

Special Issue

The City Awards



Winter Edition

grapevine.is/bestof

A large, textured, light blue hand sculpture is the central focus, set against a snowy landscape with evergreen trees and mountains in the background. The hand is positioned with the index and thumb fingers touching, forming an 'OK' gesture. The sculpture has a rough, stone-like texture and is set against a bright, slightly hazy sky.

Best Of Reykjavík 2018

Dining

The 60 Best Eateries
Icelandic Oysters, Yum

Drinking

The 30 Best Bars
Holiday Drinking!

Shopping

Our 30 Shop Awards
Winter Fashion Guide

Activities

The 30 Funnest Outings
Day Trips In The Cold

Your Winter Adventures

Scheduled Flights / Six destinations

Westman Islands

One of the wonders of nature, surrounded by mountains, islands, volcanoes and seabirds.

Vatnajökull Region

Witness the majestic power of Europe's largest glacier or conquer Iceland's highest peak.

North Iceland

Visit Húsavík, the whale watching capital, and witness the natural wonders of North Iceland.

The Westfjords

Explore one of the country's most isolated regions, rich in natural wonders.



*For more information, pick up our brochure at your hotel
or local tourist information centre, or visit eagleair.is*

eagleair.is | +354 562 4200 | info@eagleair.is

Location: Behind Icelandair Hotel Reykjavík Natura at Reykjavík Airport

Six destinations with year-round possibilities, air charter services and day tours to Iceland's most beautiful places

Day Tours / Adventure Tours

Glacier Lagoons on Your Own

Day tours to the famous Glacier lagoon and Europe's largest glacier, Vatnajökull Glacier.



Mývatn on Your Own

Exploring the Lake Mývatn area and the natural wonders of North Iceland.



Day Tours to the Westman Islands

These tours take you from Reykjavik to the volcano island of Heimaey in the Westman Islands archipelago.



Ice Caves and the Diamond Beach

Explore the thrilling ice caves of Vatnajökull and Jökulsárlón's glittering diamond beach.



EAGLE AIR
FLUGFÉLAGIÐ ERNIR



AN INTRODUCTION:

Best of Reykjavík:



DINING

8

- + Skelfiskmarkaðurinn: Iceland's shellfish palace P:20
- + Carbs, glorious carbs! P:22



DRINKING & NIGHTLIFE

24

- + Miami is raising the Reykjavik cocktail game P:30
- + Your guide to the most haunted spots in the city P:32



SHOPPING

34

- + Winter fashion: Here's where to get it P:40
- + The city's newest spots P:42



ACTIVITIES

48

- + The official geek guide to Reykjavik, nerds P:46
- + Oh, you wanted some winter Reykjavik day trips? P:52

New Year, New Me, New Vapourwave Aesthetic

2018 has been a hell of a ride, but 2019 is just a stone's throw away, tempting us with promises of failed New Year's resolutions and a final season of 'Game of Thrones.' So relax, dear reader, grab a cup of matcha, put that phone on Airplane Mode, and settle in for the Winter issue of our Best of Reykjavik magazine. Snowy, cosy holiday fun awaits.

There have been some interesting new arrivals in the city since we convened our various panels of experts back in January to decide on all the best stuff that Reykjavik has to offer. From the vapourwave palace **Miami** (p.30) to the seafood stronghold **Skelfiskmarkaðurinn** (p.20), we've got you covered on all the **newest spots** (p.42) worth checking out.

We've turned this edition towards wintry things. For example, the 'Best Drinking Terrace' category has become 'Best Smoking Area,' so you'll know where you can have a quick cig—or emit a cloud of weird strawberry fog—protected from wind and rain. The 'Best Place To Watch The Sunset' award has become 'Best Place For Au-

rorra Spotting,' now that the northern lights have returned with the darkness.

You'll also find guides to **holiday drinking** (p.28), **cosy clothing** (p.40), **winter day activities** (p.52), and you can pick up some **tips from locals** (p.44) as you peruse through the various awards at your leisure.

While you're here, be sure to pick up a copy of our flagship publication, **The Reykjavik Grapevine**—it's packed with news, culture and info on the top events in town. If you're on a budget, download our **Appy Hour** and **Happening** apps for cheap booze and event listings. And, finally, look out for the **Best of Iceland** magazine to learn what's worth checking out this winter in the Icelandic countryside. We love to hear from you on Twitter, so hit us up at [@rvkgrapevine](https://twitter.com/rvkgrapevine). No Russian bots, though, please.

Thanks for reading, and stay hydrated.

Hannah Jane Cohen,
Acting Deputy Editor

 <p>BEST OF REYKJAVIK 2018 Winter 2018 Edition by <i>The</i> REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE</p> <p>Hafnarstræti 15, 101 Reykjavík www.grapevine.is grapevine@grapevine.is Published by Fröken ehf. Printed by Ísafold in 25,000 copies. Member of the Icelandic Travel Industry Association www.saf.is</p>	<p>PUBLISHER Hilmar Steinn Grétarsson hilmar@grapevine.is +354 540 3601 publisher@grapevine.is</p> <p>BEST OF EDITOR John Rogers john@grapevine.is</p> <p>GRAPEVINE EDITOR IN CHIEF Valur Grettisson valur@grapevine.is</p> <p>ART DIRECTOR Sveinbjörn Pálsson sveinbjorn@grapevine.is</p> <p>PHOTO EDITOR Art Bicnick art@grapevine.is</p>	<p>BEST OF SHOPPING COMPILED BY Alice Demurtas</p> <p>BEST OF DINING COMPILED BY Shruthi Basappa</p> <p>BEST OF DRINKING AND & NIGHTLIFE COMPILED BY Rex Beckett</p> <p>BEST OF ACTIVITIES COMPILED BY John Rogers</p> <p>PROOFREADING Catharine Fulton</p> <p>COVER ART Siggi Odds - siggiodds.com Gabriel B. Bachmann - gabrielbachmann.com</p>	<p>FACT CHECKING Natalie Ouellette Valur Grettisson</p> <p>EDITORIAL +354 540 3600 editor@grapevine.is</p> <p>ADVERTISING +354 540 3604 +354 540 3610 ads@grapevine.is</p> <p>CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Rex Beckett Hannah Jane Cohen Claudia Schultz</p> <p>CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS Alisa Kalyanova Art Bicnick Björn Arnason Carla Sofka</p>	<p>Hrefna Björg Cylfadóttir Juliette Rowland Magnus Andersen Nanna Dis Timothée Lambrecq Pórlákur Lüðvíksson</p> <p>SALES DIRECTORS Aðalsteinn Jörundsson adalsteinn@grapevine.is Helgi Þór Harðarson helgi@grapevine.is</p> <p>DISTRIBUTION distribution@grapevine.is</p>	<p>BEST OF PANELS</p> <p>DINING Anna Margret Björnsson Ólafur Örn Ólafsson Ragnar Egilsson Sigríður B. Bragadóttir</p> <p>DRINKING & NIGHTLIFE Alexander Jean Elin Elisabet Alison MacNeil John Rogers</p> <p>SHOPPING Sif Balduradóttir Aron Bergmann Magnússon Benedikt Hauksson</p> <p>ACTIVITIES Jessica Bowe Crayson Del Faro Valur Grettisson</p>	<p>Best of Reykjavik by The Reykjavik Grapevine is published by Fröken Ltd. Nothing in this magazine may be reproduced in whole or in part without the written permission of the publishers. The Best of Reykjavik is distributed around Reykjavik.</p> <p>No articles in the Reykjavik Grapevine are paid-for articles. The opinions expressed are the writers' own, not the advertisers'.</p>
--	---	---	--	--	--	---

**BE
WARM
BE
WELL**



**ICELANDIC DESIGN
SINCE 1972**

ICEWEAR SHOPS

REYKJAVÍK AUSTURSTRÆTI 5 · VESTURGATA 4 · ÞINGHOLTSSTRÆTI 2-4 · LAUGAVEGUR 1 · SKÓLAVÖRDUSTÍGUR 38 · LAUGAVEGUR 89-91 **OUTLET**
FÁKAFEN 9 **OUTLET** · KÓPAVOGUR SMÁRALIND · AKUREYRI HAFNARSTRÆTI 106 · VÍK Í MÝRDAL AUSTURVEGUR 20
VESTMANNAEYJAR BÁSASKERSBRYGGJU 2

Visit our webstore www.icewear.is Enjoy the easy shopping and quick deliveries

ICELANDIC
SEAFOOD
makes world's best sushi



The best of Icelandic produce with a nod to Japan and South America. Modern Icelandic flavours, share plates and award winning cocktails.

SOCIALIZE
WITH THE
LOCALS



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

THE AWARDS:

How We Picked the Winners



The word “conclusion” is a little strong in this case. We have argued, fought and, in one case, slammed our head against the wall. We interviewed panels, tried blind taste-tests, and, in another case, consulted what we believe to be an oracle. This was not an easy or accurate endeavour.

The best comparison is glíma, or Icelandic wrestling. It's not flashy or well produced like WWE. It's not exactly graceful like Olympic wrestling, especially Greco-Roman. It's two people in weird leather underwear, staring into each other's eyes and trying to hip-check each other while simultaneously attempting an atomic wedgie.

We'll be honest. Some of the winners are just outright winners, but some are a matter of debate and controversy. Like in any other country, there are cliques or special interest groups. The bar most liked by a 22-year-old noise music fanatic might seem a lit-

tle off-putting to a bespectacled jazz enthusiast. We're not saying those two groups can't overlap. Maybe they can. Jazz people are good at improvising and noise music definitely needs more fans.

The thing is, this is a guide. It's a work in progress. It's an attempt at letting people know where we think they should go. We didn't all agree on everything, so the runners up could end up being more palatable to you, and the winners could be your third favourite. Yikes.

If this lack of certainty is too much for you: Imagine being the original tourist to Iceland. A wandering tax-evader from Norway who decides to settle on a rock almost uninhabited by animal life. A land that occasionally explodes and geysers that burst scalding sulphur-scented water from the ground like a cannon ball at Satan's pool party. It's the kind of place where people would invent glíma.

THE GUIDE-GUIDE

How To Spot The Winners

Look out for these stickers of recommendation, which we've handed out to this year's winners. They indicate your best option, whether you're looking for shopping, dining, drinking or partying in Reykjavík. We at the Grapevine know what's best!

Also, these are the stickers from our previous “Best of” selections, given to winners from prior years. 🍷



Farmers Market

ICELAND



OUR STORES IN REYKJAVÍK: FARMERS & FRIENDS



Laugavegur 37



Hólmastóð 2 / Grandi

WWW.FARMERSMARKET.IS

Dining

Delicious even if you can't pronounce it

There has never been a more exciting time for the restaurant scene in Reykjavík. Thanks to burgeoning tourism, exposure, and a genuine curiosity for foods from far and wide, diners now have a plethora of choices on offer. Whether it's high-end fine dining (we even boast a Michelin starred gem!), or a cheap late night bite, Reykjavík is coming into its own as a culinary destination, offering small plates, tasting menus, farm to table seasonal produce and classic Iceland cuisine, all while accommodating vegans and vegetarians. The following restaurants are the very best, according to our panel of enthusiastic gourmands. Feel free to let us know what you think of our choices as you eat your way around the city. We're listening. And we're hungry.

Best burger



Le Kock

Ármúli 42 & Tryggvagata 12

Bad boys on the block, Le Kock, have thrown down the gauntlet to the many burger joints in town, beating the competition by a long shot. Is it the homemade potato rolls that don't crumble or deflate until the last bite? Is it the patty:bun ratio? The classic condiments? Or the Greek fries with herb dressing? Their no-nonsense attitude to food, insistence on top-notch ingredients, and dedication to making the best burger possible has won us over. Go for the classic cheeseburger, and leave with some of their ridiculously good doughnuts.

Runners Up



Hamborgarabúllan Multiple outlets

Love it or hate it, Búllan is still going strong after all these years. The Geirsgata old-style burger joint location—the cutest one in downtown Reykjavík—is made better by the smoky steak burger. Pair it with some fries and a milkshake, and you have the quintessential American fast-food meal.

Block Burger Skólavörðustígur 8

Block Burger may have been heavily inspired (ahem) by Shake Shack, sans the mega chain's signature potato roll buns. Block Burger slings excellent hamburgers—their hand-shaped patties make for a tender, unevenly edged, perfectly crisped, delectable burger, topped off by their signature sauce with sharp mustard. And at 1,180 ISK, the price is right.

Previous Winners

2017: **Sæta Svinið**
2015-6: **Búllan**
2014: **Kex Hostel**
2013: **Vítambar**

Best Veggie Burger



Prikíð

Bankastræti 12

One might not necessarily think of Prikíð—an antique diner turned hip-hop party bar—when they think of food, let alone vegetarian food or vegan fare, but they offer both. They actually have not one but two vegan burgers on the menu, both of which have their own staunch fans. The Ronald Vegan burger with coconut chips may sound weird, but it totally works. They also have a burger-and-a-beer happy hour so drop in and try it out.

Runners Up



Roadhouse Reykjavík Snorrabraut 56

Roadhouse's grilled celeriac 'patty' is one of the best interpretations of a vegan/veggie burger. Without resorting to Oumph, or the mystery mushy patty trickery, it's a clever, smoky, delicious beast with all the trimmings. It's available in both vegan and vegetarian versions.



Bio Borgari Vesturgata 12

A tiny crowd-funded burger shack run by two young entrepreneurs, Bio Borgari takes clean eating seriously. Their produce is organic, their buns seeded, and their wafer-thin root vegetables would give Tyrell's a run for their money. The lentil seed patty is crisp and flavourful. For an unconventional take on the burger, Bio Borgari is a good bet.

Previous Winners

2017: **Bike Cave**
2016: **Búllan**
2015: **Brooklyn Bar**
2013-4: **Búllan**

Best Pizza



Flatey

Grandagarður 11

Few things get a Reykíkingar's heart racing like pizza. But for a pizza-loving nation, we've for some reason long had an unspeakable affair with sloppy Domino's. Not anymore! True Napoli pizzas are now a reality in Reykjavík, with a pizzaiola from Naples, a custom electric oven that cooks pies in seconds, high-quality ingredients atop every signature thin slice, and leopard spot blistering. We've already devoured our body weight in the Padrino and cheesy Tartufo. The classic Margherita is also unmissable, and divine in its simplicity.

Runners Up



Eldofninn Efstaland 26

Eldofninn has been pushing that doughy envelope with topping combinations that'll leave you scratching your head at first, but rubbing your belly later. Try the beetroot pizza or the soya mushroom, sausage and pickled chilli number, and make a night of it with some excellent cocktails from the bar.



Hornið Hafnarstræti 15

Hornið is an old school pizza joint where you can break bread with your grandma and toddler, or show up nursing a hangover, heartache, or both. With thin crust pizzas and a no-frills Italian flair in the decor as well as the toppings, this is a local treasure. We swear by their quattro stagioni.

Previous Winners

2017: **Hornið**
2014-6: **Hverfisgata 12**
2013: **Gamla Smiðjan**

Best Soup



Ramen Momo

Tryggvagata 16

Iceland's first and only ramen bar was established in 2014 by ramen chefs Kunsang Tsering and his wife Erna Pétursdóttir. With a silky slick Tonkotsu, they serve up fresh handmade noodles topped with everything from pork to kimchi. Along with shiitake mushrooms, green onions, and marinated egg, it's a soup that warms not only the stomach, but the soul. We'd recommend asking for an extra egg, because that's how good they are. If that's not enough, their vegetable gyoza is also fantastic.

Runners Up



Rabbarbarinn

Hlemmur Mathöll/Grandi Mathöll
Rabbar Barinn, nestled in both Hlemmur and Grandi Mathöll, is primarily focused on serving sustainable and environmentally friendly grub. "They do a pretty mean langoustine bisque," one panel member noted. Another standout is their thick tomato soup, which you can snip fresh basil directly into from the side of the table.



Súpa Bergstaðastræti 4

The legendary Súpa was once a secret soup joint in Borgartún that Reykjavík-ites spoke up in hushed tones and reverence. Recently, though, they came out of the soup closet with a downtown location, where they specialise in rotating region-specific soups. Expect lentils, beans, ground nuts, root veggies, hearty stuff, and always something yummy for the vegetarians.

Best Bakery



Brauð & Co, Sandholt

Joint winners



Sandholt Laugavegur 36

This local institution continues to draw lines of curious tourists and the spacious bakery/eatery has plenty of room for them. The sourdough is deservedly well-known, and if a whole loaf is too much, they oblige by slicing just what you need. If you're staying or straying close by, grab one of their delicious loaves or a bag of pastries for snacks.

