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Shit From An Old Notebook (mostly)

Haukur's 27th Editorial



It is sometimes said about Akureyri that it is the most delightful place in Iceland – until its inhabitants wake up. I am not sure exactly how to interpret that, but I guess it's supposed to mean that the good people of Akureyri greatly draw from the town's appeal.

This isn't true of course. The people of Akureyri are alright, as anyone who's been there can attest. The joke is still sorta funny. Ha.

Anyway. The issue you are now reading is our second annual BEST OF REYKJAVÍK edition, wherein we try to highlight and big-up some of the things that make living here (or visiting here, for that matter) a bit more awesome. It is our attempt to celebrate and draw attention to all sorts of stuff that we feel enriches our lives and adds flavour to them.

We spent a lot of time working on it. Shitloads of time. And so did you guys, actually. Most of what's in there is based on your suggestions and/or comments. We are sorta proud of it all, and we hope you can draw some enjoyment from it, too.

Now. I'm writing this as we are minutes away from sending this issue off to the printers, and I have been pondering some of its contents. And I've come to realise that something about this all sorta bugs me.

Bear with me.

While I think that it is cool that we get to make an issue celebrating our town and some of the things that go on in it, I can't help but think that we are missing an important aspect, one that is

pivotal in rendering life here bearable. The most important thing in Reykjavík, the BEST OF THE BEST OF REYKJAVÍK.

And this is its people.

Don't get me wrong. I have nothing against commerce. Or restaurants. Or swimming pools or bars. Those are all great. I'm just sorta thinking that it's kinda skunkly to suggest that most of our BEST OF REYKJAVÍK has to be bought and paid for.

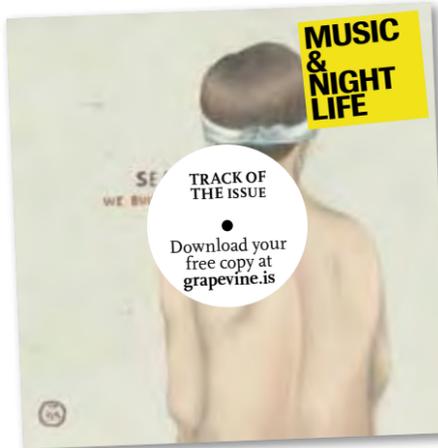
All of the best, most life affirming moments I've experienced in this town have come for free, or at least I didn't need to pay for them with any officially recognised form of currency. They have come through interacting with the people, paying visits to friends and family, chance encounters on the street, heavy debates, smiling faces and lost arguments.

Yes. My favourite thing about the city of Reykjavík is all the excellent people that have made it their home, and/or like to pay it a visit from time to time.

You are my personal BEST OF. Thank you.



Cover Illustrations by:
Þorbjörn Ingason
www.tingason.com



TRACK OF THE ISSUE

Seabear

Wolfboy

seabear

Download at www.grapevine.is

What a lovely band Seabear is. They are always such a nice little pick-me-up when the skies are grey and the heart is heavy. Their gentle, twinkly folk-pop has been making us smile and snap our fingers since they put out their first album; the runaway hit 'The Ghost That Carried Us Away.' After a three-year wait, they finally released a new album, 'We Built A Fire', for us to tap our toes to and boy do we love it!

We are super-happy to offer you this track off that new album. It's called 'Wolfboy' and it is totally infectious and adorable! It's full of bounce and snappy rhythm countered by sleepy lead vocals and lilting strings, but also plenty of ooh-wah-ooh-ability. It really just makes you want to throw your hands over your head carelessly and howl like a happy little wolf! Ah-oooooo!

Also, check out their interview somewhere in this issue. If you like them, you should probably go to their release show, too.

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Comic | Lóa Hjálmtýsdóttir



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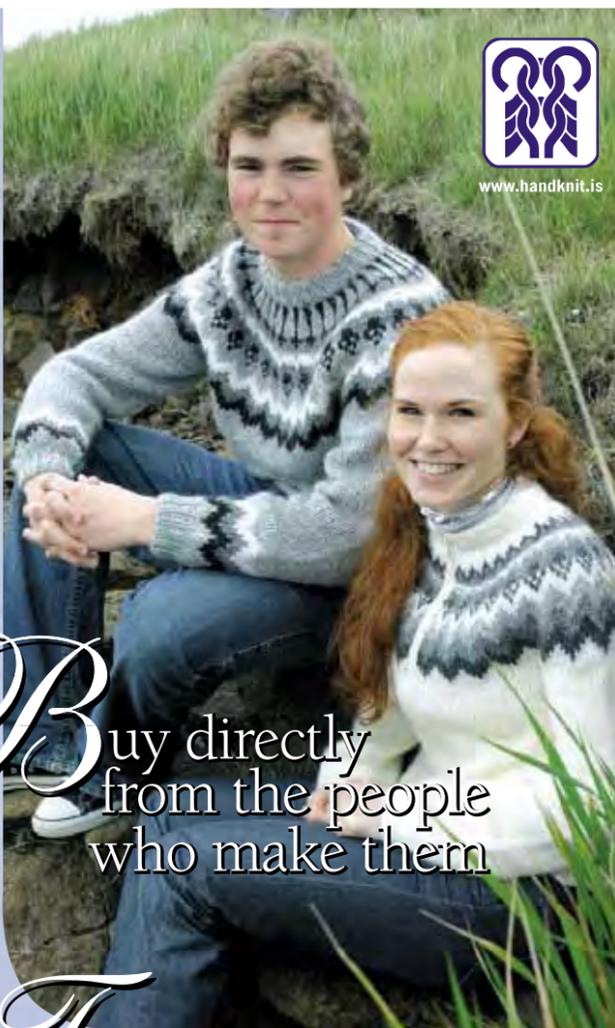


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4 Letters

Hello Haukur!
We wanted to wish you a Happy National Day! It has been quite the year for Iceland. I have designed another graphic celebrating Iceland's National Day. It depicts the Eyjafjalajökul eruption with all of its energy:

Dear Angel and Andy,

thanks so much for always staying in touch, sharing your work and writing us your letters. It's really reassuring to know there are people like you out there. Also, your illustration looks very cool indeed!

Godspeed!

Dear Grapevine.

I, the undersigned, am most unsatisfied with your recent intimation (in your recent article about my most awesome self), that I, the undersigned, am a smoker. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, what I was holding was a dummy cigarette as preparation for my future role in the dramatization of Davíð Oddsson's "Final Days" which depicts the days before his tragic suicide.

I am shocked that the respectful Grapevine should depict me as a smoker. My father reads this, you know...

Love, Ólafur Arnalds
Dear Ólafur,

it is very cool that your father reads us! Mad props to him!

Anyway, our journalist with whom you spoke wishes to extend her sincerest apologies for the blatant defamation of character that was implied when she falsely accused you of having such a filthy, disgusting, decadently delicious habit. She has been severely admonished and won't be allowed to smoke cigarettes until the next issue is published (we can say that in here because her parents know she smokes. Because she's an adult and stuff).

We will make sure in the future that our staff doesn't confuse method-acting techniques with real life. And please let us know when "Final Days" hits the stage. Sounds like a fun show!

PS – what's an "intimation"? Sounds fancy!

Dear Haukur,
I read grapevine with joy and hope the journal will continue to live long. This message is just to remind you that cafes and croissants, the Louvre, the 5th arrondissement and its gay nightclubs and also the movie l'irreversible come from France and not from Spain as you indicated. For foreigners visiting beautiful Iceland, it might make them think we do not know... May be this can be corrected! Except if going to Spain makes you think of France and Paris because you had such a good time there... Whatever the reason, I will be glad to read your explanations in the next edition. Continue the passion and enthusiasm. Regards,

Christophe

Dear Christophe,

thank you so much for your lovely letter, and your kind words! They mean a lot, they really do.

MOST AWESOME LETTER

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We're not gonna lie to you: we really love us some beers. Some folks would call it a problem, but beer never gave us any problems. In fact, over the years, it's solved most of 'em. A frosty glass of cold, frothy, bubblicious, golden-tinted beer has consistently failed to let us down. In the immortal words of the once-reputable Homer J. Simpson: "Mmm... Beer..."

Now, since we're real pleasant and giving folks here at the Grapevine, we thought we'd share some wonderful POLAR BEER with you, our readers. Not only that, you're also getting the gift of social life with it. So here's the deal: our most awesome letter of each issue (henceforth, or until the good people of POLAR BEER decide they don't want to play along anymore), we will be providing our MOST AWESOME LETTER scribe with twelve frothy POLAR BEERS, to be imbibed at a Reykjavik bar of their choice (so long as that bar is either Bakkus or Venue). If y'all's letter is the one, drop us a line to collect. Give us your worst: letters@grapevine.is



(Light)

MOST AWESOME LETTER:

Hi!

I saw an interview with Vooral Gerard in The Reykjavik Grapevine. I am sorry these people lost their money, but it is not the Icelandic taxpayers to blame or their responsibility. 25 million euros is maybe not so much but this amount is the same as 1.25 billion euros for the Dutch taxpayers as there are 50 times more of the Dutch than Icelanders. Would Holland pay 1.25 billion euros unless forced to? What would the Dutch taxpayers say? Every country should be responsible for the banks operating in their own country, but not any overseas branches which are regulated by the authorities of the country in question. Dutch authorities gave Icelandic banks the green light for the icesave accounts. Obviously 320 thousand people could not back up and guarantee billions of euros. Dutch authorities are therefore to blame, not Icelandic taxpayers.

EU does not want to regulate the financial sector. They want to give it a free play and when everything goes down, they send the bill to the taxpayers. Who made up this system? The Icelanders? Icelandic taxpayers did not give the green light on the icesave accounts in Holland, it was Dutch authorities that did so and failed. Icelandic authorities also failed, but we all knew they were incompetent and naturally they lied to the Dutch authorities. Icelandic banks were run by gangsters which were protected by the corrupt Right Wing party up here. Why should I care? I am not the police? I do not make the law in EU! Dutch authorities could just have checked Iceland on Wikipedia and realized that the nation is only 320 thousand people and then realize that they could not back up billions of euros.

The Dutch authorities should compensate and give these people the 25 million euros. Fair would be that we Icelanders pay 1 : 50. No problem with me. EFTA can say what it likes. If Iceland takes the responsibility for the 25 million euros, many others will follow with something totaling billions of euros. No country will accept responsibility for amounts that will make it bankrupt. I suspect that the Dutch authorities are using these people. They are loud and they want their money from the bad Icelanders. Their voice is heard in the Dutch media and this serves the Dutch Government just fine. They are being used and manipulated by their own Government.

Best regards
Einar

Dear Einar,

Oh dear. Who is to blame? Who is responsible? Who should pay whom? Won't somebody please think of the children!

We wish we had the answers too, but you gotta understand where the guy is coming from at least? A little? Maybe? No? Okay, fair enough.

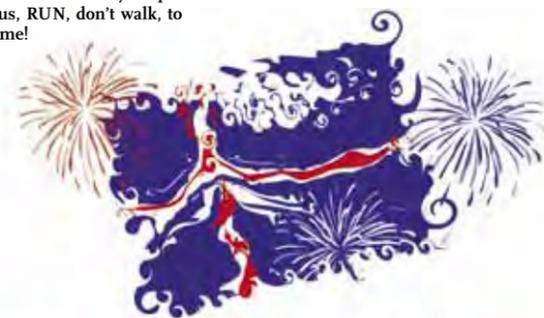
You know, you probably said what a lot of people out there are thinking, and you managed to word it pretty well, too. The Dutch government SHOULD have looked us up on Wikipedia before allowing us to open up a banking operation there. It only makes sense! Folks seem to screen and scrutinize their potential dates way more than the Dutchies seem to have checked out Landsbanki.

You know, this definitely is an awesome letter (it made us smile a lot, anyway) and if anything it has earned you a half-dozen chilly Polar Beers to chug on.

As for that whole Spain/France confusion... ehrrm. Well. It would have been really, really helpful had you sent your letter a little bit sooner. I totally embarrassed myself all over Madrid trying to order some croissant while asking for directions to the gay nightclubs and the Louvre.

It took me like three days to figure out my error, at which point I had totally missed my chance to visit the MoMA. Next time you spot me being so erroneous, RUN, don't walk, to your computer to tell me!

ONE LOVE ☺



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Response | Jim Rice

We Aren't The Government

Grapevine's proofreader responds to Vooral Gerard van Vliet



As the part-time proofreader for the Grapevine, I rarely submit for publication. I tend to prefer to reserve my opinions for the academic forum where the conventions of style dictate a reserved, scholarly approach and which puts a lid on my usual state of indignation. And this is a forum where I am guaranteed that my views will be received by an audience of dozens. A select few get to see my vitriolic side—the editor of this publication being one. This usually comes in the form of tirades about what I perceive as racist/sexist/homophobic/disableist language in some submissions that I vent upon in emails to the editor. I suppose our esteemed editor was amused this time around and suggested turning my blatherings into a public response.

The piece in question is 'Deal With It: Vooral Gerard van Vliet On Why Iceland Needs to Pay the Icesave Depositors,' by Paul Nikolov. I have never met Paul in person, oddly enough, but I have had respect for his opinions over the years—even more so now as an interviewer. After reading this piece I have no idea how Mr. Nikolov managed to conceal the emotions I would have felt at the arrogance displayed by Mr. Vooral Gerard van Vliet. Here are my proverbial two cents, or three.

I am an anthropologist currently working in disability studies in Iceland. I do not claim to have very thorough knowledge of economics, business or the particulars of the Icesave fiasco. But one does not need to have specialist knowledge to take exception with some of the points raised by Vooral.

Yes, it is terrible that people lost their money due to the greed and seemingly criminal activities of the Icelandic banking sector, as well as certain political elements who put their trust in ideologies and theoretical models ahead of good business sense, or even common sense. I share Mr. van Vliet's anger about that. But please don't play the 'saving children in Africa' card to justify why you want your money back. I have my own suspicions about international development initiatives in the so-called developing world, but the tone of his argument recalls the eye-rolling line from the Simpsons: 'Oh, won't somebody please think of the children!!!'

I apologise if I appear insincere about a serious issue, but my reading of this is that of someone who is angry because he was cheated—robbed essentially—and rightly so. But I am not going to be swayed that some people deserve their money back more than others just because it was to go towards noble purposes. It sounded to me like a worthwhile cause, but I am sure there are many others who deserve their savings back as well.

Quote: "I put my money [in Icesave] on the 27th of August 2008." Mr. van Vliet claims by all appearances that the Icelandic banking sector was fine at this time and the knowledge of problems was confined to insider specialists. I don't buy this. All summer long of 2008 it was obvious—even earlier for those paying attention—that there was trouble afoot in the Icelandic banking sector. In late August of 2008, I would rather have given my money to that Zambian fellow who keeps emailing me. But seriously—putting money into an offshore internet account seems risky to me in general, whether said bank is in Iceland or elsewhere. I am sure there were safer alternatives, but perhaps Mr. van Vliet was directly misled and I apologise if this was the case. But claiming the

attractive interest rate wasn't a factor in why he chose Icesave over similar Dutch options? I don't buy that for a second.

Vooral Gerard van Vliet makes some valid points, and I am not trying to mock his plight. But the acerbic tone in my response was wrought from this line: "If your administrators, your government guys, your statesmen are fucking up, then the whole of the nation carries the burden." And, as he continues, "That's the bad part of democracy."

Well, since Mr. van Vliet seems fond of profanity laced discourse, I shall reply in kind. Not...a... fucking...chance. Are you seriously trying to suggest that people with multiple and profound physical and/or intellectual disabilities living in institutionalised or semi-institutionalised situations share one iota of responsibility in this? That their services and support systems that are now under threat is not problematic because it is part of their 'collective responsibility' of their happening to live in Iceland? Please. Having an impairment, of course, does not exclude one from the responsibilities and the general duties of being a citizen. But I am talking about people who have been sidelined and marginalised by the larger society who are now supposed to pay for the excesses of the financial sector. It's a strange position to adopt for a humanitarian—and if this argument sounds familiar, it is. Mr. van Vliet seems concerned about marginalised and disempowered people in Kenya—and kudos for that—but this is a reminder that there are people who are disempowered in all regions of the globe, sometimes the result of similar forces.

If he lost money in a Kenyan bank, would this 'collective responsibility' apply to the children he advocates for? The arrogance and dismissive attitude Mr. van Vliet displays when he is challenged on the point that this debt could become the problem of unborn generations of Icelanders I find to be quite callous and infuriating.

The idea that all citizens of a democracy bear a collective responsibility for the acts of the state, or select elements within the governmental-financial complex, is faulty for a number of reasons that I will let more astute political thinkers than I discuss. But the bottom line is that voting in parliamentary elections has often struck me as somewhat farcical. Western democratic governments are more often than not professional cliques and personal networks of career politicians, senior bureaucrats, and the representatives of financial-industrial-military interests, the sum total of which displays the invariable track record of doing whatever the hell they want once in office. This does not apply to Iceland alone.

Is the government of Iceland responsible for the Icesave debacle? Yes. Is 'the government of Iceland' the people writ large? No—unless you subscribe to a rather naive view of the world and politics. 'That,' Mr. van Vliet, 'is democracy.' 🍷

JIM RICE
JULIA STAPLES

Ben Frost is an Australian-born Icelandic musician. He has to date released two great albums, and was recently awarded the Rolex Mentor & Protégé Arts Initiative, which means he will be mentored by Brian Eno for the next year. Brian Eno!

Response | Ben Frost

Regarding Styrmir Gunnarsson



There was a time in the not distant past when I would have bought all of what he had to say in Grapevine's last issue. However, in light of our current (and past) circumstances, there is just no other name for this than nationalist alarmism. All of his points are totally redundant if not solely for the fact that Iceland has never even tried negotiating with the EU over its resources—as it stands we don't actually know a goddamned thing.

Perhaps this is one of those 'lost in translation' moments, where old men scream independence and what they are actually trying to say is "fuck you Denmark!" rather than the slightly more succinct dictionary version. It seems to me all of the public backlash against the EU negotiation is firmly rooted in a history which has nothing to do with contemporary circumstances. The political backlash, however, has its roots in far darker places (I'll get to them in a moment).

Pray tell Ó Granddad of Independent Iceland what we have left to lose by going into talks with Bruxelles and actually testing out and fielding your grave concerns? The fishing industry is already lost—it is owned and manipulated by a tiny group of extremely wealthy men, not by you or the Icelandic people (you are currently being denied your human rights under that arrangement, according to the UN—how very independent of you!) and our remaining natural resources are being sold off in a post-Kreppa fire sale (the Chinese visited us last week just to say "hi," right?). How much worse can it get? Furthermore, Independence Party chair Bjarni Ben and his special friends are not OLD powers, they are the hip-young new powers, and they seem to be keeping the fires of corrupt, dishonest, fear-mongering politics smouldering away without much help from anyone. Bjarni, by the way just, announced his party's brilliant, forward thinking plan for the future of Iceland: To pull out of any negotiation with Bruxelles. Period (remember I said I would get to the far darker places? Read on).

Anyone who believes this stance has anything to do with independence—aside from protecting the insidious circle of corruption that bankrolls that party—is living in a fantasy. Staying away from the EU has nothing to do with forging a new path for Iceland. Rather, it has everything to do with continuing business as usual, without any accountability—running the fishing industry like a mafia racket, selling off natural resources to write off debt, fast tracking us back to 2006—as long as we are all driving fancy cars and living in designer apartments with harbour views again nobody will ask the hard questions about what it cost to get there.

"Independence" in Icelandic society today means we have no control over anything and none

of the aforementioned jerks are accountable to anyone: this is why Bruxelles scares them, plain and simple. We are owned from within, and the irony with which this man stands on his soap box after being replaced at the national newspaper by one of the most deplorable members of team 'let's-fuck-Iceland' would be hilarious were it not so nauseating. And this is the problem; the majority of the population thinks it's ok that Davíð Oddsson is now controlling a once respected media source largely because he is an 'Icelander.' He is one of us, so when he manipulates reality, and history it's OK, because he does it 'independently.'

I think Iceland has Stockholm Syndrome.

What we have failed to comprehend or address in this debate is the fact that Iceland never really had independence (I include myself in that equation because, like I said, until recently I was really buying all this anti-Euro rhetoric—yeah, protect the nation!). But Iceland is part of the world and depends on other nations for almost everything, especially the members of the EU, and yet, we are currently democratically barred from having any say in the way in which it runs. I cannot think of anything more subservient. And yet, Iceland is clutching onto this word, "independence," like a child with the last piece of chocolate cake, although nobody in Bruxelles has demanded we hand it over to the other kids.

As it stands we are living in a fake democracy, with a fake economy and a fake currency. Something needs to change and, recession or no recession, Iceland continues to prove in spectacular fashion, time and again, that—in spite of an overwhelming preference for transparent democracy and self-governance—it is not capable of that change alone.

I, for one, want to know exactly where we stand.

I want to know what our options are.

I want to hear a different point of view.

We have nothing to lose. 🍷

BEN FROST
JULIA STAPLES

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RE-08 - 09:00
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SAT

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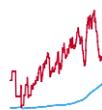
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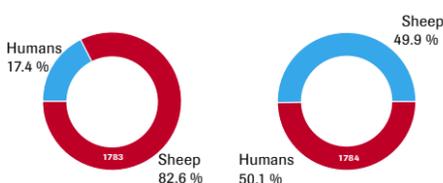


Sheep Ahoy!

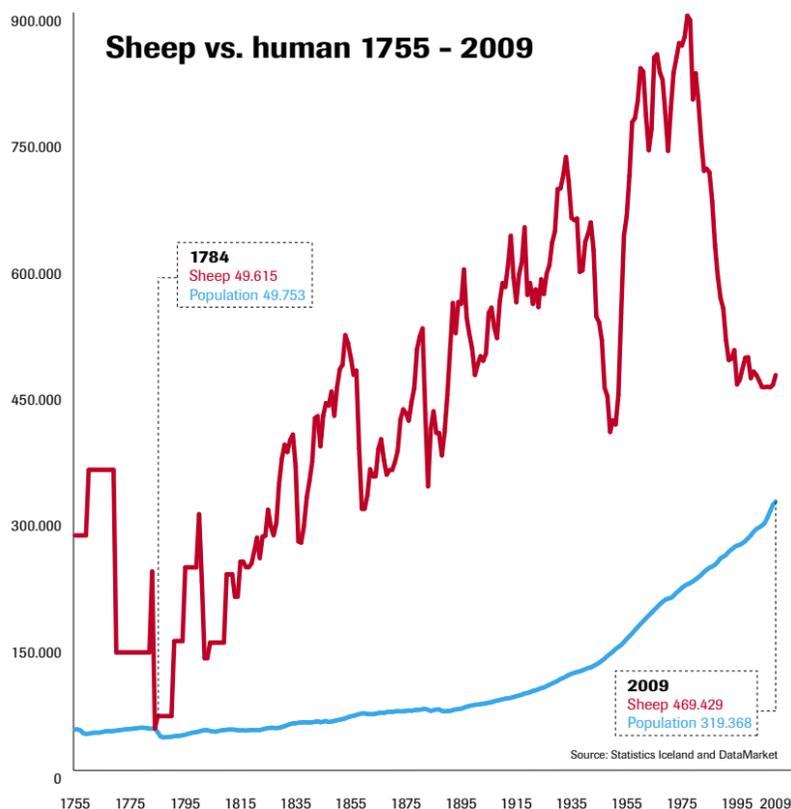
So it turns out the old adage is true: there are more sheep than people in Iceland. Just check out the graph to the right.

There are some interesting anomalies to note in the graph however. Most prominently, the sudden plummet of the number of sheep in 1784, the only year where there were more human beings than sheep in the country (although only by a margin of 0.1%). This is mainly attributed to the eruption of Lakagíggar from 1783 to 1785 which had disastrous effects on agriculture and wiped out most of the sheep population. Since Iceland at the time relied on the sheep so much for sustenance, it in turn took a toll on the human population as well. Maybe that eruption of Katla we're all waiting for will have the same effect!

Two other notable drops can be spotted on the chart, one between 1944-1951 and another since 1984, however the cause of these drops are still yet to be determined. 🐑



REBECCA LOUDER



Loans And Moral Hazard Will the banks always win?



The practice of lending money to members of one's own group for profit is generally condemned by the Bible (see, e.g., Deut. 23:20), and this has proven to be exceedingly annoying to those trying to construct a modern financial system.

Although church authorities eventually relented on their strict interpretation of the Scriptures—perhaps because they noted that the Jewish lenders were getting all the goodies—they did retain the idea that exploiting poor people is not such a good thing for a peaceful society. Accordingly, lending was permitted, but only at reasonable rates, and many of the more imaginative collection practices were forbidden.

In many places, such as the Western world outside of Iceland, the spirit of fair competition and concerns of consumer protection have resulted in the practice of setting fixed interest rates for large loans, such as mortgages and automobile loans. If inflation happens to exceed the interest rate, it is a boon to the borrower; if the interest rate ultimately proves to be greatly above the rate of inflation, the borrower may refinance at a lower rate. Since the bank is holding most of the cards—security interests in the loan collateral, expertise in predicting default rates, valuation experts, legions of lawyers and debt collection agencies—it only seems fair.

In Iceland, however, it has been the practice of indexing residential mortgage and automobile loans to inflation. This places all risk on the borrowers, and ensures that the banks will always win.

A brilliant way of sticking it to the banks?

Surprisingly, poor consumers don't particularly like this system, and are willing to go to great lengths to avoid guaranteeing the banks' profits. One such device marketed in the past decade was the foreign currency loan. A foreign currency loan, as devised by our banks, indexes the interest rate, not on inflation, but on a basket of foreign currencies. While the króna and the inflation rate were both flying high, this seemed like a brilliant way of sticking it to the banks.

Unfortunately, of course, the banks didn't get where they were by committing random acts of kindness. Although it should have been obvious to their legions of lawyers, these loans were in blatant violation of a law passed in 2001.

Now that Iceland's Supreme Court has pointed out this inconvenient truth, no one knows quite what to do. Were the loans void *ad initio*? Should they be reformed retroactively? Should the collateral seized when consumers defaulted be returned? Should the ill-gotten origination fees and excess payments be disgorged?

The concept of moral hazard cuts both ways in this situation. On the one hand, the consumers had at least some idea of risk they were taking, and should have to pay the price when they lost their bet. On the other hand, the banks were in a vastly superior position to determine the legality of these loans. If the banks are not forced to accept some of the risk in the financial system, they will have no incentive to develop good intelligence or sound lending practices, or to follow the law.

These loans have caused much pain. Relieving consumers of the excess risk to which they exposed themselves is the lesser of the two evils in this situation. The banks' purported expertise could have, and should have, saved them. They are, after all, in a position to recoup their losses from the lawyers who signed off on these loans, but the consumers have no other recourse. 🐑

Special | Best Of Reykjavik



You Have To Try It

Ísbúð Vesturbæjar's legacy of tasty, old-fashioned ice cream

Ísbúð Vesturbæjar
Hagamelur 67, 107

For the last 40 years, Ísbúð Vesturbæjar has served some most delicious ice cream in Reykjavík. A well-known favourite amongst locals, this neat shop that looks like the inside of a spaceship is tucked away in the lovely west end of Reykjavík. It has consistently offered some staple varieties of soft serve along with some fabulous toppings to crazy up your cone.

We asked owner Baldur Bjarnason how he got started in the ice cream business. "I worked as a pilot for Icelandair... I have no idea what I am doing in this ice cream business," he admits. "It's fun, though." He says Ísbúð Vesturbæjar has a lot of young customers and very old customers that have been loyal to the store for many years. "It's a nice business. It's always busy, and it's a lot of work."

Baldur says that one of the most popular ice cream choices is vanilla ice cream dipped in chocolate sprinkled with snickers. There are no plans to change anything, because Baldur thinks the customers wouldn't like change. "We serve old-fashioned ice cream which is different from



other places," he tells us, refusing to divulge any secrets on the recipe. "We are an independent store. We make our own ice cream which you cannot buy anywhere else. It's a special place." Ísbúð Vesturbæjar's ice cream is one for the ages that

will hopefully keep on service up delicious cold treats for years and years to come.

EMILY BURTON
JULIA STAPLES

Welcome to Iceland

Here's how to find

People

Businesses

Maps

Direction

www.ja.is

Quick guide to the information you need while enjoying your stay

- the answer

Iceland excursions

GRAY LINE ICELAND



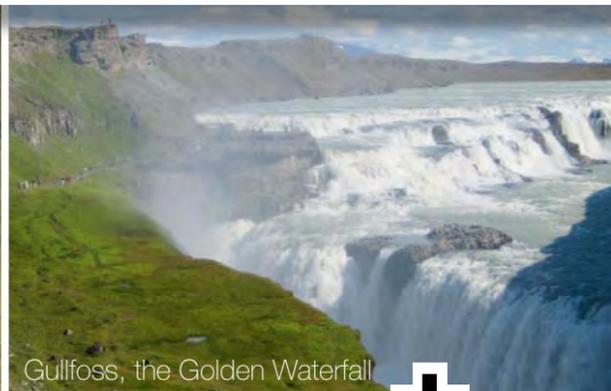
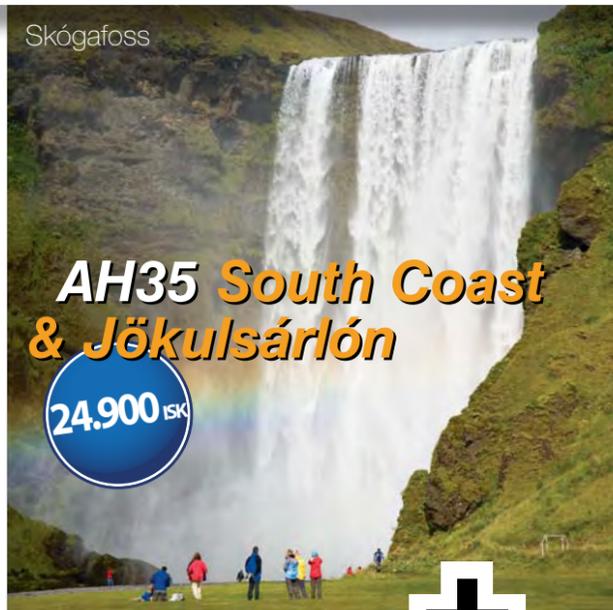
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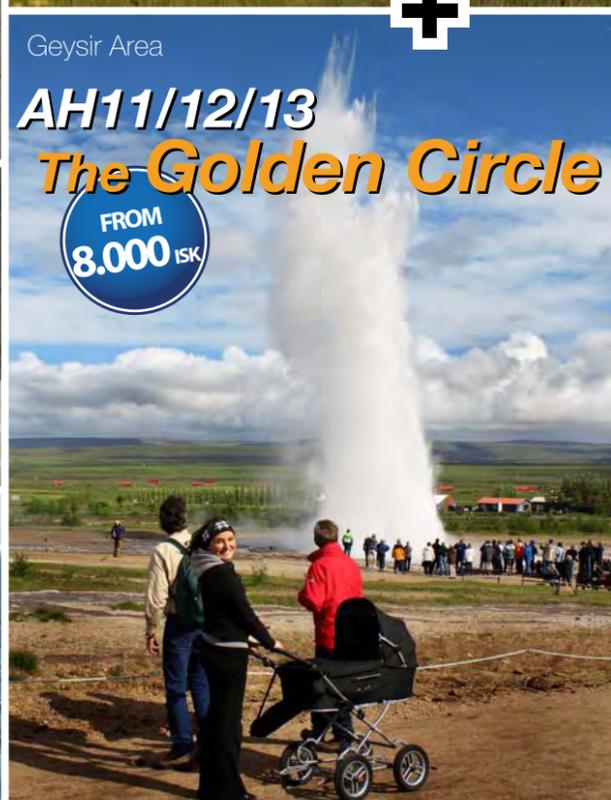
Gullfoss, the Golden Waterfall



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Local Favourites And Secrets

While compiling our BEST OF REYKJAVÍK list, we consulted with a large group of people from all around town. Some of them were very detailed in their preferences, and some of what they like about our fair city is very likely some of what you'll like about it, once you try it out for yourself.

In that spirit, here are some excellent folks and their excellent thoughts on Reykjavík.

DAGNÝ ÓSK ARADÓTTIR PIND

STUDENT



Hidden streets and late nights

Favourite Bar?

Kaffibarinn. Excellent music and everyone I like to hang out with. No other bar is a candidate, even though this might mean I need to expand my horizons a little.

