

The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE



Issue Nº 9 – 2008

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GOT BALLS?

Iceland's female football
team sets goals,
and achieves them.



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AND ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND
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EDITORIAL

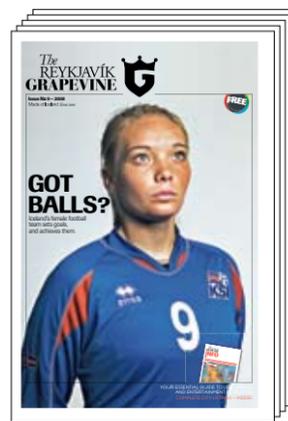
Although Euro 2008 is behind us, Grapevine's mind is still on football. It's hard to let go of the excitement, arguments and all the ups and downs that are integral parts of big sport contests. Unfortunately, my German champs failed to finish the job, but I'm slowly coming around. What's speeding up the recovery are the new idols I found to support: Icelandic female football players.

On the cover this issue is national team player Margrét Lára Viðarsdóttir, the queen of football in Iceland and beyond. Sportsman of the Year in 2007, a record-breaking striker and a role model for the young generation of footballers, she is getting close to securing Iceland a ticket to the European Cup in Finland next year. With a staggering 7-0 victory against Greece last month, the team only has one game to go to qualify for the big fight. What's more, they only need a draw against France in September so the chances are getting pretty good. Qualifying for the finals will be a first time ever for an Icelandic football team. That's huge! So while our economy is going down the drains, we have at least one thing to be super proud of. Our team is awesome and they deserve all the support they can get.

But there's more to live than football I've been told. In this issue we discover many critical things, in particular that July is a good month to flee Reykjavík. While August is the capital's fun-season, there are loads of entertaining festivals across the country in the coming weeks, featuring art, music and a whole lot of partying. To name just a few; there is Eistnaflug for the hardcore rockers, Bræðslan for pop-fans, LungA for the arty-crowd and the Kimi ring-road concert-tour for all you frisky music lovers who want to travel the country and celebrate the glory of summer. For those stuck in the capital this month, there's always Austurvöllur.

Steinunn Jakobsdóttir

THE COVER

COVER PHOTO BY
GASON COVER:
Margrét Lára Viðarsdóttir

MASTHEAD

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You may not like it, but at least it's not sponsored. (No articles in the Reykjavík Grapevine are pay-for articles. The opinions expressed are the writers' own, not the advertisers').

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LETTERS

Sour Grapes

SAY YOUR PIECE, VOICE YOUR OPINION, SEND YOUR LETTERS TO LETTERS@GRAPEVINE.IS.

Dear Grapevine
I read M. Sabey's letter in The Grapevine (Issue 08 - 2008) with a degree of sympathy, but not much. It talks about coming to Iceland and being shocked by the prices charged for food and drink, and how unacceptable the cost is to the average tourist.

I find this slightly surprising, particularly as M. Sabey freely admits she was warned about the high prices and is a seasoned traveller. Surely even the most basic of calculations involving exchange rates, google and an up-to-date guide book (or even an online restaurant food and drink menu) would have spelled out the situation pretty clearly.

Iceland, in my opinion, is such a wonderful and beautiful place because it is so remote, thus meaning a lot of items like food and drink have to be imported, which means it'll be expensive - that's economics for you. It goes with the territory and is something I, and many others, are willing to tolerate in order to spend time in the most breathtaking country I've been fortunate enough to know well.

Nicola Cassock
London, England.

Dear Nicola,
Hear, hear! That Sabet character did sound a bit daft, but we can't really respond to letters calling our readers daft, can we? So, thanks for taking care of that!

Dear Grapevine
I read with interest your article on the politics of the Indiana Jones films. It's author, however, seemed to suggest that Indy's fight against the Thugee cult in "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," was colonialist and possibly racist. The Thugee cult, however, did indeed exist and may have killed as many as 600,000 people in the course of its existence. This they did not do out of any motive to fight foreign oppressors, but simply because the believed the goddess Kali had given them permission to kill people in order to rob them. At first the British colonial authorities viewed the problem as an internal one between Indians, and took no action. Only the valiant efforts of Judge William Sleeman, who could speak Hindi, brought the problem to popular attention and eradicated the cult. This also brought a new word into the English language, "Thug," the meaning of which is well appropriate for members of the cult. Indiana Jones' struggles against Nazis and Soviets in other films has drawn

little criticism, and rightly so. But the Thugees are also worthy villains, even if they come from the non-European world. The aforementioned article seems to be written more out of misguided political correctness, rather than a knowledge of facts.

Regards,
Valur Gunnarsson

Dear Mr. Gunnarsson,
We thank you for your valid points and will be sure to give the writer in question (nudge, nudge) a proper talking to, should he ever dare set his foot in our office again.

Hi, my name is Scott. I am a grade 7 student from the Goodwin Learning Centre in Brighton, Ontario, Canada.

I have attached a letter and signatures of all my fellow classmates as we are trying very hard to raise pebbles for a memorial path in recognition of the 6 million lives lost in the Holocaust. Our first year this year, we have collected 250,000, a ways to go from our 6 million needed.

Could you please try to help by sending us some pebbles from your country?

Thank you for your help and the reading of my letter. I wish for you to pass on the good word of our efforts.

Sincerely,

Scott Seguin
18 Deerfield Drive
Brighton, Ontario
K0K 1H0

Dear Scott,
That's a really ambitious project you guys are working on. Six million pebbles, eh? That's like... eighteen times the human population of Iceland. In pebble form. The Grapevine hereby encourages every Icelander to send Scott at least eighteen pebbles. On your marks, get set, go!

Hi there!
I am currently working on my master thesis at the department of Musicology at Aarhus University, Denmark. My subject is the contemporary alternative music scene in Reykjavik, and I've got some specific questions, that I hope someone at Grapevine can help me with. It shouldn't take more than a couple of minutes.

1) Approximately, how many musicians are actively involved in the indie scene? How many are non-musicians are involved (music industry-people, journalists etc.)?

2) Can you tell me about the music magazine Undirtónar? Is it still alive?

3) Can you tell me about the so called "Cute" generation. Who does it cover, and are there any controversies about the term?

Hope you can help.

Best regards and thanks,
Thomas

Dear Thomas,
While the Grapevine is a way credible source of information, we do hope that your research for your masters thesis (!) isn't limited to writing letters to the editor. That said, your thesis sounds thrilling, and you should make sure to send us a copy as soon as you finish it. And here are some answers:

1) There are 834 people actively involved in the indie scene, and around 14 promoters.

2) Undirtónar hasn't been published for at least two years.

3) The "Cute" generation allegedly covers people born from 1974-1985 that have a propensity for wearing woollen hats and making plinky-plonky music on glockenspiels. They proudly sport the name, and rock pretty hard whilst doing so.



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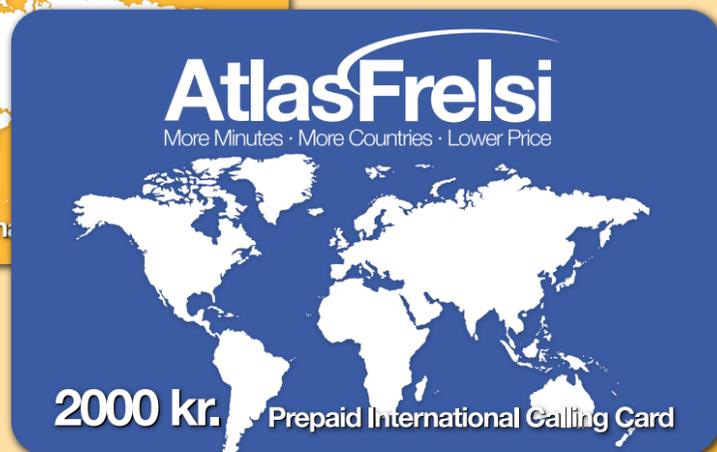
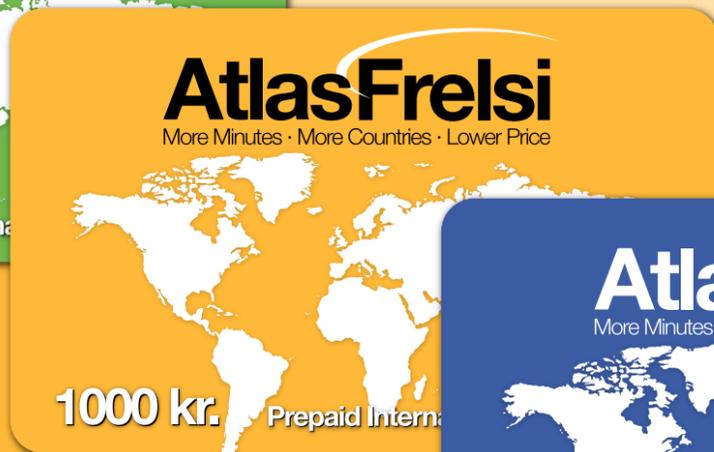
Hressingarskálinn (Hressó) is a Classical Bistro, located in the heart of the city at Austurstræti 20.

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OPINION



There's a Whole Lot of Bumping Going On

BY ALEXANDRA HERTELL

For a newcomer, Reykjavik's small size and even smaller downtown makes feeling like a local all the much easier. Once you start knowing a few people, you will see them walking down Laugavegur, sitting next to you at a restaurant or working at your favourite store. It really has that small town charm where you feel like saying, "Howdy neighbour!" Except that you will be laughed at.

I remember when I first moved here, the first thing that made me feel like Reykjavik was my home was the constant bumping into the people I knew. I was telling a friend of mine how seeing so many recognisable faces constantly made me feel warm and fuzzy. "Really. Well it'll get old sooner than you think," was his reply. He told me he was late for meeting me because while he was walking he kept on seeing people he knew. I said, "Well that's because you like to be a skateboard-wielding social butterfly. Or it's a pretty creative excuse for making me stare at the street lamp for thirty minutes."

That night I went out to Kaffibarinn and bumped into a girl I had met that week. Again I said, "I love these spontaneous gatherings!" This chin-pierced sprite replied, "It isn't so fun for us." She began pointed out different people in the bar she knew and how if someone isn't a close friend you don't really say hi unless you literally have them face-to-face. And sometimes you don't know when to say hi or not and you just look at each other and if your gazes meet, you smile.

Now that I have been here longer, I am not irritated yet but I sure as hell know what my friends meant. Running late to the bank, I inevitably walk into a friend. Someone does you wrong and suddenly they are everywhere. I had a photographer take some pictures of a model for a store. She never gave them to me and ignored my e-mails but had the beautiful pictures plastered all over her Myspace. Of course I would run into her again and again and every time she gives me the look of a deer in headlights. The worst part is the X factor. You break up with somebody and you can't avoid seeing them. I've had friends recount stories of pining indoors for months for fear of bumping into their ex and his/her new lover. One friend even left the country. He needed to get fresh air somehow.

Even though it can get irritating, it's better than living in a big city where you schedule in your friends because you never get to see them. So, howdy neighbour! 🇮🇸

INTERVIEW BY HAUKUR S. MAGNÚSSON — PHOTO BY ÓLAFUR JÓNASSON



GALTARVITI: IT'S PRETTY REMOTE.

Everyone's Invited!

Gunnar Tynes and company want YOU to take a hike and strum a chord or two

Galtarviti is the name of an abandoned lighthouse on the outskirts of the West Fjords. It's just as remote as it sounds: it can only be reached via a four-hour hike, or by boat, when the tide is right. It has no Internet, no cell phone connectivity and getting a decent latté there is damn near impossible. And we are all invited!

"Galtarviti is a really creative place. I don't care if calling a place creative sounds all new-agey and weird, it's true. Maybe it's being surrounded by the oldest mountains in Iceland, maybe it's the isolation. The place definitely has something to it."

Gunnar Tynes of the band múm (Iceland's third most beloved musical export) is explaining why he likes to make music at the aforementioned abandoned, isolated lighthouse. Galtarviti has played somewhat of a role in his band's history, and they have recorded some of their best work while in exile at the lighthouse. While it may seem odd that an artist would feel defensive of his opinion that a peaceful spot in the countryside is conducive to creativity, it is important to remember that members of múm probably get asked about magical elves and nature more than most. And that he had what some believe to be a near-elf experience at Galtarviti at one point.

As you read this, Tynes will be a more than week into a month-long stay at Galtarviti. And if you are musically inclined, not averse to hiking or boat rides and have some vacation time on your hands, you should go and join him there and help construct an album that's meant to raise funds for necessary repairs and improvements on the Galtarviti facilities.

Along with one of Galtarviti's landlords, Ólafur Jónasson, Tynes will stay there until July 25, recording the aural outpourings of whoever happens to pass through (and a lot of established musicians and artists have already committed to a visit). He will then assemble the recordings into a coherent whole, to be released in benefit of Galtarviti early next year. The Grapevine met up with Tynes and Jónasson on the eve of their departure to Galtarviti and got them to tell what they plan on doing this summer at Galtarviti, and why.

Creating a haven for artists

"It's really basic," says Jónasson. "We've been planning to make a benefit album for Galtarviti for a

long time, just assembling songs from some of our friends and well-wishers onto an album and selling it for a profit. When Gunni got the idea of making it into a collaborative effort, where we would invite good people to contribute and help us brew up something special in a session, we jumped at it. Hopefully we can release it as early as next Easter, maybe at the Aldrei fór ég suður festival. That would be ideal."

When asked what the proceeds of the album will be spent on, Jónasson explains all the work that needs to be done to get it into shape. "We've been working on repairing the place for a long time. We're always doing some sort of short-term repairs, and we feel it's necessary to bring it into proper shape once and for all. There's a lot that goes on there during the winter, the weather gets crazy. The roof has blown off once and several windows have broken from storm-action, in the short time that we've had it. So the idea is to get Galtarviti into the best possible shape so it can serve as a haven for artists, musicians and writers who want to escape the city to work on their art. And a lot of art has been made there; the former lighthouse-keeper wrote at least nine novels in his occupancy. It's a sin that more people don't get to experience a stay there, and we aim to mend that."

Given the severe isolation Galtarviti offers, the place is still remarkably accessible, and therein lies part of its charm. You can either get there by boat from Suðureyri (a 20 minute drive from Ísafjörður, which is a 45 minute flight from Reykjavík) or via a 2-4 hour hike from Skálavík (a 40 minute drive from Ísafjörður). "It's really like being on [isolated tourist haven] Hornstrandir, except you're closer to civilization. We recently found that the GSM network had reached Skálavík, the next fjord over, but we are fortunately still out of its reach," says Jónasson.

Turning übermensch

Accessible as it may be, getting there is still no picnic as Tynes relates: "We once had to leave a harmonium organ up on the middle of the mountain on the way there during mid-winter, we couldn't make it the whole way on account of the snow. Fortunately it was well packed, so we managed to bring it to safety in the spring. That hill, it's called Piano Hill now. Bringing instruments there is definitely easier said than done. We've sometimes gone there before embarking upon a world tour. After ferrying all of our instruments and stuff to Galtarviti you turn into a kind of übermensch, suddenly loading amps and drum kits between venues isn't such a big deal. You get loaded with energy."

*Why do you think that is?

"You're just alone in the universe over there. Each day seems to stretch out into infinity and you manage to fit everything into it," says Tynes. "The whole concept of day is kind of outdated in Galtarviti during the month of July. You can only tell passing time by the tides, if at all. And that makes a huge difference, but there's also a sort of energy that's hard to put into words. Let's just say that getting people to come for the first time can be hard, but getting them back is no problem. Maybe it's the fact that your left hemisphere is busy with meetings and macchiatos and planning tomorrow while your right hemisphere only wants to exist and create and enjoy life. And when you visit a place like Galtarviti, the left one is forced to relax. You can't plan anything, and you can't worry about anything. And that's a great feeling."

Jónasson finally tells us that many consider the Galtarviti area to be the richest habitation of elves in Iceland. "I can't offer any proof, but it is a different place. Óskar Aðalstein [Guðjónsson, writer/lighthouse keeper who stayed with his family there for 24 years, from 1953-1977] said that one of the hills contained a symphony orchestra of them. But I'm yet to hear it." And Tynes concurs: "I haven't really given much thought to elves. But the only time in my life that I've had "strange things" happen to me was when múm was here for the first time, in 2001." He then relates a lengthy story involving the plausible possibility of elfin intervention that he will surely recount once you visit him at Galtarviti. 🇮🇸

Those interested in visiting Galtarviti to help create what's bound to be an interesting work of music can make arrangements to do so via galtarviti@gmail.com. They check their e-mail every couple of days.

WE ONCE HAD TO LEAVE A HARMONIUM ORGAN UP ON THE MIDDLE OF THE MOUNTAIN ON THE WAY THERE DURING MID-WINTER, WE COULDN'T MAKE IT THE WHOLE WAY ON ACCOUNT OF THE SNOW.



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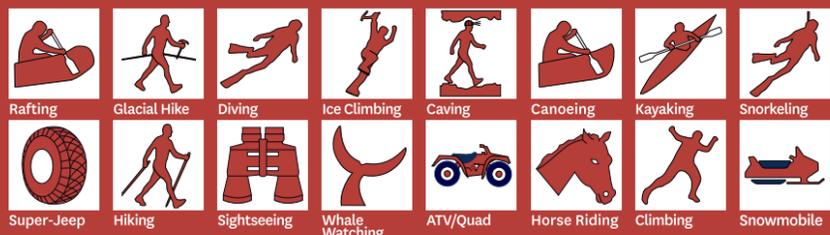


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OPINION



Tips from the Aussie now calling Iceland “home”

BY IRIS GOEMANS

If you have recently moved to Iceland (as I have), or are considering the move, here are some thoughts and suggestions to consider (most of which I am still trying to implement myself):

Firstly, be kind to yourself and be patient. Moving to a new country is a big change and even bigger challenge. Leaving behind your home, family, friends, job, and familiar surroundings is tough. You come to Iceland...a new country, different culture, difficult language, unfamiliar surroundings, with a limited support network, probably unemployed and trying to survive in this incredibly expensive country, whilst battling the unpredictable weather conditions. It's tough! With all this to juggle, don't put too much pressure on yourself to get a job within “x” number of weeks or any other expectations like that.

Most importantly, try to learn Icelandic – this will be your key to integrating, and will definitely help you secure a good job. I am a qualified Psychologist back in my home country of Australia, but because I only speak pinulitla íslensku, I am finding it difficult to obtain a professional, well-paying job here in Iceland. At least initially, non-Icelandic speaking foreigners may need to consider working in kindergartens, aged care facilities, restaurants, bars or cafés. However, if you have a high degree of expertise in things such as computer programming, engineering or other science-based occupations, this will increase your chances of obtaining work with a good income.

I also suggest diving head first into Icelandic life. Get to know the locals... Go to the heated swimming pools... Undertake a sport or hobby... Join a hiking group... Go to the bars and cafés... Whatever... but do something. Loneliness and depression can become your closest companions, especially when you feel isolated, vulnerable and out of your comfort zone – so take charge!

Stay strong mentally and always keep an open mind. You are in Iceland for a reason or purpose, but expect the unexpected (this is the land of fire and ice, after all). You may hit a few speed bumps along your journey but remember... it's not what happens to you, it's how you perceive it. All the frustration and challenges are laying the foundation for newfound learning, understanding and growth. As my good friend Anthony Robbins says, “What we can or cannot do, what we consider possible or impossible, is rarely a function of our true capability, it is more likely a function of our beliefs about who we are.” The secret of success is learning how to use pain and pleasure instead of having pain and pleasure use you. If you do that, you're in control of your life. If you don't, life controls you.

Some final thoughts... Maintain a sense of humour... Don't take things too personally... and stay in touch with family and friends back home. Enjoy your stay! 🇮🇸

OPINION BY ODDUR STURLUSON — ILLUSTRATION BY BOBBY BREIDHOLT



Iceland: Home of the Per Capita Record

Also: home to the most expensive Big Mac in the world.

Living in an environment as hostile and unpredictable as Iceland can have severe effects on one's mental stability. When a society goes through environmental hardship, long periods of darkness and centuries of seclusion it's bound to lead to some kind of eccentricity.

This is most obviously exemplified by the curious mix of grandiosity and meekness (an oxymoron if there was one) of native Icelanders who find it nothing short of scandalous that their small, unarmed country doesn't have as much political pull as some of their larger, more powerful neighbours. At the same time they are proud of having almost won a football match against the World Champions... a decade ago.

But as Homo sapiens always do, Icelanders found a way to cope. Instead of giving up and facing the fact that a small, isolated country may not be comparable to huge, multi-cultural ones, these proud islanders invented something brilliant in its simplicity and devastating in its effectiveness: something which serves to both prove this country's superiority and kindle fears of its imminent degeneration – The Per Capita Record.

The Per Capita Record is quite simply when Iceland does something noticeable, compared to how small it is; for example, we don't have nearly as many cars as the UK, but compared to the population we have a lot more. Used most often to excuse the mediocre standing of our sports teams, you'll often hear Icelanders state that our sports teams are actually very good... compared to how few we are. But since receiving the rather embarrassing news that Icelandic women are no longer considered the most beautiful in the world and in fact don't even come close, Iceland has been in need of a good dose of patriotism. So, without further ado, here is the list of Iceland's proudest accomplishments.

Morality Capital of the World

Although widely thought of as being a rather alcoholically inclined nation it turns out that Iceland was in 27th place out of 30 surveyed countries for per capita alcohol consumption. Put that in your pipe and smoke it, Quentin Tarantino! Another misconception is that all Icelanders get divorced, but according to the statistics only 30 of every 100 marriages ends in divorce, which is pretty respect-

able compared to Belgium's 60 out of every 100 marriages. Iceland also has the third lowest infant mortality rate in the entire world, the highest amount of water availability and the lowest perceivable amount of government corruption. In Iceland, the government doesn't lie about its shady dealings; it just refuses to comment on them. In your face, Democracy!

Great Artists, Crappy Terrorists

Icelanders read the most books per capita and have more artists as part of the workforce than anywhere else. Perhaps this explains the fact that in a survey released about a year ago only 3% of the country described themselves as unhappy or maybe it's because Iceland has the highest rate of suicide caused by depressive episodes. Is everyone who isn't happy already dead? The war on terror has proven itself worthwhile in Iceland where no one has ever died in a terrorist attack. Taken back to school bin Laden!

The Perfect Woman

We have the 5th highest rate of female parliamentarians with 34.9% of the parliament being women and had the honour of having the first female president. Unfortunately for the fairer sex, Iceland also has the highest incidence of breast cancer in women, or 39.4 afflicted for every 100,000. On a side note, in this reporter's opinion, Icelandic women are not only still the most beautiful, they are also the best fighters in the world. I dare you to piss off an Icelandic woman between midnight and 5 AM on a Saturday night. I double dare you.

Global Warming? Sounds good

The clean and unpolluted island paradise has the most tractors per 100 hectares of arable land and in fact has more than three times more than the next country, Japan. At the same time, however, Iceland has the second least amount of arable land of all countries that practice agriculture, which leaves us with practically no land and a hell of a lot of tractors. It's not just tractors though; Iceland has the second highest amount of cars per capita too, right after the USA, and is in 8th place for oil usage, with each person using more than half a barrel a day. Watcha gonna do about it Saving Iceland?

Socialist Paradise

Iceland is also the third most taxed country in the world. But of course, how else could we afford to

pay nurses, teachers and police officers such fantastic wages? Oh, wait, we don't! In fact, Icelandic teachers' wages are only slightly higher than in Mexico and substantially lower than in Italy, despite both countries paying a lot less in taxes.

International Politics and College Hierarchy

The goal of this article is not to mock or degrade Iceland. By all standards, per capita or otherwise, this quaint little island is a respectable place to live but it's not the same island it was two decades ago. Like a hot firstyear girl flirting with seniors at the dance, we're at the pivotal point where we can either go home with the captain of the football team who'll use us and dump us (and be “that” girl for the rest of our college years). Or we can remember the nerdy kid who's always been there for us and be the cool chick in the coming of age comedy/drama, which is the world of international politics. Let's not be Lindsay Lohan in Mean Girls, let's be Ellen Page in Juno. 🇮🇸

ICELAND IS ALSO THE THIRD MOST TAXED COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. BUT OF COURSE, HOW ELSE COULD WE AFFORD TO PAY NURSES, TEACHERS AND POLICE OFFICERS SUCH FANTASTIC WAGES? OH, WAIT, WE DON'T!

INFO

- * A survey performed approximately a year ago showed Iceland as the happiest country in the world. A newer survey, however, has placed Denmark in first place, and Iceland as about as happy as Columbia and Puerto Rico. What traumatic event could have lowered Iceland's spirits so dramatically? Two words. Mercedes Club.
- * Despite our reputation, Iceland is not one of the top alcohol consumers in the world.
- * Iceland has the most tractors per 100 hectares of arable land and the second most cars per capita in the world.
- * Iceland has the highest rate of suicide as a consequence of depression.
- * Nobody in Iceland has ever been killed in a terrorist attack.



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Kringlan

Reykjavik Looks, Apparently

When you walk down Laugavegur, it's hard to miss the recent outbreak in hipster clothing. You're no longer welcome in the VIP lines in front of Kaffibarinn and Boston, no matter how famous or cool you are, if you don't boast of design clothing such as Wood Wood, Henrik Vibskov or B.

Infamous French street photographer Facehunter noticed this few years back and so he made his appearance at Icelandic Airwaves in 2006 and caught this newfound style prodigy of Reykjavik on film. The founder of Reykjaviklooks.blogspot.com (soon to be reykjaviklooks.net), Elisabet, followed his work in 2006 and it aroused her interest.

Her dream of establishing a street fashion site of her own soon became reality and she offered Saga a partnership because of her alleged photographing eligibility. This summer they operate their successful site with a grant from HittHúsið. A lot of foreign media has offered them publishing space but they chose to let us at Reykjavik Grapevine follow them this summer and every issue will contain some of their most recent photos.

NAME

Gunnhildur Melsteð

AGE

22

OCCUPATION

Student

FAVOURITE VINTAGE SHOP

Spúútnik



NAME

Ragnhildur Weissshapel

AGE

18

OCCUPATION

Student

MOST FREQUENTED SHOP

Kolaportið



NAME

Nína Óskarsdóttir

AGE

21

OCCUPATION

Student

ON ICELANDIC FASHION

"Icelanders are original and very open in relation to fashion."



SKATEBOARD ART PROVIDES INSTANTS OF VISUAL PLEASURE.

Icelandic Skateboard Design

Way cooler than aluminium production

Described by Mark Gonzales as a way to conquer boredom, skateboarding has saved many Icelanders from the blues, which inevitably follow island living. Although some only dabble and many leave the scene without ever having had any real effect or influence, there are those whose tenacity and dedication have kept skateboarding alive and well. They have inspired younger skateboarders to keep honing their skills and helped skateboarding become the established hobby, lifestyle and art form that it is today.

As one of the few sports that endorses individual strength and independence, skating has had a profound and often underestimated influence on fashion and art. Four skateboard enthusiasts have recently gained recognition in the Icelandic skate scene for their custom made skateboards: Lucas, Baldur, Sara and Siggí.