Brauð & Co. Frakkastígur 16

Brauð & Co. have won the hearts of the carb-butter loving nation in their pursuit of the best baked goods. Regulars swear by their "snúður"—cinnamon rolls that are taken a step further here and stuffed with blueberries and liquorice, granola crumble or poppy seed and vanilla—eliciting inappropriate satisfied moans from our panel. The latest lemon cruffins have us hyper-ventilating, but the cinnamon sugar croissant roll will always have our heart.

Runner Up



Passion Álfheimar 6

Slightly out of the city centre is the Passion bakery, a little tucked away suburban joint that offers excellent sourdough bread, pastries, and all kinds of sweet treats. Loyalists describe it as a hidden diamond: it's certainly worth checking out should you be in the area.

Previous Winners

2013-7: Sandholt

Best Coffee



Kaffifélagið

Skólavörðustígur 10

Probably the smallest coffee bar in Iceland, Kaffifélagið continues to churn out cupful after strong cupful of Italian coffee, brewed to perfection. As one regular on our panel quipped: "There's no bullshit and no frills—just excellent coffee." Take-away may be the most popular, but we recommend sitting down in the window area, and taking in the charms of the espresso machine lined walls, and watching folk walk by—mostly oblivious to this tiny gem's existence.

Runners Up



Reykjavik Roasters Brautarholt 2 & Kárástígur 1

This is the place for those who obsess over their Aeropress and V60s. Roasters has your geeky caffeine addiction covered—gadgets included. They have a variety of milk types, conjuring up images of hand-milked individual soy beans—but in all seriousness, they are all great.



Café Haiti Geirsgata 7B

Elda Thorisson-Faurelien at Café Haiti uses Haitian coffee beans, freshly roasted and ground every day. Besides classic Italian coffee, the café also offers Arabic and Turkish varieties. The beautiful location by the harbour makes for a pleasant walk, and the café is a welcome respite from the 'rassgat' winds of Reykjavik.

Previous Winners

None: new category!

Best Coffeeshouse



Kaffihús Vesturbæjar

Melhagi 20-22

Kaffi Vest has the staunchest loyalists. An all-purpose neighbourhood café-coffeeshouse-bar-restaurant establishment, they serve good coffee, excellent Sarah Bernhardt cookies, and huge slices of chocolate or carrot cake. Located close to Vesturbæjarlaug pool, the café itself is cosy, with a vibe that lends itself equally to a post-swim lunch, working on your thesis, flirting on a first date, or haggling fees with a client. The lack of sound dampeners makes it pretty noisy in the evening, but if you can get over that, you're golden.

Runners Up



Reykjavik Roasters Brautarholt 2 & Kárástígur 1

With some of the best coffee in Iceland, Roasters offers the full Scandi coffee house experience, but they're best known for their specialty coffee and their in-house roasted beans. The crowded Kárástígur branch is best for takeouts and dropping in; Brautarholt for working away from your desk.



Bismút Hverfisgata 82

The coolest kid on the block, Bismút has a shiny bar, windows overlooking Hverfisgata, and exhibitions by local artists. In a different league from chain cafés, Bismút is perfect for those of us who don't care for medium-roast coffees, and their precisely brewed coffees come in signature yellow cups.

Previous Winners

2017: Reykjavik Roasters
2016: Stofan
2015: Kaffihús Vesturbæjar
2014: Reykjavik Roasters
2013: Kaffismiðjan

Dining

Iceland's not cheap so it better be good

Best Sushi



Fiskmarkaðurinn

Aðalstræti 12

Hands down our panel's favourite sushi restaurant in town, we suggest making a meal of the sashimi platter. It's beautifully presented at the table, with a lot of flair, and deftly sliced fatty salmon and trout, and glistening scallop—left mercifully unadorned—with a sprinkle of roe here, and a delicious mound of wakame there. All of this beautiful food is only made better by the table-side grating of fresh, locally grown, Icelandic wasabi. Pair it with the wasabi cocktail and you have a delicious and refreshing meal.

Runners Up



Sakebarinn Laugavegur 2

Housed in a beautiful old timber house in the heart of downtown, Sakebarinn offers a variety of sauce-laden sushi rolls—the local favourite—but we recommend sticking to their fresh sashimi platters and washing it down with something from their saké selection. "If you want both Icelandic type sushi as well as Japanese type sushi, this would be your go-to," one panel member noted.



Sushi Social Pínghóltsstræti 5

Not for worshippers of Jiro dreams of sushi, Sushi Social is the evolution of Japanese dish on this island—aka 'pylsu sushi'. Traditionalists may balk, but the surf and turf rolls have a loyal following, and the exhaustive cocktail menu should help any sushi purists through the fusion-cooking trauma.

Previous Winners

2016-7: Fiskmarkaðurinn
2015: SuZushii
2014: Sushisamba
2013: Sakebarinn

Best Indian



Austur-Indíafélagið

Hverfisgata 56

Still going strong twenty years on, this is an institution in its own right, consistently dishing out quality Indian fare without compromising on authenticity. With a small rotational menu with regional dishes, this is the place if you are celebrating a birthday, wooing your partner, or simply taking a break from Reykjavík monotony. Word to the wise? Make a meal of the salmon pollichathu, kozhi mappas and kulchas and share it family style. Keep your eyes peeled for the vegetarian and vegan dishes as well. Call ahead to make reservations.

Runners Up



Shalimar Austurstræti 4

Shalimar's Pakistani fare might have seen variable quality over the last few years, but they are back now with renewed energy. We recommend making a meal of the thali - simple delicious fare, with an everyday rotation of a lip-smacking assortment of curries, rice, naan and classic tandoori chicken. Finish off with some creamy kheer.



Hraðlestin Lækjargata 8

The affordable sibling of Austur-Indíafélagið, mixing a Bollywood interior with vintage movie posters and antique furniture. The chicken 65 and the thalis win the popularity contest, but the masala chai—"the closest to an Indian mum's version," said the panel—should be as popular as the mango lassi.

Previous Winners

2016-7: Austur-Indíafélagið
2014-5: Gandhi
2013: Austurlandahraðlestin

Best Thai/Chinese



Ban Thai & Fönix

Joint winners

Ban Thai Laugavegur 130

Despite new Thai restaurants in town, Ban Thai rules the roost. Don't be fooled by their extensive menu—these guys mean business. It's a whirlwind tour of regional Thai cuisine, including creamy coconut curries from the South and fiery "jungle" dishes from the North. Our advice is to skip the starters and go for the green curry with strips of crunchy bamboo, or the spicy pad krapow, redolent with fresh basil and birdseye chillies. Wash it all down with an ice-cold Singha beer.

Fönix Bildshöfði 12

It is hard to get good Chinese food in Reykjavík, but amidst limited choices, Fönix offers a surprisingly good range of staples, and some Sichuanese fare as well. The mapo tofu is loaded with cubes of silky tofu and a smattering of dochi, and is available in a vegan version too. For those working around Höfði, the lunch buffet is okay, but we recommend going for the works. The wonton soup and a side of steamed dumplings won't break the bank.

Runner Up



Mai Thai Bistro Laugavegur 118

For affordable, quick and satisfying Thai fare, Mai Thai is a safe bet. The curry pastes may not be made from scratch, but the food is fresh, the service swift and the flavours perfect for the nippy weather in Reykjavík. The menu changes every day, and there's a grocery store for hard-to-find home cooking ingredients.

Previous Winners

2014-7: Ban Thai
2013: Yummi Yummi

Riding with Eldhestar



Would you like to experience something different?



HORSES & HOT SPRINGS

Experience a variety of scenery and excellent riding trails.

Tour 3C



SOFT RIVER BANKS

This is a tour for the experienced rider! Who would not like to ride in an extraordinary environment?

Tour 3B



ICELANDIC DIVERSITY

Get in touch with Icelandic nature on horseback and taste the treasures of the nearby sea.

Tour 2G



**GREAT VARIETY OF
HORSE RIDING TOURS
JUST OUTSIDE REYKJAVIK**

Get further information at
www.eldhestar.is



Eldhestar, Vellir, 816 Ölfus • Email: info@eldhestar.is • Tel: +354 480 4800

BEST OF REYKJAVÍK 2018

Dining

Not everything is shark and sheep head

Best Goddamn Restaurant

Mat Bar

Hverfisgata 26

An across the board favourite, Mat Bar is probably the only restaurant in town that takes its seasonal produce first approach to its menu seriously enough to churn out seven menus since opening. In a stylish dining room with an open kitchen, this devil-may-care attitude translates to unconventional yet delicious food, from Icelandic monkfish livers to grilled, stuffed squid, a stellar hand-stretched mozzarella with pickled tomatoes, rosemary-dusted lamb chops, and smooth cocktails. If all that wasn't enough, they raise the bar for vegetarian dishes too. One panellist summed it up as "a marriage of fire and flavour, plate after plate."

Runners Up**Snaps Þórsgrata 1**

Restaurants may come and go, but Snaps remains beloved by all. The house fries—a mound of perfectly fried spuds—are reason enough alone to make a trip to the cosy, plant-brightened bistro. Casual but chic, it's somewhere to see and be seen. Did we mention they make a stellar crème brûlée as well? A true keeper.

**Hverfisgata 12 Hverfisgata 12**

Despite murmurs about blips in quality at peak times, this cosy pizza joint remains a beloved downtown "happy place" for many. Their hearty pizzas are inventively-topped, their brunch menu has interesting options, the decadent sides are meals in themselves, and their cocktails hit the spot without fail.

Previous Winners

2017: Snaps / Matur og Drykkur
2014-6: Snaps

Best Place For A Fancy Meal

Dill

Hverfisgata 12

If you're a gourmand looking for a memorable meal when in Reykjavík, Dill has to top the list. Dill showcases the best of Iceland with seasonal menus, paying homage to the island's bounty, often found no place else, executed with all the tweezer-precision of modern cuisine. Don't even think twice about splurging for the seven-course menu—it's the only way to do it. Top-notch service and friendly sommeliers round off an already perfect experience.

Runners Up**Grillmarket Lækjargata 2a**

The locally-sourced tasting menus of Grillmarket have been a hit with diners since this place opened its doors. A favourite 'fancy place' for locals, the restaurant recently upped its game by offering fresh, locally grown Icelandic wasabi. Our panel suggested pairing the wasabi with a steak, and something from the exhaustive wine list.

**Apotek Restaurant Austurstræti 16**

This sleek, spacious downtown bar and dining room has that all-important fancy feeling, matched by service that's attentive without being intrusive, and locally sourced ingredients cooked to perfection and presented with a flourish. The cocktails are excellent, and whether it's a date or a birthday, it's a safe choice for a special occasion.

Previous Winners

2014-7: Dill
2013: Gallery at Hótel Holt (RIP)

Best Family Meal

Jamie's Italian

Pósthússtræti 11

When Jamie's first opened its doors, critics were eager to see how the restaurant would fare. Like all the Jamie's franchises worldwide, the Reykjavík location has family at its core. The spacious booth seating and fresh, handmade pasta appeals to the very young, old and those in between, at prices that do not break the bank. The very attractive option to have half portions makes this a clear winner. "They don't infantilize the children's menu," observed one panellist, "and parents can have a good time too."

Runners Up**Hamborgarafabrikkan Höfðatorg, Kringlan**

Kids' choice: For birthday parties or a regular old outing with the fam, 'Fabrikkan' is ideal for a louder-than-usual outing. There are plenty of distractions for young diners, and orders from the extensive burger menu are taken early and served quickly to keep young temperaments in line, all without compromising on service.

**Bryggjan Brugghús Grandagarður 8**

Parents' choice: The food may be hit and miss, but this spacious microbrewery is popular with families. There's endless space for energetic young ones to expend some energy, and service that makes them feel welcome. Parents can sit back and relax over a house-brewed beer without worrying about their young wards. What's not to like?

Previous Winners

2017: Hamborgarafabrikkan
2016: Laundromat
2015: KEX Hostel
2013-4: Laundromat

FLATEY

PIZZA NAPOLETANA



MARGHERITA

@FLATEYPIZZA FLATEY.PIZZA
GRANDAGARÐUR 11
101 REYKJAVÍK +354 5882666

Dining

Make it worth the wait

Best Cheap Meal



Icelandic Street Food

Lækjargata 8

You can't really beat the incredible prices at this tiny spot with a big heart. All the soups are offered in a bread bowl version—and wait for it—unlimited refills! In a country that prides itself on the quality of its free-range lamb, kjötsúpa is a must try. It's a hearty bowl of lamb chunks and vegetables that's old school in a good way. The fisherman's meal is also popular—a tasty plokkið of mashed potato and fish, with bread and butter. The soups start at 1,390 ISK—if you'd like to try Icelandic food without breaking the bank, this is the spot.

Runners Up



Noodle Station Laugavegur 103

Walking down Laugavegur, towards Hlemmur, the inviting scent of cinnamon, star anise and coriander will lead one straight to Noodle Station. In this more spacious location, they continue to serve up bottomless bowls of intense broth, with either meat, chicken or veggies, the cheapest veggie soup coming in at less than 1,000 ISK.



Bike Cave Einarsnes 36

The cheeseburger at Bike Cave is still a steal at just 995 ISK. There are plenty of vegetarian and vegan options, a friendly residential Sphinx cat, and a darn good view of the airstrip warrants a trip to the 'other' side of town.

Previous Winners

2017: **Bike Cave**
2016: **Noodle Station**
2015: **K-Bar**
2014: **10-11 after 14:00**
2013: **"Sub of the month" at Subway**

Best Vegetarian Meal



Mat Bar, Shalimar

Joint winners

Mat Bar Hverfisgata 26

This stylishly designed restaurant has an interesting variety of vegetarian dishes that go way beyond the standard salad and side-dish options. Their grilled carrots are as good as any grilled meat we've had, and the radicchio salad with toasted nuts and goat cheese or spicy bok choy with fermented oranges are the stuff of vegetarian dreams. Seasonality is a key focus at Mat Bar, so be warned that favourites may vanish suddenly when the menu changes, but something surprising and new will spring up in their place.

Shalimar Austurstræti 4

The vegetarian thali at Shalimar comes chock-full of seasonal veggies in a mélange of flavours, spices, and colours. Unlike the à la carte menu, the thali offerings change every day, so expect beetroot cooked in a savoury, tangy stir-fry one day, or gourds and squash in a heady gravy on another. It's home-style cooking, with restaurant flair, and the kitchen puts effort into the simple desi buffet. Don't waste your króna on the mango lassi—it's an unnecessary distraction from the food.

Runner Up



Pallett Strandgata 75, Hafnarfjörður

It might seem odd to give this award to a place with only one permanent vegetarian option on the menu, but the veggie sausage roll at Pallett is the stuff of dreams. With melt-in-the-mouth flaky buttery pastry and a tasty, spicy filling, it's a true Grapevine favourite. Also, the coffee is so good it alone would be worth the trip to Hafnarfjörður.

Previous Winners

2016-17: **Kaffi Vinyl**
2015: **Teni**
2013-14: **Gló**

Best Vegan Meal



Skál!

Hlemmur, Laugavegur 107

Since its opening, Skál has served up vegan versions of almost their entire menu. We're currently crushing on the smoked carrots with avocados, seaweed salt and lovage mayo, piled atop a gorgeous seeded Danish rye bread. The portions are tapas-size, so feel free to try multiple dishes. While the menu may not explicitly mark out the vegan options, just ask, and the kitchen will oblige.

Runners Up



Kaffi Vinyl Hverfisgata 76

Reykjavík's first fully vegan café is Kaffi Vinyl. They offer wholesome fare in generous portions, with soy-based Oumph meat substitute, and various non-dairy milk options for the beverages. The food has been hit and miss—a reflection of changes in the kitchen, no doubt—but regulars swear by the Pad Thai and the Oumph sandwiches.



Út í Bláinn Perlan, Öskjuhlíð

Sitting pretty atop Öskjuhlíð, Út í Bláinn is the new restaurant in Perlan. With 360 views of nature and the city—reason enough to warrant a visit—the restaurant also offers vegan dishes put together by chefs with fine dining experience. We recommend the cauliflower dish with capers.

Previous Winners

New category!

2.11.2018 — 31.1.2019

L A P R I M A V E R A

R I S T O R A N T E

Á **MARSHALL
RESTAURANT + BAR**

AS BEFORE, LA PRIMAVERA
COMBINES FOOD TRADITION
|
FROM NORTHERN ITALY
|
WITH PREMIUM
ICELANDIC INGREDIENTS



RESERVATIONS: +354 519 7766
INFO@MARSHALLRESTAURANT.IS

GRANDAGARÐUR 20, 101 REYKJAVÍK



THE HOME OF ICELANDIC SEAFOOD AND LAMB

APOTEK Kitchen+Bar is a casual-smart restaurant located in one of Reykjavík's most historical buildings. We specialize in fresh seafood and local ingredients prepared with a modern twist.