Favourite Restaurant? Á Næstu Grösum. A fair price, you get some great bread and hummus with your meal and the food is always spot on. So are the cakes.

Favourite Street? Haðarstígur, 101 Reykjavík. It's a totally hidden street within Píngholt, which is uniquely quiet and beautiful. I definitely intend to live there in the future.

Favourite Store? Brynja. They have everything, and fools such as myself that don't know anything about equipment and hardware supplies receive some great service, whether we're purchasing a light bulb or a jackhammer.

Favourite Favourite? Walking home from town after a good night, with the sun rising. It's hard to explain. It's just such a great feeling.

FRÍMANN FRÍMANNSSON

PROFESSIONAL HIPSTER



Picnics with girls

Best restaurant? Hornið, because it is straight up delicious and fun to watch the emo kids leaving Café Rót.

Best bar: Bakkus has reasonably priced beer and a lot of shit you can climb.

Best coffee: Kaffismiðjan, it's close to my house so I go pick up smokes at

Drekinn and go to Kaffismiðjan and lie on the bench, hobo-style.

Best kept secret: The picnic table hidden in the woods by Tjörnin is fun. It's a good place to take a girl.

BIRTA GUÐJÓNSDÓTTIR

DIRECTOR OF NÝLISTASAFNIÐ



My favourite things about Reykjavík are not very original, but they are good and classic. For instance:

Kjarvalsstaðir: It's always nice to attend exhibits there, the café is an excellent place to read up on some art magazines and the building itself is especially beautiful, human-friendly and open to Reykjavík's Central Park (Klambratún).

Norðurmýrin: Where the streets are all named after Njála, Landnáma and Laxdæla characters. The neighbourhood is like a little village on the outskirts of downtown, a quiet neighbourly paradise. The architecture is basic "concrete functional" from the forties and the hood itself is full of cats, large trees and moss.

Elliðaárdalurinn: Where the salmon play within city limits. Where the distant traffic roar blends with the hum of the river and song of the birds, and you bid all passers-by a good day. It is most certainly a place to ponder ones existence, to enjoy being a city kid in nature, not too far from ones next latté.

Múlakaffi: Where you can get Porri-food well beyond the season, Icelandic home cooking in an institutional diner environment. It's the kind of place I would love to visit as a tourist elsewhere, basic mom-food and no fancy stuff. It isn't very healthy either...

Favourite art-space: Aside from Nýlistasafnið, where I am director, I would like to mention the art-book store Útúrdúr, which shares a space with the music shop Havarí, right in the middle of downtown in Austurstræti. Útúrdúr was founded around 2007 by a group of artists, and they use the space to honour artists' work by displaying their art books ("paper art"). Útúrdúr also publishes books and has linked in to a large network of similar entities in Europe and the US that are all oases' in the cultural deserts of their towns.

MARKÚS BJARNASSON, AKA MARKÚS & THE DIVERSION SESSIONS

MUSICIAN



Secret sauna

Best Bar? It's nice when you go out to start up Laugavegur, maybe around Boston. It's a sure bet if you go downhill. It's all downhill from there! If you get bored you head down to Karamba or then Bakkus. It's a combination of those three places.

Favourite Pool? Vesturbæjarlaug. I was raised there. People like to talk in the hotpots because they are round. You meet the same people over and over. I recommend going and paying extra for the dry sauna. They have one but they don't want you to know about it! Supposedly it's a gay hot spot for one day a week.

Best Place To See A Show? Hemmi & Valdi. It's the old wooden house on Laugavegur that used to be the Hljómálmind record shop. A rock show there is the best.

Best Kept Secret? A walk out to Grandi or Gróttá.

HANNAH HJÖRDÍS HERRERA

STUDENT



Rolling down Arnarhóll

Best Restaurant? Ban Thai, especially no. 19, if you want to burn your mouth with spice!

Best kept secret? Rolling down Árnahóll at ungodly hours in good company, and dancing to live African drums at Baðhúsið.

LANA VOGESTAD

YOGA INSTRUCTOR



Favourite Restaurant? Nauthóll in the summer, because you can sit outside, it's near airport and there's a great view of the ocean.

Favourite Pool? The Seltjarnarnes pool. It's a little secluded and by the sea. I love being by the sea! It's new and clean and it has minerals in the water, which is really nice.

Favourite Walk? Around Hljómskál-agarðurinn, the park by the Tjörnin pond downtown.

Favourite Ice Cream? Ísbúðin Ísland. They have a local ice cream maker and

sorbets. Lots of nice options, like the coconut frozen yoghurt.

Best Kept Secret? Coffee at Café Haiti and good healthy food at Maður Lífandi. It's great. They have all kinds of wonderful juices and organic foods.

DÓRI DNA

RAPPER



Drunk actors, poets and journalists

Favourite Bar? I think I'm a bit of a cliché! I like Prikið because I've been to clubs all over the world and I've never experienced anything like the madness that happens there. It's really small and it has fireworks when the mood is right. Afterwards, I like going down to Næsti Bar to visit some drunk actors and poets and journalists as they hang out.

Favourite Restaurant? The new pizza place, Gamla Smiðjan. It reminds me of something from back in 1997 when Iceland thought it had developed into something culturally diverse. Back then we cherished pizza places.

Best Kept Secret? There are a lot of good theatre productions in town. Some have a real international feel about them. The new theatre in Seltjarnarnes, The North Pole, is really great. It's a hidden gem for now.

MUNDI

CLOTHING DESIGNER



Sweating it

Favourite Bar? Kaffibarinn, Bakkus and Boston. Those are the only bars I go to, because of the crowd and the atmosphere. I wish we still had Sirkus but we don't. I also like Prikið, but only during the day.

Favourite New Clothing? Kron Kron definitely has the best clothes and brands in Reykjavík. I also like GK, where I sell my brand.

Favourite Ice Cream? Ísbúð Vesturbæjar, maybe just because I lived there for a long time. They really stick to an old fashion way of making ice cream and there's an old charm to it that you can't really fake.

Favourite Gallery? Kling & Bang, because they are all good friends. I know they aren't doing it for the money, because they're all fucking poor. They have had some of the greatest artists I've been able to see.

Best kept secret? The Sweat. It's a Native North American style sweat-lodge in Elliðaárdalur run by a gay couple. It's a five hour affair with singing and dancing and you sit in a super hot tent with a fire. It's really great.

MEGAN HERBER

DESIGNER



Hot yoga

Favourite Bakery Treat? The tower-shaped chocolate soufflés with the gooey fudge centre from Sandholt.

Favourite Place For An Aimless Rummage? Friða Frænka

Best Hot-Dog Experience Downtown? That little hole in the wall milk-bar on Laugavegur just down the hill from Kaffibarinn. Always fresh, always good. Especially in the wee hours.

Favourite Thai Place? Ban Thai. Particularly their giant, come-one-come-all tom-yum soups.

Best Sushi? The new sushi bar in the Kringlan food court. I'm pretty sure it's called Zusushi. The chef's special is sensational.

Best Yoga Class? Lana Vogelstad's Hot Yoga.

ÁRNI VILHJÁLMSOHN

MUSICIAN, FM BELFAST



Best Pool? Sundhöll

Reykjavíkur. Because of their hot pot. It's great.

Best Burger? Hamborgarabúlla Tómasar. The hamburgers are ALWAYS good, and the staff is great.

Best Ice Cream? A chocolate shake at Ísbúð Vesturbæjar. Made with the "old" ice cream, of course.

Best Restaurant? Saffran. Ridiculously good and healthy food at a fair price.

Best Sauna? The sauna at Vesturbæjarlaug. Excellent location and environment. Peace and quiet and some great conversation.

Best Coffee? Kaffismiðjan. The best coffee, excellent location and a fabulous environment. They also serve great cheese and jam scones. ☘

Geysir Fact #1 Cheap Cars

GEYSIR
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ROAD TRAFFIC DIRECTORATE



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Attacks On Alþingi Are Of No Concern To Alþingi

Up is down, obedience is freedom, fiction is fact, ignorance is enlightenment



Last week the Speaker of Alþingi, Social Democrat Ásta Ragnheiður Jóhannesdóttir, was presented with the signatures of 705 people who demand that either the trumped up charges against the 'Reykjavík Nine' be dropped, or they too be charged with the same crimes.

The organisers of the petition (or mass confession, if you will) argue that it's outrageous to indict the Reykjavík Nine for having violated the first clause of the 100th article of the penal code (which deals with 'attacks against the independence and integrity of Alþingi'), a crime that carries a minimum penalty of one year in prison, and a maximum one of life behind bars. They argue that if the Reykjavík Nine were truly guilty of such a heinous attack on Alþingi, everyone who participated in the 'pots and pans revolution' of 2009 should be charged with the same crime. The mass protests in January 2009, when the protesters laid siege to the house of Parliament for several days, was far more disruptive and threatening to "the integrity of Alþingi" than the Reykjavík Nine's attempted visit to the public benches of parliament on December 8, 2008.

The 705 signatories to the mass confession Ásta Ragnheiður received demanded that they be charged for their participation in the pots and pans revolution, that they, too, be charged for having "attacked parliament." If the Reykjavík Nine should stand trial, they should, too. And anyone who not only confesses to a crime that carries a maximum sentence of life in prison, but practically demands that he stand trial for it, should be taken seriously.

As the crime in question was one against Alþingi, one would have thought that its speaker would take the matter seriously. But no. Sure, Ásta Ragnheiður accepted the signatures, but at the same time she stressed that she did not have any authority to do any-

thing about them. Nor did she respond in any official capacity. Having made this dismissive statement, she hurried away.

The judicial system and its independence

Since then Ásta Ragnheiður has said that she has shelved the petition, and that she would in fact not take any action in the matter. Apparently, the speaker of Alþingi believes public confessions to serious crimes against the institution she represents are something that don't need to be taken seriously.

This was in keeping with her previous public statements on the issue. Ásta Ragnheiður has argued that the affair doesn't really concern her at all. The courts should be trusted to handle the case, and that moreover she was never in any real capacity involved with it.

But let's pause for a minute.

Sure: The charges are brought by the State Prosecutor, not Alþingi. But it was indeed taken up only after the Secretary General of Alþingi requested that the State Prosecutor do so. In his request, the Secretary General even identifies the different laws he believed had been broken – including the first paragraph of the 100th article of the penal code. The Secretary General serves under the Speaker of Alþingi.

Not only did the entire case originate in her office, Ásta Ragnheiður has on several occasions made it clear that she feels very strongly about the case.

Academic freedom

In response to a parliamentary inquiry, she stated that the Reykjavík Nine, and the other protesters who entered the house of parliament that day had "forced their way into the house of parliament," that they "overpowered" staff and guards and generally behaved

in a "violent" and "threatening" manner. According to her, it was "obvious" that the group had "no compunction about using force to get into contact with members of parliament." She also stressed that the protesters had entered Alþingi through "the back door." All of this was supposedly caught by surveillance cameras.

Since then, the video from said surveillance camera has been released to the media, and it shows no angry mob overpowering guards and policemen, no one forcing their way into Alþingi. Furthermore, the entrance the group used is the public one – only MPs, Ministers and others on official state business use the front entrance to the house. Nothing in the case files supports the claim that the protesters used violence or threats of violence – and it is quite simply absurd to claim that the protesters attempted to get into "contact" with MPs. The protesters hoped to get onto the public benches, which are located high above the chamber. There was absolutely no indication at any point that the group intended to harm anyone: nobody was armed, and nobody in the group made threats of physical violence. No evidence has surfaced to suggest otherwise.

But wait, there's more. So invested is Ásta Ragnheiður in this narrative of the Reykjavík Nine as 'dangerous terrorists' that she has made disturbing attempts to influence how they are portrayed in the media, going so far as to hand talking points to members of academia who have dared comment on the subject.

Heed the talking points!

On May 17, Jón Ólafsson, philosopher and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Bifröst University, was on the morning programme of the state owned Radio One to discuss the various ethical angles of the court case. As he is wont to, Jón was very circum-

Magnús Sveinn Helgason is a historian. He most recently authored addendum five to the SIC report, and is currently working on a book on financial bubbles.

"Ásta Ragnheiður admitted she had not heard what Jón said, and could therefore not evaluate his arguments, but nevertheless believed she needed to make sure that he was on the same page as The State, sending him governmental talking points on the case. Just to make sure."

scribed and cautious in his analysis. He sided neither with the protesters nor the state, but pointed out that it was strange that out of all those who 'attacked' Alþingi during the winter of 2008-9, only the nine had been singled out and charged with violating the 100th paragraph.

Shortly after the programmeme, Jón received a phone call from Ásta Ragnheiður, who informed him that while she hadn't actually heard him on the radio, she had been contacted by "numerous people," who had been very unhappy about how he had talked about the case – and that these people had told her that Jón had gotten critical aspects of the case wrong. She could not identify what exactly he had gotten wrong, but offered to e-mail him a document just to make sure that he wouldn't get anything wrong in the future. He later received an e-mail from her official Alþingi account.

The Grapevine has acquired a copy of her letter, which reads like simple talking points. These talking points summarize the statements Ásta Ragnheiður had previously made in parliament, complete with the reference to the protesters having entered through the "back door" (again, where every non-official visitor to Alþingi enters the building). The talking points contained nothing new, and corrected nothing Jón had said.

This correspondence should give us pause. Ásta Ragnheiður admitted she had not heard what Jón said, and could therefore not evaluate his arguments, but nevertheless believed she needed to make sure that he was on the same page as The State, sending him governmental talking points on the case. Just to make sure.

Stifling critical discourse

In her e-mail Ásta Ragnheiður evokes the conclusions of the SIC report – pointing out that the report had criticised politicians for their attempts to influence the courts: "The tripartite separation of powers is clear. Moreover, the State Prosecutor is independent in his duties and is not supposed to receive orders from MPs. The conclusions of the SIC report single out for harsh criticism how politicians have in the past attempted to influence the judiciary system."

True. But the SIC report also criticises politicians for their repeated attempts to stifle critical discourse, and members of the academia for having been too subservient to members of the political elite, for having been too willing to recite government talking points.

Maybe Ásta Ragnheiður missed that part of the report.

Because Ásta Ragnheiður appears to see

nothing wrong with calling up respected members of Iceland's academia to complain that they are not being supportive enough when the state decides to engage in political persecution against protesters, going so far as to send out government talking points just to make sure that everybody is on the same page.

To top this off, Ásta Ragnheiður sees nothing wrong with making these kinds of phone calls without actually knowing what she's talking about. Jón Ólafsson confirms that she did in fact say that she had not heard the programme herself, but was relying on what others had told her. She would not identify who these people were. All of this raises doubts about her judgement, as well as serious questions about professional conduct.

Everyone should be equal

Those who have taken the hard-line approach in this matter, supporting Ásta Ragnheiður's view that the Reykjavík Nine be prosecuted to the full extent of the law – and convicted of a crime that carries a maximum sentence of life in prison – have evoked enlightenment ideals to support their view: the rule of law, the ideal of the Rechtsstaat, the tripartite separation of powers, as well as the importance of respecting the independence and integrity of institutions like Alþingi. Ásta Ragnheiður has even gone so far as to cite the SIC report.

Although they appear more as disciples of Rousseau than Montesquieu, the Reykjavík Nine and their supporters – including the 705 who signed the petition/mass confession – have also cited enlightenment ideals. Their main argument is that in the fall of 2008 the social contract between the government and the governed had been broken. The government and Alþingi, through their utter incompetence had forfeited the trust of the people – abrogated their end of the social contract. Hence the chant of the pots and pans uprising: "Incompetent government!" and the "declaration" one of the Reykjavík Nine managed to read to Alþingi on December 8: "This house no longer serves its purpose!" followed by the poetic exhortation: "Get the fuck out!"

Through their demands that they, too, be charged with the crimes the Reykjavík Nine are being accused of, the 705 signatories to the petition are also demanding that Ásta Ragnheiður see to it that one of the key ideals of the enlightenment be honoured, that Iceland be a Rechtsstaat – that the rule of law be applied in a fair and even manner: everyone guilty of the same crime should face the same charges. ☘

MAGNÚS SVEINN HELGASON
PÁLL HILMARSSON

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GOOD NEWS

We are generally inspired by Iceland and the stuff going on here. We wanted to bring y'all the good news happening in our fair country and why we love living here.

Eat, Breathe, Live Your Art

It doesn't take a scholar to recognise Reykjavík's devotion to the arts. Even the briefest wander through the city's streets and back allies will prove its appreciation of aesthetics—be it fashion, art or performance. This month, the art-lovin' city will welcome the latest addition to our colourful spectrum of gallery-ish places: SPARK.

Reykjavík is indeed a community dedicated to artistic opportunity and prolific endeavours. Sigríður Sigurjónsdóttir, professor of product design at the Icelandic Art Academy, is a member of this community, and on July 8th she will be inaugurating this brand new design space.

But these days one can hardly bat an eye without it being violated by some form of artistic expression. So why should we brace ourselves for this one?

Well, just imagine wearable blankets, art-inspired scents and paper food. Cool, huh? The idea is to pair up designers with people of completely unrelated professions and see what crazy outcomes they get. Through these collusions, designers are offered a chance to prove their part in everyday society.

"Designers are often about aesthetics," Sigríður tells us. "At SPARK we wanted to focus on sensual design." Thus, many of the results are a lot more interactive than regular design and involve the infusion of our senses into the artistic world.

"It's difficult for our students, who've been doing a lot of experimental projects as well as food design. There's no path for their work," says Sigríður. "This



is why I wanted to set up a gallery that worked as a platform for interesting design projects, that places the main focus on designers collaborating with other professions."

The first designer take to the show room is artist Andrea Maack with her exhibition EAU DE PARFUM. Andrea spent two years working extensively alongside a French perfumery. During this time, her abstract pencil drawings were translated into fragrances SMART, CRAFT and SHARP. Not only will these be exhibited at SPARK but they'll also be introduced as products for sale.

Vík Prjónsdóttir, a project set up by five designers and the knitting factory Víkurprjón, will also be exhibiting their vibrant range of wearable blankets.

Sigríður clearly emphasises that SPARK steers away from famous designers and their one million ISK products, and instead wants to "show how working with designers can change and improve things."

By Alexandra Young

Civilisation? Give Me This Apocalyptic Backwater Any Day



I just returned from a little jaunt to London. It was my birthday and my brother, in his infinite generosity, bought me a return ticket to spend time with him and friends. I admit that as the plane left Keflavík I was flush with smugness at the idea of leaving this medieval backwater and getting back to some real civilisation and the things I'd been missing in Iceland. Cheap beer! Sausages! Decent drugs! Street crime! Oh, it was truly going to be heaven.

But as my holiday was ending, I became increasingly pissed off with the city. God, the people and the air smelled like decaying cabbage. It was too hot and humid, riding the tube was like being a tapeworm in Satan's colon, and the beer in pubs was just as expensive as Iceland! In the end my stress levels were so high I almost punched a granny in the face because her dog looked at me funny.

And then it hit me. Despite my almost daily bitching about real and imagined issues with the place, I was missing Reykjavík and my way of life here.

Holy shit, Reykjavík is now my hometown!

But what is it that I love about Reykjavík that I just can't get anywhere else? Sitting down with a bottle of vodka and some cheese, I came up with the following delights ...

Breiðholtslaug

OK, Reykjavík's pools are excellent, but have you ever tried to have a proper swim in Vesturbæjarlaug during the weekend? Forget it. It's just way too crowded. My local pool on the other hand is only five minutes' walk from my house, has great hot pots and most importantly, is not heaving with tourist hipsters and annoying bloody kids trying to dive-bomb you as you swim past.

Íslenski Barinn

The Austurvöllur establishment doesn't have the cheapest beer (Kaffi Grand) or the best value for money food (Noodle Station), but when it's a sunny Saturday lunchtime, you can sit with a bottle of Móri beer, a toasted lamb sandwich and fries and you can just gaze out on the square and watch life pass before your

eyes while your ears are assaulted by classic Icelandic pop tunes. Also a great place to watch a decent protest as well.

The comic book corner of Reykjavík city library

I have a friend who has recently discovered the wonderful hyper-real world of comics. To help her in her quest to discover more, I pointed her to a little jewel on the 2nd floor in the City library, a place where you could easily spend all day perusing classic comics of all shapes and sizes. Garth Ennis' run on The Punisher? Check. Early Ed Brubaker? Check. Alejandro Jodorowsky's The White Lama? Big check! The place to totally geek out.

The Kebabs at Habibi

When I eventually get chucked out of Dillon's for violating inanimate objects, then the only place to go is to the little kebab place on Hafnarstræti for their Syrian kebab wraps. It's not too spicy and the tangy yoghurt sauce will give CPR to your taste buds.

My mate Unnar

The national stereotype of the hard working Icelander has come in for a beating recently. For "taking risks," read "Have no idea what you're doing, do it with someone else's money, and then run away when it all goes tits up." But there is one Reykjavík resident who keeps the tradition alive. My mate Unnar is the living embodiment of an Icelander who "gets things done."

This is a man who helped to furnish my flat when I first arrived here, helped organise my wedding, got a good deal on a new car for my wife Sigga (no foreign loans here!) and more importantly helped arrange for me to arm wrestle former world's strongest man Magnús Ver Magnússon in my underpants for a bet. There is nothing that this man cannot do (except like any good Icelandic male, express his emotions).

If you can find anything as good as these things anywhere else, then sir I shall call you a bloody liar!

By Bob Cluness

Tourists On The Street

We stopped to interview some lucky tourists on the street to see why they chose to visit Iceland. The following people graciously complied to dish out the details of their trip.



Names: Bruce, Tammy, & Kyra
Where are you from? United States
Why did you choose to come to Iceland?

B: My great-grandmother is Icelandic so we came to visit family. Tammy and I have come before and had a really good time. We decided to come back so that our daughter Kyra could meet her Icelandic family and see where her ancestors are from.

Are you enjoying it so far?

K: Yeah, it's really good.

What have you done so far?

T: We went on the puffin island tour yesterday. It was a lot of fun and we got to see a lot of puffins. No whales though. Our family is taking us to Þórsmörk tomorrow and we're really excited. We love to see more of the country, it's breathtaking.

B: Overall, we're really enjoying our stay and are already planning to come back.



Names: Jacob & Eric

Where are you from?

J: Florida, USA

E: Minnesota, USA

Why did you want to come to Iceland?

E: We are studying Icelandic

Is this your first time in Iceland?

J: I've been to the airport before.

E: Yes.

What is the most exciting thing you have done/seen in Iceland so far?

J: We saw the main guy from Jar City at Vesturbæjarlaug.

What is your least favorite thing about Iceland?

E: That everyone wants to speak English to us.



Savoury Saffron

Saffron
Glæsibær, 104

Healthy, tasty, exotic, and very reasonably priced, Saffron is totally one of our favourite places to eat in Reykjavík. In fact, it just won our 'best goddamn restaurant' of 2010 award!

We called up one of the owners, Jay Jamchi, to try and find out how they managed to get so awesome. He told us he started off cooking as a hobby, and simply wanted to start a restaurant for fun. Now, his hobbyhorse is expanding to the US and Western Europe. Wow, huh?

Jay tells us they are "constantly changing the menu to make sure customers are satisfied." Saffron never uses white flower or sugar, and all their ingredients are local, except the saffron, which they import from Spain. They mix all their own spices too. Jay says the idea for Saffron came from the "saffron chicken I cooked at home, that



friends and family always loved."

The restaurant just started offering catering services, and Jay tells us they've been doing very well on that front too. Jay believes he already accomplished his goal of "running a restaurant that makes excellent food and offers great service and prices." We have to agree. 🍴

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Special | Best Of Reykjavik



Bæjarins Beztu, Seriously

The Best Goddamn Dog In Town!

Bæjarins Beztu
Hafnarstræti 17, 101

The Icelandic pylsa: possibly the only hot dog with the ability to unite an entire nation, for better or for worse. And Bæjarins beztu pylsur certainly doesn't have any shortcomings when it comes to providing the populous with delicious, mouth-watering pylsur.

The stand was first set up in 1937 on Austurstræti. Yet it wasn't until the 60s that it moved to Tryggvagata where it stands strong today, catching all the hungry eyes of the wandering tourists during the day and the ravenous mouths of the stumbling slurring folk throughout the night.

The town's best hot dog?

The hot dog stand, appropriately named ("The Town's Best Hot Dog"), has been doing what it does best for over 70 years. It's even gained international attention. In 2006, the Guardian confirmed that it's not just the best in Reykjavik, but the best in Europe! Yet despite all this fame and fortune it still manages to retain its humble, family routes. Guðrún Kristmundsdóttir, the current owner of the stand, tells us that it was her grandfather who first ran the joint, which was then handed down to her father, and finally to Guðrún, who has now been running it for 20 years.

A typical hot dog, or 'ein með öllu' ("one with everything," as it is affectionately known by the locals), will usually be covered in an assortment of condiments, namely ketchup, mustard, fried onion, raw onion and remoulade. The contrast between the ambrosially sweet remoulade and the slightly bitter mustard, finalised by the crunch of the cronions, may just be what gets the joint through its thousands a day. However, unfortunately there is no vegetarian option, but most people should probably know what they're getting themselves into when joining a queue for a hot dog stand.

One of Bill Clinton's mistakes

Indeed, rain, snow or shine, there is always a queue. Even if you're freezing your ass off in sub-zero temperatures, it's most definitely worth the wait. But don't be fooled by the length as the queues move swiftly and one is often left feeling surprised that putting five different condiments on a hot dog could take just under a second. A fact many people may have previously found inhumanly possible.

Not only has it beckoned almost every Icelander to its feet, Bæjarins



beztu also boasts a culture of celebrity customers visiting the island. The most notable appearance being Bill Clinton foolishly going for the simple hot dog and mustard. "All the visiting bands live on my hot dogs", Guðrún tells us, "from Ella Fitzgerald to Metallica frontman James Hetfield, to name but a few."

But what draws these A-listers to a meagre hot dog stand? "One thing that is crucial for my business is that everyone gets their privacy in the queue," explains Guðrún. "But they have to queue just like every other person. I often receive questions about celebrities wanting special treatment and I always say no."

Danes will want their pigdog

Apart from the speedy service, cheap prices, and consistently good hot dogs, it can be hard to place a finger on what separates this stand from the rest. The ingredients used are the same as any other vendor, but some say it's the layering of the sauce that conquers all others. The trick is putting the remoulade on top as opposed to on the

bottom, a mistake that's often made by pylsa-amateurs. But whatever it is, each visit is guaranteed to leave you walking away nodding your head and rubbing your belly in satisfaction.

Another good, stable sign for it being the best is that so far there have been no incidents of people spitting food out in disgust. "No, the only complaints I get are from Danish people. They can always taste the lamb, which they aren't used to," says Guðrún "But once they get over it they seem to enjoy it!"

A hot dog may not sound like traditional Icelandic cuisine, but if you haven't tried one of Bæjarins Bestu then you should flee the country in shame. Unless you're vegetarian of course, then I recommend just the bread with the sauces. On top of all that, a hot dog costs a mere 280 ISK, so it's one of the few places which won't leave you broke, that is, if you're not already. 🇮🇸

ALEXANDRA YOUNG
JULIA STAPLES

Special | Best Of Reykjavik



Italy On Ice

Hornið, Reykjavik's oldest Italian restaurant, is a 101 institution



Hornið
Hafnarstræti 15, 101

and pizzas. They instantly became a hit amongst the locals and have remained an institution of fine dining in the city throughout the years. Still serving up classic Italian dishes, their patrons are now equal parts local and foreign, and rarely have a quiet night all year.

Asking how they have managed to be so consistently great, their owner Jakob told us that they haven't changed their menu much over the course of the years, except adding a few new items and adding new twists to their style.

"If you are going to open a steakhouse or a pizza place in Iceland, you have to stay true to your original idea," he tells us. "Now it's a mix of Italian and Nordic dishes." Adding to their wide array of delicious pizzas and pastas they have mixed in traditional fish and lamb dishes as new specialties. Jakob says his personal favourite is the fish soup. 🇮🇸

REBECCA LOUDER
GAS

Thirty years ago in Reykjavik there were very few restaurants, much less ones serving up authentic fare from foreign lands. In 1979, Hornið opened its doors on Hafnarstræti as the first restaurant to serve up real Italian cuisine



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LÉTTÖL



Alright. So here it is. Our second annual BEST OF REYKJAVÍK list is finally ready for all y'all to pour over. We have spent countless hours compiling the thing [via your suggestions, e-mails, Facebook comments and bar-talk] and we feel that it does provide some pretty good pointers about some of what makes Reykjavík-life worthwhile these days. And we are very happy to point it out and draw y'all's attention to it.

See, as we said last year: "We love the great city of Reykjavík. We really do. In fact, we love it so much, we named our magazine after it – and most of us choose to live here for extended periods at a time."

Now, since our loving Reykjavík is most definitely the case, we sometimes feel like we're spending a little too much time focusing on what's missing, instead of celebrating what's here. And this is the primary purpose of our now-annual BEST OF REYKJAVÍK list – to celebrate some of the stuff we feel somehow enriches our lives and adds to them. It's about big-upping stuff, giving mad props to it and patting it on the shoulder. Sort of a print-version of the Facebook 'like' if you will.

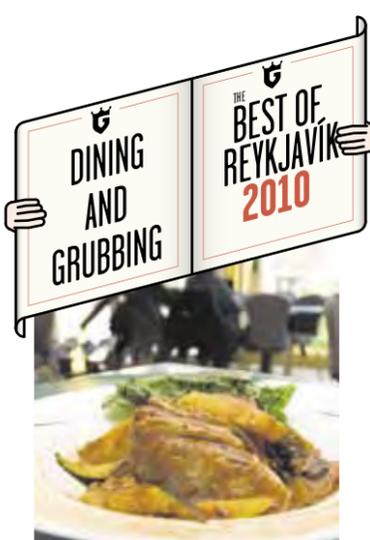
The list is of course by no means a scientific one, and it is certainly heavily contestable. It should be read as such.

It should be used as a starting point for a conversation of appreciation; something for you folks to read, verify, distrust, totally disagree with, argue over, send us angry rants about and generally enjoy.

It's for fun, but we still hope it serves as some sort of guideline to enjoying our fair city.

Here's how we did it: Ever since last year's BEST OF issue, we've been accepting readers thoughts on what's BEST at bestof@grapevine.is, as well as conducting random polls on our Facebook, on the street and at the bar. Using your suggestions and arguments for guidance, we then assembled a couple of large panels of tasteful folks that represent pretty much every gender, income bracket and political affiliation to discuss. Below are the results. Enjoy, and remember to send your suggestions to bestof@grapevine.is for consideration in our 2011 edition.

Grapevine readers, friends, enemies and staff do the choosin'!



Best burger:

Hamborgarabúlla Tómasar

After some pretty heated debate, our panel of amateurs finally decided to award the 'best burger' category to Hamborgarabúlla Tómasar—Búllan—for the second year in a row. Last year they were pretty much a shoo-in for the title, but this time around their title was a bit more disputed.

This might mean that they are faltering, but we're hoping it just means that Reykjavík has a better selection of juicy burgers these days. In any case, Búllan offers "consistency," "an authentic and original burger," and a "really nice atmosphere," according to our panel. But watch your back, Búllan. You are being challenged...

Runners-up: Vitabar ("nice and juicy," "excellent location"), American Style ("an Icelandic Hamburger if there ever was one")

(2009: Hamborgarabúlla Tómasar)

Best veggie burger:

Saffran

While last year's winner, Drekkinn, still offers up nice and cheap veggie burgers for the discerning carnophobe, Saffran's veggie burgers seem to have earned a reputation for being "inventive," "filling," and "luxurious." So they scored top vote this time around.

(2009: Drekkinn)

Best 'specialty burger':

Hamborgarafabrikkan

Last year, we called this category 'Best blue cheese burger' and awarded it to the very deserving Vitabar. We felt kinda stifled by the category, however, as it is pretty much a given that if you're picking a blue cheese burger, Vitabar will take home the prize, every time (you hear that Vitabar? You've just won our 'Best Reykjavík blue cheese burger, ever!' award!).

So we thought we'd expand it to 'Best specialty burger', effectively opening it up for all the fancy

and crazy burgers to be found around town. Almost immediately Reykjavík's newest burger joint, Hamborgarafabrikkan, took the prize. Our panel (and quite a few e-mails) agree that Hamborgarafabrikkan somehow manages to make even their most adventurous burgers (namely the 'Lamburger' and that crazy chicken breast thing they offer) exceedingly tasty and satisfying.