Lucas Quesnel Keller is a Californian who has lived in Iceland for about a year. An aspiring chef as well as artist, Lucas has been skating for more than a decade and is recognised as one of the more talented skaters in the country. He renovates and repaints used boards and has exhibited his boards as well as other artwork at Café Hljómaland on Laugavegur. He has also designed T-Shirts but appreciates the board as a canvas more, both due to its unique shape as well as the "personality" it acquires through use.

Sigurður Júlíus Bjarnason, who some deem to be the best skater that Iceland has ever had, is known for his 'Kannski' boards which sport the colours of the Icelandic flag. His boards are still very rare and will most likely continue to be so due to the fact that they simply beg to be skated to shreds. Siggí's boards simply look best when they're being used.

Graphic designer and musician Baldur Björnsson is an avid board enthusiast and designs longboards. Although he originally only designed boards as personal gifts, he is now planning experimental projects focused on the creation

and design of both long and freestyle skateboards, including what he described as being "the ugliest, comfiest board in the world".

Sara is an artist who has utilised used boards, although they serve a more aesthetic purpose than practical. Although not a hardcore skater herself, her work is heavily influenced by the skaters she's known for many years.

'Amma' skateboards also supposedly have a project in the pipeline but have yet to release anything. They've stated that once ready (which will hopefully be soon), their boards will be available at the newly opened Reykjavík Skate-Shop, which is situated at Ingólfstorg square where Underground used to be. Lucas has shown his boards at Kaffi Hljómaland but now keeps them in Noland, another newly opened skate-shop on Laugavegur. Siggí, Baldur and Sara have all displayed their boards at Belleville, the premiere skateboard enthusiast's shop in Reykjavík. These three stores are the places to go if you're searching for Icelandic skate design or info on the Icelandic skate scene. [G](#)

AS ONE OF THE FEW SPORTS THAT ENDORSES INDIVIDUAL STRENGTH AND INDEPENDENCE, SKATING HAS HAD A PROFOUND AND OFTEN UNDERESTIMATED INFLUENCE ON FASHION AND ART.

SKATE-SHOPS IN REYKJAVÍK

Belleville, Laugavegur 55
www.myspace.com/belle_ville

Noland, Laugavegur 32
www.myspace.com/nolandrvk

Reykjavík Skate-Shop, at Ingólfstorg square.
www.myspace.com/ingo101

Brim, Laugavegur 71
www.brim.is



www.flybus.is

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RE-08 Saga Circle

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RE-15 South Shore Adventure

This tour takes you along the sandy coastline of the South with a taste of Icelandic nature. On this tour you breathe in the fresh air by a black beach just before seeing striking waterfalls that mesmerize you while gazing at them.

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EXPO



Reykjavik Excursions
KYNNISFERÐIR

Reykjavik Looks

reykjaviklooks.blogspot.com

NAME

Hildur Yeoman

AGE

24

OCCUPATION

Designer

FAVOURITE SHOPS IN ICELAND

Trilogia, Kronkron and Systur



NAME

Anna Kristín Sigurðardóttir

AGE

25

OCCUPATION

Kron shop-manager

FAVOURITE ITEM IN THE CLOSET

"All my clothes are friends, I don't favour one over another."



NAME

Pan Thorarensen

AGE

27

OCCUPATION

Musician

MOST FREQUENTED SHOP

Noland



AS IT TURNS OUT, ICELAND'S WOMEN KICK ASS IN FOOTBALL

Equal Opportunities

Iceland's women draw attention as they move closer to Euro 2009

I grew up in a small village on the east coast of Iceland. In many ways it was an ideal place to be a young kid; the freedom was a lot more than in the larger village Reykjavík. There were endless opportunities for active children, the closeness of the community created a safe environment – in a small village everyone knows everyone – which is great for children but maybe not so much for adults. Today, some 25 years later, most of the people my age have moved away.

Our favourite pastime was playing football at the small tarmac field by the school. We spent endless hours there, playing from early in the morning until late at night. It was there that we honed our skills which we put to use playing for the local team. Most of the competitive games we played were against teams from towns close by, but sometimes we got to travel to Akureyri for bigger tournaments and once we took a long bus ride to Reykjavík to meet up with the bigger teams there. This was mostly fun and games – the point was to have fun – the obsession with winning would come later.

NOW THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM IS OUTCLASSING THE MEN'S TEAM – THEY HAVE A GOOD SHOT AT MAKING IT TO THE EUROPEAN CUP FINAL IN FINLAND NEXT YEAR – AND IN DOING SO, MAY BECOME THE FIRST ICELANDIC SOCCER TEAM TO ENTER A FINAL ROUND OF A BIG TOURNAMENT.

GIRLS NOT INVITED

There were 17 kids in my class at school, 9 boys and 8 girls. Almost all the boys were involved in the football team although some of them were hopeless at kicking a ball and should really have spent their time reading books or collecting stamps. Only one girl took the sport seriously and she outclassed most of us. She was a great technical player, as strong as any boy on the team and as fearless as any 12 year old boy. At that age none of us questioned having a girl on our team; it didn't even enter our minds that football should be a gender segregated sport. In a few years that changed. When we were 14 then it suddenly wasn't considered proper to include a girl in the team. She was off the team despite the fact that she made our team stronger and our chances of winning greater. I'm not sure if this was insisted upon by our rival teams or our adult coach, but the result was the same: this young woman had to play football with other girls and not us boys.

Now in a small village with a population of 700 people it is quite a feat having one football team that caters to different age groups. The possibility, at the time, to have a separate team for girls was slim, especially considering that a fewer girls wanted to play football than the boys. Now the reason

why so few girls wanted to play football was, in my opinion, simply because they couldn't. If the local community had made it easy for girls to participate, to compete and to train, then a lot more of the girls in my class would have joined. There simply wasn't a lot of interest in providing these girls with facilities, trainers, and opportunities. There was a women's team in the next town, some 30 kilometres away, a hefty distance to travel for practice.

This girl was more stubborn than most. She travelled the distance and practiced with the team of the adjacent town. Later she moved to Reykjavík where there were bigger opportunities (in every sense) and played with some women's teams there in the premier division. At that time the women's division was an afterthought to the men's, they often played at the practice fields of the clubs instead of the formal pitch, their games went unnoticed in the media and generally didn't get much support.

TWO WINS IN ONE WEEK

This is slowly changing. Now the women's national team is outclassing the men's team – they have a good shot at making it to the European Cup Final in Finland next year – and in doing so, may become the first Icelandic football team to enter a final round of a big tournament. Last week the national team played two home games, beating Slovenia 5 – 0, and five days later annihilating the Greek squad, 7 – 0. These games drew a big crowd, over 5000 people showed up for the match against Greece and the media is catching on that women's football is something worth mentioning.

When girls all around the country get the opportunity to practice and play football for as long as they want – and not just when the boys "let them" – we will in the future have an even stronger national team than we do now. When girls see positive role models in the media, women who are successful at what they do, there will be even more girls wanting to play football. The fantastic achievements of the women's national team will propel women's football here farther and make it possible for girls all around the country to reach their greatest potential.

Hopefully girls all around the country will be able to play football as long as they'd like, in an environment equal to what our young boys get. There is no reason why a 14 year old girl today should not get the same opportunities as boys her age. 

INFO

The Icelandic team is in Group 3 in UEFA Euro 2009 Qualification with France, Slovenia, Greece and Serbia.

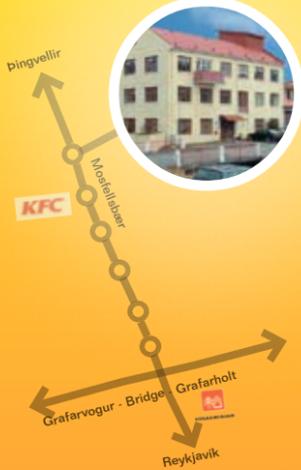
The team will meet France on September 27. They need only a draw to secure qualification for UEFA WOMEN'S EURO, taking place in Finland from August 23 to September 10, 2009



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HISTORICAL REYKJAVÍK



Reykjavík
 City Museum



Árbær Museum is an open-air museum, established in 1957. The aim of the museum is to give an idea of Icelandic architecture and the lifestyle of the past.

The exhibition Reykjavík 871±2 is based on the archaeological excavation of the ruin of one of the first houses in Iceland and findings from other excavations in the Reykjavík city centre.

Árbær Museum and The Settlement Exhibition Reykjavík 871±2 are parts of Reykjavík City Museum. Both are open daily in June, July and August from 10am to 17pm. Detailed information at our website at www.reykjavikmuseum.is



CHEAP REYKJAVÍK!

Celebrating the pleasantly cheap finds we sometimes stumble upon

BY HAUKUR S. MAGNÚSSON

Cheap coffee

This piece has nothing to do with sex, dating or the incredibly hot women of Iceland. Rather, it was inspired by the incredibly cheap lattes at Kaffibarinn (250 ISK for a double!), even if those bastards raised their price by 50 ISK the exact day this article was researched. At 300 ISK, the coffee there is still relatively cheap (especially if you cheat the system and get a double – they do not differentiate and you get lots more caffeine for your krónur. This might also work for a triple, let us know), and it's pretty good too. So Kaffibarinn still offers some of the cheapest coffee in 101 Rvk, and they have free waffles on Sundays. Did you hear that? FREE WAFFLES!

Cheap lunch

Bónus is the cheapest grocery store in Iceland according to a lot of distinguished surveys (and my very own investigations), and their logo is a big, pink pig plastered. This makes Bónus the grocery store of choice for students, poor people and Grapevine reporters, even though their vegetables are often sworn to the dark side and their selection is ghastly. They also sell rather shoddy Bónus-brand sandwiches for the meagre price of 139 ISK. Their shrimp sandwiches should be avoided, unless you have a mayo-fetish, but the tuna is often passable enough to warrant buying during times of trouble. I would recommend the absurdly cheap instant noodles they sell, but I am highly sceptical of them containing any real nutrition. So I won't.

Cheap nothing

Always worth mentioning is the absurd pricing of the so-called "clock stores" (24, 10-11 and 11-11) and for newcomers there is a rule of thumb to be learned: an Icelandic grocery store should be avoided at any cost if it has a number in its name. This is because every product there is double the reasonable price, so even if you can afford to shop there on account of the five jobs you work, it still feels remarkably like unsolicited anal sex. There are only a few instances where it is justifiable to shop at a "clock store", such as experiencing an Extreme Grocery Emergency or to make fun of the prices. And also if you want to meet Lord Sauron in person, as rumour has it that he works as shift-manager at their Austurstræti branch on Sundays. Otherwise: don't say you weren't warned. 🍷

Found any cheap stuff you'd like to share? Or some overpricing you'd like to complain about? Send a note to our resident miser: haukur@grapevine.is

INTERVIEW BY SIGURÐUR KJARTAN KRISTINSSON — PHOTO BY GAS



SPOT THE FAKE: WHICH ONE IS NOT LIKE THE OTHER?

The Artists Have Come Home to Roost

A 10-year reunion of three artists at Kling&Bang Gallery

On July 4, three visual artists will open an exhibition in Kling&Bang Gallery on Laugarvegur 23. This exhibition is in fact a reunion, for the exact combo of artists opened another installation ten years ago. I had made an appointment with one of the three artists opening their new installation at Kling&Bang gallery on a sunny afternoon and was forced to abandon my fine spot on Austurvölur and head up to Hverfisgata. As soon as Erling Klingenberg opened up for me, and asked me if I wanted a beer with a low-keyed grin on his face, I realised I was in for a ride. The remains of the previous exhibitions were still in the main hall and some enthusiastic tourists were making weird hisses and gasps so we moved over to a more obscure area of the gallery, where we could be to ourselves. When he had lit up the first of many cigarettes that afternoon I decided just to go for it and asked him to depict the concept of the 10-years-ago installation for me and describe how it all began.

"Me and Ásmundur and Magnús had all met while we were studying Visual Arts at the establishment, which the present name is the Visual Arts Department of the Icelandic Academy of Arts, but whilst we studied there it was simply called the Icelandic School of Embroidery and Painting. After we all finalised our studies we headed to North America, both of them to the United States and myself to Canada, and that's the reason for the date of the opening, July 4, the date itself kind of links us all together. The Museum of Modern Arts fitted perfectly to our longings and so it was chosen as our premises. We had built up unorthodox ideals in our work, which really differentiated us from other Icelandic artists; you could say we are stuck in a gap between the old heroes and the new krútt-generation. Since then a lot of time has passed and our emphases have probably changed a lot."

It was apparent that he wasn't too happy being categorised with neither of these generations that he mentioned, so I decided to get to the bottom of it all. And how do you exactly classify your generation?

"Well, to begin with we are the last offspring of the Cold War, but the difference between us and other Cold War progenies lies in the fact that we experienced the conclusion of it, which of course moulded our ideas a lot. We were young when there wasn't any TV on Thursdays, but we were also developing our style when it was broadcasted 24/7. We didn't exactly study in the old school establishment where the old sharks learned how to paint landscape, but we didn't either study in the new and fancy Icelandic Academy of Arts. We seem to bridge a lot of gaps. We're kind of a bridge between the two artist stereotypical generations known in Iceland."

WELL, TO BEGIN WITH WE ARE THE LAST OFFSPRING OF THE COLD WAR, BUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND OTHER COLD WAR PROGENIES LIES IN THE FACT THAT WE EXPERIENCED THE CONCLUSION OF IT, WHICH OF COURSE MOULDED OUR IDEAS A LOT.

But one must wonder what has happened in these ten years, you have probably been up to a whole galaxy of different things. So tell us, what have you been up to?

"Woof, that's a big one. My associates have spent most of their time overseas but I for one

have been involved in several adventures e.g. the founding and operating of both this gallery, Kling&Bang, and also I took part in the Klink&Bank phenomenon."

It's hard to miss that your name, Klingenberg, is drastically involved in the names of these projects, so you seem to be the top dog of 'em all?

"Well, to me the name Kling&Bang only represents two chords but of course it is undeniable that they bear quite a resemblance to my name. To my defence it wasn't actually me who suggested this name but one of my associates, but we were in this six or seven together. It was fantastic taking part in all this excitement and when we opened Kling&Bang on Laugarvegur a new dimension kind of opened to us. Both the name and the logo are though incidental e.g. we found an old print between two of the bricks in the chimney, which had our incumbent logo on it, some ancient Danish Colony representing sign. And the name was simply chosen out of a whole bunch of smart ideas that came along."

And this July 4 when you reunite, what can we expect, what has changed?

"To tell you the truth I simply do not know, has anything changed? This is our personal payoff which lets us reminisce a bit and determine in what way we have changed and what we presently represent. We decided to keep the date July 4 for these reasons but of course the artist society wasn't nearly as anti-America ten years ago as it is today. Young artsy dandies would probably never even consider launching an exhibition on this exact date, unless in some kind of parody purposes."

And just after he released this last sentence he stubbed out his cigarette with admirable accuracy, nothing was to be left lit. So I decided treat the interview as delicately as Klingenberg had treated his cigarette and pressed stop. 🍷

INFO

Artists at the verge of something - II
Gallery Kling&Bang Laugarvegur 23
July 4 - August 10
www.this.is/klingogbang

COMIC STRIP BY LÓA HJÁLMTÝSDÓTTIR





Ashton Cut, Ask the slave, Atrum, Bastard, Blood Feud, Brain Police,
 Celestine, Concrete, Contradiction, Darkness Grows, Diabolus, Disintegrate,
 Discotheque, Disturbing Boner, Dormah, Dust Cap, Finngálkn, Forgarður
 Helvítis, Gone Postal, Gordon Riots, Grýttir á sviði, **HAM**, Helshare, Hostile,
 Innvortis, In Siren, Judico Jeff, Mammút, Momentum, Muck, Múspell, Plastic
 Gods, Retrön, Saktmóðigur, Severed Crotch, Skítur, Slugs, Sólstafir, Swords
 of Chaos, Universal Tragedy & Æla

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Norðfjarðar

When I was packing my bags to come to Iceland, one criterion stood out in particular: "Don't look like an American tourist. Don't look like an American tourist," I told myself, weeding out hiking boots and flip-flops in favour of nondescript sneakers and sandals.

There is a general stigma that comes with being an American in a foreign country. When I went to China a few years ago, we were taught that to avoid a nasty confrontation we were to announce that we were Canadian if our nationality ever came up. Americans are frequently dismissed as obnoxious and inconsiderate. There's the classic example of the American foreigner asking for directions from a bewildered local, shouting in highly announced English as if he were addressing someone who was mentally disabled. Americans can also be considered manipulative and opportunistic, shoving people aside who would get in their way of fully exploiting a situation.

When considering these stereotypes, it's not difficult to see a parallel with American international policies. America has a habit of only acknowledging the rules put forward by the rest of the world when it is in its best interest (e.g. the Kyoto Protocol, the authority of the UN, the Geneva Conventions). America is often compared to a bully, headbutting its way through regulations, asserting its superiority over other countries and the preeminence of its opinions. America has a lot to answer for, and when an American arrives in your country, that burden falls on them to redeem.

So then, how does Iceland hold up on the scale of prejudice against Americans? Are they higher or lower than normal? I had read (for the sake of honesty, in my travel guide) that Icelanders were a tolerant people and slow to make assumptions. Likewise, I'd heard stories of Americans being physically assaulted by Icelanders. What to believe? This issue, Grapevine decided to get to the bottom of this prejudice among Icelanders. We sent me, an American, out in the world to document my experiences in Iceland, the adversities or lack thereof that I would face with regard to my nationality.

However, there were still a few hurdles. Generally speaking, I've never been supportive of the path our nation has taken in recent years; I'm kind of a hippie, and I've had a few "I'm going to move to Canada" moments. In other words, I don't quite "fit the mould." In fact, I'm often mistaken for an Icelander. And having picked up a significant amount of Icelandic, I can perform daily tasks like buying groceries and saying hello to people on the street without exposing myself. Somehow, I needed to become more American.

Doing Double-Duty

But, America is a big place. I can even name a lot of distinct Americas within that America. The only national trend I can identify would be a strong sense of capitalist ambition, which is a bit abstract to wear on one's sleeve. I looked and acted like most of my American friends, but this clearly wasn't effective enough in displaying my nationality. Unable to conceptualize my national dress, I asked a few Icelanders for help. To appear American, they recommended I do the following: I should wear flip-flops, shorts, a windbreaker, a baseball cap, running shoes, polarized athletic sunglasses, a polo shirt, and tote a big fat camera around. I should be obnoxious where I am mild, be rude where I am polite, say I'm a Republican



BORN IN THE U.S.A.

The Ambassador

Grapevine makes an investigative report on Icelandic prejudices against Americans - It's harder than it sounds.

when I am a Democrat, and talk with a southern accent when I am actually from New York. Giving me a look-over, they said

"How are you going to pull this off?"

"I don't know," I said.

I tried anyway. For a few days I tried my best to look less like me, and more like an "American". I wore plainer clothes – jeans, a t-shirt and sneakers – along with more touristy things – windbreaker, camera, and a travel guide poking out of my pocket. I spoke only distinctly American English, but I chickened out on all the acting like a jerk stuff. Even in the tourist outfit, I gathered no more (or less) attention than I necessarily deserved. I behaved decently, and so did everyone else I met. Apart from getting funny looks for wearing what appeared to be a raincoat in the warm sunshine, I was just an American guy walking around Reykjavík minding his own business. I soon started getting bored with the article, angry even.

What had I been expecting? If I was going to be polite, everyone else would be polite to me, too. If I was going to act like a jerk, people would just treat me like a jerk. What was there to be gained? The only thing I could make from acting like a boor would be a just another poor example of my own countrymen. The persona I had tried to put on myself was not American but a hollow caricature based on the prejudices not only of my friends, but me as well. I might as well only

be myself. Wasn't that American enough? I dream big, celebrate my freedom, and have a soft spot in my heart for my mother's apple pie. Despite how Icelandic I may seem or how progressive I am, that can be American too. It is. I'm living proof. I put windbreaker and camera away.

AMERICA HAS A LOT TO ANSWER FOR, AND WHEN AN AMERICAN ARRIVES IN YOUR COUNTRY, THAT BURDEN FALLS ON THEM TO REDEEM.

It All Starts with You

One weekend when I was in my normal clothes, I was having a drink in a bar with a few friends. Like a moth to a candle a very drunk Icelandic man, hearing my American English, came up to me, stuck a finger in my face and began growling: "And hey you, I've seen you, I've seen you take off those glasses I know you don't need them, they make you look gay, you fucking gay American..." And then a few people pulled him away and he skulked off grumbling to himself.

After a round of uncomfortable laughter, we composed ourselves, watching him disappear back into the crowd.

"You should put that in your article," my friends said to me.

"Perhaps I will" I said. And I have.

But what does it prove? That all Icelanders, if drunk enough, will reveal that they are definitively and irrevocably prejudiced against Americans? I may have discovered one man's prejudice, but then discovering a nation's prejudice, isn't that... well, a little prejudiced? I can't prove that every Icelander in the bar that night was thinking that exact same thing. In seeking Icelandic prejudice, I just happened upon my own. Damn. Every beast devours its own tail.

As self-evident as it seems, no country, no group of people are uniform. It isn't as if they act under a singular entity making the same decisions and opinions for everyone. Nations and groups are collections of individuals, and you can meet all sorts of those. There are prejudiced Icelanders, just as there are rude, pushy, obnoxious Americans somewhere in that big country. And there are polite and friendly Americans, and Icelanders who will pull a rowdy drunk away from a stranger. Each of us is our own person; we all make our own actions. Also, everyone makes judgements, and we must all be ambassadors of our groups and mind our manners. America needs to work on its diplomacy, true enough. So does everyone.

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ARTICLE BY VALGERÐUR ÞÓRODDSDÓTTIR — PHOTOS BY GAS

Deafening Silence

Rally by Iceland's most influential musical talents pleases aesthetically, aurally, but forgets message

Sigur Rós, despite their success, is a band that is still on its way out of Iceland. In a way, they are still local. It wasn't so long ago that they were a small-time Reykjavík band, and you can still spot them walking down Laugavegur every once in a while. Björk, meanwhile, is a performer that Icelanders have somewhat begun to resent because of her success. She is like the daughter that grew up, moved out of the house and doesn't call us anymore. While the free concert in the name of Náttúra was undoubtedly feeding into a certain marketable image beneficial to all parties involved, it was done in the name of an idea that, in its purest and most uncomplicated form, every Icelander could stand behind.

It was only almost 17:00, but the event had received enough local and international hype to warrant the expectation of a sizable audience right from the concert's offset. In an unfittingly dramatic beginning, my comrades and I climbed a 2-meter long wrought-iron fence in an effort to reach Þvottabrekka and avoiding the congestion of crowds flooding Grasagarðurinn's main entrance.

Upon arrival, the crowd of early birds turned out to be much more moderately sized than I had expected; fringed by rustling trees and enormous hanging speakers, about a hundred people sat camped on blankets and chairs in front of the empty stage. Images of natural treasures in danger of ruination for the sake of heavy industry flashed across a screen to our left, along with photographs sprawled with the words "already destroyed." Politicians smiled triumphantly on the screen as we luxuriously spread a blanket on the grass about 20 meters from the stage.

At around 17:30, concertgoers started streaming into the park en masse. There was nothing to do but wait and watch, while Finnbogi Pétursson and Curver's soft ambience, which I mistook at first for an extended sound-check, ushered in the unrelenting swarm of concertgoers. The sun shone, everyone ate Stjörnumix, and I could see almost no one who had yet started drinking.

"I'm going to say this in English for the English-speaking audience" Ólöf Arnalds declared to a big cheer when she had taken the stage in a black, sparkly marching bandesque jacket. "I've never done a concert standing up in my life, but tonight I'm standing and I'm also standing in these big shoes because I'm standing up for nature!" The crowd around me, despite being comparatively close to the stage, was watching the live footage on the screen rather than the stage itself. Ólöf was cheerful and talkative, despite a generally timid response from the audience, and a pair of Americans sitting in front of us turned around to ask bemusedly who she was. Delivering a short set of mostly new material with her usual earnestness, Ólöf affirmed her deft ability to write simple songs that are sweet without being corny.

As soon as she had left the stage, the crowd, finished with their lazing and their snack foods, stood up in anxious anticipation of the co-headliners, Sigur Rós. After a short wait the band walked on stage and began playing without a word to the audience. A few songs in I began to wonder if they were going to address the crowd at all, if not the issue at hand, when Jónsi finally spoke: "So, is everyone in a good gear?" Then, conclusively, "We're going to play a song off our new record." As the opening notes rang out, a group of pre-teens started to scream and jump up and down with joy. "It's a little bit cold," Jónsi interjected before the next song, "there's no sun on the stage."

The on-stage action during Sigur Rós's gig played out like some perfectly adorable fairy-tale. The band beat drum sticks and bows to shreds on their instruments and romped on wooden flutes to raw and animalistic climaxes. Giant white balloon-like lanterns on stage lit up in various arrangements and white smoke drifted from somewhere back on the stage, while Amiina pattered about like brightly dressed decoration, adorned with

flower-like hair ornaments. The wind was blowing eagerly and tugged playfully at the band, moving the glistening plastic draping the stage into a symphony of movement while the audience, bathed in harsh sunlight and swaying along with the wind, looked on as though in a trance.

The highlight of Sigur Rós's set, and arguably of the whole concert, came when Björk and Ólöf Arnalds joined on stage during Goobledigook in jumping up and down and cathartically beating drums. Despite whatever reservations you may have about Sigur Rós's music or about the merit of the concert as a whole, the song was undeniably captivating to watch simply because of the clear and organic thrill of the performers on stage. It was possibly the most fun I have ever had watching musicians perform, ever.

Towards the end of Sigur Rós's set I was hoisted up to see that the garden was filled to its brim with tiny little heads, (later estimated to be around 30,000 concertgoers,) peaking for the night's final set.

Björk took the animal metaphor to a new level, dressed in a spotted rainbow-coloured headdress that made her resemble some glamorous human koala bear. Prancing around the stage barefoot, licking her lips before unleashing her lyrics, she looked like a spectacular animal of her own creation, dancing about and whipping her arms with seeming instinctual flair.

On the big screen Björk was magnified both in size and audience, broadcast to a global audience of 2.6 million (according to the U.N.) via National Geographic's World Music Website. Although the crowd was riled up and thrilled and Björk's set superbly professional, it all must have looked much more purposeful via satellite than it did from 10 meters from the stage.

Even from way up close the message was hazy. Despite the informative slideshow, the hook that would have made the concert as momentous and as noble as it purported itself to be, the accessible message, was missing. The voice of the artists, the connection of their music to the message and the message to the audience was not vocalized by either of the headlining acts.

