsla folk museum is located in Húsið, the House, historical home of the Danish merchants built in 1765. Húsið is one of the oldest houses in Iceland and a beautiful monument of Eyrarbakki's time as the biggest trading place on the south coast.

Today one can enjoy exhibitions about the story and culture of the region, famous piano, shawl made out of human hair and the kings pot, are among items. Húsið prides itself with warm and homelike atmosphere.



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# OUTSIDE

REYKJAVÍK JUNE 6 - 19

stones since 1946. Her collection is now reputedly the world's largest private collection of rocks, and also includes other things like pens, cups, sea shells and other small items.

On permanent display

## Vopnafjörður

### European Film Festival

Three European films will be screened for absolutely free over one day, with the Danish 'Antboy' at 13:00, the Icelandic 'Málmhaus' ("Metalhead") at 15:00 and Belgian 'Broken Circle Breakdown' at 17:00.

June 7

## South Iceland

### Flúðir

#### European Film Festival

Three European films will be screened for absolutely free over one day, with the Danish 'Antboy' at 16:00, the Icelandic 'Málmhaus' ("Metalhead") at 18:00 and Belgian 'Broken Circle Breakdown' at 20:00.

June 10

## Hella

### Hekla Centre

The centre houses a contemporary multimedia exhibition on Hekla mountain, its history, and its influence on human life in Iceland from the time of the settlement to the present. The exhibition emphasises the influence of the volcano on the inhabited areas close to it, the districts of Landsveit, Holt, and Rangárvellir. The history of these districts is traced and the stories of people's struggles with sandstorms and eruptions are told.

On permanent display

## Höfn í Hornafirði

### Pórbergssetur

The centre, established in memory of the famous Icelandic writer Þórbergur Þórðarsson, includes a heritage museum and unique exhibitions of the district Sudursveit, as well as Þórðarsson's life and work.

On permanent display

## Mosfellsbær

### Gljúfrasteinn

Gljúfrasteinn was the home and workplace of Halldór Laxness and his family for fifty years. Today it is a museum, allowing visitors insight into the great writer's world. All facilities, including the library, have been meticulously maintained.

On permanent display

## Rap And Knights At The Laxness

### Museum

The Reykjavík Wind Quintet's upcoming concert features a variety of supplemental material, ranging from Icelandic rap to ancient Hungarian dances. Admission: 1,500 ISK.

June 8 at 16:00

## Westman Islands

### Pompei of the North

Excavation project at the site of the 1973 volcanic eruption on the island of Heimaey.

On permanent display

## Sagnheimar Folk Museum

This folk museum lets visitors of all ages experience the island's history through photography, multimedia and interactive pieces.

On permanent display

## Vík

### European Film Festival

Three European films will be screened for absolutely free over one day, with the Danish 'Antboy' at 16:00, the Icelandic 'Málmhaus' ("Metalhead") at 18:00 and Belgian 'Broken Circle Breakdown' at 20:00.

June 9



## Non-Visible, Naughty & Natural

Creation by Kristín Gunnlaugsdóttir

Flóra, Hafnarstræti, Akureyri

June 14 - August 16 | ISK Free!

Kristín Gunnlaugsdóttir hopes to relieve women of the repressive taboo around something both incredibly near and incredibly dear: their libido. 'Creation,' her latest exhibition, explores the intricate details surrounding sexuality and (to put it bluntly) genitals. Lush and colorful drawings of vulvas, historically taught to be viewed with disdain, are transposed onto flowers, traditionally natural and beautiful, in order to challenge preconceived notions. The vivid, red drawings, juxtaposed against Bónus shopping bags, both attempt to question our expected societal roles and stop us from being "embarrassed" about such depictions and instead to look into these aspects in a way that Kristín considers "natural and normal." LH

## West Iceland

### Borgarfjörður

#### Hjálmaklettur

#### IsNord Music Festival

IsNord is a music festival which focuses on making Icelandic and Nordic music more accessible. The festival takes place in Borgarfjörður, in West-Iceland, and this time the concerts will be held at three different locations in Borgarfjörður, the church in Borgarnes, the church in Reykholt and in Surtshellir, a very large cave in Iceland.

June 6, 9, 14 & 15

### Borgarnes

#### The Icelandic Settlement Centre

#### The Settlement Exhibition

A 30-minute long multi-media exhibit that provides insight into the settlement of Iceland, from the first man to step foot on the island, to the establishment of the world's first parliament, Þingvellir. Admission: 2,400 ISK.