"It might be too zeitgeist-y and too packed at this point—and I'm not exactly a big fan of the celeb-owners—but you've gotta admit that once you've tried one of their specialty burgers you instantly develop a craving to try all the rest."

Best slice:

Deli

When we gave Deli the prize for 'best slice' last year, we argued that "getting a good pizza on the go can be an utter ordeal," since lots of them were cardboard wafers that had been sitting in heater boxes for a week. "Not at Deli, however. Their slices are consistently awesome and fresh, the topping selection is intriguing and tasteful, and, best of all, they're really cheap." After some minor debating this time around, we came to the conclusion that nothing had changed. Congrats, Deli. Your slices rule.

(2009: Deli)

Best drunken slice:

Devitos/Pizza King TIE

This was argued about. A lot (drinking and pizza: two things we care deeply about). Many claim that Pizza King are ready to claim the title away from last year's winners, Devitos. Both places offer pretty much the same pizza for the same price, but Devitos won last year as they had been doing it for longer and were deemed "more consistent in quality."

This time around the margin was even tighter, so in the end we thought they'd share the prize. It's our list, and we can do whatever we want with it. So this year's drunken slice award goes to BOTH Devitos ("greasy, salty, awesome") and Pizza King ("greasy, salty, awesome"), with Devitos getting minus points for being way up in 105 and Pizza King losing score due to sometimes-stale slices on offer, and the often rowdy crowd there late at night. But you need to try both.

(2009: Devitos Pizza)

Best pizza:

Gamla smiðjan

Gamla smiðjan won this one hands down. This very welcome addition to Reykjavík's pizza palette has been steadily winning over fans since they opened for business last year, and with good reason too. Operated by a group

of Eldsmiðjan old-timers (from when Eldsmiðjan was really, really good), Gamla smiðjan seem to handle every single order with care, love and respect. "What makes them great is a combination of the toppings, the crust and the attitude," one reader remarked in an e-mail, and this seems true. Now, while it's not the most charming place to eat out at, they do deliveries, and we've yet to receive a cold pizza from them.

Runners-up: Devitos Pizza ("so consistent!"), Eldsmiðjan ("they still bake a mean pie"), Saffran ("not your average pizza, but who needs average?")

(2009: Devitos Pizza)

Best place to go for ice cream:

Ísbúðin Ísland

Along with selling some really nice standard soft serve, Ísland offers all sorts of crazy flavoured scoops of the cold stuff (beer? Rhubarb?), straight from the farm where it's made in small batches. Many remarked that while "their hand-made stuff is quite pricey, you're willing to pay the price for that ice cream." They also get bonus points for having a bunch of literature on cows and sheep to read while one feasts. Make sure to try 'em!

(2009: Ísbúð Vesturbæjar)

Best bakery:

Sandholt

Sandholt won this category hands down. This downtown institution isn't the cheapest bakery in town, but it certainly offers some of the finest baked goods known to mankind. Try their cake, try their sandwiches, try their snúður. Just try them out.

(2009: Mosfellsbakari)

Best Indian food:

Shalimar

Shalimar took the prize this year, due to their "authentic ingredients," moderate pricing policy, "top-notch mango lhassies" and ability to make "proper, spicy food." "Just make sure you note that their menu items are usually much better than the day's specials," remarked one panellist. So we did.

(2009: Austur-Índía félagið)

Best Thai food:

Ban Thai

Again: Reykjavík is chock-full of high-quality Thai restaurants, but Ban Thai remains the greatest. Folks noted lots of reasons why: "They're only a tad higher priced than some of the places, but a lot better on quality and atmosphere." "It's like some sort of magic world in there!" "It's surprisingly fancy for the price." "Thai people eat there!"

(2009: Ban Thai)

Best coffeehouse:

"Kaffismiðjan OWN Reykjavík coffee these days. Why are we even debating this?"

(2009: Kaffismiðjan)

Best coffee to-go:

Café D'Haiti

Don't go there to sit all day: Café D'Haiti is tiny. Their specially imported Haitian beans, the way they brew them and the friendly manner in which they all come together to make it into a must-try cup of coffee, however.

Runner-up: Kaffifélagið ("that place has got some top notch coffee"), Kaffismiðjan ("they OWN coffee!")

(2009: Kaffifélagið)

Best sushi:

Sushibarinn

Sushibarinn scored the most votes in this category, with one Facebooker remarking: "These guys should definitely win for best sushi, but they are already so popular that the queues often deter me from getting my fix. Maybe it's best not to point them out to others?"

(2009: Sushismiðjan)

Best vegetarian:

Á næstu grösum

While vegetarian choices are becoming more numerous in Reykjavík as of late, the good people of Á næstu grösum remain at the top of this game. Large portions, vegan options and a nice location are some of what make them stand out—also, their food is pretty damn tasty!

Runners-up: Krúska ("yet to prove themselves, but still a damn tasty meal.")

(2009: Á næstu grösum)

Best hangover meal:

The Truck at Prikíð

This category always brings some very loud arguments, whether on e-mail or in person. Last year, we wound up hopelessly deadlocked, OJ trial-style, between the 'trucks' at Grái kötturrinn and Prikíð, before finally going with Grái kötturrinn (for the uninitiated, 'a truck' usually entails bacon, eggs, pancakes and various other fried delicacies). This time around, Prikíð won the vote. And it's probably a good thing, as their trucks are a tad cheaper, and when you're ready to bid a final adieu to your hangover their beer is pretty cheap too.

(2009: The Truck at Grái kötturrinn)

Best soup:

Most soups at Súpubarinn

Súpubarinn at Reykjavík Art Gallery (Hafnarhús) serves up some really delicious soup, for a pretty fair price.

They score many bonus points for their superb location; after viewing some nice art (or some Erró), you may sit down by a glass window overlooking the harbour and feast your heart out!

(2009: Lobster soup at Sægreifinn)

Best place for a fancy meal:

Dill

Dill came pretty close to winning this category last time around, and from what we can tell they have upped their reach and reputation just enough to take the prize in 2010. Folks REALLY love Dill from what we can tell, with some of the letters we got damn near dripping with the drool of overtly-impressed patrons. "Everything comes together at Dill," one reader noted, "The view is amazing, the service is top notch and the Nordic-style food is to die for," while another commented: "I really think they are the premier restaurant in Iceland today, even though their prices prevent me from going as often as I would like. Definitely the best fancy meal around."

Runners-up: We like to proudly exclaim that Reykjavík is a great place for fine dining, if you've got the money. Last year's winner, Gallery Restaurant at Hotel Holt, haven't lost a bit of their charm and are always a safe bet. Fish Company also got many votes, as did Primavera and The Grill at Hotel Saga. Win a lottery and try them all out for yourself ASAP.

(2009: Gallery Restaurant at Hótel Holt)

Best place for grocery shopping:

Melabúðin

Iceland really isn't the best place for grocery shopping, all things considered. Everything is overpriced, over-aged, and under-stocked, pretty much. But we are an island that relies heavily on imports, so maybe it's understandable in a way.

So while no one will deem grocery shopping in Iceland an especially fun or constructive practice (especially considering the fact that by spending money at some of the chains (well, all of them) you are "directly funding some of the banksters that fucked us all over," as one reader remarked), there are places that make it bearable-to-awesome (depending on your budget).

While last year's winners, Krónan, are still in many respect the place for bulk grocery shopping (they are slightly more expensive and better stocked, and slightly less evil than Bónus), this year our panellists near unanimously agreed that Melabúðin is the best place for grocery shopping in Reykjavík. Melabúðin "isn't the cheapest, but they provide the most satisfying and healthy shopping experience to be had in Reykjavík. The community feel is very generous and warming." Readers also loved the fact that they have working butcher and fresh fish tables, and noted that their selection of food is "staggering, especially in light of their



SUMAR GLEÐI



All over the country from July 7th to 31st

Morðingjarnir
Retron
Me, the Slumbering Napoleon
Reykjavík!
Swords of Chaos
Tape Tum (BE)
Stafrænn Hákon
Quadruplos
Kimono
Miri
Benni Hemm Hemm
Retro Stefson
Snorri Helgason
Nolo
Sudden Weather Change



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loops

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Vivian Høxbro (DK)
Helga Isager (DK)
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small size. It's a winner!"

Runners-up: Krónan, for being a less-evil Bónus. Bónus, for their comparatively ultra-low prices and accessibility. And as always, Kjötborg gets an honourable mention for offering the best service in the known universe. (2009: Krónan)

Best place to go for a date: Pisa

Italian restaurants seem to bring up the romantic side in our readers. Probably has a lot to do with all the pasta, red wine and candle light on offer we imagine. Or maybe, as one panellist noted last year: "Italian food gets you in the mood."

In any case, last year's winners, Ítalia, received many nominations this time around, but so did Italian stalwart Pisa on Lækjargata. In fact, they received a couple more than Ítalia, so it is our honour to deem them Reykjavík's "best place to go for a date" of 2010. Remarkable one reader: "The food on offer is just so gooooooood... and since it isn't a common place to go for a meal, you don't have to worry about bumping into workmates or friends there." (2009: Ítalia)

Best newcomer restaurant: Noodle Station

This didn't take long to figure out. While their menu is limited to two dishes (and not at all vegetarian-friendly), there's just something about Noodle Station's noodles that keeps folks hooked, like they're some sorta heroin-infused crack-noodles or something. The Station also provides "an international atmosphere that's been missing from Reykjavík." We don't know if they're actually sprinkling their noodles with crack (that's probably illegal), but we do know we're totally obsessed with the place. Welcome, Noodle Station! (2009: Saffran)

Best goddamn restaurant: Saffran

Saffran came in with a blast in early 2009, quickly winning a following for their cheap, plentiful and healthy-slanted (no sugar, no white wheat, lots of grain and spelt) take on Eastern cuisine. They've since opened up at a second location and even inspired a slew of 'Saffran-inspired' establishments all over town. We even hear they're going international now.

It's no wonder they're doing well. The food is consistently great and cheap ("I go there every week, and they have never messed up my order," remarked one patron), and varied enough to merit repeat visits. Last year, we decided that a 'best goddamn restaurant' must be "cheap + tasty + varied + fresh + novel + accessible". Phrases you readers used to nominate Saffran with were: "good, inventive cooking;" "consistent in quality," "affordable" and "attainable." So it was easy pickens. Congrats, Saffran, you are Grapevine's BEST GODDAMN RESTAURANT OF 2010!

(Sidenote: Frankly, we were afraid to even include this category, seeing as our 'BEST GODDAMN RESTAURANT OF 2009,' closed down pretty much right after we picked 'em. We're afraid it might be a jinx-category. But then again, we think 'best goddamn restaurant' is something that needs to be highlighted. So here's hoping that Saffran don't throw in the towel anytime soon). (2009: Segurmo at Boston)

Best family restaurant: Piri piri

"Piri piri just has to win your 'best family restaurant,' Grapevine! Have you seen their playroom? It's HUUUUUGE! The whole setup of the place also seems very family-oriented—they've been a regular Sunday stop for us and the kids since they opened. Also, the food is good, plentiful and cheap," read an e-mail we received the other day. So we

went there and checked it out, and we consulted with other family types out there. And thus it was concluded: Piri piri is Reykjavík's family restaurant of 2010.

Runners-up: Both Lauga-Ás and Hornið are still very good in this category, and a lot of folks swear by them. (2009: Hornið)

Best place to grab a bite: Deli

Deli seems to be a lot of folks favourites for this category, although they didn't win unanimously by any stretch. Nominations for this category were scattered across the entire spectrum, with everyone from Santa María (last year's winner) to KFC and Shell Select with their shrimp-dogs scoring votes. But ultimately Deli got the majority vote, and some convincing arguments to boot ("they're cheap and pretty high quality!" – "Not the best place to eat in, but most excellent as take away, i.e. a great place to 'grab a bite!'") (2009: Santa María)

Best cheap meal: Sub of the month' at Subway

As almost any working man or woman in Reykjavík will attest, Subway's 'sub of the month' sandwich is a real lifesaver for when you need to get a quick satisfying lunch. OK, it's Subway. But still – 370 ISK will get you a sandwich featuring some meatstuffs (that can be easily foregone) fresh veggies and a sauce of your choice. The price can't be beat, and if you figure out a nice combination for the sub it's pretty damn tasty.

Runners-up: Balkanika ("They are really cheap, especially considering all the meat")

Best brunch buffet: Nítjándá

After much urging from some of our panellists, we decided to bend the rules

a little so we could bring your attention to the brunch buffet at Nítjándá. Yes, it is in Kópavogur, but this place is definitely worth the short trip. Located on the 19th floor of Kópavogur's highest high-rise, they provide some truly fantastic all you can eat brunch along with a truly beautiful view. (2009: Vox)

Best restaurant chain: Serrano

Serrano specialises in huge and tasty burritos that come in all sorts of flavours, and they're supposedly rather healthy, too. Much like last year, our panel agreed that "Serrano is king of Reykjavík's restaurant chains, their argument boiling down to 'Serrano rules!'" (2009: Serrano)

Best seafood: Fish Company

Surprisingly enough, Reykjavík doesn't have that many places specialising in fresh seafood. But most of the ones around are actually pretty good, with Fish Market, Fish Company and Við tjörnina all doing some outstanding work in their field. Fish Company got the most votes this time around, though, with patrons remarking that their culinary skills and inventive menu wholly justified spending your week's wages on eating there.

Runners-up: Við tjörnina is a Reykjavík classic, with a lovely atmosphere to go with their excellent dishes, and Fish Market is pretty damn good too. They'll take the prize next year, probably. (New category)

Best place to go with a group of friends: Tapas Bar

Tapas Bar has long been the best place to go out with a group of friends in Reykjavík, and this likely won't change anytime soon. Their menu is

accommodating to both impoverished students and big spenders (and it suits most tastes), the food is good and the atmosphere is very fine for sitting, eating and drinking all night long. They also score points for operating a late night kitchen. (New category)

Best all-day hangout: Hressó

Hressó is one of those places that have long since earned an undefined "Best of" status in all our hearts. We go there almost daily, the coffee is always fine, the staff are nice and it's an excellent place to hang out. Hressó is a true 101 Reykjavík haven, doubly so if you're unlucky enough to be a smoker, in which case their heated patio rules very profoundly. (2009: Hressó)

Best must try dining experience: Moby Dick on a Stick at Sægreifinn

You will try some pylsa while you're in Iceland, unless you're all vegan and stuff. So there's no need for us to recommend that. Now, since you're not vegan, then you also must try some 'Moby Dick on a Stick' at Sægreifinn by Reykjavík harbour. These minke-whale skewers are cheap and delicious to munch on, plus you can piss off all your PC friends back home. Pure fun! (2009: Bæjarins Bestu)

Best tourist one-stop-shop: Kaffi Loki

Kaffi Loki at Lokastígur won this one uncontested. And it's not only a place where tourists can try all of Iceland's weird and wacky foodstuffs (as well as some decidedly delicious, un-weird dishes), it's also a great little café/bistro that locals love to frequent along with visitors. Definitely one of Reykjavík's up-and-comers, and already a champion in its own category. (New category)



Best pool (all-round): Laugardalslaug

It seems everyone has a favourite pool. This isn't really surprising given the fact that going to the pool is pretty much Icelanders' (old and new) favourite hobby. In fact, all of the pools in town got mentioned, and even some out of town ones (the pools in Seltjarnarnes and Kópavogur, for instance). In the end, we decided to go with Laugardalslaug yet again, since they are pretty much 'the mall' of Icelandic pools, offering up a wide array of hot tubs, a freaking excellent new disco slide and some nice kiddie facilities. But the rest of them rule equally hard, so be sure not to discriminate. Deciding which pool you're visiting on a given day is always a fun task.

Runners-up: Every other pool in Reykjavík. And outside of Reykjavík. They all rule. Pools rule! (2009: Laugardalslaug)

Best pool (for hot tubbing, lounging): Sundhöll Reykjavíkur

Sorry to be repetitive, but there's really none better than Sundhöll Reykjavíkur for hot tubbing. The tubs are hot and relaxing, and venturing through their dressing room is a worthwhile

experience in itself. It's also right in the middle of downtown, and it is an architectural miracle, goddamnit!

Runners-up: Vesturbæjarlaug ("The tub talk gets intense in there! It's an excellent place to meet people...") (2009: Sundhöll Reykjavíkur)

Best art museum: Listasafn Reykjavíkur

Listasafn Reykjavíkur have been doing an excellent job as of late. The shows on display span everything from grassroots offerings to highbrow high-art, they regularly feature some very interesting lectures and events – and they are an excellent place to go for soup (not really an art museum's job, but still a nice bonus). Our panellists agreed that the Listasafn Reykjavíkur team have been doing a great job, and they deserve a big ol' pat on the back. Good work, team! (2009: Einar Jónsson museum and sculpture garden)

Best gallery: i8 Gallery

As one commentator remarked: "in Iceland, i8 Gallery are truly in a league of their own. Even though many of the other ones are doing well for themselves, there will be a long time until they reach the standard set by i8." (2009: Gallery Kling og Bang)

Best museum: Þjóðmenningarhúsið

Their current 'Icelandic film' exhibit (see more elsewhere in this issue) makes Þjóðmenningarhúsið ("The Culture House") a shoo-in for this category. It really is worth spending the day there. Since you're into museums, be sure to check out Þjóðminjasafn Íslands and Árbæjarsafn too, though. They are also pretty excellent.

Best place to spend a rainy day: A hot tub

While Borgarbókasafnið didn't get any worse since winning this category last year (indeed, you will have a good time spending a rainy day there – or a hot and sunny one, for that matter), many readers were intent on pointing out the pleasures of any of Reykjavík's hot pots for a rainy day distraction. Who are we to argue? (2009: Borgarbókasafnið)

Best place to rent a movie: Laugarásvideó

Laugarásvideó burned to the ground shortly after winning this category last year. Then they rebuilt. And they somehow managed to retain their 'biggest fucking film, TV show and whatever else that's pressed to DVD collection in Europe' status throughout the transition. Laugarásvideó: our hats are permanently off to y'all! Stay strong. (2009: Laugarásvideó)

Best biking tour: Ægissíða-Elliðaárdalur

Alright. We all know biking around is a fun, healthy and excellent way to kill some time. Last year, we big-upped the Grandi-Nauthólsvík route, which is great for coastline sightseeing, picnic-eating and general getting-some-wind-in-your-face-and-being-all-joyous-about-life. This year, we're going to shift our sights a little, but not too much. Instead of starting at Grandi, you should start at Ægissíða, bike past Öskjuhlíð and Nauthólsvík and go all the way to Elliðaárdalur. Once there, you can find a nice spot by the river, munch on some lunch and ponder life. It'll be good – we promise. (2009: Grandi-Nauthólsvík)

Best place to go for a walk: Þingholt

Strolling through the Þingholt

neighbourhood in 101 Reykjavík is always a life-affirming experience. There are all sorts of tiny streets to be explored, noisy parties to be passed-by and cuddly cats to greet. The houses are all tiny and lovely, and the air smells of trees and parties past. A fine place to stroll along daydreamin', especially as twilight sets in. (2009: Laugardalur)

Best romantic walk: Sæbraut

This might sound cliché, but walking Sæbraut as the sun sets (or rises – we can barely tell these days to be honest) with a loved one, stopping to take in the super-popular photo-op sculpture Sólfar as well as Yoko Ono's Peace Column (when it's turned on, in winter), is pretty goddamn romantic. If the weather's right and the sun colours the sky, there's really nothing better. Bonus points for being an easy cab-hailing point, if the mood strikes ya. **Runner-up:** Öskjuhlíð. 'Cuz we love it. (2009: Öskjuhlíð)

Best place to go for a jog: Laugardalur

Our panel of expert joggers agreed that Laugardalurinn is without doubt THE place to jog in Reykjavík. It has lots of things going for it: it's almost never windy, there are several paths of differing length available, and you can go swimming afterwards. You can also jog through the Reykjavík Botanical Gardens, and they just smell so lovely! (2009: Elliðaárdalur)

Best place to go fishing: True, Elliðaá

True, Elliðaá has the salmon, but **any dock in Reykjavík** will provide ample quantities of bull rout and pollock. While you shouldn't technically eat dockfish, sitting at the harbour and pulling some up can be a real treat. (2009: Elliðaárdalur)

Best place to go gay cruising: Öskjuhlíð

While gay cruising in Reykjavík will usually take place on the internet or at a club or bar, Öskjuhlíð is often named as a primary location for informal male hook-ups in the Reykjavík gay community, mostly due to the fact that it's peaceful, beautiful and free. It is a cruising place reminiscent of big cities' parks, although you can't really expect to score so much. But if you do, you can bet it's interesting.

Runners-up: On weekends, Barbara is a solid place for gay adventures (for both genders, too!). It's also a totally nice bar. Dudes that make dress code should also try and find out the location for the local (secret) Leather Bar, proudly serving Iceland's leather community for years.

Best place to enjoy a Zen moment: Sit in front of Alþingi

and have a Zen moment, will you? It seems like it really needs it. (2009: Reykjavík Botanical Gardens)

Best place to cheer up: Húsdýragarðurinn

Nothing has changed since last year, so we'll just repeat what we said then: Some people like revelling in their misery when The Blues attack. That is all fine and well, and gives ample opportunity to enjoy some good old depressing music. Sometimes, though, you'll wish for a speedy recovery so you can get back into the happy rhythm of life, and what better place to do so than at Húsdýragarðurinn – Reykjavík's very own petting zoo. Animals are awesome, and funny.

If the baby seals don't cheer you up, and the piglets don't cheer you up, and he sheep don't cheer you up, and none of the other animals do.... you probably don't stand a chance.

The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE iNFO



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How to use the listings
Venues are listed alphabetically by day.
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2 FRI

- Apótek**
00:00 House DJ
- Bakkus**
DJ Della Rósa
- Barbara**
21:00 Sing-a-long screening of *Rocky Horror*.
23:00 Viggó & Víóletta in *Rocky Horror*
1000 ISK. Free drink if dressed as a character!.
- Café Óliver**
Ladies Night, 3 for 1 mojitos & strawberry daquiris. DJ Maggi all night.
- Café Rosenberg**
21:00 Ryan Karazija and Ferlegheit.
- Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live music.
- Den Danske Kro**
22:00 Live music.
- Dubliner**
22:30 Live music.
- English Pub**
20:30 Live music.
- Hressó**
Dalton followed by DJ Fannar.
- Kaffibarinn**
DJ KGB
- Karamba**
23:45 DJ Pablo Pedersen
- P**
Cocktails and Lounge music.
- Prikiö**
22:00 Dóri DNA and Beggi, then DJ Monshine.
- Sódóma**
23:00 Pearl Jam Tribute. 1000 ISK.
- Venue**
22:00 Fortið, Forgarður Helvítis, Wistaria, Carpe Noctem.

3 SAT

- Apótek**
00:00 House DJ
- Bakkus**
DJ KGB
- Café Óliver**
Tropical Girls Night. 3 for 1 on pina colodas & sex on the beach. DJ Maggi
- Café Rosenberg**
21:00 Hera Hjartardóttir and Band.
- Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live music.
- Den Danske Kro**
12:00 Live music.
- Dubliner**
22:30 Live music.
- English Pub**
20:30 Live music.
- Hallgrímskirkja**
12:00 International Organ Summer, Christian Præsthólm plays Bach, 1000 ISK.

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Havari
16:00 Music & Art, featuring music by Nóra and art by Julia Staples, Ásdís Sif, and Morri.

Hressó
22:00 Ímynd followed by DJ Fannar.

Kaffibarinn
DJ Maggi Legó

Karamba
22:00 Blæti Reunion
23:45 DJ Gisli Galdur

P
Cocktails and Lounge music.

Prikiö
22:00 Árni Kocoon

Sódóma
23:00 Mínus and Agent Fresco. 500 ISK.

4 SUN

Café Óliver
Summer Sunday banana split á la Óliver. 900 ISK & live music.

Den Danske Kro
12:00 Live music. Beer for 600 ISK after 19:00.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Hallgrímskirkja
17:00 International Organ Summer, Christian Præsthólm plays. 1500 ISK.

Prikiö
22:00 Hangover movie night, 5th Element. Bruce Willis shake only 650 ISK until 22:00.

5 MON

Bakkus
Movie night, showing *Husbands*.

Café Óliver
Margarita Monday, 2 for 1 on margaritas & live music.

Café Rosenberg
21:00 Silfurberg.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Prikiö
21:00 Fortune teller. Red wine & cheese for 2, only 1000 ISK. DJ Blush.

6 TUE

Café Óliver
Live karaoke with Raggi Troubadour. Beer/wine 600 ISK.

Café Rosenberg
21:00 Eddie Walker, the british guitarist will be playing. 1000 ISK.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Prikiö
FIFA Worldcup on the big screen. Beer only 350 ISK. DJ Krúsi.

7 WED

Bakkus
DJ Laufey

Café Óliver
Kiwi Party & live music.

Café Rosenberg
21:00 Fimm í Tango

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Hallgrímskirkja
12:00 International Organ Summer, chamber choir Schola Cantorum Reykjavicensis. 1000 ISK.

Prikiö
23:00 DJ House.

Sódóma
22:00 Kimi Records Summer Fun Tour with Reykjavík!, Morðingjarnir, Retrön, Swords of Chaos & Me The Slumbering Napoleon.

Venue
22:00 LOMAS (loads of music and shit) with Munnfylli af Galli, Ojbarasta, Frankie Teardrop.

8 THU

Bakkus
DJ Einar Sonic

Café Óliver
Ingó weathergod. Beer for 600 ISK.

Café Rosenberg
21:00 Melchior, Album release show.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Hallgrímskirkja
12:00 International Organ Summer, Lára Bryndís Eggertsdóttir plays organ. 1000 ISK.

Hressó
22:00 Offside

Kaffibarinn
DJ Halli Valli

Karamba
21:00 DJ Siggí Sivertsen

Prikiö
17:00 Coxbutter.

Thorvaldsen
16:30 Salsa Night. 16:30 beginners, 21:30 everyone

9 FRI

Apótek
22:00 DJ Aki

Bakkus
Villa Reykjavík, DJ Árni Sveins & DJ Honky

Café Óliver
Ladies Night, 3 for 1 mojitos & strawberry daquiris. DJ Brynjar Már all night.

Café Rosenberg
21:00 Hrafnaspark "Jass".

Celtic Cross
01:00 Live music.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
20:30 Live music.

Havari
17:00 Villa Reykjavík House Band Open Rehearsal.

Hemmi & Valdi
Live band & DJ.

Hressó
22:00 Silfur followed by DJ Fúsi

Kaffibarinn
Sexy Lazer

P
Cocktails and Lounge music.

Prikiö
22:00 Jenni & Franz then Danni D.

Venue
Villa Reykjavík

10 SAT

Apótek
22:00 DJ Aki

Bakkus
Villa Reykjavík, DJ Kári.

Café Óliver
Tropical Girls Night, 3 for 1 on pina colodas & sex on the beach. DJ Brynjar Már.

Café Rosenberg
22:00 Ragga Gröndal and The Fancy Toys.

Celtic Cross
01:00 Live music.

Den Danske Kro
12:00 Live music.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
20:30 Live music.

Hallgrímskirkja
12:00 International Organ Summer, Dame Gillian Weir plays the organ. 1000 ISK.

Havari
17:00 Villa Reykjavík House Band Open Rehearsal.

Hressó
22:00 Menn followed by DJ Fúsi

Kaffibarinn
Alfons X

P
Cocktails and Lounge music.

Prikiö
23:00 Addi Intro.

Venue
Villa Reykjavík

11 SUN

Bakkus
Villa Reykjavík

Café Óliver
Summer Sunday banana split á la Óliver 900 ISK & live music.

Café Rosenberg
21:00 **Halla Norðfjörð.**

Den Danske Kro
12:00 Live music. Beer for 600 ISK after 19:00.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Hallgrímskirkja
17:00 International Organ Summer, **Dame Gillian Weir** plays the organ. 1500 ISK.

Havari
14:00 Villa Reykjavík House Band Open Rehearsal.

Prikið
22:00 Hangover movie night, **Never-ending Story**. Free popcorn.

Venue
Villa Reykjavík

12 MON

Bakkus
Villa Reykjavík

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Café Óliver
Margarita Monday 2 for 1 on margaritas & live music.

Café Rosenberg
21:00 **Markús Bjarnason & The Diversion Sessions**, album release show.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Prikið
Red wine & cheese for 2, only 1000 ISK.
DJ Blush.
21:00 Fortune teller.

Venue
Villa Reykjavík

13 TUE

Bakkus
Villa Reykjavík

Café Óliver
Live karaoke with **Raggi Troubadour**. Beer/wine 600 ISK.

Café Rósenberg
21:00 Three singers.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Havari
17:00 Villa Reykjavík House Band Final Concert.

Prikið
FIFA Worldcup on the big screen. Beer for just 350 ISK. **DJ Gauti.**

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum
20:30 **Trio MMX** perform music for woodwinds. 1500 ISK.

Venue
Villa Reykjavík

14 WED

Bakkus
Villa Reykjavík, **DJ Óli Dóri**

Café Óliver
Kiwi Party & live music.

Café Rósenberg
21:00 **Cathlín Lesperance.**

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Hallgrímskirkja
12:00 International Organ Summer, chamber choir **Schola Cantorum Reykjavicensis**. 1000 ISK.

Hressó
22:00 **Offside**

Prikið
23:00 **DJ House.**

Sódóma
22:00 Kimi Records Summer Fun Tour with **Kimono, Stafrænn Hákon, Quadroplos, & Tape Tum.**

Venue
Villa Reykjavík

15 THU

Bakkus
Villa Reykjavík, **Músikólski**

Café Óliver
Live music by **Ingó Weathergod**. Beer for 600 ISK.

Café Rosenberg
21:00 **Klezmer-Kads.**

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Hallgrímskirkja
12:00 International Organ Summer, **Sigrún Magna Þórsteinsdóttir** plays the organ. 1000 ISK.

Hressó
22:00 **Jogvan og Vignir**

Karamba
22:00 **DJ Santiago**

P
2-for-1 white wine and Grolsch beer.

Prikið
Ripp Rapp & Rupp with **Mc Gauta**

Music & Entertainment | Venue finder

Amsterdam Hafnarstræti 5 D2	Celtic Cross Hverfisgata 26 E4	Þorvaldsenstræti 2 E3
Apótek Austurstræti 16 E3	Dillon Laugavegur 30 F5	Nýlenduvörurverzlun Hemma & Valda Laugavegur 21 E4
Austur Austurstræti 7 E3	Dubliner Hafnarstræti 4 D3	Næsti Bar Ingólfrstræti 1A E3
B5 Bankastræti 5 E3	English Pub Austurstræti 12 D2	Óliver Laugavegur 20A F5
Babalú Skólavörðustígur 22 G5	Glaumbar Tryggvagata 20 D2	Ólstofan Vegamótastígur E4
Bar 11 Laugavegur 11 E4	Highlander Lækjargata 10 E3	Prikið Bankastræti E3
Barbara Laugavegur 22 F6	Hressó Austurstræti 20 E3	Rósenberg Klappargata 25 E4
Bjarni Fel Austurstræti 20 E3	Hverfisbarinn Hverfisgata 20 E4	Sódóma Reykjavík Tryggvagata 22 D3
Boston Laugavegur 28b F5	Jacobsen Austurstræti 9 E3	Sólon Bankastræti 7A E3
Café Cultura Hverfisgata 18 E4	Kaffi Zimsen Hafnarstræti 18 D3	Thorvaldsen Austurstræti 8 D2
Café Paris Austurstræti 14 E3	Kaffibarinn Bergstræðastræti 1 E4	Vegamót Vegamótastígur 4 E4
Balthazar Hafnarstræti 1-3 D2	Karamba Laugavegur 22 F4	Venue Tryggvagata 22 D3
	NASA	

Den Danske Kro
Kro Bodega Pub

World Cup 2010
watch all matches at **Den Danske Kro**

Icelandic & Danish beer on draft and more Gammel Dansk than you will ever need. (plus sandwiches & snacks)

Monday's
Shot's night - all shots ISK 500

Tuesday's
Live music

Wednesday's
POP-QUIZ night (special offer on drinks) & Live music

Thursday's
Live Music / Scandinavian nights

Friday's
Live music / Sing-along nights

Saturday's
TUBORG Classic



Happy Diversions
Markús & The Diversion Sessions
21:00 @ **Café Rósenberg**

After the bitter-sweet departure of the much-loved Skátar last summer, singer Markús Bjarnason returns to the scene with his debut album 'Now I Know'. The album includes songs that have been piling up for 10 years, the man now goes by the moniker Markús & The Diversion Sessions and steers clear of noisy prog-rock, instead concentrating on pop and acoustic sounds. In light of this, he will be playing at Café Rósenberg in promotion of his new release. Warming up will be his friend Þóra Björk, performing songs from her album I Am A Tree Now. Come celebrate this momentous occasion for just 800 ISK, and don't forget to purchase a copy of his new album! **AY**



Toy Tour!
The Fancy Toys & Ragnheiður Gröndal Tour Round Iceland
All over Iceland!