After Björk's grand encore where she commanded her army of brass with throws of her hands, chanting "Náttúra! Náttúra!" the crowd dispersed to reveal a blanket of trash. As I survey the scene a woman looks at me and says indignantly, "What is it that we're supposed to be fighting for?" before leaning over to collect the half-full bottles of Icelandic Spring Water into a plastic Bónus bag. ♻️

WHERE

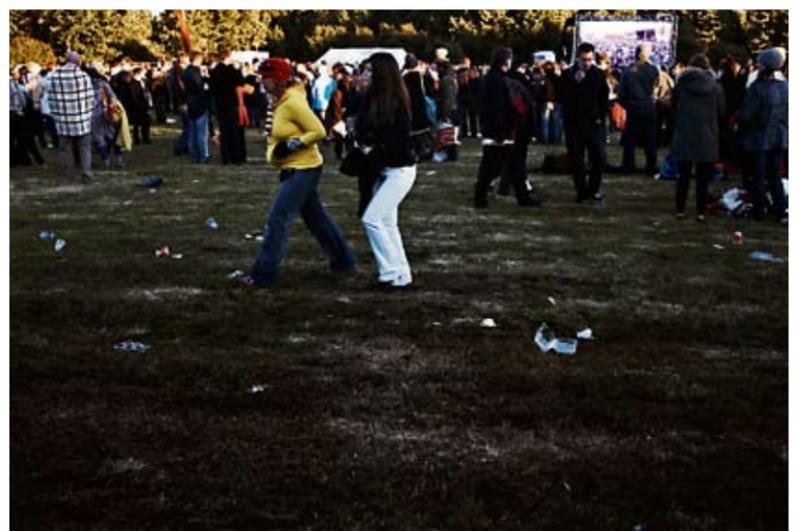
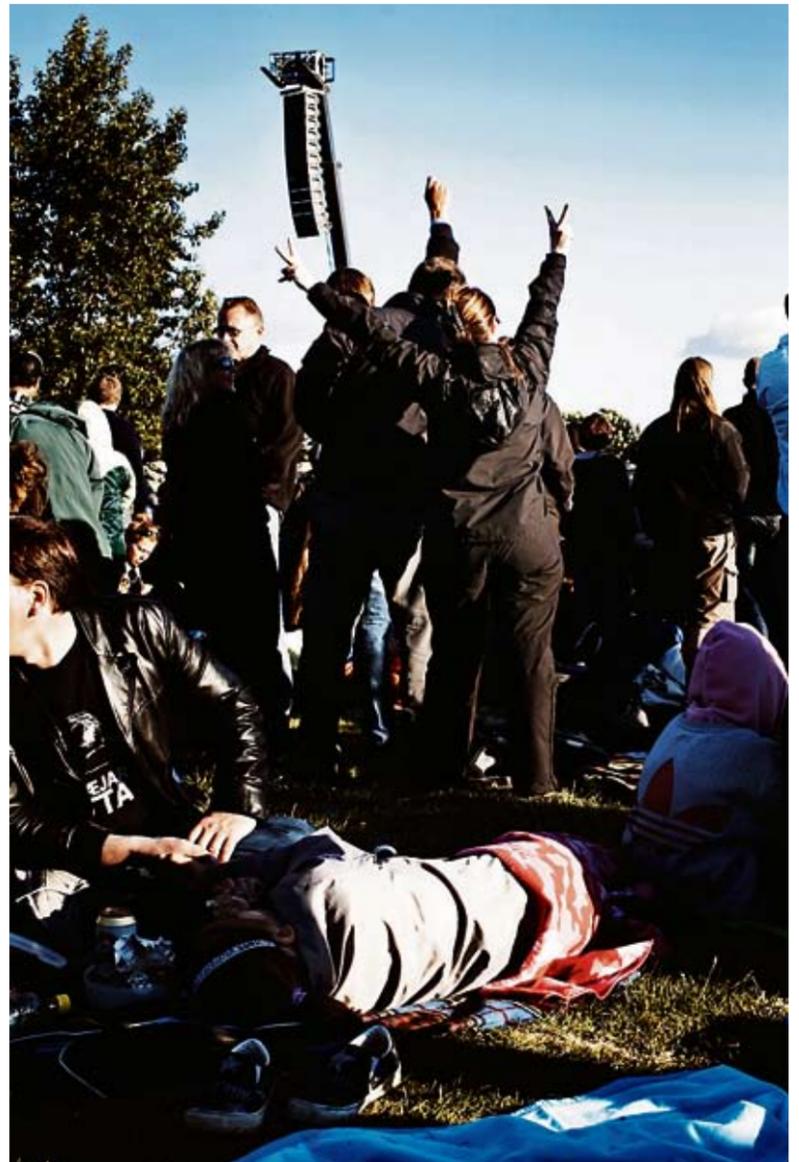
Grasagarðurinn, Laugardalur

WHEN

Saturday, June 28

WHO

Ghostigítal
Ólöf Arnalds
Sigur Rós
Björk



BJÖRK TOOK THE ANIMAL METAPHOR TO A NEW LEVEL, DRESSED IN A SPOTTED RAINBOW-COLOURED HEADDRESS THAT MADE HER RESEMBLE SOME GLAMOROUS HUMAN KOALA BEAR.





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THE TALE OF AUDUN AN ICELANDIC SAGA

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**TEATER
TEATRO**

Audun was a poor Icelandic young man from the Western Fjords. He was lively and much appreciated. Audun was adventurous and wished to get out and have a look around in the world, but he was in the service of a Norwegian man, Tore, who spent the winter in Iceland. He worked for Tore all that winter, and in payment he was going to be allowed to go away with him on his ship. Now that spring had come, and the ice was breaking, the ships were equipped and made ready in all harbours. Everybody wanted to get out to find... wealth, adventure, new land! Audun hopes to return home from his travels after three years. Tore and Audun heads for Greenland and there Audun byes a domesticated polar bear. He has an idea to give it to King Svein of Denmark. On his way to Svein he meets King Harold of Norway, Sveins worst enemy. But in spite of that, with his courage and conviction he makes Harold to give him permission to go to Svein with the bear. King Svein is grateful and gives Audun money to go to Rome. At King Sveins Audun gets both friends and enemies! On the way back from Rome Audun becomes ill and nearly dies, but manage to get back to Denmark. But King Svein doesn't recognise him anymore. What shall he do? He has done everything he promised. Everything he wanted to do. Will he be able to come back to Iceland? Will he survive? Is this how he was supposed to live the rest of his life as a beggar? The Tale of Audun: A company of four actors plays all the characters from Greenland in the west to Rome in the south in this Viking age "road saga" from 10 century!

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Mammút

THE GRAPEVINE: Since the first record came out in 2006, you've had a change in your line-up, switching out your bassist for Ása. Other than the logistics, or perhaps because of them, have there been any other changes within the band?

ALEXANDRA: Maybe just that when we started we were more just like acquaintances, we didn't know each other extremely well. Since then we've travelled overseas and been together a significant amount of time, so we've become more like best friends.

ÁSA: More like a whole.

ALEXANDRA: So we're also maybe more honest and forthright with each other when we're writing songs.

ÁSA: We can fight and still be O.K.

KATA: I think that really comes out on this new record. We've become a lot closer and I think the music has changed because of it. Also this new record has all these crazy pop-speculations. I think it's very poppy, or at least, much more poppy than the first one.

ALEXANDRA: Right before we went into the studio we were really thinking that the record would be too heavy, too hard, because there were some melodies that weren't completely finished and such. But that changed really quickly as soon as we started recording.

THE GRAPEVINE: You hadn't planned to make it lighter when you entered the studio, it just sort of evolved that way?

KATA: Yes.

ÁSA: In a completely positive way.

KATA: We had somehow decided that this record would be really heavy but then somehow our minds changed mid-process and it just started getting more and more poppy.

THE GRAPEVINE: Since you formed the band right before Músíktílaunir 2004, and since you released your first record 2006, how have your expectations as a band changed?

ALEXANDRA: It's always somehow been just one step at a time. We started with trying to win some song competition, and then that was the biggest feat we could imagine, and then it turned into competing in Músíktílaunir.

KATA: And when we competed in Músíktílaunir and won, you know, we hadn't even started dreaming of giving out a record, and then once we did that, then that was the absolute best we could ever do, we couldn't go any higher than that. Now we've topped ourselves again, and we're giving out another record, but now maybe we're allowing ourselves slightly higher expectations, it just comes with the territory I think.

ALEXANDRA: We've been such a luck band, or at least I feel like we've achieved a lot compared to how we...

ÁSA: Suck?

ALEXANDRA: Compared to how incredibly undiligent we are at promoting ourselves. There has been a lot that just sort of fell into our hands and people have had contact with us...

THE GRAPEVINE: Well you've had some experience playing abroad and with foreign journalists who have received you well. Are you not thinking in terms of exporting yourselves or your music?

ÁSA: We really want to go on tour, just something small. Maybe around Europe or the States.

ALEXANDRA: Either way really, I mean if it was offered to us, of course.

ÁSA: We want just as much to tour Iceland, I think that would be hugely fun. Like at first, we were going to have the record in English, and then all of a sudden we realised, no, we speak Icelandic, we'll sing in Icelandic.

KATA: And also it just wasn't coming out naturally in English.

ÁSA: We were just thinking of how it could be received abroad, and of course you shouldn't think that way.

THE GRAPEVINE: So you trust in the scene here, in Reykjavík, as far as the reception and all that? It is enough?

ÁSA: Yeah, except of course there's not a lot of money in it.

KATA: Also, with playing just forever in Reykjavík, especially when you've been playing here a lot... because you're not usually playing some fancy concert with good sound, you're playing at Bar 11 where you can't hear anyone and everything is really sketchy and there are guys on speed trying to head-butt you and stuff. So you know, that's maybe also something that tickles you, as far as going abroad, that you want to sort of...

ÁSA: Try something new.

KATA: Yeah, get fresh ears to listen, you know.

ALEXANDRA: That was exactly the case with a concert we played at Organ last week, because our single [Svefnýkt] has been in frequent play on The X, and we played this concert, and we hadn't played in a long time, and all of a sudden we were seeing these new faces. The majority of the people there were people that we had never seen before, just people who listen to The X at work or something.

ÁSA: It was so funny because they sort of didn't know how to act, like when everyone was getting a beer before the concert started, they were just standing there.

ALEXANDRA: You could kind of tell apart the people who frequent concerts and the people who don't.

ÁSA: Not the usual concert rats.

ALEXANDRA: Which was a lot of fun.

ÁSA: Crazy fun.

THE GRAPEVINE: I think it's interesting that you have a majority of girls in your band, that there are three of you considering how few women there are generally in bands here, especially rock bands. There are women in the pop and electronica scene a little bit, but in rock bands there are very few. What are your thoughts as to why that is?

ÁSA: Maybe just shyness or something. It's such like, a sausage fest.

KATA: Yeah I think it's something like that.

ÁSA: But I mean, I think every girl wants to be in a band.

ALEXANDRA: It's much easier than it looks.

KATA: When we formed our band we were just three girls starting out and we weren't thinking of ourselves as a rock band more than anything else, but then we started thinking why girls aren't more in rock bands. That's just something really strange, why that isn't the case.

ALEXANDRA: I don't know if it plays into it at all, but in the scene that we're playing in there is of course a lot of mess and a lot of partying and a lot of hassle. Like the way it is in Reykjavík you have to be your own roadie and you're essentially just paying to be in a band. Paying for rehearsal space and equipment and all that. It's a lot of...

ÁSA: Hassle.

THE GRAPEVINE: And girls are less interested in hassle than boys?

ÁSA: Yeah (laughs)

ALEXANDRA: Yeah, maybe it's just that some girls don't want to bother dealing with the hassle of this penis-rock scene. And I mean you don't necessarily get a lot more out of playing than maybe you know, three beers at the bar, or something.

ÁSA: Or not.

ALEXANDRA: Or not. Mostly not.

WHO

Mammút

MEMBERS

Alexandra Baldursdóttir (*Guitar*)

Vilborg Ása Dýradóttir (*Bass Guitar*)

Andri Jakobson (*Drums*)

Katrína Mogensen (*Vocals, keyboard*)

Arnar Pétursson (*Guitar*)

ACTIVE

Since 2003

DISCOGRAPHY

Mammút (*debut, 2006*)

The Sweaty Musical Armpit



This summer marks the advent of two exciting releases from two of the scene's youngest and most promising rock bands. The sophomore release from Mammút, whose 2006 debut corresponds to the founding of their compatriots Slugs; the debut album from the latter is expected to be released by the end of the month. The Grapevine sat down with Teitur and Geirharður of Slugs, and members of Mammút, Alexandra, Ása, and Kata to discuss the grunt of young rock in Reykjavík.



Slugs

THE GRAPEVINE: When and how did the band form?

GEIRHARÐUR: The band formed in 2006 with the intention of making Rockabilly music. That went horribly wrong and out of it came this outrage that we have on the record. At first it was just me and Sindri and Heisi, just a guitar, singing and drums, and we composed maybe five songs or something. Sindri tried playing the bass while he sang, and then at our second or third concert he did that, and Teitur saw that concert and thought it was ridiculous that Sindri was stuck to the mic-stand because he had been used to running all over the place raising hell. He voiced that and then it occurred to us that it was opportune that Teitur play the bass, and it worked out pretty well.

THE GRAPEVINE: What about the name, where does it come from?

GEIRHARÐUR: It comes originally from a movie called Slugs, which is about man-eating slugs. We decided that it was a good name when we discovered that this word can have many alternate meanings. We found that refreshing and then it wasn't until later that we realise that it works in Icelandic too, then we started calling ourselves Slugs [with an Icelandic accent].

TEITUR: It can mean a snail; it can mean a sledgehammer....

GEIRHARÐUR: It can also mean like a bullet, and a shot glass maybe, but that may not be right.

TEITUR: And then just to be a sluggard, essentially to loaf.

THE GRAPEVINE: Up to this point, how active have you been as a band as far as playing and performing? Have you been playing more in anticipation of the record?

TEITUR: We took a stretch in the spring where we were playing maybe two or three times a week. We're going to play in the east and north between July 10–20, at the festivals Eistnaflug and Lunga, among others.

THE GRAPEVINE: How has the reception been? Where has it been particularly good?

TEITUR: The reception's been respectable, generally. Especially at Bar 11, and Dillon. Not at Kaffi Rót.

GEIRHARÐUR: No.

TEITUR: Kaffi Rót is a shit-place.

GEIRHARÐUR: Just completely, horrible atmosphere there.

TEITUR: Kaffi Krókur was also a kind of interesting place. That was more of like... we were for show, that we were just some kind of freaks. Because everyone just sat in their seats and stared at us.

GEIRHARÐUR: And looked at us with a kind of... some with a look of wonder, many with a look of disdain, and then there were a few people milling about with some mixture of the two.

TEITUR: We started the concert by breaking some tables, accidentally, and then spilling beer all over, right into people's faces. Then we played and after we left the place burned down.

THE GRAPEVINE: Like, directly thereafter?

TEITUR: Well, like maybe a week later.

GEIRHARÐUR: That place had seen its most beautiful flower.

TEITUR: So I think we held the last concert there.

THE GRAPEVINE: Do you see yourselves as filling some void in the scene?

TEITUR: Yeah, there's maybe a vacancy that forms when bands try to follow some scene, and that's kind of what happens, when everyone chooses some trend to follow, before they've really even formed the band. There's a void for freshness.

GEIRHARÐUR: Like if we had for example succeeded in making rockabilly music, we maybe wouldn't be standing out in any way, but there's still enough going on here, I don't know if I can elaborate on it in any way that I care to attempt but... if it's so that there is a need for bands that are doing just whatever comes naturally out of them, then we are filling some void, otherwise we're just...

TEITUR: Stagnant.

GEIRHARÐUR: Yes, treading water.

THE GRAPEVINE: What expectations do you have for your success?

TEITUR: None.

THE GRAPEVINE: Are you just fooling around?

TEITUR: No, absolutely not. We're completely serious about what we're doing, but we have no expectations.

GEIRHARÐUR: Most of us have learned through

the years to try to minimise our expectations towards people.

TEITUR: But we do actually have the expectation of receiving equal coverage to everyone else. If a reviewer is unhappy with the record then we would rather they give us zero stars than some two. If they want to give us zero then they should give us zero. We don't want to get something like, "Hey, you did a nice job here, good first try," or "it will be fun to see what these guys do in the future." No, I don't want any of that, I just want to hear, "you guys shat on yourselves, better luck next time, go to hell" or something like that.

GEIRHARÐUR: It's much better to be crapped on than to hear that you're doing good things. I think it's like that with most of the music that I find most enjoyable, that people tend to have very divided and strong opinions on the band. In my opinion it's a very good sign for a band if there are some people who hate it, just as it's a good sign if someone likes it.

THE GRAPEVINE: So you're asking that you be crapped on if you deserve it?

GEIRHARÐUR: If someone who listens to the record thinks it deserves it, I hope they'll let themselves be heard.

[Guðmundur Einar enters]

GUÐMUNDUR: What do you think about saying: an old legend tells of Fjörulalli. I really wanted to talk about Fjörulalli, I think it would be really funny in English... "Old Icelandic folklore, something... talks about the Fjord Lalli."

GEIRHARÐUR: Are you talking about folklore or are you just making it up?

GUÐMUNDUR: You've never heard of the Fjord Lalli?

GEIRHARÐUR: No.

GUÐMUNDUR: It's some kind of man who walks around the shore and has a cloven foot if I remember correctly.

TEITUR: Then we have to connect it to us. "He was known for being a slug."

GUÐMUNDUR: Or he was known for eating children that slugged.

GEIRHARÐUR: Yes exactly, that's what I want to hear.

GUÐMUNDUR: [in scary voice] "and he ate children that slugged"

TEITUR: And that is precisely what these men do, that are living.

THE GRAPEVINE: Just so we have it clear, what exactly do you do in the band Guðmundur?

TEITUR: He's our new manager.

THE GRAPEVINE: Officially?

GEIRHARÐUR: No.

THE GRAPEVINE: As their new unofficial manager/spokesman/enthusiast, what do you think of Slugs, Guðmundur? Why are you interested in working with them?

GUÐMUNDUR: What I think Slugs have, first and foremost, is some kind of unharnessed energy of the Icelandic forces of nature, that somehow doesn't manage to appear anywhere else in the world as much as in long-haired new-age Vikings. It's something that the world needs to know, that the Vikings of the modern day do not belong in the stock exchange, they don't belong in analysis departments, but rather they belong in the bubbling, sweaty musical armpit, with a tattoo on their shoulders.

GEIRHARÐUR: You mean basically that they belong in the shit.

GUÐMUNDUR: They belong in the shit.

TEITUR: They belong in the streets of Reykjavík.

GUÐMUNDUR: They belong amongst the masses.

WHO

Slugs

MEMBERS

Heiðar Már Aðalsteinsson (*Drums*)

Sindri Eldon (*Vocals*)

Teitur Magnússon (*Bass Guitar*)

Geirharður Þorsteinsson (*Guitar*)

ACTIVE

Since 2006

DISCOGRAPHY

(*debut pending, 2008*)

How to Survive an Earthquake

BY SIGURÐUR KJARTAN KRISTINSSON

This fierce island of ours in the North can be a tough resort to say the least. Over the last few weeks we have witnessed recurrently what seems to be amongst the seamiest hazards known. In our last issue, Grapevine explained thoroughly what is most wise to do in the event of meeting a full grown polar bear while exploring Icelandic nature and now we keep up the good work for the frightened nation. Over the years it hasn't

Only been the dire encounters of polar bears that has made Icelanders as coarse as their incumbent condition can well be described as, but also the constant fear of earthquakes; one of nature's most incessant powers. This spring we witnessed a few and another one can be expected at any time, therefore we have summed up a few pointers so we can all be as prepared as possible.

ONE To begin with, when you feel the earth shaking beneath your feet it is most likely your imagination playing tricks on you or your next-door-neighbour is having a raver in the next room causing your underlay to shake a little. To examine if this is the case, simply close your eyes for a second as if this was a bad dream.

TWO If the earthquake scenario is still factual when you open your eyes and you are indoors – drop, cover and hold on. The wisest thing is to get under a table or bench to avoid any objects falling on you, and if there are no benches or tables in the room sit up against a wall, most preferably holding on to your legs. Wait until the ground has stopped shaking and then check if you're hurt.

THREE If you are outside when you realise the earthquake is not a figment of your imagination, stay outside.

FOUR After quakes are so common subsequently to earthquakes that they can almost be considered inevitable, so don't get back to your daily routine just yet. You might have to return to your save spot in a few minutes.

Hopefully these pointers are useful when the next one shakes our beloved ground. If not, at least we tried.



MARTHA FROM SPAIN, RACHEL, CLAIR AND CHAS GOEMANS FROM ENGLAND.

Conservation Volunteers

A different experience of Iceland's nature

You might not realise when hiking in Skaftafell or climbing Mt. Esja that the trails you are walking on were all built by The Environment Agency Conservation Volunteers. Every summer, a group of international volunteers arrive in Iceland from all over the world to work on nature conservation, building walking paths and helping park rangers across the country. Each year sees between 150 to 200 volunteers from the ages of 20 to 60 completing up to 600 weeks of work for free. Anyone can volunteer, even tourists on a weekend trip who want to experience something more of Iceland than partying in Reykjavik or looking outside the bus.

The programme, organised and sponsored by the Environment Agency in partnership with the British conservation volunteer organisation, is celebrating its 30th year this July. In 1978, the first team of volunteers built a wall in Jökulsárgljúfur, leading to many teams living and working in some

of the country's most beautiful places. This event will be celebrated with a grand birthday party in Ásbyrgi this weekend. Grapevine caught up with the project's supervisor, Chas Goemans, and three of his newly arrived volunteers before they headed out into the highlands.

What is the nature of your work?

Mostly it's trail repairs. That is about 90% of what we do. We have looked to other countries for how to fix these trails and make them strong. We take these skills from Europe or North America but because Iceland is unique in its ecology we have to consider other factors. We have to consider for example what the frost will do and in England we don't have geothermal areas. So we design new things in the areas here. We take these core skills and develop them for the conditions in Iceland.

What is your agenda? Is it nature conservation or making nature more accessible to tourists?

It's a little bit of both but I have to say that the heart of it is nature conservation. We feel that if we make good paths it can help protect the more fragile areas. In Dimmuborgir, for example, there were damages on the lava formations but one strong path improves safety for visitors and also protects the fragile area. Most often we make the paths because of people, repairing damage that has already been done. We don't go into a pristine area, like Hornstrandir for example, and build paths everywhere. It's more a response to damage.

How many volunteers come each year?

This summer we will have about 200 volunteers. Some stay for four months and others only a few days. Some come as part of their school or job training, others because they want to experience Iceland's nature. We therefore build our programme so people can travel around. The fun is to see something different. Our volunteers can spend a week on Esja, a week in Laki and maybe two weeks in Ásbyrgi and so forth. We provide a place to stay, usually camping in the highlands, and food and travel is included.

Working in the outdoors with a team of international volunteers and working with nature is a different experience of Iceland. 15-20% of the people we have this summer are volunteers who have worked here before so they must find something they like. Not many tourists spend a weekend in Laki working with the rangers who can tell you everything about the area. I think that's what a lot of volunteers appreciate; it's not the same as other forms of tourism. It's a whole other level.

If a tourist is getting bored of Reykjavik and would like to volunteer, can he or she just show up?

Yes. You just simply contact us at The Environment Agency and we can organise something. Most of the projects are residential so it would be at least a weekend but they would be welcome to join in.

WE DON'T GO INTO A PRISTINE AREA, LIKE HORNSTRANDIR FOR EXAMPLE, AND BUILD PATHS EVERYWHERE. IT'S MORE A RESPONSE TO DAMAGE.

we bring the o to sush

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THE TRAIN

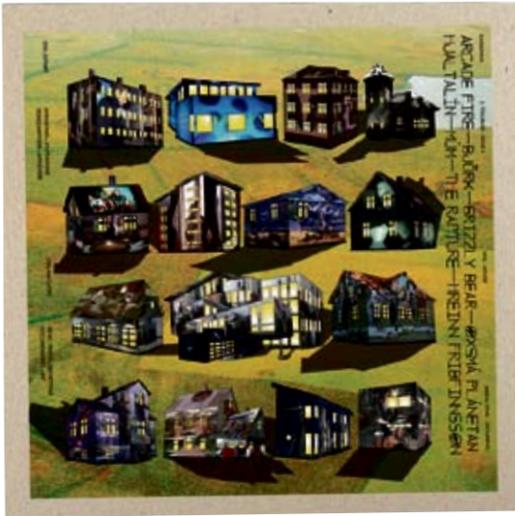
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COVER OF RAFSKINNA, DESIGNED BY LINDA LOESKOW.

Loads of Visual Fun! *New Rafskinna DVD released*

The second issue of Rafskinna DVD Magazine was released on July 3, stuffed with all kinds of visual entertainment. Published by Rasskinn ehf, the magazine, which is the only one of its kind in Iceland, brings together a group of local and international artists, musicians, designers and filmmakers who get a new platform to present their work. The magazine features exclusive interviews, music videos, live performances, short-films and documentaries, all on one DVD disc, with English subtitles of course. A print edition and some cool accessories are also included in the package.

Each issue has a different theme, this time it is houses. "We for example have memory cards with photos of houses on Laugavegur facing demolition. Biggi Veira (of GusGus) gives House-music-lessons, múm cruises in an RV, Hjaltalín plays live inside a house and much more," says Sigurður Magnús Finnsson who, along with Pétur Már Gunnarsson, Ragnheiður Gestsdóttir and Þórunn Hafstað, founded the magazine.

The disc features some rare and juicy material. This includes Oxsmá Plánetan (The Oxsmá Planet), an 80s sci-fi short-film by art-collective Oxsmá. Directed by Óskar Jónasson, the film is one of the gems of Iceland's film history but has never been released before. The issue also features an Arcade Fire music video, interview and BBQ with Ed Droste of Grizzly Bear, and Björk's music video Wanderlust, to be watched with 3-D glasses that come with the DVD. The printed edition has plenty of written material, including an interview with British philosopher Alain De Botton (author of The Architecture of Happiness), articles related to the house theme and a fiction-serial by Órvar Þóreyjarsón Smárason.

With all this and more in one package, you will easily get to know the local art and music scene so head straight over to the nearest outlet and buy a copy. ☺

WHAT
Rafskinna DVD Magazine.

WHO
Arcade Fire, múm, Björk, The Rapture, Grizzly Bear, Oxsmá, Hreinn Friðfinnsson, Huldur Breiðfjörð, Músikvatur, Vibeke Bryld, Clark, Alain De Botton, Takashi Homma and many more.

WHERE
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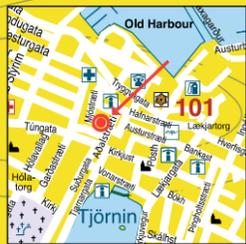
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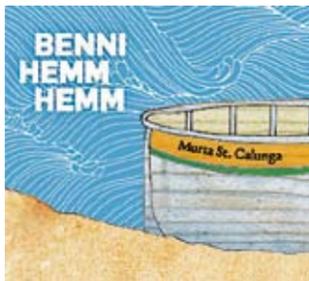
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CD REVIEWS



THE VERDICT

A solid release, which adds little new to an established catalogue.