APOTEK KITCHEN+BAR
Austurstræti 16 // 101 Reykjavík // apotek.is



Best Brunch



Cafe Paris

Austurstræti 14

Cafe Paris's European style brunch with a few American classics thrown in, make for a must-do weekend activity. Near perfect eggs florentine, top-notch fried chicken with waffles, and a hulking stack of pancakes with a generous jug of maple syrup, some bubbly to pair it with, and the quintessential brunch experience is complete. We advise you to take your time at brunch here, why not round things off with steak and eggs? As well, summertime is perfect for sitting outdoors on the café patio sipping Bellinis.

Runners Up



Haustr Fosshótel, Þórunnartún 1

With American inspired brunch staples, efficient service, and room for the young and your extended family, Haust's brunch is a well-kept secret. "Elegant and laidback, you can take your child, or your mother-in-law—it's like being in a nice hotel," said the panel.



Snaps Þórgata 1

Snaps serves up a brunch perfect for a laid-back Sunday morning recovery session. Choose from various omelettes, classic eggs benedict, and croque monsieurs, and add a mimosa if the mood strikes you. If that isn't your tittle of choice, they have a great bloody mary and a dedicated g'n't menu.

Previous Winners

2017: Vox
2016: Cocoo's Nest
2015: Slippbarinn
2014: Cocoo's Nest
2013: Vox

Best Seafood



Fiskmarkaðurinn & Fish Company

Joint winners

Fiskmarkaðurinn Aðalstræti 12

"I haven't had better salmon," said one panellist, of the robota grilled salmon at Fish Market. The Japanese grill is put to good use here, with the seafood seared, smokey, and tender. The split level restaurant is ideal for business shake-downs as well as being group-friendly, and the bar on the first floor is perfect for a first date. The tasting menus come recommended, as are the interesting concoctions from the bar. Everything on the menu gets an Asian nod, and the approach to fusion cooking always hits the spot. For an extravagant seafood experience, Fish Market is your safest bet.

Fish Company Vesturgata 2a

The Fish Company steadfastly dishes up some of the best seafood in Iceland. While the panel noted a lack of evolution in the menu, consistency is king here. Case in point: the deceptively named lobster salad—a feast for one, with generous portions of deep-fried lobster, tiger shrimp and fresh, sprightly salad.

Runner Up



Messinn Lækjargata 6

Inspired by the well-known Tjörhúsið restaurant in Ísafjörður, Messinn honours Icelandic seafood by serving it in generous family-sized portions. The focus is squarely on the fresh ingredients, simple sauces, and a side of vegetables. The fish is always perfectly cooked, and they serve up fantastic plockfiskur and arctic char, and a mean salmon burger.

Previous Winners

2013-17: Fiskfélagið

Must-Try Dining Experience



Matur og Drykkur

Grandagarður 2

Matur og Drykkur continues to grab attention with its Instagram-worthy entrée of a whole cod head, cooked in chicken stock then glazed and torched. Whether you're scoring likes or foodie bragging rights, this is the definitive adventurous dish to try in Reykjavík. The meat is tender, and knives and forks are redundant—go in with a spoon. It comes with the unctuous and creamy 'gellur'—cod tongue—fried in a light tempura-like batter and served on the side. Matur og Drykkur is also one of a handful of restaurants that honours traditional Icelandic cooking by elevating it to fine-dining status, without reducing it to a shock-value spectacle.

Runners Up



Café Loki Lokastigur 28

Café Loki seems to have been around for as long as Hallgrímskirkja itself. Unassuming and simple, they were on the 'dug smoked fish' bandwagon before it was cool. Most new Icelanders had an initiation into Icelandic food at Café Loki. The rye bread soup and ice-cream are excellent, and you can try fermented shark and Brennivín.

Sægreifinn Geirsgata 8

No longer a secret, this harbourside restaurant has seen a drop in the quality of their signature soup in recent years, but the number of visitors has only risen. However, it's still a cosy place, the seafood kebabs are a good bet, and the soup is comforting on blighty days.

Previous Winners

2016-17: Matur og Drykkur
2015: Shrimp pyramid at Jómfrúnn
2014: Food section at Kolaportið
2013: Icelandic food at Kaffi Loki

Grand Golden Circle



BusTravel
Iceland

Promotion for Grapevine readers

Enter "GRAPEVINE"
for 25% discount
when booking at
bustravel.is

- 1 Keríð volcanic crater (entrance fee included)
- 2 Faxi waterfall
- 3 Geysir geothermal area
- 4 Gullfoss waterfall
- 5 Þingvellir National Park

 **Availability:** Daily

 **Pickup starts:** 8:00

 **Duration:** 8 hours



Find more day tours
www.bustravel.is

info@bustravel.is
+354 511 2600



#bustraveliceland

Dining

Stuff your face, daintily

Best Lunch Place



Snaps

Pórsgrata 1

Oh, Snaps, our most beloved bistro! If the experience of their rising dinner prices and peak-hour waiting times still stings, it's time to heal that wound by dropping in for lunch instead. There's a faultless fish of the day, prompt service, and a little bit of daytime quiet to yourself. Psst: if with a co-worker, split the crème brûlée, and we promise your day will be brighter from that moment on.

Runners Up



Grillmarket Lækjargata 2a

Even though they don't advertise it, Grillmarket offers an excellent value lunch. The burger is popular, but we recommend the salted cod. "It's not too salty, and perfectly cooked every time," said the panel. And at 2,990 ISK instead of the 5,990 ISK price at dinner, it's a lunchtime steal.



Ostabúðin Skólavörðustígur 8

No longer a 'secret lunch spot' spot, Ostabúðin is great nonetheless. Their fish of the day is 1,990 ISK at lunchtime, and you can get a half portion of the soup if you're hungry. The seafood soup has generous chunks of white fish, cooked just right by the warmth of the soup itself.

Previous Winners

2017: Snaps
2015-6: Ostabúðin
2014: Bergsson Mathús

Best Late-Night Bite



Mandi

Veltusund 3b

"It should make your hands dirty. You should need five napkins, at least," said the panel. And that's what you'll get at Mandi. Their quesadilla-like arais maria is thin flatbread stuffed with ground lamb and spices, grilled and served like a Syrian calzone, only better. The guys behind the counter are forever smiling, the food is cheap, the crowd is bustling and tipsy after 4am, and it hits all the bases for being a sweet post-party snack spot like no other.

Runners Up



Devitos Laugavegur 126

If you were born in the 80s, then chances are you've spent at least two decades worth of late-night pizza bingeing at Devitos. Available by the slice or as whole pies, it's on the weekend that Devitos really steps up its customer care game. Their greasy slices are done just right.



Dirty Burger and Ribs Austurstræti 18

"Nothing beats eating juicy, sticky ribs after a night of drinking," said our increasingly peckish panel. The ribs at Dirty Burger and Ribs are salty, sweet, and fall-off-the-bone tender. If that doesn't convince you, we don't know what will.

Previous Winners

2017: Ali Baba
2016: Fish and Chips
2015: Dirty Burger & Ribs
2014: Nonnabiti

Best Place To Go With A Group Of Friends



Tapas barinn

Vesturgata 3b

Tapas barinn may not be faithful to the Spanish definition of a tapas bar, but what they do capture well—and boisterously at that—is the atmosphere and liveliness of tapas. It's long been a local tradition to host reunions, bachelor parties and noisy get-togethers at Tapas barinn. The food is served for the whole table, and the selection is huge, spanning local langoustine, puffin and lamb, as well as more global fare. And it's all delicious.

Runners Up



Marshall House Restaurant + Bar Grandagarður 20

It may not be the first place one thinks of—101-dwelling Icelanders find anything outside of their 100m radius far away—but The Marshall House is a seriously underrated place to start or end the night. With great cocktails, finger-licking food and a beautiful harborside location, it's a classy affair.



Sushi Social Pínghóltsstræti 5

With colourful cocktails, festive music, and service that's eager to please, Sushi Social takes the 'social' part seriously. The drinks keep coming, the food isn't too heavy, and the peppy carnival vibe and downtown location make it perfect to start the night before heading out to djamma like a true Reykvikíngar.

Previous Winners

2015-7: Tapas barinn
2013-14: KEX

Best Newcomer



Nostra

Laugavegur 59

"Nostra" translates to 'meticulous detail' in Icelandic. This philosophy is distilled into every dish at this new tasting-menu oriented fine dining place, from the lightly cured trout in green strawberry juice to the langoustine cooked to a velvety singular bite with nothing more than lardo and lavender. Elegant, confident and refined, they let one or two ingredients shine in each dish. Nostra also houses Artson, an artisanal cocktail bar mixing up delicious concoctions—we're particularly partial to the Cherry Manhattan. Nostra is a breath of fresh air.

Runners Up



ÓX

Laugavegur 28

ÓX is tucked away at the back of Sumac; an intimate izakaya-style kitchen, that seats just 11. Guests are treated to a 2.5 hour experience, the two chefs pairing unexpected drinks with seasonal favourites. Dining as if at a guess-who's-coming-to-dinner space, one leaves yearning for a revisit.



Marshall House Bar + Restaurant

Grandagarður 20

A bright, airy space located under three floors of excellent cutting-edge contemporary art galleries, the Marshall House Bar + Restaurant outdoes the traditional museum café tenfold. With excellent spins on Italian food and a great cocktail and wine list, make a point of heading out to Grandi to try it.

Previous Winners

2017: Hlemmur Mathöll / Mat Bar

Best Ice Cream



Skúbb

Laugarásvegur 1

Giving stiff competition to granddaddy Valdis, Skúbb plays into the national obsession for ice-cream all day, any day. Unlike the ultra-aerated, maximised-for-profit tub versions available in supermarkets, these creamy churned scoops are dense and full of flavour. We especially like the dark chocolate, and the roasted white chocolate. Who even knew chocolate could be roasted? The seasonal mango ice-cream and other fruity sorbets are worth making the trip to Laugardalur, just for the excuse to have some ice cream afterwards.

Runners Up



Valdis

Grandagarður 21 & Frakkastigur 10

The long lines here deter no one. The flavours are fun, with a nod to local tastes, like the lakkrís, aka liquorice, or the not-so-subtle jokes on current affairs—who can forget the memorable "icehot1" flavour? The takeaway ice-boxes are particularly great if you are hosting a party at home.



Ísbúð Vesturbæjar

Hagamelur 67

If you like the movie 'Grease', head to Vesturbæjar. Their 1950s diner style makes you feel like you're sat in a jukebox. They only have soft serve, but the real magic happens when you get a milkshake. Choose a size, from tiny to a pint, and fill your cup with syrups and ice cream for a real sugar rush. And then jive all the way home.

Previous Winners

2013-14: Valdis
2012: YoYo
2010-11: Ísbúðin Ísland

Best Tasting Menu



Dill

Hverfisgata 12

Dill has been doing tasting menus longer than most in Iceland. Built on the New Nordic philosophy, the menu traverses the islands culinary traditions, changing seasonally. Offered as five or seven-course menus, every meal is introduced with a series of 'snacks' or assorted amuse-bouche. The progression is a tight narration of seasons, flavours, ingredients and traditions. A cunning ability to tap into the food memories of its diners is what makes a meal at Dill that much more memorable and inspiring. We recommend going all in for the wine pairings.

Runners Up



Apotek

Austurstræti 16

Apotek's tasting menu takes quality Icelandic ingredients and serves them with refreshing and interesting twists from the kitchen. The service is excellent, the plating is aesthetically pleasing, and the whole experience is reliably high quality. A carefree meal at Apotek is the perfect medicine for a tiring week.



Nostra

Laugavegur 59

Newcomer: Bursting onto the fine-dining scene, upstart fine-dining eatery Nostra has tasting menu options of four, six and eight courses, consisting of deceptively simple plates with bold flavours in a daring display of the simple and complex. For an adventurous meal in a beautiful setting, Nostra is perfect.

Previous Winners

2015-17: Tapas barinn
2013-14: KEX

Best Italian



Marshall House Bar + Restaurant

Grandagarður 20

Chef Leifur Kolbeinsson practically introduced Icelanders to fresh pasta at his iconic restaurant La Primavera. Now hosting a special pop-up revival of the beloved restaurant at the Marshall House eatery, he stays true to the Italian spirit of simplicity. The menu focuses on fresh ingredients cooked beautifully; whole cooked plaice with burnt lemons, capers and anchovies jostle for attention alongside a n'djua spiced tagliatelle with plump langoustine. The La Primavera pop-up will be there until the end of January.

Runners Up



Kolabrautin

Harpa

For a decadent dinner in possibly the prettiest building in town, Kolabrautin is perfect for pre-show nibbles or a dinner date. The views from Harpa are beyond spectacular, both inside the restaurant, and looking out towards the harbour. "The lobster pizza is the thing to order here," sighed one panellist.



Cocoo's Nest

Grandagarður 23

This cosy and popular eatery on Grandi might not be a full-time Italian restaurant—on different nights of the week you'll find them serving tacos, pizza, pasta, and other dishes of the day—but they capture the spirit of the Italian style better than most with their happy hour aperativos. Salute!

Previous Winners

None: new category!



HAPPY
HAPPY
HOUR



“Our oysters are kind of small—it’s like they were made for beginners.”

INTERVIEW

Icelandic Oysters Have Arrived

Skelfiskmarkaðurinn is 101’s new seafood palace

Words: John Rogers Photo: Juliette Rowland

A new seafood palace called Skelfiskmarkaðurinn (“Shellfish Market”) opened its doors in late August. With three handsomely appointed dining rooms seating 150 people amongst marble floors, marine blue and gold fittings, HAF Studio-designed furniture, and a wall of illuminated wine bottles, the decor makes a big impression—and that’s before mentioning the food. Skelfiskmarkaðurinn is the first Reykjavík restaurant to put fresh shellfish at the heart of its menu, serving immaculately presented ‘fruits de mer’ platters and—remarkably—the first ever Icelandic oysters.

Crazy beginning

The face of the new operation is the restaurant’s co-owner Hrefna Rósa Sætran, who can be seen buzzing busily around the kitchen in a crisp white apron. “It’s been crazy,” she says, of the opening week. “We’ve

been full since the opening party. It’s an easy going place with quick service, so we have people popping in for an hour or for a cocktail rather than three hour meals. You can come in for a croissant from 11am, then we serve lunch, then high tea from 3 o’clock... we also have a concert menu from 5 o’clock where you can eat, go to the concert, and then come back for dessert.”

Arctic experiment

Hrefna is also a co-owner of sister restaurants Grillmarkaðurinn (“Grill Market”) and Fiskmarkaðurinn (“Fish Market”). “We’ve been developing this new restaurant for four years now,” she says. “We were sitting in Grill Market thinking about a new restaurant and what ingredients we might use. Maybe some nice beef... but that takes a long time. So we thought instead about seafood. We saw an

article about these guys in Húsavík who were working with oysters, and we called them up. They said no in the beginning, but eventually they said yes... so oysters it was.”

The oysters (six, or a full dozen) are served on ice with optional shallot vinegar, lemon and Tabasco. They’re small—miniature, almost—but they have a meaty, oily texture and a strikingly clean, delicate flavour.

Oysters are notoriously hard to breed—especially in the frigid sub-Arctic waters around Iceland—and previous attempts ended in failure. “These are the first Icelandic oysters ever,” says Hrefna. “Two others have tried to grow them, but it didn’t work. In Húsavík, it works because of the Gulf Stream—the warm, clean water circulates around. So it’s perfect conditions. The guys doing it don’t even like oysters—they were doing it just because it makes sense.”

Made for beginners

The restaurant has a decadent and extensive menu that includes steak tartare, silken cuts of horse steak, escargot, langoustine, trout, and a range of delectable sides—but it’s the arrival of Icelandic oysters that has proven to be the star of the show so far.

“People have been asking me: ‘Why oysters?’” says Hrefna. “I said: ‘because people love them, and they’re popular all around the world!’ Icelandic people were kind of surprised. We’ve had a lot of Icelanders tasting oysters for the first time, and the response has been amazing. And our oysters are kind of small—it’s like they were made for beginners.” 🍽️



BOOK YOUR
PORTRAIT NOW
MINK@MINK.IS

Vikings Unleased!

mink

Viking Portrait

LAUGAVEGUR 11

BRAUD

& CO

"Your first and last stop"



Prikjó

Bankastræti 12

Prikjó serves up a whammy in the category of simple, warm, and calorically questionable foods. Sit down and pick between the red and blue pill: brunch or a burger. If pancakes get you all giggly, Prikjó has all the breakfast hall of famers. Pancakes, sausage, eggs, you name it. That said, the French Connection is a true gem. It's bacon, ham, cheese, pancakes and syrup in-between two slices of french toast. Yes, that's a real meal. For lunch—the Snoop Dogg is a true crowd pleaser, as it's basically a combination of everything good: pepper cheese, bacon, bernaise and sweet potato fries. They also have milkshakes. Lord, help us.