London-based band The Fancy Toys is collaborating with Icelandic singer and pianist Ragnheiður Gröndal for their upcoming tour around Iceland. The Fancy Toys is comprised of James Duncan and Mickael who both play some crazy instruments. A bubble gun, glockenspiel, ukulele, stylophone, melodeon and the shoe-tambo are some of the fancy toys you can expect to see on stage. Their catchy tunes will sure to bring out your inner child (unless you are a child and you'll just seem normal). They are playing in Akureyri on July 7th at 21:00, Húsavík on July 8th at 21:00, Mývatn on July 9th at 22:00, and in Reykjavík on July 10th at 22:00. **EB**

SATURDAY JULY 3rd
WE CELEBRATE NEW ARTISTS IN GALLERY HAVARÍ:
JULIA STAPLES
ÁSDÍS SIF GUNNARSDÓTTIR
ÓMAR HAUSSON
MORRI WILL BRING IN ERRÓ
AND NÓRA WILL PERFORM SONGS FROM THEIR DEBUT ALBUM

THIS EVENT STARTS AT 4PM

Haha
haha
haha
varí

RECORD STORE
// ART GALLERY

AUSTURSTRÆTI 6 // 101 REYKJAVÍK

Sódóma REYKJAVÍK

July 2nd **Pearl Jam Tribute** (alt-grunge)
11pm: 1000kr

July 3rd **Mínus** (alt-hardcore) and **Agent Fresco** (alt-rock)
11pm: 500kr

July 7th **Kimi Records Summer Fun Tour Pt. 1**
10pm **Reykavík!** (indie), **Morðingjarnir** (punk), **Swords of Chaos** (hardcore), **Retrön** (progressive), **Me The Slumbering Napoleon** (indie-rock)

July 14th **Kimi Records Summer Fun Tour Pt. 2**
10pm **kimono** (indie-punk), **Stafrænn Hákon** (alt-experimental), **Quadruplos** (experimental IDM), **Tape Tum** (pop)

July 15th **NEI! free concert**
8pm **Árstíðir** (acoustic), **Myrra Rós** (singer/songwriter), **Lay Low** (singer-songwriter), **Orphic Oxta**, **Bróðir Svartúlfs** (rock-hiphop), **Agent Fresco** (alt-rock), **Fræbblarnir** (punk)

July 16th **Beneath** (death-metal)
10pm

Sódóma Reykjavík Tryggvagata 22, 101 RVK
www.facebook.com/sodomareykjavik
www.twitter.com/sodomarvk

Numismatic Museum



The Central Bank and National Museum of Iceland jointly operate a numismatic collection that consists of Icelandic notes and coins, foreign money from earlier times, especially if mentioned in Icelandic sources, and more recent currency from Iceland's main trading partner countries. A selection from the numismatic collection is on display in showcases on the ground floor of the Central Bank's main building.

Situated in the Central Bank's main building in Kalkofnsvegur 1, Reykjavík. Open Mon.-Fri. 13:30-15:30. Free admittance.



KAFFIBARINN

NEW BAR MENU
South Africa 2010 offer: Viking beer and food for ISK 1000,-
www.facebook.com/kaffibarinn

No photographing allowed



3 July

SKRILLINGIN gegn ÁKARVALDINU



SAMSTÖÐUATÞURÐUR MEÐ NÍMENNINGUNUM SEM ÁKÆRDIR ERU FYRIR ÁRÁS Á ALÞINGI
Nýbúastúdíó - Hólavágsstr. 10 - Laugavegur 1, 101 - 11. 07. 2010

Bring Your Rebel Yell
The Mob Against The Prosecution
The Living Art Museum @ 17:00 - 22:00
Free

Be sure to stop by this solidarity event going down at Nýló - The Living Art Museum - this Saturday. The event is in support of the notorious "Reykjavík Nine," the protestors who have been accused of disrupting the peace during a session of parliament in the January protests of last year. The Nine are currently standing trial. Many Icelandic musicians, artists, writers, and poets will be performing at this event, including Einar Már Guðmundsson, Ragnar Kjartansson, Sara Björnsdóttir, Arnljótur Sigurðsson, Reykjavík! and more. Be sure to get out there and show some love. **AS**

Trve Bldk!
Fortíð & guests
July 2, Venue @ 22:00, 18+
July 3, TPM @ 20:00, All ages
Both concerts 1500 ISK

This is a long awaited homecoming. After moving off to Norway a few years back, homegrown Black Metal legend Eldur is returnin with his band Fortíð. A prolific and renowned artist of the genre almost everywhere except in Iceland, Eldur is also known for his solo projects, such as Curse and Potentiam. Now fresh off the release of the final album of their Völuspá trilogy, Fall Of The Ages, Fortíð will descend upon Reykjavík in all their grim glory.

The first of their shows this weekend is on Friday night at Venue, and will be supported by crazy grindcore guys Forgarður Helvítis, death metallers Wistaria and blackest-of-Black Metal band Carpe Noctem. This one is only for the adults, kids, but on Saturday at TPM a.k.a. The Cave, they will play an all-ages gig with an ALL BLACK METAL line up! Saturdays starter acts are Chao, Pissanthrop and Atrum. Be sure to get all corpse-painted and stuff. **RL**

BIRGIR ANDRÉSSON
TUMI MAGNÚSSON
ROMAN SIGNER
10.07.2010 - 30.09.2010

Skafffell CENTER FOR VISUAL ART

EXHIBITIONS, HAPPENINGS & CONCERTS at THE WESTWALL GALLERY & THE BOOKSHOP-PROJECTSPACE are planned on short notice - see program on Skafffell's homepage

AUSTURVEGUR 42 | SEYDISFJÖRDUR | SKAFTFELL.IS



3 July - 24 July

Painting Sites

Ingunn Fjöla Inghórsdóttir @ Gallery Ágúst

This month Gallery Ágúst invites you to view a piece of art work from within. Artist Ingunn Fjöla Inghórsdóttir lets the viewer experience art through sight, mind and kinetic energy in her exhibition Painting Site. As the viewer enters the gallery they will witness painted chipboards propped into an upright position which one can walk between, creating a spacial artistic atmosphere. Each chipboard presents an individual piece of art, but as you move further the plates gradually intertwine to reveal the entire project. The idea is to transform the viewer's idea of the visual to the physical as one uses their body to journey through each piece of art to the next. Go check out the opening on July 3 at 16:00 and maybe you too can experience this spiritual awakening. **AY**



2 July

The Denton Affair

Rocky Horror Sing-A-Long & Cabaret
Barbara @ 21:00

Viggó and Víóletta present the first of many Cabaret Nights at Barbara. This Friday the entertainment starts at 21:00 with a rompous sing-a-long screening of The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Take part and throwdown with your best Time Warp, plead along with Janet for someone to touch-a touch-a touch-a touch you and laugh at this uproarious screening. If you dress up as your own favourite Transylvanian you can score yourself a free drink.

After the screening, Viggó and Víóletta take to the stage and perform a cabaret-inspired rendition of various scenes from the notorious musical. It's sure to be a wild night, filled with corsets, fishnets, and spiked heels. Come along for the ride to the Frankenstein's place. **AS**

Outside Reykjavík | Venue finder

<p>Keflavík Suðsuðvestur www.sudsudvestur.is Hafnargata 22 230 Reykjanesbær 421-2225</p>	<p>Akureyri Akureyri Art Museum www listasafn.akureyri.is Kaupvangsstræti 12 600 Akureyri 461 2610</p>	<p>Egilsstaðir Státurhúsið Kaupvangi 7 700 Egilsstaðir 470-0692</p>
<p>Hafnarfjörður Hafnarborg www.hafnarborg.is Strandgata 34 220 Hafnarfjörður 585-5790</p>	<p>Populus Tremula poptrem.blogspot.com/ Kaupvangsstræti 12 600 Akureyri</p>	<p>Seyðisfjörður Skafffell www.skafffell.is Austurvegur 42 710 Seyðisfjörður 472-1632</p>
<p>Borgarnes The Icelandic Settlement Centre www.landnam.is Brákarbraut 13-15 310 Borgarnes 437-1600</p>	<p>Kunstraum Wohnraum Ásabyggð 2 600 Akureyri</p>	<p>Hveragerði LÁ Art www listasafnarnesinga.is Austurmörk 21 210 Hveragerði 483-1727</p>
<p>Stykkishólmur Vatnasafnið / Library of Water www.libraryofwater.is</p>	<p>Mývatn Mývatnsstofa Hraunvegi 8 660 Mývatn 464-4390 www.visitmyvatn.is</p>	

OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

CONCERTS & EVENTS IN JULY

PRESCRIBING WITH LOVE
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EXPERIENCE

How to use the listings
Venues are listed alphabetically by day.
For complete listings and detailed
information on venues visit
www.grapevine.is

MUSIC

2 FRI

Blue Ice Band

21:00 Tjarnarborg, Ólafsfjörður
Blues Festival in Ólafsfjörður. Playing
with **The Dirty Deal Blues Band** and
Devil Train.

Hjaltalín

Krúsin, Ísafjörður
Playing with **Lára Rúnars**.

Ljótu Hálfvitarnir

22:00 Græni Hatturinn, Akureyri

3 SAT

Eddie Walker

21:00 Vinaminni Café, Westman
Islands
British guitarist and singer will be play-
ing. Free entry.

Gæðablóð

21:00 Tjarnarborg, Ólafsfjörður
Blues Festival in Ólafsfjörður. Playing
with **Mood** and **Segulbandið**.

Hjaltalín

Félagshéimilið, Þingeyri

Ljótu Hálfvitarnir

22:00 Græni Hatturinn, Akureyri

4 SUN

Hjaltalín

Sjórnáningjahúsið, Patreksfjörður

Kristinn Árnason

16:00 Gljúfrasteinn, Mosfellsbær
Classical Guitar. 1000 ISK.

Ljótu Hálfvitarnir

22:00 Græni Hatturinn, Akureyri

6 TUE

7 WED

Hjaltalín

Kaffi Bjarnanes, Skagaströnd
Playing with **Lára Rúnars**.

Ragga Gröndal & The Fancy Toys

21:00 Græni Hatturinn, Akureyri

8 THU

Hjaltalín

Græni Hatturinn, Akureyri
Playing with **Lára Rúnars**.

Ragga Gröndal & The Fancy Toys

21:00 Gamli Baukur, Húsavík

9 FRI

Eddie Walker

21:30 Allinn, Siglufjörður
British guitarist and singer will be play-
ing.

Hjaltalín

Græni Hatturinn, Akureyri
Playing with **Lára Rúnars**.

Ragga Gröndal & The Fancy Toys

22:00 Gamli Bærinn, Mývatn

10 SAT

Árstíðir

22:00 Græni Hatturinn, Akureyri

Hjaltalín

Siglufjarðarkirkja, Siglufjörður

11 SUN

Matthías I. Sigurðsson & María

Arnadóttir

16:00 Gljúfrasteinn, Mosfellsbær

Performance on clarinet and piano.

13 TUE

Hjaltalín

Samkomuhúsið, Hrísey

Playing with **Lára Rúnars**.

14 WED

Hjaltalín

Reykjahliðarkirkja, Mývatn

K-Trió

21:00 Græni Hatturinn, Akureyri

15 THU

Hera

21:00 Græni Hatturinn, Akureyri

ART OPENINGS

Tengja

Café Karólína, Akureyri

July 3 - August 6

Exhibit featuring photographs by **Hrefna**
Harðardóttir.

Rhyme

Akureyri Art Museum

July 3 - August 22

Works by **Ásmundur Sveinsson**.

Æring

Salt House, Stöðvarfjörður

17:00 July 3 - July 29

Art festival featuring artists from Crymo
gallery as well as many other Icelandic
and foreign artists.

Art Feast 1

Icelandic Folk and Outsider Art

Museum, Akureyri

July 11 - September 5

50 pieces by multiple artists.

ART ONGOING

Akureyri Museum

Treasure

Runs until September 15

Twenty Photographers in Akureyri and
Surroundings 1858-1965 Eyjafjörður in
the early period.

Árnesinga Folk Museum, Eyrar-

bakki

11:00 - 18:00 May 15 - September 15

Café Karólína, Akureyri

Stúlka / Tussa

Runs until July 2

15:00 Hanna Hlíf Bjarnadóttir intro-
duces her new exhibition where she
has stitched words which identify with
women, in both positive and negative
ways.

The Folk Music Centre, Siglufjörður

13:00 - 17:00 all June

Gamli Baukur, Húsavík

Let's Talk Local

15:30 Comedy show about Reykjavík,
2200 ISK/1100 ISK for kids.

The Ghost Centre, Stokkseyri

Night at the Ghost Museum

An offer for two to spend a scary night at
the Ghost Centre. 3500 ISK.

Hafnarborg, Hafnarfjörður

Formal Discipline

Runs until August 22

Exhibition of work by Eiríkur Smith.

Hótel Varmahlíð

Horses & Men

Runs until January 1, 2011

Photographic exhibition which looks into
the history of the horse, spanning 100
years.

The Husavik Whale Museum

Whale & Marine Exhibit

9:00 - 19:00 all June, July & August

Includes detailed info about whale
habitat, biology, ecology, strandings &
history in Iceland

The Icelandic Settlement Centre,

Borgarnes

The Egil Saga/ Settlement Exhibition

In these exhibitions The Settlement Cen-
tre tells the sagas of Iceland's settlement
and Egill Skallagrímsson, Iceland's most
famous viking and first poet.

The Kópavogur Art Museum

July 3 - August 22

Summer exhibit.

Ljósafoss Power Station

Nature In Design

June 19 - August 28

Exhibition of Icelandic designers who
find inspiration in nature.

Mosfellsbær Gallery

Moso Mongo Memory Mix

June 5 - July 3

Snorri Ásmundsson introduces his
surprise exhibition.

Pompei of the North, Westman

Islands

Excavation project at the site of the
1973 volcanic eruption on the island of
Heimaey.

Reykjanes Art Museum, Reykjanes-

bær

11:00 - 17:00 every weekday, 13:00 -

17:00 every weekend.

Safnahus Museum

Aquarium & Museum of Natural His-

tory in Vestmannaeyjar

Mounted birds & fish, aquarium, and
rocks & mineral display.

Skaffell Centre for Visual Art

Ásgeirs Emilsson's Art and Life

Ongoing till July 10.

Shedding light on the extraordinary
artist and opening a window into his
unique mind. Part of the Reykjavík Arts
Festival 2010.

Skógar Museum, Hvolsvöllur

9:00 - 18:00 all June, July & August

by the sea
and a delicious lobster
at Fjörubordid in Stokkseyri



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



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VÍKING

Best little
concert venue in Akureyri

Fri. 2. July Ljótu Hálfvitarnir
Sat. 3. July Ljótu Hálfvitarnir
Wed. 7. July Fancy Toys & Ragnheiður Gröndal
Thu. 8. July Hjaltalín
Fri. 9. July Hjaltalín
Sat. 10. July Árstíðir
Wed. 14. July K-Trio
Thu. 15. July Hera
Fri. 16. July Todmobile
Sat. 17. July Todmobile

For further informations
on upcoming events and concerts go to:
www.facebook.com/graenihatturinn

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HÚSID Á EYRABAKKA
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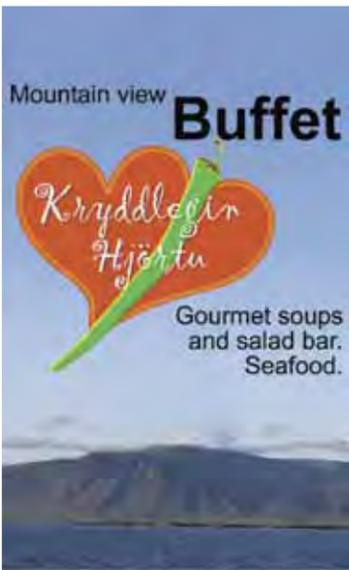
- 1200 m² Elves, Trolls and Northern Lights Museum
- 1000 m² Ghost Museum
- 24 Icelandic ghost stories in German, English, French, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese and Russian

• visit our souvenir shop in Hainarstræti 4 Reykjavík and our museums at Stokkseyri •



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Skúlagata 17
101 Reykjavík
www.kryddleginhjortu.is
Tel: 588-8818



Restaurante Sankta Maria
Laugavegur 22
Tel : 552-7775

Brunch 11:00 to 15:00
Brunch 9 Euro = 1190 kr
over 30 dishes + soup and hot new bread

750 kr = 4 EURO =
Open from 11:00 to 22:00

MAP

Places We Like

1 Prikíð

Bankastræti 12

Prikíð is one of those places that shape-shifts. It's a warm café lined with photographs of its senior frequenters on weekdays, a hung-over hangout on weekend afternoons, and during nights it's filled to the brim with what remains of Iceland's hip hop scene. Go there in daytime for the cheap burgers; enter at night for some OTT hip-hop debauchery, old skool and the latest bangers alike. SKK

2 Havarí

Austurstræti 8

Even before it opened, Havarí was everybody's favourite new music and design store. Headed by Svavar Pétur and Berglind of Skakkamanage, the shop shills the musical goods of Kimi Records, Borgin Hljómplötur, gogoyoko and Skakkapopp as well as posters, art, design products and clothing. CF

3 Santa Maria

Laugavegur 22

On Laugavegur, Santa Maria offers a fairly extensive menu of Mexican dishes and drinks at a really reasonable price – possibly some of the best in the city. The décor is colourful and welcoming, the portions are generous and the service is fast and friendly. Recommended. CF

4 Hemmi og Valdi

Laugavegi 21

The "colonial store" Hemmi and Valdi is a cosy hangout that has advanced from being a toasty retreat, where one can score cheap beer and have a quiet chat, into being a chock-full concert venue and an all-night party place. And believe us, the atmosphere is brilliant. SKK

5 Café d'Haiti

Geirsgata

The first time I entered this exotic little joint, meaning to buy myself a take-away espresso, I ended up with two kilos of fresh and roasted coffee beans due to some language complications and way too much politeness. Since then I have enjoyed way-too-many wonderful cups of Haitian coffee, but they're always as nice, so the two kilos were definitely worth it. SKK

6 Habibi

Hafnarstræti 18

This small restaurant offers up a concise menu of delicious Arabic cuisine, from shawarma to kebabs and falafels. The staff is really friendly and accommodating of requests to kick up the spiciness or tone it down if the customer so desires. Habibi seriously hits the spot after hours of partying (or any other time of day) so it's convenient that the place is allegedly open until 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday (although their advertised opening hours are sometimes not adhered to). CF



7 Iðnó

Vonarstræti 3

If you want to treat yourself to a scintillating feminist monologue then why not swing by Iðnó, where they're showing Icelandic play Cellophane, a raving comedy show that's been conveniently translated into English for y'all non-Icelandic speakers. The play centres around a sassy mom trying to do the impossible: Becoming a successful career woman, maintaining the perfect marriage, all whilst looking like she just stepped onto the catwalk. More info at www.reykjavikbyday.com AY

8 Karamba

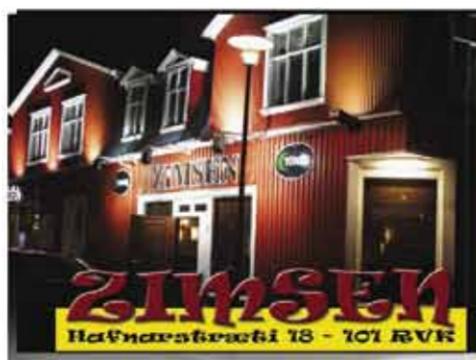
Laugavegur 22

Downtown hotspot Karamba is a colourful and eclectic bar on Laugavegur with a comfortable atmosphere, typically great music and a chill crowd. This is a good place to relax or to do some serious drinking or to relax. Plus, their decors are done strictly by Grapevine-friendly artists, such as Lóa (who does our comics), Huggleikur Dagsson and Bobby Breiðholt (who's done a lot of nice illustrations for us); they are truly a sight to behold. CF

9 Grái Kötturinn

Hverfisgata 16a

Super relaxed and cozy diner/café below street level. This place makes the best hangover breakfast ever (the truck!) and any-other-day breakfast as well. It's a nice and relaxing place to eat and increase your caffeine intake and chill with friends or with some reading material. CF



Mondays
Best Friends Day
Large Draft 3 €

Wednesday
Playday
Offers @ the bar when the bell rings

Thursday
Ólafsvaka
Large Draft 3 €

One day closer to being the oldest bar in ICELAND

The grand opening of Villa Reykjavík is coming close – 9 July 2010. 14 European galleries are setting up an international art district, each with its own space, and each preparing its own exhibition. The most important events as part of Villa Reykjavík are planned for the first week of the project. The idea of meeting, which is the leitmotif of the entire undertaking, will be present in the programme of performances, screenings, and concerts. Visit the exhibitions and join us during the opening week! **Admission free!**



VILLA REYKJAVÍK

This summer in Reykjavík, when the sun almost does not set, 14 European galleries will establish an international art district.

Opening Week, 9-16 July 2010

To get lost in Reykjavík

Fake applause, embarrassment, apologies, no-show at his own show – in his performances Oskar Dawicki can very charmingly disenchant the public, at the same time seducing it and luring into a joint play with the conventions of art. This time, his plan is to get lost in Reykjavík. And not just to get lost himself, but also lose all the things he gets his hands on. If you have anything to lose – bring it to one of the meetings with the artist (see program).



Firma Portretowa

Art Makes Us Drunk

Finally! The embarrassing relations between art and vodka shall be revealed!

The two elements will clash on screen as part of a project *Art Makes Us Drunk*. The set includes films by Gilbert and George, Dara Birnbaum, Piotr Żyliński or Firma Portretowa (Portrait Company), which smoothly reconcile the experience of getting drunk with that of aesthetics, and which tell about a peculiar type of transformation, a metaphor of the chemical nature of all our mental processes. They are a dream about the force of art, their immediate and dazing effect.

Reykjavík Art Museum – Hafnarhús, Tryggvagata 17
10 July, 15.00; 16 July, 15.00

Pierre Bismuth

Rain from Belgium will evaporate in Reykjavík.

Pierre Bismuth's project, prepared by Jan Mot gallery especially for Villa Reykjavík, has begun some time ago in Brussels, where the artist collects rainwater and sends it to Iceland to be reintroduced to the atmosphere. It will be possible to observe the process in detail in front of the old fish halls.

Geirsgata 11



photo courtesy IBID Projects, London

William Hunt

The opening week will end with a performance by William Hunt. This London based artist is known for his spectacular actions, in which he merges the element of art with elements of nature. One of his most amazing performances is *Put Your Foot Down*, where William sings in a car completely filled with water. In *The impotence of radicalism in the face of all these extreme positions*, he sings and plays the guitar hanging upside down. The setting for his project in Reykjavík is the sea, there will also be the always present music.

seashore, 16 July, 22.00



photo courtesy Foksal Gallery Foundation, Warsaw

Guma (Mr Rubber)

Who is Guma? In collaboration with young people from the Warsaw district of Praga, Polish artist Paweł Althamer has created a statue of the local bum, an anti-hero who was, however, the good spirit of the neighbourhood, seen every day in front of the local liquor store standing on wobbly legs. For reason of his specific posture and the nickname, the statue was cast in rubber. The peculiar sculpture by Althamer, which served as model for Guma's statue, will be on display at Foksal Gallery Foundation.

Tryggvagata 18



Kitty Travers, Rhubarb Ice-creams

When visiting Warsaw four years ago, Kitty Travers created an extraordinarily tasting ice-cream in the flavour of Prince Polo chocolate bar and the local Żywiec beer. In subsequent years she became one of the best known ice-cream chefs in London.

When she visits new places, she likes to discover new flavours. Now, Kitty is going to spend a week working in Reykjavík. When asked about possible flavours to be found in Iceland, she lists: Organic Milk, Cream and Yoghurt from dairy cattle who are fed on wild grasses and seaweed, caramelised Geysirbread (Rye Bread baked for 20 hours in geothermal steam vents), Rhubarb, Wild Cherries, Brown Sugar & Surmjolk (soured milk), Glacier Water Ice Lollies, Sea Salt. The results of her extraordinary ice-cream experiments will be served in various places, for instance on Wednesday, 14 July at House of Ideas.

Havari live music project

Villa Reykjavík is not only exhibitions, performances, film screenings, and partying. It is also a project about unexpected neighbourhoods. A group of Icelandic musicians with a guest group of musicians from Poland have decided to give the meeting an artistic form: a spontaneously formed houseband will improvise during the open daily sessions in Havari, each day at 17.00, each time for around half an hour. The final, experimental Tuesday mix, will be recorded and released in a limited edition.

Austurstræti 6



photo Adam Tarasiuk

Paristetrís

Paristetrís is "a rough fragmented band that can be split into parts, each of which (its members) is, at least approximately, a reduced-size copy of the whole band," a property known as self-similarity. Natural objects that are similar to Paristetrís include clouds, mountain ranges, lightning bolts, coastlines, snow flakes, various vegetables (cauliflower and broccoli), and animal coloration patterns. Though all these are worse coz they're finite. This phenomenal band will play a gig closing the first day of Villa Reykjavík.

Bakkus / Venue, Tryggvagata 22, 9 July, 22.00

The Bust of an Accidental Hero

Louis-Auguste Cyparis, known as Samson, was one of two people to have survived the eruption of Mt. Pelee on 8 May 1902, which wiped out the entire town of St. Pierre on Martinique and killed 20 thousand of its inhabitants.

He survived because a few days before the disaster he had been incarcerated in a small cell of the local prison. Soon he became a popular member of Barnum & Bailey Circus, where he was presented as the "Lone Survivor of St. Pierre." When in residence in Martinique in 2009, artist Rafał Bujnowski decided to revive the contemporary memory of Cyparis. The project will be completed with the unveiling of a monument – created on the basis of portrait photographs which have remained – in the premises of the St. Pierre museum, not far from the prison cell which saved Samson's life. The massive bust, cast in volcanic ash collected on the beaches of St. Pierre before the trip to Martinique, is on display at the "Fate Away" exhibition at Raster gallery.

Vesturgata 10 - 10a

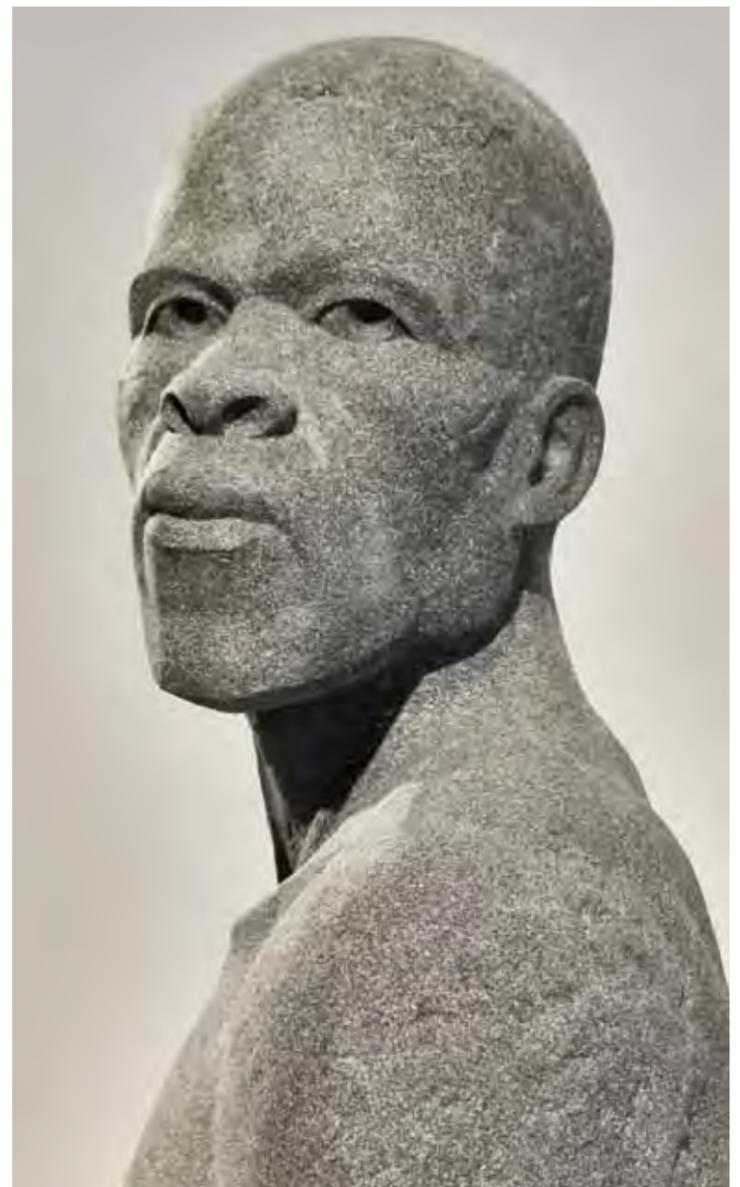


photo courtesy Raster, Warsaw



Gúlsún Karamustafa, *Bosphorus 1954*, 2007

Tropical Iceland

"Tropical Iceland" is the title of an exhibition prepared by Sylvia Kouvali, director of the Istanbul Rodeo gallery. "This exhibition is about tourist expectations, failures and shut horizons" – says Sylvia – "My fantasy of Iceland has always been that of a tropical place; no palm trees and sand dunes; just icy forests and ethereal sounds coming from the blue lagoons; Björk and Sigur Rós. The island diagonally opposite from where I grew up on the other side of the continent has always been a 'dream destination' as for others is Greece, Cyprus or the Canary Islands."

Geirsgata 11



photo courtesy i8, Reykjavik

Elín Hansdóttir

Elín Hansdóttir is one of the most intriguing representatives of young generation artists from Iceland. Her works take many forms, including architectural installations, photographic works, and sculptures. She creates self-contained worlds that seem to operate under their own set of rules, completely transforming a benign space into one that defies expectations and seems only to exist at a particular moment in time. Elín's solo exhibition as part of Villa Reykjavík is presented by gallery i8.

Tryggvagata 16



Blood Music

Make it Happen

One of the special guests of Villa Reykjavík is the Stockholm-based independent music label, Make it Happen, co-founded by Johanna Billing – a prominent video artist (her newest film is presented by Hollybush Gardens gallery from London). Make it Happen will present two concerts: Blood Music and Cloud and Lightning. Blood Music has existed in many shapes and forms; from a minimal one man band with a tiny keyboard to an 18-piece orchestra full of woodwind instruments and strings, but Karl-Jonas Winqvists (one of Sweden's most personal and unique voices) ingenious lyrics and stories always remain at the centre. Cloud and Lightning is a duo consisting of Ylva Ceder and Patric Thorman. They have backgrounds in both jazz, free improv and classical music, as well as folk/americana. Make it Happen – in Reykjavík!

Blood Music – Bakkus / Venue, Tryggvagata 22, 11 July, 22.00

Cloud and Lightning – Kling & Bang Garden Party, Hverfisgata 42, 10 July, 19.00



Anna Hrund Másdóttir and Sigríður Torfadóttir Tulinius
The Garden Project

Kling & Bang Garden Party

Kling & Bang Gang is a new energetic collaboration between Kling & Bang and the youngest generation of the Reykjavík art scene, adding new force to the now well established gallery, and resulting in a genuine Saturday night fever – a garden party around and on top of the Kling & Bang gallery. Sculptures by local artists will be revealed in the atmospheric melting pot of the new art scene. Live music, BBQ-ing, massive summer heat, social hanging-out and cold drinks – all in green...