LISTEN & BUY

kimi.grapewire.net

Benni Hemm Hemm

Murta St. Calunga



REVIEWED BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON

Benni Hemm Hemm has reached a large number of fans with his brass-laden acoustic pop on his previous two albums. After a successful collaboration project with Swede Jens Lekman, Benni Hemm Hemm now returns with Murta St. Calunga, his third studio album. Overall, arrangements and song writing sound a little more sophisticated than on his last album, Kajak, although not very different. It contains all the innocence and sweetness that is possible to muster from a horn-section and acoustic guitars. Benni's lyrics are entertaining and his humorous take on political issues on songs like Whaling in the North Atlantic and Avían í Afghanistan is refreshing. This is a very solid Benni Hemm Hemm release, if not entirely original.



THE VERDICT

Icelandic folk-rockers Grjóthrun leave little to be excited about.

LISTEN & BUY

kimi.grapewire.net

Grjóthrun

Grjóthrun í Hólshreppi



REVIEWED BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON

Grjóthrun is best described as authentic Icelandic folk-rock. It has never been a music genre that inspires me with pride in my cultural heritage, but let's focus on the positive: 1) I enjoyed the song Jónas, not least because the lyric was written by the bass player when he was 11-years old; 2) the guitar sound is good, almost as good as the drum sound is flat and horrible. I'll skip the negatives, but let it suffice to say that otherwise, I didn't enjoy this release. Fans of Pursaflokkurinn will undoubtedly find something of interest in this, but again, Pursaflokkurinn has never inspired much pride in me either. I see this band playing staff parties and the occasional political rally in the future. The political rallies will undoubtedly be organised by themselves. I'd recommend you skip this one, but some people enjoy challenges.

CONCERT REVIEW BY BY BEN H. MURRAY — PHOTO BY GAS



SINGAPORE SLING IS EFFERVESCENT

Sugar and Bass Make Singapore Sling Just Palatable



Drone-laden psych rock is a difficult beast to tame – too much noise and feedback and it sounds like an inglorious mess, too precise and energetic, well, it's something else they're playing. A happy medium is required and Singapore Sling just scraped into the latter category on a sweaty Saturday night in Organ.

The opening bars of 'Sugar', some way into their set, was arguably the point where the six piece achieved said happy medium. Driving, droning rock in the style of The Fall crossed with The Velvet Underground, complete with Henrik Bjornsson's deadpan Lou Reed-style vocal delivery, washed around the venue like sweet tasting fog on a summer's morning and had people dancing on tables to get a better view. 'Godman' and 'Let's Go Dancing' were received with equal enthusiasm, and rightly so.

Following a long tradition of female rock bassists, from the two The Smashing Pumpkins have

employed to Kim Deal of The Pixies, Sling's Bibi is one sassy rhythm queen. Anyone who heard and witnessed the frenetic riffs on 'Sugar' will understand how unassumingly impressive she is on stage. Whilst the rest of the band put on a low-key performance, sedate even, her confident manner and driving pulses of ground-swell low notes provided charisma to balance out the other band members' apparent lack of enthusiasm for a late-night weekend slot possibly more suited to a band with greater uplifting qualities.

That's not to say Organ wasn't packed, or that a majority of the audience weren't enjoying Singapore Sling's rather epic set but, just as the 90s shoegaze scene was famous for "celebrating itself" in certain parts of the world (fans and bands all went to each other's gigs thus creating the buzz through their own presence), you got the feeling that it was the avid fans that made the atmosphere rather than the band. 

WHERE
Organ

WHEN
Friday, June 20

WHO
Singapore Sling

THE VERDICT
Most people present knew Singapore Sling can play better than they did, but the evening still had some classy moments.

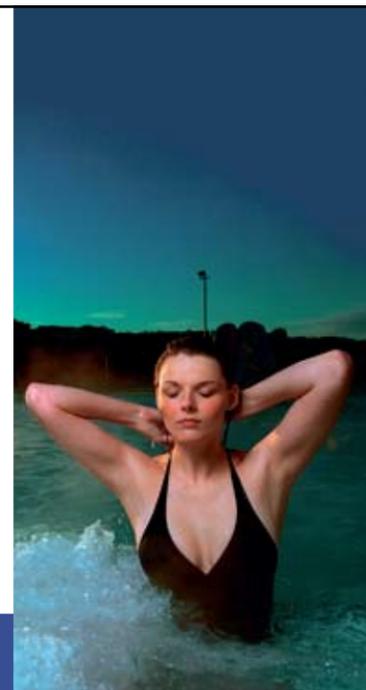
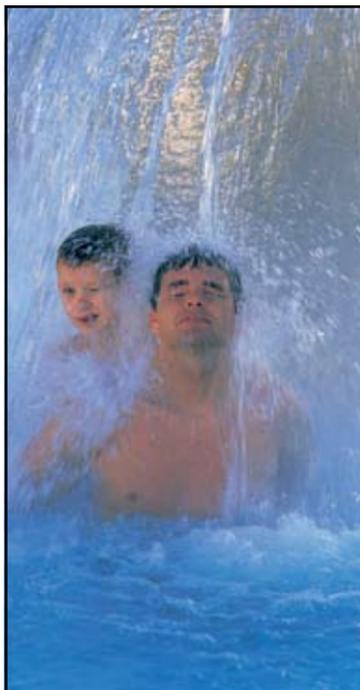
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CONCERT REVIEW BY NATHANIEL FLAGG — PHOTO BY G.RÚNAR



CONDUCTOR DANÍEL BJARNASON WORKS HIS MAGIC WAND

Formulaic but Fun



Since the release of his latest album, *Murta St. Calunga*, no more than three weeks ago, Benni Hemm Hemm has been popping up in venues around Reykjavík with all the persistence of a whack-a-mole. Most recently, Benni Hemm Hemm was sighted at *Iðnó*, accompanied by the Icelandic Youth Symphony Orchestra for a pleasant evening show. Benni Hemm Hemm has always kept a big reserve of musicians at hand. So, expanding that reserve to about 30 or 40 musicians comes as no real surprise. The performance attracted a loose crowd, comfortably sipping beers and occasionally heading outside for a cigarette and a view of the pond, enjoying themselves throughout.

I've always found Benni Hemm Hemm a little repetitive. He seems to grab on to about four bars and then repeats them ad nauseam, preferring to rely on the ensembles he amasses to introduce any variation. This method can produce some truly irritating songs that seem to be all chorus and no verse. After ceaseless repetition, even the prettiest theme can quickly sour. Even watching this live performance, I had a difficult time distinguish-

ing one song from the other, since they all more or less followed an identical formula. However, Benni Hemm Hemm's indefatigable optimism and spirit remained relentlessly charming. With music so upbeat, it's hard not to crack a smile at least.

A beautifully haunting rendition of 'SnjórLjósSnjór' and the uplifting harmonies of 'Friðþjófur og Ingibjörg' were two highlights of the concert, fully taking advantage of the orchestra's elegant detailing. For a nice finish, The Orchestra put down all of their instruments and instead raised their voices to sing the last few bars, the audience quickly joining in to take the joyful anthem with them. Benni Hemm Hemm's music may be formulaic, but this formula he's found can be the key to truly spirited and pleasant music. 

WHERE

Iðnó

WHEN

Thursday, June 19

WHO

Benni Hemm Hemm & Ungfónía

THE VERDICT

Benni Hemm Hemm creates repetitive, but ultimately delightfully upbeat music.

CD REVIEWS



THE VERDICT

New Sigur Rós album falls just short of being great, but is still more than worthy of your attention.

LISTEN & BUY

www.smekkleysa.net

Sigur Rós

Með Suð í Eyrum Við Spilum Endalaust



REVIEWED BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON

Sigur Rós' new release mostly finds them moving away from their trademark ethereal soundscape of long build-ups, breakdowns and crescendos, towards a more traditional pop-song formula. It is also the first Sigur Rós album I've really enjoyed since *Ágætis Byrjun*. This album is simply a lot more fun than Sigur Rós has been in a long time. The spunky *Inn í mér syngur vitleysingur* is a serious diversion from the band's recent work, but still ranks among their best songs, while *Góðann daginn* maintains certain elements of that unique Sigur Rós sound and considerable tension in song structure, but still comes in at around five minutes. *Ára bátur*, the band's nine-minute long choir and orchestra exercise, really does not sound at home on this record, living with these songs, as gigantically arranged as it is, but *Festival*, another nine-minute long song in more traditional Sigur Rós form, avoids that fate and serves as a nice change of pace here.



THE VERDICT

Flawed in places, but distinctly listenable if you like inoffensive, slick pop rock.

LISTEN

www.myspace.com/hraunhraun

Hraun

Silent Treatment



REVIEWED BY BEN H. MURRAY

Hraun have taken a fair bit of stick from various corners of the Icelandic press. The issue most have with the band is that they aren't trying to be different or unique and this often arouses an instant, and sometimes legitimate, form of musical snobbery. Does 'Silent Treatment' change this view or is it more of the same? By the very nature of their musical genre, the answer is obvious.

The strongest track shares the same title as the album. Starting with a gentle intro, featuring front man Svavar's warm voice and organ accompaniment, 'Silent Treatment' builds a pretty picture with a female vocalist and a clarinet adding pleasing complexity to a fine composition. Ironic, then, that the next one, 'Happy Song', is the worst on the record. The other eight tracks sit somewhere between the two extremes but you could imagine 'Thunderball' going down an absolute storm after a session on the *Brennivín*.

Maybe Hraun, a band who can be genuinely good when seen live, are the *Brennivín* of music – some laugh at anyone who tries a bit, some lap it up as it can be pretty nice, and to others it's just a mildly pleasant winter warmer.

MUSIC

Kimi Records' Summerjoy

BY SIGURÐUR KJARTAN KRISTINSSON

Since the Akureyri based publishing company Kimi Records entered the fray of Icelandic publishers, the industry's activity seems to have increased a great deal. I haven't gone through a week over the last few months without hearing about some Kimi-artist concert or Kimi-distributed-artist concert. That must count for something, unless it's only the fact that Kimi Records jerk off their name in connection to concerts more severely than other labels; nevertheless, Kimi are throwing this hot Summerjoy.

This is some kind of a tour with the Kimi artists Benni Hemm Hemm, Borko, Morðingjar and Reykjavík!. The tour's virgin concert will be in Stokkseyri on the infamous Bastille Day, July 14. From there they will head to the capital of the Westfjords, Ísafjörður, and play at the House of Edinborough. The tour continues to Kimi's home base at Akureyri and a lot of celebration is suspected, a bit of "Return of the King" atmosphere. Then there is Húsavík, LungA Art Festival in the East fjords, and finally before returning home to smoggy Reykjavík the posse will visit upon Höfn í Hornafirði. The grand finale will be held at NASA, July 23, where Kimi promises some surprise numbers. All the concerts start at 9PM and the ticket is 1,000 ISK. More information at www.kimirecords.net

This Festival Is Really Called 'Flight of the Testes'

BY HAUKUR S MAGNÚSSON

Eistnaflug chief Stebbi Magg is desperately clinging to the notion that the festival he spearheads isn't exclusively a metal festival. That the roster includes rocks indie- and punk- as well. "Just look at our line up. There are bands playing from every corner of the Icelandic music scene, pretty much, at least every corner that has a guitar in it," he says to me over the phone, and he is right. The line-up for Eistnaflug 2008 is remarkably varied, and thoroughly exciting, and includes established punkers like Innvortis playing alongside legendary doom-metallers Sólstafr, grindcore hellions Forgarður Helvítis and the Kings of Icelandic Metal themselves, HAM.

That doesn't change the fact that the festival's name, Eistnaflug, literally translates to "Flight of the Testes". And that only metalheads would be so adorably juvenile as to choose that as their moniker (indie bands have no balls by definition, and punkers are more into bodily fluids). So while Eistnaflug isn't a metal festival proper, it is most definitely a festival in the spirit of METAL. And that is the best spirit you can base a music festival on, for The Spirit of Metal is a friendly, happy and welcoming one.

"When we first did the festival, the people of Neskaupstaður [the small East Fjord town that's been home to Eistnaflug from the beginning] were really surprised when this huge crowd that looked like it had been shat out by Satan himself turned out so friendly and polite. But that's metalheads for you, they get out their aggression elsewhere than with violence."

Set to take place the weekend of July 10-13, Eistnaflug 2008 features one of its most epic line-ups in the festival's four year history and is a must stop on any rock-inclined traveller's schedule. "Neskaupstaður is an hour's drive from Egilsstaðir, and an eight hour drive from Reykjavík. It is one of the most beautiful towns in the country, and the festival is world class, even if you don't know any of the bands. So pay us a visit," says Stebbi. Those without transport should check out the car-pool section of festival web-site www.eistnaflug.is or the amazingly convenient www.samferda.net

INTERVIEW BY STEINUNN JAKOBSDÓTTIR — PHOTO BY GAS



NAMITA KAPOOR CONTEMPLATES HER DUAL IDENTITIES.

French Fries and Religious Symbols

Namita Kapoor exhibits a fusion of Western and Asian cultures

"My work is modern, it's funny but it's also very spiritual. It's a play of many things blending," says South East Asian-American artist Namita Kapoor. On July 5, she will open her first solo exhibition in Iceland at Gallery Gel, located on the corner of Klapparstígur and Hverfisgata. Entitled 'Effervescent Delights', her exhibition features a collection of recent paintings she describes as a hybrid of Western media and Asian craft, ornaments and symbolism.

Drawing from her South East Asian heritage and growing up in America, her paintings are a conjunction of famous Indian stories and iconography mixed with modern commercialism. Henna prints, religious symbols and sacred images are pasted on the canvas and Indian fabrics layered with different paint. The result is colourful pieces that pop out.

Asia Meets America

Namita grew up in California but has visited India several times in the past years and says that growing up with dual identities has influenced her work. "I grew up in America with all these different Indian stories and comic book images, but I never really thought about them. In 2003, I had a really spiritual trip to India. I was blown away by Indian craft and Indian textile and started including that in my work. On my trips to India I've collected Indian imagery, textile and fabrics. All of these things are integrated into the paintings."

She's also a dancer and has toured extensively nationally and internationally with various theatre and dance companies and says dance also plays a big part in her artwork. "I've always been dancing and painting but now I'm focusing more on painting. Where dance comes into my art is in the movement in the paintings. When you watch them they're exploding, twisting and turning. There's a lot happening." By cutting-and-pasting images and mixing them she explains that the stories, icons and myths become separate stories, taken from the original ones. "The traditional stories become new fragmented concepts, which in turn represents my identity: a fragmented tapestry of deeply religious things."

Asked if she is religious Namita replies: "I'm very spiritual. I believe religion is following something religiously. But I believe that art and dance and these mediums in which I express myself are

religion. I do them daily, it takes a lot of dedication, meditation and sacrifice."

Religious Symbols in a Consumer Driven Culture

The way Western and Asian cultures can interrelate and influence one another is the subject in one of Namita's paintings, 'Here Comes the Sun', on the Grapevine's info cover. The painting features two Buddhas meditating on top of the Earth with cow-legs (the cow is a sacred Hindu symbol), space rockets, French fries and astronauts circling around them. "The Buddha represents the total enlightenment. The moon and stars and sun act under him. At the same time, we see cow-legs circulating the planet along with French fries and astronauts. You can ask, is this a reference to the ultimate universe? Is this a reference to global warming? Or is it a reference to the way that while everything becomes smaller things are at the same time exploding?"

Namita goes on to discuss how Western culture tends to borrow religious symbols and icons to sell various products. "In America I've, for example, seen Ganesha, this famous Hindu god that represents the moving of obstacles, on a flip-flop. People are buying these shoes with the god on it and are attracted to it without necessarily knowing what it means." In her art she questions how these Indian images and religious symbols survive in a consumer driven culture, by for example painting burger-mascot Ronald McDonald with his hands in prayer like the Buddha. "The idea is to take the spiritual icons and misconstrue them. There is still an attraction to the initial image so part of it is making a mockery of the images and the other is asking for it's true meaning. Does this change the image? Does it reinvent the image? Do we think of something spiritual or something strangely bizarre when we look at it? It is a play on these different identities, which leaves the viewer with room for a lot of questions."

To set off the exhibition, there will be a week of Indian events at Cafe Oliver on Laugavegur, connected to the exhibition. It will open on July 5 with the exhibition at Gallerí Gel and an after-party at Café Oliver. June 10 will see a sari fashion show, Indian food and live drumming. Namita will also offer Bollywood dance lessons and Henna tattoos for free. [G](#)

WHO

Namita Kapoor

WHERE

Exhibition at Gel Galleri on Hverfisgata 37

WHEN

June 5 to 22

INFO

www.namitakaapor.com

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HEMMI & VALDI GET COSY.

A Cosy Colonial Store

Hemmi and Valdi want your whole family there

Cosy is a word that gets thrown around a lot. A lot more than it should actually. But sometimes, it is just the right word to describe a place that feels... well, cosy. One of those places that truly is cosy is Hemmi and Valdi's Colonial Store on Laugavegur 21. Now, colonial store, on the other hand, is not a word (well, phrase really) that does not get thrown around a lot. In prehistoric times (i.e. before the 20th century), a colonial store was a place where you could buy imported groceries from the colonial masters. In our case this involved Denmark, and probably sugar. The modern day version, however, involves beer and baby clothes. But no colonial masters luckily.

"We were just looking for a good idea to execute," Valdi, one of the owners tells me. The idea they hit upon was to establish a family friendly café / baby clothes store, where they could sell cheap refreshments (and baby clothes) in a relaxed setting for the whole family. The store is located in an old house with big storefront windows, filled with old furniture that looks like it belongs in your grandmother's living room. Valdi and Hemmi, who are both young fathers, wanted to create a place where the grown-ups could sit down without having to worry about the children being bored after fifteen minutes. "We put a lot into making this a comfortable for the whole family," Valdi explains.

But after dark (well, it is summer in Iceland, but you know what I am getting at), the place transforms into a nice little bar where the beer sells for a modest 550 ISK and a bottle of red wine for 1900

ISK. "We pack up the baby clothes at night and move on to the beer. The thinking is that during the day, this should be a place for the whole family, but in the evenings, this should be a place for the parents to come and relax," Valdi says.

WE PACK UP THE BABY CLOTHES AT NIGHT AND MOVE ON TO THE BEER.



The reception has been excellent and plans are already underway to expand the operation. "We have been scheduling jazz nights on Mondays and Tuesdays, we are running a small market outside, and we are looking into getting people to come and do face paint a few days a weeks for the kids and putting up football goals in the port behind the house," says Valdi. Every Friday and Saturday there is a musical performance, either a live band or a DJ, and the to-do list includes dances for elderly citizens in and a troubadour festival on July 17. [G](#)

Hemmi & Valdi
Nýlenduvörverslun
Laugavegur 21

ARTICLE BY HAUKUR S. MAGNÚSSON

Lamenting a Dying Model

Kjötborg shows how Icelanders have sacrificed community for krónur

Documentary *Kjötborg* was pre-viewed at the Skjaldborg film festival this spring, where it won over the hearts of the audience, along with the festival's sole award (an "audience award", as it were). It was recently screened in Háskólabíó to great critical and commercial response and will ultimately make its way to local television and DVD releases later this year. Furthermore, it is being shopped around to various international film festivals, where it will surely win many other awards and go on to greater international success.

Set in Vesturbær institution-slash-convenience store *Kjötborg* ("Meat City!"), the eponymous film documents the life of the store, its owners (brothers Gunnar and Kristján) and some of its patrons. A neighbourhood shop if there ever was one, *Kjötborg* stocks pretty much everything its customers could ever need in its cramped quarters (and the proprietors will go to every length to acquire whatever's missing) and has been servicing the community of Vesturbær for several decades. The brothers make sure to pander to their customers' every need, delivering sandwiches to hunger striking mutineers at the old folks home and ensuring a regular has enough chewing gum and chocolate after closing time (a popular story not included in the film goes that the *Kjötborg* brothers actually arranged one of their regulars' funeral).

The film features the brothers reminiscing about various milestones in *Kjötborg*'s history and times they've had whilst running it, interspersed with candid shots of daily life within the store and interviews with select patrons. Shot over the course of a year (2006), we follow the *Kjötborg*

brothers through the seasons, slowly getting the impression that something deeply important is being lost as the last of the neighbourhood stores fight a losing battle against more efficient models of consumption. Ultimately, *Kjötborg* is a portrait of a nation that has undergone some severe changes in a short amount of time and what those changes mean; it is a reflection on Icelanders' shifting values and aspirations, where they may be leading us and what we may be losing in the process.

Kjötborg is bound to see lots of success, for it is the kind of film that stays with you for a long time after an initial viewing. It manages to raise thoughts and make some very valid points without ever making an argument or reverting to any of the various propagandist tools available to filmmakers on a mission (even if it definitely has some tearjerker moments). It draws you in with its combination of steady cinematic rhythm, pleasant views and carefully placed music (by the excellent Sindri Már of Seabear fame) and refuses to let you go without giving some thought to what's being discussed. Directors Helga Rakef Rafnsdóttir and Hulda Rós Guðnadóttir deserve all the praise that's coming to them. *Kjötborg* is an entertaining, yet engaging film and comes highly recommended. [G](#)

ULTIMATELY, *KJÖTBORG* IS A PORTRAIT OF A NATION THAT HAS UNDERGONE SOME SEVERE CHANGES IN A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME AND WHAT THOSE CHANGES MEAN; A REFLECTION ON ICELANDERS' SHIFTING VALUES AND ASPIRATIONS, WHERE THEY MAY BE LEADING US AND WHAT WE MAY BE LOSING IN THE PROCESS.



*Due to popular demand, *Kjötborg* will be screened at Háskólabíó this coming weekend, English subtitles and all. Don't fret if you missed it though; this "popular demand" has been keeping *Kjötborg* in theatres for a while now."*

NAME

Kjötborg

DIRECTED BY

Helga Rakef Rafnsdóttir and Hulda Rós Guðnadóttir

MUSIC BY

Sindri Már Sigfússon

RUNNING TIME

47 minutes



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England's Blues to Lose in the Faroe Islands This Summer? We Wish.

Manchester City, the new Chelsea of English Premiership football (slightly dodgy overseas owner – check. Money wasted on dodgy players with names that sound like a pasta sauce – check. Blue kit – check) will, this summer, be getting on a plane to somewhere a majority of their players will never have heard of – the Faroe Islands – to contest a UEFA Cup spot with the mighty EB/Streymur.

So, just how much of a monumental mismatch is this two-legged tie between a team that won the whole competition in 1970 and one that has never even finished top of its own domestic league competition? The Grapevine investigated and came up with some interesting comparisons.

- Although the match will probably be held at one of the bigger grounds in the Faroese capital of Torshavn (EB's home ground just about caters for 1000 fans), this will still be like the average Premiership player's back garden in comparison to the City of Manchester Stadium, capacity 47,700. The entire Faroese population could fit in this grand arena.

- Manchester City have spent over 4.7 billion ISK on players since their takeover by ex-Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, a man estimated to be worth 130 billion ISK. His total personal wealth is equal to about one third of the entire annual Faroese GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

- The Faroese national football team is ranked 193rd in the world and most people think their full name is Faroe Islands Nil, apart from when they play Scotland. In contrast, England are somehow ranked in the top ten national teams in the world of football despite their team being mostly populated by players who can't stay out of the tabloid newspapers and assorted other philanders, womanisers and thugs. See most of their defensive unit for examples of all three.

- Anyone who has ever been to the Faroe Islands will testify that it's one of the most beautiful places on earth, in comparison to Manchester – a city that has the nickname Gunchester due to its high crime rate and prevalence of housing estates and districts where you really wouldn't go after dark without a bodyguard. No wonder their players are some of the most aggressive in English football (several current and ex team members have criminal records), whilst the Faroe Islands are populated by some of the most peaceful, friendly and contented souls you're likely to meet outside of a hippy commune.

Roland Hojsted, EB's Chair, when asked about the tie, simply said: "What can they expect? They can expect to lose." We're not holding our breath, Roland, but if your boys pull off one of the all-time great giant killings in the world of sport, then we'll be the first to congratulate them.

Feed them some of that dried pilot whale, washed down with a few pots of aquavit and a really old, chewy puffin steak for dinner the night before and your chances will greatly increase. Good luck on July 17.



WHO WOULD FOCUS ON FISH?

Exploring Fishing Villages in the Far Northwest

With petrol prices at an all time high and a car suited to city streets, it didn't exactly seem like the ideal time to go on a road trip to the most remote region of a country already known for its exorbitant prices and hazardous driving conditions. We set off and arrive late in the evening at the sleepy fishing village of Hólmavík, in the eastern West Fjords in the far northwest of the country, for a five day tour of the region starting with the eastern section of the fjords and then travelling west and then south.

Hólmavík, the largest settlement in the area, is characterised by its traditional colourful corrugated iron houses and its picturesque harbour overlooking Steinsgrímsfjörður. Although just a 270 km drive north of Reykjavík, the days here are noticeably longer. We watch the sunset fade into a pinkish haze on the horizon well after midnight.

Strandir Coast

The next day we head off along the Strandir coast toward Norðurfjörður, which is as far as the dirt, all-too-often-bumpy, road will take us. The friendly owners of the guesthouse in Hólmavík hadn't visited the remote area in a few years but estimated that the drive would take around two hours. The

unsealed, narrow road winds endlessly between the mountains on the one side, and the rocky, black sand coastline on the other. Save the couple of cars that pass us, we are alone on the road. The weather gods provide us with rare (at least for the capital) warm, sunny and still conditions. It's around 15°C but, as is often the case in Iceland, it feels warmer – more like 20 plus °C. We take a stroll up the side of the mountain at Kaldbaksvík where a couple are fishing in the crystal clear waters of the lake. The rusty coloured mountain vegetation, deep blue waters of the fjord and its lush green surroundings offset the pastel blue skies.

Eventually we come to the largely abandoned village of Djúpavík, where the old herring processing plant, now housing an exhibition on the industry, stands as a reminder of this sleepy town's more prosperous times. The Strandir coastline is lined with beaches littered with driftwood and flotsam – rope, nets, buoys, random plastic objects – and the odd seal sunbathing on the rocks. It's so sparsely populated around these parts, with only the occasional farm dotting the countryside, that we share the road only with the sheep and birds that inhabit these shores during the summer. Combined with the rough roads, the animal and birdlife prove to be a hazard, forcing us to reduce speed to 30 to 40 kms an hour for much of the way. Kría, or arctic terns, are notoriously aggressive at this time of year, repeatedly attempting to swoop our car and diving directly in front of the moving vehicle. On more than one occasion the mating birds lay smack bam in the middle of the road, bringing our car to a halt.

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DESTINATION

A Pool in the Middle of Nowhere

More than four hours after leaving Hólmavík and a scenic, but slow, drive through nothingness, we arrive at our destination of Norðurfjörður – more specifically, the open-air geothermal swimming pool at Krossness. An eight hour return drive to get to a swimming pool may sound a bit extreme, but the simple, unattended pool we're talking about, with its single hot tub, lies on a quaint pebbled beach with unobstructed views of the sea. The weather wasn't feeling so summery by this time, but we were only too eager to test the new waters – soon agreeing that the drive was worth it.