Icelandic Street Food
Lækjargata 8

For soup to really fit the bill of comfort food, it has to be substantial—not any of that dinky ginger asparagus nonsense. Reykjavik's newest low-key dive, Icelandic Street Food, offers three dishes: lamb soup, shellfish soup, and a stew called fisherman's favourite. All three can be ordered in bread bowls and have the perfect protein to broth ratio for them to be not only fulfilling, but toasty and relaxing. They also have free desserts and coffee to munch on after (or before) your meal. Directly next to the restaurant is local hot-spot Secret Cellar, which allows you to BYOS (bring your own soup), so you can enjoy some comedy while you slurp. There are also free refills. We repeat: FREE REFILLS!



“It’s the best choice of comfort food for those people who hate cheese, or as we call them, Satanists.”

DINING GUIDE

Mhmmm... Carbs

Keep your diet to yourself, Becky

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photo: **Art Bicnick**

While we're all about the seven course tasting menu at Dill, sometimes you just want to stuff carbohydrates in your mouth till you pass out. Enter comfort food, something that everyone loves, even if they pretend all they eat is kale and sunshine. So appease your hangover, get over your ex, and ruin your diet at these Reykjavik comfort food classics.



Veganæs

Tryggvagata 22

The recently opened Veganæs—in the Gaukurinn music venue—bills itself as a vegan comfort food

restaurant. While that's true, a more accurate description would be that it's a comfort food restaurant that just happens to be vegan. The vegan fish dish—called fish-ish—tastes just like properly fantastic fish, and throw it on a burger and you've got the epitome of what a messy, yummy, finger-licking fish burger should be. The Burnt sandwich—basically a jalapeno grilled 'cheese'—will give you probably the most squirm-worthy cheese-gasm ever. Make sure to grab a booth. You'll need time to digest in your post-eating glow.



Eldsmiðjan

Laugavegur 81 & Bragata 28

You can't talk about comfort food without mentioning the king of the genre: The bold. The beautiful. The pizza. While Reykjavik has a tonne of options, from the gourmet pies of Hverfisgata 12 to good ole' Domino's delivery, Eldsmiðjan is without a doubt your go-to for a simple greasy slice that's not too complicated nor too simple. Their basic cheese slices are juicy and filling, but throw some pepperoni on there and you've got an afternoon worthy of your future heart-attack. While they've got a casual, cosy ambiance in their dining rooms, if you prefer to gorge yourself while watching 'Sex In The City,' they have a separate entrance for take-away orders.



Ramen Momo

Tryggvagata 16

This charming hole-in-the-wall Tibetan and Japanese fusion spot is the best place to warm your soul with carbohydrates in the form of long strings—everybody yell out (r)Amen! The restaurant's portions are hearty, with more noodles than you can munch on and delicious poached eggs and seaweed to match. It's the perfect mix of a culinary experience and a comfortable, substantial meal. It's also the best choice of comfort food for those people who hate cheese, or as we like to call them, Satanists. 🍜

Icelandic Lamb

Free roaming since 874, Icelandic Lamb continues to be a rare specialty that's humanely raised on family owned and operated farms.

Flavored by the wild pastures and raised without any hormones or antibiotics in one of the purest environments in the world, Icelandic lamb meat is wonderfully lean, flavorful and tender.

The distinctive taste is a result of the wild pastures; the grass and the aromatic and spicy herbs on which the lambs graze.



LOOK FOR THE SHIELD

When dining in Iceland always look for the Icelandic Lamb Shield.

Our Symbol of Trust, Consistency and Quality for Genuine Icelandic Lamb

Products.



Drinking

Tipsy or wasted, the choice is yours

There is one thing abundantly clear from our very scientific drinking research, Hverfisgata is one hot little street right now. After having massive internal road surgery a couple of years ago, it has come out thriving with a great bunch of watering holes from the casual to the swanky. Reykjavík's bar scene seems to be shifting towards the latter in general, and the formerly beloved dive-bar trend looks like it's taking a disco nap. Some facts of life remain the same: alcohol is expensive and that doesn't stop us from partying. Bottoms up, babe.

Best Goddamn Bar



Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

KB is the hands-down winner here. Many bars come and go and redecorate and rename and put on bells and whistles, but Kaffibarinn has stayed the course for the better part of two decades—because it's just a really good, reliable place. "They have a great drink selection, you can dance or sit and talk if you want, and the DJs are always on point," said one panellist. The finest point of the place is perhaps the incredible colourful staff, who always seem like a little family. Whether having a quiet happy hour beer or doing "Russian cocaine" shots at 3am, Kaffibarinn is fucking awesome.

Runners Up



Prikið Bankastræti 12

Prikið is a downtown staple. It's a really cool place in many senses, and has its own unique vibe unlike anywhere else in town. On top of being a great bar, it's a pretty awesome diner, too, with a kick-ass burger-and-beer happy hour. So you can go there the morning after.



Húrra Tryggvagata 22

This one's also pretty much a no-brainer, given that it's the kind of place that everyone can (and will) go to. There's plenty of space to chill, plenty of space to dance, a great concert programme, and it's totally mad on weekend nights. It's still young, but it's definitely a cool kid.

Previous Winners

2017: Húrra
2016: Prikið
2015: KEX Hostel
2014: Boston
2013: Dolly (RIP)

Best Place To Start The Night



Mat Bar

Hverfisgata 26

This tapas place and fancy-feeling drinking hole has been an instant hit. The decor has a shiny-and-new feeling, with black and white tiles and a solid marble bar—a sharp contrast to Reykjavík's omnipresent and somewhat tired reclaimed wood, fur and bric-a-brac interior design trend. "The cocktails are excellent," said the panel. Whether you're shaking off a rough day at work, snacking with a date, or starting a night out, the panel says "You'll always walk out with a smile on your face."

Runners Up



Bar Ananas Klapparstigur 38

This cool tiki beach-themed bar in the middle of town is known for its sunset-lit, quirky, tropical atmosphere, chill environment and delicious cocktails. It never stays open past 3am, so it's pretty much always a place to kick things off, and it gives the illusion of warmth that the Icelandic winter needs.



Kaffi Vinyl Hverfisgata 76

A lovely vegan café and bar is located in the former site of the infamous never-open-shoe-store, Bónus Skór. "It's really comfortable, and the music is great—you never know what you're gonna get." You can even choose the records, or pick up a Bónus Plötur 7" released on the café's own micro-label.

Previous Winners

2017: KEX Hostel
2016: KEX Hostel
2015: Loft Hostel
2014: Kaldi Bar
2013: Slippbarinn

Best Place To End The Night



Prikið

Bankastræti 12

Prikið is the bar version of that "I'm going to bed early tonight vs. me at 3 a.m." meme. Show up at 10pm and it's Rancho Relaxo. Get there at 2am, and it's House Party. "It has a very specific atmosphere," said one panellist referring to its young, raucous, hip-hop-centric vibes. "Weeknights can be more chill and sometimes weird in a really good way." It's also just great to hit the outdoor smoking dock and buddy up. Fun, fresh music, crazy dance floor, good basic drinks, cute fun people, lovely staff, and never a dull moment. There will be a line-up.

Runners Up



Húrra Tryggvagata 22

It was a real close one picking this winner, since Húrra is a well-known end-of-the-night magnet. "It's had its ups and downs, but it's interesting and diverse and open to everyone, like a proper dance spot should be." Another panellist simply said, "it always works." Sold.



Gaukurinn Tryggvagata 22

Just upstairs is the big brother bar that has dominated this corner for ages, albeit under a few different names and styles, like an angsty mall-goth teen. That emo kid has grown up into that cool elder punk who looks hard but is a lovable and loving softie. And it's the home of the drag scene! Yas gawd!

Previous Winners

2017: Kaffibarinn
2016: Húrra
2015: Paloma Basement
2014: Paloma
2013: Harlem (RIP)

Best Place To Watch Sports Over A Beer



American Bar

Austurstræti 8-10

If sports is what you're after, what better place than the namesake of the land that honours athletes like an Italian grandma does the Pope. This place is more "Everybody loves Tom Petty, right?" than "Let's build a wall between Mexico!" kind of American, so it's quite friendly and down to earth, with their big screens all over the place showing all kinds of physical things involving balls. They often have the game schedule on the window out front so there's no reason to miss a match. You gotta support the team.

Runners Up



Lebowski Bar

Another big huge place with lots of screens showing lots of games, this fully carpeted bar honouring The Dude is another nice laid-back place to just zone out with some good sports. Unpretentious and even graced with its own mascot, Púki the cat, who drinks virgin White Russians in the window.



Bjarni Fel

An oldie but a goodie, Bjarni Fel is one-hundred percent a sports bar from beginning to end. Alcohol, screens, games, good sight-lines, good match programming. The only thing is that it can be a wee bit cramped, but if that's how you like to enjoy your sports, then cram in.

Previous Winners

2017: Lebowski Bar
2016: American Bar
2015: Bjarni Fel
2014: Bjarni Fel
2013: Bjarni Fel

Best Beer Selection



Mikkeller & Friends

Hverfisgata 12

Upstairs from one of our best pizza places is this super cool bar dedicated to one of Denmark's finest breweries. Their astounding and extensive beer list is exceeded only by the staff's expertise and congeniality. "It's a great place to start a night with a couple of really good quality beers," said one panelist. "There's always something new to try," said another referring to the bar's regular guest brewery takeovers. Antique Reykjavik décor and the wafting smell of pizza are just added bonuses. A must-try for any beer aficionado.

Runners Up



MicroBar

Down in a large dim cellar in the bottom of downtown, you find this beer barrel heaven with an ever-changing and diverse menu of tasty brews. It has a great open indoor-garden feeling, still intimate enough to have a great date or to just sample until you're sloshed.



Skúli Craft Bar

Skúli's another solid option for the beer-lovers of the world, boasting an equally extensive and diverse menu as its peers, but with a decidedly different atmosphere. Set on a ground floor with giant windows around most of the bar, one may prefer the open feeling or feel a bit exposed, but it's a lovely place.

Previous Winners

2017: Microbar
2016: Mikkeller & Friends
2015: Skúli Craft Bar
2014: Micro Bar
2013: Micro Bar

Best Wine Place



Port 9

Veghúsastígur 9

A tucked away basement bar with a discrete and secretive vibe, Port 9 has low lighting and lots of dim corners suitable for drinks, dates or general conspiring. It's also the only self-proclaimed out-and-out wine bar in Reykjavik. "They have a short list of basic, affordable options that are available by the glass," said the panel. "But if you ask, there's a more extensive book-length wine list, sold by the bottle. And then if you ask again, out comes a gold-leaf, handwritten book of their fine wines. It doesn't have prices. So maybe don't order from the 'special book' if you've already had a few."

Runners Up



Kröst Hlemmur

Every joint in Hlemmur has a speciality, and alongside burgers and bar snacks, Kröst prides itself on its wine list. "They have at least six at any given time, and the selection changes constantly," said the panel. "So whenever you go back, there'll be something new to try."



Geiri Smart

This fancy drinking hole is connected to the Hilton Canopy hotel complex and has an unusual wine list focussing on cold-climate wines. There's a long bar with plenty of space, and it has a swanky kind of feeling, so sip your drink and people-watch whilst role-playing some kind of American Psycho lifestyle. If you want. You weirdo.

Previous Winners

2017: Microbar
2016: Mikkeller & Friends
2015: Skúli Craft Bar
2014: Micro Bar
2013: Micro Bar

Best Place For Cocktails



Hverfisgata 12

Hverfisgata 12

As well as serving up damn fine pizzas, the bartenders at H12 stir and shake up fabulous concoctions that delight and inebriate the senses. With its charming yesteryear environment and truly lovely waiting staff, it's the perfect place to raise a pinky and joyfully tilt your head back with a great cocktail, mixed to perfection. They offer standard classics and innovative takes on old favourites using items from their food menu, like the pizza-juice bloody mary—a spicy, vitamin C-rich hangover cure that's perhaps the best in town.

Runners Up



Pablo Discobar

Pablo has established itself as a place with great cocktails for the dress-code loving crowd. The drinks and the décor are maximalist, lavish, and tropical, and the extra little tacky patina gives it a certain Scarface Miami Beach charm.



Mat Bar

Mat Bar's cocktail list has all sorts of fancy treats, from a classic espresso martini to a sharp and zesty pisco sour, garnished with flower petals. Get a seat at the bar, watch the professional, smartly dressed bartenders shake your dreamy drink, and don't be shy ordering some delicious tapas plates to go with it.

Previous Winners

2016: Apotek
2015: Apotek
2014: Slippbarinn
2013: Borg, Hotel Borg
2012: Kolabrutinn

Drinking

Why have just one happy hour when you can have nine?

Best Happy Hour



Kaffibrennslan

Laugavegur 21

As the day wanes and the caffeine jitters kick in, this cool coffee house does the job of transitioning you into beer-land with their very nice happy hour deals. “I always find myself going there because it’s just comfortable and nice,” one panellist said. Located right smack in the centre of town so you can easily pop in for a quick one on your way, or stay and drink the evening away, it’s just a cool, casual calm place with friendly staff, good beers and tasty snacks. There’s also a great patio for when the weather is nice.

Runners Up



Bravó

Laugavegur 22

It’s pretty hard to be unhappy when happy hour literally lasts all day long! From opening at 11am until 8pm you can get beers and wine at discount prices and sip them in warm cosy comfort whilst people-watching the downtown riff-raff passing by the windows. Bravó, Bravó!

Previous Winner:

2017: Bravó
2015: Foréttabarrinn



Bryggjan Brugghús

Grandagarður 8

This massive bistro and microbrewery boasts a gorgeous selection of beers that you can watch being brewed on location, and serve up their own IPA for just 500 ISK during happy hour. It’s right on the gateway to Grandi—a rapidly booming hot spot in town—so it’s the perfect place to start before catching some culture.

Best Smoking Area



Boston

Laugavegur 28b

While not without its charm on the inside, where Boston really shines is on its hidden courtyard smoking deck. Perfect for the most avid thirsty inhaler, the smoking area is sheltered, heated and strewn with cosy pillows and blankets to wrap up, plunk down and keep sucking down the cigarettes like Coca-Cola. If you do give up and go in, the place has a kind of cool gothic feel to it, DJs on weekends, occasional pop-up concerts, and a nice selection of drinks to lubricate your lungs.

Runners Up



Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

This infamous smoking area is not cosy, but boy is it fun! If you want to eavesdrop on some drama, make a new single-serving friend, or make fun of people with someone whom you will later sleep with, this is THE place to go. Just don’t let the door hit you on the way out (seriously)



Hressó

Austurstræti 20

Large, spacious, sheltered, seated and heated, the inside-outside smoking area at Hressó (a.k.a. Hressingarskálinn) is a well-known classic in town for those who must smoke with their drinks. It’s decidedly a better place to hang out during the day and early evening, unless you’re really into super mainstream pop fare.

Previous Winners

2017: Hressó

Best Bar For Live Music



Húrra

Tryggvagata 22

Outside of dedicated concert halls such as Harpa, Húrra is truly the best live venue in the city—and in some ways it even has them beat! With its modest but spacious stage, fantastic sound-system and tight, intimate capacity, the bar holds most of the best gigs in town on any given week. “The programming is really open-minded because they book unknown local up-and-comers to huge international names.” Never is this more apparent than during Airwaves, but really you can almost always catch a great gig and then stay for the DJ and the party.

Runners Up



Gaukurinn

Tryggvagata 22

Running a close second is Gaukurinn’s dark, deep-set, low-ceilinged stage in their roomy bar. Hosting a great array of shows often from the more eccentric fringes of culture, it’s a great place to find the dark-sided shows and circus of drag darlings.



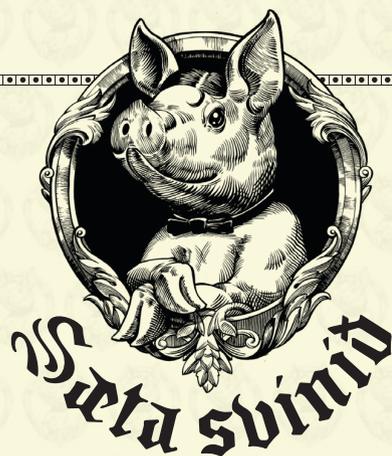
MENGI

Óðinsgata 2

With its impeccable programme of quality concerts, Mengi hosts talented artists who often fall within the territory of experimental, avant-garde, singer-songwriter and electronica. Their sleek, gallery-like space is acoustically and visually lovely, but capacity is limited, so arrive early. A members card softens the blow of the 2,000 ISK standard cover charge.