Hverfisgata 42, 10 July, 19.00



photo courtesy Foksal Gallery Foundation, Warsaw

Swineherd

Wilhelm Sasnal is known to be one of the most intriguing painters of the recent decade. The artist is equally fascinated by painting, as he is by music and film. The visionary "Swineherd" is the first full length feature made by Sasnal. Its plot, inspired by Andersen's fairy tale under the same title, is set in a grotesque black and white scenery of a post-war Polish farmstead. The work is an intriguing, dramatic mix of strange characters, symbolic props, and dynamic seductive images.

Háskólabíó, við Hagatorg, 13 July, 20.00

T 72

T 72 is a popular type of a Soviet tank manufactured since the 1970's, which, unfortunately, has been tested in regular military operations on numerous occasions, beginning with the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

A T 72 will now remain parked for three weeks in an old fishery in the harbour of Reykjavík, being, most probably, the first ever tank in the history of Iceland – luckily, only in an inflated version. The author of the project, presented by Berlin's Johann König Gallery, is German artist Michael Sailstorfer.

Geirsgata 11



Michael Sailstorfer, *T 72 (sand)*, 2008, inflatable tank dummy, 4 air conveyer, Siemens control system, 220 Volt or 110 Volt, courtesy Johann König, Berlin, photo Alexis Zavialoff, ©VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn

Calendar

9 FRI

G 17.00
Havarí live music project

A B C D 18.00
Johann König
Hollybush Gardens
Rodeo
Jan Mot
i8
Foksal Gallery Foundation
Jocelyn Wolff
Croy Nielsen
IBID Projects
Raster
Zero
exhibition openings

F 22.00
Paristetris, Sudden Weather
Change, Stafrænn Hákon
concert

10 SAT

E 15.00
Art Makes Us Drunk
screening

G 17.00
Havarí live music project

J K I 18.00
Kling & Bang
Hunt Kastner
Tulips & Roses
exhibition openings

J 19.00
Kling & Bang Garden Party
Quadruplos
Cloud and Lightning
concert

F 22.00
Afterparty

11 SUN

G 14.00
Havarí live music project

E 15.00
Grzegorz Królikiewicz
Through and Through
screening

A 17.00
Oskar Dawicki
performance

F 22.00
Blood Music, Antykrystyna
concert

13 TUE

E 15.00
Along the Line
screening

G 17.00
Havarí live music project
Houseband
final concert

J 18.00
Oskar Dawicki
performance

Janek Simon
lecture

L 19.30 - 21.00
Darri Lorenzen, 90 Minutes
from Where You Are Now
video loop

L 20.00
Wilhelm Sasnal, Swineherd
screening

F 22.00
Paula & Karol, Pascal Pinon
concert

14 WED

N 15.00
Kling & Bang Gang
Whirlpool
screening

N 17.00
Prinz Gholam
performance

Oskar Dawicki
performance

Paula & Karol
concert

Kitty Travers
ice cream

F 22.00
Mr Silla, Swords of Chaos,
dj Wiktor Skok
concert

15 THU

E 15.00
Mancuška / Selg / Smetana
screening

A 17.00
Kling & Bang Gang
Domains of Joyful
Degradation
performance

F 20.00
Block party

16 FRI

E 15.00
Art Makes Us Drunk
screening

M 22.00
William Hunt
performance

Galleries

D
Croy Nielsen (Berlin)
"Flotsam and Jetsam"
Jacob Dahl Jørgensen
Simon Dybbroe Møller

C
Foksal Gallery Foundation
(Warsaw)
Paweł Althamer
Cezary Bodzianowski
Piotr Janas
Anna Molska
Wilhelm Sasnal
Monika Sosnowska

C
Galerie Jocelyn Wolff (Paris)
Guillaume Leblon
Prinz Gholam

A
Hollybush Gardens (London)
"I am Lost Without Your
Rhythm"
Johanna Billing

K
Hunt Kastner (Prague)
"The Lost Highway"
Alena Kotzmannová
Tomáš Vaněk

B i8 (Reykjavík)
Elín Hansdóttir

D
IBID Projects (London)
"A Gesture You Can't
Help but Make"
William Hunt

A
Jan Mot (Brussels)
Pierre Bismuth

A
Johann König (Berlin)
Michael Sailstorfer
Johannes Wohnseifer

J
Kling & Bang (Reykjavík)
"Darkness carried in (again)"
Arnfinnur Amazeen
"The Garden Project"
Anna Hrund Másdóttir
Sigríður Torfadóttir Tulinius

D
Raster (Warsaw)
"Fate Away"
Michał Budny
Rafał Bujnowski
Oskar Dawicki
Zbigniew Rogalski
Janek Simon

A
Rodeo (Istanbul)
"Tropical Iceland"
Ziad Antar
Vartan Avakian
Banu Cennetoğlu
Haris Epaminonda
Emre Hüner
Gülsün Karamustafa
Christodoulos Panayiotou

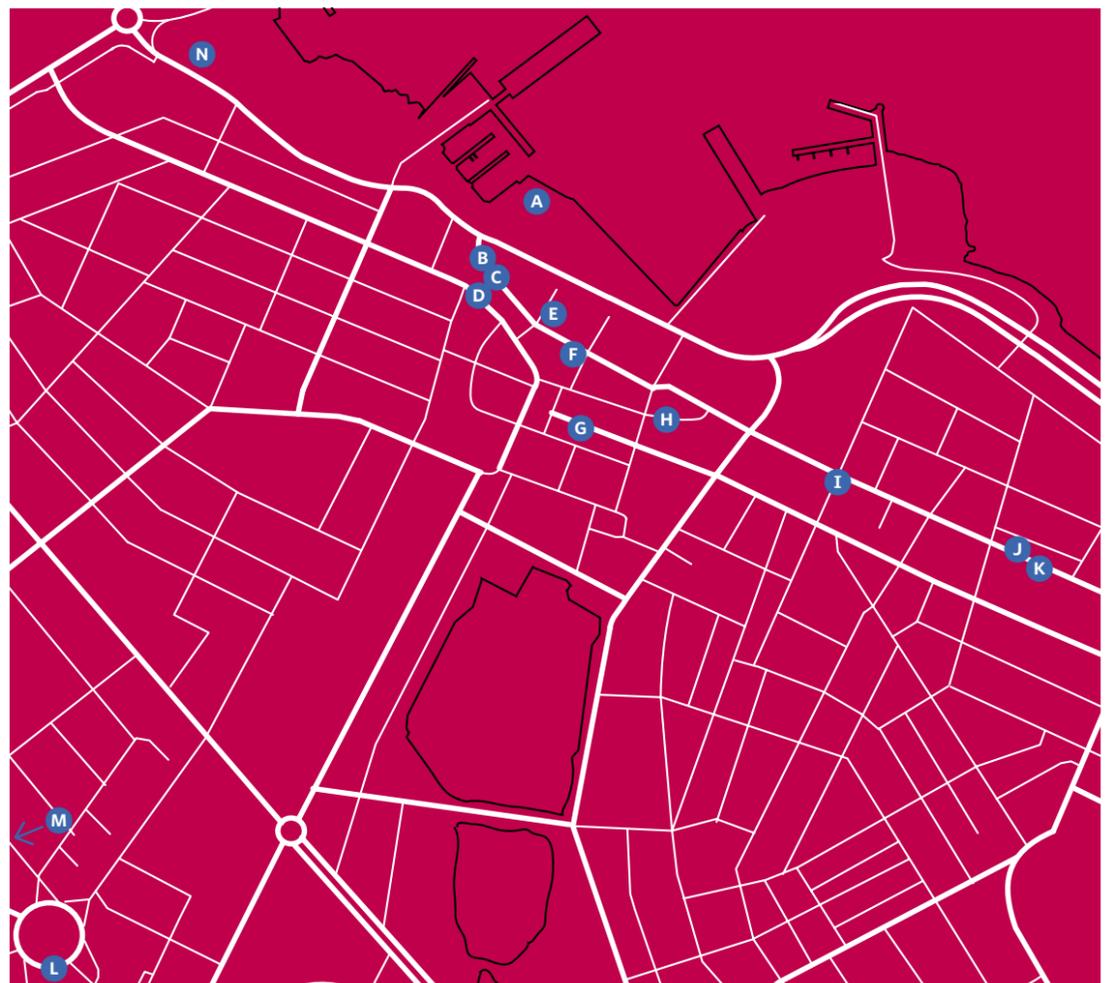
I
Tulips & Roses (Vilnius)
Jesse Ash
Liudvikas Buklys
Gintaras Didžiapetris
Martijn in't Veld
Juozas Laivys
Rosalind Nashashibi

D
Zero (Milan)
Giorgio Andreotta Calò
Micol Assaël
Anthony Burdin
Alex Cecchetti
Jorge Peris

Opening Time

10-16 July, daily, 12.00-18.00

17-31 July,
Tuesday - Saturday, 13.00-17.00
Kling & Bang:
Thursday - Sunday, 14.00-18.00



- A** Fishery, Geirsgata 11
- B** i8, Tryggvagata 16
- C** Tryggvagata 18
- D** Vesturgata 10 - 10a
- E** Reykjavík Art Museum Hafnarhús, Tryggvagata 17
- F** Bakkus / Venue, Tryggvagata 22
- G** Havarí, Austurstræti 6

- H** CIA, Hafnarstræti 16
- I** Næsti Bar, Ingólfsstræti 1a
- J** Kling & Bang, Hverfisgata 42
- K** Kaffistofa, Hverfisgata 42
- L** Háskólabíó Cinema, Hagatorg
- M** Seashore
- N** Hugmyndahús / House of Ideas, Grandagarður 2

Project organized by Raster - www.raster.art.pl



Supported by a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.





For a map of outside downtown Reykjavik check out links on www.grapevine.is or the Icelandic phonebook website www.ja.is

10 Austur

Austurstræti 7

Sleek and shiny, this new restaurant and bar is a straight-up boutique hot spot for stylish kids and trendy professionals alike. Appropriate for formal business meetings but casual enough for the roll-out-bed-at-5pm crowd, they serve up ample, satisfying, modern dishes at reasonable prices. This is also one of the rare places to get a full breakfast all day long. RL

11 Bakkus

Tryggvagata 22 – Naustarmegin

A new and welcome addition to Reykjavik's bar scene, Bakkus serves up reasonably priced beer, a really impressive selection of international vodkas and an atmosphere unlike any other in town. An eclectic mix of patrons, regular live music and movie nights keep this place interesting and always inviting. Expect dancing on tables and to-the-death foosball battles. CF

12 Á Næstu Grösum

Laugavegur 20b

Á Næstu Grösum is an all vegetarian restaurant right in the city centre that features a friendly atmosphere and fair prices. There is always at least one vegan soup on offer and the daily special portions are big and always satisfying. They even serve organic wine, if that's your bag.

13 Babalú

Skólavörðustíg 22

Located on the second-floor of a quirky little building on Skólavörðustígur, Babalú is an inviting, quaint and cosy café serving up a selection of tea, coffee and hot chocolate along with delicious baked goods and light meals. Food and drink aside, Babalú boasts colourfully decorated and super-comfortable surroundings and a genuinely friendly and likeable staff. CF

14 Kolaportið

Tryggvagata 19

Reykjavik's massive indoor flea market is a wonderful place to get lost for a few hours, rummaging through stall upon stall of potential treasures. There are heaps of used clothing, knitwear and other yard-sale type goods from decades of yore, and a large food section with fish, meats and baked goods. Check out the vintage post cards and prints at the table near the army surplus. CF

15 Hressó

Austurstræti 20

You know, Hressó is basically the only place I go for coffee. Why? Their coffee is decent to excellent, but their forte is surely their wonderful patio, where you can enjoy the spring breeze in the sun, wrap yourself in a blanket beneath an electric heater in January and at all times: smoke. They boast of quite the prolific menu, and they've finally removed Nickelback from their playlist. Thank you, Hressó! SKK

16 Grænn Kostur

Skólavörðustíg 8b

Serving healthy organic vegan and vegetarian food for well over a decade, Grænn Kostur is the perfect downtown choice for enjoying light, wholesome and inexpensive meals. Try any of their courses of the day, or go for the ever-pleasing spinach lasagne.

17 Kisan

Laugavegur 7

This store is incredibly cool. It's stocked with really unique and quirky clothes, outerwear, accessories and handbags, plus they have an adorable section of kids clothes, kitschy vintage toys and books and even interior design items. Wicked place; definitely worth a visit. CF

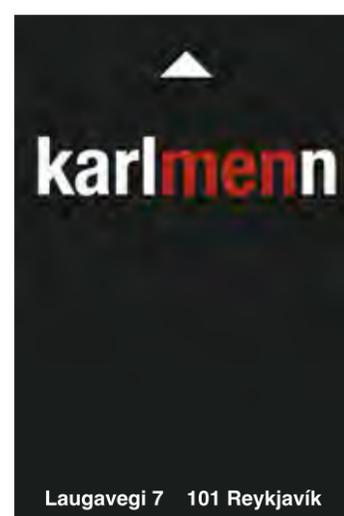
18 Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

Weekends are somewhat overrated at Kaffibarinn. Oh, of course they're brilliant if you're completely pissed, the DJ is fresh and the crowd is full-blooded. Still, the weekdays are even better. It doesn't matter when you pop in, you're always treated like a pal rather than a customer, and you should always expect get caught in some shenanigans, whether it's a crazy Monday bender or a whacky Tuesday... well... bender. SKK



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ART

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS IN JULY

COCKTAIL PLEASURES AND VISUAL STIMULATION

How to use the listings: Venues are listed alphabetically by day. For complete listings and detailed information on venues visit www.grapevine.is

OPENING

The Mob Against The Prosecution Living Art Museum

July 3, 17:00

Event in support of the Reykjavik Nine.

Olgeir Andresson & Johann Smari City Hall

July 3 - July 18

Photography exhibit from two winners of the Photographer of the Year award.

Painting Site Gallery Ágúst

16:00 July 3 - July 24

Exhibit by Ingunn Fjola Ingðorsdóttir.

Eau De Parfum

Spark, Klappartígur 33

July 8 - July 31

An exhibit from Andrea Maack, with special focus on projects that involve collaboration between designers and other professions.

Fantastic Friday

Downtown Reykjavík

July 9, 12:00 - 14:00

All over downtown many art groups will be showcasing their work, which includes dance performances, singing, art, and more.

City Hall

July 15, 20:00

The last showing from Reykjavík's summer art groups. See the best of their summer creations.

Elín Hansdóttir

i8

July 9 - August 21

Old News

Living Art Museum

July 10, 17:00

Not-for-profit newspaper exhibits a selection of articles and images.

Papercut Art Exhibition

Nordic House

July 10 - August 15

Exhibition by papercut artist Karen Bit Vejle.

The Expression Of Colour

ASÍ Art Museum

July 10 - August 29

Exhibition featuring 20th Century Icelandic artists.

ONGOING

Arbæjarsáfn / Reykjavik City Museum

Summer Program

June 1 to August 31

Outdoor heritage museum.

Art Gallery Fold

From The Bowels Of The Earth

Photography exhibition of the volcanic eruptions in Iceland this year, which brought photographers from all over the world. Ongoing all summer.

ASÍ Art Museum

On With The Margarine!

June 12 - ongoing

Exhibit featuring slogans and installations by Hlynur Hallsson and Jóna Hlíf

Halldórsdóttir.

The Culture House

Medieval Manuscripts

Permanent Exhibition:

Icelanders

February 3 - ongoing

Ongoing until September.

Exhibit featuring a selection of photographs from the book "Icelanders" by Unnur Jökulsdóttir and Sigurgeir Sigurjónsson.

ICELAND :: FILM

Ongoing exhibition.

Traces the evolution of Icelandic filmmaking, exploring myths versus modernity.

The Nation and Nature

Thirty-minute film about the relationship between humans and nature. Film plays continuously during open hours.

Downtown Reykjavík

Reality Check, an outdoor exhibition curated by Æsa Sigurjónsdóttir.

The Library Room

Ongoing exhibition

National Archives of Iceland - 90 years in the museum building. Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Culture House.

The Dwarf Gallery

Ongoing exhibition.

An independent art gallery with ongoing exhibitions. It's located in an old basement. Do you really need to know any more than that?

The Einar Jónsson Museum

Permanent exhibition:

The work of sculptor Einar Jónsson.

Gjúfrasteinn Laxness Museum

Ongoing exhibition.

Gjúfrasteinn was the home and workplace of Halldór Laxness (winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955).

Havarí

Runs until August 31.

Exhibiting work from The Icelandic Love Corporation, Sigga Björg, Hugleik Dagsón, Lindu Loeskow and Sara Riel.

Iðnó

Cellophane

English comedy show, every Thursday and Sunday at 20:00. Shows from July 4 - July 22 are just 2900 ISK after that 3400 ISK.

Mokka

Ólan

Runs until July 22.

Painting exhibition by Einar Baldvin.

National Gallery of Iceland

Cindy Sherman - Untitled Film Stills

Runs until September 5.

American photographer Sherman plays with female film fantasies in self-portraits.

Edvard Munch

Runs until September 5.

Prints in the collection of the National Gallery.

Strides

Runs until December 31, 2012.

A selection of the Gallery's collection from the 20th and 21st century.

The National Museum

Permanent exhibitions:

The Making of a Nation

Heritage and History in Iceland is intended to provide insight into the history of the Icelandic nation from the Settlement to the present day.

Ása Wright - From Iceland to Trinidad

Collection of objects that belonged to the adventuress Ása Guðmundsdóttir.

Embroidery of Life

Embroidery by Guðrún Guðmundsdóttir.

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OPIÐ TIL 22:00

ART

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS IN JULY

inspired by old manuscripts

The Nordic House

Land Of Experiments

Ongoing until September 30

Interactive exhibit based on scientific contraptions from Tom Tits Experimentarium in Sweden. Play!

Nordic Knit Festival

Runs until July 4

Ráðhús Reykjavíkur

Dulín Himintungl

Kim Linnet exhibits her 360° panorama photos of Iceland.

Reykjavík 871 +/- 2

The Settlement Exhibition

Permanent exhibition:

Reykjavík Art Museum

Hafnarhús

Erró - Portrett - Dolls

Runs until August 29.

Collection of Erró's paintings and collages of pre-war era dolls.

Vanitas

Runs until August 29.

Still-life in contemporary Icelandic art. Curator's talk with Hafþór Yngvason on June 6 at 15:00.

In the Collection of Imperfection

Runs til August 29.

Pieces from city archives and other collections, gathered by Unnar Örn J. Auðarson. Explores the nature of museums and archiving.

Nudes - Gary Schneider

Runs until August 29.

South African born photographer presents 30 life-size portraits of nude men and women.

Reykjavík Art Museum

Kjarvalsstaðir

Photo & Graph family workshop

Runs until August 22.

An ongoing workshop on what's behind a photo.

Alternative Eye

14 May to 22 August.

Selected photographic works from the

collection of Pétur Arason and Ragna Róbertsdóttir.

Kjarval - Key Works

Runs until August 29.

Retrospective on Iceland's most beloved painter.

Reykjavík Art Museum

Ásmundarsafn

Sleep Light

Runs until April 17, 2011.

Multimedia installation by Ráðhildur Ingadóttir.

Thoughts In Forms

Runs until April 17, 2011.

The workshop of sculptor Ásmundur Sveinsson, recreated.

"I choose blossoming women ..."

Runs until April 17, 2011

Woman as Symbol in the Art of Ásmundur Sveinsson.

Reykjavík Maritime Museum

The Coast Guard vessel Óðinn

Permanent exhibition

The Óðinn took part in all three Cod Wars and is open for exhibition.

Reykjavík Restaurant

Let's Talk Local

18:00 Comedy show about Reykjavík, 2200 ISK/1100 ISK for kids.

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum

Who is who?

Ongoing

A Moment with Sigurjón Ólafsson

Ongoing

Reykjavík Museum of Photography

Interlude No. 6

June 4 - July 27

An exhibition featuring traditional Korean group dancing by Yunjoo Kwak.

Thomsen & Thomsen

Runs until August 29

An exhibition of portrait photographs and views from Reykjavík, from two different times and two photographers.

www.landnam.is

THE SETTLEMENT CENTRE

In two exhibitons it tells the Saga of The Settlement of Iceland and Iceland's most famous viking and first poet Egill Skallagrímsson.

It gives the traveler a good foundation for further knowledge when traveling in Iceland.



Brákarbraut 13-15, 310 Borgarnes
Phone: +354 4371600
landnam@landnam.is

NEW



RENT A

SMART GUIDE

The Smartguide takes you on a journey around the setting of The Saga of viking cheftain and poet Egill Skallagrímsson. With the help of GPS navigation the Smartphone detects your exact location, upon which your guide automatically begins narrating, just as if he were with you in person. A unique and personal experience. Available at The Settlement Centre in Borgarnes

Languages:



Art | Venue finder

101 Gallery

Hverfisgata 18A | E3
Thu-Sat 14-17 and by appointment
www.101hotel.
is/101hotel/101gallery/

Artotek

Tryggvagata 15 | D2
Mon 10-21, Tue-Thu 10-19, Fri 11-19, Sat and Sun 13-17
www.sim.is/index/islenska/Artotek

ASÍ Art Museum

Freygata 41 | G4
Tue-Sun 13-17

Árbæjarsafn

Kistuhylur 4

The Culture House

Hverfisgata 15 | E4
Open daily 11-17
www.thjodmenning.is

Dwarf Gallery

Grundarstígur 21 | H6
Opening Hours: Fri and Sat 18-20
www.this.is/birta/dwarfgallery/
dwarfgallery1.html

The Einar Jónsson

Einksgata | G4
Tue-Sun 14-17
www.skulptur.is

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Gallery Fold

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this.is/klingogbang/

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Austurstræti 6 | E3

Hitt Húsið

Pósthússtræti 3-5 | E3
www.hitthusid.is

i8 Gallery

Tryggvagata 16 | D2
Tue-Fri 11-17 / Sat 13-17 and by appointment. www.i8.is

Living Art Museum

Skúlagata 28 | F6
Wed, Fri-Sun 13-17 / Thu 13-22.
www.nylo.is

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Alternative Eye



Key works



Nudes



I choose women who thrive . . .



Portraits



In the Collection of Imperfection

Reykjavík Art Museum

Hafnarhús

28 May 2009 - 12 Sep 2010

Erró - Portraits

20 May - 29 Aug

Vanitas - Still-life in Contemporary Icelandic Art

28 May - 12 Sep

Erró - Portraits

Dolls

15 May - 29 Aug

Nudes - Gary Schneider

20 May - 29 Aug

In the Collection of Imperfection - Unnar Örn J. Auðarson

Kjarvalsstaðir

14 May - 31 Dec

Kjarval - Key works

14 May - 22 Aug

Alternative Eye - Selected photographic works from the collection of Pétur Arason and Ragna Róbertsdóttir

14 May - 22 Aug

Photo&graph - An educational workshop for the family

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Jamie Oliver’s Diary

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REVIEWS

Healthy Eats and Raw Treats

After weeks of yummy, slurpy noodles; cheesy, greasy pizza; meaty, bready burgers; luxurious high-end treats and lowest of the low-end eats, the Grapevine needed some culinary TLC—some healthy bites to revitalise the body and keep us in good condition for enjoying the way too short summer months. Nothing says ‘health’, ‘vitality’ and ‘TLC’ quite like a yoga studio or a detoxifying retreat, so, presumably the food offerings associated with these feel-good havens should follow suit.

Love it Raw



It’s fitting that the restaurant sharing a building with the Rope Yoga studio in Laugardalur is called Gló—it seems to capture the very feeling of completing an intense session of stretches and poses, with newly loosened muscles and a sense of accomplishment. Indeed, many of the patrons of Gló on the day of my visit appeared have just left the studio looking for something rich in vitamins and antioxidants and natural ingredients to refuel with. I just went there to eat.

Gló is an airy and casual space just through the doors of Engjateigur 19, flooded with the light streaming through the atrium windows. On a large chalkboard to the right of the food counter the specials of the day are listed—I chose the ravioli with pine nuts and salad (1490 ISK); my date chose the sweet and sour chicken with salad (1490 ISK).

Upon making my order I was told that the ravioli I was requesting was on Gló’s raw menu and wasn’t really ravioli in the traditional sense at all. No, it wasn’t ravioli at all, though it was a creative take on the typically heavy pasta dish. Gló’s ravioli was a purée of pine nut sandwiched between two raw slices of beetroot—it was interesting. I am a big fan of beetroot—so sweet and earthy—and I’m a big

fan of pine nut, which in this case took on a smoky flavour that reminded me somewhat of bacon, though I’m certain there was no such thing in the mix; but the two together in this arrangement didn’t do it for me. The raw beetroot was nice and the pine nut purée was really nice, but the stiff and crispy texture of the beets resulted in the filling just oozing entirely out the sides of the ‘sandwich’ with one prod of a fork. Genius concept, but tricky execution.

My date’s sweet and sour chicken was a smash hit. Though it’s a loaded word, my date went so far as to say her chicken was “perfect,” both in texture and flavour—bonus points for coriander in the glaze.

The assortment of salads that accompanied both our mains was an eye-opener for me. I hate—and I mean absolutely despise—carrots, but Gló gave me a generous helping of some shredded ones mixed with coconut and almond and it may very well be my new favourite thing. Sweet and nutty and delicious! The other cold salads—pasta with sun-dried tomato and pomegranate seeds, leafy greens, dried fruits—were also very distinctly tasty.

Drawn to the concept of a raw dessert, my date and I finished our healthy meals

Gló

Engjateigur 19

What we think: Healthy, tasty and inventive

Flavour: Sweet, nutty, natural

Ambiance: Bright and airy

Service: Friendly and smiling



with a raw coconut cupcake and a (not raw) slice of chocolate cake. The chocolate cake (600 ISK), served with whipped cream and topped with pomegranate seeds, was rich and dense like a brownie. The raw coconut treat (500 ISK), a mixture of shredded coconut, coconut oil, agave syrup and almonds, blew our collective minds. So sweet and coconutty and... just go try it! 🍌

✍ CATHARINE FULTON
📷 JULIA STAPLES

Food & Drink | Venue finder

3 Frakkar Baldursgata 14 G4	Balthazar Hafnarstræti 1-3 D2	Geysir Bar/Bistro Aðalstræti 2 D2	Icelandic Fish & Chips Tryggvagata 8 B2	Mokka Skólavörðustígur 3A E4	Sjávarkjallarinn Aðalstræti 2 D2
Aktu Taktu Skúlagata 15 E6	Bæjarins Beztu Tryggvagata D3	Garðurinn Klappargatun 37 F4	Indian Mango Frakkastígur 12 F5	Nonnabiti Hafnarstræti 9 D3	Sólón Bankastræti 7a E3
Alibaba Veltusund 3b D2	Brons Pósthússtræti 9 E3	Glætan book café Laugavegur 19 F5	Jómfrúin Lækjargata 4 E3	O Sushi Lækjargata 2A E3	Sushibarinn Laugavegur 2 E4
American Style Tryggvagata 26 D2	Café Cultura Hverfisgata 18 E4	Grái Kötturinn Hverfisgata 16A E4	Kaffi Hljómáland Laugavegur 21 E4	Pisa Lækjargötu 6b E3	Sushismiðjan Geirsgötu 3 B2
Argentína Steakhouse Barónstígur F6	Café d’Haiti Tryggvagata 12 D2	Grillhúsið Tryggvagata 20 D2	Kaffifélagið Skólavörðustígur 10 F5	Pizza King Hafnarstræti 18 D3	Svarta Kaffi Laugavegur 54 F5
Austurlandshraðlestin Hverfisgata 64A F5	Café Loki Lokastígur 28 G4	Habibi Hafnarstræti 20 E3	Kaffitár Bankastræti 8 E4	Pizza Pronto Vallarstræti 4 E2	Sægreifinn Verbúð 8, Geirsgata B2
Á Næstu Grósum Laugavegur 20B E4	Café Paris Austurstræti 14 E3	Hamborgarabúlla Tómasar (“Bullán”) Geirsgata 1 B2	Kaffivagninn Grandagarður 10 A1	Pizzaverksmiðjan Lækjargötu 8 E3	Tapas Vesturgata 3B D2
B5 Bankastræti 5 E3	Café Roma Lauðarárstígur 8 G7	Hilolla Bátar Ingólfstorg D2	Kofi Tómasar Frænda Laugavegur 2 F4	Ráðhúskaffi Tjarnargata 11 E2	Thorvaldsen Austurstræti 8 D2
Bakkus Tryggvagata 22 D2	Deli Bankastræti 14 E5	Horníð Hafnarstræti 15 D3	Krua Thai Tryggvagata 14 D2	Santa Maria Laugavegur 22A F5	Tíu Dropar Laugavegur 27 E5
Ban Thai Laugavegur 130 G7	Domo Þinghóltsstræti 5 E3	Hótel Holt Bergstaðarstræti 37 G3	La Primavera Austurstræti 9 D2	Serrano Hringbraut 12 H3	Tívoli Laugavegur 3 E4
Basil & Lime Klappargatun 38 E4	Einar Ben Veltusundi E2	Humarhúsið Amtmanstígur 1 E3	Lystin Laugavegur 73 F6	Shalimar Austurstræti 4 D2	Vegamót Vegamótastígur 4 E4
Babalú Skólavörðustígur 22A G5	Eldsmiðjan Bragagata 38A G4	Hressó Austurstræti 20 E4		Sifur Pósthússtræti 11 E3	Við Tjómína Templararund 3 E2
	Fiskmarkaðurinn Aðalstræti 12 D2				Vítabar Bergþórugata 21 G5



Lunch Time Retreat



From the makers of the NLFÍ Rehabilitation and Health Clinic in Hveragerði to the health-loving folk of Reykjavík, Krúska—the newest health joint on the market—is sure to be a contender. Firstly, for those who don't know what Krúska means, it's a blend of ground wheat that was the staple food item of Iceland's pioneering vegetarians, providing nutrients when the only produce on the market was onion and potatoes.

Krúska, the restaurant at Suðurlandsbraut 12, has a lot more to offer than ground wheat... though it does sell bags of the stuff in one corner of the store that doubles as a health-food grocer. And it's not just vegetarian fare this place is selling, either; on the day of my visit I was presented with a selection of salads, turkey wraps, chicken salads, and fish balls in addition to the vegetable quiche (1390 ISK) that I settled on. My lunch date chose the fish balls (1490 ISK).

It's a good thing the food we ordered is healthy, because the serving sizes were massive. My slice of quiche, full of potatoes, carrots, greens and egg and topped with a crisp sesame seed crust, covered half my plate and the other half was heaped high with fresh green salad, drizzled with a light, Eastern tasting dressing. The quiche itself was quite tasty. I'm not sure how the chefs managed to make a quiche taste light, but they succeeded. Along with the surprisingly and pleasantly light and airy texture of the quiche was a disappointingly light amount of spice. The dish was flavoured with curry, but I would have appreciated more saturation of the flavour throughout to up the ante of the meal.

The salad accompanying the quiche was fresh and crisp and I would put that dressing on everything I eat if

Krúska

Suðurlandsbraut 12

What we think: Good and good for you!

Flavour: Flavour: Delicious!

Ambiance: Bright and summery

Service: So sweet and friendly!



I had the recipe. Rumour has it that Krúska may be offering up some healthy cooking lessons in the fall. If this turns out to be true, I'm there!

My date's fish balls were awesome. We had a lengthy discussion while she ate them about how we never make fish balls in our own homes, though we're both quite big fans of the dish. If I could make fish balls as moist and delicate as Krúska I'd be making them every night, I think. These balls were nice! My date's fish balls were sided by the same green salad that I enjoyed and a generous helping of couscous, mixed with dried fruits, both of which she enjoyed immensely.

Though the servings were plentiful and our stomachs were full, my date and I still ventured on to share a slice of chocolate cake for dessert (510 ISK). The thin, unleavened cake was über moist and rich and was joined on the plate by a dollop of whipped cream and a medley of stewed berries. A sweet (and still healthy, as far as I'm concerned) end to a satisfying meal. 🍴

EAT AND DRINK

3 X MALL FOOD COURT

1 SUZUSHII (KRINGLAN)

So, food court sushi is rarely/never as good as the stuff in the fancier sushi eateries, but kudos of the good people of SuZushii for recognizing the need for a quick and simple sushi place for the mall-going crowd. Kudos, also, for making the sushi to order, rather than offering plastic trays of pre-made maki that have been sitting around for godknowshowlong.

Kringlan

2 SERRANO (SMÁRALIND)

OK, so Serrano is a chain. I know. But the Serrano at Smáralind is far superior, in my humble opinion, to that at Kringlan. The same burrito tasted wildly different at Kringlan than it did at Smáralind—and by different I mean worse.