In true Icelandic fashion, the locals strike up a conversation in the hot tubs. They talk to us about the hardships of the life in the tiny village, the woes of the fishing industry, and the all too familiar trend of migration to the bigger centres of Akureyri and Reykjavík, referred to as "the City" around here. Times might be tough in the country, but these people have unrivalled peacefulness and surely one of the best pools around.

The sparsely populated and isolated Norðurfjörður is the last stop before the Hornstrandir peninsula, abandoned from settlement in the 1950s. The peninsula, comprising of Drangajökull glacier and an expanse of wild grassland and tundra, is a popular summer hiking destination. But hiking isn't on our agenda, and with the prospect of the weather closing in the following day, we decide to head back down the coast for the long drive to Hólmavík.

IT'S SO SPARSELY POPULATED AROUND THESE PARTS, WITH ONLY THE OCCASIONAL FARM DOTTING THE COUNTRYSIDE, THAT WE SHARE THE ROAD ONLY WITH THE SHEEP AND BIRDS THAT INHABIT THESE SHORES DURING THE SUMMER.

Ísafjörður

The following day we continue on to the regional hub of Ísafjörður, population 3000. The drive soon turns tedious after the marvels and more desirable weather of the previous day. Fjord, after fjord, after fjord... endless fjords, it seems as we drive the length of each. Finally Ísafjörður appears, strung out on a protruding spit into the fjord with the steep, snow tipped mountains providing a dramatic backdrop.

People around these parts, like in much of the West Fjords, survive off fishing, sheep farming out of town, and increasingly, tourism. The owner of our guesthouse, who just so happens to be one of the most talkative and friendly people I've encountered in Iceland, insists that we have dinner down at the harbour at the fish restaurant housed in one of Iceland's oldest buildings. The fish is reportedly right off the boat – and according to all accounts, is phenomenally good.

The owner of the guesthouse tells us that she is trying to help to establish the West Fjords as a tourist destination. And she's not the only one. The region's slogan is "A different Iceland", and there have been concerted efforts to attract tourism to the area and even talk of trying to get direct flights from abroad. Eager to promote what the area has to offer, she enthusiastically proclaims that the West Fjords offer many of what the whole of Iceland has to offer in a concentrated area. And, she could be right.

An icy wind blows from the mountains still striped with snow that refuses to budge despite the arrival of summer. The following afternoon we make a trip to the nearby towns of Hnífsdalur and Bolungarvík, where fish drying racks line the coast.

Iceland's National Day

On our final day we drive back along the western fjords through the 5 km tunnel, detouring to Suðureyri, yet another fishing village set in a stunning fjord, where we visit the local wool craft store. Being Iceland's National Day, we take the opportunity to also stop at Hrafnseyri, the birthplace of Jón Sigurðsson, leader of Icelandic independence, where the car park is quickly filling for a special ceremony. Sigurðsson's former home is now a museum dedicated to his legacy and life in the 1800s. Inside the adjacent wooden church, built in 1886, Iceland's bishop is preparing for a special mass.

Later, we spend the afternoon driving through the fjords and over the highlands towards Reykjavík. While many of the towns in the West Fjords are not worth all the driving in themselves, it's the dramatic views that impress. The friendliness of the inhabitants, along with the rugged beauty of the region, has left me with a new appreciation for this country.

PLACES VISITED

Hólmavík
www.holmavik.is

Suðureyri
www.sudureyri.is

Hrafnseyri
www.hrafnseyri.is

Hnífsdalur

Bolungarvík
www.bolungarvik.is

Ísafjörður
www.isafjordur.is

FLY
www.airiceland.is
Round trip: est:16.250ISK from Reykjavik Airport check online for details.

DRIVE
www.hertz.is
www.sixt.is

And more info on the area:
www.westfjords.is

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DESTINATION

Getting Horny with the Cod

BY BEN H. MURRAY — PHOTO BY VIKTOR SVAN

Fishing and fish in Iceland are as much a part of the culture, history and lifestyle as music, beer and late nights in 101. With that in mind, and a desire to encounter first-hand one of the country's most famous exports, deep sea cod, I set off on a mid-morning trip into the stretch of sea overlooked by Reykjavik to capture one of these beasts from the bay.

After a short motor out to a fertile fishing ground we drop our lures, a multi-coloured mixture of rubber worms designed to look like dinner to a hungry fish, and wait for something to bite. The German fisherman who joined us on the trip, a son and father armed to the teeth with some typically efficient-looking fishing kit, are first to start whooping with excitement as one of them quickly hooks into a prime cod the size of a small family dog. It's an impressive catch and could feed a very large family more than once over – who needs factory farmed chicken and beef when you have a sustainable food source like that on your doorstep?

The first thing that strikes you about the fish is just how bright and healthy-looking they seem to be. Their colouration is vivid, with the cod ranging from shades of dark olive to sandy yellow depending on their diet and habitat, and there's obviously no shortage of them scavenging the seabed. The clean waters and remoteness of Iceland must play some part in the quality of the catch and the Germans admit that this is fishing nirvana for them. With a reputation at stake (I'd stupidly claimed to know what I was doing with a rod and line), I was getting worried as the only fish to have fallen for the rather unconvincing lure after the first drift was a small, catfood-sized haddock. However, the next drop down produced something substantial that did think a bit of metal and latex was a legitimate food source bent the rod and tried to head out to sea. It was only a small cod but it was followed by four more, including a proper lump of a fish that made me a very happy fisherman. As I was reeling up the last fish a bit too enthusiastically, the charismatic skipper shouted "don't get all horny with it", just before a 3kg example of why Icelandic nature is loved so much hit the surface.



VERDICT

My friends ate very well that night and the experience showed that fishing is one of the few things that can be universally enjoyed, regardless of nationality or age.

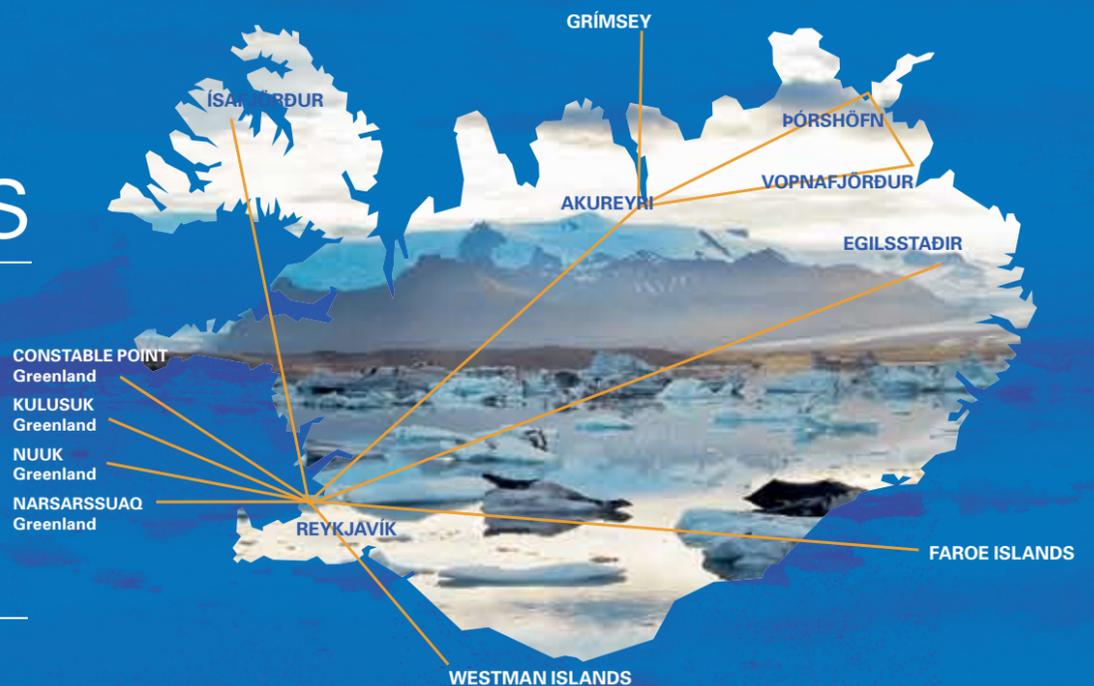
DAYTRIP

Scheduled from Reykjavik harbor from early June to late August every day at 11:00, but can be booked at other times.

INFO

*Trip provided by Elding Reykjavik-harbour
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www.elding.is*

Air Iceland destinations



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DESTINATION

Fjord Explorers

BY NATHANIEL FLAGG — PHOTO BY VIKTOR SVAN

For much of Iceland's history, Hvalfjörður has possessed some degree of utility. First, it was a prime location for whaling. During World War II, it housed a submarine. Prior to the construction of the Hvalfjarðargöng, it was an hour-long detour on the way to Borgarnes. Recently however, Hvalfjörður hasn't been really needed for much of anything and has quickly become a peaceful getaway for Reykjavíkians seeking solace from city life. The journey to Hvalfjörður is just a quick spin north on the ring road, and looking at a map, I realised I could see the mouth of it from my bedroom window. But this is just yet another testament to the fact that no matter where you are in Iceland you are only a few steps away from breathtaking views of nature at her most sublime.

We started out from a small jetty into the fjord, slung between the majestic cliff face and a small hill. To our left rolled waves and waves of mountains, curling into each other like sleeping beasts. In front of us, the fjord crawled in and amongst the hills. Terns swooped from their nests and scratched in the sand, filling the air with a polyphonic whistling. It was a sunny, clear day with not too much wind, but with the closest hills beginning to get hazy. We felt very small and vulnerable in our little boats, even if we were equipped to the teeth in wetsuits and windbreakers.

We circled an island, and paddled across the fjord onto a small beach for a snack. The wind had picked up and we would have to paddle back with the wind facing us. Our guide advised us to "keep on top of the waves" if we didn't want to get flipped into the icy water. We didn't think too much of it at the time, but once back in the water it was clear it would take a lot more work to get back to shore. At the same time, we were met with some of the best views of the excursion; the cliffs on our left towered nobly over us, like faces of dour old men gazing sternly across the fjord. In the scramble to get a quick snapshot of these sights, the stiff wind seized the opportunity to blow us helter-skelter, overwhelming our momentum completely to send us backwards and sideways. We were out in it, sandwiched between a clear sky above and clear water below, weaving around castle-like formations of black rock and august mountains, appreciative of the opportunity just to physically exist among such spectacular feats of natural architecture.

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Summer festivals in the countryside

In the summertime the countryside seems to morph into a cultural utopia, at least when you look upon the limited cultural activities in these rural areas during the winter. The actual reason for this happening is somewhat of a mystery but nevertheless it is indeed factual. Some of them have great PR, but many of them don't. And so we decided to make a smart index of the vast selection to make your travelling decisions a little easier.

Eistnaflug

(e. *Flight of the Testes*)

in Neskaupstaður July 10–13
Distance from Reykjavík: 715 km

This metal festival in the East fjords has gained more and more popularity over the last few years. It started out as a parody to the family festival Neistaflug (Flight of the Sparks) in the same squadron town in the East fjords, and partially still is. In its earlier years the line-up only included a few metal garage bands and the campsite was mostly inhabited with underage, murky groupies, dreaming of their cherry finally being popped by one of the rugged metal heads, but today Icelandic rock idols such as HAM will make an appearance. Even the morbid black metal legends in Mayhem begged to be included, but that unfortunately didn't work out. So whether you love the barbarous sounds of metal or simply wish to have a dash of cultural shock, Grapevine recommends this roughest country festival of the East. Tickets and more info at www.eistnaflug.is.

The Icelandic Jockey Tournament

in Hella July 4–6
Distance from Reykjavík: 93 km

The Icelandic horse riding culture has been immensely important to natives over the ages and at this every-other-year tournament all the jockeys unite in a big celebration. The sport of horse-riding has changed from being the only travelling option for Icelanders into being this luxury sport which it is still today. Therefore the bulk of Icelandic celebrities and tycoons tend this tournament, which has a reputation of being the booziest of all Icelandic country festivals. Some say it really doesn't matter if you're into horses at all, you should simply attend if you long for a nutty and extremely long-lasting party. For more info see: www.south.is

Lunga Art Festival

in Seyðisfjörður July 14–20
Distance from Reykjavík: 681 km

The young artists of Iceland chronically seem to be coming more and more creative and prolific and this Art Festival in Seyðisfjörður is both dedicated to and operated by those promising youngsters. The festival is partitioned into three parts. Firstly the workshops during the day, where experienced artists mentor the younger ones where hopefully their talents bloom; secondly, the various turn-ups during the latter part of the day which can vary from lectures from Icelandic Academy of Arts students to performances by the Icelandic Accordion Association. Last but not least, it is the harvest festival and the prime concert where the Kimi artists Borko, Morðingjar, Reykjavík! and Benni Hemm Hemm entertain the crowd. More info at www.lunga.is

Irish Days

in Akranes July 4–6
Distance from Reykjavík: 49 km

Everyone has heard the myth that Icelanders are in fact descendents from Ireland and not Norway, and this energetic festival in Akranes is a refuge for all the followers of that theory. Irish folk-music is played the entire weekend, and all of the Icelandic supplies of Guinness beer in the whole country are unavoidably emptied, followed by an election of the most Irish Icelander. For more info see: www.irskirdagar.is

Bræðslan

in Borgarfjörður Eystri July 28
Distance from Reykjavík: 724 km

A very extraordinary music festival in this remote area has a certain charm and has attracted musicians such as Belle & Sebastian. This year the festival doesn't boast of any international music high-flyers, but nevertheless the line-up of Icelandic performers is bullet-proof. Rockstar: Supernova idol Magni Ásgeirsson will be there as well as mellow and enigmatic rising star Lay Low. Tickets and more info at www.midi.is.

Folk Music Festival

in Siglufjörður July 2-6
Distance from Reykjavík: 386 km

This music festival attracts several music devotees but as the name suggests a wide variety of folk music is presented. But don't assume too early, the line-up doesn't only include Icelandic folk music but also Scandinavian and even Balkan. The artists are also from miscellaneous nationalities but you can find the fetching Icelandic singer Ragnheiður Gröndal as well as Susanne Lundeng, a famous Norwegian violin player. For more info see: www.siglo.is



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For further information contact your nearest service center, either directly or through tel: 4 11 11 11

- Vesturgarður, service centre for the residents of Vesturbaer district, Hjarðarhagi 45-47, tel. 411-1700
- Hlíðar, service centre for the residents of the city centre and the district of Hlíðar, Skulagata 21, tel. 411-1600
- Laugardalur and Háaleiti, service centre for the residents of the districts of Laugardalur and Háaleiti, Sidumull 39, tel. 411-1500
- Breiðholt, service centre for the residents of Breiðholt, Alfabakka 12, tel. 411-1300
- Arðar and Grafarholt, service centre for the residents of the districts of Arðar and Grafarholt, Bæjarhals 1, tel. 411-1200
- Miðgarður, service centre for the residents of Grafarvogur and Kjalarnes, Langaríma 21, tel. 411-1400



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LIBRARY OF WATER IN STYKKISHÓLMUR

Museum Round Trip

A selection of museums outside Reykjavík

The Emigration Settlement

Hofsós

Because of reasons related to both the arduous climate and backbreaking economy, a lot of Icelanders emigrated to North America in the latter part of the 19th Century. This museum is dedicated to these travels and explains why, where and how it took place. *Distance from Reykjavik: 326km*
www.hofsos.is

The Salt Cod Settlement

Grindavík

The Icelandic fish is glorified worldwide but since the early 19th Century the main fish export from Iceland has been salted cod. The exhibition is allegedly "interesting" for foreign travellers and ideal for students who have economic ambitions. The main purposes of the settlement are described in their manifesto as an uplift for the Grindavík community and a long wanted town trophy which can make the inhabitants proud. *Distance from Reykjavik: 55km*
www.saltfisksetur.is

Library of Water

Stykkishólmur

Last summer the celebrated New York artist Roni Horn opened a permanent installation in the Library of Water, a modern museum in Stykkishólmur. Roni had for some time been photographing Icelandic nature and the installation is somewhat of a combination of her previous works. *Distance from Reykjavik: 172km*
www.libraryofwater.is

The House of Edinburgh

Ísafjörður

At the dawn of the 19th Century all commerce in Ísafjörður was operated through the Houses of Edinburgh, originally established by Scots and which later fell into the hands of Icelanders. The museum is dedicated to the beginning of what turned out to be the lifeline of this small community. *Distance from Reykjavik: 456km*
www.kaffiedinborg.is

The Icelandic History of Music

Bíldudalur

This remote town in Northern Iceland may not have much to offer at first, but surprisingly has the only established music museum in Iceland. If you're passing by you might as well as check out Iceland's music history – dating from the settlement when Icelanders used uncanny string instruments to create music all the way to modern days of pop music. *Distance from Reykjavik: 384km. Phone: +354 456 2186*

Museum of Skógar

Skógar

Skógar is one of Iceland's finest spots where you can witness some of the country's jewels, such as Skógarfoss waterfall. The museum operated in the setting lets you sneak a peek into life as it was before, where you can find the local church, the school, the farmhouse, the storehouse, as well as the newest establishment of the museum: the hydro-electric plant. *Distance from Reykjavik: 154km*
www.travelnet.is

The Ghost Centre

Stokkseyri

The Ghost Centre is a museum that features all of Iceland's famous ghosts so visitors beware, you're in for a scare. Upon arrival you can take the classic ghost tour, where you'll learn about the country's most infamous ghosts and the storyline of several Icelandic ghost myths are presented. If you get bored with all the information you can always just have a murky beer at the ghost bar. *Distance from Reykjavik: 59km*
www.draugasetid.is

The Viking Museum

Njarðvík

The great warriors of the North have a significant background. It's an ideal end or beginning to your trip to Iceland to stop at the Viking Museum, only a small detour from the airport in Keflavík, and get to know the red haired beasts a little better. *Distance from Reykjavik: 47km*

The Art Museum in the Westman Islands

The seductive archipelago of the Westman Islands, a little south of Iceland, has for a long time been the tourist's most treasured oasis in Iceland. The extreme calm that encircles the old fishing quarters is an attractive destination for many reasons, amongst others such as the adventurous puffing hunting. You can also find the excellent Art Museum which possesses a large collection of Kjarval paintings, Iceland's dearest painter. *Distance from Reykjavik: 51km*

Fire is needed by the newcomer
Whose knees are frozen numb;
Meat and clean linen a man needs
Who has fared across the fells.*

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*From the Hávamál, 1300 AD



blaidur@gmail.com / photo: AJS

Living Museum by the Sea



Reykjavik Maritime Museum

The Maritime Museum has a unique location at the west end of the old fishing harbour. There are exhibitions on the evolution of Icelanders' fishing and coastal culture.

The Coast Guard vessel Ódinn is a part of the museum. It took part in the Cod Wars of the last century and went on numerous search and rescue missions.



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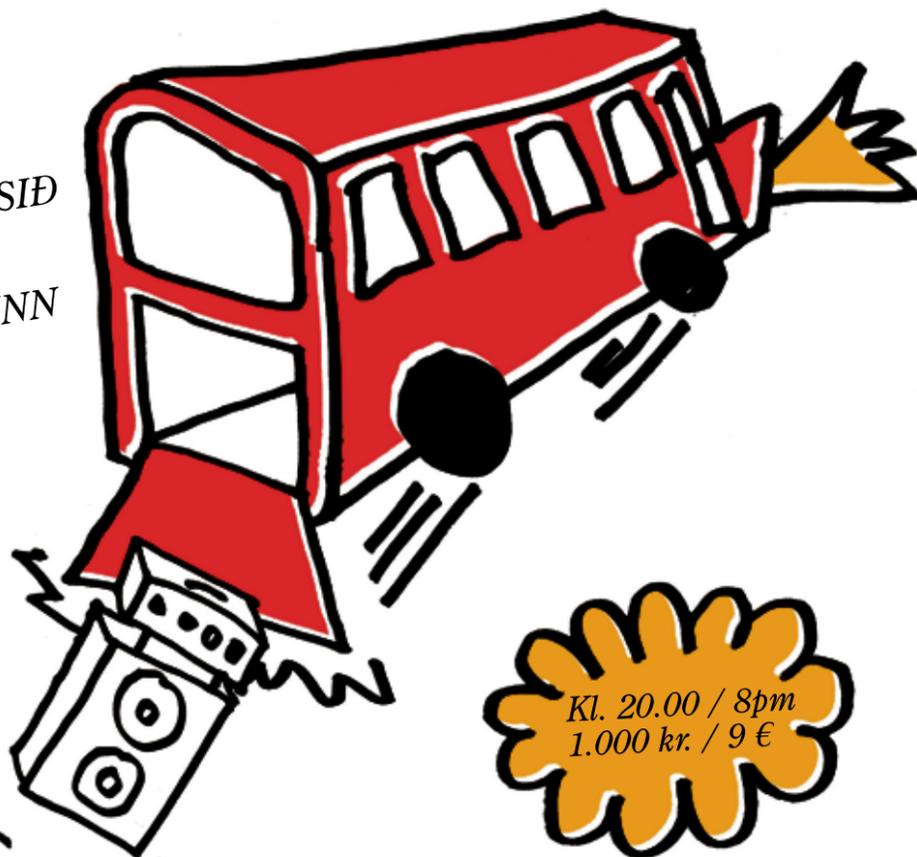
July 16
GRÆNI HATTURINN

July 17
GAMLI BAUKUR

July 18
LUNGA

July 19
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July 23
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Stuffed with stuff

We don't want to get something like, "Hey, you did a nice job here, good first try," or "it will be fun to see what these guys do in the future." No, I don't want any of that, I just want to hear, "you guys shat on yourselves, better luck next time, go to hell" or something like that.

Teitur of Slugs has strong opinions
about music reviews
PAGE 21

To tell you the truth I simply do not know, has anything changed? This is our personal payoff which lets us reminisce a bit and determine in what way we have changed and what we presently represent.

Erlingur Klingenberg on his reunion
exhibition at Kling&Bang
PAGE 14

As I was reeling up the last fish a bit too enthusiastically, the charismatic skipper shouted "don't get all horny with it", just before a 3kg example of why Icelandic nature is loved so much hit the surface.

Ben H. Murray tests his fishing skills
while sea angling
PAGE 32

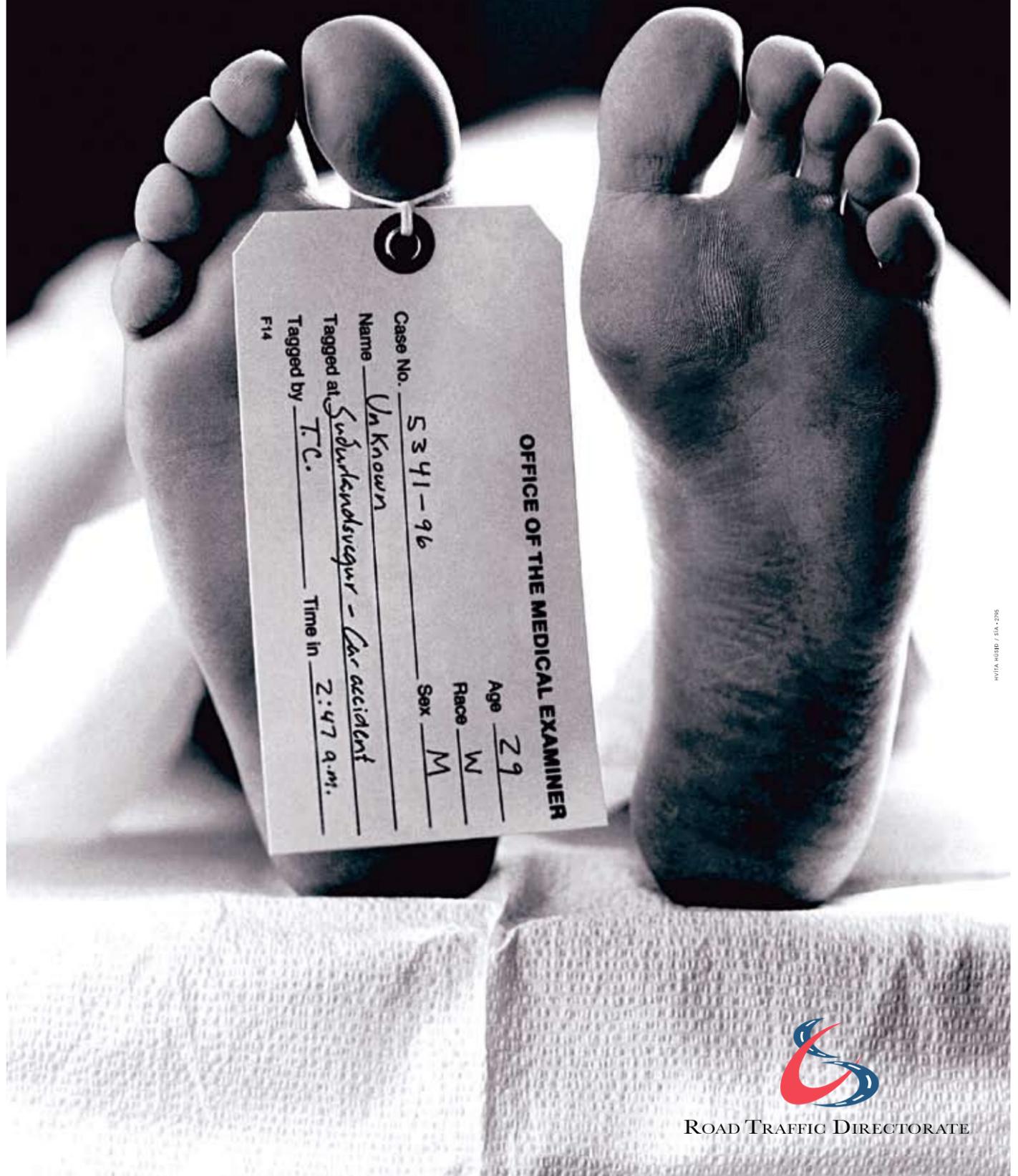
"Tonight I'm standing and I'm also standing in these big shoes because I'm standing up for nature!"

Singer Ólöf Arnalds at the Nature
Concert in Laugardalur
PAGE 18

passing... away?



Icelandic roads are narrow



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Issue 09 2008

www.grapevine.is

What:

Indian Nights at Oliver (B2)





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Art

SIRKUS LIVES AGAIN THANKS TO ART

As you may have seen elsewhere in this issue (page 32), deep sea fishing is a lot of fun. But what happened to the rather beautiful creatures from the deep that gave their life up for such a serious journalistic assignment? You may be pleased and re-assured to know that nothing went to waste - the discarded entrails made the harbour's seagulls happy when the boat docked and some of the meatier bits are being turned into fine cuisine that'll be served at the Sirkus Grounds Project opening party this Saturday (July 5). Starting at 3pm and going on until midnight, the project is presented by 101-based Lost Horse gallery, one of Reykjavík's most interesting and diverse centres for art. The programme features a variety of installations in the Sirkus Grounds from local artists Davíð Örn Halldórsson, Scott Alario, Marguerite Keyes, Alex Somers, Sara Riel, Theresa

Himmer, Hugleikur Dagsson, Una Stígsdóttir, Anik Todd, Joel Thurman and Alexander Zaklynsky. Local café Nýlenduvöruverzlun Hemma og Valda is also collaborating on the project with Lost Horse.