Previous Winners

2016: Húrra
2015: Húrra
2014: Cafe Rosenberg
2013: Volta (RIP)



ICELANDIC GASTROPUB

LOCAL FOOD AND BEER

Tasty and fun food made with fresh and local Icelandic ingredients.

We offer a unique selection of Icelandic beer- 20 bottled, 10 on draft, and artisan cocktails to enjoy alongside the food.

Drop by for lunch, late lunch, dinner or drinks
in a casual and fun atmosphere.



Open 11:30-23:30

Hafnarstræti 1-3 / Tel. 555 2900 / saetasvinid.is



Best Newcomer Bar



Artson

Laugavegur 59

The bar of Nostra is a wonderful place to spend some time. With large windows, an airy, minimal space and artisan cocktails with homegrown ingredients, it's more date place than dive bar. However, if you're watching your pennies, they have a great happy hour that runs Tuesday-Saturday from 17:00 to 19:00, with cocktails at 1,500 ISK, non-alcoholic concoctions at 750 ISK, cut-price bottles of champagne, and wine or Stella Artois for under 1,000 ISK. If you've something to celebrate, or you want to feel fancy for the night, this is the place.

Runners Up



**Bastard Brew & Food
Vegamótastígur 4**

This brand new downtown bar is something of a beer palace. It's an English pub style environment, without the sense of history—everything from the tables to the plush leather seating are catalogue-fresh—but with eleven beers on tap, a great happy hour, a promising menu, and two beers brewed in the in-house brewery, it's already a great drinking session spot.



**Spanski
Ingólfsstræti 8**

This discrete basement bar is something new in Reykjavík; a Spanish-style bodega bar with red wine on tap, and various tapas plates. Every drink is poured and every snack prepared by Augustin, the Spanish gentleman who runs the place, so the service can be a little slow—but it's all part of Spanski's oddball charm.

Previous Winners

- 2018: **Veður**
- 2017: **Pablo Discobar**
- 2016: **Bryggjan Bruggús**
- 2015: **Mikkeller & Friends**



**Breakfast Bubbly:
Skelfiskmarkaðurinn
Klapparstígur 30**

Gather your energy for commerce and get loopy-goopy with brunch and cocktails at one of the chicest new restaurants in town. With fabulous fresh classics like Bloody Marys and Mimosas, as well as decadent efferescents like the Frosé and Hugo, their brunch time cocktail list really starts the day off with a pop. They of course have an extensive full bar of beers and wines, and great dining menu to soak up all that booze.

**Midday Brew:
Session Craft Bar**

Bankastræti 14, 2nd floor
After you've browsed a few shops and maybe lugged around a couple of bags, rehydrate yourself at this recently opened microbrew pub smack-dab in the middle of town. With its spacious, cool atmosphere and fabulous selection of beers from small breweries all over—like the RVK Brewing Co, Founders, and Malbygg—there is always something new and exciting to try and beers for every palate. You'll be warm and jolly after a couple here. They might even be having some special holiday beer tastings.

**Dinner Drinks:
Bryggjan Bruggús
Grandagarður 8**

Take a detour out of downtown to fill up after you've finished

grabbing all your goodies. This local microbrewery keeps a steady stream of tasty beers on tap and all the cocktails and wines your heart desires or requires. Serving everything from small plates, to meaty treats and vegan delights, they have a great dinner menu and their huge, open concept space is especially great for groups that don't want to crowd around a tiny table and knock elbows while trying to eat. Definitely a good place to eat, drink and be merry.

**Evening Cheer:
Kaffibarinn
Bergstaðastræti 1**

The holidays are all about beautiful, heartwarming traditions, and there is no bar more cosy or traditional than the stalwart Kaffibarinn. From the rich, wine red tongue-and-groove walls, the dim golden lighting, the faint waft of thirty year old smoke and the incredibly hot staff and regulars, it's the best place to keep up old traditions and form new ones by smashing down a couple of basic pints. Come early for a relaxed happy hour or head back on a weekend night when things get steamy. Either way, fill up your post-shopping belly with well earned drinks before stumbling back to sleep off all that capitalism. And please, do not attempt to wrap presents while hungover, unless absolutely necessary.

"Fill up your post-shopping belly with well earned drinks before stumbling back to sleep off all that capitalism."

DRINKING GUIDE

'Tis The Season To Get Sloppy

Your Reykjavík Holiday Drinking Guide

Words: **Rex Beckett** Photo: **Art Bicnick**

The holiday gift-giving season is upon us and that means many of you will be spending some of your time hopping from store to store, looking for that perfect, unique gift to bring back to someone you love. Better yet, maybe you came over with your whole clan to spend Christmas on our dark windy rock! Whether you're thirsty from shopping or need some merriment, here's the way to wet your whistle under the mistletoe.

Welcome



Pre-booking is required. Book online at [bluelagoon.com](https://www.bluelagoon.com)

BLUE LAGOON
ICELAND

DRINKING GUIDE

Miami On Ice

Put on your sports jacket and take off those socks

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photos: **Art Bicnick**

Miami's cocktail menu—designed by master mixologist Martin Cabejšek—takes your favourite classics and mixes them up into complex 21st century drinks. With a focus on sustainability and a strict adherence to the bar's gorgeous 1980s Miami Vice aesthetic, their selection is a standout in the thriving Reykjavik cocktail scene. Perched on a vapour-wave chair, I tried a selection of their drinks.

Sex On The Beach

Sex On The Beach is dangerous. Not only because of sand in dark places, but also because there's absolutely no hint of alcohol-taste in this drink. More or less a frothy juice, you could easily down sev-

eral in an hour. The standout element here is the delicate rosewater mist they spray onto the drink after it's shaken. This floral drizzle adds a sophisticated undertone to the popsicle-taste of the drink; an elegance that balances out the sweetness. If you're a fan of stronger, more robust cocktail flavours, this isn't the drink for you—but despite its light, fruity appearance, approach Sex On The Beach with caution. One glass could lead to four, which could easily lead to waking up at Hlemmur the next morning.



Cuba Libre

Miami has two cocktails on draft, one of which is the beloved Cuba Libre.

While serving cocktails on draft might, at first, seem like a novelty, in reality, there's no separation of the alcohol, and the drink comes out of the tap as if it had been freshly mixed. The cocktail is—like all others at the bar—complex. It starts with the Miami house rum blend. Heavy on vanilla, chocolate, coffee, and a hefty dose of plantation pineapple rum; it's an electrifying combination that would be great straight-up, even for someone who's not normally a rum enthusiast. The resulting cocktail is a real melange. Overlaid with the cola and rum are cherry notes, chocolate bitters, and lime juice. Underneath that is a hint of liquorice and a nu-

anced bite of spice—a result of the chocolate in the rum. Most delightful is the aftertaste, which harkens back to cola bottle candies from the local corner store.

Miami Fruit Punch

The Miami Fruit Punch is from the house list of mocktails—that is, cocktails without alcohol. It's amongst the best thought-out selections of its kind in the city. I was initially skeptical, but the fruit punch feels, for all intents and purposes, like a “proper” cocktail, with a citrusy tang that ensures you drink it slowly and

savour the complexity. While I don't see myself ordering this one, it's a great way to feel included in a bar setting for designated drivers, or those that don't drink. 🍷



The
Downtown
Café & Bar

If you want to try delicious local soups in a bread bowls, just hop into the Downtown Café & Bar





YOU CAN'T HAVE A RAINBOW WITHOUT A LITTLE RAIN

"IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE WEATHER, WAIT A MINUTE..." IS THE POPULAR AND ALARMINGLY ACCURATE PHRASE ICELANDERS USE TO DESCRIBE THEIR EVER-CHANGING ENVIRONMENT. PEOPLE HERE KNOW THAT IT'S ALWAYS BEST TO BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST. AND WHEN THE SOUTH EAST WIND COMES HOWLING IN CARRYING ITS PRECIOUS CARGO OF RAIN, YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT OPENING AN UMBRELLA.

SHOP LOCATIONS

EPAL STORE - LAUGAVEGI 70

EPAL STORE - HARPA CONCERT HALL

AIRPORT FASHION - KEF INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

REYKJAVIK RAINCOATS SHOWROOM - HVERFISGATA 82



REYKJAVIK
RAINCOATS

WWW.REYKJAVIKRAINCOATS.COM - INFO@REYKJAVIKRAINCOATS.COM - TEL: 571 1177

'ALFTANES KAFFI

alftaneskaffi.com



Avocado dream Pizza



Dig Up Her Bones: Austurvöllur Graves Alþingi

The plot slightly to the west of Parliament has recently been a real hot topic for ghoulish and history conservationists alike, as an ancient burial ground was unearthed during the early stages of foundation work for a new hotel being built on the site. When first uncovered, staff in the previously standing building looked out of their windows directly onto open graves containing intact skeletons, possibly of their own ancestors. The burial site itself is now covered, but the park is still unsettling. If you feel too rattled, dip into Skúli Craft Bar on Aðalstræti—on the edges of this burial site—and they’ll ease your nerves with good beers. They also have tables perfectly sized for your Ouija Board.



Cry Little Sister: Höfði Borgartún 105

The most notorious haunted house in Iceland, Höfði, is best known abroad for being the meeting place of Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, an instrumental moment leading to the end of the Cold War. But a cold war has been brewing in this house far longer. The earliest occupant, judge and poet Einar Benediktsson, claimed it was haunted by the ghost of a young woman, Sólborg Jónsdóttir, who poisoned herself after Einar’s verdict on a



“Staff looked out of their windows directly onto open graves containing intact skeletons, possibly of their own ancestors.”

CITY GUIDE

Bleak Winter Hauntings

A spooky city guide

Words: Rex Beckett & Hannah Jane Cohen Photos: Art Bicnick

Reykjavík is a creepy ass place. From the weather beaten-houses, to the ancient and decrepit graveyard, to the industrially extended shoreline of downtown, there’s all kinds of souls-without-flesh-prisons strolling around these parts. Although the end of October is when our veil between the physical and ethereal is thinnest, the constant winter darkness sure does make for some supernatural encounters.

notorious assault case. At Höfði, she would appear to him at night, pleading and crying. This claim was further substantiated by a British Ambassador who resided at Höfði in 1952, who demanded that Britain sell the house because of what he called ‘bumps in the

night.’ Since then, it has remained uninhabited and owned by the state. But is it really haunted? Is Sólberg there? Or are these bumps merely the work of a time traveler from the future, super added by the end of communism? Find out for yourself.



Trapped On The Shore: The Húrra Ghost Naustin

This famous nightlife hotspot is built where Reykjavík’s former shoreline landed, and a portion of the city’s original foundation wall is still exposed in the basement of the bar. Staff in the bar have reported seeing strange shadows along the wall, and feeling random cold chills and sudden nauseating waves in the far staircase, particularly earlier in the day and when the bar is sparsely filled. Theories have suggested that it is the spirit of a young man lost at sea—either overboard or by choice—and that he is lonely and sad. Join him, if you desire, in his sorrows, with a couple shots of Fernet.



Hallowed Ground: Hólavallagarður Cemetery Suðurgata

Of course, it is essential to mention the wonderful old cemetery on the west side of Reykjavík, just a hop from downtown. With some of the oldest graves in the city, where locals can truly go trace back their family history, this consecrated square is less ghoulish than a spiritual playground with every kind of energy flowing freely, like a high school cafeteria. There are also a lot of cats. For an extra beautiful spooky night, go late and stroll when it is snowing while listening to Hilmar Örn Hilmarsson’s original score to ‘Children of Nature.’ When you finally get home, and the nightmares come, let them. 🐾

A LOCAL FAVOURITE FOR 17 YEARS



LATE NIGHT DINING

Our kitchen is open
until 23:30 on weekdays
and 01:00 on weekends

Experience tapas the Icelandic way, made with
the freshest local ingredients in an energetic
and vibrant atmosphere.

TAPASBARINN – A MUST TRY IN ICELAND



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

eat **súpa** well



Soup & Bread 1.490 ISK - Bergstaðastræti 4

BEST OF REYKJAVÍK 2018

Shopping

Cird your wallets...

While high prices mean Reykjavík isn't really thought of as a shopper's paradise, there are still plenty of great local products you can only get here. Whether you're hunting for a piece of Icelandic design, searching for hard-to-find vinyl by an Icelandic artist, stocking the fridge of your Airbnb, or hunting down the perfect hand-knitted lo-papeysa, this guide will get you on the right track. Most of the winners are located in downtown Reykjavík, but a few are scattered throughout the Greater Reykjavík Area, giving you a good excuse to get out of the city centre hubbub and do some exploring. Happy shopping!

Best Grocery Store



Krónan

Fiskislóð 15-21 & other locations

This chain of large and bright supermarkets has always had a larger selection of goodies than cheaper stores in town, but in 2017 Krónan really stepped up its game. "Shopping there is just such a pleasurable experience," one panellist said. It's hard to find fresher fruits, veggies and fish anywhere else, but it's the variety of vegan products that especially appealed to the panel, including the famous Swedish Oatly cream cheese (which sells out as soon as it hits the shelves) and their tasty yoghurt.

Runners Up



Nettó Fiskislóð 3

Nettó kills it when it comes to importing weird products from all over the world that you can't find anywhere else. One could easily spend hours browsing the Healthy Food section, with its infinite selection of vegetable butters, nuts, superfoods, sugar-free chocolate snacks,

juices and more. Drop by for a late night snack: they're open 24/7.

Melabúðin Hagamelur 39

With its shelves packed high with interesting imports, this extra-cluttered store is to food-lovers what Christmas is to children. It's that place in town where you can find artichokes, out-of-season aubergines, juicy peaches and fresh figs, just to name a few. Drop by if you can deal with mild claustrophobia and if you love kitchen experiments.

Previous Winners

2017: Krónan
2016: Bónus

Best Shop To Pick Up Local Design



Akkúrat

Aðalstræti 2

Despite being a fairly new addition to the local shopping scene, Akkúrat has managed to dominate the design show with an elegant, luminous store full of one-of-a-kind pieces that you'll have trouble finding anywhere else. Because the owners are adamant about supporting young Icelandic designers, their focus is mostly local, with an ever-changing selection of clothes and interior design pieces. Pop-ups in their downtown store are not unusual, with the hope of giving new talents the opportunity to widen their reach.

Runners Up



Epal Harpa, Austurbakki 2

Epal has been supporting Nordic designers for more than 30 years. Their selection of products is classic Scandi, meaning there's something for everybody—from Vík Þrjónsdóttir's iconic scarves and whimsical Tulipop trinkets to elegant, streamlined interior design pieces, including furniture.



Mun Barónsstígur 27

Minimal but warm, Mun is quickly becoming one of Reykjavík's design gems. From pillows and blankets to kitchen and bathroom gadgets, Mun's products are decidedly Scandinavian—often monochromatic and with simple lines. Some of the best finds carry that whimsical detail that makes the difference between modern hygge and lifeless IKEA catalogue.

Previous Winners

2017: Akkúrat
2016: Kraum
2015: Spark Design Space (RIP)
2013-4: Kraum

Best Shop To Pick Up Local Fashion



KIOSK

Ingólfsstræti 6

This is the eighth time in a row that KIOSK is chosen as best local boutique, and for a good reason. KIOSK is a collective run by four independent Icelandic designers who often take turns working at the counter. The designers play with different ideas and materials, so you can find heavy knits next to the smoothest of silks, while bold, clashing prints coexist with more subtle, monochromatic pieces. Whether you're looking for one-of-a-kind investments or simply dreaming of one, there's no better place to be.

Runners Up



Hildur Yeoman Skólavörðustígur 22

With her dreamy patterns and lush textures, Hildur Yeoman's boutique is a pleasure for all the senses. Her teal velvet blazer and space-inspired body-con dresses have become iconic, but more head-turning pieces are hidden among the shop's minimal selection. In addition to Hildur's own pieces, the store sells a handful of accessories from international brands.



A.M. Concept Store Garðastræti 2

The creative child of Anita Hirlekar and Magnea Einarsdóttir, A.M. concept store is a shop and exhibition space with an atelier tucked behind it. Anita and Magnea's approach to dressmaking combines simple silhouettes with either bold colours or unexpected textures, often juxtaposed to local and international designs that keep the space fresh and inspiring.