Hagasmára 1, Kópavogur

3 ENERGÍA (SMÁRALIND)

Men, are you tired of walking around the penis mall with your women, while they fawn over countless pair of shoes and head off to yet another change room with more clothes than you're likely to buy in a lifetime? Energía is a nice place to retire to, re-energise with an espresso and then venture back out to hmm and huhhh over the selection of rompers and leggings leaving your lady perplexed. They have nice salads, too.

Hagasmári 1, Kópavogur

3 X THINGS IN THE VIETNAM MARKET ON SUÐURLANDSBRAUT

1 EXOTIC JUICES

Coconut Juice loaded with pulp and other exotic fruit juices that you can't find walking the aisles of Bónus are plentiful at the Vietnam Market. So many sweet varieties to choose from—try them all!

2 CURRY

Curry pastes, curry powders, curry delight! Amp up your home cooking with some new and wonderful flavours from the market!

3 NOODLES

In these trying economic times, you need food that will be cheap and filling—hello noodles! With Ph being the iconic dish of Vietnam, it's no wonder the market in Reykjavík is the place to go for all your noodle shopping... go for rice too, they're good enough of that to sink a ship, or, at the very least, fill one with rice.

3 X BABALÚ (Skólavörðustígur 22 A)

1 BREAKFAST PANINI

Have you had the breakfast panini at Babalú yet? It's stuffed with egg and bacon and cheese and love and you should try it the moment you get the hankering for a breakfast panini. I get such a hankering daily.

2 CAKES & PIES

Babalú makes some really awesome cakes and pies. Their apple pie is to die for and their cheesecake is just begging you to indulge a little. Tasty!

3 CAFFEINATED BEVERAGES

Hot bevies loaded with caffeine are good, but when your café's staff presents you with a cappuccino topped with a chocolate-powder smiley face, it's one hell of a pick-me-up... even before putting the cup up to your lips.

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Best place to drink like a pro:

Live Pub

Drinking like a pro. It's all about sort of disappearing into the void, slowly blacking out from existence while pondering your purported ill fortune. Or just getting shitfaced by yourself. You choose.

In any case, Grand rokk won this category hands down last year, as the atmosphere just begged for sitting alone in a corner while consuming mass consumption of alcohol. Which everyone needs to do from time to time. Grand rokk sadly closed down this winter, so modern drunkards needed to find another hole to drown themselves in. It was our panel's (and your e-mails) decision that

Live Pub was just the right place for the task, as "it is a fine place to black out in, no sharp corners to fall on and few hard men to offend." One patron remarked "I just always feel like getting totally wasted when I enter the place," while another lauded their "lack of drinking amateurs" along with their fairly priced drinks.

Runners-up: Kaffi Grand "the drinks are so cheap, you won't care about anything else."
(2009: Grand Rokk)

Best mainstreamer bar:

Austur

This one is a new category for us, but the sleek new joint on Austurstræti took the cake almost instantly, especially due to some heavy popularity in the mail-ins. Austur is reputedly downtown's best place to "suit up and drink down," with one frequent patron adding that "they have some gorgeous women hanging out there. Probably men too, but I wouldn't know." It is, according to one letter, the place where "your regular, non-101 Icelandic goes to get his drink on," and seeing as the majority of Icelanders belong to that crowd, it is undoubtedly pretty fucking hot.

(New category)

Best place to start the night:

Nýlenduvörverzlun Hemma & Valda

This place is a staff favourite at the Grapevine, and a lot of you seem to agree. No doubt, it is indeed a fine place to

start off one's night. They've got a couch and a foosball table; they've got some moderately priced drinks, they've got room for conversation and, as one patron remarked, "they always have some crazy music playing that I don't know." The atmosphere is also really lovely.

(New category)

Best cheap bar

Kaffi Zimsen

Pretty much everyone we talked to on this one agreed that Kaffi Zimsen's beer prices are unbeatable now. It may not have the most character, or a consistent atmosphere, but one can always count on getting a rather cheap brew, what with all the crazy offers they've got going on at most times and whatnot. Plus the clientele is "not too scary for a cheap bar." It's all around the place where "students and unfortunates" convene for a good time.

(2009: Hemmi og Valdi)

Best all-round Bar:

Bakkus

This category is an argument-inducing one, as we can attest. Still, everyone eventually agreed that right now Bakkus is really providing an unbeatable party like nowhere else. People are going so far as saying "it's like some sorta reincarnation of Sirkús. Except not as cool. But nearly," – some pretty weighty words that we don't really know if we can wholeheartedly back up (seriously, Sirkús? That place is fucking legendary). Still, we can agree, as

one Facebook-er remarked, that Bakkus is indeed "the bar Reykjavík was waiting for," and we can attest to have had some pretty awesome times there since they opened last year. Thank god for you, your DJs, your cheap-ish drinks, your Zubrowka and your spirit, Bakkus!
(2009: Karamba)

Best club:

NASA

When NASA is good, it's really goddamn good. The spacious venue has it all—some bars, a huge dance floor, a nice soundsystem and a coat check. Of course the atmosphere depends a lot on who's playing (or spinning) on a given night, but NASA has long since proven they are Reykjavík's best club space by far.

(2009: Jacobsen)

Best place to hook up:

Really?

Look, we debated this at length. But really, if you have to get pointers from magazines on where and how to hook-up with folks, chances are you won't get any. Ever.

(2009: Vegamót (6-10) / Hressó (solid 5) / Dubliners (0-4))

Best place to watch sports over a beer:

Hvíta perlan

Austurstræti seems to have turned

into some kind of sportsbar haven, as there are currently at least three such bars operating on the short strip. And all of them are fairly excellent for sportswatching and beer drinking. We had a lot of trouble deciding between Bjarni Fel ("great service, many screens"), English Pub ("nice, different atmosphere") and Hvíta perlan ("they've yet to prove themselves sufficiently, but they do have a 3D screen"), but ultimately decided to go with Hvíta perlan, as they offer you the opportunity to watch sports in 3D. Which totally amplifies the fun, even for folks that aren't into watching sports. 3D is so cool.

(2009: Bjarni Fel)

Most welcome nightlife initiative:

Sóðóma Reykjavík

Sóðóma Reykjavík recently celebrated their one year anniversary, and we thought now was the time celebrate them a little bit, too. Besides offering you a most welcome chance to piss on bankster faces (if you're a dude), they took it upon themselves to set up a kick-ass soundsystem and hire an experienced booker to ensure Reykjavík had a nice and functional live music venue. Which is sorta awesome. We have no idea how the local concert scene would be without them, in fact we are dread to think about it.

(New category)



When compiling this year's best of list, we got to thinking that some of these places are so firmly established as local favourites that naming them "best of" anything is both redundant and even possibly mildly offensive.

It's also kinda unfair to all the places that are trying to make their name today. For instance, there will only ever be one Ísbúð Vesturbæjar, with its beloved queue and 'old' ice cream, and they will probably firmly remain Reykjavík's favourite ice cream joint for as long as they don't mess up horribly.

So we came up with a solution that we figure gives us the chance to honour some of the perennial local favourites while still giving props to new and exciting places around town. We simply made a category that we call REYKJAVÍK INSTITUTIONS (aka UNTOUCHABLES).

What makes a 'REYKJAVÍK INSTITUTION', you ask? Well, by our makeshift definition, a 'REYKJAVÍK INSTITUTION' is a place or entity that's time and time again proven itself as one of the best of its kind, and has remained a must-visit throughout the years. When achieving INSTITUTION status, one is automatically disqualified from winning any 'best of' categories, because they're beyond being 'best', having been all consistently awesome for a long, long time.

A REYKJAVÍK INSTITUTION is a must-visit for tourists to Reykjavík.

A REYKJAVÍK INSTITUTION will retain its status as such until it starts sucking hard, in which case we will ceremoniously remove them from our list next year.

Kaffibarinn

"Despite some ups and downs, Kaffibarinn has remained the undisputed reigning champion of Reykjavík nightlife and drinking for well over a decade. They are a true nightlife institution."

Bæjarins bestu

"Everyone goes there. All the time. For over 70 years now. Not exactly gourmet dining, but a really freaking great snack nonetheless."

Ísbúð Vesturbæjar

"It's hard to explain the charm to outsiders, just tell them to go there. The ever-present queue speaks for itself."

Hornið

"For a restaurant to remain so consistently on top of its game for over thirty years is one huge achievement. They are cosy, dependable and ever-tasty."

Mokka

"They brought 'coffee' to Iceland, pretty much."

Tíu dropar

"Quintessentially Icelandic in every way. The coffee, the cake, the vibe. If I were to point a visiting friend to 'the essence of Iceland,' this is where I would send him."

Kolaportið

"If Kolaportið weren't around, we'd need to establish it immediately, lest we vanish back to the dark ages of commerce."

Bókabúð Braga (Bókin)

"It's hard to imagine Reykjavík without it. So let's not."

Brynja

"This neighbourhood hardware store almost predates Laugavegur, and they always serve you with a smile (and don't mind throwing in some good advice when needed."

Austur-Indía félagið

"Probably your safest bet for fine dining in Iceland, period."

Feel like we missed one? Drop us a line at bestof@grapevine.is explaining why a given place should be merited INSTITUTION status, and we shall consider it for our 2011 edition!



Best place to shop for touristy stuff:

Handprjónasambandið

There are now a lot more tourist shops around in Reykjavík than when we researched this category last year. The fact remains unchanged, however, that Handprjónasambandið offers the most authentic, useful and plain nice Iceland-memorabilia out there (unless you've got a thing for stuffed puffin and volcanic ash-in-a-bag). Handprjónasambandið sells the ultra-traditional, always-stylish hand-knit sweater, as well as a plethora of other hand-knit items (their name does translate as "The hand knitting association," so go figure). They sorta rule, we think. Runners-up: The more trendalicious of you might make your way to the Farmers Market store. They also sell a lot of knitwear, but with a stylish, modern twist ("their sweaters look really cool").
(2009: Handprjónasambandið)

Best place to get a trendy haircut:

Rauðhetta og úlfurinn

Rauðhetta og úlfurinn are pretty much verging on institution territory when it comes to trendy haircuts. In fact, that's what some of your write-ins suggested, as in: "they are Iceland's hairdressing institution, especially since the place is ancient in 'fashion years.' It's unusual for any place to keep their stature for so long in the fickle word of fashion, but they keep doing it." It comes with a price, of course. Runners-up: There were many nominations for all sorts of "unofficial" hairdressing joints that we didn't really feel comfortable recommending (we don't want to get anyone arrested for "unauthorised hairstyling" or anything). But you should seek them out if you're into it. (2009: Rauðhetta og úlfurinn)

Best place to shop second-hand:

The Salvation Army store

A veritable treasure chest for those that don't mind digging around a little for their threads, the Salvation Army store has a lot of nice variety "that you can sink yourself into for hours on end," as well

as "unbeatable prices," and a nice central location.

Runners-up: The Red Cross stores all have some very nice items on offer, it's for a great cause and a lot of folks were rooting for them to get the prize. Maybe next year?
(New category)

Best place to shop for high fashion:

KronKron

KronKron have been supplying the fashion conscious crowd with high-end designer wear for many years now. Well stocked with a plethora of interesting and innovative international brands and designers that can make you look all sophisticated and world-weary at the drop of a hat, they've managed to "constantly stay ahead of the curve." Oh, it comes at a price, but beauty is pain and all. Runners-up: In the same league, GK caters to a "slightly older crowd," but they've been doing it with style and panache for a very long time.

(New category)

Best haberdashery:

Herrafataverzlun Kormáks & Skjaldar

There really never was any doubt as to who would score the title here. Shopping at Herrafataverzlun Kormáks & Skjaldar is always a fun and interesting experience, the store clerks are knowledgeable and helpful and you can walk out looking like a Mad Men extra (note: they are probably the reason why so many local dudes walk around looking like Mad Men extras).
(New category)

Best place to shop organic:

Yggdrasil

Even though they moved location, from Skólavörðustígur to Rauðarárstígur, Yggdrasil are still the reigning kings of this category. They've got pretty much everything you need for some healthy and/or "health conscious" living in Iceland in stock – except for willpower.
(2009: Yggdrasil)

Most welcome addition:

Fiskmarkaðurinn við gömlu höfnina

We have no idea if this place is going to stick around for winter, but we want to give it a large BIG UP while they're here anyway. Fiskmarkaðurinn við gömlu höfnina ("The fish market by the old harbour") is open every Saturday from 10-17, and they are, well, a fish market. You can buy fresh fish, processed fish and all sorts of other stuff there, mostly fish-related. It really is one of those places that has been sorely lacking in Reykjavík up until now, and we are hoping they're not

going anywhere.

Runner-up: Frú Lauga is another equally welcome addition to the Reykjavík foodie scene.

(New category)

Best place for visitors to stock up on local design:

Kraum

There are surprisingly many shops around specialising in all sorts of Icelandic design items. They are all pretty nice (the stores' appeal will depend a lot on your tastes and likes) but Kraum still received the most nominations and votes in this category, with folks citing that "the range of items and sheer number of designers represented puts them in a league above everyone else in this market," as one reader remarked. It also probably doesn't hurt that they're located in the oldest house in Reykjavík (built in 1762 – which means it isn't really that old).
(New category)

Most fun shop:

Havari/Útúrdúr

The Havari/Útúrdúr complex on Austurstræti has certainly brought a lot of fun and character to Reykjavík commerce since they opened for business late last year. Originally conceived as a one off, meant to run only past Xmas, the music and art book complex won enough hearts in a short enough time to justify becoming a permanent addition to Reykjavík's shopping landscape. As one reader noted, this is probably in no small part due to their "inventiveness and carefree spirit – they regularly stage concerts and display art there, and the poster of the week series is also really cool."

They are also a fine place to score free drinks from time to time, due to the frequent rate of their openings and concerts.

(New category)

Best bookstore:

Eymundsson Skólavörðustígur

Eymundsson Skólavörðustígur seems to be everyone's favourite place to shop for new books in Reykjavík, and we have to agree (even though we wish they'd place less emphasis on the café and more on the books).

As you guys pointed out, "they sport the best or at least most interesting selection of English language literature in town," and "their staff is very knowledgeable and friendly." Too bad they don't have their original location any more.

(New category)

Shabbiness And Bankruptcy Or: Reykjavík's 'Best' Concert Venues Throughout The Years

Obviously I have no first-hand experience of clubs before I started playing in 1980, but from what I've heard there were some pretty cool venues operated before my time.

VETRARGARÐURINN

The most exotic one was operated in the fifties. It was called Vetrargarðurinn ("The Winter Garden") and was located at the Tívoli in Vatnsmýri, an amusement park in the mire beside Reykjavík airport (the Tívoli was run from 1946 to 1964 and brings a lot of nostalgia to some). Vetrargarðurinn was small and got hot and steamy, even when it was frosty outside. It had our grandparents hopping along to primitive rock 'n' roll by early Icelandic rock groups such as Lúdó and Falcon. The place was a bit cut off so folks had to take a taxi or walk home afterwards, and presumably many Icelanders were conceived in the ditch besides the road.

GLAUMBÆR

Glaumbær is the most legendary beatnik and hippie venue in Reykjavík, not the least because of its burning down in 1971. Glaumbær was the place to be in the sixties: two floors of narrow corridors, bars and two stages. Bands in matching suits gave way for lambskin vested longhairs as the sixties turned into the seventies, and Rúnar Júlíusson from Trúbrot could often be seen hanging from the chandelier in a hippie rock frenzy. The source of the fire was said to be a cigarette from the previous night's festivities. Some of hippie band Nátúra's gear burned down with the place, and in the weeks after the fire some bands held rallies urging the city to rebuild Glaumbær. Nothing came of this, and the place lay dormant for years until The National Gallery of Iceland opened on the site in 1987.

KÓPAVOGSBÍÓ

My first gig was at Kópavogsbíó (Kópavogur's cinema) in 1980. It is where Icelandic punk was undeniably born through punk band Fræbbblarnir's relentless efforts. The cinema opened in 1959 and also served as a community hall. The place had become quite shabby when the punkers took it over 20 years later, throwing concerts there occasionally over the next three years. The gigs at Kópavogsbíó usually started at 2 PM on Saturdays and were all ages ones, as no booze was for sale. You might have been able to buy popcorn though.

HÓTEL BORG

During the 'Rokk í Reykjavík era' (1980-1982, when punk and new wave finally made it to Iceland, as documented in Friðrik Þór Friðriksson's legendary 1982 documentary, 'Rokk í Reykjavík'), the main venue was Hótel Borg. This swankiest of hotels in town opened in 1930 and has sporadically housed dance events and concerts since then. This is where British and American troops came to get some action during the occupation years. The high roofed hall was on the first floor, and by 1980 the former glory could be spotted through the prevalent shabbiness. The hotel still proudly

stands by Austurvöllur, remodelled to match its former swankiness, but its days as a concert venue are mostly in the past.

SAFARÍ

The place to play in the early eighties (besides Hótel Borg, of course) was Safarí, a low roofed, 450-capacity club on Skúlagata. The dance floor featured blinking lights, much like the ones at legendary disco club Hollywood. There were no 'disco freaks' at Safarí, however, just hip people from the Rokk í Reykjavík era, now gone all 'new romantic,' dancing endlessly to The B52s' 'Rock Lobster,' or so it seems in my Alzheimer-lite version of the place.

Safarí opened in 1983, but had one year operated as Villti tryllti Villi ("Wild, furious Villi"), a teen club that sold soda and hamburgers instead of alcohol. Safarí was to change names, owners and ID numbers frequently over the next years, as business was sloppy. It became Roxý, then Roxzy, and eventually Casablanca.

My most memorable gigs there were supporting German noisemakers Einsturzende Neubauten and Australian rock band Crime & The City Solution in 1986 with my band S.H. Draumur. The Germans had brought teen girls along (from Bahnhof Zoo presumably) and Blixa and co. had us out of the backstage room before the gig (so they could shoot up heroin, I guess). The Australians were more relaxed and we hung out with them backstage. This was quite awesome for me, as two members of the group had previously played in The Birthday Party, a band I absolutely loved at the time. Unfortunately, I was not in Iceland a few months later when Nick Cave—the main guy from The Birthday Party—showed up to play Roxzy with The Bad Seeds.

DUUS-HÚS

Duus-Hús on Fischersund opened in 1984, but Stuðmenn were the first band to play the club in 1986, when a new room was added to the place. For the next few years, this would be where everyone from Ham to The Sugarcubes could rig up a gig. As the room was small, fifty people would make it feel like a packed house. The highlight of Duus-Hús' existence happened in August 1990 when The Sugarcubes played a private concert there for French political leaders, President Mitterand and Minister of Culture, Jack Lang (who was a Sugarcubes fan) during their official visit to Iceland. After Duus ceased to exist the place was squatted by the down and out for a while, until it was torn down and eventually replaced by another building.

TUNGLIÐ (AND BÍÓKJALLARINN, AND RÓSENBERG)

In the late eighties, Tunglið ("The Moon"), opened in a building that had originally housed a cinema (Nýja bíó – "New Cinema"). Many legendary gigs took place there, like Ham's 'farewell' gig in 1994. The place was quick to become shabby even though an ambitious mural of President Vigdís



Finnbogadóttir was painted on the most prominent wall. Tunglið's cellar housed a tiny club called Bíókjallarinn (later Rósenberg). It housed everything from biker rock gigs to ecstasy raves. Tunglið probably housed up to a thousand people, so often the attendance looked quite tragic. The place burned down in 1998 [via arson], after years of continuing shabbiness. A new house was built on the premises and is now known as the Iða house at Lækjargata.

TVEIR VINIR OG ANNAR Í FRÍ

By the mid-nineties, the comparatively best venue was the weirdly named Tveir vinir og annar í frí ("Two friends and another on vacation") on Laugavegur. It was a carpeted cellar run by Ragnhildur "Hilla", a kind elderly woman who handled show bookings in-between everything else. The place had a karaoke machine and a widescreen TV, too. It was more "real rock" than the other venue at the time, Gaukur á stöng ("Cuckoo on a stick"), which was more 'pub rock' or 'corny pop'. This place hasn't burnt down yet, but it was changed to a strip club—Vegas—in the late nineties.

There has never been an abundance of good live music venues in Reykjavík—and there has never really been a really great place to play either, at least not for the last 30 years. There are usually some shabby holes available for bands to pick from, ranging in size—but maybe current places like NASA and Rósenberg shouldn't be called "shabby holes" though. Yet venues continue to go bankrupt or burn down. The last one to catch fire was Organ, a fine shabby hole that burned to the ground last year.

✂ - DR. GUNNI

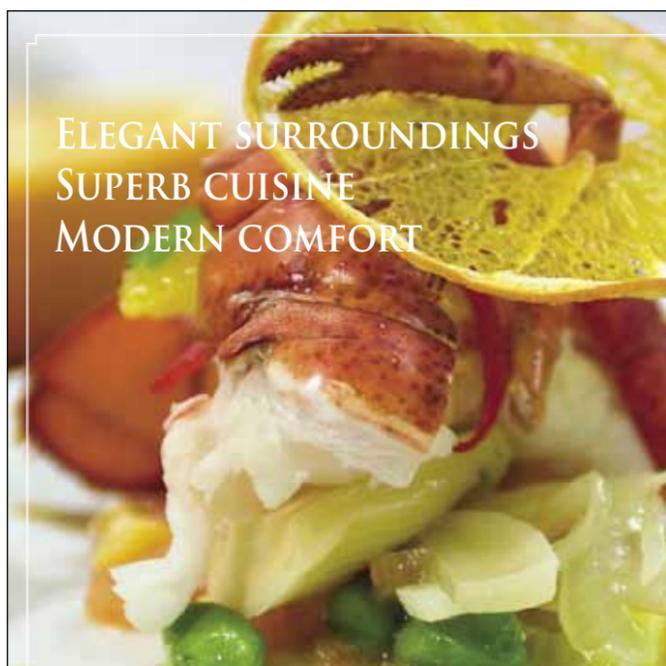
By Dr. Gunni, based on his 2000 book Eru ekki allir í stuði? (Rock in Iceland).



"The dance floor featured blinking lights, much like the ones at legendary disco club Hollywood. There were no 'disco freaks' at Safarí, however, just hip people from the Rokk í Reykjavík era, now gone all 'new romantic,' dancing endlessly to The B52s' 'Rock Lobster,'"



1. The Sugarcubes play a private gig for French politicians at Duus-Hús in 1990
2. Glaumbær in 1969
3. Safarí 'new romantic' newspaper ad from 1984



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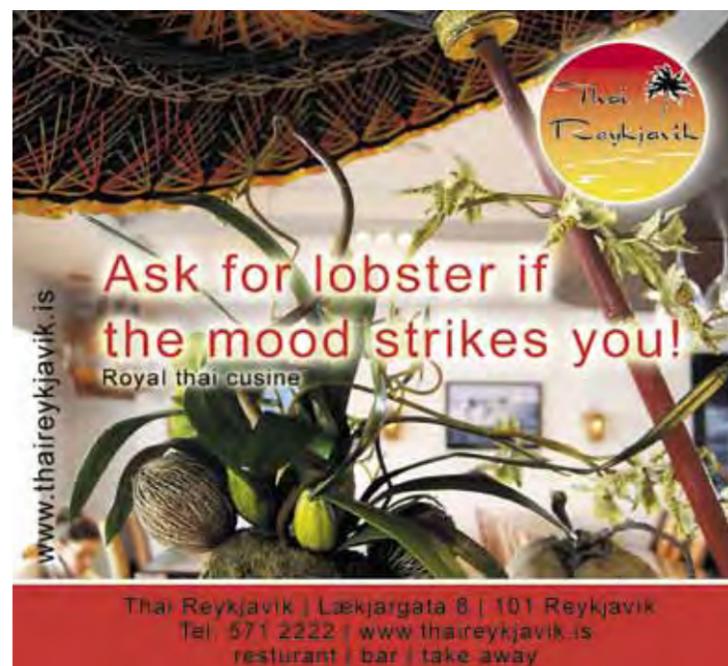
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Seabear: The Icelandic Wu-Tang Clan?

Not really, but it would be cool if they were

Words

Haukur S. Magnússon

Photography

Julia Staples

Everyone loves Seabear. How could they not? The music is infectious, catchy, melodic and soothing. The lyrics are verbalizations of surrealist paintings, and the on-stage atmosphere is just plain lovely. Anyway, we won't waste any space introducing the group, as your casual music fan will know all about them (and the rest of y'all can just up and Wikipedia that shit for band history, stats and the like).

What's important is they are one of Iceland's reigning indie outfits at the moment, their new record, 'We Built A Fire,' sounds excellent, and they are throwing a release concert for it next week. We called up head Seabear (and head Sin Fang Bouser, as it were), Sindri Már Sigfússon, and asked him about life, the band, music, touring and Wu-Tang. We began by asking: "How are things?"



"Well, things are just fine at the moment, thank you. We're getting ready for our record release concert on the ninth, then we're headed for the Lunga festival in the East fjords... Then we're going to Europe again in September, bringing along Kimono who'll be opening up for us on the tour. That will be a lot of fun, I think. In October we'll be going back to the US, playing shows in New York and on the West Coast. Then it's back for some Europe touring in November. And then, hopefully, we'll have toured this album enough.

What? You have another record coming out right away?

Not another Seabear record, no. I'm actually not sure when the next Seabear album will come out. I do have another Sin Fang album coming out this year, hopefully. It's just about ready now. I'm hoping I can trick my record company into putting it out in 2010.

Do you never sleep?

Hahaha. I sleep plenty. It's just what I like to do, writing and recording music.

Temporary obsessions

How has the album been received? Are you happy with it?

The Seabear one? I think it's been received just fine. I haven't really listened to it since we finished making it last August. I had a total overdose of that record, and couldn't bear to listen to it once it was done. I'm going wait another two years or so and then give it a spin.

But sure, I remember being quite happy with it, happier than I was with the first one for sure. It took us a long time to get off our asses and make it, and long time to record. I'm thinking that next time we'll hire a producer to record, so we can just show up with the songs. That way, I won't have to record them, which is a really time consuming process. It's probably going to be more fun for me if I can focus on just playing the guitar and singing.

Are you the mayor of Seabear and Sin Fang? Do you control everything that goes on within these bands?

No. Seabear is simply a band now; we meet for practice, write some tunes and record them, which is your basic band routine I believe. The Sin Fang stuff is more solo oriented, I wrote all the songs for the first album and played all the instruments. Sin Fang is me, and I'm not about to change it into a

band. But I do have some good friends who always play with me.

Of your musical contemporaries, who do you feel a kinship to?

Of those that are doing something at the moment? I don't know. I get these temporary obsessions every now and again, where I'll play certain bands or albums to death, only to forget all about them a week later. There are of course constants that I listen to regularly, like Tom Waits, who is someone I listen to all the time. At the moment, I'm obsessed with Talking Heads; I'm listening to everything of theirs I can get my hands on.

I do try to regularly visit all the music blogs that post interesting music and check out what they're recommending. But I couldn't name any particular band or musician out there that I especially connect with.

Come to think of it, I've always had an affinity for Mugison, and we always have some pretty good conversation. I've always liked him; he's one of those independents, a no-bullshit guy.

Some very extreme touring

You guys have been touring a lot. What's it like?

It's just fine, probably a lot better than a lot of other things, anyway. But it depends. We have been doing some very extreme touring ever since New Year's, and we've been out of the country a lot. Right now, we're on our first little break since January.

As for the touring itself: It's not like we're a huge band that can afford to take the luxury route. We spend many hours a day in a crammed van, for three weeks at a time. It is ridiculously fun, and then it can get really hard, awful and boring. There are always ups and downs.

The band is at a place right now where we can easily sell out shows if we're play a capital city, like Stockholm or London or something. Those shows are always packed. But when we visit smaller towns, like Heidelberg or whatever, maybe only thirty or forty people show up. But it's gone very well in general. We've visited the same places a few times by now, and there are more people at the shows every time. It's just starting to work out money-wise now, which is really nice.

Is Seabear a famous band? Is it more famous than Sin Fang?

Yeah, I think Seabear is bigger than Sin Fang at this point. Seabear draws a larger crowd from what I can tell. I don't think were famous, though. I think we've sold a total of around 30.000 records.

They say that's supposed to be very good in today's world and, like I say, we can draw a pretty big audience in many places. So I can't complain. But it's hard to get a feel for it these days, how many people are actually listening to the music. You can't really judge by record sales anymore. We can at least tour now without losing money. And that's quite good these days.

Where's the Bous?

What are some of the main differences between Sin Fang and Seabear?

Well... I don't really know. I'm so close to those projects that it's hard to listen objectively... But, well, maybe I let myself get a bit more crazy with Sin Fang. That's just me alone with a guitar, while Seabear sorta developed into a band, and after playing together for a while we went in a certain direction. And we've continued on that path since. Sin Fang is just me going nuts.

Maybe the main difference is that Sin Fang, at its core, is just me making the music that I'd like to be listening to, while the Seabear tunes are played into shape by the band, and everyone contributes to the music and overall sound.

Why did you remove the 'Bous' from Sin Fang Bous?

Well, I always just said Sin Fang when I was talking about the band, so I eventually just thought that having the Bous attached was kinda pointless. It got in people's way a lot – a lot of folks had a hard time pronouncing and remembering it. Three words are too much. Two words, you'll remember. So I thought I'd commercialise a bit, try and sell some records!

"Listen to your crazy voice!"

What are your lyrics about? Do you write them before or after you write the songs?

It depends. Having a set theme for the entire album makes the lyric writing process a lot easier. Lyrics actually the hardest part for me. I especially burned myself on the first Seabear record, where I published some lyrics that I wasn't totally happy with, and then had to sing them on stage for the next five years. You quickly learn the value of being meticulous.

What kind of themes do you work with?

Well, with the Sin Fang album, for instance, I made all kinds of rules for it. I took the idea from an artist who urged people to "listen to your crazy

"The Seabear one? I think it's been received just fine. I haven't really listened to it since we finished making it last August. I had a total overdose of that record, and couldn't bear to listen to it once it was done. I'm going wait another two years or so and then give it a spin."

voice!" He said that everyone has a 'crazy voice' and that if one listened well one could hear it. I tried to do that for Clangour. Another rule I made up was that I had to play everything on the record myself, and that I had to test the limits of my voice. These rules all made the process fun and kind of exciting for me.

As for the new Seabear record, I was thinking a lot about a rural moods and rural relationships when we made that. It wasn't pointing to any particular geographical location, but more of an abstract place within the mind. Maybe you can't really hear it on the record – I don't know – but it did help me a lot with writing the lyrics.

It seems like the whole of Seabear is sort of branching out, with Sóley now releasing her solo stuff, Örn Ingi playing with Skakkamanage, Kjartan with kimono and yourself and all of your projects. Then the various members keep making art projects and whatnot. Are you the Wu-Tang Clan of Icelandic music?

Yes, we are the Icelandic Wu-Tang Clan. But of course. Inga and I made the cover art for Sóley, and I helped record her album... there are all sorts of things being done by everyone and they all tend to cross over. Does that make us a Wu-Tang-style collective? I don't know. But it would be cool, though.

Lastly, why do you feel the need create so much music?