On permanent display

#### The Egils Saga Exhibition

Located in the stone-walled basement of the centre, this exhibit leads visitors through the colourful saga of Egill Skallagrímsson, one of Iceland's first settlers and greatest heroes.

On permanent display

### Grundarfjörður

#### The Heritage Center

The first half of the 20th century comes alive in the permanent exhibit as narrators guide guests

through exhibitions showing how developments in farming, fishing and housing marked the beginning of modern life in Iceland. Be sure to also visit the toy section of the exhibit.

On permanent display

### Reykholt

#### Snorrastofa

Sitting on the ground floor of the local church, Snorrastofa has an exhibition dedicated to poet, historian and politician Snorri Sturluson as well as the middle ages in Iceland. The store also has a selection of books, CDs and hand made memorabilia.

On permanent display

### Stykkishólmur

#### Library of Water

#### Water, Selected

An ongoing exhibition of 24 columns filled with glacier water from all over the country.

On permanent display

### Eldfjallasafnið

The museum includes works of art, old and recent, showing volcanic eruptions, as well as objects and artifacts. It boasts volcanic rocks from the collection of professor Haraldur Sigurðsson who has carried out research on volcanoes worldwide for 40 years.

Runs until September 30

## BOOKS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND PRESS

**VIKING SETTLEMENTS & VIKING SOCIETY** – Svavar Sigmundsson ed. Scholars of archaeology, philology, history, toponymy, numismatics and a number of other disciplines to discuss the Viking Age from a variety of viewpoints.

**RING OF SEASONS** Terry G. Lacy A long-term resident brings inside and outside perspectives to this delightful exploration of all facets of Iceland, past and present.

**MEDITATION AT THE EDGE OF ASKJA** Pall Skulason A perfect buy for anyone who loves Icelandic nature and the unique experience of traveling through the Icelandic wilderness. Also available in German and French.

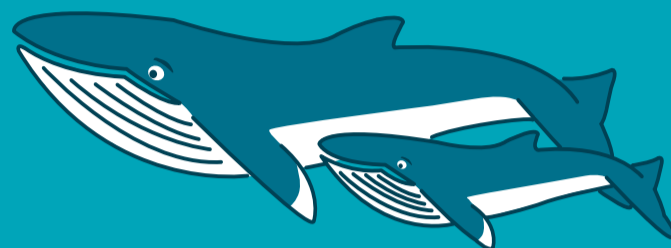
**A PIECE OF HORSE LIVER** Jon Hnefill Adalsteinsson Studies of Old Norse religion and Icelandic folk beliefs.

**SURTSEY. ECO-SYSTEMS FORMED** Sturla Fridriksson A study of how pioneers invaded the island and were gradually joined by others in forming primitive societies and simple ecosystems.

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The groundfloor of Höfðatorg, the tallest tower in Reykjavik, right opposite Höfði

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The groundfloor of the historic Hotel Kea, in the heart of the city center

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FOR YOUR MIND, BODY AND SOUL



## Humble Brag

### Skrúður

Hótel Saga, Hagatorg, 107 Reykjavík

#### What We Think:

A buffet with a lot of class and self-control

#### Flavour:

Sunday brunch at your frændi's place

#### Ambiance:

Laid back, luminous, simple elegance

#### Service:

Graceful and stoic

#### Price for 2 (with drinks):

6,500 ISK at lunch, 13,000 ISK at dinner, children under 12 eat for free and kids 12-16 get 50% off



There's a great scene in the movie Office Space where Jennifer Aniston's character, who works at a tacky restaurant, is passive aggressively reprimanded by her boss for only wearing the minimum required pieces of flair on her work vest, while he expects her to bedazzle her entire uniform to earn her minimum wage. The restaurant Skróður, a word most closely translating to 'flair,' reminded me of this scene in reverse. Rather than adorn itself in tasteless embellishments for the sake of impressing its customers, it had poise, dignity and simple elegance.

Located off the lobby of Hótel Saga, it is a vast, airy space surrounded by floor-to-ceiling windows and a full-roof skylight, and a clean, albeit slightly bland, caramel and white table scheme each topped with a single pink rose. It is most certainly not a minimum wage kind of joint.