Previous Winners

2011-17: KIOSK

Best Clothing Store



Kvenfataverzlun Kormáks & Skjaldar

Skólavörðustígur 28

Following the success of the original Laugavegur menswear shop, which has been a staple for fashionable gentlemen in town for many years, golden duo Kormákur and Skjöldur recently opened up an airy little Skólavörðustígur store oriented towards women. With their winter suits and lush knits—they stock Farmers' Market, too—they've certainly nailed down that slightly posh, country-royal look. The trick? Choosing simple, quality garments made from sturdy materials.

Runners Up



Stefánsbúð/P3 Ingólfsstræti 2b

Owner and designer Stefán Svan Aðalheiðarson has been active in the Reykjavík design scene for quite a while, but it's not until recently that he got his own place. Stefán showcases local designers and second-hand high-fashion finds (hello 1990's Gucci!) as well as accessories from quirky international brands.



Glória Laugavegur 10, back door

A favourite among Icelandic women of all ages, Glória is the epitome of minimalist elegance. Their knitwear is worth the price tag, with stylish, soft and warm woollen dresses and sweaters. The staff are often seen sporting them with biker boots and streamlined woollen coats. It doesn't get more Scandinavian than this.

Previous Winners

2017: Húrra Reykjavík

Best Secondhand Shop



Fatamarkaðurinn

Laugavegur 126

Fatamarkaðurinn is slightly less curated than its younger sister Spúútník, the mecca of second-hand-obsessed kids. However, this means you don't only find the carefully picked trendy items in here, but a little bit of everything, and for less money. There are Icelandic sweaters in need of love, worn-in retro shoes, cosy knits, 80s dresses, fur coats, sheer blouses, and everything else that can comprise the daily uniform of a Reykjavík youngster.

Runners Up



Fatamarkaður Jörmundar Laugavegur 25

Located in the basement of a downtown building, this place is mostly oriented to men, with an ever present quirky, mustachioed store-owner continually sorting through innumerable suits and shoes. It's not unusual to suddenly pull a perfectly fitting Ralph Lauren shirt; you only have to be willing to look, and a treasure is just round the corner.



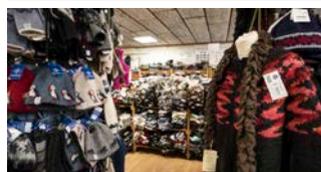
Góði Hirðirinn Fellsmúli 28

This Aladdin's cave of used products is a mayhem of people and mismatched furniture. It's the perfect place to look for a bargain sofa, cut-price kitchenware or cheap electronic appliances. The objects are sometimes a bit raggedy—and you have to pick them up immediately—but the prices are fair and the profits go to charity.

Previous Winners

2017: Spúútník
2016: Kolaportið
2015: Hertex
2014: Spúútník
2013: Spúútník

Best Place To Buy A Wool Sweater



Handprjónasambandið

Skólavörðustígur 19

No matter what time of year, Handprjónasambandið's high shelves are packed with sweaters and woollen garments of all shapes, sizes and colours. They're all handmade and of outstanding quality. Whether you need help with sizes or fixing an old purchase, ask one of the shop keepers and they'll welcome you with a smile. "This is why I go there: if you want quality, this is where you'll find it," said the panellist. Anything you buy here will stay with you for years to come—as long as you don't put it in a washing machine.

Runners Up



Farmers & Friends Hólmáslóð 2 & Laugavegur 37

Of the more high-street-style options, the panel opted for the Farmers Market outlet, Farmers and Friends. "Their sweaters have a modern look that is very fashionable, and a nice fit," they said. "If you want to wear your sweater with a short skirt and high heels, the Farmers Market brand is it."



Kolaportið Tryggvagata 19

Other than knitting it yourself, this is the cheapest way to get a lopapeysa. You can find a good second-hand jumper if you look hard enough—the best ones are by the lovely couple just outside the food department. They collect new, handmade sweaters from all over Iceland, and they probably have the perfect one for you.

Previous Winners

2017: Handprjónasambandið
2016: Handprjónasambandið
2015: Red Cross
2014: Handprjónasambandið

Best Bookshop



Bókin

Klapparstígur 26

Setting foot in this bookstore is more like a treasure hunt than anything else. The books (mostly in Icelandic) are either neatly organised on the shelves, randomly piled on the floor, or teetering on the verge of an avalanche. It's a maze of paper and leather that surrounds you from all angles. You can find beautifully bound gems in the English section if you dig enough—but if not, just ask for help: "these guys know every book that's in there," said the panel.

Runners Up



IÐA Zimsen Vesturgata 2a

This lovely bookstore has a café inside, making it the perfect retreat for gloomy afternoons in the rain. Grab a strong coffee and one of the beautiful travel books from the wooden shelves and get lost in your daydreams, or enjoy people-watching in the cosiest environment.



Mál og Menning Laugavegur 18

There's little you can't find in this three-floor bookstore. Whether it's postcards, magazines, or English-translated Icelandic works you're after, you could explore every corner once a day and always find something new. Then, when you're tired of flipping through tomes, step upstairs for a cup of tea.

Previous Winners

2017: Mál og Menning
2016: Eymundsson Austurstræti
2015: Sjónarland
2014: Nexus
2013: Eymundsson, Bankastræti

Best Record Store



Reykjavík Record Shop

Klapparstígur 35

This tiny record store might offer a more streamlined selection than other places, but it has a good selection of old and new records from both Icelandic and international artists. The true pleasure of shopping here, however, lies in chatting to the personnel, usually comprised of DJs, musicians or simply music know-it-alls. As one panelist put it: "There are only music nerds working here, so they can help you with anything."

Runners Up



Lucky Records Rauðarástígur 10

Famous far and wide for its endless selection of music, Lucky Records is a library of sound. Organised by genre and alphabetical order, one doesn't exactly go to Lucky Records for the taxonomy: it has a punky, underground character that makes all the difference. Peruse away for an entire afternoon and go home with an unexpected gem.



Smekkleysa Plötubúð Laugavegur 35

The bright green "Bad Taste" shop on Laugavegur is a long-running staple of Icelandic record stores. Also a record label, they stock the best new and classic records, alongside a carefully curated wall of new vinyls from indie labels around the world. A must-see store for indie nerds and audiophiles.

Previous Winners

2017: Lucky Records
2015-6: Reykjavík Record Shop
2013-14: Lucky Records

Best Homeware Shop



Geysir Heima

Skólavörðustígur 12

The not-so-secret wet dream of any individual with a passion for Scandinavian interiors, the latest addition to the Geysir family has a diverse selection of homeware that's unique to this shop. Besides its famously lush chequered blankets and deliciously scented candles, they also stock neat and minimalist design from all over Scandinavia. When you're done shopping for interesting bookshelves, funky fish soap or dreamy Tokyo bikes, step into their basement exhibition space for more artsy inspiration.

Runners Up



Akkúrat Aðalstræti 2

The owners of this concept store are always on the lookout for the freshest Icelandic talent. If you see something you like, support the local scene and snatch it while you can. Their interior pieces are classic with a twist, and often handmade, so you're bound to find something that you'll never see again.



Kokka Laugavegur 47

Kokka is a fancy fantasy-land for food lovers, filled with all sorts of utensils you didn't even know you needed. They import the best Italian pasta machines as well as a wide selection of pots and pans from reputable brands such as Lodge, de Buyer and Rösle. It might not be the cheapest, but when you want quality, there's nothing better.

Previous Winners

None: new category!

BEST OF REYKJAVÍK 2018

Shopping

Stuff is better than money anyway

Best Goddamn Store



Húrra Reykjavík

Hverfisgata 50 & 78

Húrra Reykjavík mostly stocks trendy sportswear that is made for the city. Organised in neat rows, each one is like a mini capsule wardrobe in itself. Young Icelandic rappers and their loyal fans all shop here, ready to line up for the new Yeezys, dressed in their uniform of puffer jacket, cap and spotless sneakers.

Runners Up



Geysir Skólavörðustígur 7 & 16

With the Geysir family expanding to homeware and taking over the downtown fashion scene, it's no wonder this is one of the most fashionable places to shop in town. They stock both fine, practical knits from their own label, and international brands such as Ganni and Hope, offering elegant selections that aren't out of place in the ever-changing Icelandic climate. It's a beautiful store: even window shopping there is a pleasurable experience. And if you can't always afford a piece, you can always get inspired.



Flying Tiger Laugavegur 13

Did you forget to buy a gift? Have you suddenly found the need to water colour? Are you doing an impromptu renovation of your living room? Flying Tiger has got your back. It's not like it pretends to offer the best quality, but if you need something urgently and you're a downtown pedestrian, there's no better place.

Previous Winners

2016: Kjötborg
2015-6: Geysir



EAT IN THE CENTER

Delicious food in the ♥ of Reykjavík!

JÖRGENSEN

KITCHEN & BAR

MODERN ICELANDIC CUISINE MEETS
COZY SCANDINAVIAN ATMOSPHERE

Inside this trendy high-ceilinged restaurant
are carefully-crafted courses that offer a
contemporary twist on the classics.

WWW.JORGENSENKITCHEN.COM

ÍSAFOLD

RESTAURANT

TASTY ICELANDIC FOOD IN A CHIC
SETTING IDEAL FOR A SPECIAL NIGHT

A unique approach to Icelandic cuisine
ensures every dish on the menu is both
creative and well executed.

WWW.ISAFOLDRESTAURANT.COM

SKY

RESTAURANT & BAR

DELICIOUS FOOD & FUN COCKTAILS
WITH A TRULY SPECTACULAR VIEW

Take in one of the city's most breathtaking
views while enjoying a wide variety of
delicious courses & quirky cocktails.

WWW.SKYRESTAURANT.IS

www.centerhotels.com/restaurants | [#eatinthecenter](https://twitter.com/eatinthecenter) | [f](https://www.facebook.com/eatinthecenter) [i](https://www.instagram.com/eatinthecenter)



Lækjarbrekka Icelandic Bistro is a place
with history. The house was built in
1834 and has become one of
Reykjavík's icons.

For 37 years, or since the restaurant first
opened in the house, Icelandic cuisine
has been the focus point enjoyed by
both by locals and travelers.

Lækjarbrekka
Icelandic Bistro

Contact us at:
Tel: +354 551 4430

E-mail: info@laekjarbrekka.is
Visit us at: www.laekjarbrekka.is



Best Jewellery Shop



Orrifinn

Skólavörðustígur 17b

The owners Helga and Orri make all the jewellery themselves in their shop/laboratory. After the eye-catching works in the window have piqued your curiosity, step into their sumptuous, dimly-lit basement store and take a peek. The detailed, stylish and carefully crafted unisex pieces have a raw edge to them that gives them an exotic sensuality, and makes them timeless but still fresh. Not the most classic and obvious choice, but the coolest one for sure.

Runners Up



Aurum Bankastræti 4

A classic of the local design scene, Aurum is one of the most popular jewellery shops in town. They've been crafting and importing jewellery for years—if you're looking for a simple, timeless piece, they certainly have it, but check out their limited editions in the window for a fresher take on things.



Aftur Laugavegur 39

Technically, Aftur mostly sells sustainable, recycled clothes for the fashion-goth crowd, but it's one of the few places in town where you can still find a proper kria, the typical arctic tern necklace that all Icelandic women own. Pick a black one and take a fun memory away with you.

Previous Winners

None: new category!

Hidden Gem



Hyalin Reykjavík

Hverfisgata 35

This tiny French Deli on Hverfisgata is a pleasure for the eyes and the senses, with their dark blue walls and white accents reminiscent of the Mediterranean. All their products are imported from France, from their delicious chocolate in retro packages to shiny oil bottles, gleaming jars of honey, and pungent goat cheese. You might be tempted to buy the entire store at once, but don't rush: the lovely couple at the counter will always welcome you back with a friendly smile.

Runners Up



Hertex Charity Store Garðastræti 6

Although slightly shabbier than the average second-hand store, this little Salvation Army outlet always has something interesting to offer. It might be more oriented to the older crowd, but nothing beats their retro power-shoulder jackets and timeless coats, especially for the price.



Systrasamlagið Óðinsgata 1

This little hidden gem has become a favourite among the vegan crowd, and with good reason: their morning bowls are especially tasty, with fresh and dried fruits and almond milk on the side. You can find vitamins and boosts in here too, as well as yoga and meditation classes. All in all, a great alternative to the usual hip Reykjavík café.

Previous Winners

None: new category!

Buy Shit:



Omnom Gourmet Chocolate
Icelanders hide licorice in everything—booze, chocolate, coffee, gum... the list goes on. If you've had just about enough, get your hands on gourmet goods from Reykjavík-based chocolatier Omnom. Into role-play? Dress up as Willy Wonka on the factory tour and take a look inside the test kitchen. There's a lot to choose from. Chocolate flavours include sea salted almonds, milk of Madagas-car, coffee and licorice (sorry). **AC**



Umemi Knot Cushion
Sometimes the best designs are the simplest. Designed by Ragnheiður Ósp Sigurdardóttir under her Umemi brand, the Knot cushion is omnipresent in tasteful Reykjavík homes and the boutique hotels that scatter the city, and like Umemi's Kot blankets, inspired by the tiled roofs of Icelandic farms, and Hearth mix-and-match candle holders. **JR**

Geysir Blanket
Geysir continues to impress—and it's largely thanks to their blankets. Available in a variety of sizes, shapes, and colours, these handknitted shrouds of hyggeligt comfort will make sure you're never lonely or cold again for the rest of your life. What's more, they're around to wrap you and your family in. The huge wool sweater, but give you much more cosy real estate to store the blanket—a great place to store the blanket—if you ever take it off. (You won't). **CD**



AURORA REYKJAVÍK

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS CENTER

Can't catch the Northern Lights?

Don't worry, we have already done it for you!



MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION



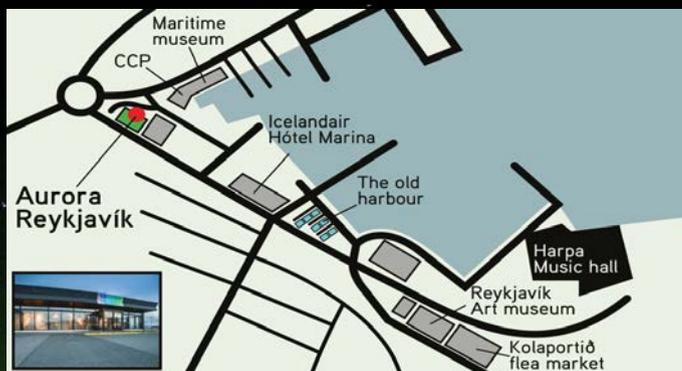
MOVIE THEATER



TOUR BOOKING



GIFT SHOP



Grandagarður 2 | 101 Reykjavík

Tel: +354 780 4500

Bus 14 | free parking

OPEN DAILY 09:00 - 21:00

www.aurorareykjavik.is



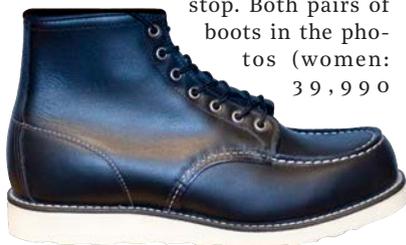


Akkúrat Aðalstræti 2

If you're looking for the perfect funky, windproof, foldable, travel-optimized jacket, Akkúrat will be your go-to this winter. They have winter accessories in all colours, and the stand out item is the retro looking PackMack windbreaker (pictured, 24,900 ISK). It's super light, super easy to stuff into a backpack and (I know a lot of people don't want to hear this) COLOURFUL. Winters in Iceland are dark enough, it's alright to show some personality by wearing a bold colour.

Húrra Reykjavík Men: Hverfisgata 50 / Women: Hverfisgata 78

Húrra Reykjavík is one of those trendy shops that can style you from top to bottom. But if you're on the lookout for some badass boots, it's an essential stop. Both pairs of boots in the photos (women: 39,990



66° North Laugavegur 17

As grandma used to say, "wear a hat." And who doesn't listen to their grandma? 66° North has a huge selection of hats (from

SHOPPING GUIDE

Winter Is Coming And No One Cares

Where to buy warm but stylish items in Reykjavík

Words: **Claudia Schultz** Photos: **Art Bicnick**

It's a snowy morning with a slight wind blowing in your face from the northeast at about 100 km/h and, unfortunately, the situation isn't dire enough to pull a sickie. Luckily, it's time to not give a fuck. Fashion and winter go together like Laurel and Hardy, or Trump and bullshit. 101 Reykjavík's unique boutiques, in addition to having the potential to launch the next Chanel runways show, have a lot to offer when it comes to winter fashion. That's "winter fashion," not "outdoor clothing," just to clarify.