I don't know. I like it. I graduated from the Iceland Academy of Arts in 2007, and haven't really done an honest day's work since. I just go into the studio in the morning and try to treat it like a 9-5 job. ☺

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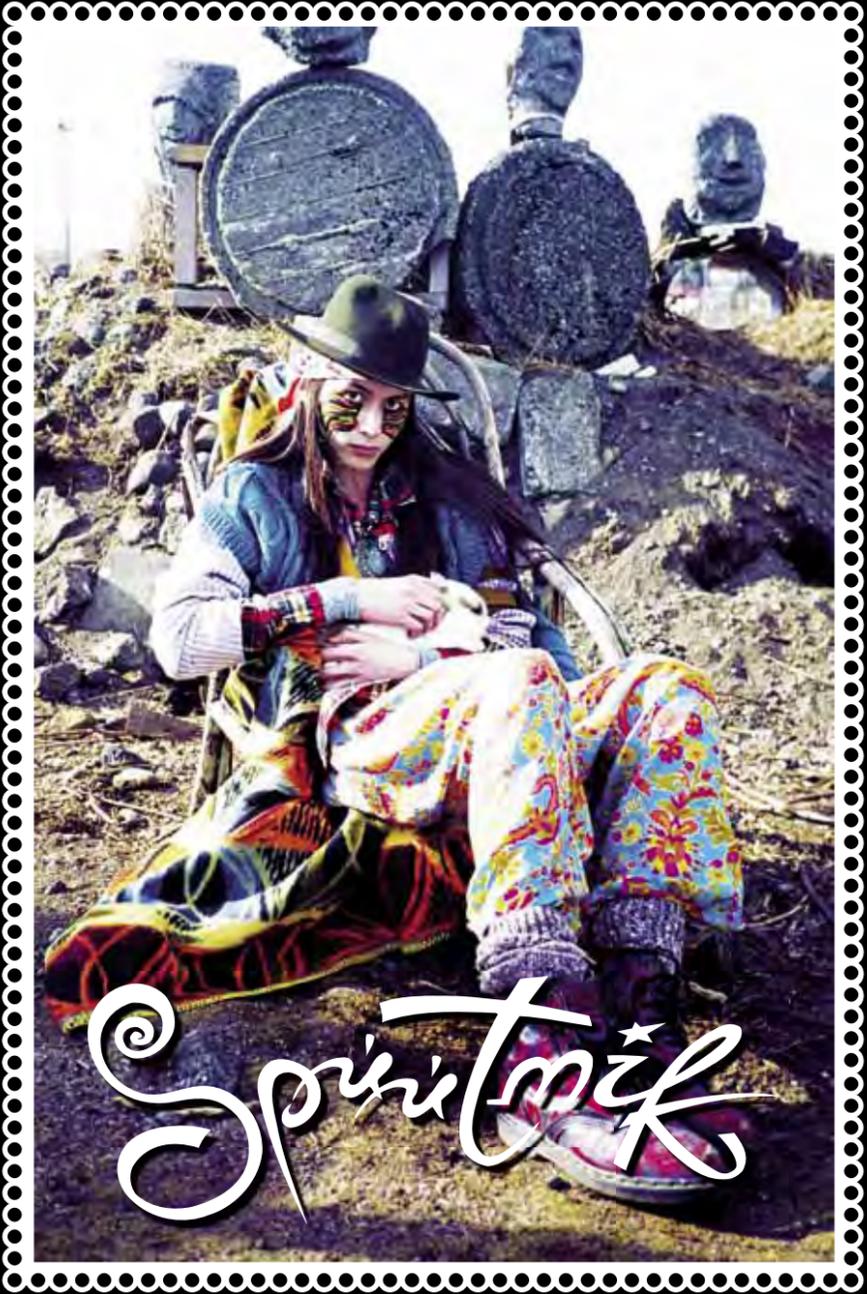
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Your Style Salvation

Salvation Army shops are a fashion blessing



If you're still shopping-hungry after Laugavegur and you want a real taste of Reykjavik fashion, head to the wrong side of the tracks, the grisly underbelly of Reykjavik style, the Salvation Army.

Well, that's stretching it. Reykjavik doesn't really have a wrong side of the tracks (even if there was a railroad. Which there isn't), and the Salvation Army is actually a pretty nice place. The store's down-to-earth image might lead you to believe that there should be a sign outside announcing, "Dowdy Folks Only," but you would be wrong. In fact, on June 3 'Sally Ann' brought her glamorous side out of the closet and onto the catwalk.

The Salvation Army teamed up with celebrities and a few talented stylists to put on a fashion show in Austurvöllur square downtown. Catwalkers included Jón Gnarr, Reykjavik's new mayor, and Páll Óskar, arguably Iceland's most fabulous gay icon.

Carmen Jóhannsdóttir was one of these stylists. She got involved when Dorteia H. Dam, who works at the SA, spotted Carmen's style sense and asked if she'd be willing to help out. It was all very spur-of-the-moment. "We didn't have any special ideas before the models arrived for the fitting. It was very random," said Carmen. She was particularly fond of the show's opening in which Jón Gnarr, Reykjavik's new mayor, and actor Benedict Erlingsson appeared dressed as "Yugoslavian gangsters." Carmen also enjoyed Jón's appearance later in the show with his wife and two of his kids as a "white trash family." Apparently, Jón specifically wanted to look like The Dude from The Big Lebowski.

Despite its glitz, the fashion show's purpose was humble. "If we get more money into the shop, then we can help more people," said Dorteia. "There are so many people in Iceland that need help because of the crisis." Dorteia has personally experienced a real increase in the number of people coming to the Salvation Army's day shelter for help, both in Reykjavik and at the location in Akureyri, where she used to work. All Salvation Army's profits go to causes within Iceland.

STYLE FOR ALL

The Salvation Army makes fabulous clothes available to anyone willing to search. Þórunn Ósk Rafnsdóttir told the Grapevine that she's found tons of fantastic items for herself and her kids. "I don't have a husband, so I don't have much money to buy clothes," Þórunn said. The Salvation Army is perfect for style on the cheap.

Anyone can appreciate that. "You can get a homeless dude or you can get a rich woman—all in search of the unique thing, the gullmolar [gold nuggets]," Dorteia said. "But we want to keep the prices so that it's at a level for everyone."

The Salvation Army gets goods in every day, so there's always something new on the racks. "It's just like treasure hunting," Bára Kristgeirsdóttir, a graphic design student, said as she tried on a pair of mid-calf grey boots.

Along with shopping for her kids, Þórunn also sometimes finds fashion items for herself. Her favourite is a Chanel suit with gold buttons. Old money to the max.

"You can see the quality in the clothes," Hanna Jónsdóttir, a local designer, said. The stuff you can find at Salvation Army has withstood the test of time, Hanna pointed out. It's proven itself to be high quality—not the sort of poorly made clothing that falls apart in the wash.

Carmen's closet is stuffed with Salvation Army treasures. She's found some of her favourite items there—"a suede jacket from the late '80s, early '90s with gold clasps. Black suede shoes. Skirts, shirts, whatever. Lots of things!"

But as it stands, shoppers have to put in a little elbow grease. "You have to dig a little bit," Carmen said. "If you're interested in fashion and you're creative, you can definitely find something there." ♡

Highlights

THE SALVATION ARMY FASHION SHOW

Reykjavik's new mayor, Jón Gnarr, kicks off the show with all seriousness in a slobtacular tracksuit, then re-appears mid-show with bodacious wife and two cute kids in tow.

Model sports undercut hairdo and snappy purple skirt suit. Pro catwalk moves.

Páll Óskar dons a blousey gold and black shirt, skin-tight black jeans, and slick black boots to perform his hit 'Þú komst við hjartað í mér' live on the catwalk.

Songstress Birgitta Haukdal, Iceland's 2003 Eurovision competitor, sports a dusty rose floral cheongsam with matching white floral updo.

Model shows off an asymmetrical hemline black dress with artfully wrapped skinny belt, teetering on beige lace-up, peep-toe wedges.

Dance pop sensation Haffi Haff and his slicked back coif hamming it up for the crowd in several appearances, most notably in a chequered black and white blazer reminiscent of Max Headroom.

STEPHANIE ORFORD
ALEXANDRA YOUNG

"Apparently, Jón [Gnarr] specifically wanted to look like The Dude from the film The Big Lebowski."

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED ...

By Vilhelm Gunnarsson;
a well known news photographer

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es, The Reykjavik Grapevine finally has a T-shirt all of its own. Pick up a copy of this sweet, limited edition item at **Havari** on Austurstræti or **Dogma** on Laugavegur - 101 Reykjavik. And do it now. For the children.



Honestly, they did not pay us for publishing this! We didn't even get one lousy free beer or anything.

Drinking | Beer

The Belle Of The Bar

Ölstofan serves up a one-of-a-kind tribute beer



The bar Ölstofan located on Vegamótastígur is a cosy, laid-back pub known for a fine array of local and imported brews. They have recently become the only bar in Reykjavík to serve its own exclusive brand of beer, thanks to a collaboration with the Borg micro-brewery. Borg is a small offshoot of Ölgerðin, the largest and oldest brewery in Iceland. Opened one year ago, their first project was working with the owners of Ölstofan, Kormákur and Skjöldur, in creating a one of a kind draft beer to suit the bar's collection and reflect the purported good taste of its owners.

"It started a year ago. Our most popular beer was Grolsch and it looked like we wouldn't have it anymore," Kormákur tells us, "Borg had just opened and they asked us if we would like to create our own beer with them." They tasted a variety of types of beers and flavours and landed on a light, German pilsner with a strong Czech influence to the flavour.

The beer also has a shorter life-span than the average brew, meaning it only stays good for about three months and has to be kept and served very cold. Because of this, Kormákur says the beer is great to drink when one is very thirsty. "It's really refreshing and you can drink a lot of it," he chuckles. He also says the beer appeals to both beer fetishists and casual beer drinkers alike. "I thought it was not a 'girl beer', but a lot of women are very satisfied with it," he goes on. "It has a fruity taste and it is light enough."

Being a woman and beer lover myself, this Grapevine reporter decided to head down and try it. I can attest that the beer is indeed quite enjoyable. The honey-brown ale has a satisfying edge and a hint of bitterness that brings out the hops. The bite is balanced out by light

hints of berry and the super cold temperature at which it is served, making it extremely pleasant to take nice big sips of and have a few in a row. It also comes served in a really beautiful tulip glass that makes you feel super fancy while drinking it. Maybe that's why some ladies like it, but I just thought it tasted damn good.

The brand is named for a close friend who passed away last autumn. The moniker is drawn from a popular song and describes a happy-go-lucky person. "Brío is a way of life," says Kormákur, "It's like when you have all your grocery bags and you should go home, but instead you go to the bar and your wife is calling wondering where you are, but that beer was so good! My friend was named Brío, so it is in honour of him."

He says the beer is now selling so well that the brewery might have trouble keeping up with the demand. "I thought it would be maybe a quarter or one fifth of our sales," he continues, "but in the first week it was 60% of our sales. Everyone is taking Brío now. Our regular customers love it and we are getting even more new customers." They hope to collaborate with Borg on making more new flavours in the future. ☺

REBECCA LOUDER
ÖLSTOFAN

Special | Best Of Reykjavík: Locals



Egill Spills His Beans

Egill Prunner

Favourite place to sit down and eat? Við Tjörnina serves real traditional Icelandic food. It's also healthy and stylish.

Best place to grab a coffee? Mokka. They do great lattes and cappuccinos that are not made from a machine but an old authentic coffee grinder. I once asked them where their coffee beans were from and they won't tell me. A family secret apparently.

Best bar? I like the English Pub as it has a great cultural influence.

Best kept secret? Óskjuhlíð is very beautiful and you can see the remains of the WW2 military base.



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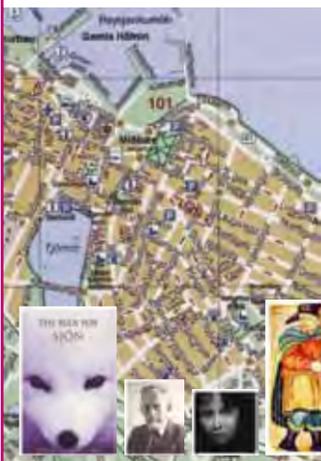


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Cold On The Outside, Warm On The Inside

ICELAND :: FILM chronicles 100 years of Icelandic spirit



Despite the economic crash, Icelandic film has come into its heyday. From *Sunshine Boy*, a 2009 documentary about a mother's search for an autism treatment, to *Nói Albinói*, a bittersweet coming-of-age story (the best kind), Icelandic films have come into their own. The film industry got a slow start because of a lack of funding over most of the 20th century, yet Iceland still managed to squeak out films from as early as 1904. The exhibition ICELAND :: FILM explores Icelandic film all the way back to its roots. Take a couple of hours and a notepad, and let yourself get fired up about all the Icelandic films you need to watch.

All you need is the watching stations organised along the wall, each showing two- or three-minute clips of a handful of films made around the same time period. The exhibit guides you chronologically through Icelandic film.

ICELAND :: FILM is mostly friendly to those who don't speak the language, with write-ups in English and several other languages, except for a key feature: there are no subtitles. I guess this is advantageous because those without a good grasp of Icelandic will be less tempted to spend the entire afternoon watching a screen—the exhibit also has watching stations showing several features full-length. The downside is that you don't know what in tarnation is going on, especially in the language-heavy films. The visuals are still stunning, the music still moving, the characters still multifaceted, but the plot is

almost impossible to decipher, especially from the three-minute clips.

Icelanders are proud and protective of their landscape and culture. This is apparent even from the earliest films in the exhibit—mostly documentaries. *The Rescue Feat At Látrabjarg* (1949) was created in a remarkable coincidence. It was meant to be a documentary and re-enactment about the demise of the British fishing trawler *Dhooon* on the rocky cliffs of Látrabjarg a few years earlier. But as the film crew were making the doc on-site, another British trawler capsized near the same spot, the people of the nearby village valiantly rescued the ship's crew, and all was captured on film.

Another antique film, *Hornstrandir* (1944-1948), features the dramatic Hornstrandir peninsula in Iceland's Westfjords. The landscape is spectacular, its cliffs hosting vast numbers of birds in the summer.

And for a weird mix of new (at the time) filmmaking technology and traditional folklore, make sure you watch *The Last Farm In The Valley* (1950), Iceland's first feature length fictional film. Its wonderfully terrible special effects make it an accidental comic gem.

ICELAND :: FILM is an ongoing exhibition at the Culture House in Reykjavík.

STEPHANIE ORFORD
JULIA STAPLES

A SELECTION OF ICELANDIC FILMS

THE RAVEN FLIES

(Director Hrafn Gunnlaugsson, 1985)
"I am Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die." Well almost, but not quite. This is a revenge historical fiction that doesn't quite end as you'd think. Dirty faced Vikings fight it out against stunning basalt cliff beaches in southern Iceland to a soundtrack that's sometimes distractingly '80s. An insight into the workings of Icelandic Viking tribes a thousand years ago.

CHILDREN OF NATURE

(Director Friðrik Þór Friðriksson, 1991)
A pensive, tragic, surprisingly funny love/adventure story of an elderly Icelandic couple reclaiming their freedom from a nursing home. Icelandic landscape porn-ravishing to the greatest effect, with a soundtrack to equal it. Could have done without the inexplicable magical realism. Nominated for an Oscar.

ANGELS OF THE UNIVERSE

(Director Friðrik Þór Friðriksson, 2000)
The powerful illustration of a man's descent into mental illness. Páll's bouts of rage, complete with table flipping, are emotionally trying to watch, but make the film's quiet moments all the more effective. One scene you're cringing at the stress Páll puts his family through, and another you're chuckling conspiratorially with the boys from the psychiatric hospital in their glorious night on the town. As in *Children Of Nature*, Friðrik Þór Friðriksson's fade-out visuals create a dreamy atmosphere and impart an altered sense of passing time. How delicate "normal" perception of reality is.

101 REYKJAVÍK

(Director Baltasar Kormákur, 2000)
A tale of sex and love in Reykjavík. Each scene is like a short story in itself, and is crafted with the care of a Wes Anderson film with fastidious attention to character details. We find ourselves laughing at sad things, like the hapless protagonist—an adorable loser with no future who lives with his mom and eats cereal while he's in the tub. Reykjavík is painted as a crazy-sex-party town where everyone is doing everyone. But there's another side to sex, too.

NÓI THE ALBINO

(Director Dagur Kári, 2003)
Nói, a misfit boy from an Icelandic fjord town, takes awhile to warm to, but you do. A storyline that threatens to be ham-fisted at first (e.g. boy genius solves Rubik's cube) unfolds into an unusual coming of age tale. Some would say bleak, but a ray of optimism shines through. Careful visual symbolism—blue tinted scenes offset violent splashes of red, and sixties wallpaper features prominently.

Special | Best Of Reykjavík



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Bókin (Bókabúð Braga)
Klapparstígur 25-27, 101

Bókin, or Bókabúð Braga as it is often called by locals, is quite easy to spot when walking down Hverfisgata. It's the only storefront on the street with piles of books blocking the windows. This is not your neighbourhood Borders. Or Eymundsson. There is no quaint cookie-cutter café to be found on the upper level, nor are there any stuffed puffins or tourist souvenirs near the register. This is a grown-up bookstore. It is not for the faint of heart.

It is impossible to just pop into Bragi's for a few minutes. When you go, you need to set aside a few hours.

The books, all previously owned, are stacked everywhere and arranged in no recognisable order. You can find gold here, but you need to look for it. Bókabúð Braga rewards perseverance. Operated since 1964, Bókin has a system that seems to work, although that may not be evident the first time one stops by, intrigued from the exterior only to walk in bombarded from all angles with large stacks of musty tomes. Admittedly, it can be a bit intimidating. Sometimes you just don't know where to start.

When you do finally muster up the courage to enter this amazing bookstore, you will be met with books, magazines, records, and comics on just about everything, in just about every



language, from just about every time period. It's a treasure chest for bookworms, antique collectors, and anyone who wants to check out a unique Reykjavík establishment. Check it out.

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Nature in design unnuöy i veitðran i

Nature in Design Showcase of over 30 icelandic designers

The exhibition is located in the Ljosifoss power station, situated in natural environment near Lake Thingvallavatn.

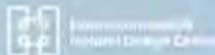
An exhibition that takes visitors on a journey through nature objectified by icelandic designers and offers insight into the underlying ideas.

The exhibition is free and open daily through August 28th 2010.

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Mystery Art In Nowhereland

Embarking on unknown journeys of performance art and insanity

We are sitting in a pile of hay in Vogar, near Keflavík, drinking wine and watching hipsters lying about in the evening sun. Kolbeinn Hugi Höskuldsson and Mundi Vondi, a pair of local cool-kids-slash-artists who describe each other as a try-out musician and a fashion victim, are freshly showered after giving a performance inside a turf covered shed. The people in attendance boarded a bus in downtown Reykjavík a few hours prior—well stocked up on alcoholised beverages—with no clue where they were about to go or what exactly they were about to see. Little did they know they were about to witness two naked men covered in clay, dangling from the ceiling, attacking a piñata of full of beer.

"We started talking about how girls check out their genitals when they're teenagers," Kolbeinn Hugi muses over the last performance they did together. "They have to stand on top of mirrors. I read this book that my niece had and it said you had to place the mirror on the floor and stand on it and check out your vagina. So we were talking about placing mirrors all over and then when you have mirrors, you think about lasers."

The performance of which he is speaking happened just two weeks prior, on a similar adventure, and consisted of a bare-assed battle of laser-pointers inserted into the most daring of orifices and crawling around a dirty cellar. "It started as a joke, but we realised quite fast that the joke had to become reality," says Mundi. Luckily, both they and the crowd were socially lubricated with copious amounts of free alcohol in order to lower the level of perplexity.

Meaningless, but not vapid

Perplexing the audience is not necessarily the goal though. There seems to be no intended purpose or message from their artwork. In fact, Kolbeinn Hugi is of the opinion that it is misguided to search for meaning. "In my opinion people have this misconception about visual art," he says, "you go to a visual art show and it's supposed to mean something. You listen to music and you just accept it for what it is and you enjoy, or you don't. You don't question it. You go to a concert and you're not like, 'Why does he play the riff this way? Why does he not chug more on the guitar?' It's weird." The object of the performance rather is simply com-

pleting the task at hand. "What I like doing is just getting into a situation," Mundi continues. "You have a goal, you're not acting in any way, and you're just completing your role. You haven't pre-determined what you want to do or how you're going to do it, you just know what you're going to accomplish."

Kolbeinn Hugi recounts that people often construe his events to be theatrical, but reacts strongly against this. "I met this guy and I handed him a flyer and he was like 'Is it theatre?'" he recalls. "I said, 'Theatre!? No! What the fuck? It's anything BUT theatre!'" While he admits that he feels more comfortable with having a preferred outcome to their works, their performances differentiate from theatre in that they are not scripted or necessarily have their outcome pre-determined. In the case of the piece they have just completed, he says they were not entirely sure what they were setting out to accomplish. "We just had some elements and we tried them out in front of a crowd," he shrugs. "I don't know what makes it not suck. It's probably your intuition or something."

Naked ambition

They certainly aren't shy about the things that fuel the inspiration for their work together either. "I like to think about violence, and I'm a pornographic maniac," Mundi says, perfectly deadpan. This is rather unsurprising, considering the piñata they unleashed their fury upon had their faces alternately projected upon it, and with each blow of their sticks would release a horrible cry of distress. Oh, and again: they were completely naked.

"It's a great excuse to get naked," Kolbeinn Hugi enthuses. "I got a phone call from someone asking 'Why are you always doing this gay shit with Mundi?'" and I said "Hey man, he's the only person who wants to get naked and do these things with me." There's always a need for naked people! They are in shortage. How many naked people do you see a day? I see one, maximum. Possibly more if I go to the swimming pool."

"I just love to experience stuff that I haven't seen before and I like to hear stuff I haven't heard before," he goes on, "and the beauty of visual arts in general is that it's accepted that you can do pretty much whatever the fuck you want. The downside is that it's always questioned. I like that you can surprise people. That's really inspiring and that's why I love performance."

Don't bother to pack your bags or your map

The trip we are currently on is the second time in a fortnight that the two have dragged an unsuspecting group out of the city for a night to a secret location. The first trip brought a bus of fifty people to a gallery in Keflavík where, in addition to the laser-cross performance, Kolbeinn Hugi exhibited a light display, a replica of the bar Bakkus was erected and hip electro-crew Quadruplos performed a set. The bus ride down to the location also featured live on-the-road tunes courtesy of the hilariously named Señor Sweaty. On this trip, however, the bus was not equipped to play live music, but after Kolbeinn Hugi and Mundi did their thing we were treated to the final show by Reykjavík noise-punk duo DLX ATX (they are currently 're-organising' the band). The bus then returned to the city by 10pm, just in time to go out and party.

When it comes to paying for these events, the two have managed to find crafty ways to spend virtually no money. They keep their personal costs down by working with extremely cheap materials, and they have become very good at making the most of their resources and being frugal. The galleries and spaces that host their shows very graciously fund their travel costs. "A lot of the time galleries will pay for a really small advertisement in a magazine," explains Kolbeinn Hugi. "It will bring maybe two people and it will cost 40.000 ISK. Why not get a bus full of people, advertise for free and get way more people, you know?"

Chill tactics

As for the reason they bring people out of town for these events, they attribute it to the fact that things happen in the city all the time, but the countryside has its advantages. "I've done shows all over," says Kolbeinn Hugi, "and some towns are interested, but some towns are not. People just want to stay home, so why not just bring people over?"

They also believe that bringing a group of people together in a capacity like this effectively displaces them from a normal art show setting. "When you isolate the crowd like this, it forms a certain bond with the people," Mundi explains. "You get them out of the city, out of the where is the next thing happening, they are completely stuck here so they relax more. I think us driving people to an unknown location is also part of our hope for giving people some adventures in their lives. Some people



Words

Rebecca Louder

Photography

Julia Staples

never leave Reykjavík, or not for a good reason. They might go camping and have a good time with the grill, but we want to give people more."

Quite accurately, all the people who have come along seem to be in a particularly laid back state. People are hanging around in the field by the edge of the sea, sharing their drinks and making new acquaintances with people they otherwise may not have engaged with. "This would never happen in town," says Mundi. "It wouldn't happen in Reykjavík. Never." 🍷

Although it is currently unconfirmed, Kolbeinn Hugi and Mundi are likely to organise more of these trips throughout the summer. They happen at a moment's notice, but the Grapevine gets the inside scoop, so we'll let you know!

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Herrafataverzlun Kormáks og Skjaldar
Laugavegur 59, 101

If you have been in Reykjavík for any significant amount of time, you may have taken notice at how (some of the) men's style is a cut above. Yes, some of them may be watching too much Mad Men (can you blame them?) but most of them are just on board with classic, good quality style, and luckily many places cater to that. The pioneer in bringing old-school Brit gentleman charm to the streets of Reykjavík is Herrafataverzlun Kormáks & Skjaldar, a veritable pot of gold of men's fashion.

Now tucked away in a basement on Laugavegur, the shop was first opened by a pair of friends, Kormákur and Skjöldur, twelve years ago on Skólavörðustígur, where 12 Tónar now reside. Originally specialising in second-hand items only, the store closed down to much anguish in early 2001. After a five-year hiatus, they opened again at their current location downstairs from Bónus in the mini-mall on the main drag.

Guðmundur Jörundsson, the dapper young gentleman behind the counter

upon our visit, has been working there since the store re-opened in 2006. He says they now have a wide array of customers, from young men to older businessmen types. They've moved onto selling nearly all first-wear clothing, mostly imported garments from Italy and England, although they also carry the local clothing line Farmer's Market. They also carry labels such as DNA and the Swedish brand Red Colour Project, who cross over classic menswear with modern elegance. Guðmundur says they have a lot of variety, from basic items to street wear and collections, but should be able to fit anyone's budget.

In addition to all the snazzy duds, they have a barbershop corner with a hairdresser in for a few days a week. They have onsite tailoring for basic changes on items they sell, as well as for creating pieces for their online store. Overall, they carry a huge selection of great quality items for the well-groomed male and keep the Icelandic guys that so choose looking well snazzy.

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				10:00	10:00*		
	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00
			14:00	14:00*			
			17:00	17:00	17:00		

*10:00 and 14:00 departures from July 1st to August 10th

November 1st - March 31st

Winter schedule	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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The Settlement Exhibition

Step into the Viking Age

Experience Viking-Age Reykjavík at the new Settlement Exhibition. The focus of the exhibition is an excavated longhouse site which dates from the 10th century AD. It includes relics of human habitation from about 871, the oldest such site found in Iceland.

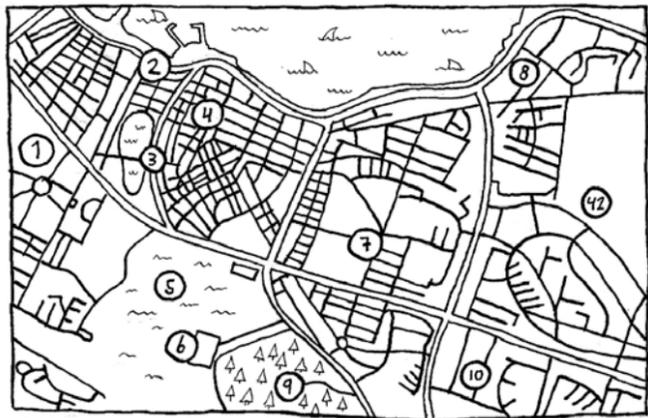
Multimedia techniques bring Reykjavík's past to life, providing visitors with insights into how people lived in the Viking Age, and what the Reykjavík environment looked like to the first settlers.

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HUGLEIKUR DAGSSON

Art | Fart

artFart Farts On

We know that something brilliant is about to happen in this city: artFart.

This year's programme is being pencilled in as I type, and the ever-familiar feeling of enthusiasm is infectious, as the artFart team scan their eyes across the wealth of ambitious, innovative and adventurous work being offered up by both Icelandic and international artists—all now destined to form the building blocks for the 2010 artFart programme.

However, artists and their marvellous creativity is one thing—audiences are another. As the old saying goes—a tree that falls without being heard, does not make a sound—i.e. it is all very well and good that we are making a programme, but people need to know about it—and feel excited enough to get involved. In this light, we at artFart must do more than just marvel at the endless reams of talent running astray—we must give it a home, feed it well and make the news of artFart's fifth arrival in Reykjavík hit the headlines.

This has got the creative minds of artFart inspired, as we seek to design some shamelessly attention-grabbing actions that will serve to put this year's festival in view. Ideas that have surfaced so far include: The Naked Billboard—a naked man or woman taking a stroll down Laugavegur each day—with that day's schedule scrawled across their bare parts; The Balloon Canvas—an activity

that involves taking the festival's logo (a bicycle given flight by a bunch of balloons) and transforming it into reality, as we tie balloons to all of Reykjavík's major city landmarks in the hope that we can make them fly; Forehead tattoos—an activity that involves convincing as many people in Reykjavík as possible to get 'artFart' tattooed on their face; flash mobs; door knocking; writing a pop song (thank you Best Party); hostage taking; setting off the volcano; stopping the volcano; faking death. There have been more, but frighteningly, it has to be said, these were our best. So, we have some work to do, but you must keep your eyes and ears peeled. You will know that our brainstorming did not develop any further if you see someone naked promoting this year's artFart.

FESTIVAL NEWSFLASH: artFart's Reykjavík Public Space Programme is offering three Iceland-based artists the opportunity to take part in a PAID residency here in Iceland. For three weeks in August three artists will explore different possibilities for contemporary performance taking place in Public Spaces. This unique and one-off opportunity is open to everyone and should not be missed. ☺

Alexander Roberts

Special | Best Of Reykjavík



They're Always Glad You Came

Kaffibarinn still keeps kids of all ages happy



Kaffibarinn
Bergstaðastræti 2, 101

Standing high and proud on the slope of Bergstaðastræti right above Laugavegur, Kaffibarinn is one of the oldest bars in Reykjavík. And it has consistently stood the test of time which is, well, unusual for Reykjavík bars. First opened as a coffee house—the name translates simply as "The Coffee Bar"—Kaffibarinn has evolved into being a well-reputed party spot amongst locals and visitors alike. Touted in all the guide books as the go-to bar for the drinking-minded folk, this is still a place based in a strong family feel and a sense of real Reykjavík nightlife.

After successfully opening the clothing shop Frikki & Dýrið, Dýrleif Örylgisdóttir and Friðrik Weissshappel teamed up with their good friend



Andrés Magnússon in 1993 to open up Kaffibarinn. After a few years, the place morphed into a bar and certain elements changed. The place was expanded, the kitchen was closed down, they changed their opening hours and started having DJs spinning tracks, but the general feel stayed true.

"The family, the party atmosphere that was formed in the first year has more or less stayed the same," we are told by a friendly staff member who wished to remain anonymous. Damon Albarn also owned a small stake in the bar for a short time, although our Kaffibarinn staffer tells us this was more ceremonial than anything else. "He had 1% for sure," says the staffer, "It's probably one of the cheapest, most accidental and successful international marketing campaigns of all time."

This little bit of folklore, as well as the well-travelled flick '101 Reykjavík,'



may have contributed to the popularity the bar has gotten internationally, but here at home their consistency has just been about maintaining a good atmosphere and providing a good time for all. That and selling shitloads of beer, the most popular of all beverages, our staffer says.

Asking what sets them apart from the rest, they boil it down to a rather simple formula. "We try to stay a warm, friendly and fun place for our group of regulars while also being a welcoming to newcomers," they say, "It's about generations of good staff and fun customers and top DJs who all know each other." Indeed, whether it's your first time or hundredth time there, it really feels like everybody knows your name.

REBECCA LOUDER
JÓI KJARTANS

Music | Album Reviews



Daði

Self Portrait

dathi

Is there a bleaker album around this year? Answers on a postcard ...

To my knowledge, the only notable thing to have come from Dalvík recently is Friðrik Ómar, a poisoned pop dwarf whose music is the equivalent of a dozen Care Bears vomiting onto the face of a small child. But for every Ying, there must be a Yang. And that stinking monolith of Yang has arrived in the form of Daði.

His music is a sparse, acoustic affair

along the lines of Leonard Cohen and Current 93 circa "All The Pretty Little Horses." So far, so folksy. But it's the lyrics that get you. While Ólafur Arnalds is melancholy and Hank & Tank is downbeat, this is midnight at the beach at Vik, bottle of vodka in one hand, sleeping pills in the other, with Radiohead's "Exit music" on the car stereo. It's THAT depressing! And song titles like My Misery, Just Like Suicide and Goodbye Cruel World leave you in no doubt of its bleakness. But that doesn't mean it's depressing to listen to. In fact, I'd rather prefer this acoustic honesty than 85% of the smiley happy joy joy bollocks that passes for singer songwriting any day.