Their menu consists primarily of a modest Nordic buffet, which they offer at lunch and dinnertime, plus a short à la carte and kids' menu. Our stoic and professional waiter, Jónas, started by

expertly serving our drinks with one hand, swirling my date's Einstök beer bottle so precisely to get every last drop. We both opted for the buffet and went to help ourselves.

It was a very humble spread, consisting of about a dozen salad items, five cold appetizers, four main courses and three main sides, plus a dessert table. I started with a plate of creamy herring topped with pickled onion, bulgur salad, cold roast beef with lettuce and cherry tomatoes, sautéed mushrooms, smoked salmon and blue mussels with mandarins and onions. My date had pickled herring with red cabbage, bulgur salad, roast beef, mushrooms, potato salad and corn. The bulgur salad was particularly delicious, with a nice sprinkling of fresh mint leaves throughout. The cherry tomatoes were remarkably good, sweet and bursting with flavour. The mussels with mandarins and onions were lovely, but a little hard to get out of the shell. (I ended up with a bit of shell in my mouth, but that was probably my own fault.) My date was most fond of the pickled herring with cabbage as well as the bulgur salad.

Our first plates were cleared within moments of our last bites, but not too hastily either. We then went to get our main courses. I had a piece of each of the meats being served: roasted lamb leg, roast pork, fried monkfish and glazed turkey breast, with gravy on the lamb and turmeric sauce on the fish, plus roasted young potatoes and carrots and parsnips on the side. My date had the lamb and pork, with carrots and parsnips and an extra serving of cold pasta salad.

All the meats were perfectly tender but a little varying on the flavour. The pork was a bit bland and under-seasoned and a bit fatty. The monkfish was a bit too watery and soft but the sauce gave it a nice boost of salt and spice. The lamb was the definite standout, cooked absolutely to perfection and just lightly rubbed with herbs and pepper. The roasted young potatoes and carrots were just fine, but

I found the parsnips a little too bitter. My date liked them, though, while he thoroughly disliked the pork.

After a short breather to finish our fizzy drinks, we cleared our palates with dessert, as one does. The dessert spread boasted both sweet and savoury treats, which was nice in theory but not very well executed. There were three kinds of cake – chocolate, tiramisu and a traditional Icelandic 'sjónvarpskaka' (TV cake)—chocolate-walnut mouse, a fresh fruit platter, cheeses and grapes, crackers and spreads, inexplicable tortilla chips, plus a sundae bar with four kinds of ice cream (very much for the kids).

I had one piece of each cake plus the mousse and some cheese and grapes. My date had the tiramisu and chocolate cake with a slice of pineapple. All three cakes tasted flat-out store bought. The chocolate cake was actually terrible, dry, pasty and flavourless. The mousse was nice but a little overpowering and I couldn't manage more than a couple of bites. The sjónvarpskaka was the one surprisingly good treat, with a sweet crispy top crumble and a very moist coconut cake. The cheeses (blue and Camembert) were served too cold, but cheese is cheese so no complaints.

Aside from the underwhelming pork and disappointing desserts, it was overall lovely and satisfying. Where most buffets fail by offering too many options and cause one to overeat and feel sick, this one provided just a small smattering of comforting and fresh dishes that didn't fill me up at the first bite. It would be perfectly fine if you just wanted a small snack or wanted to go back for seconds, thirds or fourths. But it is missing a little bang for one's buck, given that it isn't a cheap thrill. And they could go that extra mile and wear a few extra pieces of flair.

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## Kigali Needs Fine-Tuning

### Kigali

Ingólfsstræti 8, 101 Reykjavík

**What We Think:**  
African café/diner.

**Flavour:**  
Sadly, not much

**Ambiance:**  
Kitschy and colourful, but needs improvement

**Service:**  
One employee. Does his best.

**Price for 2 (with drinks):**  
3-4,000 ISK



Kigali is a recently opened café named after the capital and largest city of the war-ridden African country of Rwanda. It serves all the conventional westernized versions of Italian Coffee, the only difference being that their Americano is called an "Africano." A small number of sweets are on offer to enjoy with your coffee, served in bite-size pieces that are easy to take along with the take-away coffee.