ISK; men: 43,990 ISK) give you an idea of how to look cool during the winter without running around in your Nikes with bare ankles. Bonus points: think how happy your grandma will be to see these.

3,900 ISK) from "today I hate everyone" black, to "I am the most confident flower in the whole world" pink, to subtler "I'm wearing colour and I like it" shades. Not only will those hats keep you warm, you'll own a real piece of Icelandic hipness. Owning an orange 66° North logo hat almost guarantees you an Icelandic passport.

Cintamani Bankastræti 7a

If you want to look like an Icelander—i.e. simultaneously warm and stylish—you should go to Cintamani. From good-looking thermal underwear to super cosy jackets like the one above (49,995 ISK), there's something for everyone.



Whether you're on team "I'm actually not that cold," "It's quite chilly," or "OMFG where are the white walkers," check out this store to be cute as button.



Geysir Skólavörðustígur 16

A shop named after one of Iceland's most famous landmarks? Well, you gotta check that out. This bright yellow coat from Stand (36,800 ISK) will not only keep you from freezing, it's pretty much like a happy pill. No sun is no problem, if you decide to be the sun. ☀

**BEST ICE CREAM
IN REYKJAVÍK**
**HANDMADE
ON LOCATION**
with organic milk
LAUGARÁSVEGI 1, 104 REYKJAVÍK, WWW.SKUBB.IS



TAX FREE SHOPPING
SAVE UP TO 14%



BUY DIRECTLY FROM THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THEM



Skólavörðustígur 19
tel (+354) 552 1890

Borgartún 31
tel (+354) 552 1980

THE HALLGRÍMSKIRKJA FRIENDS OF THE ARTS SOCIETY 37TH SEASON



THE HALLGRIMSKIRKJA CHRISTMAS MUSIC FESTIVAL 2018

THE HALLGRIMSKIRKJA MOTET CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SUNDAY DEC 2 AT 5 PM & TUESDAY DEC 4 AT 8 PM



PERFORMERS:

THE HALLGRÍMSKIRKJA MOTET CHOIR
VIOLIN SOLO: AUÐUR HAFSTEINSDÓTTIR
ORGAN: BJÖRN STEINAR SÓLBERGSSON
CONDUCTOR: HÖRÐUR ÁSKELSSON

A festive Christmas atmosphere in the beautifully decorated church !

The Hallgrímskirkja Motet Choir is one of Iceland's leading choirs and is a recipient of multiple awards from choral competitions including the Grand Prix Award for Best Choir at the Festival Cancó Mediterrania in Spain. The choir's annual Christmas Concert is a true highlight of the diverse advent music season in Reykjavík.

This year's program contains a mixture of classical and contemporary Christmas Music including compositions by Scarlatti, Jesus Joy of Man's Desire by Bach, Magnum mysterium for a cappella choir with solo violin by Ola Gjelo, the Icelandic premiere of a new beautiful Magnificat by Sævarsson, two separate Maria prayers by Hreiðar Ingi and Bára Grímsdóttir, and O wonderful world by Svirikov as well as some famous international Christmas songs.

The celebrated Icelandic violinist Auður Hafsteinsdóttir is this year's special guest of the Hallgrímskirkja Motet Choir.

Admission: ISK 5.900 - Ticket sale in Hallgrímskirkja and online on midi.is

listvinafelag.is - motettukor.is



Miami

Hverfisgata 33

One of Reykjavik's new out-and-proud theme bars takes on the Magic City of the '80s. With a sharp aesthetic that's miles ahead of any other joint in town, Miami serves up pure vice with a splash of cosmopolitanism and a dedicated ping-pong room in the basement. It's pricey, but it has a good happy hour, the cocktail menu was crafted by mixology veterans, and the wine and champagne list is well-curated. You'll feel just like you're in 'Scarface,' minus the massacres and mountains of cocaine. **HJC**



Bastard Brew & Food

Vegamótastigur 4

This brand new downtown drinking hole is something of a beer and bar-food palace. It's an English pub style environment, without the sense of history—everything from the tables to the plush leather seating are catalogue-fresh—but with eleven beers on tap, a great happy hour, and the phenomenally good 'Fat Bastard' burger on offer, it's already a firm favourite. **JR**

NEW IN TOWN

Flavour Of The Month

What's new to eat and drink in Reykjavik

Words: **The Grapevine New Stuff Dept.**
Photos: **Timothée Lambrecq & Art Bicnick**

Reykjavik is an ever-changing city, with fresh options for drinking and dining popping up constantly. To help you, our dear friend, stay up-to-date, here's some of the best new arrivals on the Reykjavik scene. You can thank us later.



Chido Mexican Grill

Ægisíða 123

The diversification of culinary options with the opening of Chido Mexican Grill. The joint dishes up burritos, bowls, tacos and quesadillas along with the full spectrum of colourful Jarritos sodas. Purists (and celiacs) might balk at the 'corn-flavoured' flour tortillas undergirding the tacos, but it's what's inside that matters, isn't it? **EJP**



Skelfiskmarkaðurinn

Klappargstigur 28-30

This new seafood restaurant sits in the square that was formerly the "Heart Garden," on the site

where the infamous Sirkus nightclub once stood. It's very much "new Reykjavik," with plush seating, lots of gold, marble and leather, several bars and dining rooms, and an open-plan kitchen serving fresh seafood and juicy steaks. They have the first ever Icelandic oysters—farmed up in the north—and the "fruits de mer" shellfish trays are super fresh. **JR**



Brewdog

Frakkastigur 8

The world-conquering Scottish craft beer chain arrives in 101. Iceland's branch of Brewdog is an interesting presence on the scene—the fancy-dive-bar décor feels like it could be in East London or Manhattan as easily as downtown 101. The prices, however, are very much located in Iceland. The tasty, speedy bar food menu is reasonable enough, but there are few options under 1,000 ISK for your teeny wee measure of amber nectar. **JR**



Session Bar

First Floor, Bankastræti 14

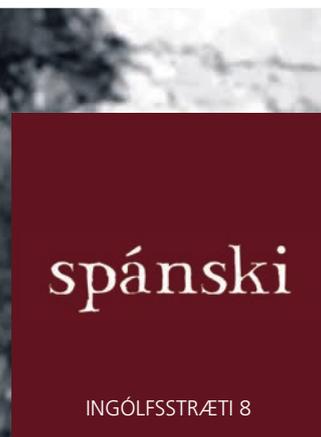
We're currently experiencing an explosion of new drinking holes in 101. One of the newest is Session Bar, a minimalist craft-beer-focused drinking den housed in a former hair salon in the heart of downtown. There are sixteen beers on tap, both Icelandic and international, and they have a focus on keeping the prices affordable, in contrast to Reykjavik's generally pricey craft bars. **JR**



Le Kock 2.0

Tryggvagata 14

Lauded burger joint Le Kock invades 101 with a downtown location. In the ground floor of a new hotel, it's a large space with three components: the Le Kock diner serving burgers, fish and chips, and comfort food favourites; a cocktail bar called Tail; and a second branch of Deig, Le Kock's sister bakery. The music policy can be shaky—unless you like Status Quo—but the all-day happy hour has 1,500 ISK cocktails and 800 ISK beers. **JR**



15% DISCOUNT

take photo of this advertisement to get 15% discount



FISH & MORE SALKA VALKA

STEAMED FRESH FISH, TRADITIONAL ICELANDIC FISH 'STEW',
FISH & VEGAN SOUPS, SMOKED SALMON & VEGAN TOPPINGS
ON SOURDOUGH BREAD, BEER, WINE, COFFEE & MORE



SKÓLAVÖRDUSTÍGUR 23 • 101 REYKJAVÍK

*Shop a little differently
in Reykjavik*



GALLERY FLEA MARKET

Visit the GALLERY for products handmade by local artists and inspired the beauty of Icelandic nature.

- Volcanic lava **jewellery**
- **Wool, leather** and **stone** products

We're passionate about our products and about helping you find something you'll treasure.

WE'RE OPEN DAILY
Best prices in the city!

f Gallery Flea Market Reykjavik

GALLERY FLEA MARKET
101 REYKJAVÍK, GARÐASTRÆTI 2

“I meet the squad at Húrra, where we get a shitton of Club Mates and laugh the night away.”

TRUST THE LOCALS

Perfect Day

How to Reykjavík, from those who know the city best

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen**
Photos: **Art Bicnick & Timothée Lambrecq**

Who knows how better to navigate a city than the locals? Nobody, that’s who. With that in mind, we asked some faces of the local scene—a musician, a chef, and an artist—to tell us about how they’d spend their perfect day in Reykjavík. Imagine that! No work (unless they’re weird and want to), no fitness guilt (although some people apparently enjoy working out, wtf), and no budget considerations (yay!). What a day. Here are some highlights from their dream itineraries.



Linnea Hellström, chef

Kattakaffihúsið is a good place to hang. Not only do they have mostly all vegan things, but you

can cuddle with cats. Follow them online too—it’s a nice pep up to meet the cats and then see a happy person taking them home. I would also totally recommend Té og Kaffi. I like their vegan efforts over the past year.



René Boonekamp, artist

After lunch, I’ll stop at the Marshall House to sniff up some art. It’s always a surprise what the Nýlo and Kling og Bang have put up. Ólafur Eliasson’s stuff is also very, very nice. Then it’s about time for an aperitivo. Coocoo’s Nest is great for that; a cosy and friendly place. A natural wine and a little bite later and your mind wanders off to southern Europe.



Finnboogi Örn Einarsson, musician & vegan

Miami is this trendy place where none of my crowd hangs out, but my friend Fannar works there. He makes me my signature straight edge cocktail and we talk until the bar gets packed with jocks. Then, I meet the squad at Húrra, where we get a shitton of Club Mates and laugh the night away. Once Húrra closes, we sit by the pier and have extremely emotional conversations—an old-fashioned “trúnó.” I go to sleep over a nice binge of ‘Freaks and Geeks’ while eating a Daiya pizza and black chili Doritos. 🍕

Read the full Perfect Days at gpv.is/perfd

KVARTÝRA N°49

CONCEPT STORE

LAUGAVEGUR 49, BACKHOUSE
DISCOVER BRANDS FROM KOREA, RUSSIA, UK,
FRANCE, ICELAND, UKRAINE, HUNGARY & MORE





A GREAT SELECTION OF DRINKWARE
IDONTSPEAKICELANDIC.COM



Reykjavik Ragnarök
Gym of the University
of Iceland

Here's something for all the Potterheads out there who always wanted to catch that Golden Snitch. Quidditch isn't just a fantasy any more—you can go and play it. So grab your grandmas broomstick and jump right on. Reykjavik Ragnarök is always happy to welcome new players to their practices, every Saturday from 13.30-15.00. There's no better way to be active and geeky at the same time.



Ground Zero
Grensásvegur 16

If video games hold a special place in your heart, Ground Zero is the spot for you. Just for a few hours—come on, your significant other will forgive you. It feels like a trip down memory lane, at least for all the gamers that usually merge with their couch while playing 'Rocket League' or 'Call of Duty.' They're open every day of the week and you don't even need to get up early; their opening hours are just perfect (11.00/12.00 to 01.00).



Spilavinir
Suðurlandsbraut 48

Here's another one of those FLGS—"friendly local game stores." Spilavinir is a great place for family quality time. But don't get me wrong—it's not one of those places where kids rule the world (no offence). Every Thurs-



"Quidditch isn't just a fantasy anymore."

CITY GUIDE

**Welcome To
Geekjavík**

Where to release your inner nerd

Words: **Claudia Schultz** Photo: **Art Bicnick**

Being into something is hip and being passionate about something is attractive—so being geeky is the new showing no emotions and having a 'resting bitch face'. If you thought that Reykjavik only has bars and souvenir shops, well, get ready to be blown away by these new possibilities. Here are some must-visit for those looking to free their inner geek.

day evening, you can enjoy a nice date night with a casual or heavier board game. Or what about just meeting your friends to play that party game you've always wanted to try. There's definitely something for everyone.



Geisladiskabúð Valda
Laugavegur 64

Do you like finding gems? Sure, you do. I mean who doesn't. If you go crazy just seeing stacks and stacks of DVDs, video games

and music, well Geisladiskabúð Valda is your personal heaven. Let's face it, bargain hunting is always fun! The shop is open every day (except Sunday) between 12.00 and 17.30. And psst... Reykjavik Chips is right across the street!



Stofan Kaffihús
Aðalstræti

After being geeky all day, take a break at Stofan Kaffihús, order a coffee and a bite to eat and

unwind... with a board game, or not, no pressure. They have the yummiest cake for your sweet tooth and sandwiches and wine to prepare you for a game at one of their Boardgamondays. But please don't be too competitive, that wouldn't be fun for anyone.



Lebowski Bar
Laugavegur 20a

So, to end the day (or start the day if you're a night owl), have dinner and some drinks at Lebowski Bar. They're located downtown, so probably in perfect walking distance from your hotel or Airbnb. The atmosphere is just the one you expect from a place where The Dude would hang out with Walter and Donny. Every Thursday at 21.00 you can kick ass in their movie quiz. Cause geeks know it best, right?



Nexus
Nóatún 17

Nexus is one of those places where time either stands still or passes incredibly fast. So when you finally finish looking through all the books, comics, board games and Funko Pops the sun might've set, a new year may have begun, or your child could have mysteriously grown up. It doesn't really matter which fandom you're into, Nexus will most definitely have something for you. But not only can you satisfy your inner shopaholic, you can also attend one of the gatherings in their 'Spilasalur' and dive into 'Magic' and X-wing or just go to a casual game night on Wednesdays. Dig out those Yu-Gi-Oh and Pokémon cards that you loved so much when you were younger (or still love) and off you go! 🍀



**WE COULD HAVE USED THIS
ADVERTISING SPOT TO
CONVINCE YOU HOW DELICIOUS
OUR GRANDMOTHER'S FOOD IS.**

BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO.

**BECAUSE SHE IS RANKED #1
ON **TRIPADVISOR****

**COME AND TASTE
FOR YOURSELF**

- ICELANDIC STREET FOOD STAFF

Activities

Get off the internet already!

So, you've shopped in the shops, drank the drinks, and eaten all the food you can manage. And whilst those things are all super fun, culture is the missing piece of the puzzle for a perfect trip to Iceland. Whether it's a gleaming museum or a grimy artist-run gallery, a springtime hike or a trip to try and glimpse the aurora

Best Pool



Sundhöllin

Barónsstígur 45a

After being out of the running last year due to lengthy renovations, 101's iconic swimming palace Sundhöllin is back, and better than ever. There's a new outdoor pool, a new reception area, refreshed changing facilities, and a corridor-like hot pot with lots of space for chilling and chatting. "I used to trek from 101 to Vesturbæjarlaug, but the renovations put Sundhöllin on top," said the panel. "The changing rooms are beautiful—like Wes Anderson meets M. C. Escher. And it's downtown, so when you come out of the pool with wet hair, there are plenty of bars and cafés around."

Runners Up



Vesturbæjarlaug Hofsvallagata 107

West-side bathing haven Vesturbæjarlaug has a large communal outdoor hot pot, indoor and outdoor pools, and a great steam room. "It's still dominated by locals rather than tourists," said the panel. It's also good in all seasons: "It has a sunlamp with a chair, so you can catch some rays in winter, and in summer you can sunbathe in the hot pots."



Árbæjarlaug Fylkisvegur 9

Suburban swimming pool Árbæjarlaug breaks into the top three this year because of the views, and people-watching potential. "It looks right over the city," said the panel. "You enter the water indoors, then swim outside—perfect for the winter. All the people who go there are suburbanites rather than 101 barflies."

Previous winners

- 2017: Lágafellslaug
- 2016: Neslaug
- 2014-15: Vesturbæjarlaug
- 2012-13: Laugardalslaug

Best Gallery



i8

Tryggvagata 16

Despite increasing competition from Reykjavík's lively and thriving gallery scene, i8 wins best art gallery for the fifth time. The reasoning is simple: they show amazing art, all the time. Their roster includes many of Iceland's foremost contemporary artists, such as Ragnar Kjartansson and Ólafur Eliasson, recent Venice Biennale participant Egill Sæbjörnsson, and international names like Roni Horn. "i8's top quality stable of artists often display a playful sense of humour in their work," said the panel. "Contemporary art takes itself very seriously sometimes, but i8 doesn't—in the best possible way."

Runners Up



Kling & Bang Grandagarður 20

After a period of nomadism, the enfant terrible of Iceland's gallery scene is back in force after finding a new home in the glorious Marshall House art museum development. This gallery identifies more as an art collective, creating ambitious large-scale projects and vibrant group shows. Welcome back, Kling & Bang!