As well as mind-expanding art, expect a fine mix of local music from Hey Calypso, Sigtryggur Berg Sigmarsson, Helgi Valur, several DJ sets (SonSon, Agzilla, Thor and Biogen), DJ battles, some special mystery guests, an art auction and some excellent food, all crammed onto the site of one of city's best-loved, and now defunct, drinking holes. The Amazing Mini Golf Extravaganza and Wally the clown complete the entertainment. After all, it is at Sirkus, but the only likely animal-related attendees will be a few wannabe Tiger Woods and the spiced remains of some pristine Icelandic cod.

When
July 5 from 15:00

Where
Sirkus port, corner of Laugavegur and Klapparstígur

1 G7



Event

NAKED APE BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Trendy designer shop Naked Ape will celebrate its three-years in the fashion business over a whole weekend in July. Owned by designer Sara María Eypórsdóttir, the Naked Ape is a one-off shopping destination stuffed with colourful street-wear, hand-printed hoodies, music, books and accessories. From July 10 to 12, the shop will offer a 15% discount off from all of the cool stuff in store as well as live performances, DJ-ing and some other fun happenings that will take place inside and outside the shop. On July 12, the Naked Ape DJ crew will blow the roof

off Bar Prikjöld until way late, so better get ready for a very long weekend.

When:
July 10-12
Where:
The Naked Ape, Bankastræti 14

2 F7



Music

INDIAN NIGHTS AT OLIVER

Cafe Oliver, in association with the artist Namita Kapoor, presents 'Indian Nights' inside the trendy bar and bistro on Laugavegur. The event, taking place from July 5 to 13, is a celebration of Indian festivities in art, dance, music and fashion. It will kick off with Namita's exhibition, 'Effervescent Delights', at Gallery Gel and which opens on July 5 (see page 26 for an interview with the artist) followed by an after-party at Oliver that same night. From July 10 to 13, Café Oliver will host plenty of Indian happenings, including live drumming with Dave Sharma, fashion show, Indian music and bazaar where you can purchase jewellery, scarves and other Indian delights. Namita will also offer free henna tattoos and Indian Bhangra dance lessons. Indian food will be on the menu and plenty of fun Indian music to dance to.

When:
July 5-13
Where:
Café Oliver, Laugavegur 20a

3 G7

If you would like to be included in the Grapevine listings, free of charge, contact the Grapevine by email at listings@grapevine.is.

Music & Entertainment

FRIDAY JULY 4

- **Bar 11**
DJs Performing in June/July are: Matti X-FM, Gulli Ósoma, Óli Dóri and Biggi Maus
- **Brons**
Every Friday: History Sound System
- **Café Paris**
DJ Stjáni
- **Glaumbar**
DJ Valdi
- **Kaffibarinn**
Nuno Lx
- **Organ**
Pop-Quiz at 6 PM followed by DJ Ívar Pétur.
- **Prikið**
Troubadour Jude followed by Danni Deluxe.
- **Q-Bar**
DJ Crew No Requests (Ási & Ýr)
- **Tunglið**
Pluggd weekend
- **Vegamót**
Mr. Gorilla Funk

SATURDAY JULY 5

- **Brons**
Every Saturday: DJ Gauti
- **Café Paris**
DJ Danni Steel
- **Glaumbar**
DJ Lurkur
- **Hallgrímskirkja**
At 12 noon: Bine Katrine Bryndorf, professor at the Royal Conservatory in Copenhagen, performs L'Ascension by Olivier Messiaen. Admission: 1.000 ISK
- **Jómfrúin**
Bláir skuggar (Blue Shadows). Performance by Sigurður Flosason and more.
- **Kaffibarinn**
Long Saturday: DJ Lazer and Alfons X
- **Organ**
DJ KGB

- **Prikið**
Who's Your Daddy followed by DJ Anna
- **Q-Bar**
Star Wars Theme Night featuring DJ Kvikindi
- **Tunglið**
Plugg'd weekend
- **Vegamót**
DJ Jónas

SUNDAY JULY 6

- **Gljúfrasteinn – Laxness Museum**
This Sunday's sitting room concert will feature Kristjana Stefánsdóttir, Agnar Már Magnússon and Helga Björg Ágústsdóttir.
- **Hallgrímskirkja**
The International Organ Summer Sunday 6 July at 8 PM: Bine Katrine Bryndorf, professor at the Royal Conservatory in Copenhagen, performs, performs works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Olivier Messiaen and Comoto for organ by Danish composer Carl Nielsen. Admission: 1.500 ISK.

MONDAY JULY 7

- **Organ**
Grapevine's Happy Mondays: Snorri Hergill Stand-up.
- **Prikið**
Jón Tryggvi.

TUESDAY JULY 8

- **Prikið**
Performance by Love Me Tender
- **Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum**
Hungarian dances and Romantic Music. Freyja Gunnlaugsdóttir clarinet and Siiri Schutz piano.

WEDNESDAY JULY 9

- **Organ**
Mood and B. Sig
- **Prikið**
DJ Bóas

THURSDAY JULY 10

- **Dómkirkjan (Reykjavík Cathedral)**

- The International Organ Summer: Einar Jóhannesson, clarinet and Douglas A. Brotchie, organ at 12:15 PM. Admission: 1.000 ISK.
- **Organ**
Iceland-Palestine concert: Performing will be Varda, Gunnar Jónsson, Númer Núll, Mordingjarnir, Viðurstyggð and History Soundt
- **Prikið**
DJ Lazer
- **Q-Bar**
DJ Peter Parker
- **Vegamót**
DJ Hannes

FRIDAY JULY 11

- **Café Paris**
Austurstræti 14
DJ A. Ramirez
- **Organ**
To be announced.
- **Prikið**
Búðabandið followed by DJ Rósa
- **Q-Bar**
DJ Unnur Andrea
- **Vegamót**
DJ Benni

SATURDAY JULY 12

- **Café Paris**
DJ A. Ramirez
- **Hallgrímskirkja**
The International Organ Summer: Einar Jóhannesson, clarinet and Douglas A. Brotchie, organ at noon. Admission: 1.000 ISK.
- **Jómfrúin**
Performance by Ómar Guðjónsson Trio. Starts at 16:00
- **Kaffibarinn**
DJ Casanova
- **Organ**
To be announced
- **Prikið**
B-Line Crew and Danni Deluxe
- **Q-Bar**
DJ Shaft with surprise guests
- **Vegamót**
DJs Símon & Dóri

SUNDAY JULY 13

- **Hallgrímskirkja**
The International Organ Summer: The world famous Swedish trombone player Christian Lindgren and the Swedish organist and composer Gunnar

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Music & Entertainment | Venue finder

22 Laugavegur 22 | **G7**
A popular place among the city's party scenesters, this three storied bar makes for a great night out with chatting upstairs and dancing downstairs with regular DJs.

Amsterdam Hafnarstræti 5 | **E6**
Kaffi Amsterdam seems to have been around forever, though recently it's been reinvented as a live venue. Good music, cheap beer, and colorful characters to be found.

Apótek Austurstræti 16 | **E5**
Sporting a chic and pristine interior with a blend of modern minimalism and ornate baroque, a decent spot with eager service and an international menu.

B5 Bankastræti 5 | **F6**
By day a chic little bistro with good food and a prime location for Laugavegur people watching | by night a stylish bar with a "whiskey room" and manhattanesque clientele.

Bar 11 Laugavegur 11 | **G6**
A happening Rock hangout right on Laugavegur, brings in the Iceland rock scene whether on the jukebox or in person mainly on Tuesdays but throughout the week.

Belly's Hafnarstræti 18a | **E5**
Belly's deserves praise for having the cheapest bar prices around. Good for anyone looking for a deal, there are enough tables for everyone and TVs for sport | watching.

Boston Laugavegur 28b | **H6**
A fresh addition to the Reykjavik bar scene. Roomy bar floor, nice sofas and stylish interior make this a comfy café as well as a tavern with good, unintrusive music.

Café Cultura Hverfisgata 18 | **G6**
Situating in the intercultural centre, Cultura is a café/bar with a cosmopolitan feel. The menu features all sorts of international dishes, alongside the staple salad and sandwich.

Café Paris Austurstræti 14 | **E5**
With an outdoor terrace, this café gets busy on sunny days. With a cosy interior, fine menu and attentive service, it makes a fine spot for evening dining as well.

Café Victor Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **D4**
A hangout for older foreigners, Victor attracts a diverse crowd, both in age and origin, a rule that extends to the musicians that play there.

Celtic Cross Hverfisgata 26 | **H6**

Arguably the most authentic Irish pub in town, a very lively space with live music every night, sometimes two bands playing at once.

Dillon Laugavegur 30 | **H7**
The quintessential rock pub Dillon serves moderately priced drinks, and has pretty good music, too. The mix of students and tattooed tough guys always creates a fun atmosphere.

Domo Þingholtstræti 5 | **F6**
The elegantly decorated Domo serves delicious French-Asian cuisine, excellent sushi and has a great wine list. A sure choice.

Dubliner Hafnarstræti 4 | **E5**
The city's main Irish pub attracts quite a lot of foreigners, though there's an influx of locals on weekends. Good if you're looking for the darker stuff on tap.

Glaumbar Tryggvagata 20 | **E4**
The premier sports bar in town, though after the final whistle, DJs take the floor and begin a night of feverish dancing.

Grand Rokk Smiðjustígur | **G6**
As its Viking theme accurately displays, this hardcore chess hangout is no place for the lily | livered. Take the

pub quiz on Fridays at 17.30, the winner gets a free case of beer!

Hressó Austurstræti 20 | **E5**
With a spacious neutral interior, pleasant courtyard and a varied lunch menu, Hressó attracts no specific type of crowd. Tap beer and music makes a fair hangout on weekends.

Hverfisbarinn Hverfisgata 20 | **G6**
After a long line, you'll get in and wonder what all the fuss was about. You may end up here if you're still going at 4 on a Sunday morning, in which case it's just as good as any.

Kaffi Hjómáland Laugavegur 21 | **G6**
This organic, free-trade café prides itself not only on great food and coffee but being a strong cultural center, hosting live music as well as lectures and poetry nights.

Kaffibarinn Bergstraðastræti 1 | **F6**
A popular place to grab a drink after work, this daytime coffee joint roils with nighttime activity on weekends with live DJs. Parties often pound until dawn.

NASA Þorvaldsenstræti 2 |
The cornerstone of Reykjavik nightlife, NASA has multiple bars and hosts some

of Reykjavik's best bands. Shows go on all night long on weekends.

Næsti Bar Ingólfstræti 1A | **F6**
On nights where queues snake down Laugavegur, Næsti Bar can be great place to sneak off to and chat with friends over a beer. Frequented also by the literary and acting elite.

Óliver Laugavegur 20A | **H7**
This stylish nightclub attracts a glamorous crowd of crazy dancers that may not be for everyone. In which case, air | conditioning and fine food make Óliver a good lunch spot.

Ólstofan Vegamótastígur | **G6**
No tricks here. You'll want just simple beer in this simple pub. Also the hangout for Reykjavik intellectual circles.

Organ Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **E4**
This trendy bar and concert venue presents a wide range of international and local musicians from all levels of renown. Shows 4 times a week, lasting late on weekends.

Prikið Bankastræti | **F5**
Part of the Reykjavik bar scene for decades, this café/bar has a fairly cheap menu and attracts a mix of students and old regulars.

R&B and Hip-Hop plays on weekends.

Q-Bar Ingólfstræti 3 | **F6**
A roomy gay/straight bar and a welcome addition to downtown nightlife. Some of the best DJs in town play regularly, making it an especially lively space on weekends.

Rex Austurstræti | **E5**
Rex is quite fancy and you may feel out of place if you don't dress up a bit. Definitely one of the more posh spots in town.

Sólón Bankastræti 7A | **F5**
Truly a jack | of | all trades establishment. By night a decent restaurant, by day a café/bistro and on Friday and Saturday nights a nightclub. Art exhibitions on the walls to top it off.

Thorvaldsen Austurstræti 8 | **E5**
Dress formally for this fancy spot, and come before 12 to avoid a long line. DJs play Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Vegamót Vegamótastígur 4 | **G6**
Vegamót's kitchen is open until 22.00 daily and sports an appealing lunch menu. Come for a tasty brunch on weekends. If you like Óliver, try Vegamót and vice versa.

Listings

Idenstam play their transcriptions of works by Richard Wagner, Sergei Prokofiev, Maurice Ravel and work by themselves. Starts at 20:00. Admission: 1.500 ISK.

MONDAY JULY 14

- **Hellirinn**
Contradiction Concert. Also performing will be Severed Crotch, Dark Harvest and Agent Fresco.
- **Organ**
Grapevine's Happy Monday's: Snorri Hergill Stand-up.
- **Prikið**
Troubadour Jude

TUESDAY JULY 15

- **Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum**
Performance by Sebastiano Brusco on piano.
- **Organ**
Hip-Hop Night (Triangle Productions), performances by Josh Martinez (CAN), Sleep (CAN), DJ Flip (IRE) and more.
- **Prikið**
Performance by Hvar er Draumurinn.

WEDNESDAY JULY 16

- **Organ**
Groundfloor Release Concert
- **Prikið**
DJ Gauti

THURSDAY JULY 17

- **Dómkirkjan** (Reykjavík Cathedral)
The International Organ Summer: Sólveig Samúelsdóttir, mezzosoprano and Lenka Mátéová, organ. Starts at 12:15. Admission: 1.000 ISK.
- **Organ**
Performance by Dikta and Kuroi
- **Prikið**
DJ Natalie
- **Q-Bar**
Djúpa Laugin. Date-show theme night, where three lovely ladies compete for a date with a handsome young man. The night starts at 21:00.
- **Vegamót**
DJ Danni Deluxe

FRIDAY JULY 18

- **Café Paris**
DJ Stjáni
- **Prikið**
Franz and Jenni followed by Danni Deluxe
- **Q-Bar**
DJ Sexual Chocolate
- **Tunglið**
Performance by Trentemöller and Kasper Björke.
- **Vegamót**
DJs Anna and Jónas

Art

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www.thjodmenning.is
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Current exhibitions: Surtsey - Genesis
The exhibition traces the emergence and evolution of the island Surtsey until the present day and predicts its geographical and ecological development over the next 120 years.
From Beyond the Oceans - Translations and original writings by Helgi Hálfðanarson
The thematic exhibition currently on view in the Library Room is dedicated to Helgi Hálfðanarson's translations and original writings.
The Late View - Halldór Laxness' Photographs
Nobel Laureate and cosmopolitan Halldór Laxness was better known for his writing but proved to be also a good photographer. This is an exhibition of his works.
Exhibition Series
Ásta Ólafsdóttir displays her artwork at the Culture Shop.
- **Dwarf Gallery**
Grundarstígur 21
Opening Hours: Fri and Sat 18-20
www.this.is/birta
- **The Einar Jónsson Museum**
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www.skulptur.is
Permanent exhibition: The work of sculptor Einar Jónsson.
- **Fotografi**
Skólavörðustígur 4a
www.fotografi.is
July 5 - August 2
Mist: Photographic exhibition by Berglind Björnsdóttir
- **Gallery 100°**
Bæjarháls 1
www.or.is/Forsida/Gallery100/
Open weekdays from 08:30 - 16:00
Current Exhibition: Contemporary Art from Croatia
- **Gallery Auga Fyrir Auga**
Hverfisgata 35
June 14 - July 5
- **Gallery StartArt**
Laugavegur 12b
Tue-Sat 13 - 17
Free entrance
www.startart.is
July 3 - July 30
Exhibition by Berit Lindfeldt.
April 16 - July 30
Heima: Exhibition by Anna Eyjólfssdóttir, Ása Ólafsdóttir, Magdalena Margrét Kjartansdóttir, Ragnhildur Stefánsdóttir, Þórdís Alda Sigurðardóttir and Þuríður Sigurðardóttir.
- **Gallery Ágúst**
Baldursgata 12
Wed-Sat 12-17
www.galleriagust.is
July 5 - July 26
Summershow: Overview of the gallery's first year.
- **Gallery Fold**
Rauðarárstígur 14-16
Mon-Fri 10-18
Sat 11-16
Sun 14-16
www.myndlist.is
- **Gallery Ibiza Bunker**
Þingholtsstræti 31
Open Fridays 17-20
www.myspace.com/ibizabunker
July 4
Collaboration between artists Anna Hrunn Másdóttir and Bergdís Hörn Guðvarðardóttir.
July 11
Guðmundur Thoroddsen exhibition
- **Gallery Kling & Bang**
Hverfisgata 42
Thursday - Sunday from 14-18
Free admission
this.is/klingogbang/
July 4 - August 8
Artist on the Verge of Something II
- **Gallery Turpentine**
Ingólfsstræti 5
Tue-Fri 12-18
Sat 11-16
www.turpentine.is
Current Exhibition: Paintings by Eyjólfur Einarsson
- **Gel Gallery**
Hverfisgata 37
Mon-Fri 13-18
Sat 11-16
Sun 14-16
www.myspace.com/gallerigel
July 5 - July 22
Effervescent Delights: Exhibition by Namita Kapoor
- **Gerðuberg Cultural Centre**
Gerðuberg 3-5
Mon-Thu 11-17
Wed 11-21
Thu-Fri 11-17
Sat-Sun 13-16
www.gerduberg.is
May 3 - Sep 7
Between Mountain and Shore: Exhibition of landscape paintings from popular-artist couple Michael Guðvarðarson and Ósk Guðmundsdóttir
May 3 - Sep 7
Magical Beings From the Folk Tales of Iceland: Drawings from Jón Baldur Hlíðberg



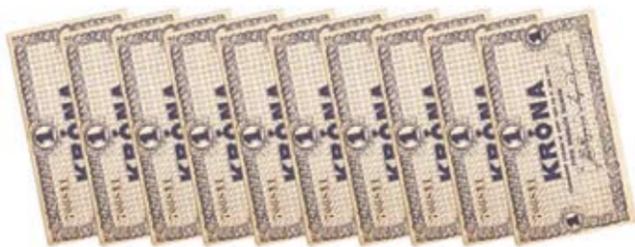
Grand Rokk

Reykjavík

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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.

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Art | Venue finder

- 101 Gallery**
Hverfisgata 18A | **F6**
Located in the 101 Hotel, features a broad selection of international and local contemporary art.
- Artótek**
Tryggvagata 15 | **D5**
An Icelandic art exhibition space and art dealer. Pieces are available for purchase or lease.
- ASÍ Art Museum**
Freyjugata 41 | **G10**
Run by the ASÍ labor union, features mostly contemporary Icelandic art. Free entry.
- Árbæjarsafn**
Kistuhyllur 4 | **Off the Grid**
An open-air museum featuring arts-and-crafts fairs and exhibitions in the summer.
- The Einar Jónsson Museum**
Eiríksgata | **G9**
Features a permanent exhibition on the sculptor Einar Jónsson as well as temporary exhibits.
- The Culture House**
Hverfisgata 15 | **F6**
A Museum of Icelandic cultural history, with an ongoing exhibition of the original manuscripts of the sagas and eddas.
- Gallery Kling & Bang**
Laugavegur 23 | **G7**
Exhibits upcoming and established contemporary artists as well as hosting screenings, lectures and performances.
- Gallery Turpentine**
Ingólfsstræti 5 | **F7**
Houses a collection of Icelandic contemporary artwork as well as works from old Icelandic masters both for display and sale.
- i8 Gallery**
Klapparástígur 33 | **G7**
Represents work by an eclectic mix of Icelandic and international contemporary art.
- Living Art Museum**
Vatnsstígur 3 | **G7**
A non-profit gallery that organizes 8-10 larger exhibitions every year as well as other cultural events.
- Lost Horse Gallery**
Skólastræti 1 | **F6**
Located in a renovated stable off Laugavegur, features work by local artists.
- The National Gallery of Iceland**
Frikirkjuvegur 7 | **E8**
Houses the national art collection and is the center of research and documentation of Icelandic art.
- The National Museum**
Suðurgata 41 | **C9**
Established in 1863, this museum features exhibits on Icelandic cultural heritage.
- The Nordic House**
Sturlugata 5 | **C11**
Explores and promotes Scandinavian culture with regular lectures, films and exhibitions.
- The Numismatic Museum**
Einholt 4 | **K9**
Presents a cultural history of Iceland through analysis of collected coins, medals and books.
- Reykjavík 871+/-2**
Aðalstræti 17 | **D6**
Museum on the founding of Reykjavík. Located in the oldest house in the city. Tours in English on Mondays and Saturdays at 14.00
- Reykjavík Art Museum**
Suðurgata 17 | **E5**
Kjarvalsstaðir, Flóka-gata | **K11**
Specializing in contemporary art by local and international artists. Entrance free on Thursdays.
- Reykjavík City Theater**
Listabraut 3 | **Off the Grid**
Presenting Icelandic Music and Dance performances as well as Dramatic Theater, produces six new shows each year.
- Reykjavík Maritime Museum**
Grandagarður 8 | **C3**
With a fishing trawler-turned-exhibit space, educates on the maritime and fishing traditions of Iceland.
- Reykjavík Museum of Photography**
Tryggvagata 16 | **D5**
Features work by local and international photographers, as well as an archive on the history of photography.

Music TRENTEMÖLLER AT TUNGLIÐ

The legendary Danish DJ Trentemøller will return yet again to Iceland on July 18 and jog some discs at the notorious venue Tunglið. This version of Tunglið actually isn't as notorious as the old Tnglið was, and some say it isn't Tunglið at all but you know, the same guy operates it. Kasper Björke will accommo-

date Trentemøller but he has recently won over most of Icelandic dance gurus with his hit 'Back and Spine' which he created with Icelandic All-star band FM Belfast. The ticket is a bit pricey or 2,500 ISK but we're sure it's worth it. Tickets and more info at www.midi.is

When: **July 18**
Where: **Tunglið, Tryggvagata 22**

4 D5

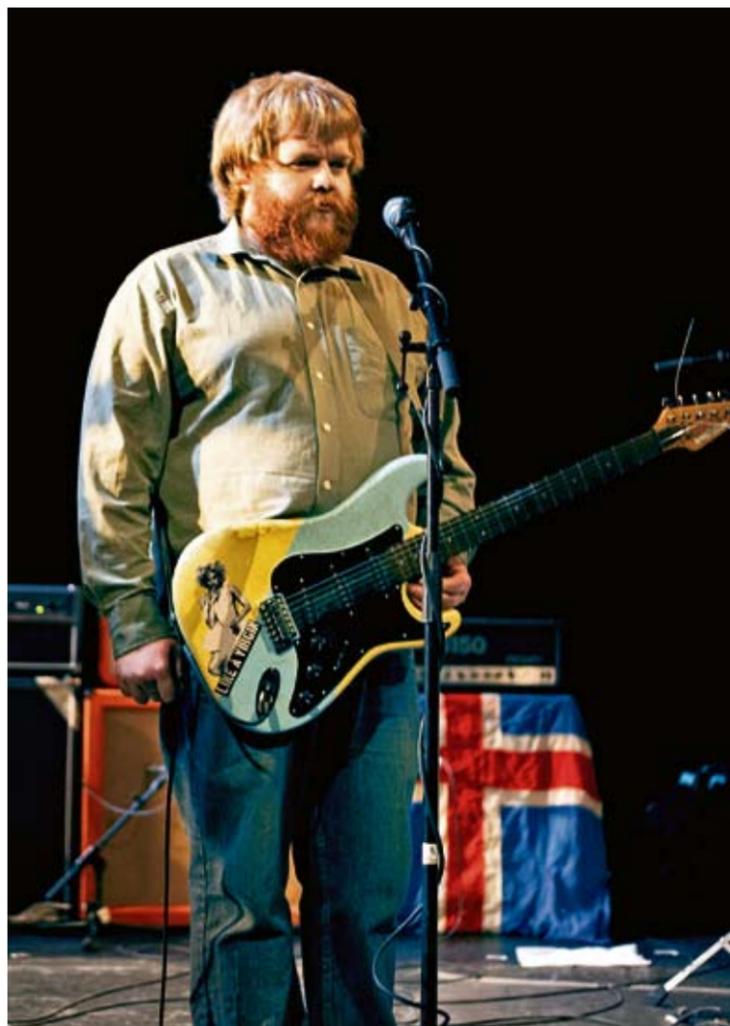


Music ICELAND-PALESTINE BENEFIT CONCERT IN 101

July 10 the prolific idealist society Iceland-Palestine throws yet another gathering at Reykjavík's most popular venue Organ. And if you're not that into the whole Free Palestine concept you probably look good with a Palestinian scarf around your neck, so it's kind of open for everyone. The line-up is quite experimental but a sound sculpture by Varda will be broadcasted online to begin with, then the young performer Gunnar Jónsson will launch the live show. Later that night classic acts such as Morðingjarnir and Viðurstyg-gð will perform. The expiration will be reggaeish but it will be in the hands of History Sound. The fun begins at 21:00.

When: **July 10**
Where: **Organ, Hafnarstræti 1-3**

5 E6



Art ROUND AND ROUND IN IBIZA BUNKER

Friday, July 4, the exhibition, 'again and again .. round and round ...', a collaboration between artists Anna Hrund Másdóttir and Bergdís Hörn Guðvarðardóttir, will open in Gallerí Ibiza Bunker. The gallery is a new art venue in downtown Reykjavík, whose aim is to exhibit artworks by exciting artists irrespective of their age, education or past experience. This summer will see seven exhibitions, opening every Friday at 17:00 to 20:00. Each opening will also feature live music and are only open for these three hours each time. On July 11, Guðmundur Thoroddsen will present his works at the gallery.

When: **July 4 and July 11**
Where: **Gallerí Ibiza Bunker, Þingholtsstræti 31**

6 E8

Art ADAPTATION IN 101

On July 4, the artist Jóna Hlíf Halldórsdóttir opened the exhibition Aðlögun / Adaptation inside 101 Gallery in downtown Reykjavík. The exhibition consists of photographs, an installation and some video-works that Jóna has been creating for the past years where she deals with power, the human psyche and various natural phenomena as an illusion. In addition to displaying her own art-works in solo and group exhibitions in Iceland and abroad, Jóna Hlíf runs GalleriBOX in Akureyri and is also a curator for VeggVerk and Gallerí Ráðhús.

When: **July 4 - August 15**
Where: **101 Gallery, Hverfisgata 18a**

8 E6

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RESTAURANT

Listings

4 March – 7 September

A Date with Collectors III: All of the exhibition pieces are connected with music in one way or another!

○ **Hitt Húsið - Gallery Tukt**

Pósthússtræti 3-5
www.hitthusid.is

Every Friday this summer will be a "Fantastic Friday" where Hitt Húsið's Creative Summer Groups storm the streets in an attack of art between 12 AM and 2 PM.