In addition to serving coffee and sweets, a small variety of African dishes are on offer as well as a changing soup of the day. "African dishes" is of course pretty vague, and almost

insulting to a whole continent. The problem is that it is very difficult to pinpoint the dishes to any one particular region, as far as my knowledge of African cuisine goes, which has all derived from books. There are no dishes that include cassava, for example, which is the main staple in Rwanda, along with sweet potatoes.

My companion and I both had the soup of the day (990 ISK) and a mix of the dishes (990 ISK) that were on offer on a cloudy Monday in the beginning of June. The soup was a curry made out of a base of chickpeas and pumpkin that had been blitzed to a smooth and lovely consistency. It was especially tasty, actually, and even had a fair amount of hot spice to it, which was a pleasant surprise. It was served with a homemade bread bun, which I fear were made the day before. Not bad at all, but not cracking fresh either.

Sadly, as for as the meal goes, the soup was the only dish that was actually worth finishing. The other sides included olive and rice mixed together with absolutely no seasoning. We had a creamy concoction of corn, onion and bell peppers, which had a crunch of an unidentifiable nut-mixture that tasted like plastic. We had an unappetising omelette that was probably made the day before, and then re-heated in a microwave. And, finally, we had a curry-seasoned fish

(haddock is my guess, but can't really be sure), which took the most courage, as it had obviously been cooked at least a day before, if not earlier. It was cold and dry and... let's just leave it at that.

As we tried to look on the bright side, the soup, after all, was quite tasty and the flagship dish, we decided to finish the meal with a coffee. Both of us ordered a latté macchiato to get that deep taste of espresso that we craved. The coffee however, was average at best, which was a bit of a disappointment. The bite-size French chocolate cake, however, was creamy and delicious, and had a strong taste of chocolate, as it should.

My guess is that Kigali was opened before their strategy was fully developed. The soup was good, but everything else needs some fine-tuning. The place itself could be tidier, to begin with. And when I asked about cold drinks on offer (maybe hoping for a soda), the only thing on offer was the sugary Icelandic juice box Svali. That needs improvement right there. That said, Kigali has a brilliant location, and in my mind, if better executed, a fine idea for an establishment. I really, really wish them all the best and hope that the fine-tuning will take place as soon as possible.

✍ BJÖRN TEITSSON  
📷 NANNA DÍ



## SNAPS

Reykjavík | B I S T R O - B A R | Est. 2012

FRENCH ONION SOUP  
Icelandic Ísbúi cheese, croûtons  
1.790.kr

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3.200.kr

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#109



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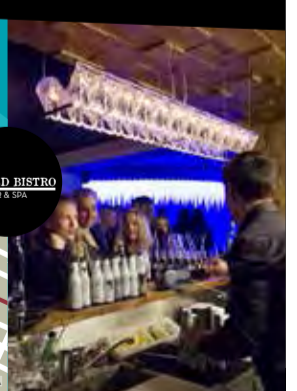
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## 1 Hótel Varmahlíð

Varmahlíð, 560 Varmahlíð • +354 453 8170  
www.hotelvarmahlid.is • info@hotelvarmahlid.is



We welcome you to a warm and cosy accommodation and tasty local food at our restaurant. Located in the heart of Skagafjörður, Hótel Varmahlíð offers excellent facilities in a comfortable atmosphere. An exciting range of recreations such as river rafting and horseback riding are close-by and after a day well spent a sensational dish from the local food chest will complete your experience. Surrounded by breathtaking scenery your visit will be unforgettable.

## 2 Gentle Giants

Túngata 6, 640 Húsavík • +354 464 1500 • www.gentlegiants.is



We offer memorable seafaring adventures with close-up encounters with wonderful whales in a stunning scenery with a personal service on board one of the fastest boats in Iceland. Our company, located in Húsavík, often called the Whale watching Capital of Europe, has a family history of 150 years in the bay. We offer an experience you that you do not find anywhere else.

## 3 Dalvíkurbyggð Community

Dalvík 620 • +354-460 4900  
www.dalvikurbyggd.is  
dalvikurbyggd@dalvikurbyggd.is



Dalvíkurbyggð has various options when it comes to recreation and outdoor activities such as skiing, swimming, heli-skiing and golfing. Horseback riding is available along with whale watching, angling, hiking (both long and short trips) and berry picking. We also have cultural activities such as a historical museum, birdland exhibitions, art exhibitions, The Great Fish day and craft. There are various options in accommodation such as hotel, guest houses, cabins, hostel and campsites. We also have excellent cafés and bistros.