Berg Contemporary Klapparstígur 16

Located in a building that was formerly a glass factory, Ingibjörg Jónsdóttir's BERG Contemporary has quickly established a kick-ass roster of Icelandic and international artists, and an ever-growing reputation to match. "It's a beautiful space, and I'm always curious to see what they're showing," said one panellist.

Previous winners

- 2015-17: i8
- 2014: Kling og Bang
- 2011-13: National Museum

Best Art Museum



The Marshall House

Grandagarður 20

Although it's still relatively new, it seems obvious that this pristine new art museum is here to stay. Housing three galleries—NYLÓ, Kling og Bang, and an Ólafur Eliasson workshop—it was an instant hit with the local art crowd. "It's such an amazing space," said the panel. "There's so much natural light, and the design is beautiful." The variety of work on show was another reason for the win. "An art museum doesn't have to be one big institution," said the panel. "It's a collection of three independent art organisations working together to make something exciting happen."

Runners Up



Reykjavik Art Museum Various locations

This might be cheating a bit, but Reykjavik Art Museum provides three winners in one. Whether it's classic Icelandic sculpture at the beautiful Ásmundarsafn, Kjarval paintings at the airy Kjarvalstaðir, or the various contemporary displays at downtown Hafnarhúsið, Reykjavik Art Museum has it all.



Einar Jónsson Museum Eiríksgata 3

Located right next to Hallgrímskirkja, this beautiful building was the house and studio of Icelandic sculptor Einar Jónsson during his lifetime and is now a permanent exhibition of his work. Large-scale sculptures musing on the subjects of birth, life, death, society and religion dot the garden, and Einar's apartment is preserved inside.

Previous winners

- 2016: Hafnarhúsið
- 2012-15: Reykjavík Art Museum

Best Artist-Run Space



Listastofan

Hringbraut 119

Listastofan was heaped with fond praise by our panel, who loved the youthful energy and diversity of its programme. "It has a constant rotation of work, with a new exhibition opening every other week," they said. "They also do workshops, have darkrooms for photographers and studio spaces—there's a whole community of artists based around the space." Listastofan's motto is 'Be Young And Shut Up,' and they live up to it—the gallery provides an invaluable platform for emerging artists who are between graduation, and securing support from the more established galleries. It's also a bridge between Icelandic and expatriate artists in Reykjavik.

Runners Up



Gallery Port Laugavegur 23

This discrete space tucked away on Laugavegur is a sparky and interesting spot with a fast-moving and varied exhibition programme. "They're trying to fuck shit up," said the panel. "They do different things all the time. You never know what you'll see there. It's an anti-art-snob gallery."



lðnó Vonarstræti 3

It might seem odd to call such a classic space a "newcomer," but this music hall has been taken over by a new energy lately. "The new organisation running lðnó host everything from poetry readings to drag workshops," said the panel. "They've taken one of the most magical spaces in Reykjavik and filled it with the best people."

Previous winners

None. New category!

Best Museum



The National Museum Of Iceland

Suðurgata 41

Of Reykjavik's many museums, one stands taller than the competition due to the pure breadth of their displays. Iceland's National Museum is a treasure trove of the country's history, covering everything from early culture to clothing, metalsmithing, religion, and more. "I love the national museum, being a nerd for cultural history," said one panellist. "If you want actual history, it's top-notch. It's well-curated and well designed, with contemporary displays that connect to cultural waves like football and feminism. It even makes the silverware interesting. And I love the baby skeleton. I want one of my own."

Runners Up



Árbæjarsafn Kistuhylur 14, Reykjavik 110

This outdoor museum provides a vivid look at Icelandic life in the olden days, with guides dressed in old-time garb. "It's super cute," said the panel. "There's a dress-up theatre and a toy museum, and it's cool to be in a little old village with the modern city growing in the background."

Wonders of Iceland Perlan

Wanna see an ice cave? Instead of trekking across South Iceland, now you can go to Perlan. "It's just really cool," said the panel. "There are interactive laser displays to show you information, it's futuristic and engaging, and it's about the nature that people come to Iceland for."

Previous winners

2015-17: Árbæjarsafn
2011-14: National Museum of Iceland

Best Place For Aurora Spotting



Gróttá

Seltjarnarnes peninsula

The tip of the Reykjavik peninsula has an iconic lighthouse perched right on the end, reachable at low tide via a pedestrian causeway. There's also a nature reserve, a golf course, a walking path, and little else, meaning light pollution is kept to a minimum. "You can get there by bus," said the panel. "And as an added bonus, you might see those kids out there with their little stall selling kleinur and cocoa—so you can have an authentic child entrepreneur/child labour experience, too."

Runners Up



Öskjuhlíð Reykjavik 101, by Perlan

This forested hilltop viewpoint is walkable from downtown and offers wide-screen views of the evening sky. From the hilltop, there's little light pollution. "Put on some ice cleats if it's winter," warned the panel. "And be careful if you go wandering, or you might actually get lost in an Icelandic forest."



Ægisiða Vesturbær

This walking path along the southern coast of the Reykjavik peninsula has unencumbered views of the sea and evening sky, over the bay to the presidential residence at Bessastaðir, and all the way to Keflavik. "There are only so many good places to see the aurora downtown, and getting away from the centre definitely helps," said the panel.

Previous winners

2015: Gróttá
2015: Öskjuhlíð
2012-14: Gróttá

Activities

"People watching" or "creeping"?

Best Place To Take The Kids



Whales Of Iceland

Fiskislóð 23-25

This vast, hangar-like display is populated by life-sized plastic whales, with information plaques and flat-screen devices containing information about the different species. Kids absolutely adore the place, and there's plenty of room for them to run around between the replica behemoths. "Once you've seen this place, you've seen it," said the panel, from the grown-up perspective: "But still, our kids keep demanding we go back."

Runners Up

Hraðastaðir Mosfellsdalur

For real-life animals, kids can't get enough of the Hraðastaðir petting zoo in Mosfellsdalur. "It's a hidden gem," said the panel. "It's a small petting zoo where the guests can hang out with bunnies and kittens. There are also horses, pigs and even a fox." It's just 600 ISK to enter, and free for kids under two.



Laugardalslaug Sundlaugarvegur 30

For families, Laugardalslaug is the swimming pool of dreams. There are hot pots for the adults to lounge in while their kids run around between the various play pools, features and slides. If they're still not tired out, the Laugardalur park is nearby.

Previous winners

2014-6: Húsdýragarðurinn
2013: Fjölskyldugarðurinn
2012: Lynghagaróló Playground

Best People-Watching Spot



Hlemmur Mathöll

Laugavegur 107

Reykjavík's premiere food hall, located in the old Hlemmur bus station, is the perfect spot to grab a bite to eat and watch the world go by. The various food stands have a lively and bustling seating area where people park for lunches, dinners, dates and drinks. "It has a fast-moving pop-in-pop-out nature," said the panel. "There are hotels close by, so there are tourists, but Icelanders go there too, and it's also a bus interchange. And it's still not completely gentrified. You can get a drink, and see an absolutely diverse mixture of people passing by."

Runners Up

Lækjartorg

This city-centre square is busy by day, and crazy by night. "If you want to see the real Iceland, come from 5am-6am any Saturday to see a stumbling guy trying to chat up girls whilst hailing a cab back to Kópavogur and inhaling a lobster roll. It's a vortex of Icelandic life any time of the day or night."



Kolaportið Tryggvagata 19

Iceland's largest flea market is the perfect place to pick up a bargain—or just to watch the world go by. "You'll see old fishermen selling their catch, Icelanders, students, celebrities, locals and tourists all shopping there," said the panel. "You get a cross-section of Iceland that you don't find anywhere else."

Previous winners

2016: Grandi
2015: Austurvöllur
2014: Eymundsson Austurstræti Café
2013: Booths at Hressó

Best Hike



Esja

Mógilsá, Mosfellsbær

The mountain that overlooks Reykjavík has hiking paths with varying levels of difficulty. You can stop at the base camp, which still affords views over the metropolis below, or you can progress to the top. Until the peak of summer, ice cleats and hiking poles are advised—it can get pretty slippery up there with late snow. You can get to the start of the trail by public transport. "It's the only proper hike you can do in Reykjavík without a car," said the panel. "It's the last stop of the Reykjavík bus system. And the view from the top is fantastic."

Runners Up



Heiðmörk

You might have seen the cratered red rocks of Rauðhólar on a southern drive—but Heiðmörk is actually a huge nature reserve with forests and lakes. "It's the only wild area of Reykjavík where you feel like you could get lost. There are barbecues, and you can jog, picnic, hike, or go horse-riding or fishing."



Elliðaárdalur

This city park is in Reykjavík 110, near the Ártún bus stop. "It's not so much a hike as a nice walk," said the panel. "There's a little network of dirt trails and the forest paths around the river. It's very chill—you can see people horse riding, meandering the paths, or take a run in the forest."

Previous winner

2016: Móskaðshnjúkar

Best Cinema



Bió Paradís

Hverfisgata 54

When it comes to seeing movies in downtown Reykjavík, there's really only one winner. Our panel voted quickly and unanimously for Bió Paradís, the quirky and lively independent cinema on Hverfisgata. "They have red velvet curtains, so it feels David Lynch-y," they said. The diverse programme of independent movies met with praise, also. "It isn't just Hollywood stuff—their screen Icelandic films with English subtitles, indie films, and old horror and sci-fi movies. There's a bar you'd actually want to hang out in, with sofas, DJs, and art exhibitions. It's the only cinema in the city centre—but it's the clear winner."

Runners Up



Háskólabíó Brynjólfsgata

This walkable-from-downtown cinema is part of the University of Iceland complex and shows new blockbusters alongside European indie flicks. "They have popcorn movies, and they also take part in film festivals and have more cultural programming. And you can get nachos with melted cheese. If you're American."



Egillshöll Fossaleynir 1

It's on the outskirts of town, but Egillshöll boasts huge screens that make it worth the trip. "You can get the number six bus there—and there's disco-bowling and a pizza place to make it worth your while," said the panel. "It's the place to see the latest blockbusters if you wanna see something trashy."

Previous winners

2016-7: Bió Paradís
2015: VIP Theater
2014: Bió Paradís

A source of health

Thermal
swimming
pools

Hot tubs
and
jacuzzi

Saunas,
steambaths

The
place
to meet
locals

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



Tel: +354 411 5000
www.spacity.is

REYKJAVÍK
LOVES

#reykjavikloves

ARTSON

BEST NEWCOMER
BAR 2018

— *The Reykjavik Grapevine*



HAPPY HOUR

Tuesdays-Saturdays
from 17:00 to 19:00

NOSTRA

BEST NEWCOMER
RESTAURANT 2018

— *The Reykjavik Grapevine*



Laugavegur 59
+354 519 3535
nostrarestaurant.is



“While skiing or snowboarding in the dark might sound intimidating, you’ll feel 100% more hardcore than those losers who do it during daylight.”

ACTIVITIES GUIDE

Take A Chill Pill

Your guide to the Reykjavik winter

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photo: **Art Bienick**

It’s easy for people to ignore the Reykjavik winter in favour of the bright summer. But while the sun might be hiding, the town is anything but asleep, and there’s just as much to do in the dark as in the light. So take yourself, take your Vitamin D and take advantage of the snow, sleet, and shade. There’s a reason they call it Iceland.

Snowmobiling on Langjökull

Perhaps the best way to experience the gleaming glacial badlands of Iceland is on the back of a snowmobile. The drive from Reykjavik to the Langjökull glacier takes about an hour and a half, and it’s the perfect location for some snowy exploration. Just ten minutes into your tour you’ll lose sight of day-to-day life, finding yourself surrounded by pure unending white as far as the eye can see, save for the occasional speck of another snowmobile in

the distance. Framed by jagged mountains, you can enjoy the beautiful vista as well as a few jumps, if you’re brave.

Bláfjöll Ski Resort

The largest ski area in Iceland is, conveniently, only a 30-minute drive from the city. Bláfjöll is suitable for every type of rider—whether you’re a newbie or one of those people that likes to test their mortality by dropping out of a helicopter. While skiing or snowboarding in the dark might sound intimidating, you’ll feel

100% more hardcore than those losers who do it during daylight, and seriously, who skis or snowboards for any other reason than to look hardcore? Don’t lie. Warning: opening hours are very dependent on the weather, so check ahead.

Ice Skating at Ingólfstorg Square

Release your inner Tonya Harding—minus the sabotage—with a twirl around the ice-skating rink that pops up each winter on Ingólfstorg. Delicately float around the rink with your mittens on and cheeks ruddy, as you imagine your inevitable future career as an Olympic medal winner. Michelle Kwan, who? For those who can’t skate, don’t worry, there are many bars nearby that will serve you ample liquid courage to give it a go. There’s nothing more Christmassy than ice-skating, or more Reykjavik than Ingólfstorg, and this is the only time of the year that you can potentially fall and break your leg on it (unless you’re a skateboarder, that is).

Ice Climbing

Glacier hiking and ice climbing tours are two things that are not only amazingly fun and unforgettable, but also a guaranteed stunner on Instagram. The most well known ventures travel to Vatnajökull, but you can also jump onto Mýrdalsjökull and Eyjafjallajökull (only ever under the supervision of a professional glacier guide), if you so choose. Only courage is required, as there are tours suited for everyone from Eddie the Eagle to Dwayne the Rock. Seriously, you need to touch Iceland’s gorgeous glaciers—which vary from blinding white to peppered with volcanic ash—while you still can.

Mount Esja

If steep slopes and high speeds aren’t really your thing, a hike up Mount Esja is a more peaceful alternative that’ll still get your heart pumping. You can either stop at the base camp level, or push yourself for the more demanding ascent to the top. At the summit, take a breath of the fresh, icy air, and look out over gorgeous wintery Reykjavik. You’ve made it, champ. Note: Always check conditions before heading out and remember to strap crampons onto your hiking boots to tackle the snowy, slippery-slippery path. 🧊



ALL THE ICELANDIC BEERS + **ICELANDIC CUISINE WITH A TWIST**
IN ONE AWESOME PLACE

Ingólfstræti 1A
+354 5176767



Gourmet nouvelle cuisine with exquisite dishes

If you want to enjoy gourmet French cuisine with a Nordic touch, then The Lobsterhouse is the right place for you. Our langoustine, Icelandic lobster, is widely known for its great taste and one of our most favorable dishes. Dining at The Lobsterhouse is an experience full of warmth and history.



The LOBSTERHOUSE

Contact us:

Tel: +354 561 3303

E-mail: bookings@thelobsterhouse.is

Visit us:

www.thelobsterhouse.is

Follow us:

Instagram: @lobsterhourey

Facebook: @thelobsterhouse.is



As the name of this book suggests, it is a follow-up to an earlier book by the same name. Again, the people portrayed are the **Kaffibarinn** regulars. Some of the faces you will recognize from the first book, just a quarter of a century older. Others were not born when the bar served its first drink.

All the portraits were shot on location at **Kaffibarinn** and just as in the earlier book, they were all **framed in the same way**, shot with the **same camera**, the **same lens** and the **same film**, against the **same background**, and with the **same lighting**.

The **Snorri Bros** usually shot each subject two to four times but in **some cases just one frame was enough to seize the person** in front of the lens in a timeless portrait.

Kaffibarinn celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2018. This is a momentous milestone for Reykjavík's most iconic bar, bearing in mind that Iceland's capital has a notoriously volatile market for watering holes, with new bars opening and closing again almost in the blink of an eye. Even more impressive, during its existence, **Kaffibarinn** has enjoyed a streak of virtually constant popularity.



Kaffibarinn is located on two floors in a small, old corrugated iron house, in the dead centre of downtown Reykjavík. **Opening its doors for the first time in 1993, the bar was an overnight hit, attracting artists, musicians, media types, and other creatures of the night.**

The crowd was young and had a huge lust for life. The atmosphere was an irresistible mixture of sweet innocence and hardcore partying.

Kaffibarinn has certainly evolved and matured but perhaps the most beautiful thing about the place is that it still attracts a similar type of clientele

as it did in the early days—except the age range is much wider now. Today, new and younger recruits might be the core regulars, but you will also **see the same stalwarts that have been having fun at the bar from the beginning.**

**In stores in
Iceland 23rd
November 2018.**



Adventure Day Tours

EXCITING ACTIVITIES FROM REYKJAVÍK & SÓLHEIMAJÖKULL



Glacier Walk
on Sólheimajökull



Quad Bikes



Northern Lights



Snowmobiles



ICELANDIC
MOUNTAIN GUIDES

MOUNTAINGUIDES.IS

Call our sales office from
08:00 - 20:00
or book online.



ARCANUM.IS

INFO@MOUNTAINGUIDES.IS • TEL: +354 587 9999