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June 5 - August 15

 <p> July 3 at 12 noon July 4 at 5 pm Christian Præstholt Denmark </p>	 <p> July 31 at 12 noon August 1 at 5 pm Steingrímur Þórhallsson Iceland </p>
 <p> July 10 at 12 noon July 11 at 5 pm Dame Gillian Weir England </p>	 <p> August 7 at 12 noon August 8 at 5 pm Kári Þormar Iceland </p>
 <p> July 17 at 12 noon July 18 at 5 pm Winfried Böning Cologne Cathedral Germany </p>	 <p> August 14 at 12 noon August 15 at 5 pm Halgeir Schiager Norway </p>
 <p> July 24 at 12 noon July 25 at 5 pm Guðný Einarsdóttir Iceland </p>	



LUNCHTIME CONCERTS ON THURSDAYS IN HALLGRÍMSKIRKJA AT 12 NOON

July 1: Friðrik Vignir Stefánsson - Seltjarnarneskirkja
 Eygló Rúnarsdóttir (mezzo soprano)
July 8: Lára Bryndís Eggertsdóttir - Denmark
July 15: Sigrún Magna Þórsteinsdóttir - Akureyrarkirkja
July 22: Sveinn Arnar Sæmundsson - Akraneskirkja
 Kristín Sigurjónsdóttir (violin)
July 29: Kári Allansson - Grindavíkurkirkja
August 5: Magnús Ragnarsson - Áskirkja
 Þórunn Elin Pétursdóttir (soprano)
August 12: Ágúst Ingi Ágústsson - Denmark

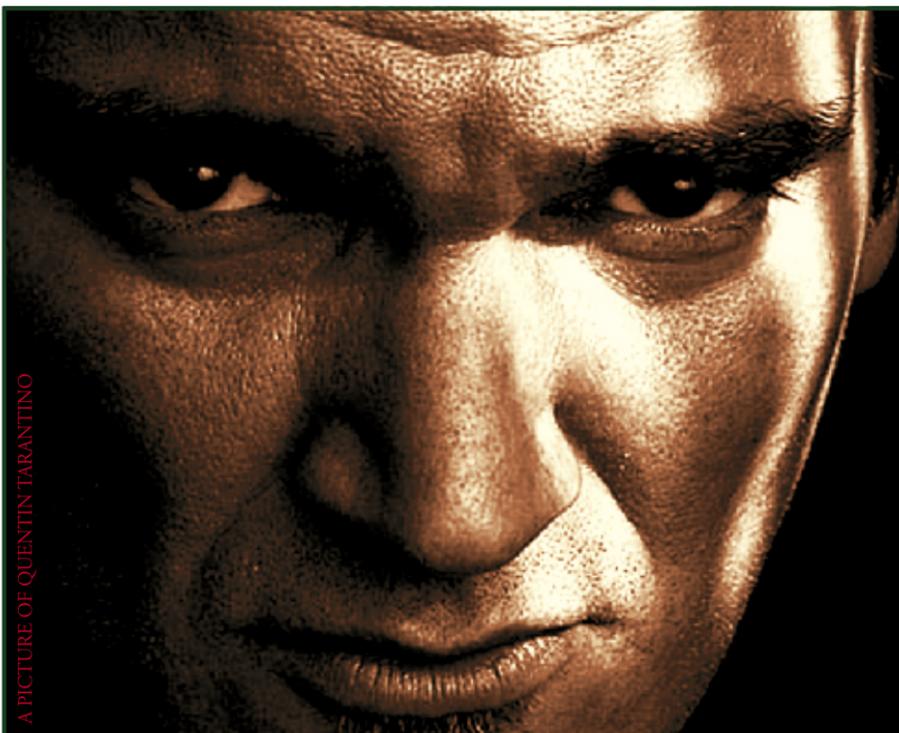
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Travel | West fjords

Boats, Birds And Baked Goods On A Daytrip To Ísafjörður

Hanging out in the water in the West fjords



Nothing starts the day like an early flight to Ísafjörður. When my friend and I embarked upon an action-packed day tour from the good people at Air Iceland, we discovered that taking a domestic flight in Iceland is one of the most hilariously simple experiences out there. Maybe it's because international airports have become so infuriating and unpleasant, but being able to stroll up to the counter 15 minutes before the flight, show no identification and undergo no security measures was completely delightful. And then you get to fly into the West fjords, which need to be seen from the sky, I highly recommend it. It's fantastic.

Pretty soon after landing, we found ourselves standing in the back of the Vesturferðir travel company's cosy log cabin, trying to squeeze ourselves into waterproof pants one size too small. Our extremely friendly guide for the day, the native Haukur, was about to take us on a nice kayak tour around the fjord. The prospect of kayaking in the West fjords originally seemed daunting to my cohort and I, although I had kayaked once a very long time ago. But upon arriving in Ísafjörður and seeing the calm, protected waters of the fjord, we were feeling pretty good about it. We just kept hoping we didn't flip over.

EVERYONE DOES IT

I asked Haukur how flipping over happens and

what one can do to avoid that happening, but his answers were rather vague. "Usually it just happens when people get distracted and start looking at the birds and the mountains too much," he said non-chalantly, "but it can really happen to anyone. One of our guides flipped over yesterday because he was trying to do some fancy moves. Don't try to be a dancer." Ironically, I learned how to kayak at ballet camp.

Once we got our gear on, we headed down to the tip of the spit of land the town is located to our kayaking launch point. This was set amongst some of the oldest timber frame houses in Iceland, built between 1734 and 1761, and truly gave us a sense of time travelling. Being only two people going on the tour today, we gladly lent a hand to Haukur to carry the kayaks down to the shore, their front tips barely resting in the water. We were then given a quick paddling lesson and rescue instructions if the unthinkable flipping over should happen, got our foot rests adjusted and then pushed into the water.

EASIER THAN CANOEING

Let me get right to the point: kayaking is fun. The kayak is a perfect individual sport since it is simple enough to learn in a short time and does not require an impressive physical disposition. My cohort quickly learned how to manoeuvre herself in

the water, although it took some time to build up speed. Haukur casually soared ahead pointing out various interesting things to draw our attention to.

The views around us really were quite spectacular too. With the town now behind us, we were staring right into the majesty of the fjord on a remarkably clear and sunny day. I noticed a tunnel running through the mountains and Haukur told me there was a waterfall behind it, near their so-called forest. He drew our attention to a dip in the mountain and told us it was what locals called a troll chair. "A long time ago a troll came here and sat in the mountain," he mused, "but now trolls are all extinct."

He then pointed out to us a family of eider ducks taking their morning swim, but by the time we noticed and caught up they were gone. Once we made it to the half-way point in the fjord we decided to go back the way we came instead of going the full circle. While it is an easy enough activity, it does require endurance and ours was running thin. We got ourselves back to shore and thanked him. "I was really happy you came," he said, "or else I would have been stuck in the office all day. And it's so nice out!"

ANOTHER FREAKING BOAT!?

After a leisurely walk around town and a nice lunch at the catch-of-the-day summer restaurant Tjörhúsið, we headed over to the harbour, where the second half of our day tour was to begin. We boarded a small tour boat with a handful of other travellers and headed off to Vigur, a tiny island in the Ísafjarðardjúp fjord with more birds than people. After a slightly jumpy boat ride where I got completely sprayed by seawater while overzealously leaning out to see the fjord, we arrived at a really old-looking dock.

Before stepping onto the island officially, our guide Lára instructed us to stay close together and not stray far from the group. The island is privately owned by one family of farmers who have lived there for many generations, and we were there at the peak of nesting season for the eider ducks, arctic terns, guillemots and puffins that inhabit the island. This made walking around a rather delicate affair as we tried to avoid stepping on bird eggs, meanwhile waving blue flags on sticks to keep the crazy arctic terns at bay.

The tour of the island was shorter than usual due to nesting season, but we saw a lot nonetheless. We began at the one and only windmill in Iceland, built in 1830. It was used to grind corn meal until it went out of use in 1917. The National

Museum bought it in 1996 and plans to restore it. We then walked further up the island to where we could see a large area of puffin nests, which they make by digging two metre wide holes in the ground and hiding under there. They are quite easy to step on so we didn't venture further.

KIND OF LIKE THAT ALFRED HITCHCOCK MOVIE

We returned down the island towards the homestead but people were dragging behind. Not all the people in our tour group were so respectful about staying on the path and keeping together with the group, but Lára seemed extremely patient. My cohort and I were less so, as we were standing there getting screamed at and threatened by the arctic terns. The closer we got to our next point of interest, the more upset they got and the lower they dipped towards us, no matter how hard we swatted at them with our little blue flags. Not cool, man—bird—but they gotta protect their eggs and all.

This disturbance came to a peak at our next stop, the Eiderduck Hotel. This was a low, stone wall built by the farmer who inhabited the island 200 years ago. Little cubbies were built into the wall at ground level making it ideal for eider ducks and guillemots to build their nests in peacefully. We then headed to one of the farmhouses, where we were invited to have coffee and a variety of some of the most delicious baked goods I have ever sampled. After this perfect little repose, we made our final stop at the eiderdown factory—smallest post office in Iceland. The farmers on the island make their main living by selling the down to make some of the most luxuriously soft pillows and blankets available, and after feeling the freshly cleaned eiderdown, I badly want a new duvet!

We then boarded our tour boat again to take us back to the mainland, where we would fly home. Between the cakes and the thought of new pillows, my cohort and I both fell into deep, dreamy naps as we floated along the now peaceful waters of the West fjords. 🇮🇸

✍ REBECCA LOUDER
📷 MERYEM YILDIZ



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Special | Best Of Reykjavík

The Best Scoop Around

Reykjavík's Tastiest Ice Cream



Ísbúðin Ísland
Stigahlió 45-47, 105

Ísbúðin Ísland only recently joined the crowd of ice cream stores dishing out cold creamy goodness to Reykjavík residents. Opening its doors in January, Ísland is pretty new, but unknown it is not. This excellent, little ice cream shop has been making quite a name for itself. In fact, it scored our 'Best ice cream' award!

Owner Hlédis Sveinsdóttir sells specialty ice cream that she procures straight from farms around the country. Growing up on a farm herself, Hlédis understands where ice cream comes from, and wants others to appreciate the work that many cows and farmers put in to each scoop.

Her shop, located right across the street from Kringlan, sells this special farm-made ice cream, called Holtsel after the farm where it's produced. Ísland also offer the regular scoop and soft serve stuff from Kjörís, but Holtsel is really why you should pay Ísland a visit. Ringing up at 420 ISK a scoop, it's fortunate that most people tell Hlédis they only need one scoop to feel full.

Ísland serves up scoops of Holtsel

in an array of flavours, the most popular being coconut with chocolate chip, strawberry skyr (made with real skyr. And strawberries, of course), and beer (yes, it DOES taste like beer). Stand-by flavours like chocolate, vanilla, chocolate-liquorice, and caramel are always in stock. This tasty treat is also available in boxes to take home.

Ísbúðin Ísland offers a variety of frozen treats for every customer. If you're jonesing for a sugar fix, you can find all the traditional candy toppings, dips, and sauces. If healthy and refreshing is more to your taste, there's a variety of skyr and yogurt based ice creams as well as fresh strawberries, rhubarb pieces, and agave and dandelion syrups to top it off. They also stock a good assortment of organic yogurt products and old Icelandic skyr.

If you're looking for some delicious, filling ice cream straight from the farm, look no further than Ísland. This awesome little shop will fulfil each and every one of your ice cream needs. While it may cost a few krónur more than that boring soft serve stuff, your tummy will thank you. 🍦

✍️ ALLISON SAVAGE
📷 JULIA STAPLES

Special | Best Of Reykjavík

Coffee Pioneers In 101

Reykjavík's Original Café

Mokka
Skólavörðustíg 3A, 101

Mokka, founded in 1958, is one of Reykjavík's oldest coffeehouses. When asked why they think it's stuck around for so long, the proprietors answered "Because it's never changed." Truer words were never spoken. Mokka's interior is shockingly similar to what it must have looked like decades ago, when the first Italian espresso machine in Iceland made its home on Mokka's counter.

Strong, Italian coffee is something that sets this cozy coffeehouse apart from its other downtown counterparts. As does some delicious, Belgian-style waffles that are always great for brunch. Mokka also offers regular exhibits from some local, Icelandic artists. This comfy, Reykjavík staple offers a nice atmosphere, rich coffee, and some serious nostalgia. It is a true 101 institution.

✍️ ALLISON SAVAGE
📷 JULIA STAPLES



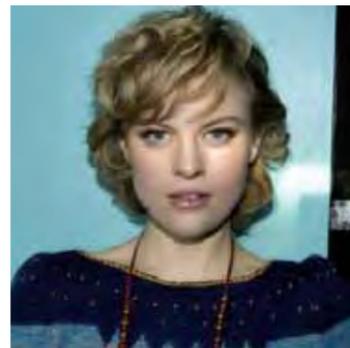
Special | Best Of Reykjavík: Locals

Fantastic Flóra

Ólöf Arnalds, musician

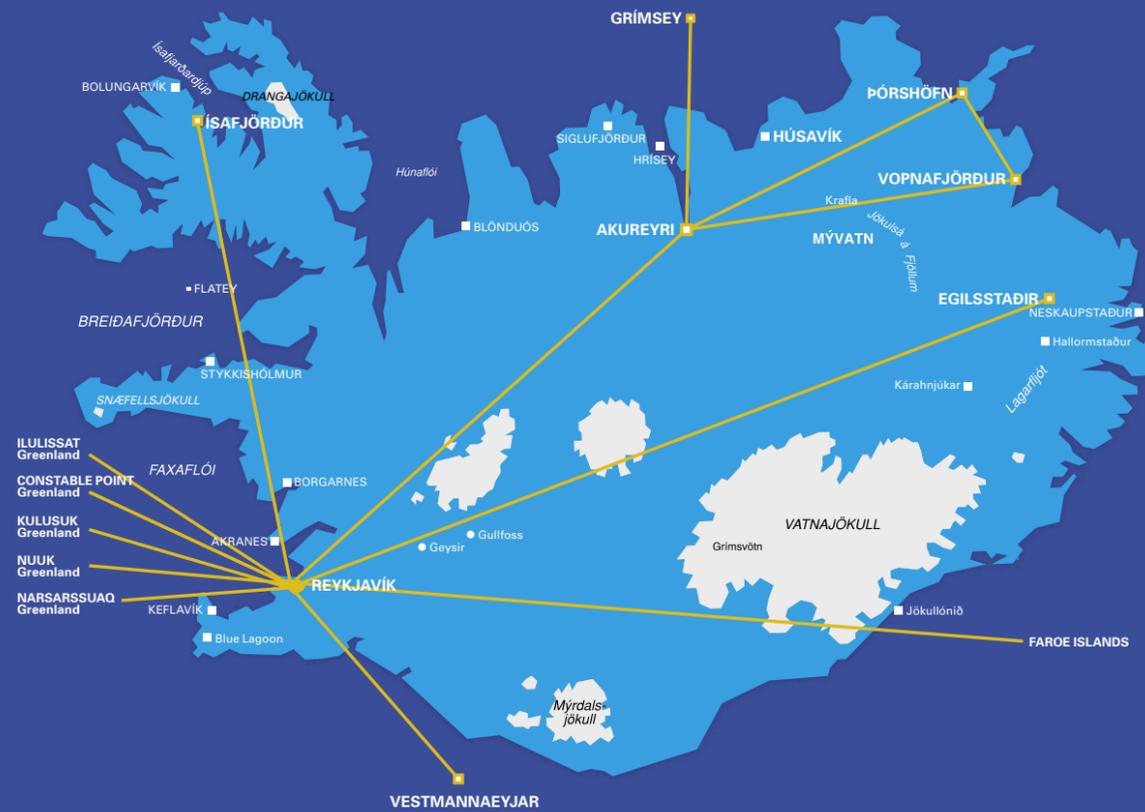
"One of my favourite places in town is Café Flóra in the Laugardalur Botanical Gardens. It's incredibly restful to sit down there and enjoy some coffee surrounded by plants and goldfish. I am also very happy with the area that's in

formation down at the harbour these days, that started with Sægreifinn but has now turned into a cluster of restaurants and shops." 🍵



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Special | Best Of Reykjavík



Veggin' Out For 35 Years

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Á Næstu Grösum
Laugavegur 20b, 101

Á Næstu Grösum started serving delicious veggie food on Laugavegur way back in 1975. The idea behind the restaurant was to serve healthy vegetarian food using ingredients in their purest form. Since opening, they have been serving up a damn fine selection of meat-free dishes to Reykjavík's veggie minded. But it wasn't always green gold.

Dóra Svavarsdóttir, chef and owner of Á Næstu Grösum, says there were a lot of challenges in the beginning. "The local produce in Iceland is limited and very seasonal," she told us, "We have to import everything. It's a constant struggle with the budget." When asked whether she thought the vegetarian population in Reykjavík is growing, Dóra told us her customer base is growing, but not necessarily the number of vegetarians. "A lot of people are starting to include

vegetarian dishes into their diet, but do not consider themselves strict vegetarians," she remarks. "Before people thought you had to be a vegetarian to go into a vegetarian restaurant. Now that attitude has changed."

When the crisis hit in 2008, a lot of vegetables were even more difficult to import. Dóra says that Á Næstu Grösum is doing pretty well for a vegetarian restaurant located in the Arctic Circle. "Even though there isn't a lot of variety, the Icelandic vegetables are in pretty good quality when they're in season." Dóra explains that the farmers in Iceland have been growing a lot of tomatoes and cucumbers. "There is just one zucchini farmer," she says. "There are a lot of things that are not available here that people who travel are used too. That is our biggest challenge."

Á Næstu Grösum truly remains one of Reykjavík's best places to veg out.

✍ EMILY BURTON
📷 JULIA STAPLES

Special | Best Of Reykjavík



Giving Reykjavík The Kick It Deserves

Austur-Indía félagið is a Reykjavík gem



Austur-Indía félagið
Hverfisgata 56, 101

Sixteen years ago Reykjavík's food palette lacked seasoning and spice. It was a time where the average Icelander had tried almost every fruit on its waning tree and was in dire need of some taste bud rejuvenation. Luckily, Austur-Indía félagið came to the rescue bearing exotic spices and Eastern recipes. Since then, they've loyally fed our addiction for aromatic Indian cuisine—and they never fail!

The food is praised for its fusion of exotic spices with the natural and freshest of Icelandic ingredients. The chefs and spices that make up Austur-Indía's signature flavour have ventured here from all over India, and the result embraces the taste of its most familiar and remote regions. It is the epitome of an authentic dining experience.

Apart from supplying us with vibrant and fragrant flavours, Austur-Indía has also been a great influence on Reykjavík's approach to foreign food and culture. Since the day we've been blessed with its presence, ethnic restaurants have been sprouting up all over town. However, while many of them wither away, Austur-Indía has remained an unmoveable rock in the restaurant industry and is one of the city's most dependable restaurants.

"We've never forgotten to offer quality and consistency for the right



value," explains Chandrika Gunnarson, one of the restaurant's founders. "Even after the financial crash, when restaurants and businesses were raising their prices, we didn't. We were willing to take some of the hit because we knew everybody else was."

Chandrika illustrates that they key to their success is not only because of their excellent quality food but the treatment of their customers. "We like to treat them as guests and making them number one is our priority. It's a simple philosophy and doesn't take a genius to figure out, but it does to put it into daily practise."

"Customers return knowing they're going to get great quality food and leave satisfied. I've eaten there for the

restaurant's lifespan, and I'm still not bored."

From dining celebrities, politicians to students, Austur-Indía félagið emphasises an atmosphere where your average Joe can show up in his t-shirt and jeans and enjoy the comfortable, unpretentious and down to earth ambience. So loosen that waistbelt and go fill yourself silly with some of Reykjavík's best cuisine. 🍽

✍ ALEXANDRA YOUNG
📷 JULIA STAPLES

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Saga of Sagas: Bang For The Buck

When Glitnir went into a tailspin in September 2008 no one could have dared imagine—not even in their worst nightmares—how mad things would get. A mere one and a half years later, Iceland is a nation beyond nervous breakdown. This inconceivable chain-of-events has most of us endlessly shaking our heads, much like those bouncing-head-dolls glued on the dashboard of Hong Kong taxis.

Speculations that Icelandic banks, Landsbanki in particular, were the vehicle for Russian mafia money-laundering, and that Kaupthing funds were being used to manipulate credit derivatives, are now under serious fraud investigation across the Western banking world. Guardian reporter Simon Bowers points out that “the German bank [Deutsche Bank] had been offering Kaupthing advice on how to influence CDS [credit default swaps] price on Kaupthing bonds from early 2008.” As suggested by the Icelandic Truth Commission, it becomes clearer and clearer that the bank’s management was entangled in desperate measures to pay up long-term debts. It begins to look as if outsiders with the upper hand were quietly reaping the rewards to the detriment of Icelandic banks—and their guarantors: Icelandic taxpayers. A leaked letter from Sigurður Einarsson, Kaupthing’s chair’s desk (the one now wanted by Interpol), stated: “...the bank cannot buy CDSs on itself. Therefore [we] resorted to getting clients we trusted well and had long-standing relations with, based on trust and loyalty to engage in these transactions on behalf of the bank...”

Of course, we all know that 90% of the iceberg is not visible above the water line, and such it is with what is left of this deeply mired investigation: former bank managers on the run from the law, once-oligarchs, still oligarchs, still reaping rewards on the back of the troubled Icelandic nation. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister of Iceland ties the



official knot minutes after the bill for same-sex-marriage is passed. Priorities, priorities. Congratulations, by the way.

Gordon Kerr, investment banker and specialist in sovereign debt syndicates, delivered an enlightening address to the European parliament in March. The address was recently made public online and notes the roots of Iceland’s banking problem as threefold. The gist of it is thus:

1. Iceland is too small a nation to be an active participant on the international banking scene.
2. During the boom years all the Icelandic banks sought extremely aggressive (perhaps) unsubstantiated growth.
3. The foolhardy (sic) Icelandic banks sought acceptance by the Western regulatory regime by any means possible

Kerr goes on to explain that Western politicians have been (and still are) “blissfully ignorant” of the “blips on their radar screens.” In summary, he explains that the Western banking system and accounting regime has encouraged a system whereby the global credit crunch was inevitable. The reasons are as follows: Firstly, one “cannot divorce the independent valuation of assets from the quantity of debt banks are willing to issue against as-

sets.” Secondly, the whirlwind of the market “forces CEOs of major banks to push fractional reserves to their limits.” Thirdly, “an absurd accounting regime encourages banks to transfer as much exposure as possible into derivatives.” Fourthly, and probably most importantly for taxpayers: “Depositors’ money belongs in law to the bank, not to the depositors” themselves. This gives the bank a free reign. And fifthly, and perhaps most strangely, due to “the European Central Bank’s discount window, banks are allowed to purchase assets post crisis,” which motivates them to “monetise unrealised future profits.”

Finally, Kerr says: “...if the Icelandic people did not understand what was going on, are the actions of [Britain and the Netherlands] not akin to luring the demented old lady next door into leaving you her house in her will and thereby disinheriting her children?” ‘Icesave’ is now bantered around like a four-letter-word. It is a known entity. But, I wonder when the general public is finally made aware of the true extent of the Icelandic banks’ debts, if there will not be another eruption of gargantuan scale. ✂

MARC VINCENZ

Special | Best Of Reykjavík: Locals

Easy Swimming Þorvaldur Þór Þorvaldsson

Best café? Kaffitár. They have consistently great coffee and food. I recommend the bagel with hummus, olives, feta and cheese.

Best place to grab a bite? Austur-Índía Félagið. Best Indian restaurant around. Actually, in the world. I recommend the lobster appetiser with the salmon entrée.

Best bar? Boston. The music’s not too loud, just at the right volume so you can talk with your friends.

Favourite swimming pool? In Seltjarnarnes. It’s the easiest place to swim because the water is often overflowing so it pushes you along. I like the lounge pool also.

Best kept secret? At Gróttta by the lighthouse, there is a hole in the ground with hot water in all year round. A great place to soak your feet and look at the beautiful view. ✂



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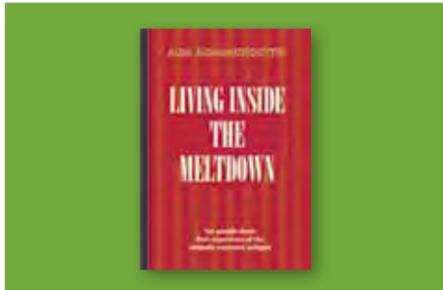
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Books | Review

Living Inside the Meltdown

by Alda Sigmundsdóttir

Self-published. Available from
www.icelandweatherreport.com



Here is a short book, available only in electronic format, which presents eight interviews with ten people who tell their story of Iceland's economic collapse. We meet a couple who made some unfortunate real estate transactions, a student who was abroad during the collapse, a policeman who served during the demonstrations at parliament in January 2009, a half-Icelandic couple who moved back in 2007, two Portuguese immigrants, the owner of a small import business, a retired building supplies wholesaler, and an investment advisor at Íslandsbanki (a.k.a. Glitnir).

You can read this book in an hour or so. The interviews are interesting, though short. Icelanders are often more open in print than they would be in person. You won't get a detailed sense of Iceland's economic breakdown from this book but you will get an impression.

Alda Sigmundsdóttir took and edited the interviews and writes a brief introduction. For the last few years she has run a fine blog called the Iceland Weather Report, which makes good reading for those looking for updates about Iceland in English.

The book isn't available in print and doesn't have an ISBN number, but you can buy it (which means, get a URL which lets you download it as a PDF) from her blog website for \$24.99. Alda makes a plea on the website and in the book to respect her copyright and not read bootleg copies of the PDF. This is all good, but it raises a few issues.

One is whether it's OK to read the book, then pass it on to someone else and delete it from your computer. Alda doesn't give any clear guidance on this, but I'd say yes (as long as you really do delete it from your computer), along the same lines as that it's OK to resell a regular old paper book after you read it.

Another is that this book contains 91 pages of text, which means it's priced at \$0.27 per page. That's a lot, especially when you consider that longer e-books sell for \$10 on Amazon and you can buy a good song online (and play it over and over) for less than a dollar. One wants Alda to be compensated for her efforts, which are valiant and sincere. But people who are already overwhelmed with content, much of it free (including the nine volumes on the economic collapse from the government's truth commission) need a very compelling reason to justify spending twenty-five bucks on even a very sincerely produced ninety-one page PDF.

I wonder if Alda could do as well or better by reducing the price to well under \$10 and using a sales portal like lulu.com that would allow her to offer the book in paper form as well. As is, I think Living Inside the Meltdown just costs too much. That isn't a judgement about Alda's skills as a writer and editor, but rather a reminder of how complicated it is to find workable publishing models in the age of the Internet. **✂ - IAN WATSON**

Opinion | Rebecca Louder

The Art Of Sleep
The most underrated activity in Iceland

As I walk to work every morning, I never cease to be amused by the people on Laugavegur. There are two kinds, really. First there are the people who clearly live here, who are going to work, walking at a steady pace with a cigarette or coffee. Typical.

Then you have the group of North Face-clad, up-and-at-'em camera-clutchers who really want to get a head start on their day. Invariably, they wind up looking completely befuddled and dismayed at the lack of anything being open at the crack of 9:30. That's what nobody tells you before coming here: everything starts really, really late! Stores don't open before 10, at the earliest, and most restaurants only start polishing the silverware around 11. Unless these tourists have an early morning day trip booked or are only coming back from last night's party, they should still be in bed.

A good friend recently came to visit me on her two-week long vacation from work. She had no particular plans for her stay here and just wanted to experience life in the city and take in some of the natural beauty of the countryside. While I would get up early and head down to work, she was still sleeping like a cat on opium on the couch. For the first few days of her visit, she shamefully admitted that she kept sleeping until noon. She also quickly realised that walking around the city in the morning was essentially pointless, since there is pretty much nothing to do. I thought this was a perfectly reasonable, considering it's rare that she could sleep in on a Monday, Tuesday AND Wednesday in a row. I was completely jealous.

And what better way to spend ones vacation really? Many cultures regard sleep as a flagrant indulgence that flouts convention and shows a lack of responsibility or work ethic. To this I say boo-urns! Sleep is a vital function that allows the body to regenerate and the mind to defragment, allowing a person to be happier and more productive in their waking life. Most of us, with our fast-paced, overworked lives, would not turn down an extra few hours of sleep each night. Why shouldn't we then qualify unrestricted sleep as a legitimate form of vacationing?

There is so much pressure whenever you go on a holiday to "make the most" of the time at your destination—meaning get your lazy bum out of bed—but this might be the only little time you get off work all year to rest and recuperate. The fact that everything opens so late in this country permits one to turn off their alarm and get some extra sleep, guilt free. While some visitors may find Reykjavik's lack of punctuality a frustrating cock-block to their travel plans, I suggest they try to appreciate the alternative. **✂**

Poetry | Eiríkur Örn Norðdahl

Cotery Poelumn: Pwoermds

It's a poetic mouthful—a hard-to-perform sound poem in its own right—"pwoermd". When you Google it the machine asks if you meant "powermad" and you're half inclined to say "yes I am, what are you gonna do about it?"

- beautyfault (Karri Kokko)
- fjshjng (Geof Huth)
- breathrough (Christopher Rizzo)
- llyllylly (mIEKAL aND & Geof Huth)
- eyeye (Aram Saroyan)

It's the new new in poetry. The new black. Yet since poetry, like infants, needs an entire childhood and adolescence before reaching young adulthood—the mere concept is already 23 years old (whereas, per usual, the practice is as old as language itself—in fact, it's probably how language was made). Coined in 1987 by entrepreneur Geof Huth, "pwoermd" is a combination (obviously!) of the two four-letter words "poem" and "word".

One of the first instances of public notoriety for pwoermds—the "obscenity trial" that made 'em famous (with no tabloid interest since the 1800s, poetry wouldn't have survived without its obscenity trials)—was when Aram Saroyan (son of William) typed the infamous "lighght." Saroyan was a 22 year old fan of dada and concrete poetry and had started working on one-word poems that, instead of requiring a "reading process," simply happened in an instant, a single moment. No subject-verb-object; no meenie, minie, moe; no ifs or buts or even abouts.

Lighght was first published in The Chicago

Review in 1965 and in 1969 it was included in the second volume of The American Literary Anthology—whereupon the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) awarded it the same sum as any other poem in the book: 750 dollars. Which makes about 5,200 dollars at current value (104,000 times what I make per word). For a single poem. Consisting of a single word.

Whoa!

Taxpayers were incensed. The government could not afford to cut taxes but they could afford to pay beatnik weirdos exorbitant amounts of money for writing one word "and not even spelling it right"? The American right—congressmen, voters and bureaucrats—had a full-on hissy-fit, with mailbags upon mailbags of rage arriving in Washington. The NEA was made to answer on Capitol Hill, the Republican Party used the opportunity to squeeze the NEA and as late as 1981 Ronald Reagan was still citing Saroyan's poem as a reason for the abolition of government funding for the arts.

The shortest poem I know is Steve McCaffery's "William Tell: A Novel". It is simply a lowercase "i" with an extra dot over the dot. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, however, the shortest poem is one by Charles Chigna entitled "I" (uppercase)—which goes "Why?" But neither constitutes a pwoermd as they are both dependent on their titles—and are thereby a process and not an instant.

Like writing any poetry, writing pwoermds is basically easy while writing good pwoermds is somehow miraculous. To a reader of pwoer-

mds they all seem very interesting at first, but the more you read the higher your standards become and the more it takes to surprise you, to create that prodigious instant which blows you away and leaves you "discombobulated". Which incidentally is a "normal word"—a nwoor-madl—and not a pwoermd. **✂**



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PAGE 6

"We are owned from within, and the irony with which this man stands on his soap box after being replaced at the national newspaper by one of the most deplorable members of team 'let's-fuck-Iceland' would be hilarious were it not so nauseating. And this is the problem; the majority of the population thinks it's ok that Davíð Oddsson is now controlling a once respected media source largely because he is an "Icelander.""

- Ben Frost takes on Styrmir Gunnarsson's anti-EU joining stance

PAGE 6

"Well, since Mr. van Vliet seems fond of profanity laced discourse, I shall reply in kind. Not...a...fucking... chance. Are you seriously trying to suggest that people with multiple and profound physical and/or intellectual disabilities living in institutionalised or semi-institutionalised situations share one iota of responsibility in this? That their services and support systems that are now under threat is not problematic because it is part of their 'collective responsibility' of their happening to live in Iceland? Please."

- Grapevine's proofreader Jim Rice responds to Vooral van Vliet's Isesave issues

PAGE 14

"It was too hot and humid, riding the tube was like being a tapeworm in Satan's colon, and the beer in pubs was just as expensive as Iceland! In the end my stress levels were so high I almost punched a granny in the face because her dog looked at me funny."

- Bob Cluness learns the valuable lesson that you can never go home again

PAGE 22

"There were no 'disco freaks' at Safarí, however, just hip people from the Rokk í Reykjavík era, now gone all 'new romantic,' dancing endlessly to The B52s' 'Rock Lobster,' or so it seems in my Alzheimer-lite version of the place."

- A trip down memory lane with Dr. Gunni's favourite concert venues over the years

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