## Top 10 travel ideas in North Iceland

- Feel the energy of Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall.
- Relax in Lake Mývatn Nature baths or bathe in Víti (Hell) in Askja.
- Visit Akureyri and coastal towns for culture and cuisine.
- Watch seals up close in Vatnsnes peninsula.
- Do a guided horse riding tour and try out tölt, the special gait of the Icelandic horse.
- Visit the northernmost point of Icelandic mainland, Hraunhafnartangi.
- Whale watching is a must, from Húsavík the whale watching capital or Dalvík, Ólafsfjörður and Akureyri.
- Take a guided tour to the Queen of Icelandic Mountains, Mt. Herðubreið.
- Cross the Arctic Circle and get a certificate in Grimsey island.
- Get some action from river rafting in Jökulsá in Skagafjörður or experience a jeep tour to the highlands.





**8 Ásbyrgi – Riding Tours**  
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 www.activenorth.is • info@activenorth.is



Two unique experiences of Iceland, riding the Icelandic horse and visiting one of the most important sites of Vatnajökull National Park. On this tour we visit the magnificent Ásbyrgi rock canyon by horse. According to legend, Ásbyrgi was formed when Odin's eight legged horse tripped in heaven, placing one hoof on earth leaving an enormous mark on the land. Enjoy the high walls and rock formations, the native birch trees and birds in abundance.

**9 Mývatn Nature Baths**  
 Mývatn • +354 464-4411 • www.naturebaths.com • info@naturebaths.com



Begin with a relaxing dip in clouds of steam rising up from fissures deep into earth's surface and end with a luxurious bath in a pool of geothermal water, drawn from depths of up to 2500 meters. Mývatn Nature Baths are perfect for those who enjoy close contact with nature and want to relax their body and soul in the warm natural waters, overlooking the scenery of lake Mývatn and the volcanic crater of Hverfjall.

Opening Hours 09:00-23:30

**4 Pólar Hestar - Riding tours**  
 Grytubakki II, 601 Akureyri • +354 463 3179  
 polarhestar.is • polarhestar@polarhestar.is



Mysterious Elven cities, a Viking treasure hidden in the ground, attractive valleys, rivers and a colourful world of wonders are waiting for the guest. We ride through remote valleys to the famous Lake Myvatn. In the autumn, our guests may experience our riding tour "Autumn Colours and Northern Lights" - a fascinating tour through the autumnal landscape. The Polar Hestar is a family run company that have provided riding tours, suitable for beginners and experienced riders since 1985. Be enchanted by the fascinating world of Iceland on horseback!

**5 Arctic Sea Tours**  
 Harbour area, Dalvik • +354 771 7600 •  
 www.arcticseatours.is • book@arcticseatours.is



Whale Watching from Dalvik, only 30 minutes from Akureyri. We take you out to one of the best whale watching grounds in the world! Warm overalls & hot drinks on board, as well as a quick sea angling session on the way back, with a taste of the grilled fish once back in Dalvik.  
 09:00 Mar 1st - Oct 31st  
 13:00 Jun 1st - Sep 15th  
 17:00 Jun 15th - Aug 15th  
 20:30 Jun 15th - Aug 10th  
 13:00 Nov 1st - Feb 28th

**6 Ambassador Whale Watching**  
 Akureyri - Torfunessbryggja harbour • +354 462 6800  
 www.ambassador.is • info@ambassador.is



Ambassador is a specialist whale watching tour company that offers a range of whale watching and marine wildlife adventures on Eyjafjörður fjord in North Iceland. Our whale watching tours are constructed with passion and led by wildlife experts to deliver the ultimate whale watching experience. Our primary whale watching vessel is The Ambassador, a German built Police vessel with two full walk around decks and six different viewing platforms perfect for whale watching and adventure tours. Heated inside cabin provides first class comfort ample space and the galley is always stocked with light snacks, sandwiches, beer and soft drinks. Our team of guides consists of carefully selected whale watching and wildlife enthusiasts that love to share their wealth of knowledge and provide you with the most genuine and entertaining whale watching experience.