○ **i8 Gallery**

Klapparstígur 33
Tue-Fri 11-17

Sat 13-17 and by appointment
www.i8.is

July 10 – August 9

Exhibition by Hamish Fulton

○ **Living Art Museum**

Laugavegur 26
Wed, Fri-Sun 13-17

Thu 13-22
www.nylo.is

Current exhibition:

Dieter Roth's Bookwork Exhibition

○ **The Lost Horse Gallery**

Skólastræti 1

Open on weekends from 13- 19 and by appointment on weekdays.
www.this.is/subaqua/losthorse.html

Jun 17 – July 22

Independence Day Painting

Exhibition (Curated by Davíð Örn Halldórsson and Alexander Zaklinsky): Features works by a group of Icelandic painters

○ **The National Film Archive of Iceland**

Hvaleyrarbraut 13

www.kvikmyndasafn.is

The National Film Archive of Iceland screens old movie classics and masterpieces twice a week for 500 ISK per ticket.

○ **The National Gallery of Iceland**

Fríkirkjuvegur

Tue-Sun 11-17

Free Entrance

www listasafn.is

July 10 – September 28

Exhibition: Highlight of Icelandic Art

○ **The National Museum**

Suðurgata 41

Open daily 10-17

natmus.is

Permanent exhibition:

The Making of a Nation

June 6 – January 21

Over the Ocean and Home: Icelandic artefacts from Sweden.

May 16 – Sept 14

Endurkast (Reflection): Cooperative photography exhibition between eight Icelandic photographers.

May 16 – Sept 14

In the Mist: Exhibition by French photographer Thomas Humery.

May 15 – Sept 1

Lífshlaup: Cooperative project between The University of Iceland and the National Museum.

○ **The Nordic House**

Sturlugata 5

Tue-Sun 12-17

www.nordice.is

June 14 – August 31

An exhibition celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Nordic House.

○ **The Numismatic Museum**

Kalkofnsvegur 1

Open Mon-Fri 13:30-15:30.

Free admission.

Permanent exhibition:

The Central Bank of Iceland and the National Museum of Iceland jointly operate a numismatic collection consisting of Icelandic notes and coins.

○ **Reykjavík 871 +/- 2**

Aðalstræti 16

Open daily 10-17

Permanent exhibition:

The Settlement Exhibition

○ **Reykjavík Art Gallery**

Skúlagata 28

Open from Tuesday through Sunday 14-18

Current exhibition:

Magnús Tómasson, Pétur Már Pétursson and Tolli

○ **Reykjavík Art Museum**

– **Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum**

Sigtún

Open daily 10-16

Free entrance.

www listasafnreykjavikur.is

May 20 – August 10

The Shape of Line

A new retrospective of works by Ásmundur Sveinsson. The exhibition focuses on abstract works from 1945 onwards.

○ **Reykjavík Art Museum**

– **Hafnarhús**

Tryggvagata 17

Open daily 10-17 and on Thursdays from 10 - 22

Free Entrance.

May 15 – August 24

Hafnarhús - Experimental Marathon Reykjavík: Hafnarhús turns into a major laboratory where leading artists, architects, film-makers, and scientists will create an environment of invention through various experiments and performances (in English). Curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Ólafur Elíasson.

○ **Reykjavík Art Museum**

– **Kjarvalsstaðir**

Flókagata

Open Daily 10-17

Free entrance.

18 May – 31 August

Dreams of the Sublime and Nowhere in Contemporary Icelandic Art: This exhibition includes many new works of photography and video art by Iceland's most outstanding artists, building on their disparate ideas about nature as a phenomenon.

18 May – 20 July

I Hate Nature/Aluminati: Installation by Martha Schwartz

18 May – 31 August

Where Am I?: An exhibition in which children and adults can contemplate their planet, their country, and the landmarks of their environment.

18 May – 31 December

Jóhannes S. Kjarval – Key Works: The current exhibition in Kjarvalsstaðir's east gallery features key works from the museum's collection along with works on loan from the Labor Unions' Art Gallery and from the collection of Ingibjörg Guðmundsdóttir and Þorvaldur Guðmundsson.

○ **Reykjavík Maritime Museum**

Grandagarður 8

www.sjominjasafn.is

Current Exhibitions:

Living Museum by the Sea; Arterial for Country and City; From Poverty to Abundance; The Shark – Light and Life Energy; Hidden Craftsman.

○ **Reykjavík Museum**

(**Árbæjarsafn**)

Kistuhylur 4

Open daily from 10-17

www.arbaejarsafn.is

Current exhibitions:

Building Techniques in Reykjavík 1840-1940; Disco and Punk – Different cultures?; Christmas is Coming; History of Reykjavík – from farm to city; Memories of a House; Living and Playing

○ **The Reykjavík Museum of Photography**

Grófarhús, Tryggvagata 15, 6th floor

Weekdays 12-19

Sat-Sun 13-17

Free entrance

www.ljosmyndasafnreykjavikur.is

May 31 – Aug 31

Skovbo: Exhibition by Viggo Mortensen

June 5 – July 29

The Lodgers: Photographs by Anne Kathrin Greiner

○ **Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum**

Laugarnestangi 70

Open Tue-Sun 14-17

Permanent exhibition:

Works of sculptor

Sigurjón Ólafsson.

July 8th at 20:30

Hungarian dances and Romantic Music. Freyja Gunnlaugsdóttir

clarinet and Siiri Schutz piano.

July 15th at 20:30

Performance by Sebastiano Brusco on piano.

Icelandic Art

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The Essence of a Nation



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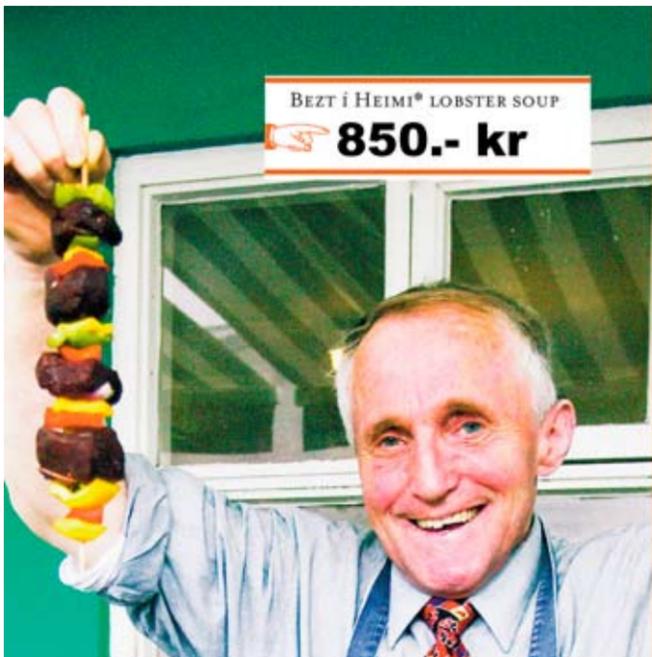
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OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

- **Hafnarborg**
 Strandgata 34, Hafnarfjörður
 Mon-Sun 11-17
www.hafnarborg.is
 May 29 - July 21
 Hundrað (Hundred) - Photographic exhibition featuring photographs spanning Hafnarfjörður's 100-year history
 June 1 - July 21
 Hafnfirðingar - Photographic exhibition by Árni Gunnlaugsson focusing on long time residents of Hafnarfjörður
- **Kópavogur Art Museum - Gerðarsafn**
 Hamraborg, Kópavogur
 Open daily 11-17 except Mondays
www.gerdarsafn.is
 The Icelandic Museum of Design and Applied Art
 Lyngás 7-9, 121 Garðabær
 Opening hours: Tues.-Fri 14-18; Sat and Sun 16-18.
www.mudesa.org
 Exhibitions devoted to Icelandic design.
- **Gljúfrasteinn - Halldór Laxness museum**
 270 Mosfellsbær
 Open daily except Mondays from 10-17.
- **The Icelandic Settlement Centre**
 Brákarbraut 1-15, Borgarnes
 Opening hours: May to Sep 10-20; Sep to May 11-17.
www.landnam.is
 Permanent exhibitions:
 The Settlement of Iceland; The Saga of Egill Skalla-Grímsson
 Current theatre productions:
 Brák - a monologue by Brynhildur Guðjónsdóttir
 Mr. Skallagrímsson - a monologue by Benedikt Erlingsson
- **Suðsuðvestur**
 Hafnargata 22, Keflavík
 Sat-Sun 13-17:30
www.sudsudvestur.is
- **Vatnasafn / Library of Water**
 Bókhliðustígur 17,
 340 Stykkishólmur
www.libraryofwater.is
 Open daily from 11-17.
 Permanent exhibition:
 Roni Horn installation. She has replaced stacks of books with glass columns containing water gathered from Iceland's glaciers and glacial rivers.
- **Jónas Viðar Gallery**
 Kaupvangsstræti 12, Akureyri
 Fri-Sat 13-18
www.jvs.is/jvgallery.htm
- **Akureyri Art Museum**
 Kaupvangsstræti 12, Akureyri
 Tue-Sun 12-17
www listasafn.akureyri.is
- **Dalí Gallery**
 Brekkugata 9, Akureyri
 Mon-Sat 14-18
www.daligallery.blogspot.com
- **GalleriBOX**
 Kaupvangstræti 10, Akureyri
www.galleribox.blogspot.com
- **Veggverk**
 Strandgata 17 (The Wall), Akureyri
 Open 24/7 and admission is free
www.veggverk.org
 Current exhibition:
 All Hail The Brain: Painting by Sara Riel
- **Kunstraum Wohnraum (Home gallery)**
 Ásabyggð 2, Akureyri
 Open by appointment.
 Tel.: 462 3744
 July 5 - 20 September
 Huginn Þór Arason exhibition
- **Skafffell**
 Austurvegur 42, Seyðisfjörður
www.skafffell.is
 Current Exhibition:
 Journey - a collaboration between three art centres, realized especially for the Reykjavík Art Festival. Skafffell's contribution to Journey is an exhibition by SkyLeeBob now on display in the gallery.
- **Sláturhúsið**
 Kaupvangur, Egilsstaðir
www.slaturhusid.is
 Open by appointment;
karen@egilsstadir.is
 Current Exhibition:
 Sara Björnsdóttir exhibition

- **LÁ Art Museum**
 Austurmörk 21, Hveragerði
www.listasafnarnesinga.is
 Open daily from 12 - 18
 Current Exhibition:
 Exhibition on the works of visual artist Magnús Kjartansson.

Movies

- **Big Stan**
 Smárabíó, Háskólabíó, Borgarbíó
 - **Brúöguminn**
 Regnboginn
 - **Hancock**
 Smárabíó, Sambíóin Álfabakki, Háskólabíó, Regnboginn, Borgarbíó, Sambíóin Keflavík, Sambíóin Selfoss
 - **Indiana Jones IV**
 Sambíóin Álfabakki, Háskólabíó, Laugarásbíó, Regnboginn
 - **Kung Fu Panda**
 Smárabíó, Sambíóin Álfabakki, Sambíóin Kringlan, Regnboginn, Sambíóin Keflavík, Sambíóin Akureyri, Sambíóin Selfoss
 - **Meet Bill**
 Háskólabíó, Regnboginn
 - **Sex and the City**
 Smárabíó, Háskólabíó, Sambíóin Kringlan, Laugarásbíó, Regnboginn, Borgarbíó, Sambíóin Selfoss
 - **Speed Racer**
 Sambíóin Álfabakki, Sambíóin Kringlan, Sambíóin Keflavík, Sambíóin Akureyri, Sambíóin Selfoss.
 - **The Bank Job**
 Sambíóin Álfabakki, Sambíóin Kringlan
 - **The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian**
 Sambíóin Álfabakki, Sambíóin Kringlan, Laugarásbíó, Sambíóin Keflavík, Sambíóin Akureyri, Sambíóin Selfoss
 - **The Happening**
 Regnboginn
 - **The Incredible Hulk**
 Smárabíó, Borgarbíó, Sambíóin Keflavík
 - **Wanted**
 Sambíóin Álfabakki, Sambíóin Kringlan, Laugarásbíó, Sambíóin Akureyri, Sambíóin Selfoss
 - **Zohan**
 Smárabíó, Regnboginn
- Meet Dave - July 9
 Mamma Mia - July 9
 Deception - July 16
 Hellboy 2: The Golden Army - July 16
 WALL-E - July 16
 The Dark Knight - July 23
 Get Smart - August 6
 The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor - August 6
 The Amazing Truth About Queen Raquela - August 13
 Redbelt - August 13
 Feast of Love - August 20
 Star Wars - Clone Wars - August 29
 Sveita Brúðkaup - August 29

Events

- **Grapevine's Happy Mondays**
 Every Monday in July
 Icelandic comedian Snorri "Hergill" Kristjánsson will perform a preview of his one man stand-up comedy show "Dog Day King" which is going to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this August. Thoughts on relocating to London from a country with roughly the population of Coventry are freely mixed with (among other things) ruminations on national identity, big questions that keep him up at night (who did let the dogs out?), and a story about meeting Jude Law. Snorri will perform his stand-up at Organ and admission is 1.500 ISK.

Continued on B10

Listasafn Reykjavíkur
 Reykjavík Art Museum



Kjarvalsstaðir

May 18 - August 31

Dreams of the Sublime and Nowhere In Contemporary Icelandic Art

Curated by Æsa Sigurjónsdóttir

May 18 - August 31

Where am I?

May 18 - August 31

Martha Schwartz - I Hate Nature - 'Aluminati'

May 18 - December 31

Jóhannes S. Kjarval

Reykjavík Art Museum



Hafnarhús

May 15 - September 7

Experiment Marathon Reykjavík

Curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Olafur Eliasson

Ásmundarsafn

March 31, 2007 - August 31, 2008

The Shape of the Line

Kjarvalsstaðir, by Flókagata

Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Hafnarhús, Tryggvagata 17

Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thursdays to 10 p.m.

Ásmundarsafn, by Sigtún

Open daily 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Free admission.



Serpentine Gallery



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Useful Numbers

Emergency number: 112
Police: 444 1000
Medical help: 1770
Dental emergency: 575 0505
AA: 551 2010
Information: 118
Telegrams: 146

Tax Free Refund

Iceland Refund,
Aðalstræti 2, Tel: 564 6400
www.icelandrefund.com

Opening Hours

Bars and clubs: According to regulations bars may be open until 01:00 on weekdays and 05:30 on weekends.

Shops: Mon-Fri 10-18, Sat 10-16, Sun closed. The shopping centres Kringlan and Smáralind as well as most supermarkets and tourist shops have longer opening hours.

Swimming pools:

weekdays 06:30-22:30, weekends 08:00-20:30 although some may be open an hour longer.

The State owned ÁTVR liquor stores:
Mon-Thu 11-18, Fri 11-19, Sat 11-18. Banks in the centre are open Mon-Fri 09-16.

Tourist Information

Icelandic Travel Market

Bankastræti 2, Tel: 510 5700,
www.kleif.is
Information on day tours, accommodations, car rental and everything else you need to know when travelling in Iceland.

Tourist Information Centre

Aðalstræti 2, Tel: 590 1550,
www.visitreykjavik.is
Offers information for tourists as well as providing internet access, booking service, a phone centre, money exchange service, tax refund and selling the Reykjavík Tourist Card. The Reykjavík Tourist Card gives admission to city busses, various museums, Reykjavík swimming pools, The Family Park and Reykjavík Zoo, The Culture House and the National and University Library.

Getting Around

Public Transport

The only public transport system in Reykjavík is the bus. Most busses run every 20 minutes and price per fare is 280 ISK for adults and 100 ISK for children. Complete route map at: www.bus.is. Tel: 540 2700
Busses run from 07:00-24:00 on weekdays and 10:00-24:00 on weekends

Taxi

Hreyfill-Bæjarleiðir,
Tel: 553 3500 or 588 5522

BSR, Tel: 561 0000

For disabled travellers:

Reykjavík Group Travel Service,
Brunastaðir 3, Tel: 587 8030,
www.randburg.com/is/reykjavik_group_travel_service/

Airlines

Air Iceland, Reykjavíkflugvöllur,
Tel: 570 3030, www.flugfelag.is

Air Vestmannaeyjar,
Tel: 481 3255, www.eyjaflug.is

Bus Terminal

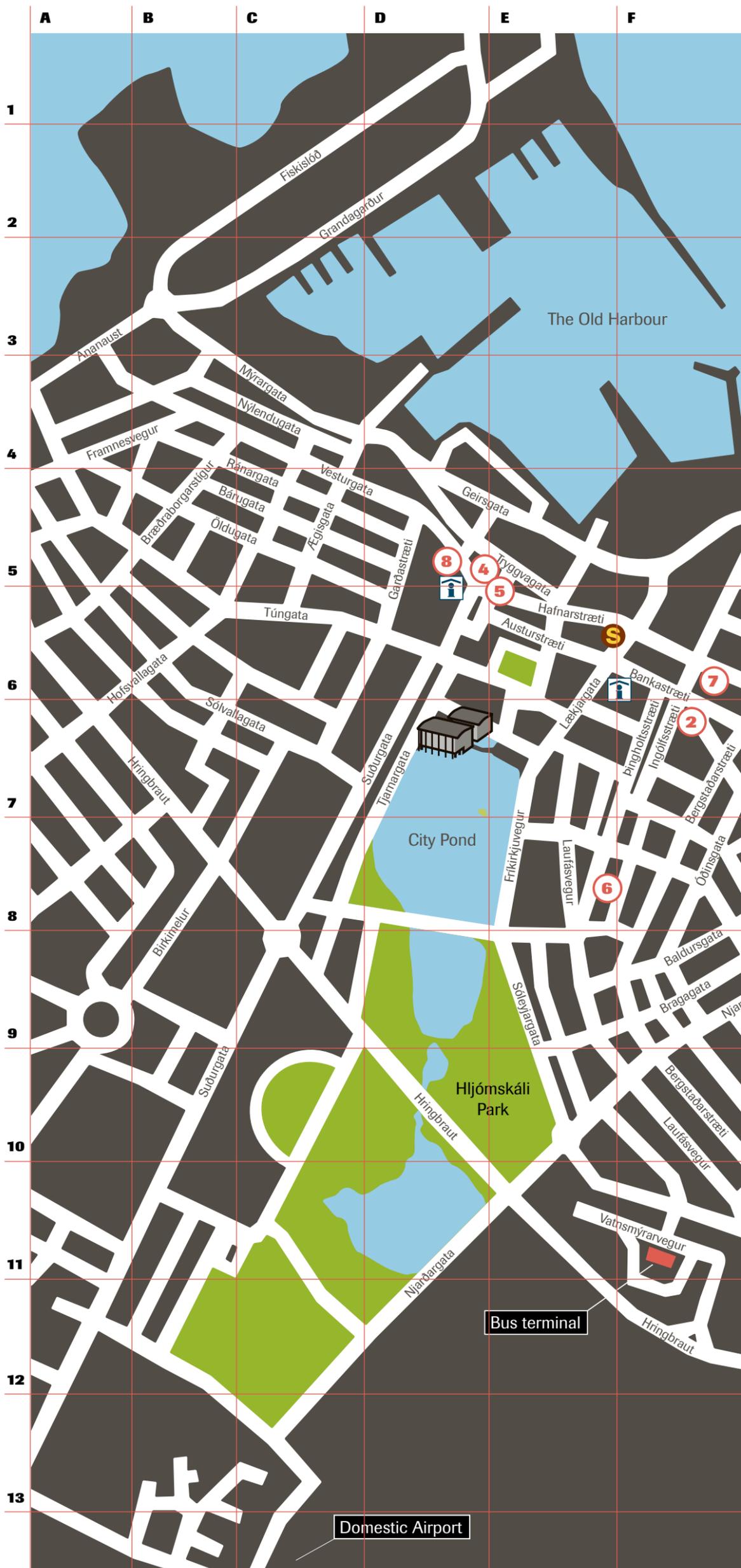
BSÍ, Vatnsmýrarvegur 10,
Tel: 562 1011, www.bsi.is

Flybus

Busses run daily from the BSÍ Bus Terminal to Keflavík International Airport in connection with all departing flights. Departures daily from 04:45 to 15:00/16:30 (every 15 - 60 minutes). For Flybus time schedule see: www.flybus.is

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Fun & FINE DINING 561 1111 GEIRSGATA 9 101 REYKJAVIK ORANGE.IS **ORANGE**



**Reykjavík
Center
City Map**

**What's this
thing?**



These things are pretty useful, check it out: Every venue that's mentioned in our info section gets a little marker like this, which will help you locate it on our map. Say you want to try out "Tapas Bar" after reading our review - no problem, sir, just look up the corresponding icon on the map!



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EVENTS

Continued from B7

○ Eistnaflug

July 10-13
The summer's largest Metal and Rock festival. Eistnaflug (Flight of the Testes, a pun on the name of Iceland's more traditional outside festival, Neistaflug.) is a must for all rock fans in Iceland. Renowned for being a wild party, the festival now offers two tenting areas, one for families and people who want to take it easy and the other for your everyday cantankerous party animal.

○ Creative Summer Groups

Reykjavík is a city of wonders. Instead of getting mad when teenagers want to goof off all day and dance and play music the city pays them. Well it does liven up the city, supports artistic interest and keeps the kids busy with something other than drinking, drug abuse and premarital sex. Every Friday the groups storm the town in a whirlwind of dancing music and acting. More information at <http://www.hitthusid.is>.

○ Prayer Hour

July 4 at 21:00
Artist Snorri Ásmundsson has quite often been in the spotlight for his uncomfortably controversial experiments but his newest event may not be so uncomfortable at all. A one hour prayer session at Hljómskálagarður, where people from all creeds, races and religions are invited to join together and pray in whatever way they want, to whichever higher power they want about anything the want.

○ Reykjavík Safari

July 10 at 20:00
On Thursday, July 10, you can take a guided walking tour of downtown Reykjavík where the culture and history of the city centre will be introduced. You can choose if you want to join an English, Spanish or Polish speaking guide. The walks take about an hour, after which all three groups meet at the Reykjavík Art Museum for an intercultural get-together with some music, coffee and a light snack. Sverrir Norland, poet, songwriter and "poet laureat" of the youth culture house Hitt húsið, will perform. The walks start at Reykjavík City Library at Tryggvagata 15. They are free of charge and require no booking. The program is hosted by the Reykjavík City Library, The Reykjavík Art Museum, City Museum and the Reykjavík Museum of Photography.



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Shopping ALIVE AND KICKING

Reviewed by Nathaniel Flagg

Eggert Feldskeri

The Furrier shop Eggert Feldskeri is still going strong as it has for over fifty years. A little, understated shop nestled at number 38, it sells every kind of animal from rabbit to bobcat to leopard, all designed by Mr. Eggert himself. Because every piece available is one of a kind, and few species for sale are actually native to Iceland so prices here can really soar. But even if you don't plan to buy anything, it's worth at least a browse through Eggert's luxurious menagerie.

Café Babalú

The space outside Café Babalú has already begun being munched upon by tractors, but the cozy little coffeehouse still manages business as usual. Packed tight with old furniture and fully shelved bookcases, you'll feel as if you've fallen back into your Grandmother's kitchen. What's more, you'll never want to leave.

Yggdrasill

There is still space between the encroaching construction and Yggdrasill, but even when it finally reaches it, we at Grapevine doubt it will change much. Offering everything organic from food to cosmetics, Yggdrasill is always full of health-conscious shoppers. And when school gets out, the organic ice cream brings children in seeking a healthy treat.

The Naked Ape

The hip and colorful designer store The Naked Ape rests at the intersection of Laugavegur and Skólavörðustígur, selling clothes and accessories as well as other curiosities, all in the trademark's vibrant colours and patterns. The Naked Ape soon plans to celebrate a three-year anniversary, and a full three years of serving as an irreplaceable mainstay of the Reykjavík shopping scene.

12 Tónar

12 Tónar, located further up on Skólavörðustígur, remains an indispensable part of the Reykjavík music scene. All at once a music store, coffee shop and an independent label, 12 Tónar has become a perfect hangout for music lovers, who can flop on a couch with a cup of coffee and enjoy the music selection for hours.

Skólavörðustígur may have temporarily lost some of its charm under layers of new tar and tractor treads, but its spirit still survives in each of the unique little shops along it. Brave the towering machines and winding fence, there's still plenty to find on this treasured street.

Skólavörðustígur, that classic street of colourful tin houses and shops advancing up to majestic Hallgrímskirkja church, has been looking a bit worse for wear in recent months. Between the green scaffolding of Hallgrímskirkja, and the big orange backhoes along Skólavörðustígur, Leifur Eiríksson's heroic stance is subtly betrayed, now scouting over a messy construction site. With all the patience of a glacier, construction has been making its way down the street from top to bottom, blocking off traffic and seemingly business. To get to the top of the hill, pedestrians must navigate paths around fresh asphalt, deep ditches and heavy machinery, scuttling over wooden bridges that shield new piping. However, Skólavörðustígur still has a healthy amount of activity about it despite these nuisances and shops are maintaining regular hours and bringing in customers as much as ever. 🇮🇸



Shopping | Venue finder

12 Tónar

Skólavörðustígur 15 | **G8**
A record label as well as a store, all the best new Icelandic music on CDs or live on Fridays at 5 PM.

Aftur
Laugavegur 23 | **G7**
Aftur's internationally acclaimed label is proudly displayed here in their shop/studio.

Álafoss
Laugavegur 1 | **F7**
The downtown outlet for famous makers of traditional Icelandic woolsens.

Belleville
Laugavegur 25 | **G7**
Stuffed with trendy streetwear designs as well as funky magazines and media.

Blue Lagoon Store
Laugavegur 15 | **G7**
All the natural skincare products from the famous geothermal spa at their outlet here.

Cintamani
Laugavegur 11 | **F7**
Featuring quality Icelandic outdoor gear, you can even book an excursion on the spot.

Dead
Laugavegur 29 | **G7**
Artist Jón Sæmundur Auðarson's own hand-printed Rock and Roll label, Dead, plus others.

Fígúra
Skólavörðustígur | **G8**
This shop features Icelandic designer wear, everything from street clothes to party dresses.

Friða Frænka
Vesturgata 3 | **D5**
A real treasure chest of antique furniture and vintage accoutrements to perk up your apartment.

G-Star Raw
Laugavegur 86 | **I8**
A store for the Dutch jeans brand, an edgy collection with innovative details and washes.

Galleri Sautján
Laugavegur 91 | **I8**
Stocking many hip labels, a unisex store offering casual businesswear to evening dresswear.

Glamúr
Laugavegur 41 | **H7**
A flashy vintage clothing shop with everything from necklaces to fur coats to kimonos.

Kolaportið
Tryggvagata 19 | **E5**
Open on weekends,

Handprjónasambandið
Lækjargata 2A | **E6**
All sorts of hand knit woolen clothing as well as fine yarns and knitting supplies.

Iða
Lækjargata 2A | **E6**
A great source for all kinds of reading material, with restaurants on the second floor.

Kisan
Laugavegur 7 | **F7**
An interesting mix of items from all around the world you won't find anywhere else.

Kisubertjatréð
Vesturgata 4 | **D5**
A lovely gallery/gift shop run by ten artists and designers where they sell their products.

Kolaportið
Tryggvagata 19 | **E5**
Open on weekends,

you can get a bargain on almost anything at this indoor flea market.

Kraum
Aðalstræti 10 | **D6**
Featuring the best in contemporary Icelandic design of everyday items of any kind.