**7 Mývatn Tours**  
 Mývatn • +354 464 1920 • www.myvatntours.is • askjaturis@myvatntours.is



A day tour operation that takes people up to the highlands where Askja (caldera) and crater Víti lies. We will go through the nature reserve area of Herðubreiðarlindir too. This tour provides scenes of unforgettable Icelandic nature and geology. We offer trips with 4x4 buses because we go through ruff lava field and rivers. In the highlands you will see lunar landscape, glacier rivers, deepest lake in Iceland, sand, lava, mountains, crater and lot more. You will go home with unforgettable memories of landscape. In Víti you can take a bathe in the nature in middle of Iceland, that is 1100m above sea level.

**LEGEND**

- # FOOD/DRINK
- # ACCOMODATION
- # ACTIVITY/SHOPPING



# 2014 WHAT TO DO? Events in North Iceland

- June 13-17** ***The Akureyri Car Events 2014 - [www.ba.is](http://www.ba.is)***  
Bíladagar is an annual celebration of all car, motorbike, and motorsports enthusiasts in general.
- June 10.-13** ***The Hiking Week of the Touring Club of Akureyri - [ffa.is](http://ffa.is)***
- June 21** ***The Akureyri Flight Days 2014 - [flugsafn.is](http://flugsafn.is)***  
During the weekend aircrafts of many types, old and younger, on display and in action.
- June 27-28** ***Ólafsfjörður, Blue North Music Festival - [blues.fjallabyggd.is](http://blues.fjallabyggd.is)***
- June 28. – July 6** ***Dalvíkurbyggð, Annual Hiking Week in the Mountains of the Tröllaskagi Peninsula (Troll peninsula). Different difficulty levels.***
- June 26-29** ***Skagafjörður, Lummudagar, Pikelet / Pankake Days - [visitskagafjordur.is](http://visitskagafjordur.is)***  
Local Culture festival
- June 26-30** ***Skagafjörður, Hólar in Hjaltadalur, Barock Music Festival - [barokksmidjan.com](http://barokksmidjan.com)***
- June 26-28** ***Akureyri, Arctic Open golftournament - [gagolf.is](http://gagolf.is)***  
Annual international golf tournament that takes place at the end of June around Summer Solstice.
- July 2-6** ***Siglufjörður, Folk Music Festival and a Folk Music Academy to coincide with the festival. [folkmusik.is](http://folkmusik.is)***
- July 7-13** ***Hiking week, Akureyri and surroundings. Annual week where different hikes in and around Akureyri are offered in different difficulty levels. [dalvik.is/gonguvika](http://dalvik.is/gonguvika) / [visitakureyri.is](http://visitakureyri.is)***
- July 12** ***Eyjafjörður, Glerárdalshringur, 24 Mountainpeaks in 24 hours - [24x24.is](http://24x24.is)***
- July 11-13** ***Hrísey, Eyjafjörður, Family Festival - [hrisey.is](http://hrisey.is)***
- July 17-20** ***Blönduós, Húnavaka, Local Culture Festival - [northwest.is](http://northwest.is)***
- July 18-20** ***Eyjafjörður, Gásir. Medieval market held at an archaeological excavation site near Akureyri, a trading post at least from the 12th to the 16th century - [gasir.is](http://gasir.is)***
- July 23- August 4** ***Akureyri, Iceland's very own circus visiting Akureyri for the first time. Shows for all the family as well as cabaret style shows for adults only.***
- July 24-27** ***Hvammstangi, Borgarvirki. "Fire in Hunathing" Festival for the whole family.***
- July 25-27** ***Húsavík, Mærudagar, Local Family Festival - [visithusavik.com](http://visithusavik.com)***
- July 26** ***Skagafjörður, A Hippy Dance at Ketilás - [visitskagafjordur.is](http://visitskagafjordur.is)***
- July 26-28** ***Hvammstangi, Laugarbakki. Grettistak Viking festival - [grettistak.is](http://grettistak.is)***
- July 27** ***Vatnsnes and Heggstaðarnes Peninsulas, The Great Seal Count.***  
Conducted by the Icelandic Seal Center in Hvammstangi. Local people as well as visitors can take part in the research by walking and counting the seals. Necessary to register in advance: [selasetur@selasetur.is](mailto:selasetur@selasetur.is), or call : +354 451 2345
- July 31-August 3** ***Akureyri, Festival, "Ein með öllu" is a Family Oriented Festival - [einmedollu.is/frettir/english](http://einmedollu.is/frettir/english)***



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