Kronkron
Laugavegi 63B | **I8**
This hip new shop stocks the latest trends in everything from socks to sweaters.

Liborius
Laugavegur 7 | **F7**
One of a kind, very high-end shop featuring the latest, crispest designs for both sexes.

Mál og Menning
Laugavegur 18 | **G7**
A multi-level store with games, books, souvenirs and a bustling café on the top floor.

Nakti Apinn
Bankastræti 14 | **F7**
Offers an amazing array of colorful designer wear as well as contemporary media.

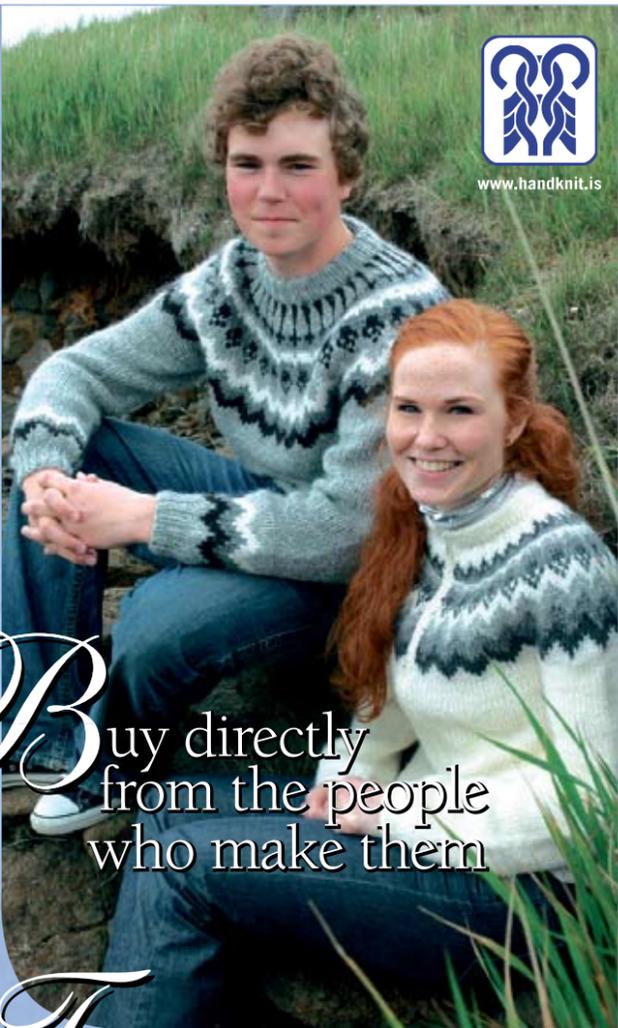
Spúútník
Laugavegur 32 | **G7**
One of the best secondhand shops in the country, with recycled clothes at a range of prices.

Trilogia
Laugavegur 7 | **F7**
A collection of trendy designer wear fills the shop, summery dresses, sweaters and skirts.

The Viking
Hafnarstræti 3 | **E5**
This large tourist shop sells all sorts of smart souvenirs to bring back home.



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Food TAPAS BARINN

Reviewed by **Sveinn Birkir Björnsson**

The Tapas Bar on Vesturgata has long been one of my favourite destinations when I plan to go out, dine and meet friends. The location is a bonus, but the fact that it serves excellent food for a relatively healthy price is really the clincher for me. No less important is the lively atmosphere that makes it a good option for a relaxed evening with friends and loved ones, but for more formal occasions... well, lets just say I would probably not take my grandmother there for her nineteenth birthday – unless she was feeling particularly rowdy. As the name might hint, The Tapas Bar specialises in the Spanish tapas tradition. Tapas are traditionally served as a small appetizer between full meals, but as Spanish cuisine has moved westwards through the continent, it has become common for restaurants to offer several small dishes together to make a full meal. The great advantage this offers is variety. You know the feeling you get when you look at a menu and you just want to taste everything on it? Well, here that is actually encouraged.

I ordered ‘the journey into the unknown,’ seven tapas and a dessert selected by the kitchen staff. The highlight may well have been the bacon wrapped scallops and figs, but it faced some stiff competition from both the crab salad and the kangaroo a la Crocodile Dundee. And the chocolate cake; well, it just took the cake, so to speak. My companion selected ‘the bullfighter’s tapas,’ the fillet of beef, lamb, chicken and pork, with some grilled lobster tails in garlic and oil. Both dishes clocked in at around 4000 ISK; by no means a fire sale, but considering that I was barely able to stand after consuming all the food it entailed, it might be a small bargain. But there is no real need to go in there to order a seven dish combo-meal. You can just as easily step in to grab a little snack for less than 1000 ISK. Perfect for those long nights out, especially considering that the kitchen is open until 01:00 on weekend-nights. 🍷

Where:
Vesturgötu 3b
101 Reykjavík
Tel.: 551 2344

8 D5

How much:
1000 – 5000 ISK

What we think:



Food & Drink | Venue finder

Aktu Taktu

Skúlugata 15 | **K8**
This drive-in destination in 101 Reykjavík is busy day and night and the burgers are especially tasty. The caramel shakes are a local favorite.

American Style

Tryggvagata 26 | **E5**
With a soft bun and lots of veggies, you can settle into a booth and eat for hours. Big portions for authentic American dining.

Argentina Steakhouse

Barónstígur | **I8**
True to its name with tender steaks and flamingly vibrant South American décor. Generous portions, fine wine, liqueurs and cigars make an excellent choice in fine dining.

Austurlandahraðlestin

Hverfisgata 64A | **H7**
Though a bit expensive for take-away, it is well worth it for a spicy bite of this Indian cuisine. A few tables to the side for those who choose to dine in.

Á Næstu Grösum

Laugavegur 20B | **G7**
Regarded by many to be the best vegetarian place in town, “First Vegetarian” offers a healthy and tasty menu of vegetarian and vegan dishes. Indian theme on Fridays a hit.

B5

Bankastræti 5 | **F6**
By day a chic little bistro with good food and a prime location for Laugavegur people watching | by night a stylish bar with a “whiskey room” and manhattanesque clientele.

Babalú

Skólavörðustígur 22A | **G8**
It’s tough to miss café Babalú walking up Skólavörðustígur. A cozy place for coffee and cake, the well-worn, homey ambience makes it difficult to leave.

Bæjarins Beztu

Tryggvagata | **E6**
The oldest fast-food in Iceland, it is feasibly the best hot dog stand in Europe. Don’t be

intimidated by the perpetual line in front – an absolute must and worth the wait.

Café Cultura

Hverfisgata 18 | **G6**
Situated in the intercultural centre, Cultura is a café/bar with a cosmopolitan feel. The menu features all sorts of international dishes, alongside the staple salad and sandwich.

Café Paris

Austurstræti 14 | **E6**
With an outdoor terrace, this café gets busy on sunny days. With a cosy interior, fine menu and attentive service, it makes a fine spot for evening dining as well.

Café Roma

Rauðarárstígur 8 | **J9**
Roma, an Italian deli and café offers a variety of breads, soups as well as tempting desserts. For a good bargain, come at lunchtime for the specials.

Café Victor

Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **D6/E6**
A hangout for older foreigners, Victor attracts a diverse crowd, both in age and origin, a rule that extends to the musicians that play there.

Domo

Pinghóltsstræti 5 | **F7**
The elegantly decorated Domo serves delicious French-Asian cuisine, excellent sushi and has a great wine list. A sure choice.

Eldsmíðjan

Bragagata 38A | **G9**
Totally satisfying oven-baked pizza with a wide choice of toppings | snails an unusual speciality. Well worth the cost. Order, take away or eat comfortably among the paintings.

Fiskmarkaðurinn

Aðalstræti 12 | **D6**
Run and co-owned by the national team of chefs, this establishment specializing in Japanese cuisine has everything planned to the last detail, ensuring a relaxing evening.

3 Frakkar

Baldursgata 14 | **F9**
A seriously Icelandic atmosphere and traditional Icelandic dishes prepared in the good old-fashioned way. RSVP and keep your ears pricked for wild whaling tales!

Geysir Bar/Bistro

Aðalstræti 2 | **D6**
Situated in the dignified Geysir Building at the corner of Vesturgata and Aðalstræti, this stylish bistro is always a good place to grab a tasty bite for a reasonable price.

Gardurinn

Klappastígur 37 | **G7**
“Ecstasy’s Heart” is a simple, friendly, family-run vegetarian restaurant on Klappastígur. Offers an ever-changing menu of specials and soup du jours, alongside a basic menu

Grái Kötturinn

Hverfisgata 16A | **G7**
Legendary for its early opening hours, this restaurant serves amazing breakfasts and coffee that packs a wallop. A splendid way to start you off on your day.

Great Wall Restaurant

Vesturgata 6-8 | **D5**
This Chinese restaurant features a staggering 100+ dishes in traditional Szechuan, Peking and Cantonese styles. Great service and good food make this one a fine choice.

Grillhúsið

Tryggvagata 20 | **E5/E6**
With a menu of reasonably priced homestyle food, Grillhúsið has satiated hungry regulars since 1994 with juicy burgers, sandwiches, steaks and fish dishes.

Hamborgarabúlla Tómasar (“Bullan”)

Geirsgata 1 | **D5**
Considered by some to be the best real hamburger in Reykjavík, “Bullan” does serve some mysteriously delicious burgers, guaranteed to take the edge off any hangover.

Hlölla Bátar

Ingólfstorg | **D6**
The first sub sandwich shop in Iceland, Hlölla Batar has a large selection of creatively named sandwiches with equally imaginative contents. Good for an adventurous bite.

Hornið

Hafnarstræti 15 | **E6**
Since 1979, this Italian restaurant has been a longtime Reykjavík staple. Famous for its pizza and stuffed calzones, it proudly offers an affordable menu of high-quality dishes

Hótel Holt

Bergstaðarstræti 37 | **F7**
One of the oldest restaurants in the country, the lobster house is known of course for its lobster and also its impressive cognac lounge. Fine intimate dining.

Humarshúsið

Ammtmanstígur 1 | **E7**
One of the oldest restaurants in the country, the lobster house is known of course for its lobster and also its impressive cognac lounge. Fine intimate dining.

Hressó

Austurstræti 20 | **E6**
With a spacious neutral interior and a varied lunch menu, Hressó attracts no specific type of crowd. Tap beer and music makes a fair hangout on weekends.

Icelandic Fish & Chips

Tryggvagata 8 | **E5**
Not your average fish’n’chips joint, but a healthy restaurant using only organic vegetables and quality fish products. The spiced skyr side a special treat.

Indian Mango

Austurstræti 12 | **H8**
Specializing in delicious dishes from the Goa region of India, honed to perfection in the owner’s period as head chef at the Four Seasons. Incredible service as well as food.

Jómfrúin

Lækjargata 4 | **E6**
These days, good Smör-

22, formerly known as Barinn, has done a lot in recent weeks to change its image to that of a friendlier place. The urban murals that once covered the walls were painted over in gentler, muted pastel. They’ve gotten all new DJs, and started serving their own food. 22 has been taking strides to expand its range to the daytime customer. That said, 22 still thoroughly maintains a bar atmosphere, despite a significant shift in the opposite direction. With coloured halogen lighting, disco balls, a spacious upstairs, and accessible bathrooms, 22 is still set up to be a happening night spot.

The menu at 22 looks really, really good and everything is very well-priced. Matching an appetizer with a sandwich was no picnic. In my desperation, I ordered a grilled chicken sandwich alongside a beer, with a bread basket to start (oops). My bread basket arrived promptly, and featured freshly toasted bread with dried tomato and olive spread and parmesan cheese. These were all okay but never got beyond that, no matter the combination of condiments I tried. The sandwich was quick to follow, accompanied with little fried potatoes and a creamy dipping sauce. The potatoes were oversalted, a taste which was multi-

plied when coupled with the dipping sauce. But with the beer it was delicious, its prickly breadiness matching beautifully with the tangy, salty potatoes. Despite containing delicious things like bacon, spinach, guacamole, and grilled chicken, the sandwich just tasted uniformly of bacon, no matter how many bites I took to find those other toppings. After a while it dawned on me the weight the food took on, consolidating into a queasy brick in my stomach. My sandwich started to look more and more like an adversary. I didn’t finish it.

22 is definitely putting in the effort to bring people in off the street for a quick bite and a beer for lunch. However, it still puts the drinks first when it comes down to it. Sitting perched on a high seat in a dark, stale room with only a trickle of light squeaking in from the clear summer’s day outside, I was still being served lunch, but at a bar in the daytime. The food is good, but to be fully satisfactory, a smooth level of intoxication seems to be necessary. With an affordable menu designed to match and soak up alcohol without sapping your wallet too much, 22 is still firmly planted on the late night bar route. 🍷

rebröd can be an elusive delicacy. Lucky for us out in the colonies, it’s alive and well at Jómfrúin with fresh eel imported specially from Denmark.

Kaffi Hjómaland

Laugavegur 21 | **G7**
This organic, free-trade café prides itself not only on great lunches and food but being a strong cultural center, hosting live music as well as lectures and poetry nights.

Kaffitár

Bankastræti 8 | **F6**
Kaffitár celebrates good coffee, and serves it in abundance, along with sweet treats and tasty if pricy special blends. Eat in or to go, a great way to enjoy your morning boost.

Kaffivagninn

Grandagarður 10 | **D1**
By the harbor, this lunch and coffee place is a gathering place for all sorts of tough folks. If you want traditional Icelandic food, a great place to see another side of Reykjavík.

Kofi Tómasar Frændu

Laugavegur 2 | **F7**
Nestled in a basement location, Uncle Tom’s Cabin has the feeling of a back-alley London Café. On weekends it becomes a happening and diverse bar.

Krua Thai

Tryggvagata 14 | **D5**
We dare you to find a better meal for the same price anywhere else. Every dish is delicious. Just eat what looks best to you on their colorful menu.

La Primavera

Austurstræti 9 | **E6**
Though it sounds strange, La Primavera serves delicious traditional North Italian cuisine using only local produce. A startlingly tasty combination and a local favorite.

Mokka

Skólavörðustígur 3A | **F7**
Operating since 1958, Mokka is the city center’s oldest cof-

Food 22

Reviewed by **Nathaniel Flagg**

Where:
Laugavegur 22
101 Reykjavík
Tel.: 578 7800

9 G7

How much:
1.000-3.000 ISK

What we think:



Segafredo

Lækjartorg | **E6**
The Italian coffee chain makes its way to Lækjartorg Square, bringing strong espresso and Italian lunch snacks to grab on the way to work or just to enjoy on the spot.

Shalimar

Austurstræti 4 | **E6**
Shalimar sports the conceit of being the northernmost Indian restaurant in the world and has fine daily specials. We recommend the quite addictive chicken tikka masala.

Sjávarkjallarinn

Aðalstræti 2 | **D6**
Elegant Seafood Cellar focuses on gourmet seafood and tantalizing asian-fusion dishes. Share the exotic menu, courses selected by the chef, with a friend for the most fun.

Sólón

Bankastræti 7a | **F6**
Truly a jack-of-all trades establishment. By night a decent restaurant, by day a café/bistro and on Friday and Saturday nights a nightclub. Art exhibitions on the walls to top it off.

Sushibarinn

Laugavegur 2 | **F7**
Deceptively ordinary Sushibarinn has recently become the talk of the town among Reykjavík sushi lovers, serving, in our opinion, the very best rolls in city.

Svarta Kaffi

Laugavegur 54 | **H8**
A cosy second floor café, their fame lies partly in their tasty Súpa í Braudi (Soup in Bread) and also in their romantic atmosphere. Good for a few early evening drinks.

Tapas

Vesturgata 3B | **D5**
For those with a bit of money and time to spare, Tapas serves course after course of delightful miniature dishes. Also serves tasty and unusually affordable lobster.

Thorvaldsen

Austurstræti 8 | **E6**
Dress formally for this fancy spot, and come before 12 to avoid a long line. DJs play Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Tíu Dropar

Laugavegur 27 | **G7**
An old-fashioned café with warm atmosphere and generous coffee refills. A thoroughly pleasant establishment.

Tjarnarbakkinn

Vonarstræti 3 | **D7**
Right above the líón theater, an ideal place to go before shows. Nice views of the pond and outdoor dining in the summertime. The lamb comes especially recommended.

Vegamót

Vegamótastígur 4 | **G7**
Vegamót’s kitchen is open until 22.00 daily and sports an appealing lunch menu. Come for a tasty brunch on weekends. If you like Óliver, try Vegamót and vice versa.

Við Tjómína

Templarasund 3 | **E7**
A Reykjavík classic with menu exclusively of traditional cuisine, as frequented by tourists as it is by locals. A perfect opportunity to try Icelandic delicacies.

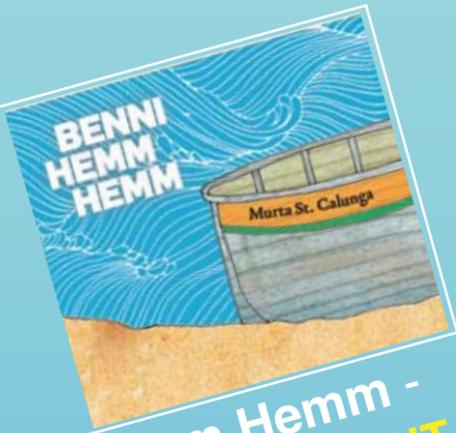
Vítabar

Bergþórugata 21 | **H9**
Really a bar, but best known for its hamburgers. Burger and fries for 500 one of the best deals in town, but Forget-Me-Not blue cheese and Garlic Extravaganza are also winners.

Vor

Laugavegur 24 | **G7**
Though perhaps a typical off-lobby restaurant/bar/café, don’t let it fool you! It’s run by an award-winning chef and has a tip-top menu | a wonderful culinary experience.

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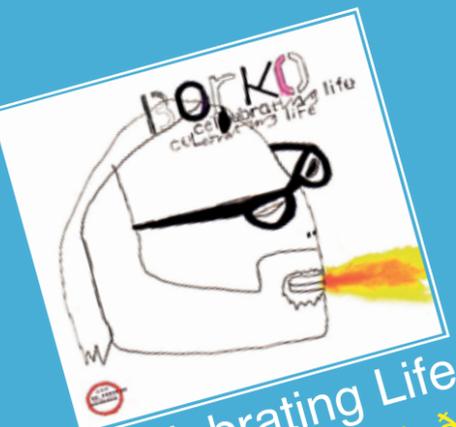
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13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00
			17:00	17:00	17:00	

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Practical Info

Services

Post Office

Post offices are located around the city as well as in the countryside. The downtown post office is at Pósthússtræti 3-5. For a full list and info on opening hours visit www.posturinn.is. Stamps are also sold in bookstores, gas stations, some grocery stores and tourist shops.

Embassies and Consulates

United States,

Laufásvegur 21,
Tel: 562 9100

United Kingdom,

Laufásvegur 31,
Tel: 550 5100

Russia,

Garðastræti 33,
Tel: 551 5156

China,

Víðimelur 29,
Tel: 552 6751

For a full list visit Ministry for Foreign Affairs: www.mfa.is/diplomatic-missions/icelandic-missions/

Internet Access

Most coffeehouses have wireless Internet access.

Computers with Internet connections are available at:

Ráðhúskaffi City Hall,
Tjarnargata 11

BSÍ Bus Terminal,
Vatnsmýrarvegur 10

Ground Zero,
Vallarstræti 10

The Reykjavík City Library,
Tryggvagata 15

The National and University Library,
Arngrímshöfða 3

Tourist Information Centre,
Aðalstræti 2

Icelandic Travel Market,
Bankastræti 2

Laundry Service

HI Hostel,
Sundlaugarvegur 34,
Tel: 553 8110, www.hostel.is

Úðafoss,

Vitastígur 13,
Tel: 551 2301, www.udafoss.is

Cultural Centres and Tourist Offices

The Intercultural Centre

The Intercultural Centre throws occasional cultural events and conferences but its main purpose is to be an information and counselling centre and serve as an advocate for the rights of immigrants in Iceland. Hverfisgata 18, Tel: 530 9300 www.ahus.is

The Icelandic Tourist Board

Lækjargata 3, Tel: 535 5500,
www.visiticeland.com
All information needed before travelling in Iceland.

Nordic House

Sturlugata 5, Tel: 551 7030,
www.nordice.is
The Nordic cultural centre organises various cultural events, conferences and exhibitions. All major tourist spots in Reykjavík also offer brochures, maps and information for travellers.

Transportation

Rent a Bike

Borgarhjól,

Hverfisgata 50,
Tel: 551 5653, www.borgarhjol.net

HI Hostel,

Sundlaugarvegur 34,
Tel: 553 8110, www.hostel.is

Tourist Information Centre,

Aðalstræti 2, Tel: 590 1550,
www.visitreykjavik.is

Car Rentals

Átak Car Rental,

Smiðjuvegur 1,
Tel: 554 6040

ALP,

Dugguvogur 10, Tel: 562 6060

Avis,

Knarravogi 2, Tel: 591 4000

Eurocar,

Hjallahraun 9,
Tel: 565 3800

A.G Car Rental,

Tangarhófi 8-12,
Tel: 587 5544

Atlas Car Rental,

Dalshraun 9,
Tel: 565 3800

Berg Car Rental,

Tangarhófi 8,
Tel: 577 6050

Hertz,

Flugvallavegur, Tel: 522 4400

Useful Information

Where to Learn Icelandic as a Foreign Language

Icelandic on the Internet,
www.vefskoli.is

Mimir Continuing Education,

Skeifán 8, Tel: 580 1800, www.mimir.is

Námsflokkar Reykjavíkur,

Fríkirkjuvegur 1, Tel: 551 2992

Fjölmenning,

Laugavegur 59, Tel: 511 1319, www.fjolmenning.is

The Icelandic College of Engineering and Technology,

Höfðabakki 9, Tel: 577 1400, www.thi.is

Iönskólinn í Reykjavík,

Skólavörðuholti, Tel: 552 6240,
www.ir.is

The University of Iceland –

Department of Continuing Education, Dunhagi 7, Tel: 525 4924,
www.endurmenntun.is

Language School Lingva,

The University of Iceland, at Sturlugata. Tel: 561 0351, www.lingva.is

Religious Movements

The national church in Iceland is the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Masses are generally held on Sundays at 11:00. Service in English is at Hallgrímskirkja every last Saturday each month, starting at 14:00. The Roman Catholic Church also has masses in English and Polish.

Other religious movements in Reykjavík are for example:

The Muslim Association of Iceland,
Ármúli 38

Ásatrú Association,

Grandagarði 8

Bahá'í,

Álfabakka 12

The Church of Evangelism,

Hlíðasmári 9

The Icelandic Buddhist Movement,

Víghólastígur 21

Reykjavík Free Lutheran Church,

Fríkirkjuvegur 5

Pentecostal Assembly,

Hátún 2

Roman Catholic Church,

Hávallagata 14

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Ásbraut 2

Jehovah's Witnesses,

Sogavegur 71

Seventh-Day Adventists,

Suðurlíð 36

Zen Buddhism in Iceland,

Reykjavíkurvegur 31

Independent Church,

Háteigsvegur 101

The Russian Orthodox Church in Iceland,

Sólvallagata 10

The Cross,

Hlíðasmári 5-7

Trade Unions

The Icelandic Federation of Labour,

Sættún 1, Tel: 535 5600,
www.asi.is

The Federation of State and Municipal employees,

Grettsigata 89,
Tel: 525 8300, www.bsrb.is

The Association of Academics,

Borgartún 6, Tel: 581 2090,
www.bhm.is

Efling,

Sættún 1, Tel: 510 7500,
www.efling.is

The Commercial Workers' Union,

Kringlan 7, Tel: 510 1700, www.vr.is

Union of Public Servants,

Grettsigata 89, Tel: 525 8340, www.sfr.is

Useful Websites

www.visitreykjavik.is

The official tourist website of Reykjavík

www.gayice.is

Information about the gay scene in Iceland

www.fjolmenningarsetur.is

The Multicultural Centre

www.hostel.is

Hostel International in Iceland

www.vinnumalastofnun.is

Public employment services

www.gulalinan.is

The yellow pages

www.leigulistinn.is

Rent a flat

www.ja.is

Icelandic telephone directory

Where to Get ...

Work and residence permit: The Directorate of Immigration, Skógarhlíð 6, Tel: 510 5400, www.utl.is.

Insurance and benefits: The State Social Security Institute, Laugavegur 114-116, Tel: 560 4400, www.tr.is

Icelandic citizenship: Unless you come from a Nordic country, foreign citizens have to have had an unrestricted residence permit in Iceland for at least seven years in order to get an Icelandic citizenship although some exceptions exist to that general rule. Applications are at the Ministry of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs, Skuggasund, Tel: 545 9000, www.domsmalaraduneyti.is

Unemployment benefits: Directorate of Labour, Public Employment Service, Tryggvagata 17, Tel: 515 4800, www.vinnumalastofnun.is

Icelandic social security number (kennitala): National Register, Borgartún 24, Tel: 569 2900, www.thjodskra.is

Driver's license: Applications at police stations. (Those who have a foreign license don't need an Icelandic one for the first six months.)

Tax card: Tax office, Laugavegur 166, Tel: 563 1100, www.rsk.is

Social Service: Information and service is provided by district service centres in Reykjavík. To locate the service centre in your neighbourhood see: www.reykjavik.is

Classifieds

Classified ads are free for individuals! If you want to place a classified ad, email class@grapevine.is

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Email: lobby@hotelvik.is
www.hotelvik.is

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Hótel Varmahlíð

Tel: 003544538170

Email: info@hotelvarmahlid.is
www.hotelvarmahlid.is

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Dimmuborgir Guesthouse

Geiteyjarströnd 1, 660 Mývatn
Tel: 4644210

Email: dimmuborgir@emax.is
www.dimmuborgir.is

Located right next to the peaceful lake Mývatn, surrounded by Iceland's most popular wonders of nature, the Dimmuborgir Guesthouse offers room and nice cottages for a reasonable price.

Húnaver

Tel: 4527110

Email: hunaver@visir.is

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www.gulavillan.is

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Suðurlíð 35, 105 Reykjavík

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Email: Duna@islandia.is, ghduna@simnet.is

www.islandia.is/duna

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My name is tory and i am a 30 year old Australian who loves Iceland. (almost more than the font helvetica.) i am looking to work in Iceland for the summer. i work in the festival + music realm, but before that I have worked in publishing and arts. i love to bake and sew, and make homemade cordial. Please let me know if you would like to adopt me for the summer - torybauer1@mac.com

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Personals:

Looking for a penfriend, preferably an Icelandic woman between the age of 45 and 60. I live in north Queensland, Australia, and I am a family person. I would prefer the old fashioned method of correspondence. My address: 18 Cedarbrook Terrace, IDALIA, TOWNSVILLE 4811, North Queensland, Australia. Thanks. Denise Moore denise@townsvilleofficefurniture.com.au

Other:

I am a native British speaker and qualified PA with more than 10 years experience across a variety of business sectors, working at senior manager and director level. I am currently learning Icelandic and would be willing to consider working in exchange for help building my verbal and written skills. Please contact Linda Barton at email: reykjavik@btinternet.com



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